

# TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



## December 2017

***Merry Christmas  
And a happy and  
healthy new year from  
your editorial team.***



***Russell, Inge and Krystal***

### Meetings:

**Fourth Friday** of each month at 7.30pm, except September and December.

### Venue:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Hall  
Cnr. James and Phillip St, Toowoomba

### Annual Subscription:

Due January—Family \$25.00 / Single \$25.00

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John Woolf                      Peter Neylon

Graham Little

## TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The President opened the meeting at 7.25pm and welcomed members and visitors.

He then pointed out Toilets and explained evacuation procedures and asked that everyone sign the attendance book.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Tonight Barry Kable is going to speak to us on growing specimen plants and what to do when they become too big to enjoy.

**JUDGES FOR TONIGHT** Barry Kable, Ivan Vescovi and Rhonda Barnett.

**NEW MEMBERS:** - Tonight the committee approved Cora Malcuit and Caroline Westall. Welcome.

**VISITORS:** - Barry and Anne Kable, Steve Keen, Leanne Dieckmann and Judy Hendren.

**SICK LIST:** Our secretary Con is recovering at home and we wish her a speedy recovery

**MINUTES:** Moved David Woolf and seconded by Bernie Breuel that the minutes of the October meeting as printed in Tanbark are correct

All those in favour – carried

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A brief report on the correspondence for the month

Correspondence – Several club newsletters.

That correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed, Moved                      Seconded David Woolf

Carried

**TREASURERS REPORT:** - Treasurer will give us an insight into our finances.

Murray reported a credit balance in working account of \$12,326.36 with several accounts for payment.

He moved that the financial report be accepted and all accounts tabled be passed for payment.

Seconded by Roy Anderson

Carried

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on 10<sup>th</sup> December & 16<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> is at the old Bunnings and Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> is at the new one. A roster is available here tonight so we can all share the workload – please come along and help out. Don't leave it to the same few workers please. Just remember covered in shoes. Thongs and socks don't count as covered in shoes.

**Note:** - Large Esky's are needed for the two Bunnings sausage sizzles so if you can help out please drop them at the home of David & Caroline at 607 Greenwattle Street.

New Growers Group – 3<sup>rd</sup> December at David & Carolyn's – 607 Greenwattle Street at 2.00pm. Bring a plate and a chair please. Novice growers - bring along your worst plant and swap it for a better one. All welcome.

Meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Andrew Neylon will give us a demo on how to pot up some Sarcs as well.

The club was invited to speak to the Bunnings Garden Club on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Great success. Very interested people. We scored a \$50 Bunnings voucher for the club for our trouble and we're invited back next year.

Bus trip to the Queensland International Orchid Fair at Beenleigh on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We will visit the event, have lunch and visit another orchid nursery or something else of interest.

Barry Kable then gave a very interesting talk on growing specimen plants, how to pot on and then gave a couple of demonstrations as what to do when they become too large.

He firstly "pruned" a very large plant of the species *Maxillaria tenuifolia* and showed members how to pot and mount it. Pieces were then distributed to anyone wanting a plant.

Barry then set upon a lovely plant of *Coelogyne Burfordiense* which he explained needs a warmer situation to grow well. Pieces of this plant were also distributed to interested parties.

The president and members thanked Barry and Ann for coming to speak to us tonight and for the lovely plants distributed.

### Supper

The usual segment of "Kev's Corner" wasn't possible as Kev was absent tonight but his place was ably taken by Barry who singled out a lovely plant of *C. purpurata* which he spoke about.

President John then gave a short commentary on 69 plants benched and the winners in each section.

Raffles were drawn and prizes distributed.

