

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



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AUGUST 2017

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Warringal Orchid Society Inc.

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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th of SEPTEMBER, 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 16th of AUGUST. 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.

Hendrik Venter is our speaker this month, Hendrik has a broad knowledge of Orchid growing and is sought after as a speaker for his way of passing his knowledge to his audiences. So come along and enjoy a great speaker you may learn something. *This month also sees our Annual General Meeting take place, it doesn't take long so come and have a say in the elections of the Committee for the coming year. You also may want to have a go at standing for a position on the Committee it's not hard and doesn't take up much of your time. You will enjoy the experience.*

JUDGING RESULTS for JULY

OPEN

Australian Native Hybrid

- 1st D.Avrils Gold Le Tan Liep
2nd D.Issy Star J.Khoo
3rd D.Gai Ellen Red Stripe W.Garner

Australian Native Terrestrial

- 1st Concinna J&L.Karbownik

Novelty Cattleya

- 1st Chocolate Drop G&C.Dimech

Any Other Hybrid

- 1st Phrag Cardinale J.Crawford
2nd Mac Yellow Star G&C.Dimech
3rd Z.Titanic G&C.Dimech

Species Any Genera

- 1st Pts Tervicauda J&L.Karbownik
2nd Coel Williani J.Crawford
3rd Cym Erythrostylum G&C.Dimech

Intermediate Cymbidium

- 1st Jessie Blackiston D.Wain
2nd Lunar Blaze D.Wain
3rd anzan Shining A.Christou

Miniture Cymbidium

- 1st Elegant Elf A.Christou

Dendrobium

- 1st Aussie Purple Pepper M.Borstelj
2nd Calamitormis Grumpy A.Fernandez

Paphiopedilum

- 2nd Marggie Anne J.Crawford

Maude Paphiopedilum

- 1st Holdehii J.Crawford

Species Paphiopedilum

- 1st Villosum G&C.Dimech
2nd Insigne Paphiopedilum M.Borstelj
3rd Insigne M.Borstelj

Oncidium

- 1st Nonamyae Pride J.Crawford
2nd Sherry Baby G&C.Dimech
3rd Adaglossum Summit W.Garner

Best In Section

Unknown no paper

INTERMEDIATE

Miniture Cymbidium

- 1st Delores Hoyt J&H.Prosser

Species Any Genera

- 1st Lealia Anceps M.Volodina
2nd C.Tracyanum L.Smith

Best In Section

Lealia Anceps M.Volodina

ADVANCED NOVICE

Any Other Hybrid

- 1st Zygo Auther Elle M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly
2nd Zygo Unknown " "

Species Any Genera

- 1st C.Tracyanum M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly
2nd Catt Ciccinea " "
3rd C.Tracyanum " "

Standard Cymbidium

- 3rd Star Guard Dream M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

Intermedium Cymbidium

- 1st Mary Pinches M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly
2nd Tethys Pepita " "

Miniture Cymbidium

- 1st Joy Rage M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

Australian Native Hybrid

- 1st D.Hilda Poxon F.Verlann

Australian Native Terrestrial

- 1st Pts Coccina M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

Cattleya

1st Hawaii Wedding Song M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

Novelty Cattleya

1st Slc Bright Angel M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

Best In Section

Cym Mary Pinches M.Brisri&B.O'Reilly

NOVICE

Standard Cymbidium

1st Rincon Flame C.Ping Ling

Best In Section

Rincon Flame C.Ping Ling

Seedlings Flowering First Time

OPEN

1st Phrag Eric Young J.Crawford

2nd D.Starsheen A.Fernandez

Best In Section

Phrag Eric Young J.Crawford

PROGRESSIVE POINTS for 2017

OPEN

J.Crawford 134

G&C.Dimech 101

J&L.Karbownik 40

M.Borstelj 25

J.Khoo 23

D.Wain 23

A.Christou 22

K.Lam 21

A.Fernandez 20

E&D.Baxter 18

W.Garner 17

G.Garrett 13

K.Box 11

T&A.Pleinter 9

S.Giarrusso 8

B.Duncan 7

S.Pantlejenko 4

INTERMEDIATE

M.Volodina 25

C.Krohkowski 21

L&A.Shepherd 21

A.Magnano 18

L.Smith 8

S.Grzinic 4

J&H.Prosser 4

ADVANCED NOVICE

M.Bisri&B.O'Reilly 122

J.Jenkins 26

F.Verlann 15

F.Penman 13

Z.Giavris 4

NOVICE

K.Ridgway 4

C.Ling 4

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Again a reminder the next meeting of our club is the Annual meeting, it's over quick but it's probably the most important meeting of the year. Come along and vote for the incoming Committee for 2017/2018, if you think you can spare a couple of hours a month and have a say in the running of our club, just put your name forward and have a real say in the club.

