

GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc. NEWSLETTER



Date/Month of Meeting:

27th January 2024

Website:

www.gympieorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

Gympie & District Orchid Society Inc.

PRESIDENT	Gary Walker	Ph: 0407 640 516	garfieldloveslasagna@outlook.com
VICE PRESIDENT & Editor	Sharon Stretton	Ph: 0400 168 770	sharon.m.stretton@tmr.qld.gov.au
SECRETARY	Sharon Bartlett	Ph: 0427 465 252	ksbartlett@esat.net.au
Asst. Secretary	Julie Walker	Ph: 0418 151 999	ularie@hotmail.com
TREASURER	Shirley Downing	Ph: 0428 486 087	larryshirleydowning@gmail.com

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. I hope you're feeling rested and rejuvenated by the extra time with friends and family over the Christmas break. I can't believe how quickly 2023 passed us by, so let's hope that 2024 bring you lots of laughter, good health, and the odd new orchid! We can't wait to share another flowering season with you all.

Please note that our annual Show in April has moved location. It will now be held at Albert Bowls Club, River Road / Bruce Highway, Gympie. Hopefully next year we will be back in the Graham Street Hall (all going well).

Winners of the Popular Vote at monthly Meeting:

GENRE	Plant Name	Owner of Plant
Cattleya	Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana'	Gary Walker
Dendrobium	-	-
Species	Neo. falcata	Mal Wheeler
Vanda	V. Somsri Glory 'Blue'	Gary Walker
Novice	Pot. Burana Angel 'Hsinying'	Barry Grainger
Any Other	Odontoglossum Mystic Maize	Gary Walker



Cattleya: Pot. Burana Beauty 'Burana'	Vanda: V. Somsri Glory 'Blue'	Species: Neo. falcata
--	--------------------------------------	------------------------------

	
Any Other: Odontoglossum Mystic Maize	Novice: Pot. Burana Angel 'Hsinying'

Other Plants tabled at the meeting and photos from meeting

		
Vanda Pine Rivers	Unknown	Rlc. Village Chief Armani Orchid

Winners of the Raffles for the day were: Sharon Bartlett, Gary Walker and Larry Downing all took home a new orchid. Congratulations to you all!

Editors Highlight – HEAT STRESS

Australians have been given a warm welcome to summer, with temperatures rising across the country. Hopefully the heatwaves we have been experiencing haven't stressed out your plants. The soaring summer temperatures can create stress for your orchids and unless additional measures are taken to protect them from the heat during these hot months, your orchids will likely react to these conditions by exhibiting symptoms such as:

- Dehydrated leaves indicating prolonged dry spells between waterings;
- Sun burn, drying up, blackening or bleaching of leaves due to exposure to direct strong sunlight;
- Mushy softness indicating rot caused by strong direct light and excess moisture, coupled with poor air circulation;
- Wilting away of new growths or poorly developed new growths;
- Bud blast or dropping or withering of buds;

- Wilting and drying up of bud spikes and flowers.

With so many problems arising due to excessive temperatures and strong light, it is imperative to protect your orchids from strong sunlight and higher-than-normal temperatures. You can achieve this by:

