

Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

President's report

Hi Members,

The recent spell of hot, dry weather has given our orchids **a kick start into spring growth**, and hopefully lots of beautiful blooms in 2026. Meanwhile there's plenty of work ahead with re-potting etc. **October has been a busy month** with lots of information and hands-on practice at repotting. Firstly, with **John Green** at our October meeting guiding us through **the process of de-flasking** (page 7) and potting the tiny seedlings into 'plugs'. John has kindly taken our potted seedlings home to care for until they are ready to pot-on, probably around August/September next year. Thank you again, John.

Then the next Saturday, 32 members and friends bussed their way to Bribie Island to visit the **Bribie Orchid Show** (page 8). We were blown away by the number of different classes of orchids and the quality of plants within each class. Needless to say, most of us succumbed to the sales room. Those Bribie people are clever – entry to the show pavilion was via the sales room!

After Bribie we headed to **Robertson's Orchids** (page 9) where **John** gave us a **demonstration on re-potting** the main genera he grows – cattleya, dendrobiums, phalaenopsis, paphs etc. He then opened up the nursery for us to choose plants – which everyone did! The club purchased a quantity of orchids to raffle, and of course, Greg won again (and I didn't).

The next Saturday we had a **potting workshop** at our place **with Sam Cowie** (page 10). The Club purchased all the orchids and supplies; Sam generously gave his time and knowledge. Once again, 30 plus members attended and were shown **exactly how a commercial nursery goes about repotting orchids**. Sam is particularly diligent about correct hygiene in the handling of orchids, and he impressed this upon us. We all potted on a **large Oncidium alliance orchid to take home** plus a number of 'spares' for those who were unable to make the workshop. **Cheryl, Bev and Bron** treated us to a **wonderful morning tea**, while some took the time to inspect the orchid houses and gardens. With all that knowledge on re-potting, the pressure is now on us to produce award-quality orchids!

Next month, **November 1st, is our AGM** and the last meeting of the year. For newer members, the AGM is the opportunity to **see how you can help** in the running of the club. There are lots of tasks apart from the committee positions, and it's a great way to become involved and get to know other members better. Then we have the last **New Grower meeting on November 15**, this time at Shirley Flower's home – more details from Julie via email.

And finally, the **Christmas party on Sunday December 7**. Don't forget to make your payment to Sue, and give Julie your selection for Mains and Dessert.

Regards,
Trevor Cook



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www.noosaorchidsociety.com.au



Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Members

Calendar of events 2025-26

November

1	NDOFS and AGM meeting	Tinbeerwah Hall
8	Nambour Species Show	Buderim Uniting Church Hall
15	New Growers and Species meeting	Shirley Flowers TBA

December

7	NDOFS Christmas lunch	Cooroy RSL
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January

	New Growers and Species meeting	TBA
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February

7	NDOFS meeting	Tinbeerwah Hall
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**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBER
Dennis Forshaw**



*Just some of the beautiful orchids
benched by members
at our October meeting.*

JUDGES' CHOICE October 2025

Mini Cattleya Under 70mm
Rth. Chief Sunny 'Dragon'
 T & D Lyons



Cattleya Interm. 70-100mm
Ctt. Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire'
 D Phillips



Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm
R/c. Deception Dawn
 T & C Cook



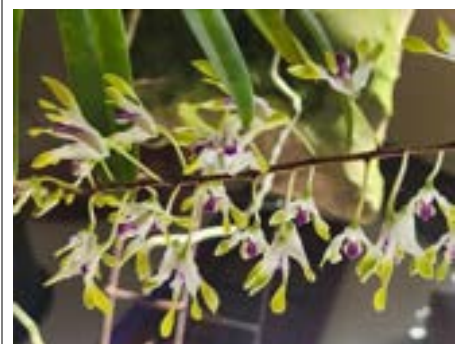
Cattleya Cluster
Ctna. Why Not 'Yellow'
 L. Walters