GOOD LUCK to all who bench their plants in our Winter Show, we hope you do well. Come along and give a hand to our hard working members you will probably enjoy yourself

In response to questions asked by Helen Robinson, I thought I'd include the following, the question regarding Species Helen ask Andrew Fernandez he will set you straight.

STRIKING BACK-BULBS: ADVICE for NOVICE GROWERS by Brian Milligan

For the benefit of novice growers I should explain that a back-bulb is a bulb that has lost all its leaves, hopefully because of age rather than disease. When a cymbidium is repotted, it's desirable to remove these leafless bulbs, preferably by severing the rhizome linking them to the rest of the plant. It's best to use a sterile knife or scissors, but some growers simply twist the connecting rhizome by hand until it breaks. Having removed the back-bulbs, how do you 'strike' them and why? 'Striking' is jargon for encouraging the back-bulb to produce new growth from incipient leaf nodes, which are mostly located near the base of the bulb.

To prepare a back-bulb for 'striking' first remove any old leaf husks, as these may harbour scale and other insect pests. Then cut any residual roots back to their junction with the back-bulb and trim the break if the bulb was removed by twisting. To minimise infection by any of the organisms responsible for rot the cut surfaces should be sealed, either with Steri-Prune® (or similar sealing paste) or by leaving the bulb lying in the shade for a few days for the cut surfaces to form a scab or callus. Alternatively the cut surfaces can be dusted with a fungicide. Leaving the back-bulbs to dry for a few days is the simplest option.

There are many different ways of striking back-bulbs. I've used several different methods, each with a fair measure of success. The simplest method, involving least effort, is simply to bury the back-bulb to two thirds of its depth in the same potting medium that you use for the rest of your collection. If you use a 4-in pot then no attention will be needed for two years except regular watering and the addition of a little slow release fertiliser in spring.

Some back-bulbs strike more rapidly than others. If a leaf growth appears within three months you're doing well, while six months would be average. If there's no sign of growth within twelve months all but the super-optimist should give up (there are always a few back-bulbs each year that fail to strike). Generally, roots do not appear until the leaf growth is several inches tall, and there is no point in applying slow-release fertiliser until this stage is reached. If you're keen, there may be some benefit in applying liquid fertiliser to the foliage at an earlier stage as liquid fertilisers are absorbed by leaves as well as by roots.

In recent years I've struck back-bulbs of my more highly valued cymbidiums using Sphagnum moss as the potting medium. This method seems to produce more rapid growth, but that's probably because I place the pots in my heated glass-house during winter. After about a year the moss is removed and replaced with conventional cymbidium mix. A modified version of this method has been used by some growers for many years. The back-bulbs are placed in a plastic bag with a little very wet Sphagnum moss and the bag is then sealed and hung in the shade-house. The struck back-bulbs are potted in cymbidium mix when the leaves and roots are a few inches long.

The old back-bulb eventually rots and it should be removed from the new plant as soon as rot is detected. While the bulb is in good condition it provides the plant with nutrients, so it's best to leave it attached as long as possible. However, some growers remove the old back-bulb as soon as the new plant appears able to support itself and then attempt to make it strike a second time. This often works, particularly with large back-bulbs, although the chances of the bulb rotting during its second year are much greater, of course.

So, novice grower, now you know how to increase your cymbidium collection. But be warned - it takes four years on average for the new plant to reach flowering size and if you strike all your back-bulbs you will soon have to move to larger premises!

WHAT FERTILISER SHOULD I USE? By Brian Milligan

New growers are quick to believe that success in cultivating orchids depends primarily on the type and amount of fertiliser used. Not so, in my opinion! In comparison with many plants, most orchids require little fertiliser and success in growing them depends more on providing them with optimal amounts of light, water, warmth and fresh air than with large amounts of fertiliser.

Fertilisers can be divided into several different types. Liquid fertilisers (which are usually solids!) are so called because they are dissolved in water before application. Their nutrients immediately become available to the plant via the roots, and in some cases also via the leaves. Slow release is the term generally used to describe fertiliser granules or droplets with polymeric coatings, which are essentially small plastic capsules of soluble fertiliser. These slow-release fertilisers should be incorporated in the potting mix. Their nutrients are slowly released during watering, especially in warm weather. Other fertilisers, such as Magamp®, Hoof-and-Horn® and Blood-and-Bone, also release their nutrients over a long period as they dissolve or are degraded by bacteria present in the potting mix.

