

# TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



January  
2019

## Attention

**NEXT MEETING**

**FRIDAY**

**25TH January 2019**

**Guest Speaker will be**

**Ray Clement of**

**Tinonee Orchids**

### 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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Jim Brown      Bernie Breuel

## TOOWOOMBA ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

Minutes of Meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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

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

**JUDGES FOR TONIGHT** Cec, Peter N and Kev.

**SICK LIST:** Kevin Mahony is recovering at home. We wish him well. The president welcomed Maria Zielke who has been absent due to illness.

**MINUTES:** Moved Val Reid, seconded Andrew Neylon that the minutes of the October meeting as printed in Tanbark are correct. Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A brief report on the correspondence for the month;

Correspondence – Last month's Management Committee minutes available.

Various newsletters. Show Invitations. TRC letter of acquittal of grant.

Secretary moves that correspondence be accepted and outward endorsed, Seconded Roy Anderson. Carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** - Christina reported a credit balance in the cheque account of \$14,759.30. She also presented accounts for payment for Fernland - \$805.01 and to David Woolf for sphagnum etc. - \$207.90. She moved that the report be accepted and the accounts be passed for payment. Seconded Inge Anderson. Carried.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. The president apologised to the meeting for the change in meeting date and also the postponement of the guest speaker.
2. Members were reminded of the next sausage sizzle to be held on 5th January 2019 at Bunnings North Toowoomba. A roster was circulated.
3. 2021 AOC Conference has been offered to the clubs of SEQ. President informed the members that the inaugural meeting of the planning committee will be held on the 27th November. Details to follow. .
4. The Christmas party will be held on 1st December at Club Glenvale (Hockey Club). Cost to members will be \$20.00 and will receive an orchid plant on the night. There will be a raffle with significant prizes. Tickets \$1 each. Attendance list circulating. Payment can be made by bank transfer. Bank details: Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. Acc No 5686989 BSB 638-070 Heritage Bank.

5. The president congratulated Val Reid on attaining her fully accredited judging status. The meeting agreed. Well done Val.
6. The club will participate in the Bunnings West family Christmas night on 6th December from 6pm to 8pm.
7. Club shirts are now available.
8. A general business item was raised that some new members found the New Growers Group to be more informative than general meetings. This matter was discussed at some length and the reasoning that NGG's are more informal, allowing the discussion of orchids and their culture more easily than the formalised general meetings and members are more likely to ask questions. Mentoring of new and novice growers was discussed and certainly seemed to receive some acknowledgement however one suggestion that would appear to have merit was to start a register of experienced growers, the area in which they live and the genera they grow or feel happy to communicate with new members. This will be discussed at the next management committee meeting and a report tabled next year.
9. The matter of prize money was again raised with some members feeling that prize money is insufficient. This was countered by the contention that because we have twice as many shows as most other societies, we could increase the sums paid if we decreased the number of shows. This has been a long running debate which, while having many affirmatives, has never been concluded. The possible show to be replaced with an in-house show was the Summer Show as this year it was only 23 days after the spring show hardly giving the workers already weary from the spring show a chance to recuperate. This is a debate that will take a deal of resolution and the president would like to suggest that anyone with an opinion should email their thoughts to him to be summarised for a meeting next year.

Following supper, members were treated to a slide show of the plants involved in the OSCOV orchid of the year (2017) awards. It was interesting to compare the best available down south with what is grown in our area. A most enjoyable presentation.

Kev Baker then gave us an extended "Kev's Corner" with an interesting appraisal of some plants on the bench tonight. Thanks Kev.

After drawing the raffles the president reminded members of our January guest speaker in Ray Clement. Again there will be a talk and a workshop not to be missed.

The president closed the meeting at 9.20pm and wished members a safe trip and agreed to meet at the Christmas party on the 1st December.

# *Osmocote Down Under* by Clive Halls

You don't always have to follow the rules to get good results with fertilisers, as we have discovered with our odontoglossums and masdevallias at Mount Beenak Orchids.

Growing orchids in Sphagnum moss has always presented a problem when it comes to the application of fertilisers. Most liquid fertilisers, applied at % strength, don't present a problem, provided you do it on a weekly basis – easier said than done! However, slow release fertiliser, such as Osmocote®, when applied to the top of the pot, causes moss breakdown and green slime. Because the moss remains wet for so long, it retains so much nutrient released by the fertiliser that it fails to achieve the desired results – most orchids, especially the fine-rooted epiphytes, such as odontoglossums, oncidiums and masdevallias, need only small amounts of fertiliser.

