



# 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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### FEBRUARY 2011

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on Thursday 24 February, 2011 commencing at 8.00pm at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **RED SPOTTERS CLUB – 7.30 PM**

Come along to Red Spotters for a presentation by Reg McIlwain.

#### **FEATURE ITEM**

Guest speaker will be Les Vickers. Les will give a presentation on his recent trip to Borneo.

*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 Locke if you are interested

**Scribes:** Please see Eric Locke if you are interested

**Supper Stewards:** Marian Samuels, Daphne McKell

**Hostesses:** Margaret Rieck, Dot Rooks

**Library:** Helen Vickers

**Plant Registrar:** Ann Kable

**Plants worth Noting:** Maurie Page

**Trade Table:** Pauline Webster

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 3 March, 2011** at the Bayside Uniting Church Meeting Room, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **2011 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions are now due – Family \$16, Single \$15. They can be paid at the February General Meeting, or a cheque can be mailed to the Secretary, PO Box 60, Wynnum Central Q 4178.

**Any members who have not paid their Subscriptions when the next Newsletter is due will not have a copy of their Newsletter posted or emailed to them.**

*Please remember that you need to be a financial member to be able to table plants or have plants in Plant Sales at the upcoming Autumn Show.*

## EDOS AUTUMN SHOW

It's coming up to THAT time again!!!!

Don't forget that our Autumn Show will be held on 16-17 April, 2011, with judging on Friday night.

It's time to start thinking about what plants you may have in flower to exhibit, and start staking or tying if required (to EDOS General Rules of course), or organise plants you may want to put into Plant Sales. Plant Sale Tags will be available at the March General Meeting. Your Exhibitor's number doubles as your Plant Sales Number. This number is on the right of your Surname on the Newsletter envelope, or available from the Plant Registrar.

All plants offered for sale shall be well established, clean and free from pests and diseases.

Remember that all Plants, either exhibited or in Plant Sales must comply with the Fire Ant Legislation, details for which will be in the next Newsletter.

## Labelling of Plants

It is very important that when benching plants, either at a Monthly Meeting or at a Show, that labels are easy to read. A clearly written label makes it much easier for everyone to read, and avoids the possibility of a plant being given an incorrect name in Competition Results. If you are unsure of the correctness of any of your labels, EDOS has Orchidwiz available at Monthly Meetings and Shows for any member to check the names of plants.

### HORTICULTURAL SOLUTIONS

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## Date Claimer

We will be combining our Christmas in July and EDOS 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations this year with a function on 23 July 2011 at the Manly Bowls Club, so keep this date free and come along and have a great night.

More information will be available in coming months.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- What:** Queensland International Orchid Fair  
**Where:** Pine Rivers PCYC, Baker Street, Bray Park  
**When:** 4,5 and 6 March, 2011
- What:** West Brisbane Orchid Show  
**Where:** Auditorium, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 26 and 27 March, 2011
- What:** Redlands Orchid Society  
**Where:** Donald Simpson Centre, Bloomfield St, Cleveland  
**When:** 2 April, 2011
- What:** Brisbane Orchid Society  
**Where:** Hibiscus Place Hall, off Klumpp Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt  
**When:** 9 and 10 April, 2011
- What:** EDOS Autumn Show  
**Where:** Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West  
**When:** 16 & 17 April 2011
- What:** Bribie Orchid Society  
**Where:** Student Centre, Bribie Island High School  
**When:** 22 and 23 April 2011
- What:** Queensland Orchid Society Show  
**Where:** Auditorium, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 22-24 April, 2011
- What:** Toowoomba Autumn Show  
**Where:** Gardenfest, Lindsay Street, Toowoomba  
**When:** 30 April, 1 & 2 May, 2011
- What:** Aspley Orchid Society Inc Show  
**Where:** Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Rd, Wavell Heights  
**When:** 7 and 8 May, 2011
- What:** Pumistone Orchid Society Show  
**Where:** Ningi Hall, Bribie Island Road, Ningi  
**When:** 7 and 8 May, 2011
- What:** Oasis Orchid & Garden Expo  
**Where:** Oasis Shopping Centre, cnr Surf Ave and Charles Ave, Broadbeach  
**When:** 21 and 22 May 2011
- What:** 46<sup>th</sup> Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference and Show 2011 (Registration Form available on EDOS website)  
**Where:** Bowen Showgrounds, Mt Nutt Rd, Bowen  
**When:** 10,11,12 June 2011
- What:** EDOS Christmas in July  
**Where:** Manly Bowls Club  
**When:** 23 July 2011

