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## MONTHLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 43 NO 5

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](http://www.ssos.org.au)

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### May 2007

#### Minutes from the April 07 Meeting

The President opened the meeting, welcoming our guest speakers, members and other guests, then calling for a motion that the minutes as circulated of the March meeting, were a true record of the meeting. Motion moved by M. Hannah.

#### Correspondence.

Orchids in the Wetlands Fair, Hunter Region. 21<sup>st</sup>. to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sept.

Orchid Fair at Mingara. 23<sup>rd</sup>., 24<sup>th</sup>. June ( same weekend as our show).

2007 Papua, New Guinea Orchid Tour. 2 dates- 22<sup>nd</sup>. July to 5<sup>th</sup>. August.- 3<sup>rd</sup>. to 17<sup>th</sup>. August.

ORCHIDS-Magazine of the American Orchid Soc.

Murray thanked Ted Beehag for taking the Beginners class this evening.

The decision to continue with the Judging Point score already in place was decided by the committee i.e. – 5,4,3,2,1.

The Committee is to replace the existing tabletops and trestles with 10 lighter plastic tables.

Murray called for volunteers to form an Organising Committee for our proposed display in

this years Sharkies Spectacular to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup>. to 14<sup>th</sup>. October. A display to represent our district.

Ernie Heaume (ex-member) has kindly donated approx. 15 orchid books which are on sale on our sales table this evening at marked prices.

Next meeting will be our yearly Auction night. Once again we have a limit of 6 orchids per member, please remember, 2 tags in pot, name of plant and your name and price. If you have a reserve price, it must be for \$15 or more (yellow sticker to be placed on plant at the meeting). A 15 % commission applies to all sales and the Society would be pleased to receive donations.

Paul Wheeler, who has accepted the position of Show Marshal, was presented with his badge.

Murray then introduced our speakers for the evening Samantha and Peter of the Orchid Tray Co. who gave us a very comprehensive and interesting coverage of their products, which included Ph meters, fungicides, fertilizers, coco-chips, and much more. You can order by mail order, on line, or see them at the various Fairs.

**Lucky Plants.** W.Hoogwerf, D. Hannah, ( S.Crosby & A.Costa)

**Plant Raffle.** D.Wood, B. Moar, A. Holsted, L. Gannon.

**Judges Choice.** Open—Oncidium onustum. W. Hoogwerf

**Intermediate**—Cat. Portiata 'Mel' S. Vavayis.

**Novice**—Liparis reflexa J. Robinson.

### **Judges Roster for May.**

MAY	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
LEAD JUDGE	G HART	I CHALMER	W CHAPMAN
JUDGE	D BROOKS	K WILSON	E BEEHAG
JUDGE	S T HO	J HART	I WARE
ASSOC.		J MOSS	
WRITER	M HITCHCOCK	J ROBINSON	

### **Dates to Remember**

May 14<sup>th</sup>. –SSOS Monthly Meeting-Auction – Beginners Class, Murray Aldridge. 7:30 p.m.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. –SSOS Monthly Meeting- Beginners Class, Gary Hart. Slippers. 7:30 p.m.

June 14<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> –St. Ives Winter Show.

June 20<sup>th</sup>.SSOS Set-up Winter Show Swane Nursery.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Orchid Fair at Mingara. Starts 9am.both days.

### **Editors Corner.**

The beginners class by Murray is on orchid terms and Biology, plant and flower parts, species. Hybrids and seedlings.Names—species, hybrid grex, and clones.

The Western Suburbs O.S. is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup>.Anniversary this year. The Club is planning a number of functions during 2007, to mark this historic event and is keen to hear from any previous members or persons , who may have memorabilia, or photos to assist in compiling a complete history of the club. The E-mail address = [wsorchidsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:wsorchidsociety@yahoo.com)

Web site – [www.wsosaustralia.com](http://www.wsosaustralia.com) or contact Ruth Mitchell or Arthur Midgley by writing to P.O. Box 543 Enfield 2163.

Our Treasurer George Birss, has two plants that were left behind at the April meeting. Please get in touch with him to recover them. He is worried that if this continues he will need a larger bush-house to cope??

