



Monthly Bulletin vol. 47 no. 12

DECEMBER 2009

President

Murray Aldridge

Secretary

Louise Gannon
9524 9072

Treasurer

Jan Robinson
9520 6920

Editor

Mike Hitchcock
Mlh001 @bigpond.net
.au
0407 553 693

Correspondence to: The Secretary, 36 Raglan Road, Miranda, NSW 2228.

Web Site: www.ssos.org.au

Venue: The Uniting Church Hall at the intersection of Flora and Merton Sts., Sutherland on the second Monday of each Month. All visitors are welcome.

SSOS NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Bulletin were accurate.

Moved by John Costa. Carried.

Bob Moar, our Vice President took the Meeting tonight, as Murray is enjoying a short break in New Zealand.

CORRESPONDENCE

- AOC silent auction. A number of orchid flasks and compots were donated to the AOC conference in Werribee, but due to illness there was no aoc stand. Plants will be offered to orchids Australia readers, with information in the next issue of the magazine. Closing date for auction is mid-January 2010. Items were obtained from Kevin western's laboratory, s.a. and ken Siew. Plant details etc. On front desk.
- Caloundra's Golden Orchidfest 2010 on the queen's birthday weekend, 12 to 14th June 2010. 50th anniversary. Guest speakers and many vendors attending.
- 19th AOC conference in Perth Western Australia. 10th to 16th September, 2012
- Catalogue from Manly Warringah orchid society re. Orchid auction on Sunday 15th November, at Cromer community centre hall, fisher road north, Cromer. View orchid list on front desk.
- Design-a-mug. Have sent us a coffee mug advertising their business. Our society has ordered 10 of these and will be available from

the sales table hopefully by next meeting. (our donated mug will be included in our raffle prizes tonight).

- Taiwan luxury orchid tour, departing march 2nd 2010.
- Neutrog fertilizer brochure – feedback. (enough for everyone)

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were welcomed:
Mrs Josephine Edwards
Mr James Lui

GUEST SPEAKER

Bob advised the members that we don't have a Guest Speaker for the night, but we are going to try something different by asking each Novice member present to choose their favourite orchid benched tonight. The owners will then be asked to tell the members how they grew it.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

A number of AOC Certificates from the Australian Orchid Conference at Werribee in September were presented by the Vice President to Neville Roper. They Were:

1st Class 151- Species - Vandaceae:
Aerangis citrata
1st Class 21- Australian Native Hybrid –
Sarcanthinae: Sarco. Jill

2nd Class 134 - ANY OTHER GENERA
HYBRID Zygopetalum alliance: Zgna. Adelaide
Meadows 'Alison'
AOC Award of Distinction & Highly
Commended Certificate - Sarco. Edith
'Revesby'
AOC Award of Merit – Sarcochilus hartmannii
'Reg'
Highly Commended Certificate – Sarco.
Bessie '2008'
Neville was also presented with an OSNSW
Award of Distinction & Highly Commended
Certificate – Sarco. Edith 'Revesby'

Congratulations Neville.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Membership Subscriptions are now due. Forms are out the front. Please see our Treasurer, Jan Robinson.
- We are still looking for a member to fill our Show Secretary's position. If you are interested, please speak to Diane Hannah about the duties or Louise.
- For a long time now Ted Beehag has been recording the competition points after each General Meeting. The points are taken from the Bulletin each month, recorded and then tallied at the end of the year by the Secretary for the Annual Awards. Ted has decided he would like a break and would like to pass the job on, to another member. It's not difficult, and you can do it at your leisure at home. If anyone would like to volunteer, please see Bob or Louise. We thank Ted for his efforts in accurately recording these details.
- You have all seen Dennis Wood behind the Sales Table. He also wears another hat on our meeting nights and that is as our photographer for the seedling plants benched. Dennis is having problems with his camera, and was wondering if another member was interested in taking the photos. Please speak to Dennis or Louise.
- The AOC Library has digital presentations suitable for the occasional replacing of a Guest Speaker. The list is on the front desk if any member would like to view it.
- We are endeavouring to secure more Guest Speakers for next year. If anyone has heard a speaker elsewhere that our members would enjoy hearing or has any ideas, please see Bob, Louise or a Committee Member.
- Next Meeting will be our Presentation Night and Christmas Party. There are 2 perpetual trophies, plus a number of others to be won.

