



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 – November 2025



This year is fast coming to an end - the November meeting will be our last for 2025. I am really looking forward to the nice break over December where I don't need to compile a newsletter, but I will be back in January in the lead up to our first meeting for 2026.

The Christmas Dinner & Awards Evening is on Saturday 29th November and should be a lovely evening at the Rockhampton Bowls Club.⁴⁹

If there is anyone who is interested in hosting a Growers' Gathering in 2026 please speak to Robyn Murphy. To those who were hosts during 2025 many thanks for opening your homes, gardens and greenhouses to our members. It is very much appreciated. Hopefully we will see more of our newer growers attending these in 2026. Each meeting is very informative and allows members to

learn more, even as an advanced grower there is always something more to learn.

For members who are travelling over the holiday season we wish you a safe journey.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Saturday 28th February and if you would like to do more with the society we are always after new people to learn the ropes, especially on our committee.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Members!!!

Sandra Rowcliffe - Editor

Next Monthly Meeting: Saturday 22nd November 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 25th October commencing at 1.26 pm

Attendance: As per register

Apologies: As per register

New Members: #24 Pieter & Shae Tjerkstra

Visitors: NIL

Popular Vote – Members completed the popular orchid vote.

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

Moved Robyn Murphy

Seconded Kathy Vella

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR GENERAL MEETING OF R.O.S.I. ON SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025

IN –

- Newsletters – Blackwater Garden Club, Caboolture Orchid Society, Caloundra Orchid Society, Childers & District Orchid Society, Hervey Bay Orchid Society, Mackay and District Orchid Society, Nambour Orchid Society, NQ Orchid Society, Port Curtis Orchid & Foliage Society
- Email about details for Brisbane Orchid Society Spring Show 15/11/2025
- Email with details of Nambour Species Show
- Invoice from Aardvark Self Storage
- Email for Jeff Glover from Helen Tomkins of the Native Plants Capricornia
- Email from STOCQ with another Show Date for 2026
- Email about Frenchville Sports Club Community Grants for 2026

OUT -

- All Club Newsletters sent out to members.
- Email forwarded to Jeff Glover from Helen Tomkins

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

Seconded Mirriam Black

Carried

Treasurer's Report – This was sent out with October Newsletter. Karen mentioned that the Show Treasurers Report will be emailed with the Show Wrap Up Newsletter, she did read it out. She mentioned a \$6626.21 show profit which does not include Stores Sales. Stores Sales had gross takings of \$5886.78.

Karen Carr moved that the report be accepted

Seconded David Eggleshaw

Carried

Growers Group: Robyn Murphy said that our next Grower's Gathering will be on Saturday 1st November at the Handley's residence, the address has been emailed out to members., Robyn said this is where we will see where the magic happens with their orchids. Arrival no earlier than 1.00pm, with greenhouse tours 1.00-2.00pm, the meeting then commences 2.00pm with afternoon tea and talks by Trevor & Margaret and possibly Bob Jenkins showing how he de-flasks orchids and puts them into the grow plugs.

Business Arising from the last meeting: NIL

General Business:

- Jeff mentioned that the committee had been made aware of some issues over a period of time that were very concerning and he gave details. He mentioned that we all need to work together to keep our society strong.
- We spoke about Bob's Cymbidium canaliculatum.
- The two plants that were taken out of last month's raffle as they looked sus, were tested and no virus found, it was probably due to the change of environment and growing conditions that stressed the plants.
- Tony March has bought more plants for the Christmas Multi-Draw Raffle. Possibility of getting some more off Max.
- Jeff asked if there were any members who had mature plants they may have to sell for the raffle; he did not want seedlings.
- The stores need to buy more bark to make up the mixes. Orders were taken prior to the meeting for potting mix and Peter said that we sold quite a few bags, around 20. Peter mentioned that we could sell more items out of our stock if we maybe had order sheets. Tony asked if anyone had any ideas on what to do with stores. We welcome any suggestions; we are not permitted to sell it from the Shed.
- Bob collected Kiwi Bark from Orchidaceous and will probably be making another trip in November.
- Christmas Dinner Cost is \$30 per head, Miriam Black moved a motion that we subsidise this by \$10 per member, making it \$20 per head, this was seconded by Kathy Vella and all in favour, motion carried.
- The Christmas Dinner is at the Rockhampton Bowls Club in Victoria Parade, the best parking will be behind the building in Quay Lane, either parking in Bowls Club Parking area or across the lane behind the businesses. Come in through the glass doors and either take stairs or the lift to the upper floor where the dinner is. For those who wish there is parking also in Victoria Drive.

