

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 43 - Issue : 2

**Next Meeting: 8 pm Friday 20 March 2020**

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

**ITEM OF THE EVENING:** Peter Miller, Hanging Gardens.  
Practical workshop.

Members to bring in plants from last workshop by Peter.

<b>Topical Chat:</b>	To Pot on or repot
<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, 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

Our February meeting was a great way to start our New Year with 49 members attending.

Summer appears to have gone with cooler Autumn nights, warm days and lots of beautiful rain.

Only a few heat effected plants for topical chat at our February meeting made for interesting discussion.

Our Guest speaker, John Skews, gave us one of the best, most practical interactive presentations we have had on a vast range of orchid growing methods. The vast amount of knowledge that John shared from his orchid growing gave all members much information and inspiration. I am sure all who were in attendance learnt new ideas for growing there orchids.

A good plant display for summer, considering the hot weather we have been having. Unfortunately, due to timing there was no bench commentary on the plant display.

As we continue into autumn, keep your watering up so that your plants do not dry out as it is the growth that your orchids make at this time of the year that will give you the best flowering. Also keep your fertilising regular which also assists with your plants growth and flowering.

Autumn is a good time to pot on/ re pot so look forward to our interactive topical chat this month.

See you at our March meeting.

Regards,

David

**M.O.S. Inc. Patron:** David Cannon

**Life Members:** The late Frank Date, Jim Foster-Johnson, David Cannon, Alan & Nancy Cockram, Dieter Weise, Barry Robinson, Susanne Redpath, Max Bomford, Cheryl Luth, G Moffat.

**Current M.O.S. Inc. Committee:**

**President** David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282

**Vice Presidents:** Vacant  
Vacant

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**Treasurer:** Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793

**Committee** 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

Heather Coleman

Christian Gunawan

**Membership Secretary:** Edith Yu-Chan

**Newsletter:** Leo Orland

**Floral Art:** Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307: email [mulgasusie@gmail.com](mailto:mulgasusie@gmail.com)

**Librarians:** Lurline Frost, Barbara Martin

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**MOS Facebook Address** [www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety](https://www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety)


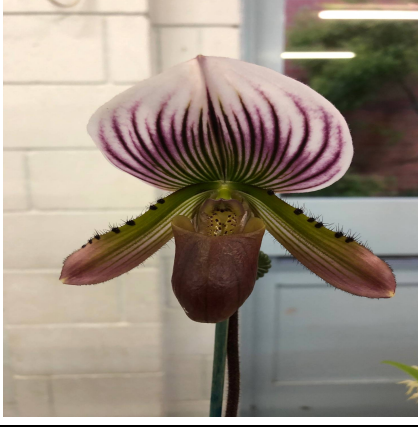







**Please consider others:**

**If you are not well, please consider not attending the monthly meeting.  
This is a time when we have to be especially careful with our health and  
considerate of others.**

**Thank you**

**MaroonDAH Orchid Society Committee**

## Interesting Plants at February 20 Meeting

		
<p>A. Baker's <i>Gomesa recurva</i></p>	<p>E &amp; T Styles's <i>Paph. Maudiae</i> x <i>Claudia</i> x Los O808</p>	<p>D. Weise's <i>Gastrorchis humblotii</i></p>
		
<p>C. Ng's <i>Phalaenopsis</i> 'Unknown'</p>	<p>E &amp; T Styles's <i>Bulb. thiurum</i></p>	<p>K. Balogh's <i>Psychopsis Kalihi</i></p>
		
<p>E &amp; T Styles's <i>Dendrobium Hibiki</i></p>	<p>D. Cannon's <i>Dendrobium</i> Graeme Banks</p>	<p>J. Foster-Johnson's <i>Neofinetia falcata</i></p>

## Bench Competition - February - 2020

<b>JUDGE'S Vote</b>	Gomesa recurva	c	A. Baker
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Gomesa recurva	c	A. Baker
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Gomesa recurva	c	A. Baker
<b>Intermediate</b>	Phalanopsis unkown	c	C. Ng
<b>Novice</b>	Prosthechea rochlenta	c	Tu Le
<b>Open</b>			
Miniature Cymbidium	1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Midnight 'Rosedche'	c	D. Tung
Masdevallia Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Perlatoriona	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Dendrobium	1 <sup>st</sup> Mingles Sapphire	c	E & T Styles
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Libiki	c	E & T Styles
Lycaste	1 <sup>st</sup> Betty Sparrow	C	B. Martin
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Limestone	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Graeme Banks	c	D. Cannon
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. Hilda Poxon	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarc. herticalcar	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Dove 'Goat' x Velvet	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Velvet	c	S. Kappl
Paphiopedilum Maudiae	1 <sup>st</sup> Maudiae x Claudia x Los O808	c	E & T Styles
Oncidiinae Large	1 <sup>st</sup> Psychopsis Kalili	c	K. Balogh
Oncidiinae Medium	1 <sup>st</sup> Onc. Rosy Sunset 'Rosebud'	c	E & T Styles
Laeliinae Intermediate	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawaiian Wedding Song	c	K. Balogh
	2 <sup>nd</sup> S.C. Cherry Bee	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Laeliinae Minature	1 <sup>st</sup> S.C. Lana Corell 'David'	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Epiphrenitis Veitchii	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Species Any Genera – The America's	1 <sup>st</sup> Gomesa recurva	c	A. Baker
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prosthechea cochleata	c	K. Balogh
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Pleurothallis	c	D. Weise
Species Any Genera - Asia	1 <sup>st</sup> Neofinetia falcata	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bulb. thiurum	cO	E & T Styles
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vanda falcataO	c	S. Kappl
Species Any Genera - Other	1 <sup>st</sup> Gastrorchis humblotii	C	D. Weise
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Stenoglottis Woodii	c	K. Balogh
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Stenoglottis Woodii	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Intermediate</b>			
Australian Native –	1 <sup>st</sup> Elise x Velvet	c	C. Ng