Liquid Fertilisers contain major amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) in their chemical make-up. Smaller amounts of magnesium, calcium, sulphur and other elements needed for plant growth are also present. Magnesium is important because it is a constituent of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the green colour of plants. Chlorophyll catalyses photosynthesis, the primary step in the manufacture of cellulose, the structural material of plant tissue. Fertilisers containing a high proportion of nitrogen stimulate plants to produce leaf growth at the expense of flowers, whereas those containing relatively high proportions of phosphorus and especially potassium promote flowering. Thus fertilisers with different proportions of these elements (usually referred to as the NPK ratio) will have differing effects on plant growth and flowering. An alternative is to use a 'balanced' fertiliser in which the ratio of nutrients is such as to provide optimal orchid growth during the whole year. Super Brew®, sold by Atlantis Orchids, has a NPK ratio of 15:2:10, and is claimed to fulfil the above requirements. Other liquid fertilisers used successfully with orchids include Aquasol®, Thrive®, Wuxal® and Maxicrop®.

Orchid growers with large collections usually fertilise nearly every time they water by using a proportioning pump which adds a concentrated fertiliser solution to the water feeding the sprinkler system. A system sold for home use dilutes concentrated fertiliser solution approximately 20-fold with tap-water as it is applied by the garden hose. If applying fertiliser regularly in this way, the final concentration should be only 10% of the manufacturer's recommendation. However, when applying liquid fertilisers at weekly or fortnightly intervals, concentrations up to 50% of the manufacturer's recommendation can be used.

Slow Release Fertilisers are valued by the lazy grower and I use them extensively on my cymbidiums and zygopetalums! Osmocote®, Osmocote-Plus® and Nutricote® are three of the best known brands. I apply one or two tablespoons of Osmocote-Plus® to my 8-inch pots in October, together with smaller amounts of Magamp® and Hoof-and-Horn®. Often I add a little more in January. Slow-release fertilisers function by allowing their nutrients to diffuse slowly through their polymeric coating. Little fertiliser is released in cold weather, but the rate of release increases as the pot temperature reaches 20°C, coinciding with rapid plant growth. Some growers have excellent success using pelletised animal manures such as Dynamic Lifter®, which is essentially pelletised fowl manure. Some use it as a mulch on the top of the potting mix but others believe that it accelerates the breakdown of pine bark.

The above discussion applies primarily to fertilising cymbidiums and zygopetalums, which are regarded as 'heavy feeders'. I suggest caution when using slow-release fertilisers or animal manures on other orchids. It is safer to use liquid fertilisers at low concentrations and to apply them only to plants in active growth.

PLEIONE CULTURE - A MONTHLY CALENDAR by Max Akam

There are two sections in the genus Pleione, the autumn-flowering or two-leaved species, which require slightly different cultural conditions to the main section, namely the spring-flowering pleiones, which have a single leaf. This account will deal only with spring-flowering pleiones.

June, July and August . At this time of year pleione bulbs are dormant, so now is the time to purchase more bulbs to add to your collection. Those of *Pleione formosana* are the most readily available. There are many different clones, for example, *P. formosana* 'Pricei', *P. formosana* 'Serenity', *P. formosana* 'Oriental Jewel', *P. formosana* 'Clare' and *P. formosana* 'Polar Sun'. The last two have white flowers, while the most common clone in Melbourne is *P. formosana* 'Blush of Dawn'.

When buying pleiones, select undamaged bulbs that are 30-40 mm in diameter and a good green colour (or purplish black in some clones). They should have at least one new growth enclosed in a brown sheath on the side of the bulb. Well-grown bulbs can produce up to three new growths from their base each season. If the original old shriveled bulb is still attached, remove it carefully and discard. Trim the roots of the new bulbs back to a length of about 40 mm. These shortened roots will help anchor the bulb in its mix and prevent it from pushing itself out of the mix as its new roots begin to grow.

Many different potting mixes can be used. I use a compost comprised of 6 parts of pine bark (12 mm particle size, with all fine material removed), 1 part of coarse gravel or Perlite, 2 parts of Sphagnum moss chopped into 6 mm lengths and 2 parts of chopped or well rotted oak leaves. I then add two handfuls of poultry or sheep manure to each bucket of mix. Most people grow pleiones in shallow containers but I feel the plants do better in pots about 100-125 mm deep. Shallow pans tend to dry out too quickly during our hot, dry summers. The mix should drain freely and there should be plenty of drainage holes in the pots.

Fill the pots to within 25 mm of the top with potting mix and then thoroughly soak the mix with water to flush 'the fire' out of the poultry manure, which can otherwise burn the tips of the new roots as they begin to grow. When the mix has drained, place the bulbs on the compost and fill in around them to three quarters of their depth with a mix made from equal parts of pine bark (3-6 mm) and finely-cut moss. The bulbs can be planted as close as 10 mm to each other, as they seem to grow better if closely spaced.

Water again to settle the mix around the bulbs and place the pot in a cool place under 70% shade cloth. Throughout July and August in Melbourne pots can be left outdoors provided that they are protected from severe frost or hail by a layer of shade cloth. They should also have snail bait sprinkled about them.

