

# Location Details

The Orchid House is situated within Queens Park - an 11 hectare park located between Mackay city centre and the beach at East Mackay.

Established in 1870, these historic gardens are a cool green oasis of mature tropical trees and sweeping lawns. Take a relaxing walk along the avenue of Royal Palms or have a picnic under a shady fig tree.

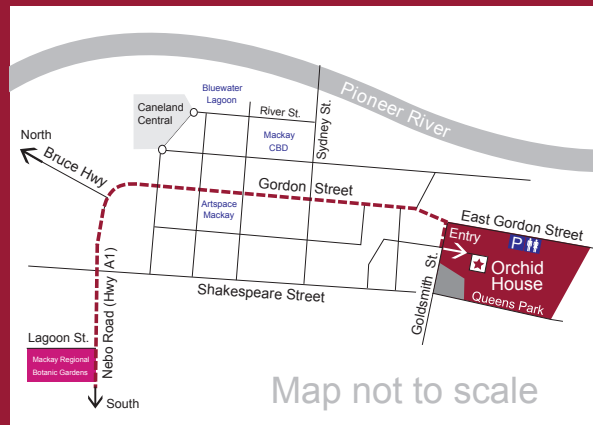
## Orchid House access

Travelling north, follow Nebo Road on to Gordon Street, turning right at Goldsmith Street. The main entrance to Queens Park is on the left.

## Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 - 11am and 2 - 3pm  
Sunday: 10am - 2pm  
Closed Saturdays and public holidays.

**Admission is free.**



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# Orchid House

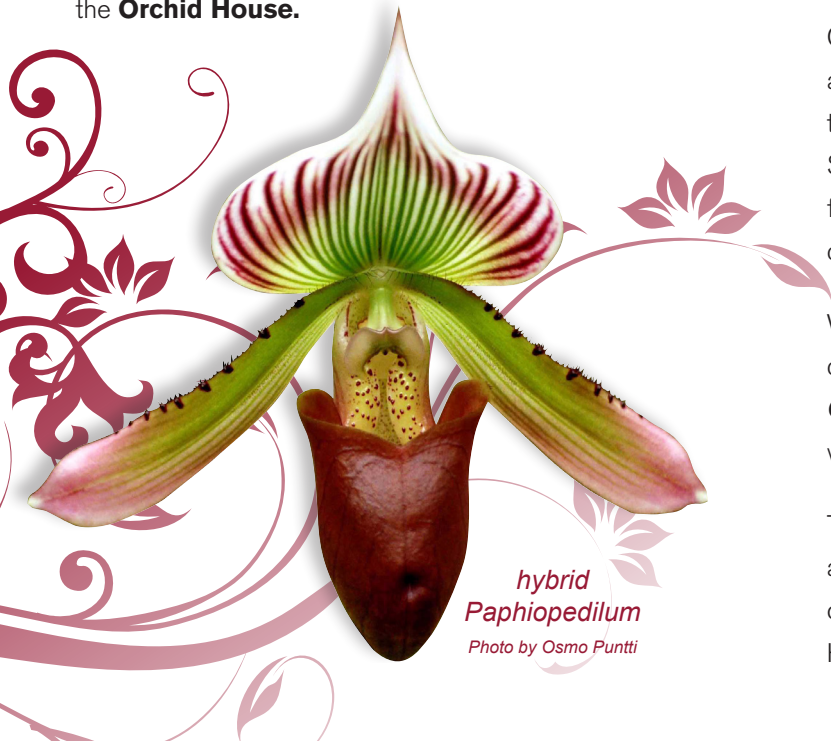
**Ken Burgess Display House**  
**Queens Park**



# About the Orchid House

With about 25,000 species the orchid family (Orchidaceae) is the largest group of flowering plants in the world. Over 3,000 new hybrids are added every year and it is no surprise that the numbers of orchid lovers are growing every day.

Mackay Regional Council's Queens Park features a large collection of beautiful orchids which are housed in the *Ken Burgess Display House*, commonly called the **Orchid House**.



hybrid  
*Paphiopedilum*  
Photo by Osmo Puntti

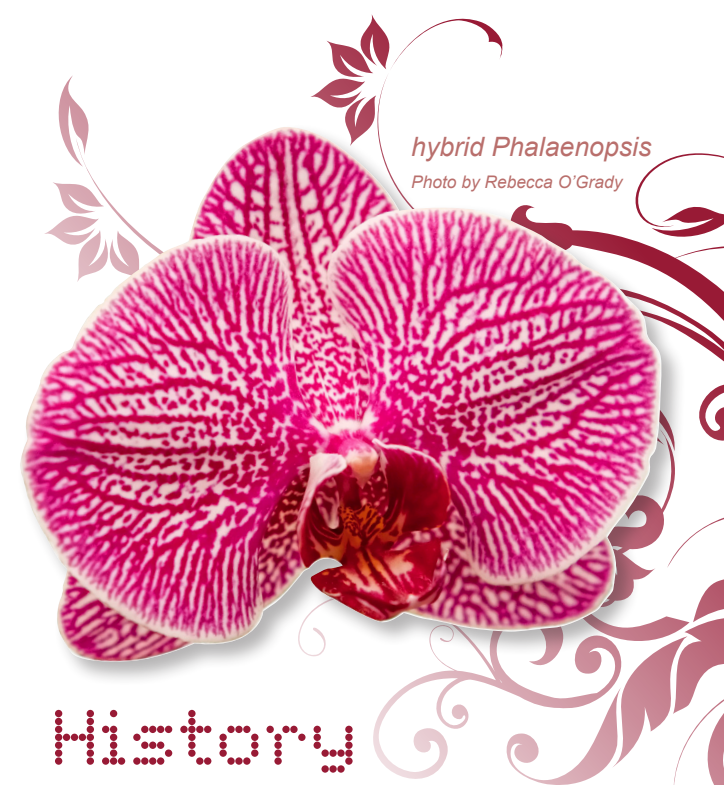


The collection contains some **terrestrial** (ground living) orchids but consists mainly of tropical **epiphytes** (tree living) and **lithophytes** (rock living) orchids. There are Australian native orchids as well as exotic orchids from around the world.

On display is a broad range of orchids in all shapes and sizes from the tiny *Dendrobium lichenastrum* to the large and rare *Bulbophyllum fletcherianum*. Some orchids have blooms that are gorgeously fragrant with scents like vanilla or chocolate and others that smell putrid.

With approximately 600 varieties, there are all sorts of flowers from popular 'corsage' type orchid like the *Cattleya*, to the 'upside down' orchid *Stanhopea*, which flower from the bottom of the plant.

The orchids are rotated between the Orchid House and the orchid nursery, which ensures a seasonally changing display. Some plants displayed in the Orchid House are over 75 years old.



hybrid *Phalaenopsis*  
Photo by Rebecca O'Grady

## History

The Orchid House was opened in 1988. The building is octagonal in design and covers about 270 square metres. It was named after a Queens Park Curator *Ken Burgess* who was a keen orchid enthusiast. He supplied plants from his private collection which, combined with council's own orchids have grown to become one of the finest collections of its kind in Australia.

