

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

Website:

Facebook:

3rd October 2026

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

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Messages from the Editor:

Results from the 2026 Club AGM are as below. Thank you to John Rees for coming to Gympie and being the Returning Officer.

President	Gary Walker
Vice President & Editor	Sharon Stretton
Secretary	Sharon Bartlett
Treasurer	Shirley Downing
Assistant Secretary & Assistant Treasurer	Leanne Evans
Show Marshall	Gary Walker
Assistant Show Marshall	Barry Grainger
Librarian	Jennifer Grainger

REMINDER TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS: Memberships are now due.
Single is \$15 and family is \$25.
Please ensure payment is made to Shirley Downing as soon as possible.

Proposed future monthly meetings (from January 2027):

It was discussed at our meeting about holding half of our year's monthly meetings at members residences and alternate with the Hockey Club room.

Please advise Sharon Stretton of your preferred location/s - or if you can host a meeting (and if so, what month suits you). This will then be voted on.

Volunteered residences are at:

- Gary Walker
- Leanne Evans
- Barry Grainger
- Shane Pope
- Jim Lenske

Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is fast approaching on the 28 November 2026. It will be \$15 each to attend, from 11am to 3pm. If you wish to attend, please advise Shirley Downing before end of October for catering purposes.

This year it will be an Exchange Gift process, so if you bring a gift, you get to exchange with another gift. You are not obligated to be involved, if you do not wish to.

Schedule for 31st October meeting

For our **31st October meeting**, John and Lavina Rees have kindly offered to host our monthly meeting at their residence and provide lunch. The day will include visits to others where you'll be able to purchase some orchids. The club will be paying for a bus, so please let Sharon Stretton know if you'd like to attend as seats are limited. For any further details, please contact Gary Walker.

- 9.00am – Arrive at Robertson Orchids – **262-290 Blackall Range Road, West Woombye**
 - 10.30am – Steve Flood residence to look at foliage and morning tea (bring a plate to share) - **11 Mountindale Court, Mooloolah Valley**
 - 11.30am – John & Lavina's residence – **188 The Esplanade, Golden Beach.**
- There will be a Tolumnia mounting information session and sausage sizzle lunch and the club meeting will follow.

Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting

GENRE	Orchid name	Owner/s of Plant
Cattleya >100mm:	Rlc. Brunswick Blood X Rlc Burdekin Bells	Leanne Evans
Cattleya <100mm:	Rlc. Lisa Taylor Gallis	Leanne Evans
Cluster Cattleya:	Slc. Elisabeth Calov X Blc. Topaz Sublime	Gary Walker
Dendrobium:	Den. Mousmee	Larry Downing
Species:	V. coerulescens	Shane Pope
Vanda:	V. Gordon Dillion	Gary Walker
Cymbidium:	Cym. Cricket Invincible	Shane Pope
Bulbophyllum:		
Oncidium:	Rrm. Willowbank Wanted	Larry Downing
Any Other:	Phal. Youngnome Maple Red	Larry Downing
Paphs / Phrags:	Paph. Cord Spots	Gary Walker
Novice:	Rlc. Glorious Moh 'H&R'	Sharon Bartlett

PHOTOS OF MONTHLY WINNERS



Cattleya >100mm: Rlc. Brunswick Blood X Rlc Burdekin Bells



Cattleya <100mm: Rlc. Lisa Taylor Gallis



Cluster Cattleya: Slc. Elisabeth Calov X Blc.



Dendrobium: Den. Mousmee

Topaz Sublime



Species: V. coerulescens



Vanda: V. Gordon Dillion



Cymbidium: Cym. Cricket Invincible



Paphs / Phrags: Paph. Cord Spots



Oncidium: Rrm. Willowbank Wanted

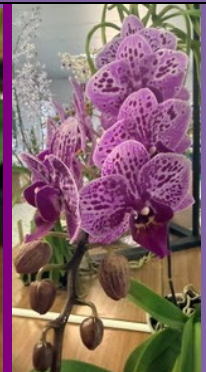


Novice: Rlc. Glorious Moh 'H&R'



Any Other: Phal. Youngnome Maple Red

PHOTOS OF ALL OTHER TABLED PLANTS





Raffle Winners

Winners of our monthly raffle were Gary Walker and Jim Lenske. **Congratulations to our Winners!**

Next Meeting:

DATE: 31st October 2026 – day starts at 9am

ADDRESS: Multiple. Details as supplied on first page of this newsletter.

Editor Special – *Tolumnias* (article supplied by John Rees)

The genus *Tolumnia*, previously called *Equitant Oncidiums*, are native to the Caribbean area and often grow on shrubs or small trees in semi-arid areas. They may get wet at night by rain or dew but dry off very quickly. They like an arrangement in captivity which provides these conditions. Because it is in the *Oncidinae* subtribe, it will hybridise with many different *Oncidinae* genera. There are 32 nothogenera containing the genus *Tolumnia* hybridized with other genera.