One day, while re-potting about a hundred zygotepetalum seedlings in Sphagnum moss, it occurred to me to put the slow-release fertiliser in the bottom of the pot, rather than on the top. After covering the drainage holes with some hammer-milled moss, I added a few grains of 8-9 month Osmocote Plus® to half the plants. The remainder received only % strength Manutec® liquid fertiliser once each week. In about four weeks the foliage of the Osmocote-fed plants was definitely greener than that of the others. After eight weeks the plants were not only greener but also taller and more robust. After twelve weeks they were nearly double the size of their deprived mates and also stronger and greener. The root systems were examined in both groups. While both groups had white, strong and healthy roots, those in the Osmocote-fed group had Osmocote pellets adhering to their roots, yet no signs of burning or deterioration in any way.

As this experiment had worked so well, I decided to repeat it using some odontoglossum alliance and masdevallia seedlings. Both of these groups of orchids tend to lose their roots if over-fed, and I have previously found that slow-release fertilisers are unsuitable, even using bark-based potting media. Enough mix (hammer-milled moss (80%) and polystyrene chips (20%)) was first placed in 50 mm tubes to cover the drainage holes and then a little Osmocote slow-release fertiliser was added, as before. Next, single-growth odontoglossum alliance seedlings and masdevallias of 3-4 leaves (both about six months old) were planted in the tubes, using the same mix. Similar results to those obtained with the zygotepetalums were obtained, although (as expected) growth was not as pronounced with these generally less vigorous plant groups. When the plants were nearly a year old, we changed their potting mix to a fine bark (Bio Gro Mini Nuggets), in this case also adding Osmocote to the bottom of the pots. Excellent results were again obtained, the Osmocote-fed plants being well advanced over the control group. Many of the masdevallias had begun to flower – indeed, some had even flowered while in their original 50 mm tubes!

It seems important to use 8-9 month release Osmocote, because we lost a few plants when we used 5-6 month Osmocote, and the roots of those that survived didn't appear to be as strong as the others. There are many different resin-coated fertilisers, but Osmocote is a good brand and widely available, so I have stuck with it. I use two types, each with a different N:P:K ratio. and two pinches in 80 mm pots – not a particularly precise measurement but the amount doesn't seem to make a great deal of difference overall.

## Osmocote Down Under Cont'd.

For young plants I recommend Osmocote-Plus, 8-9 month, 16 + 3.5 + 10 + 1.2, and for flowering-sized plants I use Osmocote-Plus, 8-9 months, High K 9 + 4.8 + 15 + Trace Elements. The latter may be hard to get but we have it for sale at our nursery. The rate of application is difficult to calculate for small pots. For 150 mm and larger pots, it's OK to follow the directions on the container but they don't mention little tubes or pots. I use a pinch (about 10 pellets) in 50 mm pots, a little more in 65 mm pots

and two pinches in 80 mm pots – not a particularly precise measurement but the amount doesn't seem to make a great deal of difference overall.

I've been using the above system of fertilising now for two complete seasons, and have entered the third season with continuing positive results. Our plants are better than ever, with excellent leaf colour and good flowering. Our masdevallias now show much less leaf spotting and drop fewer leaves than before. The odontoglossums show less leaf tip dieback, and have stronger spikes that produce more flowers.

With flowering-sized cymbidiums and zygopetalums, we use High K Osmocote but add it to the top of the pot in the same way as we have for many years. We still use a liquid fertiliser (at % strength) during the warmer months, as well as a fish-based or seaweed-based fertiliser a few times each year because of the unique trace elements that these organic fertilisers contain.

Just because the above system works for me doesn't necessarily mean it will work as well for you. Try a few plants first, and see how they respond. If you're happy with the results, try a few more – don't treat them all unless and until you're totally convinced that the system works well for you.

Mt Beenak Orchids

Reprinted with kind permission of OSCOV and thanks to Clive Halls of My Beenak Orchids

**Peter Kajewski graduates from  
Novice to Open Grower**



**Trevor Deans moves from  
Open to Master Grower**



**Some of the beautiful plants from the November meeting**



**Den. Bohemian Rhapsody**  
(B & A Breuel)



**Paph. Gloria Naugle**



**B. flagellaris**  
(C&E Dedekind)



**Sarco. Olivaceus**  
(V&I Reid)

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

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|  |  |  |
|  | <b>Information not available at time of printing</b> |  |
|  |  |  |

## **From the President**

***The last one for the year – Ya-hoo.***

***But what a year it's been for TOS with our final event – our Christmas party, now just a memory. Well not quite – I shared Colleens Rum balls (generously made and wrapped by Glenda) when we got home and I've stored mine or should I say "ours" for nibbling with a coffee at a later date. And speaking of our Christmas party as we were; didn't you just love the thoughtfully bought and tastefully wrapped raffle prizes on the night. Although I didn't win any of them (but I knew I wouldn't as Julie is a habitual winner of fruit trays and other raffled items), they (the prizes) catered for all tastes and were wonderfully Christmassy. Thanks once again Glenda.***

***Carolyn is also to be thanked for organising the night which I thought had the best atmosphere of any of the Christmas parties we've had. Thanks also to Patrick and his helper Cec for selling the raffle tickets.***

