

TAN BARK

Newsletter of Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc.



**November
2019**

Christmas!

The party is on!

Saturday 30th November

At the Bourke and Wills Hotel.

Be there at 6.30pm for a 7pm start

Cost to members \$25 per head.

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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From the president – November

The plants benched at our October meeting were undoubtedly a sight to behold with 90 plants tabled by 15 members. Something of a club record I believe. Certainly a very spectacular display; one which gave the judges a tough task picking winners. Well done to those who participated.

Our shows are over for the year; in fact not another show in sight for over six months. The weather has certainly warmed, so if your plants need repotting (as do a great number of mine), then it should be carried out without delay. I always find repotting time one of relaxation and learning as I work through a group of plants and take notice of how they are growing; what the root system looks like and how that compares with the “above the pot” part. From these observations we can decide if our potting mix is suitable for purpose; meaning if it’s broken down to mush then we either need to use a different medium, repot more often or change our watering and fertilising habits.

One important point to remember is not to repot into dry mix. The plant is being stressed just removing it from its current container, always breaking some roots in the process and then to encounter bone dry conditions is certainly a setback. I always soak each component of the potting media prior to mixing them together and then use that mix before it dries out completely. Keeping any unused media in a covered container helps keep it moist. Others may have a differing view but I find this works best for me.

As mentioned at the last meeting, the club intends staging a display at the 2021 AOC conference so early next year we’ll be looking to establish a group to formulate a plan to assist us to move towards a successful outcome. Some of you will remember our own conference we staged in 2015 and the successes we achieved. So put your thinking caps on. Perhaps we should devote a meeting or part thereof to this discussion.

We had 10 eager learners at the new growers group this month and all had a great afternoon and I’m sure learnt something. In the New Year we’re planning on an “exchange” new grower’s afternoon where growers bring along their worst plant or a plant growing poorly and the club will exchange it for a healthier one. We will then attempt to diagnose the problem with your ailing plant. Details to follow.

The Happy Diners group will dine at the Withcott Hotel on 5th Dec 2019. All welcome.

The Bunnings sausage sizzle on the 9th of November was once again a great success raising almost a thousand dollars to be returned to members in some form.

From the president – November - Cont'd

So, on behalf of all members who will benefit in some way, a huge thank-you to the usual band of workers who give up their Saturday to come along and put in the effort. I might add that this one day was financially more successful than our three minor shows together. Food for thought?

Don't forget our Christmas party on the 30th November at the Burke and Wills Hotel. Cost to members will be \$25 per person. Payment by bank transfer (details hereabouts) or at the November meeting please. See you all when next we meet.

Enjoy your orchids.

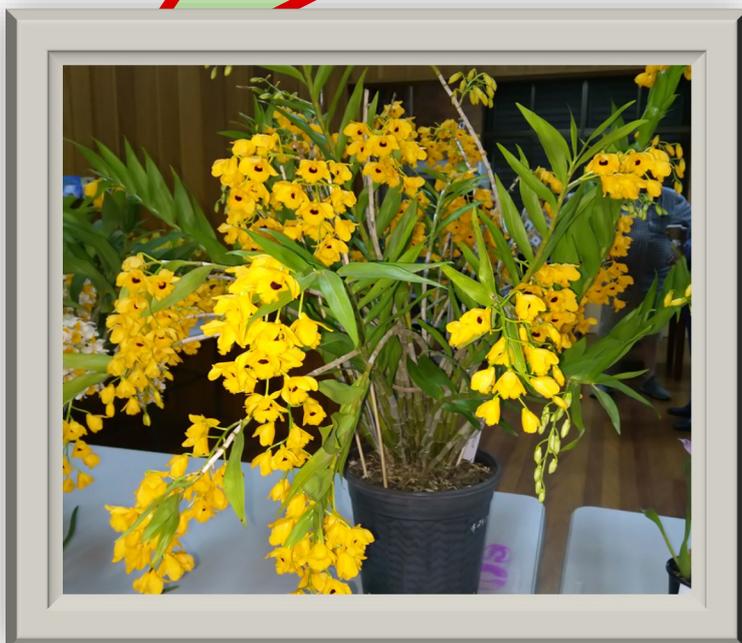
John

Happy Diners in December

***The next Happy Diners will be held at 11.45am on the
5th December***

At the Withcott Hotel, Toowoomba Connection Road, Withcott

Enquiries to Kevin Baker



Why have so many Orchid names changed over the past few Years??

