ISSUE 627 MAY 2023

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Ros Mathews
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Bill Saunderson
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NEXT MEMBER'S MEETING 25th May 2023 at the Cromer Community Centre @ 8pm.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – Thursday 1st June 2023 @ 7.30pm at Cary's house.

Email address for problems and cultural advice - whatstheproblem.mwos@gmail.com

MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

www.orchidsociety.com.au

President's Report:

Last month we were treated to an excellent meeting with beautiful plants benched and a fantastic talk given by Stephen Dunstan on Australian cymbidiums. Thanks once again to those who provided such a great supper and for helping Penny in the clean up etc. The sales table continues to function well but due to the huge demand on plants I would like to propose an initial limit of 2 plants per person to begin with so that the novices in particular have a chance to buy. We will implement this at this meeting. Once the rush is over there will be no limit. I am trying to do this in an informal manner so I would like some cooperation in this to avoid implementing a ballot system as some other societies have been forced to do. The April auction was a huge success, enhancing its reputation as the best around and I would like to thank those who helped on the day. Gary Hodder was to be our guest speaker this month but he will now do the June meeting, so we will be having a culture session instead. We will also be having a special giveaway this month, so if you don't come you will miss out. Don't forget that our June show is coming up and you should be getting plants ready for this. Enough from me. See you at the meeting.

SUPPER ROSTER Thank you to last month's volunteers and helpers for your contribution. This month our volunteers are **Tinka** and **Gabby Wassermeyer** to bring in something for the supper table and could you also please give Penny a hand to clear up afterwards.

This month we are holding an Australias Biggest Morning Tea to help raise funds for the Cancer Council. Please support this fundraiser for a worthy cause.

EARLY NOTICE. Annual membership fees are due in July but members can pay early if they wish. Family membership is $18 and single is $15. You may pay by direct debit to the Society's account but please leave your name as a reference. BSB 062 155 Account No. 00906498. Members who have recently joined the society in the last four months need not pay till next year. Postage is still $10 extra for those who use this service.

WINTER SHOW @ BELROSE SUPER CENTRE 16,17,18 JUNE Set up for this show will be on Thursday15th June at 4pm. Plants must be benched by 6pm when judging will take place. Please make sure your show plants are healthy and free from pests and nicely groomed. Sale plants should be treated the same.
There is a change in the way we bench our plants from now on. There will be a list of numbers which you will put your name against and this number will be placed on a colored dot which will be placed on the bottom of your pot. This is to identify the owner of the plant to avoid any mix up of ownership and status eg not a sale plant. Sale plants will have the usual price tag and name.
Help is needed for the three days of the show with sales, security and raffle.

GUEST SPEAKER: There will be no Guest Speaker this month so we will have a culture class and feel free to bring in any problem plants or cultural questions you may have.

SALES TABLE: The bark order has been completed and there are a few bags of three different sizes extra for anyone who did not order. These will be available through the sales table. The store is fully stocked at the moment.

DIARY DATES FOR 2023

25th May Member's Meeting.
26-28 May Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury Show Ground.
16-18 June Winter Show@Belrose Super Centre (now called HomeCo.)
22nd June Member's Meeting
24-25 June Mingara Orchid Fair
27th July Member's Meeting
4,5,6 August Orchids by the Sea Show @ Belrose Super Centre
18,19,20 August St. Ives Orchid Show
24th August Member's Meeting
9,10 September ANOS Spring Show at Forrestville
15,16,17 September Spring Show @ Belrose Super Centre
28th September AGM and Member's Meeting
26th October Member's Meeting
12th November Auction
23rd November Member's Meeting
3rd December Christmas Party
14th December Member's Meeting

As Cary stated in his report something special happening this meeting. We are having a giveaway this month so if you don't come you will miss out!

