

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 47 - Issue : 3

**Next Meeting: Friday – 19 April 2024**

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

### **ITEM OF THE EVENING: Orchids Through the Magnifying Glass - Sylvia Kappl**

**Time: 8.00PM**

**Topical Chat:** Members invited to bring problem plants  
(Please ensure your plant is virus free –  
if unsure if plant is virused put plant in plastic bag).

**Supper:** Please bring a plate

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

**Sales Table:** Leanne Le

# President's Report

As we move from a hot dry Summer into an even drier Autumn, La Nina didn't arrive and El Nino seems to want to persist. This means we all need to remember to keep the water up to our precious orchids.

Our March meeting was a great success with the review of the VOOTY awards. As always, Leo's informative slideshow was a hit with members seeing all the finalists and winners, and trying to guess which plant had won in the various categories. Yours truly failed miserably in the guess department!

I'd like to say a big thank you to those members who provide the evening cakes and biscuits and also to the people who stay behind for a few minutes to help pack up after our meeting.

Finally, we are all looking forward to hearing Sylvia Kappl share her vast knowledge of orchid cultivation at the April meeting. We hope to see as many as possible at the meeting.

Michael Chivell

**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 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** - Leanne Le

**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.

**Special Effort** – Any contribution to the special effort is welcome. **Please ensure that plants that are donated have name tags on them even if the name is generic.**






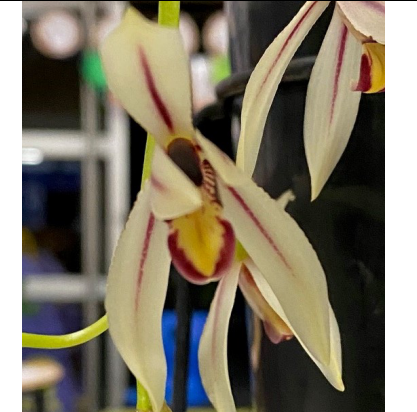

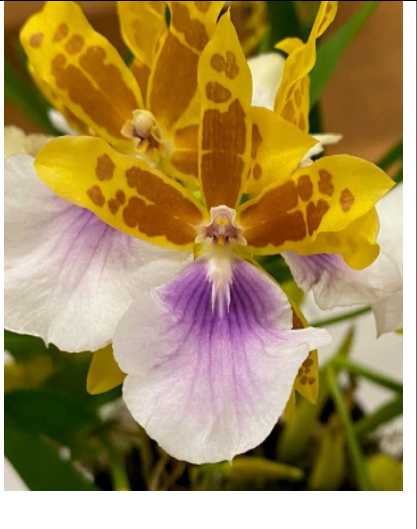

**M.O.S. Inc. Patron:** David Cannon

**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="http://www.facebook.com/maroonidahorchidsociety">www.facebook.com/maroonidahorchidsociety</a>

## Interesting Plants From the March Meeting

		
<p>S. Kappl's <i>Epidendrum porpax</i></p>	<p>C. Gunawan's <i>Cateleya</i> Blue Velvet Surprise</p>	<p>J. Foster-Johnson <i>Paph. Harrisianum</i></p>
		
<p>K. Lam's <i>Den. Red Ballerina</i></p>	<p>K. Lam's <i>Coelogyne usitana's</i></p>	<p>C. Luth's <i>Cymbidium dayanum</i></p>
		
<p>S. Kappl's <i>Paph. dianthum</i></p>	<p>J. Harnetty's <i>Miltonia Goodale Moir</i> 'Gloden Wonder'</p>	<p>G. Chivell's <i>Burrageara</i> Brazilian Sun</p>

