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JUNE 2017

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Warringal Orchid Society Inc.

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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 5th of JULY, 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, 21st of JUNE. 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's speaker is Garry Backhouse, a great speaker who will give a talk on Summer flowering Orchids of Africa, something for everyone so come along and join your club mates in a good evening.

Schedules and Sales tickets for the Winter Show will be available at our June meeting, see Jerry Karbownik for yours, DON'T USE THE OLD ONES, THEY HAVE CHANGED.

Because of the availability of the caterer our Christmas Breakup will be on the third Wednesday of December the 20th please put that in your diaries

Club Fees are now due, to bench and show you must be PAID UP, see Lenore for renewal.

Judging Results for MAY**OPEN****Australian Native Hybrid**

1 st D.Avrils Gold	Le Tan Liep
2 nd D.Colonial Maid	G&C.Dimech
3 rd D.Annies Rainbow	G&C.Dimech

Australian Native Terrestrial

1 st Ptero Furcillatum	J&L.Karbownik
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Cattleya

1 st Polar Bears Delight	J.Crawford
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Novelty Cattleya

1 st Slc Dals Marvel	J.Crawford
2 nd Mark Jones	A.Christou
3 rd Brownie	A.Christou

Masdevallia Hybrid

1 st Pantoreana	G&C.Dimech
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Dendrobium

1 st Australian Purple Pepper	M.Borstejl
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Maudiae Paphiopedilum

1 st Holdenii Buperbiens	J.Crawford
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Novelty Paphiopedilum

1 st Iatha Stage	J.Crawford
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Species Paphiopedilum

1 st Herrmannii Su#1	J.Crawford
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Oncidium

1 st Honamyre Dural	J.Crawford
2 nd Sharry Baby	M.Borstejl
3 rd Painter Dwarf	M.Borstejl

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Phrag Cardinale	J.Crawford
2 nd Phrag Eric Young	J.Crawford

Species Any Genera

1 st Rossioglossum Grande	K.Box
2 nd Soph Coccinea	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Dendro Magnum	S.Pantelejenko

Best In Section

Phrag Cardinale	J.Crawford
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INTERMEDIATE**Any Other Hybrid**

1 st Z.Artur Elle Essendon	M.Volodina
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Cattleya

1 st Lc Unknown	M.Volodina
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Novelty Cattlea

1 st Lc Mini Purple Tamani	A.Magnano
2 nd Soph Orpettii	C.Krolikoski

Species Any Genera

1 st Laelia Pumila	M.Volodina
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Dendrobium

1 st Zoe Byrne Dinks	C.Krolikoski
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Oncidium

1 st Burr Nelly Isler Swiss Beauty	C.Krolikoski
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Lycaste

1 st Wyong Rotunda Red	A.Magnano
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Best In Section

Wyong Rotunda Red	A.Magnano
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ADVANCED NOVICE**Any Other Cymbidium**

1 st Miss Muffet x Peter Pan	F.Verlann
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Species Any Genera

1 st Ceol Fimbriatu Gualis	M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly
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Cattleya

1 st Hawaiian Wedding Song	M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly
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Novelty Cattleya

1 st Slc Bright Angel	M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly
2 nd Lc Tokyo Magic	M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly

Best In Section

Slc Bright Angel	M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly
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Seedling Flowering First Time**1st and Best In Section**

Phrag Mem Dick Clements x Twilight

J.Crawford

PROGRESSIVE POINTS TOTAL 2017

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
J.Crawford	84	L&A.Shepherd	21
G&C.Dimech	56	M.Volodina	21
J&L.Karbownik	20	A.Magnano	15
D.Wain	12	C.Krolikowski	13
W.Garner	14	S.Grzinic	4
M.Borsteyl	13		
D.Wain	12		
E&D.Baxter	12	ADVANCED NOVICE	
A.Christou	11	M.Bisri &B.O'Reily	52
A.Fernandez	10	J.Jenkins	19
T&A.Pleinter	9	F.Penman	13
K.Lam	9	F.Verlaan	11
S.Giarrusso	8	Z.Giavris	4
J.Khoo	8		
B.Duncan	7	NOVICE	
K.Box	4	K.Ridgway	4
Le Tan Leip	4		
S.Tsoumbakos	3		