Hybrid of Evening – Cat. Porcia Cannizaro – grown by Gloria & Allan Cushway

Species of Evening – *Vanda brunnea* – grown by Bill Dobson

Specimen of Evening – *Dendrochilum latifolium* var *macranthum* grown by Angie Sulfaro

Novice of Evening – *Stenoglottis longifolia* – grown by Ros Mathews

MARCH BENCHING POINT SCORE 2023
OPEN DIVISION

1. Sarcochilus Hybrid	**0 Plant**
2. Australian Native Hybrid	**3 Plants**
1. Den. bigibbum x Topaz Dream	A. Sulfaro
2. Den. unknown	R. Blaxland
3. Den. Jonathans Glory 'Dark Joy'	M. Asbury
3. Australasian	**2 Plants**
1. Den. Devuel x rigidifolium	A. Sulfaro
2. Den. engae x Sand Clay	A. Sulfaro
4. Dockrillia Hybrid	**0 Plants**
5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm	**4 Plants**
1. Blc. Brunswick Gem 'Coral' AM/AOC	G&ACushway
2. Rsc. Adelaide Queen	G&ACushway
3. Rsc. Adelaide Queen	G&ACushway
6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm	**1 Plant**
1. Blc. Burdekin Delight 'Dream Time'	S. Torrisi
7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelt6	**6 Plants**
1. C. Portia Cannizaro	G&ACushway
2. Lc. Angel Heart 'Sumi'	G&ACushway
3. Ctna. Splash of Port 'Yellow Face'	A. Sulfaro
7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type Hybrid)	**5 Plants**
1. Cat. Elusive Dream 'Peace'	A.Sulfaro
2. Lc. Angel Heart 'Sumi'	G&ACushway
3. Lc. Angel Heart 'Sumi'	G&ACushway
8. Laeliinae Miniature	**0 Plants**
8A.Laeliinae Epidendrum	**5 Plants**
1. Epi. Volcano Trick	A. Sulfaro
2. Epi. Volcano Trick	A. Sulfaro
3. Epi. Magenta x Royale	C. Polis
9. Cymbidium Standard	**0 Plant**
10. Cymbidium Intermediate	**0 Plants**
11. Cymbidium Minature	**0 Plant**
12.Dendrobium	**0 Plants**
13. Oncidiinae 30mm and less	**2 Plants**
1. Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	S. Torrisi
2. Onc. Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'	A. Sulfaro
14. Oncidiiae 30mm - 60mm	**1 Plant**
1. Milt. Purple Queen	T. Agrela
15. Oncidiiae 60mm and above	**4 Plants**
1. Miltassia Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi'	R. Blaxland
2. Milt. Cast Gold x russeliana	R. Blaxland
3. Miltassia Sadie Loo x Miltonia Christmas Eve	I. Tanner
16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition	**0 Plan**
17. Paphiopedilum Novelty	**0 Plant**
18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition	**3 Plants**
1. Phal unknown	A. Sulfaro
2. Phal unknown	A. Sulfaro
3. Phal unknown	A. P. Johnson
19. Phalaenopsis Novelty	**2 Plants**
1. Phal. unkown	P. Johnson
2. Phal Unknown	A. Sulfaro
19A. Phalaenopsis Miniature	**0 Plants**
20. Vandaceous >51mm	**0 Plant**
21.Vandaceous/Ascocendas	**1 Plant**
1. Vasco Shigenor x Aslda. Fuch Adisaks Gold	A. Sulfaro
22. Other Orchid Hybrid	**10 Plants**
1. Bulbo. JM Guilloty	C. Polis
2. Zygo. Kiwi Choice 'Eileen'	S. Torrisi
3.Phrag. Perufloras kovarchii x delessandro	A. Sulfaro

SPECIES

38. Sarcochilus Species	**0 Plant**
39. Australian Epiphyte Species	**4 Plants**
1. Bulbophyllum baileyi	C. Polis
2. Den. bigibbum x superbum	C. Polis
3. Cadetia taylori	G. Cantor
40. Australasian Epiphyte Species	**1 Plant**
1. Den. erechifolium	C. Polis
41. Dockrillia	**1 Plant**
1. Dockrillia bowmanii	G. Cantor
42. Australasian Terrestial	**0 Plants**
43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)	**1 Plant**
1. Cat. Bowringiana v. lilacina	P. McDonough
44. Laeliinae Alliance	**7 Plants**
1, Prosthechea cochleata	T. Riddell
2. Brassavola venosa	P.McDonough
3. Epi. porpax	T. Riddell
45. Oncidiiae Alliance Species	**6 Plants**
1. Oncidium chrysomorphum	P.McDonough
2. Oncidium longipes	C. Polis
3. Onc. sp.	P.McDonough
46. Other Species 'The Americas'	**6 Plants**
1. Stanhopea anfracta	J. Portelli
2. Lycaste schilleriana	P.McDonough
3. Maxillari cuculata	C. Polis

