

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

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**SEPTEMBER
2024**

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 2nd October 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 18th SEPTEMBER

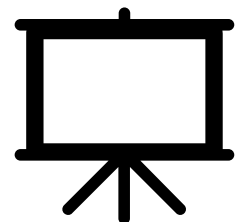
Hall will be open from 7.00pm. You are welcome to bench plants for judging and to socialise with other members. A sales table operates with pots and other orchid accessories when available. Members are able to submit up to 6 orchid plants for sale (plants to be well established in their pots and in a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

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

We have a bumper treat this month – not one but two speakers!

Andrew Fernandez will provide his insights into managing and maintaining an orchid collection – building our skills in keeping track of a thriving, expanding and rewarding multitude of blooming healthy plants.

George Dimech will follow up from this with all the things we need to know to make sure the orchids we love are presented at their best for the show, to catch the judges' eyes – ready for that precious award as a 'best in section' or 'champion' plant.



CLUB NOTICES

New growers group

New members wishing to develop their orchid-growing skills 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 value this time, so do not leave it to the same ones every month. Please help pack up prior to enjoying supper.

Monthly meeting – Setting up

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

Committee

As we saw at the AGM in August, our committee is shrinking, with only one new face for 2024/25. Our small committee would welcome some new faces; it is an opportunity to support the club and maybe learn some new skills. This is our society – support it and we will continue to thrive as a club and an orchid-growing community.

PROGRESSIVE SCORES – August 2024

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
M. Coker	240	M. Volodina	36
G & C. Dimech	171	L & A Shepherd	27
A. Rogers	93	S. Grinzic	23
J & L Karbownik	49	M. Grzan	12
K. Lam	38		
S. Pantelejenko	38	ADVANCED NOVICE	
M. Bastecky	27	P. Kennedy	44
J. Khoo	26	A. La Rocca	41
D Wain	26	F. Verlaan	21
M & N Truong	23	I. Katis	11
M. Mally	14	G. Sullivan	10
J Haniver	12	G. Spiteri	4
B. Duncan	11		
N Meggetto	11	NOVICE	
T & A Pleitner	8	J. Wong	46
A. Magnano	8	K. Sloane	34
A. Fernandez	8	G. Benson	22
E & D Baxter	8	A. Duerden	16
M Drobowski	3	D. Parry	13
C Krolkowski	2	K. Lee	10
		F. Walton	9
		D. Westhead	9
		R. Cooper	6
		K. Littleboy	4
		A. Angerossa	4

AUGUST 2024 BEST IN SECTION - OPEN and PRESIDENTS CHOICE



Cym. Goeringii

Grown by B Duncan

JUDGING RESULTS - AUGUST 2024

OPEN

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1 st Great Pacific	G&C Dimech
2 nd Thunder World	G&C Dimech

Species Paphiopedilum

1 st Vellosum v. Annamence	G&C Dimech
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Oncidium

1 st Sweet Sugar	G&C Dimech
2 nd Twinkle Fragrant Fantasy	M Bastecky
3 rd Sweet Sugar	J&L Karbownik

Aust. Native Species

1 st Sarc Falcatus	J&L Karbownik
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Aust. Native Hybrid

1 st Den. Starsheen x Brimbank Gold	J Khoo
2 nd Den. Australian Freckle	S Pantelejenko
3 rd Den. Ellen	G&C Dimech

Aust. Native Terrestrial

1 st Ptero. Russellii	G&C Dimech
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Novelty Cattleya

Miss Wonderful x Tokyo Magic M Bastecky

Masdevallia Species

1 st Ignea 'Orange Fantasy'	J&L Karbownik
2 nd Coccinea 'Pleasant Park'	J&L Karbownik

Masdevallia Hybrid

1 st Starfire x Copperwing	G&C Dimech
2 nd Rein Staal x Midas Touch	G&C Dimech
3 rd Falcata 'Donna'	J&L Karbownik

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Zygo. Adelaide Meadows 'Beenak' x Jester	S Pantelejenko
2 nd Coel. Linda Buckley	G&C Dimech

Species - Any Genera

1 st Cym. Goeringii	B Duncan
2 nd Pleuro. Truncata	S Pantelejenko
3 rd Rossioglossum Grande	M Bastecky

Seedling Flowering First Time

1 st Den. Australian Ginger x fairfaxii	S Pantelejenko
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Best in Section – Open

Cym. Goeringii	B Duncan
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INTERMEDIATE

