

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY

## INCORPORATED

# MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 45 - Issue : 7

**Next Meeting: Friday – 19 August 2022**

Meeting begins at 8.00pm

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

### ITEM OF THE EVENING: Leo Orland – Seedlings Flowering for the Time

**Topical Chat:** Preparing for the OSCOV and Spring Shows continued.

**Also: Winter Show - Inhouse**

**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

It was great to see some of our members at the July Club Meeting who have not been able to attend regularly due to work commitments.

This is a time of many Clubs' Shows around Melbourne non the least being the OSCOV 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Melbourne Orchid Spectacular to be held 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August. Maroondah has registered for a stand and I encourage members to bring plants to the venue on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> by 11.00 am. Please also take note of the information later in this Newsletter. Also, our own Spring Show will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September.

However, prior to those, we will hold our Club Winter Show at the August meeting, having been deferred from the July Meeting at the last minute.

At our July Club Meeting we welcomed Helen Robinson into membership of our Club.

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 Friday 19 August 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!

**Please Note: All those who have a Maroondah Orchid Society Perpetual Trophy can you please return it to the club as soon as you can.**

**Please Note: The Society will make available Orchidata bark to be picked up at the Spring Show. The cost is \$27 per bag. You can use the order form or you can fill in the order form at the August meeting.**

**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 [leorland@totalfundraising.com.au](mailto:leorland@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](http://www.oscov.asn.au/mos)

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

## **REMINDER: Membership Renewal**

The committee has decided that membership fees for financial year 2022/2023 will remain at the same level it has been for many years.

Fees are now due.

Adult (single) \$16.00, Family \$20.00, Junior (16 years and under) \$5.00

Please note – to enter or sell plants at our Spring Show you must be a financial member of MOS at the time judging commences at the show.

And to enter the OSCOV Show a member must be a financial member by August meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

You can pay in person to Edith Yu-Chan

Or you can pay via direct debit to the following bank account –  
BSB: 063167 Account number: 10107735

Please remember to fill in the reference field with your name.

## WINTER SHOW - INHOUSE

The August Meeting is our winter show meeting. The format for the night will be a sash for the Champion Orchid of the night and there will be prizes for the classes listed below. (Open section class will stand alone with the Intermediate and Novice sections grouped together.)

- Best Cymbidium of the Show.
- Best Australian Native of the Show.
- Best Paphiopedilum of the Show.
- Best Hybrid any other Genera of the Show (Excluding Cymbidium, Australian Native, and Paphiopedilum orchids).
- Best Species of the Show.
- Best Specimen of the Show.

## THE 28TH. ANNUAL OSCOV MELBOURNE ORCHID SPECTACULAR & ORCHID SALE 2022

**VENUE:** Boxhall Pavilion, KCC Park (State Dog Centre), 655 Western Port Highway. Skye Vic. .

**TIME (for public attendance):**

Friday 26 August 9.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday 27 August 9.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday 28 August 9.00am – 4.00pm

**ENTRY** Adults- \$10 Children under 15 Free

**Key Dates** Set-up: Wednesday 24th. August from 9.00 am, to be completed by 5.00pm.

Judging: Thursday 25th. August.

Pull down; From 4.00pm Sunday 28 August

Those with access to the internet: the OSCOV Website has all the information you require regarding the Spectacular. ([www.oscov.asn.au](http://www.oscov.asn.au)).

This is the time of the year when things start to hot up with the OSCOV Show at KCC Park and then our own Spring Show in September.

**For the OSCOV Show we require some quality plants (please have them at the centre before 11am – Wednesday 24th August).**

**Please Note: send the names of the plants you are entering to Claudia Ng at [claudiang1881@gmail.com](mailto:claudiang1881@gmail.com) by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.**

**Thank you**

## **Preparing Your Orchid for the Show Exhibit**

To prepare your plant, follow these steps.

**Identify Your Plant.** To make sure your plant is properly labelled and to make sure you get your plant back after the show, some preparatory steps are necessary.

