

# WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



[www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au)

DECEMBER  
2023

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TBA

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## Bulletin Editor

We need a new Editor to take over the reins. If you would like to volunteer to do the job, please contact the Secretary George Dimech. Basic computer skills required and help with layout is available.

The next Committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>. February 2024  
Venue to be decided.

The Warringal Orchid Society meets at the Senior Citizens Hall in Hawdon Street Heidelberg.

**The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. DECEMBER** hall will be open from 6.30pm

There will be no benching of plants for judging.  
Sales table pots and other orchid accessories will not be available.

**Note: December meeting is on second Wednesday not Third as other months**

There will be no speaker for December meeting.

We will have a Q & A session



# END OF YEAR BBQ



A good day was had for those who attended, great weather, good food and jovial conversations about orchid growing, wine making and who is the best cook.



**December meeting, Break-up dinner will be in the form of a self-catering option.**

Members are asked to bring a plate of food to share.

Example: finger food, party pies, sausage rolls, quiches, cheese, meat or fruit platter, sandwiches, pizza, chicken, desserts etc.

BYO drinks & glasses. Plates & napkins will be supplied.

Tables will be set up and food placed so members can then self-serve.

Could members arrive at 7.00pm so we can start meal at 7.30pm

**We will be having a Christmas raffle.**

**Tickets are \$1.00 each**

1<sup>st</sup>. prize Mega Hamper



**Reminder: Meeting is on second Wednesday of December**



## AUSTRALIAN CYMBIDIUMS IN NATURE

The pH values of the medium in which Australian cymbidiums grow have been studied.

Results from 145 *Cymbidium canaliculatum*, 288 *C. suave* and 8 plants of *C. madidum* are presented. They show that the first two require a pH condition much different from the pH usually recommended for cymbidiums.

Although there are almost 50 species of the genus *Cymbidium*, only three are native to Australia – *Cymbidium canaliculatum*, *C. madidum* and *C. suave*. These three species occur only in Australia.

We have made an extensive study of three species where they grow in nature in New South Wales and southern Queensland and have discovered surprising differences in their cultural likes and dislikes, particularly the pH of the decayed material surrounding their roots. These results provide useful clues as to how we can better grow these three Aussies in cultivation.

We have examined plants of *C. canaliculatum* between my home town of Dungog, NSW, and Roma, Queensland, a habitat range of 1400 kms. Daily temperatures in its various habitats range from -12°C to +50°C. Plants were found on a variety of hosts – eucalypts, native pines and native oaks – both living trees, stumps and fallen logs. Ten were found on live native pines while thirty grew on fallen pine logs.

pH tests were made around the root systems of each plant, both near the surface and well down around the lower root system. The pH near the surface differed markedly from lower down, as shown by the following values.

Host	pH	pH
	near surface	lower down
Live pines	6.0	9.0
Pine logs on ground	6.5	9.0
Other live trees	7.0	9.5
Other stumps and logs	7.5	9.5

The pH measured near the roots of seedlings (average leaf length 150 – 200 mm) growing on live pines was only 4.5 but measurements taken on older plants ranged from pH 7 to pH 9. It seems therefore that the root system in *Cymbidium canaliculatum* prefers alkaline conditions, preferably about pH 9, and may modify its environment to suit.

I recommend spraying cultivated plants with lime (Calcium carbonate) spray (1g per 1L) four times per year. This species grows vigorously in spring and summer, and benefit from fertiliser applications during this period. In nature the root system never becomes dry, as channel-like leaves channel any moisture provided by rain, dew or frost to the base of the plant. Decayed leaf matter provides the main source of nutriment.



*Cymbidium canaliculatum*



*Cymbidium suave*

*Cymbidium suave* plants were studied in nature between the Hunter River (near **Newcastle, NSW**) and the **Brisbane River (near Ipswich, Queensland)**, a range of 1000kms. Some plants were found near sea level (25m), others at elevations up to 700m. Hosts included blue gum, spotted gum, grey gum, water gum, red gum, brush box, blackbutt, string bark, ironbark, tallow wood, native pine and oak. Again pH measurements were made just under the leaf mould at the base of the plant and also much further down in the rotted heartwood (mudgut).

No.	Host	pH	
		Near surface	in mudgut
195	Dead stumps	4.5	4.0
65	Dead wood, logs	4.5	4.0
15	Live trees	4.5	4.0
8	On rocks, bark	5.0	4.0
5	Sick plants in stumps	5.0	6.0

