



monthly bulletin vol. 44 no. 11

november 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 October 08 Meeting.

The president in declaring the meeting open, welcomed members, guests, visitors, and the guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Murray Shergold, from Easy Orchids, Woodburn. On the motion of Diane Hannah, the minutes as printed in the October Bulletin were taken as true and correct.

Correspondence.

Neutrog Fertilizer (feedback information brochure)
 Revesby Workers Aust. Native Orchid Club,
 Spring Show on 18th. Oct. Panania.
 Orchids Australia Magazine.
 Australian Orchid Review.

New Members.

M/s. Valma Burtenshaw. Mrs. Doris
 Katergarkis.
 Mr. Frank Daniels. Mr. Owen Sutton.

To you all, may we wish you a long and happy association in the Society. If you have any problems, please ask, as we have a lot of experienced growers who could help with your problem. Welcome.

Murray then went on to speak of the success of the "Sharkies" Show, with the many Nurseries again participating, and 12 Displays, which including Ours, placed second to the winning display, North Shore. He gave special thanks to Jan Robinson, Sandra Crosby, Louise Gannon and the host of co-workers who helped in any way, but especially to David Robinson who helped with the creation and transporting the stand, and was the "gofer". Murray then presented the various prize-winners with their respective awards.

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As of going to print, the individual prize winners at the show are not available, nor the awards, but when I can access them I shall pass them on.

Lucky Plants.
 Costa & Crosby: K.
 Wilson : S.T. Ho.

Plant Raffle.
 T. Costa ,
 B. Warren ,
 A. Vasiliou.

Judges Roster for November.

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

After supper was taken, President Murray introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Murray Shergold, who would speak on the Island of Madagascar, taking us thru' places, people, flora and fauna. A truly different and diverse country to our own. The orchids were so diverse and different (as well as breathtaking) to what we may have seen in Australia or books. A wonderful journey was presented by him, enjoyed by those of us present, thanked by our President. Our own Bob Moar, is to do the trip in the next weeks, so we hope that on his return we can be reacquainted with some more of Madagascar

Across the Secretary's Desk.

PLEASE don't forget to sign the attendance book in the foyer.

Any member wishing to purchase a club badge, please see Louise.

The committee, on behalf of the membership wish to thank the five members who volunteered for the "Sharkies" Committee and worked tirelessly before and during the event, Murray Aldridge, Neville Roper, Ian Chalmers, Jan Robinson, and George Birss.

The latest edition of Orchids Aust. has an interesting article, written by a Doctor, regarding the dangers of inhaling the dust from Perlite. (page35). Our Society subscribes to this magazine and our librarian Trevor Thorburn would be only too willing to help. If you would like to subscribe see Louise.

DON'T FORGET. FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Editor's Corner.

I am enclosing the details of a competition being conducted by O.S. of N.S.W. Please, READ THE CONDITIONS CAREFULLY.

Also A note from the Treasurer re club Shirts.

I would be remiss if I didn't pass on a well done to Neville Roper on his success over two shows and our last monthly meeting. Thirteen Awards, You heard correctly, 13. this from three outings, all in the Sarcanthinae family yet to be ratified, This included A. M. s, H.C.C.s and A. D.s. Congratulations, mate. Hope your Bank Balance can stand it ??

POLO SHIRT

***STAND OUT IN THE CROWD
DISPLAY OUR NAME
BE PART OF THE TEAM***

For those who attended "Sharkies Orchid Spectacular" you would have noticed some members in our new Society apparel.

Here is your chance to purchase your own collared polo shirt embroidered with our logo, Black with gold trim and logo.

Sizeing is small, medium, large right up to 4XL, Ladies sizes also available.

Cost : \$25

Could make an ideal Christmas present if you are hard to buy for or want something special that you will use.

Ring George 0409521869 to place an order with your size. Order will be placed Monday 3rd November.

