

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

**MONTHLY  
NEWS  
LETTER**

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 42 - Issue : 9

**Next Meeting: 8 pm Friday – 18 October 2019**

**Venue: St. Timothy's Catholic  
Community School Hall  
21 Stevens Road, Vermont.  
(Melway, Map 62 Ref.G3)**

**ITEM OF THE EVENING:** Jim Foster-Johnson  
How to grow soft cane Dendrobiums

<b>Topical Chat:</b>	AGM
<b>Supper:</b>	Please bring a plate
<b>Special Effort:</b>	Tickets at door \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.00
<b>Library:</b>	Books, Magazines Librarians - B Martin/L Frost.
<b>Sales Table:</b>	Pots, stakes, labels and hangers – C Luth
<b>Bench Competition:</b>	Bench Commentary – D. Weise

# President's Report

Spring has arrived with a different start this year. We have had the coldest October night for over 30 years and now, the heat has arrived with a very warm 29 forecast for today.

The cooler and sometimes damp winter did affect flowering this year. Looking at the plants in flower at our Spring Show you would not know it as our show was a splendid show of colour and variety.

Thanks to members who showed plants and to spent time over the weekend assisting and greeting people.

It was wonderful to see Alan Cockram visit the show on Saturday afternoon. Special thanks to Karin and her helpers who looked after the canteen. Saturday night presentation dinner was well attended and it was great to have Nancy Cockram with us.

Our show was another successful one. Plant sales were exceptional and the orchid bark sold well. Packing up of our show on Sunday was a superb effort.

Only 2 hours after closing, the hall was cleaned and empty.

Special thanks to Max Bomford as always, and others who helped to pack the trestles away. Jim Foster –Johnson looked after the additional lighting which gave the displays great light so that visitors could really see the plants and their colours.

Now that show time is over, it is time to look at your plants and see what needs attention, dividing etc to get ready for the growing season. Keep your watering up on the hot windy days as plants dry out very quickly.

I trust that any member who has been unwell is feeling better.

October meeting is our AGM. We have vacancy's for 2 Vice President's and a Committee member. If you would like to help with either of these positions, please do not hesitate to nominate at the AGM.

Best regards,

David










<b>M.O.S. Inc. Patron:</b>	David Cannon
<b>Life Members:</b>	The late Frank Date, Jim Foster-Johnson, David Cannon, Alan & Nancy Cockram, Dieter Weise, Barry Robinson, Susanne Redpath, Max Bomford, Cheryl Luth, G Moffat.
<b>Current M.O.S. Inc. Committee:</b>	
<b>President</b>	David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Alan Cockram (H) 9874 3041 Vacant
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492: email <a href="mailto:leoorland@fundraising.com.au">leoorland@fundraising.com.au</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793
<b>Committee</b>	Leanne Le (M) 0416 818 290 Cheryl Luth (H) 9764 2198 Daniel Tung Jim Foster-Johnson (M) 0412 366 686 Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Edith Yu-Chan
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Leo Orland
<b>Floral Art:</b>	Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307: email <a href="mailto:mulgasusie@gmail.com">mulgasusie@gmail.com</a>
<b>Librarians:</b>	Lurline Frost, Barbara Martin
<b>Website Manager</b>	Daniel Tung
<b>MOS Website Address</b>	<a href="http://www.oscov.asn.au/mos">www.oscov.asn.au/mos</a>
<b>MOS Facebook Address</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/maroonadahorchidsociety">www.facebook.com/maroonadahorchidsociety</a>

## **REMINDER:**

We still have a quantity of Power Orchidiata Bark 9-12mm available.

If any member who did not collect their order at the show or who would like additional bags, please contact David Cannon and it can either be collected at the October meeting or David's place.

## Interesting Plants at September Meeting

		
<p>D. Weis's <i>Cattleya coccinea</i></p>	<p>D. Tung's <i>Dendrobium</i> Star of Riverdene 'Castle Creek'</p>	<p>L. Le's <i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon x <i>speciosum</i></p>
		
<p>J. and S. Tse's <i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'</p>	<p>S. Kapp'l's <i>Mediocalcan bifolium</i></p>	<p>L. Le's <i>Sarc. falcatus</i></p>
		
<p>D. Weise's <i>Oncidium</i> Omeo x <i>Grampians</i></p>	<p>M. Bomfort's <i>Paph N. Chouvetii</i> 'Van Dyke'</p>	<p>J. Foster-Johnson's <i>Pleione</i> Tongariro</p>



