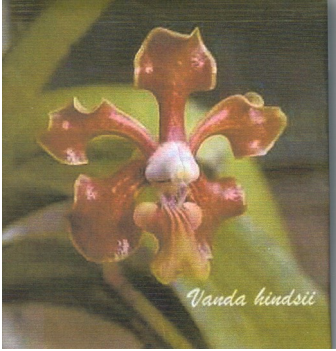


June, 2010



## DIARY DATES 2010

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

15-16 June – Southport & Dist Orchid Soc Show, The Oasis Shopping Centre, Broadbeach

26-27 June—June North Moreton Show—Mt Coot-tha. Setup Fri 25

9-10 July – Caboolture OS Show, Setup 8<sup>th</sup>

21-22 August—ANOS, Lawnton Showgrounds, Lawnton

# The Observer

President – Kathy Howatson – 54442388 – [bobhowatson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bobhowatson@optusnet.com.au)

Vice President – Ron Haylock

Secretary – Lyn Hoffman – 54790562 – [maroochyorchid@optusnet.com.au](mailto:maroochyorchid@optusnet.com.au)

Assistant Sec – Sue Ullman – 54776304 – [sue@ullman.com.au](mailto:sue@ullman.com.au)

## COMING EVENTS—Caloundra Orchid Fest

This will be our last meeting before Caloundra Golden Orchidfest. This will be held 12th, 13th and 14th June, 2010 at The Lake Kawana Community Centre, Sportsman Pde, Bokarina.

Now is the time to start preparing your flowering plants for the display. A committee was formed to prepare for our display and Del, Joan, Ruth and Lyn spend Sunday afternoon tossing around ideas. The theme is **Golden.....50th Anniversary** so we are following on with that theme. Come our June Meeting we would appreciate if all members could indicate what plants they will have for the display.

Keep in mind, the knowledge that the speakers have to offer and try to attend the sessions that appeal. A list of speakers and times is on the Notice Board. Vendors and workers will be issued with passes that allow you to avail yourselves of the facilities in the kitchenette at any stage during the event. This will be for light refreshments only and will contain biscuits and equipment for making tea and coffee. Lunches will be served at the main kitchen. As yet, caloundra have not notified us as to our duties. There will be a sign-in and sign-off book for workers.

Set-up	-	2pm, Fri 11 June
Parking for vendors and exhibitors to unload	—	immediately south of the building.)
Dinner for Judges	-	6.30pm
Dinner for Vendors and Society Members	-	7.00pm

**WANTED: WE ARE LOOKING FOR LARGE LEAF IVY TO SPRAY GOLD AND ARRANGE ALONG THE TOP OF THE DISPLAY. PLEASE SEE DEL IF YOU HAVE ANY.\* \* \***

## Gympie Bus Trip 'Down South' (Gympie News)

Jim Evans is calling for interested people to join Gympie on their trip down south. It was a wonderful weekend last year and many travelers requested another one this year. Overnight will be at Ballina and as before, many orchid nurseries will be visited, new attractions seen and lots of fellowship with other growers.

Date:	28—29 August
Departs:	Gympie, 5.30am, Saturday 28 August
Itinerary:	Travel to Grafton—Rosella Orchids Return to Ballina RSL—two orchid shows Dinner at Ballina RSL and O/night in motel Return to Gympie 29th via three orchid nurseries
Cost:	Tentative \$135/ head (maximum)
Interested?:	Speak to Lyn tonight

*7-8 August – Maroochydore  
Orchid Soc Show, setup 6<sup>th</sup>*

*25-29 August – 6<sup>th</sup> Aust Native  
Orchid Conf & Show,  
Newcastle Panthers' Club,  
Newcastle*

*28-29 August—North Brisbane  
Show, Mt Coot-tha*

*3-4 Sept – Nambour Orchid  
Show, setup 2<sup>nd</sup>*

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

*16-18 Sept – Maryborough  
Dist Orchid Soc Show, setup  
15<sup>th</sup>*

*24-25 Sept – Glasshouse, setup  
23<sup>rd</sup>*

*10-16 Sept – 19<sup>th</sup> Aust Orchid  
Council Conf & Show, Perth  
conference@dodo.com.au)*

## NEWS FROM STOCQ

Two awards have been made recently:  
Den. Lassie Twist 'Yvonne' HCC 79  
Den. Gloucester Sand 'Bethel' HCC 77.7

## CULTURAL NOTES

### Reading the Leaves By Ken Slump

One of the MOST IMPORTANT habits that an orchid grower can develop is the practice of regular and careful observation of his or her plants. Each part of the orchid—from the root to the pseudobulb, leaf, bud and flower—displays information about the plant's general health and condition. But there is probably no part of the plant that can tell you more at a glance than the foliage.

Leaves are the primary repositories of chlorophyll, the green pigment that is the driving force of plant growth. Excepting a few examples that are naturally leafless, without healthy foliage, you cannot have a thriving orchid that will reward with flowers.

Most of us appreciate that the orchid family is large and diverse. Just about every imaginable version of a simple monocot leaf is expressed somewhere in the clan. Many epiphytic orchids have somewhat thickened leaves that store water and nutrients to help see the plants through dry spells. Shade-loving orchids tend to have broader leaves. Some orchids that thrive in high light have thin, narrow foliage. Terete-leaved orchids have foliage that is rounded in cross sections. While most orchids have solid green foliage, there are those with mottled or patterned foliage. There are even orchids with variegated leaves.

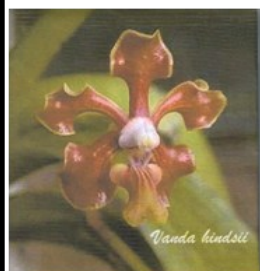
Obviously, to recognize abnormalities in orchid foliage, you should have an appreciation for the range of healthy normal leaves. Generally, orchid leaves are medium to light green. Orchids grown in maximum light for their type sometimes exhibit some yellow pigment.

Some orchids show a red pigment in high light situations too, but this can be the result of cooler temperatures as well. I am told that some vanda leaves exhibit a purple tint in cooler weather and that many brassavola nodosa crosses have 'blushing leaves' in spring, a condition that may be remedied (if it bothers you) with a watering containing 2 tbsps of Epson salts (magnesium sulphate)/3.8l of water. Very dark green leaves may indicate that the plant is receiving insufficient light. Conversely, yellowing leaves can tell you that a plant is receiving too much light.

It is normal for evergreen orchids (those plants with living leaves at all times) to lose their older foliage. Growers should not panic if an older leaf yellows and dies as long as new healthy growth replaces it. On the other hand, some orchids are deciduous and go through a stage when all the leaves drop and the plant rests. Usually, this is a signal that watering should be curtailed for a time and that temperatures ought to be lowered a bit as well. If the leaves or new growths on a particular orchid are smaller than previous one you should look to cultural problems. Ask yourself if you have drastically changed the environment for the plant since its previous growing cycle. Possibly there is a build up of fertilizer salts in the growing medium if water has not been thoroughly flushed through the pot regularly. Perhaps you have neglected your fertilizer schedule, but it is more likely to be that repotting is overdue. There could be root damage due to the breakdown of the growing medium or from overwatering.

Tweaking the growing environment or feeding a declining plant can be a fairly easy fix, but if root damage is suspected, immediate action must be taken if you intend to save the plant.

Conti. next issue. This article appeared courtesy Bundaberg Orchid Society Newsletter Vol. 11/09



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com.au

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

**WHEN: FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**WHERE: GIRL GUIDE HALL, BEACH RD,  
MAROOCHYDORE**

**TIME: 7.30m**

**ALL WELCOME**