Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

President's Report



While **the Spring Show** is behind us now, we heard at our last meeting that this **was our most successful show for many years**, both financial and in numbers of benched plants and visitors. **Congratulations again to everyone for your great efforts.**

The **Hervey Bay bus trip was a sell out** *(page 4)* and **all who went had a great time**. The Show was excellent, with members commenting on the variety of orchids on display, quite different in some cases to those in our shows. The sales area was also very large – and very tempting. The visit to the Botanic Gardens was very enlightening, especially the guided tour through their growing houses.

Our October meeting was well attended even though we had to change the date *(benching at right).* We welcomed new members: **Kerrie Wilson** and **Kim Jones.** We trust you enjoy your time with us. **Thank you, once again, to John Green** for **caring for our de-flasked orchids** from last year, and then **guiding us through potting up the cattleyas**. John says we will do the vanda seedlings next year.

The weather held off for all of those members who attended the **New Growers meeting at Mel and Judy Wheeler's** *(page 7-8)* on the 17th. Mel has been actively growing orchids for over 40 years, with at one time over 14,000 plants (as an obsessed hobby grower!!). Fortunately, he has downsized from that, but **still has two bush houses packed to the roof**, not to mention the hundreds of dendrobiums and desert roses in Judy's collection. We all learnt a lot from the discussion, and many came away with beautiful, established plants. Thank you again Judy and Mel.

The November meeting will be a busy one, as we will have the **AGM**, followed by the **presentation of the annual awards**, followed by the **General Meeting** and then of course, afternoon tea, the Judges commentary on our plants, and the raffles.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Regards

Trevor Cook



PO BOX 527, COOROY QLD 4563
www.noosaorchidsociety.com.au
Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society Members

Calendar of events 2026

November		
7	**NDOFS meeting – AGM**	**Tinbeerwah Hall**
14	Nambour Species Show	Buderim Uniting Church Hall, Gloucester Road
21	**New Growers' and Species morning**	**Shirley Flower TBA**
December		
6	**NDOFS Christmas Lunch** from 11.30am	**Cooroy RSL**







POTTING ON OUR BABY CATTLEYAS >

Orchid expert and club member John Green *(right)* took members through the steps of potting on into bark mix *(top right)* the baby catts which we last saw as deflasked seedlings last year.

The seedling vandas have not grown as quickly and will be potted on next year. Meanwhile some lucky members took home a new cattleya to raise. ***FK***

JUDGES' CHOICE October 2026

Mini Cattleya under 70mm
Slc. Kauai Starbright x
Rth. Dal's Nugget
F Knight



Cattleya Interm. 70-100mm
Rlc. Pink Spice
L & S Downing



Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm
Pcv. Key Lime Stars
B Quinn



Cattleya Cluster
C. Unknown
T & C Cook



Cattleya Novelty
Bc. Theresa Ricca
T & D Lyons



Dendrobium Alliance
*Den.*Wonder Nishii x Tollysema
G & A Gibson



Australian Natives
Den. Kingianum
D Hunter



Species Asian
Den. aphyllum
T & C Cook



Species American
Inps. Utricularioides
J Simmons



Phalaenopsis
Phal. Midnight Rambler
J Simmons



Vanda Alliance
V. Asean Butterfly
B & D Shield



Oncidium Alliance
Onc. Ruths Rainbow
L Walters



Cymbidium
Cym. Black Stump
'Come in Spinner'



Other Genera
Phaius. Lady Ramona Harris
'Looking at You'
D Phillips



Epidendrum
Epi. Pacific Candypops
'Orange tips'
T & D Lyons



Novice
Rth. Topaz Quaint x
Rlc Zelda's Star
J & V Motta



Bromeliad
Brom. Unknown
A & G Gibson



Antherium
Anthurium Unknown
T & C Cook



Ferns
Maidenhair Fern Adiantum
A & G Gibson



Foliage
Maranta leuconeura 'Prayer Plant
D Phillips



NEXT MEETING
Saturday 7 November
Socialising and plant sales from 12pm
Benching complete by 12.40pm
Don't forget your cup, any library books and cash for plant sales



Sell-out to Hervey Bay

The packed bus *(left)* for the Hervey Bay trip to the show, where members enjoyed seeing the variety of orchids and some different ones to our local shows.

Members also found a moment or three to stock up on some plants in the large sales area – it wouldn't be a bus trip without some souvenirs. The Botanic Gardens visit included an interesting guided tour through their growing houses.

