



# Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966

Patron Neil Symes MP



## E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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### MAY 2013

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 23 May, 2013** commencing at **8.00 pm** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **RED SPOTTERS CLUB**

Ken Webster will be doing Part 2 of his programme on "Growing Oncidiums"

#### **FEATURE ITEM**

Ray Illingworth will be doing a presentation on "Vandaceous Orchids". Once again an interesting subject for those of us who struggle to "Get the best" out of our orchids.

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

- Judges:** Bill Williams, Eric Locke (Other Judges co-opted as required on the night)
- Observers:** Please see Eric if you are interested
- Scribes:** Volunteers required please.
- Supper Steward:** Daphne McKell
- Hostesses:** Margaret Rieck, Dot Rooks
- Library :** Helen Vickers
- Plant Registrar:** Ann Kable
- Plants Worth Noting:** Maurie Page

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 6 June, 2013** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **Trade Table**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Trade Table has "Gone into Recess" for May and June. If you require anything during this period please phone Pauline prior to the meeting to arrange to have the goods brought to the meeting.**

### **Bus Trip – 8 June**

EDOS has organised another bus trip, this time to the Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular on Saturday 8 June. Cost will be \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members (this includes lunch and entry to the show)

The bus will be leaving the Bayside Uniting Church Hall at 6.30 am sharp.

When we get to Gympie we will be visiting one of Gympie's growers to have a look at his orchid collection (where we will be having morning tea), then we will be spending a couple of hours at the Spectacular.

There will be Guest speakers at the Spectacular, as well as around 20 vendors (might be a good idea to bring a box to put your purchases in under the bus).

This will be followed by a relaxing lunch at the Gympie RSL, before we head homeward.

*If you are interested in coming along and haven't put your name down, please phone one of our Committee members to put your name on the list. Tickets will need to be paid for by the next General Meeting on Thursday 23 May. Come along and have a great day with your fellow members!*

## HORTICULTURAL SOLUTIONS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- What:** Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular  
**Where:** Gympie Showgrounds, Gympie  
**When:** 8 and 9 June, 2013
- What:** North Moreton Qld Orchid Council Inc  
**Where:** Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 29 and 30 June, 2013
- What:** John Oxley District Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 20 to 22 July, 2013
- What:** 7<sup>th</sup> Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show (hosted by ANOS Kabi Group)  
**Where:** Strathpine Community Centre, cnr Gympie Rd and Mecklam St, Strathpine  
**When:** 21 to 25 August, 2013
- What:** North Brisbane Orchid Society  
**Where:** Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 24 and 25 August, 2013
- What:** Gold Coast District Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Orchid and Bromeliad Spring Show  
Albert Waterways Community Centre, Cnr Hooker Blvd & Sunshine Blvd, Mermaid Waters  
**When:** 31 August and 1 September, 2013

- What:** Queensland Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha  
**When:** 13 to 15 September, 2013
- What:** Beaudesert Districts Orchid & Foliage Society Inc  
**Where:** Canungra School of Arts Hall, 2 Pine St, Canungra  
**When:** 14 and 15 September, 2013
- What:** Eastern Districts Orchid Society Spring Show  
**Where:** Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Rd, Manly West  
**When:** 21 and 22 September, 2013

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## Cultural Award April 2013

### *Octomeria grandiflora*

This cute little species is in fact one of the largest in the genus. It is found growing as an epiphyte in wet forest conditions at elevations up to 2500 metres.

A single growth was given to me several years ago after I had admired the unusual flowering habit it has of producing flowers from the base of the leaf. Unfortunately this habit restricts its appeal as the flowers are partly hidden. This plant grows in the same house as my slippers as it likes copious amounts of water and plenty of shade. Bearing anything up to 100 flowers at a time it puts on an enjoyable display.

Happy growing,

**Tony Beck**

# Date Claimer



Once again we will be holding our Christmas in July this year with a function on 27 July 2013 at the Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, so keep this date free and come along and have a great night.

More information will be available in coming months.

## **Fame Orchids Nursery**

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## Plants Worth Noting

Well, the year has started again, and as such, school has swept me away with it. I was down to do the February Plants Worth Noting, but due to a massive school workload I sadly didn't have time, and I figured it was best to leave the Plants Worth Noting for the next month, than it would be for me to do poorly in my subjects. So this time I'm going to try and make it up to you all by doing the Plants Worth Noting for February and March.

### February:

My all time favourites from the February meeting would have to have been the, *Dendrobium Alice's Rainbow*, and *Aerangis punctata*.

