

# TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



*August*  
**2019**

## *Spring Show!*

*Please email the names of all plants that you may be entering to [acpneylon@bigpond.com](mailto:acpneylon@bigpond.com) by 6pm on the 16th September, earlier if possible, so they can be checked by Andrew and John.*

### **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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**Show Marshall:** Andrew Neylon

**Committee:**

Cec Crees                      Bernie Breuel

Glenda Neylon



# Minutes of the General Meeting

held 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

at St Paul's Church Hall, Toowoomba

The Vice President, David Woolf, opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed members & visitors.

**Attendance & Apologies:** As per Attendance Book

**HOUSEKEEPING:** - Toilets, Evacuation Procedure – members were urged to familiarise themselves with the procedure.

**Judges For Tonight :** Roy, Cec, Peter

**New Members** ---

**Visitors:** Mark, Gavin & Debbie

**Sick List:** John Terry - pacemaker. Dot Burns passed away.

**MINUTES:** Trevor Deans moved that the minutes of the May meeting as printed in Tanbark were correct.

Seconded by Val Reid ..... Carried

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A brief report on the correspondence for the month:

Newsletters & Show Flyers – NOSTI, Redlands, Eastern District, West Bris,

Invitation to Native Orchid Society Dinner

Bank statement

KABI native orchid group – email to say they are coming to our Summer Show

Last Management Committee minutes available.

**OUTWARD:** --

Secretary moved that correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed.

Seconded Peter Neylon Carried

## **TREASURERS REPORT:** -

Assistant Treasurer, Glenda Neylon gave the report as at 25/7/19

Total Monthly Expenditure \$1,786.39

Total Monthly Income \$7,144.55

Monthly Profit \$5,358.16 (Plant sales from Winter Show are yet to be paid to growers)

Total held in all accounts \$44,813.22

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

Seconded Roy Anderson Carried

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### 1. **Winter Show**

Andrew Neylon reported on behalf of the Show Committee – Reasonable turnout, plant numbers were down – please make sure plants for sale are established in their pot and free of pests & diseases. Eftopos machine broke down – this situation will be remedied by the Spring Show.

2. **Bunnings West Sausage Sizzle** – November 9
3. **New Growers'** to be held at Cora and Richard Malcuit's home 13 Water St, Helidon. 2pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Bring a chair and a plate to share.
4. **Return Spring Show Trophies please**
5. **Bark and Pot orders** – to John or David
6. **Christmas party** – ideas?
7. **Species Show – Nov 23 & 24 Brisbane** – Murray or Kev could take a plant down for you
8. **Award** – David presented Steve and Sonia Pope with a Botanical Merit for their winning plant at the Autumn Show
9. **Speaker** – Cec Crees presentation on C. intermedia
10. **Tonight's Winners** – announcement of winners from tonight's benching

Category	Name of Plant	Owner
Novice Hybrid	Phalenopsis unknown	R & C Malcuit
Novice Species	Paph. Boxallii	V & I Reid
<b>Judges Choice Novice</b>	Phalenopsis unknown	R & C Malcuit
Master Hybrid	Dal's Good One 'Janelle'	T Deans
<b>Judges Choice Master</b>	Dal's Good One 'Janelle'	T Deans
<b>Judges Choice Overall</b>	Phalenopsis unknown	R & C Malcuit

**Meeting Closed at 8.45 pm** – David thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe trip home.

## Spring Show

**Friday 20th to Tuesday 24th September 2019**

**8.30am to 4.00pm (Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon)**

**8.30am to 3.00pm (Tue)**

**Admission Price: \$4.00**

St. Pauls Church Hall

Cnr Phillip and James St Toowoomba

We have the largest display of orchids in the Southeast Queensland, plant sales, craft stall and light refreshments.

We have good parking including Coaches, disabled access and public facilities.

Plant names in to Andrew Neylon [acpneylon@bigpond.com](mailto:acpneylon@bigpond.com) or John Terry [jht.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:jht.orchids@gmail.com) by **no later than midnight 16<sup>th</sup> September.**

If you don't have internet connection please drop a hard copy to David Woolf at 607 Greenwattle St. Toowoomba or phone 0428779276.

[Show preparation on Thursday 19th September:](#)

Hall Setup from 3.00pm. Plants benched from 4.00pm until 6.00pm. Judging commences 7.30pm. **Helpers needed.**

Please copy the link below and paste it into your address bar to download the schedule.

[http://www.toowoombaorchidsociety.org.au/newsletters/Spring\\_ShowSchedule\\_2019.pdf](http://www.toowoombaorchidsociety.org.au/newsletters/Spring_ShowSchedule_2019.pdf)

**For more information contact Andrew 0417 761 819**

## **KING OF THE BRASSIAS** by Brian Milligan Reprinted with the kind permission of OSCOV

The genus *Brassia* comprises about twenty species, all of them native to tropical America; most grow in forest country at altitudes below 1500 m. In 1813 Robert Brown named the genus after William Brass, an English botanist who collected plants in Guinea and South Africa in the 18th century. Commonly known as spider orchids, *Brassia* species are characterised by their long, narrow, tapering sepals and petals. In nature female wasps pollinate the flowers.

