

From the President

The temperatures seems to be steadily dropping at my place. I noticed my breath even fogging as I took our little Jack Russell Terrier for a toilet walk last night.

Hopefully many of our new growers are a little more prepared for the colder months after our last new growers meeting at Shireen's home in Wyreema. I was pleasantly surprised to see Shireen's garden and all her orchids growing under some beautiful large trees. What a spot?

The Autumn show is only a couple of weeks away now and I do hope you all have more plants in flower (or about to be) than I do. Most of mine have finished flowering.

We really are going to need every single flowering plant you have from novice to master growers.

I'd like to welcome Glenda Neylon to the Management Committee. Glenda has always been helping in the background steadily chipping away at various tasks.

She is also the main organiser of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles which are always successful and something we all benefit from. She is currently looking after the tablecloths from the show benches. As we have had a number of issues with the tablecloths getting dirty from water leaking from the benched plants, we will be trialling a plastic cover over the top of the cloth covers. The cost of laundering the tablecloths is horrendous and seems to get way worse each year.

Hope to see you all at the Autumn Show so bye for now.

Till next time.... **Roy**



New Member Don Elms.
Welcome Don



Val Reid presents Cec and Di an Award Certificate

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Committee:

Ronelle Nugent
Cec Crees
Mal Martin
Brendan Liekefett

Meetings:

Fourth Friday of each month at
7.30pm, except September &
December.

Venue: St. Paul's Hall
Cnr. James and Phillip St
Toowoomba

Subscriptions:

Due: January Yearly
Family \$25.00
Single \$25.00

From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of Tan Bark. The newsletter of the Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc. on the land of the Jarowair and Giabal nations.

Our first show is almost upon us and with the weather rather kind we hope to get a good roll up of flowers (and members of course). By now your flowers or buds should be staked appropriately and don't forget to clean up the pots and leaves. A mix of milk and water can give a shine to leaves and enhance the appearance of the plant. If you have trouble cleaning the pot for any reason just slip it into another clean pot. Please use the new show schedule when filling out your plant list as it's changed since last year. If you're not sure which class to place the plant in just take an educated guess and if still not sure write down the colour. Have the list in to me by 6.00pm on Sunday 10th at the latest please so as to avoid late entries which can be disruptive to the system and while they have been accepted in the past may be rejected from now on, so look over you collection carefully and anything that may be a chance of being in flower, add it to the list. No harm done if it doesn't make it.

The price of laundering our show tablecloths has risen astronomically of late so if you watered your plants just prior to bringing them in to the show and there's a possibility of them leaking onto the tablecloth and staining it; bring a saucer or if you forget there are plenty of spares in the cupboard in the hall. Or if you like you could just make a mess and then take the tablecloth home and wash and iron it. I know what is easier – do you?

You may have noticed when visiting other shows that they have their sales plants arranged by genera and we will try to mimic this with say Cattleyas together, Cymbidiums grouped etc. etc. so your cooperation would be appreciated in this attempt. At times when the plant sales tables are full, priority will be given to orchids with foliage plants etc moved to the rear.

I visited a QOS meeting recently and enjoyed a talk about getting rid of pesky ants around the orchid house and the home. I had seen the method written before, but it was demonstrated and apparently with just a little effort you could dispel the annoying little insects quite safely without nasty chemicals. I'll include it later in the newsletter.

A few of us are travelling to Bundaberg for their show next weekend and I'm told it's usually a beauty so we're looking forward to the experience as it's renowned for the wonderful Cattleyas grown in the area. Further report next month.

Speaking of unique plants did you have a good look at the plant judged best overall last meeting. It was *Pleurothallis crucifera*. A tiny plant found growing in Equator. It grows cool to cold in cloud forests at elevations of between 1500m and 2500m almost right on the equator. It was beautifully grown by our new member Don who hails from Kingaroy and like some of us is downsizing. Well done Don and thanks for sharing this tiny gem with us.