**Flowers should be fresh and not losing their colour or damaged.**

**Checklist.** Here's a handy checklist to follow for preparing your plants.

- Clean the pseudobulbs and leaves (water helps to soften the dry papery covering (cataphyll) around mature pseudobulbs so that you can gently rub it off).
- Make sure the media in the container is clean and free of weeds.
- Wipe the top of the leaves (vinegar, lemon juice, diluted milk, etc.) to remove residue. Do not use commercial spray to shine the leaves, it is not good for the plant.
- Carefully inspect plant for pests and if any are found remove them with alcohol and a Q tip. If there is a bad infestation, do not bring the plant to the show.
- Inspect the flowers for thrips and other damage. If a flower is marred by the spots of Botrytis fungus it is better to leave the plant at home.
- Carefully stake the flower spikes if this will help present the flowers to their best advantage. If you can plan ahead of time it is best to train the inflorescence as it emerges and is soft, a mature inflorescence is hardened off and can break easily.
- Remove any wire hangers, hoops, etc.
- Water each plant thoroughly before bringing to the show.
- Place each plant carefully in a large box or container for transport.  
To keep the plants from moving around and sustaining damage you can put crumpled newspaper around the pots.



## Interesting Plants from the July Meeting



S. Kappl's  
*Paphiopedilum villosum*



J. Guario's Phaleanopsis  
White Wonder Biba



S. Kappl's Mediocallcar  
decoratum



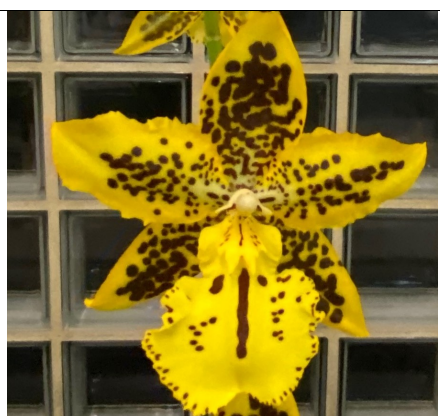
J. Foster-Johnson's Neolauchea  
pulchilla



S. Kappl's Dend.  
Dockrilla x grimesi



J. Foster-Johnson's Laelia Cattleya  
Angel Heart 'Hihamu'



D. Weise's Oncid.  
Tiger Barb 'Royal'



C. Luth's Coelogyne  
saccolabium



L. Orland's Cym.  
Hells Gate 'Temptation'

## BENCH COMPETITION July 2022

<b>JUDGES VOTE</b>	Paphiopedilum villosum	c	S. Kappl
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Phalaenopsis White Wonder Biba	c	J. Guario
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Paphiopedilum Villosum	c	S. Kappl
<b>Intermediate</b>	Phalaenopsis	c	J. Guario
<b>Novice</b>	Dendrobium Colonial Flirt	c	C. Gunawan
	<b>Open Section</b>		
<b>Standard Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Hell's Gate 'Temptation'	c	L. Orland
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Regal Ruby x Red Beauty 'Red Globe'	c	L. Orland
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Valley Picture 'Ayres Rock'	c	L. Orland
<b>Intermediate Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Little Miss Jess	c	C. Luth
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Copper Fire x Copper Wings	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Leopard Dancer 'Ghengis'	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Falcata 'Xmyra'	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Paphiopedilum Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> villosum	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> gatrixianum	c	C. Luth
	3 <sup>rd</sup> spicerianum	c	D. Weise
<b>Paphiopedilum Primary or Novelty</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Primary Hybrid 'Double Deception'	c	C. Luth
<b>Oncidiinae Large</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oncidium Tiger Barb 'Royal'	c	D. Weise

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Brassidium Yellow Star “Golden Gamble’	c	P. Hince
<b>Oncidiinae Medium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Onc. (Nena x flexuosum) x enderianum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ondtonia Pacific Paanoia	c	P. Hince
<b>Australian Native Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Dockrilla x grimerii	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Autumn	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. Red River x Jesmond Sparldor	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Laelinae Cluster &amp; Novelty</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> L.C. Angel Heart ‘Hihamu’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Any Other Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Zygo Hoyson Trail	c	L. Orland
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Isabelia pulchella	C	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Trichopilia fragans	c	D. Weise
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cuitlauzina pulchella	c	S. Kappl
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Mediocalcar decoratum	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coelogyne saccolabium	c	C. Luth
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cym. dayanum album	c	H. Trung
	<b>Intermediate Section</b>		
<b>Phalaenopsis</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> White Wonder ‘Biba’	c	J. Guario
	<b>Novice Section</b>		
<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Colonial Flirt	c	C. Gunawan
<b>Laelinnnae Intermediate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. Chief Journey ‘First Choice’	c	C. Gunawan



