



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



**PO Box 5949
Red Hill Rockhampton 4701**

Founded 1955



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc](#)

Newsletter – May 2026



Welcome to our May Newsletter. In this month's edition we have an article submitted by Jeff Glover on his recent Trip to Tokyo for the Orchid Grand Prix, what a great experience.

This month's Orchid of the Month is Dendrobium Nobile (Den. Soft Cane). This genera is usually one of our largest sections for our Spring Shows. They are easy to grow and apart from staking/tying maintenance they require little other work.

I have included details on how plants are vetted & judged for Australian Orchid Council Awards, a few members have been asking how plants are awarded. If you still have some more questions please ask at our May Meeting.

The new growers workshop held at Peter Jenkinson's went well and Robyn our growers coordinator has an article about this in Growers

Group News. There is no April committee meeting minutes as there was no need this month to have a meeting with nothing urgent on the agenda.⁶¹

Weather has been dry of late and lawns are now starting to look like they would like some rain. The days are also cooling down and getting shorter. Won't be long before I have my headlamp out to reach the greenhouses in the mornings for watering, luckily there is lights in most of them. For those of us who cover our collections this will need to be done in the next week or two with a cold change forecast after this coming weekend, this will usually mean cold south westerly breezes, and dendrobiums don't appreciate this and in cases will shed their leaves.

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor

**Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 23rd May 2026.
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 25th April commencing at 1.26 pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: #61 John & June Spencer

Visitors: Nil

Popular Vote – Members completed the popular orchid vote.

Popular Vote Counters – Committee members completed the counting.

Minutes of March 2026 monthly meeting as published in the April newsletter were approved as correct and accurate.

Moved Lyn Hopes

Seconded

Trish Craig

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2026

IN –

- Newsletters – Australian Orchid Foundation, Blackwater Garden Club, Brisbane Orchid Society, Bundaberg Orchid Society, Caboolture Orchid Society, Caloundra Orchid Society, Childers & District Orchid Society, Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Mackay and District Orchid Society, Maryborough Orchid Society, Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society
- Email from Aardvark Self Storage Invoice for Shed Rental
- Email from Aardvark Self Storage with Gate Key Code
- Phone call from Michelle Landry's office advising that they have approved us to apply for \$1,000 for the Upcoming Volunteer Grants.

OUT –

- All Club Newsletters sent out to members
- Acquittal FSC 1st Round Grant of \$500.00
- Submission to Frenchville Sports Club Round 2 Community Partnership Grants
- Expression of Interest for Volunteer Grant to Michelle Landry

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

Seconded

Dennis Ratcliffe

Carried

Treasurer's Report – The March Treasurer's Report was emailed out with the April Newsletter.

Karen Carr moved that both reports be accepted

Seconded

Jan Rawlings

Carried

Jeff mentioned that we needed to replace our old bag sealer and we were able to purchase a second-hand one-off Marketplace for \$100, to buy a new one would have cost over \$700.

Growers Group: Robyn Murphy spoke about the small working group of 7 new members who attended Peter Jenkinson's home to repot up the Club's raffle seedlings. 60 plants were potted up. Thanks to PJ & Tony March who assisted, everyone who attended enjoyed the experience. The next similar event will be in August and if interested in attending give Robyn your name. On the 18th July we will be holding the growers group meeting at Bill & Moyna Richardson's home. Agenda will be presentation of orchids and floral arrangements. Robyn suggested for new growers to grab a book from the library.

Business Arising from the last meeting: Nil

General Business:

- Ray Bills was presented with his life membership trophy and certificate
- Jeff spoke about the post show article that Sandra put in the CQ Today newspaper
- As we cannot get the 12th December for our Christmas Dinner, it was decided to see if we can get Sunday 13th December for Dinner (members were asked if they wanted a luncheon or dinner, with dinner preferred). Jeff to book hall and caterer.
- Our Spring Show clashes with the Hervey Bay Show but could not be helped as this was the only date our venue was available.
- The Robert Schwarten Pavillion is not available for our Autumn 2027 show, the committee will discuss options and advise.

Plant Commentary - Peter Jenkinson completed the plant commentary.

Lucky Number: #46 – Trevor & Marg Handley

Exhibitor's Draw: #53 Tony Pound

General Raffle – Danny McGrath, David Eggleshaw x 2, Margaret Olsen x 2, Kay Ratcliff x 2, Tony O'Connor x 2, Gwen Breingan, Mirriam Black.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 23rd May 2026

Next Committee Meeting – There is no need for a committee meeting on Tuesday evening for April.

