

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



PRESIDENT
Andrew Fernandez
0438210033

TREASURER
Alf Magnano
7 Tait Court
Bundoora 3083
Ph 94673127

BULLETIN
APRIL 2017

SECRETARY
George Dimech
77 Carrington Blvd
Thomastown 3074
Ph. 9465 3305

MEMBERSHIP
Lenore Shepherd
27 Pinewood Drive
Thomastown 3074
Ph. 94661502

EDITOR
Alex Shepherd
27 pinewood Drive
Thomastown 3074
Ph. 9466 1502

Warringal Orchid Society Inc.

Reg no. A10618
Post Approved PP 100018426

If not claimed within 7 days return to
77 Carrington Blvd. Thomastown 3074

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**Postage Paid
AUSTRALIA**

The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 3RD of MAY, at the Bellfield Community Hall. The Warringal Orchid Society meets every third Wednesday of the Month at the Senior Citizens Hall in Hawdon Street, Heidelberg.

The next meeting of the society will be on Wednesday, 19TH of APRIL. The hall will be open from 7.00pm, and you are welcome to bench plants for judging and to socialise with other members. A sales table operates its pots and other orchid accessories available, and members are able to submit up to 6 orchids for sale for a small commission. See the sales table for details. Please be seated on time for the meeting to commence at 8.00pm.

This month we will have George Dimech and Andrew Fernandez give us an insight into the best 10 orchids we can grow without too much trouble and are quite beautiful and guess what, they are not cymbidiums. So come along and support your club and speakers.

We still have some of our Sarc seedlings left, so if you want to have an extra one, see Lenore and she will sell you one. Also bring along bring along the ones you already have and show us how they are going. You may be surprised in the way they going compared to others.

JUDGING RESULTS FOR MARCH

OPEN

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st Gold Dollar x Drurya J.Crawford

Oncidium

1st Kaiulani G&C.Dimech

2nd Charlesworth G&C.Dimech

Any Other Hybrid

1st Prag Dick Clements J.Crawford

2nd Prop Mathina G&C.Dimech

3rd Bulb Jersey G&C.Dimech

Species Any Genera

1st C. Pygmaea D.Wain

2nd B.Tingabarinun A.Fernandez

3rd C.Loddigesii J.Crawford

Australian Native Hybrid

1st D.Superdiens K.Lam

2nd D.Tyabb A.Christou

3rd D.Colonial Maid Verity G&C.Dimech

Cattleya

1st Hawaiiin Jewel E&D.Baxter

Novelty Cattleya

1st Slc Angel Flair D.Wain

2nd Slc Joanne Seduction J.Crawford

3rd C.Pink Blush S.Giarrusso

Cattleya Cluster

1st Bactia Great Wax D.Wain

Masdevallia Species

1st Civilis J.Khoo

Masdevallia Hybrid

1st Bob Hoffman G&C.Dimech

Best In Section

C.Pygmaea D.Wain

INTERMEDIATE

Novelty Cattleya

1st Slc Unknown L&A.Shepherd

2nd Lc Purple Rosie L&A.Shepherd

Lycaste

1st Caroline Mellon Ball A.Magnano

Species Any Genera

1st Onc lacurvum J.Giuario

2nd Lyc Trifoliata A.Magnano

3rd Onc Incurvum M.Volodina

Best In Section

Onc lacurvum J.Giuario

Advanced Novice

Cattleya

1st Slc Unknown J.Jenkins

2nd Lc Rudak M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly

3rd Laelia Anceps J.Jenkins

Masdevallia Hybrid

1st Pixie Leopard x Angulata F.Penman

Species Any Genera

1st Prostechee Cochleate Z.Giavris

Phalaenopsis

1st Ph Unknown M.Bisri &B.O'Reilly

Best In Section

Prostechee Cocheate Z.Giavris

NOVICE

Species Any Genera

1st D.Undulatum K.Ridgway

Best In Section

D.Undulatum K.Ridgway

Seedlings Flowering First Time

1ST Chilochysta Pusilla B.Duncan

PROGRESSIVE POINTS TOTAL 2017

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
J.Crawford	28	L&A.Shepherd	7
G&C.Dimech	26	A.Magnano	7
D.Wain	12	M.Volodina	6
J&L.Karownik	9	S.Grzinic	4
A.Fernandez	9	C.Krolikowski	3
S.Giarrusso	8	ADVANCED NOVICE	
J.Khoo	8	M.Bisri & B.O'Reily	23
B.Duncan	7	F.Verlann	8
A.Christou	6	J.Jenkins	6
K.Lam	5	F.Penman	5
W.Garner	5	Z.Giavris	4
E&D.Baxter	4	NOVICE	
M.Borsteyl	2	K.Ridgway	4

