

# WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



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

**AUGUST  
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

The next Committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. SEPTEMBER, 2024  
Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd. Thomastown.

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

**The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. AUGUST**

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.**

**NOTE: AGM will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. August**

## SHOW DATES – 2024

Spring show: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> And Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
set-up Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

At St. Sava Community Hall 212 Diamond Creek Rd. Greensborough

This month's speaker will be: Brett Mallony  
Subject: Growing Orchids under lights

Brett will bring along seedling flasks for sale



## 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. Please 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.**

**Nomination forms for the position of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee to be submitted 1 week prior to AGM in August.**

### PROGRESSIVE SCORES

#### OPEN

M. Coker	180
G & C. Dimech	116
A. Rogers	73
J & L Karbownik	23
K. Lam	19
M. Bastecky	18
M. Mally	14
J. Khoo	12
T & A Pleitner	8
S. Pantelejenko	6
A. Magnano	5
a. Fernandez	4
B. Duncan	4

#### INTERMEDIATE

L & A Shepherd	23
M. Volodina	20
S. Grinzic	15
M. Grzan	12

#### ADVANCED NOVICE

P. Kennedy	36
A. La Rocca	30
F. Verlaan	21
I. Katis	11
G. Sullivan	6
G. Spiteri	4

#### NOVICE

J. Wong	29
K. Sloane	19
G. Benson	12
F. Walton	9
D. Westhead	9
A. Duerden	7
K. Littleboy	4
R. Cooper	4
A. Angerossa	4
A. Duerden	4
K. Lee	3
D. Parry	1

### Presidents Choice



Onc. Dark Sun x Golden Drops

Grown by G & C Dimech



"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

Mae West

**Oncidium**, is a genus that contains about 340 species of orchids. It is distributed across tropical and subtropical America,

Common names for plants in this genus include **dancing-lady orchid** and **golden shower orchid**.

## JUDGING RESULTS JULY 2024

### OPEN

#### **Novelty Paphiopedilum**

1<sup>st</sup>. Paph. Thunder World G & C Dimech

#### **Species Paphiopedilum**

1<sup>st</sup>. Villosum V Annamence G & C Dimech

#### **Oncidium**

1<sup>st</sup>. Bratonia Purple Dragon 'Spitfire' A. Rogers  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spring Sunset x Golden Drops G & C Dimech  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dark Sun x Golden Drops G & C Dimech

#### **Miltonia**

1<sup>st</sup>. Ambre's Charm 'Cream Puff' A. Rogers

#### **Aust. Native Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup>. D. Colonial Kim A. Rogers  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. D. Hilda Poxon G & C Dimech

#### **Aust. Native Terrestrial**

1<sup>st</sup>. Pter. Richard Thomson A. Rogers

#### **Masdevallia Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup>. Partizan Autumn Stripes G & C Dimech  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Starfire x Copperwing G & C Dimech  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dark Star 'Beanak' A. Rogers

#### **Masdevallia Species**

1<sup>st</sup>. Veitchiana 'Sol' G & C Dimech

#### **Any Other Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup>. Coel. Linda Buckley A. Rogers  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coel. Linda Buckley G & C Dimech  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zga. Freestyle Meadows  
 X Princess Blackout & L Karbownik

#### **Species- Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup>. Coel. Javieri G & C Dimech  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brassia Aurantiaca G & C Dimech  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Max. Picta G & C Dimech

#### **BEST IN SECTION**

Coel. Javieri G & C Dimech

### INTERMEDIATE

#### **Minature Cymbidium**

1<sup>st</sup>. Ann Grieve 'Daddy Long Legs' M. Volodina

#### **BEST IN SECTION**

Cym. Ann Grieve 'Daddy Long Legs' M. Volodina

### ADVANCED NOVICE

#### **Aust. Native Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup>. D. Siagon Passion A. LaRocca

#### **Masdevallia Species**

1<sup>st</sup>. Mas. Unknown A. LaRocca  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mas. Monarch G. Sullivan  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mas. Unknown A. LaRocca

#### **BEST IN SECTION**

Mas. Unknown A. LaRocca

### NOVICE

#### **Standard Cymbidium**

1<sup>st</sup>. Cym. Unknown G. Benson

#### **Minature Cymbidium**

1<sup>st</sup>. My Sweet Amy A. Duerden

#### **Paphiopedilum**

1<sup>st</sup>. Paph. Unknown A. Angerossa

#### **Oncidium**

1<sup>st</sup>. Onc. Unknown J. Wong  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Midnight Miracles D. Westhead  
 3<sup>rd</sup>. Howeara Long Burst K. Lee