Meeting closed at 3.02pm

Jeff Bloxson

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Den. Burbank Premium
K & R Smith



Chtra. Ruth Murai 'Royal Show'
B Jenkins & S Kuhl



C. Jungle Queen 'Southern Cross'
T O'Connor



How to Fertilize Using Mesh Bags

Text and photograph by Karla Velasco



THE WAY I grow orchids has evolved tremendously over the years. It can be impacted by our location, access to supplies, and our level of effort. I have grown orchids in Florida, South Korea, Texas, and now Phoenix. With each new location, my growing strategies have evolved.

Orchids grown in baskets or mounted have been hard for me to fertilize. I use sheer mesh bags that sell as party favors or jewelry bags. I fill these up with slow-release fertilizer, and Bonide granules (contains Imidacloprid, which affects honey bees and is banned in several northeastern states, Puerto Rico and Canada). They are then placed on my orchids. These bags are inexpensive. A pack of 100 is easily found online for under \$10.

I found fertilizer baskets not to be as effective as these mesh bags. The basket's holes are too big to hold the granules and the baskets hold very little fertilizer. The drawstring of the mesh bags makes them easy to close and hang. The material is flexible and if roots creep into the bag, they can be easily cut apart. These bags have certainly made a difference in my growing.

If you experiment with these bags or have other ideas regarding how they may be used, I would love to hear about it.

— Karla Velasco (email karlavelasco@gmail.com).

Annual Competition – April 2026 Results

Judges Choice

<i>C. Jungle Queen ‘Southern Cross’</i>	T O’Connor
<i>Chtra. Ruth Murai ‘Royal Show’</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
<i>Den. Burbank Premium</i>	K & R Smith

Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 69)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>C. Jungle Queen ‘Southern Cross’</i>	T O’Conner
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Rth. Fu Shu Glory ‘Happy Holiday’</i>	T & M Handley
Oncidiinae	<i>Odontonia Tropical Heatwave</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Vandaceous up to 65mm	Tie - <i>Chtra. Ruth Murai ‘Royal Show’</i> Tie – <i>Vanda Pine Rivers ‘Wasana’</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl M & B Richardson
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>Vanda Suksamran Gold ‘Spot’</i>	K & P O’Brien
Dendrobium – Phalaenanthé & Intermediate Types	<i>Den. Burbank Premium</i>	K & R Smith
Dendrobium – Spatulata & Any Other	<i>Den. Aridang Blue x Den. Coleman’s Frills</i>	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Species – All Genera	<i>Phal. pulcherrima</i>	T & M Handley
Miscellaneous	<i>Bulb. Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’</i>	S & M Rowcliffe

Novice (Plants Tabled: 18)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Blc. Hawaii Stars</i>	K & D Clarke
Cattleya over 100mm	Tie – <i>Rlc. Chief Journey</i> Tie – <i>Rlc. Chumthong Delight</i>	Y Manning K & D Clarke
Miscellaneous	<i>Renanthera</i> (Azimah x Bangkok Flame)	M & R Black
Species	<i>Paph. purpuratum</i>	T Pound

POPULAR VOTE WINNERS APRIL GENERAL MEETING





Renanthera (Azimah x Bangkok Flame - M & R Black



Rlc. Chief Journey - Y Manning



**Rlc. Chumthong Delight
K & D Clarke**



**Rth. Fu Shu Glory 'Happy Holiday'
T & M Handley**



**Vanda Pine Rivers 'Wasana'
M & B Richardson**



**V. Suksamran Gold 'Spot'
K&P O'Brien**

NEW MEMBERS

ROSI NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP – RAY BILLS



John & June Spencer with Jeff Blosom



Article by Jeffrey Glover

Tokyo Orchid Grand Prix 2026 Highlights

Four Central Queensland orchid enthusiasts ticked off a bucket-list item in February by visiting the 2026 Tokyo Orchid Grand Prix held at the Tokyo Dome precinct as a highlight of a 12-day holiday in Japan. Jeff and Norma Glover, Jenni Scott and Sharyn Frisch went via Singapore after visiting the relatively new 'Cool Genera' glasshouse complex at the Singapore National Gardens. I would recommend this to anyone especially those who live in the tropics as it was a delight to see genera in flower that I had rarely seen in 45 years of growing orchids.

As those who have visited Japan will know, Tokyo is a huge city, and we stayed virtually on site at the Tokyo Dome Hotel to minimise unnecessary travel issues. The 'Dome' is a massive free-standing dome shaped stadium that stages baseball games, which is the national sport adopted from the influence of the American occupation, post WW2. The 'Dome' lends its name to a virtual district which co-houses a 48 story -hotel , multi- level shopping centre, a fair ground complete with Rollercoaster and Ferris Wheel, a Concert Hall and Display Pavilion called the Prism Hall where the Orchid Show was held; which has been the location for the past several years. Prior to COVID, the shows were held in the actual Dome, so I was informed. This again maybe the location since the announcement at Dresden that Japan will hold the next WOC in 2029, time will tell.



