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Warringal Orchid Society Inc.

Reg no. A10618
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AUSTRALIA**

The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4TH APRIL, 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 18th 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.

**Because of renovations of the Hawdon Street hall we will be relocated to
35 Lambourn Road Watsonia for the April
meeting, this is for 1 night only. Benching and guest speaker as usual
however there will be no pot sales due to transporting. We suggest you
get there early.**

JUDGING RESULTS for MARCH

OPEN

Oncidium

1st Sydney J.Crawford

2nd Sharry Baby M.Borstjl

Any Other Hybrid

1st Brassia Spider Gold G&C.Dimech

Australian Native Hybrid

1st Den Colonial Maid Verity G&C.Dimech

Dendrobium

1st Allison Cherry x Sib G&C.Dimech

Pephiopedilum Maudiae

1st Noldeni x Superbiens J.Crawford

Paphiopedilum Species

1st Hermanii su #1 X Hermanii #5 G&C.Dimech

2nd Sukhakulii x Ruth Keiv G&C.Dimech

Paphiopedilum

1st Prime Callid J.Crawford

Australian Native Species

1st Biggibum K.lam

Miniature Cymbidium

1st Zig Zag Kiwi J&L Karbownik

Miltonia

1st Honolulu A.Fernandez

2nd Guanabara J&L.Karbownik

3rd Guanabara A.Cristou

Cattleya

1st I.c Netrasiri Waxy A.Christou

2nd Kew K.Lam

3rd Sc Joanne J.Crawford

Masdavallia Species

1st Seobina B.Duncan

2nd Sanguinea B.Duncan

Species Any Genera

1st Rossioglossum Grande G&C.Dimech

2nd Onc Incuruum M.Borstjl

3rd Laelia Intercepts J.Crawford

Best In Section

Den Biggibum K.Lam

INTERMEDIATE

Cattleya

1st Hawaian Wedding Song M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

2nd Nefrasin Waxy M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Cattleya

1st Dend's Joy M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Novelty Cattleya

1st Soph Coccinea M.Brisi&B'O'Reilly

2nd Cen Dream Jerome Schlzt
M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

3rd Dixie Jewel M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Miltonia

1st Braziliana S.Grzinic

2nd Guanarare L&A Shepherd

3rd Guanarare M.Volodina

Oncidium

1st Copper Scourab M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

2nd Burr Living Fire S.Grzinic

Dendrobium

1st Andee Millaran M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Sarcochilus

1st Fitzhart x Velvet M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

2nd Bonan M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

3rd Fitzhart x Velvet Choc M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Phalaenopsis

1st Unknown M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Miniature Cymbidium

1st Harvest Queen M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly

Coelognie

2 nd Fibriate Ovaly	M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly
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Terrestrial

3 rd Stenoglottis Longifolia	M.Brisi&B.O'Reilly
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Best In Section

Unknown

NOVICE**Miltonia**

1 st Guanabaure	N.Levett
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Best In Section

M.Guanabaure	N.Levett
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Seedlings Flowering First Time

Cattleya Caudebec x Dals Charm	J.Crawford
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PROGRESSIVE POINTS FOR 2018**OPEN**

G&C.Dimech	38
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J.Crawford	27
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K.Lam	15
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A.Christou	13
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M.Borstjl	11
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E&D.Baxter	10
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B.Duncan	9
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J&L.Karbownik	7
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A.Fernandez	6
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W.Garner	4
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N.Meggetto	2
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INTERMEDIATE

M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly	93
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M.Volodina	10
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S.Grzinic	4
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A.Magnano	4
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L&A.Shepherd	4
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M.Grzan	1
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NOVICE

N.Levett	4
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We've had some great support for the first two meetings of the year from our members, if you have'nt attended you have missed out, so come along and support your club and enjoy your fellow members company and you will properly learn something about this great hobby of ours. We have some quality speakers coming up so don't miss out.

The problem of supper still is a worry, it is left to too few to bring something to enjoy after the meeting it doesn't have to be a banquet just something to have with a cup of coffee or tea.

To our members who are sick or are having a hard time we are thinking of you always we hope things get better for you, and this goes for your families too.

Its only April and the weather is still warm but I'm looking forward to Spring again, I hate the cold and the short days and long nights.

I keep on saying this but if you have something you would like to see in the newsletter please forward it on to me and I'm sure other members would like to see it too. I'm just an email away or a telephone call.

The club is doing well in the uptake of emailing out of our newsletter but we can do better, so if you have an email address give it some real thought into getting your newsletter emailed out to you. It well save the club a lot of money.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS IN WINTER by Jim Doney With thanks to the AUTHOR and OSCOV

What is different during winter that will affect the growth of Australian native orchids?

Light diminishes in strength

Plants dry out more slowly after watering

Plants grow more slowly

What do we need to do to compensate for these changes?

Increase light levels by removing any shading

Extend the interval between watering

Reduce the application of fertilisers

What signs can we expect to detect in happy plants?

Good white roots

Nice solid leafy growths

Glossy leaves

If you are happy with the growth of your plants, continue with your cultural program - don't be persuaded to adopt the procedures of other growers. On the other hand, if you're dissatisfied with the progress of your plants, try some alternatives. Should you decide to try some new ideas, carry them out on a small scale to see if they work before applying them to your whole collection. Observe your plants closely and try to identify any problems.