<b>Paphiopedilum Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> venustum ‘ Gewurztraminer’ x album	c	R & H Coleman
<b>Seedling Flowering For The First Time</b>			
<b>Open</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Zygo. Mackii	c	A. Baker

## ORCHID SHOWS 2022

Show	Date/Time	Venue
Gippsland	19 Aug -20 Aug	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princes Highway
OSCOV	Fri 26 Aug -Sun 28 Aug 9am-4pm	‘KCC Park’, 655 Western Port Highway, Skye,
Sale & District	Sat 3 Sept 9-4, Sun 4 Sept 10-3	VRI Hall, Pettit Drive (Opposite the Sale Railway Station)
South Gippsland	Fri 09, 9.30 -4.30, Sat 10, 9.30-4	Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
Cymbidium Orchid Society	Sat 10 Sept 9-4, Sun 11 Sept 9-4	Mt Waverley Community Centre. Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley
Bairnsdale	Sat 17 Sept 9-4, Sun 18 Sept 9-3	Dalsens Building,11 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale
Southern Suburbs	Sat 17 Sept 10-4, Sun 18 Sept 10-4	Snr. City. Hall, 964 Nepean Hwy. (Cnr. Exley Dr.)
Mid-Murray	Sat 17 Sept 10-4, Sun 18 Sept 10-3.30	Kerang Basketball Stadium Maxwell Street, Kerang
West Gippsland	Sat 17 Sept 9-4, Sun 18 Sept 9-4	Anglican Church Hall, Cnr. Princes Way & Francis Ave, Drouin.
NEMOS	Sat 17 Sep, 9-4 Sun 18 Sep 10-4	Bulleen Heights Secondary School 221 Manningham Rd Lower Templestow
Geelong	Sat 17 Sept 10-4, Sun 18 Sept 10-4	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets
Stawell	Fri 23 Sep 10 – 5, Sat 24 Sep 10 – 4, Sun Sep 25 10 - 3	Stawell Entertainment Centre, Town Hall, 117 Main St, Stawell

Goulburn Valley	Sat 24 Sep, 9-4 Sun 25 Sep 10-3	Shepparton Harness Racing Track, Melbourne Rd, Kialla
Berwick	Sat 24 Sept 9-4, Sun 25 Sept 9-4	Senior Citizens' Hall, 112 High Street, Berwick
Maroondah	Sat 24 Sep, 9-5 Sun 25 Sep 9-4	St. Timothy's Catholic School, 21 Stevens Rd, Vermont
ANOS (Vic)	Sat 24 Sept 9-4, Sun 25 Sept 9-4	Mt Waverley Community Centre
Warrnambool	Sat 1 Oct 9 -4, Sun 2 Oct 9 - 3	Our Lady Help of Christian Hall , 28 Selby Rd, Warrnambool
Gippsland	30 Sept - 01 Oct Centre hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princes Highway
MEOS	Sat 1 Oct, 9-4, Sun 2 Oct, 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East
Ringwood	Sat 1 Oct 9.00-4, Sun 2 Oct 9.00-4	Keystone Hall 20 Civic Square Croydon 3136
Bendigo	Fri 7 Oct 1-4 Sat 8 Oct, 10-4 Sun 9 Oct 10-1	Eaglehawk Soccer Club, 5 Murdock St, California Gully
Colac	Sat 08 Oct 9-4, Sun 09 Oct 10-4	Colac Show Grounds Cnr. Bruce St & Princess Hwy
St Arnaud	Sat 08 Oct 9-5, Sun 09 Oct 10-4	Town Hall Napier St, St Arnaud
Cobden	Sat 15 Oct 9.30-4, Sun 16 Oct 10-3.30	Civic Hall, Victoria Street
Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 15 Oct 9- 4, Sun 16 Oct 9-3	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Ballarat	Fri 21 Oct 12-5, Sat 22-Sun 23 10-3	Federation University, Cnr. Gillies and Gregory Streets
Bayside	Sat 22 Oct 9 - 5 Sun 23 Oct 9 - 4	Cranbourne Public Hall, 166- 168 South Gippsland Hwy
Stawell/(Halls Gap)	Sat 29 Oct 9.30- 4 Sun 30 Oct 9.30 - 4	Centenary Hall, 115 Grampians Road, Halls Gap
Ringwood / Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 29 Oct 9-4,Sun 30 Oct 9-4	Keystone Hall, Keystone Hall Civic Square, Croydon
CGOC Sarc Show	Sat 12 Nov 1-4, Sun 13 Nov 9-3	Dahlsens Building, 11 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale

# ORCHID SEEDS by Brian Milligan

One of the most characteristic features of orchids is their seeds, which are much smaller and more numerous than those of most (perhaps all) other plants. Orchid seeds usually have a loose, papery coat surrounding a small embryo, and are often spindle-shaped. The orchid embryo is not differentiated into distinct organs, as is the case with many other plants. Only after the seed germinates do the cells begin to differentiate into root cells, leaf cells etc.

Orchid seeds, unlike those of other plants, contain no food source to sustain the growing plants. Therefore, in nature they require the presence of mycorrhizal fungi, usually associated with other plants, to manufacture and provide the nutrients necessary for the growth of the germinated orchid seed. The chances of a seed encountering both a favourable environment and the appropriate mycorrhizal fungus for it to germinate and grow are very low. Nature evens the balance by endowing orchids with the capacity to produce a large number of seeds; many orchid seed capsules contain at least a thousand seeds, and some contain millions.

For many years the best way known to raise orchid seed was to sprinkle it in the pot containing one of its parent plants, because this potting mix was the best source of the correct mycorrhizal fungus to promote growth of the seedlings. Even then, few seedlings germinated and survived to flowering size, and consequently orchid seedlings were expensive. But in 1922 the American scientist Lewis Knudson developed the method of 'flasking', by which orchid seed was raised in a sterile, nutrient-rich gel without any need for mycorrhizal fungi. This method made it possible to raise orchid seedlings in almost unlimited numbers, and they have consequently been available at reasonable cost ever since.

In Nature, most orchid seed is dispersed by the wind. The flower stems of some terrestrial orchids elongate after pollination, so that the seed capsule is raised above the surrounding grasses, and the seed is therefore capable of being dispersed more widely by the wind. Most seed probably settles only a few metres from the parent plant but some seeds, because they are so small and light, may be blown long distances. Some Australian terrestrial orchids have been found in the wild in New Zealand, and it is very likely that these arose from seed carried there from Australia by the prevailing westerly wind.

Scientific studies on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa provide striking evidence for the aerial transport of orchid seed over long distances. Well over a century ago (in 1883) an enormous volcanic explosion that it was heard in northern Australia and the resultant dust cloud circled the earth! Yet 13 years later three orchid species had re-established themselves, and 50 years later there were 35 destroyed all plant and animal life on Krakatoa. The explosion was so loud different orchid species, despite the fact that the nearest land (the island of Java) was 40 Km away! All 35 species must have arisen from seed blown from Java or even more distant islands.

Have you tried pollinating orchid flowers, and then watched the seed capsules develop? The principle is the same for all orchids but it's easier to carry out with those genera with large flowers. Simply break off the pollen cap with a toothpick, remove the pollinia from the pollen cap and transfer one or more of them to the stigma (the sticky cavity a little below the pollen cap). Experiment with a picked flower until you get the knack. Your chances of

getting a seed capsule that will grow to maturity will be improved if you take the pollinia from one plant (the pollen parent) and transfer them to the stigma of another flower of the same genus (the pod parent).

