

# WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



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

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**MARCH  
2026**

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 1<sup>st</sup> April  
Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown.**

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

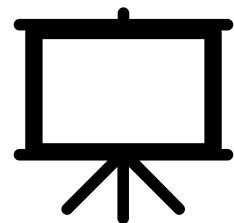
**The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

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: Andrew Fernandez and the Summer Photo orchids.**

This month Andrew will present an overview of each of the orchids featured in our Summer Photo competition. Club members will then vote to select the best orchid from those submitted in the competition.



## 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 – 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.

### **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.

### **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 QR code**



### **Committee**

**Our committee still hasn't grown any - Any member interested in joining the committee should contact our President, Andrew Fernandez, for more information about what is involved.**

### **Vacancy - Temporary newsletter editor**

The Kennedy's are off adventuring in early May for a couple of months, so the club needs a stand-in editor for 2 months. Please apply!



*Note from Pam – I have a template to make it easy to add in items and results into the newsletter, and a simple spreadsheet to record progress scores, if required. You only need a basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and a little spare time. It's fun and I learn a lot about orchids along the way. Please contact me if you would like to know more – on 0457710023, or email [pam@aviselafin.com.au](mailto:pam@aviselafin.com.au) – or see me at next meeting.*

## PROGRESSIVE SCORES – February 2026

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
M. Coker	50	M. Volodina	4
A Magnano	17	S Grzinic	4
G & C. Dimech	11		
A. Rogers	10	ADVANCED NOVICE	
M Mally	5	K Lee	12
A. Fernandez	5	I Katis	11
J & L Karbownik	4		
B Duncan	1	NOVICE	
		No scores as yet.	

## Club calendar

Date	Event (events in blue are events sponsored by other organisations)
15 March	OSSV Sale Day (see p. 6 of newsletter for details) – BE EARLY!
16 March	Happy 33 <sup>rd</sup> birthday to North-East Melbourne Orchid Society (NEMOS) 
23 May	Stawell Orchid Society Seminar (see p. 7 of newsletter for details – note there is an RSVP for this function)
31 July	Set-up day for our Winter Show
1 - 2 August	Our sensational <b>Winter Show</b>
28 – 30 August TBC	2026 OSCOV Victorian Orchid Spectacular – more information as it comes to hand (see note below)
2 October	Set-up day for our Spring Show
3-4 October	Our spectacular <b>Spring Show</b>
16 December	Another wonderful <b>Christmas / End of year dinner</b> (note it's a different date)

OSCOV Show - Millie Ross from Gardening Australia visited OSCOV's Victorian Orchid Spectacular in 2024 and filmed a segment for Gardening Australia. She is a great presenter and was honoured by Clive Halls (of Mt Beenak Orchids fame) with a Masdevallia hybrid being named after her. See <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/orchids-on-show/105649718> to see more of Millie's visit to the show.



## JUDGING RESULTS - February 2026 meeting

### OPEN

#### Aust. Native Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Den. Limestone A Magnano

#### Novelty Cattleya

1<sup>st</sup> Stippled Sunset M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Netrasiri Waxy M Coker  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Guttata Leopoldii x Dormaniana  
 G&C Dimech

#### Vanda

1<sup>st</sup> Rothchildiana G&C Dimech

#### Miniature Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym dayanum x elegans M Coker

#### Phalaenopsis

1<sup>st</sup> Jenifer Palermo x equestris A Magnano  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Penang Girl M Coker

#### Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Hsinying Glomo M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Hibiki M Coker

#### Maudiae Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup> Hsinying Dragon M Coker

#### Novelty Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup> Johanna Burkhardt M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Magic Lantern M Coker

#### Species Paphiopedilum

1<sup>st</sup> Paph. dianthum M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Paph lowii f. aureum M Coker

#### Oncidium

1<sup>st</sup> Aliceara Lunatic Fringe 'Ikes Yikes' A Rogers  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Onc. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Bay' A Rogers

#### Miltonia

1<sup>st</sup> Mps Diners M Coker

#### Lycaste

1<sup>st</sup> Lyc. Deppei x Ang. Cliftonii A Magnano  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyc. Lime Granny Smith A Magnano  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Lyc. Dowiana x Lyc. Deppei M Mally

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Phrag. Samuel Crothers M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Epi. Seta Raspberry G&C Dimech  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Hab. Rhodocheila x roebelenii M Coker

#### Species - Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup> Den. victoriae-reginae M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Hab. Medusa M Coker  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Stenoglottis woodii M Coker

### Seedling Flowering First Time

1<sup>st</sup> Paph. Raisin Jack x rothschildianum M Coker  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Cym. bicolor x canaliculatum var. sparkesii A Fernandez

