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MONTHLY BULLETIN

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Meetings held at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Flora and Merton St., Sutherland on the Second Monday of the Month. All Visitors Welcomed. Visit our Website on www.ssos.org.au

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APRIL 07

Minutes from the AGM March 07

The President opened the meeting, welcoming members and visitors, to the first part of tonight's meetings, our A.G.M.

The minutes of the 2006 A.G.M.as recorded in the Bulletin April 2006 were passed on the motion of Spiros Vavayis, seconded by K. Wilson as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Murray then presented his annual report, which follows.....

PRESIDENT REPORT

This year we say goodbye to two committee members and say thank you.

Firstly Keith Hughes. Keith has been one of the quiet workers, helping set up shows, acting as assistant show Marshall, working quietly at meetings and offering thoughtful suggestions at Committee Meetings. We appreciate your work very much.

The second is Simone Flynn who has retired from Committee after 9 years as Treasurer. Whilst perhaps not one of the quiet workers, kept our money in safe hands, including all of the money from shows and meetings. Once again thank you very much.

Neville Roper has stepped down after many, many years as Show Marshall only to take up a new position. Sure can't keep a good man down.

We conducted two very successful shows at Swane's Nursery, Sylvania. We had lots and lots of plants that were of very high quality. They were a treat for the public and our sponsors. We thank Swanes for their generous support.

Our involvement with the Southern Orchid Spectacular continued. With the support of many of our members the event was very successful and profitable. Our display was also successful and greatly admired. We look forward to doing it again this year and hopefully with a few more people through the door it will be even more spectacular. It is a great opportunity to visit and shop at many of the leading nurseries at one time right in our own backyard.

Finally a big thank you to all your Committee persons for a job well done and thanks to all who have helped during the year.

A big personal thank you to Louise for her help to me in my job.

Murray Aldridge.

That the President's Report be accepted. Mr. Robert Moar.

That the Treasurer's Report as presented in the March 2007 Bulletin be accepted as accurate.
Mr. Russell Ettrick

Mr. Gary Hart was then nominated as Returning Officer. Motion by Mr. Trevor Thorburn and seconded by Mr. George Birss.

In accordance with the Society Rules he declared all committee positions vacant. The following members have nominated for the committee:

AUDITOR (Honorary Position) - Mr. S.T. Ho motion by Mrs. R. Mills seconded by Mr. R. Moar.

PRESIDENT - Mr. M. Aldridge motion by Mr. N. Roper seconded by Mr. R. Moar.

VICE-PRESIDENT - Mr. N. Roper motion by Mr. S. Vavayis seconded by Mr. D. Brooks.

SECRETARY - Mrs. Louise Gannon motion by Mr. A. Costa seconded by Mr. P. Mills.

TREASURER - Mr. G. Birss motion by Mr. S. Vavayis seconded by Mrs. J. Calnan.

COMMITTEE - Mr. D. Wood, Mr. R. Ettrick, Mrs. M. Errington, Mr. S.T. Ho, Mr. M. Hitchcock, Mrs. J. Robinson and Mr. R. Moar. Motion by Mr. M. Hannah seconded by Mr. P. Mills.

As there was no need for a ballot, the nominations were appointed to the committee

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the Financial Year ended DEC 2006 as presented is hereby accepted for submission to the Department of Fair Trading. The secretary and a Committee persons be allowed to sign the statement namely Mrs. L. Gannon and Mr. G. Birss. Motion by Mr. R. Moar seconded by Mr. P. Mills.

Gary handed the meeting back to the President, congratulating him on his reappointment

Minutes from the March 07 Meeting

Murray closed the A.G.M. and declared the March Monthly Meeting open, thanking all the elected Committee members, remarking that it was refreshing to see some new faces. He then presented them with their badges

The minutes of the February meeting were passed on a motion by Kevin Wilson.

Ho's talk this evening on cymbidiums was so popular, that not all the members could fit into the room. It may be possible to repeat it later in the year. Thank you to Ho for his detailed talk.

Murray then gave an elaborate talk on the variety of stock available at the sales table. A very small mark-up for the Society is placed on these products. He went on to give a brief description of the pots, stakes, hangers for pots, fertilizers, Hysan and members plants. These are sold for members, less 15% commission taken by the Society. We do require two tags in the pot, one with the plant name, the other to show the price and your name.

Correspondence.

