

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

**APRIL
2024**

PRESIDENT
Temp.
Andrew Fernandez

TREASURER
Alf Magnano
0403006104

EDITOR
Temp.
George Dimech

SECRETARY
George Dimech
0411372537

MEMBERSHIP
Helen Robinson

SHOW CO-ORDINATOR
Jerry Karbownik
98173699

All correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, 77 Carrington Blvd. Thomastown, Vic. 3074



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 1st. MAY, 2024
Venue to be decided.

**The Warringal Orchid Society meets at the Watsonia Community Hall
35 Lambourn Road Watsonia**

The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 17, APRIL

Hall will be open from 7.00pm you are welcome to bench plants for judging and to socialise with other members. A sales table operates with pots and other orchid accessories available. Members are able to submit up to 6 orchid plants for sale, plants to be well established in pots and in a clean condition. The society deducts a 10% commission on sales. Plants to be listed on sales form available at sales table.

Please be seated on time for meeting to commence at 8.00pm.

**This month's speaker will be: Alf Magnano
He will be speaking on his recent trip to the World Orchid Conference**



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.

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. This is your society, support it and have a go.

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

ROGRESSIVE POINT SCORE

OPEN

M. Coker	38
G & C. Dimech	33
A. Rogers	16
J. Khoo	12
T & A Pleitner	8
K. Lam	5
S. Pantelejenko	2
J & L Karbownik	2
M. Bastecky	1

INTERMEDIATE

L & A Shepherd	20
M. Volodina	8
S. Grinzic	4
M. Grzan	4

ADVANCED NOVICE

I. Katis	11
F. Verlaan	7
A. La Rocca	4
G. Spiteri	4

NOVICE

K. Sloane	11
J. Wong	11
F. Walton	6
D. Parry	1

Presidents Choice



Paphinia neudeckeri

Grown by M. Coker

Paphinia neudeckeri is found in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. It is found in the mountain forests with warm and humid climate, at an altitude of 750-1300 meters...

JUDGING RESULTS – MARCH 2024

OPEN

Paphiopedilum

1st. Keyeshill x Wintustor M. Coker

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st. Paph. Stonei x Rothschildianum M. Coker

