



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

Established 1937

July 2022 Bulletin

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Plant of the night for June



Paphiopedilum Nitens

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Next Meeting:

July 18th from 7pm
Orchid Auction

Meeting Address:

Uniting Church Hall
13 Carrington Rd, Strathfield

Websites:

www.wsorchidsociety.com
www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/
www.orchids.org

Email:

enquiries@wsorchidsociety.com

Facebook:

Search for the group "Western Suburbs Orchid Society" and join

Submissions:

At meetings or via email to the Editor before the first Monday of the month.

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Tania Lam Arthur Smyrniotis

Editorial

Last month Gary Hodder presenting to us on deciduous Dendrobiums. He showed us some wonderful flowers, including some magnificent displays of hanging flowers from Asia that looked like massive pink waterfalls. Amazing! He spoke to us about keeping these orchids and how to propagate them from bare canes. Another outstanding talk, thanks heaps Gary! Also thanks for your contribution on Laelia anceps, see page 6.

Thanks also to Wendy Choy for stepping up and helping out with organising the benching at the June meeting in Arthur's absence.

Coming up this month is our annual orchid auction. Please remember there's a six-plant limit for sellers, and please provide a list of your plants with their name, flower colour and reserve price to Sam or Peter Meyer on the night.

Coming up in August we'll be running our annual Winter Show at Ashfield Mall. Please get your plants ready! We'll be circulating the show roster at the July and August meetings for volunteers to attend the stall, and anyone selling plants will be expected to help out. The success of the show depends on stall volunteers as much as the display, so please be generous with your time.

Your WSOS membership is now due for renewal. The cost for the year is \$15 singles and \$20 families. We will be taking payments during the supper break at the main meeting, or you can pay by direct deposit as below. Please be aware that anyone who has not paid by 31st July will no longer receive the bulletin or be able to bench plants at meetings or shows.

Acct Name: Western Suburbs Orchid Society Inc.
Acct No: 00901936
BSB: 062301

Have a look at this recent article about the Queen of Sheba orchid found only in WA: [Rare Queen of Sheba orchid, 10 years in the making, sighted on WA's south coast - ABC News](#) . What a magnificent and stunning orchid!

We're still on the hunt for a new secretary. If you're able to help out I'm sure the whole Society would appreciate it. Please contact Sam or Peter Meyer if you're interested, or even if you just want to find out more about the role.

I'd still love to see photos of your plants in flower. Please send them to me via email as .jpg files and watch them appear magically on our website. I've made a special place for members' photos, just for you!

Cheers, Sam.

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 20th June 2022

General Business:

- Memberships are now due. Please see Peter McBryde in the break.
- Sam can no longer produce the postal bulletin. Please provide your email address if you want to keep receiving it. There will be one copy available at meetings.
- Our shows are coming up. Does anyone was to volunteer to do a potting demonstration? We're looking at two shows a day on Fri and Sat in the morning and afternoon, and once on Sunday morning. It doesn't have to be the same person all the time.
- Sam handed out POTN pics to John and Neva Janz for March, and Peter McBryde for April.

TONIGHT'S SUPPER: Thank you Tania Lam

RAFFLE PRIZES: Michael Luu, Tania Lam. Peter Meyer x2, Peter McBryde, Marie, Karen Nassar, Sam Stevens, Frances Turner

BIRTHDAY RAFFLE: No one present

SUPPER RAFFLE: Carmen Legarda-Nelson

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Paphiopedilum Nitens by Michael Luu

Arthur's Notes

Number of exhibitors = 10

Number of plants exhibited = 42

Total views WSOS Flickr Photo Pages = 889109

Number of Photos on Flickr Photo Pages = 2813

Plant of the night was Primary Hybrid Paphiopedilum Nitens exhibited by Michael Luu. This hybrid was registered way back in 1877 by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Thank you to Wendy Choy for doing an excellent job of plant recording and to Sam for the quality photos of the wide variety of orchids benched.



Epidendrum Topaz Rose x Rosie

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WSOS events for 2022:

Here’s what we have planned for the year. We’re always open to suggestions so if anyone has any ideas for future events, please talk to a Committee member.

