



# Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

[wsorchidsociety.com](http://wsorchidsociety.com)

Established 1937

## August 2019 Bulletin

Volume: 52    Number: 8

*Plant of the Night for July*



*Paphiopedilum Nitens*

## Editorial

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### Next Meeting:

19<sup>th</sup> August at 7:45pm

Gary Hodder on Items That Affect the Growing of Orchids

**\*\*NEW VENUE\*\***

### Websites:

[www.wsorchidsociety.com](http://www.wsorchidsociety.com)

[www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/)

[www.orchids.org](http://www.orchids.org)

### Submissions:

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

### Management 2018:

#### President and Editor:

Samantha Stevens

[samstev@optusnet.com.au](mailto:samstev@optusnet.com.au)

0401 713 888

#### Vice President:

Peter Meyer

[peter@petermeyerblinds.com.au](mailto:peter@petermeyerblinds.com.au)

0416 226 520

#### Secretary:

Rosie Blackhall

[rosie.blackhall@gmail.com](mailto:rosie.blackhall@gmail.com)

0433 899 767

#### Treasurer:

Peter McBryde

[petermcbryde@gmail.com](mailto:petermcbryde@gmail.com)

0408 722 171

#### Committee:

Jan Binovec     Arthur Smyrnios

Joy Gouvoussis     Jonathan Clark

Last month we had an excellent talk from Gary Hart on Paphs with some lovely photos. He spoke about species and hybrids and showed us some results of breeding. Very knowledgeable and interesting. Thanks Gary, and also for being so organised!

Coming up this month we have a talk from Gary Hodder on Items That Affect the Growing of Orchids. I've included a short blurb from Gary (see page 10) about his results from fertiliser testing, which I'm sure will be part of his talk. I'm keen to find out what else he'll tell us.

Renovations at the church at Strathfield are finishing up this month, but unfortunately not in time for our meeting. Therefore we will be at the interim venue at the Uniting Church on the corner of Meredith and Burlington Rds, Homebush for our August meeting. Looks like we'll be back at the old place in September, yay!

Our new Growing Competition plants will be available for purchase this month. Cost is \$12 and is limited to one per membership. Please try to have a \$2 coin as it makes for easier change. The plant this time is a yellow Cattleya called BLC Nell Hammer 'Lemon Delicious'.

Remember our Winter Show is on this month at Ashfield Mall, 22-25<sup>th</sup> August, with setup from 5pm on Wed 21<sup>st</sup>. WSOS will not reimburse for parking fines so make sure your name and rego is on our list, or keep track of the time.

I found this link to an interesting page about ghost orchids and how they're pollinated in the wild. It seems there's more than one type of moth that does it. The video is longish but worth watching with a cuppa. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/07/ghost-orchids-florida-surprising-pollinators-moths>

### MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE

Yes folks, it's that time of year again. Membership fees are now due, at \$15 single and \$20 family. Please pay promptly as that minimises admin for us and keeps the accounts nice and healthy. You can pay either in cash at the meeting, or online by direct deposit.

Bank details:

Bank = Commonwealth Bank

Name = Western Suburbs Orchid Society

BSB = 062 301

Acct number = 00901936

Make sure you put your name in the "message" field so we know who has paid.

Cheers, Sam

## Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:55pm

**APOLOGIES:** Nat Ciccari, Louis Friess, Ana Toth

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Moved: John Janz; Seconded: Dimitri Mitsios

**FINANCE REPORT:** General Accounts accepted: Moved: Peter McBryde; Seconded: John Costa

### General Business:

- Funds are dwindling. Please help your club by buying raffle tickets and donating to supper.
- Raffle tickets: Please have small notes or change, as we can't change \$50 notes. Also for the supper raffle please take the ticket on the right side only, otherwise you'll never win anything.
- Sam handed out Plant of the Night photo for June to Pheng Sanaphay (Oncidium Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl').
- Report on the Liverpool show from Peter Meyer and Peter McBryde.
- Membership renewals are now due.
- Renovations continue at our usual venue so we will be at the interim venue for the June and July meetings.
- Assorted volunteers still required:
  - Benching marshals – see Sam or Peter McBryde
  - Supper – see Peter McBryde or Jonathan Clark
  - Historian – see Sam
  - Committee – see Sam or Peter Meyer

