

# WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



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

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**JANUARY  
2025**

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 5<sup>TH</sup> March  
Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown.**

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

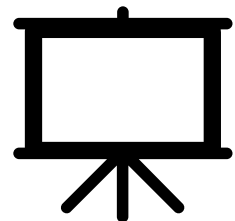
**The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

The 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.**

## **This month: Summer photo competition finals!**

Instead of a speaker this month, the committee has decided to enlist your expertise in choosing the winner of the Summer Photo Competition. The entries are included here on pp. 4 and 5, so you can have a sneaky preview. You will be asked to judge your favourite on the night.



## 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.**

**Orchid Species Society  
of Victoria (OSSV)**

## SALE DAYS 2025

- Orchid Display
- High Quality Vendors
- Indoor Sales Area
- Free Advice
- Free Parking



**DATES**  
Sunday 9th March 2025  
Sunday 20th July 2025

**Time: 9 AM - 1 PM**  
OSSV Members Free

**General Public Entry \$5**  
(Sign Up on the day and get free entry)

Parkmore Primary School, 38-54 Jolimont Road  
Forest Hills VIC 3131

Enquiries (Andre): 0408 594 859





## Celebrating Christmas 2024 and the 2025 New Year



More than 60 members enjoyed our end of year dinner – here's a snapshot of the event.



And congratulations to the section winners who received their award on the night!



**Intermediate** – Alex and Lenore Shephard  
tied with Maria Grzan  
**Advanced novice** – Pam and Derek Kennedy  
**Novice** – Jenny Wong

And no prizes for guessing Michael Coker  
won the **Open** section!





## Summer break photo competition

While we growers were scorching under some intense summer sun, our orchids continued to do their thing. Here are the entries submitted for the photo competition.



C Mari's Love 'Tana' x Ryc. Cing  
Sun Smile



Den Unicum x Golden Blossom  
'Lemon Heart'



Vanda Fuchs Delight x Vanda  
Tokyo Blue



Coelogyne mooreana



Onc. flexuosum



Odontoglossum Lava Burst  
'Pacific Sunrise'



Maxillaria tenuifolia



Lycaste Grogani



Polystachya vulcanica 'Wylde')





*Lepenthes telipogoniflora*



Colmanara Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous'



Lyc Chita Melody 'Green Star' x Sud locusta



Lyc. Caroline 'Dragon Lady'



*Rhyncostylis retusa*



*Oncidium* Golden Afternoon 'Rich Yellow'



Rlc. Peach Cobbler x C. Penny Kurosawa



*Coelogyne tomentosa*



*Stanhopea nigroviolacea*

The winner – as judged by you, the members – will be announced at our February meeting. Be there to cast your vote!

## Heat stress

*This month's article seems particularly apt, having just experienced several 35+ degree days. The article comes from the American Orchid Society <https://www.aos.org/orchid-care/orchid-pests-and-diseases/heat-stress>*

Like people, orchids, especially those that prefer cooler, shadier environments, can suffer from heat stress during the hot summer months. The midday sun is intense, especially during the summer, and the high temperatures that bright sunshine brings can burn your orchids quickly, especially the more sensitive types such as phalaenopsis, pleurothallids, paphiopedilums and miltonias.

### Signs of Heat Stress

These symptoms may appear singly, even in otherwise fairly healthy orchids. When they appear in combination, however, it is usually an indication of heat stress or an underlying problem (such as root loss) that has led to heat stress.

#### Yellowing of Plants and Leaves

Too much light causes a plant's chlorophyll to deteriorate, which can turn your orchid an anaemic yellow-green, and eventually cause premature loss of leaves. Most healthy orchids receiving appropriate light levels will be a robust light green.

#### Withered Leaves

The culprit, especially in summer weather, can be overheating. If your plant's leaves feel warm to the touch, they could be getting too much light, and need increased air circulation and shading, or a move to a more protected area.

#### Sunburn

Initial signs of sunburn, as in humans, appear as a reddish-purple tint or freckles on leaves and pseudobulbs. In advanced stages, leaf tips and roots may brown, flowers drop, buds blast or flower spikes fail altogether.

#### Shrivelled Pseudobulbs

Your orchid's pseudobulbs serve as its water-storage organs, so shrivelled pseudobulbs indicate a dehydrated orchid – it is in a stressed state, having used up its moisture reserves.

