

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 45 - Issue : 2

Next Meeting: Friday – 18 March 2022

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

ITEM OF THE EVENING:

**Peter Miller from Hanging Gardens –
Interactive Practical Workshop**

(This will be similar to the workshop held in 2018 and was very popular. And like last time plants that you plant can be purchased.)

Topical Chat: Please bring plants from the last practical workshop in 2018

Supper: Please bring a plate

Special Effort: Tickets at door \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.00

President's Report

Wasn't it great! Thirty-two people attended our first Club Meeting for 2022 and now the Government has eased restrictions on the mask mandate and QR Code check-in we can be more relaxed at our meetings, however, if you feel safer you are welcome to continue wearing a mask.

As this is a quieter time of the year for flowering orchids, we had only a handful from members for display at the February Club Meeting. The highlight of the evening was the talk and photos of Dockrillias by Jeanne Dunn. They surely are her passion and members were very keen to purchase from her many plants at the sales table.

February has continued to be warm and dry thereby requiring additional attention to keep our orchids alive.

Being back to the new normal, I hope members will be more comfortable returning to our 2022 meetings and shows. The Committee already has the program lined up until our Spring Show in September. Keep watching for details in the monthly Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting with you at our Club Meeting on 18 March 2022 at the same place and time.

Ron Coleman

Please note: If you have changed your contact details such as phone, email address or home address can you please contact Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096 so we can update our records.

Thank you!

NEW MEMBER

I have great pleasure on behalf of the committee and members in welcoming Geoff McCully to our ranks. Geoff we hope you will have a long and fruitful association with the society.

ATTENDANCE BOOK - It is important that people attending the monthly meetings or society outings sign the attendance book. This is required for insurance purposes; if you don't sign you may not be covered in case of an accident.

SALES TABLE - Cheryl Luth

To buy – Check out the very good range of slimline, squat and basket pots, hangers, stakes and labels at very competitive prices for members.

To sell – Members are welcome to bring orchids or orchid related goods to sell on the Sales Table.

The club receives 15% commission on sales. Please fill out the appropriate sales document and make sure you put a price tag/sticker on the plant or goods.

M.O.S. Inc. Patron:	David Cannon
Life Members:	The late Frank Date, Jim Foster-Johnson, David Cannon, Alan & Nancy Cockram, Dieter Weise, The late Barry Robinson, Susanne Redpath, Max Bomford, Cheryl Luth, G Moffat.
Current M.O.S. Inc. Committee:	
President	Ron Coleman (M) 0477 311 188
Vice Presidents:	David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282 Vacant
Secretary:	Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492: email leoorland@totalfundraising.com.au
Treasurer:	Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793
Committee	Leanne Le (M) 0416 818 290 Daniel Tung Jim Foster-Johnson (M) 0412 366 686 Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096 Heather Coleman Claudia Ng
Membership Secretary:	Edith Yu-Chan
Newsletter:	Leo Orland
Floral Art:	Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307
Website Manager	Heather Coleman
MOS Website Address	www.oscov.asn.au /mos
MOS Facebook Address	www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety

Storage Space Needed

Maroondah Orchid Society needs to store various items that are needed for our spring show and other MOS activities. If you have or know someone who may have space available, 3 metres x 3 metres approx., please contact Ron on 0477 311 188.

Thank you

Interesting Plants From the February Meeting



S. Kappl's Den. Limestone



D. Cannon's Porterara
Blue Boy 'Jill'



J. Wong's Cym. Midnight
Muffet 'Spotted Dog'



A. Baker's Gomesa recurva



J. Foster-Johnson's SC Lana
Corall 'David'



S. Kappl's Sarc. hirticalar



C. Luth's Prosthehnea cochleata



J. Foster-Johnson's Dend.
devonianum



S. Kappl's Vanda Lou Sheary

BENCH COMPETITION - FEBRUARY – 2022

JUDGES VOTE	Dendrobium Limestone	c	S. Kappl
POPULAR VOTE	Porterara Blue Boy ‘Jill’	c	D. Cannon
BEST IN SECTION			
Open	Dendrobium Limestone	c	S. Kappl
Novice	Cymbidium Midnight Muffet ‘Spotted Dog’	c	J. Wong
	Open Section		
Australian Native	1 st Dendrobium Limestone	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Species	1 st Sarc. hirticalcar	c	S. Kappl
	2 nd Sarc. eriochilus	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcophilus Hybrid	1 st . Sarc. Peristerchilus Cherub	c	S. Kappl
	2 nd Sarc. Evening Star	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Laeliinae Miniature	1 st SC Lana Coryall	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Any Other Hybrid	1 st Porterara Blue Boy ‘Jill’	c	D. Cannon
	2 nd Vanda Lou Sheary	c	S. Kappl
	3 rd Coelogyne celebensis x xyrekos	C	A. Baker
Species Any Genera – The America’s	1 st Gomesa recurva	C	A. Baker
	2 nd Epi. nocturnum	c	A. Baker
	3 rd Prosthechea cochleata	c	C. Luth
Species Any Genera – Asia	1 st Dendrobium devonianum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	Novice Section		
Miniature Cymbidium	1 st . Cym. Midnight Muffet ‘Spotted Dog’	c	J. Wong

SALE DAYS

The Orchid Species Society of Victoria has been holding an annual orchid sales day and show for many years. This year we will be again at our new larger venue. The Sale Day will be held on Sunday 13th March from 9am until 1pm. We will be holding a second Show and Sale Day on Sunday 3rd July 2022.