I've always been a sucker for "Antelope" Dendrobiums, and the wonderful *D. Alice's Rainbow* on display in February was no exception. The petals and sepals were tipped with a medium brown, then lightening from a dark to pale pink, then white as the colours proceeded to the centre of the flower, this wonderful colour selection was then set off by a nice dark purple lip. I'd say that the person that has bred all of the parents were also a tad partial to "Antelopes" as all of the species in

the "family tree" (*D. cochliodes*, *D. helix*, *D. tangerinum*, *D. lasianthera*, and *D. canaliculatum*) are all "antelopes", with not a bit of "flossy" in it... now that's my kind of flower.

What immediately caught my attention of the *Aerangis punctata*, a native of the highlands of Madagascar and Reunion, was the extreme size of the flowers in comparison to the minute plant... surely there must be somewhere that you can fit this little beauty into your shade house... I know I'll be able to when I find one for sale. Another fascinating thing about *Aerangis*... well, most/all *Angraecoids* I believe, is that they are mostly fragrant at night, and are usually white/green, colours that would show up perfectly in the moonlight, this aids in their natural pollination which is done by Hawk-moths native to the plants habitats. The most extreme example of this can be seen with *Ang. sesquipedale*, which played quite an important role in Darwin's Theory of Evolution. As many of you may know *Ang. sesquipedale* has roughly a foot long nectar spur, when Darwin came across this plant, due to it's nocturnal perfume, and colouring that would be perfect for visibility for night time visitors, Darwin predicted that there would be a moth with a proboscis long enough to reach the bottom of the nectar spur. Well, 21 years after Darwin's death such a moth was found, and named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. For me it's the intriguing history, and the intricacies of orchid's interactions with their environment that make the hobby so interesting, and the *Angraecoids* in particular. Well, enough waffle about bugs and things, and back to the plants.

### March:

And so brings me to the March meeting.

My two favourites for March would definitely have to be the amazing *Psychopsis Butterfly*, and the tiny *Paphiopedilum helenae*.

As soon as the *Psychp. Butterfly* (*Psychp. sanderae* x *Psychp. papilio*) came bobbing into the room, and onto the "Beginner Any Other" bench, I was instantly mesmerized. I've been growing orchids for about 3 years now, which means that I've also been trying to get my hands on a *Psychopsis*, any *Psychopsis*, for the same amount of time, but have not, until recently been able to, and even then it's a tiny seedling. But to be able to see this giant flower in person was a real treat for me. I don't know what it is about them, perhaps it's their peculiarity, but whatever it is, I sure do love 'em. *Psychopsis* used to be *Oncidiums*, now if my understanding of the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families is correct, then these beauties were moved from *Oncidium* to *Psychopsis* at some time between 2008-2009. From what I've heard about *Psychopsis* is that you should never cut the flower spike off, until it is well and truly dead, as they apparently keep flowering from the same spike, and when they have several spikes flowering all at once they look simply amazing. Fame Orchid Nursery has one in flower on display at the moment and I had to stop myself from drooling all over it.

As for the *Paph. helenae*, when I saw it, like the *Psychopsis*, I was instantly fascinated and intrigued. Another side of orchids that fascinates me is the extreme variety in the growth habits of the plants, and this *Paph.* was minute, and it had such a large flower for its size. The owner of this plant was Tony Beck, and he kindly had a chat with me about the plant, and apparently that's as big as it's ever going to get. Granted it will produce more growths, but they won't increase in size, but merely in quantity. Now I know Tony does like a good, big plant, so I'm hoping that one day he'll be kind enough to grow this into a nice big specimen, because it is simply amazing with the single growth, but imagine a big specimen... it would be simply breath-taking. *P. helenae* is a native to Northern Vietnam and Southern China where it lives as a lithophyte, and the smallest member of the Paphiopedilum family.

Well, I guess I've waffled on enough, and had best let you get back to reading the rest of the newsletter. I hope you're all enjoying this wonderful hobby of ours, and I can't wait to see what will be at the next meeting.

Happy Growing,

**Michael T.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Australasian Native Orchid Society Conference & Show.**

Held at Strathpine (Queensland, Australia).

Hosted by Kabi Group(Inc).

Full Conference - 22-25<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Public show days - 23-25<sup>th</sup> August

NOTE: Programme update

ANOS Gen. Meeting for affiliated members 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Aug

For fuller details see [www.ourshopfront.com/kabi](http://www.ourshopfront.com/kabi)  
and follow the Conference link.

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## **Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular**

The Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular will be held at the Gympie Showgrounds, Gympie on 8 and 9 June, 2013. Entry Fee is \$5 which includes parking. There will be 20 vendors, as well as Guest Speakers. For further information contact John Green on 07 5483 2764 or [johnandkayegreen@southernphone.com.au](mailto:johnandkayegreen@southernphone.com.au)

### **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 on the website.

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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