

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

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**December
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 5th February 2025
Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown.

This month ... **Our end-of-year dinner!**

For those who have booked and paid, read on.

Where: 35 Lambourn Road Watsonia

When: Wednesday 4 December – **It's just a week away!**

Please be seated by 7.00 pm

What's included? Two course meal – spit roast with all the trimmings and sweets

What to bring? BYO glasses, drinks, nibbles.

Bamboo disposable cutlery is supplied, but BYO cutlery seems recommended!

Oh, and bring some \$\$ for our fab Christmas hamper raffle – tickets are just \$1.00.

What not to bring? There is **no** plant benching/judging this month, so leave those lovely plants at home.



Image by be_stasya from [Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/)

See you there!



**Our next regular club meeting will be held on
Wednesday 19 February 2025.**

See our first bulletin of 2025 for more details.

Image by kjpargeter from [freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com/)

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 social time, so do not leave it to the same providers every month. Also, please help pack up chairs/tables etc 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 get to know other members as you help set-up.

Committee

Any member interested in joining the committee should contact our President, Andrew Fernandez, for more information about what is involved.

The Summer Photo competition is back!

Check out the details for this later in the bulletin – see p. 8.



Image by erin mckenna on [Unsplash](#)

Need to access the website easily?

Warringal Orchid Society now has a QR Code.

This enables members to access our website quickly and easily. Simply scan the QR Code using your phone's camera, or a QR Reader app, to take you straight to our website for all the latest news, photos, newsletters and more.





Celebrating Christmas, our 2024 and the New Year



For those who were unable to attend, here are a few pics from our end-of-year BBQ at Chris and George Dimech's house. **Huge thank yous to Chris and George** for again hosting this event, and letting us trawl through their orchid houses asking a million questions. And thanks too to all the members who brought such yummy food to share.



George is still smiling – no orchids sneakily tucked away in take home bags!

All that delicious food!



Oh, the intense conversations ... and hardly any about orchids, judging by the laughter!





PROGRESSIVE SCORES – End of year for 2024



OPEN

M. Coker
G & C. Dimech
A. Rogers
K. Lam
J & L Karbownik
A. Magnano
D Wain
S. Pantelejenko
A. Fernandez
J. Khoo
N Meggetto
E & D Baxter
M. Bastecky
M & N Truong
P&S Adams
B. Duncan
G Browning
M. Mally
F & J Spiteri
C Krolikowski
T & A Pleitner
S & H Randall
J Haniver
Le Tan Leip
G Pezzin
J Guario
G & M Van Remmen
M Drobski

439
264
132
107
95
65
60
50
47
35
31
30
27
23
22
21
18
16
15
15
15
14
12
9
5
4
4
3

INTERMEDIATE

L & A Shepherd
M. Grzan
M. Volodina
S. Grinzic
J. Jenkins
F & T Nguyen
K Littleboy

53
53
51
45
12
8
4

ADVANCED NOVICE

P. Kennedy
I. Katis
A. La Rocca
F. Verlaan
K Trueman
G. Sullivan
G. Spiteri

103
66
61
36
27
10
4

NOVICE

J. Wong
K. Lee
K. Sloane
G. Benson
A. Duerden
R. Cooper
D. Parry
I Neary
James Kremer
F. Walton
D. Westhead
K. Littleboy
A. Angerosa
C Cooper

46
37
34
30
26
22
13
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10
9
9
4
4
2