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Oct-08

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Sarco. Norma N. Roper

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Cym. Miss Muffet G. Birss

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Sarco. hartmannii D. Coulton

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Den. monophyllum W. Hoogwerf

2nd Dock. striolata 'Ruffles' W. Hoogwerf

3rd Den. linguiforme J.W. Moss

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. victoria-regina S T Ho

2nd Paph. sukhakulii G. Hart

3rd Paph. primulinum var flavescens K. Wilson

4th Paph. moquettianum S T Ho

CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm

1st Blc. Lyn Spencer 'Cha' J. Hart

2nd Cat. 'Brown Eyes' I. Hologin

3rd Blc. Irene Finney x Dundas Venus S Crosby/T Costa

4th Cat. Princess Bells 'Betty's Boutique' J. Hart

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. Primecolor S T Ho

2nd Paph. Raisin Jack x Black Rook S T Ho

3rd Paph. Henrietta Fugiwarra K. Wilson

4th Paph. Maud Read S T Ho

CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm

1st Lc. Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' S Crosby/T Costa

2nd C. Angel Walker 'Easter' J. Hart

CLASS # 6 PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. Coorong x Sparsholt S T Ho

2nd Paph. Pathfinder Accolade S T Ho

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st Blc. Orange Show 'Cloud Forest' J Hart

2nd Lc Trick or Treat Orange x self J W Moss

3rd Lc Trick or Treat 'Orange Beauty' x Fire Island J W Moss

4th Lc Chit Chat 'Lorna' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Asctrm. ampullaceum S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Dendro. latifolium G. Hart

3rd Den. fimbriatum variety oculatum J W Moss

CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS

1st Dtps. Nobby Pink Lady x Sinica Prince S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Phal. Sue Red Lip S Crosby/T Costa

3rd Phal. Ever Spring Pioneer S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Sarco. Jeanne x Dove 'Bloody Good' K. Wilson

2nd Sarco. Red Imp N. Roper

3rd Sarco. Burgandy on Ice N. Roper

4th Sarco. Weinhart K. Wilson

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st Phal. Little Emperor S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st Odcdm. Hansuel Isler D Wood

2nd Colm. Jungle Monarch 'Daphne' S Crosby/T Costa

3rd Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings' S Crosby/T Costa

4th Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st V. Josephine Van Brero x Faye Bennett J W Moss

2nd Lyc. Rowland D Wood

3rd Lyc. Isabella D Wood

4th V. Donna Rowe x Rhy. coelestis S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

1st Den. Akatuki x Pink Doll W. Hoogwerf

2nd Den. Isochidori W. Hoogwerf

3rd Den. Golden Talisman W. Hoogwerf

4th Den. Hawaiian Princess J. Hart

CLASS # 21 ODONTOGLOSSUM INCLUDING ODONTIODA

1st Oda. Pescoleyn J Hart

2nd Oda. Shelby Ann S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS

1st Masd. Bright Spice G Hart

2nd Masd. Morning Glory G Hart

CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES	
1st Epi. imatophyllum variety alba	G Hart
2nd Cat. intermedia	S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Cat. intermedia	J Hart
CLASS # 22 MINITURE CYMBIDIUM UNDER 60mm	
1st Cym. Cricket	S Crosby/T Costa
2nd Cym. Australian Midnight	S Crosby/T Costa
CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM	
1st Bif. harrisoniae	W. Hoogwerf
2nd Bif. harrisoniae	S Crosby/T Costa
3rd Max. variabilis	G Hart
CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES	
1st Pleuro. relemflora	G Hart
2nd Pleuro. relemflora	G Hart
3rd Pleuro. plastiscula	G Hart
4th Rest. sanguinea	G Hart
CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID	
1st Sarco. Norma	N Roper
2nd Sarco. Norma	N Roper
3rd Sarco. Burgandy on Ice 'St George'	N Roper
4th Sarco. Judith 'Yvonne'	N Roper
5th Sarco. Melba	P Wheeler
CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID	
1st Sarco. hartmannii	D Coulton
2nd Sarco. weinhart	M Luk
3rd Sarco. Aussie Dawn	D Coulton
4th Sarco. Heidi x spathulatus	D Coulton
5th Sarco. Fizzydove	D Coulton
CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS	
1st Zlm. Carotene 'Richella'	R Bisetto
CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES	
1st Den. aggregatum	R Bisetto
2nd Onc. croesus	R Bisetto
CLASS # 32 INTERMEDIATE - CYMBIDIUM	
1st Cym. Miss Muffet	G Birss
CLASS # 33 INTERMEDIATE - NATIVE SPECIES & NATIVE HYBRID	
1st Sarco. Dove x Cherie Snow	D&M Hannah
2nd Sarco. Fitzhart x hartmannii	D&M Hannah
3rd Sarco. Snowhart x Fairy	D&M Hannah
4th Sarco. Fitzhart x Cherie Snow	D&M Hannah
CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA	
1st Slc. Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'	S. Vavayis
2nd Lc. Chit Chat 'Tangerine'	S. Vavayis
CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS	
1st Den. Papyon 'Golden Feather'	S. Vavayis
2nd Den. Yukidaruma King	S. Vavayis
3rd Phrag. Persens	T. Costa
4th Den. Mild Yumi 'Lotus'	D&M Hannah
CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES	
1st Den. nobile	S. Vavayis
2nd Vanda. tricolor	T. Costa
3rd Baptisonia echinata	G Birss

