



monthly bulletin vol. 44 no. 12 december 08

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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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Minutes from the November 08 Meeting.

The President opened the meeting, extending a warm welcome to all present, calling for a motion that the minutes as presented in the November Bulletin were a true and accurate record. The motion was made by R. Coulton.

Correspondence.

Brochure from Easy Orchids re. Trip to the South Island of New Zealand in March, 2009.
Price list Enfield Produce.

Murray then presented Neville Roper with his A. O. C. Award for "The Award of Distinction for 2007" for his Sarco. Duno Nicky's Twin 'Voodoo', AM-AD/AOC. He mentioned that the award is given for an orchid that usually has an outstanding colour. The members then congratulated Neville on his great achievement.

Murray reminded members that the Annual Point Score for 2008 concludes at this meeting and that the new Point score will start with the December meeting. He announced that the Committee have decided that the following members are to be elevated. (This list of names may not be complete. A decision will be made at the next committee meeting if more members are to be elevated, if so, they will be contacted before the December Meeting.)

NOVICE TO INTERMEDIATE - Jan Robinson.
NOVICE /INTER.TO OPEN - Trevor Costa.
- Robert Bisetto.
- George Birss.

Congratulations, to you all. Just a reminder, to show your plants in your new classes and the best of luck

for the new year. (Incidentally your plant can never win a place if its left at home)

The December Meeting will be our Prize Presentation night and Christmas Party. The Committee will provide hot food and soft drinks, but would ask members to please bring a plate of finger food. **DON'T FORGET THE GIANT RAFFLE.** A small gift to the value of \$10 as a donation to the raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated, not necessarily relating to orchids.

Plants to be benched as usual, but there will be **NO SALES BENCH.** Friends welcome.

At the December Meeting , the Committee are placing two new categories for members -

- Best grown plant
- Best hybrid or species.

From all classes of the evening.

Murray informed the meeting that the Spectacular was a great success, the Society sharing in the profit, plus the display prize money.

After the Tea Break, Murray gave an informative talk on the Burmese/Indian Dendrobiums on show. Den. densiflorum (yellow), thrysiflorum (white/yellow), mousmee (Mauve/white/yellow) a cross between D. farmerii and bronkarti, fimbriatum v. occulatum (with tall canes), lyndlii which requires a lot of light in Winter, not forgetting the Paph. bellatulum of See Ting Ho.

Lucky Plants. J. Moss, S. Vavayis, W. Chapman.

Plant Raffle. D.Hannan, B. Warren, B. Pethybridge, M. Aldridge, G.Birss, G.Macnamara., N. Roper, J. Moss.

Judges Roster for December.

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
LEAD JUDGE	E BEEHAG	I CHALMER	N ROPER
JUDGE	G HART	D BROOKS	W CHAPMAN
JUDGE	J HART	K WILSON	I WARE
ASSOC.	J MOSS		
WRITER	J ROBINSON	M HITCHCOCK	D COULTON

Across the Secretary's Desk.

The Annual Subs. Are now due. Treasurer George Birss would be pleased to see you if you may have let it slip your memory.

Editor's Corner.

From your Committee, myself as your Editor, My co Bulletin workers Bob Maxwell and See Ting Ho, without whose help and input, this Bulletin could not be delivered, my grateful thanks.

have a great

Xmas

a safe New Year

& Good Growing

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Nov-08

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Den. aggregatum 'Majus'

T Costa/S Crosby

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Den. fimbriatum var. occulatum

D&M Hannah

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Coeloglyne nitida

D. Coulton

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Sarco. hirticalcar

D. Wood

2nd Sarco. hartmannii 'Manda' x 'Perfection'

N. Roper

3rd Sarco. hartmannii 'Vacy' x 'Red Cloud'

N. Roper

4th Sarco. hirticalcar

D. Wood

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. lowii

S T Ho

2nd Paph. victoria-regina

S T Ho

3rd Paph. leimianum 'Pat'

