



By-Laws

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1. Meetings

- (a) General Meetings of the Society (known as the Cultural Meeting) will be held on the first Thursday of each month excepting December and January.
- (b) The Annual General Meeting of the society will be held on the first Thursday in March.
- (c) The Management Committee will meet at times and places as determined by the committee prior to, and as close as possible to, the General Meeting.

2. Dress Code

At all meetings and functions, and when representing the society, a minimum standard of dress will apply, namely:

- (a) Footwear must be always worn.
- (b) Clothing must be neat, clean and respectable.
- (c) Members will be encouraged to purchase and wear the official society shirt or blouse.

3. Code of Conduct

- (a) Members shall treat each other, guests, and visitors in a friendly, courteous and respectful manner.
- (b) Members shall respect the rights of other members to express their point of view without fear of personal attack.
- (c) Meetings and gatherings of the society shall be free of harassment and discrimination.
- (d) Conflicts of interest will be avoided.
- (e) Members are to participate in the activities of the society in a safe manner.
- (f) Members shall always act in the best interests of the society.

4. Membership

- (a) The classes of membership of the Society will consist of single membership, family membership and life membership.
- (b) Life members are entitled to the full rights and privileges of membership without the payment of the annual subscription fee; however, life members can elect to pay the annual subscription fee should they so wish.
- (c) Honorary membership shall be granted to such persons as the Management Committee shall, in its discretion, think fit to appoint. Members may submit to the Secretary names of persons suggested for appointment. Honorary members shall not be required to pay any joining or membership fee and shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting or hold any Management Committee position.

- (d) The amount of annual subscription for the various classes of membership for the ensuing 12 months shall be determined at the February monthly meeting and published in the February Newsletter.
- (e) All subscriptions shall become due on the first day of February each year and are payable by the first of April of the same year. Should the fee not be paid by that date the member(s) shall be deemed unfinancial and will no longer hold membership of the society. However, the Management Committee may use its discretion to reinstate any person ceasing to be a member under this provision should there be good reason to do so.
- (f) No member who is in arrears with their annual subscription shall be permitted to vote at any meeting.

5. Past President

Any member who has served a term as President of the society shall be entitled to use the title of Past President.

6. Official Publication

The official publication of the society will be the "Redcliffe and District Orchid Society Inc. Newsletter" which will be published at least monthly excepting December and January.

7. Affiliation

The Management Committee may approve affiliation with, or accept affiliation from, other orchid societies, councils, or bodies with similar objects. The Management Committee shall approve any fees associated with such affiliations.

8. Plant/Pot Numbers

Members will be issued with a unique 'Pot' number which will be used to identify the member and the member's orchids. The 'Pot' number will be issued by the Secretary and recorded in the Register of Members.

9. Ownership of Plants

All plants tabled for judging and competition at meetings or shows are required to have been in the possession of the member for a minimum period of six months prior to the event.

Members shall have no claim on the society, the Management Committee, or any individual member in respect of the loss, theft or damage to an orchid or other plant or property exhibited at any meeting or show.

10. Novice Growers

(a) A Novice Grower is a new member with limited growing experience who has never previously exhibited orchid plants at another society as an open grower or has won a championship prize at any orchid show.

(b) If any novice member of the society: -

- Exhibits an orchid at any Redcliffe and District orchid show which is awarded any championship or first prize in any section; or
- Achieves the greatest overall judge's points in the novice yearly competition within the society.

That member shall from that time no longer will be entitled the classification of novice grower. The member will not be entitled to exhibit as a novice at any show thereafter but may continue to bench plants as a novice at society meeting until the end of the calendar year.

(c) Notwithstanding the above a novice may elect at any time to exhibit plants in the open sections and from that time is no longer entitled to be classified as a novice.

11. Plant Judging

Judging of plants will be by Australian Orchid Council (AOC) accredited judges, or other persons appointed by the Management Committee. If for any reason no judges are present the President or the President's delegate may select members to carry out the judging duties. At each meeting a steward will accompany the judges to correctly record all decisions made.

(a) The categories to be judged are as determined by the Management Committee.

(b) The points to be allocated in each category are:

- 1st = 10 points
- 2nd = 5 points
- 3rd = 2 points

(c) A subsection may be created for each genus (e.g. cattleya, vanda, oncidium etc) plus native hybrids represented by four or more plants. Points are to be allocated to each genus in accordance with (b) above.

(d) The balance of plants not numerically forming an individual genus sub-section will be placed together to form a final sub-section of 'Any other genus' (including native hybrids).

(e) The judges are to also select the:

- Overall Judges Choice winner.
- Best Specimen Plant.
- Best novice grower's plant.

(f) Record of points awarded (as calculated above) to each member will be kept for each financial year and the member with the highest point score will be awarded annually.

12. Shows

- (a) The society shall conduct shows as determined from time to time by the Management Committee.
- (b) The implementation of shows will be managed by the Show Coordinator.
- (c) The rules governing shows and the show schedule will be as approved by the Management Committee and published prior to the show.
- (d) Competitive entry to shows conducted by the society shall be open only to financial members of the society.
- (e) Non-competitive displays by financial members, other societies, or any person or persons may be allowed at shows at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (f) Entry in all competitive shows or mini shows conducted by the society shall be in either the open or novice section.
- (g) Conditions governing the entry of blooms in competitive shows or displays shall be in accordance with the requirements contained in the schedule.

13. Emblem

The emblem of the society shall be a single flower of *Caladenia catenate*.

14. Delegates

Delegates appointed by the Management Committee to represent the society at events or functions are bound by the decision of members of the society.

15. Plant Sales

- a) Plant sales conditions for shows and other society events will be as published and approved by the Management Committee.
- b) Only financial members of the society, who have submitted one plant for judging will be eligible to lodge an unlimited number of plants for sale at shows or other society events.
- c) Plants must be clean, free from pests and diseases, virus free and well established. Fire ant regulations must be complied with.
- d) The Management Committee will have the right to refuse any plant for sale that doesn't meet the conditions of sale.
- e) Unnamed plants may not be offered for sale unless in flower.
- f) Neither the Society nor its agents shall accept responsibility for theft, destruction of plants, loss, or damage of any kind to plants submitted for sale.
- g) The society shall deduct a fee from the sale of individual plants sold at shows. The fee will be an amount determined by the Management Committee.
- h) Members can offer up to a maximum of 5 plants for sale at general meetings. Such plants will not attract a society sales fee and the society accepts no responsibility for the member's sale plants.

- i) Commercial vendors may be approved to sell at show events by the management committee on a commercial fee basis.