



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



**PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701**

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc](https://www.facebook.com/RockhamptonOrchidSocietyInc)

Newsletter – July 2025



This year is marching along, or should I say galloping, we are now over halfway through. Our Spring Show is just eleven weeks away, planning will commence in the coming month or so. Apart from a few tweaks to the layout plan it should be much easier than the planning for our 70th Anniversary Show. The venue is ideal for us, and we fortunately have it booked for our next three shows.

The weather, well what can I say, one minute it is freezing and the next we are enjoying warm and humid days, and you can imagine that our orchids are as confused as we are with the variable weather conditions. And while I am starting this newsletter there is also a low off the coast of New South Wales which could develop into a BOMB Low. It appears that the cyclone season could spread over cooler months. A bit more rain would be nice for us but combined with the cold it sets up spots on the leaves of *Oncidiums* or in the case of *Phalaenopsis* crown rot. It is very important to keep a good eye on what is happening with our orchids over

these colder months. At our upcoming Growers Group, I will be doing a presentation on Pests & Diseases.

In this newsletter the Orchid of the Month I will cover is *Calanthe vestita*, and I hope you gain some insight into this beautiful species, of which a plant was tabled at our June Meeting.⁷⁰

For those who weren't at our meeting or on Facebook our Treasurer Karen Carr sadly lost her mother recently. Jeff also announced the passing of another member Clarry Smith last week. It is very sad when we lose our loved ones.

Tony March is doing a great job doing talks following our meetings, but if anyone has something of interest which you think would be interesting to other members, please mention this. You don't have to be an advanced grower, maybe you might just like to let other members know your experiences and what has worked for you. Remember, all of our growing conditions are different, so not one method suits all growers.

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor.

**Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 26th July 2025.
Doors Open 12.30pm and Meeting Starts at 1:30pm.**

Plants must be tabled by 1.20pm at the latest.

Notice to Members: Please assist if you can with cleaning the hall after the meeting.

Any original article contained in a Rockhampton Orchid Society Newsletter may be re-printed for educational or information purposes, if, the Author and Newsletter & Edition are referenced.

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.
General Meeting Saturday 28th June commencing at 1.24pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: NIL

Visitors: NIL

Popular Vote – Members completed the popular orchid vote.

Minutes of May 2025 monthly meeting as published in the June newsletter were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Kay Ratcliffe

Seconded

Shirley Cantwell

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2025

IN –

- Newsletters – Albany Orchid Society, Blackwater Garden Club, Bundaberg Orchid Society, Caboolture Orchid & Foliage Society, Caloundra Orchid Society, Childers & District Orchid Society, Gympie Orchid Society, Mackay and District Orchid Society, Maryborough Orchid Society, Nambour Orchid Society, Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society
- Invoice from Aardvark Storage Sheds for monthly rental
- Email for AOC with regards to 2025-2026 membership
- Email for AOC with letter and amended invoice
- Email from Port Curtis Orchid and Foliage Society about the closing of Registrations for their show in August
- Email from STOCQ re: upcoming Meeting in Bundaberg on 14th June.
- Email with details for upcoming AOC 2025 Conference
- Email with STOCQ Meeting minutes from Bundaberg Meeting – Sandra read out
- Email with notes from Judges Meeting in Bundaberg – Sandra read out
- Email from AOC with regards to Board of Management Meeting & resignations.- Sandra read out
- Notice from STOCQ with regards of winding up of the Agnes Water Orchid Society

OUT –

- All Club Newsletters sent out to members
- Reply to Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society

Sandra Rowcliffe moved that the Inwards correspondence acknowledged as received and outwards correspondence endorsed as sent.

Seconded David Clarke

Carried

Treasurer's Report – This was sent out with June Newsletter.

Karen Carr moved that the report be accepted

Seconded

Shirley Kuhl

Carried

Growers Group:

Robyn Murphy spoke about the upcoming grower's group to be held on Saturday 12th July – 1.00pm to 4.00pm. It will be at Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe's home 53 Constance Avenue Rockyview. Robyn summed up our last Group Gathering as having a terrific turnout where were filled up Jeff's terraced area and the rain stayed away. The focus at our next meeting will be on pests and diseases. She mentioned that Trevor & Marg Handley will host our October meeting, and that Sharyn Frisch has expressed an interest in holding a gathering at her home.

