



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

Established 1937

July 2023 Bulletin

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Plant of the Night for June



Cymbidium Rods Tango 'Tobruk'

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Next Meeting:

July 17th 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 Jonathan Clark

Editorial

Last month we had a fabulous talk from David Hemmings. David told us all about his repotting schedule and how he pots up his orchids ready for the next growing season. There were some deflasking and growing tips as well. A very informative talk and one that I hope gave you some new ideas. Thanks very much David.

We also had a visit from Lori Emerson, who is President of the Garden Clubs of Australia (GCA), who we are affiliated with. Lori pops in to see us occasionally and it was really great to catch up.

Coming up this month we have the annual Orchid Auction. This is a great opportunity for novice members to get plants at a great price. We encourage members to bring their plants for sale. There is a limit of six plants per member for sellers. Please provide a list of the plants you are selling, with a reserve price and the colour of the flowers.

A reminder that our Winter show is on next month (24-27th August) at Ashfield Mall. Please get your plants ready.

A reminder for everyone that doors open at our monthly meetings at 7pm. All plants must be benched before 7:30pm, as that's when the judging starts. The meeting proper will start at 7:45pm.

Membership fees are now due. Committee has increased fees to \$20 per single and \$30 per family membership. You can pay in cash (make sure we tick you off), or via direct deposit (please make sure your name is on the payment). Bank details:

Name = Western Suburbs Orchid Society
Acct = 00901936
BSB = 062301

Why not try a new adventure on the WSOS Committee? We'd love some new blood and new ideas. Remember it's Peter Meyer's goal this year for new members and new and improved inputs into our society. Please help make Pete's dream come true and volunteer for Committee today!

What's flowering for you at the moment?! Grab your camera or phone and take some photos, then share them with the rest of the Society. Email your pics to me as attachments as .jpg files and watch them magically appear on our website where everyone can see them, wow!

Cheers, Sam.

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 12th June 2023

General Business:

- Memberships are due at the end of July. We're taking payments from now.
- Sam handed out a rosette to Kelly Xu for the Autumn Show.
- Show winners for the Autumn Show were published incorrectly in the bulletin. This was a typo only and the point score tally is correct.
- We would appreciate some volunteers to manage supper for a meeting. Please see Jonathan, Tania or Peter McBryde if you would like to help out.
- Sam handed out POTN photo for May to Dimitri Mitsios.

TONIGHT'S SUPPER: Thank you Tania Lam

RAFFLE PRIZES: John Janz, Frances Turner, John Costa x2, Wendy Choy, Arthur Midgley, Tania Lam. Philip La, Neva Janz

SUPPER RAFFLE: Gary Hodder

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Cymbidium Rods Tango 'Tobruk' exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Benching Reminder:

A reminder to everyone when benching your plants. Please make this job as easy as possible for our lovely Wendy. Please make sure to write everything clearly on the benching cards, including your name on the back. Please make sure the benching class and number are also clearly marked. If the card can't be read then it can't be awarded any points.

Events coming up:

For more detail please visit OSNSW's website here: [Shows 2023 Orchid Society of NSW \(orchidsocietynsw.com.au\)](https://orchidsocietynsw.com.au)

19-22nd July – Fairfield OS show

20-23rd July – Campbelltown OS show

22nd July – ANOS Native Orchid Auction, viewing from 9am, auction starts at 10am. At the Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground.

27-30th July – Bankstown OS show

11-13th August – Cymbid OS and Paph OS show

17-20th August – Campbelltown OS show

18-20th August – St Ives show

24-27th August – WSOS Winter Show

14-16th September – North Shore OS show

15-16th September – Sutherland OS show

21-24th September – Campbelltown OS show

13-15th October – Orchids Central show

19-22nd October – Campbelltown OS show

26-29th October – WSOS Spring Show

4-5th November – Blue Mountains and Penrith OS show

Autumn Show Major Prize Winners - Correction

Last month Sam made some typos. These are the correct winners (changes in red). Apologies to Dimitri for the mistake. This had no effect on the point scores as these were documented correctly; the mistake was just made in the bulletin.

