

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



PRESIDENT
Andrew Fernandez
0438210033

TREASURER
Alf Magnano
7 Tait Court
Bundoora 3083
Ph 94673127

BULLETIN
FEBRUARY

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.

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If not claimed within 7 days return to
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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7TH of MARCH, 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 FEBRUARY. 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.

Welcome back, we hope all Members and their Families had a great time over the Christmas/ New Year break. The first meeting of the year features Nette Maggetto, who will talk on the species Disa. Nette is a experienced grower who has won awards around the country for her orchids, she will also have some of her orchids for sale. Be early and enjoy a informative talk.

We also have on sale our Seedlings for this year, Zygo Kiwi Magic "darkie" x Zygo Elaine oliver "hcc" a great orchid and should flower in a couple of seasons. The good price of \$12.00, again be quick they should not last long.

ORCHID SPECIES NAMES SIMPLIFIED? By Brian Milligan

Those new to orchids usually prefer to grow hybrids at first, partly because they find their names less confusing than those of species orchids.

The name of every species orchid is made up of two terms, the first being a noun describing the genus (which is simply a collective name for a group of similar objects). The second term (known as the species epithet) is an adjective that describes a particular species more fully. Both terms always have Latin endings, even though in some cases the words themselves are not Latin but derived from the Greek, English or some other language.

The genus term may be purely descriptive, as in *Phalaenopsis*, which is derived from the Greek *phalaina* (moth) and *opsis* (appearance of). But in other cases the genus term may be derived from the name of a person, as in *Cattleya*, named after Mr. Cattley, grower of the first member of the genus to flower in Britain (in 1818). Another example is the genus *Lycaste*, named after Lycaste, the beautiful daughter of Priam, last king of Troy.

Similarly, the species epithet may be purely descriptive or it may commemorate a person or perhaps the place where that species was first found. In the case of species epithets, there is a further complication, because Latin adjectives have different endings, depending upon the noun to which they apply. Examples such as *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *Epidendrum falcatum* and *Neofinetia falcata* are easy to understand, but you need to be a Latin scholar to understand why *Cymbidium suave* and *Trichopilia suavis* are also correctly named.

A few common descriptive species epithets, their alternative endings (in bold) and their meanings are listed below:

aemulus, *aemula*, *aemulum* = outstanding

amabilis, *amabile* = beautiful

barbatus, *barbatum* = bearded

caudatus, *caudata*, *caudatum* = with tails

falcatus, *falcata*, *falcatum* = sickle-shaped

humilis, *humile* = dwarf

punctatus, *punctata*, *punctatum* = spotted

suavis, *suave* = sweet-scented

Examples of species epithets that commemorate people are *Bifrenaria harrissoniae*, *Coelogyme dayanum* and *Cymbidium devonianum* (named after Mrs. Harrison of Liverpool, John Day of London and the sixth Duke of Devonshire, all prominent 19th century amateur orchid growers) and *Cymbidium lowianum*, *Masdevallia veitchiana* and *Paphiopedilum sanderianum*, named after Hugh Low, James Veitch and Frederick Sander, three nurserymen who were also well known in the 1800s. The epithets of species orchids named after their place of discovery always end in *ense* or *ensis* (meaning from). Examples are *Paphiopedilum malipoense* (named after the province of Malipo in China), *Masdevallia towarensis* (named after the town of Tovar in Venezuela) and *Paphiopedilum philippinensis* (from the Philippines).

Congratulations to those who have read this far, especially if you understand more now than when you started! Actually the names of species orchids are no more difficult to remember than those of people – the main difference being that the surname (genus) of the orchid comes first and its given name (species epithet) comes second. Just imagine that they're Roman citizens (with Latin names) and you'll have no trouble at all! Unfortunately, that advice is useless to me - I can seldom remember the names of people to whom I'm introduced and sometimes I have difficulty in recalling the names of friends I've known for years!

