

*Mackay & District
Orchid Society Inc.*



*50th Anniversary
1957 – 2007*

Editor Rod Shoemith



A Message from our Patron



18 May 2007

Rod Shoesmith
Mackay & District Orchid Society
PO Box 776
MACKAY QLD 4740

Dear Rod

RE: MACKAY & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY INC

On behalf of the Mackay community, it gives me great pleasure to offer congratulations to Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc on the celebration of their 50th anniversary on the weekend of the 6th and 7th October 2007.

The mayoral position has been honoured as patron of the society since its first meeting in 1957.

Mackay City Council proudly supports the Society in its endeavours to enjoy orchid cultivation, education and promoting fellowship amongst orchid societies.

The Society has been instrumental in helping promote the region's orchids.

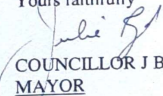
These promotional efforts include assisting with the preparation and showing of the extensive orchid collection at the tropical display house as part of the open day display held during September at the Queens park facility each year.

Parks and facilities staff acknowledge the Society's enthusiasm towards the orchid collection and the invaluable assistance they provide through their knowledge and guidance.

The thriving Society does a wonderful job promoting the beauty of orchids to the wider community.

Congratulations once again on reaching such a significant milestone.

Yours faithfully


COUNCILLOR J BOYD
MAYOR

Civic Centre Gordon Street Mackay Queensland

Address all communications to
The Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 41 Mackay Qld

Your Ref:

In reply please quote our Ref:

AM:JB

For enquiries please contact



Mayor Julie Boyd, President Peter Crook and David Banks (editor, Australian Orchid Review) accepting a painting donated by Mackay City Council to MDCS at the FOLC Conference 2005

Thank You

To all the supporters of the Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc, the current and past members would like to publicly thank you. Without this generous support our club would not be in the position it is to-day

Our thanks go to:

- ***Mackay City Council***
- ***Pioneer permanent***
- ***Large Companies (local and national)***
- ***Small Companies (local)***
- ***Individual members***
- ***General Public***



President's Welcome Message

It gives me great pleasure to welcome past members, members, committee and other Orchid Societies and visitors to join the Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc in celebrating its 50 year anniversary.

The Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc is a very healthy and active society and has improved the knowledge and awareness of orchid growing in our district over the last 50 years. The society has been involved in some spectacular displays over the years and lots of fundraising activities. Just to name a few of them, Garden Scheme, Shopping Centres, Queens Park Promotion Day, Home & Garden Expo (21 years), Porters Home & Building Centre. The club has participated successfully with Conferences, Field Days, Workshops, Training of Judges, Newsletters and volunteer work.

The Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc has had some good hard working committee members over the past 50 years. Meetings are held in the CWA Hall, Palmer Street on the 3rd Thursday of each month. With members bringing flowering orchids for popular voting and making a lovely display around the hall. A different speaker is the Guest every meeting or there are VD showings. Membership now stands at seventy-seven. The Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc welcomes new members.

Most of the Societies past Presidents and committee have done a good job in highlighting the awareness of growing and introducing new species to orchid lovers. One of our past Presidents, I remember well was Marg Purnell. Marg worked hard with propagating orchids and travelling to New Guinea to try and bring back new species of orchids to Mackay. Marg gave a lot of her time to working with the curator of Queens Park, helping them to propagate and hybridize orchids for their orchid display house in Queens Park.

Pioneer Permanent Building Society has been a sponsor to Mackay and District Orchid Society for many years by supplying postage for our monthly newsletter, for which we are very thankful.

One of the first foundation members to join the society is Grovner Hart who is still living in Mackay today. The society has produced and encouraged many excellent orchid growers in the region. Orchid growing can be a wonderful and rewarding hobby.

We look forward to you all helping us celebrate 50 years of the Mackay and District Orchid Society.

Thank You

Bec McArthur

President 2007



Our cake from the 25th Anniversary

Honour Roll

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
1957	H. Whitcombe	G. Hart	G. Sargent
1958	H. Whitcombe	V. Treloar	G. Hart
1959	H. Whitcombe	V. Treloar	G. Hart
1960	H. Whitcombe	V. Treloar	M. Muller
1961	H. Whitcombe	V. Treloar	M. Muller
1962	N. Simmons	V. Treloar	A. Willersdorf
1963	A. Willersdorf	V. Treloar	S. Burns
1964	A. Willersdorf	V. Treloar	S. Burns
1965	A. Willersdorf	V. Treloar	S. Burns
1966	A. Willersdorf	V. Treloar	G. Breckell
1967	F. Killcullen	V. Treloar	G. Breckell
1968	F. Killcullen	V. Treloar	G. Breckell
1969	F. Killcullen	V. Treloar	V. Treloar
1970	C. Kraut	L. Dovey	G. Knox
1971	C. Kraut	L. Dovey	N. Knox
1972	C. Kraut	L. Dovey	B. Ross
1973	C. Kraut	L. Dovey	B. Ross/A. Ladbroke
1974	A. Ladbroke	L. Dovey	M. Shoemith
1975	A. Ladbroke	L. Dovey	M. Shoemith
1976	M. Purnell	L. Dovey	M. Read
1977	M. Purnell	L. Dovey	M. Read
1978	M. Purnell	L. Dovey	M. Read
1979	L. Dovey	J. Rasmussen	F. Dunkley
1980	L. Dovey	H. Verroen	H. Cherry/M. Read
1981	M. Purnell	Y. Matthews	M. Read
1982	M. Purnell	Y. Matthews/E. Baldock	M. Read
1983	M. Purnell	E. Baldock	M. Read
1984	M. Purnell	E. Baldock/J. Gray	H. Verroen
1985	M. Purnell	J. Gray	H. Verroen
1986	L. Dovey	B. Gilotti	H. Verroen
1987	L. Dovey	B. Gilotti	H. Verroen
1988	L. Dovey	B. Gilotti	H. Verroen
1989	R. Bassan	B. Gilotti	H. Verroen
1990	R. Bassan	B. Gilotti	G. Wassell
1991	R. Bassan	B. Gilotti	G. Wassell
1992	R. Bassan	B. Gilotti	G. Wassell
1993	D. Penningh	B. Gilotti	G. Wassell