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## Cultural Notes

### *Aeranthes grandiflora*

The *Aeranthes grandiflora* that we tabled at the January 2011 EDOS meeting (that was selected as both the evening's Cultural Plant by the judging panel and Plant of Interest by Reg McIlwain) came from Woolf Orchidculture as a small seedling. This species was one of the earlier Madagascan orchids to make it to Europe and it was the species that John Lindley used in 1824 to establish the genus *Aeranthes*.

The relatively large, semi-translucent, pale green flowers (on long wiry stems up to a metre in length) would see the blooms being described as intriguing, spectacular, interesting, etc. but probably not "beautiful" or "pretty".

With this species, you do not cut off the inflorescences when the flowers die as flowers open successively over an extended period and the inflorescence blooms again year after year - perhaps somewhat like the orchid we used to know as *Onc. papilio* which is now called *Psychopsis papilio*. Research informs us that "... a mature plant (of *Aeranthes grandiflora*) can support dozens of spikes with numerous blooms all open at once" and that "... the impression from any distance is a horde of green goblins suspended in mid-air bobbing about the central plant..."

It has been a strong performer for us. It was last repotted in October 2007 and before that in August 2005. For its growing medium, we use our slipper mix of one part each of small and medium charcoal and small and medium pine bark with about half a part of coarse perlite.

For some not completely understood reason, this orchid has always been grown along with our glasshouse-grown paphiopedilums. We have often felt that it is the most paphiopedilum-looking, non-paphiopedilum orchid that we have - just with more leathery leaves. This look is achieved because even though *Aeranthes grandiflora*

is a monopodial orchid, it has a strong tendency to produce additional growths from the plant's base, making many perhaps wonder why it gets tabled in a species monopodial section. While our plant has its threadlike, lengthy flower spikes gathered and tied upwards to a stake, we are constantly informed by the purists that the flower spikes should be allowed to hang/arch downwards

The literature on this epiphytic species informs that it grows in rainforests at moderate elevations and requires, as a minimum, an intermediate climate and needs to be grown in a fairly shady location with good air movement. We somehow fluked near ideal growing conditions by growing it along with our glasshouse-grown slippers. While the literature indicates requiring Winter nights of from 13 to 18 degrees Centigrade, our plant survives in temperatures down to 4 degrees Centigrade. *Aeranthes grandiflora* also grows well in a basket. This species is truly a very easy orchid to grow.

The glasshouse in which we grow our *Aeranthes grandiflora* is quite bright and we correspondingly fertilize the slippers grown there more heavily than what is considered the norm for slippers. Our glasshouse is sheeted with clear fibreglass reinforced plastic sheeting and covered with shade cloth rated at around 50% light transmission. As the plants in this glasshouse are frequently watered, the compost would probably never dry right out.

### *Les & Helen Vickers*

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## "Beginning with Orchids" Day

Following the success of the event held after our Spring Show last year, EDOS will be holding another "Beginning with Orchids" day on 30 April, 2011 for anyone starting out growing Orchids, this time at Burbank Orchids.

We will require some of our members to come along and assist on the day. Please bring a chair, water and sunscreen. More information will be available at the next meeting.

## BURBANK ORCHID NURSERY

1330 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road  
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Now the third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures AND I COULDN'T STOP TALKING!!!"

## Fame Orchids Nursery

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## 2011 QUEENSLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FAIR

The Queensland International Orchid Fair is being held 4-6 March 2011 at the Pine Rivers PCYC, Baker Street, Bray Park. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking.

There will be leading Queensland, interstate and International nurseries in attendance, along with specialist plant sellers, and there will also be books and collectables for sale.

## Something to brighten your day.

### ***The Minister's New Teeth***

Our local minister had all of his remaining teeth pulled and new dentures made a few weeks ago.

The first Sunday, his sermon lasted 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday, he preached for an hour and a half. I asked him about this. He then told me "well, John, that first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my dentures were still hurting a lot.

## 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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