



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

Established 1937

September 2019 Bulletin

Volume: 52 Number: 11

Plant of the Night for August



Phalaenopsis Hsinying Concert x unknown

Editorial

Contents:

- Editorial: page 2
- Minutes: page 3
- Arthur's Notes: page 4
- Novice Nook: page 5
- Gary's info: page 6
- Winter Show: page 7

Next Meeting:

16th September at 7:45pm
Getting to Know You

*****Back to Strathfield!*****

Websites:

www.wsorchidsociety.com
www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/
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
0401 713 888

Vice President:

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

Secretary:

Rosie Blackhall
rosie.blackhall@gmail.com
0433 899 767

Treasurer:

Peter McBryde
petermcbryde@gmail.com
0408 722 171

Committee:

Jan Binovec Arthur Smyrnios
Joy Gouvoussis Jonathan Clark

Last month we had an excellent talk from Gary Hodder on things that can affect your orchids, with emphasis on pests. Thanks Gary for a great talk! I hope everyone came away with strategies for their own garden and we were all suitably impressed with your fertiliser trials. I've included some of the information from Gary's talk on page 6. The full presentation is on the website.

Coming up this month we have our annual Getting to Know You event. This is an opportunity to meet people in the club that perhaps you've not met before and have a chat about all things relating to orchids. You're welcome to bring along a plant to ask about, or that you need help with, and get some growing advice. You never know who you might meet!

Renovations at the church at Strathfield have now finished, so we are back at our normal venue for the September meeting, yay! It's good to be going home, and I hope to see you all there.

Our new Growing Competition plants will be available for purchase again this month for those that missed out. 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 RTH Hell Hammer 'Lemon Delicious'. If you repot your comp plant, please remember to mark it in some way with your assigned number.

Thanks to everyone involved in the Winter Show! I hear plenty of people came to help out and overall it was another success. There will be a full report at the next meeting. I've included a few photos starting on page 7; thanks Gary Hodder for taking them.

MEMBERSHIPS NOW PAST DUE – LAST CHANCE!

Membership fees are now overdue, 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. Anyone still unfinancial after the September meeting will no longer receive their bulletin.

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 20th May 2019

MEETING OPENED: 7:45pm

APOLOGIES: Joy Gouvoussis, Cumu Gunaratnam, John and Neva Janz

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 July to Dimitri Mitsios (Paph Nitens).
- New Growing Competition plants are now available. \$12 each.
- Membership renewals are now due.
- Renovations to the church at Strathfield should be finished in September.
- Ashfield show roster available; please add your name if you can attend.
- The AGM is coming up in October. Anyone wanting to nominate for a position, please see Rosie. We still have one position open on Committee.
- 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 Jonathan Clark

RAFFLE PRIZES: Michael Luu, Arthur Midgley, Sam Stevens, John Costa, Jan Binovec, Phil Festa, Dimitri Mitsios

BIRTHDAY RAFFLE: (July) Peter Ng and (August) no one present

SUPPER RAFFLE: Michael Luu

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Phal Hsinying Concert x unknown by Tong Wun

MEETING CLOSED: 9:25pm

Meeting Events:

Sep = Getting to Know You

Oct = AGM

Nov = Fred Fetherston

Supper Roster:

Sep = Michael Luu

Oct = Jan Binovec and Louisa Cheung

Nov = Wendy Choy

Upcoming Shows:

Wyang Spring Show 14-15th September at Wyong Racecourse

Southern Orchid Spectacular 11-13th October at Sutherland Basketball Stadium, Waratah Park, Sutherland

WSOS Spring show 24-27th October at Ashfield Mall

Arthur's Notes

Counts:

Number of plants benched = 43

Number of exhibitors = 10

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

Number of photos on the Flickr photo pages = 2517

Orchid Benching:

Ten members exhibited 43 plants at the meeting. Plant of the Night was Phalaenopsis Hsinying Concert x Another Hybrid. This was a beautiful multi-coloured, well shaped phalaenopsis owned by Tong Wun.

A few orchids were benched in the wrong class, but of course we do not have the luxury and time to check all the entries on a laptop at the meeting.

Den. Fantasy Land 'Princess' benched as a Hard Cane Dendrobium is actually an Australasian Native Hybrid.

Den. Usitae 'Red Coral' is a primary hybrid not a species. I think it may have been classed as a species till recent times.

Den. tangerinum is a species orchid from Papua New Guinea so it belongs in the Australasian Native Orchid Class.