## Bench Competition - September - 2019

<b>JUDGE'S AND</b>	Cattleya Coccinea	c	D. Weise
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Dendrobium Hilda Poxon x speciosum 'Compact'	c	L. Le
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Cattleya Coccinea	c	D. Weise
<b>Intermediate</b>	Mediocalcan bifolium	c	S. Kappl
<b>Novice</b>	Oncidium Twinkle	c	S. & J. Tse
<b>Open</b>			
Miniature Cymbidium	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	c	L. Le
Masdevallia Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Morning glory	c	L. Le
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Copper Fire x Copper Wing	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Falcata Gold Rush	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Masdevallia Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Ignea	c	D. Weise
Laelinae Intermediate	1 <sup>st</sup> Unkown	c	L. Le
Any Other Hybrid	1st Pleione Tongariro	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Species Any Genera – The America's	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. coccinea	c	D. Weise
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Onc. sotoanum	c	D. Cannon
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Hilda Poxon x speciosum	c	L. Le
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Bittern x Aussie Pearl	c	D. Tung
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. Star of Riverdine Castle Creek	c	D. Tung
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarc. falcatus	c	L. Le
Paphiopedilum	1 <sup>st</sup> Honey Gorse	c	M. Bomford
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apaloosa	c	M. Bomford
Paphiopedilum Primary or Novelty	1 <sup>st</sup> Omco x Grampions	c	D. Weise
<b>Intermediate</b>			
Australian Native – Dendrobium Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Dochrillia Striolata	c	M. Dew
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Kurring gai x Corigans Red	c	M. Dew
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarc. falcatus	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Plectochilus kilgra 'Rose'	c	S. Kappl
Any Other Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Vandachosbylis Pinky 'Party Girl'	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sartylis Janine Bunts	c	M. Dew
Species Any Genera – Asia	Mediocalcan bifolium	c	S. Kappl
<b>Seedling Flowering For The First Time</b>			
<b>Open</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. FalconReward	c	D. Cannon
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cym. Kirby Lesh x Regal Flame	c	L. Le
<b>Intermediate &amp; Novice</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarco. wein thalii	c	S. Kappl

## Photo Highlights from the 2019 Spring Show



**The Club Stand**



**Terri Poulton's stand**



**FLOWER POWER**



**Champion Cymbidium of the Show    Champion Orchid of the Show    Reserve Champion of the Show**

**Maroondah Orchid Society  
2019 Spring Show  
Major Show Winners**

Pre-Eminent Orchid of the Show	Epidendrum Stamfordianum	M. Coker
Grand Champion Orchid of the Show	Paph. Dark Destiny x Night Watch	M. Coker
Reserve Grand Champion of the Show	Srac. Magic 'Floral Circle'	C. Halls
Champion Cymbidium of the Show	Regal Flame 'Queen of Hearts'	D. Wain
Best Large Flowered Cymbidium Open Section	Regal Flame 'Queen of Hearts'	D. Wain
Best Large Flowered Cymbidium Other Than Open	Joan's Charisma	C. Nu
Best Medium or Small Flowered Cymbidium Open Section	Glory Days x Sleeping Dawn 'Royal'	A. Tran
Best Medium or Small Flowered Cymbidium Other than Open	Ruby Eyes	C. Nu



Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria Award – for an outstanding exhibit which does not win a major prize - All Sections	Hazel Dawn ‘Royal’	D. Wain
Champion Australian Native of the Show (Species or Hybrid) All sections	Sarc. Magic ‘Floral Circle’	C. Halls
Best Australian Native (Species or Hybrid) Open Section	Sarc. Magic ‘Floral Circle’	C. Halls
Best Australian Native (Species or Hybrid) Other than Open	Den. Aussie Parade Carret (?)	C. Nu
Champion Hybrid Any Other Genera Excluding Cymbidiums and Australian Natives – All Sections	Paph. Dark Destiny x Night Watch	M. Cocker
Champion Species Excluding Australian Natives	Paph Hirsutissimum	M. Cocker
Champion Seedling of the Show – All Sections	Paph. Dark Destiny x Night Watch	M. Cocker
Best Exhibit by an Intermediate Grower	Cym. Ruby Eyes	C. Nu
Best Exhibit by a Novice Grower	Cym. Spark Sprite	K. Hane
Laurel Harris Memorial Award Champion Floral Art Exhibition	Orchid in Your Favourite Container	S. Hamilton



# WHY WON'T IT FLOWER?

by Brian Milligan



Many of us have orchids that we've seldom, if ever, flowered. I have lots and therefore consider myself eminently qualified to write about this topic! There are many reasons why an orchid won't flower but most can be summarised under the single heading – poor culture.