This Meeting is the last for the accumulation of points for 2009. From the December meeting the points start again.

- The Committee are currently deciding if any members are to be elevated into the next class. If so, they will be told prior to benching their plants at the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Members are asked to please bring a gift/donation for our 'giant raffle' – no more than the value of \$10. Also a plate of cold finger food. Hot food and soft drinks will be catered for by the Committee.

AFTER SUPPER

After Supper the Novice members were asked to choose a plant they were interested in knowing more about. Amongst those chosen, were the following two plants-

1. John Hart's (oldie but a goodie) Blc. Crispin Rozales
 - John grows it at a minimum 10 degrees
 - Waters once a fortnight in winter and once a week in summer and fertilises every watering with Aquasol or sales bench fertiliser.
 - Potting mix: coco-chips and perlite.
 - Watch for pests, especially mealy bugs and slugs
2. Bob Moar's Bulbophyllum minutissimum
 - The plant had 4 flowers half the size of a match-head.
 - It is the 3rd smallest orchid in the world and grows on native fig trees around the Jervis Bay area.

LUCKY PLANTS:

R. Bisetto, J. Robinson, L. Gannon

CULTURAL AWARDS:

Two SSOS cultural awards were awarded to -
Daniel Coulton - Pleuro stricta
Robert Bisetto - Dendrobium loddigesii
Congratulations to you both

PLANT RAFFLE:

G. Birss, Visitor (2), R. Coulton, L. Gannon, M. Luk, R. Moar, S. Crosby & T. Costa

NOVEMBER RESULTS

Once again the computer bug has struck and due to a missing file the results will have to wait for the January Bulletin

Zygopetalums

The first thing you notice about this orchid is its beautiful fragrance, its range of colours from apple, purple, reddish brown to blackberry and a combination of these colours, its long lasting flowers and its ease to grow.

Zygopetalums are both tree (epiphytes) dwellers and terrestrial (ground dwellers) found grown on the forest floor amongst leaf litter. So to grow them in cultivated conditions you have to have them potted in a fairly open orchid mixture. That is, one that allows the water to flush through the bottom of the pot. Most commercially prepared orchid mixes are suitable. Again the mixture should be open to give the drainage required. A good indicator is to water the pot and watch the immediate reaction of the water escaping through the holes at the bottom of the pot. Also make sure that the pot is off the ground so that it can be flushed out.

Watering

During the spring to autumn periods, they require lots of water. As we are under water restrictions, the current Sunday and Wednesday is sufficient. Preferred time is early morning or late night. Never water during the heat of the day. Remember these orchids are also known tree dwellers and do not like their roots water logged. Zygopetalums are prone to black spot caused by cold wet winter conditions, so avoid all overhead watering during winter.

Fertilising

Apply a fertilizer at least once a week. Fertilisers such as Aquasol or Nitrosol be used. Fertilising should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Better to apply a weaker solution. The flowering period is between autumn and spring. Switch to a blossom booster type fertilizer to encourage the flowering process. An all round fertiliser can be also considered.

Repotting

Repotting should be done after the flowering. Repotting can be either a time to divide the

plant or move it into a larger pot. It is the time to tidy up the plant and take away old back bulbs. Backbulbs are ones that have contributed towards the flowering process and a source of food storage. Too many backbulbs actually hinder the plant because instead of concentrating on the new growth towards flowering, the plant tends to continue the storage process in the bulbs. Backbulbs are the ones that usually look green without leaves.

Position

I have left the most important to last. Zygopetalums need a good location with plenty of sunlight and airflow. Direct sunlight in hot summer days should be avoided. Indicators are the leaves are yellowish from too much sunlight. Shadecloth coverage of 50% to 70% is ideal. Winter time is when increased sunlight is required. WATCH OUT FOR FROST. Frost can destroy young flower spikes. Consider some protection. Suggestion is a north east brick wall – under a carport could also be considered.