Russell Ettrick is planning to place another order for Perlite. A minimum of 30 bags is needed to attract a good price so if you are interested please see Russell.

All but two of the books placed for sale were sold at the meeting. Can we expect great things to come ??

Daniel's request. ????????

## **What Should I do differently in Winter - Murray Shergold**

Winter brings different challenges for different orchids grown in different conditions around Australia. For those in the north there are many fewer challenges than for those in the south. In the north, winter sees dry conditions which are easier to control than the wet of the summer/autumn period.

For many growers in the southern half of Australia the winter brings cold and wet conditions for extended periods. This in turn may bring death or at least a setback to many orchids, especially those that prefer a warmer environment than they are now presented with.

How should we manage this?Firstly, you need to properly understand the needs of each plant. This may involve buying books, asking your peers, searching the net for info and always involves watching your plants closely.

Then, if it is that you have plants that prefer warmth - even only a little - you must learn a new discipline: keep your hand off the hose. Just as extra water might make the difference in summer, less water may be salvation for your orchid in winter. Work out what is the minimum the plant can get away with without shriveling and sit at that for the cool months.

In this day and age we have the benefit of technology and can put this to good use for modest investment and little trouble. The use of an anti-transpirant (Envy is the most common found in Australia) can be a life saver. Spray your plants approximately once monthly with an anti-transpirant over the winter months and you will be amazed at the difference it will make. Anti-transpirants are designed to protect from weather extremes be it frost or heat or wind and are widely used by the industry. They do not inhibit a plant's ability to photosynthesise and grow. They are non-toxic, pH neutral and will biodegrade with sunlight. If mixed 1:10 with water we suggest approximately once monthly for winter will provide a degree of protection that will surprise.

Please remember that anti-transpirants are great products but not miracle cures if you live in Canberra and you are trying to grow hot growing vandaceous orchids, you will still need more than just an anti-transpirant. Go and buy a heater and turn it on and turn it up! Whilst this is written for winter, the same applies in reverse where summer conditions rise above the low 30s for extended periods. Anti-transpirants will help maintain your plant until the cooler times arrive.

**MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS**For : **Apr-07****OPEN JUDGES CHOICE****Winner** Oncidium onustum

W. Hoogwerf

**INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE****Winner** Cat. Portiata `Mel`

S. Vavayis

**NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE****Winner** Liparus reflexa

J. Robinson

**CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES****1st** Den. biggibum var biggiibum `Bette`

W.Hoogwerf

**2nd** Bulb.weinthalii

D.Wood

**3rd** Den. biggibum var compactum

E.&amp; A.Marks

**4th** Den. schneiderae var majus

P. Wheeler

**CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM****1st** P. charlesworthii

N.Roper

**2nd** P. charlesworthii

Costa &amp; Crosby

**3rd** P. charlesworthii

R. Moar

**4th** P. charlesworthii

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm****1st** Blcc. Hauserman's Rhapsody `York`

J. Hart

**2nd** C.Tiffin Bells' Orchidglade' x Pastoral' Innocence'

Costa &amp; Crosby

**3rd** Lc. Puppy Love `True Beauty`

J. Hart

**4th** Lc. Toshie Aoki `Robin`

T.&amp; J. Hyde

**CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM****1st** P. Angel Hairy x primulinum

N. Roper

**2nd** Leyburnense

N. Roper

**3rd** P. Jaqueline Hopkins `Yeowie`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**4th** P. Lady Sura x moquettianum

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm****1st** C. Portia `Cannizaro`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**2nd** Blc. Erin Kobayashi Lahainm `Gold`

J. Hart

**3rd** Blc. Erin Kobayashi Lahainm `Gold`

A. Holsted

**4th** Lc. Toshi Aoki `Gold Rush`x Chinese Bronze

R.&amp; J. Ettrick

**CLASS # 6 PAPHIOPEDILUM****1st** Paph. F.C.Puddle

Costa &amp; Crosby

**2nd** Paph. Rosy Dawn

K. Wilson

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

Costa &amp; Crosby

**2nd** Sc. Batemanniana

J. Hart

**CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm****1st** Slc. Dal's Rage

E.Beehag

**2nd** Slc. Red Doll

E.Beehag

**3rd** Unknown

J Moss

**4th** Lc. Chocolate Drop

J Moss

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

D. Wood

**2nd** D.Esme Poulton x Hilda Poxon

Costa &amp; Crosby

**3rd** Dock. linguforme x cucumnerinum

N.Roper

**4th** D.Biggibum Beauty x Hilda Poxon

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN****1st** Dendrochilum magnum