Arriving in Tokyo the evening before the show we embarked on a short stroll from the Hotel to get our bearings and quickly discovered the queue for those who had purchased tickets for the evening function and pre-viewing, before the opening to the public the next day. Like

everything in Japan, all was orderly, and exactly on time the doors opened to

allow access to the hall.

We did have some

vision of the displays inside which just heightened our enthusiasm for the following day.



After breakfast we arrived to find a much bigger queue for the first day. What we thought would be a timely wait was soon dispelled into a polite and orderly procession guided by efficient ushers and compliant patrons and we seemed to be inside in no time at all.

As in the Taiwan Orchid Shows, Phalaenopsis were extensively used in the massed entry - displays to create that wow factor.

The champion orchids were separated and annotated with the appropriate sashes and cards. A photo opportunity setting complemented this section which had a steady demand throughout our visit. The rest of the show was



arranged in rows according to genus, with the class champions and place getters first, second and third appropriately highlighted with cards, ribbons, and medals. There was an extensive 'trade' section at the rear of the hall which naturally included nurseries and associated product sellers such as gardening tools etc.

The champion orchid was *Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg* 'Long Live' exhibited by an American registrant. This genus was well represented along with the cooler-growing *Paphiopedilums* such as, the complex hybrid types, *Brachypetalum* and *Parvisepalum* sub-genus hybrids and species, rather than the Multiflorals types. A highlight for us being tropical climate orchid growers where the cooler growing genera such as the *Cymbidiums*, *Paphs* and *Lycastes*. The latter seeming to be on steroids, as there were some huge examples on display.



Something of a novelty for us was the complete row of unflowered *Neofinetia falcata*, a genus and species endemic to Japan and regarded as the country's national orchid. The full section had examples with variegated leaves, a prized feature in most foliage plants, but this was the first time I had seen such importance placed on orchids for their leaves. As it was the northern



hemisphere, our Spring flowering orchids were starting to bloom with a lovely representation of Softcane *Dendrobiums* on display. These are also very popular in Japan, with of course Yamamoto Orchids being the foremost breeder and retailer of these types.



One of the downsides to visiting overseas orchid shows is the frustration at not being able to purchase plants and bring them back home as we all know of the strict custom rules regarding imported plants. Compounding this was the absence of any nurseries selling flasks. I enquired about this with a few of the stall holders and the general consensus was that the demand was for plants, and they made enough from this.

Even the foliage nurseries from Thailand had bare -rooted plants for sale. In conclusion, all I can say is that there must be a lot of glasshouses in Japan because after our visit to the Show, it snowed for the next two days, and it was quite heavy on the second!



Many thanks Jeff Glover for this interesting article!

Growers Group Workshop News May 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the May newsletter growers group snippet and I hope everyone's greenhouses are breathing a big sigh of relief with the worst of the heat behind us for now!

Firstly, I'd like to recap on the valuable experience our small novice group gained when we helped out with repotting some of ROSI's orchid seedlings on 11th April. Many thanks to Peter (PJ) and Toni Jenkinson for hosting us at their lovely home and for showing us their extensive collection of orchids. They certainly have a lot of full greenhouses to keep them busy - and a lot of "showstopper" orchids to boot! Thanks also to PJ & Tony March for sharing their knowledge and experience whilst helping us to get the repotting job done. Many questions were asked by the group and many questions patiently answered by PJ and Tony. Time flew while we potted a fair whack of seedlings into bigger pots and I can safely say that we all grew in confidence in that short space of time. Some seedlings were re-potted from individual pots and others from "community pots". They all graduated from their mini greenhouse "humidicrib" environment to sitting openly on a greenhouse shelf and my understanding is that there are no casualties yet!



PJ has offered to hold another of these re-potting workshops In August, before the ROSI September show. The exact date isn't known at this stage, but I'll keep you posted as we get closer. It will be open to newer / novice growers and numbers once again limited to 6 /7. Priority will be given to those who didn't attend in April, and I'm happy to start taking names to put on the list....



In the meantime, I'm happy to say that we have a date set for our next grower's group workshop. It's open to all members and will be hosted at Moyna and Bill Richardson's residence on Saturday afternoon of July 18th, so pop the date in your diaries! There will, of course, be lots of orchids to visit in Moyna and Bill's back yard, before we settle into learning how to put a floral arrangement together. Jeff Bloxson, Jan Hogan and Maxine Robinson have kindly agreed to share their knowledge on this subject while they demonstrate their expertise. I'm hoping that in the mix, we'll also pick up some useful tips on the art of staking / presenting plants to meet show standards. Details will be firmed up closer to the workshop, so stay tuned. If anybody has any ideas or is willing to host an October workshop, I'm still ready and waiting J Feel free to contact me!

