



# Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966  
Patron Paul Lucas



## E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 60 WYNNUM CENTRAL QLD 4178

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### SEPTEMBER 2011

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 22 September, 2011** commencing at **8.00pm** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **RED SPOTTERS CLUB**

Ken Webster will be doing a presentation on Potting Slipper Orchids.

#### **FEATURE ITEM**

This month our Guest Speakers will be Ross and Rhonda Harvey from Cedarvale Orchids. Cedarvale Orchids stock a large variety of Australian species orchids. They will also have plants available for sale on the night.

***The following members are requested to make themselves available for the next meeting:***

**Judges:** Eric Locke, Bill Williams, Arthur Cornell, Les Vickers  
**Associate Judges:** John Rooks, Brent Nicoll, Adrian Bergstrum  
**Observers:** Please see Eric if you are interested  
**Scribes:** Volunteers required please.  
**Supper Stewards:** Marian Samuels, Daphne McKell  
**Hostesses:** Margaret Rieck, Dot Rooks  
**Library:** Helen Vickers  
**Plant Registrar:** Ann Kable  
**Plants worth Noting:** Arthur Cornell  
**Trade Table:** Pauline Webster

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 6 October, 2011** at the Bayside Uniting Church Meeting Room, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

### **EDOS AGM 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

Now is the time to start thinking about putting forward nominations for Positions at our AGM. Remember that for the Society to function successfully, all positions need to be filled.

Please consider putting yourself forward for one of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested in taking on a position, please approach them to see if they might be interested.

It is always great to have new faces and ideas – we are always looking for Committee members.

If you have any questions about any of the positions please contact either Ken Webster (Secretary), Barry Kable (President) or John Rooks (Treasurer) for further information.

### **Date Claimer – Christmas Breakup**

EDOS Christmas Breakup will be held on Saturday 3 December 2011 at Manly Bowls Club. More details later.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- What:** Glasshouse Country Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Beerwah Community Hall, Peachester Road, Beerwah  
**When:** 23 and 24 September, 2011
- What:** Beaudesert Districts Orchid & Foliage Society Inc  
**Where:** Canungra Com Hall, 2 Pine St, Canungra  
**When:** 24 and 25 September, 2011
- What:** Ipswich Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Silkstone State Primary School  
**When:** 24 and 25 September, 2011
- What:** Redlands Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield St, Cleveland  
**When:** 1 October, 2011
- What:** Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Bribie Island State High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Bribie  
**When:** 8 and 9 October, 2011
- What:** North Moreton Qld Orchid Council Inc – Open Show  
**Where:** Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 8 and 9 October, 2011
- What:** Boonah Orchid Show & Qld Sarcochilus Festival  
**Where:** Boonah High School Assembly Hall, Macquarie St, Boonah  
**When:** 15 and 16 October, 2011
- What:** Southport & Districts Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Tweed Civic Centre  
**When:** 5 and 6 November, 2011
- What:** Orchid Species Society Inc – Open Show  
**Where:** Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 12 and 13 November, 2011

**What:** Pumicestone Dist Orchid & Foliage Soc Inc  
**Where:** Ningi Community Hall, Bribie Island Road, Ningi  
**When:** 12 and 13 November, 2011

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## Cultural Award

### *Dendrochilum sp aff williamsii*

This is a plant I swapped with Jim Cootes of Sydney back in mid 1997. I have swapped, sold and given away many divisions of it over the years. A while back I decided to grow one piece up to specimen size.

Like most *Dendrochilums*, it likes moisture and good humidity. I have had good success growing these species in perlite : Canadian peat moss in a 5:1 mixture.

Using other peat moss or coco fibre has not been a success for me. The perlite is coarse as opposed to extra coarse and jumbo. The perlite size is closer to dried pea than fresh pea. Light, height of hanging, temperature and other variables don't seem to impact orchid growth. The flowers are small and ranked each side of the spray. They remind me of a pipe cleaner. A large specimen is a truly spectacular sight. A specimen almost a meter across won champion species in a Perth show some years ago.

There are apparently four or more species that constitute the grass like *Dendrochilums*. The other species commonly seen around Brisbane is *D. tenellum*. They are generally white flowered. There may also be different colour varieties out there, as I have a yellow *D. tenellum*.

My plant is labelled *D. aff williamsii*. Because it is very similar to *D. williamsii* but could be a different species. Hence the term aff which is short for affinis – meaning, related to. This is to indicate that it looks a bit like but may not be the same species. Plants of *D. williamsii* have a much thicker leaf than *D. tenellum*, roughly twice its diameter and there is a visible groove down the length of the leaf. This orchid has a shorter leaf and the vein is not visible. I tell myself that one year I'll get out

the magnifying glass and investigate the floral structure, but life's too short.