No entries this month

ADVANCED NOVICE

Aust. Native Hybrid

1 st Den. Ellen	P Kennedy
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Species - Any Genera

1 st Laelia Veitchiana	P Kennedy
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Best in Section – Advanced Novice

Den. Ellen	P Kennedy
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NOVICE

Standard Cymbidium

1 st Golden Woodlandense	A Duerden
2 nd Serhans Passion	G Benson
3 rd Speckles x Parabisium	G Benson

Any other Cymbidium

1 st Paradisian Surprise	J Wong
2 nd Berniska Toffee	G Benson
3 rd Unknown	G Benson

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Phal. Unknown	K Lee
2 nd Lc. Trick or treat	K Lee
3 rd Npp. Mem Jimmy Lyttle Pop	R Bupler

Aust. Native Species or hybrid

1 st Den. Brimbank Fire x Windermere	J Wong
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Masdevallia

1 st Hurdy Gurdy	J Wong
2 nd Nora Jane	J Wong
3 rd Eldorado	J Wong

Best in Section – Novice

Cym. Paradisian Surprise	J Wong
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Best in Section – Novice



Cym. Paradisian Surprise
Grown by J Wong

Best in Section – Adv Nov



Den. Ellen
Grown by P Kennedy



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 **1st. of July.**

Ref: Rule 12 (ii) Any member wishing to bench or sell plants at the Spring show must be financial.

Membership fees: Dual \$25.00 or Single \$20.00

Bulletin Postage

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

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC. - WINTER SHOW SUMMARY - 2024

AWARD	PLANT NAME	PLANT OWNER
GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID	Den. Cosmic Gold 'Michelle'	M Drobski
RESERVE CHAMPION ORCHID	Paph. Millenium Thunder	M Coker
CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM ORCHID	Cym. Mem. Myrtle Wain 'Lockie'	D Wain
CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE	Den. Cosmic Gold 'Michelle'	M Drobski
CHAMPION SPECIES ORCHID	Cym. Hookerianum	D Wain
CHAMPION OTHER HYBRID ORCHID	Paph. Millenium Thunder	M Coker
CHAMPION SPECIMEN ORCHID	Sudomerlycaste Fimbiata	M Coker
Best Paphiopedilum - Open	Paph. Millenium Thunder	M Coker
Best Masdevallia - Open	Masd. Machu Pichu JV	K Lam
Best Masdevallia - Novice/Advanced Novice	Masd. Unknown	A La Rocca
Best Large Cymbidium - Open	Cym. Dural Dream Rose x Regal Flames	D Wain
Best Large Cymbidium - Intermediate	Cym. Rio Rita x Last Chance	M Volodina
Best Large Cymbidium - Novice/Advanced Novice	Cym. Regal Flame x Luna High	G Sullivan
Best Medium Cymbidium - Open	Cym. Mem. Myrtle Wain 'Lockie'	D Wain
Best Medium Cymbidium - Intermediate	Cym. Ann Grieve	M Volodina
Best Medium Cymbidium - Novice/Advanced Novice	Cym. Marvin Gaye	K Sloane
Best Small Cymbidium - Open	Cym. Sweet Heart	G & C Dimech
Best Small Cymbidium - Novice/Advanced Novice	Cym. Cindy Lou	K Sloane
Best Australian Native - Open	Den. Cosmic Gold 'Michelle'	M Drobski
Best Australian Native - Intermediate	Den. Teretifolium	A & L Shepherd
Best Australian Native - Novice/Advanced Novice	Pterostylus Curta	K Sloane
Best Other Hybrid Orchid - Open	Catasetum Black Magic 'Jem'	M Coker
Best Other Hybrid Orchid - Intermediate	Onc. Twinkle	M Volodina
Best Other Hybrid Orchid - Novice/Advanced Novice	Coel. Linda Buckley	K Sloane
Best Large Display of Orchids		A Rogers
Best Medium Display of Orchids		G & C Dimech
Best Basket of Orchids		K Lam

2024 WINTER SHOW WINNERS IN GLORIOUS COLOUR

**GRAND CHAMPION
ORCHID
&
CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN
NATIVE
& Best Australian Native –
Open**



