

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY

## INCORPORATED

# MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 46 - Issue : 11

**Next Meeting: Friday – 15 December 2023**

Dinner begins at 7.00pm

**Venue: St. Timothy's Catholic School**

**21 Stevens Road, Vermont.**

**(Melway, Map 62 Ref.G3)**

### **ITEM OF THE EVENING: Christmas Dinner**

**Venue:** The main hall at St Timothy's.

**Arrival Time:** 6.30pm.

**What to bring:** BYO drinks, glasses and cutlery (food provided).

**Kris Kringle:** Bring a gift to the value of \$10 and mark His, Hers or Either.

**Special Effort:** Will be Christmas Hampers.

There will be no Sales Table but every member will receive a gift.

**Bench Competition:** There will be no judging but there will be a popular vote under two categories open and intermediate/novice.

Monthly benching prize winners will be announced.

# President's Report

Wow, what an amazing year we've had!

I thought it appropriate to mention some of the highlights of the year in this month's Report.

- In February we moved to our new Monthly Meeting premises in the larger hall at St Timothy's
- We had Terry Poulton – Cymbidiums the Poulton Way
- We had an excellent video by Phil Spence on cultivating Latouris Dendobriums
- Our annual review on the VOOTY Awards presented by Leo Orland
- We had a presentation by John Varigos Taiwan International Orchid Show
- Our July in-house auction was a huge amount of fun and raised \$831.00 for the Club
- In August and September Murray Harding discussed the importance of light, air and water for all orchids,
- David Cannon gave us two fantastic hands-on sessions on deflasking seedlings
- We had four Maroondah Orchid Society members take out awards at OSCOV 2023
- Our Annual MOS Show was once again a great success as was the club Sarcochilus Show in November
- We said thank you to Ron Coleman (retiring President) and Graeme Moffat (retiring Treasurer) for their selfless dedication to the Club

We'll round out the year with our Christmas Dinner. As always, there'll be hamper prizes, a Special Effort and plants on which to cast a popular vote.

To all our members and your families, enjoy the time with your loved ones and I am looking forward to seeing you at our Club meetings in 2024.

Michael Chivell

**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:**

<b>President</b>	Michael Chivell (M) 0402 568 217
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282 Ron Coleman
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492: email <a href="mailto:leorland@totalfundraising.com.au">leorland@totalfundraising.com.au</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ron Coleman (M) 0477 311 188
<b>Committee:</b>	Graeme Moffat (H) 9726 5793 Leanne Le (M) 0416 818 290 Genny Chivell (M) 0434 995 174 Jim Foster-Johnson (M) 0412 366 686 Edith Yu-Chan (M) 0411 378 096 Heather Coleman Claudia Ng










<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Edith Yu-Chan
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Leo Orland
<b>Floral Art:</b>	Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307
<b>Website Manager</b>	Heather Coleman
<b>MOS Website Address</b>	<a href="http://www.oscov.asn.au/mos">www.oscov.asn.au /mos</a>
<b>MOS Facebook Address</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety">www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety</a>

## Interesting Plants from the November Meeting

		
<p>H. Truong's <i>Cymbidium caniculatum</i> 'Jessica'</p>	<p>C. Gunawan's <i>Dendrobium</i> Miki</p>	<p>T. Pham's <i>Mad. coccinea</i> Alba 'Blanca'</p>
		
<p>L. Le's <i>Lycaste Macame skinerii</i> x <i>Aquila</i></p>	<p>K. Lam's <i>Coelogyne pandulata</i></p>	<p>S. Kappl's <i>Peristerchilus</i> Olive Grace</p>
		
<p>C. Luth's <i>Cattleya intermedia</i> 'Semi-Alba'</p>	<p>D. Cannon's <i>Cymbidium</i> Sweet Devon</p>	<p>J. Foster-Johnson's <i>Masdevallia</i> Cuzco Bold 'Orange Crush'</p>



## Interesting Sarcs at November Meeting

		
<p>G. McCully's Dove "Big White #2"</p>	<p>D. Cannon's Verolica</p>	<p>H. Truong's Kulnura Taser x Kulnura Need</p>
		
<p>C. Gunawan's Kulnura Dazel 'Multi Purple' x Bunyip 'Forest Fruit'</p>	<p>C. Ng's Elise x Velvet</p>	<p>G. McCully's Kulnura Blend x Kulnura Exquisite</p>
		