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

THE CULTIVATION OF ZYGOPETALUMS by Alan Hope

These cool-growing and highly perfumed orchids grow and flower in roughly the same conditions as cymbidiums. The *Zygopetalum* species (numbering about sixteen) come chiefly from Brazil and neighbouring South American countries. Most can be recognised by their distinctive green and brown petals and sepals and their striking mauve to purplish pink, striped lips. *Zygopetalums* have a delightful perfume which can fill a shadehouse on a warm day. Most carry four to eight large flowers on a long raceme. These are often produced twice each year and are long-lasting; some keep quite well as cut flowers.

***Zygopetalum* Species.** The more commonly grown species are *Zygopetalum mackayi*, *Z. intermedium*, *Z. crinitum* and *Z. maxillare*. All have been used in hybridising and a number of lovely varieties have been produced. While there is some confusion in distinguishing *Z. mackayi* from *Z. intermedium*, both are cool growers which flower from early autumn through to winter. They both produce a strong upright spike with large and prominent flowers. *Z. crinitum* is a smaller plant with smaller flowers that tend towards dark brown with considerable blotching on the sepals and petals, while the lip has purplish blue tonings. *Z. crinitum* flowers in early to mid-autumn. *Z. maxillare* differs from the previous species in requiring warmer growing conditions. It has medium-sized flowers with dark brown sepals and petals and a striking pink to mauve lip. For this reason it has been used in a number of the more recent hybrids.

***Zygopetalum* Hybrids.** Until recently there were few hybrid *zygopetalums*, reflecting a relative lack of interest by early growers in what is a truly beautiful genus. The first registered hybrid (1894) was *Z. Perrenoudii*, made from *Z. intermedium* and *Z. maxillare*. A number of new hybrids have been produced in the last 20 years and some to look out for include *Z. Blue Lake*, *Z. Titanic*, *Z. Helen-Ku*, *Z. Warringal Wonder*, *Z. John Banks*, *Z. Artur Elle*, *Z. Kiwi Choice* and some of the crosses made using *Z. maxillare*, such as *Z. Sedenii* and *Z. Yolande*. Some of the intergeneric hybrids such as *Zygocaste* (*Zygopetalum* x *Lycaste*) are also worth trying.

Cultural Requirements. *Zygopetalums* prefer a cool, moist environment, similar to that enjoyed by cymbidiums. An open potting mix of well-weathered medium size pine bark is suitable, as is also any well draining and open cymbidium mix. While *Zygopetalums* tolerate low temperatures they appreciate some protection from the cold, wet days of winter. Provide a covering and keep the plants on the dry side over winter, as this approximates the rest period (time of least growth) in their natural habitat.

Zygopetalums require bright light (50% shade cloth) but not strong sunshine, otherwise their leaves will burn. They also do well in an open, airy position, which reflects their natural epiphytic habit, growing either on tree branches or attached to ferns. They should be watered well during their active growth period in summer and appreciate small and frequent applications of liquid fertiliser.

Leaf Spotting. One of the problems encountered with *zygopetalums* is the tendency for the leaves to develop spots, while the foliage of other orchid genera grown side-by-side with them remain quite clean. These spots are difficult to avoid, although keeping the plants in an open, airy position and drier over winter may reduce the problem.

Propagation. You can expand your collection by dividing larger plants or by striking backbulbs, either in normal potting mix or in a sealed plastic bag containing a little moist *Sphagnum* moss. However, single backbulbs are more difficult to strike than those of cymbidiums and as with *lycastes*, success is more likely using a clump of 2-3 backbulbs.

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

THE WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY

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Again if you wish to have your Bulletin emailed to you please give me a ring or contact me via email this will reduce our costs greatly and you will receive the bulletin earlier than the printed one, my email is alexshepherd4@bigpond.com

Got any ideas on the way we have meetings or our guest speakers put your hand up at a meeting or contact us and you will be listened too, we are only as good as all of our members.

To members and their Families who are have a hard time either health or other matters we think of you always. Need a little help with your orchids get in touch, we may be of help.

I don't approve of political jokes. I've seen too many of them get elected.

I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore, I am perfect.

Every day I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

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