Sydney International Orchid Fair Castle Hill – 30th. 31st. March, 1st April.
A.O.C. Brochure on Bookshop Specials.
Smokey Cape 2007 Catalogue.
Australian Orchid Review.

Lucky Plants.

G. Birss, N. Roper, E. Beehag.

Plant Raffle.

R. Moar, (Crosby & Costa), M. Hitchcock.

After the tea break was taken, Murray gave a talk on Madge Errington's plant of *Brassavola nodosa*, which had been awarded a Cultural Certificate by the judges. It is related to *Cattleyas*, and is commonly called "the Lady of the night", as its scent at night and white flowers, attracts the insects for pollination. Madge grows this in her glasshouse and allows it to dry out in winter.

Eric and Audrey Marks's *Den. biggibum*, with several other clones, all the compact form of the 'Cooktown Orchid' made a fine splash of colour. Fast growing and under its wild conditions grows in monsoonal areas of Queensland. Grow in glasshouse and allow to dry out.

S.T Ho's plant of *Paph. charlesworthii*, not seen a lot in collections of late, Ho says he grows in glasshouse, while Ted Beehag grows his in the shade house.

Murray then called on Kevin Wilson and made a presentation of a photo collage as a memento of his presentation night earlier this year.

The President closed the meeting wishing everyone a safe journey home

Dates to Remember.

April 4th. -- Set-up Royal Easter Show.
April 9th. -- S.S.O.S. Monthly Meeting. Beginners class 7:30 p.m. Cattleya- Ted Beehag.
April 19th - Pull down. Royal Easter Show.
May 14th. -- S.S.O.S. Monthly meeting. Beginners class. 7:30 p.m. Terms & Biology – Murray Aldridge.
June 14th.-17th. St. Ives Winter Show.
June 20th. - S.S.O.S. Set-up Winter Show Swanes Nursery.
Sept. 5th. -- S.S.O.S. Set-up Spring Show. Swanes Nursery.

Editor's Corner.

People are needed to help at the Royal Easter Show with security. The times required are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you can help contact N S.W. Secretary at m.0424070757.

Old mate Bob Maxwell is back in hospital. But by the time you get this, he could be back home hoping to keep better health and get back with his orchids.

Are you interested in procuring a bush house? Louise has all the information. This is a galv. Pipe structure, Downie clips, benches, and shade cloth. Demolition and transport would be up to the purchaser.

Were you the person who left a green cattleya at the hall at the last meeting? If so George Birss has it in protective custody.

Pressurized canisters of Sprays

Gerald Mc Craith

It came to the attention of the author of this short paper in the form of postcard photos from Q'land, showing a Cattleya plant in a very sorry state. As no information came with the photos, I did not have an

answer but I mentioned to the grower that if he were in Melbourne, I would have asked him, "have you been using white oil spray and accidentally left the plant exposed to the sunlight."

Coincidentally, during the "Survey of Orchid Problems" campaign, we had a response from a grower in South Aust, that his Cattleyas were losing their new growth as it was emerging from the base of the bulb. He rang me one night and after a series of questions, he mentioned that he had used a pressurized spray can because of aphids that were on the growth of the plant. When asked how close were you spraying, he answered pretty close there was the answer to his problem....

The pressurized canisters of the various sprays are very efficient and convenient instruments for small spraying jobs to have in your store of various chemicals that you may use in assisting you to grow your orchids or in combating pests that are intent in having a meal without your consent. DO YOU READ READ THE INSTRUCTIONS, AND THE CARE TO BE TAKEN.

There is a time of the year, when we have new growths, and when flower buds begin to develop, and a LAW OF NATURE that there are an army of SAP SUCKING insects and wogs such as mealy bugs and aphids etc that become more obvious.

The canisters of the various sprays are powered by a powerful propelling gas and if the spray is used closer than 45 cm (18 in) from the growth or buds that are in a critical stage of their development, there is a strong possibility of severe damage, because the gas has not had sufficient time for its dispersion -and while the grower may have killed the target, his flower buds or the new growth may pay the price.

AWARENESS .. ALWAYS OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL ...

Some possible potting mixture components - either alone or in admixture:

Sand - Clean, coarse river sand is an inert, draining, zero-nutrient option.