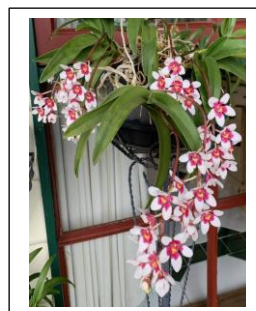
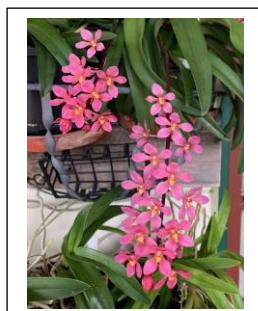
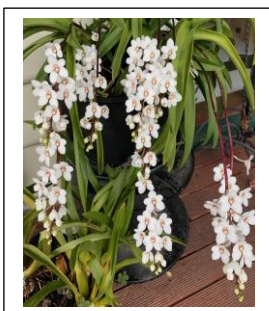
Obviously, the root system of this species prefers acidic conditions. The study covered 288 plants in all, 250 of them carrying seed capsules (it was late September). The best plants had a 25 mm layer of good leaf mould from decaying leaves, twigs and bark around their bases. Decayed material (mudgut) taken from the centre of the host stumps had pH 3.5 – 4.0, and I recommend the use of this material to achieve a satisfactory pH range when cultivating *Cymbidium suave*. Other materials suitable for adjusting the pH of the potting mix include Phostrogen Acid Plant Food® (a new product with a pH of 4.5), pineapple juice (pH 4.5) and coffee grounds (pH 4.5). Never apply lime to this species as they hate alkaline conditions.

Only eight plants of *Cymbidium madidum* were studied, all of them on living trees, logs and stumps in the Coffs Harbour area (mid north coast of NSW). Material surrounding their roots had a pH of 6.0 to 6.5.

When plants of *C. suave* and *C. canaliculatum* are grown in media with the pH corrected to habitat figures their growth and grow ability improved markedly. As well, they become easier to hold pods and produce viable seed. The major improvement occurred when the pods and plants were treated with honey-sucrose, starting when flower spikes first emerge and continuing after pollination.

(Permission for the publication of this paper was given verbally by Ken Russell to Alan Pleitner, a member of the Murray Valley and Warringal Orchid Societies)

Zac Giavaris has not been able to attend our meetings due to ill health but she is keeping her spirits up growing her orchids. Here are a few pics she wishes to share with us.



## Judging results November 2023

### OPEN

#### Intermediate Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup>. Yowie Flame x Coraki Advent G & C Dimech

#### Phalaenopsis

1<sup>st</sup>. Unknown M..Bastecky

#### Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup>. Den. Yukidaruma A. Rogers

2<sup>nd</sup>. Den. Gowan's Tangello M. Coker

#### Exhibition Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup>. Coral Sea x Blendia M. Coker

#### Maudiae Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup>. N/A

2<sup>nd</sup>. Hung-Meng Bay x Shin-Yi Heart M. Coker

3<sup>rd</sup>. Red Luther M. Coker

#### Novelty Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup>. Lovegood 'Lupin' M. Coker

2<sup>nd</sup>. Bel Royal M. Coker

3<sup>rd</sup>. Doogoldi M. Coker

#### Species Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup>. Mastersianum M. Coker

#### Oncidium

1<sup>st</sup>. Onc. Beauty J. Khoo

2<sup>nd</sup>. Onc. Wildcat 'Bob Cat' G & C Dimech

#### Miltonopsis

1<sup>st</sup>. Milt. Breathless M. Coker

#### Lycaste

1<sup>st</sup>. Sunset Gem G & C Dimech

2<sup>nd</sup>. Macama E & D Baxter

3<sup>rd</sup>. Elizabeth Anne A. Magnano

#### Australian Native Species

1<sup>st</sup>. Cym. Suave T & A Pleitner

2<sup>nd</sup>. Cym. Canaliculatum T & A Pleitner

3<sup>rd</sup>. Cym. Canaliculatum T & A Pleitner

#### Australian Native Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Sarc. Cherie 'Dark Midget' x Torens A. Rogers

2<sup>nd</sup>. Sarc. Kulnula Coral x Bunyip A. Magnano

3<sup>rd</sup>. Sarc. Elise x Fitzhart M. Bastecky

#### Cattleya

1<sup>st</sup>. C. Irene Finney x Intermedia Varorlato A. Fernandez

2<sup>nd</sup>. Bc. Lindleyana x C. Lynn Spencer E & D Baxter

#### Novelty Cattleya

1<sup>st</sup>. N/A

2<sup>nd</sup>. Cat. Why Not M. Coker

#### Vanda

1<sup>st</sup>. V. Baurita's Witness M. Coker

#### Masdevallia Species

1<sup>st</sup>. Masd. Notosibiric M. Coker

2<sup>nd</sup>. Masd. Veitchiana E & D Baxter

3<sup>rd</sup>. Masd. Veitchiana 'Sol' G & C Dimech

#### Masdevallia Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Masd. Pachyura x Hhebe M. Mally

2<sup>nd</sup>. Masd. Blazing Wing E & D Baxter

3<sup>rd</sup>. Masd. Falcata 'El Globo' G & C Dimech

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Phrag. Cuzco Blood M. Coker

2<sup>nd</sup>. Sarc. Blue Knob' A. Fernandez

3<sup>rd</sup>. Galeopetalum Starburst M. Coker

#### Species- Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup>. Anguloa Ruckeri M. Coker

2<sup>nd</sup>. Cat. Purpurata M. Coker

3<sup>rd</sup>. Phrag. Besseae M. Coker

### BEST IN SECTION

Anguloa Ruckeri M. Coker

### INTERMEDIATE

#### Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup>. Den. Lavender mist S. Grznic