Pests

Most common pest experienced with Zygopetalums growers are snails and grubs of cabbage white butterfly and cabbage moth. These pests cause damage to the young buds of the flowers. Sprinkle snail bait around your plants, especially after rain as these pests are most active. Cabbage grubs can be eradicated with either House and Garden spray or a Hortico cabbage dust.

Diseases

Zygopetalums are subject to **black fungal spots** on the leaves. This is a harmless fungus spotting and will not damage the plant. Control spray with Mancozeb. Refer back to the watering section.

These and other valuable growing tips were found on the Web site of the Bankstown Orchid Society. <http://www.bankstownorchidsociety.org.au/Zygopetalum.htm>

NOVEMBER MEETING JUDGES ROSTER			
	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Lead Judge	E Beehag	I Chalmers	N Roper
Judge	G Hart	D Brooks	W Chapman
Judge	J Hart	K Wilson	ST Ho
Assoc/Trainee	Jan Robinson	M Hitchcock	J Moss
Writer	S Crosby	R Bisetto	D Coulton

Particularly for newer growers and even for those new to exhibiting there can be a lot of confusion over what actually defines a Seedling. The judging rules are quite clear and I quote from the AOC Standards for Judging.

“A **seedling** shall mean a plant (being the whole plant undivided) not exhibited at a show, meeting or award judging in a previous season since being raised from seed. For exhibition purposes, seedlings shall retain their status of seedlings throughout the flowering season in which they are first exhibited at a show, meeting or award judging.”

Every orchid, champion or otherwise, was once derived from a seed. In the earlier part of this century the only way to obtain one of the champions was to wait until the plant could be divided, or wait for a back-bulb propagation, a very long process, and one which made named varieties very expensive indeed. No wonder orchid growing was mostly confined to the extremely wealthy!

Around 1960 it was discovered that orchids could be reproduced by tissue culture whereby a tiny piece of tissue is removed from a mother plant, and placed under sterile laboratory conditions into a flask containing a rich nutrient solution. With warmth and the correct lighting conditions this tissue begins to grow larger. It can then be divided, those pieces grown on, and they in turn can be divided, with practically no limit as to how many times this can be done. When enough pieces have been obtained they are allowed to grow on to develop roots and leaves and form small plants. All of these plants should be identical to the mother plant (although sometimes variations or mutations can occur) and are called mericlones, they have not been raised from seed, and therefore cannot be shown in the seedling class.

To further illustrate this difference, let's look at a very well known Cymbidium, Cym Jubilation. Cymbidium Jubilation is the result of a crossing made by Mr. Bob Hodgins of Frankston, the crossing being Cym Wallara "Gold Nugget" x Cym Borough Green "Conference". When the first of these seedlings flowered the cross was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in England and given the registered hybrid name "Cymbidium Jubilation. Should that cross ever be made again, anywhere in the world, even the reverse crossing, i.e. Cym Borough Green x Wallara (the pod parent is always named first), all of the resulting seedlings will be known as Cymbidium Jubilation.

With an orchid seed pod having the potential of containing many thousands of seeds, and each of those seeds carrying genes from both parents (in the same way as there can be differences between human brothers and sisters with the same parents) there can

be a large variation in the quality of the seedlings raised, from very good to very poor.

To distinguish between different plants of Cym Jubilation a varietal name can be added, i.e. Cym Jubilation "Geronimo", Cym Jubilation "Good as Gold", Cym Jubilation "Cashmere" etc.

To sum up, to enter an orchid in the seedling division of a show, it must be a plant grown from a seed, and must not have been divided. Plants derived from the mother tissue of a plant are not seedlings they are mericlones and are not eligible to be shown in the seedling class.

SSOS Bulletins

Sending the bulletin out by email has proved to be quite successful and the list of members who receive it this way is growing, if you would like to receive your bulletin this way please send our Editor, Mike an email at mlh001@bigpond.net.au with your return address and we will start sending it to you immediately.