Business Arising from the last meeting: NIL

General Business:

- Jeff mentioned about the passing of Karen Carr's mum and also the death of member Clarry Smith during the week, Jenny Moore said that the funeral would be next Friday.
- A recommendation at our last committee meeting was made about donating to the Australian Orchid Foundation, Jeff said that we had done this previously but nothing since COVID. It supports all projects involving orchids and over 15 years donated over \$1 million to groups to do this. Moyna Richardson put forward the motion that we would donate \$500 this year to this worthy charity, this was seconded by Robyn Murphy and agreed to by all.
- The upcoming Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society Show was mentioned. Jeff said as it was an Open Show it was by invitation. Sandra mentioned that she had sent them an email about this. She has asked for a flyer to be emailed to her so it can be included in our July newsletter. Anyone wanting further information we can email the details.
- STOCQ Conference is coming up in September in the Nambour area, quite a few members are going down for the show.
- AOC Conference in NSW will be in October and again some members are going down.
- Jeff said that we normally support these conferences with bus trips but this year was too full to organise this and we will look at holding a bus trip in 2026.
- Our Spring Show is fast approaching and again in the Robert Schwarten Pavillion.

- The Popular Vote Trophy that had gone missing and was subsequently replaced by John & Sharyn Frisch. The replacement trophy will now be used as the Reserve Champion Trophy. Jeff has had both of these trophies refurbished and they look great.
- The matter of Club Shirts was brought up and although Sandra has given it a bit of a look, had been too busy to look into fully, she will now get into getting information on this. Kay Ratcliffe mentioned that she could assist with details of where I could contact.
- For our next Show Trish Craig will be overseas and Toni Jenkinson will be the person to contact with regards to plant labels and sale plant price tags. Further details will be in a future newsletter.

Plant Commentary -Shirley Kuhl completed the commentary and did a great job.

Talk following meeting - Tony March delivered a talk on the ideocracies of orchids over the winter months. The question of whether to repot or not over the cooler months were discussed. He said that he would repot the Catasetinae genera as they are dormant over winter and repotting would not affect them much and it also gets one genus out of the way before the warmer weather returns. Other genera he would not repot even though they may still display growth evidence. He also spoke about pests that hid in the creases of orchids especially scale which will hide in the tight creases of Oncidium.

Paul Bennet talked about the crosses that Jana have bred and showed two plants that were in first flowering at the meeting.

Lucky Number: #47 - John & Daph Jenkinson

Exhibitor's Raffle: #88 – Jana Bennett

General Raffle – Ray Bills, Jeff Bloxsom, Bob Jenkins, Moyna Richardson, Kathie Zammit x 4, Judy Dore, Robyn Murphy x 2, Kerree Green x 2, Rosie Smith, Sandra Rowcliffe x 2, Maxine Robinson, Tony O'Connor.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 26th July

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 1st July 6.30pm at Karen Carr's home
Meeting closed at 3.50pm

Jeff Bloxsom

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – JUNE GENERAL MEETING



Annual Competition – June 2025 Results

Judges Choice

<i>Bdm. Tzeng-Wen Spot</i>	T & M Handley
<i>Paph. Dellaina x concolor x Virgo 'Dina'</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
<i>Calanthe vestita var. rubra-oculta</i>	K & R Smith

Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 60)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Rlc. Wainiaiae</i> Leopard 'Ching Hua'	T March
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rlc. Dorothy</i> Duaietz	J & P Bennett
Vandaceous up to 65mm & over	<i>V. Somsri</i> Gold x <i>V. Tubtim</i> Velvet	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Oncidium	<i>Bdm. Tzeng-Wen</i> Spot	T & M Handley
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Sherry</i> Abe	J & P Bennett
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Dellaina x concolor x Virgo 'Dina'</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Phalaenopsis up to 60mm	<i>Phal. Lianher</i> Cranberry	T & M Handley
Phalaenopsis 60mm and over	<i>Phal. Fuller's</i> Little Devil	T & M Handley
Species	<i>Calanthe vestita var. rubra-oculta</i>	K & R Smith
Miscellaneous	<i>Fdk.</i> Name Unknown	J & P Bennett