- Jeff mentioned about a working bee setting up the hall for the Dinner and decorating the tables. Miriam mentioned that the club has lace tablecloths for the tables. At the function will be the usual Multi-Draw Raffle, Lucky Door Prizes and Lucky Spot Prizes. The Dinner info has been emailed out with the Show Wrap up, if you haven't received it I will also include it again in this newsletter.
- Tables of 10, Jeff was taking bookings, 6.00pm start with 7.00pm for the dinner.
- It was suggested that a Bus Trip will be organised in 2026 and Tony asked if anyone had any suggestions for the destination.

Plant Commentary - Peter Jenkinson did the plant commentary.

Lucky Number: #43 – Peter & Toni Jenkinson

Exhibitor's Draw: #88 - Jana Bennett

General Raffle – Sue Eggleshaw, Kerrie Green x 2, Pam Walker, David Eggleshaw, Allan Cunningham, Lyn Hopes, Tony March, Terry Breingan, Jeff Bloxsom & Helena Maker.

Next General Meeting – Saturday 22nd November – last meeting for 2025

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 28th October 6.30pm – Sandra Rowcliffe's Residence

Meeting closed at 3.28pm

Jeff Bloxsom

President

Sandra Rowcliffe

Secretary

JUDGES CHOICE WINNERS – OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING



Annual Competition – October 2025 Results

Judges Choice

<i>Pot.</i> Glenlee Charlotte ‘Glenlee’	J & P Bennett
<i>Vanda</i> Tien’s Delight	J & M Bloxsom
<i>Cymbidium</i> Black Stump	J & M Bloxsom

Popular Vote

Advanced (Plants Tabled: 70)

Cattleya up to 100mm	<i>Jkf.</i> Apple Blossom ‘Topaz Gold’	T March
Cattleya over 100mm	<i>Pot.</i> Glenlee Charlotte ‘Glenlee’	J & P Bennett
Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidesa</i> Mayfair ‘Trinity’	T March
Vandaceous up to 65mm	<i>Rhv.</i> Wossner Mariechen ‘Renee’s Gold’	J & M Bloxsom
Vandaceous over 65mm	<i>Vanda</i> Somsri Glory ‘Blue’	B Jenkins & S Kuhl
Dendrobium – Combined	<i>Den.</i> Blue Planet	T & M Handley
Species – All Genera	<i>Asctm. miniatum</i>	T March
Phalaenopsis up to 60mm	<i>Phal.</i> Sheena	T & M Handley
Phalaenopsis 60mm& over	<i>Phal.</i> Yu Pin Pink Butterfly	J & P Bennett
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> Doya Heart	T & M Handley
Miscellaneous	<i>Cymbidium</i> Black Stump	J & M Bloxsom

Novice (Plants Tabled: 12)

Cattleya up to 100mm & over	<i>Rlc.</i> Naomi’s Delight	M Semple
Miscellaneous	<i>Phal.</i> Hsinying Fortune ‘Platinum’	L & K Bauman
Species	<i>Vanda curvifolia</i>	L & G Schulz

POPULAR VOTE WINNERS OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Jkf. Apple Blossom 'Topaz Gold'
T March



Asctm. miniatum - T March



Cym. Black Stump - J Bloxsom



Den. Blue Planet
T & M Handley



Oncidesa Mayfair 'Trinity'
T March



Phal. Sheena - T & M Handley



Rhv. Wossner Mariechen
'Rehee's Gold' - J Bloxsom



Paph. Doya Heart - T&M Handley



Phal. Hsinying Fortune 'Platinum'
L & K Bauman





NEW MEMBERS ↓



COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2025

Attendance – Sandra Rowcliffe, Karen Carr, Jeff Bloxsom, Tony March, Shirley Kuhl, Bob Jenkins, Peter Jenkinson, John Jenkinson.

Absent– Robyn Bentley, Trish Craig, Jana Bennett, Paul Bennett, Maxine Robinson.