Den. Cosmic Gold 'Michelle'
M Drobki

**RESERVE CHAMPION
ORCHID
&
CHAMPION OTHER
HYBRID ORCHID
& Best Paphiopedilum -
Open**



Paph. Millenium Thunder
M Coker

**CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM
ORCHID
& Best Medium
Cymbidium - Open**



Cym. Mem. Myrtle Wain
'Lockie'
D Wain

**CHAMPION SPECIES
ORCHID**



Cym. Hookerianum
D Wain

**CHAMPION SPECIMEN
ORCHID**



Sudamerlycaste Fimbriata
M. Coker

Sudamerlycaste fimbriata - A medium sized, cold to warm growing epiphytic or lithophytic species, found in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador at elevations of 1000 to 2800 meters under scrub in rocky soil with shady conditions and in river canyons and on decaying tree stumps.
(from *International Orchid Foundation*)

**Best Large Cymbidium -
Open**



Cym. Dural Dream Rose x
Regal Flame
D. Wain

**Best Large Cymbidium -
Intermediate**



Cym. Rio Rita x Last Chance
M. Volodina

**Best Large Cymbidium -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Cym. Regal Flame x Luna
High
G. Sullivan

Best Masdevallia - Open



Masd. Machu Pichu JV
K Lam

**Best Medium Cymbidium -
Intermediate**



Cym. Ann Grieve
M Volodina

**Best Small Cymbidium -
Open**



Cym. Sweet Heart
G & C Dimech

**Best Masdevallia -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Masd. Unknown
A La Rocca

**Best Medium Cymbidium -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Cym. Marvin Gaye
K Sloane

**Best Small Cymbidium -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Cym. Cindy Lou
K Sloane

**Best Australian Native -
Intermediate**



Den. Teretifolium
A & L Shepherd

**Best Australian Native -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Pterostylus Curta
K Sloane

Pterostylus curta (the blunt greenhood) is widespread and common in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, growing in moist places in heath, scrub, woodland and forest. It also occurs on Lord Howe Island and in New Caledonia but is rare in South Australia.
(from *Atlas of Living Australia*)

**Best Other Hybrid Orchid -
Open**



Catasetum Black Magic 'Jem'
M Coker

**Best Other Hybrid Orchid -
Intermediate**



Onc. Twinkle
M Volodina

**Best Other Hybrid Orchid -
Novice/Advanced Novice**



Coel. Linda Buckley
K Sloane

**Best Large Display of
Orchids**



A Rogers

**Best Medium Display of
Orchids**



G & C Dimech

Best Basket of Orchids



K Lam

Editor's note: Although the vagaries of our weather meant the Winter Show was not as big as we had hoped, the standard of the orchids submitted was simply stunning. Congratulations to all these worthy winners!



The **Orchid Conservation Alliance**, founded in California in 2004, partners with organizations and foundations in orchid rich regions to protect the native habitats of orchids. Creating reserves preserves numerous orchid species, often including undiscovered forms, as well as the ecosystem in which they exist. Critical for orchid conservation in the wild, preservation of habitat protects pollinators as well as birds, amphibians, mammals, other plants, and even fungi (see <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/> for more information).

Club members will recall that earlier this year Andrew Fernandez gave a presentation on a trip he and Alf did with members of the Alliance last year to Borneo.

In 2025, the Alliance is offering a number of very interesting orchid trips:

- In January, a trip to Zimbabwe, visiting several national parks, plus Victoria Falls and a safari park as well!
- In March/April, Orchids of Rhodes, enjoying springtime in the Med
- In April, Orchids of Sikkim in the Himalayan region
- In May, Rio Negro (a boat trip)
- In June, Sichuan
- In July, Michigan Upper Peninsula.

Details for the Zimbabwe, Rhodes and Sikkim trips are already up on the Orchid Conservation Alliance website, and registrations are open. If you are interested, please check it out! Information on the later tours should be out soon. See <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/ecotours/> for more information.



OUR SPRING SHOW – 2024

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October

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

Set-up Friday 4th October - Many hands make the task of setting up on Friday, and taking down on Sunday afternoon, just that much easier for all. Please do come and lend your hands to the task. It's a treat to see it all take shape, and we all have a good time in the process.

If you are not sure what's involved, please see Jerry at the September meeting.

Editor's note: I chose this article for our newsletter this month as we are in the midst of show season, and that means opportunities for buying that plant you saw in the show that you just have to have! Useful for learners like me.

THE PLEASURES AND PERILS OF BUYING ORCHIDS

by Brian Milligan (from OSCOV's website)

Nothing to it, you say? Just choose an orchid that appeals and pay your money with a smile! But choosing an orchid that will also grow under your conditions and getting value for money are not quite so easy.