Novice (Plants Tabled: 17)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Ctt. Fritz</i> Eugene Dixon	A & G Cunningham
Cattleya over 100mmn	<i>Rlc. Hsinying</i> Aloha	K & D Clarke
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Genting</i> Lipstick	D & K Ratcliffe
Miscellaneous	<i>Cym. Sarah Jean</i> 'Ice Cascade'	P Rankin

POPULAR VOTE WINNERS JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Bdm. Tzeng-Wen Spot
T & M Handley



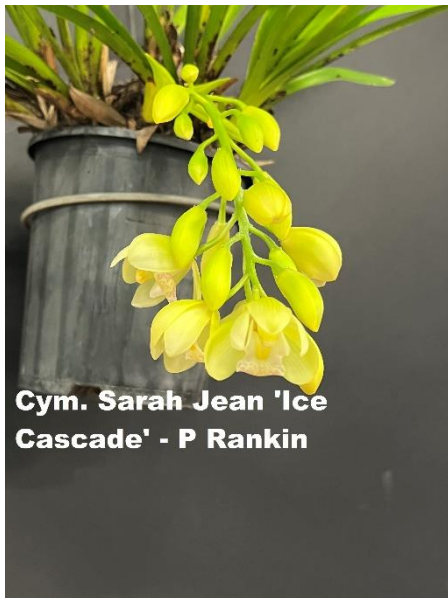
Calanthe vestita var.
rubra-oculta - K & R Smith



Ctt. Fritz Eugene Dixon
A & G Cunningham



Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice
Cascade' - P Rankin



Den. Genting Lipstick
D & K Ratcliffe



Den. Sherry Abe
J & P Bennett



Fdk. Name Unknown
J & P Bennett



Paph. Dellaina x concolor x
Virgo 'Dina' B Jenkins & S Kuhl



Phal. Fuller's Little Devil
T & M Handley



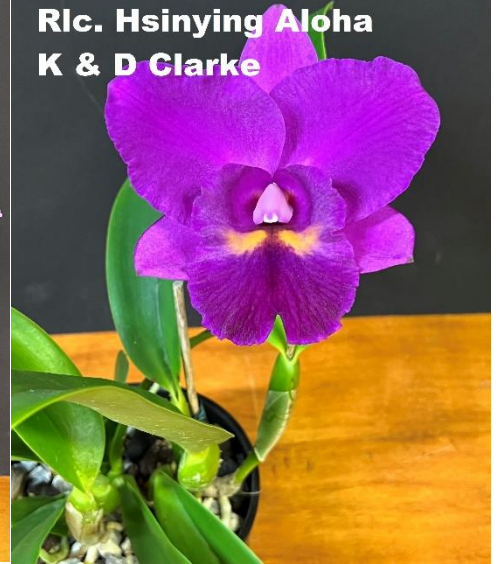
**Phal. Lianher Cranberry
T & M Handley**



**Rlc. Dorothy Duaietz
J & P Bennett**



**Rlc. Hsinying Aloha
K & D Clarke**



**Rlc. Wainaiae Leopard
'Ching Hua' - T March**



**V. Somsri Gold x
V. Tubtim Velvet
B Jenkins & S Kuhl**



MID YEAR ROSI GROWERS GROUP GATHERING

When – Saturday 12th July

Time – 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Where – Sandra & Michael Rowcliffe's Home

53 Constance Avenue Rockyview

What to Bring – Folding Chair – Coffee Cup – Plate for
Afternoon Tea – raffle prize

Orchid of the Month

Calanthe vestita

This month I am covering the species ***Calanthe vestita***, a well grown plant of this genera was tabled at our June Meeting by Ken & Rosie Smith. While judging this genera, of which I have some knowledge, it was interesting that there was very little knowledge of this genera by some of the judges & student judges so thought it would be a great subject to cover. While delivering the plant commentary Shirley Kuhl asked the owners about this plant. Rosie said that they had owned it for several years and this flowering was the best ever.