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.**

JUDGING RESULTS - November 2024 meeting

OPEN

Phalaenopsis

1st Penang Girl M Coker

Dendrobium

1st Mild Yumi 'Lotus' K Lam

Paphiopedilum - Exhibition

1st Village Passport 'Julian' M Coker

2nd Winter Friend 'Julian' M Coker

Maudiae Paphiopedilum

1st Red Macabre x Red Luther M Coker

2nd Hsinying Superwings K Lam

3rd Green Luna x Fleuret Isles M Coker

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st Yang-Ji Diamond M Coker

Species Paphiopedilum

1st barbatum M Coker

2nd roebelinii M Coker

3rd rungsuriyanum M Coker

Oncidium

1st Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable'
A Rogers

2nd Gomesa Alosuka 'Claire' M Coker

Miltonia

1st Breathless 'Brilliant' M Coker

2nd Rubanesque M Coker

Odontoglossum

1st Wilsonara Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'
A Magnano

Lycaste

1st John Ezzy A Magnano

2nd Maple Syrup x Shoalhaven 'Kyoto'
A Magnano

3rd Shoalhaven x Kooleana A Magnano

Aust. Native Species

1st Cym. canaliculatum T&A Pleitner

2nd Cym. suave G&C Dimech

3rd Cym. canaliculatum T&A Pleitner

Cattleya

1st Orpetii 'Laina' A Magnano

2nd Dendi's Jungle M Coker

Novelty Cattleya

1st Epc. Lime Sherbert x Brass. nodosa #1
A Fernandez

2nd Epc. Lime Sherbert x Brass. nodosa #2
A Fernandez

3rd Lyc. Tokyo Magic x Epc. Kyoguchii
A Fernandez

Vanda

1st Barrita Cuteness A Rogers

2nd Renanthopsis Mildred Jameson
M Coker

3rd Ascda Yip Sum Wah 'King Red' x Ascda Yip Sum
Wah 'Brighton' G&C Dimech

Masdevallia Species

1st Coccinea 'Alba' G&C Dimech

2nd Coccinea 'Alba' J&L Karbownik

3rd Coccinea var. harryana J&L Karbownik

Masdevallia Hybrid

1st Rein Staal x Midas Touch G&C Dimech

2nd Machu Picchu 'Jay Vee' J&L Karbownik

3rd King of Kings 'Queenscliff' J&L Karbownik

Any Other Hybrid

1st Phrag. Early Surprise M Coker

2nd Wdwa. Adelaide x Zga. Adelaide Meadows
G&C Dimech

3rd Disa Dorothy Grace Kindred
M Coker

Species - Any Genera

1st Catt. Purpurata M Coker

2nd Brassica Varicosa G&C Dimech

3rd Onc. sphacelatum S Pantelejenko

Seedling Flowering First Time

1st Holcoglossum rupestre K Lam



Holcoglossum rupestre (native to the cloud forests of China)

Best in Section – Open

Lyc. John Ezzy
grown by A Magnano



This gorgeous orchid also won the **Judge's Vote** for the night.

Lycaste John Ezzy is an orchid hybrid originated by Belvedere in 1983. It is a cross of Lyc. Shoalhaven x Lyc. Koolena, and has a number of awarded cultivars.

INTERMEDIATE

Phalaenopsis

1st Intermediate K Littleboy

Lycaste

1st Macama 'Jenny Wren' M Volodina

Any Other Hybrid

1st Zygo. unknown M Grzan

2nd Zygo. unknown S Grzanic

Species - Any Genera

1st Den. Nobile Lucky Seven M Grzan

Best in Section – Intermediate

Lyc. Macama 'Jenny Wren'
grown by M Volodina



Dark Star Orchids describes **Lyc. Macama 'Jenny Wren'** as a beautiful hybrid with large full shaped round pale green and white flowers.