The most common species in cultivation is *Brassia verrucosa*, which grows in cloud forest between Mexico and Nicaragua at elevations of 900-2400 m. Its inflorescences bear yellowy green flowers marked with chocolate brown spots and blotches. The flowers are evenly spaced in two parallel rows, and measure up to 150 mm from top to bottom. The pale yellow lip carries a number of green warts, hence the species epithet *verrucosa*, which means warty. Although some Victorians grow and successfully flower this species under shade-house conditions, in my experience its plants are much more sturdy, and provide more and larger flowers if grown in a heated glasshouse at a minimum temperature of 10°C or above.

A very similar species, believed by some to be synonymous with *B. verrucosa*, is *B. brachiata*, which has larger but fewer flowers than *B. verrucosa*. Its flowers are said to measure between 150 and 200 mm across (see Jay Phal's website at [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com) for a good description and picture of this and other *brassia* species).

For several years I grew another species under the name *Brassia keiliana* before I learnt that it, and about a dozen other species, had been transferred to the formerly small genus *Ada*. Its flowers have narrow, pointed, orange-brown sepals and petals and are considerably smaller than the above species. They open much more widely than the tubular flowers of the well-known *Ada aurantiaca*.

For many years I grew another species, *Brassia gireoudiana*, which is said to carry extremely large flowers measuring more than 300 mm from tip to tip. Although I moved the plant to various spots in my glasshouse (cooler, warmer, brighter, shadier), it steadfastly refused to flower. Despite my warning, it was purchased by a friend several years ago. No doubt he hoped to tease me with the flowering plant in a year or two but I'm pleased to say that event hasn't yet occurred!

Finally we arrive at the main subject of this article, the King of the Brassias, which accurately describes the primary hybrid between *B. verrucosa* and *B. gireoudiana*, registered as *Brassia Rex*. The late Goodale Moir of Hawaii first made this hybrid in 1964. I acquired a plant at least ten years ago, and eventually flowered it in December 2005. Its flowers are enormous, the dorsal sepals averaging 160 mm in length and the lateral sepals 250 mm, a total of 410 mm when measured from tip to tip. Laid sideways on this book, the largest flower would extend beyond the limits of this and its facing page! There were eight flowers on the inflorescence, each sepal and petal being deep yellow with dark brown spots and blotches, while the lip was a lighter yellow but similarly spotted.

Although my plant of *Brassia Rex* carried three new growths in 2005, only one of them produced an inflorescence. Obviously this hybrid needs to be grown into a large plant before it is willing to flower. However, it was well worth the long wait, and I thank my lucky stars that I didn't give up in disgust, as I did in the case of its parent *B. gireoudiana*).



# Spring Show Trophies

*Please dust these off and return them  
as soon as possible*

## GROWING SUPPLIES Members only prices

Squat Pot 100mm	\$0.20	Standard Pot 100mm (Tall)	\$0.25
Squat Pot 125mm	\$0.30	Standard Pot 100mm	\$0.25
Squat Pot 140mm	\$0.40	Standard Pot 125mm	\$0.25
Squat Pot 175mm	\$0.65	Standard Pot 140mm	\$0.30
Squat Pot 200mm	\$0.60	Standard Pot 180mm	\$0.50
Orchid Pot 70mm	\$0.25	Standard Pot 200mm	\$0.60
Orchid Pot 100mm	\$0.40	Standard Pot 250mm	\$1.20
Orchid Pot 125mm	\$0.55	Saucer 200mm	\$0.70
Orchid Pot 150mm	\$0.70	Saucer 300mm	\$1.55
Orchid Pot 175mm	\$1.20	Pot Hangers 360mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Orchid Pot 200mm	\$2.20	Pot Hangers 500mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Small (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 45cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Medium (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 60cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Large (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 90cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Labels 100mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Pencil- Stabilo 8008	\$3.50
Labels 140mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Coco Husk	\$12.00
Orchiata Bark 40L	\$27.00	Cymbidium Mix (Pack)	\$8.00
Perlite Super Coarse (Pack)	\$4.00	Sphagnum Moss (Pack)	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 6-9mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Perlite Super Coarse (100l)	\$30.00
Orchid Mix 9-12mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K 1kg	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 12-18mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plant Stand-Short	\$20.00
Rutec Root Booster 1L	\$8.00	Plant Stand-Long	\$22.00
Rutec Growth Booster 1L	\$10.00		

\*Member Prices\* Note: Phone : 46356868

**Members  
Please Note!**

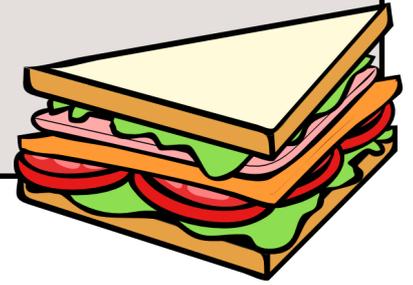
**Items  
purchased  
from TOS  
are  
NOT FOR  
RESALE!**

**Members in  
breach of this  
will be refused  
purchases.**



## Supper at the meeting

Please bring along a small plate of nibbles for our general meetings.



## Thought for the month!

*"I get up every morning, and it's going to be a great day. You never know when it's going to be over, so I refuse to have a bad day."*

– Paul Henderson

For all your pumping and irrigation needs,  
see the team at

**Downs Water**  
**WAREHOUSE**

331 Taylor Street, Toowoomba

Ph: 07 4634 3003

[www.downswater.com.au](http://www.downswater.com.au)

Remember - Next Meeting

23rd August 2019