D.Wood

**2nd** " filliforme

John Costa

**3rd** " magnum

R. Moar

**4th** Ornithopmora radicans

P. Wheeler

**CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS****1st** Phal. Double Delight `Houghton`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**2nd** Phal. Brother Stripes xChia Shiang Stripes

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 12 SEEDLING****1st** Sarco. George Colthup x ( Lois x Fitzhart)

N. Roper

**2nd** Paph. Papa Rohl

Costa &amp; Crosby

**3rd** Paph. Papa Rohl

Costa &amp; Crosby

**4th** Dtps. William Hues x( Odoroko Redlip x Hamilat

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM****1st** O. Sharry Baby `Sweet Fragrance`

E &amp; A. Marks

**2nd** O. Sharry Baby `Aureum`

A. Holsted

**CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm****1st** P. Ever Spring Pioneer `Champion`

A.Holsted

**2nd** P. Little Skipper`Cathie`

T.&amp; J. Hyde

**3rd** Dtps.( P.Mount Lip x Tiny Sweet Girl )

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE****1st** Colma. Wildcat `Carmela`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**2nd** Wils. Hilda Plumtree `Purple Wings`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**3rd** Howeara Lava Burst

N. Roper

**4th** Burr. Living Fire `Glowing Embers`

Costa &amp; Crosby

**CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS****1st** Brassia Rex

A. Holsted

**2nd** Vanda Jenni Hashamoto x Simon Sophronsi

T.Thorburn

**3rd** Phrag. longifolium x pearcei

J. Moss

**4th** Miltassis Citron

D.Wood

**5th** Aliceara Dorothy Oka

D.Wood

**CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS****1st** Den. Gentings Fragrance

Costa &amp; crosby

**2nd** Den. johannis x(lasiathera x Rend Toro)

W. Hoogwerf

**CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA****1st** Ascda. 50th. State Beauty

K. Wilson

**2nd** Ascda. Su Fun Beauty `Orange Beauty`

J. Hart

**CLASS # 21 ODONTOGLOSSUM INCLUDING ODONTIODA****1st** Vulk ( Milt. bluntii x Odtna. Santos)

J. Moss

**CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS****1st** Rest. Pelyx xelegans

D. Wood

**CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES****1st** Cat. maxima

E. Beehag

**2nd** Cat.bowringiana

E. &amp; A. Marks

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

E. &amp; A. Marks

**2nd** C. Zig Zag `Kiwi`

John Costa

**CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM****1st** Onc. onustum

W. Hoogwerf

**2nd** Bollea lawroncoana

N. Roper

**3rd** Onc.onustum

W. Hoogwerf

**4th** Max. haematoglossa

N. Roper

**CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES****1st** Rest. saketei

R. Moar

**2nd** Rest. wagneri

R. Moar

**3rd** Rest. tricmoglossa

R. Moar

**CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID****1st** Sarco. Bobby Dazzler

N. Roper

**2nd** Sarco. Velvet x Fairy

N. Roper

**3rd** Sarco. Riversong

J. Moss

**4th** Sarco.Nicky

D.Wood

**CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID****1st** Liparis reflexa

J. Robinson

**2nd** Liparis reflexa

J. Robinson

**CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS****1st** Mtssa. Aztec x Castanniae

P. Pethybridge

**CLASS # 32 INTERMEDIATE - CYMBIDIUM****1st** C. Katies Gold

L. Gannon

**CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA****1st** Cat. Portiata `Mel`

S.Vavayis

**2nd** Cat. Portia `Cannizarro`

S.Vavayis

**3rd** Cat. Unknown

S.Vavayis

**4th** Lc. Little Susie x C. Portiata `Mel`

S.Vavayis

**CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS****1st** Zygo. Blue Banks `Lee`

S.Vavayis

**2nd** Milt. Purple Queen

L.Gannon

## Growing Phalaenopsis

(Courtesy of Dendi Orchids-North shore O.S. The author disclaims all Liability for any losses, which may be attributed to the use of any materials or techniques mentioned in these notes)

The phalaenopsis (moth orchid) , originating mainly in the hot climates of the South Pacific get their name from "phalaina - moth" and "opsis - appearance" . They can either be grown in a glasshouse or in your home, so you too can enjoy the beauty of the phalaenopsis flowers and some orchid growers, increase the variety of orchids that they grow.

