MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER



Volume : 45 - Issue : 3

Next Meeting: Friday – 22 April 2022

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

ITEM OF THE EVENING: John Varigos, visit to Malay border and Cameroon Highlands.

Topical Chat: Autumn jobs. Do you have an orchid that has over grown/filled it's pot and that needs to be potted up, divided or repotted and you are not sure what/how to do? Autumn is ideal time to do this. Bring your plant to April meeting for discussion on what/how to do.

Supper: Please bring a plate

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

Sales Table:Pots, stakes, labels and hangers – C. Luth

Bench Competition: Bench Commentary – D. Weise

President's Report

Our April meeting will celebrate the society's 44 years of existence. MOS being formed in 1978. Current members who joined the society in the 1978 inaugural year are David Cannon (Patron & Life Member), Jim Foster-Johnson (Life Member), Cheryl Luth (Life Member), Barbara Walker and Dieter Weise (Life Member). Each in their own way has served Maroondah with great dedication and distinction in various capacities over the years.

Not so great was the attendance of only 16 members at our March Club Meeting. However, those present had a fun time with Peter Miller, from the Hanging Garden Nursery, with a demonstration and then members mounting Dendrobium orchids on tree fern blocks.

For members who have not been in the best of health over recent months I wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to meeting with you at our Club Meetings soon. Our next Club Meeting will be held 22 April 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!

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 Vice Presidents:	Ron Coleman (M) 0477 311 188 David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282 Vacant			
Secretary: Treasurer: Committee	Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492: email <u>leoorland@totalfundraising.com.au</u> Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793 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: Newsletter: Floral Art:	Edith Yu-Chan Leo Orland Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307			
Website Manager MOS Website Address MOS Facebook Address	Heather Coleman www.oscov.asn.au /mos <u>www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety</u>			

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

Photos from the March Interactive Workshop with Peter Miller

A very enjoyable night had by all those who attended









Interesting Plants From the March Meeting

C. Luth's Mahalo Jack	C. Ng's Laelia Interceps	P. Hince's Miss Wonderful
'Çastle Creek'		
J. Foster-Johnson's SC Seagulls Delight	L. Le's Den. lawesii Discolour	J. Foster-Johnson's Promenea Stapellioides
S. Kappl's Sarc. Jill	D. Cannon's Sarconopsis Noelene Russell	C. Luth's Catt. harrisoniana

BENCH COMPETITION - March – 2022

JUDGES VOTE	Catt. Mahalo Jack 'Çastle Creek'	c	C. Luth
POPULAR VOTE	Laelia Interceps	c	C. Ng
BEST IN SECTION			
Open	Catt. Mahalo Jack 'Çastle Creek'	C	C Luth
Intermediate	Laelia Interceps	c	C. Ng
	Open Section		
Australian Native Dendrobium Species	1 st Den. rigidum	c	S. Kappl
	2 nd Den. taylori	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcochilus Hybrid	1 st . Sarc. Jill	C	S. Kappl
	2 nd Sarc. Evening Star	C	J. Foster-Johnson
Laeliinae Intermediate	1 st LC Miss Wonderful	c	Peter Hince
	2 nd Catt. Mahalo Jack	c	C. Luth
Laeliinae Miniature	1 st SC Seagulls Delight	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Laeliinae Cluster & Novelty	1 st Intermedia Interglossa	C	J. Foster-Johnson
Any Other Hybrid	^{1st} Sarconopsis Noelene Russell	c	D. Cannon
	2 nd Coelogne 'Linda Buckley'	c	L. Orland
Species Any Genera – The America's	1 st Catt. larrisoniana	C	C. Luth
	2 nd Bifrenaria tetragona	c	S. Kappl
	3 rd Promonea stapellioides	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Species Any Genera – Asia	1 st Dendrobium lawesii Discolour	c	L. Le
	Intermediate Section		
Miniatura Cymhidian	1 st Cym Midnight Muffet 'Spetted Dee'	-	I. Wong
	1. Cym. wnanigitt wurtet Spotted Dog	C	J. WONG

Sarconopsis Noelene Russell



Sarconoipsis Noelene Russell

Sarconopsis Noelene Russell is a hybrid bred by Ken Russell and registered by Ray Clement in 2000. It is an Australian Native hybrid having three different species in its parentage.

The three species are Sarco.hartmanii & Sarco.falcatus which makes the hybrid Sarco. Melba.

Sarco. Melba was crossed to the third species Phal.amabilis subspecies rosenstromii which occurs naturally on the Cape York Peninsula , Nth.Queensland in the Iron Range and Puluma Range Nation Park.

Sarcco.Melba grows cold in Melbourne and when crossed to the warm growing specie, Phal. amabilis we have a hybrid that will grow and flower in a cold glasshouse in Melbourne.

I have grown the plant from a small seedling for about 8 years and this is first time flowering. It is grown in a very open mix.