Robyn Murph y P: 0437 388 450 / E : rmu33636@bigpond.net.au (Growers Group Coordinator)

Vale Gloria Wakefield

Past member Gloria Wakefield has sadly passed away on Wednesday 8th April. She is survived by her husband Roger and family.

Gloria joined the Rockhampton Orchid Society in May 2005. In February 2006 she took on the role of Secretary and held this position until February 2014 a total of 7 years. Gloria was highly involved with the CWA (Country Women's Association) and with moving to Yeppoon in retirement she ceased membership with the Society. Most of the older members will remember Gloria as the organiser of our Cent Sale at the Church Hall in Feez Street many years ago. We also attended growers' group at her residence in Wandal.

Her funeral service was attended by a few members of the Society, and we wish her family our deepest condolences on her passing.



COLIN NOY'S ANT MIX – taken from Facebook

Most of us from time to time have ants invade our collections. In some instances, there are mealy bugs and ants, the question often asked is do the ants bring the mealy bugs or do the mealy bugs attract the ants, either way this is a pest we don't want in our greenhouses, (ants crawling out of pots on the show table is not a good look). As a dry mix of the Borax and icing sugar is used as a deterrent for cockroaches this mix should also deter them. Below is an economical Ant Mix you can make at home.

- Mix 2 level tablespoons of Borax with 1 cup of sugar in a saucepan dry.
- Add small amounts of water until it saturates the mix but does not have excess water at this point.
- Add to low heat and constantly stir (so, it doesn't burn)
- Mixture will start to break down (melt) and turn opaque, continue to stir.
- As the mixture comes to the boil continue stirring for around 3 minutes, the mixture should turn clear on the boil, the mixing is complete.
- The trick to this mixture is that it should be the consistency of room temperature honey.
- While this mixture is still on the heat add water to thin it out.
- Allow mixture to cool, if it forms a crust repeat the above process until you have a honey like consistency at room/day temperatures.



Source – Toowoomba Orchid Society Facebook Posts.



The Australian Orchid Council Inc.

Judging and Awards

ORCHID JUDGING SYSTEM

There are seven Regional Judging Panels which administer the AOC judging system in their respective regions. The Regional Registrars of these Regional Judging Panels, together with the AOC Registrar General of Judging comprise the AOC Judging & Awards Standing Committee. Some of the Regional Panels have established Sub-regional Panels for logistical reasons. These Sub-regional Panels, where they exist, are under the management of the Regional Registrar and operate as authorised by the Regional Registrar according to the rules of the AOC.

Duties of the Registrar-General of Judging:

- The Registrar-General of Judging shall be responsible for administering all matters affecting judging and the Regional Judging Panels and shall chair all meetings of the Judging and Awards Standing Committee where possible.
- Where the Registrar-General of Judging chairs any meeting of Judges, he shall have a deliberative vote only. The Registrar-General of Judging shall be responsible for:
 1. Determining and approving applications for Council Awards
 2. Keeping records on all judging matters
 3. The conduct of the correspondence in relation to judging matters
 4. Keeping a due and proper record of all awards granted by the Council
 5. The maintenance of judging standards and the facilitation of a uniform judge training system

A number of judging methods have been employed over the years and standards have been, and continue to be, constantly reviewed to allow for new developments. Since January 1999, all orchids are judged by general appreciation rather than the former regimented system of points for certain features of the bloom. A panel of at least five fully accredited judges is required to make an award. The panel then passes the application, photos etc on to the Australian Orchid Council's Registrar General via the state Deputy. Awards are now shown thus: FCC/AOC (year).

The following are the AOC Award categories:

- FCC: First Class Certificate – 85 points or more of possible 100
- AM: Award of Merit – 80 to 85 points
- HCC: Highly Commended Certificate – 75 to 80 points
- AD: Award of Distinction – awarded for distinctive attributes e.g. colour
- CBM: Certificate of Botanical Merit
- ACE: Award of Cultural Excellence – 85 points or more of possible 100
- ACM: Award of Cultural Merit – 80 to 85 points
- ACC: Award of Cultural Commendation – 75 to 80 points
- ASR: Award of Special Recognition

Each year, the various panels nominate their choice for the AOC Awards of the Year in four categories from those orchids awarded in the previous calendar year. The categories are:

- AOC Orchid Hybrid of the Year
- AOC Species Orchid of the Year
- AOC Award of Distinction of the Year
- AOC Culture Award of the Year

Copies of award images of these are circulated to each panel for voting. The finalists are published in Orchids Australia magazine in August. The winners are announced at the Annual General Meeting of the AOC, usually in September or October.

Growers who wish to have their plants judged for any AOC award should make the necessary contact with their Regional Registrar of Judges. Each region (currently based on states) has its own Regional Registrar, and in the larger states, there are to be found several Sub-Regional Registrars who deputize for the Regional Registrar. All award applications are sent to the Registrar General via the Regional Registrar for processing.