ADVANCED NOVICE

Miniature Cymbidium

1st Black Stump 'Come in Spinner' x Sweet Devon
'Paradisia' F Verlaan

Dendrobium

1st Bohemian Rhapsody I Katis

Paphiopedilum

1st HC 331E I Katis

Oncidium

1st Onc. Taylor Barfield 'This and That'
K Trueman

2nd Odcdm. Cherry Fudge 'Carmela'
P Kennedy

Lycaste

1st Caroline 'Dragon Lady' P Kennedy

Aust. Native Species

1st Den. cucumerinum Polski Ogorki x summer day
P Kennedy

Aust. Native Hybrid

1st Sarc Kulnara x Kulnara I Katis

Masdevallia Species

1st Veitchiana Orange A La Rocca

Masdevallia Hybrid

1st Macchu Picchu 'JV' P Kennedy

Any Other Hybrid

1st Ascda. Gold x miniatum I Katis

2nd Z. Essendon x Zga Anita I Katis

Species - Any Genera

1st Bifrenaraia harrisoniae P Kennedy

2nd Coelogyne speciosa P Kennedy

3rd Bifrenaria harrisoniae I Katis

Best in Section – Advanced Novice

Cym. Black Stump 'Come in Spinner' x Sweet Devon 'Paradisial'
grown by F Verlaan



Cymbidium Black Stump is an orchid hybrid originated by R. Clement in 2009. It is a cross of Cym. Australian Midnight x Cym. Cricket. Its cultivar 'Come in Spinner' has been awarded. **Cym Sweet Devon** is a primary orchid hybrid originated by D. Cannon in 1982. It is a cross of Cym. suave x Cym. devonianum.

NOVICE

Any Other Hybrid

1st Miltoniopsis Golden Snows 'White Light'
K Lee

2nd Phal. No ID Mini K Lee

3rd Miltonia hybrid C Cooper

Species - Any Genera

1st Angraecum didieri K Lee

Aust. Native Species or hybrid

1st Sarc. Hartmannii 'Snow White'
J Kremer

2nd Sarc Kulnara Ruby 'Marble Delight' x Yvette 'Pink Dappled'
R Cooper

Masdevallia

1st Copper Fire J Kremer

Best in Section – Novice

Miltoniopsis Golden Snows 'White Light'
grown by K Lee



This lovely orchid was also the **President's Choice** on the night, in addition to its Best in Section win.

Miltoniopsis Golden Snows is an orchid hybrid originated by Okika in 2007. It is a cross of Mps. Frosty Meadow x Mps. santanaei.

Summer photo competition

We don't have any meetings for the two months over the summer break, but we know that your orchids can keep blooming, sometimes surprising us! We don't want these orchids to be 'out of sight' to other members, so the club will be running the photo competition once more.

What you need to do ...first

- ✓ Find that orchid hiding in your collection that is just bursting to show off on your behalf.
- ✓ Get out your phone or camera and take the **best picture you can of your plant/orchid** (Andrew tells me the better quality the picture, the more likely you are to win)
- ✓ Get someone to take a **picture of you with your flowering plant**, just to show who this stunning plant belongs to!
- ✓ Make sure you have the plant's full name, ready for submitting your entry.



What you need to do ... next

There are two ways to submit your entry/entries:

<p>Load your entry onto WOS Facebook page by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Go to our Facebook page✓ Look for the link to the Summer Photo Competition 2025✓ You will see a small camera icon under the ad for the competition – click on it✓ Find the two photos in your file and press download (or is it upload?)✓ Enter the plant's name and your name into the Comments section✓ Hit Enter	<p>OR</p>	<p>Send your entry by email (for luddites like me who are not on Facebook):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Email to Andrew Fernandez on demues@tpg.com.au with the Subject title: Summer Photo Competition 2025✓ Include the name of the plant and your name in the body of the email✓ Attach the two photos (best picture of the orchid <u>and</u> one of you with orchid)✓ Hit the send button and Andrew will do the rest for you!
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You can submit more than one entry if your orchid house is full of blooming plants.

What happens then?

Entries can be submitted up until the first committee meeting of the New Year, which is scheduled for Wed 5 February. So maybe make sure you have yours in by 3rd Feb, especially if you are emailing photos to Andrew.

The committee will decide the winner at their February meeting - remember the committee will only consider entries which have both photos.

The winner will be announced at our February Club meeting.

Remember, you have to be in it to win it – Good luck!

Orchids with links to Christmas

From the editor: We often think about holly, mistletoe, rosemary, poinsettias, the Christmas rose (a hellebore) and more being associated with Christmas, but what about orchids? I had a hunt about the internet to see what I could find. Here are a few (really in no particular order!).

The bright red flowers of the "Christmas Bell" orchid headed the list. **Dendrobium lawesii** (below left and right) is nicknamed the "Christmas Bell" because it produces clusters of bright red to purple flowers that look just like bells and they appear around Christmas time, as well as several other times of the year. A warm to cool grower that originates from Papua New Guinea, they love to grow on tree branches high in the forests, and grow very well when mounted.