People ask how my downsizing is going and all I can answer is "too slowly" as nothing seems to happen in a hurry; at least as we age. I have a small 7m x 3.2m enclosed house almost completed with some benching, plumbing and electrical work to go so I'll soon be ready to receive into that house and the materials arrived yesterday for the shade house which is quite a deal larger. I can only express my heartfelt thanks the wonderful members and friends who have helped me (and continue to do so) through this difficult journey. See you all at the show.

Until next time. Good growing. **John**

Whilst attending Orchid Society meeting, shows and other gatherings, photos may be taken for the purpose of marketing materials, social media and website. If you are not in favour of your photo in a group setting being on show, please make a Management Committee Member aware of your wishes.

DATE CLAIMERS & INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

If you have orchids that you would like to sell, then bring them along to meetings. No commission is charged but sale is the responsibility of the member.

Happy Diners For further information see **Caroline Westall or phone her on 0420218552**

Bank Details Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc., Heritage Bank Acc. 5686989 BSB 638-070 or S21 for Heritage customers.

7 th May 2026	Thai on High, Toowoomba	11.30am
4 th June 2026	Wheatsheaf Hotel, Greenmount East	11.30am
2 nd July 2026	Newtown Hotel, Toowoomba	11.30am

To assist our treasurer could you add your name and the reason for the deposit in the “remarks” space? I.e. Bus trip, Subs or for merchandise add the invoice number

please.

Sick List We wish any members who are out of sorts, a speedy recovery.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle The next Sausage Sizzle will be held on Saturday the 23rd of May at Bunnings West. This is the day after our next meeting and the weekend after our Autumn show. Volunteering for just a 2-hour shift isn't all that hard, it gives you an excuse to go to Bunnings, and it helps ease the strain on the regulars who volunteer every time. It can be fun. Please, this is your club and any \$\$ we make comes back to benefit the members, so lend a hand if you can.

New Growers Group Our April New Growers meeting was held at the home of Shireen Olsen. We had a great discussion regarding wintering your orchids and structures. It was a fun afternoon enjoyed by 18 members and friends. Thanks, Shireen, for your hospitality and sharing your orchids with us. Some photos later in this bulletin. Our May New Growers Afternoon will take the form of a “walk around” our Autumn Show at 12.30 on Sunday the 17th. So, if you'd like to know what makes a champion orchid and how to grow it then come along and we'll have experienced grower Mal to offer advice.

Help setting up for meetings – Could someone please help Roy setup the audio equipment prior to meetings. Now that he is president, he simply doesn't have time. If you can help, please see Roy.

Virus Test Kits – The club intends buying some virus test kits. The price is \$10 each. See Ronelle.

Autumn Show - Our Autumn Show is a two-day event to be held on Saturday 16th May and Sunday 17th of May 8.30am to 3.00pm and 8.30 to 2.00pm on Sunday with setup on the afternoon of Friday 15th May from 3.00pm. Plants in from 4.00 to 6.00pm and judging in the evening.

Plant names to me, (John) at jht.orchids@gmail.com **no later than 6.00pm on Sunday 10th of May.** If you have a plant that you feel may be in flower by show time, please include it in the list as late entries are to be avoided and printing labels after the initial print is disruptive.

Helpers are always appreciated so be sure to support our event.

Orchid Information sessions at the show: - **Saturday** – 10.00am Vanda/Phalaenopsis (Murray), 11am Growing orchids semi-hydroponically (Murray) 1.30pm Slipper orchids and potting media (Murray)

Sunday – 10am Cattleyas (Murray) 11.30 Miscellaneous Genera and potting Media (Murray)

12.30 – How judges determine which flowers are winners (Malcolm)

Minutes of the General Meeting Held April 2026 at St Paul's Hall Toowoomba.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present, mentioning toilet facilities and evacuation points at 7:33pm.

Judges for the night: Bruce Vayro, Mal Martin, Peter Neylon, Val Reid, Scribe - John Terry

Minutes of last meeting:

As printed in Tanbark and having been read by the members of TOS,

I move that the minutes of the February meeting are correct.

Moved by Jane Scott Seconded by Jo Muldoon Carried

Correspondence Out: -

- 2 emails to Bunnings (West and North) requesting for prizes for our Autumn Orchid Show
- 2 emails to Bunnings (West and North) requesting dates for Sausage Sizzles for the next three months

Correspondence In: -

- Email from Geoff and Lisa McDonald accepting our invitation to be patrons of TOS in 2026
- Bunnings West have donated 4 X \$20 Bunnings vouchers for our Autumn Show Raffle
- Bunnings North have donated Bunnings products for our Autumn Show Raffle
- Another Bunnings Sausage Sizzle has been organised for SUNDAY September 27th
- Email from a person in Hervey Bay, wanting information about the Spring Orchid Show

That the correspondence in and the correspondence out is accurate.

Moved: Ronelle Nugent Seconded: Murray Ferguson Carried

General Business:

Bus Trip - lack of interest from most members

- Management committee has decided to host one Bus Trip/ year.

Web Site- now launched and accessible to everyone, has lots of links for new and existing members regarding the shows, bar code request forms, how to sell orchids at shows, cultural sheets, application for membership etc

147 people have visited our new website

In-House Mini Winter Show and Neutrog Night - 24th July 2026.

- 9 attending from Lockyer Valley and 3 people will be displaying orchids
- 35 other orchid and gardening clubs have been invited
- Seven local gardening clubs have been invited
- Lockyer Valley and Nosti have been invited
- Encourage lots of people to attend with their plants
- Need to know numbers for catering purposes
- Need to request members provide cooked items for supper
- Need to do Neutrog Presentation first followed by the general TOS meeting
- We need a really good raffle
- **there will be a visitors section which will be judged separately to TOS members**
- **need RSVP by 10th July for catering purposes**
- **Neutrog to contribute a raffle of products on the night (hopefully)**
- **Need extra raffles that night so lots of people take home an orchid**

Virus Kits-

How many people would like to buy them?

How many would you like?



Val with an Award Certificate for Mal.

How many should we order?

- **Virus kits have a 12 month expiry date**
- **List of names of people who would like to order these kits and how many**
- **Please record your name on the list near the sign in book**

For Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

- **we need more volunteers especially for Sat 23rd May and some of the regular volunteers will be unavailable on this date**
- **Glenda to seek support from members for this date**

Award Certificates given by Val Reid

- **Certificates for Di/Cec Crees for their Cattleya**
- **Certificate for Mal Martin for his Cattleya**
- **Wooden case to give away if anyone can use it.**
- **Brochures for the Autumn Show if anyone can advertise our show, please take some.**

Calendar of Events

Next Happy Diners Held- 7th May- Thai on High- Meibush St- 11:30 am

Next New Growers Meeting Held- 20th June- venue to be organised

Next Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Held- 23rd May- Bunnings West

Autumn Show- 16th/17th May

Next TOS meeting - 22nd May

BREAK FOR SUPPER

Guest Speaker

- Roy showed a clip from ABC Gardening Australia where Barry Cable was interviewed
- Barry Cable showed his hydroponic recipe for growing orchids
- This recipe is on the TOS website
- Fertilise your orchids in this mix at half the rate of your other orchids
- This system might be too cold for orchids in Toowoomba where we have temperature down to 1°C
- One member has tried this method with Cattleyas and found that it was difficult to remove the orchid from the container
- One member has found that this method is great for dendrobium nobile
- Seedling cymbidiums grown in this method did very well in Summer but struggled over winter
- Ken Haase has an excellent mix for potting slipper orchids – it's posted on our website.



Mal Martin spoke about orchid awards

Do I have a plant that is worthy of an award?

- Look up the AOC regulations regarding awards to find the measurements of flowers, so you can compare these with your flowers
- If you have a plant that you think would get an award, contact a Judge to have a look at it, the Judge will organise a panel of five Judges to then have a look and determine if it deserves an award

What do Judges look for when awarding a plant?

- they look for a good shaped flower
- well formed flowers
- good proportion to the flowers
- the size of the flowers
- colour intensity of the flower

- Make sure you clean your plants up before exhibiting them at shows

How much does it cost to have a plant awarded?

- \$50 to be awarded and this plant will also be registered

- \$11 for any addition award for the plant

Why would you want your plant awarded?

- Growers will pay serious money for a plant that has been awarded

What awards are there?

- HCC- quality award (75-79.9 points)

- AM- higher quality award (80- 85 points)

- FCC- highest award (85 points or more)

Judging: results were given by John Terry.

Raffles: were completed by Jeanette Hopkins.

Roy thanked the members who attended.

The meeting closed at: 9:18pm



Judging Results for April 2026

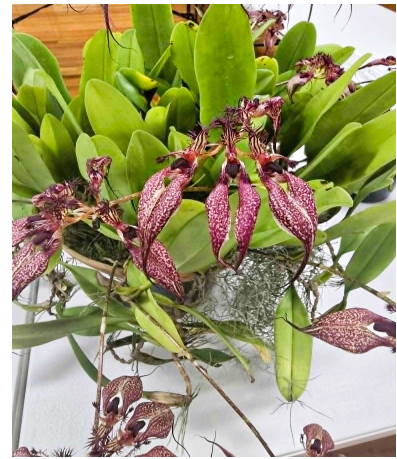
Category	Name of Plant	Owner
Novice Hybrid	Ctt. Topaz Saucy 'Cocktail'	R Nugent
Novice Species	<i>Aer leeana</i>	P Townsend
Novice Seedling	No entries	
Judges Choice Novice	Ctt. Topaz Saucy 'Cocktail'	R Nugent
Encouragement - Novice	Bulb Vindobona	P Townsend
Open Hybrid	V Sankamphaeng x Pakchong Pink	C Jones
Open Species	<i>Pleurothallis crucifera</i>	D Elms
Open Seedling	Rth Dal's Success x Rlc CRB'S Appeal	L Petersen
Judges Choice Open	<i>Pleurothallis crucifera</i>	D Elms
Master Hybrid	Rlc California Girl 'Orchid Library'	T Deans
Master Species	Paph. <i>spicerianum</i> 'Big Boy'	M Martin
Master Seedling	Paph Prime Child	M Martin
Judges Choice Master	Paph. <i>spicerianum</i> 'Big Boy'	M Martin
Judges Choice Overall	<i>Pleurothallis crucifera</i>	D Elms
Popular Vote	Bc Keowe 'Vi Galaxy'	C & D Crees



Ctt. Topaz Saucy 'Cocktail'



Aer leana



Bulb Vindobona



**V Sankamphaeng x Pakchong
Pink**



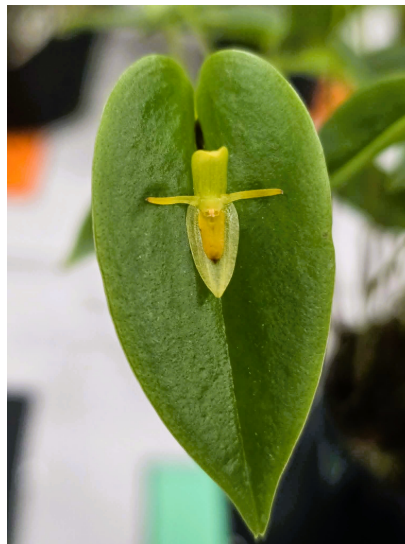
**Rth Dal's Success x Rlc CRB'S
Appeal**