It is possible for a grower to present a plant for an award, and to present the same plant at a later date for consideration for a higher award.

EXAMPLE OF A JUDGING CARD USED FOR WHEN VETTING A PLANT FOR AN AWARD

Name of Plant.....

Judge's Name.....Date.....

	Shape	Colour/Texture	Size	Stem/Display	Flower Count	Substance
Very Inadequate						
Some Problems						
Award Quality (HCC)						
Superior (AM)						
Exceptional (FCC)						

Comments.....

.....

No Award HCC AM FCC OTHER POINTS

- Shape is up to a maximum of 30 points
- Colour/Texture is up to a maximum of 30 points
- Size is up to a maximum of 10 points
- Stem/Display is up to a maximum of 10 points
- Flower Count is up to a maximum of 10 points
- Substance is up to a maximum of 10 points

THIS GIVES THE OVERALL POINTS AWARDED A TOTAL OF OUT OF A MAXIMUM OF 100 POINTS

Orchid of the Month

Dendrobium Nobile – Soft Cane Dendrobium

With winter approaching growers of these lovely genera may have moved their plants out of their greenhouses to allow the plants the opportunity to feel the cooler temperature drop from day to night, this is essential for a good flowering of this variety. A fortnight of temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius should see flower buds forming the entire length of the cane. During this time of the year, it is not unusual to see plants taking pride of place on clotheslines. It is important to now stop fertilising these plants otherwise they will produce keikis over buds. Buds will start forming during May to July and flowering will be around August to September. I have found that the canes will flower for two years, then will be substituted by new canes. Another issue I noticed is that the leaves get lots of dark spots on them, and when I was a novice asked Barry English about these and he said not to worry, this was usual. The plants can possibly drop a lot of their leaves prior to flowering.

Source – <https://smartgardenguide.com>

Dendrobium Nobile orchids are one of the most popular species of orchids. Their profuse, beautiful, delicately scented flowers produce a wonderful display for up to several months at a time. This article is going to walk you through how to care for dendrobium nobile orchids. First, a quick summary.

How to care for a dendrobium nobile orchid: Keep in bright light, at 65-85 °F (18-30°C) and 50-70% humidity. Plant in orchid potting mix, water when the top of the potting medium is dry and fertilize lightly every 1-2 weeks. Prune after flowering. In the autumn, reduce water and fertilizer and expose to cooler temperatures to stimulate reblooming.



I've so many useful tips to share and all the details about caring for dendrobium orchids. So read on and I'll tell you everything you need to grow amazing dendrobium nobile orchids.

Dendrobium Nobile Light Requirements Dendrobium nobile orchids require and tolerate more light than most other commonly cultivated orchids. They are best kept in bright light conditions all year round. In the winter, they can tolerate direct sunlight, but in the heat of the summer, you should limit direct sunlight to a few hours in the early morning or late afternoon.

A south-facing window is best during the winter, spring and autumn, but they are better moved to an east-facing window in the hottest months of summer, to reduce the risk of leaf scorching.

If you notice wrinkled leaves, brown shrivelled leaf tips, or yellowing or fading leaves, this can be a sign of excessive lighting, and you should move your dendrobium nobile to a location with less intense light conditions.

Watering Dendrobium Nobile Orchids The water requirements of dendrobium orchids vary during the year. During active growth of the orchid in the summer, water thoroughly once the potting media is almost dry. Use your finger to monitor the dryness of the potting media, to get an idea of when it needs watered.

Another good tip is to monitor the weight of the pot. By lifting the pot, and judging the weight, you will soon know when the potting media is dry and can get a good idea of when it needs watered.

Try to ensure that you provide your dendrobium nobile orchid with sufficient water during this time to maximize growth.

Frequency of watering will depend on a number of factors including the size of the pot, how root bound the orchid is, the temperature and ventilation conditions the plant is being grown in. Be guided by the condition of the orchid and dryness of the potting media, rather than watering on any set schedule or a certain number of days.

Each time you water your dendrobium nobile, soak the potting media thoroughly and allow the water to run out the bottom of the pot. Water your dendrobium nobile orchid in the morning if possible. Increased heat, light, and ventilation during the day allows excess water to evaporate, which is particularly important to reduce the risk of fungal disease.



Once the canes produce the last of their leaves in the autumn, and growth slows, reduce watering significantly. You should monitor the canes for signs of drying out, and water just enough at this time to prevent the cane from shrivelling or the leaves from wilting.

You may only have to water your dendrobium nobile every 2-3 weeks at this time. Relative water deprivation is an important step in encouraging bud and bloom development.



Once you see new buds starting to develop, you can increase watering again, to provide sufficient water throughout the blooming phase.

