

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

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**May
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 6 May, then the next meeting is 3 June

Venue: Committee meets virtually on MS Teams.

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

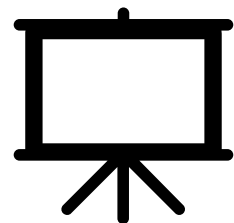
The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 20 May

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:

This month Jeanne Dunn returns to our club. Jeanne is an expert on all things Australian native orchids. Her presentation is not to be missed!



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.

Welcome new members

Each month we will make space here to welcome new members to our club. Please make yourself known to our latest member, who is:

- Belinda Madigan.

Welcome, Belinda. I am sure you will enjoy being part of our club.

Warringal Orchid Society QR code



Committee

Consider joining the committee. As the committee now meets using Teams, you can be a committee member from the comfort of your own living room!



So sad to report to his very many friends that Geoff Browning passed away recently, aged 85. Geoff was a man of very many parts and talents – fun to engage with, vastly knowledgeable, and someone many of us fondly remember as a good friend.

Warringal Orchid Society and the broader orchid world will miss him ... he was a member of many orchid organisations over the decades, serving proudly and always ready to help newer members. An accomplished Judge, he saw and fostered very many younger judges over his time. He encouraged and taught the high standards required – strict and impartial – but always with the sense of humour to make the “business” of orchids enjoyable.

He will be missed.

Vale Geoff



Thanks to Jerry Karbownik
for penning this tribute.

PROGRESSIVE SCORES – April 2026

OPEN		ADVANCED NOVICE	
M. Coker	158	K Trueman	25
G & C. Dimech	36	K Lee	22
A. Rogers	31	J Wong	20
A Magnano	17	A&S La Rocca	14
M Mally	14	I Katis	11
A. Fernandez	12		
M Bastecky	8	NOVICE	
B Duncan	8	A Angerossa	4
J & L Karbownik	4	D Parry	4
		I Neary	3
INTERMEDIATE			
S Grzinic	14		
P Kennedy	11		
M Grzan	9		
M. Volodina	8		

Club calendar

Date	Event (events in blue are sponsored by other organisations/clubs)
20 May	WOS club meeting – guest speaker is Jeanne Dunn
23 May	Stawell Orchid Society Seminar (see p. 6 of newsletter for details – note there is an RSVP for this function)
17 June	WOS club meeting – guest speaker is Garry French
4-5 July	Victorian Country Orchid Clubs Challenge 2026 (see p. 6 for more details)
15 July	WOS club meeting – guest speaker is Matthew Lucas
31 July	Set-up day for our Winter Show
1 - 2 August	Our sensational Winter Show
28 – 30 August TBC	2026 OSCOV Victorian Orchid Spectacular – more information as it comes to hand
19-20 September	NEMOS Spring Show
2 October	Set-up day for our Spring Show
3-4 October	Our spectacular Spring Show
16 December	Another wonderful Christmas / End of year dinner (note it's a different date to our usual function)

JUDGING RESULTS - APRIL 2026 MEETING

OPEN

Aust. Native Hybrid

1st Bulb. shepherdi M Mally

Cattleya

1st Blc. Kinza 'Southern Cross' G&C Dimech

Novelty Cattleya

1st C. Dal's Beau 'Misty' M Coker

2nd Lc. Mona Pink 'Hiromi' M Coker

3rd C. Memoria Ken Martin M Coker

Masdevallia Hybrid

1st Masd. Sugar Frost 'Sweetie' B Duncan

2nd Masd. parlatoreana 'Woy Woy' B Duncan

3rd Masd. Super Nova 'Perfect' M Coker

Phalaenopsis

1st Phal. Penang Girl M Coker

Dendrobium

1st Den. Hibiki M Coker

Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. Galaxy Stone M Coker

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. Dollgoldi M Coker

2nd Paph. Wössner Giganitum M Coker

3rd Paph. Saint Swithin G&C Dimech

Species Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. henryanum M Coker

2nd Paph. charlesworthii #1 M Coker

3rd Paph. charlesworthii #2 M Coker

Oncidium

1st Rnc. Pacific Paranoia M Coker

2nd Brs. Rex 'Atlantis' M Coker

Miltonia

1st Milt. Honolulu 'Warne's Best' G&C Dimech

2nd Milt. Guanabara x Anne Warne A Rogers

Lycaste

1st Lyc. Abou Rits M Coker

2nd Lyc. Abou Sunset M Coker

Any Other Hybrid

1st Phrag. Early Surprise M Coker

2nd Phrag. Inca Rose M Coker

3rd Zga. Adelaide Meadows 'Braeburn' x Pab. jugosa A Rogers

Species - Any Genera

1st Z. maxillare A Rogers

2nd Epi. porpax M Coker

3rd Bulb. lindleyanum A Rogers

Best in Section – Open

Paph. henryanum

Grown by M Coker



Found in southwestern Guangxi and southeastern Yunnan provinces of China and northern Vietnam near their borders, Paph. henryanum grows in semi-deciduous, broad-leafed, mixed and coniferous, mossy, open forests on steep highly eroded limestone cliffs at 610 to 1400 meters in elevation as a rare, smaller sized, warm to cool growing lithophyte. It is a recently discovered species, found only in 1987. A delightful compact miniature, it is said to be easy to grow and flower.

