



# Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

Established 1937

## September 2017 Bulletin

Volume: 50 Number: 11

*Plant of the Night for August*



*Doritaenopsis Sogo Yukidan*

## Editorial

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### Next Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> September from 7pm  
James Indsto on Cattleyas

### 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

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Jan Binovec	Peter McBryde

Last month we enjoyed a talk from Gary Hodder on Asian Dendrobiums. Gary showed us lots of lovely photos including various species orchids as well as varieties of Mousmee. He also shared his growing tips, which I've included on page 5. Thanks Gary, it was an interesting talk.

Coming up this month we have a talk from James Indsto on Cattleyas, especially the large flowered species such as *Cattleya labiata*. He will talk about how the *Cattleya* genus has been revised because of DNA studies and show us some great species grown by keen Sydney growers. James is a botanist so he will have a unique insight.

Most people have now paid their membership fees. Thanks to all who did so promptly as it keeps the club going and saves us on administration costs.

The Winter Show was a great success! Thanks to everyone involved in setup and helping out on the floor. I popped in for a while and took a few photos which will be on our Flickr site shortly. The display was fabulous as usual with lots of eye popping colour.

Lastly the AGM is coming up in October. We are short two people on Committee so we are looking for active members to nominate. Please consider standing up for your club and having a say it how it's run and what we do. Duties are not onerous. Anyone who's interested please talk to me.

Cheers, Sam.



Sam's *Dendrobium gracilicaule*

## Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:55pm

**APOLOGIES:**

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Moved: John Janz Seconded: Peter Meyer

**FINANCE REPORT:** General Accounts: \$8,228.62 Moved: Arthur Midgley Seconded: John Costa

### General Business:

- Thanks Nat Ciccari for taking Culture Club tonight on Cymbids.
- Subs are now overdue! For those yet to pay please see Arthur in the break. Anyone not financial after tonight will lose their membership privileges.
- Error in last month's bulletin regarding the accounts. It said \$87,959! Should have been \$7,959.
- The secondary display for the shows is a small lockable cabinet and will need setup.
- Arthur is not available on Friday of the show so volunteers are needed.
- Remember parking at the show is at your own risk. See Arthur if you want to add your car to the list.
- Steve Puz is selling two shadehouses. Old tubular style, galvanized steel pipes. 8x12ft and 8x16ft or 3.5mx2.5 and 5x2.5m. Includes benches and clear plastic roofing. Easily demountable. Pick up only, from Concord West. Contact Sam if you're interested.
- Progress on the new website. Sam has organized new and cheaper hosting and has started redesign of the website.
- Supper volunteers needed for Oct and Nov. Please see Peter McBryde.
- Assorted volunteers still required:
  - Benching marshals – see Arthur
  - Point score collating – see Arthur
  - Supper – see Peter McB or Jonathan
  - Historian – see Sam
  - Culture Club – see Ali or Sam
  - Committee – see Sam or John

**TONIGHT'S SUPPER:** Thank you Jonathan Clark and Peter McBryde

**RAFFLE PRIZES:** Neva Janz, Sue Collins, Cumu Gunaratnam, Michael Luu x2, Maria Pusic

**BIRTHDAY RAFFLE:**

**SUPPER RAFFLE:** Reshma Wells

**NOVICE ENCOURAGEMENT:** Sue Collins

**PLANT OF THE NIGHT:** Doritaenopsis Sogo Yukidan exhibited by Gary Hodder

**MEETING CLOSED:** 9:25pm

### Meeting Events:

**Sep** = James Indsto on Cattleys

**Oct** = AGM and Lucky Dip

**Nov** = TBA

### Supper Roster:

**Sep** = ??

**Oct** = ??

**Nov** = ??

## Arthur's Notes

### Counts:

Number of plants benched = 62

Number of exhibitors = 146

Total views of the WSOS Flickr photo pages = 645,000

Number of photos on the Flickr photo pages = 2081

### Orchid Benching:

Plant of the Night was Phal. Sogo Yukidian, exhibited by Gary Hodder. Congratulations to Gary. Again there were quite a few quality orchids to choose from so I found the judging task difficult.

### Benching comments:

Gary Hodder will be assisting Philip Festa with the benching. Much improved at the August meeting with nil duplicate places in the benching classes.

### Subs:

Thank you to those members who paid their subs in August at the meeting or show.

### Winter Show at Ashfield Mall:

Show was a success though profit was down on previous years due to less plants for sale on the sales table.



Dendrobium Red River – Pheng Sanaphay

## Novice Nook

WITH GARY HODDER

### GROWING ASIAN DENDROBIUMS:

When growing Indian Dendrobiums there are five main factors to consider:

- Climatic conditions
- Potting media
- Fertiliser
- Watering
- Air movement

#### **Climatic Conditions**

These orchids are epiphytes growing on trees and rocks on the side of mountains and valleys, in the regions generally between 100 to 1500 metres. In the growing area the lower the elevation the higher the temperature, so in Sydney in shade houses we are generally suited to temperatures of plants growing between 800 to 1500meters without heating.

My shade house is constructed from 50mm square steel mesh covered with 50% green woven shade cloth and all plants are grown suspended from the roof in open pots.

***The most important aspect of growing Indian Dendrobiums is to duplicate the natural growing conditions.*** That is, you must give the orchids a growing period, a rest period and a flowering period. In the flowering period after the rest period in the spring and summer all plants can be watered daily and fertilised at the rate of half strength weekly. But in the rest period no fertiliser and water sparingly just to stop the canes from shrivelling up.