July	Orchid Auction
August	Talk on Cymbidiums (TBC)
September	Getting to Know You
October	AGM
November	Talk for beginners (TBC)
December	Christmas Party

Orchid Shows for 2022

- Eastwood and District OS show on 14-17th July at Eastwood Shopping Plaza, 140 Rose St, Eastwood.
- Bankstown OS show on 14-17th July at Lidcombe shopping centre on Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe.
- Campbelltown OS show on 14-17th July at Macarthur Square Shopping Centre, 200 Gilchrist Drive, Campbelltown.
- Fairfield District OS show on 20-23rd July at Bonnyrigg Plaza, 100 Bonnyrigg Ave, Bonnyrigg.
- National Orchid Extravaganza on 12-14th Aug at Greyhound Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Rd, Yagoona.
- St Ives Orchid Fair on 19-21st August at the St Ives Showground on Mona Vale Rd.
- WSOS Winter Show on 25-28th August at Ashfield Mall.
- Southern Orchid Spectacular on 7-9th October at the Sutherland Basketball Stadium, Waratah Park, Rawson Ave, Sutherland.
- WSOS Spring Show on 20-23rd October at Ashfield Mall.



Cattleya intermedia var amethystine x BLC Morning Glory

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THE ORCHID SHADEHOUSE

By Dr Fred

A well located shadehouse greatly increases the range of orchids you can cultivate and provides them with a more consistent garden environment. Apart from the obvious shade protection, summer temperatures are lower and humidity higher in a shadehouse. Co-location also makes plant care easier.

A shadehouse can also be used for other general garden tasks such as plant propagation. It does mean a significant amount of planning, investment and often sacrifice of otherwise productive garden space. Mine replaced an old garden tool-shed.

An ideal shadehouse should provide frost protection and the right amount of sun year-round for the type of orchids you intend to grow. Simple protection from cold southerly winter winds and drying summer westerly winds improves the microclimate enormously. However the orchids will still be exposed to rain which reduces the chance of scale and other infestations.

As with all real estate, location is the key, aiming for maximum winter sun. A north or north-east aspect would be ideal but existing structures and trees may limit your options. You should seek expert advice but even a westerly aspect can work with appropriate shading.

The local council and the neighbours should be consulted well in advance.

Shadecloth

It comes in a range of thicknesses denoting how much shade it provides. How much shade you need depends on the aspect, natural shading from trees and the light requirements of your chosen orchids. Thirty to fifty percent shade is usual. Additional layers can be added in summer if required. During winter, minimal shade is needed in Sydney.

Construction materials

They need not be expensive. Treated pine is durable, easy to work and can be painted to blend in with adjacent structures. A lean-to shadehouse can be attached to an existing wall. The wall then acts as a heat sink and provides additional hanging space.

Recycled galvanized weld-mesh fence panels make well ventilated benches which do not rust. Panels can also be mounted onto a back wall for hanging orchids. Galvanized piping attached to the roof beams provide more hanging space. Galvanized steel mesh can also be worked into an A-frame to support more plants.

Floors can be almost anything from dirt to gravel or paving as long as it can be swept clean. Gravel retains moisture from watering and contributes to humidity which is very important in summer.

If you are building or have an existing pergola think of adding some hanging space so that more tender orchids or those in flower can be given more protection under polycarbonate roofing in winter.

Plan for the future

At some stage you will want to extend, preferably toward the east or north.

In Sydney you should be able to grow most cool and intermediate species in a shadehouse. This will include hard and soft-cane Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Epidendrums, Laelias, Miltonias, Odontoglossums, Zygopetalums and Coelogynes.

You will find many subtle microclimates within your shadehouse. Often just moving an orchid a foot or two (vertically or laterally) will improve its chance of flowering. Don't be afraid to experiment.