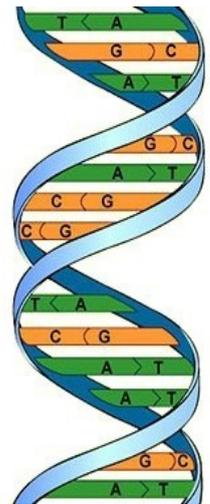
Historical background

The Swedish Botanist, Carl Linnaeus proposed and developed a systematic method of classification of plants and animals between 1735 and 1759. His system was based on a structured division into kingdoms, phyla, classes, orders, families, genera and species. At the time, only 8 genera were recognised in the Family Orchidaceae. By 1800 Olof Swartz had classified Orchidaceae into 25 genera. In the 1830's, John Lindley, regarded as the father of Orchid taxonomy, recognised 4 sub-families and described 1980 species. Through the 1850's, he progressively published his *Folia Orchidacea* covering most of the orchid species known at the time.

The basis of classification was floral and vegetative morphology with emphasis on the reproductive elements of the flowers as the primary determinant of genus and species. The Linnean System of classification continued over the next 150 years with many thousands of species being identified. Species names and, to a lesser extent, genus names changed from time to time as botanists/taxonomists refined the classification.

Along came DNA

In the 1950's, scientists developed techniques for the identification of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), a molecule that encodes the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms. It was some years before access to DNA was available at affordable cost but by the 1980's, scientists were amassing DNA data for a large number of orchid species and anomalies were becoming apparent in the historical classifications by genera, based on genetic rather than morphological differences and similarities.



The Genera Orchidacearum Project

In the mid-1990's, a large group of scientists from many countries undertook the task of reassessing the classification of orchid species which now number in excess of 24,000. The project was placed under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) with four eminent specialists, Alex Pridgeon, Phillip Cribb and Mark Chase of the RHS and Finn Rasmussen of the University of Copenhagen, as the principal authors of a publication in 6 volumes known as **Genera Orchidacearum**.

Volume 1 covering the sub-families *Apostasiodeae* and *Cypripedioideae* was published in 1999.

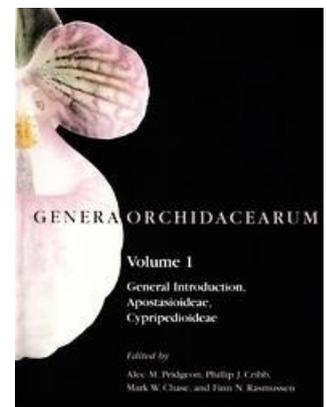
Volume 2 covering Part 1 of the sub-family *Orchidoideae*, namely, *Orchideae*, *Diurideae* and *Diseae*, appeared in 2001.

Volume 3 followed in 2003. It covered the remaining 105 genera in the sub-family *Orchidoideae* and all 15 genera in the sub-family *Vanilloideae*.

The remaining sub-family, *Epidendroideae*, is enormous and includes most of the epiphytic genera grown by hobbyists. Treatment of this sub-family has been spread across 3 Volumes, each in excess of 600 pages.

Volume 4, published in 2006, covers the first 210 genera including the sub-tribe *Laeliinae*, more commonly known as the Cattleya Alliance. It was the publication of this Volume that led to the major changes on the Cattleya Alliance.

Volume 5, published in 2010, covers 187 genera in the tribe *Cymbidieae* which includes sub-tribes *Cymbidiinae*, *Catasetiinae* and *Oncidiinae*. The re-classification of genera within *Oncidiinae* (the *Oncidium* Alliance) has resulted in widespread changes which have been implemented over the past couple of years.



Volume 6 is complete but not yet available. It covers the remaining tribes of the sub-family *Epidendroideae*, *Dendrobieae* and *Vandae*. The most significant outcomes for hobby growers in Volume 6 (announced in advance of publication) are that the genus *Dendrobium* will **not** be split, *Doritaenopsis* has been moved into *Phalaenopsis* and *Ascocentrum* moved into *Vanda*.

All changes to classification by genera have been reviewed and confirmed by the Advisory Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration (renamed the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group early in 2013). This group operates under the aegis of the RHS and includes representatives from a number of countries but excludes the authors of *Genera Orchidacearum*. In most cases, only the genus name changed, but in the circumstance where a species was moved to a genus which already had a species of the same name, the species was renamed. A notable example was *Odontoglossum crispum* which became *Oncidium alexandrae*. In other cases, the ending of a species name changed to reflect the gender of the genus name, for example, *Oncidium varicosum* became *Gomesa varicosa*.



Onc. alexandrae previously
Odm. crispum

Why Should We Accept the New Names?

The reclassification of species into different genera has caused a lot of angst amongst orchid nurseries and hobby growers. It is easy to understand that some people would want to disregard the changes and retain the original genus names. For some, the changes will have de-valued knowledge acquired over many years. However, there are two internationally recognised registers, both maintained by the RHS. Orchid species are registered in the **Kew Monocot List** compiled between 2001 and 2006 and accessible on line. Hybrid registration was originally conducted by the Sander's Nursery in the UK between 1906 and 1960. The RHS took over the register in 1961 and maintains it on an on-going basis. It currently contains around 154,000 hybrids, growing at a rate of 3000 to 4000 per annum. Orchidwiz, which is now widely used as a reference medium for checking and tracking the names of species and hybrids, also uses the RHS registers. Any decision to disregard the registers will result in confusion about names., particularly as more hybrids are registered in the future. It is futile to resist the changes so we should accept them, correct our labels accordingly and get used to the new names.