#### **Species- Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup>. Osmoglossum Pulchellam J. Wong  
 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coel. Saccolabium J. Wong

#### **Aust. Native Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup>. D. Victorian Regency R. Cooper

#### **BEST IN SECTION**

Onc. Unknown J. Wong

### PRESIDENTS CHOICE

Onc. Dark Sun x Golden Drops G & C Dimech

**Best in Section – Open**



Coel Javieri

Grown by G & C Dimech

**Best in Section – Int.**



Cym. Ann Grieve 'Daddy Long  
Legs'

Grown by M. Volodina

**Best in Section – Adv. Nov.**



Mas. Unknown

Grown by A. LaRocca

**Best in Section - Novice**



Onc. Unknown

Grown by J. Wong

## How do you manage your Orchid collection without relying on artificial heating and/or cooling? By Brian Dear

Growing a diverse range of orchids in inland regions of southern Australia is a challenge with a climate unsuitable for all but a few hardy genera. However that's part of the fascination and challenge of orchid growing, successfully growing spectacular flowering plants from exotic locations with climates vastly different to ours. It's a huge leap from the high altitude cloud forest environments of the Andes in South America to the relatively arid inland areas of southern New South Wales with its Mediterranean like climate and cold winters. It is an even larger challenge to grow them without the expense of additional heating and cooling from external sources or a climate controlled glasshouse. Most of the published literature on orchid culture, often from the United Kingdom(1) and the United States, lists the optimum growing temperatures for many orchids, including the cooler growing types, as falling between 12°C and 28°C. Similarly, humidity levels of between 50% and 80% are quoted as optimum with statements that humidity should never be allowed to fall below 40%. If these limits were taken at face value, growing most of the unique and fascinating orchid genera from Asia and the Americas would be beyond our reach. Fortunately this is not the case and published temperature and humidity requirements should really only be regarded as being the 'optimum values' as orchid growers have been able to push the boundaries well beyond these accepted limits. Plants may not grow as rapidly or flower as profusely outside their 'optimum' temperature range, but they can still be very rewarding for those willing to have a go and not be discouraged by the very demanding requirements often quoted. The climate at Wagga Wagga in southern New South Wales, where I and my fellow orchid society members grow our orchids, experiences a temperature range from -6°C to 45°C. On average there are 14 days in July with a minimum ground temperature below -1°C. Mean temperature figures are not a reliable guide to the growing conditions, however, as it is the extremes that are the real temperatures that plants must cope with, as an unexpected frost, which can occur over an 8 month period, or a week of exceptionally high temperatures and very low humidity in summer, can decimate an orchid collection. A quick browse of Table 1 below demonstrates the potential to experience both very high and very low temperatures over many months of the year at Wagga Wagga. It also shows how mean monthly temperatures mask the magnitude of the range in temperatures experienced which are better demonstrated by the daily maximum and minimum values. The mean number of days with ground temperatures below -1°C shows the significant potential for frosts for each month.

Table 1. Monthly mean maximum and minimum temperatures and daily high maximum and low minimum temperatures and number of days where ground temperatures are below -1°C at WaggaWagga, New South Wales.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Monthly mean max.</b>	32	31	28	23	17	14	13	15	18	22	26	30
<b>Monthly mean min.</b>	16	16	13	9	6	4	3	4	5	8	11	14
<b>Daily high max.</b>	45	45	40	35	27	23	23	27	32	36	43	43
<b>Daily low min.</b>	3	2	3	-2	-4	-5	-6	-5	-4	-2	0	3
<b>Mean number days with ground minimum below -1* C</b>	0	0	0	2	7	11	15	12	8	3	1	0

