

February, 2010

DIARY DATES 2010

13-14 Feb – Aspley Orchid Show, Mt Coot-tha

20 Feb – STOCQ AGM, Surface Hill Uniting Church Hall, Channon Street, Gympie

26-28 Feb – Qld Int Orchid Fair, Pine Rivers PCYC, Bray Park

13 Mar – On Day Display, MOS EdanLea, Buderim ! Setup Friday night!

2-4 April – Gladstone OFS Show, Bill Robertson Toyota, Hanson Rd, Gladstone – Judging 7am

10-11 April – Capricorn O & FC Show

10-11 April – eastern District Orchid Soc Show, Bay-side Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Rd, Manly West

17 April – Sth Burnett OS Show, Wondai Memorial Hall – Part of Garden Expo

17 April – Boyne Tannum Show with setup 16th

23-24 April – Sunshine Coast Show – Setup 21st

1-2 May – Sunshine Coast Show, setup 21st, Show-grounds

1-2 May – Gympie Show, setup 30th April, Show-grounds

7,8 & 9 May – Bundaberg, Setup 6th

11-12 June – Townsville Orchid Society, Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference & Show 2010

12-14 June – Caloundra Golden Orchidfest, Kawana Lakes Community Centre, Sportsman Pde, Bokarina



The Observer

President – Kathy Howatson – 54442388 – bobhowatson@optusnet.com.au

Vice President – Ron Haylock

Secretary – Lyn Hoffman – 54790562 – maroochyorchid@optusnet.com.au

Assistant Sec – Sue Ullman – 54776304 – sue@ullman.com.au

MATTERS OF INTEREST

ARANBEEM NEW GROWERS' MEETING

This meeting is open to all members of the Societies. Why not get together and car pool.

When: First Saturday of each month
Time: 1.45 to 3.45pm
Place: Aranbeem Orchids, Priests Rd, Deception Bay
Bring: Chair, hat and a plate to share for afternoon tea

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STOCQ MEETING

All members are welcome to these meeting. (Only representatives are allowed to vote.) What an excellent way to become involved with what our governing body is aiming to achieve.

When: 20 February
Time: Judges meeting until 11am then the AGM
Place: Surface Hill Uniting Church Hall, Channon St, Gympie
Cost: \$8 Speaking & lunch & 2 bush house visits in arvo. Notify Lyn if you want lunch.

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MAROOCHYDORE ORCHID SOCIETY FEBRUARY MEETING

Speakers – Marg and Fred Lenz from Sunshine Coast Orchid Society, Caloundra will speak with us regarding the Caloundra's golden Orchidfest and how we can participate.

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WEBSITE

Our own website is almost up and running thanks to Kathy and Bob's son.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

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NOTES ON OUR MONTHLY JUDGING

Voting is from the February meeting to the November meeting. You should place a piece of paper underneath your pot (which can be prepared at home if you wish) with the **plant name and grower's name**. The grower's number is not required as the score is taken on the number which is placed in front of your pot on the night.

1st place – 3 points
 2nd place – 2 points
 3rd place – 1 point
 (No show placings are added to this)

**12-14 June -
Caloundra Golden
Orchidfest, Kawana
Lakes Community
Centre, Sportsman
Pde, Bokarina**

**15-16 June - Southport
& District Orchid Soc
Show, The Oasis
Shopping Centre,
Broadbeach**

**9-11 July - Caboolture
OS Show, Setup 8th**

**7-8 August -
Maroochydore Orchid
Soc Show, setup 6th**

**25-29 August - 6th
Australian Native
Orchid Conference &
Show, Newcastle
Panthers' Club,
Newcastle**

**3-4 Sept - Nambour
Orchid Show, setup 2nd**

**11-12 Sept - Capricorn
O & FC Show**

**16-18 Sept -
Maryborough District
Orchid Soc Show, setup
15th**

**24-25 Sept -
Glasshouse, setup 23rd**

**10-16 Sept - 19th
Australian Orchid
Council Conference &
Show, Perth
(aoconference@dodo.c
om.au)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 - EDANLEA ORCHID SHOW

After our February and March meetings, we will hold our one-day display -

Where: EdanLea Retirement Village, Buderim.
When: 13 March
Setup: Friday evening (12 March) around 5.00 pm

Now is the time to work on dividing and preparing our sale plants and grow on our orchids for display. Our first display last year was a huge success and the residents are looking forward to the day.

