

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

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Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Next Meeting: Friday 19 February 2021

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:

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President's Report

Another year is almost over, and what a year it has been. None of us would have ever thought when we last meet in February what changes and challenges we would go through this year. We have all had to adapt and when looking back, we, as an Orchid Society have managed to keep in touch electronically and to enjoy our orchids without having the opportunity to meet in person.

If the current restrictions continue we should be able to hold our February meeting which will be our AGM. As mentioned previously our AGM is when our elections are held. To help you understand what the various positions required to run our Society, please read the attached Rules.

Your committee meets once a month to keep your Society running, so please give some thought to being part of your committee next year. Nominations for all positions have to be received by end January. Nomination form is attached.



To you and all your family.

Keep safe and well.

David

Thank you to members who have contributed to pictures which are included in this newsletter. It is exciting to know that we will be meeting on Friday 19 February 2021. This will also include the AGM. I look forward to see you then.

In the mean time may you and your family have a very special Christmas and New Year, and stay safe.

With much thanks

Leo Orland

Can You Identify This Orchid?



The name of John Wong's plant is *Pleurothallis viduata*. The plant is native to Ecuador.
Thank you Dietre Weise.

This plant is still to be identified



The orchid normally only has 1 spike per bulb, but sometimes has twins(2 per spike).
Flowers are approx 10-12mm wide.

David Cannon's Plants in Flower Now



Cymbidium
Mad Irishman x suave



Cymbidium
Pee Wee



Cymbidium
Scallywag



Cymbidium
Touchstone 'Janis' x
Miss Muffet (Ken Boukarus)



Sarcophilus
Galazy 'Golden Circle'



Sarcophilus
Melba 'Barry'



Rinochilus
Colonial Zeal



Cymbidium
Scallywag 'Bermagui'

Dieter Weise's Plants in Flower Now



Oncidium
Catatante 'Kilauea Karma'



Oncidium
Jimbo 'Swarm'



Phragmipedium
caudata 'Charlotte'



Sarcophilus
Ceciliae



Masdevallia
occinea 'Blanca'



Masdevallia
veitchiana



Dendrobium
Inniganense



Paphiopedilum
lowii

Leanne Le's Plants in Flower Now



Dendrobium
euryalis



Dendrobium
Fimbriatum var Oculatum



Derndrobium
Gorgeous Smile



Dendrobium
Mousmee



Dendrobium
Mild Yumi 'Special'



Dendrobium
thysiflorum



Bulbophyllum
guttulatum



Polystachia
pubescens

WATERING ORCHIDS IN SUMMER

by Brian Milligan

Most orchid growers agree that in winter orchids should be watered in the morning, preferably on sunny days when the temperature is rising, so that the foliage is dry by nightfall. Watering in summer is more controversial. For a typical summer day in Melbourne with a maximum temperature around 25°C, I stick to the winter schedule and water in the morning. Foliage that remains wet overnight is prone to fungal attack, especially if the relative humidity is high. Glasshouses and other enclosed structures are always humid at night when the temperature falls.

Watering in hot weather, when temperatures exceed 30°C, and especially when hot, dry northerly winds are blowing, is another matter. Under these conditions small pots watered in the morning will be dry by midday. Watering in the evening is then much better, as the plants have all night to absorb water through their roots. If the weather is very hot, I water my small pots (up to 50 mm in diameter) both in the morning and at night. The above comments refer to plants, such as Australian native dendrobiums, grown in bark-based mixes. Plants grown in Sphagnum moss retain moisture much longer and seldom need watering more than once every second day, even in the hottest weather. Some orchids, such as dendrobiums and varicosum-type oncidiums, like to dry out between waterings, whereas cymbidiums and paphiopedilums do much better if their potting mix is never allowed to become completely dry.

There is an added benefit to watering cymbidiums at night in summer. The cooling effect produced by watering at that time induces flowering. Temperatures need to fall to 13°C or lower over a succession of nights in December and January for this to happen. The required cooling effect is fairly easy for us to achieve but not for Brisbane growers, who have great trouble in persuading many of their cymbidiums to bloom. One genus that definitely benefits from watering at night is Pleione. Max Akam, one of Melbourne's largest pleione growers, always waters his plants at night, and believes it is particularly important in hot weather.

Some growers with heated glasshouses water the orchids therein in the evening all year round. Their rationale is that rain falls mainly in the late afternoon or evening in the tropical regions where most of their species orchids grow, and that they are doing only "what comes naturally". However, unless the minimum temperature is about 15°C and there is excellent air circulation, I believe that watering at night throughout the year will ultimately lead to attack by Botrytis and other fungal infection.

No orchids should be watered at midday in very hot weather. Soft-leaved orchids, such as lycastes and pleiones, will suffer from leaf scald, and so may the new growths on soft-cane and Australian native dendrobiums. Also, it's best not to apply liquid fertilisers in hot weather, and preferably not when the roots are dry. Always ensure that the potting mix is damp before applying liquid fertilisers, or you may damage the roots (this advice has been handed down by a long line of expert orchid growers but may not be scientifically based). I prefer to play safe and water one day and fertilise the next. By choosing a cool spell of weather, then it won't be necessary to water for another couple of days. This allows time for the nutrients to be absorbed by the plant before they are flushed away with the next watering.

Whatever your watering technique, the most important thing to your plants is that they are watered. The effort that you put into your cymbidiums during summer will be reflected in how well they flower in winter and spring. So give them a Happy Christmas too, and water them regularly over the holiday season.

A LAST THOUGHT:

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party? Because he had nobody to go with!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

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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