**TONIGHT'S SUPPER:** Thank you Peter Meyer

**RAFFLE PRIZES:** Dimitri Mitsios, Neva Janz, Slava Jurkovic x3 (visitor), Sam Stevens, Peter McBryde, June Fetherston

**BIRTHDAY RAFFLE:**

**SUPPER RAFFLE:** Arthur Midgley

**PLANT OF THE NIGHT:** Paph Nitens by Dimitri Mitsios

**MEETING CLOSED:** 9:25pm

### Meeting Events:

**Aug** = Gary Hodder

**Sep** = Getting to Know You

**Oct** = AGM

### Supper Roster:

**Aug** = Sarjit and Jonathan

**Sep** = Michael Luu

**Oct** = Jan Binovec and Louisa Cheung

### Upcoming Shows:

St Ives show 16-18<sup>th</sup> August at St Ives showground

WSOS Winter show 22-25<sup>th</sup> August at Ashfield Mall

Wyong Spring Show 14-15<sup>th</sup> September at Wyong Racecourse

Southern Orchid Spectacular 11-13<sup>th</sup> October at Sutherland Basketball Stadium, Waratah Park, Sutherland

WSOS Spring show 24-27<sup>th</sup> October at Ashfield Mall

## Arthur's Notes

### Counts:

Number of plants benched = 33

Number of exhibitors = 8

Total views WSOS of the Flickr photo pages = 756,000

Number of photos on the Flickr photo pages = 2517

### Orchid Benching:

Eight members exhibited 33 plants at the meeting. Plant of the night was Paphiopedilum Nitens owned by Dimitrios Mitsios. Congratulations to Dimitrios.

### Orchid benching comments:

Only eight exhibitors in July, probably due to an extremely cold night and the temporary meeting venue. The trend of high quality plants on the bench continued.

### Guest Speaker:

Guest speaker Gary Hart gave us a great wide ranging talk about Paphiopedilum species and hybrids and backed up his talk with some wonderful photos.

## Novice Nook

WITH RAY CLEMENTS

### ONCIDIUMS AND SOFTCANES

#### ONCIDIUMS

This diverse group originates in South America. Some species are tropical, but most prefer sub-tropical or temperate climates. These epiphytic orchids need perfect drainage, so a pot with a free draining mix or a mount such as tree fern slabs or cork bark is ideal. Medium to heavy shade is preferred as many of the softer leaf varieties are susceptible to leaf spotting if given too much light. Include a soluble fertiliser recommended for flowering plants with every second or third watering all year round. Water regularly whilst growth is active, then water sparingly after growth has matured.

#### SOFTCANE DENDROBIUMS

Softcane, or Nobile-type Dendrobiums grow naturally in Northern India & Thailand at elevations up to 1500 metres in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains. These species and their hybrids are hardy and plants that will tolerate temperatures from 3 degrees to the high thirties.

