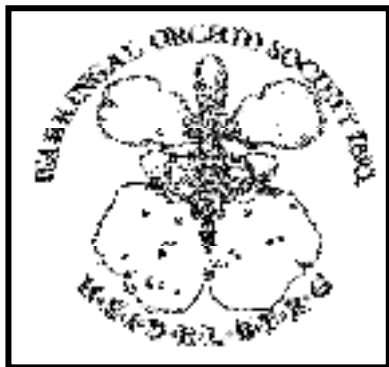


WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

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**BULLETIN
FEBRUARY
2019**

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The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 6th 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 20th 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 to the first meeting for 2019, we hope you all had a good break and had wonderful times with Family and Friends. Our first speaker for the year will be George Dimech our Secretary, who will be an interesting speaker and will pass on some great knowledge of our great hobby of growing Orchids. Don't miss it. And don't forget to bring supper.

Vale

Warringal Orchid Society wishes to acknowledge the passing of David Wains father Alwyn and David's wife Ying's father both parents passing within a week of each other. Condolences to both David and Ying and to your families.

Show Dates

Due to double bookings at our show venue the **Winter show** will be held on the 2/3 and 4 of AUGUST 2019 the 2nd being the set up day at the hall.

Spring show will be held on the 27/28 and 29 of SEPTEMBER 2019 the 27 being set up day at the hall.

Australian Orchid Review

Those wishing to have their magazine delivered to the club and at a greatly reduced price, see George at the February meeting so he can place an order with the publisher for the discount and a much earlier delivery.

Club Seedling

This year's club seedling will be a Cymbidium, "Maureen Carter" it should be a beauty, priced at \$6.00 the price is really a steal so get in quick and purchase yours at the February meeting they should sell out quick.

Got something to share?

Have you seen something you would like to share with your fellow members? An article or perhaps the layout of your newsletter give me an e/mail and I'll put it in and please remember we would like to send the newsletter out via email to save costs to the club, alexshepherd4@bigpond.com

How has the weather been for you?

Hasn't the weather been up and down this year, my plants have been complaining about it and I've got no answers for them I just shrug my shoulders and tell them to get over it I'm starting to worry because we are talking too much and the plants are making a lot of sense

Why?

Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

BECAUSE

When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

WHY?

Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

BECAUSE

In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

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 OSCOV and the AUTHOR

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WHY?

Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

BECAUSE

Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

WHY?

Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called passing the buck'?

BECAUSE

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.



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