Source – orchidspecies.com

Common Name The Calanthe that is Surrounded by Bracts

Flower Size up to 2 1/2" to 3" [6.25 to 7.5 cm]

Found in Myanmar, Vietnam, lower Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and Sulawesi in forests on limestone in hill forests at elevations of sea level to 1000 meters as a medium sized, hot to warm growing, terrestrial or occasional lithophytic orchid with subconical bluntly angled, pale greenish grey pseudobulbs carrying broadly lanceolate, acuminate, prominently ribbed underneath, deciduous leaves that narrow basally into a channelled and winged petiole and blooms in the winter on a basal, suberect and then nodding 3' [90 cm] long, 6 to 15 flowered, racemose inflorescence with the peduncle pubescent and the bracts, ovate-lanceolate, and the fragile textured, long-lived flowers all arising before the leaves. This terrestrial species needs a dry winter rest as the leaves yellow and fall off and then, after the plant has bloomed, repot and wait for the new growth to appear to resume watering.



Calanthe vestita also called as The Calanthe that is Surrounded by Bracts, *Alismorchis vestita*, *Amblyglottis pilosa*, *Calanthe barberiana*, *Calanthe darblayana*, *Calanthe hennisii*, *Calanthe inquilinax*, *Calanthe masuca* var. *luteo-oculta*, *Calanthe masuca* var. *nivalis*, *Calanthe melinosema*, *Calanthe padangensis*, *Calanthe pilosa*, *Calanthe regnieri*, *Calanthe stevensiana*, *Calanthe stevensii*, *Calanthe turneri*, *Calanthe turneri* var. *nivalis*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *fournieri*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *igneo-oculata*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *lutea*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *oculata-gigantea*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *oweniana*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *rubra-oculta*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *sumatrana*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *turneri*, *Calanthe vestita* var. *williamsii*, *Calanthe violacea*, *Calanthe williamsii*,



Cytheris griffithii, *Phaius vestitus*, *Preptanthe vestita*, *Preptanthe villosa*, is a species of the genus *Calanthe*. This species was described by Nathaniel Wallich ex John Lindley in 1833.

IDENTIFY CALANTHE VESTITA

Calanthe vestita is native to Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Java and Sulawesi. In Myanmar, the plants were found near Mergui and Moulmein. On the Thai peninsula, the plants were found near Ranong and elsewhere on this peninsula. In Malaysia they were encountered only once, growing on limestone near Batu Caves, slightly to the north-east of Kuala Lumpur. A Sumatran variety was originally found between Padang Panjang and Kampong Tengah in the western part of Sumatra, at an altitude of about 1000 m, but later it was also encountered in other places in western and northern Sumatra. In Borneo, the plants meet in Kalimantan, Sarawaku and Sabah.

It is a medium sized, hot to warm growing, terrestrial or occasional lithophytic orchid with subconical bluntly angled, pale greenish grey, 8-12 cm long pseudobulbs carrying broadly lanceolate, acuminate, prominently ribbed underneath, deciduous, 45-60 cm long and 10-12 cm wide leaves that narrow basally into a channelled and winged petiole.

The *Calanthe* that is Surrounded by Bracts blooms in the winter on a basal, suberect and then nodding 90 cm long, 6 to 15 flowered, racemose inflorescences with the peduncle pubescent and the bracts, ovate-lanceolate, and the fragile textured, long-lived flowers all arising before the leaves. The flowers are 5.0-7.5 cm in diameter and are white with a yellow or red thickening and may sometimes have a pink colour on the lip. The flakes of both whorls are spread out, but they are more or less bent near the tops.

CALANTHE VESTITA CARE AND CULTURE

Cultural information should only be used as a guide and should be to be adapted to suit you. Your physical location: where you grow your plants, how much time you have to devote to their care, and many other factors, will need to be considered. Only then can you decide on the cultural methods that best suit you and your plants.

Light:

Calanthe vestita needs a light level of 25000-35000 lux. Moderately bright light should be slightly filtered or scattered, and the plants should not be exposed to the direct sunlight of the midday sun. Strong air movement should be ensured all the time





Temperature:

It is a thermophilic plant. In summer, the average day temperature is 27-28 ° C, night 22 ° C, which gives a daily difference of 5-6 ° C. In spring, the average temperature of such a spring day is 30-33 ° C, the night 21-22 ° C, and the daily span lowers from 12 to 7 ° C. In winter, the average day temperature is 29-32 ° C, and the night 17-18 ° C, with a daily amplitude of 11-13 ° C.

Humidity:

In summer and at the beginning of autumn, The Calanthe that is Surrounded by Bracts needs the humidity over 90%, then it gradually decreases to 65-70% in winter and at the beginning of spring.