Species Paphiopedilum

1st. Charlesworthii M. Coker

2nd. Honyanum M. Coker

Miltonia

1st. Honolulu 'Warnes Best' G & C Dimech

Lycaste

1st. Abon Sunset M. Coker

Australian Native Species

1st. Den Bigibum T & A Pleitner

2nd. Den. Bigibum T & A Pleitner

Catleya

1st. C. Epicatanthe Volcano M. Coker

2nd. C. Guttata x L. Doramania G & C. Dimech

Novelty Catleya

1st. C. Lakehaven Pearl M. Coker

2nd. Slc. Angel Eyes x C Caudebec G & C Dimech

3rd. C. Seagulls Mini Cat x Dendis Spirit M. Coker

Masdevallia Hybrid

M. Candy Cane x Tuakau Candy G & C Dimech

Phalaenopsis

1st. Unknown G & C Dimech

Dendrobium

1st. Malones J. Khoo

2nd. Love Memory Fizz M. Coker

Any Other Hybrid

1st. Phrag. Zarly Surprise M. Coker

Species- Any Genera

1st. Milt. Moreliana M. Coker

2nd. Den. Tapiniense M. Coker

3rd. Paph. Newdeckeri M. Coker

BEST IN SECTION

Milt. Moreliana M. Coker

INTERMEDIATE

Cattleya

1st. Unknown L & A Shepherd

Miltonia

1st. Milt. Brazilia M. Grzan

2nd. Milt. Honolulu L & A

Shepherd

3rd. Milt. Brazilia S. Grzinic

Any Other Hybrid

1st. Colmanara Wildcat M. Volodina

BEST IN SECTION

Colmanara Wildcat M. Volodina

ADVANCED NOVICE

Miltonia

1st. Milt. Guanabara I. Katis

Catleya

1st. Unknown G. Spiteri

2nd. Leolodiglasce x Leopoldii I. katis

Phalaenopsis

1st. Phal. Colnu-cen Chattalade I. Katis

Species- Any Genera

1st. Gongora Galeata F. Verlaan

BEST IN SECTION

Phal. Colnu-cen Chattalade I. Katis

NOVICE

Any Other Hybrid

1st. C. Goldenzelle F. Walton

2nd. Milt. Guanabara J. Wong

3rd. C. Ruby Love K. Sloane

Australian Native Species

1st. Liparis Reflexa K. Sloane

BEST IN SECTION

C. Goldenzelle F. Walton

PRESIDENTS CHOICE

Pophinia Neudeckeri M. Coker



We have a well stacked library with books covering all aspects of orchid growing and genera. Members may borrow books on a monthly basis.

If interested see secretary.

Best in Section – Open



Milt. Moreliana

Grown by M. Coker

Best in Section – Int.



Colmanara Wildcat

Grown by M. Volodina

Best in Section – Adv. Nov.



Phal. Colnu-cen x Chattalade

Grown by I. Katis

Best in Section - Novice



Cat. Goldenzelle

Grown by F. Walton

ORCHIDS 101

Basic Orchid Culture

Knowing which orchid you are trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well. Let's examine each of these elements.



ABOVE: Two Cattleya plants grown under different lighting conditions. The plant on the left was grown in sufficient light to produce abundant flowers. The plant on the right was grown under too little light to flower. The dark green leaf color of the non-flowering plant indicates too little light.

Light

Without enough light, orchids may produce lush looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have evolved as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

How much light is enough? The answer to this seemingly simple question is "as much as they will take without burning." This means that the foliage should not be a lush, dark green. Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths. Figure 1 illustrates two cattleyas, one grown under optimum light conditions and the other under too little light to produce flowers.



ABOVE: A ceiling fan provides gentle ventilation for orchids in the home and simulates the breezy climate most orchids come from. A well-ventilated growing area discourages disease.

Air

Orchids roots, and eventually the entire plant, will die if they do not get air and this is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, orchids do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. Orchid plants are also intolerant of a stale, stagnant environment. You should strive for a buoyant atmosphere and gentle air movement must be provided at all times. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on it's lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed AWAY from the plants.



When an orchid is overwatered, root loss is the result. Without roots an orchid cannot take up water or nutrients and eventually, will get weak and die.

Water

Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components; quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6" pot every 7 days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry; 2) dry pots will feel lighter; 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry (Figure 2). If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant.

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes

salts that naturally accumulate. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water your plants at least once a month.

Watering frequency can be controlled by the choice of pot. For those who really like to water their plants or live in humid, rainy areas, clay pots, especially slotted pots are a good choice. Growers in drier climates or those who tend not to water often enough might want to use plastic pots to hold moisture longer.



ABOVE: Two Vandaceous seedlings illustrate the results of regular fertilization. The seedling on the left was grown without fertilizer while the one on the right was fertilized regularly. The plant on the right will reach flowering size and produce more blooms than that on the left.

Fertilizer

Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of feeding (Figure 3). Typically plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the fall and winter.

Regardless of the fertilizer that you chose to use, most experienced growers use no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the label-recommended strength. Oh, and by the way, it's best to water first to wet the potting medium before you fertilize.

Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and since orchids do not grow in soil, this conversion does not occur efficiently. The old conventional wisdom used to be that orchids grown in bark mixes needed to be fertilized with formulations high in nitrogen, i.e., 30-10-10. We now understand that these high nitrogen fertilizers aren't necessary. For a more detailed discussion of fertilizer and its dependence on water quality see the June 2003 and February 2008 issues of Orchids magazine or view copies of pertinent articles online here at www.aos.org.