David Cannon

CULTURAL NOTES : HOW TO GROW AUSTRALIAN NATIVE DENDROBIUMS

There are over 1400 species of dendrobiums and related dockrillias to be found growing in nature throughout Asia and Australia. More than 60 species are native to Australia, most growing in coastal New South Wales and Queensland, although two species occur in Victoria and one in Tasmania. Many Australian native dendrobium species and their hybrids are suitable for growing in Victoria under shade house conditions or in a garden situation where they are sheltered from frost and direct sunlight. Over a thousand hybrids are now available, with flowers of nearly all colours, shapes and sizes.

POTTING. While a few species grow best when mounted on hardwood mounts or on tree fern slabs, the majority of Australian dendrobium species and hybrids grow well when potted in a 4:1-mix of pine bark (5-10 mm) and river gravel (5 mm). Black plastic squat pots with plenty of drainage holes are ideal. It is important not to use too large a pot – one that will comfortably accommodate the roots and allow enough space for two year's growth is large enough.Dendrobiums are best repotted after they have flowered, just as their new growths are appearing between October and early December. If their roots are in good condition, simply transfer the plant to a larger pot and fill in with new mix. If some of the roots show signs of decay, remove them and all old potting mix and repot in fresh mix.

LIGHT AND AIR. All dendrobiums grow and flower better if grown where they receive diffuse light (approximately 50% sunlight) for most of the year, full light during winter. They grow best if their pots can be suspended near the roof of the shade house so that receive good light and plenty of air movement. In summer native dendrobiums require frequent watering, especially during hot weather. However, they should not be kept continually wet and grow best if the mix is allowed to dry briefly before being watered again. In winter, much less water is needed, once a week being enough for flowering-sized plants grown under cover.

FERTILISING. Australian native dendrobiums may be fertilised in two different ways or by a combination of both. One option is to apply granules of a slow-release fertiliser, such as Osmocote-Plus®, to the top of the mix in October (shake the pot so that the fertiliser enters the mix). The other is to apply a weak solution of a liquid fertiliser at fortnightly intervals between October and April. Use at only half of the manufacturer's recommended concentration. Potassium-rich fertilisers, such as Campbell's A®, generally result in better flowering.

These cultural notes are kindly provided by the North-East Melbourne Orchid Society.



Dendrobium Jayden 'Sheen' AM/OSCOV, B&B Khann



Dendrobium kingianum 'Mauve Master' AM/OSCOV

CULTURAL NOTES : HOW TO GROW MASDEVALLIAS

Masdevallias are cool-growing, free-flowering orchids with compact plants that will often produce a succession of colorful flowers throughout the year. The flowers are produced in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, sometimes complemented with a range of stripes or spots. Some 400 species grow in nature, mostly in Central and South America, the greatest concentrations being found in Colombia and Ecuador. Although these are tropical countries, most masdevallias grow in the mountains, where cool, humid conditions prevail. In Melbourne they grow happily in a shade house, provided that efforts are made to maintain cool, humid conditions on hot summer days.

POTTING. Most masdevallias have small, compact plants that can happily be accommodated in small squat pots of 75-100 mm diameter. The pots must have excellent drainage and some growers therefore prefer to use net pots or pots made of plastic mesh such as Gutterguard®. The preferred potting medium is live Sphagnum moss or equal parts of chopped moss and polystyrene foam. Best results are obtained if the plants are repotted every two years or even more frequently. Repotting is best carried out in spring or autumn during cool weather.

LIGHT, TEMPERATURE AND AIR. Masdevallias flower best if grown in good light (for example, under 50% shade cloth) but a compromise must be struck in hot weather when extra shading may be needed to help reduce the temperature and increase the humidity. They grow best at temperatures between 5°C and 25°C. Most withstand temperatures down to freezing but prolonged temperatures over 30°C may cause the leaves of some species and their hybrids to burn and fall, thereby weakening the plants. Masdevallias enjoy free circulation of a cool, buoyant atmosphere. A high level of humidity may be maintained by growing ferns in the vicinity and damping down the surrounding area, especially on hot days.

WATERING. The potting mix must be kept constantly moist but never so wet as to become soggy. The mix should never be allowed to become completely dry; if it does so, soak the whole pot in water overnight to restore the moss to the desired condition. Frequent misting of the foliage using water in an atomiser spray reduces the need for frequent watering. Growing a number of plants close together also helps to maintain a reasonable level of humidity. If you have only a few plants, it's a good idea to place them on a tray of damp river pebbles or moss.

FERTILISING. Masdevallias respond to weak applications of liquid fertiliser throughout the year. It is important to use these fertilisers at concentrations less than a quarter of those recommended by the manufacturer, otherwise the fertiliser may kill the Sphagnum moss used in the potting mix, reducing it to a soggy mess.

These cultural notes are kindly provided by the North-East Melbourne Orchid Society.



Masdevallia Sun Dancer 'Peats Ridge'



Masdevallia Harlequin 'Exquisite' HCC/OSCOV

SEEDLINGS AND MERICLONES by Julian Coker

So often people are confused with the difference between a seedling and a mericlone. A seedling is a plant resulting from the growth of a single orchid seed, formed by the union of a male pollen grain with a female ovum. It is a uniquely new plant that has inherited various features from both of its parents. Even when an orchid is crossed with itself (selfing), or where two plants of the same species are crossed with each other, variation is obvious in the resultant seedlings. A mericlone on the other hand is a plant that results from the multiplication of tissue from the meristematic area of a single plant. All resulting plants have an exactly identical makeup and barring mutation, will all be identical.