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TROPICAL QUEENSLAND ORCHID COUNCIL CONFERENCE & SHOW 2010

Where: Townsville
When: 11 - 12 June (Queens Birthday Weekend)
Registration: See Lyn for forms

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GENERAL

SUBSCRIPTIONS

**SUBS ARE DUE NOW - PLEASE PAY TREASURER DEL.
THANK YOU**

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LIBRARY

As Joan is re-cataloguing the library, could all members return any outstanding Library Books.

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CALOUNDRA ORCHID FEST

Raffle tickets are now available for members to sell for this event.

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GET WELL

Peter Faber has had his operation and is recovering slowly. We wish him a speedy recovery.

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LAST BUT NOT LEAST

In late December, John Salway put a plant up for an award. The plant was *Cattleya Leopoldii*. It had 25 well presented flowers in a cluster on a tall stem. Usually these plants have only 12 flowers in a cluster. The team of judges present had no problems with awarding this beautiful specimen an average of 81.5 points which resulted in an Award of Merit. This award is



a credit to John's attention to the culture of his orchids.

CONGRATULATIONS JOHN!!

CULTURAL NOTES

THE MOON AND YOUR GARDEN

More and more we are realizing what a powerful influence our environment is having on our everyday lives. We have to wonder just what is the 'centre of our universe' as we realize that planet Earth is just a speck on the horizon in the big scheme of things.

As such, I thought there may be some of you out there who may be interested in some information regarding the influence that the moon and the stars have on our plants and how we can use this information for our benefit to grow, not only more healthy and beautiful orchids, but for our fruits, veges and other ornamental plants.

Some of you I would predict are aware and are already using some of this information, so I look forward to some lively and informative discussion within the society – however, howling at the moon is not permitted in the interest of our neighbours!!

The moon and the stars have had a long-known influence on our planet. We check the moon before going fishing for example (or use it as an excuse as to why we did not catch fish!). We often comment when some unsocial behavior occurs in our community that it must have been a full moon, and so on. Farmers all over the world, for generations, have used the moon and stars to govern when to plant, prune, fertilise and harvest to maximize growth, quality and quantity of their harvest – and we as gardeners can do this too.

Without getting into the technical aspects of this small part of the 'biodynamic' way of farming/ gardening, I will briefly give some outlines as to what to look for to maximize your chances of success in the garden.

MOON PHASES

Four major phases – **New; first quarter, full and third quarter**

Four minor phases – **Crescent, gibbous, disseminating and balsamic**

MOON CYCLES

Waxing is the entire period from New Moon to Full Moon – a high light period – a time for growth and expansion. This is a great time for planting/ transplanting and pruning (when you want re-growth), sowing seeds, potting/ repotting. It is important during the full moon (especially if it is in a water sign) to water well. Full moon is also a good time to harvest.

Waning is the entire period from Full Moon to New Moon – a time of low light – a time for contraction. It is a good time for weeding, pruning (when you don't want strong growth) and general garden maintenance.

STAR SIGNS

The Zodiac signs also have a bearing on your garden activities and below I have placed a table of the strength/ weaknesses of the various zodiacs and to the right of that a diary of the moon cycles and zodiacs to the end of March.