Pine Bark - Especially in smaller particle sizes gives good results when used alone or in admixture with marble crushings, coarse sand, perlite or isolite. The bark should be of even particle size with all dust removed. I like to soak pine bark for at least a week in tap water before using it

Sphagnum Moss - An excellent starting medium for many genera if rain water is available or if the tap water supply is not too hard or alkaline. Only exceedingly weak liquid fertilisers can be used with sphagnum moss but it is nevertheless often most satisfactory. In time the moss compacts and sours so plants need repotting to either new moss or more standard medium after 6-12 months. Sphagnum moss is expensive so it is often used

diluted with isolite at 1:1 or 2:1 probably with equal success.

Peat Moss / Perlite - Used in mixtures from 1:1 to 1:4, there is a ratio to suit most orchids and growers. The peat tends to remain evenly distributed through the mix and the medium is good for at least 2 or more years. Root growth is generally good and high fertiliser levels can be used if needed.

Environment - This requirement needs to be considered well as it will vary according to the orchids involved, the prevailing weather conditions, the growers watering habits, the city or area involved and local environmental effects. The aim is to provide sufficient shade, humidity, water, air movement and pest control to enable the deflasked plants to survive, adjust, toughen and grow and to progressively harden the plantlets until they can grow alongside other similar, established plants. This is best done by consulting with growers of similar plants in similar surroundings and blending that information with your own beliefs.

Most orchid seedlings can be transferred directly from flask to humid, airy, temperature-controlled glass houses without additional support other than lowish light levels at first.

Most cymbidium seedlings or mericlones can be transferred directly from the flask to a cool, shady, sheltered location in the shade house. I have done so frequently placing the pots of newly deflasked plants in wire baskets or trays supported on bricks, close to the ground under the benches for 14 to 20 days before putting them on the more protected bench areas with mature plants.

Growers wishing to de;flask more delicate types of orchids can do so by placing the pots of deflasked seedlings or clones inside plastic bags. The bags can be sealed during day time with rubber bands or ties to maintain high humidity, but should be wholly or partially opened at night depending on temperature, to allow the plants to toughen and to avoid fungal problems. Close observation of the plantlets will soon reveal whether more or less fresh air is needed. I am absolutely positive we very much molly - coddle our seedlings to death. I have seen infinitely more deflasked plants die from being too wet, too humid and too stifled with too little light than I have ever seen die from dessication, low humidity, some fresh air and modest light levels.

Reprinted from ANOS Macarthur Group Bulletin August 2003 .

CODLIN MOTH AND OTHER VICTORIAN PESTS by Michael Pender

I name Codlin Moth specifically, as it is the main pest for some orchid growers, including me, in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, which were once home to many fruit orchards. The Codlin moth that once infested these orchards is still present in large numbers, thriving on other plants, including orchids.

The Codlin Moth is a small, brown moth that can be seen in flight, often in large numbers, during the warmer months. It lays its eggs on the new growths and flower spikes of various orchids. These eggs hatch to produce small, yellowish caterpillars that then burrow into the new growths and flower spikes. Its presence is often undetected until the growths and spikes collapse or the caterpillar's small brown droppings are noticed.

Cymbidiums and Australian native dendrobiums seem to be worst affected. New cymbidium growths sometimes rot off soon after they emerge, while flower spikes often collapse when the first buds emerge from the sheath. Most, if not all, of the new growths of native dendrobiums may be attacked, ruining the vigour of the plants.

I find that regular spraying throughout the warmer months of the year with carbaryl and systemic insecticides such as Rogor® or Lebaycid® provides effective control. Beginning in October, I spray every three weeks until April. Great care must be taken when applying these sprays. I always wear gumboots, a disposable coverall with hood, rubber gloves and a gas mask with the correct filters (which must be replaced regularly, regardless of how often they have been used). I spray only in calm weather, making sure that any breeze is at my back. To make doubly sure of safety, I always shower and change my clothing after spraying.

The above spraying regime will also kill other types of caterpillar, mealy bugs, scale, aphids and thrips. Less toxic pyrethrum sprays may be used to control occasional outbreaks of aphids. Cockroaches and ants are easily controlled by spraying Yates Ant and Roach Killer® onto the pots, benches and walls of the shade house, where it has a residual effect.

Snails, garlic snails and slugs may be controlled with Baysol® or Blitzem® pellets or sprays. Occasionally I use tomato dust, which contains Carbaryl, copper and sulphur, to control some caterpillars, garlic snails and some fungal diseases. I apply this dust with a 'bellows' type dust gun. Provided it is only partly filled it gives 2 fine, even covering of dust without any heavy concentrations that may burn some young growths.

