

MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

ISSUE 605 JULY 2021

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TREASURER
Position Vacant

COMMITTEE
Kathleen Nelson
Li Shan Fan
Mark Asbury
Ros Mathews
Penny Johnson
Cary Polis

**ALL
CORRESPONDENCE
TO – The Secretary,
MWOS Inc., 3 Kristine
Place, Mona Vale,
NSW 2103**

**NEXT MEMBER'S
MEETING**
Thursday 26th August
TBC at the Cromer
Community Centre.

**NEXT COMMITTEE
MEETING**
TBA August 2021 at
Angie's house at
7.30pm



www.orchidsociety.com.au

ANNUAL FEES ARE DUE 1ST JULY. You may pay at the meetings, by cheque or direct deposit into the bank account. Please leave your name as reference. BSB 062 155. Account number 00906498. Family \$18, Single \$15 and \$10 postage if you have your bulletin mailed to you.

CANCELLATIONS

MWOS 22nd July Members Meeting

MWOS 5,6,7 August Show at Glenrose

August National Orchid Extravaganza and Paphiopedilum Society Shows

September Southern Orchid Spectacular

President's Message

I hope everyone is staying well during lockdown. At least we have a hobby we can enjoy at home although I must confess that when it gets cold wet and windy I don't venture out the back too much. My native orchids are starting to produce spikes and flower, a sign that spring is coming. Let's hope that the lockdown finishes soon so we can get together again.

REGULATIONS FOR MEETING

Do not come to the meeting if you are feeling unwell.

Sign in on the form provided with your name, telephone number and time in and then note time as you go out. There will be a QR code but you will still need to sign in on the sheet provided for our records.

Observe social distancing – 1.5metres. Masks are recommended but not compulsory.

Sanitise your hands with your own sanitiser or the one provided.

At the end of the meeting wipe chairs with the sanitiser wipes provided and place chairs on the trolley.

Help out with wiping down the tables.

DIARY DATES 2021

August 26th Members Meeting
September 16,17,18 Spring Show @Glenrose
(still to be confirmed)
September 23 AGM and Member's Meeting
October 28 Member's Meeting
November 14 Auction
November 25 Member's Meeting
December 5 Christmas Party
December 16 Member's Meeting

BARK ORDER

The bark order has been put on hold for the time being due to Covid. I will keep you posted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – SALES TABLE

Members please note that the sales table will only operate before the meeting and then close. There will be no sales during the supper break

VALE

VAL HOULEY 7/1/32 – 9/7/2021

Val was laid to rest on 16th July next to her husband Bernie at the Field of Mars Cemetery.

Everyone in the orchid circles knew and loved Val and she was always on hand offering her services at the local orchid shows whether it was assisting quite a number of the vendors or the various orchid societies. She belonged to many other societies and was on our committee for many years always helping as much as she could. Unfortunately due to failing eyesight and poor health she was unable to attend meetings in the last few years.

Val was always smiling and happy and was the nicest person you would wish to meet and will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace.

Please do watch the funeral service the details of which were sent out last week.

By Cary Polis

Once again COVID restrictions mean that we are spending a lot more time at home. .

Personally I don't find this to be all bad although Jill might disagree having me in her hair much more than usual. It does mean that I have a good excuse to spend more time on my orchids. There are any amount of jobs that we

can do. What I have found lately is the proliferation of weeds growing in most of the pots and I think that a big reason for this has been the amount of rain we've had over the last couple of months. I have been engrossed in systematically going through my collection and weeding as well as I can trying to remove the whole weed without snapping it off. I've been finding a lot of ferns starting to appear and they can be hard to eliminate. Also if you find a pot that is infested with creeping oxalis it often means that the mix is turning sour and that you should consider repotting in fresh mix. There will be many plants coming into bloom right now and showing spike initiation and the extra time we have means that we can make the most of it by ensuring they are staked etc. even though we can't bench them anywhere right now. If a plant looks sick do whatever you think is necessary even if it means repotting. It might not be the ideal time of year but it still gives you the best chance of saving the plant. Because watering is reduced at this time of year plants can be a little more prone to scale and mealy bug infestations. Sometimes a plant will not look quite right and on closer inspection you may find that it may be in deep trouble with either of these. I don't do blanket spraying of all my plants but I always have a small spray bottle on hand to deal with this. If the scale is really bad I normally get the plant out of the pot and scrub the scale off with a toothbrush and soapy water, let it dry off and then spray it before repotting. Sadly this may not work if the plant is too far gone. Of course grooming plants is always good to do and this can be done at the same time as weeding, pest control etc. The other thing that can get out hand is the state of the bush/glasshouse. It's a great time to control weeds under benches, remove algae off hard surfaces and any other cleanup jobs that you can think of, like removing casualties from the growing area. So there is no excuse to be slack. Happy growing.

