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**BULLETIN
NOVEMBER**

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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6TH of DECEMBER, 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 15TH of NOVEMBER. 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 Grant Garrett a senior judge and fellow club member who will speak on awarded plants for the year. Grant is an interesting speaker one not to be missed. Come along and see if your plants look like the ones shown on the big screen. It's also a chance to ask some questions of Grant as to how the judges make their judgements.

Please take note the notifications inside this month's bulletin, you don't want to miss out on anything

JUDGING RESULTS for OCTOBER.**OPEN****Australian Native Species**

1 st D.Kingianum	J.Crawford
2 nd D.Linguiforme	L&J.Karbownik
D.Tetrogonum	G&C.Dimech

Australian Native Hybrid

1 st D.Australian Beauty x Tyabb	G&C.Dimech
2 nd S.First Light	J.Khoo
3 rd D.Elegant Starlight x Speciosum	J.Crawford

Novelty Cattleya

1 st Mango Spice	E&D.Baxter
2 nd Bc Fuchs Orange Nugget	G&C.Dimech
3 rd L.arpophyll x S.Coccinea	G&C.Dimech

Masdevallia Hybrid

1 st Copper Angel Highlands	G&C.Dimech
2 nd Bridie Beenak Triangulanis	B.Duncan
3 rd Rubicon x Tuckau Candy	B.Duncan

Masdevallia Species

1 st Coccinea var alba Snowbird	B.Duncan
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Novelty Paphiopedilum

1 st Unknown	J.Crawford
2 nd Unknown	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Copper Spice	E&D.Baxter

Paphiopedilum Species

1 st Spicerianum	B.Duncan
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Oncidium

1 st Unknown	E&D.Baxter
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Miniature Cymbidium

1 st Eye of the Tiger	T.Phillipou
2 nd Miss Muffett x Black Opal	A.Christou
3 rd Miss Muffett	Unknown

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Phrag Caudatum	G&C.Dimech
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2nd Npp. Adelaide x Zga Adelaide Meadows

B.Duncan

Species Any Genera

1 st Cym. Eburnum	A.Christou
2 nd Pholidota Chinensis	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Onc Croesus	G&C.Dimech

Best In Section

Cym Eburnum	A.Christou
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INTERMEDIATE**Standard Cymbidium**

1 st Kalahari Pepper Karen	J.Guario
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Miniature Cymbidium

1 st Tuffet Cathy	M.Grzan
2 nd Tuffet Kathy	S.Grzinic
3 rd Sara Jean Show	L&A.Shepherd

Dendrobium

1 st D.Thompson	L&A.Shepherd
2 nd D.Maleres Hot Pink	M.Volodina

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Zygo Arthur Elle Kiwi Choice	S.Grzinic
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Species Any Genera

1 st Cym Lowianum	J&H.Prosser
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Odontoglossum

1 st Ode Tiger Bars	L&A.Shepherd
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Best In Section

C.Tuffet	M.Grzan
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ADVANCED NOVICE**Australian Native Species**

1 st Sarc Hartmannii	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly
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Australian Native Hybrid

1 st Elegant Heart Ozzie	F.Verlann
2 nd Annes Rainbow Surprise	F.Verlann
3 rd King Frosty x Lilac Frost	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly

Cattleya		J.Khoo	43
1 st Deni's Joy	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly	G.Garrett	23
Miniature Cymbidium		G.Browning	35
1 st Mary Green Little Annie & B.O'Reilly	M.Brisi	A.Fernandez	35
2 nd Tethy's Black Magic	F.Penman	W&S.Pantelejenko	32
3 rd Radiant Ruby Aussie Gem	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly	T.Philipou	29
Paphiopedlum		N.Gaskett	23
1 st Chauvetti Van Dyke	F.Penman	S&H.Randell	19
Best I n Section		J.Sharam	19
Paph Chauvetti Van Dyke	F.Penman	B.Rowlands	18
NOVICE		L.T.Leip	17
Miniature Cymbidium		J&F.Spiteri	17
1 st Unknown	J.Banitsiotis	A&P.Pleitner	13
2 nd Miss Muffet	J.Banitsiotis	K.Box	11
3 rd Mary Green	M.Holding	S.Giarrusso	8
Any Other Hybrid		G.Bell	7
1 st Lc Orange Beauty x Leopold	J.Banitsiotis	F&T.Nguyen	5
BestIn Section		S&B.Nguyen	5
Cym Unknown	J.Banitsiotis	INTERMEDIATE	
PROGRESSIVE POINTS for 2017 these will reflect points that were accrued from the Spring Show.		C.Krolikowski	73
OPEN		L&A.Shepherd	52
J.Crawford	246	J&H.Prosser	46
G&C.Dimech	204	A.Magnano	35
D.Wain	83	M.Grzan	34
A.Christou	81	L.Smith	31
L&J.Karbownik	77	S.Grzanic	31
B.Duncan	65	M.Volodina	28
W.Garner	62	G&M.Van Remmen	9
M&L.Bostejl	62	J.Guario	4
K.Lam	51	ADVANCED NOVICE	
E&D.Baxter	48	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly	337
V&N.Kluchkovski	48	F.Verlann	41
		J.Jenkins	37
		F.Penman	16