What Temperature Do Dendrobium Orchids Need? Dendrobium nobile orchids are quite tolerant of variations in temperature throughout the year and between day and night. However, to get the best out of your plant and encourage it to rebloom year after year, you should provide quite specific temperature conditions in the autumn.

During blooming and active growth phases, from February to September, dendrobium nobile orchids are best kept at warmer temperatures of 65-85 °F (18-30°C), with nighttime temperatures of not less than 54 °F (12 °C).

In the autumn, from March to May, they require cooler temperatures, with significant variation between day and nighttime temperatures, to stimulate bud and bloom development.

Dendrobium Nobile Humidity Requirements Dendrobium nobile orchids are less sensitive to humidity conditions than many other species, but 50-70% humidity is ideal. With higher humidity levels, the need to ensure adequate ventilation increases, to reduce the risk of disease.

If you need to increase humidity levels for your dendrobium nobile orchids, consider a humidity tray, or grouping plants together. If needed, monitor the humidity level of your growing environment with a hygrometer. I use a simple digital thermometer/hygrometer for my indoor plants to ensure I am providing the best conditions.

Air Circulation As dendrobium nobile orchids require fairly high levels of humidity, this can predispose them to fungal disease, unless sufficient airflow is provided. Opening a window in a poorly ventilated house or using an

oscillating fan can greatly reduce the risk of disease. Just be careful not to expose your orchid to cold drafts, which can cause bud drop on occasion.

Potting Media For Dendrobium Nobile Dendrobium orchids are epiphytic plants, which means that in nature, they grow attached to other plants, rather than in soil. For this reason, you should ensure that your dendrobium nobile orchid is potted in a very well aerated and well-draining potting mix.

A good quality pre-prepared orchid mix will be ok, or you can make your own. An equal mix of coarse pine bark, coconut husk and perlite is a mix that I use very successfully with a number of orchid species.

Choice Of Potting Container The potting container must have plenty of drainage holes and should not be excessively large. Dendrobium nobile orchids tolerate being root bound very well, and avoiding excessive potting media around the roots will improve drainage and aeration of the roots.



I normally use a plastic pot that is just big enough to hold the roots of the plant and has plenty of drainage holes. I always place my dendrobium nobile orchids into an outer decorative pot to add to the aesthetics when they are on display and to add weight to prevent this top-heavy plant from tipping over.

This also makes it easy to take the inner pot to the sink to water the orchid, allowing it to drain thoroughly, before returning it to its decorative pot.

Clay pots are possibly an even better option, as the porous nature of clay allows for more rapid drying of the potting media and reduces the risk of root rot.



Fertilizing Dendrobium Nobile Orchids Fertilize your dendrobium nobile orchid with a water-soluble orchid fertilizer every 1-2 weeks. It is better to make the fertilizer up at half the recommended strength and fertilize more frequently, than use a stronger fertilizer less often.

Dendrobiums are at risk of nutrient toxicity and root burn if excessively strong fertilizer is used, so fertilizing at half strength reduces this risk significantly.

If fertilizing weekly, just use water every 4th week and thoroughly soak the potting medium to flush the excess fertilizer salts from the potting medium.

Another issue with overfertilizing or using a fertilizer which is particularly high in nitrogen, is that this can cause too much green leafy growth, or promote the production of keikis (baby plant offshoots), which will divert the plant's energy from producing further blooms.

From April, stop fertilizing as this is part of the process to stimulate reblooming, along with reduced watering and exposing your dendrobium nobile to cooler temperatures.

Don't start fertilizing again until flowering has almost finished.

Dendrobium Nobile Blooms The flowers of dendrobium nobile orchids are beautiful, delicate and numerous. Buds form on small flower spikes of no more than a few centimetres in length, that grow from the stem, in between pairs

of leaves. A single dendrobium nobile cane can have 25-50 blooms and a plant with several canes blooming will produce a spectacular display.

The flowers have a light, sweet scent, which is pleasant, but not overpowering.

Buds normally develop in December and January, with blooming from January to March in the northern hemisphere. Blooms typically last for at least 6 weeks. Cooler conditions and healthy plants given good care can extend blooming for up to 12 weeks in total.

Pruning And Care After Flowering After your plant has finished flowering, you should trim the flower spikes off close to the cane. Do not cut a cane that has finished flowering, as an individual cane can rebloom the following year, but they also contain a store of energy which the plant can use to grow new canes and vegetative growth, leading to bud and bloom development on a new cane.

Cutting an old cane removes this energy source, and it is more difficult for the orchid to produce new canes the following season.

Reblooming Once blooming has finished, increase watering, begin regular fertilizing, keep it in temperatures of between 65-85 °F (18-30°C) and ensure it gets plenty of bright light to maximize vegetative growth. You can expect at least some leaf drop from the canes which have flowered, and this is to be expected as dendrobium nobile orchids are semi-deciduous.