Substrate, growing media and repotting:

Calanthe vestita require a rich substrate with excellent drainage. You can use a mixture of 1 part of fertile clay soil, 1 part of well-fermented manure, 1/2 part of cut osmunda fern and 1/2 part of chopped tree fern fibre or a mixture consisting of 6 parts of fine bark, 1 part of perlite or pumice, and 3 parts of peat mixed with live moss sphagnum. One part of charcoal can be added to each of the aforementioned mixtures, which improves the airiness of the substrate and prevents it from getting sour. After reaching maturity, they lose their leaves and then grows inflorescence. It also recommends reducing or even stopping watering when the plants bloom.

After flowering, the plants should be removed from the pots, pseudobulbs cleaned, and all old roots removed. The plants should be divided into individual pseudobulbs and then for the winter season located without roots in a cool, dry place. When new growths reach a height of about 5 cm in spring, they should be planted again. These plants should be split and repotted each year, because this ensures the creation of flowers.

Watering:

In the given natural habitats, rainfall is extremely abundant from the end of spring until autumn. Then their average drops sharply, going into a 4-month dry season in the winter and early spring. *Calanthe vestita* should be watered abundantly during periods of intensive growth, but excellent drainage should be ensured so that the ground around the roots is never spread or soggy. When new growths reach maturity in the autumn, the amount of water should be reduced.

Fertilizer:

During the active growth, the plants should be fertilized every week 1/4-1/2 of the recommended dose of fertilizer for orchids. You can use sustainable fertilizer throughout the year but also can use fertilizer with an increased nitrogen content from spring to mid-summer, and then, in late summer and autumn, begin to use a fertilizer with a higher content of phosphorus.

Rest period:

In the winter and early spring, the amount of water should be significantly reduced or even eliminated during flowering, and normal watering should be resumed only when the growth of new increments begins and the *Calanthe vestita* are repotted in the spring. Fertilisation should be eliminated until new growths appear and more watering begins in the spring.

They do come in a variety of colours, the plant that was tabled was *Calanthe vestita* var. *rubra-oculata* which had beautiful white flowers with a lovely pink colour in the lip.



COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2025

Attendance – Sandra Rowcliffe, Karen Carr, Jeff Bloxsom, Trish Craig, Tony March, John Jenkinson, Shirley Kuhl, Bob Jenkins, Jana Bennett, Paul Bennett, Peter Jenkinson

Apologies – Maxine Robinson

Absent – Robyn Bentley

- Discussed with Peter the Judges for both the Mackay & District Orchid Society and the Port Curtis Orchid and Foliage Society upcoming show
- Discussion about making more categories for Novice tabled plants at general meetings. There will be an increase in classes to include two more classes. For all added classes there must be a minimum of five plants/3 growers
- It was discussed about student judges also voting at General Meetings. At shows they will not be in the voting.
- Peter Jenkinson will be our Show Marshall for our Spring Show in September
- With MnS Orchids not attending our Spring Show this allows a vacancy for a new vendor, it was discussed that Bob will approach David Don Pon if he is interested, if not we would ask Peter Lucke.
- Show vendors will pay a \$300 site fee and the club would purchase raffle plants from all of the vendors.
- It was decided to keep the store sales the same as the last show. The Society will purchase an additional square terminal.
- For store sales during the year it was suggested that Bob & Shirley could take stock orders that would be collected by arrangement.

August 2 & 3, 2025 Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society Inc Premiere Show



Maxine Brushe Centre
Philip Street Precinct
1 Pengelly Street
Gladstone QLD

August 2 (9am - 4pm)
August 3 (9am - 2pm)

Admission \$2
Children under 16 Free

Raffles
Member's Plant Sales

Vendors
Benaraby Orchid Garden
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Colour Break Virus in Orchids

By Moyna Richardson (Previously in August 2022 Newsletter).

Just a story about a disappointing discovery in my orchid house last week. I had been waiting for the 3 buds on my *binosa* cross to open. When I noticed they had opened, I went for a closer look. The smile on my face disappeared. **COLOUR BREAK!** As soon as I saw the uneven blotches of colour over the flowers I knew this plant would be in the bin after I took the photos. An orchid virus cannot be killed by any chemicals that I am aware of. **NO CURE!** It can be easily spread to other plants by

1. Bugs that chew on your orchids after feeding on an infected plant.
2. By using unsterilised secateurs on several plants.
3. By touching plants with the fingers without washing.
4. Diseases including viruses, can be picked up anytime a plant is taken to a show. (Monthly meetings too).

