




My Journey Into The ...Orchid World...

By Brooke Felsch

Age 13

Woodburn Orchid Society


New South Wales



In late 2005 at the young age of just 5, I caught the infection for the love of orchids. This obsession began when close friends Bruce and Jocelyn of Woodburn orchid Society went on their dream trip to Hawaii for six months, they gave my Mother and I the honour to look after their orchids while they were gone. While they were away many flowers bloomed and that was when I fell in love, they were the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen.

In September 2010 then at the age of ten, I was requested to become a member at my local society in Woodburn, not long after I entered the annual Woodburn orchid show with the encouragement of Jocelyn, entering my Sydney rock orchid and two cymbidiums, that's when I gained my first junior champion.

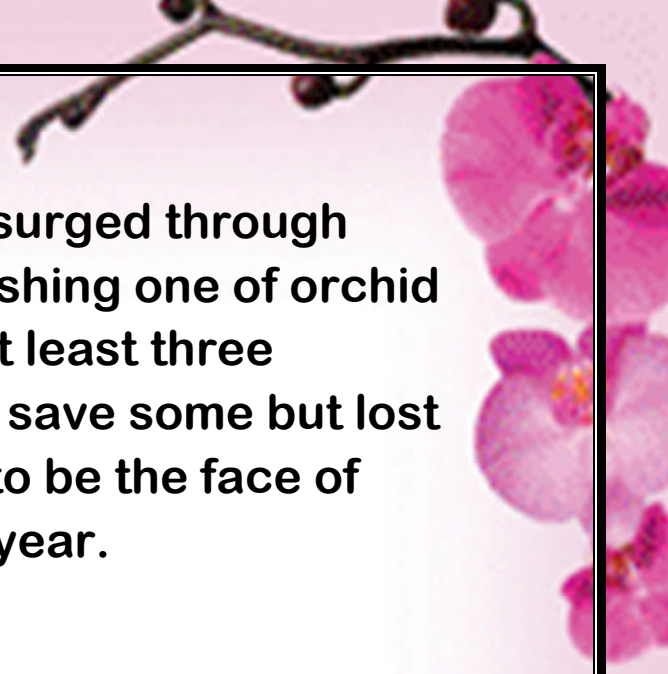
Three months after my first show my great great uncle Danny Bell of Maclean asked my family and myself to his house where he showed us the steps of propagation and also gave us more orchids to add to our then little collection and that's when our mother also caught the obsession. After that my mother also signed up as a member of the Woodburn orchid society and since then on it has become a family affair.



Not long after the visit to Danny's, Murray and Jean Shergold invited us to their Nursery 'Easy Orchids', to have a look around and ponder at these natural beauty's .let's just say Mum spent a bit of money that day!

In September 2011, I entered my second show along with my mother, at this show I was sick so I could not assist my mother as a runner for the judges so my elder brother Josh stepped up and took my place whilst I was at home recovering, on the final day of the show I was well enough to attend the presentation of the show to find out that Mum had received Novice Champion for the first time and I had also received Junior Champion for the second year running.

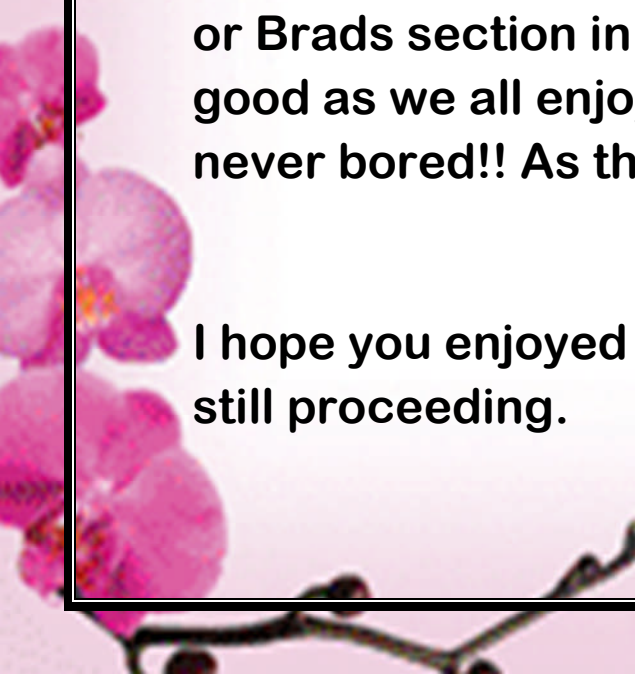
In 2012 it was quiet the year, with my elder brother Josh 16, also becoming a member of the society and entering his first show at Lismore's annual orchid show. My brother Josh and I cleaned up in all the category's Josh won all the associate sections he had entered and I won all the junior sections I had entered. What a great day we had to build our enthusiasm even a little more. With now having the competition of my elder brother Josh it was bitter sweet that I again gained my third junior champion as you can probably guess there was a lot of sibling rivalry occurring at this time.



Later that year a severe storm surged through Woodburn and Broadwater crushing one of orchid houses which was containing at least three hundred orchids we manage to save some but lost a fair few. And I also managed to be the face of Neutrog's face book page that year.

Now in 2013 with only a couple of months leading up to the show, my mother, brother and I are in the midst of cleaning and re-potting and fertilizing over 2000 plants that we have now accommodated for the best results and a little family niggling who will win this year's junior champion.

And it's looking like we may have another couple of young orchid growers soon as my two younger brothers Toby 11, and Brad 5, who are both now starting their own collections of orchids as Josh and I are potting our orchids there are always one or two that disappear and we will find later in Toby or Brads section in the orchid houses. But all is good as we all enjoy them so much that we are never bored!! As there is always something to do.



I hope you enjoyed my story; as yet the journey is still proceeding.