You can expect new vegetative growth to develop over the months of April to August, and it is normal for one or more new pseudobulbs to develop, which will be the most likely site of blooming the following winter.

Eventually, the canes will stop producing new leaves, and as you enter the autumn, this is the time to reduce watering, stop fertilizing and reduce the temperatures the orchid is grown in.

Dendrobium nobile orchids will typically produce buds after being exposed to nighttime temperatures of 50-60 °F (10-15°C) for at least 4 weeks, with daytime temperatures of up to 70 °F (21°C).

After the plant has been exposed to at least 4 weeks of colder conditions and cooler nights, you can expect buds to develop in about 40-50 days. Once buds develop, you should ensure that you avoid exposure to temperatures below 54 °F (12°C) F to reduce the risk of bud drop.

Interestingly, some of the newer varieties of dendrobium nobile orchid will bloom without these specific care requirements, but unless you are absolutely sure, I would recommend following the above advice.

Staking Dendrobiums Orchids Dendrobium nobile orchids are very top heavy and should be staked to

ensure the canes grow as you wish them to and to reduce the risk of the pot toppling, which is likely, if the canes of your plant are growing at an angle, away from the centre of the pot.

Place a stake close to and parallel with the cane and loosely attach the cane to the stake with clips or wire which do not restrict the growth of the orchid. **(This is important as the canes can grow quite fat)**

Obviously, this is not the natural way for dendrobium nobile orchids to grow in nature. They normally grow attached onto another plant and the canes hang down from the plant. You can try this alternative way of growing your



dendrobium nobile orchid as long as the pot will not topple or try growing them in a hanging basket or wall mounted planter.

How To Repot A Dendrobium Nobile Orchid Dendrobium nobile orchids like to be root bound, so only repot every 2-3 years, and only to a pot one size bigger. Triggers for repotting should be if drainage of the potting media slows down due to the media breaking down, canes overgrow the pot, or the root mass is significantly filling the pot.

Repot once flowering has finished and the plant is about to enter a period of rapid vegetative growth. Fresh potting media and space to grow will be most beneficial for your plant at this time. Repotting at other times can interrupt bud and bloom development and repotting when flowering can lead to premature ending of the blooming phase due to the stress caused to the plant by the repotting process.



You can divide a dendrobium nobile when repotting, as long as each individual plant will have at least 3 canes. Division of the rhizome can be done with a sharp blade and is relatively simple. Take care not to damage the healthy canes while doing this.

Origin Dendrobium nobile orchids originate from jungle regions of Asia, including India, Thailand, Nepal and China. They typically grow in forested areas above 3000 feet above sea level and are epiphytic plants, which grow attached to other plants or rocks, rather than growing directly in soil.

Common Problems with Dendrobium Nobile Orchids No guide to how to care for a dendrobium nobile orchid would complete without some detail about the common problems and how to fix them. Thankfully, dendrobiums are fairly easy to care for

and most problems can be fixed if you are paying close attention to the health of your orchid.

Yellow Leaves Dendrobium nobile orchids can develop yellow leaves after the flowering phase, as they are deciduous and you can expect at least some of the leaves to yellow, wither and fall from the plant. If this happens, don't worry, it is a normal part of the plant's life cycle.

Old leaves will be the ones most likely to be shed from the plant, so keep an eye on this. If you see yellowing of the new growth during the growing season, suspect a problem with the plant.

Yellow leaves can be due to either overwatering or underwatering. Feel the leaves to check them for dryness. Dry and crunchy leaves are either a sign of underwatering or sun damage.

If the leaves are not crunchy, check the potting medium. If it is waterlogged, you should examine for any signs of root rot. If you detect this, you should immediately repot the orchid, remove any affected roots, and reduce watering going forward.

Yellow leaves can also be due to underfeeding, particularly during the vegetative growth phase, where nitrogen deficiency can cause leaf chlorosis. However, if you are feeding your orchid with an orchid fertilizer at least once per month, the chance of nutrient deficiency is virtually nil.

Excessively high or low temperatures can cause yellowing of the leaves due to the stress that this will put the plant under. Consider getting a digital thermometer which records the current, maximum and minimum temperatures in the growing area.

Orchid disease and infestation can also cause leaf yellowing, so examine the soil, and both the top and bottom of the leaves for any sign of disease or infestation. If you identify disease, make sure to treat it immediately and take steps to prevent recurrence.

Drying Out As mentioned previously, insufficient watering can cause dry, brown and crunchy leaves, but it will also cause leaf wilting and drying and shrivelling of the canes. *Dendrobium nobile* orchids can generally tolerate more water and are less susceptible to root rot than *phalaenopsis* orchids.

