

The difference between 'slow release' and 'controlled release' fertilisers: Unlike many slow-release fertilisers, the release of fertiliser from the fertiliser that our society sells is **controlled by soil temperature** (not by soil moisture, as many gardeners think). When the weather is warm in the active growing seasons of spring, summer and early autumn, plants need more food and the prills release fertiliser more quickly (26⁰ C?)

In winter when air temperatures are lower, plants need less food because their growth rate is reduced, so less plant food is released from the prills.

The prills are made up of many thin layers of soy coating, all of which contain tiny fissures. Water is absorbed into the prills to dissolve the fertiliser inside, but cannot be released until the prills expand sufficiently to allow the fertiliser to escape through the tiny cracks.

When the soil is warm and plants are actively growing, the coating expands and fertiliser is released. When it's cold and these minute cracks close up, less fertiliser is released.

COMING EVENTS:

7 December: Barefoot bowls at Albert Bowls 10 – noon followed by Christmas party at Jim and Leanne's place.

15 February 2014: STOCQ AGM, Albert Park Bowls club, Gympie

29 March: Nambour OS autumn show U.C. hall Coolum (closed show)

5, 6 April: Boyne Tannum Orchid expo. Set up from 3PM on 4th April.

11, 12 April: Sunshine Coast Orchid Society show (Caloundra) Set up 10th.

3, 4 May 2014: Gympie garden Expo- our orchid show at The Pavilion.

June 2014: STOCQ meeting in Rockhampton.

31 August, 1 September Nambour Orchid Society Spring show, Nambour U.C. Hall, Coronation Drive.

1 – 6 July 2015: AOC conference and show, Darwin

11, 12 June 2016: Nambour OS hosts Diamond Festival of Orchids in Kawana Community Centre (STOCQ orchidfest)

2018: AOC conference and show will be held in Queensland. Mackay and District orchid Society is submitting an Expression of Interest to run this.



NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER of GYMPIE & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

www.gympieorchidsociety.com.au

P.O. Box 52 GYMPIE Q 4570

PRESIDENT: Jim Evans 54826962

SECRETARY/EDITOR: John Rees- telephone 54822574

e-mail: lavina.rees@bigpond.com

Meetings of this society are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 PM for 8 PM at St. Peter's Hall, Lady Mary Terrace, GYMPIE in January, February, April, June, September and November and at 2 PM on the last Saturday of the month at members' nurseries on other months



The October meeting of this society was held at Dudley and Beryl Ross's place. In the left image above Beryl was taken with a plant of *Brassavola perrinii* whilst Dudley was taken with a mixture of *Laeliinae* and *Dendrobiums*. Beryl's hard cane Dendrobiums were in great shape considering that they are coming out of winter. Her potting mix for them is predominantly small bark, with some coconut chunks and some perlite. She also uses a 12 month slow release fertiliser in all mixes.

The slow release fertiliser is temperature dependent and, in winter, it is too cold for fertiliser to be released. [see back page] She waters once per week in winter and probably three times per week in summer with a foliar fertiliser sprayed once per week.

In the last newsletter I acknowledged the work that Ted and Kay had done this year in setting up neighbouring shows. I indicated that they had set up all shows when, in fact, John and Kaye Green had taken responsibility for setting up our displays in Caloundra and here. They have shouldered this job for many years on a much wider scale than in 2013. As well as this, their orchids have won many firsts and champion ribbons in these displays enhancing our displays at the same time.

Ted and Kay set up the display at Hervey Bay, the last one for the year. Here are some images from it.



1. The display at Hervey bay.
2. This plant, *Bc. Glorious May* shown by Doug and Lynne Wilson won second in its class.
3. *Jkf. Apple Blossom* did the same. *Jkf.* = Jackfowlieara.

The show celebrated 30 years of the society and it sounds like it was a great event.

WHAT'S IN A NAME: *Jkf.* Apple Blossom above was previously *Iwanagara* Appleblossom. This was the cross between *Dialaelia* Snowflake and *Blc.* Orange Nuggett. All of these genera have been reclassified to *Caulaelia* Snowflake and *Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nuggett. This is happening all over the orchid world

Membership fees were set and due at the AGM of this society in September. **If you have not updated your membership by this month, you will no longer receive a newsletter.**

At the last meeting, the species show at Nambour was advertised. This would be a great time to see Indian Dendrobiums and some of the South American *Laeliinae*.

STOCQ AGM is being hosted in Gympie on 15th February 2014. Main features of this meeting are:

- AGM of the judging panel at which positions will be finalised.
- Morning tea
- AGM of the STOCQ.
- Normal meeting of STOCQ
- Meeting of Orchids Queensland (OQI). Hopefully this will be short.
- Guest speaker, Sue Jones will talk about care of Cymbidiums.
- Lunch will be served
- Visits to orchid houses, venues to be organised.

Some Indian Dendrobium hybrids are currently (time of writing) in flower.



The plant at left is *Dendrobium Mousmee*, which was originally purchased by Jess McClintock. It received a Certificate of Cultural Commendation (CCC) in 1974 and was the second award made by the STOCQ judging panel. It was not given a score or a clonal name but had 17 inflorescences. Ted's plant at left had over 30 out at once, which is an achievement for this orchid.



The lower image is of *Den. Gatton Sunray*. This hybrid is 75% *Den. pulchellum* and 25% *Den. chrysotoxum*. Whilst it has the colouring of the former, the latter has given it a waxy texture.