

Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

President's report

Hi Members

From the heat last month to the wet this month – just as well our orchids are tough! (Or if not, they become compost.) Again, **our February meeting was well attended**, and the rain held off. Once more **Bob Shields was roped into hacking up an overgrown cattleya** (page 7) which produced a number of divisions for several of our new members to re-pot and take home – thank you Bob, and thank you Ian Skipworth for donating the plant. **Nita showed us how to re-pot anthuriums** (page 7) that have started to develop trunks – again a valuable lesson for those of us growing anthuriums.

Our **New Growers' meeting this month was held at Jenny Blyth's home at Noosa Heads** (page 9-10). Jenny has lived there for 37 years, and indeed it was a beautifully established garden with plants filling every space. Jenny's dendrobiums loved being mounted on an old frangipani. On top of that, Jenny treated us to beautiful home baked cakes and slices. We all had a great time and went away with several plants each from a member no longer able to care for them.

Our next New Growers meeting will be at our place on 18 April, and will be followed there by a visit from the Hervey Bay club members in the afternoon, but more on that at our April meeting.

Speaking of the **April meeting, Julie has arranged for Rob Trost from RoLin orchids to give us a presentation on mounting orchids**. In our climate this is a great way to grow your orchids, and Rob is the expert on mounting orchids. This is a presentation not to be missed. Rob will also be bringing plants for sale.

May, of course, is our Mother's Day Show. This is a closed show (i.e. our members plants only). We will be holding it in the Cooroy Memorial Hall again this year – it is a large space so we will be counting on you for lots of orchids and foliage plants; but more on that at our April meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 4.


Regards,

Thomas Cook



PO BOX 527, COOROY QLD 4563

www.noosaorchidsociety.com.au

 Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Members

Calendar of events 2026

April

4	NDOFS meeting – Rob Trost from RoLin Orchids, on growing orchids on mounts	Tinbeerwah Hall
11	Glasshouse Country Orchid Society Autumn Show	Glasshouse Community Hall, 8 Coonowrin Road
17-18	Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Show	Uniting Church Hall, Queen Street, Caloundra
17-18	Childers & Isis District Autumn Show	Isis Cultural Centre, Churchill Street Isis
18	New Growers & Species meeting	Trevor and Cheryl Cook TBA

May

2	NDOFS meeting – preparation for Mother's Day Show	Tinbeerwah Hall
2-3	Gympie & District Orchid Society Show	Indoor Bowls Club Hall
7 8-9	(set up, benching) Mother's Day Show	Cooroy Memorial Hall
9	Maroochydore Orchid Society (closed) Show	Bli Bli

June

6	NDOFS meeting – Peter Young from Maroochydore OS; talk and powerpoint on fertilisers for orchids plus info to take home	Tinbeerwah Hall
6 TBC	STOCQ meeting	GCOS hosts
20	New Growers & Species meeting	Tony Forde, 968 Cootharaba Road, Cootharaba
20	Gympie & District Orchid Society Show (members only)	Indoor Bowls Club Hall, Graham Street Gympie

NEXT MEETING 4 APRIL (yes, it's Easter)

Socialising and plant sales from 12, benching by 12.40pm

JUDGES' CHOICE March 2026

Mini Cattleya under 70mm

Ctna. Theresa Nolan 'Topaz
White Xmas'
J Simmons



Cattleya Interm. 70-100mm

R/c. (Peach Cobler x Waikiki Gold) X
(*C.* Caudebec x *Ctt.* Topaz Saucy)
T & C Cook



Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm

R/c. Aussie Gold 'Big & Bold'
A & G Gibson



Cattleya Cluster

C. Chocolate Drop
'Kodama' AM/AOS
J Cruici



Cattleya Novelty

C. Caudebec Candy 'Burgundy'
L Walters



Dendrobium Alliance

Den. Dal's Guy X Sibling
D Jensen



Species Asian

Den. dens: florum X *griffithianum*
A & G Gibson



Species American

C. meadii
J & G Menkens



Vanda Alliance

V. Luang Prabang
D & B Shield



Oncidium Alliance

Onc. Sharry Baby
D Jensen



Other Genera

Miltonia Spectabilis Large Form
N Bettridge



Novice

V. Leong Hong Toh
D & R Black



Bromeliad

Tillandsia
J & G Menkens



Anthurium

Anthurium
T & C Cook



Ferns

Davallia fejeensis
(Rabbit's foot fern)
T & C Cook



Foliage

Calathea Orbifolia
T & C Cook



New Growers and Species mornings:

New members are encouraged to come along to our special two-hour meet-ups to see how others grow their orchids in spaces large and small - this cassowary was paying attention at the March meeting



The 'Captain' gifted Cook Bridge sign made by Gav

At this month's New Growers' morning, Gav Menkens presented club president Trevor Cook with a special sign for the new bridge on Trevor's property. Gav made the sign at the Mens' Shed and you can inspect it at next month's New Growers' meeting at the Cooks' place.



POPULAR VOTE March 2026

Class	1ST	2ND	3RD
Mini Cattleya Under 70mm	<i>Rth.</i> Burana Beauty 'Burana' D & B Shield	<i>Ctna.</i> Theresa Nolan 'Topaz White Xmas' J Simmons	<i>Ctna.</i> Capri 'Lea' J & G Menkens
Cattleya Intermediate 70-100mm	<i>Rlc.</i> (Peach Cobler x Waikiki Gold) X (<i>C.</i> Caudebec x <i>Ctt.</i> Topaz Saucy) T & C Cook	<i>Rlc.</i> Passionate 'Topaz' T & C Cook	<i>Rlc.</i> Swan's Lolly 'Topaz Velvet' J & G Menkens
Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm	<i>Rlc.</i> Siam Red A & G Gibson	<i>Rlc.</i> Aussie Gold 'Big & Bold' A & G Gibson	<i>C.</i> Unknown J & G Menkens
Cattleya Cluster	<i>C.</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' AM/AOS J Crulci	<i>Gur.</i> Barbara Kirch J & G Menkens	<i>C. bowringiana</i> B Prideaux
Cattleya Novelty	<i>C.</i> Caudebec Candy 'Burgundy' L Walters	<i>Bc.</i> Yellow Bird 'Rothwell' A & G Gibson	<i>Bc.</i> Morning Glory X <i>Bc.</i> Nodosa D Phillips
Dendrobium Alliance	<i>Den.</i> Dal's Guy X Sibling D Jensen	<i>Den.</i> New Burana T & C Cook	-
Aus. Natives	-	-	-
Species Asian	<i>*Den. dens: florum X griffithianum</i> A & G Gibson	-	-
Species American	<i>C. bowringiana</i> T Forde	<i>C. meadii</i> J & G Menkens	<i>C. meadii</i> F Knight
Phalaenopsis	-	-	-
Vanda Alliance	<i>V.</i> Luang Prabang D & B Shield	<i>V.</i> Kulwadee Fragrance 'Black' J & G Menkens	<i>V.</i> Green Light 'Ching Hwa' L. Walters
Oncidium Alliance	<i>Miltassia</i> Supreme D. Phillips	<i>Onc.</i> Sharry Baby D Jensen	<i>Bbra.</i> Unknown D. Phillips <i>Miltassia</i> Estrelita 'Sweet Senorita' J & G Menkens
Cymbidium	-	-	-
Other Genera	<i>Miltonia</i> Spectabilis Large Form N Bettridge	<i>Stanthopia</i> Unknown I Skipworth	<i>Phrag.</i> Calurum T. Forde <i>Bulb.</i> Wilmar Galaxy Star D Phillips
Epidendrum	-	-	-
Novice	<i>V.</i> Leong Hong Toh D & R Black	<i>Den. bigibbum</i> var. Superbum D & R Black	<i>Den. bigibbum</i> var. Superbum D & R Black
Bromeliad	<i>Xsincoregelia</i> Galactic Warrior G & A Gibson	<i>Tillandsia juncifolia</i> J & G Menkens	<i>Tillandsia</i> J & G Menkens
Anthurium	<i>Anthurium</i> T & C Cook	<i>Anthurium</i> Suzan N Bettridge <i>Anthurium</i> T & D Lyons	<i>Anthurium</i> T & C Cook
Ferns	<i>Asplenium Australasiccarn</i> P & J Davis	<i>Fern</i> Unknown N Bettridge	<i>Davallia fejeensis</i> (Rabbit's foot fern) T & C Cook

Foliage	Caladium Species N Bettridge	Alocasia X Mortfontanensis J & G Menkens	Caladium bicolor G & A Gibson
			Calathea Orbifolia T & C Cook

Plant of the month: *Aeridovanda*(*Aerdv*) *Luang Prabang*

This is a hybrid of *Aerides lawrenceae* x *V. Tubtin Velvet*.