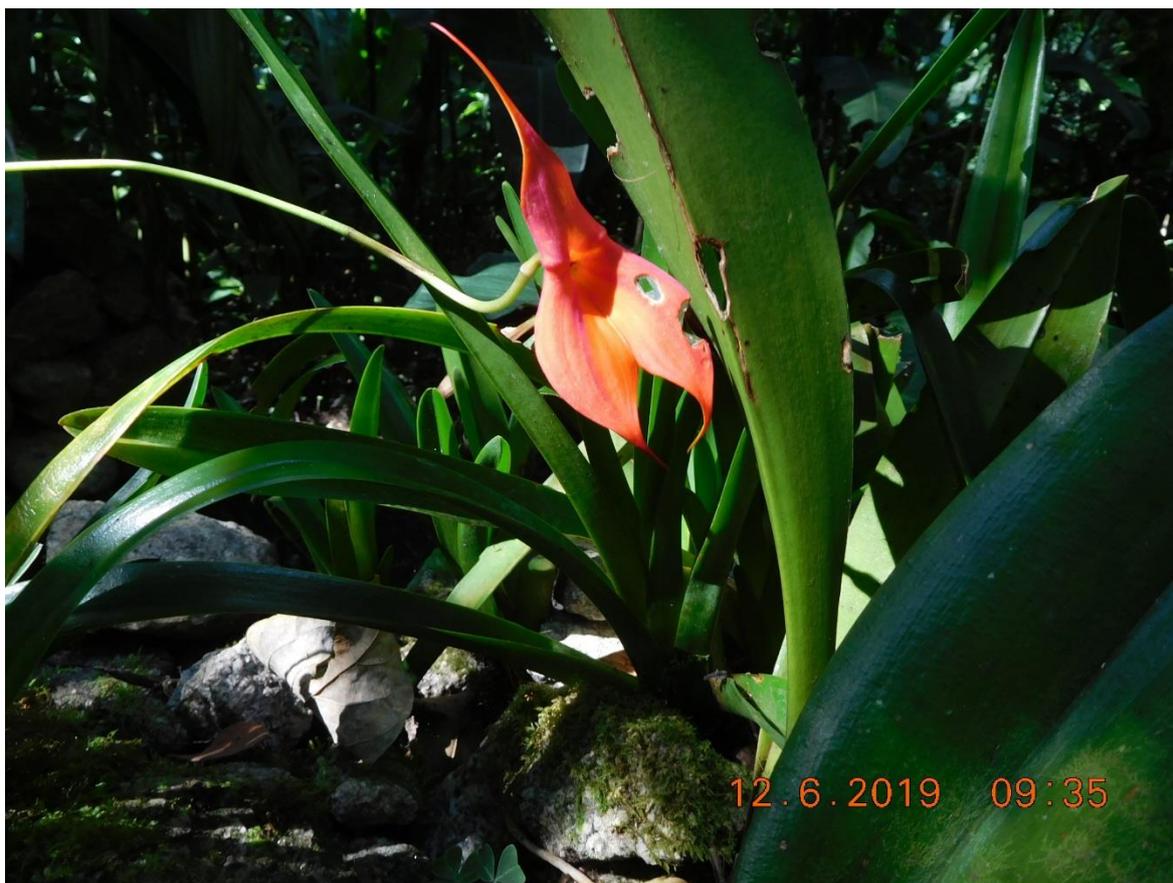
They are easy orchids to grow provided they are given plenty of water and fertiliser in summer, with no nitrogen fertiliser, little water and plenty of light during winter.

To grow softcane dendrobiums well different seasonal treatment is required. After flowering in October increase watering and gradually increase fertiliser. Soluble 'flower-booster' fertiliser at recommended strength is preferred. By November when growths are 100mm or more high, water plants every second day and include fertiliser at least once per week. Maintain this treatment until new growths are nearly mature, until about February or March. Then reduce water and fertiliser so that by April the plants are receiving no nitrogen fertiliser at all. Water sparingly, just enough to prevent bulbs from shrivelling, until plants flower in spring.

