



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

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Plant of the Night for May



RLY Swan's Shy

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Editorial

Contents:

- Editorial: page 2
- Arthur's Notes: page 4
- Novice Nook: page 5

Next Meeting:

June 21st from 7pm
Gary Hodder on Dendrobium
pollination

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Last month we had Craig Scott-Harden visit to talk to us all about Bulbophyllums. This genius is always interesting and Craig had many photos of the weirdness and wonder of these orchids to show us. A very informative and amazing talk! Thanks very much Craig.

Coming up this month We have a talk from our own Gary Hodder, this time on Dendrobium pollination. I'm really curious about this one as (to my memory) we've not had a talk on this subject before. A must-attend event for anyone hoping to play with pollinating their plants.

And now... HUGE news for this month is that one of our newest members, Kim Duong, as agreed to step up and take on the role of Secretary, yay! We're all very grateful for your assistance Kim and hope you enjoy your time with us.

Please be aware that the St Ives show has been cancelled for this year. I had email earlier this month advising that it was due to "circumstances beyond our control". Such a shame. 😞 However I had another email to say the Mingara show is going ahead, so silver linings 😊.

COVID restrictions have eased off once more so masks are not mandatory. We still need a list of attendees to comply with the law, so please make sure to sign the attendance book.

Cheers, Sam.



Oncidium Kulnara Gold 'Pepper' x Radiance

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 17th May 2021

General Business:

- Sam handed out the photo for Plant of the Night for April, which was Cattleya Village Chief North by Phil Festa.
- Peter Meyer told us about the visit to Irene Chalmers' place.
- Anyone wanting a new badge, please speak to Sam or Peter Meyer.
- Thank you to Kim Duong, who agreed to take on the role of Secretary.
- Ruth Mitchell has donated her orchid collection to WSOS and will be auctioned off at a later date.

TONIGHT'S SUPPER: Thank you Peter McBryde

RAFFLE PRIZES: Michael Luu, Kim Duong, Arthur Midgley, Mrs Chan x2, Iris Leong x2, John Costa

BIRTHDAY RAFFLE:

SUPPER RAFFLE: Ana Tong

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: RLY Swan's Shy exhibited by Phil Festa

MEETING CLOSED: 9:15pm

Upcoming Events:

- Cumberland OS has Seong Tay presenting a series of talks entitled "A Beginner's Guide to Growing Orchids" at their meetings, from 7:30pm each 4th Wednesday of the month at North Rocks Senior Citizens Hall, cnr North Rocks Rd and Farnell Ave, Carlingford.
- Mingara orchid show 26-27th June.
- WSOS Winter Show 19-22nd August.
- WSOS Spring Show 21-24th October.



Dendrobium Redman x Jesmond Sparkler

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Counts:

Number of plants benched = 40

Number of exhibitors = 13

Total views WSOS of the Flickr photo pages = 845,000

Number of photos on the Flickr photo pages = 2712

Orchid Benching:

Thirteen members exhibited forty plants at the May meeting. The quality of the benched plants was again very high and the Plant of the Night was another beautiful cluster Laeliinae hybrid Rhyntonleya Swan's Shy, exhibited by Philip Festa.

The International Orchid register is where orchid species and hybrid names are recorded and stored. It contains a mind boggling 132000+ records. You may wonder: Why do I bother searching this database every month? Why not just type what is written on the benching cards? It comes down to space considerations, the need for accuracy and knowing that some members do not have a home computer. Apart from those factors, there are some wonderful things to be found!

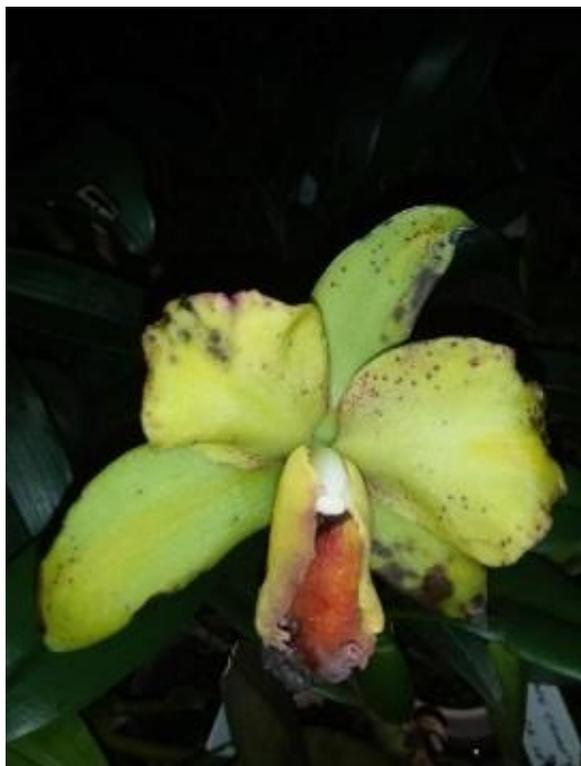
For example:

In Class 3 Philip Festa benched a quality Cymbidium Jessie Blakiston x Kalahari Blaze.