Cultural Notes

PERIOD: APR. - MAY  AREA: MELBOURNE

	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE EPIPHYTES	As the weather cools the water frequency can decrease through this period.	With a decrease in watering, the liquid feeding can also be decreased.	Keep an eye out for the odd, late caterpillar, slugs & snails are always worth watching for.	Keep the plants in as bright a light as possible in the later stages of this period.
CATTLEYA Alliance	Some plants will be just beginning growth, these can be kept moister than those which are entering their "dormant" period.	Liquid feeding is best linked to watering, and again plants in active growth can be fed more than those not growing.	Watch for snails & slugs. If small snails and slugs are present a liquid snail killer might be used to good effect.	Many of the autumn flowering types will have finished blooming and are best kept separate from the spring flowering types in active growth.
CYMBIDIUM	We will be watering less in this period as spikes emerge. Ensure waterings are thorough.	The feeding will be able to be decreased in proportion to the watering.	Plants with spikes ought to have snail bait placed around them,	Some early <i>Cym.</i> Peter Pan type hybrids will be in bloom. With early standards the spikes will be stretching out. If training them do so on a warm day, at the warmest part of the day.
MILTONIA & ODONTOGLOSSUM Alliance	These plants need to be kept moist at all times.	A very weak, well balanced fertilizer in proportion to watering.	Watch for snails and mealy bug, particularly on spikes.	
PAPHIOPEDILUM	These need to be kept moist at all times, as they have no bulbs to store water.	A weak, balanced fertilizer at each second or third watering is sufficient. These are not gross feeders.	Watch for mealy bug, particularly on flower stems.	Keep flowers dry to prolong life.
GENERAL	The day length is decreasing during this period, so we can decrease the watering and feeding too. Keep plant houses tidy by removing fallen and dead leaves etc. Also look to reducing the amount of shade on the glasshouses. Keep any plants that should be growing in warmer conditions than they are in, a little drier.			

An INTRODUCTION to INTERGENERICS by Brian Milligan

The orchid kingdom differs from other plant families in that many orchid genera are able to breed with other orchid genera to form what are known as intergeneric hybrids.

Cattleya was one of the first orchid genera to be recognised as being capable of forming hybrids with other genera, in particular with Laelia, to give rise to the genus Laeliocattleya (abbreviated Lc. and first described by R.A. Rolfe in 1888). Hybrids with many other related genera, such as Sophronitis, Schomburgkia, Brassavola (Rhyncholaelia), Epidendrum, Leptotes, Diacrium and Broughtonia, have since been made. Collectively they are described in the OSCOV Judging Handbook as the Cattleya Alliance. A few of the more common hybrids in this alliance are Sophrolaeliocattleya (abbreviated Sic), Brassolaeliocattleya (Blc), Sophrocattleya (Sc.), Cattleytonia (Ctna.) and Potinara (Pot.). Occasionally members bench sophrolaelias in the Cattleya Alliance, but Sophrolaelia contains no Cattleya in its breeding, and therefore sophrolaelias should be benched in the class for Any Other Hybrid.

The genus Zygopetalum is also capable of forming intergeneric hybrids with a number of related genera, such as Pabstia (formerly known as Colax), Promenaea, Neogardneria and Aganisia. These are judged together by the OSCOV Panel under the umbrella of the Zygopetalum Alliance. Among the more common are ZygoColax (Zcx., Zygopetalum x Colax), Propetalum (Pptm., Promenaea x Zygopetalum), Zygoneria (Zygopetalum x Neogardneria) and Hamelwellsara (Hmwsa., Aganisia x Batemannia x Otostylis x ZygoSepalum x Zygopetalum).

The Masdevallia Alliance includes hybrids between Masdevallia, Dracula and related genera such as Porroglossum. Dracuvallia (Drvla., Dracula x Masdevallia) is the most common.