The president then wished everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a wonderful new year and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

## November 2017 Meeting Results

Class	Plant Name	Owner
Novice Hybrid	Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant'	Lyn Newlands
Novice Species	<u>C.</u> purpurata 'Éndfields'	Rudy & Rhonda Barnett
Novice Seedling	Nil benched	
<b>Judges Choice Novice</b>	<b>Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant'</b>	<b>Lyn Newlands</b>
Open Hybrid	Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant'	Bernie & Ann Breuel
Open Species	<u>Max.</u> tenuifolia	Russell & Inge Anderson
Open Seedling	<u>Paph.</u> delenatii	Neville & Heather Guppy
<b>Judges Choice Open</b>	<b>Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant'</b>	<b>Bernie &amp; Ann Breuel</b>
Master Hybrid	<u>Phrag.</u> Paul Eugene Conroy	John & Colleen Terry
Master Species	<u>Gom.</u> sarcodes	David & Carolyn Woolf
Master Seedling	<u>Paph.</u> Magic Lantern	John & Colleen Terry
<b>Judges Choice Master</b>	<b><u>Gom.</u> sarcodes</b>	<b>David &amp; Carolyn Woolf</b>
<b>Popular Vote Tie</b>	<b>Onc. Ruth's Rainbow 'Dark Pink'</b>	<b>Rachel Crees</b>
<b>Popular Vote Tie</b>	<b>Mps. Brilliant 'Breathless'</b>	<b>Lyn Newlands</b>

## A word from the President.

I seem to start each month with a comment on the weather so here we go again. Hasn't the month of November been totally out of character this year? Normally we have our first taste of very hot weather with a few wild storms thrown in; not this time. My records show that our average daytime temperature for November last year was close to 29°C but this year it's been just over 23°C.

The plants seem to have enjoyed it as well.

It was fun to have Barry Kable to speak to us at the last meeting as is always the case. Barry is a no-nonsense grower and tells it like it is and he shared pieces of a couple of big specimen plants to be "pruned". I hope to see quite a few on the bench next year.

It was good to see such a great display of plants benched at the last meeting. Almost 70 in total and I'm sure everyone appreciates seeing such a variety. Keep them coming.

Speaking of monthly meeting and plants benched; the winners of each section for the most points gained at monthly meetings for the year 2017 were; Novice – Peter Kajewski, Open – Trevor Deans and Master – John Terry, so well done all.

The new growers group get together on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December was well attended with 27 members and friends coming along and being ably entertained by Andrew and David and then go home with some extra knowledge and a plant each. I think it was our best attended NGG yet. Perhaps because it was on a Sunday?

With the two sausage sizzles coming up in the next few weeks it is encouraging to see our roster for the first one on the 10<sup>th</sup> December almost filled but we could use a couple of helpers for the afternoon shifts for the one at the new Bunnings on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

As the year draws to a close it's good to reflect on the year that was and I'm certain that TOS has had a great year. Thank you all for being part of that time and I hope you've enjoyed it as much as I have.

Merry Christmas to you and yours and here's hoping that 2018 will bring all we could ask for.

Good growing

John

***PS Annual subscriptions are due as at 31 December***

I have attached the members points list as at the Christmas Party 2017. All points accrued after that will go on the 2018 tally. We are looking forward to seeing even more members move up into the next grow-

**Happy Diners:** For further information, see Kev Baker or phone 4632 4952

<b>4th January 2018</b>	<b>Club Glenvale (T'ba Hockey Club)</b>	<b>11.45am</b>

## Striking Back-bulbs: Advice for Novice Growers by Brian Milligan

For the benefit of novice growers I should explain that a back-bulb is a bulb that has lost all its leaves, hopefully because of age rather than disease. When a cymbidium is repotted, it's desirable to remove these leafless bulbs, preferably by severing the rhizome linking them to the rest of the plant. It's best to use a sterile knife or scissors, but some growers simply twist the connecting rhizome by hand until it breaks. Having removed the back-bulbs, how do you 'strike' them and why? 'Striking' is jargon for encouraging the back-bulb to produce new growth from incipient leaf nodes, which are mostly located near the base of the bulb.



*Cymbidium Without Peer 'Soft Touch'* HCC/OSCOV

To prepare a back-bulb for 'striking' first remove any old leaf husks, as these may harbour scale and other insect pests. Then cut any residual roots back to their junction with the back-bulb and trim the break if the bulb was removed by twisting. To minimise infection by any of the organisms responsible for rot the cut surfaces should be sealed, either with Steri-Prune® (or similar sealing paste) or by leaving the bulb lying in the shade for a few days for the cut surfaces to

form a scab or callus. Alternatively the cut surfaces can be dusted with a fungicide. Leaving the back-bulbs to dry for a few days is the simplest option.

