



# Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966  
Patron Paul Lucas



## E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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### MARCH 2010

#### **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on Thursday 25 March, 2010 commencing at 8.00pm at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

#### **FEATURE ITEM**

John Roberts will give a Presentation on the Tropical Orchid Council Conference and Show in Townsville in June 2010, and on the Atherton area.

#### **RED SPOTTERS CLUB – 7.30 PM**

**New Growers Plant Competition** quarterly “Weigh-in”. Those new growers who received plants in June 2009 as part of the New Growers Competition are encouraged to bring their plants along to be checked for progress, and advice on how to get to the next step towards flowering. It doesn't matter how it looks, bring it along anyway, help will be available from Barry Kable and John Clatworthy on the night

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

**Judges:** Due to QOS show, judges will be selected from those available on the night

**Trainee Judges:** Brent Nicoll, John Rooks, Adrian Bergstrum

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

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

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

**Hostesses:** Margaret Rieck and Dot Rooks

**Library:** Steve Stitz  
**Plant Registrar:** Ann Kable  
**Plants worth Noting:** Eric Locke  
**Trade Table:** Pauline Webster

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 29 March, 2010**, at the Bayside Uniting Church Meeting Room, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West due to Easter break.

#### **2010 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

In accordance with the Constitution Newsletters will be suspended after this date.

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

### **REMINDER**

Show vouchers issued to prize winners at the Spring Show 2009 will expire on 31 March 2010.

# EDOS AUTUMN SHOW 10-11 APRIL 2010

## HELP NEEDED!!!

If you are available to help out at the Autumn Show please put your name in the Roster book at the next meeting, or contact either Brent, John or Barry and let them know when you would be available to help out.

We particularly need volunteers for the Front Door, and raffle sellers.

Our Catering Convenor Marion would appreciate any donations of cakes, slices and cookies etc. Marion will also appreciate assistance in the kitchen.

**EVEN IF YOU CAN ONLY SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS, WE NEED AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE TO HELP MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS!**

*REMEMBER: MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!!!*

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## SHOW REMINDERS

For any members who are unsure of, or would like to confirm that their plant labels are correct **before** benching, (either spelling or registration of crosses) EDOS will have available on Friday night prior to benching of plants, the Orchidwiz database for members to check their labels. Please see Ann Kable

**Plant Sales and Craft Sale Tags** – If you need more Tags please contact John Rooks. Tags are also available for printing from the EDOS website – [www.edos.org.au](http://www.edos.org.au). Please ensure that you use EDOS sale plant tags only.

**Member Number** - Your Member Number is on the newsletter envelope following your name, or available

from the Plant Registrar, and this number should be used if you are benching and/or selling plants.

**Fire Ant Register** – Legislation requires that Members sign the Fire Ant Register before Plants can be accepted for either showing or Sales. This Register **MUST** be signed before Plants can be accepted into the Hall.

**Condition of Sale Plants** – Please ensure that any plants you may present for sale are virus free, clean and NOT recently potted. Plants need to be stable in the pots and not show any insect damage, etc. If it is not a plant in the condition you would consider purchasing yourself, then please do not put it up for sale!

**Cut Flowers and Greenery** – Flower arrangements have changed over the years, instead of pretty little filler flowers the ladies would prefer leaves like the cordylines, flax, crotons, anthurium, ferns, etc (leaves that will last a few days without wilting). We desperately need orchid flowers and foliage to work with.

The floral art ladies earn quite a lot of money for the society yet it is a constant battle to get flowers to work with. Any small containers that could be used for flower arranging would also be appreciated. If in doubt please phone Lyn on 3422 1589.

**Raffle** – For this year's Autumn Show we will be offering three prizes (instead of the usual one prize)  
First Prize – Grocery hamper to the value of \$100  
Second Prize – A flowering orchid plant and two bottles of wine  
Third Prize – A flowering orchid plant and a bromeliad plant  
Tickets will be available at the March General Meeting and during the Show. Tickets will be 6 for \$5 or \$1 each, to be drawn approx 3.00 pm on 11 April, 2010.