SEEDLINGS AND MERICLONES by Julian Coker. With Thanks to the AUTHOR and OSCOV

So often people are confused with the difference between a seedling and a mericlone. A seedling is a plant resulting from the growth of a single orchid seed, formed by the union of a male pollen grain with a female ovum. It is a uniquely new plant that has inherited various features from both of its parents. Even when an orchid is crossed with itself (selfing), or where two plants of the same species are crossed with each other, variation is obvious in the resultant seedlings. A mericlone on the other hand is a plant that results from the multiplication of tissue from the meristematic area of a single plant. All resulting plants have an exactly identical makeup and barring mutation, will all be identical.

A six to nine month period from pollination to harvesting of the seed, followed by a nine to twelve month period in tissue culture to produce a viable plant for the outside environment, followed by three to five years to produce a flowering plant, gives a five to seven year generation time, so growing seedlings, where there is no guarantee of a desirable result, is generally for the commercial grower or the genuine devotee. It is however, almost invariably through seedlings that advances in cymbidiums appear.

Advances may take the form of a show champion, a new shape or colour, or some other outstanding feature. The chances of achieving this is small, perhaps one in a hundred or one in a thousand, but with the constant improvement in genetic material available in parents and the increasing knowledge possessed by hybridisers, the chances are improving and the satisfaction is great when the exceptional seedling appears.

Many avenues are now available in cymbidium breeding lines and rewards are available in all of them. Most hybrids are produced with commercial benefit paramount but for some hybridisers the showbench orchid is more appealing and many seedlings are also produced with this end in view. In addition, seedlings with the potential to provide new shapes and colours and colour combinations are becoming more available, as well as those with extended flowering times, perfumes, warmth tolerance, super-productivity and other desirable features.

All good collections contain a number of seedlings, and it is best to add to these regularly. With small collections, a few may be purchased each year from the various catalogues available. Bear in mind that accompanying descriptions describe expectations and that hybridisers are great optimists. With larger collections, more seedlings or a few community pots comprising a number of seedlings from the same grex may be grown.

You are never too old or too young to start growing seedlings. Once a collection has become established over a period of time, there is the constant excitement of seeing what unique flowers appear each year. Be part of the excitement and the future of the cymbidium. You may be the lucky one!

Lycaste - THE BEAUTIFUL ONE by Julian Coker With THANKS to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

Lycaste is an orchid genus named after the beautiful daughter of King Priam and Queen Hecuba of Troy, and was first named by John Lindley in 1843. It is represented by about fifty species that are found from Mexico to Peru. These are both epiphytic and lithophytic and grow under cool to intermediate glasshouse conditions, depending on the particular species. Lycastes range from being fully deciduous each year to retaining their leaves for 18-20 months, and require a rest period during the winter prior to flowering and recommencement of their growth cycle in spring.

Lycaste plants are characterised by large pseudobulbs that support two to four large ribbed leaves. Flowers arise singly from the base of the pseudobulb and are long lasting, four to eight weeks being common. There is occasionally an autumn flowering from the old pseudobulb but the main flowering occurs in the spring. Generally one flower of excellent quality develops first from the base of the newest pseudobulb and this is followed by the spring flush. From three to five flowers per pseudobulb are usual, especially for hybrids bred from *Lycaste skinneri* but 30+ flowers over a period are possible from the deciduous species and their hybrids.