The question most often asked by visitors to our orchid shows in winter and spring is “why won't my cymbidium flower?” If you then ask “Are its leaves nice and green”, the most common reply is “Yes, they're a nice deep green”. That reply provides the clue that the orchid is being grown in too much shade. It often transpires that it's growing in the dense shade of a tree or under a veranda with a heavily tinted fibreglass roof. To flower well, cymbidiums need full sun throughout the entire day during the winter months and no more than 50% shade for the remainder of the year. When grown under these conditions, their leaves will be yellowish green rather than deep green.

Of course, there's more to flowering cymbidiums than providing them with good light. They also need regular (frequent) watering and fertilising, so that they produce large pseudo-bulbs. As a general rule, the larger the bulbs, the more flower spikes they will produce. Low night temperatures during summer encourage the development of flower spikes – some growers cool their cymbidiums during hot summer weather by watering at night.

However, lack of light or irregular watering and fertilising doesn't explain why an orchid will flower reliably each year, while its neighbour seldom does, even though it receives the same treatment. It's a fact of life that some cymbidium hybrids flower more regularly than others, no matter how well they are grown. Some seedlings never develop large pseudo-bulbs due to a genetic problem and there's no point in persisting with these plants when you could be growing a more productive plant in its place.

Some Australian native dendrobium hybrids flower at a much earlier age than others. Those bred to produce pink flowers tend to grow faster and flower much sooner than those bred for yellow flowers. In general, hybrids of *Dendrobium speciosum* seem to take longer to flower than almost all others, especially if its pod or pollen parent also has *D. speciosum* in its ancestry. After ten years, I'm still waiting for some *D. (speciosum x Sunsprite)* seedlings to flower! The secret to flowering Australian dendrobiums well is to provide the plants with good light, to hang them where they receive good air movement and to apply a potassium-rich liquid fertiliser regularly.

The above discussion relates to orchids grown in a 'cosy' shade-house. There are additional reasons why those grown in the glasshouse won't flower, depending on the conditions under which they grow in nature. For example, you can't expect most vandas to flower for you if the temperature in your glasshouse consistently falls below 15°C and you cover it with shade cloth throughout the year (*Vanda coerulea* is an exception, being tolerant to quite low temperatures in winter, although it still needs high light). Cattleyas don't need such a high minimum temperature but they do need more light than many other orchids if you hope to flower them well.

*Paphiopedilums*, *masdevallias* and other *pleurothallids* need much less light than cattleyas and vandas, so don't expect to be able to grow and flower all of them together under the same conditions. My advice is to find out which genera grow best under your conditions and then to concentrate on those.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**MPOS** 6-12 Oct Shopping Centre Hrs Karingal Shopping Centre 330 Cranbourne Rd Frankston.

**BALLARAT** 18-20 Oct Fri 12-5 Sat/Sun 10-3 Federation Uni, Cnr Gillies St N & Gregory St Wendouree.

**YVOS** 19-20 Oct Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4 Seville Public Hall, 590 Warburton Hwy Seville.

**BAYSIDE** 26-27 Oct Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4 Cranbourne Public Hall, 166 South Gippsland Hwy Cranbourne.

**RINGWOOD / YVOS** 2-3 Nov Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4 Civic Square Croydon.

**MPOS** 8-10 Nov Shop Hours Bunnings Mornington, 1100 Nepean Hwy Mornington.

## **ONE LAST THOUGHT:**

A police officer stops a minivan full of elderly ladies being driven by an old gentleman because they're only going 25 mph, stopping the mid-day traffic.

The policeman asks the driver why is he going so slow.

"Well that's the speed limit, isn't it! There was a sign saying 25 and everything!" the driver defends himself.

The policeman sighs, "No, sir, that's the number of the highway you're on. It has nothing to do with the speed limit."

"Oh, so that's what it means..." says the driver, looking shocked.

The officer looks at the rest of the van and notices the grannies are looking somewhat frozen and stiff.

"What's up with the ladies?" he asks the driver.

"Um..." the driver scratches his head, "you see, we just got off highway 150..."

If Undeliverable Return to:  
The Hon. Secretary,  
Maroondah Orchid Society Incorporated  
P.O.Box 5076, Ringwood. Vic. 3134

## NEWSLETTER



**Smart Water Shop** offers up to a 10% discount on our range of products excluding specials and installations.

**Glenwood Orchids** offer “Valued Customer” discounts on presentation of your current membership card.

**Collectors Corner/Garden World** - You can get 10% off some items within the store by showing either your membership badge or membership card.

### DISCLAIMER

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