There are many different ways of striking back-bulbs. I've used several different methods, each with a fair measure of success. The simplest method, involving least effort, is simply to bury the back-bulb to two thirds of its depth in the same potting medium that you use for the rest of your collection. If you use a 4-in pot then no attention will be needed for two years except regular watering and the addition of a little slow release fertiliser in spring.

Some back-bulbs strike more rapidly than others. If a leaf growth appears within three months you're doing well, while six months would be average. If there's no sign of growth within twelve months all but the super-optimist should give up (there are always a few back-bulbs each year that fail to strike). Generally, roots do not appear until the leaf growth is several inches tall, and there is no point in applying slow-release fertiliser until this stage is reached. If you're keen, there may be some benefit in applying liquid fertiliser to the foliage at an earlier stage as liquid fertilisers are absorbed by leaves as well as by roots.



*Cymbidium Do Wop 'Woopie'* HCC/OSCOV

In recent years I've struck back-bulbs of my more highly valued cymbidiums using *Sphagnum* moss as the potting medium. This method seems to produce more rapid growth, but that's probably because I place the pots in my heated glass-house during winter. After about a year the moss is removed and replaced with conventional cymbidium mix. A modified version of this method has been used by some growers for many years. The back-bulbs are placed in a plastic bag with a little very wet *Sphagnum* moss and the bag is then sealed and hung in the shade-house. The struck back-bulbs are potted in cymbidium mix when the leaves and roots are a few inches long.

**Cont'd next page**

## Striking Back-bulbs cont'd

The old back-bulb eventually rots and it should be removed from the new plant as soon as rot is detected. While the bulb is in good condition it provides the plant with nutrients, so it's best to leave it attached as long as possible. However, some growers remove the old back-bulb as soon as the new plant appears able to support itself and then attempt to make it strike a second time. This often works, particularly with large back-bulbs, although the chances of the bulb rotting during its second year are much greater, of course.

So, novice grower, now you know how to increase your cymbidium collection. But be warned - it takes four years on average for the new plant to reach flowering size and if you strike all your back-bulbs you will soon have to move to larger premises!

Friends,

Just letting you know that we have had a new shipment of bark today so there's plenty available to finish off your potting - \$25 per bag. There's also charcoal at \$8 for a 10L bag, fresh Root Growth formula at \$7 per litre and Rutec Plant Booster fertiliser at \$10 per litre.

These are all available from Heather so give her a call on 4635 6868.

The club had another successful sausage sizzle last Saturday which raised over \$1000. Well done and thanks to all who participated once again.

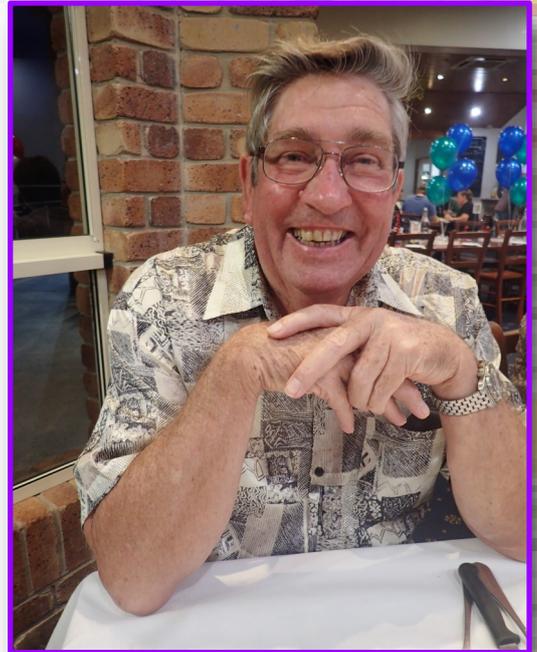
Don't forget our bus trip to the Queensland International Orchid Fair at Beenleigh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We will also be visiting other venues (yet to be finalised) as well and it will be a great chance to bring home a few extra, "must have" plants. The cost will be a maximum of \$20 and bookings would be much appreciated at or before the January meeting. Email me or speak to anyone on management committee please.

