



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

Established 1937

July 2022 Bulletin

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Plant of the night for July



Cymbidium Nat's Pride

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Next Meeting:

August 15th from 7pm
Ian Chalmers' watering system

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.

Management 2022:**President and Editor:**

Samantha Stevens
samstev@optusnet.com.au
0401 713 888

Vice President:

Peter Meyer
peter@petermeyerblinds.com.au
0416 226 520

Secretary:

TBA
secretary@wsorchidsociety.com

Treasurer:

Peter McBryde
petermcbryde@gmail.com
0408 722 171

Committee:

Jan Binovec Jonathan Clark
Tania Lam Arthur Smyrniotis

Editorial

Last month we had our annual orchid auction. Thanks to John Costa, Tong and Wendy for selling their plants. Most of the plants were sold and I hope everyone who bought something enjoys their new purchases.

Coming up this month we have a talk from Ian Chalmers on his watering system. He's had it specially made to cover several large shadehouses and it's complicated and enormous. This will be a very interesting and eye-opening talk.

Our Winter Show at Ashfield Mall is on this month, 25th to 28th, with setup on the 24th. Please get your plants ready! We'll be circulating the show roster at the meeting 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. Also thanks John Costa for volunteering to do potting demonstrations. This is always very popular with the public and we greatly appreciate your time and effort.

Thanks too to Carmen, who sent me this link to an article about native endangered orchids: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/race-to-save-endangered-orchids-has-some-wins-some-wombats-20220801-p5b67t.html>

Welcome to new members Salva, Rosalind, Vic, Philip, Kelly, Cuong, Peter and Sandra. It's great to have you all on board and I hope you'll enjoy your time with WSOS.

Your WSOS membership is now past 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.

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

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!

Lastly, just another reminder that I have a copy of OrchidWiz on my laptop at every meeting. It's great for anyone who wants to check the spelling of an orchid name, or to decide which class to bench a plant in.

Cheers, Sam.

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 20th June 2022

General Business:

- Memberships are now due.
- Peter McBryde has COVID so Sam filled in as Treasurer for the night.
- John Costa volunteered to do potting demonstrations at the Winter Show. Huge thanks John!
- The show helpers' roster was handed out for members to fill in.
- Sam handed out POTN pic to Michael Luu for June.

TONIGHT'S SUPPER: Thank you Tania Lam

RAFFLE PRIZES: Philip La, Mythili Naganthiran, Stephen x2 (Frances' son), visitor Sandra Rogers x2, Tania Lam, Arthur Midgley.

BIRTHDAY RAFFLE: No one present

SUPPER RAFFLE: Tong Wun

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Cymbidium Nat's Pride by Phil Festa

Arthur's Notes

Number of exhibitors = 7

Number of plants exhibited = 30

Total views WSOS Flickr Photo Pages = 890622

Number of Photos on Flickr Photo Pages = 2919

Seven members exhibited a total of 30 orchids at the June meeting. Thank you to members who exhibited orchids. Plant of the night was Intermediate Cymbidium Nat's Pride exhibited by Philip Festa. A beautiful orchid with outstanding shape and colour.

To be honest I saw *Mediocalcar decoratum* on the bench in Class 4 before the judging. Had no idea if that was the correct spot or not. It was only when I was at home with the aid of my computer that I found it grows in nature in New Guinea. So it appears in the results in Class 12 Australasian Native (Non Terrestrial).

Species Orchid Information:

The RHS has a very good website named World Check List of Selected Plant Families. You can find it at wcsp.science.kew.org. Use this site to check:

- Species orchid name spelling
- Species orchid genera name
- Where the species grows in nature

I went there to check the spelling of the species orchid named *Dendrochilum convallariiformis*, and found 402 records when I entered the genera name *Dendrochilum*. I clicked on the entry for *Dendrochilum convallariiformis* and the message was "**This name is a synonym! Correct name is *Coelogyne convallariiformis***". I did further searches and it appears that the genera name *Dendrochilum* might be no longer in use.

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.

August	Ian Chalmers on his watering system
September	Getting to Know You
October	AGM
November	Talk for beginners by Vic Petrovski
December	Christmas Party

Orchid Shows for 2022

National Orchid Extravaganza on 12-14th August 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.

Orchid Auction on 24th September at Morisset Showground, 40 Ourimbah St, Morisset (Central Coast).

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.

Correction

It has come to my attention that the Spring Show results for 2021 were reported incorrectly in the bulletin. The benching results were correct, but the list of winners was incorrect. The Champion Cymbidium and Reserve Champion were both won by Dimitri Mitsios with his plant Cymbidium Bunyip 'Precious Memories'.

Our sincere apologies Dimitri for the mistake.



Paphiopedilum Lady Emily

Benching Classes

The monthly benching classes have been revised. There are several changes so please make sure to review them and be aware of where to bench your orchids. Here's the new schedule and a copy will be available at meetings. The new classes will be starting at the August meeting.

CLASS 1 STANDARD CYMBIDIUM

Flowers 100mm & over.

CLASS 2 SMALL STANDARD CYMBIDIUM

Flowers 85mm up to 100mm.

CLASS 3 INTERMEDIATE CYMBIDIUM

Flowers 60mm up to 85mm.

CLASS 4 MINIATURE CYMBIDIUMS

Flowers less than 60mm.

CLASS 5 LAELIINAE SPECIES

Species where the subtribe is Laeliinae. Some examples of genera names: Barkeria, Brassavola, Broughtonia, Cattleya, Encyclia, Epidendrum, Laelia, Leptotes, Prosthechea, Sophronitella, Sophronitis.