## Shade Houses

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## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

- What:** Queensland Orchid Society Inc.  
**Where:** Brisbane Botanic Gardens Auditorium, Mt Cooth-tha  
**When:** 26-28 March, 2010
- What:** Bribie Island Orchid Society Inc Easter Show  
**Where:** Bribie Island State High School, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Bribie  
**When:** 2-3 April, 2010
- What:** West Brisbane Orchid Society Inc Easter Show  
**Where:** Farmers Hall, Main St, Samford  
**When:** 3 April, 2010
- What:** **EDOS Autumn Show**  
**Where:** **Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West**  
**When:** **10 & 11 April 2010**
- What:** Brisbane Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Mt Gravatt Showgrounds, Logan Road, Mt Gravatt  
**When:** 17-18 April, 2010
- What:** Sunshine Coast Orchid Society  
**Where:** Caloundra Uniting Church Hall  
**When:** 23-24 April, 2010
- What:** Pine Rivers Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Deception Bay Shopping Centre  
**When:** 22-24 April, 2010
- What:** Redlands Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Autumn Charity Orchid Show Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield St, Cleveland  
**When:** 24 April, 2010

- What:** Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Walsh's Centre, 881 Ruthven St, Toowoomba  
**When:** 1-3 May, 2010
- What:** Redcliffe District Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Redcliffe Library, Oxley Ave, Redcliffe  
**When:** 5-8 May, 2010
- What:** Aspley Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights  
**When:** 8-9 May, 2010
- What:** Logan & District Orchid Society Inc  
**Where:** Orchid Festival & Trade Fair Oasis, Broadbeach  
**When:** 15-16 May, 2010
- What:** Tropical Queensland Orchid Council  
**Where:** Conference and Show 2010 Kirwan (Townsville)  
**When:** Friday 11 – Sunday 13 June 2010  
More information available from Secretary
- What:** Sub-Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland Inc Triennial Orchidfest, hosted by Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc  
**Where:** Lake Kawana Community Centre, Bokarina  
**When:** 12-14 June, 2010

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*Proprietors: Steve & Wendy Swan*

### **THOUGHTS AND IDEAS**

If anyone has any ideas for either Red Spotters or Feature Items please contact either Ken or Barry. They would appreciate any input from members

# FOR SALE

My entire Orchid Collection comprising of:

Bulbophyllums, species, Intergenerics and others.  
2 x 4 Shelf Flasking Racks with working Fluoros  
2 x 16 litre Pressure Cookers (holds 10 bottles).  
100+ Orchid Magazines @ 50 cents each.

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Give Away – 2” round and square pots.

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## **Plants Worth Noting**

Every plant that is bought to a meeting is worth noting but there are some that catch your eye more than others. My interests are in the small and delicate rather than the big and showy. Most people that visit my greenhouse ask - "Is that an orchid" so that's where my interest lies. I would only have a handful of exhibition cats, raffle prizes that I have won and I keep till they flower cause it may be a champion - hey. If 'she who must be listened to' deems it nice, it stays, otherwise it is dispatched to other places.

The orchid that most caught my eye for February's meeting was the *Cattleya bicolor*. Not only was it a particularly good, deep and dark colour form but it was grown so well. If you can get each successive growth to be larger than the one before then you are on a winning formula. This plant not only had increases in growth from year to year but the extent of the increase was almost double. At this rate the plant could soon be two meters tall. I have never seen a plant of *C. bicolor* as large as the one benched in February. We would all benefit from an article describing the owners growing

style and conditions. Over to you D & L Hall - good growing.