Photo from <https://orchidsaustralia.com.au/>



Photo from <https://www.orchidspecies.com/>

Next on the Christmas list is **Artorima erubescens**, known as the "Christmas Flower" because it too blooms around Christmas time and loves cold weather (so maybe not for us?). This species is native to Central America and is also known as the "Blushing Artorima." This orchid grows in the cloud forests at high elevations around 3100 meters with fragrant flowers that appear in winter through early spring, but are quite difficult to grow in the average greenhouse because this orchid blooms when the night temperatures are below freezing!



Photo from [orchidspecies.com/artorimaerubensis.htm](https://www.orchidspecies.com/artorimaerubensis.htm)

Our next orchid is the "Christmas Lily," **Calanthe triplicata**. It blooms all during the Christmas season--beginning its flowery show in late November and continuing through the end of January. Once called *Calanthe veritifolia*, it grows in the shaded areas of the forest in the leaf mould and humus that collects under the trees. Although it appears to be growing in the soil like a normal plant, the roots do not penetrate the ground very far. It grows along the top of the surface just under the leaves and debris that cover the ground. Commonly known as the Christmas Orchid, *Calanthe triplicata* is native to many countries, ranging from tropical and subtropical Asia to the Pacific. In Australia it ranges from Iron Range on Cape York to just north of Bateman's Bay, NSW and is also present on Lord Howe Is. This warm to cool growing terrestrial orchid can be found in humid rainforests, and in the crevasses of karst limestone, at elevations of 500 to 1500 metres. Native populations in Australia bloom from October to February.



Photos from <https://www.nambourorchidsociety.com/articles/dendrobium-speciosum-4tyx8-rn83c> and <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/taxon/apni/51399570>

The genus name *Calanthe* comes from the Greek words 'kalos', which means beautiful, and 'anthe', which means flower. The species name 'triplicata' is derived from the Latin prefix 'tris', which means 'thrice', and 'plicatus', which means 'folded', in reference to its lobed lip petal or labellum, which looks like it was folded three times to achieve its four lobes. If you look closely, the flowers actually resemble flying white cranes!

In addition to its ornamental value, the Christmas Orchid also has medicinal uses. In Taiwan, herbalists use the roots to treat rheumatism, backache and traumatic injuries including fractures. In India, the root extract is used to treat diarrhoea and toothache!



Next is ***Dendrobium cunninghamii***, though the Kiwis claim it as ***Winika cunninghamii***. It is usually an epiphyte on forest trees but sometimes also on fallen logs. It sometimes grows on rocks and cliff faces, even on brick or concrete walls. It is found on both the North and South Islands of New Zealand but also on Stewart and Chatham Islands. Flowering occurs from December to January.

Photo by J Rolfe, <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dendrobium-cunninghamii/>

Winika is the accepted old Māori language name for this orchid. The name *Te Winika* was given to the sacred war canoe of the Tainui people because this orchid grew on the tōtara tree (*Podocarpus*

totara) which was hollowed out to form the hull. Māori assign the feminine gender to it—*Winika cunninghamii*. The Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, granted consent to use the name *Winika*, because of its particular cultural significance to her Tainui people.

Next on the list is ***Caladenia serotina***, the Christmas Spider Orchid. Similar to the White Spider Orchid in size and shape, this beautiful orchid is distinguished by its later flowering period (Nov-Dec) and its flowers that are usually streaked with red. The red colouring is quite variable with some specimens being totally white, while others have petals and sepals that are almost fully red. Both the common and scientific names are based on the late flowering period.



Photo from http://chookman.id.au/wp_orchids/?page_id=1712

And there are two extraordinary orchid species of *Cattleya* nicknamed "Christmas Orchid." They too get their nickname from the fact that they display their beautiful orchid blooms around Christmas time.

The first *Cattleya* "Christmas Orchid" is ***Cattleya percivaliana*** (below left). Although this is a relatively small plant, the flowers are quite large in relation to its size, with lavender to rose-coloured blossoms. Each bloom is further decorated with a frilly lip and a touch of yellow in the throat. Though *Cattleyas* are known for their beautiful fragrance, this one has just the opposite—a rather putrid odour. So if you're considering giving orchids as gifts, maybe this one isn't the best choice.