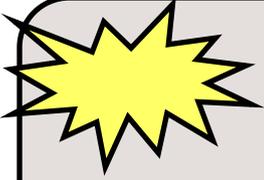
Lastly on behalf of Colleen and myself (and management committee of course) we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Kindest regards John

## Note: Cash only for Heather and Neville please.

Squat Pots		Standard Pots	
Size	Price Each	Size	Price Each
80mm	30c	100mm (tall)	25c
100mm	20c	100mm	20c
125mm	35c	120mm (old stock)	15c
140mm	50c	125mm	25c
175mm	50c	140mm	30c
200mm	60c	180mm	50c
270mm	\$1.50	200mm	60c
100mm Orchid Pot	40c	250mm	\$1.20
125mm Orchid Pot	55c	Saucers 200mm	70c
150mm Orchid Pot	75c	Saucer 300mm	\$1.55
175mm Orchid Pot	\$1.20	Plant Clips Small	11c
200mm Orchid Pot	\$2.20	Plant Clips Medium	12c
140mm Labels	\$3.50 per 50	Plant Clips Large	30c
100mm Labels	\$3.20 per 50	Bark (Orchiata)	\$26
Pot hangers (360mm)	30c each	Perlite Coarse	\$30
Pot hangers (500mm)	\$2.00	Perlite Super Coarse	\$32
Bamboo Stakes 45cm	80c per 10	Perlite Jumbo	\$41
Bamboo Stakes 60cm	\$1.20 per 10	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K	\$6/kg

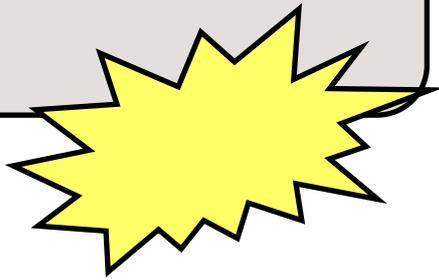
# Christmas Party 2017



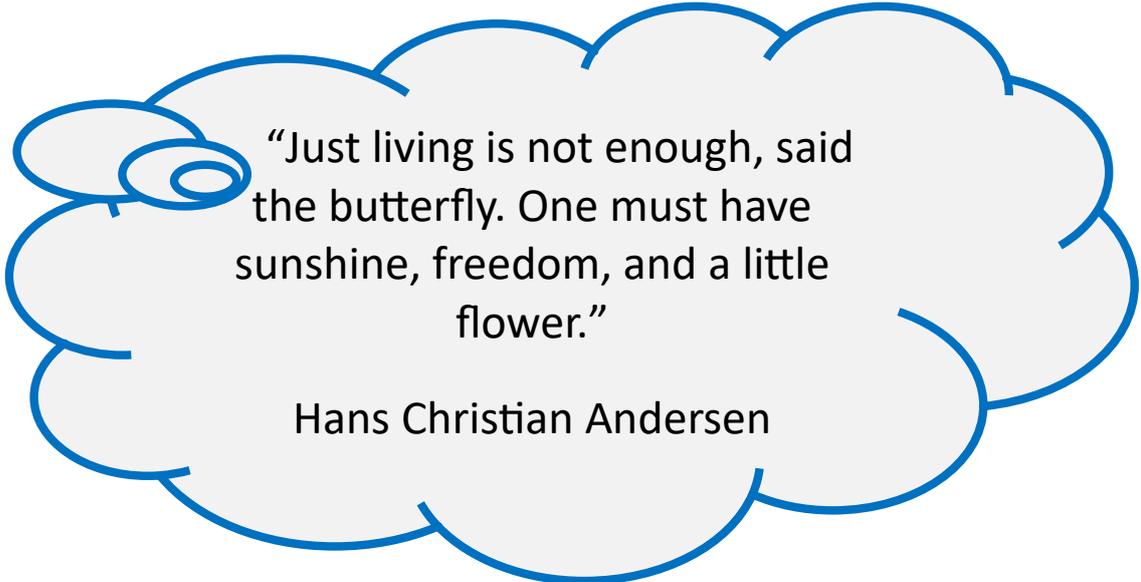


## Supper at the meeting

Please bring along a small plate of nibbles for our general meetings.  
Your offering is greatly appreciated.



## Thought for the month!



“Just living is not enough, said  
the butterfly. One must have  
sunshine, freedom, and a little  
flower.”

Hans Christian Andersen

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**Downs Water**  
WAREHOUSE

Remember -  
Next Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2018