Tony Beck continues to share some rare and wonderful plants. The fascinating *Bulb. echinolabium* was quite spectacular. Most *Bulbophyllums* are minute in comparison and generally have short spikes. This one is a monster in comparison and so large from top of dorsal to bottom of flower. It was 16" or 40 cm tall on a spike of 28" or 70cm. Pity about the perfume.

The *Catasetum Orchidglade* is worth a mention. *Catasetums* have male and female flowers, distinctly different in shape and colour. The males large and colourful, the females dumpy round and green. Each flower on the spray is the same sex and usually the plant produces all male or all female flowers at different times but not always. In rare instances the production of both male and female sprays can occur on the same plant.

The *Catasetums* have a remarkable reproductive mechanism. They forcefully stamp the pollen directly on the visiting insect, usually a bee. Each *Catasetum* species has a trigger placed in such a way the insect is bound to step on it or disturb it in some way. The instant this happens the pollen is shot out; the viscid disc flips up, hits the insect, and adheres tightly to its anatomy. The creamy material on the disc is so copious that it actually splatters on contact; precluding any possibility of failure to stick to a hairy surface, and it sets instantly. The bees leave the male flower after being whacked and subsequently avoid male but not female flowers. The pollen is placed in such a way that it attaches to the stigmatic surface of the female.

So sensitive is the trigger apparatus that it makes it difficult to handle some of these flowers without causing the pollen to pop. You can cause it to do so by touching the trigger with your finger or a pencil, and can feel the recoil of the flower as this happens. Stick your finger on the trigger and you will see why the bees hate it. The pollen really hits you and it sticks.

The majority of *Catasetums* come from the tropics of South America and require a warm moist atmosphere when growing. You should water and fertilise them to the max when the new growth appears. The plants are deciduous and after flowering they are dormant for some time. Best take them out of the potting mix and stick them bare root in a pot on its side under the bench so that they get no watering. When the new growth starts, pot them up and force feed them. If you water them when they are dormant they will rot. Or, if you are like me, you may forget that they are under the bench and lose them anyway.

Some of the species and many of the crosses produce large sprays of spectacular flowers so they deserve a place in your collection.

*Cattleya Caudebec*.- I recall attending a meeting some time back where the guest speaker was recommending *C. Caudebec* parentage in producing good heads of upright sprays with good flower count and good texture.

There were three examples tabled that showed good promise in fulfilling all these criteria. If Cluster Cattleyas take your fancy these are worth the investment.

The Vandaceous section also caught my eye. The colour combinations and the compact shapes and multi flowered sprays of Ascda. Fuch's Spotted Cat and Ascda. Fuch's Harvest Moon were really eye catching. The Robert Fuchs- RF nursery in Florida has obviously been doing some good things in line breeding and any seedlings that you see from this source could be worth an investment if these plants are a guide.

Finally a word of encouragement to our new growers. Bill Sedgwick tabled a Gur. bowringiana with a pretty good show of flowers. The first orchid I ever bought was a three pseudobulb Cattleya bowringiana. This was in Townsville at a garage sale. When I had learnt a little about orchids I went to repot it and discovered that it was in fact three individual almost rootless stalks growing in mud hidden under a layer of bark. I made it work and eventually got them growing can't remember if they ever flowered so they probably all died. When I moved to Brisbane I bought all manner of C. bowringiana, dark purple, blue and white ones. Never got a flower - ever. Well done Bill - well flowered.

**Maurie Page**



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## FIELD DAY 30 MAY 2010

EDOS will be holding a Field Day on 30 May, 2010.

We will be visiting with three of our members, plus Bromeliad Gardens at Capalaba (where plants will be for sale), culminating with a bar-b-que lunch at the Kable residence.

New members are encouraged to come along, to gain ideas from others, and to enjoy socialising with other members.

If you are interested please contact Pauline, either at a meeting or phone 3286 4910

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### WEBSITE

[www.edos.org.au](http://www.edos.org.au). Our Webmaster Ray Girdlestone would like you to have a look at our new 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 let us know.

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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