#### **Potting Media**

On all my Indian Dendrobiums I use a very open mix depending on plant or pot size. The mix I use for pots above 150mm diameter is what I call a 8:2:1 mix and for pot sizes under 150mm diameter I use a 6:2:1 mix.

*8:2:1 potting mix consists of:*

- 6 parts large 18mm treated bark (bark soaked in half strength liquid Thrive for a week)
- 2 parts medium bark 12mm
- 2 parts scoria volcanic rock 12mm
- 2 parts course jumbo perlite
- 2 parts charcoal course grade
- 1 part granulated cow manure

*6:2:1 potting mix consists of:*

- 6 parts treated pine bark 12mm
- 2 parts scoria 10mm
- 2 parts course perlite
- 2 parts charcoal medium grade
- 1 part granulated cow manure

#### **Fertiliser**

Fertiliser should only be given after the rest period. In the growing and flowering period. I have an inline megamp system to allow fertilising every time I water, plus I fertilise with soluble fertilisers at half the recommended strength once a week. Then at the start of the month I use a preventative treatment of:

(rates are per 1 litre of water)

- Eco-seaweed @ 1gm /Ltr
- Eco-fungicide @ 4gm
- Eco-oil @ 8ml
- Eco-neem 2mm

Twice a year just before it rains, I dust over the leaves with 50% blood and bone with trace elements and 50% dolomite. But please ensure that this is thoroughly washed into the mix, otherwise the dolomite will burn and kill the new growth. Fertilising should be done after the flower spikes start to appear (around September) up until the new growth has reached maturity (around March). I also sprinkle blood and bone on the media at the start of the growing period to stimulate new growth.

**Watering**

Watering should only be done early morning before the sun shines on the leaves. In the summer water every day but with temperatures above 35c I also water in late afternoon. It is a good practice to saturate the ground, as this will raise the humidity to assist in growth. In winter cut back on the watering because this is the orchids' rest period.



Dendrobium White King 'Hiroshima' – J&N Janz

### Sam's Spot

Spring is definitely showing in the garden with new shoots sprouting everywhere. But what a windy August! As you can see from the pics below, for a couple of days it was so windy that many of my orchids ended up on the ground.



Thank the assorted deities and/or my organisation skills for an accurate database, as many plants were only identified from their photos. In the end it took me three days to straighten, identify and repot everything that needed it. Lo and behold, every plant was accounted for and restored with almost no flower spikes broken. Phew!

Otherwise in the orchid zone there are buds and buds and even more buds! About five Cymbids are about to open, multiple Dendrobiums are flowering or about to, a couple of Cattleyas are on the way, and even my Stanhopea wardii is about to put on its second show for the year. Woo hoo! And I even have buds on some softcanes! Which is not unheard of, but they usually get chewed to bits by now so hopes are high for their survival.

In the herb and veggie patch it's been a mixed bag. I've had a few deaths this year and have been fretting about my soil conditions. I finally bought a soil test kit and learned that the PH is very slightly acidic, which is exactly where it needs to be. Still confused about what the problem is, I took a photo of my flagging chilli plant and took it to the local nursery. They said the plant will tend to look like that at this time of year, to trim it back and it will be fine. So ok, the chilli got a haircut and it has lots of new shoots which is encouraging. Then I found something online about yellowing leaves and the pattern they yellow in, and how that relates to what's wrong. So according to that my soil is lacking nitrogen and potassium. Well, neither of those can hurt so off I went, back to the nursery for some chook poo and cow manure. I spent an afternoon in the H&V patch, mostly weeding and pruning and discovering self-seeded tomatoes from last year. I have yet to work in the fertiliser, as the bluebells are about to open and I like to wait for them to finish. But at least I'm ready to go with what my garden needs.

## Winter Show Major Prize Winners:

### Champion Orchid

Paph Transvaal 'Big JR'

Exhibited by Jonathan Clark

### Reserve Champion Orchid

Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'

Exhibited by Phil Festa

### Novice Champion Orchid

No entries

### Champion Cymbidium

Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'

Exhibited by Phil Festa

### Champion Australasian Native

Den Melissa Nicole Dickey

Exhibited by Arthur Smyrnios

### Champion Any Other Orchid

Paph Transvaal 'Big JR'

Exhibited by Jonathan Clark

### Special Award

Den Robbie McInnes

Exhibited by John Costa



*Cymbidium* Kiwi Midnight Geyserland – Arthur Smyrnios



*Dendrobium secum dum x sib* – June Fetherston



*Epidendrum Rene Marques x RTA Free Spirit* – Peter Ng



*Pterostylis curta* – Pheng Sanaphay



Dendrobium Tyabb Cobber 'Yibbidy Ya Ya' x Victorian Flare – Pheng Sanaphay



Cymbidium Mary Green – J&N Janz



BLC Dal's Horizon x (Potinara Spirit of Bou x LC Aussie Sunrise) – Peter Ng



Dendrobium cassiope – June Fetherston



Dendrobium Donovan Opalescence – Michael Luu



*Paphiopedilum* Transvaal 'Big JR' – Jonathan Clark



*Cymbidium* Khanebono 'Jacinta' – Nat Ciccari



Cymbidium Wallacia 'Burnt Gold' x Lunakira 'Gleam' – Arthur Smyrnios