### Best in Section – Open and Judges Vote

Den. victoriae-reginae  
 Grown by M Coker



This orchid was first described in 1897 and was named for Queen Victoria. Found in the Philippines in dense, mossy forests with oaks, rhododendrons and azaleas, at an elevation of 1300 to 2700 meters. It is a medium to large sized, cool to cold growing epiphyte always growing with its roots in moss, deeply shaded and with plenty of air movement. Pendulous, basally branching, nodally swollen stems are enveloped by persistent sheaths and carrying to 12, oblong or lanceolate, papery, acute to acuminate leaves. They need to be kept evenly humid and moist throughout the year and bloom almost at any time but the strongest bloom is in May-June on very short, erect, 1 to 3 flowered racemes with paleaceous, oblong, acute bracts and colour-variable flowers that do not open well. The flowers occur in clusters that arise from the older leafless canes, so care should be taken not to remove old canes!

**Best in Section – Seedling Flowering First Time**

Paph. Raisin Jack x rothschildianum  
Grown by M Coker



Oncidium incurvum is an orchid species identified by Barker ex Lindl. in 1840. It occurs in Mexico and Nicaragua in evergreen cloud forest and upper mountain rain forests at altitudes of 1300 to 2150 meters.

This is a medium size epiphyte with clusters of compressed, ridged pseudobulbs. Long, pointed leaves are carried at the top of the pseudobulb. It blooms in the summer and autumn on a basal, erect to gracefully arching, 1 to 2 per pseudobulb, 90 to 150 cm long, paniculate inflorescence with, narrow, triangular, scarious bracts arising on a mature pseudobulb and having many, weakly fragrant flowers.

Best grown under cool to cold conditions, with year round watering, but reduced in winter.

**ADVANCED NOVICE**

**Phalaenopsis**

1<sup>st</sup> Phal. Mini unknown K Lee

**Species Paphiopedilum**

1<sup>st</sup> Paph. Liemianum K Lee

**Oncidium**

1<sup>st</sup> Onc. Wildcat ‘Rainbow’ K Lee

**Any Other Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Vanda Pakchong Blue ‘Skye Blue’ I Katis

**Species - Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Coel. pangasinanensis I Katis

2<sup>nd</sup> Phal. cornu-cervi f. chattaladae I Katis

**INTERMEDIATE**

**Oncidium**

1<sup>st</sup> Odont. Pacific Sunburst S Grzinic

**Species - Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Onc. Incurvum M Volodina

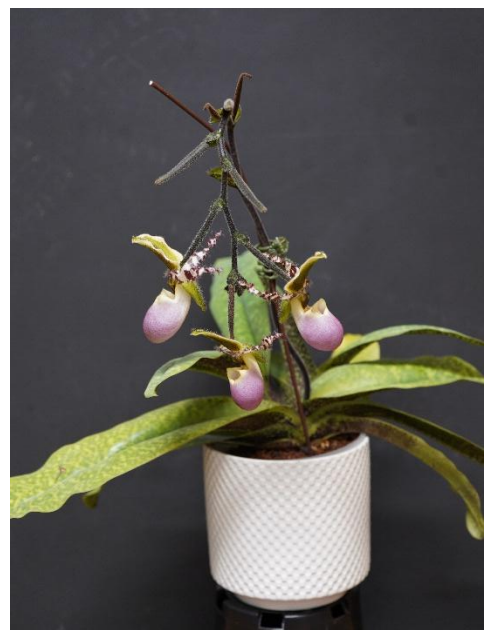
**Best in Section – Intermediate**

Onc. Incurvum  
Grown by M Volodina



**Best in Section – Advanced Novice**

Paph. Liemianum  
Grown by K Lee



*Paphiopedilum liemianum* is an orchid species identified by (Fowlie) K.Karas. & K.Saito in 1982, and can be found only in northern Sumatra at elevations of 600 to 1000 meters.

