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Newsletter

APRIL 2016

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CLUB NEWS

Just over a month away from our Annual Autumn (Beef Show) Orchid Show. I noticed the number of exhibits were down on last year at the Alstonville and City of Lismore Orchid Shows. This is partly due to the strange weather we have been experiencing. Even the birds at my place think it is spring and are still nesting this late in the year.

Orchids usually flowering at this time of year were either finished or are yet to flower. Hope this means we will have a good display of flowers in May.

Rosters will be circulating at the next monthly meeting for volunteers at the Show, setting-up and setting-down. Remember: many hands lighten the load.

Also need one or two ladies (or men) to make a dish for the Judges meal. Please let me know if you can help out.

MARCH - JUDGES CHOICE AND POPULAR VOTE

Judges Choice - Narelle Wynn, a *Den Burana* Dark Blue and Popular Vote - Narelle Wynn a *Zygopetalum*. *Go girl, go!!!*

OTHER SHOWS

Woodburn Evans Head Show 7 - 8 May.
Ballina Orchid Society Show 7-8 May.
Aranbeem Orchids, Deception Bay, Open Day Sale Weekend May 7 Sat 9-4pm Sun & 9-2pm.
Orchids out West May 14-15.
Sunshine Coast Long weekend coach trip June 11-13. Cost \$275 pp. Northern Rivers Species Society. Phone Kevin Foster.
Singapore Tour July 22-26, cost \$2,670 twinshare, \$3,460 single (plus flights)
Southern Orchid Spectacular Oct 7-9.
21st AOC conference and Show NSW, 'Orchids in the Foothills' July 17-22, 2018.

GETTING PLANTS READY FOR SHOWS

Orchids:

Staking and Tying - For a non branching inflorescence there shall be no tie or support higher than immediately below the bottom flower. For a branching inflorescence there shall be no tie or support higher than immediately below the top branch. With single flowered genera, e.g. *Paphiopedilum*, *lycaste*, etc., a tie or support shall not be higher than immediately below the ovary.

Remove old sheafs, dead leaves and old flower stems. Remove dry husks on pseudobulbs by rubbing or wetting to remove easily. Separate flowers on *Cattleya*'s (if required) while still soft and before opening with cotton wool. This must be done before the pedicel hardens.



Popular Vote



Judges Choice



Clean calcium deposits from leaves by wiping with lemon juice/vinegar/milk. Use green florist tape to hide metal stakes.

Make sure your plants have legible name tags. Place top heavy plants in a larger pot for better stability. You could add stones to the larger pot and cover with bark for cosmetic appearances.

POT PLANTS AND BROMELIADS

Pot plants and Bromeliads can only be exhibited in the pot they are grown in, they will be disqualified if placed in a decorative or larger pot while still growing in another container.

Depending on the category, they should be in the centre of the pot where possible e.g. bromeliads. Remove all dead and disfigured leaves and/or flowers from plant. Clean foliage and pots to enhance presentation.

Please ensure you have name of plant on label as it makes it easier for stewards to place plants in their correct category.

BBQ CANCELLED

BBQ my place (Meg) Saturday 7 May @ 11.00am **has been cancelled due to clashes with Ballina and Woodburn Shows**. Meg will be judging at Ballina. Will re-schedule for later in the year.

New PHOTOGRAPH COMP at Autumn Show

A single whole flower in colour, size 150mmx100mm, with a 20mm border in black. Finished size 190mmx140mm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF PLANT RAFFLES

Special Raffle: Bert Brand our new member, congratulations. Orchids donated by Col Andrews: Donna Edmonds, Neil Fraser.

Society Orchids: Lionel Frame, Donna Edmonds and lucky Jack Caban won two.

INFORMATION FOR SENDING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR OUR WEB PAGE

Photos can be emailed to Martin Marschall (martin336@gmail.com Format: 800 max width and saved as a Jpeg image, no large files by email please)! or you can save your photos to a USB stick or SD card (any size or format) and give them to Martin at the meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Allan Vane who received an AM from OSNSW and AOC for his *Fred* 'After Dark' Vulcan orchid which was awarded at our Autumn Show last year. Allan was presented with his certificates at the FNCRJP meeting held Friday 8 April 2016.

City of Lismore Orchid Show 7-9 April 2016. Congratulations to Lionel Frame - Champion Species and Gary McAteer - Champion Cattleya.

Alstonville Orchid Show 30 March to 2 April 2016. Congratulations to Kevin Foster - Champion First Flowering Seedling and Athol Lavis - Champion Miscellaneous. Well done to all these members!

NEW ITEMS IN STOCK FOR OUR 'ORCHID SHOPPE'

Zeolite, Charcoal and Perlite. Trying to source Crown systemic spray; unfortunately Bunnings have locked the market on Gogo Juice (fertilizer).

We also have in stock 140mm tall black pots @.25c each for your larger orchids.

If you have something special you use please let me know and I will try and source it for you.

Uses for Zeolite - Agriculture

In agriculture, [clinoptilolite](#) (a naturally occurring zeolite) is used as a soil treatment. It provides a source of slowly released [potassium](#). If previously loaded with [ammonium](#), the zeolite can serve a similar function in the slow release of [nitrogen](#). Zeolites can also act as water moderators, in which they will absorb up to 55% of their weight in water and slowly release it under the plant's demand. This property can prevent root rot and moderate drought cycles.

JOKE

The teacher was telling the kids about the birds and the bees and she explained that when a man and a woman meet and fall in love, nine months later the stork usually brings them a little baby from its nest.

Little Emma at the back of the class put her hand up and asks the teacher, are you sure about the stork, miss? I think you're getting your birds mixed up, 'cos my big sister just got a little baby and she said it was from a shag at the beach..!!!