April 2013  Volume 53  Number 3

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Next General Meeting, Monday 8th April 2013
Venue: Red Hill Community Sports Centre
22 Fulcher Road, Red Hill

Affiliated Societies, Judging Roster for April

**John Oxley O.S.**  2nd Wednesday  @ 7.30pm  L. Lobley, L. Rapkins, J. Buckley, K. Webster.
**Logan & District**  3rd Tuesday  @ 7.45pm  D. Nitschinsk, J. Rutherford, D. Walker, N. Woolley
**Brisbane O.S.**  4th Monday  @ 7.45pm  E. Locke, L. Rapkins, A. Bergstrum, H. Edwards.
**Beaudesert O & F.S.**  3rd Wednesday  @ 7.30pm  A. Bergstrum, D. Cleal, Vacant.

Judges for Q.O.S. General Meeting on 8th April 2013
**B. Kable, E. Locke, K. Webster, D. Walker**

April Meeting Guest Speaker
Reg Illingworth
Power point presentation, to be decided

Visiting Societies in April
Logan & District Orchid Society
West Brisbane Orchid Society
QUEENSLAND ORCHID SOCIETY INC.
GENERAL MEETING

Red Hill Sports Club, 22 Fulcher Road, Red Hill

Minutes Monday 11th March 2013

The President, Reg Illingworth, declared the meeting open at 8.25 pm and welcomed the members and people from other Societies.

The President read out a note from Carmel Fox, thanking QOS for a Sympathy Card for the passing of Mr. Fred Kleimeyer. We will all miss Fred’s smiling face and his great store of knowledge.

The Judges at this meeting were – Les Vickers, Eric Locke, Lynda Rapkins, Adrian Bergstrum & John Rooks, congratulations and welcome to the three new Judges.

Some newly appointed AOC/QOS Judges were present, they were congratulated on becoming full Judges, Lynn Calligros, Kaye Buhse, David Buhse, Brent Nicoll and John Rooks.

Apologies: As per the attendance book.

Raffle: Reg announced details of the raffle for the evening and prompted members to obtain their tickets. Twelve raffle prizes were later presented.

Correspondence: Members were advised that the Committee had attended to all routine correspondence.

Financial Report: The Treasurer, Nick Woolley, presented the financial report for the months of February, 2013 and moved acceptance. Seconded by Kevin Horsey. These reports were on view on the notice table for Members to peruse.

Our Easter Weekend Show is only a short time away, on the 29, 30, 31st March with set-up on Thursday 28th March. The Auditorium at Mt. Coot-tha will be open from 12noon on Thurs 28th.

Benching tickets and Sales tickets were available at the meeting and will be available at the show set-up.

Anne Gibbard asked that people bring along any spare Orchid flowers to be used for the Floral Art.

Supper: Reg thanked Margaret Horsey and Myra Westphal for providing the excellent supper and working in the kitchen. Reg also thanked Barry Kable & John Rooks for selling Raffle tickets.

Guest Speaker: This evening, Mr. Harald Geppert, President of ANOS Kabi presented a Power Point Programme giving details of the ANOS Conference to be held at Strathpine the last full weekend in August, 2013. ANOS would welcome Day Registrants as well as complete Conference registrants. This event should be outstanding as much work has been put into the Conference already. The President, Reg thanked Harald for his commentary on the DVD.

Christene Dennis thanked QOS for their Class Donation for the ANOS Conference.

Plants Tabled – Gary Yong Gee provided the plant commentary for the night and Reg Illingworth assisted him. Thank you to Gary and Reg.

The Lucky Exhibitor was Gordon Grant.

The Plant of Special Interest selected by the judges was, Pholidato imbricata owned by A & A Gibbard. Details will appear in the Bulletin.

Reg thanked Ann Kable and Pam Price for attending to the benching for the night.

Closure: As there was no further business the President closed the meeting at approx. 10pm and wished all members and visitors a safe journey home.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 8th April at 8pm. At the Red Hill Community Centre, Red Hill.

Notes From the April Committee Meeting 2013

The April committee meeting will be held at 1pm on Friday the 5th April at the Presidents residence due to the committee needing time to access the current business, the Monday after the show was too stressful for all members, and the Treasurer would not have had time to finalize the bookwork.
SHOWS FOR APRIL 2013

Alstonville OS  3/6 April Autumn Show, Alstonville Plaza Shopping Centre
Eastern Districts OS  6/7 April, S/U 5th April, Bayside Uniting church Hall, 420 Wondall Rd, Manly West
City of Lismore OS  11/13 April, S/U 10th 4-6.30pm, Lismore Shop Centre, Carrington St. Lismore
Tweed District OS  11/13 April S/U 10th April, Jessie McMillian Hall, Wollumbin St. Murwillumbah
Pine Rivers OS  18/20 April, S/U 17th, Deception Bay Shopping Centre
Brisbane OS  20/21 April, Mt. Gravatt State School Hall, 1293 Logan Rd, Mt.Gravatt (Opposite Spotlight)
West Brisbane OS  20/21 April S/U 19th April, Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens
Ipswich OS  27/28 April, S/U 26th April, Silkstone State Primary School
Redlands OS  1 day show, 27th April at Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield St. Cleveland