N.Levett	11
J.Haniver	8
B.Hallil	7
Z.Giavris	4

NOVICE

J.Banitsiotis	17
C.Ling	11
P.Kennedy	9
K.Ridgway	4
M.Holding	2

DATES

The Club BBQ and get together again is being held at George and Chris's home at 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown, on the 19th NOVEMBER. It's a great day, very relaxed and sociable, so come along and enjoy the company of your fellow club mates. All you have to bring is your drinks and a plate to complement the BBQ, 11am onwards. Sunshine has been ordered.

Christmas and End of Year Break up.

Is being held this year on the 20th of DECEMBER, at the Hawdon street meeting hall. Please note this is the third Wednesday of the month due to availability of the caterer. It's \$27 for members and \$30 for non-members. A great meal and get together to celebrate the past year and to make some predictions for next year. See Lenore at our next meeting to book your place. Please be seated by 6.30 for the caterer to start on serving our wonderful meal A great night not to be missed.

CLUB SEEDLINGS

Here's our last chance to show off our seedlings, we have grown on and looked after so kindly all year so bring them in for all to see.

SHOW DATES for 2018

Here's a bit of forward planning, the dates for the Shows are.....

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY

Winter 3/4/5 AUGUST.

Spring 5/6/7 OCTOBER.

MURPHY'S LAW

Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows that it's a law of nature of the universe that buttered toast always lands butter-side down.

So he rushes around to the church to fetch Fr Flanagan. He tells the priest that a miracle has occurred in his Kitchen, but he won't say what it is, and asks him to come and see it with his own eyes. He leads Fr Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

"Well", says the priest, "It's pretty obvious. Someone dropped buttered toast on the floor and then, for some Reason, flipped it over so that the butter was on top." "No Father, I dropped it and it landed like that!" exclaimed Murphy.

"Oh my Lord," says the priest, "dropped toast never falls with the butter side up. It's a mir.... wait ... it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop and he'll have to deal with it. He will send some people around to interview you, take photos, etc."

A thorough investigation is conducted, not only by the archdiocese, but by scientists sent over from Rome. No Expense is spared. There is great excitement in the town as everyone knows that a miracle will bring in much needed tourism revenue.

Then, after many long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling. "It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe."

However in this case, it has been declared 'No Miracle' because it is thought that Murphy may have buttered the toast on the wrong side!"

WATERING ORCHIDS IN SUMMER by Brian Milligan

Most orchid growers agree that in winter orchids should be watered in the morning, preferably on sunny days when the temperature is rising, so that the foliage is dry by nightfall. Watering in summer is more controversial. For a typical summer day in Melbourne with a maximum temperature around 25°C, I stick to the winter schedule and water in the morning. Foliage that remains wet overnight is prone to fungal attack, especially if the relative humidity is high. Glasshouses and other enclosed structures are always humid at night when the temperature falls.

Watering in hot weather, when temperatures exceed 30°C, and especially when hot, dry northerly winds are blowing, is another matter. Under these conditions small pots watered in the morning will be dry by midday. Watering in the evening is then much better, as the plants have all night to absorb water through their roots. If the weather is very hot, I water my small pots (up to 50 mm in diameter) both in the morning and at night. The above comments refer to plants, such as Australian native dendrobiums, grown in bark-based mixes. Plants grown in Sphagnum moss retain moisture much longer and seldom need watering more than once every second day, even in the hottest weather. Some orchids, such as dendrobiums and varicosum-type oncidiums, like to dry out between waterings, whereas cymbidiums and paphiopedilums do much better if their potting mix is never allowed to become completely dry.