47. Dendrobium Species	**4 Plants**
1. Den. gonzalesii	A. Sulfaro
2. Den. deari	M. Roberts
3. Den. secundum	R. Blaxland
48. Paphiopedilum Species	**1 Plant**
1. Paph. charleswirthii	G&A Cishway
49. Phalaenopsis Species	**5 Plants**
1. Phal. celebensis	C. Polis
2. Doritis pulcherium	A. Sulfaro
3. Phal. cornu-cervi 'Red'	C. Polis
50. Vandaceous species	**3 Plants**
1. Vanda brunnea	L&B Dobson
2. Vanda coerulea	C. Polis
3. Angreacum comorense	C. Polis
51. Dendrochilum Species	**6 Plants**
1. Ddc. arachnites	T. Riddell
2. Ddc. latifolium v macrantham	A. Sulfaro
3. Ddc. species	P.McDonough
52. Other Species 'Asia & Rest of World'	**12 Plants**
1. Coel. barbata	P. McDonugh
3. Cerastylis rubra	G. Cantor
3. Coel. fimbriata v. alba	C. Polis
53. Miniature max. 150mm	**3 Plants**
1. Ornithophora radicans	M. Asbury
2. Dockrillia rigida	C. Polis
3. Maxillaria vucata	C. Polis
54. Miniature Species min. 150mm	**1 Plant**
1. Ddc. simile	T. Agrela
55. First Flowering Species	**1 Plant**
1. Paph. primuliaum	T. Agrela
56. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid	**0 Plant**

NOVICE

23. Australasian Species	**1 Plant**
1. Dendrobium monophyllum	R. Mathews
24. Laeliinae	**0 Plant**
25. Oncidiiae	**2 Plants**
1. Coelogyne ovalis	N. Macri
2. Coelogyne fimbriatum 'Delightful'	S. Anderson
26. Any other Species of Americas	**5 Plants**
1. Restripis brachypus	R. Mathews
2. Zygocolax pimpala x Zygo. Adelaide Meadows	A. Evans
3. Zygo. mackayi	N. Macri
27. Species Rest of the World	**1 Plants**
1. Stenoglottis longifolia	R. Mathews
28. Australasian Hybrids	**0 Plants**
29. Cymbidium Standard	**0 Plants**
30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature	**0 Plant**
31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid	**0 Plant**
32. Dendrobium Hybrid	**0 Plant**
33. Laeliinae Hybrid	**4 Plants**
1. Laelia unknown	N. Macri
2. Epidendrum unknown	N. Macri
3. Lc. Maris song x L. anceps fma Petaloid	S. Anderson
34. Oncidiiae Allied Intergenerics Hybrid	**5 Plants**
1. Onc. Sharry Baby	K. Nelson
2. Odcdm. Big Mac Distinctive	A. Evans
3. Brassia Edvah Loo	A. Evans
35. Hybrid of Americas All Others	**0 Plants**
36. Other Orchid Hybrid	**1 Plants**
1. Dendrobium unknown	K. Nelson

Preparing your orchids for winter.

Autumn which is March to May in Australia is the time of the year when the temperature transitions from warm in summer to cold in winter. Summer is when the main growth of moist orchids occurs, while in the cold months of winter many orchids have little growth or become dormant.

Winter too is the time of the year when most fatalities to our orchid collection happen due to a variety of reasons – cold damage, disease and pests – and it is important to know how to prevent your plants from dying.

Warm-growing and/or cold-tolerant?

Firstly, it is important to know whether your orchids will tolerate the colder months of winter. This is often determined genetically by the regions of the world where they come from, whether they come from the tropics, temperate or cold regions of the world, and whether they are from the lowlands or high up on mountains.

Most orchids enjoy the warmth of spring, summer and early autumn but there are a few that enjoy the cool of autumn and winter and there are also many orchids that require the cool change in autumn to induce bud initiation for flowering in winter, for example, cymbidium; or in spring and early summer, for examples many types of slipper orchids and soft-cane dendrobium.