## BENCH COMPETITION - March – 2024

<b>JUDGES VOTE</b>	Epidendrum porpax	c	S. Kappl
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Epidendrum porpax	c	S. Kappl
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Epidendrum porpax	c	S. Kappl
<b>Intermediate</b>	Miltonia Goodale Moir ‘Golden Wonder’	c	J. Harnetty
<b>Novice</b>	Burrageara Brazilian Sun	c	G. Chivell
	<b>Open Section</b>		
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sundancer x Trianaugulardis	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Super Nova	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Midus Touch	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Dendrobium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Red Ballerina	c	K. Lam
<b>Australian Native – Sarcophilus Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sarc. hirticalcar	c	S. Kappl
<b>Laeliinae Large</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. Blue Velvet	c	C. Gunawan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Catt. Lobata ‘Lush’ x Catt. Purpurata	c	C. Ng
<b>Paphiopedalum</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Harrisianum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Paphiopedalum Species</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> dianthum	c	S. Kappl
<b>Laeliinae Intermediate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. Dianna Diehm	c	C. Luth
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Slc. Dals Magic	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Any Other Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne Linda Buckley	c	C. Gunawan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Zygopetalum Rhein Harlequin	c	L. Orland
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Epidendrum porpax	C	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oncidium incurvum	c	C. Luth
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Catt. harrisionum	c	C. Luth
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne usitane	c	K. Lam
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coelogyne uncata	c	S. Kappl

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cleisostoma recemiferum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	<b>Intermediate Section</b>		
<b>Miltonia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> . Goodale Moir 'Golden Wonder'	c	J. Harnetty
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Guana Bara	c	J. Harnetty
<b>Laeliinae Intermediate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. Royal Flush x intermedia	c	J. Harnetty
<b>Any Other Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Vanda Fuchs Delight x Tokyo Blue	c	J. Wong
<b>Species Any Genera - Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne uncatum	c	Tu Le
	<b>Novice Section</b>		
<b>Oncidiinae Medium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Burrageara Brazilian Sun	c	G. Chivell

## POTTING ON / RE POTTING

David Cannon

Autumn is an ideal time to pot on or repot your orchids. Preparation is most important before you start.

Firstly prepare your mix. Like all recipes, the mix you use is one that suits your growing conditions. Remember your growing conditions are unique to your place. No two growing conditions are the same, even if you are neighbours to another orchid grower. Growing conditions can be under shade cloth, fixed roof, full sun, part sun/ shady etc.

The most important factor for your mix is that it drains freely. Water should come out of your pot as fast as it goes in.

Under my conditions, which are both shade cloth and fixed roof, the basic mix I use consists of bark, charcoal and scoria.

Depending on the plant size, For Cymbidiums and small Australian Native Dendrobium's I use mainly 9mm/12mm for smaller pots, and 12-15mm for larger pots but if it is a large Den.speciosum that needs potting on or dividing I use a mixture of 12-15mm and the 20mm bark.

You can also use the 20mm in the bottom of your pots with 12-15mm mix as the larger size helps with drainage.

Once your mix is ready, time to select plants that need repotting or dividing and select pot type and size.

For Cymbidiums, normal standard pots are best. For Australian Dendrobium's I prefer squat, shallow pots as natives do not have deep root systems, they have a spreading root system. If you only have standard pots, you can use them for natives. A way to keep roots shallow in standard pots is to use small pots, upside down in the bottom of pot. This helps greatly with drainage and uses much less mix.

**TOOLS** Have your secateurs and whatever else you will need all ready. Soak your secateurs in mentholated spirits before your start. If you are using a knife or small saw, treat them the same way by soaking.

**FERTILISER** Have a slow release ready to use. Place a small quantity of the slow release approx. one third from bottom of pot as you put your potting mix in. This will encourage new roots to come down in your mix.

**REPOTTING** This is when you just remove the plant from its pot and place into a larger pot without disturbing the roots.

If the plant is growing well, has healthy growth and fills the pot completely, then all you need to do is to remove the plant from its pot, then put plant into larger pot allowing for 2 years growth. Particularly with Cymbidiums, if the pot is out of shape due to root growth pressure, then you may need something to help get the plant out of the pot. I use either a small piece of wood or hammer and knock the side of the pot all way around and then on the rim until the plant comes loose and out.

With Australian Dendrobiums, if roots are over the edge and or out of the bottom of the pot, then you need to remove these excess roots with either a knife or secateurs and then remove the plant as described above for Cymbidiums.

## **DIVIDING AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUMS**

Australian Dendrobiums have a rhizome growth pattern and as such they can and do grow in different directions as the new growth comes each year.

Once the pot is filled to edge and sometimes growing over the edge with new growths with very small original growths in the middle, its time to divide.

Once you decide on the division parts, which should contain at least 3-4 mature growths, remove plant from pot and divide by cutting where the growths join. Trim some of the old roots off so that you do not have a tight root ball.