It is the natural order for every plant and all living things to have a certain number of pests and pathogens to attack it .,

The orchids are not exempt from this order.

SCALE INSECTS- by Rex Johnson

Those small white or brown spots that occasionally appear on our orchid plants are the waxy secretions of sap-sucking insects that live beneath them.

These little insects (only 3 mm across) initially infest the plant in inaccessible places such as leaf axils and beneath the husks of cymbidium back-bulbs. It is only after these places become crowded that the nymphs (new-born insects) move into new areas. The vast majority of the newborn insects are non-flying females. Soon after hatching the nymphs (crawlers) will leave home. When they find a suitable place, they insert their stylet-like mouthparts into the plant tissue, where they remain for the rest of their lives, meanwhile covering themselves with a dome consisting of a mixture of secreted wax and nymphal skin casts. Adulthood is reached in 5-7 weeks but the onset of egg laying, hatching and ultimate death will vary considerably depending on the temperature. Under favourable conditions the intervals between the various stages may be quite short, and several generations may overlap within a year. Each mature female will lay 50-150 eggs beneath her waxy dome before she dies. The male scale insect has wings and resembles a small gnat. Like the females, it lives under a wax dome until reaching maturity. Because the wax domes remain even after the scale insects have been killed, some growers believe that scale insects are difficult to control but this is not so. A highly effective control method is to spray the plant with white oil (also known as summer oil). The oil forms a film over the wax domes, effectively smothering the underlying scale insects. Surface insecticides may also be used as a preventative spray, as they kill the juvenile crawlers before they are able to find a permanent home and establish their own protective wax domes. Even after scale insects have been killed, small yellow blemishes remain where plant cells have been damaged. Unfortunately they disfigure the foliage for the rest of its life.

The Scale Insects - Gerald Mc Craith

There are a number of SCALE insects that can be a cause, or be a serious pest with a number of genera of orchids. They do not just occur but are brought in on newly introduced plants. They are different to the normal conception of pests, generally they are a tiny animal, but unless checked, they will increase on the plant rather rapidly unless checked.

They feed by means of their mouth parts, causing yellow regions wherever extract of the sap has taken place. The presence of ants maybe an indication that scale, mealy bug, or aphids are also on the plant.

The hard armoured scale is often found on the underside of the leaves of Cymbidiums and the scale will remain stationary for its life cycle, The more difficult scale is the soft one that is mobile throughout its life cycle and is known as Boisduval scale (there is an excellent illustration of this scale on a Cattleya leaf on the cover of the AOS Pests & Diseases Handbook)

You may have an infection without knowing of its presence. This small white scale thrives on Cattleyas, Odontoglossum, Paphiopedilum, Dendrobium and other orchids.

Its presence may not be noticed until a white cluster will be seen in the fold of a leaf, or behind the bracts that surround the old pseudo bulbs, rarely on the new growth.

The recognized CONTROL is white oil with the addition of a systemic Malathion, Rogor, or the like insecticide. A sharpened BBQ bamboo stake is a very handy tool in getting into the tight fold of the leaves near the apex where the leaves begin from the bulb.

This pest requires constant AWARENESS because of its sap-sucking habit and life style....

Happy Growing

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Mar-07

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE**Winner** Den. victoria-reginae

D. Wood

CULTURAL CLASS**Winner** Brassavola nodosa

M. Errington

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES**1st** Den. biggibum 'Beauty'

K. Wilson

2nd Den. biggibum var compactum 'Jellet'

E & A Marks

3rd Den. biggibum var superbum

W. Hoogwerf

4th Den. biggibum var compactum

Costa & Crosby

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM**1st** P. parishii var dayanum

Costa & Crosby

2nd P. moquetianum

Costa & Crosby

3rd P. sukhakullii

S.T.Ho

4th P. charlesworthii

S.T.Ho

CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm**1st** 7Blc. Mt. Isa 'Jean'

A. Holstead

2nd Lc. Puppylove

J.Hart

3rd Blc. Blumen Insell

J.Hart

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM**1st** Paph. lantha Stage

G. Hart

2nd Paph Vedanta x Rothschildiana

Costa & Crosby

3rd Paph. Maudiae

W&J. Chapman

4th Paph. primulinum x Angel Hair

N. Roper

CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm**1st** Blc. Beverley Blitz