The flowers are characterised by having three prominent sepals that open flat and often reflex at their tips. These sepals may have the spatial arrangement of an equilateral triangle or tend more to an inverted T. The petals are lesser segments that typically envelop the column; the labellum is also generally small. Colours are commonly in the yellow-brown-orange range and often there is a marked contrast between the segments. Pinks and whites are represented by *Lycaste skinneri* and green by *Lycaste locusta*.

The genus *Lycaste* is related to *Anguloa*, *Batemannia*, *Bifrenaria* and *Xylobium*, and hybridises freely with them. *Angulocaste* and *Lycasteria* are the most common intergeneric hybrids. *Lycaste* has been extensively hybridised within itself, *Lycaste skinneri* being the dominant species used.

Lycastes respond well to good culture, and indeed this is essential for best results. They are best grown in a cool intermediate glasshouse at a minimum temperature of 8-10°C, although cymbidium conditions in a fully enclosed glasshouse during winter are satisfactory. Adequate sunlight, water and feeding during the growing season, coupled with moderate humidity and constant air circulation, will allow for the development of the large pseudobulbs necessary for top flower production.

During winter maintain a relatively high light intensity but decrease the frequency of watering and fertilising. Appropriate watering throughout the year is essential. Copious amounts are required during the growing season together with the application of a balanced fertiliser. At maturation of the pseudobulbs (when the small sheathing bracts turn brown and fall off) decrease the frequency of watering considerably for those species that retain their leaves. Water may be almost completely withheld from the deciduous ones until their flowers or new growths appear.

Mature pseudobulbs may be allowed to approach the stage of wrinkling to create stress and thus initiate flower production. However, do not allow excessive wrinkling to occur. Seedlings should be kept moist at all times. It's preferable to water directly into the pot, rather than over the leaves or into the new growths. Lycastes are especially sensitive to chlorine, so avoid the use of highly chlorinated tap water.

Lycastes are best grown in black plastic pots that have excellent drainage. The compost must be free draining yet be able to retain adequate moisture and nutrients to supply the plant. A good quality cymbidium compost is ideal. Repotting is done in spring, after the plant has flowered and when the new growths have become established. Repot before the plant outgrows its container, leaving two or three pseudobulbs and the new growth on the leading part of the plant. *Lycaste skinneri* and hybrids in which this species is dominant are best grown in pots. Backbulb propagations may be attempted but leave at least two pseudobulbs attached to each other. If the plant loses its roots or shows signs of dehydration, transfer it to Sphagnum moss to re-establish a root system before returning it to the growing compost.

Lycastes are subject to the same pests and diseases that trouble other orchid genera. Virus disease, rots and the cosmopolitan pests may all cause trouble and their rapid diagnosis and effective treatment, together with an environment that limits their occurrence, is essential. Of special concern are rots, e.g. *Erwinia*, that affect the

pseudobulbs, and scale, which can occur in heavy infestations all over the plant. Ants often draw attention to the presence of scale.

Lycaste Species .

Lycaste aromatica. Found from Mexico to Guatemala, this species is both epiphytic and lithophytic. It is deciduous and very floriferous, bearing up to 18 flowers per pseudobulb. These appear in spring immediately prior to the appearance of the new growth. The flowers are fragrant, the sepals and petals green-yellow and the labellum and column bright orange-yellow. This species is ideal for specimen culture. It requires cool intermediate conditions for optimal growth.

Lycaste cruenta . Cruenta means stained with blood and refers to the red staining in the centre of the flower and at the base of the labellum. *L. cruenta* is the most common lycaste in Guatemala. It is epiphytic, deciduous and produces 3-5 flowers from the base of the new pseudobulbs in spring. The sepals are green-yellow, the petals bright yellow-orange and the labellum and column are orange. The inner parts of the segments are spotted red and the base of the labellum sports a bright red splash. This species can be grown successfully in a cool glasshouse.