Zodiac	Element	Quality	Fertile/ Barren
Aries	Fire	Hot/dry	Mildly barren
Taurus	Earth	Cold/ dry	Mildly fertile
Gemini	Air	Hot/ Moist	Barren
Cancer	Water	Cold/ moist	Fertile
Leo	Fire	Hot/ dry	Barren
Virgo	Earth	Cold/ dry	Barren
Libra	Air	Hot/ moist	Fertile
Scor-	Water	Cold/	Fertile
Sagit-	Fire	Hot/ dry	Mildly bar-
Capri-corn	Earth	Cold/ dry	Mildly fertile
Aquari-	Air	Hot/ moist	Mildly bar-
Pisces	Water	Cold/ moist	Fertile

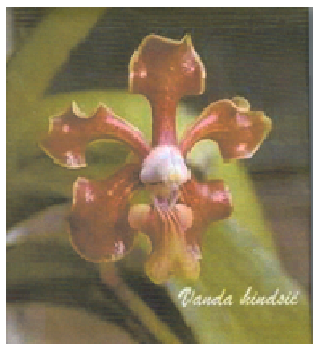
PINK IS WAXING
GREEN IS WANING

Mth		Zodiac	Time	Phase
Feb	1	Virgo	12.23am	
	3	Libra	12.42am	
	5	Scorpio	3.56am	
	7	Sag	11.04am	
	9	Capri-corn	9.44pm	
	12	Aquari-us	10.24am	New Moon 14.02 @1.51pm
	14	Pisces	11.23pm	
	17	Aries	11.31am	
	19	Taurus	9.56pm	
	22	Gemini	5.47am	
	24	Cancer	10.29am	
	26	Leo	12.09pm	
	28	Virgo	11.53am	Full Moon 1.03 @3.37am
Mar	2	Libra	11.32am	
	4	Scorpio	1.12pm	
	6	Sag	6.36pm	
	9	Cap	4.14am	
	11	Aquari-us	4.43pm	
	14	Pisces	5.44am	New Moon 16.03 @8.01am
	16	Aries	5.32pm	
	19	Taurus	3.31am	
	21	Gemini	11.29am	
	23	Cancer	5.16pm	
	25	Leo	8.39pm	
	27	Virgo	9.58pm	
	29	Libra	10.22pm	Full Moon 30.03 @ 12.25pm
	31	Scorpio	11.42	

CULTURAL NOTES CONTINUED

CARING FOR YOUR ORCHIDS IN SUMMER

	WATER	FERTILIZER	PEST CONTROL	COMMENTS
Cattleya	Every 2 days More often for small pots if very dry	Every week with a balanced fertilizer	Look for evidence of insect pests. Fungal disease. Treat if necessary	Water in the afternoon while weather is hot.
Dendrobium Intermediate	Every 2 days in hot weather	Every week with alternate high/ low nitrogen fertilizer	Check for scale, aphids and mealy bug. Treat if necessary	Increase water and fertilizer as new roots appear.
Dendrobium Eugenanthe	Every day during hot weather	Low nitrogen – high PK fertilizer every week	Watch for fungal infection	Water and fertilizer freely all summer
Paphiopedilums	Every 2 or 3 days	Low nitrogen every week	Check for scale and mealy bugs	Keep mixture moist – not wet. Do not completely dry out
Phalaenopsis	Every 2 days	Every week with alternate high/ low nitrogen	Mites can be a problem in drier conditions	Keep humidity high mist if necessary.
Vandaceous	Every second day. Mist exposed root system daily.	Weekly with alternate high/ low nitrogen	Check for rot and fungus.	Keep plants dry on cool nights.
Oncidium Alliance	Every 2 days depending on the weather. Water often if it is dry – less when wet.	Alternate high/ low nitrogen fertilizer each week.	Leaf tip die-back can be a problem. Use a fungicide.	Need high light and good air circulation.



Soon to be on the web

MONTHLY MEETINGS

WHEN: FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

WHERE: GIRL GUIDE HALL, BEACH RD, MAROOCHYDORE

TIME: 7.30m

ALL WELCOME