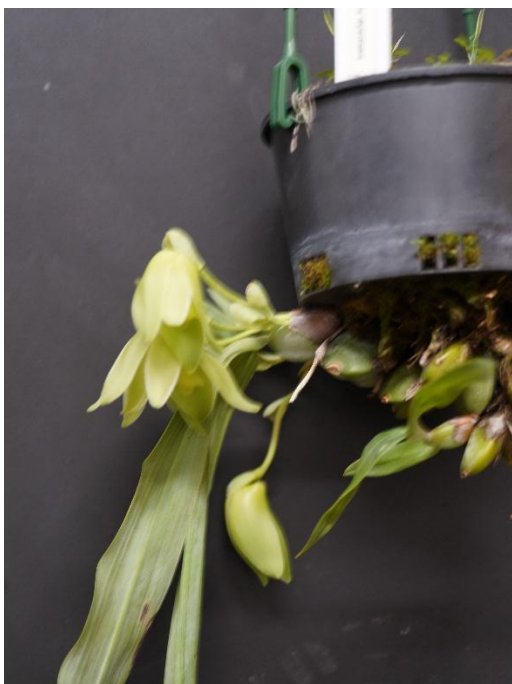
This small to medium sized, warm growing terrestrial or lithophyte grows on vertical limestone cliffs and on the ground in humus around them with several growths together, each stem carrying dark green above and red speckled beneath, ciliate margins, narrowly oblong, obtuse, basally clasping leaves. It blooms in the late winter and early spring on a 15 to 20 cm long, dark brown, successively 1 to 2 flowered inflorescence carrying an elliptic, obtuse, ciliate, green spotted crimson floral bract with 2-3 cm between each flower.

### **NOVICE**

Sadly, no entries this month – we hope to see lots of entries in March!

### **President's Choice**

*Lyc. dyeriana*  
Grown by A Magnano



*Lycaste dyeriana* is an orchid species identified by Sander ex Mast. in 1895, and is also known as *Sudamerlycaste dyeriana*.

Its tufted, pendant growing growth habit is unique to the genus. It is cold to warm growing,

found in Ecuador and Peru in montane rainforests often on the undersides of branches at elevations of 950 to 1800 meters. Its unevenly shrunken, bluish green pseudobulbs give rise to narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, glaucous, dark green blue leaves with conduplicate bases that blooms on a basal, several at once, pendant, to 12.5 cm long, single flowered inflorescence that arises on the newest mature pseudobulb, with 4 to 5 conspicuous, inflated, pale green bracts and with fragrant, waxy, long-lived, pendulous, campanulate flowers that do not open fully. Flowering occurs in the summer through autumn in cultivation and winter to early spring in nature. This plant has a vegetative habit much like a *Maxillaria*.



Orchid Species Society  
of Victoria (OSSV)

SALE DAYS 2026

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



**DATES**  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**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**



**Stawell Orchid Soc.**

# **SEMINAR**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

9.00am - 5.00pm

Senior Citizens Rooms

Victoria St STAWELL

Guest Speakers

David Wain    Wain's Orchids

Stephen Stebbing    Orchids on Newbold

Deane Johnston    Johnston's Orchids

Michael Coker    Boutique Orchids

Craig Miles    Orchids of Distinction

Admission \$15.00 includes Devonshire Tea

*Guest Speakers will have plants for sale*

RSVP by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Phone John Mobile 0499 483 665

Warren Mobile 0408 495 948

Email Warren: orchidlywaz@hotmail.com

## This Month's article

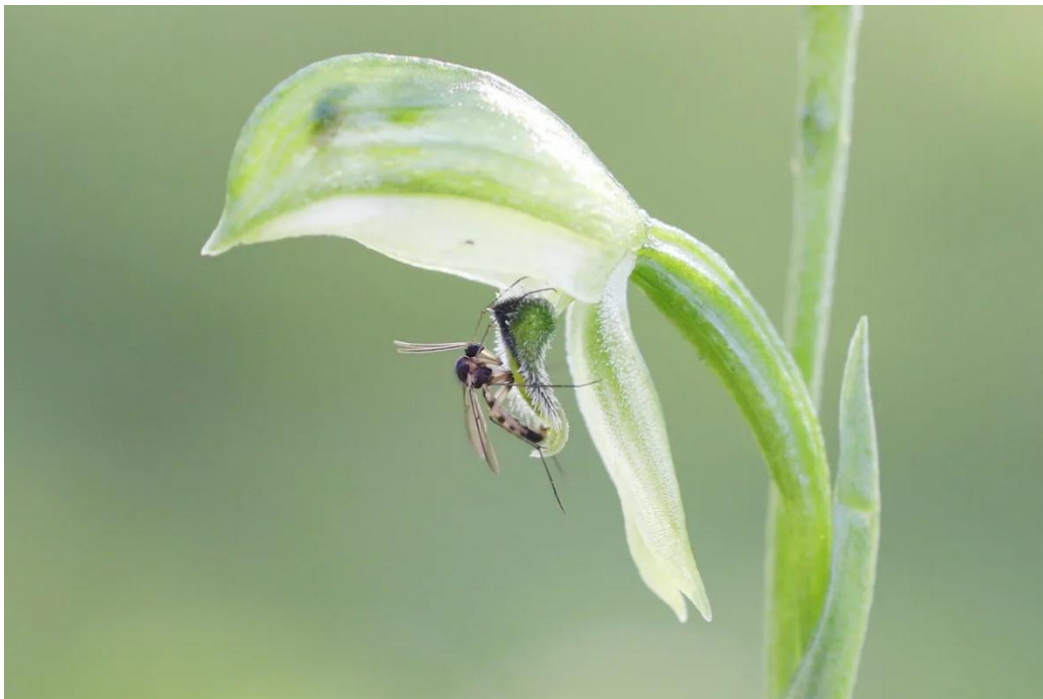
### Uncovering the oddities of Australian orchids