Species content - *Aer.lawrenceae* 50%
V. sanderiana 29%
V. dearie 7%
V. coerulea 4%

It was registered in 1993 by T. Orchids, Thailand. *Luang Prabang* is a region in Laos.

I grow this orchid hanging in my tunnel house which is around 4-5 metres high, with 70% black shade cloth.

There is lots of humidity supplied by other orchids, lots of Spanish moss, foliage plants and ferns underneath on the floor. The floor of weed matting never seems to dry out due to rain, regular light watering on hot days and watering. It has slow release fertiliser on top and also benefits from occasional liquid fertilising.

I have had this plant for a number of years and I think it was purchased from the original owners of Brighton Orchids at a Bundaberg Orchid Show. This has been its best flowering to date as I didn't flower them well in Bundaberg.

This vanda, like a lot of mine, has not been repotted since I purchased it.

Deborah Shield



Our Mother's Day Show is just over a month away - please save any small boxes and newspapers for orchid sales, and start thinking about which plants might be ready to enter to make a good display.

Problem plant advice on hand

Members who brought in problem plants were helped, first by Bob Shield: (start with a mallet to release a truly pot-bound cattleya), before a slice and dice; whereas a vanda was fine and just needed more growing time.



Then Nita Bettridge advised on trimming down anthuriums which were growing too much 'trunk'. Thanks, Nita and Bob. **Fay Knight**





Eggs

Female beetles lay tiny, cream-colored eggs in the leaf axils or soft new growth of orchids.



Larvae (Grubs)

Eggs hatch into off-white, maggot-like larvae with black heads. They tunnel into and devour the inside of new shoots, buds, and stems, leaving only veins (skeletonization). This internal feeding causes the affected parts to become soggy, yellow and collapse.



Pupa

Once fully grown, the larva forms a protective, styrofoam-like, waxy chamber (pupal chamber). Pupation occurs within this chamber, often at the base of the cane or among surface roots.



Adult beetle

The dazzling orange and black adult beetle emerges, about 10-12mm long, with black spots or stripes and large antennae. Adults feed on leaves, flowers and buds, often appearing in pairs. They reproduce during the warmer months, with the whole cycle completing in just a couple of months.



The Beetle and the Damage Done...

(with apologies to Neil Young)

Keep an eye out for the Dendrobium beetle larvae and adults, they can do a great deal of damage to your leaves in a very short period of time.

The Dendrobium beetle's life cycle involves four stages (egg, larva, pupa, adult) over a few months, devastating orchids by adults feeding on leaves and laying eggs in new shoots, which hatch into grubs that tunnel inside, causing collapse, before pupating in a foamy chamber and emerging as orange and black beetles.



CREDIT: Thanks to the Toowoomba Orchid Society who provided the text and photos on their Facebook page, and the Hervey Bay Orchid Society who saved it for their newsletter, for sharing it with us.

New Grower's morning at Noosa Heads



Jenny Blyth (at left with Dave and Gav) and family intended to move from Melbourne to Bowen 37 years ago, but vehicle troubles meant an unplanned stop on the Sunshine Coast and Jenny discovered Noosa Heads.

They bought the third house they inspected 'and never regretted it'. The large and mature garden showcases Jenny's love of orchids and tropical plants and avoids too much mowing.

Jenny has always loved orchids and grown them (even cymbidiums in Melbourne) and has recently joined the society.

Members enjoyed seeing the garden, with orchids on trees as well as in the shadehouse (right), then problem-plant and species discussions and a lovely morning tea.

Fay Knight (see over)