SPECIAL INTEREST PLANT

MARCH 2013

Owners Name  Albert Gibbard
Plant Name  Pholidato imbricata
This species originates from Southern China to Australia and India to the Philippines. It likes rain and humidity.
Judges Comments  The plant had one spike with small flowers in apricot tones. Very well grown.
Owners Comments  I have owned the plant for 5 years, this is the first time it has flowered
Watering  Overhead watering once a week
Feeding Programme  Once a week it is fed with Horticultural Solutions HSO12.
Potting Medium  Potted in small bark and perlite.

INDIAN SCHOOL of BUSINESS - LESSON 1

Rajpat (father): I want you to marry a girl of my choice.  Son: "I will choose my own bride!!!"
Rajpat: "But the girl is Bill Gates's daughter."  Son: "Well, in that case...ok"
Bill Gates: "Ah, in that case...ok"
Finally Rajpat goes to see the president of the World Bank.
President: "But this young man is Bill Gates's son-in-law."
Rajpat: "But this young man is a vice-president of the World Bank."  President: "But I already have more vice-presidents than I need!"
Rajpat: "I have a young man to be recommended as a vice-president..."
President: "Ah, in that case... ok"
And that my friend, is how Indians do business.
**BENCHING RESULTS FOR MARCH 2013**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUDGES’ CHOICE - HYBRID:</th>
<th>ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Den. Memoria Stan Laffey x self * G. Grant</td>
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<td>3. Rlc. Glenn Maidment ‘Southern Cross’ K &amp; M Horsey</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUDGES’ CHOICE - SPECIES:</th>
<th>ONCIDIUM EQUITANT:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pholidato imbricata A &amp; A Gibbard</td>
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<td>2. Aer. lawrencei G Yong Gee</td>
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<td>3. Psygmorhich pusilla G Yong Gee</td>
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<tr>
<th>CATTLEYA EXHIBITION OVER 90mm</th>
<th>VANDACEOUS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Blc. Glenn Maidment “Southern Bell” K &amp; M Horsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Rlc. Mount Isa ‘Jean’ x Rlc. Glenn Maidment ‘Southern Cross’ K &amp; M Horsey</td>
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<td>3. C. Vicky Anderson G. Grant</td>
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<tr>
<th>CATTLEYA EXHIBITION UP TO 90mm</th>
<th>PHALAENOPSIS:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. C. Elusive Dream ‘Ruby Lip’ K &amp; M Horsey</td>
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<td>2. Ctna. Dal’s Strike N. Woolley</td>
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<tr>
<th>CATTLEYA NON-EXHIBITION:</th>
<th>SPECIES SYMPODIAL:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. B. Little Stars M Tierney</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. C. Caudebec x Ctt. Chocolate Drop B &amp; A Kable</td>
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<td>3. Ctt. Rest in Peace K &amp; M Horsey</td>
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<tr>
<th>DENDROBIUM</th>
<th>SPECIES OTHER:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Den. Memoria Stan Laffey x Mem. Stan Laffey G. Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Paph. greyi x Snowflake M Tierney</td>
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<td>3. Paph. Envy Green M Tierney</td>
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<tr>
<th>PAPHIOPELIDUM OTHER:</th>
<th>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paph. (greyi x Snowflake) M Tierney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Paph. Nerri-Gold M Tierney</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Paph. Envy Green M Tierney</td>
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<tr>
<th>ANY OTHER GENERA:</th>
<th>Orchids with an * asterix after the name indicates the plant has been registered. Please change your name tag.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Snsl. Neptune B &amp; L Nicoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Phrag. Hanna Popow B &amp; A Kable</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Phrag. Bald Eagle Creek B &amp; A Kable</td>
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<tr>
<th>ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE:</th>
<th>NEW INSECTICIDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Ons. Wildcat ‘Bloodshot’ R &amp; M Illingworth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Belara Sadie Loo x Mtmd. Christmas Eve T Jenkins</td>
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**NEW INSECTICIDE**

Over the years we see many agricultural chemicals released but few are suitable for use on ornamentals. Bayer have released a new insecticide in a tablet form. The interesting thing about these tablets is that they also contain a fertiliser! Many generics have been released. The original was Bayer CONFIDOR. Bayer have released this product under the name of INITIATOR®. The active constituent is 200g/Kg IMIDACLOPRID. What makes it so interesting is that the tablets contain a fertiliser:

- Nitrogen (N) as slow release 3.85%
- Nitrogen (N) as Ammonium nitrate 1.75%
- Total nitrogen 5.6%
- Phosphorus (P) as calcium phosphate 2.6%
- Phosphorus (P) as slow release 2.85
- Total Phosphorus 5.4%
- Potassium (K) Slow release 4.2%
- Magnesium (Mg) slow release 1.4%
- It is only available in a pack of 300 x 2.5g tablets which equals a 750g pack. At the moment it is only registered for use on roses, azaleas, palms, shrubs etc.
- It is a Group 4A insecticide.
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<tr>
<th>Judges Choice Hybrid</th>
<th>Judges Choice Species</th>
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</table>
| Plant: *Sngl. Neptune*  
Grower: B & L Nicoll | Plant: *Pholidato imbricata*  
Grower: A & A Gibbard |
| Plant: *Phal. (Ming-Hsing White Snow ‘Giant’ x Long Pride Snow Golden Heart)*  
Grower: G Grant | |
| Plant: *Ascda. Brighton’s Gold ‘Magnifica’*  
Grower: G Grant | |

| Plant: *B. Little Stars*  
Grower: M Tierney |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Plant: *B. L. Elusive Dream*  
‘Ruby Lip’  
Grower: K & M Horsey | Plant: *B. L. Glen Maidment*  
‘Southern Belle’  
Grower: K & M Horsey |
| Plant: *Den. Memoria Stan Laffey x Mem. Stan Laffey*  
Grower: G. Grant | Plant: *Ons. Wildcat ‘Bloodshot’*  
Grower: R & M Illingworth |
| Plant: *Zlm. Liz ‘Full Moon’*  
Grower: N. Woolley | |

| Plant: *Aer. lawrenciae*  
Grower: G Yong Gee | |
Part 2  the continuation of Part 3 to follow in future Bulletin

**KNOWING WHEN TO WATER CYCNOCHES**

**Spring** Do not water when new growth is just starting.

**Late Spring** Continue to withhold water when new growth and new roots are at this stage.

**Summer** Begin watering when the new growth and roots are 3-5 inches (7.5-12.5 cm) long.

**Autumn and Early Winter** Yellowing leaves indicate the first signs of dormancy. At this time, reduce watering by 50 percent.

**Dormancy** Do not water when a plant is dormant (leafless).

The natural habitat of *Cycnoches* will give the best results. Let’s look at how we can learn from nature and adapt our growing conditions to best suit the plants’ needs.

**Spring** *Cycnoches* begin their growth with the lengthening days in the spring. New growth emerges at the base of the prior year’s pseudobulb (now leafless). In nature, the development of the new growth occurs prior to the rainy season, so the plant does not need watering during its initial growth. After about a month, the new growth will put out new roots. Once these new roots have reached a length of 3-5 inches (7.5-12.5 cm) it is time to begin to water and fertilize. Let me emphasize this point: Wait to water until the new roots are 3-5 inches (7.5-12.5 cm) long. I find that waiting to water is not easy, because my natural instinct is to begin watering when I see new growth. However, I have learned through trial and error that withholding water during this early growth period will produce more roots, which is vital to the success of the plant in the coming year. *Cycnoches* roots deteriorate during dormancy, and in the following year they are not as effective at taking up moisture and nutrients. Thus, waiting to water until the new roots are 3-5 inches (7.5-12.5 cm) long assures that the new roots will develop to their full potential.

**Summer** With the new roots sufficiently developed and irrigation and fertilization begun, the plant enters a period of rapid growth and development. The new pseudobulbs grow and mature quickly; you can almost watch the plants grow. This is the rainy season in nature, when it is raining almost daily, and the plants have evolved to utilize constant moisture. In most cases, irrigation will be needed two or three times a week. A balanced full-strength fertilizer (1 teaspoon per gallon [5 g per 3.8 L]) is suggested. Bright light levels at or above those suggested for cattleyas will help to produce strong growth and flowering.

**Autumn** *Cycnoches* will have fully developed their pseudobulbs by now, and this is the time when the fruits of your labor will begin to pay off as the flowering season begins. In nature, with the onset of shortening days in autumn and nearing the end of the rainy season, the *Cycnoches* have completed the season’s growth, and the pseudobulbs are beginning to harden off in preparation for dormancy. Now is the time to reduce your irrigation to half of what you provided in summer and stop fertilizing. The general rule to follow is to reduce watering by half and stop fertilizing by mid-November in the Northern Hemisphere (mid-May in the Southern Hemisphere).

**Winter** This is when dormancy begins in nature. Early winter signals the end of the rains, and the plants respond by dropping their leaves and going dormant. The first signs of dormancy in your collection will be the yellowing leaf tips on the lower leaves. Shortly thereafter, the whole leaf will yellow and drop. This leaf abscission continues up the pseudobulb until all are gone. By late December, most leaves should have yellowed or fallen off and irrigation should be stopped. If not, dormancy should be encouraged by withholding water.