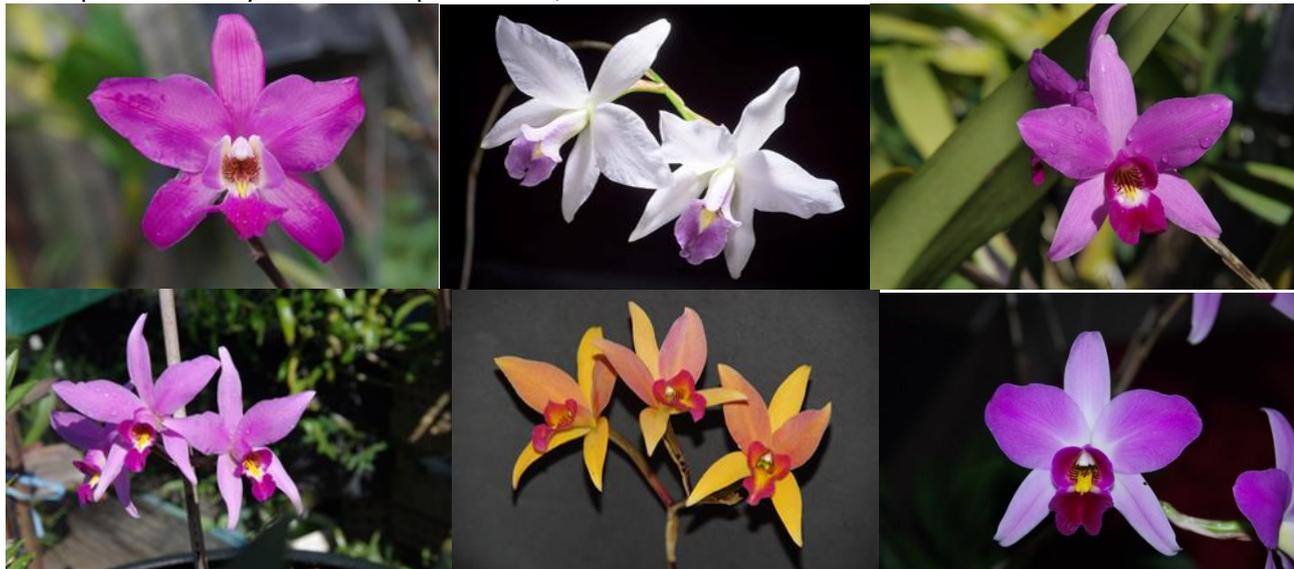
Light loving species such as Cattleyas and Encyclias are hung highest with ferns and bromeliads lowest under the benches to increase humidity. In between, shelves and hanging space should be laid out to meet the light and humidity requirement of each plant without crowding.

Note that most orchids enjoy a cool root run, even if the leaves like sun.

There are some other important spaces to think about. An easily accessible potting bench with storage for pots and mix is essential and should be set up so you can repot at any time. You should also designate another space well away from the shadehouse where sick plants can be isolated, treated and observed.

Gary's *Laelia anceps*

Some photos of Gary's *Laelia anceps* in bloom, and a little info.



Laelia is a small genus of 25 species in the orchid family. *Laelia anceps* species are found in areas of subtropical or temperate climate in Central America along the ranges from Mexico down through Guatemala to Honduras. In nature it grows as an epiphyte on tree trunks or branches on the edge of forests at altitudes of 1500-2000m. The plants are often exposed to full sun and strong winds, with hot days and cold nights. In the mornings strong winds and sunshine quickly dry the plants before rain falls again in the evening. It should be noted that *Laelia anceps* has also proven to be a fantastic parent within the cattleya group. Both the species and its hybrids will do best in bright light; the same as for cattleyas. If the foliage is too green the plant is not receiving enough light and will not grow strongly or flower well. They need full sun in winter. Air movement is not a problem for plants outdoors, but if grown inside good movement of fresh air is recommended. One needs only to look at the weather of Mexico to learn about the watering schedule of *Laelia*. The late spring, summer, and early autumn months are a period of heavy tropical rains. Make sure to keep your plants well watered during this period. Just the opposite happens during the other times of the year, when temperatures are lower and it is quite seasonally dry. Water less at this time. *Laelias* love ample fertiliser during their rapid growth season in the summer. In the growing period apply fertilizer weakly, weekly. Potting media is a very important factor for attaining good culture of *Laelia anceps* and its hybrids. They are quite susceptible to root loss if they are kept too wet in the dry season or if the potting mix is old. Very coarse mixes work well with *Laelias*. Use a high quality medium grade of pine bark, even occasionally adding some charcoal, perlite or blue metal stone (volcanic basalt) for durability. Other inorganic additives will also work. The time of potting is also very important, and is best done right when a flush of new roots appear.