Popular Vote October 2026

CLASS	Ist	2nd	3rd
Mini Cattleya Under 70mm	*Slc.* Kauai Starbright x *Rth.* Dal's Nugget F Knight	*Rth.* Shinfong Little Sun B Prideaux	–
Cattleya Intermediate 70-100mm	*Rlc.* Pink Spice L & S Downing	*Rlc.* Hsingying Sunbeam 'Juliet' T & C Cook	*Lc.* Angelheart 'Hihimanu' T & C Cook
Cattleya Exhibition over 100mm	*Lc.* Magic Melody 'Southern Cross' x *Lc.* Taida Swan 'White Queen' D Phillips	*Pcv.* Key Lime Stars B Quinn	–
Cattleya Cluster	*Lc.* Firedance Blanche G & A Gibson	*Grt.* Why Not 'Hildos' L Walters	*C.* Unknown T & C Cook
Cattleya Novelty	*** *Bc.* Theresa Ricca T & D Lyons	–	–
Dendrobium Alliance	*Den.* Cream Cascade T & C Cook	*Den.* Prima Donna K & A McGregor *Den.*Wonder Nishii x Tollysema G & A Gibson	*Den.* Rambo L Walters
Aus. Natives	*Sarco.* Kulnura Twist T & C Cook	*Den.* Kingianum D Hunter	*Den.* Rutherford Sunrise G & A Gibson
Species Asian	*Den. aphyllum* T & C Cook	*Den. chrysotoxum* V Todd	*Bulbophyllum romyl* G & A Gibson
Species American	*Inps. Utricularioides* J Simmons	*C. skinneri var. occulata Alba* T & C Cook	*Maxillaria Variabilis* B & D Shield
Phalaenopsis	*Phal.* Lady Fantasy B & D Shield *Phal.* Midnight Rambler J Simmons	*Phal.* King Car Honey Peach B & D Shield	*Phal.* Sogo J Murphy
Vanda Alliance	*V.* Asean Butterfly B & D Shield	–	–
Oncidium Alliance	*Oncsa.* Hwuluduen Chameleon T & C Cook	*Onc.* Ruths Rainbow L Walters	*Bcd.* Gilded Tower B Prideaux
Cymbidium	*Cym.* Black Stump 'Come in Spinner'	–	–
Other Genera	*Brassia verrucosa* 'Joan Mararat' L Walters	*Zygo.* Debbie de Mellow 'Honalulu Bay' B & D Shield *Phaius.* Lady Ramona Harris 'Looking at You' D Phillips	*Phaius* Lady Ramona Harris 'Looking at You' T & C Cook

Epidendrum	*Epi.* Pacific Candypops 'Orange tips' T & D Lyons	–	–
Novice	*Phal.* Unknown R Griffiths	*Rth.* Topaz Quaint x *Rlc* Zelda's Star J & V Motta	*Phal.* Unknown R Griffiths
Bromeliad	Brom. Unknown A & G Gibson	Tillandsia B Prideaux	Brom. Unknown B Prideaux
Anthurium	Anthurium Unknown A & G Gibson	Anthurium Unknown T & C Cook	Anthurium Unknown V Todd
Ferns	Maidenhair Fern Adiantum A & G Gibson	Maidenhair Fern A & G Gibson	Fern Asplenium Nidus T & D Lyons
Foliage	Maranta leuconeura 'Prayer Plant D Phillips	Aglaonema 'Lady Valentine' A & G Gibson	–

PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Oncidium* Ruth's Rainbow



Oncidium Ruth's Rainbow is a fragrant hybrid orchid, its parents being *Oncidium sphacetante* x *Oncidium sotoanum*. It is known for its clusters of pink, red and white blooms on arching stems and has a sweet vanilla scent. This orchid was given to me 13 years ago when my husband passed away.

It blooms every year without fail and is easy to maintain. However, it is susceptible to black spot (like Sharry Baby) so requires regular spraying with anti-rot and mancozeb. It is fertilised occasionally the same as all my other orchids, with Plantacote and Strikeback.

Lois Walters

Four decades of orchid experience at Mel and Judy's home

Members were lucky with the weather at the last New Grower's morning at Mel and Judy Wheeler's Gympie home. All enjoyed visiting his shadehouses, and the orchid advice, and of course morning tea.

Photos: Rodney Marr













New Growers and Species Meetings

We are doing up the calendar for 2027 and looking for members who would like to volunteer their homes to hold a meeting. Here are the proposed dates:

16 January

20 February

20 March

17 April

19 June

21 August

16 October

20 November

You don't have to have a huge collection of orchids, if you are just starting your orchid journey, we are here to help you.

This is a learning experience for new members who will be supported by several more experienced members who regularly attend, and everyone can always learn something new.

It is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate re-potting and caring for your orchids. We also encourage people to bring along species orchids for show and tell. It is also a good time to mingle and get to know other members of the club.

The club will supply a number of orchids for the raffle.

The wonderful Bev Wilson will bring the urn, tea, coffee, sugar, paper cups and serviettes. The club will transfer $30 into your bank account so you can supply the milk and morning tea for approximately 20 people. It does not need to be a lavish affair, just some sandwiches or cake/biscuits/slice.

Members who attend are asked to pay $2, bring their own chair and coffee cup (if they wish). The committee has made an ongoing commitment to subsidise this activity for the benefit of all members who wish to attend.

Julie Menkens



Joyce celebrates centenary

Life Member Joyce Cunningham, who recently turned 100, was one of the original founders of NDOFS back in 1984. Joyce and her husband Clyde had retired to Cooroy and had been growing orchids for more than a decade when the idea arose. They were approached by two other local growers who were keen to start an orchid society.

"We held the meetings at night at the Uniting Church Hall," recalls Joyce. "Later some orchid growers from Tewantin wanted to have a closer place, so we moved to the Tinbeerwah hall and had the meetings on a Saturday afternoon."

Joyce had long experience growing things, first in the Australian Women's Land Army during World War II. After marrying Clyde they farmed, trying dairy, sugar cane and pineapples before working at the cheese factory in Kenilworth.

"Clyde used to often say he'd like to try growing orchids but he thought they'd be too difficult," says Joyce. Their daughter Ruth, then 16, decided to surprise her father on Father's Day.

"She worked in Brisbane and she bought him a big cymbidium and humped it all the way home on the train," says Joyce. "That was the start. We used to have to send over to Adelaide to buy orchids."

The couple built shadehouses and grew orchids in the trees of their Cooroy garden. After Clyde passed away, Joyce continued to grow and enter orchids in shows for many years.

Joyce lived independently in her Cooroy home until 2024 when she moved to Sundale at Palmwoods to be closer to her daughter Ruth Barrett (above). ***FK***