



Western Suburbs ORCHID SOCIETY

wsorchidsociety.com

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Plant of the Night for September



Cymbidium Heartbreak Doctor 'Bullet'

Editorial

Contents:

- Editorial: page 2
- Minutes: page 3
- Arthur's Notes: page 4
- Novice Nook: page 5

Next Meeting:

21st October at 7:45pm
Annual General Meeting

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www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/
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Oh wow was it good to be home! I was rather impressed by the new floor of the hall and the table racks made setup and pulldown much easier. A new curtain on the stage and a generous lick of paint throughout and it's almost like we're in a new but strangely familiar room. I think everyone breathed a sigh of relief!

Last month we had a change from our usual Getting to Know You format. This time Peter Meyer donned his "Michael Parkinson" hat and interviewed Jonathan Clark, asking him a little about himself and how he came to orchid growing. Thanks Pete for mixing it up and I really enjoyed the talk. Thanks Jonathan for agreeing to be interviewed, and I hope you enjoyed sharing with us.

Coming up this month we have our AGM. We now have two positions open on the Committee, as sadly Joy Gouvoussis will not be standing again this year. Thanks Joy for all your help and great ideas and we're all sad to see you go. If anyone can spare any time to help your club, now is the time to think about nominating for Committee. We'd love to have you and your ideas along for the ride!

The Christmas Party is coming around again soon. It will be at the usual venue at the Bardwell Valley Golf Club. Cost is yet to be determined, but it will be around \$25-\$30. We'll keep you posted on the exact cost and will start taking payments at the November meeting. Don't forget direct deposit is also available, and remember to put your name in the "message" field so we know who has paid.

Cheers, Sam

Minutes of WSOS monthly meeting held on 16th September 2019**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 August to Tong Wun for Phal Hsinying Concert x unknown.
- Last chance to get the latest Growing Competition plant. \$12 each. Please remember to transfer your plant number to the new pot if you're repotting.
- Membership renewals are now overdue. Last chance to pay before bulletins and other membership perks cease. Please see Peter Meyer in the break.
- 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.
- Some discussion around the Winter Show at Ashfield. Yet another plant has been stolen and the general feeling is that mall management are not responding or helping us with the continued thefts. The plant in question this time was right in the middle of the display and difficult to get at so it was obviously someone who knew what they were after. We need to ensure at least two people are present at all times during mall opening hours.
- Committee has decided on a change in meeting format so as to do away with many of the boring formalities. Peter Meyer also changed the format of our annual Getting to Know You night and interviewed member Jonathan Clark instead of the usual breakup into small discussion groups.
- 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:

Oct = AGM

Nov = Fred Fetherston

Dec = Christmas Party

Supper Roster:

Oct = Jan Binovec and Louisa Cheung

Nov = Wendy Choy

Dec = N/A

Upcoming Shows:

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

WSOS Spring show 24-27th October at Ashfield Mall.

SPECIES Society Show Day and Auction 26th October at West Pennant Hills Community Church, 41-43 Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills. Auction starts at 10:15am.

Arthur's Notes

Counts:

Number of plants benched = 67

Number of exhibitors = 17

Total views WSOS of the Flickr photo pages = 766,000

Number of photos on the Flickr photo pages = 2533

Orchid Benching:

Seventeen members exhibited 67 plants at the meeting. Plant of the night was Cymbidium Heartbreak Doctor 'Bullet', which is a miniature Cymbidium with many racemes and too many blooms to count. Congratulations to Philip Festa. The Cymbidium was originated by Andy Easton in New Zealand in 2004.

I didn't have a chance to have a good look at the other contenders for Plant of the Night, but there were many high quality orchids on the bench.

NOTE: Den. Fantasy Land 'Princess' was again benched in the Hard Cane Dendrobium section. It doesn't look like an Australasian Dendrobium Hybrid but it certainly is.

Church Hall:

Wonderful transition, great to be back there and the little things make a big difference. Examples: feet being on all the chairs and the stacking frame for the tables.

Orchid Names:

The great renaming and confusion involved many changes including deletion of variety names for species orchids where (I assume) the variety did not occur in the wild or was not described by a botanist.

A task in waiting is to go through the 2533 photos on the Society's Flickr pages and fix up the names, maybe in 2020.

Flickr Photo Pages:

The Flickr site was sold by Yahoo to SmugMug Inc. a few months ago. Don't you just love the name! Anyway, 766,000 views is pretty amazing. Have a look at our most viewed photo at this link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wsos/4485480840/>. Wow!

We have been lucky over the years having some skilled photographers as society members.

INTERESTING ORCHID FACTS

The Night Booming Orchid

With over 25,000 species of orchids, there are a variety of shapes, sizes, and traits. However, in 2011, a new species was found that was different from all the others. Discovered by a Dutch researcher in Papua New Guinea, the *Bulbophyllum nocturnum* orchid is the only one to bloom exclusively at night. In addition, the flower blooms for one night only which makes a short life for the flower. Although not much is known about it yet, it is amazing that there is still so much to be discovered about orchids.

Orchids as Glue



With their brilliant colors and amazing shapes, it is no surprise that orchids were highly regarded to the indigenous people of Central and South America. However, aside from their inherent beauty, the orchid also provided many uses to them; one of which was glue. The Aztecs would dry the roots in the sun, mash them into a fine powder and then add water. The result was a strong gum adhesive that was used to make wonderful feather artwork and even violins.

Bee Orchids



One of the most fascinating kinds of orchids is the *Ophrys scolopax*, or the bee orchid. Found in areas around the Mediterranean, this orchid has developed a unique way to ensure pollination. The flower has three colorful petals, but it also has one that looks like a female bee. In addition, the petals of the orchid produce a smell that mimics that of a female bee. All of this attracts a male who ends up covered in pollen, and then repeats the cycle and pollinates other flowers.

Scientists find fossilized orchid pollen on the back of a bee

Pollen from an ancient orchid was found on the back of a bee encased in amber, as detailed in a 2007 study in the journal *Nature*. The fossil was dated to around 10 million or 15 million years ago, but scientists suspect that the orchid family is far older. Some research even dates some species of orchid to around 120 million years ago, before the continents split into their current form.

Two species of orchids whose natural habitats are thousands of miles apart are actually closely related. Scientists think that the plants probably had a common ancestor before they were separated by continental drift.