INTERMEDIATE

Aust. Native Species

1st Den cucumerinum x P Kennedy

Oncidium

1st Colm. Wildcat 'Bobcat' S Grzinic

Miltonia

1st Milt. Braziliana S Grzinic

2nd Milt. Honolulu 'Warne's Best' P Kennedy

3rd Milt. Guanabara S Grzinic

Any Other Hybrid

1st Z. Artur Elle M Grzan

Best in Section – Intermediate

Milt. Brazilianana
Grown by S Grzinic



These notes come from Brian Milligan: There are about ten species in the genus Miltonia, several of which will happily grow and flower in a ‘cosy’ shade-house in Melbourne. By my definition a ‘cosy’ shade-house is one fitted with a fibreglass roof, so that the plants can be kept dry during cold winter weather. They should be watered only on sunny mornings, so that their foliage becomes dry before nightfall.

ADVANCED NOVICE

Cattleya

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 st C. Rosella’s Royal Flare x C. loddigesii | K Lee |
| 2 nd C. Copper Queen | J Wong |

Novelty Cattleya

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 st C. Mini Purple ‘Tamami’ | K Trueman |
| 2 nd Rth. Nell Hamner | K Lee |

Vanda

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 st V. Hiroshima Choice | J Wong |
|-------------------------------------|--------|

Phalaenopsis

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st Phal. Unknown | S&A La Rocca |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

Dendrobium

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 st Den. Mingle’s Sapphire | J Wong |
| 2 nd Den. Fancy Moon Eve | J Wong |

Oncidium

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 st Odcdm. Catatante | J Wong |
|----------------------------------|--------|

Miltonia

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 st Milt. Guanabara | K Trueman |
|---------------------------------|-----------|

Species - Any Genera

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st Gomesa flexuosa | S&A La Rocca |
| 2 nd Pths. casapensis | K Trueman |
| 3 rd Schoenorchis fragrans | J Wong |

Best in Section – Advanced Novice

C. Mini Purple ‘Tamami’
Grown by K Trueman



Cattleya Mini Purple is an orchid hybrid originated by Masao Yamada in 1965. It is a cross of C. pumila x C. walkeriana. It is considered a "primary hybrid" because it is a cross between two species. C. Mini Purple ‘Tamami’ is one of several awarded cultivars. It is also known as Lc. Mini Purple ‘Tamami’.

NOVICE

Any Other Hybrid

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 st Milt. Guanabara | D Parry |
| 2 nd Milt. Guanabara | I Neary |

Best in Section – Novice

Milt. Guanabara
Grown by D Parry



Miltonia Guanabara is an orchid hybrid originated by W.W.G. Moir in 1964. It is a cross of Milt. Anne Warne x Milt. regnellii.

President's Choice

Z. mazillare
Grown by A Rogers



Found in montane rainforests in southeastern Brazil and Paraguay, this small to medium sized, cool to warm growing epiphyte occurs at elevations of 600 to 1000 meters. It has conspicuously veined, narrowly lanceolate, subacuminate leaves and blooms on a lateral, 37 cm long racemose, with several flowered inflorescences of fragrant, waxy, long-lived flowers in the summer in Brazil.

**Victorian
Country
Orchid Clubs
Challenge
2026**

Hosted by
Coulburn Valley
Orchid
Club

Entry
\$5

McIntosh Centre
Shepparton Showgrounds
Cnr Archer St & High St
Shepparton

July 4th & 5th 2026
Saturday 12PM - 4PM
Sunday 9am - 3pm

Refreshments Available - Orchid Displays, Sales and Raffles

 **Stawell Orchid Soc.**

SEMINAR

Saturday 23rd 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 1st May 2026
Phone John Mobile 0499 483 665
Warren Mobile 0408 495 948
Email Warren: orchidlywaz@hotmail.com

This Month's article

This month's article comes again from the ABC, and was published in December 2025. It is written by Jodie Hamilton. See <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-14/new-orchids-discovered-habitat-threat-mount-wedge/106072786>.



*Orchids come in many forms, including this quirky one commonly called a duck Orchid.
Photo by June Niejalke.*

Orchid enthusiasts call for greater protection for native species facing habitat threats

In March 1802 when Matthew Flinders was circumnavigating Terra Australis on the Investigator his botanist Robert Brown recorded the first sighting of a South Australian orchid. It was a *Genoplesium nigricans* found near Port Lincoln on the Eyre Peninsula.