J. Hart

2nd Slc. Love Angel

E. Beehag

3rd Blc. Erin Kokayasis

J. Hart

4th Blc. Beverley Blitz

J. Hart

CLASS # 6 PAPHIOPEDILUM**1st** Paph. insigne x Meon

S.T.Ho

CLASS # 7 CATTLEYA INTERGENERIC (Up to 70mm)**1st** Ctna Capri

J. Hart

2nd Ctna Capri

J. Hart

3rd Lctna. Peggy Su x Mem. Ellen Littman

E. Beehag

4th Lctna. Lillian Melendez

J.Hart

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm**1st** Slc. Charming Jewel

E. Beehag

2nd Lc. Mini Purple

J&M.Moss

3rd Slc. Angel Fantasy

E. Beehag

4th Slc. Mini Purple x Royal Beau

Costa & Crosby

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID**1st** Den. Kookaburra

J&M. Moss

2nd Den. Mera

D. Wood

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN**1st** Den. victoria-reginae

D.Wood

2nd Phal. pantherina

W&J. Chapman

3rd Doritis pulcherrima

Costa & Crosby

CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS**1st** Dtps. Taida King Sun x Taida San

Costa & Crosby

2nd Dtps. Mountipx Tiny Sweet Girl

Costa & Crosby

3rd Phal. Brother Stripes x Chia Shiang Stripes

Costa & Crosby

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING**1st** Sarco. Velvet x Fairy

N. Roper

2nd Lc. Mini Purple x Lc. Mini Purple

G. Hart

3rd Paph Dusty Miller x ?

N. Roper

4th Lemboglossum bictoniense x Brassia Rex

R. Ettrick

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM**1st** Onc. Sweet Sugar

Costa & Crosby

2nd Onc. edwallii x ausesasinoeum

D. Wood

3rd Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'

K.Wilson

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm**1st** Dtps. Kenneth Schubert 'Blue'

K.Wilson

2nd Phal. Miva Granny x Barbara Golden

Costa & Crosby

3rd Phal. Fortune Budha x Brother Supersonic

T. Thornton

4th Phal. Tristar Peocter

Costa & Crosby

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE**1st** Colm. Wildcat 'Carmela'

Costa Crosby

2nd Colm. Wildcat

Costa Crosby

3rd Miltassia Aztec 'Toni'

Costa Crosby

4th Miltonia bluntii x Odnna. Santos.

J&M. Moss

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS**1st** Lycaste Uranus

D. Wood

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS**1st** D. Carron Deb x tangerinum

T. Thorburn

2nd D. johannis x (lasianthera x Red Toro)

W. Hoogwerf

3rd D. Gentings Fragrance

Costa & Crosby

4th D. Pauline

T. Thorburn

CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA**1st** Kagawara Christie Low

M. Errington

2nd Ascda. Su-Fun Beauty 'Orange Belle'

J.Hart

3rd Ascda. 50th. State Beauty

K. Wilson

4th Vascostylus Pine Rivers 'Red'

M. Errington

CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES**1st** Drac. ripleyana

G. Hart

2nd Drac. erythrocale

G. Hart

3rd Drac. cordobae

G. Hart

CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES**1st** Brassavola nodosa var majus

M.Errington

CLASS # 22 MINITURE CYMBIDIUM UNDER 60mm**1st** C. Zig Zag 'Kiwi'

E. & A. Marks

CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM**1st** Miltonia spectabilis var Moreliana 'Big Ben'

Costa & Crosby

2nd Miltonia spectabilis

G.Hart

3rd Lockhartia lunifera

N. Roper

4th Oncid. onostrum

W. Hoogwerf

CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES**1st** Restripia conorensis

R. Moar

2nd Restripia moihii

N. Roper

3rd Scapho. gibbiosum

G.Hart

4th Restripia cymbula

N. Roper

CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID**1st** Sarco. Misty x hartmannii

D. Wood

2nd Sarco. Velvet 'November'

N. Roper

3rd Sarco. Riversong

D. Wood

4th Sarconopsis Lavinia

N. Roper

CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS**1st** Unknown

G. Dodd

CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA**1st** C. Little Susie 'Orchidglade' x Little Susie 'Cas'

S.Vavayis

CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS**1st** Dtps. Fairy beam

G.Birss

CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES**1st** Maxillaria sp.

S.Vavayis

CLASS # 37 INTERMEDIATE SEEDLING**1st** Dtps. Taisuco 'Sweet' x Taisuco 'Fire Bird'

G. Birss