G. Hart

4th Paph. bellatulum

S T Ho

CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm

1st Blc. Lyn Spencier 'Cha'

J. Hart

2nd Lc. Irene Finney 'York'

J. Hart

3rd Lc. Frederick Boyle

J. Hart

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. Red Pepper 'Ray' x Hsinying Web

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Paph Berenice

S T Ho

3rd Paph. unknown

W&J Chapman

4th Paph Primecolor

S T Ho

CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm

1st Blc. Sylvia Fry 'Essie' x Pot. Free Spirit 'Laina'

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Lc. Mini Purple 'Lea'

J. Hart

3rd Slc. Jewel Box 'Sheherazade'

T Costa/S Crosby

CLASS # 7 CATTLEYA INTERGENERIC (Up to 70mm)

1st Iwanagara Apple Blossom

T Costa/S Crosby

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st Cat. Mem Jerome Schultz 'Bette'

T Costa/S Crosby

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Den. aggregatum 'Majus'

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst'

W & J Chapman

3rd Den. densiflorum

L. Gannon

4th Den. thyrisflorum

T Costa/S Crosby

5th Den. densiflorum

J W Moss

CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS

1st Phal. Enzan Elation 'Blade'

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Phal. Purple Haze Pearl

T Costa/S Crosby

3rd Phal. Ever Spring 'Pioneer'

T Costa/S Crosby

4th Phal. unknown

T. Thorburn

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Sarco. Fitzhart x Nabiac

N. Roper

2nd Sarco. Riversong Dove

N. Roper

3rd Sarco. Dove x Fairy

N. Roper

4th Sarco. Orange Glow 'The Beaut' x Fitzhart

C. Fraser

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM

1st Tolu. Stoptlight 'Guy'

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'

R&J Ettrick

3rd Onc. Jihbao Gold M

J W Moss

4th Onc. Sang Chan

J W Moss

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st Phal. Brother Delight Chung Ching

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Phal. Dragon's Dazzler

T Costa/S Crosby

3rd Phal. Sogo David

T. Thorburn

4th Phal. Brother Dendi 'Picasso' x Toidu Lawrence

T Costa/S Crosby

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st Colm. Space Race 'Topaz Gold'

T Costa/S Crosby

2nd Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'

J W Moss

3rd Tol. Robert Perreipa x John Evans

J. Hart

4th Odm. Col. Wildcat 'Bobcat'

G. Hart

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st Bls. Morning Glory x L. Purpurata 'Carmencita'