- Discussed about store sales at Spring Show
- Discussed organising a Stocktake of Society Stores in December
- Discussed about the possibility of having a list of store products and the possibility of stock orders, this will have further discussion
- Karen had got information on Term Deposits, and this will be discussed in the New Year
- Jeff met with Mirriam Black today at the Bowls club to check the venue out for our Christmas Dinner. They have lace tablecloths which we can use. A working bee will be done on the Saturday afternoon setting up the raffle tables, table decorations and other decorations. Karen said she had some Battery Lights that can go on each of the tables. Shirley & Karen are working on the Lucky Door Prizes.
- We have around \$1,500 of plants for the raffle but are looking at getting more, we usually have around \$2,500 of prizes.
- Shirley to organise the prizes for the lucky spot draws, she will look around for chocolates etc Shirley to get the lollies for the bowls on the tables
- Jeff has been at the trophy shop checking out what trophies to buy to give to the recipients of the perpetual trophies, so they have one to keep
- Bob is making another trip down south and will purchase more stock for the club, each of the trips saves the club enormously in freight fees. Discussion was on what pots the club stores will keep

ROSI SPRING SHOW 2025 RESULTS – CORRECTIONS

Unfortunately, the Spring Show Results had a couple of errors. Whilst using the template from last year's show there were a couple of errors that occurred. Apologies for these errors. If you would like the corrected results emailed to you, please let me know.

Class 302 – Dendrobium, Eugenanthe type (soft cane) predominately mauve purple

2nd place *Den. Hamana Lake* x *Den. Pretty Red* * J & D JENKINSON

Class 7.06 – Cymbidium, Standard, Intermediate or Pendulous type

1st place – *Cym. Devon Ore* R WINES

2nd place – *Cym. Earlisue* P & M BENNETT

Class 8.01 Laeliinae Species (*Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Sophranitis* or *Brassavola* only) (RHS or Sander Accepted)

1st place – *Gur. skinneri* T & M HANDLEY

2nd place – *Lc. marriottiana* R & G BILLS

KIWI BARK RETRACTION – OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

In the October Newsletter our General Meeting Minutes from September Meeting mentioned that Orchidaceous lost the rights to stock Kiwi Bark, We have been informed at this stage they are still stocking and selling Kiwi Bark & apologies for any confusion.



ROCKHAMPTON ORCHID SOCIETY INC CHRISTMAS DINNER & PRESENTATION NIGHT

- **VENUE – ROCKHAMPTON BOWLS CLUB – VICTORIA PARADE**
- **DATE – SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER– TIME – 6.00PM**
- **ENTRY – REAR CAR PARK – ACCESS FROM QUAY LANE**
- **SEATED DINNER 7.00PM – 2 COURSE CHRISTMAS DINNER BUFFET**

DRINKS SUPPLIED – SOFT DRINKS - ALL ACHOLOIC DRINKS AT OWN COST

THERE WILL BE THE USUAL LUCKY DOOR PRIZES AND LUCKY SPOT PRIZES

OUR ANNUAL MEGA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL COMPETITION TROPHIES

ANNUAL AWARD CERTIFICATES PRESENTED WITH PRIZE MONEY

FINAL NAMES & TABLE SEATING LISTS E REQUIRED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

ROUND TABLES OF 10 ONLY - IF YOU DON'T HAVE A FULL TABLE - OTHER MEMBERS WILL BE PLACED ON YOUR TABLE TO EVEN THE NUMBERS OUT

THE COST OF THE EVENING IS \$20 PER HEAD (INCLUDES A \$10 MEMBER SUBSIDY)

CASH PAYMENT FOR DINNER ON OR BEFORE FINAL GENERAL MEETING 22ND NOVEMBER

TRANSFERS CAN BE MADE TO OUR ACCOUNT– BSB 633000 A/C 178258414

REFERENCE - XMAS DINNER & MEMBER NO

NO PAYMENTS ON NIGHT – BOOKINGS ONLY

COME ALONG AND ENJOY A GREAT NIGHT WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

AND SEE OUT 2025 WITH A BANG



Orchid of the Month

***Dendrobium* Aussies Sweetness**

Source – Article by Phil Spence breeder of *Dendrobium* Aussies Sweetness



This month our Orchid of the month section is a bit different. Following the success of Marg & Trevor Handley's Grand Champion winner *Dendrobium* Aussies Sweetness at our Spring Show, I was contacted by Robyn Harrison who is an AOC & ANOS Judge. She had been forwarded a copy of our October Newsletter by a member of the Mackay Orchid Society and she reached out to me as she felt that the orchid was worthy of being entered in the Ira Butler Trophy Awards, we spoke about it on the phone and she mentioned that she knew the breeder and today she emailed me the following article written by Phil Spence to include in this month's newsletter. I have added some photos of the two parent plants for you to enjoy.