Champion Orchid

Dendrochilum macranthum Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Reserve Champion

Oncidium Space Mine 'Red Rendevous' Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Cymbidium

Cymbidium Pink Celebration Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Laeliinae

Cattleya Rosella Flare Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Australasian Native

Dendrobium Star Imp Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Paphiopedilum

Paphiopedilum Hsinying Citron 'Lime' Exhibited by Peter Meyer

Champion Species

Dendrochilum macranthum Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Any Other Orchid

Oncidium Space Mine 'Red Rendevous' Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Novice Champion

Rhynchostylis retusa Exhibited by Kelly Xu

Special Award

Epidendrum porpax Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

WSOS meeting events for 2023:

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.

August	TBA
September	Getting to Know You
October	AGM and Lucky Dip
November	Craig Scott-Harden
December	Christmas Party

HOW ARE YOUR ORCHIDS JUDGED?

By Dr Fred

With thanks to Samantha Stevens and John Keenan.

Growing your orchids for competition creates a whole new level of complexity.

The Australian Orchid Council judging rules are the guidelines for orchid judges, and are more complicated than discussed here. The NSW Regional Judging Panel provides the judges, who are trained in a rigorous course lasting four years. Three of these years are spent at a status of Associate Judge before becoming a full judge.

Presentation is everything so therefore anything you can do to improve it within the rules is advantageous. Flower spikes should be staked as they develop so as to display the flowers to full advantage. Stakes and attachments should be unobtrusive and cut to an appropriate length. Keep the stakes lower than the flower spike itself. Flower spikes should not be allowed to droop unless they are naturally pendulous in habit. Also the racemes should not be twisted or bent.

Some of the easy things you can do to best present your plant is to clean up the pot and the plant itself. Clear away any weeds, spider webs, dead bulb sheaths and old flower spikes. Also try and avoid damage to plants and flowers during transportation. Invest in a sturdy cardboard or polystyrene box or two and pack around your plants with newspaper, scrunched plastic bags, bubble-wrap, or anything else that you can use as padding. This will prevent plants from moving about or falling over in transit and damaging the flowers. Also ensure that your plant is healthy and well-grown. Remove old and dead bulbs or canes. Ensure the plant is disease free as diseased plants will be disqualified.

Try to position the plant so that flowers all face the same direction as much as possible. Flowers tend to open towards the strongest point of light, so if you move the pots around make sure to put them back in the same orientation so as to avoid twisted flower spikes.

Judging is comparative, rewarding the best flowers in each group or class. With a few exceptions (such as miniature Cymbidiums), the judges will concentrate on the best flower spike the plant has produced. It is possible that a good flower spike on one plant will win over multiple lesser quality spikes on another plant.

Judging is based on a total of 100 points allocated to different criteria. This can vary for certain genera but on the whole they are broken down as follows:

Flower shape = 30 points

Judges look for how a given flower compares to the "ideal" shape desired for that particular genera. This can vary widely so it is important to be aware of the criteria for the genera you are looking to display. As a general rule, petals and sepals that are twisted, distorted, reflexed (curl backwards), or otherwise vary too widely from the ideal will be marked down.

Colour and attractiveness = 30 points

Flower colours should be clear, glistening and fresh. Shading and markings should be well defined and even throughout the flowers as much as possible. Bright, vibrant and unusual colours grab attention and will win higher marks, while muddy or dull flowers will score lower.

Flower size = 10 points

As a general rule, the bigger, the better! However this will vary depending on genera; for example some orchids are classed as miniatures and are expected to have tiny flowers. Often judging classes have pre-defined flower sizes and a measuring ruler will be brought out if there's any dispute.

Substance and texture = 10 points

Flowers should be firm, fresh and lustrous. There should be no marks, insect damage or other blemishes. Judges will also look at whether the flower can maintain its own shape.

Habit and arrangement = 5 points

This refers to the flower spike as a whole, and will depend to a certain extent on the genera of the orchid. Where multiple flowers are present on one spike, they should be evenly distributed along the spike and stand away from one another. The flowers should stand away from the foliage and ideally all face in the same general direction. The spike itself should be strong enough to support the flowers and judges may remove staking to ensure that this is so.

Floriferousness = 5 points

This refers to the number of flower spikes and the number of flowers present on each. This will differ with the genera of the orchid, but as a general rule, the more, the better! The number of spikes and flowers should match with the maturity and size of the plant. Only fully open flowers are counted and at least two-thirds of the flowers on any flower spike should be open.



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum