

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

24th February 2024

Website:

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

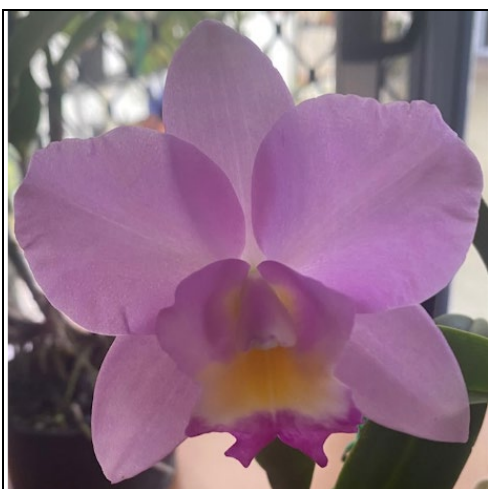
Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

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Welcome! Today's meeting was held at Gary & Julie Walker's place and it was a lot cooler than last month. Can everyone note that next month the meeting is going to move to the **23rd of March** and will be at Jim, Michelle and Cristian Lenske's place at Widgee, due to the normal meeting date falling on Easter Saturday. Hope to see you all there!

Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting:

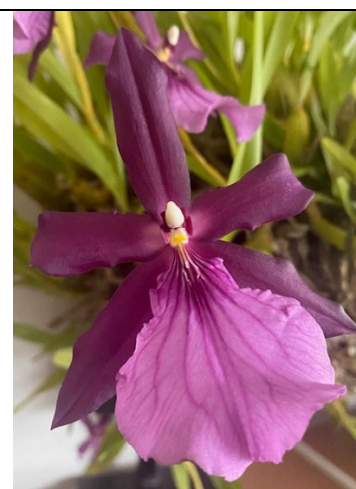
GENRE	Plant Name	Owner of Plant
Cattleya	Rth. Rosella's Angel Girl 'Julie'	Gary Walker
Dendrobium	Den. Rum City	Mel & Judy Wheeler
Species	Miltonia spectabilis	Mel & Judy Wheeler
Vanda	Vanda John De Biaze 'Thongchai Red'	Mel & Judy Wheeler
Novice	Blc. Island Charm 'Carmela' x C. Caudebec 'Southern Cross'	Barry Grainger
Any Other	Spathoglottis plicata	Gary Walker



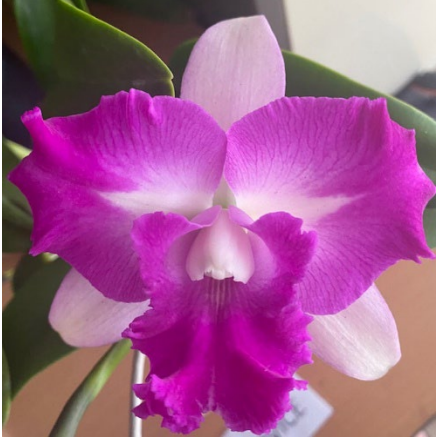
Cattleya: Rth. Rosella's Angel Girl 'Julie'



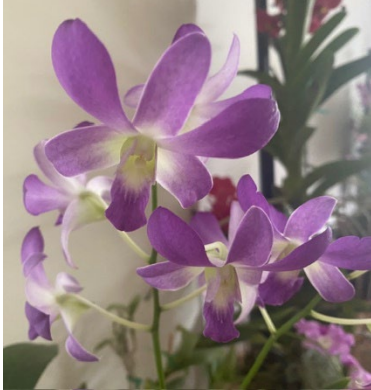
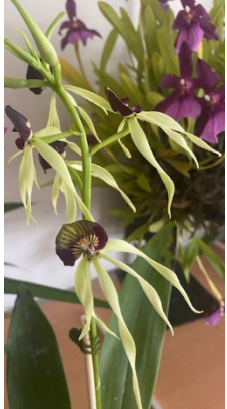
Vanda: Vanda John De Biaze 'Thongchai Red'



Species: Miltonia spectabilis

		
Any Other: Spathoglottis plicata	Dendrobium: Den. Rum City	Novice: Blc. Island Charm 'Carmela' x C. Caudebec 'Southern Cross'

Other Plants tabled at the meeting and photos from meeting

Winners of the Raffles for the day were: Mel & Judy Wheeler (bag of orchid bark, kindly donated by Rocky Point), Sharon Stretton (flowering orchid), Elaine Reid (orchid), & Phil Langridge (orchid). Congratulations to all raffle winners!

Editors Highlight – Top Ten Signs that your Orchids are Happy (tabled by Judy Wheeler to be added to the newsletter)

- 1. You can pick up the plant by the vegetation and the pot doesn't fall away.** Roots are the secret to an orchid grower's success. If you want beautiful flowers, you need a healthy plant and for a plant to be healthy, it must have a vigorous root system. The rule in nature is there is a 10 to 1 ratio of the roots to the shoots. When the roots have filled the pot, you can pick up the entire plant from the leaves and the plant does not wobble in the pot.
- 2. The newest growth is larger than the prior growth.** A great indicator of a well growing plant is that the new leads and leaves are larger than, or at least as large as, the prior year's growths. Don't fret too much if the year after repotting the growths are a little smaller than the prior year, that is probably just a short-

term case of transplant shock. If that trend continues through, ask for a consult with one of your orchid club's members.

3. **Leaves are thick and turgid.** If your leaves look dehydrated, they probably are dehydrated and you'll have to follow the old tried and true advice, knock it out of the pot and look at the roots. If the roots are rotten, you'll have to repot and consider whether it was overwatering or late repotting that caused the problem. If the roots are still viable, you may have to increase your watering frequency, the amount of water you pour through the pot when you water, or both.
4. **Pseudobulbs and canes are plump.** The canes and pseudobulbs on your sympodial orchids, like the leaves on your monopodial orchids, function similarly to the hump on a camel. They should be full of water and energy reserves to get your orchid through the dry spells as well as to make sure your plant has enough energy in reserve to develop flowers. After all, most orchids aren't grown for their foliage.
5. **Plants in growth show long green root tips.** You know you are a real orchid addict when you are just as excited about a new root as you are a new flower bud. When a plant is in active growth, it throws off new roots and the faster it grows, the longer the root tip.
6. **Plants are flush with new growth trying to jump out of the pot.** When your plant is growing well, it is throwing off new growths, more leaves on a Phalaenopsis or Vanda, more pseudobulbs on Cattleya, more canes on a dendrobium, etc. With each new growth comes the potential for new blooms. Dendrobiums are the exception, many will bloom from older growths, but Cattleyas will only bloom from new growth, and somehow, they always seem to bloom best when they are a bulb or two out of the pot. A monthly application of seaweed or kelp, which contains some plant hormones, will encourage new growths on your plant.
7. **You get multiple bloom spikes.** Your orchids expend a tremendous amount of energy to form flower buds and then to carry the flower in the hopes one of their pollinators will drop in for a visit. The more energy they are able to generate and store, the more energy reserves are available when it is time for them to start flowering. A drop in nighttime temperature also helps many plants conserve their energy stores. Multiple bloom spikes are reward for meeting the cultural needs of your plants.
8. **Your orchids don't complain about being hungry.** Orchids aren't like teenagers; they can't keep saying I'm hungry every couple of hours. Your orchids will grow fine with little fertiliser and many people proudly say they never fertilise their orchids. The real orchid food is light, but fertiliser contains the essential mineral building blocks for your plant. Get into a fertiliser routine. Use either water-soluble or time-release fertiliser, whichever suits you better. Your orchids may not burp in appreciation, but you'll see an improvement in growth vigor.
9. **There's a No-Vacancy for disease and pests.** A vigorously growing plant is much more capable of withstanding diseases and, to a lesser extent, pests. It is axiomatic that you have found the sweet spot for your orchid, you also have found a location where there is enough air movement to keep your orchid happy, which also means you'll have fewer fungal infections. Although, unlike us humans, orchids don't have an immune system, a healthy plant can mount a greater defense against disease and pests. You always have to be vigilant for scale, mealybugs, mites and other opportunistic devils.
10. **All your friends want division.** The ultimate compliment is when friends come into your growing area and say, "I'd love a piece of that whenever you divide it". It means you've grown the plant to its maximum potential and gotten it to produce beautiful blooms. Do share your divisions with friends, it is one of the joys of gardening in general and growing orchids in particular. And who knows, someday you may be asking for a piece of that plant back.

Upcoming Events Schedule: (Please note highlighted changes)

MARCH 2024	
1st – 4th March 2024	TIOS & WOC Tainan, Taiwan
23 rd March 2024	Maroochydore Orchid Society closed show, Uniting Church Buderim
29 th , 30 th & 31st March 2024	Gladstone OFS Show, Bill Robertson Toyota, Hanson Rd, Gladstone (Setup 28 th of March)
29th – 30th March 2024	Bribie IOS Show (Setup 28th of March)
APRIL 2024	
5th – 6th April 2024	Sunshine Coast OS Show (Setup 4th of April)
12 th & 13 th April 2024	Childers Isis District OS show set up 11 th .