J W Moss

2nd Lyc. unknown

D. Wood

3rd Catasetum Purumfcernum

D. Wood

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS	
1st Den. Mousmee	L. Gannon
2nd Den. Adastra	J W Moss
CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA	
1st Sartylis Blue Knob	T. Thorburn
CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES	
1st Drac. cordobae	G. Hart
CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS	
1st Masd. Bright Spice	G. Hart
2nd Masd. Peach Fuzz	G. Hart
3rd Masd. Hurdy Gurdy	G. Hart
4th Masd. Cuzco Gold	R&J Ettrick
CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES	
1st Laelia sincorana	S T Ho
2nd Epi. imatophyllum alba	G. Hart
CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM	
1st Bif. harrisoniae	J. Hart
2nd Maxillaria tenuifolia	L. Gannon
3rd Bif. harrisoniae	J. Hart
4th Maxillaria variabilis	G. Hart
CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES	
1st Stellis sp.	N. Roper
2nd Rest. pelyx	J. Hart
3rd Pleuro. viduata	N. Roper
CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID	
1st Sarco. Riversong x Dove	N. Roper
2nd Sarco. Cherie's Joy 'Speckles'	N. Roper
3rd Sarco. Burgandy On Ice '#4'	N. Roper
4th Sarco. Allana	N. Roper
5th Sarco. Cherie's Joy	D. Wood
CLASS # 25 NOVICE - PAPHIOPEDILUM	
1st Paph. Winston Churchill x Haynesworld	J. Robinson
CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID	
1st Sarco. Fizzy Dove	D. Coultou
2nd Sarco. Sweetheart	D. Coultou
3rd Sarco. Cherie's Joy x Orange Glow	D. Coultou
4th Sarco. hartmannii	G&D McNamara
CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS	
1st Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	D. Coultou
2nd Den. Yellow Magic 'Festival'	J. Robinson
3rd Onc. unknown	J. Robinson
CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES	
1st Coel. nitida	D. Coultou
2nd Bif. harrisoniae	D. Coultou
3rd Vanda. javierae	D. Coultou
4th Max. haematoglossa	M. Hitchcock
CLASS # 32 INTERMEDIATE - CYMBIDIUM	
1st Cym. Miss Muffett	G. Birss
CLASS # 33 INTERMEDIATE - NATIVE SPECIES & NATIVE HYBRID	
1st Cym. canaliculatum	G. Birss
CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA	
1st Lc. Bonanza Queen x Bl. Morning Glory	S. Vavayis
2nd unknown	S. Vavayis
3rd Cat. Golddigger	G. Birss
4th Cat. Yellow Bird	G. Birss
CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS	
1st Onc. Sydney	D&M Hannah
2nd Phal. Brother Lawrence 'Carmella'	G. Birss
3rd Vanda ???	G. Birss
4th Masd. Copper Angel 'Highland' x Orange Sunset	G. Birss
CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES	
1st Den. fimbriatum var. occulatum	D&M Hannah
2nd Den. aggregatum	G. Birss
3rd Den. densiflorum	S. Vavayis
4th Den. densiflorum	D&M Hannah
CLASS # 37 INTERMEDIATE SEEDLING	
1st Slc. Precious Jewel x Blc. Cosmo Medio	S. Vavayis

GROWING ORCHIDS IN POTS by David P. Banks

For convenience and practicality, most orchids are grown in pots. All terrestrial and most epiphytic orchids are grown in pots, which accommodate the plants' root systems and help to retain moisture. Pots are easily transported, displayed, acquired and are relatively inexpensive. Another bonus is that they are reusable after cleaning and sterilising in a mild bleach solution.

There is a wide range of pots available. It is most important that the pots be sturdy and that they have generous drainage holes. Today, plastic pots are the most frequently used, and are available in a variety of sizes, styles, colours and depths. There are now businesses, such as The Orchid Pot Company in Port Macquarie, that specialise in the production of orchid pots, and use a durable, black plastic that does not deteriorate in sunlight. They have created a range of pots, designed for specific orchid genera, which offer excellent drainage.

Personally, I detest square pots! I'm sure that the orchid's roots don't enjoy heading off at right angles all the time, and that they would much rather go round in circles! I use only black, bottle green or terracotta-coloured plastic pots, with a preference for black, which are less inclined to deteriorate in sunlight. Brightly coloured pots look great for marketing annuals and other garden plants but look rather tacky in the orchid collection. Many orchid growers in North America use clear pots (which are invariably square!) with success. Their advantage is that the root system of an orchid can be monitored without disturbing the plant. Care must be taken not to subject the sides of these pots to direct sunlight, to avoid cooking the roots. Algae growth on the sides of these pots may also become a problem.

If it is possible, try to keep plants in the same sized pots together on the bench. Not only does it look tidier but the pots will all dry out at the same time (if planted in the same mix), thus simplifying watering.

Make sure that you remove weeds from your pots and from the floor of the orchid house. If left to seed, the weeds will spread right through your orchid collection. A pair of tweezers is handy for removing stubborn weeds with long taproots. Weeds under the bench may be carefully sprayed, in still conditions, with herbicide solution. You are left with the decision of spraying the ferns or not! Beware of weeds in hanging baskets, as they can disperse their seeds quite a distance. With

diligence, it is possible to eliminate weeds from your collection totally.