Guest Speaker:

Another great talk by a guest speaker. This time given by Gary Hodder talking about the many bugs and diseases that make orchid growers' lives difficult.

Winter show at Ashfield Mall:

As usual an excellent show at this very good venue. Fourteen members exhibited a total of 74 plants. Special thanks to the guys who transported the props and built the display, to Allan Rae who looked after the booking in of plants, and to those members who did security. I didn't have much time to have a good look at the plants in the display except to say that the overall quality was excellent. Congratulations to all the prize winners.

New Growing Competition:

Our new Growing Comp plant has an updated name of: Rhyncattleanthe Hell Hammer 'Lemon Delicious'. The abbreviation of Rhyncattleanthe is RTH. The plants are all mericlones, so there will be no variation in the blooms. If you google the name you will find some better pictures of the bloom. Lovely! These are to be benched under class 30. Please put your name or competition number on the pot because the plants are all about the same size and appearance. There's no need to write the full name on your benching card. Just use "Growing Comp" and your competition number on the front, and your name on the back.



Paph sukhakulii

Novice Nook

WITH GARY HODDER

GROWING INDIAN 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 coarse jumbo perlite
- 2 parts charcoal coarse 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 coarse 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.

Gary's Info

Excerpts from Gary Hodder's talk on pests and diseases.

TIPS FOR SPRAYING ORCHIDS:

- Many chemicals work better if mixed in water with a pH below 6.0.
- Never spray when the air temperature is above 25 degrees C.
- Always check to make sure the wetting agent is not petroleum based.
- Never spray chemicals on the flowers or buds as they will mark.
- Never use sprays that have been mixed more than 8 hours ago.
- If you use dishwashing liquid as a wetting agent it will raise the pH level.
- If spraying for nocturnal insects spray at sunset or later.
- Spray all surfaces of the orchid not just the upper surface of the leaves.
- Most fungicides work best by themselves so don't mix with anything else.
- Read the directions on the container before using the product.
- When spraying aggressive chemicals always use protective clothing.

CONTROLLING SAP FEEDING INSECTS:

In most cases it is better to use an eco friendly spray such as Pyrethrum, Eco Oil or Eco neem. However some alternate ways for small numbers of insects are as shown below:-

Scale:- Squash or scrape off scale with a cotton bud on stems or the underside of leaves.

Mealy Bug:- Rub with isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab to remove the bugs.

Aphids:- Spray soapy water on the aphids to kill them

White Fly:- Attract with sticky traps like the Insect Glue Trap.

Spider Mites:- Kill spider mites with any combination of soap and water, or a mixture of dish soap and vegetable oil.

Thrips:- Use Malathion, Confidor or Success sprays as neem oil is not registered to kill thrips.

CONTROLLING CHEWING PESTS:

The best way to kill these chewing insects is to pick them off by hand or use an approved product specifically formulated to kill them as manufactured by Yates, Eco Organic garden, Defender, or Bayer.

Snails and Slugs:- Use eco friendly snail and slug pellets.

Caterpillars:- Oil Spray. Combine 2 tablespoons canola oil and 1 teaspoon liquid soap with 2 cups warm water.

Roaches:- Spray your orchid with garlic or rosemary oil at the rate of 170ml per 9lt of water and 5ml of dishwashing soap.

Grasshoppers:- Spray your orchids with a mixture of 1 part apple vinegar with 3 parts water and add 5ml of dishwashing soap.

Dendrobium Beetles:- There is no product in Australia registered to kill Dendrobium Beetle.

Ants:- Spray your plant with a mixture of: 10 drops dish soap, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon extract and 2 cups tepid water.

Rats and mice:- Remove the rats and mice with humane traps, or use repellents to keep the rats and mice away.

Winter Show Major Prize Winners:

Champion Orchid

Cattleya Loddigesii 'John'

Exhibited by John and Neva Janz

Reserve Champion Orchid

Cym Mary Green 'Green Gables'

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Novice Champion Orchid

No entries

Champion Cymbidium

Cym Mary Green 'Green Gables'

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Australasian Native

Den speciosum 'Paradiso' x 'Heather'

Exhibited by John and Neva Janz

Champion Any Other Orchid

Cattleya Loddigesii 'John'

Exhibited by John and Neva Janz

Special Award

Cym Loch Watten 'Purity'

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Winter Show Pics:

Thanks Gary Hodder.