CLASS 6 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS - LARGE

Hybrids 110mm and over.

CLASS 7 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS – INTERMEDIATE

Hybrids 65mm up to 110mm.

CLASS 8 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS – MINIATURE

Hybrids under 65mm.

CLASS 9 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS - CLUSTER

Hybrids with 5 or more flowers on a raceme.

CLASS 10 COMPLEX PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

CLASS 11 PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

CLASS 12 PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES

CLASS 13 AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE SPECIES

Species orchids from Australasia. Non-terrestrial.

CLASS 14 AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE HYBRID

Where ALL the ancestors are Australasian native orchids except Sarcanthinae.

CLASS 15 AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRIDS

Where ALL the ancestors are Australasian native orchids from the Sarcanthinae Subtribe.

CLASS 16 AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE TERRESTRIAL

Species and hybrids from Australasia.

CLASS 17 DENDROBIUM SPECIES

Species not from Australasia

CLASS 18 DENDROBIUM SOFTCANE

Hybrids of the Nobile/Softcane type and where the flowers come from short racemes from the sides of the pseudobulbs.

CLASS 19 DENDROBIUM OTHER HYBRIDS

Not of the softcane/nobile type.

CLASS 20 VANDEAE SPECIES

Species from the Vandaeae tribe not from Australasia. Some examples of genera names: Aerides, Angraecum, Doritis, Neofinetia, Phalaenopsis, Sedirea, Vanda.

CLASS 21 VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS

Hybrids from the Vandaeae tribe.

CLASS 22 PHALAENOPSIS & DORITIS INTERGENERIC - LARGE

Flowers over 75mm. Hybrids where at least one ancestor was a Phalaenopsis or Doritis.

CLASS 23 PHALAENOPSIS & DORITIS INTERGENERIC - SMALL

Flowers under 75mm. Hybrids where at least one ancestor was a Phalaenopsis or Doritis.

CLASS 24 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS - LARGE

Flowers over 60mm

CLASS 25 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS - INTERMEDIATE

Flowers 40mm to 60mm.

CLASS 26 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS – SMALL

Flowers under 40mm.

Some examples of genera names; Aliceara, Baptistonia, Beallara, Brassia, Colmanara, Comparettia, Maclellanara, Miltassia, Miltonia, Oncidium, Miltoniopsis, Odontocidium, Odontoglossum, Odontioda, Rodrumnia, Tolumnia, Zelemnia.

CLASS 27 SPECIES OTHER AREAS

Excludes species Dendrobiums from Australasia.

CLASS 28 OTHER GENERA HYBRIDS

Includes Phrags.

CLASS 29 SEEDLINGS

Any orchid raised from seed flowering in its first flowering season.

CLASS 30 MINIATURES

Species and hybrid plants with small flowers (less than 10mm).

CLASS 31 GROWING COMPETITION

CLASS 32 NOVICE CYMBIDIUM

CLASS 33 NOVICE LAELIINAE AND LAELIINAE INTERGENERICS

CLASS 34 NOVICE PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRID

CLASS 35 NOVICE DENDROBIUM HYBRID

CLASS 36 NOVICE AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS

CLASS 37 NOVICE AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE SPECIES

CLASS 38 NOVICE OTHER SPECIES

CLASS 39 NOVICE VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS

Includes Phalaenopsis.

CLASS 40 NOVICE ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS

CLASS 41 NOVICE OTHER GENERA HYBRIDS



Zygopetalum Artur Elle 'Essenden'

THE TIES THAT BIND

By Dr Fred

In the wild, one of the first concerns of a young orchid is to securely fasten its roots onto something to achieve stability and security. In domestic culture the orchid which is not properly secured will not thrive.

It is instructive to attach a surplus orchid to a suitable tree with some soft pantyhose (remembering to remove this after the plant establishes itself to avoid damage to orchid or the tree). If the orchid is happy with its host the roots will burrow securely into the bark.

Some small plants such as Phalaenopsis can be simply secured by the potting mix (especially well packed moist sphagnum moss), but orchids are most commonly secured in their pot by tying to stakes. Stakes come in many sizes but for small plants sate sticks or barbeque skewers are available in a range of lengths from supermarkets and two-dollar shops.

There are many varieties of ties to choose from, including butterfly clips (used to stabilize flower spikes), and plastic or Teflon coated wire. Thin wires can cut into the plant so the flat type is preferred. Spools of this are readily available commercially and easily cut to individual lengths. The tie should leave some room for growth. It is preferable to attach ties to mature rhizomes as they are less likely to become constricted than those in rapid growth. Traditionally the tie is looped in a figure of eight configuration, to help reduce the risk of constriction.

Stakes and ties should be removed as soon as the plant is established and before they cause problems. I personally dislike stakes because of their potential to damage your eyes.

As an alternative, with hanging pots and baskets the plant can be secured to the hanger itself.

Very small or awkward shaped plants, particularly those with small rhizomes can be difficult to secure in the usual way. They are usually best secured with a long tie through the bottom of the pot. Once the plant is in position in the mix, thread the two ends through different holes using those closest to the selected point on the rhizome or bulb. The two ends are then twisted securely together and remain accessible on top of the plant. It may be necessary to retighten them later as the mix packs down.

The loop of wire through the bottom may make the pot unstable, so I put the pot inside another to stop it falling over.