Photo from orchids.org



Photo from orchidspecies.com

The other *Cattleya* "Christmas Orchid" is ***Cattleya trianae*** (above right). It is one of the most cultivated *Cattleya* species in the orchid community and is now the national flower of Colombia. This species produces blossoms in many colours from a pure snowy, holiday white to deep lavenders and anything in between. It begins to bloom around December, but continues its show for the next four or five months, right into the Easter season. And it smells good too!

Finally, the orchid known as the "Christmas Star" or "The Star of Bethlehem Orchid" is ***Angraecum sesquipedale***. The star-shaped blossoms are a waxy white to greenish white in colour, appropriate for the holiday season. This orchid is only fragrant at night, keeping with its night-time star-like qualities.

Although there are over 220 species in the genus *Angraecum* and new ones are still being discovered in the Madagascan forests, star orchids are a stand-out specimen. Star orchids are also known as Darwin's orchids or comet orchids. These epiphytic plants are native to the coastal forest of Madagascar. In their native habitat, the plants bloom from June to September, but in North America and Europe, these orchids bloom once a year between December and January. The timing of this bloom has led this plant to be christened the Christmas star orchid or star of Bethlehem orchid. The blooms of star orchid plants have an extremely long tubular extension or "spur" at the base of which is its pollen. So long, in fact, that when Charles Darwin received a specimen of this orchid in 1862, he surmised that a pollinator must exist with a tongue as long as the spur, 10 to 11 inches (25-28 cm.) long! People thought he was crazy and, at the time, no such species had been discovered. Lo and behold, 41 years later, the hawk moth, with a proboscis 10 to 11 inches (25-28 cm.) long, was discovered in Madagascar.

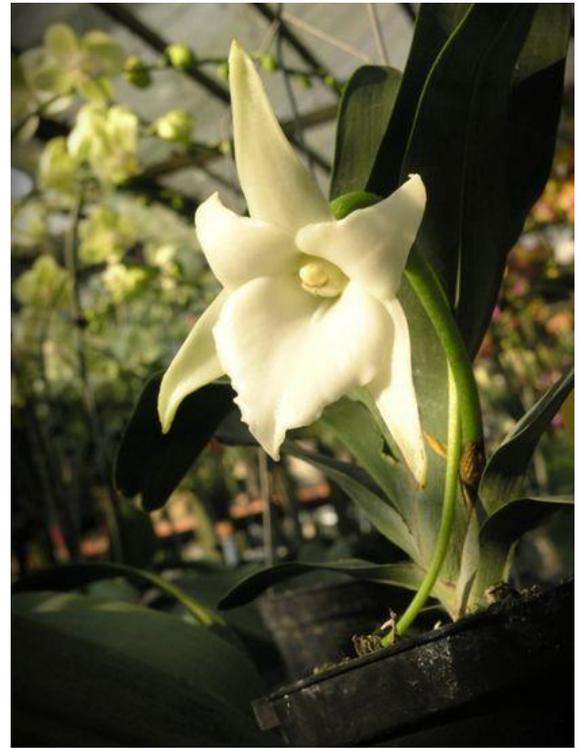


Photo from gardeningknowhow.com

If your appetite is whetted and you want to read further, check out this website by Ian Fraser, a naturalist and conservationist from Canberra. He also had some lovely stories – see <https://ianfrasertalkingnaturally.blogspot.com/2012/12/some-christmas-orchids.html>

Sources used to create this article

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<https://www.justaddiceorchids.com/just-add-ice-orchid-blog/bid/32409/orchids-named-for-christmas-part-two>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/orchids/christmas-star-orchids.htm>

Atlas of Living Australia – see <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/NZOR-6-40829#overview>

Ng Yu Qin, Horticulturist – see <https://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en/learn-with-us/explore-resources/whats-blooming/christmas-orchid-calanthe-triplicata.html>



Photo by [Absar Pathan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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