Based on the table, the climate would appear to significantly limit the number of orchid species that could potentially be grown in this environment, however local orchid growers have in fact successfully grown a wide range of species often with only reasonably simple structures and devices to reduce the impact of high and low temperatures to create a more favourable microclimate. This gave me the incentive to persevere. My goal was to construct a shade house with materials that I was capable of erecting with basic carpentry skills, was relatively inexpensive to build and had nil running costs with only passive heating and cooling, but afforded me the opportunity to grow a wide variety of orchid species. Most of the ideas incorporated were gained from researching articles on the web, books(2) and helpful advice from local orchid growers. The key features of the shade-house which consists of a treated pine frame covered in shade-cloth are described below. Shade-house location Given the very hot summers in the Riverina, the location of the shade-house was chosen to maximize light but minimize heat

load in the hottest period of the year. The shade-house was located with a deciduous flowering *Prunus nigra* on the eastern side to reduce the summer morning heat load but allow plentiful sunlight from May onwards through autumn and winter as the tree loses its leaves relatively early. The western side is protected from the hot westerly summer winds and afternoon sun by evergreen shrubs. These also reduce cold air drainage effects in winter as they are on the upper side of the slope.

**Polycarbonate roof:** Many orchids like a dry winter rest period and the polycarbonate roof allows plants to be kept drier over the winter period when rainfall is highest. The roof material has a 40% shade factor that is adequate for all but the hottest four months of the year. This allows good light over winter when many orchids need higher light levels to promote flower initiation. The polycarbonate roofing material has the additional advantage of producing a more diffuse light than a similarly rated shade-cloth. The solid roof also greatly reduces the risk of frost damage in the colder months. An additional temporary layer of 70% shade-cloth is suspended over the top of the polycarbonate roof in summer to reduce heat gain and also further restrict light levels. It is removed in autumn as days become shorter and more light and warmth is required. **Shade-house sides** The sides of the shade-house are covered with 40% shade-cloth. This allows good airflow in the warmer months. From May to August plastic horticultural grade sheeting is wrapped around the sides of the shade-house that largely seals it, although there are some small gaps for airflow. On a sunny autumn-winter day this raises the daytime temperature in the shade-house from around 12°C to 22°C. Night temperatures are little affected by the plastic but the duration of low temperatures each day is greatly reduced and providing there is sun, the shade-house warms up rapidly in the morning during autumn-winter with daytime temperatures consistently 8-12°C warmer inside the shade-house. The bottom 30 cm of the shade-house sides have a solid fc fibre-board sheeting. This was a later addition and had a surprisingly large beneficial effect on humidity, increasing it by about 10 percentage points in summer compared to when only the shade cloth alone went down to ground level.

**Floor:** The floor of the shade house has a central brick path to provide additional thermal storage mass in winter and a clean walking area. The area surrounding the path has a thick layer of gravel to retain moisture and increase humidity during the warmer months.

**Watering and humidity system:** Hand watering is practiced where possible but an automatic watering system is also installed to allow some flexibility to travel (and to visit orchid shows). A central overhead spray system is set to drench the plants three times a week for about four minutes depending on the weather during the hottest months. The watering frequency and duration can be increased or decreased depending on ambient temperatures. A free draining potting mix containing 30% perlite is an essential part of the watering regime to ensure plants can cope with the relatively frequent watering. In addition to the micro spays, an overhead misting system is installed to provide increased humidity and to cool the air. I have found plants can tolerate higher summer temperatures for short periods providing humidity is increased. The misters come on automatically every hour for 15 seconds between 10am and 4pm every day in hot weather. The misters raise the ambient humidity from a value of around 20% in hot weather in mid-summer to around 40-45%. Although the effect is only transitory, it does have a noticeable cooling effect. The mister system also has an under bench micro spray system connected to it that waters the gravel and path further raising the humidity. The above ground mister can be turned off with an inline tap located in the poly pipe and only the under bench sprays are used when daytime temperatures subside to avoid wetting the plant leaves unnecessarily and encouraging fungal diseases. To further increase humidity around the plants, large shallow gravel filled trays containing water are placed on the benches and pots are stood on these in summer.

**Heat banks:** Two 60 litre black poly crates under the benches are filled with water to act as a heat bank in the cooler months, absorbing heat during the day and releasing it in the evening.