<u><i>Year</i></u>	<u><i>President</i></u>	<u><i>Secretary</i></u>	<u><i>Treasurer</i></u>
1994	<i>J. Quinlan</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>G. Wassell</i>
1995	<i>A. Willersdorf</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>G. Wassell</i>
1996	<i>A. Willersdorf</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>G. Wassell</i>
1997	<i>A. Willersdorf</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>G. Wassell</i>
1998	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>G. Wassell</i>
1999	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2000	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2001	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2002	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2003	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2004	<i>P. Croak</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2005	<i>B. McArthur</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2006	<i>B. McArthur</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>
2007	<i>B. McArthur</i>	<i>B. Gilotti</i>	<i>E. Penningh</i>



*Ken McPherson (Proserpine), Marj Purnell (Mackay), Ron Merritt (Townsville),
Val Treloar –seated (Mackay)*
*Ken, Ron, Val receiving their TQOC Fellowship Award at the TQOC Conference in
Darwin 1988*



Memories from Grovner Hart (Foundation Member)

As a young boy growing up in Mackay in the early days I did all the things a young boy did in those days. I remember the picture theatres in town, The Princess, in Victoria Street and The Strand on Nebo Road and great memories of sneaking in to them through loose wall panels on the outside of the toilets. I always had an interest in growing plants and orchids from an early age.

Alex Grant, the local undertaker had a glass house he used to grow orchids in, he also sold them as well. He would buy sugar bags of Cooktown Orchids for 6/- to sell and a variety of Vanda species. I was introduced to Val Treloar and after a number of visits to his place someone suggested that an Orchid Society should be formed so things were put in place and the first meeting was held at Whitcombe's Shop in Wood Street. If my memory serves me right those present were Harold Whitcombe, Val Treloar, Grovner Hart, Rev. Collins, Clary and Audrey Sargent, Mrs Bobby Howcroft, Maude Muller, Mrs Farow, Reg Horne, Bob Bell.

The meeting places for the society have changed over the years, places include the old Town Hall, St Charles Hall Supper Room, The Adult Education, University Centre, Technical College, T.A.F.E., the Christian Brothers College Assembly Rooms, The Gem Hall, and currently the C.W.A Hall.

In the early days judging classes were held in conjunction with the Proserpine Orchid Society by Dave Stewart an accredited judge. To make it fair for both clubs they held the judging classes in the Presbyterian Church at Calen and members had to drive to Calen to attend the night classes.

Orchids have the ability to bring out the best and the worst in people, mostly it is the good, but on occasions it is the worst. I remember two cases, the first was when one member hit another with a chair because of a dispute over an orchid and the other was when one member mistakenly took another members orchid home after a show or meeting, the only way the dispute could be settled was by calling the police and let them sort out the mess. I can also remember a motion being put "that there be no competition for the orchids on display" and it was carried. It was felt that by having competitions for orchids it would foster animosity within the club; Charles Murray would import orchids from Stewart & Low in England and would pay twelve pounds for twelve orchids. They would arrive in a tin soldered shut with all the documents attached to the outside of the tin and would arrive in Mackay from England a little over 24 hours. I doubt if you could do that today, with all the modern technology. In the early days we grew orchids in clay pots and the price was ridiculous. A 3" pot cost 6 pence, the freight was 9 pence, and the total cost for a 3 " pot was on shilling and threepence,

Another memory is the formation of the TQOC and Val Treloar having an orchid discussion group and being a group that wanted to foster the growing orchids in North Queensland took it on themselves

to organise the first TQOC conference. Since then, Mackay Orchid Society has hosted four other conferences making a total of five. Two of them (1981 and 1983) were held in John Hannay's hall in O'Loughlin Street North Mackay, the other at the International Hotel at Town Beach (1992) and the last at the Entertainment Centre (2005).

Since the beginning of the club in 1957 a lot of things have changed as they always do and I hope that the club continues for at least another 50 years.



In the early days Mackay members, Thelma Cameron, Monty Shoesmith, Col
Breadsell, Clyde Shoesmith
TQOC Conference Mt. Isa



Memories from Arthur Willersdorf

I understand the orchid society was formed in October 1957. I joined in March 1958. The first meetings were held in the Whitcombe Agencies shop in Wood Street, somewhat near the present site of Batros Store.

The original members that I can remember were Mr. Whitcombe, Val Treloar, Reg Horne, Bob and Bill Bell, Maude Muller, Rev. Ron Collins. I became involved when Val Treloar was looking for someone to flask some seed for him. As the process was similar to growing yeast cultures I decided to give it a try. I had recently left the distillery in Sarina and joined the Sugar Research institute; however my interest in growing orchids in bottles went back quite a few years before this. A long time friend of my wife, Mr Charlie Harrces, a pharmacist in Cairns had been sowing seed for Mrs Kirkwood. I had seen flasks of seeds at his place and they fascinated me. So when the opportunity arose I readily accepted. I told Mr Treloar that I would do it for him but that I wasn't interested in growing orchids, a statement he often reminded me of in years to come. It wasn't long before the bug had bitten.

The members met for some time in Whitcombe's shop and from there our next meeting place was the board room of the old Town Hall, as I remember. The meeting venue changed over the years and included St. Charles Church Hall, the Science Lab at St. Patrick's School and eventually the CWA Hall in Palmer Street.

