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Newsletter

MAY 2016

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CLUB NEWS

By the time you receive this newsletter it will almost be time for our Autumn Show. I hope you all have plenty of orchids due to flower soon. All the shows that have been held this year are down on the number of orchid exhibits. The reason may be our unseasonal weather.

It was pleasing to note all the members who are willing to help out at the show. As I mentioned at the meeting there will be a few changes which we hope will help the show to run more efficiently.

It was a nice surprise to see Eric at our last meeting with his beautiful *Phalaenopsis* orchids.

We had a lovely display of orchids and on the left are some of the orchids that were benched.

OTHER SHOWS

Sunshine Coast Long weekend coach trip June 11-13. Cost \$275 pp. Northern Rivers Species Society. Phone Kevin Foster, 6624 1773.

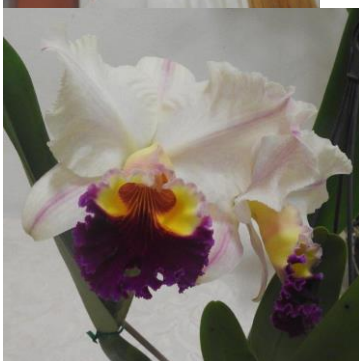
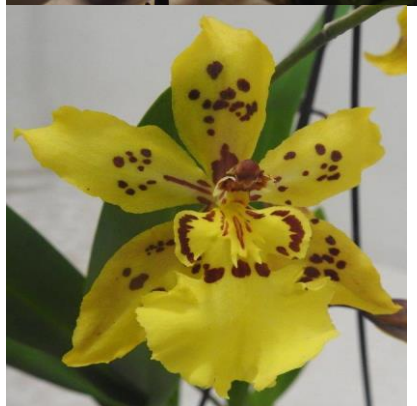
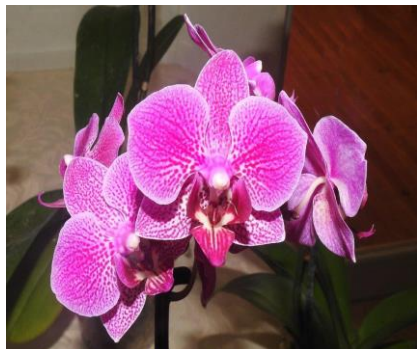
Singapore Tour July 22-26, cost \$2,670 twinshare, \$3,460 single (plus flights).

St. Ives Orchid Show August 19-21, 2016.

Logan & District Orchid Society 27-28 August, 2016.

Southern Orchid Spectacular 7-9 October, 2016.

Boonah Orchid Society 15-16 October, 2016.



Popular vote & Judges choice

21st AOC conference and Show NSW, 'Orchids in the Foothills' July 17-22, 2018.

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.

APRIL - JUDGES CHOICE AND POPULAR VOTE

Eric Rankin won both with his stunning *Phalaenopsis* pictured on page one. Well done Eric!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Kevin & Kathy Rose won 6 firsts and 7 seconds at the Woodburn Orchid Society Show 7-8 May, 2016. Well done you two.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OTHER WINNERS.

Lucky Exhibitor – Meg Kerr
Lucky Name Badge – Kevin Foster
Raffle: J Caban, E Rankin & Margaret Hyde.

CARE OF ORCHIDS – WINTER

Now is the time to cover shade house with plastic (or other covering) to protect plants from frost if you are prone to frost in your area and to control watering of orchids.

At this time of year orchids are dormant (resting) and do not

need watering or fertilizing as frequently.

Look for flower spikes on your orchids and protect them from slugs and snails.

Check temperatures at night and if necessary provide more heat in the coldest periods in your shade house.

Avoid cold and damp conditions, which will encourage fungal spores particularly on the flowers.

Indoors give your orchids as much light as possible but keep them away from heat and radiators or other heat appliances.

Phalaenopsis and *Paphiopedilum* orchids growing indoors need to be watered and lightly fed. These orchids do not have a resting period, but their growth will slow during this time.

PAPHIOPEDILUM (Slipper orchid)

Paphiopedilum orchids are reasonably easy to grow. Mainly intermediate conditions but several will grow either in warmer or colder location, check the parentage of hybrids to determine suitable growing conditions. 75% shade cloth is suitable with a minimum winter temperature of 8% deg.

Good air movement is required to ward off insect attack and leaf marking. Potting mix should retain some moisture, don't allow the root system to dry out completely.

Morning sun and watering is the best, avoid water retention in leaf axil. Fertilize regularly, half strength in growing season, but

reduce in winter. Use high phosphorus fertilizer at flower spike.

The plant should be re-potted every 1 or 2 years maximum. When dividing plants, the divided growth should have 2 or 3 mature growths plus have a new shoot. Grow plants in deeper pots to help retain extra moisture (zeolite will work well for these orchids).

JOKES

Hi, Seniors (& other non-Facebook users)

For those of my generation who do not use and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook. I already have five people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, a priest and a psychiatrist.

And that is why I do not use Facebook!