#### Leathery Leaves

This goes beyond mere wilting, and occurs in the advanced stages of heat stress, indicating severe desiccation and possible damage on the cellular level. Depending on how long the condition has persisted, the type of orchid and its overall health aside from the leaf damage, it may or may not recover once its leaves are parched.

### Treatment

Once an orchid has suffered the effects of heat stress, it may take a long time to rebound. Apply fertilizers sparingly, using a weak solution, and flush the growing medium with clean water between applications of fertilizer, as the salts in fertilizers are difficult for dehydrated plants to assimilate, and a regular dose may further burn the plant. Be especially alert for pests on distressed orchids – insects and viruses are more likely to attack weakened plants.



Mounted orchids are particularly sensitive to higher temperatures and require additional water and humidity during hot weather. Placing a mounted plant in an empty clay pot can help retain moisture around the roots. The microclimate of higher humidity helps prevent heat stress and aids plants in recovering

### Prevention

Your orchids need lots of attention during the summer months, especially on hot days. With higher temperatures, orchids require more frequent watering to prevent dehydration. High temperatures quickly dry out mounted orchids, those in baskets and even potted plants.

Maintaining the balance between keeping orchids sufficiently hydrated and over-watering can be a challenge. A simple rule of thumb is that an orchid's need for water increases and decreases with the ambient temperature, so water thoroughly and more frequently during higher temperatures. Most mounted plants and those in baskets, especially vandaceous orchids and other genera grown with little or no media, will benefit from daily watering in warmer weather.

In addition, keep humidity high and air movement continuous, as both of these factors help plants keep their cool on hot days. Adding a fan to the growing area, or locating your orchids where they receive the caress of summer's breezes, as well as spacing your plants to allow for sufficient air circulation between orchids, can make a big difference in their environment and overall health. This will also help to keep rots from fungi and bacteria at bay.

The benefits from misting orchids during hot weather do not have much sustained effect, so unless one has a misting system in place to maintain that added humidity throughout the day, it is probably not useful to your plants. When watering or misting, always be certain that plants have ample time to dry before night falls, so as to discourage bacterial and fungal growth.

When moving orchids outside for the season, start them out in a shaded spot and gradually increase their exposure to sunlight to acclimate them to the higher outdoor light levels. Make sure to protect them from the strongest sunlight as midday summer sun has more intense UV rays that can burn tender plants. Check the amount of exposure your plants receive at different times during the day as the sun moves, and throughout the year as the earth's orbit around the sun makes its gradual seasonal changes, which in turn changes the angle of the exposure your plants receive.

For greenhouse growers, consider using shade cloth for added protection during the summer months. Windowsill growers may want to add a sheer curtain during the summertime to keep sunlight reflected by the window glass from causing sunburn.

Finally, always have someone care for your orchids while you are away on summer vacation.

### Additional Information

Heat stress is a condition that occurs in orchids and other plants when excessive heat causes an imbalance in transpiration, the process by which moisture evaporates from the plant's tissues. When that rate of evaporation exceeds the pace at which moisture is being replaced through water taken up by the orchid's roots, the plant becomes dehydrated — leaves soft and wilted, pseudobulbs wrinkled and ridged. The instinctive response in this situation is to overwater the orchid to correct the dehydration. This can instead make matters worse by rotting the plant's root system, further hampering its ability to take in much-



needed hydration. The roots can only absorb so much water at one time. In addition to watering, control of heat and humidity play a significant role in the prevention and management of heat stress.

## Further Reading

Dodge, Vivian M. 2003. "Sun Protection." *Vivi's Orchid Corner*. 8(6).

\_\_\_\_\_. 2000. "Tips for August." *Vivi's Orchid Corner*. 5(7).

Withner, Carl L. 1997. "Good Orchid Growing or the Concept of Stress on Plants." *Orchid Society of Nova Scotia newsletter*, May.

*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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### Don't forget ...

Warrigal Orchid Society now has a QR Code.  
This enables members and visitors to access the 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.



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## Vale – Gerry Van Remmen

d. 24 December 2024

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Gerry was a long-term member of our club. He and wife Margaret grow magnificent cymbidiums, and won Champion awards at our shows. Gerry and Margaret have been staunch supporters of our club, always there at every show to help out.

We send our deepest condolences to Margaret, her family and friends.

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Cym Cosmic Gold  
'Lution'

G&M Van Remmen

Best Specimen Orchid  
2016 Spring Show



Cym Morialta  
'Morialta Falls'

G&M Van Remmen

Best Specimen Orchid  
2017 Winter Show

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