Dendrobium Alliance
Den. Popeye
 J & G Menkens



Natives
Den. canaliculatum
 D Jensen



Phalaenopsis
Phal. Unknown
 D Shield



Species
Brassia verrucosa
 'Joan Margaret' AM A/AOC
 L Walters



Vanda Alliance
Ascda. Fuch's Sunset
 T & D Lyons



Oncidium Alliance
Bap. Hwuluduen Chameleon
 T & C Cook



Other Genera
G.P. Lady Ramona Harris
 L Walters



Epidendrum
Epi. Unknown
 T & C Cook



<p>Novice <i>Phal.</i> Unknown P & J Davis</p> 	<p>Bromeliad <i>Tillandsia ionantha</i> 'Fuego' J & G Menkens</p> 	<p>Anthurium Unknown J & G Menkens</p> 
<p>Ferns <i>Huperzia Phlegmaria</i> 'Qld Layered Tassel Fern' J & G Menkens</p> 	<p>Foliage <i>Aglonema Chinesea</i> Wergrun G & A Gibson</p> 	<p>Thanks to our volunteers in the kitchen, those who bring cakes and slices for meetings and those who help with new growers' mornings</p>

Plant of the month: *Brassia verrucosa* var. Joan Margaret

In its native environment, *Brassia verrucosa* grows in cloud forests between Mexico and Nicaragua at elevations of 900-2400 metres. Its inflorescences bear yellowy green flowers. It has very thin but very long sepals and petals.

I grow my plant in a small to medium bark mix under the shade of trees. This provides good light and air movement, but shaded from the sun. The plant likes to be moist, especially in summer, but not water-logged.

I acquired my plant from good friend Judy Robbins in June 2019. Her specimen had been awarded an AM in 2015 by STOCQ judges and she named it after her mother, Joan Margaret.

Lois Walters



JUDGES' CHOICE October 2025

Class	1st	2 nd	3 rd
Mini Cattleya Under 70mm	<i>Rth.</i> Chief Sunny 'Dragon' T & D Lyons	—	—
Cattleya Intermediate 70-100mm	<i>Ctt.</i> Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' D Phillips	<i>C.</i> Dendi's Perfection 'Kaye' L Walters	<i>Ctt.</i> Doris & Byron 'Christmas Rose' T & C Cook
Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm	<i>Rlc.</i> Deception Dawn T & C Cook	<i>Rlc.</i> Burdekin Carnival G & A Gibson	<i>Bc.</i> Glorious May H & R J & G Menkens
Cattleya Cluster	<i>C.</i> Unknown T & C Cook	<i>Ctna.</i> Why Not 'Yellow' L Walters	<i>Ctt.</i> Chit Chat 'Tangerine' J & G Menkens
Cattleya Novelty	—	—	—
Dendrobium Alliance	<i>Den.</i> Mousmee J & G Menkens <i>Den.</i> Popeye J & G Menkens	<i>Den.</i> Caesar Seletar N Bettridge	<i>Den.</i> <i>nobile</i> G & A Gibson
Natives	<i>Den.</i> canaliculatum D Jensen	<i>Sarco.</i> Kulnura Twist T & C Cook	<i>Sarco.</i> Unknown T & C Cook
Phalaenopsis	<i>Phal.</i> King Car Honey Peach J Murphy	<i>Phal.</i> Anagram J Murphy	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown J Murphy <i>Phal.</i> Unknown D Shield
Species	<i>C.</i> skinneri T & C Cook <i>Brassia verrucosa</i> 'Joan Margaret' AM A/AOC L Walters	<i>Den.</i> thyrsoflorum G & A Gibson	<i>Den.</i> aphyllum L Walters
Vanda Alliance	<i>V.</i> Somsri Glory Blue T & C Cook	<i>V.</i> Princess Mikasa D Shield	<i>Ascda.</i> Fuch's Sunset T & D Lyons
Oncidium Alliance	<i>Bap.</i> Hwuludun Chameleon T & C Cook	<i>Onc.</i> Big Mac M & A Vlekkert	<i>Odontocidium Catatante</i> 'Sun King' B Prideaux
Cymbidium	—	—	—
Other Genera	<i>Paph.</i> Unknown P Barry	<i>Paph.</i> Mullumbimby Margi M & A Vlekkert	<i>G.P.</i> Lady Ramona Harris L Walters
Epidendrum	<i>Epi.</i> Comet Valley D. Jensen	<i>Epi.</i> Unknown T & C Cook	<i>Epi.</i> Topaz Special 'Elegante' HCC/AOC J Crulci
Novice	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown P & J Davis	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown P & J Davis	
Bromeliad	<i>Tillandsia</i> ionantha 'Fuego' J & G Menkens	<i>Tillandsia</i> Unknown J & G Menkens	Earth Star D James