- **Check your orchids leaves.** If they remain limp, with closed flaps and are not opened out fully as they normally would, then they are drying up way too fast and lack regular hydration. This could also be a result of overwatering your orchids, coupled with too much sunlight and little or no air drafts, eventually leading to rotting of the roots. To prevent this from happening, move some of your orchids to different areas of your shadehouse – some like more sun, and others don't. Make sure your orchids are not overwatered and there is good air movement, either natural or with the help of a fan.
- Depending on your climatic conditions, you may need to water your orchids more frequently during summers as they lose water through transpiration. The medium tends to dry up faster due to the heat and if use small-sized pots for your reasonably large orchids, then this poses a problem. They tend to dry up faster and so require frequent watering in summer. You can consider repotting into a larger pot with a well-draining organic medium to provide the right balance of air and moisture. In the case of mounted and bare-rooted orchids, daily watering is mandatory. In summers, you may even have to water them twice daily. Always check how they respond. Look out for signs of dehydration such as limp, leathery leaves and thin wrinkled roots. Increase the frequency of watering as temperatures rise so that the plant receives adequate hydration. This will help you gauge their requirements. Once they are adjusted, you can reorganise the orchids whereabouts in the shade house based on their watering needs. This will considerably simplify your care routine.
- **Provide good air circulation.** Along with the provision of excess humidity in summer, you need to provide good air circulation. This ensures that fungal or bacterial rot does not set in.
- **Keep your orchids clean and dust free.** Orchids are slow-growing plants and therefore require additional help from your side to boost their growth. They need to carry out photosynthesis to promote healthy growth and blooming. Therefore, their leaves need to be kept clean at all times. Dusty leaves become a problem in summer due to the dry air. This makes the plant vulnerable to pests such as spider mites, mealy bugs and scale. To protect the orchid from these issues, the leaves need to be regularly cleaned. Ensure that water does not get trapped in the crevices as this could lead to stem or brown rot. For added safety, blot out the trapped moisture with a tissue and dry it well under a fan.
- **Fertilising your orchids.** Whatever fertiliser you may be using, you could help your plants boost their growth and make them more resistant to dehydration, pest attack and microbial diseases by supplementing your regular fertiliser with a silicon supplement. Silicon is a naturally occurring substance in soil and helps the plant achieve robust growth in terms of thickness of the leaves and roots, enhances bloom size and quality and increases photosynthetic activity within the leaves. The silicon increases cell-wall thickness, thereby making the plant stronger from within. Externally, it makes the leaves and pseudobulbs thicker, shinier, greener and the flowers longer-lasting and more healthy. Try an organic silicon supplement once a month. This will also assist your orchids to withstand stress in case of changing climatic conditions and sudden weather fluctuations, which is why it is a good idea to begin adding this supplement when the new growths start popping out. Try a quarter of the recommended dosage once a month and see how your plants respond. Gradually increase it to half the recommended dosage. One example is GT Silica, but there are many you could try.



Upcoming Events Schedule: (Please note highlighted changes)

FEBRUARY 2024	
10th February 2024	STOCQ AGM & ordinary mtg, hosted by Gympie - at Albert Bowls Club, Gympie
MARCH 2024	
1st – 4th March 2024	TIOS & WOC Tainan, Taiwan
16th March	Maroochydore Orchid Society closed show, Uniting Church Buderim
29th – 31st March 2024	Gladstone OFS Show, Bill Robertson Toyota, Gladstone (Setup 28th 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)
12th & 13th April 2024	Childers Isis District OS show set up 11th.
20th April 2024	South Burnett OS Show, Diggers Club, Wondai
26th, 27th – 28th April 2024	Gympie & District Orchid Society Show (Set-up 26th of April) - at Albert Bowls Club, Gympie
MAY 2024	
10th, 11th, 12th May 2024	Bundaberg OS show, Civic Centre set up 9th May.
11th May 2024	Maroochydore Orchid Society closed show, Uniting Church Bli Bli
JUNE 2024	
June 2024	STOCQ Meeting, hosted by Calliope O & FS
AUGUST 2024	
8th, 9th, 10th August 2024	Maroochydore Orchid Society open show, Uniting Church Buderim
30th & 31st August 2024	Childers Isis District OS show set up 29th.
SEPTEMBER 2024	
20th & 21st Sept 2024	Glasshouse Country Orchid Society show, Beerwah Hall; set up 19th.
OCTOBER 2024	
11th – 12th October 2024	Bribie Island Orchid Society (Setup 10th of October)
NOVEMBER 2024	
November 2024	STOCQ Meeting, Hosted by Maroochydore OS
2025	
March 2025	15th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference & Show, Taiwan
June 2025	STOCQ meeting hosted by Bundaberg OS.
October 2025	STOCQ meeting hosted by Nambour OS.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Saturday, 24th February 2024

ADDRESS: Gary & Julie Walker – 26 Palmer Court, The Dawn

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:
24 th February 2024	Gary & Julie Walker – 26 Palmer Court, The Dawn
30 th 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!

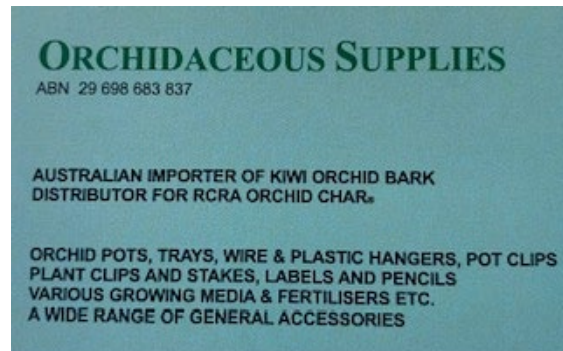


keepgrowing@rockypoint.com.au



Good food, Good life

Vendors:



Disclaimer: While every effort is made to keep the information in this newsletter up to date, it is for general information purposes only. We make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, reliability or suitability with respect to the information for any purpose. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk. In no event will we be liable for any loss or damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from loss arising out of or in connection with the use of this newsletter.