Its registered name is: Cym. Nat's Pride. This was registered by Nat Cicciari and originated by Keith Wallace.

So every time Jessie Blakiston is crossed with Kalahari Blaze the offspring is called Nat's Pride. Be aware that sometimes you have to do the search twice because it depends on the way the cross was done; I.E. which orchid was used as the seed parent and which orchid was used as the pod parent. Which means that if you search for Kalahari Blaze x Jessie Blakiston it will give a nil result.

Have a play with the International Orchid Register; it's easy to find via google search. Try the parentage search using the orchids named above and then try the grex search using Nat's Pride, and see what turns up!



Growing Competition

At least two people have flowered their Growing Comp plant. This is Gary Hodder's plant, that flowered while he was away and was attacked by snails. The photo was taken upon his return and the flower is not in the best condition. But at least you can get an idea of what it will look like.

ORCHID VIRUSES AND MITES

With Dr. Fred

There are a number of viruses which affect orchids in Australia. Although more commonly recognized in Cymbidiums, all species are susceptible and no orchid can be said to be immune. As there is no cure, so you must identify early and destroy the plant. All parts of the plant are infected and infectious.

Symptoms of viruses include leaf mosaics and mottling, irregular yellow patches or black or brown leaf rings. Colour breaks in flowers can also be an indication. Because the symptoms are variable and often mild to non-existent, the diagnosis is often only made late after it has spread to other plants.

Plants showing early symptoms should be isolated promptly and if in doubt, destroyed. Symptoms can sometimes be mimicked by nutritional deficiency and root damage but these causes should be fairly obvious. In contrast to senescence (aging) viruses tend to affect both new and old shoots.

Treatment is all preventative. Carefully check new plants. Space plants well apart. Be careful handling suspect plants. Treat potential insect vectors. Sterilise tools and use disposables wherever possible when repotting.

Of the 30 or so orchid viruses the common ones are:

Cymbidium mosaic virus (Cym MV)

Odontoglossum ring spot virus (ORSV)

These are the top two for pathogenicity and prevalence worldwide.

Orchid fleck virus (OFV)

Laboratory testing is available for the above three but it is relatively expensive.

The above are **all** readily transmitted from plant to plant by handling and unsterilized tools. ORSV has a very long survival in dead plant tissue so this should be disposed of promptly.

Orchid fleck virus (OFV) is in addition also transmitted by mites, particularly the false spider mite.

Polyviruses

These are other common viruses in orchid collections. They can be transmitted by tools, seeds and aphids but not by handling.

Mites

Several species of this sucking insect attack orchids, most prominently the red spider and false spider mite. They can only be seen with the hand lens but leave a tell-tale shiny surface to the undersurface of the leaves due to webs and or dead cells, often with tiny yellow spots on the upper surface. They disfigure and weaken the plant and can transmit the OFV virus. If in doubt, wipe the undersurface of the leaf with a white tissue. Red smears are diagnostic of mites.

Under warm, dry conditions mites rapidly proliferate. Keeping humidity high discourages them. Water the underside of leaves regularly in summer. In greenhouse epidemics taking the plants outside where the natural predators can get at them can help.

Predatory mites can be purchased but are not compatible with white oil and miticide use. They are slow to work and also tend to die out after the job is done.

Common insecticides have little effect on mites. Once established all of the common varieties are very difficult to eradicate with miticides and all effective miticides (eg Kelthane, Rogor) are quite toxic.

White oil and miticides should be used with care. Two treatments of the entire plant a week apart are needed to break the cycle and catch the nymphs at a susceptible stage as they hatch. Follow-up treatments are often required.

Aphids

Aphids are soft bodied, sucking insects related to scale. They can move from plant to plant as there is a winged stage. Like scale they produce honeydew which attracts ants and sooty mould. They prefer flowers, buds and new shoots. Deformed or stunted flowers is a common result. They can also transmit Polyvirus.

Household insecticides, the common pesticides and oils or even a strong water spray will do the job but two insecticide treatments a week apart are needed for eradication. The ants may also need attention.