<p>H. Truong's Kulnura Dazzle x Bunyip</p>	<p>G. McCully's Kulnura Blend 'Pink Picotee' x Kulnura Exquist 'Barrita'</p>	<p>S. Kappl's parviflorus</p>

## BENCH COMPETITION November 2023

<b>JUDGES VOTE</b>	Cymbidium caniculatum ‘Jessica’	c	H. Truong
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Sarcochilus Dove ‘Big White #2’	c	G. McCully
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Cymbidium caniculatum ‘Jessica’	c	H. Truong
<b>Intermediate</b>	Dendrobium Miki	c	
<b>Novice</b>	Masdevallia coccinea	c	T. Pham
	<b>Open Section</b>		
<b>Miniature Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sweet Devon	c	D. Cannon
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kuranda	c	H. Truong
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mad Magic	c	D. Tung
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Bella Donna ‘Prima’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cuzco Gold “Orange Crush	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lighting Stripes Plush	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Masdevallia Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> coccinea ‘Pink Perfection’	c	K. Lam
<b>Dendrobium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Valentine’s Day ‘Jolan De’	c	L. Le
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hamann Lake	c	S. Kappl
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gatton Sunray	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Lycaste</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> skinnerii x Aquila	c	L. Le

<b>Australian Native – Sarcophilus Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Peristerchilus ‘Olve Grace’	c	S. Kappl
<b>Laelinae Minature</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Cat. Royal Beau ‘Alex’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cat. Aussie Sunset	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Cat. Intermedia (Semi Alba)	c	C. Luth
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne pundulata	c	K. Lam
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coelogyne mooreana Brockhurst	c	D. Tung
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cymbidium devonianum	c	D. Cannon
<b>Species Any Genera - Other</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Cymbidium caniculatum ‘Jessice’	c	H. Truong
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cymbidium caniculatum	c	H. Truong
	<b>Intermediate Section</b>		
<b>Miniature Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Cricket	c	R. & H. Coleman.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mary Green ‘Nifty Guy’	c	C, Gunawan
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sarah Jean ‘Peach’	C	C. Gunawan
<b>Dendrobium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Miki	c	C. Gunawan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hamane Lake ‘Dream’	c	C. Ng
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>s</sup> Cat. Intermedia ‘Alba’	c	C. Gunawan
	<b>Novice Section</b>		
<b>Miniature Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Black Stumo x suave	c	T, Pham
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Heathii x Heiba Brilliant	c	T. Le
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Unknown	c	T. Le
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Top Vintage ‘Beenak’	C	T. Le
<b>Masdevallia Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> coccinea	c	T. Pham

<b>Species Any Genera - Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne mooreana	c	R. Kasam
<b>Open - Seedling Flower for the first time</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Dendrobium parishii	c	J Foster-Johnson

## Sarcochilus Night Show Results

<b>Champion Sarcochilus of the Night</b>	Dove 'Big White #2'	c	G. McCully
<b>Open</b>			
Best Classic Shape - White	Dove 'Big White #2'	c	G. McCully
Best Classic Shape – Red/Pink	1 <sup>st</sup> Kulnara Dazzel 'Bunyip'	c	H. Truong
Best Classic Shape – Any Other Colour/Combination of Colours	1 <sup>st</sup> Kulnara Taser x Kulnara Need	c	H. Truong
Best Novelty Shape – Open Shaped Plants (e.g. Australis etc.)	1 <sup>st</sup> Verolica	c	D. Cannon
Best Species	1 <sup>st</sup> parviflores	c	S. Kappl
Best Speciman (Hybrid/Species)	1 <sup>st</sup> Dove 'Big White'	C	G. McCully
<b>Other Than Open Section</b>			
Best Classic Shape – Red/Pink	1 <sup>st</sup> Kulnara Dazel x Bunyip	c	C, Gunawan
Best Classic Shape – Any Other Colour/Combination of Colours	1 <sup>st</sup> Lace Patterning	c	T. Le
Best Novelty Shape – Open Shaped Plants (e.g. Australis etc.)	1 <sup>st</sup> Elise x Velvet	c	C. Ng
<b>Seedling Flowering For The First Time</b>			
<b>Open</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Kulnara Blend x Kulnara Exquisite	c	G. McCully



## Photos from the November Meeting



# 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 unanswered 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 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.