This month's article comes from the Australian National University and was published in 2022. Olivia Congdon is the author. If you have time, check out the link, which has a short video that shows a fungus gnat in action.

<https://science.anu.edu.au/news-events/news/uncovering-oddities-australian-orchids>

You've heard about the birds and the bees – but do you know about the gnats and the orchids? Whilst not your typical example of reproduction in nature, it is an interesting one.

These native orchids act more like mouse traps than passive flowers. All the orchid needs to do is trick an insect into mating with them, and then bam, the botanical trap snares the unsuspecting insect into pollination.



*A fungus gnat (Mycomya sp.) pollinator on a greenhood orchid (Pterostylis longifolia). Photo: Tobias Hayashi*

Dr Tobias Hayashi from the ANU Research School of Biology has just graduated from his PhD investigating this pollination strategy, called 'sexual deception', in greenhood orchids. His research proved just how much this genus of orchids relies on the fungus gnat for its survival.

Orchids are famous for their fascinating shapes and obscure pollination strategies, but Dr Hayashi says this is all a relatively new research area for many Australian orchids.

“There hadn't really been a concerted effort to study pollination in greenhoods at all until 2014, which was when one of my co-supervisors published the first paper confirming sexual deception in a greenhood species.”

Considering there are 300-odd species within the greenhood genus, that's hundreds of greenhoods that hadn't been studied.

Dr Hayashi's PhD involved a massive twenty months of fieldwork: locating the orchids and fungus gnats themselves; figuring out which gnats pollinated which orchids; and performing experiments that demonstrated the chemical and physical properties of the orchid-gnat interactions.

Many of these orchids were found in Perth, in nearby bushland reserves and a university campus. Others were found in national parks in regional Victoria or near Canberra. Some fungus gnats even popped up in the backyard of his accommodation in Perth.

"The underlying theme for a lot of the work that I did during my PhD was: How the hell have these things evolved? What's going on?" he says.



*A greenhood orchid (Pterostylis cycnocephala) at a field site in Terrick Terrick National Park. Photo: Tobias Hayashi*

So what was going on?

"Basically, the orchid produces these unusual chemicals, which mimic the sex pheromones that the female insects produce," he says.

For the greenhoods, this lures the male fungus gnat, which will often try to copulate with a flower, thinking it is a female.

"The labellum, which is a central part of the flower, is on a little hinge, and can flip upwards. So the fungus gnat's sitting there trying to mate with the labellum of the orchid," Dr Hayashi explains.

This action then triggers the labellum to flip up and trap the fungus gnat inside the hood of the orchid. Once the gnat is trapped, there's only one thin passageway out of the flower, and to use it the gnat will inadvertently collect some pollen, or drop some off, as it escapes.

Then it goes on and does it again and again, pollinating the next orchid it encounters (gnats don't seem to learn!).

The research involved dissecting orchids and seeing which shapes and flower parts attracted the male gnats, as well as figuring out which chemical compounds drew them in, with thanks to guidance from some of his chemist collaborators.

“A plant produces hundreds of compounds so trying to work out exactly which one is important is quite a long process.”

After all the time in field, the observations and experiments, the puzzle finally fit. Dr Hayashi’s project was able to neatly corroborate that the specific compounds found to best attract male fungus gnats were also the exact same combination of compounds found on the female gnats.



*Australia is home to numerous beautiful diverse orchid species, like this Diuris ochroma, found in the Wonnangatta Valley, Victoria. Photo: Tobias Hayashi*

A paper from this work was published in Current Biology.

Now, Dr Hayashi works in the public sector on threatened species. In this role, he sees firsthand how useful it is to have detailed knowledge on specific plants and animals to help with practical conservation.

But in his spare time, he still loves to spend time in the bush and admiring the oddities of orchids.

“There’s an incredible whimsical charm in orchids like the greenhoods. They’re just such ridiculous plants.”



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