

Memoria Kenneth Alexander MacPherson Trophy

By Trevor and Pam Porteous

Did you know there's a trophy for Australasian orchids just for Queenslanders?

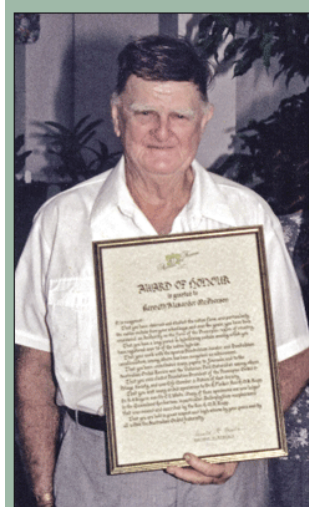
In the May 2020 Kalhari in his article on *Den*. Gloucester Sands, David James provided information on Kenneth Alexander MacPherson (known as Ken MacPherson) who was an orchid hybridist and nurseryman from Proserpine in North Queensland. He is best known for his work in hybridising *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata* orchids, crossing within this section but also making intersectional crosses with *D. bigibbum*. Additionally a couple of hybrids were made using *Latouria* orchids - one hybrid of interest in the intersectional group is *D. Jean Watson* (*D. macrophyllum* x *D. nindii*).

To give you some idea, here are the orchids listed in [Orchidwiz](#) as being produced by him in his work from 1963 to 1982. His hybrids have of course led to further and more complex hybrids today.

Den	Gloucester Sands	Den	Caerl Murray	Den	Grotesque
Den	Alex MacPherson	Den	Camp Island	Den	Heir of Gloucester
Den	Gloucester Charm	Den	Crown of Gold	Den	Ivy Nott
Den	Rosy Curls	Den	Desiree of Gloucester	Den	Jean Watson
Den	Prince of Gloucester	Den	Dryander Mountain	Den	Marj Purnell
Den	Whitsunday Island	Den	Fuzzy Wuzzy	Den	Mary Friederichs
Den	Anne MacPherson	Den	George Sax	Den	Minnie Hyden
Den	Crimson Beauty	Den	Georgina Ridge	Den	Molly Bond
Den	Gloucester Crimson	Den	Glenys King	Den	Peer of Gloucester
Den	Gloucester Gem	Den	Gloucester Dawn	Den	Phyllis Lettice
Den	Gloucester Peaks	Den	Gloucester Emblem	Den	Red Sunsets
Den	Maid of Gloucester	Den	Gloucester Gold Antelope	Den	Ron Merritt
Den	Phyllis Merritt	Den	Gloucester Petite	Den	Sidney Low
Den	William Hyden	Den	Gloucester Poodle	Den	Sinclair Bay
Den	Ann Newton	Den	Gloucester Princess	Den	Son of Gloucester
Den	Blue Gloucester	Den	Gloucester Skyline	Den	Tom Friederichs
Den	Brown Elf	Den	Gloucester Sunsets	Vvd	Marj Purnell

Of particular interest to Kabi members is that many of his *Dendrobium* hybrids are ANOS eligible and orchids such as *D. Gloucester Sands*, *D. Phyllis Merritt*, *D. Gloucester Peaks* and *D. Rosy Curls* are regularly seen on our benches.

In 1992 Ken's efforts were acknowledged by the Australian Orchid Foundation when he was the recipient of the Award of Honour for the reasons as listed below.



Award of Honour for 1992 granted to:

Kenneth Alexander McPherson

THE GRANTING OF THIS AWARD RECOGNISES THAT:-

You have observed the native flora, and particularly the native orchids from your school days, and over the years, you have been considered an authority on the flora of the Proserpine region.

You have a long period in hybridizing orchids, among which you have registered over 50 of the native hybrids.

Your work with the species *Dendrobium discolor* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, among others, has been recognized an achievement.

You have contributed many papers to Journals, and to the *Australian Orchid Review* and the *Victorian Field Naturalist* among others.