In most areas indirect sunlight is required, grow the plant on the shady side of the house September to May. Then move to the sunny side for winter months. Warning - Light and water go together.

Less light - less water

More light = more water.

Warning Signals. - Dark leaves - requires more light. Yellow leaves - requires less light.

The plant will show these signs over a very short time, be careful of too much light , or direct light as leaves may sunburn.

### Watering

In nature Phalaenopsis grow on trees and therefore will be all right with the occasional drying out., but will not handle too much water over a long period. Do Not OVER WATER. The best time of day is early in the morning, giving the longest time of warmth whilst the plant is wet.

Soak/watering.- This can be done by placing the plant in a bowl of water and leaving for fifteen minutes, by this time the mix should have taken up enough water.

The best way to tell if your plant requires water, is when the top one third of the mix is almost dry. If in doubt, leave until the next day. If your plants are drying out too quickly, add a small amount of sphagnum moss and pebbles to the surface of the pot This will slow down the evaporation of the mix.

### Misting

Its a cup of tea time.! So, why not include a misting in your morning tea ritual? Just use a trigger pump atomiser, and fill it with water and fertilizer. Any good brand name can be used but don't use the same brand all the time, use only 10% of the recommended rate by the manufacturer.

Why put fertilizer in the misting water? Under the leaves of Phalaenopsis ( and many other plants) there are pores.. These pores open and

close to regulate the plants absorption of moisture. In suitable conditions the pores are open most of the time, so misting is the most convenient way to apply moistures and nutrient. When there is excess leaf temperature the pores will close to protect the plant from dehydration, and the silver coloured roots growing out of the mix will absorb the solution.

### Potting Mix.

I use treated pine bark with coconut fibre mixed through, this is a very coarse mix, 60% bark 10-15 mm. and 40% coconut chips, OR 100% bark chips 10-15 mm.

### When to not or repot.

- 1 - The plant is too big for the pot
- 2 - The mix has decomposed.
- 3 - the roots are dead.

### After Flowering.

When the plant has finished flowering, if the stem is cut off just under the first flower, the stem may branch and produce more flower buds.

### Pests and diseases.

Snails and slugs love Phalaenopsis. They will crawl 100 Kms. just to feed, so use plenty of bait if your plants are in a shade or glasshouse. Mealy bug is probably one of the biggest nuisances for Phalaenopsis. A recommended pesticide should be used. A visit to your local chemical distributor should point you in the right direction. Water it well in an make sure the spray gets into the mix. It must be done three times in 10 day intervals, so that the breeding cycle of the mealy bug is disturbed. You must always assume that if one plant has mealy bug, that others will have it.

### Red Spider Mite.

The underside of the Phalaenopsis leaf needs careful inspection for this damage. The small mites are not visible to the naked eye and are only detected by a silvery look and a damaged

appearance. The treatment is usually the same as for mealy bug.

#### Scale.

Little brown lumps on the leaves can be scrapped off with your fingernail. or methylated spirits is a nontoxic way of ridding your plant of this pest.

#### Botrytis.

The flower becomes infected with small brown spots. It is best to remove the flower and quickly increase the airflow or cut down on the night humidity. A fungicide can be used.

#### Brown Rot.

This occurs as a brown spot on the leaf and quickly turn the whole leaf to mush., and can also strike the axil of the plant. It can be caused by temperatures, that are too low, and humidity, that is too high, or a snail has started to graze. This can be fatal unless caught in time with sulphur powder and a blade to remove the infected area.. Another treatment ,is to pour methylated spirits over the rot and wound. This will not harm the plant with occasional use. Finally, if your plant is infected or in a state of stress , remove the flower spike, as this will help the plat t recover.

