

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au



PRESIDENT

Andrew Fernandez
0438210033

TREASURER

Alf Magnano
7 Tait Court
Bundoora 3083
Ph 94673127

BULLETIN
OCTOBER
2018

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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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 7TH of NOVEMBER 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 17th of OCTOBER.. 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 David Cannon who will speak on Australian Native orchids their growth and cultural requirements, we will be educated and entertained at the same time. We should be growing a lot more natives so be early, get a good seat and bring a plate to share with your fellow members company.

Judging results for SEPTEMBER 2018.

OPEN

Standard Cymbidium

1 st Dural Dream x Radiant Vulcan	A.Christou
2 nd Parishii x Penata	A.Christou
3 rd Pebbles x Toya	A.Christou

Miniature Cymbidium

1 st Mini Dream Pure Gold	G&C.Dimech
2 nd Valley Becky x Valley Regent	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Fairy Rouge Lavender Falls	G&C.Dimech

Dendrobium

1 st Den Thompson	A.Christou
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Paphiopedilum

1 st Yalimba Billy	J.Crawford
2 nd Highland Prince x Neridian	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Great Pacific	G&C.Dimech

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1 st Gold Dollar x Druryi	J.Crawford
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Oncidium

1 st Midnight Miracles	K.Lam
2 nd Midnight Miracles	G&C.Dimech

Lycaste

1 st Macama Atlantis	J.Crawford
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Australian Native Species

1 st Sarc Falcatus	J&L.Karbownik
2 nd Plect Trideneata	M.Borstelj
3 rd Den Aemulum	K.Lam

Australian Native Hybrid

1 st D. Kayla	Le Tan Liep
2 nd Den Jonathons Glory	C.Krolikowski
3 rd Den Tyabb x Speciosum	J.Crawford

Cattleya

1 st Rlc Hawaian Princess	M.Borstelj
2 nd C.Warneri	M.Borstelj

Novelty Cattleya

1 st Slc Beaufort South Rivers	J.Crawford
2 nd Slc Gold Star	K.Lam
3 rd Blc Hawaian Stars	M.Borstelj

Masdevallia Hybrid

1 st Copper Angel Red Legs	K.Lam
2 nd Falcata el Globo	J&L.Karbownik

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Phrag Autumn Fiend	J.Crawford
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Species Any Genera

1 st Phrag Besseae	J.Crawford
2 nd Coel Speciosa	G&C.Dimech
3 rd Dendrochilum Micranthum	G&C.Dimech

Intermediate Cymbidium

1 st Kianebona Jacinta	A .Christou
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Best In Setion

Kianebona Jacinta	A.Christou
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INTERMEDIATE

Standard Cymbidium

1 st Coratea x Goldern Cascade	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly
2 nd 657	L.Smith
3 rd Kirby Last Red Beauty	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly

Intermediate Cymbidium

1 st O'Halloran Hill	M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly
2 nd Winter x White Valley	M.Grzan
3 rd Winifred x Janis Lin	M.Grzan

Miniature Cymbidium

1 st Sarah Jean Show	J&H.Prosser
2 nd Pathfinder Softly Softly	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly

Oncidium

1 st Twinkle	L&A.Shepherd
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Any Other Hybrid

1 st Coel Unchained Melody	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
2 nd Coel Unchained Melody	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
3 rd Z.Arthur Elle Macilayi	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly

Species Any Genera

1 st Sten Speciosus	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
2 nd C.Coccinea	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
3 rd Cym Tracyanum	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly

Australian Native Species

1 st D.Gracilicaule	L&A.Shepherd
2 nd D.Aemulum	L&A.Shepherd

Australian Native Hybrid

1 st D.Johnathons Glory	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
2 nd D.Delicatum	M.Brisix B.O'Reilly
3 rd D.Cobber	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly

Cattleya

1 st C.Dixie Jewel Suzuki	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
2 nd Pot Free Spirit Laina	M.Brisix B.O'Reilly

Novelty Cattleya

1 st Slc Tiny Titan Magic	M.Brisi x M.O'Reilly
2 nd Blc Waianue Leopard coryell	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
3 rd Sl Orpetti x Mini Pet	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly

Masdevallia Hybrid

1 st Coriaceae x Coccinea	M.Brisi x B.O'Reilly
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Best In Section

Unknown

ADVANCED NOVICE**Species Cymbidium**

1 st Lowianum Goldern Oak	N.Levett
Phalaenopsis	
1 st P.Unknown	N.Levett

Australian Native Hybrid

1 st D.Unknown	N.Levett
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Best In Section