#### Oncidium

1<sup>st</sup>. Burr. Living Fire 'Glowing Embers' S. Grznic

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Lc. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' M. Volodina

2<sup>nd</sup>. Zygo Artur Elle Essendon M. Grzan

### BEST IN SECTION

Lc. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah' M. Volodina

### ADVANCED NOVICE

#### Lycaste

1<sup>st</sup>. Caroline "Dragon Lady" P. Kennedy

2<sup>nd</sup>. Macama 'Aline' P. Kennedy

3<sup>rd</sup>. Koolena x Virginalis P. Kennedy

#### Australian Native Species

1<sup>st</sup>. Den Linguiforme P. Kennedy

#### Novelty Cattleya

1<sup>st</sup>. Lc. Hsin Bull Lady P. Kennedy

#### Masdevallia Species

1<sup>st</sup>. Masd. Coccinea 'Alba' A. La Rocca

#### Masdevallia Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Rein Staal x Rubicon A. La Rocca

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Coel. Kirrabili James P. Kennedy

#### Species Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup>. Biff. Harrisonae P. Kennedy

### BEST IN SECTION

Masd. Coccinea 'Alba' A. La Rocca

### NOVICE

#### Standard Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup>. Cym. Tequila Sunrise G. Benson

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup>. Rlt. Little Toshie J. Wong

2<sup>nd</sup>. Oncid Unknown G. Benson

#### Species- Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup>. Pluro. Stricta J. Wong

### BEST IN SECTION

Rlt. Little Toshie J. Wong

### Seedling Flowering 1<sup>st</sup>. Time

#### OPEN

1<sup>st</sup>. Cym. Suave T & A Pleitner

2<sup>nd</sup>. Sarcouanda Elizabeth Pender A. Rogers

### BEST IN SECTION

Cym. Suave T & A Pleitner

### Presidents Choice

Anguloa Ruckeri M. Coker

## Progressive Point Score

### OPEN

M. Coker	392
G & C. Dimech	168
A. Rogers	124
E & D Baxter	60
A. Magnano	50
M. Mally	47
J & L Karbownik	41
A. Fernandez	40
K. Lam	34
M. Bastecky	30
B. Duncan	25
S. Pantelejenko	17
C. Krolikowski	17
G. Garrett	15
T & A Pleitner	14
J. Khoo	12
T Phillipou	6
M. Harding / D. Lester	5
N. Truang	1

### INTERMEDIATE

S. Grinzic	46
M. Volodina	38
L & A Shepherd	14
M. Grzan	14

### ADVANCED NOVICE

P. Kennedy	45
F. Verlaan	12
A. La Rocca	8

### NOVICE

K. Sloane	38
D. Westhead	26
A. Duerden	14
G. Benson	13
B. Duggan	11
G. Sullivan	10
R. Robertson	9
J. Wong	
B. O'Callaghan	3
N .Ates	3

## NOTICES

### New growers Group

New members wishing to get some extra instruction are welcome to join the New Growers Group conducted by Jason Khoo. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting. No growers group for December meeting

### Monthly meeting Supper

All members are invited to bring a plate of supper to share at the end of our meeting. We all enjoy this time, so do not leave it to the same ones every month. Help pack up prior to having supper.

### Set- up

Help is needed to set the hall up for our meeting. Hall is open from 6.00pm, Come early and help set-up.

### Committee

Due to several resignations from committee and to maintain our stability we are asking for members to join the committee. New members means new ideas. This is your society, support it and have a go.

**The position of President is still vacant. Please think about Volunteering**

Christmas Break-up

December meeting

Reminder meeting is on second Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

If members could arrive by 7.00pm so that we can set up food and start meal at 7.30pm

**Best in Section - Open**



Anguloa Ruckeri

Grown by M. Coker

**Best in section – Int.**



Lc. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'

Grown by M. Volodina

**Best in Section – Adv. Nov.**



Masd. Coccinea 'Alba'

Grown by P. Kennedy

**Best in Section - Novice**



Rlt. Little Toshie

Grown by J. Wong

Seedling 1<sup>st</sup>. flowering



Cym. Suave  
Grown by T & A Plietner

Presidents Choice



Anguloa Ruckeri  
Grown by M. Coker



We have changed the venue for our monthly meetings in 2024 they will now be held at the Watsonia Community Hall.

The address is: 35 Lambourne Road Watsonia 3087

We will have our first meeting at this venue on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. February 2024.

Meeting dates and times will remain the same, only the venue has changed. Ample parking is available.



**THE WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE SPONSORS FOR THEIR DONATIONS**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WITH YOUR CUSTOM**



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