Orchid shows have always been a part of the itinerary but only on a yearly basis in the early days. Surprisingly for the small number of growers, good shows were put on. The public has always been supportive. The first show that I can remember was staged in a back room of Eager show room (a car yard) in Wood Street, we charged a small entrance fee. Other venues in the ensuing years included vacant shops in Lamberts area of Centre Point and the RSL hall. I was president when when we displayed at the RS: and by some coincidence the Governor of Queensland happened to be there that day and was suitably impressed. I was introduced to him and shook his hand and escorted him around. (I didn't wash that hand for a week). With the advent of Canelands our displays were put on there. No longer could we charge the public an entry fee for the displays were in the open plazas of the centre. We then depended on sponsorship from the management and the sale of raffle tickets to raise funds. These public displays were our main source of income as we have always kept membership fees as low as possible. We have also had displays at the Dome in Centre Point and for the last couple of years at M. Pleasant Shopping Centre. We have had to change the format of our shows to satisfy shop owner in the centres. At present we have three shows a year.

Mr. Nob Bell was the curator of Queens Park for the council and an orchid house had been established there. He was very knowledgeable gentleman and quietly kept our feet on the ground and instructed us in orchid culture. The late Senator Ian Wood had an orchid collection which was cared for at the council orchid house and was eventually donated to the council. Mr. Bell set a seed pod on

Vanda sanderiana and gave me the seed to propagate. Quite a few good quality sanderiana's eventuated.

Seedlings were few and far between in those days but softcanes from Nepal area were able to be imported, so it was possible to get these. However as with most other places exportation was eventually stopped. It was still possible to import orchid seed and I obtained seed for Dos Pueblos in America. This enabled me to get seed which were from potentially reasonable parents. Forty years later I still have a plant from this source. It is a big showy cattleya but by today's standards wouldn't have made it to first base. I also swapped some seed with an orchid grower in Florida. Seed of species imported from South America was mostly not viable but one batch of Cattleyas amethyoglossa produced some good quality flowers. Yellows were still a novelty and Cattleya dowiana var aurea was often a parent. However the results were very disappointing, but obvious perseverance paid off as some good yellows are now available. Very few intergeneric crosses were available.

The original potting media was osmunda fibre. A root material much like tree fern roots. It was imported in bales from Japan. Before use it was cut into lengths of about 1 inch (2-3cm) and then washed or boiled. Earthen ware pots were universally used. The drainage hole was carefully enlarged, and if not done carefully enough you could always use the broken pot broken into suitable size pieces for drainage. Broken crock was placed in the bottom of the pot and osmunda tightly packed in around the root of the plant being repotted. If the pot and all could be lifted up holding the plant only it was tight enough. It follows that if any new or tender roots were present they would tend to get mashed, so the secret was to repot the plant before the new roots showed. Eventually the supply of osmunda dried up and new potting media had to be found. We used American fir bark, charcoal, elkhorn peat, pine bark, quinken gravel and anything else that was suitable. Quinken gravel was widely tried and some growers still use it. The success of this I believe an adequate fertilizer programme. At present pine bark is widely used with some of us using crushed brick and sphagnum moss. At one stage an article appeared in one of the magazines on hydroponically growing orchids. Continually moist roots were considered a no-no but one or two of us gave it a try. The late Don Rasmussen was the most successful and enthusiastic. Plant growth was rapid and a seedling could be brought into flower years earlier than using conventional methods. In spite of this the method was not widely taken up. The main concern was that if you took the plant out of hydroponics it tended to collapse.

Good instruction books on orchids and their culture were rare and expensive in our early existence. A library was begun for the benefit of members and quality books acquired as they became available. Quite often when a member passed away a suitable book was obtained and dedicated to their memory. Subscriptions were taken out on Australian and overseas periodicals and not least was Sanders List of Orchids Hybrids. The first crosses registered were in the late 1800's. Since then hybridisation has increased exponentially and seedlings of almost an conceivable cross are available to the connoisseur. Of special interest have been the crossings which allow previous cool growing plants to be successfully grown in the tropics.

In recent years the club has become more community involved, several members put on a small display and give talks at the senior's mornings at Mt Pleasant. Also displays are set up on occasions in the new Botanic Gardens in Lagoon Street. Another public outreach is the annual display in conjunction with the orchid house in Queens Park, when the Mackay City Council opens the orchid house for most of their day on the Sunday. The bromeliad people and bonsai were also present in 2005. These efforts are as well as our autumn, winter and spring shows.

Life Members

<i>Mr R Bell 1963 (d)</i>	<i>Mr L Dovey 1982</i>	<i>Mr G Gilotti 1991</i>
<i>Mr V Treloar 1967 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs E Dunn 1982</i>	<i>Mrs B Gilotti 1991</i>
<i>Mr A Willersdorf 1975</i>	<i>Mr C Shoemith 1983 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs B Dovey 1992</i>
<i>Mrs D Ebner 1976 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs M Shoemith 1983</i>	<i>Mr R Bassan 1995</i>
<i>Mr G Knox 1981 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs M Read 1984</i>	<i>Mr P Crook 2005</i>
<i>Mrs N Knox 1981 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs M Purnell 1985 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs W Crook 2005</i>
<i>Mr E McLaughlin 1981 (d)</i>	<i>Mr P Kidcaff 1987</i>	
<i>Mrs T Dunkley 1981 (d)</i>	<i>Mrs P Nolan</i>	



2007 Executive

*Left to Right Back, George Gilotti, George Moody, Noelene Quinlan, Jim Quinlan
Front, Beryl Gilotti (Secretary) Bev McArthur (President) Eve Penning (Treasurer)
Ron Bassan (Vice President) - Absent Garry O'Shea*



A day at Ken's – Monty Shoemilk

For those of you who did not know Ken McPherson, he lived in the Proserpine area all of his life. Before visiting Ken a phone call had to be made to his daughter, Mary Frederickson as Ken did not have phone on at the time and Mary also lived in Proserpine. Arrangements had to be made through Mary to let us know when it would be convenient for us to visit. This was done and a message was also sent to say there were no plants for sale.