JOBS FOR AUTUMN

by Brian Milligan

I usually remove the last of the shade cloth in late April or early May to provide my orchids with as much light as possible. A week or two later I clean the fibreglass roofing on the shade houses, and clean the glasshouse roof. Then after another week I remove all the plants from the heated glasshouse so that I can clean the algae from the inside of the glass with a high-pressure jet cleaner. Obviously I have to choose a cloudy but warm day for this operation, so that the plants don't get sunburnt or chilled while outdoors. It's a lousy job, and I've been known to skip it on occasions but there's no doubt that the plants benefit from the higher light levels that they receive during winter after both sides of the glass have been cleaned. I usually spray the inside of the glass and the wire mesh benches with Purex® pool algicide at the same time to discourage further algal and fungal growth.

Unless you have a heated glasshouse, it's best to defer any re-potting now until Spring. An exception to this advice would be any orchid that you find to appear sickly – if you wait until Spring before applying appropriate treatment and/or re-potting, it may be dead by then!

With the onset of wetter weather, snails and slugs will be on the move. The odd one seems to find its way into my cymbidium pots, even though they are supported on wire mesh benches or suspended from hangers. It's written that snails and slugs won't crawl over galvanised iron mesh, but in my experience some of them seem to be illiterate! Possibly some reach their destination via overhanging leaves that touch the adjacent paling fence or perhaps via the foliage of other plants growing in the garden nearby. I suspect that others may hatch from eggs laid in the bark potting mix before I've used it to re-pot my orchids.

As a precaution against attack by snails and slugs, I sprinkle a few granules of Baysol® Slug and Snail Bait into each cymbidium pot in either April or May. I'm sure that other brands of snail bait are equally effective but the blue Baysol® granules seem to last longer, and usually one application lasts until the buds have opened and the flowers have passed their best. Snails don't seem to attack cymbidium leaves, only the flowers and then generally only the best ones. If they had legs, they would make excellent orchid judges!

Remember that all snail killers are toxic, so it's a good idea to use a disposable plastic glove when dispensing them. Note that they are also poisonous to animals, especially dogs, so always make sure that you store the packet where pets and inquisitive children can't reach it, and make sure that the bait is distributed down among the cymbidium foliage, so that your dog won't be able to find it.

Rats made their appearance among my orchids again at Easter time. They never bothered me (or my orchids) until a year or two ago, when the authorities decreed that our pet cat should be locked indoors after dark. Now I keep a permanent stock of Ratsak® in horizontal lengths of terra cotta agricultural pipe high up in two of my shade houses. The rat bait may remain untouched for a month or two before it disappears, but then it needs replenishing for several nights in succession before the rats disappear again. I dispense the bait in the above manner to ensure that our well-fed but stupid cat doesn't mistake the bait pellets for the 'nuts' that we occasionally give it as a special treat.

Pleione leaves will soon turn brown and fall. Occasionally novice growers believe that their plants have died, and have even been known to dispose of their 'dead' plants! However, it's a natural process for pleiones to shed their leaves at this time of year. If your pleiones are growing in an uncovered shade-house, it's a good idea to move them under cover for the winter. The dormant bulbs don't need watering during this period and they are less prone to rot under cover than if left outdoors in all weather conditions.

From now until they flower, soft-cane dendrobiums should be watered less frequently and given no fertiliser at all (because this seems to induce the plants to produce keikis instead of flowers). Give the plants as much light as possible, preferably exposure to full sunlight, to achieve maximum flower production. Some hybrids seem to flower more prolifically than others so, if you plan to buy more soft-cane dendrobiums, take note of those hybrids with lots of flowers at the spring shows and then try to find those varieties on the sales bench. Note that soft-cane dendrobium hybrids that flower well in NSW and Queensland (where the winters are sunnier) do not necessarily flower as well here in Victoria.

Australian native dendrobiums also flower better if they are exposed to good light during winter. They need less water and fertiliser at this time but I still water them weekly in mid-winter and apply a balanced fertiliser once each month. The plants are less likely to be attacked by caterpillars and aphids during winter but be watchful when the buds begin to appear because they are always the first parts of the plant to be attacked. Rats seem to be especially fond of Australian native dendrobiums, particularly their fleshy pseudo-bulbs. The appearance of leaves on the ground below your dendrobium plants is a sure sign that you have a rat infestation.

LAST THOUGHT:

What do Trees do in Autumn?

Take a Leaf of absence.

What does the tree say in autumn ?

Leaf me alone.

What do you call a pepper in late autumn?

A little chili

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

NEWSLETTER



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

DISCLAIMER

Maroondah Orchid Society Incorporated, Executive and Committee will not take any responsibility for the results of any action taken on advice given or views expressed by any member or invited speaker at any meeting or show. Views and opinions in this Newsletter by authors of articles do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Maroondah Orchid Society Incorporated or its Executive or Committee.