Colour break is only one of the signs of a virus infection and the only one that I am addressing today.

For the newer members, colour break is sometimes mistaken for just part of the normal pattern on a flower. Some may think it looks 'better' than before. If the plant has flowered before, you may remember that it was different this time. I take photos of my flowers and label the plants, so I am able to include a photo of how it looked before it was infected.

If you have never seen the bloom of a new purchase, there are some points to look for. Some newer types of orchids seem to have a 'well defined and blotchy' pattern that is normal. Colour break blotches often look like the ink has run when it gets wet. Also, colour patterns in most virus free orchids, should be repeated in exactly the same place on every bloom. Not just on one bloom of the spray and only on one side. Photo A (below) shows the colour break on all the petals and sepals on the RHS bloom. Photo B (next page) shows that a virus infected plant does not necessarily look 'sick'. The new growths are clean and vigorous. The other photo is of *C. intermedia*. The infection on this bloom is more on the edges but is not even and regular. I had this one tested and it came back as tobacco mosaic VIRUS.

I have heard rumors that some people put infected plants out in the back garden away from the orchid house instead of destroying. Please, destroy. It only takes one bug to chew this plant then chew your prize orchids. We all have some orchids that grow best outside of the orchid house. These are now at risk of infection. If brought to our meetings, it can spread to other collections. I could have brought the plant to the Mid-year function at Bob and Shirley's place, but this posed an unnecessary risk to their collection. Photos tell the story as well as the live plant. Hope this article was helpful.



2025 Dates

**** ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE ****

July 18th & 19th – Caboolture OS Winter Show

August 2nd & 3rd Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society Show

8th & 9th - Maroochydore OS Show Buderim

28th, 29th & 30th – Childers & Isis OS Spring Show

September 6th & 7th STOCQ Meeting - Nambour

2025 Orchidfest - Nambour

11th, 12th & 13th – Maryborough DOS Show

20th & 21st Rockhampton OS Spring Show

19th & 20th – Noosa DO & FS Show

26th & 27th – Glasshouse OS Show

October 1st to 5th – AOC Conference & Show Woolgoolga NSW

10th & 11th – Bribie OS Show

November

ROSI CHRISTMAS AWARDS EVENING AND DINNER AT THE
ROCKHAMPTON BOWLS CLUB VICTORIA PARADE ROCKHAMPTON.

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

2026 Dates

March **21st & 22nd ROSI Autumn Show**

September **26th & 27th ROSI Spring Show**



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President: Jeff Bloxsom
0407 995 122

Vice President: Bob Jenkins
0484 927 667

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0438 130 360

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Robyn Bentley 0417 705 250

Shirley Kuhl 0418 795 776

Trish Craig 0427 226 621

John Jenkinson 0438 012 838

Peter Jenkinson 0472 513 170

Tony March 0401 280 352

Paul Bennett 0418 480 208

Jana Bennett 0449 504 312

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Tony March and Bob Jenkins

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Assist Newsletter Editor:

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Webmaster:

Bob Lakey rlakey@dodo.com.au

Technical Advisor: Vacant

Growers Coordinators: Robyn Murphy

Providore: Maxine Robinson

Promotion Officer: Sandra Rowcliffe

Door Monitors: Judy Dore
Daphne Jenkinson

Librarian: Y'vonne Manning

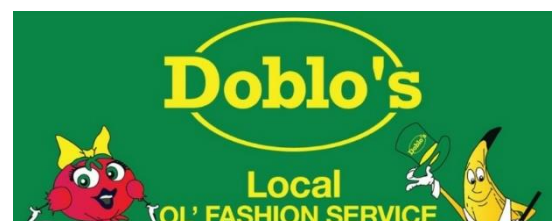
Property Officers: Vacant

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Red Hill Rockhampton Qld 4701



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Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month (excluding December) at Fred Fox Band Hall, Cnr. Gladstone Road and William Street, Rockhampton. Meetings commence at 1:30pm, doors open at 1.00pm and plants must be tabled by 1:20pm.

Disclaimer:

The Rockhampton Orchid society Inc. disclaims all responsibility for any losses or damage, which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any material published in this Newsletter.