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## POTASSIUM DEFICIENCY

Recently one of our members was having trouble with yellow areas appearing on the leaves of some of his cymbidium plants, which he is growing down at Griffith. As he works for the Department of Agriculture he discussed the problem with an agronomist in his office. The problem turned out to be a deficiency of Boron and Potassium, but the way they discovered the potassium deficiency was very interesting and may be of use to other members.

Firstly they peeled a banana, then scraped all the white coating from the inside of the skin. This they allowed to dry out completely. (Brett said this would have taken about 4 days in their climate, but they cheated and put it into a dessicator).

Once this was dry and crisp, they ground it into a very fine powder. Next one of the newer leaves from the cymbidium was cut and while the cut was still fresh the cut section of the leaf was buried in the banana powder for about 30 minutes.

The leaf was then removed from the powder and exposed to air. Within about 30 seconds the leaf began to turn purple. Eventually the leaf turned a deep purple.

Had the leaf remained green then the potassium level would have been correct, by turning purple this indicated a deficiency of Potassium in the leaf sample.

Tracing the boron deficiency was not as easy, this was done with specialised equipment that agronomists use for analysing soil deficiencies.

Brett gave the effected plants, in fact all his cymbidium plants, a dressing of complete trace elements and the yellowed areas have now disappeared.

Alan Kerruish

Article from Australian Orchid Foundation  
Awareness Campaign

### ***Tree Branch, Fern Slab or Whatever Orchid Culture***

by Sydney A. Monkhouse (Orchid grower for the last 45 years)

I have read in other "Awareness Papers" that orchids that are growing well in an ideal environment do not suffer from diseases such as fungus, bacteria and even insect pest. I fully agree with this.

Orchids are amazingly adaptive plants and whilst we have a large variation in climatic conditions in our continent, the orchids will do their best to acclimatize no matter where you happen to live.

Epiphytic orchids are adapted to grow on the bark of certain trees and one way to ensure their healthy existence is for us to grow them on trees or pieces of trees or even on tree fern blocks. In my experience the plants must be attached in the most natural manner to such objects.

First I select a suitable epiphyte for my growing conditions. Living in Adelaide - a dry climate with hot summer and cold winter, I have had much success with most Laelias, some cattleyas, Miltonia spectabilis types, many of the oncidiums, most Australia Native epiphytes plus similar types. All of these I can grow successfully without any special housing -just a little light shade in the hottest weather.

The most materials that I have used successfully are blocks of "paper bark", tree fern blocks and Casuarina trunks.

My procedure is to remove all roots from the plant to be attached - this means ALL of the roots - just leaving a bare rhizome with, of course, its leaves and shoots attached. Place the rhizome firmly against the host block, but NEVER put a pad of sphagnum

moss of coconut fibre between the rhizome and the block. I have found this to be the main cause of the failure with block culture.

I firmly attach the orchid to the block with nylon cord criss-crossing over the rhizome several times until the whole plant is firmly held in place. I never run the cord over any new shoots. These procedures I carry out in spring so that the new shoots will quickly appear and from these a whole new root system will quickly attach itself to the block or log.

Plants so grown will have healthy disease free root systems and make very attractive talking points.

### **The Website**

As many of you have seen the website is coming along (if you haven't seen it yet check it out at [www.ssos.org.au](http://www.ssos.org.au) ). However we are in need of contributions to go on the site articles that you have written, digital photographs or even just a suggestion of what should be on the site or what you think should be changed. The excuse "I'm not experienced enough to write an article" will not be accepted because at the moment more novices have written articles than "senior" members so there is no excuse. I'm not trying to annoy you or attack you here I am merely trying to get you to support the website and the society, this isn't my website it's the societies and the members need to contribute. Also I would like to thank the efforts of those who have contributed in particular Neville Roper and S.T. Ho as their efforts over these last few months have been invaluable.

Web Co-ordinator Daniel Coulton  
Email: [dan\\_the\\_man351@hotmail.com](mailto:dan_the_man351@hotmail.com)  
Ph: 9520 6743

### **Good Growing**