I have been growing orchids for 40 years and until recently have shied away from *Tolumnias*, which I had grown in pots and obviously had kept their roots too wet, as they had all died. Recently, I have had greater success with them growing on cork.

Bill McNaught worked at Amberly Air Force base and lived at Willowbank. He registered plants as Bill Willowbank and he posted the image at left of a plant flourishing on a cork slab. The image on the right is of *Tolu. Percy Tesch 'Willowbank'* AM/AOC which was bred by Bill.



At a cultural day at Sue Jone's place, 2 or 3 years ago, she handed out plantlets of one of her *Tolumnias*. I strapped mine to a piece of cork. The image at left below is of the plant today.



The middle image is of a plant which has established itself on a cork tile. The third image is of the back of the tile showing the zip tie holding the plant in place until it becomes established. Two roots are protruding from holes in the cork.

It has been suggested that on the cultural day in October we deflask some *Tolumnia* plants and everyone plant a plant on a piece of hardwood. The society would provide the plants and the materials.

FOOTNOTE: A report from a nursery in Central Queensland suggests that the cork tiles degrade over time and the plant roots may be able to get into the body of the cork after about three years, but the adhesive holding the cork fragments together is fatal to *Tolumnias*.

We have plants in three flasks although only two crosses. They are:

(*Rrm.* = *Rodrumnia*)

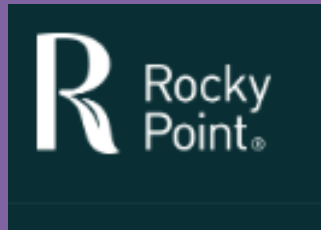
Rrm Capalaba Sheba 'Orangs Cloud' x *Tolu.* Capalaba Sunrise 'Rounder' x 2

Rrm. Willowbank Wonder 'Spotty' x *Tolu.* Capalaba Quarter 'No 1'

Newsletter snippets

Club members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter. Please email Sharon Stretton for inclusion (prior to the upcoming meeting, otherwise they will be included the following month).
Email

Our Sponsors: Sponsors are an important part of our Club. Their support allows us to pay the prizes we do at our Show. Please support our sponsors and let them know that we appreciate their support!



2026

9 th , 10 th October 2026	Bribie OS show; set up Thursday 8 th .
14 th November 2026	Nambour Species show, Buderim Hall, set up 13 th
21 st November 2026	GCOS hosts STOCQ meeting at Glasshouse Hall
28 th November 2026	GDOS Christmas Party at Graham Street Hall.

2026 POSTERS

Hervey Bay Spring Orchid and Garden Spectacular 2026

Fri 25 Sept - 8am to 4pm
Sat 26 Sept - 8am to 4pm
Sun 27 Sept - 8am to 12pm

Same great venue!

Save the date!



At Xavier Catholic College
1, Wide Bay Drive, Eli Waters, Hervey Bay
Entry \$5 incl Devonshire Tea / Coffee
Wheelchair-friendly / Plenty of parking



- ❖ Large Display of Orchids
- ❖ Garden Club Display
- ❖ Bromeliad Display and sales
- ❖ Foliage competition
- ❖ Orchid sales and supplies
- ❖ Plant sales and supplies
- ❖ Potting workshops
- ❖ Plant Cloakroom
- ❖ Raffles – Great Prizes!

Proudly supported by:



www.herveybayorchidsociety.com

NOOSA DISTRICT ORCHID & FOLIAGE SOCIETY

2026 SPRING

ORCHID & FOLIAGE SHOW

COOROY MEMORIAL HALL 23 Maple St

Friday 18 SEPT 8.30am - 4pm Saturday 19 SEPT 8.30am - 1pm

\$10 Hands-on Orchid Potting Workshops: We supply everything including the orchid; you get to take it home



- * \$5 admission, \$1 raffle tickets
- * Beautiful orchid & foliage display
- * Experienced orchid growers' advice
- * EFTPOS available

- * Members, growers plants for sale
- * Orchid fertiliser for sale

Info: Trevor Cook 0419 431 008

2027

13th February 2027	STOCQ AGM hosted by Gympie &DOS at Indoor Bowls Club, Graham Street, Gympie
3rd April 2027	Glasshouse Country Orchid Society closed Show at Glasshouse Community Hall
9th, 10th April 2027	Sunshine Coast OS show at Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Queen and Ulm Streets, Caloundra; set up Thursday
1st, 2nd May 2027	Gympie &DOS show, Indoor Bowls Hall set up 30 th April
7th, 8th, 9th May 2027	Bundaberg OS show Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. University Drive, Branyan
12th June 2027	Tentative - STOCQ meeting hosted by Gladstone Orchid & Foliage Society
24th, 25th September 2027	Glasshouse COS show, Beerwah Community Hall.
23rd October 2027	Noosa District O&FS host STOCQ meeting in Timbeerwah Hall.