Many other orchid genera are capable of forming intergeneric hybrids, although in some instances, probably because of genetic disparities, the seed is not particularly fertile, and only a few seedlings germinate. Where only a few plants result, they are sometimes mass-produced for sale by subsequent tissue culture. Ray Clement, in a recent article in the Australian Orchid Review, described a number of Australian intergeneric hybrids that he and others had mericloned for sale. The list included Sartylis Bravehart (Sarcochilus Fitzhart x Rhynchostylis gigantea), Sarconopsis Rita Anderson (Sarcochilus Lois x Phalaenopsis rosenstromii) and Porterara Blue Boy (Sartylis Blue Knob x Vanda coerulea). Strictly speaking, only the second of these three hybrids is an Australian native hybrid, because (according to OSCOV rules) both parents must be Australian natives for the hybrid between them to be judged as such.

THE FIRST PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRID by Brian Milligan

John Dominy, foreman of the Veitch Royal Exotic Nursery at Exeter (Devonshire), is acknowledged as the first to create and raise orchid hybrids successfully. A hybrid calanthe and a cattleya were the first to flower (in 1856). He raised a further 23 orchid hybrids before retiring in 1880. Two of these hybrids were paphiopedilums, then called cypripediums. Paphiopedilum Harrisianum (P. villosum x P. barbatum) first flowered in 1869, while Paphiopedilum Vexillarium (P. barbatum x P. fairieanum) flowered the following year.

Paphiopedilum Harrisianum is still frequently seen on our show benches today, although the plants are probably not from the original crossing. It is named after Dr. Harris, a friend of John Dominy, in acknowledgement of the advice that the surgeon gave him on the column structure of the orchid flower and the necessity to transfer pollen to the stigmatic cavity in order to bring about fertilisation. The most common cultivar seen is the tetraploid Paphiopedilum Harrisianum 'G.S. Ball', which has larger, deeper purple and glossier flowers than other cultivars. It is sometimes also referred to as 'Ball's variety'. The cultivar 'superbum' arose from Dominy's original crossing but Ball's variety must be of more recent origin, because it is not mentioned in any of my books published before the second World War.

John Seden succeeded John Dominy as hybridiser at Veitch's Exeter nursery on Dominy's retirement. Over a thirty-year period (1875-1905) Seden created more than 500 orchid hybrids, including 150 paphiopedilums. A Mr. Cross, gardener to Lady Ashburton of Hampshire, was another early hybridiser of paphiopedilums. His first two were P. Ashburtoniae (P. barbatum x P. insigne) and P. Crossianum (P. insigne x P. venustum); the latter still occasionally appears on the show bench.

With Thanks to the Author and to OSCOV

ONCIDIUMS AND THEIR CULTIVATION by Dieter Weise

Oncidium is a very diverse genus with over 400 species that grow at altitudes between sea level and 4000 m. In this article I will deal with the varicosum- and crispum-type hybrids. A feature of these oncidiums is the large, fully brown or yellow labellum. These easy-to-grow orchids are often called Dancing Ladies. Most hybrids are the result of crossing *O. varicosum*, *O. crispum*, *O. forbesii*, *O. gardneri*, *O. flexuosum*, *O. marshallianum* and *O. enderianum*. These orchids originate in the Organ Mountains of Brazil at altitudes between 1000 m and 1500 m, and they are therefore well suited to cultivation in cool climates. When well grown they produce spectacular floral displays.

Housing. The above oncidiums may be grown in a cold glasshouse or in a frost-free shadehouse that has a solid roof to provide shelter from winter rain. However a glasshouse heated to a minimum temperature of 8°C will cause new growths to initiate earlier and will result in larger pseudobulbs and better flowerings. Oncidium love plenty of fresh air, which can be provided by opening the door and roof vents and using an oscillating fan for good air circulation. The level of light should be about the same as that provided for cymbidiums. At the beginning of October I put a layer of shadecloth (shade factor 50%) over the white fibreglass roof and remove it at the end of April.

Potting. Oncidium can be grown either in pots or by tying them to tree fern slabs or wooden logs. Another way is to grow them in wooden baskets packed with chunks of tree fern. With pot culture it is important to choose pots with good drainage. I usually punch extra drainage holes in the sides of my pots to aid aeration of the root system.

Oncidium should be repotted when the new growths are developing new roots, which usually happens in springtime. If possible, the newly developing growth should be positioned in the centre of the pot, so that the plant has room to grow for two years before it needs repotting again. Good quality, chunky bark should be used. A stake should be inserted to steady the plant, because a wobbly plant will never develop a good root system.