Lycaste deppei. As with *L. aromatica*, this species is found from Mexico to Guatemala and is both epiphytic and lithophytic. It is common in cultivation, flowering later than the other species, often during summer. Three to five flowers appear from the base of the pseudobulb in succession prior to the development of the new growth. The flowers have olive-green sepals overlaid with red, white petals, a yellow labellum and a white column. The inner parts of the segments are spotted with red. It grows easily in a cool glasshouse.

Lycaste lasioglossa is a terrestrial species from Guatemala. It produces up to seven flowers from the base of the pseudobulbs in spring. The large flowers have red-brown sepals, yellow petals and a furry yellow labellum. Red spotting occurs on the inner parts of the segments. Cool glasshouse conditions are suitable.

Lycaste locusta is green and indeed *locusta* is named after the locust. It grows in Peru at the southern end of the *Lycaste* range. The striking green colour of the flower has attracted the attention of several hybridisers. Two to three flowers are produced from each pseudobulb in spring. It may be grown in a cool glasshouse but is seldom available.

Lycaste macrophylla is one of the most diverse of the species, having many sub-species. Its range extends from Bolivia to Nicaragua, where it grows both as an epiphyte and a lithophyte. The flowers generally have brown to green-brown sepals, white petals and a white labellum. The petals and labellum may have red markings on their inner parts. There is also an albino form with green sepals, white petals and a white labellum. It usually flowers in the spring and grows best in cool intermediate conditions.

Lycaste skinneri is the queen of the lycaste species and is correctly named due to the priority rules of nomenclature. *Lycaste virginalis* is synonymous but is not the preferred name. It is very variable, both in its habitat and colour forms. Epiphytic in nature, it ranges from Mexico to Guatemala and Honduras; it is the national flower of Guatemala. The flowers are large and attractive, with the sepals varying from white through pink to deep rose and the petals from white to reddish violet. The labellum varies from white to red and is often spotted red. The white column is lined with red spots. There is also a pure white albino form. Three to five flowers are produced from the base of the pseudobulb in spring. They last 4-6 weeks in good condition, even when harvested. This species is best grown in a cool intermediate or cool glasshouse.

Lycaste hybrids . *Lycaste skinneri* has been by far the most important species used in hybridising, especially for showbench breeding. With the variation in colour from albino white through to deep pink found in its various cultivars, together with its sophisticated form, it has been regularly introduced into lycaste breeding programs. There is an 80% content of this species in the two best known Australian hybrids, *Lycaste Koolena* (hybridised by Leo Giles) and *Lycaste Macama* (hybridised by Fred Alcorn). The other two species important in showbench breeding are *L. cruenta* and *L. macrophylla*. Other species, namely *L. deppei*, *L. aromatica*, *L. locusta* and *L. lasioglossa*, have also been used to widen the colour range, to increase the flower count and to extend the flowering time. Famous parents include *L. imschootiana*, *L. balliae*, *L. sunrise*, *L. auburn* and *L. koolena*. *L. macama* is currently the most highly developed showbench grex. **Lycaste** is one of the easier orchid genera to grow, although mature plants require considerable space. However, a representative selection of species and hybrids will enhance any collection and certainly add to the pleasure of growing orchids.

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SHOWS

***WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY* Winter Show AUGUST 4/5/6, St Sava's church,
Diamond Creek Road Greensborough. Sat 9-4.30, Sun 9.30-4.00.**

***WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY* Spring Show OCTOBER 6/7/8, St Sava's church,
Diamond Creek Road Greensborough. Sat 9-4.30, Sun 9.30-4.00.**

Entry \$5 and U/14 free.

Please note the 4th and 6th of those dates are the makeup dates for our Shows, so if you have a couple of hours to spare we need your help to prepare the hall for our great shows.

Maribyrnong Orchid Society Winter Show Sat 8th July & 9th July, Maribyrnong Community Centre Randle Street Maribyrnong.

Victorian Orchid Club Winter Show Sat 22 & Sun 23rd July, 300 Waterdale Road Heidelberg

That's how the fight started

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...The next year , I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started..... To be continued.

DISCLAIMER

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