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SCALE ON ORCHIDS

What Every Orchid Grower Should Know

Scale insects are one of the most common orchid pests, and unfortunately they can be difficult to notice at first.



1 HOW SCALE LOOKS

Scale insects may appear as:

- Small brown, tan, white, or black bumps
- Tiny shell-like spots attached firmly to the plant

Many growers mistake scale for natural spots or dried plant tissue because mature scale insects barely move once attached.



Brown scale



White scale



Black scale



Tan scale



White scale

2 WHERE SCALE HIDES ON ORCHIDS

Scale insects often hide in protected areas such as:

- Under leaves
- Along the leaf midrib
- At the base of leaves
- Between pseudobulbs
- On flower spikes
- Around rhizomes and roots
- Under old dried sheaths on cattleyas and dendrobiums

Always inspect hidden areas carefully when watering or repotting orchids.



Under leaves



At the base of leaves



Between pseudobulbs



On flower spikes



Around roots and rhizomes



Under old sheaths

3 HOW SCALE SPREADS

Scale spreads surprisingly easily:

- Crawlers (young scale insects) move from plant to plant
- Through close plant contact
- On hands, tools, pots, or growing surfaces
- By bringing home infested plants
- Ants may also help spread scale while feeding on honeydew

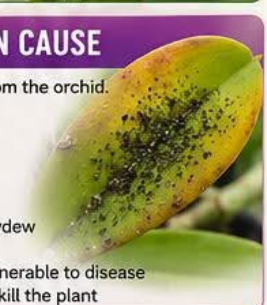


4 DAMAGE SCALE CAN CAUSE

Scale insects feed by sucking sap from the orchid.

Heavy infestations may cause:

- Yellowing leaves
- Weak or stunted growth
- Leaf drop
- Sticky residue called honeydew
- Black sooty mold growing on honeydew
- Poor blooming
- Stress that makes orchids more vulnerable to disease
- Severe infestations can eventually kill the plant



5 HOW TO PREVENT SCALE

Good prevention is much easier than fighting a major infestation.

Helpful prevention tips:

- ✓ Inspect new orchids carefully before placing them near your collection
- ✓ Quarantine new plants for several weeks
- ✓ Check hidden areas regularly
- ✓ Keep growing areas clean
- ✓ Improve airflow around plants
- ✓ Avoid overcrowding orchids
- ✓ Remove old dried sheaths where pests may hide
- ✓ Monitor plants often, especially during warm weather



6 HOW TO GET RID OF SCALE

The earlier you catch scale, the easier it is to control.

- 1 Isolate the infected orchid immediately
- 2 Carefully remove visible scale using cotton swabs dipped in isopropyl alcohol. Avoid scrubbing too hard to prevent damaging the orchid's natural protective leaf coating.
- 3 Clean under leaf sheaths and hidden areas thoroughly
- 4 Repeat inspections weekly — eggs and crawlers may survive the initial treatment
- 5 For heavy infestations, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, or systemic insecticides may be necessary
- 6 Treat nearby orchids as a precaution



! IMPORTANT:

Avoid applying oils or alcohol in strong direct sun or extreme heat, as this may damage orchid leaves.



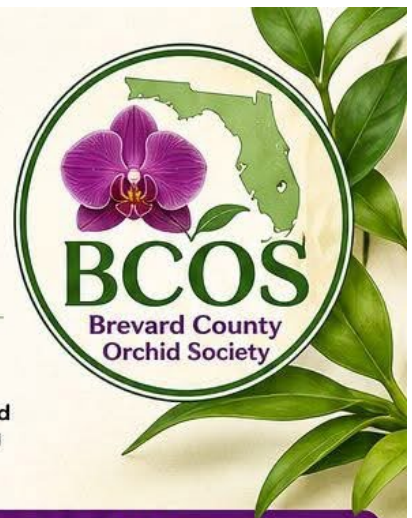
Regular inspection is one of the best habits an orchid grower can develop. Catching scale early can save both your orchid and the rest of your collection.





MEALYBUGS & ORCHIDS

— Short Grower's Guide —



Mealybugs are among the most common and troublesome pests affecting orchids. These small insects can quickly spread through a collection, weakening plants and reducing flowering performance. Early detection and proper management are essential for maintaining healthy orchids.

