



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

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Member photo



Wendy's softcane

Editorial

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Next Meeting:

November 15th from 7pm
AGM

Meeting Address:

Uniting Church Hall
13 Carrington Rd, Strathfield

Websites:

www.wsorchidsociety.com
www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/
www.orchids.org

Email:

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Jan Binovec Arthur Smyrnios
Jonathan Clark

COVID restrictions have now eased enough that we're able to hold meetings again, yay! This means we'll be back in our usual venue at the church hall in Strathfield for our November and December meetings. Please remember that COVID vaccination restrictions apply, which means we expect anyone attending to be double-vaccinated. Please see the COVID safety plan on page 4.

Thanks to everyone involved in putting together the Spring Show. I hear it was a resounding success and very popular with the public. See Peter Meyer's show report on page 5. All the show pics are on our website and will be posted shortly to Flickr.

Coming up this month will be our overdue AGM. We'd love to see some new faces on Committee, so if you'd like to nominate for any of the positions please let myself or Peter Meyer know.

Committee has decided to cancel the Christmas Party for this year. With all the COVID restrictions we were not able to confirm the venue and menu enough in advance for it to go ahead. Instead we'll have a normal meeting at the church hall with a few small Christmassy surprises thrown in. We'll still be going ahead with the usual Christmas raffle so please bring along a donation or three. We have our usual space available for benching so there will be no restrictions on plant numbers for the show bench.

As it's coming towards the end of the year it's time to tally the point scores (such as they are) and prepare the trophies. Please ensure all trophies are returned at the November meeting so that they can be prepared for this year's winners. If you're unable to come to the November meeting, please contact Peter Meyer or myself for an alternative arrangement.

Thanks Wendy for sending me a couple of photos of her orchids in flower. You made the front page! If anyone else has photos of their orchid flowers, please send them on, especially if the orchid is unable to make it to a meeting.

Lastly, Maria Pusic and Maria Gomes, we don't have your correct phone number. Please talk to me so I can update our records.

Cheers, Sam.

Arthur's Notes

Number of plants benched at the Spring Show = 68

Number of exhibitors = 11

Total views WSOS Flickr Photo Pages = 862599

Number of Photos on Flickr Photo Pages = 2741

Spring show:

Thank you to the President and Committee for organising the show at short notice. As usual the display looked great and it was wonderful to get out and about after 106 days of lockdown. Congratulations to all the prize winners. Results appear elsewhere in this bulletin.

Novice Nook

CATTLEYA CULTURE

By Ray Clements

Pronounced KAT-lee-uh, this group of orchids originate from a large area of tropical and sub-tropical America. They occur in many sizes, shapes and colours but are best known for their large flamboyant blooms. Most grow as epiphytes, or air plants. They have large pseudobulbs that are used to store water and have thick, fleshy roots that have the ability to collect moisture from the air.

Light:

Light is important for good flowering. About 50% shade is optimal, however if leaves overheat in summer this may need to be increased to 70% shade. Leaves should be medium green colour and pseudobulbs rigid and erect without staking. Excessive shading will reduce flowering dramatically and lead to soft, floppy growths.

Temperature:

Temperature should range between a minimum of 5-7 degrees Celsius in winter to a maximum of about 30-35 degrees Celsius in summer. Avoid watering if the temperature falls below 10 degrees. Small plants need to be protected from temperature extremes. High day temperatures up to 35 degrees can be tolerated if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

Water:

Water can be provided in two ways, in the pot from watering and in the air from humidity. For a plant growing in good open media, watering twice each week in summer and once a week in winter is sufficient. In summer avoid watering during the heat of the day. In winter only water on a bright sunny morning. The root system on these plants can easily be damaged by excess water. If in doubt, defer watering.

Humidity:

Humidity is important to Cattleyas as roots prefer to grow in humid air rather than to be wet. Humidity needs to range from 50% to 80%, with about 60% being ideal. In winter watering can be delayed by wetting the greenhouse floor and circulating air around the plants. This technique can also help to cool the plants in summer. If you live in a southern winter rainfall area, it may be necessary to grow your cattleyas under a solid cover so watering can be controlled.