Some cool and cold-tolerant orchids like Cymbidium, Masdevallia, Miltoniopsis, Dracula, Dendrobium cuthbertsonii thrive during the winter months but these too, do not like extreme cold temperatures below 4 degrees and many will not survive frost.

Orchids mat be categorised as:

Cool-growing – examples are cymbidium, oncidium, miltonia, miltoniopsis, masdevallia, sophronitis, soft-cane dendrobium and some slipper orchids. The optimal temperatures for these orchids are 8 to 24 degrees C but can tolerate lower temperatures for brief periods, even to 0 degrees C but may not tolerate frost (when dew turns to ice at 0 degrees). Many Australian native orchids can tolerate extremes of temperature.

Intermediate- growing – between 12 to 28 degrees C - examples are cattleya, laelia, phalaenopsis, coelogyne, brassavola, epidendrum, angraecum, restrepia, the deciduous hard-cane dendrobium and some types of slipper orchids. Optimal temperatures between 12 to 28 degrees C but may tolerate lower or higher temperatures under certain conditions.

Warm-growing – between 15 to over 30 degrees C – examples like vanda, tropical hard-cane dendrobiums, aerides, grammatophyllum. Optimal temperatures above 18 degrees C and are very susceptible to cold.

Depending on what facilities you have for your orchids, grow only orchids that are suitable for those conditions.

Weather forecast
As the weather starts to cool, it is useful to know what the weather is like over the next few days, whether it is sunny, windy or rainy, so that we can plan on what to do with the orchids, for example, whether to water or not to water. It is advisable not to water on dull, gloomy days or when it is going to rain over the next few days.
A good weather forecast website to log onto is http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/
Because the weather pattern may vary greatly between different parts of Sydney, with this website, you can locate the suburb you live in on this website and have a more accurate prediction of the weather in your suburb.

Useful instruments:
Light meter – useful but not essential
Maximum-minimum thermometer
Hydrometer

As the days get shorter and colder as we approach winter, we take note of the following:

1. Light. As winter approaches, the length of daylight gets shorter and shorter, and the direction of the sun's rays comes at an angle. The light and heat intensity are much lower and there is less chance of the orchids getting burnt by the sun's rays.
Shading over the orchids can be removed gradually to give the orchids as much light and warmth as possible, so that the orchids can continue to photosynthesise and grow as long as possible.

2. Temperature. As winter approaches and the day and night temperatures continue to drop, it is time to protect your warm-growing orchids from the cold. If you don't have a greenhouse, bring your cold-sensitive orchids into your house and place them in front of a window where they can get indirect bright light. Do not put them too close to the window because it can get very cold next to the glass at night. The warmest part of the house is usually the living area where you spend most of the evening but do not have any heating appliances too close to the orchids because of the drying effect they create.
If you have an enclosed orchid house that is not heated (a "cold" glasshouse), place your most cold-sensitive orchids high up in your orchid house where the temperature is highest and the least cold-sensitive ones at the bottom. There can be a difference of 3 to 4 degrees C between the top and the bottom. Also, the ones at the top will get more sunlight and therefore more warmth from the sun.
If your orchid house is heated (a "heated" glasshouse, where you place your orchids is not so important. Even when the orchid house is heated, there is a difference in temperature between the top and bottom of the structure. To even out the temperature, place a fan with a slight tilt upwards. The air from the fan will circulate the warm air at the top of the orchid house to produce a more uniform temperature throughout the orchid house.
You can retain heat in your orchid house by increasing insulation (bubble wrap, plastic sheets, polystyrene) along the sides of the orchid house or installing reflective thermal screens which reflect heat back over the orchids.
Heat mats and bottom heat are useful for keeping the orchid roots warm and the warm air rising from below the orchids helps to circulate the air between plants.