The day I am speaking of was the latter part of the 1970's. A group of MDOS members made the trip and the party included Arthur and Edith Ladbrook, Arthur was president of MDOS at the time, Lew and Betty Dovey, George and Nora Knox, Thelma Cameron, Bev Forsyth, Col Breadsell, my late husband and I. Ken sent the message that no plants were for sale so nobody too much money. I don't know what happened between the time of the phone call and our arrival. I surmised that he had either a lot of accounts or he wanted to buy something, it didn't matter what was asked for it was for sale. Most of these were in Cattleya alliance. We were all feeling like a cup of tea and lunch as Ken's plants were not in Proserpine they were in another area further on. We were all settling down to eat when George and Nora Knox came out of the trees with some Vands too, so back we went for more plants.

Before we made the move to head for home Ken came to talk to us under the mango tree. One of the party asked how he became interested in orchids. He told us that when he was quite a young lad at school, his job after school was to bring the cow's home for milking. Nine times out of ten he was late getting home with the cows that still had to be milked (no bottled milk then). Ken's mother could never understand what took him so long to get the cows and Ken could never understand why his mother was complaining because he was spending the time in the bush looking for the orchids that he used to bring home. By this time the party were getting their things together to head home when Ken asked if we would like to see his ceratobes (spatulata) dendrobiums. We decided we may as well while we had the opportunity.

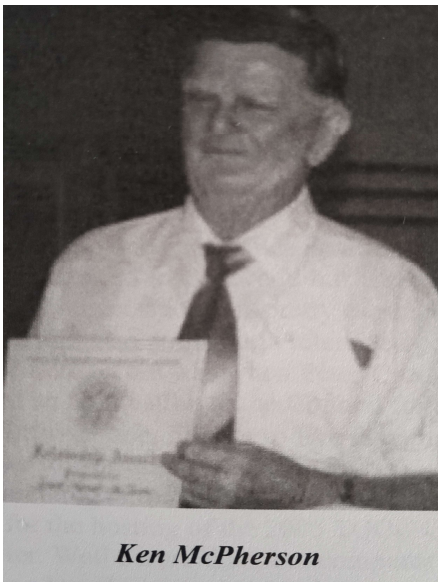
These plants were all over at Gloucester Park, not too far away he told us but the road is rough. He was not wrong because the road was very very rough. When we did get there we could not believe our eyes. Here were all the plants lined up like soldiers, in full bloom. From memory they would have been at least twelve pots long and five to six pots deep. They were large plants in earthenware pots; about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pots was buried in the sand well above the high water mark. There was leaf mould inside the pot as well as reasonable size rock. When we got closer to these plants we decided which ones we wanted and just stood beside it till Ken came along. Most of us got a piece of what we wanted. Ken used to take the plant out of the pot, make the cut in the plant and give you your piece and put the plant back in the pot with the rock, but the rock had to be in the right position so the plant got warmth when it was needed and shade when needed. All of these ceratobes, were his own crosses, as I said at the beginning there were no plants for sale. After we finished buying there was a lot of wheeling and dealing going on. I heard some ask if Ken would take a cheque. Some had taken

money and there were a few IOU's. There were five people in the car as well as quite a few plants. Bev Forsyth had bought a large Den stratiotes, this was too long to go in the boot so it had to come in the front with her. We all agreed this was the best day we had ever had with orchids, even though we were pleased to get home.

The first time I went out to Ken's place was some time before the I have just written about. Ken was not living on his property at the time, Bowen Orchid Club were hosting the TQOC conference and a visit to Ken's place was on the agenda for the Sunday. It was a bitterly cold day and a fire was made to boil the billy. Some of the people didn't want to leave the fire but a lot of us did venture up the hill to see the plants. There was no bush house, just some shade cloth about four or five feet wide and run some length, there were quite a few forty four gallon drums turned up side down. Plants were on the ground while community pots and flasks were on the drums, Ken never grew his plants in a bush house they were always under trees.

Ken spent many years trying to reduce the size of the Den discolour. He was trying to cross it with our other native Den canaliculatum with no success, then he crossed discolour with tangarinum. This cross took, and in due course, the flowers were pollinated with Den canaliculatum and thus we have Den Gloucester Sands.

Ken was honoured for the work he had done with orchids in the north, this was done at a TQOC Conference in Darwin. Ken was also honoured for his work with Den canaliculatum as this was with this little gem, this honour was given to him in Ayr also at a TQOC Conference. This award was from the Australian Orchid Council.



Ken McPherson



Club Secretary – Berul Gilotti

My husband, George joined the Mackay and District Orchid Society Inc. in November 1980. In October 1983 he had to supply smoko for the General Meeting and he asked me to help him. Also to admire the beautiful orchids that are tabled each meeting night. In February 1984 I became a member of the Society. A few weeks before the Annual General Meeting in 1986 Rod Shoemith suggested I take over the role as Secretary. I being a shy person then laughed at him and said I had never done anything like that before. At the Annual General Meeting that year I was nominated for the position of Secretary from off the floor (this was before the society was incorporated in 1998, now it is written two weeks prior to the AGM) and after a ballot was held I was the successful winner of the position of Secretary. Well I was so nervous with tears in my eyes and not knowing what to do, it made me think “what am I doing this for”. After the first committee meeting I spent the next day at Lew and Betty Dovey’s residence very upset and wanting to resign for the Secretary position. Lew was President at the time and kept reassuring me that I could make it and here I am twenty-one years later and still the Secretary of the society.

Some of the highlights were when George and I received Life Memberships in 1991, the MDFOS Service Award and Medallion in 2003. What a surprise that I didn’t even know that it was available. We both feel very honoured to have received all of these. Another special event was helping with the organising and running of the 40th TQOC conference in 2005 which the Society hosted here in Mackay. The conference was very successful. We received good feedback of how much everyone had enjoyed themselves, the food plentiful and superb, venues great, hospitality and friendship first class, impressive show and the comments go on. The weather was perfect also. When you hear comments back it sure makes all the hard preparation before hand worth while.