Helpful Hints for Novice Growers

The following advice provides a quick reference to the essential points about orchid cultivation and a guide round the pitfalls that occasionally beset the grower.

Plan Carefully Do not be too great a hurry to start your orchid collection. Evaluate the conditions available before deciding on your first purchases and visit a few orchid shows and nurseries, especially those in your local area. Time spent planning is recouped many times over and only when you are certain that particular orchids will thrive in your particular situation is it

wise to purchase. Buy mature plant initially. Lower priced young plants or seedlings may seem a more attractive proposition, but it is important to the success of the venture to have a least some flowers during the first season. Avoid so-called cheap offers in the not-orchid popular press, and those orchids that have been languishing for generations in someone's back yard. Experience has shown that the former are frequently extremely poor in quality and the latter are probably infested with every possible ailment.

Cultural Requirements Specially constructed orchid houses are not essential, any greenhouse that is satisfactory for the culture of other plants will be adequate for orchids.

Temperature As much as 16 degC higher in summer. Lower nocturnal temperatures – down to 10 degC are needed to initiate the flower buds in many genera.

Ventilation Ventilation should be used at all times. It is essential to provide adequate air movement.

Shading Shading is used to help control the temperature of the leaf surface as well as to reduce the light. Polyethylene lining installed to insulate in winter is also useful during the summer months to assist humidity although it will cause the temperature to rise.

Repotting Repotting is best completed when the new growth is developing, but try to avoid winter and periods of very hot weather. Wait until the very cold nights have finished but before the hot dry winds of early summer start to blow. Plants in bud or flower, or carrying a seed capsule, also prefer not to be repotted. However, if a plant looks sick at anytime, examine the roots and compost because a repot may be the answer.

Avoid having a variety of composts. All orchids as they join the collection, should be repotted into your chosen standard mixture at the earliest opportunity. Do not keep diseased plants or runts. If the care and attention often lavished on these ailing orchids were redirected towards the thriving plants, the whole collection would benefit.

Water Provided the compost is sound, orchids need frequent watering during the growing season, but far less during the winter. If you are in doubt orchids are best kept on the dry side. Do not spray or water overhead when the foliage is warm, or when the sun is shining on the plants as the foliage may become burned.

Feeding Apply fertiliser only in balance with other cultural requirements, such as light and warmth. Do not try to 'push' plants when growing conditions are poor, or when the plant is sick.

Feeding will not compensate for cultural deficiencies.

Plant Hygiene Cleanliness in the culture of plants is essential. Apart from the aesthetic considerations, many weeds make excellent hosts for insect pests and should not be allowed to grow in the greenhouse.

All new acquisitions, from whatever source, should be thoroughly inspected for insect pests and fungal diseases. Spraying with insecticide is advisable, particularly in spring and summer. Flower buds and new growths are especially susceptible to attack by aphids. It is not a good idea, however, to attempt protective spraying against fungal attack.

Flower spikes and buds are a delicacy to snails and slugs, and only preventive action will avoid damage. Apply snail and slug killer just before the spike is expected, and a collar of cotton wool on the developing spike prevent these pests from attacking the flowers.