**A WORD ABOUT DORMANCY** The onset of dormancy is caused by factors such as the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures, a reduction of rain (irrigation) and finally no rain (no irrigation). In most of the United States dormancy will occur naturally. However, in warm/hot areas such as south Texas, south Florida, Hawaii, or in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be forced. I have found that stopping the watering in late December, regardless of the number of green leaves, will help to trigger dormancy. This process is important, because these plants need dormancy as an important part of their growth cycle. The sooner the plants go dormant, the sooner they will begin new growth in the spring. We want the new growth to begin as early as possible in the spring, to assure a long summer growing season and give the best flowering.

**UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF CYCNOCHES** It is a common occurrence for large *Cycnoches* plants with four or five mature pseudobulbs to have the older pseudobulbs shrivel up and die when the new growth starts. This can be alarming, but is in the nature of the plants. One way to keep from losing the backbulbs is to divide your plant as soon as it has four mature pseudobulbs by making two two-bulb divisions. This practice will help you enlarge your collection or have material to trade with your friends.

**Temperature** During active growth in the summer, when you are watering and fertilizing frequently, ideal day temperatures should be 75–95 F (24–35 C) with nights of 60–75 F (16–24 C). In winter, during the dry dormancy, the day temperatures should be 60–75 F (16–24 C), with night temperatures of 55–65 F (13–18 C).

**Humidity** *Cycnoches* growth will benefit from year-round humidity levels between 50 and 80 percent.

**Air Movement** As with many orchids, *Cycnoches* benefit from abundant air movement. If you are growing in a greenhouse, use air-circulating fans. Hanging the plants allows for maximum air movement.
[12] Cycochles (Cyc. warasecicilli × Morm. hookeri ‘Sunset Valley Orchids’).
**MULCH, MULCH, MULCH**

Ross McKinnon, Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at suburban Mt. Coot-tha, proposes the following reasons for using mulch:

If you are not already a confirmed mulcher, this should convince you conclusively that mulch:-

- Recycles wastes
- Improves soil condition by binding sands and opening up clays
- Conserves soil moisture and stops erosion
- Improves soil drainage and reduces soil compaction
- Keeps soil temperature cool during the day and warm at night
- Protects plants from frost injury
- Allows the soil to be worked earlier in the spring in cooler areas
- Saves time in cultivating and hoeing weeds. A well mulched garden is a “no weeds garden”
- Prevents surface crusting, allowing the soil to breath
- Prevents hardpans being created in the earth.
- Provides nutrients, gases and other growth substances including beneficial bacteria
- Prevents vitamin loss in plants
- Encourages more nutrients and water to be taken up by roots faster
- Improves crop yields. Stops plant wilting
- Stops nutrients being leached from the soil
- A high soil organic content lessens and eliminates nematode populations
- Deters harmful insects
- Reduces losses caused by soil-borne diseases
- Encourages roots to penetrate deeper in search of food in cool, moist soil conditions
- Causes more feeder roots to develop in cool, moist soil conditions
- Shades seedlings from sunlight, produces stronger plants
- Improves the flavour and keeping quality of food—organically grown food is the best food for your family to eat
- Mulch protects vegetable produce from mud splash from un-mulched soils
- Improves the “look” of the garden
- Absorbs and retains 70% more natural rainfall or sprinkler water than un-mulched soils
- 40% of all landfill—material taken to the dump—is “green garden waste”, lawn clippings, prunings, etc. Recycle “green” garden waste as mulch.

**MULCH, MULCH, MULCH FOR A WATERWISE RECYCLED - EASY CARE GARDEN**

**NEW PLANT FOOD**

A new plant food is ready to hit the market – Yes another one!! This one is called POWER PELLETS. These pellets are about the size of coarse perlite white in colour. The analysis is as follows: Nitrogen as organic 3.0%, Phosphorus as organic 1.0% Potassium as organic 2.0%. For best results the potting media must be kept moist to stimulate microbial activity and also to help release nutrients that are in the pellets. If used as a top dressing they work best if covered with mulch.

**RATES:** Pots I am trialing 1 tablespoon per 200ml pot. I will let you know how the plants respond. If successful MIRIAM ANN will have it for sale.

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The Queensland Orchid Society Inc. whose members contribute to this Bulletin, endeavor to assure the reliability of its contents. Any cultural advice provided is a guide only and may not suit individual growers. It is the responsibility of the individual to validate such advice before applying suggested methods. The Society welcomes potential members to come to the general meetings as our guests, & advise those wishing to join us that subscription fees are **$20.00 for a single, $25.00 for a family.** Other Orchid Societies interested in affiliating with us are advised that **Society Affiliation is $30.00.** Payable on the 1st January each year.