1 WHAT DO MEALYBUGS LOOK LIKE?

Mealybugs are soft-bodied insects covered with a white, waxy, cotton-like coating. They often appear as:



Tiny clumps of cotton or fluff



White, fuzzy masses in leaf axils and crevices



Small oval insects about 1-4 mm long



Sticky areas on leaves caused by honeydew secretion



Because of their protective wax coating, they can be difficult to eliminate completely.

2 HOW DO MEALYBUGS SPREAD?

Mealybugs can move surprisingly easily between plants. Common ways they spread include:



Bringing home infested plants



Shared growing trays, pots, or tools



Crawling from plant to plant when orchids are crowded together



Ants transporting young mealybugs to new locations



Infested plant material or growing media



A single unnoticed infestation can quickly affect an entire collection.

3 WHAT DAMAGE CAN THEY CAUSE?

Mealybugs feed by sucking plant sap, which weakens orchids over time. Damage may include:

- Yellowing leaves
- Stunted growth
- Deformed new growths and flower spikes
- Premature bud drop
- Reduced flowering
- Sticky honeydew deposits on leaves and pots
- Black sooty mold growing on honeydew



Severe infestations can seriously weaken or even kill young or stressed plants.

4 WHERE DO THEY LIKE TO HIDE?

Mealybugs are experts at hiding. Check carefully:



Leaf axils and folds



Around pseudobulbs



Between roots and potting media



Under old leaf sheaths



On flower spikes and buds



In cracks and crevices of growing areas



Root mealybugs are especially difficult to detect because they live below the potting media surface.

5 WHAT CAN ENCOURAGE MEALYBUG INFESTATIONS?

Several conditions favor mealybug outbreaks:



Overcrowded growing areas with poor air circulation



Excessive nitrogen fertilization



Warm temperatures and high humidity



Lack of routine plant inspections



Stressed or weakened plants



Presence of ants, which protect mealybugs from natural predators

6 HOW CAN YOU PREVENT THEM?

Prevention is always easier than treatment:

- ✓ Inspect new orchids carefully before introducing them to your collection
- ✓ Quarantine new plants for several weeks
- ✓ Maintain good air circulation
- ✓ Keep growing areas clean and free of plant debris
- ✓ Inspect plants regularly, especially hidden areas
- ✓ Control ants around your growing space
- ✓ Avoid overfertilizing



Regular monitoring allows you to catch infestations before they become serious.

7 HOW DO YOU GET RID OF MEALYBUGS?

If mealybugs are detected:

- 1 Isolate affected plants immediately.
- 2 Remove visible insects with cotton swabs dipped in 70% isopropyl alcohol.
- 3 Thoroughly inspect all nearby plants.
- 4 Repeat treatments every 7-10 days to target newly hatched insects.
- 5 For severe infestations, use an appropriate insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, or systemic insecticide according to label directions.
- 6 Repot heavily infested plants and inspect roots for root mealybugs.
- 7 Continue monitoring for several weeks after treatment.
- 8 Remember: Successful control requires persistence. Mealybugs often hide in protected areas and may reappear if treatment is stopped too soon.

GROWER'S TIP

When watering or fertilizing, take a few extra seconds to inspect leaf axils, sheaths, and new growths. Early detection is the single most effective tool for preventing a major mealybug infestation.



INSPECT



PREVENT



PROTECT

ORCHID BLOOM LONGEVITY CHART

HOW LONG ORCHID BLOOMS LAST

With Proper Care

Bloom time varies by type, environment and care.
Here's what you can expect!

ORCHID TYPE	AVERAGE BLOOM LONGEVITY	DESCRIPTION	TIPS TO EXTEND BLOOM LIFE
 PHALAENOPSIS (MOTH ORCHID)	 2-4 MONTHS	 Long-lasting and one of the easiest orchids to grow.	 Bright, indirect light  Keep away from extreme heat or cold  Water when roots turn silver
 CATTELEYA	 2-3 WEEKS	 Large, showy blooms but usually last a shorter time.	 Bright light  Good air circulation  Do not overwater
 DENDROBIUM	 3-6 WEEKS	 Blooms in clusters along the canes. Long-lasting per bloom.	 Bright, indirect light  Cool nights help extend bloom life  Water regularly, let dry slightly
 ONCIDIUM (DANCING LADY)	 1-2 WEEKS	 Many small flowers that bloom in abundance but for a shorter time.	 Bright light  Good air movement  Keep evenly moist
 VANDA	 4-6 WEEKS	 Thick, waxy blooms that last longer with the right conditions.	 Bright, plenty of light  Water frequently  High humidity & good airflow
 PAPHIOPEDILUM (SLIPPER ORCHID)	 4-8 WEEKS	 Unique blooms that can last quite long with cool temperatures.	 Cool to intermediate temperatures  Water when medium is almost dry  Indirect light