Will the Name Changes Continue??

With the publication of Volume 6 of *Genera Orchidacearum* in the next few months, we can look forward to a period of relative stability. However, with hundreds of Taxonomists looking for material to publish, it is to be expected that, with the paucity of new species being discovered, existing species will be revisited, current names will be challenged and some will be changed, but we are unlikely to see a repeat of the broad scale changes that have occurred since 2006.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on lectures attended by the author at the 20th World Orchid Conference and subsequent discussions with some of the authors of *Genera Orchidacearum*, the RHS Registrar and the Curator of the Herbarium at Kew. Bill Lavarack kindly made his copies of *Genera Orchidacearum* available and he reviewed an early draft with some helpful suggestions.

Charlie McMonagle



Julie Lack

Spring Novice Champion



Charlie and Erika Dedekind

Summer Show Grand Champions

Christmas Breakup Party

Our Christmas breakup party will be on the 30th of November at the Bourke and Wills Hotel at 6.30 for 7pm so blank that out in your diary and names in to Glenda as soon as possible please. The cost to the club will be \$55 pp but will be subsidised, so final cost to members will be \$25 per person and should be a wonderful night.

Judging Results October 2019

Category	Name of Plant	Owner
Novice Hybrid	Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Bird'	Kathy Scott
Novice Species	Chiloschista <i>ramifera</i>	V & I Reid
Novice Seedling	Phrag. Evening Blaze	V & I Reid
Judges Choice Novice	Chiloschista <i>ramifera</i>	V & I Reid
Open Hybrid	Sarco. unknown	A & C Neylon
Open Species	Den. <i>fimbriatum</i>	H & N Guppy
Open Seedling	Rhinochilus Lava Burst	A & C Neylon
Judges Choice Open	Den. <i>fimbriatum</i>	H & N Guppy
Master Hybrid	Bpt. Lizzie Woolf	D & C Woolf
Master Species	Den. <i>jenkensis</i>	C & E Dedekind
Master Seedling	Rrm. David Butcher x Tolu Swan's Verdict	D & C Woolf
Judges Choice Master	Bpt. Lizzie Woolf	D & C Woolf
Judges Choice Overall	Den. <i>fimbriatum</i>	H & N Guppy
Popular Vote -	Den. <i>fimbriatum</i>	H & N Guppy

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	\$0.35
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 140mm	\$0.50
Orchid Pot 150mm	\$0.70	Saucer 200mm	\$0.75
Orchid Pot 175mm	\$1.20	Saucer 300mm	\$1.60
Orchid Pot 200mm	\$2.20	Pot Hangers 360mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Small (Pack)	\$3.00	Pot Hangers 500mm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Medium (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 45cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Large (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 60cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Labels 100mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Bamboo Stakes 90cm (Pack)	\$3.00
Labels 140mm (Pack)	\$3.00	Pencil- Stabilo 8008	\$3.50
Orchiata Bark 40L	\$27.00	Coco Husk	\$12.00
Perlite Super Coarse (Pack)	\$4.00	Cymbidium Mix (Pack)	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 6-9mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Sphagnum Moss (Pack)	\$8.00
Orchid Mix 9-12mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Perlite Super Coarse (100l)	\$30.00
Orchid Mix 12-18mm (Pack)	\$8.00	Plantacote Fertiliser Top K 1kg	\$8.00
Rutec Root Booster 1L	\$8.00		
Rutec Growth Booster 1L	\$10.00		

Member Prices Note: Phone : 46356868

**Members
Please Note!**

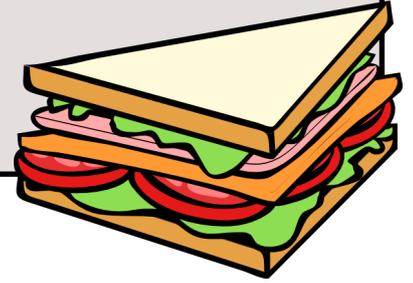
**Items
purchased
from TOS
are
NOT FOR
RESALE!**

**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!

The most highly coveted of ornamental plants, the delicate, exotic and graceful **orchid** represents love, luxury, beauty and strength. In ancient Greece, **orchids** were associated with virility. ... The 14th wedding anniversary flower, pink **orchids** convey pure affection, and the popular cattelya **orchid** represents mature charm.

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Remember - Next Meeting

24th January 2020