Fertiliser:

Fertilise with a complete balanced NPK fertiliser for flowering plants. Apply fertiliser with every second watering.

Pots & Medium:

Pots should be shallow, no deeper than they are wide and should have plenty of holes to allow for good drainage. Media needs to be coarse and long lasting. OrchidMate Coconut Husk Chips is ideal. Treated pine bark is also popular. As a guide, use medium grade (10mm) in 100mm pots, large grade (15mm) in 150mm pots, and extra large grade (20mm) in 200mm pots or larger.

Pests & Diseases:

Apart from root rot caused by overwatering, Cattleyas can be attacked by pests such as scale and mealy bug. Check under dead bracts on old bulbs for hidden scale. This is easily controlled by Rogor or Pest Oil. Slugs and snails love fresh root tips, as do cockroaches, so check for these pests if root tips are being damaged. Hanging plants or growing on mesh benches can help, but otherwise snail bait may be necessary.

COVID Safety Plan

Please remember that all government COVID safety rules are applicable. You can review these here: [Greater Sydney restrictions](#) | [NSW Government](#). There will be hand sanitiser available.

- Anyone that is unwell or, within the last 14 days, has had any COVID symptoms, been in contact with confirmed/suspected COVID cases, or travelled internationally, should not attend.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Social distancing is to be maintained.
- It is expected that you will attend only if you have been double-vaccinated.
- Sign-in at the door is mandatory.
- Everyone is to wipe down their own chair with sanitiser before leaving.
- All tables and other surfaces must be sanitised before we leave. This includes door handles, items from the storerooms, any items used in the kitchen, and anything else you might have touched.
- One person only in the kitchen.

Please remember, everyone is responsible for both their own and everyone else's health and safety and no one wants to see any of our members or their families put at risk.

Spring Show Major Prize Winners

Champion Orchid

Dendrobium Mousmee

Exhibited by Ana Toth

Reserve Champion Orchid

Cymbidium Bunyip 'Precious Memories'

Exhibited by Arthur Smyrnios

Champion Cymbidium

Cymbidium Bunyip 'Precious Memories'

Exhibited by Arthur Smyrnios

Champion Dendrobium

Dendrobium Mousmee

Exhibited by Ana Toth

Champion Australasian Native

Sarcochilus Kulnura Breccia

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Species Orchid

Dendrobium farmer

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

Champion Any Other Orchid

Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin 'Sunny Bank'

Exhibited by Jonathan Clark

Special Award

Epicattleya Dark Fire

Exhibited by Dimitri Mitsios

By Peter Meyer

I'd like to thank all the members who attended and helped out with this show. I was very pleased to see Nat at the setup. For me life is good when we see Nat. Of course John and Neva helped out as usual, Peter McBryde, our fantastic new Secretary Kim, Arthur Midgley, and Allan Rae who we haven't seen for a while, Dimitri, Gary Hodder, Arthur Smyrnios, John Costa and Jonathan Clark. If I've forgotten anybody, please forgive me. I know you were there.

The display was great and thanks to Arthur for sorting the judging. Thanks to those who bought plants for us to sell. While I haven't got the financial results, I have the feeling we will have a profit of around \$2000 which is a great result.

A big thanks to the Mall for all their help and sponsorship and they've already asked me for dates for next year.

And just to finish, Gary Hodder invited me to his house to see his sensational Mousmee.

I was very interested to see how and what Gary grows. Very interesting and my thanks to Gary for the invitation. My thanks to everyone who has helped me in this difficult year. I won't stand for President next year but I will stand for Vice President. And special thanks to our new Secretary Kim who is already doing a great job.

From America

Found in the American Orchid Society newsletter. This is a *Renanthera imshootiana* which is 7ft (2.1m) across. This amazing plant was given a cultural award scoring 100 points, which makes it the second plant to be awarded a perfect score in AOS history.



Member photos

Wendy sent me another photo this month, this time a selection of her Cymbids. Thanks Wendy!



Peter Meyer went to Gary Hodder's for a visit and brought back some photos. Thanks Pete!