There have been a few Executive and Committee position changes over the years. Members have had great times and fun on several bus trips to other society’s field days etc. The cost of hiring a bus nowadays is pretty expensive, so not too many bus trips of late have been organised and also not enough interested people to make these trips viable. Another time that I freaked out was when Peter Crook, the President then suggested the Society send an application to the Council for a second hand computer. We were successful and received one. Thanks to Eve Penningh our treasurer I managed to learn the basics to working a computer. I was really scared and frightened that it may blow up or something to that effect. I soon found out how handy it was when we were preparing for the hosting of the 2005 TQOC Conference. It sure beats using the electric typewriter. Well I wore that poor computer out as it is slowly dying. The Society purchase me a new one in March this year. It is a big improvement on the old computer that I was using. I am still not game to dabble too much though.

I will never forget another Annual General Meeting in 1997 when at 4:30pm in the afternoon our son, Chris rang and said that he was going to be a dad which would make us grandparents for the first time. You may think so what, but no one knew that Chris’s partner, Tracey was pregnant, not

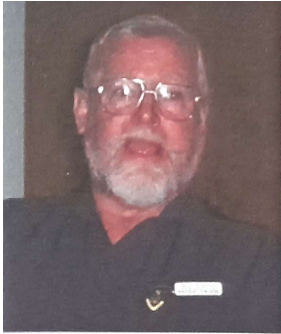
even herself. Thought she had appendicitis. Well I said to Arthur Willersdorf the president then, if I am not with it tonight please excuse me and I told him the story of what was happening. AT 10:00pm that night Chris told us that we had a beautiful granddaughter 5lb 5 oz. So it shows you things can happen at any time. On the Saturday and Sunday following the AGM night we had approximately 200 visitors (including out members) to cater for at a Field Day weekend. To this day some the visitors that attended that weekend say to me that they can still remember George and I being totally blown away that it happened the way that it did.

Anyway enough of reminiscing back over the years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as secretary and I hope members feel that I have successfully fulfilled this role. I would also like to thank everyone for the support and help over the past twenty one years as it has helped to make my job a lot easier. Special thanks to Eve Penning, our treasurer who helped me tremendously. Without her help and advice I probably wouldn't have lasted this long as Secretary. Lastly, I had better extend special thanks to my husband, George of 43 years who has given me great support and helped by cooking meals, attending to other household chores and putting up with the many hours that I spend tending to Orchid Society business. (Especially over the two years we were organising the TQOC Conference)

Some other funny stories which have happened over the past years are that members were on a bus trip to Townsville for a Field Day Weekend. George Gilotti was the designated bus driver. We had pulled up at a residence to view their orchid collection and George not knowing that Peter Crook had gone back in to get Wendy, his wife a bottle of water, took off behind the other cars to visit the next orchid house. We had gone a couple of blocks when we heard "**MY POOR PETER HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND**". So back we went and has Peter standing on the side of the road with the bottle of water in his hand. Panic set in as we weren't sure of the address of the next person to visit. But we managed to catch up with everyone.

I think it must have been on the same trip that Gary O'Shea was trying to open his motel room door with his car keys.

Quite a few years ago we took a bus trip to Rockhampton Orchid Society's Dalliance Weekend (what great weekends they were), we were just about to go to the dinner on the Saturday night and George Gilotti bent down and split the backside out of his trousers. Luckily Ron Bassan had a spare pair that almost fitted him after a few quick alterations. Anyway they served the purpose on the night. I think it must have been the same night when an auction was held after the dinner and a box with six Slc Hazel Boyd orchids was sitting behind Ron Bassan (unknown to Ron) and both making bids on this box of orchids. Suddenly Ron realised and said to George "You Fool" it was bumping the price of the orchids up. Anyway they ended up going for some ridiculous price. George and Ron were thankful that they weren't the successful bidders.



Peter Crook – President 1998 - 2005

50th ANNIVERSARY MDOS Inc SEPTEMBER 2007

As President 1998 to 2005 I extend my congratulations to the society on achieving this milestone, a great achievement to the founding past and current members.

All organizations have their ups and downs as members come and go, but the main thrust of Fellowship, good orchid growing and education of all things orchids and sharing of ideas carries on.

During my period as president we formed an attachment with Queens Park orchid house with the support of the Mackay City Council to help in its promotion and development.

The Society re affiliated with Tropical Queensland Orchid Council and hosted the Annual Conference in May in 2005, having attended many of these conferences I think that was one of the best, thanks to the hard work of the members over 3 years of planning and fund raising.

The society moved to computer age with the purchase of pc and lap top computers and Dat projector to help the committee members serve the member in a modern and professional manner.

I must thank Beryl Gilotti, secretary of the society for half of its existence, approximately 25 years. "A gold medal performance" keeping the thread of continuity going, also Garry O'Shea Orchidwise editor over many years, keeping the members, sponsors and other societies up to date with the society activities.

Wendy & I were made life members of the society before we left Mackay for Victoria. I was humbled by this and again wish to thank the members for their supports.

Regards,

Peter Crook.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Crook', written over a light blue horizontal line.



Rod Kirkwood – Mackay Registrar

Rod Kirkwood – Mackay Registrar

Mackay currently has eight (8) Australian Orchid Council (AOC) qualified judges on its panel.

The current judges are:-

Rod Kirkwood(Registrar), Ron Bassan, Eve Penning, Doug Penning, Jim Quinlan, Noelene Quinlan, Lew Dovey, Arthur Pinkney and Ken Cherry.

Recently retire and transferred members are:

Wendy Crook, Lyn Verroen and Harry Verroen.

AOC rules require at least five judges to be present when judging if a plant for and AOC Award, so we are able to offer our services to society members if they consider one of their plants worthy of either quality awards such as (FCC, AM, HCC) cultural or botanical awards.