3. Ventilation. Adequate ventilation and air movement is extremely important to prevent bacterial and fungal diseases that may kill your orchid.
Plants, like animals, respire and emit carbon dioxide through the day and night, but during the day, they can use the carbon dioxide for photosynthesis by the green pigment chlorophyll in their leaves. At night, there is no photosynthesis and carbon dioxide levels build up. There is also transpiration which is the exhalation of water vapour through the stomata or pores in the leaves.
Short periods of high carbon dioxide levels and humidity are not dangerous to your orchids, but prolong periods encourages the germination of fungal and bacterial spores that will attack and kill your orchids.
During the day, around 10.00am, when the temperature of your enclosed orchid house reaches a temperature that does not damage your orchids, about 12 to 14 degrees C, open the windows of your orchid house so that the stale air in the orchid house can be replaced by fresh air from outside.
To save on energy costs (electricity, gas, diesel, etc.) to heat your heated orchid house, close all the windows and doors at about 1.00pm to trap the warm air heated by the sun. The warm air will slowly cool during the night until the minimum temperature you set for your heater starts off the heater.
Warm air rises to the top of the greenhouse and is wasted. Install a fan, directing it slightly upwards, so that the air flow from the fan forces the warm air at

the top of the greenhouse to circulate evenly around the greenhouse and between the plants, reducing stagnant pockets of stale moist air.
Avoid placing your orchid too close to the sides of your orchid house. The air immediately next to the sides of the enclosure can be very cold and your plant may suffer from cold damage.

4. Watering and fertilising. This is probably the most important aspect of keeping your orchids alive during winter. During the cooler months, plant grow decreases and it appears that the plant is completely inactive, but this is not so. While nothing appears to be happening to your orchid plant, your orchid is busy organising the new growths and flowers for the following spring and summer, very much like animals getting ready for giving birth to offspring in spring.
For this reason, I continue to fertilise my orchids during winter. Many orchid growers will say that it is not necessary to fertilise the orchids during winter. Opinions can differ.
I fertilise with every watering a half-strength fertiliser solution throughout the year, but the frequency of watering is much less during winter and is dependent on the requirements of the orchids.
I grow many of my orchids (except terrestrial ones) in clear pots through which I can see the condition of the roots as well as the growing medium. When the roots are greenish-grey or dark grey, and the growing medium (I prefer a bark medium) is dark in colour, there is no necessity to water.
If a plant appears a bit droopy, I will check the condition of the root system and potting medium and if these appear dry, I water straightaway, and the plant should pep up in an hour or two.
During the colder months, use a fertiliser low in urea, for example, Peters Excel Cal Mag Finisher which has only 2% urea. This is because urea has must be converted to ammonium nitrate for absorption by the orchids and the microbes in the environment, the beneficial bacteria and fungi, are not active when it is cold, below 6 degrees C, to convert urea. This is the reason why we keep our food from going bad by putting them in the fridge where the temperature is around 4 degrees, to stop bacteria and fungi from proliferating in the food.
Similarly, avoid using organic fertilisers in winter. If the organic fertilizer cannot be broken down for use by the orchid, it stays in the potting medium and makes the potting medium wet and soggy.
Most orchids are killed during winter because of over-watering. Orchids sitting in a wet medium are more susceptible to the cold as water is a good conductor of heat and heat is removed from the plant, just like we feel cold when we are wet. On the other hand, air is a bad conductor of heat, and when there is a lot of air spaces between the potting medium, the roots are protected from the cold, just like us keeping ourselves warm under a parka jacket or doona quilt.

5. Humidity. During the winter months, humidity levels drop because cold air holds less moisture than warm air. Heaters close to the plants decrease the humidity further.
Increase the humidity by misting the plants and surroundings during the earlier part of the day and allowing them to dry out later in the day.
You can sit your plants over wet pads or pebbles in trays or use a portable humidifier to humidify the surrounding air.

6. Pests. Watch out for pests, especially rats and mice seeking warmth in your orchid house. They eat the fleshy bulbs of orchids like Cymbidiums, flowers, buds and even chew the stems just to be a nuisance. They can spread viral and other infections by damaging one plant after another. Use rodent bait.
Written by Dr. Seong Tay.

Dear What's the Problem,
An original early trip in Sept to Western Australia has been post-poned to late Oct to Nov. Is it still worth trying to see wild orchids/flowers North of Perth, or should I focus on mapping out a southern loop this late in the year to Ravensthorpe, west along the southern coast, then back north to Perth? Or should I wait til Sept 2024?
I'd love to hear from any MWOS members who've done this southern loop. Please email your response to Whatstheproblem.MWOS@gmail.com

Thanks,
Longing for Western Orchids