You may need to experiment with a number of different pollen and pod parents before you find a combination that will produce a seed capsule that grows to maturity. If you're using cymbidiums, prepare for a long wait, as the seed capsules will take about nine months to mature. Don't pollinate the flowers on those plants you intend to exhibit, as orchid judges disqualify inflorescences with pollinated flowers or missing pollen caps.

Disas are more suitable for impatient hybridisers like me. The pollinia are very large, and are attached to a sticky disc (called a viscidium), so it's easy to remove them. Also, the stigma is fully exposed for all to see, unlike that of many other orchids. Best of all, the seed capsules grow at an incredible rate, and mature in only six weeks. The seed capsules of Australian native dendrobiums are intermediate between those of cymbidiums and disas, in that they usually mature in three or four months. Even if you have no intention of raising the resultant seed, it's an interesting experience to watch the seed capsules mature and to marvel at the small size of the resultant seed. Give it a go, it's fun.



## REJUVENATING ORCHIDS by Alan Hope

Orchid growers often need to attend to an orchid that is old, pot-bound or shows signs of decline. Previous re-potting may have been neglected or the plant, having been recently acquired at an orchid auction, nursery or as a gift, is in poor condition. Damage to the plant by frost, sunburn, insect bites or various rots and fungal attacks may also require remedial action. Signs that an orchid requires attention include weak and straggly growth, moss on the surface of the mix, dieback, rot and poor flowering.

Plants that have overgrown their pots may also need attention. However, first assess whether you wish to keep the plant, as space and resources are scarce and your effort may be better spent on other plants. Typically, friends and relatives may have unknowingly donated diseased plants, more often than not cymbidiums that have belonged to the family for some time. It is probably in the best interests of your collection to discard such family heirlooms. Re-potting requires the complete removal of the old orchid mix and replacement with new mix in a new or sterilized pot of an appropriate size. Any dead portions of plant should be removed with sterilized secateurs and the plant sprayed for pests such as scale. The re-potted plant should also have some long-life fertilizer scratched in around the edge of the pot, and then watered well and placed in a protected area off the ground to re-establish.

Highly valued plants that would be difficult and/or costly to replace present a greater challenge. In many cases only a small part of the plant may survive, perhaps a single pseudobulb, cane or growth. For cymbidiums and other orchids with bulbs, cleaning up the back-bulb and placing it with fresh sphagnum moss in an inflated plastic bag, offers a good chance of new growth being generated. Some genera, such as lycastes, will often produce a new growth only if two or more joined pseudobulbs are used. Orchids with bare canes (e.g. dendrobiums), a creeping growth habit (e.g. bulbophyllums) or ones with no roots (all genera) are best tackled during the growing season (spring-summer-early autumn). The best option is to find a piece of the plant with a leading growth, as this is the most vigorous. However leafless canes, as is the case with many dendrobiums, may be all that is left to work with. If so, the canes can be cleaned and cut into sections containing two or three nodes. Each section should then be placed horizontally on a bed of live sphagnum moss and pinned down with small pieces of bent wire. It may take some time for the nodes to produce new growths.

Orchids with a creeping growth habit, such as bulbophyllums and epidendrums, should be restarted by attachment to a mount. Placing fresh sphagnum moss around (but not under) the growth helps to retain moisture and allows the emerging roots to attach themselves to the mount. Both the growth and surrounding moss should be fastened firmly to the mount with twisty-tie, and the plant then regular misted, especially during hot, dry weather. Root loss is a serious problem and paphiopedilums are among those orchids that can lose all their roots. I have had best results re-planting these plants in fresh sphagnum moss in a small pot. Secure the plant with a small wooden skewer to avoid movement and place it in a sheltered, shady position to recover. Once again patience is required as it can take many months for some paphiopedilum plants to re-grow roots, if ever!

Finally, how do you rejuvenate plants devastated by rot or fungal attack? The rot may move so quickly that the whole plant is at risk and remedial action is required without delay. The affected section of plant should be removed with a sterilized knife, razor blade or scissors and appropriate fungicidal sprays or sealants then applied to minimize further outbreak.

**LAST THOUGHT:**

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.