Conditions are still good (in April) for re-potting. Make sure that you use a pot of appropriate dimensions for the size of the root mass - DO NOT over-pot. Depending on your location and your watering habits, use a potting mix that drains adequately but doesn't dry out too rapidly. If your plants have rotten roots, determine the cause and take remedial action. Remove all rotten roots and any growths without leaves or roots to promote new growth.

Different plants need different positions. For example, I find that *Dendrobium Tweed* and *D. Red River* grow better when their pots are hung low down than when hung high. On the other hand, *Sarcochilus ceciliae* and *S. hartmannii* need higher light levels than *S. fitzgeraldii* and most other *Sarcochilus* species and hybrids. In my experience, some orchids, such as *Sarcochilus australis*, *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora* and *Peristerchilus Olive Grace*, need to be kept drier than others.

Humidity, aeration, air movement and good light are vital for good culture. What can we do to ensure that these factors are satisfactory?

Humidity. Ensure that you have a layer of water-retentive medium, such as gravel or scoria, on the floor below your benches to hold moisture and provide humid air around your plants.

Aeration. Ensure that the composition of your potting mix allows for pockets of air between the roots and the particles of mix.

Light. Make sure that no trees or buildings block the light falling upon your plants, especially from the north and east.

Air movement, either natural or generated by electric fans, is vital to maintain healthy plants. Improvements in this area will help to reduce the incidence of scale and spider mite.

Watering in the morning on warm or windy days ensures that the foliage dries by nightfall, thus helping to minimise fungal infections.

Pests. Snails, slugs and grubs are the main pests during winter. Use carbaryl-based sprays for grubs and caterpillars, and Baysol® or other pellets* for slugs and snails.

TWO COOL-GROWING LAELIAS by Brian Milligan With thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

The genus *Laelia*. There are about 75 species in the genus *Laelia*. Most epiphytic species of *Laelia* grow in Mexico while the rupicolous laelias (those that grow on rocks) grow in Brazil. The Mexican species, *Laelia anceps* and *Laelia gouldiana*, are arguably the easiest to grow under cool conditions, especially if you have a shadehouse with a fibreglass roof, so that the plants can be kept fairly dry in winter. *Laelia anceps* has been cultivated in Europe for over 150 years. Over twenty different varieties were then cultivated but only a few are common in Melbourne today.

Laelia anceps in Nature. In its native habitat *Laelia anceps* grows on tree trunks or branches on the edge of forests at altitudes of 1500-2000 m. The plants are often exposed to full sun and strong winds, with hot days and cold nights. Summer (the main growing season) is very wet and the plants receive heavy rain each evening and remain wet overnight. The next morning strong winds and sunshine quickly dry the plants before rain falls again in the evening. By contrast, the weather is cool and dry in winter and the plants receive little water until misty rain arrives in spring. New growths begin at this time with the new flower spike emerging from the centre of the new growth during summer. The flowers open as the new growth matures in late autumn.

Cultivation of *Laelia anceps*. Based on the above information, it would seem reasonable to:

1. grow *L. anceps* on a mount (e.g. tree-fern slab or a rough, long-lasting branch of oak or *Casuarina*, in my experience, cork mounts do not suit *L. anceps*).
2. hang the plant where it receives good air movement and good light (30-50% shade in summer, less or none in winter).
3. water heavily in summer and early autumn, preferably in the evening, applying liquid fertiliser occasionally.
4. after the plant has flowered (usually in late autumn), water only occasionally until spring.
5. then mist the plant daily until new growth appears. At this stage begin the cycle again with heavy watering each evening.

Laelia anceps can also be grown in a pot, using coarse bark as the potting medium. Because each year's new growth is separated from the previous year's growth by about 50 mm on the ascending rhizome, the plant soon climbs out of its pot and the new roots hang over the edge. Although the plant grows happily like this, it soon becomes top-heavy and will then probably need to be broken up and repotted. The flowers are usually rose, pink, violet or white in colour, with a darker labellum carrying a central yellow spot. The tall stem usually carries two to six flowers. Chamberlain's variety has larger, more deeply coloured flowers than most.

Laelia gouldiana occurs in the same habitat as *L. anceps* and it can also be grown and flowered in an unheated shadehouse. It usually carries more flowers of deeper colour than *L. anceps* but they are slightly smaller (about 75 mm across). Some botanists once believed that *L. gouldiana* is not a true species but a natural hybrid between *L. anceps* and *L. autumnalis*. All three grow together in the same mountainous regions of Mexico. However most authorities today regard *L. gouldiana* as a species and it should therefore be benched in the class Any Other Species or Species Any Genus.

Both *Laelia anceps* and *L. gouldiana* grow readily from leafless pseudo-bulbs in the same manner as cymbidiums do from their backbulbs. They 'strike' better if left in pairs. Many plants grown in Melbourne are probably divisions of older plants. Small divisions occasionally appear on the sales bench at meetings and shows. Small plants raised from seed can sometimes be found in orchid nurseries - these may produce flowers of higher quality, if they have been bred from selected parent plants.

THE WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY

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Our next meeting at meeting for ONE NIGHT ONLY at Watsonia will be a great night of question and answer session not to be missed, come along if you have some queries or some problems you want solved, we have some of the best growers of orchids going around.

George would like to see more helpers setting up the hall, please don't leave it to just a couple of members.

On a personal note I've got plenty of green leaves, no flowers though, how's yours ?.



**Try to be a rainbow in
someone's cloud.**

Maya Angelou

BrainyQuote

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