You were elected Foundation President of the Proserpine Orchid and Foliage Society, and now Life Member and Patron of that Society.

You sent many orchid specimens to Dr. H. Flecker, Rev. H.M.R. Rupp, Dr. R.S. Rogers, and Mr. C.T. White. Many of these specimens are now lodged in the Queensland Herbarium, in particular, *Bulbophyllum macphersonii* that was named and described by the Rev. H.M.R. Rupp.

You are held in great respect and high esteem by your peers, and by all within the Australian Orchid fraternity.

(Screen shot from the Australian Orchid Foundation website included with thanks for their permission to use it in this article.)

Following his passing in 1995, Ken’s daughter Mary Friederichs created a Memorial Award to honour him and his work with orchids. The Kenneth Alexander MacPherson Memorial Trophy is an annual trophy presented to the best Australasian native *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata* orchid species or hybrid of the calendar year. The award is only open to residents of Queensland and only to a section *Spatulata Dendrobium* species or a hybrid with parentage exclusively from this section which gained a quality award or won a first in an open orchid show (any award or show, not necessarily an ANOS award or show).



Each year, the ANOS Inc. Northern Regional Judging Panel (which is the local panel that judges at Kabi meetings and shows) votes for the best orchid from those nominated. The Judging Panel informs Kabi of the winning orchid. Kabi then bestows the award on the owner by presenting them with a small trophy and adding the details to the Memorial Trophy. Of interest is that the Perpetual Trophy and miniature trophies are made from timber taken from the property owned by Ken in Proserpine.








The Perpetual Trophy
(with thanks to David James
for providing the photo)

The nomination form with conditions can be found the Kabi website. The judging panel Registrar (David James) is able to provide this paperwork and offer assistance if needed.

Memoria Kenneth Alexander MacPherson Trophy winners

1998/1999	<i>Dendrobium discolor</i> 'Abergowrie'		Eric and Rosanna Beltrame	
2004/2005	<i>Dendrobium Troppo's Surprise</i> 'Hamish'	<i>D. Amin</i> =(<i>D. lasianthera</i> x <i>schulleri</i>) x <i>D. canaliculatum</i>	Len and David James	

2012	<i>Dendrobium</i> Alice's Mark Bron 'Magenta'	<i>D. gouldii</i> x <i>D. Juleen</i> High =(<i>D. johannis</i> x <i>lasianthera</i>)	Robert Reitano	
2013	<i>Dendrobium</i> Peter Petersen 'Magenta' HCC/ANOS 2013	<i>D. nindii</i> x <i>D. discolor</i>	Robert Reitano	
2016	<i>Dendrobium</i> Cherub x <i>tangerinum</i>	<i>D. Cherub</i> =(Peter Peterson x <i>carronii</i>) x <i>tangerinum</i>	Keith Gowlett	
2018	<i>Dendrobium</i> Cherub 'Fraser's Best' AM/NMQOC 2018	<i>D. Peter Peterson</i> (<i>discolor</i> x <i>nindii</i>) x <i>D.</i> <i>carronii</i>	Paul and Cecile Horgan	
2019	<i>Dendrobium</i> Touch of Gold 'Laura' HCC/AOC-NSW 2014	<i>D. gouldii</i> x <i>D. johannis</i>	Robert Reitano	

(Photos courtesy of Trevor Porteous and David James)

Unfortunately there are some years where there have been no nominations for this award but with further promotion we hope to encourage our members to nominate should they have a plant that meets the conditions.

ANOS Inc. also manages several other awards such as the **Ira Butler Trophy** (Australian Native Orchid Hybrid); **Bill Murdoch Trophy** (Australian species); **G. Hermon Slade Trophy** (Australasian Species and Australasian Hybrid). All applications for these awards are made on the one form which is available from the ANOS Inc. website, <https://anos.org.au> or you can ask our judging Registrar for assistance.