Flower Spikes Some genera or species produce flowers sequentially from the same spike. Therefore, the spike should not be removed – providing the plant is in good health – while it is still green.

Be Consistent Above all, do not change your cultural regime after hearing or reading about new techniques. Plants need time to adjust and cannot possibly thrive if the environment is radically changed each new season let alone three or four times a year. It is best to sieve out any cultural advice application to your situation and accept that there are many different routes to success.

Growing Terrestrial Orchids by Helen Richards

When growing any orchid, we have to consider common factors to achieve success namely, nutrition, water, light, air movement, temperature and pH, as well as dealing with pests and diseases. Terrestrial orchids grow under a wide range of conditions, as do epiphytes, but the obvious difference is that terrestrials grow in the ground and epiphytes grow on trees or on rocks. We usually choose to grow terrestrials in pots, because we can more easily regulate the individual conditions.

What potting mix do we use? Is it a tropical terrestrial from the rainforest floor or is it a species from the Mediterranean-type climate of southern Australia? Tropical terrestrials grow in a mix rich

in leaf litter; this drains freely, but holds moisture, just like the rainforest floor. Mediterranean-climate terrestrials (most of Australian species) grow in a free-draining mix, but nowhere near as free draining as an epiphyte mix. As a guide, a mix widely used by growers in southern Australia comprises partly decomposed leaf litter (e.g. from eucalypts. 1 part), rich loam (1 part), wood shavings or buzzer chips (1 part) and coarse sand (2-4 mm, 2 parts) with the addition of a small amount of blood and bone (1 dessertspoonful per 9L). The pH of this mix (acidic) suits most Australian species, but if it comes from an area where the soil is alkaline, lime may be added to increase the pH. This mix suits many European/African species with the pH adjusted where necessary. In my experience, no added nutrients are necessary, although I re-pot regularly, which replaces nutrients, maintains good drainage and prevents overcrowding. Many species require annual or bi-annual re-potting for optimal growth. but a few resent disturbance and therefore should be re-potted infrequently.

Watering is according to the growth stage of the plant. For Australian species, they are usually kept moist from autumn through to late spring, although some species are in active growth over summer. If the plant is growing and green, water it. If it has dried off and gone into its dormant, resting stage, don't water. Light levels are very important, so consult a reference book, eg the *Corybas* alliance requires shade whereas *Thelymitra* require light. Most species grow well in dappled light (50% shade), as occurs in nature.

Terrestrial species mostly grow in areas of comparative low humidity, and require good air movement, with some protection from strong winds. A shade-house with one solid wall offers good protection. Terrestrials can be grown with epiphytes provided that their watering and non-watering requirements are observed and they are placed in the best-ventilated area. *Corybas* alliance orchids grow in humid areas, and so do well in the more humid area of a shade-house. Terrestrial orchids seem to have a good tolerance of temperature variations, apart from being frozen. Tropical terrestrial species are less tolerant of cold conditions.

As with growing any orchids, time spent with terrestrial orchids is reflected in your results. Problems spotted in time can be rectified. Yellow leaves indicate too much light, whereas if the leaves are tall and floppy there is not enough light.

If plants lack vigour, they may need more protection? Is there a pest there? Not enough water? Too much water? Distorted leaves may indicate attack by thrips. Get rid of aphids quickly, because they reduce the vigour of the plants and carry disease, including the dreaded virus.

Does it all sound too much? No way. Grow some terrestrials and enjoy their beautiful flowers; there is something in flower every month of the year!

Further reading: *Cultivation of Australian Native Orchids*, published by ANDS Vic Group Inc.

Written in 1984, the taxonomy may have chanced but the nitty-gritty remains the same.

HOW I GROW CATTLEYAS

by Bill Mather

There are some 50-60 species in the genus *Cattleya*, and a much greater number of *cattleya* hybrids that have been created by inter-breeding these species. But the term 'cattleya' in its wider sense is taken to include all hybrids created by breeding *cattleya* species and hybrids with *Sophranitis*, *Laelia*, *Brassavola* and several other related genera. There are thousands of hybrids in this so-called *Cattleya* Alliance. Many require temperate to warm conditions but some may be grown in a 'cosy' shade house, provided that their plants are kept dry during cold winter weather.