RATS LOVE ORCHIDS! by Brian Milligan

A few years ago, after the local authorities in Melbourne decreed that all domestic cats should be safely locked indoors at night, rats began to trouble my orchids. The first signs of their invasion, usually in the depths of winter, were the tops of some Australian native dendrobium canes lying on the path beneath the hanging plants. Inspection of the plants showed that the canes had been chewed through about half way along their length. Surprisingly, the rats ignored the juicy leafy section but gnawed the tougher basal section, sometimes until only the stump remained. I'm told that rats' teeth grow continually throughout life, and that they must therefore chew tough food materials on a regular basis to prevent their teeth becoming too long. This probably accounts for the rat's preference for the older, tougher dendrobium canes.

I have found the best way to eradicate rats is to provide them with poisoned rat bait. Although many different proprietary brands are available, I have used only Ratsak® and Ratsak OneShot®, which did the job so I have not found it necessary to experiment with others. I placed the rat bait at the centre of a length of agricultural pipe with the aim of deterring our cat from eating the pellets, which vaguely resemble the cat 'nuts' we occasionally feed her. The pipes were then tied to the upper struts of the shade-house frame, in what I imagined were convenient access trails for the rats. For the first two nights, the bait remained untouched, presumably because it was tainted by my repulsive human odour! I assume that my BO had dissipated by then because all the bait disappeared on the third night, and continued to disappear as fast as I replaced it for a further three or four nights. Presumably all 'my' rats had died by then (or should I say 'passed on to better pastures'?). A month later, the uneaten bait still remained intact, and on past experience will remain untouched until next winter.

Unfortunately, the rats did not stop feeding on my orchids while they were eating the rat bait, and the tops of quite a few more dendrobium canes fell to the floor during the five or six days it took for the poison to be consumed and take effect. Apart from the Australian native dendrobiums, the only other

orchids to be eaten were the flower stems of some greenhood orchids, despite the availability of many other exotic orchids. Rats are sometimes maligned by the title 'lying rodents' but at least my 'dendrobium' rats were patriotic rats with a strict preference for Aussie bush tucker!

Addendum. It seems that not all of my rats are 'true blue' Aussies — one has since taken a liking to the fleshy pseudo-bulbs of my *Rossioglossum grande*, a species native to Mexico. I'm now looking for a rat wearing a sombrero!

OPTIMAL SIZE FOR SUCCESSFUL DIVISION OF ORCHIDS

by Gillian Kirk

We have all divided or bought small divisions of a desired orchid, only to see it languish for a couple of months or years and then die. In my experience different species need divisions of different sizes in order for them to grow and flower successfully in a reasonable time.

Cymbidium is one of the easiest genera to divide and propagate successfully. Even single pseudobulbs have numerous dormant shoots that readily sprout into growth under suitable conditions. However, two back-bulbs and a growth will produce a mature plant that will flower sooner, and larger divisions may flower the following year. Lycastes and anguloas, in my experience, are more difficult to propagate from a single pseudo-bulb. These pseudobulbs appear to have fewer dormant shoots, and therefore it's preferable to use an attached pair of back-bulbs for successful propagation. Two back-bulbs and a new growth are likely to flower in the following year.

Maxillaries appear to do better in larger divisions, and the same applies to coelogynes, which may sulk for years if divided too small. Bifrenarias also seem to do better in large divisions. I learnt this by experience — a small division of the first species that I bought (*Bifrenaria harrisoniae*) took twelve years to flower! *Masdevallias* seem happy to be divided into small pieces, provided that each division carries sufficient roots.

For successful propagation I find that plants should be healthy and consist of a minimum of four mature pseudobulbs (in the case of cymbidiums) or four stems (e.g. dendrobiums). When top-cutting monopodial orchids, such as vandas, the division should bear at least three or four strong roots.