This has not always been the case. Although the MDOS is celebrating its 50th year, it was only in the 1980's that attempts were made to train local judges. However a panel was not able to be formed until the early 90's. The main problem was the distance away from centres such as Townsville where a judging panel had already been established. However with the help from the TQOC judges in Townsville, sufficient local judges qualified to start the Mackay panel. The early members included Lew Dovey, Ron Bassan, Arthur Pinkney, Lyn and Harry Verroen and Ken Cherry. Lew Dovey is a life member of the MDOS but is not an active orchid culture member; however he still makes himself available for orchid judging. Arthur Pinkney was an early panel Registrar and has also helped train Rockhampton judges so they could establish their panel.

I completed my judging training in 1992 at the same time as Doud and Eve Penning. Jim and Noelene Quinlan completed their training slightly later.

In the mid 90's the Queensland Orchid Society (QOS) in Brisbane acted as the state body and judging throughout the state was conducted under their auspices. Since 2002 judging has been formalised throughout the state under the Orchids Queensland framework. Ray Doolan who we see frequently in Mackay is the state judging Registrar.

Initially Mackay and Rockhampton were joined as a united judging panel but the intercity distance prevented frequent combined meetings so it was mutually agreed for Rockhampton and Gladstone to form their own sub panel.

Mackay judging panel provides orchid judges for our monthly meetings as well as our shows at Mt Pleasant Shopping Centre. We also judge the orchid section at local agricultural shows and Mackay, Finch Hatton and Sarina. As mentioned before we can judge plants in AOC awards.

During my time as registrar of the Mackay branch there have been two significant changes in judging. The first is the change to appreciation judging which occurred several years ago and has improved

the flexibility of the Australian judging system. The second change is the introduction of digital photographs to record winning plants. This starts in Queensland in 2008 and will make photography of orchids much easier for judges and plant growers.

Our panel is always looking for student judges and if anyone is interested please contact me.

Rod Kirkwood

Registrar.



Den. Cherub 'Samuel' AM/AOC
(One of many orchids that have been awarded in the Mackay District)

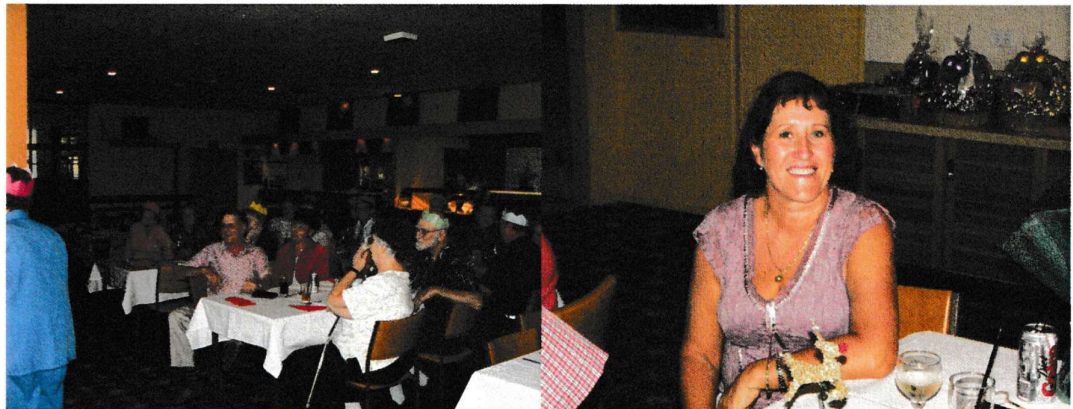
Shows and Other Things



Bus trip to Tannum Sands









BLOOMING: Mackay and District Orchid Society committee member Heinz Eichhorn admires prize orchid *Madlow Music*.
 Picture: TONY MARTIN 061005/139

Exotic display entices budding orchid fans

By NICOLA SIMPSON
nicola.simpson@dailymercury.com.au

SPRING has sprung and as have some of the most exotic orchids you'll ever see.

If you venture to Mt Pleasant Greenfields Shopping Centre during business hours today or

tomorrow, take a look at the variety of beautiful, weird and wonderful species on display.

They're the focus of Mackay and District Orchid Society's (MDOSS) spring show.

Committee member Heinz Eichhorn has loved orchids since he was a child but only

took up the hobby in his retirement.

"It's a hobby that everybody should have. It's relaxing," he said.

Orchids, priced from \$6 to \$60, can be purchased at the show. For more information on the society phone 842 8160.

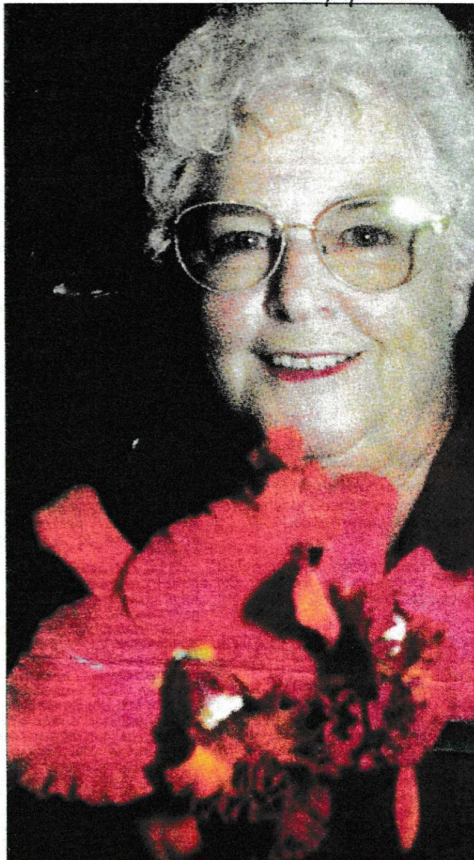


Marj Purnell, Lew Dovey and Phyllis Ruthenberg cutting the 25th anniversary cake



Autumn orchids bloc

21-4-99



SEVEN orchid breeders from Australia and the U.S. recently returned from a hazardous expedition along the Sepic River in New Guinea laden with many varieties of precious orchids.