In general, those *cattleya* hybrids that may be grown without heat have been bred from bifoliate *cattleya* species (those with two leaves per pseudo-bulb), often using a *sophranitis* species as the other parent. Because most *sophranitis* species are small in size and grow under cool conditions, the resultant *Sophracattleya* (abbreviated Sc.) is usually also compact and cold tolerant. Further incorporation of a *laelia* species or hybrid results in a *Sophrulaeliocattleya* (abbreviated Slc.), some of which may be grown without heat.

POTTING

Cattleyas should be re-potted only when they are about to begin active growth, which often (but not always) occurs in spring. The best time to re-pot is when the previous season's pseudo-bulbs begin to develop new roots from their bases. These new roots, which have green tips, are very brittle, so considerable care is needed when removing the old mix and packing new mix around the roots. Aged or weathered pine bark is generally used as potting, 10-18 mm particle size for large plants, 5-10 mm for smaller ones. Plastic squat pots large enough to

accommodate two year's growth (but no more) are best. Pack the bark chunks around the roots carefully but firmly.

LIGHT, TEMPERATURE and AIR MOVEMENT

Cattleyas require more light than most other orchids and will not flower if grown in heavy shade. They are best suspended from the roof of a covered shade house or glasshouse. They dislike cold weather and cease growth during winter. They may be moved into a sunroom where they receive full sunshine for most of the day at that time.

WATERING and FERTILISING

Cattleyas resent being kept continually wet, so always allow the potting mix to dry out for a day or two before re-watering your *cattleyas*. As stated earlier, they should not be watered during cold weather. Obviously, you will still have to water them every week or two at that time, but choose a sunny day so that the plants have a chance to dry out before nightfall. Liquid fertilisers may be applied every week or two while *cattleyas* are in active growth but not at other times.

PESTS and DISEASES

Scale insects are the worst pests that infest *cattleyas*. These insidious pests usually hide beneath the leaves and the sheaths encompassing the pseudo-bulbs. A yellow patch on the upper surface of a leaf often betrays the scale insects as they busily suck sap from the underside of the leaf. Always peel back the sheaths from older *cattleya* pseudo-bulbs to remove potential hiding places for scale. White oil (sometimes called summer oil) provides best control of scale. Garlic snails like to browse on new *cattleya* roots at night; control these tiny pests with powdered snail bait. *Cattleyas* are also attacked by viruses, which usually manifest their presence by unsightly blotching of the flowers. There is no cure and the plant should be destroyed.

ORCHID SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

CHAMPION ORCHIDS OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

RULES

1.	There are three divisions of the competition: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hybrid Orchid of the Year2. Species Orchid of the Year.3. Best Hybrid or Species Orchid of the Year exhibited by a Novice Grower
2.	Entry qualifications: The orchid must have been exhibited by a resident of New South Wales in a show organised by a society affiliated with the Orchid Society of New South Wales. The Grand Champion or Best in Show is eligible for the appropriate division in rule 1. If the Grand Champion is a hybrid orchid then the best species in the show is also eligible and vice versa. The best orchid in the show exhibited by a novice grower is eligible for that division.
3.	The definition of Novice Grower is that for the society nominating the orchid.
4.	Entries are to be made by forwarding the required <u>digital photographs</u> either by email to the Secretary, at secretaryosnsw@yahoo.com.au or on CD/DVD to: The Secretary, Orchid Society of NSW, P.O.Box 5396, Chullora NSW 2190, together with an entry form which may be downloaded from the OSNSW website.
5.	The required digital photographs are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Single flower, front, side and back.b) Inflorescencec) Entire plant
6.	The first year of the competition is for plants exhibited in shows between 25 August 2008 and 30 June 2009 and photography and forms must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than 15 July 2009. For subsequent years the competition will be for plants exhibited at shows from 1 July to 30 June.
7.	Winners will be selected by a panel of at least five AOC registered judges.
8.	Prior to judging the names of the owners of the plants entered will be confidential to the Secretary.
9.	The winner of each division will receive a prize of \$300. The societies which staged the shows where the respective plants won their champion or best in show, or where there is more than one society involved in the show, the society display in which the plant is exhibited, will receive a prize of \$100