A six to nine month period from pollination to harvesting of the seed, followed by a nine to twelve month period in tissue culture to produce a viable plant for the outside environment, followed by three to five years to produce a flowering plant, gives a five to seven year generation time, so growing seedlings, where there is no guarantee of a desirable result, is generally for the commercial grower or the genuine devotee. It is however, almost invariably through seedlings that advances in cymbidiums appear.

Advances may take the form of a show champion, a new shape or colour, or some other outstanding feature. The chances of achieving this is small, perhaps one in a hundred or one in a thousand, but with the constant improvement in genetic material available in parents and the increasing knowledge possessed by hybridisers, the chances are improving and the satisfaction is great when the exceptional seedling appears.

Many avenues are now available in cymbidium breeding lines and rewards are available in all of them. Most hybrids are produced with commercial benefit paramount but for some hybridisers the showbench orchid is more appealing and many seedlings are also produced with this end in view. In addition, seedlings with the potential to provide new shapes and colours and colour combinations are becoming more available, as well as those with extended flowering times, perfumes, warmth tolerance, super-productivity and other desirable features.

All good collections contain a number of seedlings, and it is best to add to these regularly. With small collections, a few may be purchased each year from the various catalogues available. Bear in mind that accompanying descriptions describe expectations and that hybridisers are great optimists. With larger collections, more seedlings or a few community pots comprising a number of seedlings from the same grex may be grown.

You are never too old or too young to start growing seedlings. Once a collection has become established over a period of time, there is the constant excitement of seeing what unique flowers appear each year. Be part of the excitement and the future of the cymbidium. You may be the lucky one!

PH and THE NUTRITION of ORCHID POT PLANTS by Bill Mather

The grey-white crystalline incrustation or efflorescence surrounding the drainage holes of a long established orchid pot-plant using bark substrate is generally assumed to result from over-feeding – either too strong or too frequent. The usual excellent advice is to flush pots regularly with water to wash out accumulated excess salts. The "burning" of root tips in such cases is evidence that ex-osmosis has occurred – that is, water has been extracted from the whole plant via the roots by a high concentration of salts in the base of the pot, particularly when the drainage has been poor. Such a mix is typically old and "broken down". Certainly over-feeding old mix is a factor but even modest feeding levels will contribute to root loss in old mix.

In nature, epiphytic and lithophytic orchids grow on trees and rocks with their roots partially or fully exposed to the air. Roots that have died in broken-down mix have not drowned through lack of air necessarily, because the stomata in the under-surface of the foliage provide the vital pathway for respiration – the gaseous interchange of carbon dioxide from the air and oxygen as a product of photosynthesis. Remember that plant roots totally immersed in weak aqueous nutrients do not drown in hydroponic culture and that rock wool culture also involves immersion in aqueous nutrients without detriment to root tissue.

Living plants are made up of 75% by weight of water, 23% organic matter (complex carbon compounds) and 2% inorganic (non-carbon) chemical compounds. The latter represent the water-soluble mineral nutrients taken in by the root system. In pot-plant culture the substrate is almost devoid of these minerals, which must therefore be supplied by the grower.

There are 14 nutrient chemical elements (including trace elements). Four of these elements – phosphorus, calcium, magnesium and molybdenum – are insoluble in water below pH 5 (that is, more acidic than pH 5), whereas six elements (iron, magnesium, boron, copper, zinc and calcium) are insoluble above pH 8 (that is, more alkaline than pH 8). Thus the availability of nutrients to the plant varies at different pH levels and ceases beyond certain limits.

A solution at pH 7 is neutral (that is, neither acidic nor alkaline) and one at pH 6.5 is regarded as ideal for nutrition. The most important reason for the accumulation of excess nutrient salts is the development of acidity in the mix – bacterial and fungal action has lowered the pH of good freshly composted mix from pH 6.5 to pH 5 or less. Salts accumulate because they are not available in usable solution for absorption by root hairs. Worse follows by ex-osmosis – the plant dehydrates and the cells are destroyed when their cells rupture and collapse. Not only do extremes of pH affect the availability of plant nutrients but also they interfere with the delicate balance of microorganisms in the growing medium. For example, a very acidic medium can seriously interfere with mycorrhizae, beneficial fungi that make a plant's root system work more effectively.

When a potting mix has broken down, it is difficult to flush. Moreover, flushing does not change the pH; the mix remains acidic. Although it would then be logical to 'sweeten' the mix with a top-dressing of dolomite, this could provide a hit-or-miss quick-fix with the added risk of increasing the pH to such an extent that other nutrients become unavailable. Fresh repotting is always the best solution.

References:

1. The Orchid Grower's Manual by Gordon C. Morrison. 2. Fertilising by Wal Mur

LAST THOUGHT:

One Easter a father was teaching his kid to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the breaks the child exclaims, "Oh no dad I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." to which his father replied, "It's okay son – you missed it by a hare."

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

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