Cym Lowianum Goldern Oak	N.Levett
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NOVICE**Standard Cymbidium**

1 st Lunar Blaze x Pepper Blaze	H.Robinson
--	------------

Any Other Cymbidium

1 st Narboo Dark Silk	M.Bastecky
Any Other Hybrid	
1 st Coel Mem W Micholitz	H.Robinson

Species Any Genera

1 st Maxialaris Porphyraسته	K.Ridgway
--	-----------

Australian Native Species or Hybrid

1 st D.Kingianum Corrigans Red	P.Kennedy
2 nd D.Unknown	B.Duggan
3 rd D.Aemulum Father	M.Bastecky

Best In Section

D.Kingianum Corrigans Red	P.Kennedy
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VALE**John Munday**

Warringal Orchid Society wishes to advice members of the passing of John. He was a long standing and respected member of our society.

He always was there to help on our show days doing anything that was required of him he loved the bark corner and it won't be the same without him.

He loved a talk and would talk the leg off a chair talking about his travels around the world, of which he travelled a lot.

I can see him now broom in hand going between the sales tables making sure everything is tidy, we will miss him.

Go well john.

Progressive Points Totals for 2018

OPEN

G&C.Dimech	212
J.Crawford	167
A.Christou	94
K.Lam	92
C.Krolikowski	59
E&D.Baxter	58
M.Borstelj	53
D.Wain	53
W.Garner	48
L&A.Christensen	47
J.Khoo	40
B.Duncan	29
J&L.Karbownik	25
G.Garrett	25
Le Tan Leip	20
A.Fernandez	20
N.Meggetto	15
V&M.Van Remmen	11
S.Pantelejenko	9
K.Box	7
G.Pezzin	7
V&N.Kluchkoski	7
F&T.Nguyen	4
M.Mally	2
INTERMEDIATE	
M.Brisi & B.O'Reilly	392
M.Voldina	38
S.Grzinic	38
A.Magnano	27
J&H.Prosser	23
L&A.Shepherd	19
L.Smith	18

T.Pratchet 14

M.Gzan 6

A&B.Halil 5

ADVANCED NOVICE

N.Levett 50

P.Chai 11

NOVICE

K.Ridgway 24

H.Robinson 23

M.Bastecky 7

B.Duggan 4

P.Kennedy 4

R.Burroughs 1

VALE

Warringal Orchid Society wishes to acknowledge the passing of Reg McKay, esteemed Life Member and Friend to many members of our Society, he was without a doubt a peerless grower of our wonderful hobby of orchids. Reg always passed on his knowledge to all and he was generous to new comers in giving an orchid to help them increase their collections. He loved a joke and always had a smile and a kind word for everybody. Show time at our Society will never be the same again as he was very knowledgeable and helpful in the running of our shows .At Christmas time, Reg loved dressing in his elf costume and entertaining the members and giving out the bags of lollies and getting a kiss for his trouble. He always was on the lookout another orchid to add to his collection even if Norma his wife didn't agree with him buying another one. We will always remember you Reg, rest in peace mate.

COCO HUSK as a POTTING MEDIUM by Brian Milligan

Coco husk, the chopped, dry outer coating of the coconut, has become a popular potting medium over the last few years. The majority of commercial growers in Europe have also changed to coco husk, and many cymbidium growers in Australia are also claiming great success with its use. However, growers of other genera have had mixed success here – a well known Victorian paphiopedilum grower found that his slipper orchids did not grow as well in coco husk as in pine bark, while others have been unhappy with the performance of their phragmipediums in coco husk. This article relates some of my experiences with coco husk as a potting medium for a range of orchids.

Coco husk is marketed in compressed blocks of dried material. Before use it must be soaked in water, which causes the coco husk to swell enormously in volume. Considerable quantities of salt are released in the process, sufficient to kill many orchids if not removed. I soak the coco husk in water overnight, then decant the slurry through a sieve, and repeat the process twice more (soaking overnight each time), after which the water contains a negligible quantity of salts. A cymbidium grower has told me that this is over-kill, and that I am removing some useful potassium salts in the process but I believe that it's better to remove all (or most) of the salts present, and then to replace any 'good' salts by application of liquid fertilisers.