You should generally water them once the surface of the soil is dry during the growing season, from approximately March to September, and only let them dry out in their period of dormancy from October to December.

You should easily be able to identify an underwatered *dendrobium nobile* orchid due to dry, wilting leaves, shrivelled canes and dry potting media. Increase watering and the plant should recover, taking care to monitor the dryness of the potting media going forward.

Wilting Many of the same reasons that can cause yellowing of the leaves can also cause wilting. Over and underwatering are probably the most common reasons for wilting, so assess the potting media and roots to see which is more likely. Otherwise, consider the same factors that we discussed earlier.

Dendrobium Nobile Orchid Pests *Dendrobium nobile* orchids are fairly resistant to pests, but there are a few to watch out for. Scale is the most common pest found on *dendrobium nobile* orchids, but they can also be affected by mites, mealybugs, thrips, whitefly, fungus gnats. For more information on how to identify and treat pests on *dendrobium nobile* orchids, see the [AOS website](#), which has a wonderful resource.



Diseases Fungal and bacterial diseases are more likely in an overwatered plant or where there is excessive humidity. Bacterial soft and brown rot is a bacterial disease that causes sunken water-logged patches on the leaves.

Fungal *Pythium* and *Phytophthora* can cause black rot which can quickly devastate a plant. High humidity and temperatures increase the risk.

Botrytis is another fungal disease that can cause unsightly black spots on the blooms, destroying the beauty of the flowers. Again, high humidity, standing water and cool conditions increase the risk. For more information about identification and treatment of common *dendrobium* diseases, see the [AOS website](#).

Pylosticta is another fungal disease which causes widespread small black spots on the leaves. This can spread very rapidly among plants

2026 Dates

- May** 8th & 9th Noosa DO&FS Closed Show
 8th, 9th & 10th Bundaberg OS Show – Bundaberg
 Recreational Precinct Pavilion University Dr. Branyan
 9th May Maroochydore OS closed show – Bli Bli
- June** 20th Gympie DOS Closed Show
- July** 17th & 18th Caboolture OS Show (set up 16th)
- August** 1st & 2nd Port Curtis O&FS Show & STOCQ Meeting
 14th & 15th August Maroochydore OS Show – Buderim
 15th & 16th Kabi Show Pine Rivers Hall
 28th & 29th Childers DIOS Spring Show
- September** 4th & 5th Nambour OS Show
 10th, 11th & 12th Maryborough Show
 18th & 19th Noos DO&FS Show
 25th & 26th Glasshouse Country OS Show (set up 24th)
 25th, 26th & 27th Hervey Bay Orchid Show
 26th & 27th ROSI Spring Show (set up 25th)
- October** 9th & 10th Bribie Island OS Show
- November** 14th Nambour Species Show
 21st GCOS hosts STOCQ meeting at Glasshouse Hall



Office Bearers - Executive:

- President:** Jeff Bloxsom
 0407 995 122
- Vice President:** Bob Jenkins
 0484 927 667
- Secretary:** Sandra Rowcliffe
 0438 130 360
- Email -** rockhamptonorchidsocietyinc@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Karen Carr
 0418 877 420

Committee Members

- Shirley Kuhl 0418 795 776
 Trish Craig 0427 226 621
 John Jenkinson 0438 012 838
 Peter Jenkinson 0428 099 314
 Tony March 0401 280 352
 Daphne Jenkinson 0448 001 538

Office Bearers - Ex Officio Positions:

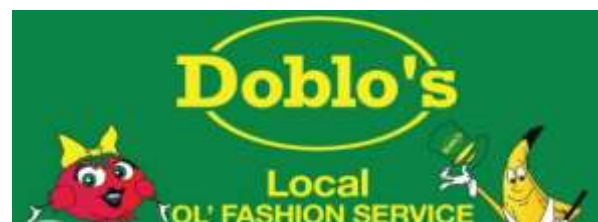
- Club Registrar:** Peter Jenkinson
- Plant Stewards:** Bob Jenkins & Jenni Scott
- Newsletter Editor:**
 Sandra Rowcliffe sandrarowcliffe13@gmail.com
- Assist Newsletter Editor:**
 Karen Carr rockycarrs@bigpond.com
- Webmaster:**
 Bob Lakey rlakey@dodo.com.au
- Growers Coordinators:** Robyn Murphy
- Providore:** Maxine Robinson
- Promotion Officer:** Sandra Rowcliffe
- Door Monitors:** Shirley Kuhl
 Daphne Jenkinson
- Librarian:** Y'vonne Manning

If undelivered, please return to:

Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.

PO Box 5949

Red Hill Rockhampton Qld 4701



Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



www.rockhamptonorchidsociety.com.au



[Join us on Facebook](#)

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.