13 th & 14 th April 2024	Rockhampton OS Show, Old Art Gallery, Cnr. Victoria Pde & Cambridge St, Rockhampton
20 th April 2024	South Burnett OS Show, Diggers Club, Wondai
26 th , 27 th – 28 th April 2024	Gympie & District Orchid Society Show (Set-up 26 th of April) - at Indoor Bowls Club, Graham Street, Gympie
MAY 2024	
2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th May 2024	Caboolture Closed Show, The Square, Kings Street, Caboolture
10 th , 11 th , 12 th May 2024	Bundaberg OS show, Civic Centre set up 9 th May.
11 th & 12 th May 2024	Noosa Closed Show
11 th May 2024	Maroochydore Orchid Society closed show, Uniting Church Bli Bli
JUNE 2024	
8 th June 2024	STOCQ Meeting, hosted by Calliope O & FS
JULY 2024	
11 th , 12 th & 13 th July 2024	Caboolture OS Show, Morayfield Community Hall, 298 Morayfield Road, Caboolture
AUGUST 2024	
8 th , 9 th , 10 th August 2024	Maroochydore Orchid Society open show, Uniting Church Buderim
30 th & 31 st August 2024	Childers Isis District OS show (set up 29 th)
SEPTEMBER 2024	
6 th , 7 th September 2024	Nambour OS Show (set up 8 th)
12 th September 2024	Caloundra OS Closed Show, Pelican Waters
12 th , 13 th , 14 th September 2024	Maryborough DOS Show (set up 11 th)
13 th & 14 th September 2024	Noosa DOS Show (set up 12 th)
14 th & 15 th September 2024	Rockhampton Show, Old Art Gallery, Cnr. Victoria Pde & Cambridge St, Rockhampton
20 th & 21 st September 2024	Glasshouse Country Orchid Society show, Beerwah Hall; (set up 19 th)
20 th , 21 st , 22 nd September 2024	Hervey Bay OS Show
OCTOBER 2024	
4 th & 5 th October 2024	Bribie Island Orchid Society (Setup & judging Thursday 3 rd of October)
NOVEMBER 2024	
9 th November 2024	Nambour Species Show (set up 8 th)
9 th November 2024	STOCQ Meeting, Hosted by Maroochydore OS, Buderim Mens Shed, 38 Advance Road, Kuluin
2025	
March 2025	15th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference & Show, Taiwan
June 2025	STOCQ meeting hosted by Bundaberg OS.
6 th & 7 th September 2025	STOCQ meeting hosted by Nambour OS in conjunction with STOCQ Orchidfest at 114 Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina
1 st – 5 th October 2025	Australian Orchid Conference and Show at Wiigulga Sports Complex, Woolgoolga NSW (Orchids from the Mountains to the Sea)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Saturday, 23rd March 2024

ADDRESS: Lenske Family – 303 Power Road, Widgee

PLANTS: Benching of plants will commence from 1.30pm – 1.45pm.

JUDGING: Voting will be held prior to meeting (between 1.45pm – 2.00pm).

MEETING: Will commence at 2.00 pm.

Please bring your plants, chair and a plate to share for afternoon tea.



NOTE: Please think about what month you would be able to host a monthly meeting and advise Sharon Stretton to include below.

Club meeting	Meeting to be held at Club members residence:
23 rd March 2024	Jim, Michelle & Cristian Lenske – 303 Power Road, Widgee
21 st April 2024 (Sunday meeting)	Barry & Jennifer Grainger's – 50 Diamondfield Road, Amamoor
25 th May 2024	Sharon Stretton – 16 Watt Street, Gympie
29 th June 2024	Lois & Kevin Thornley – 3683 Tin Can Bay Road, Wallu
27 th July 2024	Sharon Stretton – 16 Watt Street, Gympie
31 st August 2024	Gary & Julie Walker – 26 Palmer Court, The Dawn

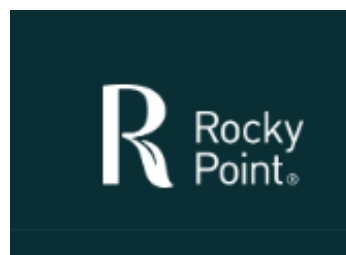
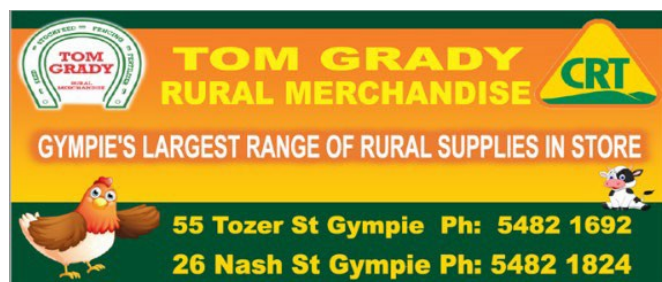
28 th September 2024	AGM meeting - Venue TBC
26 th October 2024	Kent & Sharon Bartlett – 6 Tailor Street, Tin Can Bay
30 th November 2024	Christmas Party – Location to be confirmed.

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:

sharon.m.stretton@tmr.qld.gov.au

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!



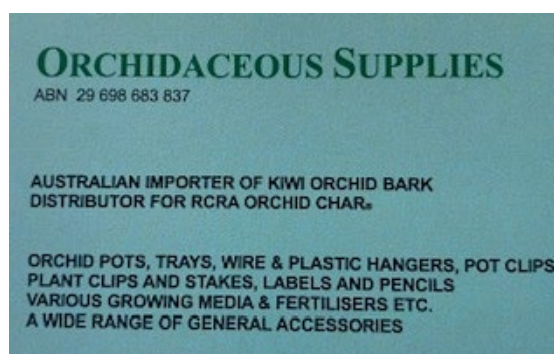
keepgrowing@rockypoint.com.au



Nestlé

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