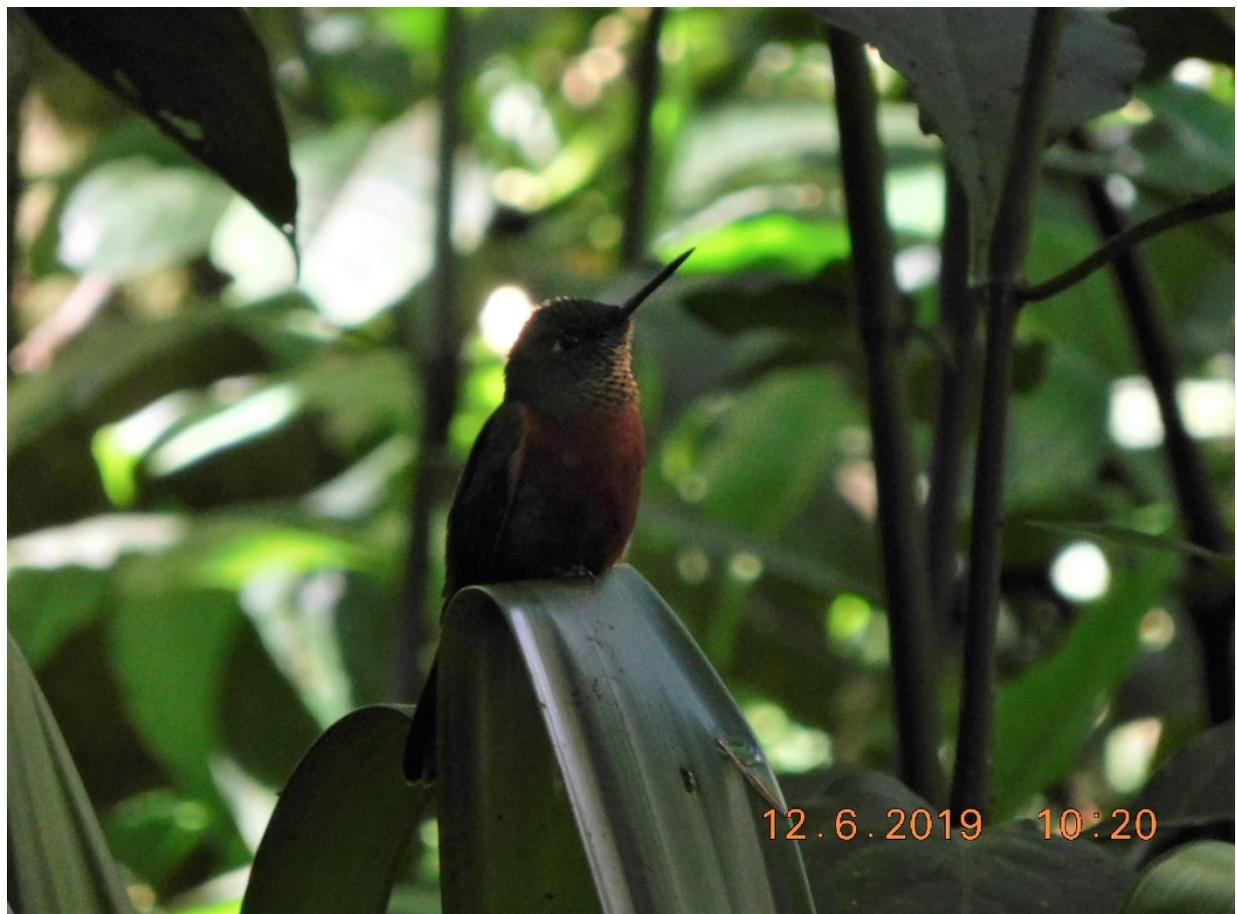
Plants should be grown in a well drained medium. Pots should be as small as possible to contain the roots. Repot soon after flowering and before new growth starts to develop roots. Cover the plants with 30-50% shade in summer to prevent burn to new growths. Flowering will be enhanced if plants are given full or near full sun during winter.

**Pete's Pics**

This time from an orchid walk at Machu Picchu.











WITH GARY HODDER

The story is that I wanted to see if there was any difference in different types of fertilizers. I purchased four seedlings from Cedarvale Orchids at the Southern Orchid Spectacular three years ago. They were all the same: Den Speciosum var. speciosum "Dreamtime" crossed with Den Speciosum var speciosum "Heather"AM/ANOS. I chose this particular species as this variety is native to the Sydney region and easy to grow. All seedlings were grown in the same conditions under 50% green shade cloth but the plant on the left did not receive any fertilizer only water and the plant on the right was fed during the growing season every 10 days with my fertilizer by spray. This fertilizer is a commercial one which is only available to the trade and is not to the general public. It has a N.P.K. rating of N. 19 P. 2.5 K. 17 and is complete with trace elements. This fertilizer is sprayed at the rate of 1gram per litre of water. As for the other two plants, one has been fed only with blood&bone and the other with a liquid fertilizer available to the general public. The two in the middle are roughly the same size, but as you can see they're nowhere as big as the one on the right.

From left to right:

- No fertilizer
- Blood and bone
- Liquid fertilizer readily available
- Commercial fertilizer