My orchid had a small plant growing in the centre. It's a pest that grows in my garden and gets a full shape dark purple flower. The flower looks fine but the plant has brittle vegetation and tenacious roots even though they are not carrot like as with that little white pest that sometimes invades our collections. But as with the other any attempt to pull out the leaves just makes it grow back stronger.

I couldn't get to the pest without breaking my orchid in two. So I tried the solution of spraying Aerogard which works on the regular orchid pest. Because these little orchid leaves are also at risk, I took the added precaution of making a paper cone around the pests leaves and giving only a light spray, thus protecting the orchid leaves.

Or so I thought. As I write this, the centre of my orchid is looking significantly yellow. Ah well, the upside is that next season there might be many smaller plants available. Consistency, it's a virtue - or so they say.

Every orchid a potential champion

**Maurie**

## **Fame Orchids Nursery**

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## ***Beginning with Orchids***

EDOS Inc will be hosting the post-Spring Show "Beginning with Orchids" at Aranbeem Nursery on Saturday 27 September 2011. For those new members it is an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of orchid growing from an expert, and also to purchase good quality plants on the day.

If you need directions please ask one of our Committee members.

## ***Treatment Advice***

Remember – when using insecticides, fertilisers and fungicides DON'T mix them. As explained by Wolfgang last meeting, most of these products are incompatible unless it is recommended on the label.

Also check the Ph of your water – it also makes a big difference to the amount of time the product is active and effective.

## **HORTICULTURAL SOLUTIONS**

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## ***A PLANT WORTH NOTING***



Master grower, Eric Locke's *C. loddigesii* 'Jim' shown at our August meeting caught my attention as an outstanding plant of that species. Found in Eastern Brazil, just inland from the crest of the main range, The Serra do Mar, in Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and western Rio de Janeiro states, at 500 to 800m, growing on trees and occasionally on rocks. It avoids wet cloud forests and dry open woodland, preferring shady forests along side streams. It was introduced into Britain in 1810 by a Mr Woodforde and named by Lindley in 1823. It would be my opinion that there are very few *loddigesii*s that would equal his specimen for the following. The pseudo bulbs are normally 200- 400mm and Eric's plant 450 or more. The plant was erect unlike most, the blooms were flat of excellent texture. Sepals and petals were exceptionally broad about 2cm, normally 1-1.5cm and intense lavender in colour indicating an intergrade between *loddigesii* and *C. harrisoniana* which has the more intense colouration.



and which grow to the east of loddigesii and where the habitats overlap.

C loddigesii is normally grown in a shallow pot of medium or coarse bark and charcoal mixes as it is prone to fungal rot due to having a rest period of 4-6 months prior to flowering in late winter. Eric advises me, he is growing his plant in fibreglass wool capped with small stone and looked quite a damp environment, more suited to C. harrisoniana and supporting my assumption that it is carrying genes of the latter. However the plant was in excellent condition and I suspect Eric has Scottish ancestry with his comments the material is cheap.

The bar was certainly raised and my loddigesii is destined for plant sales.

Thank you Eric for displaying this fine plant.

**Steve Stitz**

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## Something to Cheer Up your Day!

Paddy spies a letter lying on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND".

Paddy spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick the bloody thing up!

Paddy shouts frantically into the phone "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor.

"No", shouts Paddy, "this is her husband!"

Paddy was driving home, drunk as a skunk. Suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another. A cop car pulls him over as he veers about all over the road. Paddy tells the cop about all the trees in the road.

Cop says "For gods sake Paddy, that's your air freshener swinging about!"

When mum and dad retired, mum insisted on learning to play the piano. When I visited them, I asked how things were going, Dad replied that they had changed the piano for a clarinet.

"Whatever for?" was my next question.

"Your mother cannot play the clarinet and sing at the same time."

Dad never was a musical person.....

## WEBSITE

[www.edos.org.au](http://www.edos.org.au). Our Webmaster Ray Girdlestone would like you to have a look at our EDOS website and make comment – remember it is still a work in progress and any suggestions will be appreciated. If you have any Cultural advice you think may be useful to others please pass it on to Ray for inclusion – either on the website or in the Newsletter.

Ray can be contacted on email

[webmaster@edos.org.au](mailto:webmaster@edos.org.au) or phone 3823 4277

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

**If anyone has any articles they would be interested in having included in the Newsletter please let me know**

For anyone who is interested in receiving their Newsletter electronically, please let me know your email address and I will include you in our email group. My email address is [editor@edos.org.au](mailto:editor@edos.org.au)

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