The breeding of *Dendrobium* Aussies Sweetness (H-281)* by Phil Spence November 2025 = (*D. polysema* x *D. johnsoniae*)



Dendrobium polysema

x



Dendrobium johnsoniae

Over my life I have tried to make hybrids of *Dendrobium* and many other genera, first of all to promote Australia, secondly to be more easily grown in Australian sub-tropical climate areas and also perform on the show bench.

This hybrid is one that meets these criteria in fulfilling this challenge. *Dendrobium polysema* comes from the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG), and the clone I used of this species was collected from a shade tree that grew over the coffee trees near the town Kainatu PNG. Over the years this clone of *Dendrobium polysema* has on the show bench received many prizes and has also been granted an Award of Merit (AM) by ANOS, OSNSW, and AOC. Its clonal name is 'Yvonne' after my wife, Yvonne.

More about this species later. The pollen parent used was *Dendrobium johnsoniae*. This species is widespread throughout the tropical zones at the lower altitudes of the island of New Guinea, and inland in some of the lower lying areas. The clone I used came from Karkar Island, Madang Province. A downside of this species is that it is very prone to root rot and has a quite notable difference in the size and quality of the flowers. Plants in the Wow-Bulolo-Valley, Morobe Province, and on Karkar Island, Madang Province, are far superior to those found elsewhere in New Guinea. The flowers are bigger, and the floral segments are wider and also have very good substance and texture. The plants growing on Karkar Island are doomed as it is a volcanic Island that has a very active **Volcano**, need I say any more.

Now coming back to *Dendrobium polysema*, this species was for a long time wrongly named as *Dendrobium pulchrum*. These names have now reversed to the correct nomenclature.

*(H-281) This is my flasking records number and the cross was made on 17-05-2005. The original Grex name of *Dendrobium* Aussies Sweetness was accepted for registration by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in 1998.

**Congratulations to the growers for
their outstanding success at the
2025 Rockhampton Spring Show**



For further information on these beautiful New Guinea orchids please see my newly released book *Latourea Dendrobiums*. This book is available from the Australia Orchid Foundation. The price is \$125 + postage. Email AOF: aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au.



Latourea Dendrobiums
Phil Spence 2025

\$125.00



Award of Honour for 2016 granted to:

Philip John Spence

THE GRANTING OF THIS AWARD RECOGNISES:

In your lifetime involvement with orchids, you have gained an international reputation as an outstanding grower and hybridiser of orchids. Your reputation is well documented and recognised by the many publications in local and international journals, and by your participation in specialist orchid conferences.

Your early interest in *in vitro* propagation of orchids, from both seed and tissue culture, has provided a sound basis for commercial operations in both pot plant and cut flower orchid production. This has been an exemplar to others.

You have championed the enormous commercial potential of the poorly understood orchid flora of New Guinea and have provided practical cultural insights into the ecology of this little known, but valuable group of plants.

In 1997 you were appointed Director of the Research Centre of the National Capital Botanic Gardens, PNG. This was a dynamic period with advances in orchid research, expeditions to collect and catalogue new and poorly known species, and a hybridizing program. A library, laboratory and herbarium were also established. The Gardens were landscaped and soon became an attraction to tourists and locals alike.



You have taken a leading role in introducing PNG orchid species and hybrids to Australian and international growers, while respecting conservation in this region.

Over the years you have made a most valuable contribution to international orchid science. You have actively assisted many researchers in the field, through your personal correspondence and in your many published papers in leading international journals. You were invited to become an Honorary Research Associate of the Herbarium of Sydney Botanic Gardens. You have been a leader in the production of new orchid hybrids, especially among *Dendrobium* spp. sens. lat.

Members may wish to check out various articles on Phil and his amazing breeding which is available in google searches. In Flickr there are many photos of his breeding efforts – <https://www.flickr.com>

Growers Group Workshop 1st November

Hi everyone. It's been quite the year of random weather, but in between the recent storms and our summer sun hitting hard, we managed to strike it 3rd time lucky for the last 2025 grower's workshop! Many thanks to the Handley's for sharing their beautiful back area with everyone, where we were able to sit in the cool shade surrounded by their happy garden and blooming greenhouses.