President of the Mackay and District Orchid Society, Mrs Marj Purnell, of Beaconsfield, was one of the party.

Mrs Purnell has organised an orchid show, to be held from 8am to 8pm at the Centrepoint shopping centre in Mackay, today tomorrow and Saturday morning.

Born at Mount Jukes, into a family of seven "with a big vegetable garden, but no orchids," Mrs Purnell married and moved to NSW, then Melbourne and finally New Guinea, with her airforce husband and their two children.

Species

"There are about 2500 different species of native orchids alone in New Guinea," Mrs Purnell said yesterday.

Since returning to Mackay in 1974, Mrs Purnell has continued to grow and breed orchids and present orchid shows and an opportunity to return to New Guinea and salvage the *Dendrobium Lasianthera*, or native red orchid, was the chance of a lifetime.

Another Mackay resident, Mr Col Ruthenberg, and other orchid lovers from the U.S.,

Darwin, Brisbane and Sydney took part in the expedition.

Mrs Purnell returned with more than 50 varieties of orchids.

"It was the first time the authorities had allowed anybody from outside New Guinea to go along this part of the Sepic River tributaries to collect orchids," Mrs Purnell said.

"We left Port Moresby on March 15, flew to Ambunti and got a river truck, a flat bottomed boat, with fibreglass bucket seats, for the four day trip along the river.

"These truly beautiful orchids were growing above 12-25 feet of marsh water in mosquito-ridden, muddy swamps."

Mrs Purcell said the orchids had to be dipped in insecticide, flown to Brisbane to be fumigated, and quarantined in Mackay for three months before they could be passed for inspection.

Mrs Purcell said she will begin breeding the much sought after orchids in about three years, but anyone had "Buckley's" of buying a clipping or seeds before that!

In search of the elusive orchid

The art of cross-pollinating



PRESIDENT of the Mackay and District Orchid Society, Mrs Marj Purnell, is pictured cross-pollinating orchids, at her Beaconsfield home.

27th Tropical Qld., Orchid Council Conference

OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

(Advertising feature)

Orchid boffins arrive

ABOUT 300 people from all over Australia will attend the 27th annual Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conference starting tomorrow at the Ocean International Resort.

And in a major coup for Mackay, three international experts on orchids will deliver lectures to conference delegates.

Mackay and District Orchid Society publicity officer Mrs Evon Howard said two lecturers from Thailand (Dr Uthai Charanasri and Mr Treekul Sophonsiri) and a United States expert, Mr Gene Crocker, would entertain guests. The Mackay district flavour also will be maintained with Eungella head ranger Mr Steve Pearson giving a presentation.

Other lecturers are Dr Andree Millar, Mr Ross Maidment and Mrs Beryl Robinson.

The annual conference will continue until Monday. The last time Mackay held the conference was in 1982.

Another conference highlight will be 50 flasks of orchids brought over from the United States by Mr Crocker.

Nurseries from Cairns to northern New South Wales will be represented at the



conference and 12 registered nurseries will have plants for sale.

The display section will be open to the general public at specific times (Saturday 3pm to 5pm; Sunday 8am to 5pm and Monday 8am to 11am).

Mrs Howard said the main aspect of the conference would be the lecturing program although the social side including visits to district bush houses also would be popular.

Participants will bring their own orchids for judging although transport arrangements would depend on distance.

A badge swapping table will be provided for any enthusiasts. A different badge design is struck each year with black, maroon and gold featuring in this year's design.



A SAMPLE of the orchids which will be on sale at the 27th annual Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conference at the Ocean International Resort.

Lectures await delegates

THE 27th annual Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conference has attracted seven lecturers, including three of international acclaim.

Details of the lecturers and their discussion papers are:

Dr Uthai Charanasri, Thailand: He works for the Thai royal family in northern Thailand and was the deputy manager in charge of Research and Development at the Bangkok Flowers Centre. He will lecture on 'tropical orchids for the cut flower trade in Thailand'.

Mr Treekul Sophonsiri, Bangkok, Thailand: Mr Treekul is the manag-

ing proprietor of Kultana Orchids (an international supplier of quality orchids) and his topic will be 'vanda-ceous orchids.' The last time he lectured was at the 8th World Orchid conference.

Dr Andree Millar, Brisbane: Dr Millar is a world expert on spatula (ceratobium) Dendrobiums of Papua New Guinea and will be presenting her paper on that subject. She has won the Australian Orchid Council award of honour.

Mr Gene Crocker, United States: He works at the world renowned Carter & Holmes company in Newbury, South Carolina. His lecture will be on modern cattleya hybrids in

particular Ble. Oconee "Mendenhall".

Mr Steve Pearson, Eungella: He is the head ranger at Eungella National Park and has found quite a number of new plants (including orchids).

Mr Ross Maidment, Queensland: He is one of the proprietors of Aran-beem Orchids of Deception Bay, Queensland. His paper will be 'exciting new developments in orchids for Queensland conditions.'

Mrs Beryl Robinson, Nambour: Her paper will be on phalaenopsis orchids. She is the proprietor of R & G Robinson's Orchid Nursery.

Full program for visitors

A WIDE and varied program awaits Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference participants.

Some program features include: Tomorrow council reception at the Mackay Entertainment Centre hosted by Mackay Mayor Ald Greg Williamson and Pioneer Shire Council chairman Cr Gordon White, 5pm to 7pm.

Saturday, 9am to 10am, lecture by Ross Maidment in the lecture area; 10.30am to 11.30am, lecture by Dr Uthai Charanasri; 1pm to 5pm, Mackay bush housing, judging of plants and judging seminar for judges; 5pm to 5pm, sales and display area open to general public; 7pm to 8.30pm, dinner dance at the Palladium; 8.30pm to 9.30pm, lecture by Steve Pearson.