Sarcochilus Hybrid			
Oncidiinae Small	1 <sup>st</sup> Onc. Sharry Baby	c	C. Ng
Phalaenopsis	1 <sup>st</sup> Unknown	c	C. Ng
<b>Novice</b>			
Oncidiinae Medium	1 <sup>st</sup> Onc. Wildcat “Blood Shot”	c	S & J Tse
Species Any Genera – The Americas	1 <sup>st</sup> Prostliecea cochleata	c	Tu Le
<b>Seedling Flowering For The First Time</b>			
<b>Open</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Plectorrhiza brevilabris	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mormolyca schwernfurthiana	c	E & T Styles
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Paph. concolor	c	E & T Styles

## ORCHID ROOTS AND LEAVES

by Rex Johnson

All orchids have roots and most have leaves, but do we really understand the purpose of these major plant components? Orchids do not have a main (or tap) root – many roots may emerge from the base of the pseudo-bulb but these are classed as adventitious roots, being the same as those that are sometimes produced at other locations along the pseudo-bulb.

Leaves come in a variety of forms, ranging from some that are cylindrical in cross-section to others that are flat and papery. Many orchids rely on their leaves (small as they may be in some cases) as their only reserve of moisture in times of drought.

First, let’s look at the roots. They are not provided to hold an orchid in its pot, although they do come in handy for that purpose. The root system is the orchid’s farmland, where it gathers water and nutrients and transfers them to other parts of the plant. If we cut an orchid root at an oblique angle, we can see that it is made up of three concentric rings. The outer ring is similar to a sponge – it readily soaks up water and dissolved nutrients and passes them to the middle ring, known as the cortex. The outer ring, called the velamen layer, is usually whitish in colour when dry or moist but has a greenish tinge when fully saturated with water.

As moisture passes from the velamen to the cortex, the velamen draws in air, which forms a barrier that prevents water from being returned to the atmosphere, so helping the plant to preserve moisture for as long as possible. The cortex then passes on its absorbed water and nutrients to the inner ring, known as the pith. The channels (vascular bundles) within the pith contain xylem bundles and phloem tissue that then transfer the moisture and its dissolved nutrients to other parts of the plant.

Although some orchids do not have leaves, they play an important part in the health of most orchids. It is there that water and carbon dioxide (a trace component of air) react together, under the influence of sunlight and a green catalyst called chlorophyll, to produce various sugars. These, in turn, are processed into cellulose – the ‘bricks and mortar’ of all plants.

The upper surface of an orchid leaf has a smooth waxy texture, and is designed to reflect heat and act as a waterproof jacket that protects the outer leaf cells. The lower surface of the leaf is usually shaded from sunlight and it therefore has a much thinner protective layer. This layer is pierced with thousands of minute slits (known as stomata) that the plant can open or close as needed. Beneath each stoma (the singular of stomata) is a cavity in which water and carbon dioxide are held before they are converted to sugars etc., as described above. The number of stomata varies widely within different orchid genera, ranging from 800-18,000 per cm<sup>2</sup>, with a mean of about 3000 per cm<sup>2</sup> – an incredible number, when one considers that 1 cm<sup>2</sup> is about the area of a fingernail!

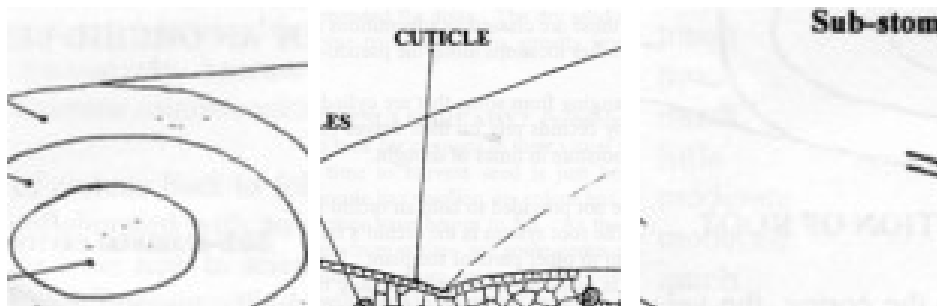
The above facts have raised some answered questions in my mind.

If orchid roots act like a sponge and soak up water and dissolved nutrients, why should we water our plants before we fertilise them? It seems to me that if the roots are already saturated with water, most liquid fertiliser subsequently applied would run to waste!

If the upper surfaces of the leaves are waxy and waterproof, why do we foliar feed our orchids? It seems to me that the only benefit that foliar feeding offers is the fertiliser that runs off into the pot and is then absorbed by the roots.

Literature. G.C. Morrison, The Essentials of Orchid Growing, Kangaroo Press (1991).

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#### **ONE LAST THOUGHT:**

A man found a magic lamp with a genie that offered him three wishes. The man said, “For my first wish, I’d like to be rich.” “Okay, Rich,” said the genie. “What would you like for your second wish?”

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.

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