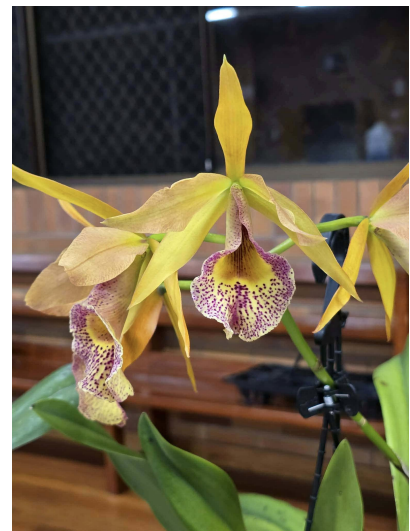
**Rlc California Girl 'Orchid
Library'**



Paph. spicerianum 'Big Boy'



Pleurothallis crucifera



Bc Keowe 'Vi Galaxy'

Ant mix

Mix 2 level tablespoons of Borax and a cup of sugar in a dry saucepan and apply low heat.

Add small amounts of water until it saturates the mix – stir constantly.

Bring to the boil and continue stirring for 3 minutes.

Mixture should be the consistency of honey so add small amounts of water at a time to achieve this.

Allow the mixture to cool, if it forms a crust, repeat above adding extra water to have a honey-like consistency at room temperature.

Take a rectangular container and using a small soldering iron, melt holes in sides or container – 3 each side and one on ends about halfway up. Pour mixture into container – about 5mm deep and close container. Place where ants are active. There’s enough mix for several containers. Good luck.



MOMENTUM MENTAL HEALTH Our Charity for 2026

Merchandise sold to Members Only. For items call Peter on 04 4921 9938. Peter now has an EFTPOS machine so payment at purchase is preferred please.

Bank Details: - Toowoomba Orchid Society, Heritage account 5686989, BSB 638-070 or S21 for Heritage customers.

Squat Pot 80mm (Each)	\$0.30	Rutec Plant Booster Fertiliser (Green) 1L	\$12.00
Squat Pot 100mm (Each)	\$0.35	Rutec Growth Formula for Roots (Yellow) 1L	\$8.00
Squat Pot 125mm (Each)	\$0.45	Perlite Super Coarse 10L	\$4.00
Squat Pot 140mm (Each)	\$0.65	Perlite Super Coarse 100L	\$35.00
Squat Pot 175mm (Each)	\$0.90	Orchiata Bark 35L (3-6mm)	\$38.00
Squat Pot 200mm (Each)	\$1.45	Orchiata Bark 35L (6mm- 9mm)	\$38.00
Standard Pot 100mm (Each)	\$0.35	Orchiata Bark 35L (9-12mm)	\$38.00
Standard Pot 100mm Tall (Each)	\$0.40	Orchiata Bark 35L (12-18mm)	\$38.00
Standard Pot 125mm (Each)	\$0.30	Orchiata Bark 35L (18-25mm)	\$38.00
Standard Pot 140mm (Each)	\$0.35	Orchid Mix - All Sizes - (10L Pack)	\$12.00
Standard Pot 180mm (Each)	\$0.70	Coco Peat	\$10.00
Standard Pot 200mm (Each)	\$0.90	Pot Hanger 500mm (Each)	\$2.50
Orchid Pot 200mm (Each)	\$2.80	Pot Hanger 360mm (Each)	\$0.50
Butterfly Clips Small (20 Pack)	\$3.00	Labels 100mm (30 Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Med. (18 Pack)	\$3.00	Labels 140mm (30 Pack)	\$3.00
Butterfly Clips Large (8 Pack)	\$3.00	Saucer 140mm (Each)	\$0.60
Butterfly Clips Xtra Large (5 Pack)	\$3.00	Saucer 200mm (Each)	\$1.10
Bamboo Stakes 60cm (18 Pack)	\$3.00	Saucer 300mm (Each)	\$2.20
Bamboo Stakes 90cm (9 Pack)	\$3.00	TOS no longer sell charcoal	

Next Meeting 22nd May 2026
Autumn Show 16th and 17th May.
Plants in 4 – 6pm 15th May