Where are the best places to buy your orchids? There are various options, ranging from the sales bench at orchid society shows and local, country or interstate nurseries to auctions of deceased estates and even overseas nurseries (provided you have an import permit, a CITES certificate in the case of species orchids and access to quarantine facilities). Some growers also sell divisions of their orchids privately, if you ask them nicely! Which is best? All have advantages and disadvantages.

Beginners are advised to buy only where they can receive expert, unbiased advice as to whether the orchid is easy or difficult to grow and whether it will grow under their conditions. It is pointless to buy an orchid that requires heat unless you have a heated glasshouse, no matter how attractive its flowers. While it may grow indoors on a windowsill where it receives good indirect light, it will seldom grow as well as in a heated glass-house. Before a flood of protest letters begin to pour in, I should acknowledge that many hobbyists grow and flower warm-growing phalaenopsis orchids indoors and are quite satisfied with the results. In general, though, such plants grown indoors seldom carry as many or such large flowers as those grown in a heated, humid glass-house. Indoor culture

of phalaenopsis is fine if your aim is to enjoy the flowers in your own home but don't expect them to win the Judges' Vote at a Society meeting.

Of course, the first thing to look for before buying an orchid is its condition. Never buy an orchid that is not firmly secure in its pot (as it may have no live roots) or which has 'suspicious' leaf markings that might indicate viral infection. Also look for insect pests such as scale, mealy bug or aphids, which could infest the rest of your collection. Some growers spray their newly acquired orchids with an insecticide before introducing them to their collections, whether they can detect the presence of pests or not.

Many growers, including me, tend to buy orchids on impulse after seeing a spectacular example in flower. That's fine, but only if you are sure that the orchid will grow well under your conditions. It's a good idea to carry a book or two in the car when you go orchid shopping, so that you can look up the orchid and its requirements before you buy. I confess to browsing through the orchid books at Collector's Corner sometimes before making a purchase. Bear in mind, though, that many orchid books, especially those written by European or American growers in cold areas, recommend intermediate conditions for most orchids. Experience here tells us that some of these orchids will happily grow and flower in a shade house in Melbourne. All the same, ask an

experienced, unbiased local grower before you buy.

While it's obviously more satisfactory to buy orchids that you can see and handle at a nursery or orchid show sales bench, that's not usually possible in the case of distant nurseries in country Victoria or interstate. In that case you have to rely on the descriptions in their catalogues. When my wife and I were accumulating our orchid collection, we would often order orchids from the catalogues of nurseries in NSW or Queensland. There was great excitement as we unwrapped the bare-rooted plants, sometimes followed by disappointment, but generally with great satisfaction. Of course, one has the added expense of packing and postage but usually that's counterbalanced by a lower cost per plant than those available locally (most interstate nurseries have lower expenses than local ones because of their lower heating costs). The quality of the plants from some nurseries did not match that from others but we soon learnt by experience the best nurseries to patronise.

Orchid journals, such as The Australian Orchid Review and Orchids Australia, carry advertisements from many Australian orchid nurseries, whose proprietors will send you their catalogue either free of charge or for the cost of postage.

Unfortunately, the days are gone when nurseries such as Adelaide Orchids and Valley Orchids in South Australia produced elaborate colour catalogues featuring their cymbidium mericlones. Although colour photographs show you what to expect, they can be misleading. An illustration of a

flower of perfect shape and colour is seldom accompanied by a statement that the plant has a dreadful spike habit or that it flowers well only every second year!!

Buying orchids at auction is one of the riskiest ways to increase your collection, unless you very carefully examine the lots for which you intend to bid. The society conducting the auction will do its best to ensure that the plants on offer are disease-free and in good condition but can't and usually won't guarantee that this is true, so it's a matter of 'let the buyer beware'. Sometimes you can pick up a bargain at auction, especially if there are a more divisions of a particular plant on offer than there are buyers. But be prepared to encounter some stiff opposition from your peers if only one plant of a closely held show winner is to be auctioned. Take care not to be drawn into a bidding duel unless you are quite sure of an orchid's real value. Top growers often find it hard to buy orchids at a reasonable price at auction, because newer growers reckon those particular orchids must be special and enter into a spirited bidding duel. In situations like this, a top grower of my acquaintance always concealed his interest by asking a new grower to bid for him!

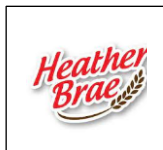
So you see, there is more to buying an orchid than you first thought! Be resigned to that the fact that not all of the orchids you buy will live up to expectations. But take heart from the possibility that, by the law of averages and provided you grow it to its full potential, one eventually will turn out to be a show winner.

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