Sunday, 7.45am to 9.45am, T.Q.O.C. meeting and bi-annual meeting for delegates; 8am to 5pm, sales and display area open to general public; 10am to 11am, lecture by Mr Treckal Sophonsiri; 11am to noon, lecture by Mr Gene Crocker; 1.30pm to 2.30pm, lecture by Dr Andree



Millar; 2.30pm to 5pm, bush housing outside Mackay; 7pm to 8.30pm, barbecue to Australian bush theme with Mackay's Folk Club providing entertainment at the Palladium; 8.30pm to 9pm, presentations to awardees by sponsors in catering area; 9pm to 10pm, T.Q.O.C. auction run by Don Rasmussen.

Monday, 8am to 11am, sale and display area open to general public; 8am to 9am, lecture by Beryl Robinson; 9am to 11.30am, bush housing.

0-11-02



SPRING SENSATIONS: Ros Cunningham presented her perpetual trophy to Ron Bassan for exotic species at the Mackay District Orchid Society's annual meeting. Picture: Contributed.



TOP JOB: Mayor Julie Boyd presented Eve Penningh with the Marj Purnell memorial trophy for the best cereatobe dendrobium. Picture: Contributed.

Mayor presents society trophies

SPECIAL guest at the Mackay District Orchid Society Inc's annual meeting was Julie Boyd who presented trophies.

President Peter Crook discussed how busy the society has been this year with displays, demonstrations and field days.

He also said that membership had grown over the past 12 months.

Plans are already being tossed around at club meetings for the 2005 Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conference at Mackay.

Trophies presented at the meeting were The Andy and Ros Cunningham Perpetual Trophy for exotic species, which was won by Ron Bassan, who was also recognised by the Tropical Queensland Orchid Council for best orchid plant tabled, and Doug and Eve Penningh received the Marj Purnell Memorial Trophy for best cereatobe dendrobium.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2000

MACKAY

MidWeek

Phone 4957 0444 — Classifieds 13 61 81

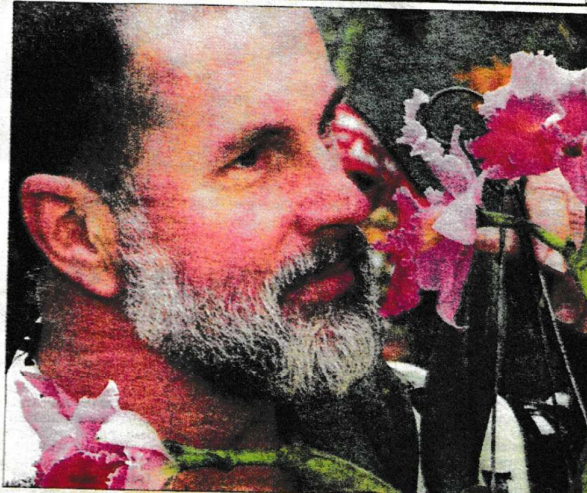
Orchids make a blooming fine show

By CHANTAL CARR

A COLOURFUL display of blooming orchids were on show at the Centrepoint Shopping Centre's Dome in the City Heart at the weekend.

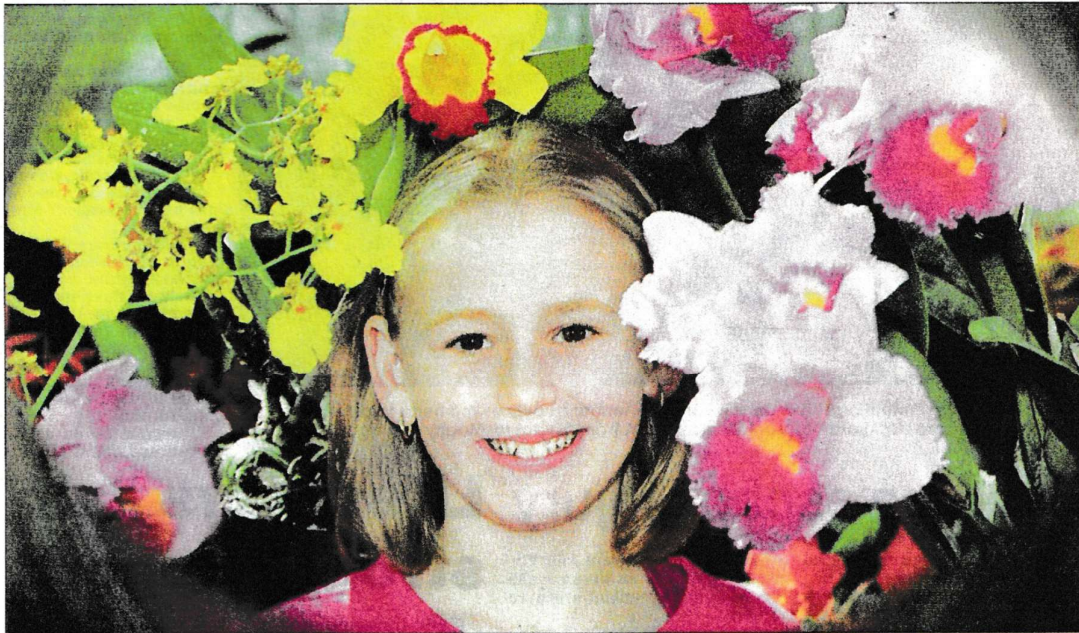
Members of the Mackay and District Orchid Society organised the first Winter Orchid Show with several orchid varieties that only bloom in the colder weather.

Mackay and district Orchid Society president Peter Crook said the members normally only had an autumn and spring orchid show but this year decided to show their winter flowering varieties.



ORCHIDS ABLOOM: Editor of Mackay and District Orchid Society Garry O'Shea with Bonanza Queen group by Elaine Ebbett.

Orchid house reveals exotic interior



HOUSE OF TREASURES: Myste Mellor, 11, of Kuttabul, was surrounded by exotic blooms at the Queens Park Orchid House Open Day yesterday. Story, page 2 Picture: PETER HOLT.

16-9-02

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