September and October . As the daily temperature rises to 14° or 15°C and the days lengthen to 10-12 hours, the flower buds and a few new leaves begin to appear. When the new buds are visible, move the pots under cover to protect the flowers from weather damage. At this time the new roots are beginning to grow. They will brown off and die if the plants are watered when they are warm. Pleione roots do not branch again after they are damaged, which means that the roots are lost, followed by the new growth. I water only at night, when the temperature is falling. I mist the plants lightly, just enough to keep the mix slightly moist.

After the flowers have died, the leaves begin to grow rapidly. This is the time to increase watering gradually and to begin fertilising. Because of the moss in the mix, I use an organic fertiliser, such as weak liquid manure.

November and December. By late November or early December the new growths will be well developed and the new bulbs will begin to swell at the base of the leaves. Tiny new white or pale green growths will appear near the base of these new bulbs. These growths will produce next year's flowers. As we are now moving into our hot, dry summer period, it's advisable to keep the humidity up to prevent the pots from drying out. Water heavily at night and continue fertilising. Do not water during the heat of the day. Plants like to be misted at night.

January, February and March . During January and February the new flower growths at the base of the developing bulb will continue to grow until they are 12-25 mm long. Also, tiny bulbils will form from the apex of the original bulb. Up to four bulbils may appear and continue to grow during this period. Some may grow small roots. Handle the plants carefully, as these bulbils are easily dislodged. If they are, allow them to lie on the mix until next season, when they can be replanted.

April and May . In early May the sheaths on the new flower shoots at the base of the still-enlarging bulbs will begin to brown off. They are entering their dormant period. The brown sheath will protect the new shoots within from winter cold. The tips of the leaves will also begin to turn brown during April and will continue to do so until the leaves fall in late April and early May.

Once the leaves fall, watering should cease because the roots die two or three weeks later. The bulbs are once again completely dormant. The original bulbs will have withered. If you are growing your plants outdoors, it is advisable to lift the bulbs and remove the old ones soon. Otherwise rot can begin in the old bulb and spread to the newly formed growths.

If you so desire, the pots can be left undisturbed and the plants allowed to resume growth next year, as in Nature, to produce a dense mass of bulbs and flowers. Under these circumstances it is desirable to move the pots under cover for winter and keep the bulbs almost dry. Occasional misting will stop the new bulbs from shriveling. Keep the dormant bulbs in a cool place, as they seem to need a period of temperatures down to 3°C to help flowering. If well grown, *Pleione formosana* bulbs should double their weight in total bulb production each season.

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

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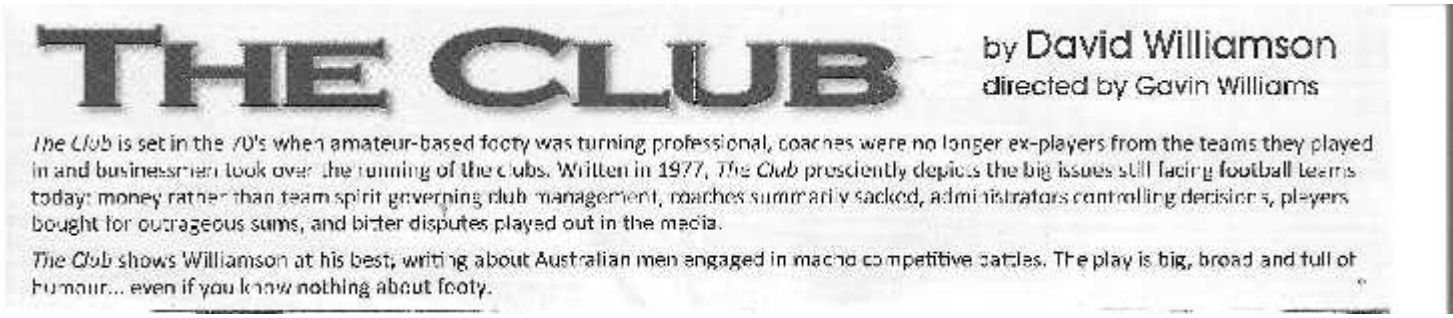
**WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY Spring Show OCTOBER 6/7/8, St Sava's church,
Diamond Creek Road Greensborough. Sat 9-4.30, Sun 9.30-4.00.**

Entry \$5 and U/14 free.

**Friday 25th August - Sunday 27th August
OSCOV Show - Melbourne Orchid Spectacular**

**Sat 9th September-Sunday 10th September
Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria**

Wendy Drowley who is a member of the Heidelberg Theatre Company as well as a member of Warringal Orchid Society thought this would be an excuse to get together for an night out and enjoy a great play. September 8th to September 23rd, have a think about it if we get a few people together it might work out well.



That's how the fight startedcontinued

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping tv channels. She asked "What's on tv?"

I said "Dust". And that's how the fight started.... To be continued

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.