Most experienced growers will agree that observation is the most important key to growing orchids well. Examining your plants on a regular basis will allow you to adjust and correct any problems before they become severe. In subsequent articles we will examine in more detail these four elements of culture and the orchid genera more commonly found in the marketplace. For more detailed information regarding growing orchids, see Orchid Resources at this website.

Common insect pests

MEALY BUGS & SCALE INSECTS – Symptoms: Visible scale on the leaves or white powder left by the mealy bugs, as well as honeydew deposits and yellowing of affected areas, are the visible signs of these two pests. However, even after eradication and removal of scale, small pits will remain. **Description:** Both pests tend to hide under leaves and in leaf axils, while mealy bugs may also hide in the potting mix, thus making them hard to detect. Both have a protective coating that makes them difficult to kill. Prolonged infestation can affect plant vigour. Mealy Bugs and scale may also leave honey-like deposits that can initiate fungal infestations. **Conditions:** They like warm, mild conditions, although the mealy bugs don't like very hot weather. Spring and summer are the main periods of infestation in the shade-house but they may be a problem in the hothouse all year around. **Treatment:** Spraying with a systemic insecticide (one that is absorbed by plant tissues) will generally kill these pests but spraying needs to be repeated two or three times at intervals of 10-14 days to ensure that the following generations are also killed. Scale may also be treated with eco oil (or white oil mixed with malathion or a systemic insecticide). The oil suffocates these pests; when mixed with toxic substances, it also kills by poisoning. Oil may damage the foliage of some orchids – always water plants before spraying them. Watering with insecticidal soap while dislodging scale manually (eg. with sharpened bamboo stake) is also recommended.

MITES, TWO-SPOTTED MITE & FALSE SPIDER MITE – Symptoms: The damage from spider mite can often be seen as a discolouration (silvering of the underside of the leaves) for the two-spotted mite and as pitted depressions for the false spider mites. Severe infestations can lead to malformed leaves and flowers. **Description:** Two-spotted mites (0.5 mm long), often known as spider mite or red spider mite, will spin a fine web, which helps to detect them. False spider mites are only half the size of the two-spotted mite (left in picture). Both type of mite pierce the plant with their proboscis and suck plant sap, opening the way for fungal infections. You can normally not see the mites and have to deduce their existence from the symptoms. **Conditions:** Mites like hot dry weather, and only become a problem under those conditions. They hide in cracks during winter. **Treatment:** Mites can be treated with miticides such as Kelthane and Omite (carefully follow the instructions on the packs of these products). Avoid using the same product all the time to minimise the development of resistance. They may also be sprayed with a systemic insecticide or watered with insecticidal soap solution. Increasing the relative humidity and spraying affected plants with oil can fix light infestations and terminate over-wintering populations.

APHIDS (GREENFLY) – including WOOLLY APHIDS – Symptoms: Aphids are easily visible, especially on young growths, and are often visited by ants. They may cause deformities and yellowing of new growth. **Description:** Under favourable conditions aphids can multiply very rapidly, causing stress to the plant by their sheer numbers. The aphids prefer to attack new shoots and flower buds. Affected flower buds will be disfigured, if they open at all. Aphids also leave honeydew deposits, which tend to become mouldy as well as attracting ants that help the aphids travel to different areas of the plant. Woolly aphids have a waxy covering that gives them a similar protection against sprays as mealy bugs. **Conditions:** Aphids tend to appear when the plant is developing new growth and can multiply very rapidly. **Treatment:** Aphids are generally easy to treat, with anything from a mixture of soapy water and methylated spirits or insecticidal soap (and a little brush) to surface spray insecticides. Heavy infestations might require the use of a systemic insecticide.

Thanks to John Krens OSCOV

Meeting Etiquette

- When asked to take your seats do so quickly and quietly so that meeting can start
- Introduce yourself to the person next to you, if you have not met them before
- When speaker has floor give them the courtesy of listening
- Do not talk during meeting as it makes it difficult for others to hear speaker
- Keep social chatter to before meeting or after meeting has concluded

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