It was certainly a packed afternoon. Trevor and Marg talked us through how they repot their *Phalaenopsis* orchids while Trevor deftly demonstrated the process, including seriously trimming the roots back and taking off the older / lower leaves so that the plant could sit down in the pot nicely. Another top tip was to cut the old flower stem off at its base to help ensure that the next flower stem shoots upwards instead of outwards. They repot theirs every year and try to get the job done before Christmas - good luck with the rest Trevor!! Marg followed up with interesting storytelling about how she and Trevor ventured into orchid growing and how they came to build and fill the greenhouses we all had the privilege of visiting. A big part of this pathway has been attending many orchid conferences and other society's shows, which Marg highly recommended to do if you can.

And there was more to learn, with Bob giving us a smashing lesson on how to "de-flask" a jar of seedlings. After (carefully!) breaking open the bottom end of the glass jar to release the plants from their "incubator", the agar bed was flushed away from the seedlings which were then all lain out on a newspaper-lined tray to dry after being treated with Mancozeb spray (importantly, a copper-free anti-fungal agent). Bob emphasised that he would ideally leave his seedlings to dry out overnight before potting but did not have that luxury at our workshop! Smaller seedlings were potted into nutrient-rich "plugs", while larger seedlings were potted using a mix + pot which allowed good drainage and airflow. It ended up being a very hands-on session, with willing helpers recruited from the group to get their hands dirty and have a go at potting up some of the seedlings – we enjoyed that a lot☺! Thanks Bob.

I hope I have managed to get all my recall straight. One thing I am certain about though, is that the more I see and learn, the more I'm adding to my "to do" list in the greenhouse! Its almost time do wrap up for the year – until then, I wish you well with your own "to-do" lists ☺ For those of you lucky to win one of Bob's seedlings in the raffle the name of the plant is *Dendrobium* Airy Alowana (a couple of photos below of this orchid)

Robyn Murphy
(Coordinator)





A SELECTION OF MARG & TREVOR'S ORCHIDS





2025 Dates

**** ALL DATES**

29th ROSI Christmas Dinner & Awards Evening

Rockhampton Bowls Club Victoria Parade



2026 Dates

- February** 14th STOCQ Meeting – Gympie Bowls Club Hall
- March** 21st & 22nd ROSI Autumn Show (set up 20th)
- 21st – Maroochydhore OS closed show - Buderim
- April** 3rd & 4th – Gladstone OFS Show
- 11th Glasshouse Country OS closed show
- 17th & 18th – Sunshine Coast OS Show – Caloundra
- May** 2nd & 3rd – Gympie & DOS Show – Indoor Bowls Club Hall
- 8th, 9th & 10th – Bundaberg OS Show – Bundaberg
- Recreational Precinct Pavilion University Dr. Branyan
- 9th May – Maroochydhore OS closed show – Bli Bli
- July** 17th & 18th – Caboolture OS Show (set up 16th)
- August** 1st & 2nd – Port Curtis O&FS Show & STOCQ Meeting
- 14th & 15th August – Maroochydhore OS Show - Buderim
- September** 25th & 26th – Glasshouse Country OS Show (set up 24th)
- 26th & 27th ROSI Spring Show (set up 25th)
- November** GCOS hosts STOCQ meeting at Glasshouse Hall
- (moved from 13th June)



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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
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Technical Advisor: Vacant

Growers Coordinators: Robyn Murphy

Providore: Maxine Robinson

Promotion Officer: Sandra Rowcliffe

Door Monitors: Judy Dore
Daphne Jenkinson

Librarian: Y'vonne Manning

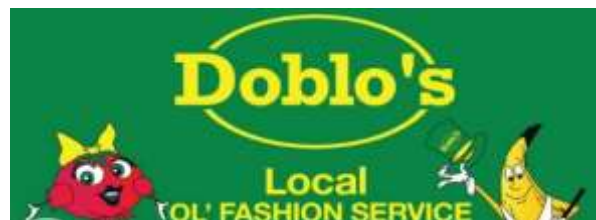
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Rockhampton Orchid Society Inc.



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:

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