Two centuries later, new orchid species are still being discovered in the region, but many are under threat.

Elliston retiree Shane Graves is obsessed with native terrestrial orchids and said he was happiest when lying face down in a pile of leaves searching through the lens of his digital SLR camera for undiscovered species in the bush.

He has an orchid named after him — the Elliston leek orchid, *Prasophyllum gravesii*, which he discovered near the local golf course. "Not a pretty name, but it's my orchid," Mr Graves said. His passion for native orchids grew through his love of photography.



Some of the native orchids Shane Graves enjoys photographing with his macro lens. (Photo: Shane Graves)

"It's that treasure hunt feeling that you get when you're out here," he said. "They're a bit like Pokémon, you've got to find them all."

The plants first piqued his interest after his wife discovered an undocumented species near Elliston while on a photography club outing. But after a mouse plague destroyed the roots of the two plants found and a decade of drought, no new orchids have grown and the site remains bare.



Shane Graves at Mt Wedge, where he enjoys searching for native orchids (Photo: Jodie Hamilton)

She said orchids were bio-indicators of the health of the Australian bush because they had a low tolerance for change or disruption. "This makes orchids a potential flagship for conservation work," she said.

Mr Graves said despite some Australian orchids looking like the poorer cousins of the more colourful and larger tropical species, there was a good reason for their shy appearance.

It is a familiar story for other orchid species, with habitat loss and damage from human activity impacting the native plants.

Native Orchid Society of South Australia website manager Rosalie Lawrence said SA had the smallest amount of native orchids of all the states and was the only one not to have epiphytic orchids, which grow on other plants without soil.

According to Ms Lawrence, SA is home to 162 endemic orchid species, with more than half under threat from development, weeds, herbicide and overgrazing.



Rosalie Lawrence photographing some spider orchids. (Supplied: Rosalie Lawrence)

"Our springtime ones can be [colourful], but the winter ones are trying to hide because kangaroos and other things will eat them," he said. "They try and blend in with the surroundings rather than stand out."



Donkey orchid, Port Lincoln. (photo: Jodie Hamilton)



A rabbit orchid, Leptoceras menziesii (photo: Shane Graves)

Species survival

June Niejalke, author of *Native Orchids of South Australia — A Field Guide*, said most orchids in SA occurred in high rainfall areas, some grew in swamps, while other species survived in more arid zones.

"They grow right up to Wilpena Pound and the Gawler Ranges where the water collects and there's a bit more chance of the orchids getting enough moisture to survive," she said. "You've got to give them credit for growing where they grow — they've adapted to many different habitats." Her love for orchids started when she was in her 50s and she would take her 80-year-old aunt into the bush to look for them.

"She'd have her walking stick in the front of my car ... and she'd point it out the window and say 'see there it is over there', and I'd have to get out of the car and go and have a look," Ms Niejalke said.

She said there were few new orchids being recognised and published because of the way the native species were classified through photographs.



June Niejalke in the field with Andrew Bird, who is studying the pollination ecology of the threatened spider orchid. (Supplied: June Niejalke)

The orchid expert said DNA technology would likely be used for species identification in the future to provide more accurate names and groups.

Plants need protection

In South Australia it is illegal to pick any part of a native orchid.

Mr Graves said he would contact his local council to investigate the protection of endemic orchids in the Elliston township. "Some species flower for period of two weeks, and if you don't go and find them in that time you won't see them again until next year," he said. "A lot of them have a very weak root system that can't forage for enough food by itself so they attach themselves to fungi in the ground. If you just dug it up and try to plant in your garden it's going to die anyway because that fungi that it needs doesn't exist in your garden."



Prasophyllum gravesii, the Elliston Leek Orchid, was discovered by Shane Graves. (Supplied: Shane Graves)

Port Lincoln Orchid Club president Wayne Webber said he was concerned development was impacting local orchid populations. He said a housing development and new desalinisation plant at Billy Lights Point, installed by SA Water, was approved despite the area's rare native species. A spokesperson for SA Water said no flowering orchid plants were taken out during the required vegetation removal. "Some small pockets of other vegetation removed are areas where orchids can flower during season," they said. "Topsoil containing native orchid seeds has been retained to use for revegetation at the site next year."

A sign along Port Lincoln's Parnkalla Walking Trail depicting local native orchids. (ABC Eyre Peninsula: Joie Hamilton)

Mr Webber said orchids were also at threat from bike riders who were widening tracks and damaging orchid habitats in other remnant bush areas bordering the Parnkalla Trail in Port Lincoln. "Unfortunately it's a really good spot for terrestrial orchids and you can see their bike tracks coming down here," Mr Webber said. The plant enthusiast said he was regularly approached by tourists wanting to explore local areas for orchids and wanted the community to better protect remaining habitats.

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