ALAN & MIRIAM NEWSLETTER

ALAN'S COLUMN FOR JUNE/JULY 2021

Well here we are again- Winter has come and the plants are getting cold! I am still trying to get more energy. Doctors visits etc is taking up a lot of my time but I now find I have no time to play with my plants! Hot summer, dry Autumn me in hospital a couple of times has played havoc with my plants. A couple of good friends have helped to get plants back in order. I had a look in one of my tunnels the other day and was surprised with the amount of mealy bug in the Cattleyas. Most of them were in the juvenile stages. Two sprays of ECO OIL® soon put them out of their misery! By now catts should be starting to send up new growth and the Bi-Foliolate should be in bloom. This Autumn the C Summer Stars have been great especially the ones that the snails did not eat!! And had plenty of water from the condensation off the roof of the tunnel. I have managed to do a little weeding with my good weeding friend. She is also a good water lady! Now is the last time that you can give you can give your plants their last nutrient before winter finally sets in. Just a little fish or animal mixture before winter. An application of ANTI-ROT® which you will buy as AGRIFSOS – 600® Don't forget to add some wetter with it at label rate, DO NOT USE WASHING UP DETERGENT!

TRACE ELEMENTS: Do your plants need a dose of trace elements? The answer is probably No. What are trace elements? These are minute parts of elements (plant food). The main ones that orchid growers need to know are as follows. BORON, COPPER, IRON, MANGANESE, MOLYBDENUM, ZINC. Sometimes elements are called majors and are usually in larger , e.g CAMPBELLS FERTILISERS. They are CALCIUM, MAGNESIUM . The main elements are NITROGEN, PHOSPHORUS and POTASSIUM. To us orchid growers the use of magnesium, calcium then followed by iron. Before adding traces ask someone who knows what he is doing. The usual trace that may give problems are iron, magnesium and calcium. If you are a plant breeder BORON is a must. Calcium and Magnesium work in together. You know the song , you cannot have one without the other. Remember if one element is low ALL will be out of wack! Most important, check p.H. every 6 to 8 weeks for good control. Usually your p.H. will drop over time. When using lime and dolomite to change pH on orchids use the following rate.

Dolomite 2 parts + 1 part lime by weight. Using 1 gram of each will raise the pH one half unit. This will give a 3:1 Calcium to Magnesium ratio. One gram of calcium hydroxide to 1 litre of mix will raise pH one unit.

How much Bark do I need?

Pot size : 500mm (20") 400mm (16") 300mm (12") 250mm (10") 200mm (8") 150mm (6")

75mm average tube size (=0.3l) Check pH after 6 weeks adjust if necessary.

What should I be doing now with my plants! When the spikes start to show, turn the plant so as the plants flowering spike is pointing to the north (sun). This means the flowers will point to the sun and the flowering raceme will be straight. Now is the time to get your flowering plants in order. All flowering plants will be pointing to the sun. Then give plants a handful of DYNAMIC LIFTER or a similar controlled release fertiliser. This will give the plants a boost and increase the size and quality of the blooms. Water weekly if needed a small of pot. Nitrate can increase raceme strength and colour. Use half a teaspoon in one litre of water every three weeks over winter. If the weather is very cold an application of magnesium sulphate, use one teaspoon in ten litres of water every two to three weeks. If you live in a frost area, don't forget the "ENVY"

NEW PRODUCTS.

Colin Andrews has sent the following list of chemicals that are available in small containers. All use the trade name of SUREFIRE. Fortune, Spectrum, Zues, Fivestar. Insectegone Termiticide. More info in next newsletter. Could be helpful for small hobby growers

Continuing Cultural Notes for June:

- 1) Cut the watering back
- 2) Water only on sunny mornings every one to two weeks intervals . Enough water to drench the pot.
- 3) Fertilise monthly with a high potassium fertiliser such as CAMPBELLS YELLOW, PETERS have a few good ones, ALAN'S MERRIFRT is also very good. Try and keep plants just moist in a sunny position. Watch for beetles use MUNN'S insecticide dust. General purpose use MAVRIK®

What does VIBREX CONTROL? At 30ppm the average orchid grower would use it to control Penicillium, Botrytis, Fusarium. For further info contact me on 024739 5141. Don't forget your application of AUXINONE® every four to six weeks 1 – 1.5ml per litre can be mixed with your favourite fertiliser.

NOTE we have plenty of DEBCO BARK IN STOCK

MERRI COTE & MERRI FERT also available .

Let us all hope that this virus business goes away quickly so as we can get on with enjoying growing our orchids and enjoy meetings =flowers and shows.

Well this is all for now, I am on the road to recovery. See you all soon.

GOOD GROWING

ALAN & MIRIAM MERRIMAN

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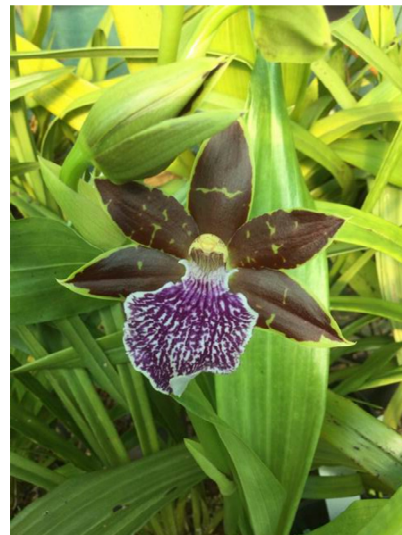
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Cym. Valley Den Hoogenband
X Zenation Debbie – Tinka



Cym Kimberley Splash 'Teepe'
-Tinka



Zygo.



Dendrochilum
stenophyllum - Cary



Dolichophylla - Cary



Encyclia polybulbon - Tinka