For Dendrobium's, you can take up to 60% of the old roots off as once potted up, new roots will come from new growths as they appear and trimmed active roots.

PLACING INTO POTS Repotted or divided plant.

Hold the plant in the pot to check depth and division. For Cymbidiums and Dendrobiums being potted on, they mainly will go into the centre of the pots. If it is a division of Australian Dendrobium or a Cymbidium, see which direction the plant is growing and keep it closer to the opposite side so that the new growth has more room to grow.

Put mix in the bottom of the pot so that when the plant is placed on the mix, the base of the bulbs is level or slightly higher than the rim of pot. Add slow release fertiliser to the mix at this stage. Hold plant upright in position and add mix all way around and firm down.

Your plant should stand upright on its own now. Ensure you put label in pot. Place plant in shaded area and water thoroughly.

It is most important to keep mix moist at this time to encourage new roots and to keep all growths active.

Depending on temperate/weather conditions, you may need to water lightly, daily to keep mix moist. **DO NOT LET MIX DRY OUT!**

For a Dendrobium speciosum division, you can take off the bulk of the roots, and once potted, stand the plant in a saucer of water to keep mix wet.

Happy Growing!

## **ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?**

by Brian Milligan

Have you checked your fleecy-lined slippers and your supplies of medicinal spirits? What about your orchids? Most epiphytic orchids like cold, wet conditions even less than we do. There are various steps you should undertake now to avoid being reported to the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Orchids!

Few epiphytic orchid species live further from the equator than we do here in Melbourne. It follows that during the winter they experience much shorter daylight hours in Melbourne, and that therefore we should do our best to give them as much light as possible. Conversely, they experience longer daylight hours here in summer, so living in Melbourne is not all bad!

Most of our cymbidium hybrids have been bred from Asian species that grow relatively close to the equator (there are three Australian species but they do not feature strongly in the



breeding lines of most hybrids). Fortunately for us, most of the tropical cymbidium species used in hybridising come from mountainous habitats, rather than coastal ones, and they are therefore able to withstand relatively low temperatures at night. But winters in the tropics are relatively dry, in contrast to their hot, wet summers. We should try to duplicate these conditions when growing our cymbidiums – plenty of water in hot weather but much less in winter, especially during cold spells.

So, how do we increase the amount of light that our cymbidiums receive in winter, and protect them from cold, wet weather? For those who grow their plants out of doors under shade trees, the simplest solution is to move them under the eaves on the north side of your house. The proviso here is that the area is not excessively shaded by trees or by your neighbour's house. A slightly less satisfactory alternative is under the eaves on the east wall but facing south or west is definitely out, because your plants will be exposed to our coldest, windiest weather there. Don't forget that under the eaves, they will need watering regularly.

Serious cymbidium growers keep their orchids in a shade house fitted with a clear, corrugated fibreglass or polycarbonate roof. Shade cloth is best mounted about 300 mm above the roof to provide maximum cooling in summer. Preferably you should be able to remove the shading in winter. The solid roof provides two advantages – it avoids your plants remaining wet during prolonged cold, wet weather, and it prevents water damage to the flowers in winter and spring. On the downside, you have to water all year round but at least you'll be able to provide water to your plants only when they need it. If you already have a solid roof, autumn is the best time to clean it. You'll be surprised how much more light it will transmit after you've washed it down while scrubbing with a household broom.

If you already have a shade house and its design doesn't allow for a fibreglass or polycarbonate roof, then consider covering it with temporary clear plastic sheeting during winter. Solar-Weave® is a reinforced durable material (1.8 m wide), sold by major nurseries, that serves well for about ten years before it needs replacing. I fit eyelets at 300 mm intervals around the edges and then tie it down over the shade cloth with fine wire. You will need a belt punch, eyelets and eyelet pliers (used for making ladies' dress belts – try Spotlight or maybe Bunnings). I sandwich two extra layers of Solar-Weave under the eyelets to reinforce them. It's important to support the centre of the plastic cover in some way so that in the event of rain, the water drains away. If not, you will create a monster birdbath, which will give you an unexpected shower if it gives way under the weight of water!

### **LAST THOUGHTS**

What did the bee say to the plant after telling it a joke? I'm just pollen your leg.

Why did the banana decide to go to the doctor? Because it wasn't peeling well!

Did you hear about the gardener who was embarrassed? He wet his plants.

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.