***Prizes were handed out for the most points gained for plants exhibited at monthly meetings. The results being: Novice section – Peter Kajewski (62 points) Open Section – Andrew Neylon (106 points) and Master Section – John Terry (280 points). Well done to the winners. Certificates of Achievement were also presented to Peter Kajewski for graduation from Novice to Open class and to Trevor Deans for graduation from Open into Master class. Well done to both members.***

***A couple of statistics worth mentioning: - members exhibiting plants at monthly meetings was 17 as compared to 22 last year but number of plants exhibited was up from 437 last year to 667 plants this year. Based on these figures we need more members to exhibit at monthly meetings.***

***On the subject of plants being exhibited at meetings; anyone fortunate to be present at the November monthly meeting would have been privileged to see the plant of Brassavola flagellaris exhibited by Erika and Charley Dedekind. The plant has since received a quality award – an Award of Merit (AM) and an Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC) for the culture of the plant. Well done and congratulations to Erika and Charley.***

***Congratulations to Val Reid who has recently attained fully accredited AOC judging status. Certainly a great achievement. Well done Val.***

***We had a discussion at the last meeting regarding the number of shows the society stages, the prize money at those shows and the learning possibilities at meetings compared with New Growers Group gatherings. I've received a number of email submissions from interested parties and look forward to seeing even more. So if you have an idea as to any of the above or directions that you feel the club should be heading please email your comments to me.***

***Don't forget we have a Sausage Sizzle on the 5<sup>th</sup> January at Bunnings North. Help is always appreciated. Our guest speaker at the January meeting will be Ray Clement from Tinonee Orchid fame who will talk about his favourite orchids. What are they – we'll have to come along to the January meeting and find out. It's sure to be entertaining. We hope to follow the meeting with a workshop at David & Carolyn's home on Saturday morning the 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am.***

***Until next time, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and we'll be back in 2019 for more enjoyable orchid growing.***

**John**

## November 2018 Meeting Results

| Class                        | Plant Name  | Owner                     |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Novice Hybrid                | <u>Phal.</u> unknown  | P Kajewski                |
| Novice Species               | <u>Sarco.</u> <i>olivaceus</i>                                  | V & I Reid                |
| Novice Seedling              | <u>C.</u> Canhamiana x <u>C.</u> Exima                          | P Kajewski                |
| <b>Judges Choice Novice</b>  | <b><u>Phal.</u> unknown</b>                                     | <b>P Kajewski</b>         |
| Open Hybrid                  | <u>Den.</u> Bohemian Rhapsody                                   | B & A Breuel              |
| Open Species                 | <u>Plrhz.</u> <i>tridentata</i>                                 | A & C Neylon              |
| Open Seedling                |   |                           |
| <b>Judges Choice Open</b>    | <b><u>Plrhz.</u> <i>tridentata</i></b>                          | <b>A &amp; C Neylon</b>   |
| Master Hybrid                | <u>Paph.</u> Jousting Booth                                     | J & C Terry               |
| Master Species               | <u>B.</u> <i>flagellaris</i>                                    | C & E Dedekind            |
| Master Seedling              | <u>Paph.</u> James Watson x <u>Paph.</u> Hsinying Cyber Leopard | J & C Terry               |
| <b>Judges Choice Master</b>  | <b><u>B.</u> <i>flagellaris</i></b>                             | <b>C &amp; E Dedekind</b> |
| <b>Judges Choice Overall</b> | <b><u>B.</u> <i>flagellaris</i></b>                             | <b>C &amp; E Dedekind</b> |
| <b>Popular Vote</b>          | <b><u>B.</u> <i>flagellaris</i></b>                             | <b>C &amp; E Dedekind</b> |

### GROWING SUPPLIES Members only prices

\*Member Prices\* Note: Cash only for Heather and Neville please. Phone : 46356868

|                               |         |                                 |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Squat Pot 100mm               | \$0.20  | Standard Pot 100mm (Tall)       | \$0.25  |
| Squat Pot 125mm               | \$0.30  | Standard Pot 100mm              | \$0.20  |
| Squat Pot 140mm               | \$0.35  | Standard Pot 125mm              | \$0.25  |
| Squat Pot 175mm               | \$0.50  | 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)     | \$36.00 |
| 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 |                                 |         |

**Members  
Please Note!**

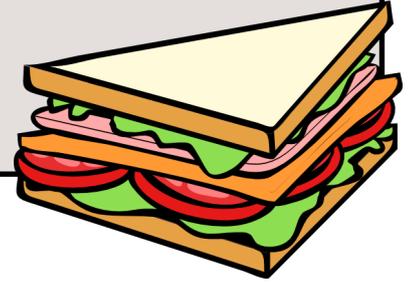
**Items  
purchased  
from TOS  
are  
NOT FOR  
RESALE!**

**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!

*"Don't compare her to sunshine  
and roses when she is clearly  
orchids and moonlight"*

*-Melody Lee*

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Remember - Next Meeting

25th January 2019