I have found that the quality of coco husk varies from batch to batch. Most coco husk floats when it is soaked to remove salts, and I prefer to use this material. Some batches contain a considerable amount of material that sinks, and I discard this, as it retains too much water when used as a potting mix. Initially I blended the coco husk with 20% (by volume) of perlite, in line with an early recommendation. However, I found that it gave no better results than coco husk alone, and eventually gave up adding perlite, as it roughly doubled the cost of the potting mix.

A major advantage of coco husk over bark is that it is much easier on the hands at re-potting time, and much more easily removed from the roots than bark. Also, it does not deteriorate as rapidly as bark does, and therefore re-potting should not need to be carried out so frequently. Certainly, in the 18 months that I have been using coco husk as a potting medium, no appreciable deterioration appears to have taken place.

A possible disadvantage of coco husk is that it retains water much longer than does pine bark. In terms of water conservation this may be a good thing but only if plants grown in coco husk are kept separate from those grown in bark, and watered separately. Those growers who use sphagnum moss as a potting medium will already have encountered a similar problem. Probably coco husk falls between bark and moss in its ability to retain water. A useful tip for those who are unsure when their orchids need water is to keep several 'control' pots containing only coco husk (or bark, or moss) in their collection, and to water them at the same time as the orchids. Simply upend these pots to determine whether the material near the bottom of the pot is wet or dry, and therefore, whether your orchids need to be watered again or not.

After 18 months using coco husk/perlite mix (4:1 by volume) and coco husk alone as potting media, I am pleased with the results in some cases, less so in others. Best results have been obtained with cymbidiums and lycastes. All of the cymbidiums that I checked had good, healthy roots, including those back-bulbs that I removed during re-potting. The presence of perlite in the mix seemed to make no difference to the orchids' growth. Those lycaste hybrids that I had potted in coco husk/perlite mix did as well or better than those potted in bark. A pair of Lycaste Shoalhaven back-bulbs, potted in coco husk had leaves 200 mm tall and a well developed root system within five months – remarkable results for such a short time. On the other hand, one pair of Lycaste Macama back-bulbs potted at the same time failed to strike, while the new growth from a second pair was only 20 mm tall. However, that's about par for the course – in my experience a 50% strike rate is as well as can be expected for lycastes, provided that one uses pairs of pseudobulbs; it's much lower if one uses single bulbs.

My greatest success has been achieved with the Madagascan species *Angraecum magdalenae*, which has struggled ever since I acquired it six years ago. Since potting it in coco husk/perlite a year ago it has developed two new basal growths, while the main plant has flowered for the first time, and the pot is now filled with new healthy roots. I suspect that I have not provided it with sufficient water in previous times. Several coelogyne species have also done well when potted in coco husk, especially those that spent the winter in my heated glasshouse. The New Guinea native *Dendrobium lawesii* is also doing well in the new mix, while others have obtained similar results with *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae* potted in coco husk.

Results with masdevallias were mixed. *Masdevallia Parlatoriana*, which is a vigorous grower, thrived and flowered prolifically but other, less vigorous, masdevallias seemed to struggle in coco husk/perlite, and one or two died. There seems to me to be no advantage in transferring the rest of my masdevallias from my traditional bark/sphagnum moss or moss/polystyrene foam potting mixes. Australian native dendrobiums have grown reasonably well in coco husk but the mix remained wet for too long after watering during winter. The same applies to soft-cane dendrobiums – their keikis have grown well but need to be watered very sparingly during winter.

Please bear in mind that the above results apply to orchids grown for only 12-18 months in the new mix. Whether those orchids that are growing well continue to do so in future remains to be seen. After all, most potting mixes give good results for the first few months before beginning to deteriorate, sometimes becoming acidic with deleterious effects to many orchids. My recommendation is to try a few orchids in the new mix for a year or two first, and not to undertake a major re-potting program until you are happy with the results.

With Thanks to the AUTHOR and to OSCOV

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SHOWS

Maribynong Orchid Society, Sarcophilus festival and orchid show 10/11 of NOVEMBER 9am to 4pm. Maribynong Community Centre, Randell Street Maribynong.

END OF YEAR BREAK UP DINNER.

Held in the second week of December 12/12/2018, members \$25 and non-members \$28, payment by the November meeting BYO drinks. This is a great night and enjoyed by all who attends. A good chance to catch up and boast to your fellow members about your orchids and plans for next year.

CLUB BBQ.

Again being held at George and Chris's home, 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown 3074, at 11am, BYO drinks and please bring a plate to complement the meal.

This is another event not to be missed especially by new members as they can look over George and Chris's collection and their growing conditions.

A great day that lasts well into the afternoon.

DISCLAIMER

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