I prefer to use either mounts or wooden baskets and mount my plants on pieces of tree fern, cork, English oak (*Quercus*) or paperbark (*Melaleuca*). Twistie ties or fishing line can be used to tie the plant to the middle of the mount, which should be about 500 mm long to allow plenty of room for the roots to ramble. When wooden baskets packed with chunks of tree fern are used, the roots rapidly penetrate the tree fern. The mounts or baskets can be hung from the roof using hooks or wire. Under favourable conditions oncidium develop extensive root systems, which will stay in good condition for many years if mounts or baskets are used, although this is not always the case with pot culture. The only disadvantage with mounted plants is that they need watering more frequently than do those in pots.

Watering and Fertilising. Varicosum-type oncidium are seasonal growers, subject in nature to wet, warm summers and dry, cool winters; they should be treated the same way under cultivation. In the case of mounted plants I begin watering regularly when the plant begins to develop new growths in September or October. It is important to water them thoroughly, rather than simply spraying the plants as you walk by. The colour of the roots should change from white to grey-green when they are wet, and I like to see a droplet of water hanging from each root tip. During hot weather and when plants are producing flowering spikes, mounted plants should be watered as often as possible. Flowering usually occurs in April, May or June. After flowering, watering should be reduced to once every seven to ten days. It's natural for the pseudobulbs to shrivel a little during dormancy - they soon become plump again when normal watering is resumed in spring.

The same principles apply to pot-grown plants, although watering should not be as heavy. It's better to let the bark dry out a little between waterings, because crispum- and varicosum-type oncidium can lose their roots if the potting medium is kept continually wet. It is often said that oncidium sometimes flower themselves to death. It happens with pot-grown plants that are over-watered, leading to a broken-down, soggy potting mix and a weak root system. The result is a weak new growth which cannot support its flowering spike. In such cases the spike should be removed and the root system inspected. All dead and soft roots must be removed and the plant repotted in fresh Sphagnum moss, using the smallest pot that will accommodate the plant. The moss should be kept just moist until new roots appear, which may not occur until springtime.

There are no magic fertiliser formulae. Any balanced fertiliser, applied at one quarter of the manufacturer's recommended concentration at alternate waterings, is sufficient. If the roots turn brown and the root tips die, the fertiliser is too concentrated. Its strength should either be reduced or the plants watered immediately before they are fertilised.

Conclusion. No orchid collection is complete without a couple of plants of this showy genus. Observation, followed by speedy action, is the key to good culture and will lead to good flower production and great satisfaction.

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

THE WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE SPONSORS FOR THEIR DONATIONS
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WITH YOUR CUSTOM.

DAVIES BAKERY
PATTIES PIES
24 Military Road
Broadmeadows 3047
93556700

HEATHER BREA
SHORTBREADS 53
Lipton Drive
Thomastown 3074
94604111

PANTALICA
CHEESE CO.
49 – 65 Trawalla Ave.
Thomastown 3074
93595560

HARVEY NORMAN
THOMASTOWN
308-320 Settlement Rd.
Thomastown 3074
9463 4777

SUNNY SIDE
HOT BREAD
255 High Street
Thomastown 3074
94650616

DISCOUNT DRUG
STORES
241 - 243 High Street
Thomastown 3074
94663006

BAKERS DELIGHT
Campbellfield Plaza
Campbellfield 3061
93573711

BERTOCCHI
SMALLGOODS
Shop sales Mon-Sat
112 Trawalla Ave
Thomastown 3074
93355100

SEASOL
1027 Mountain Hwy
Boronia
97296511

THE GOOD GUYS
THOMASTOWN
30 Dalton Road
Thomastown 3074
94637500

SHOWS

**WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY Winter Show AUGUST 4/5/6, St Sava's church,
Diamond Creek Road Greensborough.**

**WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY Spring Show OCTOBER 6/7/8, St Sava's church,
Diamond Creek Road Greensborough.**

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"
"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."
"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup.."
"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

DISCLAIMER

The Warringal Orchid Society Inc. disclaims all liability against any loss or damage, which may be attributed to the use of any article in the Warringal Orchid Society Bulletin or information communicated by guest speakers. Contributions and advice express the views and opinions of the contributors and are not those of the Warringal Orchid Society.