Anthurium	Unknown J & G Menkens	Unknown T & D Lyons	Unknown D James
Ferns	Asplenium bulbifrum N Bettridge	Huperzia Phlegmaria 'Qld Layered Tassel Fern' J & G Menkens	Adiantum fragrans T & C Cook Phlegmariurus Carinatus (Philippines) D Hunter
Foliage	Aglonema Chinesa Wergrun G & A Gibson	Aglonema Red Fountain J & G Menkens	Aglonema Unknown J & G Menkens Begonia Cordial Lion N Bettridge

Updates to Plant Names that should have their labels corrected, are clearly marked and coloured blue in larger font.

Glasshouse spring show display

The Glasshouse Country Orchid Society's show at Beerwah included an unusual section; a display with three orchids combined (*centre*), a different way of showing smaller orchids.

Dave Lyons, John Simmons (*right*) and myself attended to assist with the judging prior to the show on 26-27 September.

Fay Knight



Deflasking: the first step in nurturing our new baby orchids, with some help from John Green

Members at our October meeting were fortunate to be able to get hands-on experience with deflasking orchids, something few new growers would try alone.

With the tiny orchids out of the flask and washed free of the agar they grew in, John Green showed everyone how to place an orchid into a special 'plug' (which includes fertiliser) and then slide it into the 84-cell trays designed to fit the plugs which the orchids will grow in. >>



<< As these trays will support the tiny orchids for several months and require regular watering, John will be caring for them until they are big enough to be potted on by us. We thank John for his expertise and look forward to later next year when we take our new orchids home.

Fay



Big day out – with Bribie Island show and John Robertson's potting demonstration

Bribie Island put on a very good show, even if we were forced to walk through the sales area first – which delayed some of us, unsurprisingly.

The Champions Table (*at right*) had some wonderful plants and there were several novices sections (*centre*) and a number of orchids benched there.

I noticed this last year and it would be great if we could encourage more novices to enter their orchids at our shows and meetings. >>



<< Next, we headed to Robertson's nursery, where John (*right*) gave potting demonstrations, telling us to 'lay into it' to get it really tight when potting on cattleyas as 'looser is wetter'.

He also advised us to put phalaenopsis roots inside the pot to avoid drying but not break the roots, and to use clear pots. Paphs should be kept in 'pretty small' pots and brown roots shouldn't be trimmed if firm. Thanks for your time, John.

After some purchases (*below*) and lunch at the Big Pineapple we headed for home. A great day out for all. **Fay Knight**



Hands-on potting on oncidiums with Sam Cowie

Last Saturday at Doonan Sam Cowie showed how a commercial nursery pots on plants efficiently and hygienically and then we all got our hands dirty with a healthy oncidium to take home.

His tips were to get to know your plants, observe their direction of growth to give it space, and not to remove old mix from roots. With oncidiums, the air pockets are vital so the potting mix is scooped to the edge and then the sides are tapped to settle it into the pot, even overlapping old bulbs. Slow-release fertiliser was then added and it's done! A helpful morning, thanks Sam.

Fay Knight