There is an added benefit to watering cymbidiums at night in summer. The cooling effect produced by watering at that time induces flowering. Temperatures need to fall to 13°C or lower over a succession of nights in December and January for this to happen. The required cooling effect is fairly easy for us to achieve but not for Brisbane growers, who have great trouble in persuading many of their cymbidiums to bloom. One genus that definitely benefits from watering at night is Pleione. Max Akam, one of Melbourne's largest pleione growers, always waters his plants at night, and believes it is particularly important in hot weather.

Some growers with heated glasshouses water the orchids therein in the evening all year round. Their rationale is that rain falls mainly in the late afternoon or evening in the tropical regions where most of their species orchids grow, and that they are doing only "what comes naturally". However, unless the minimum temperature is about 15°C and there is excellent air circulation, I believe that watering at night throughout the year will ultimately lead to attack by Botrytis and other fungal infection.

No orchids should be watered at midday in very hot weather. Soft-leaved orchids, such as lycastes and pleiones, will suffer from leaf scald, and so may the new growths on soft-cane and Australian native dendrobiums. Also, it's best not to apply liquid fertilisers in hot weather, and preferably not when the roots are dry. Always ensure that the potting mix is damp before applying liquid fertilisers, or you may damage the roots (this advice has been handed down by a long line of expert orchid growers but may not be scientifically based). I prefer to play safe and water one day and fertilise the next. By choosing a cool spell of weather, then it won't be necessary to water for another couple of days. This allows time for the nutrients to be absorbed by the plant before they are flushed away with the next watering.

Whatever your watering technique, the most important thing to your plants is that they are watered. The effort that you put into your cymbidiums during summer will be reflected in how well they flower in winter and spring. So give them a Happy Christmas too, and water them regularly over the holiday season.

With thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

THE WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY

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CULTIVATING THE GENUS *Pterostylis* by Rex Johnson

Commonly known as greenhoods, rusty hoods or maroon hoods, members of the genus *Pterostylis* seem to be the unlikeliest flowers to be called orchids, but orchids they are. There are more than 120 species in Australia, more than 60 of them in Victoria and 37 in Tasmania, although many are common to both states. A peculiar characteristic of *Pterostylis* is the fused lateral sepals that rise from the base of the flower before separating to form two tails above a dorsal sepal. Together they form a hood (botanically known as a galea) above the column and lateral sepals.

Depending upon the species, the genus *Pterostylis* can be found in nature from sea level to alpine areas and in all types of terrain and climates. Most species have only one flower per stem but some multi-flowered species have as many as 24. Although they are commonly known as greenhoods, the colour of the flowers may range from green to brown, some species having reddish brown or maroon flowers. Green is by far the most common colour, although it may vary from light to dark green, often with white or translucent stripes. Flower size may vary from quite small (e.g. *P. parviflora*) to relatively large (e.g. *P. baptistii*). All are terrestrial orchids that become deciduous each year, usually in summer.

Growing *pterostylis* species or hybrids is so easy that many growers don't consider it to be sufficiently challenging. However, there are so many greenhoods that one could make an extensive collection of this genus alone. Many books and orchid society bulletins provide recipes for special terrestrial orchid potting mixes but some growers have excellent results using general potting mixes from their local nursery. Greenhoods are unsuitable for indoor culture but grow happily outdoors under shade cloth, preferably with a wire netting cover to keep blackbirds from digging out the plants in their search for worms.

Greenhoods commence growth from a subterranean tuber, usually in late winter, in many cases producing a rosette of leaves from which the flower stem emerges. In some cases the flower stem emerges beside the leaf rosette, while in a few cases the rosette withers before the flower buds open. All species may be propagated from seed but many also develop extra tubers, and thus form large colonies. If undisturbed, ten or a dozen tubers in a six-inch pot may multiply to a crowded potful within a few years.

When grown outdoors the plants need little more water than provided by general rainfall, except in periods of drought. The plants should be kept quite dry during the dormant period. Fertiliser should be used sparingly and only when the leaf rosettes are developing.

The easiest species for the beginner to grow are *Pterostylis curta*, *P. nana* and *P. pedunculata*, while the most attractive, easily grown hybrids are *P. Cutie*, *P. Ingens* and *P. Jack Warcup*.

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

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