**Matching the right orchids to the climate:** Some care must be taken to select the more cold tolerant genotypes and hybrids within each of the orchid species, however it is still possible to grow many species well outside the accepted temperature and humidity ranges frequently quoted without resorting to a more sophisticated and expensive heating and cooling system. My low tech, low cost shade-house allows me to grow a wide range of orchid genera and species including *Beallara*, *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Odontocidium*, *Coelogyne*, *Thelychiton*, *Cymbidium*, *Rhyncattleanthe*, *Colmanara*, *Dendrobium*, *Degarmoara*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Laeliocattleya*, *Bletilla*, *Miltassia*, *Odontioda*, *Potinara*, *Miltonia*, *Wilsonara* and *Vuylstekeara*. Local growers and those from more southern regions are good sources of cold tolerant species and genotypes. Publications such as *Growing Orchids in Cool Climates of Australia*(2) and web articles by Brian Milligan(3), Ross Pascoe(4) and the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate(5) in the USA list orchids with proven cold tolerance and are a valuable guide for selecting orchids suitable for growing in a protected shade-house in cooler inland area.



## POTS



Due to storage restrictions, the need to order large quantities of stock and the closure of the Orchid Pot Company, we will be reducing the number and varieties of pots available for sale.

Some of the pots currently available will not be replaced once stock has been sold. If you require pots please check with Bob as to their availability and if they are on the runout list it is recommended that you purchase them while you can.

## MEMBERSHIP

Annual subscriptions were due and payable by the **1<sup>st</sup> of July**. Ref: Rule 12 (ii)  
Any member wishing to bench or sell plants at the Winter and Spring shows must be financial.

Membership fees: Dual \$25.00

Single \$20.00

### Bulletin Postage

Due to increased cost of postage, members wishing for Paper copy of bulletin will incur a \$20.00 annual fee added to their membership. **Email copy of bulletin is free of charge.**

### SEEDLINGS AND MERICLONES by Julian Coker.

So often people are confused with the difference between a seedling and a mericlone. A seedling is a plant resulting from the growth of a single orchid seed, formed by the union of a male pollen grain with a female ovum. It is a uniquely new plant that has inherited various features from both of its parents. Even when an orchid is crossed with itself (selfing), or where two plants of the same species are crossed with each other, variation is obvious in the resultant seedlings. A mericlone on the other hand is a plant that results from the multiplication of tissue from the meristematic area of a single plant. All resulting plants have an exactly identical makeup and barring mutation, will all be identical. A six to nine month period from pollination to harvesting of the seed, followed by a nine to twelve month period in tissue culture to produce a viable plant for the outside environment, followed by three to five years to produce a flowering plant, gives a five to seven year generation time, so growing seedlings, where there is no guarantee of a desirable result, is generally for the commercial grower or the genuine devotee. It is however, almost invariably through seedlings that advances in cymbidiums appear. Advances may take the form of a show champion, a new shape or colour, or some other outstanding feature. The chances of achieving this is small, perhaps one in a hundred or one in a thousand, but with the constant improvement in genetic material available in parents and the increasing knowledge possessed by hybridisers, the chances are improving and the satisfaction is great when the exceptional seedling appears. Many avenues are now available in cymbidium breeding lines and rewards are available in all of them. Most hybrids are produced with commercial benefit paramount but for some hybridisers the showbench orchid is more appealing and many seedlings are also produced with this end in view. In addition, seedlings with the potential to provide new shapes and colours and colour combinations are becoming more available, as well as those with extended flowering times, perfumes, warmth tolerance, super-productivity and other desirable features. All good collections contain a number of seedlings, and it is best to add to these regularly. With small collections, a few may be purchased each year from the various catalogues available. Bear in mind that accompanying descriptions describe expectations and that hybridisers are great optimists. With larger collections, more seedlings or a few community pots comprising a number of seedlings from the same grex may be grown. You are never too old or too young to start growing seedlings. Once a collection has become established over a period of time, there is the constant excitement of seeing what unique flowers appear each year. Be part of the excitement and the future of the cymbidium. You may be the lucky one!

## NOTICE OF AGM

**The Warringal Orchid Society will hold its AGM on Wednesday August 21<sup>st</sup>. 2024 at 8.0pm**

Only financial members are eligible to stand for positions on the committee and to vote at the AGM.

### **AGM Agenda**

- To receive and confirm the minutes of the last preceding AGM.
- To receive and confirm the Presidents annual report.
- To receive and confirm the Treasurers annual report.
- To transact any business notified to the secretary in writing prior to the meeting date.
- To elect officers and ordinary members of the committee. (President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and three committee members).

### **NOMINATION FORM FOR WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.**

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominee ..... Date: .....

Nominations must be returned to Honorary Secretary 7 (seven) days before Annual General Meeting

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WITH YOUR CUSTOM**



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