

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 47 - Issue : 5

**Next Meeting: Friday – 21 June 2024**

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

### ITEM OF THE EVENING: **AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION**

In the past the auction has been a great fundraiser for our society and this year should be no exception. Members are asked to donate well established plants in top condition, related orchid accessories and any other items that are acceptable to auction at this fun event (the more the merrier). Turn up on the night with a few \$'s, you never know what you may take home. **Also remember this is cash only auction.**

<b>Time:</b>	<b>8.00PM</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>St Timothy's</b>
<b>Supper:</b>	Please bring a plate
<b>Special Effort:</b>	No Special Effort
<b>Sales Table:</b>	No Sales Table

**There will be Benching Competition**

# President's Report

It looks like winter is just about with us now. Out in Mooroolbark we've already seen temperatures dip below zero and some nasty frosts. But at least we are seeing some beautiful days to follow icy mornings.

Our guest speaker at the May meeting was Murray Harding and he delighted the members with his history of the humble kingianum – all the way back to the First Fleet. David Cannon's topical chat on Sarcophilus culture was also of great interest to those present.

Our next meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and this is THE BIG ONE! This will be our in-house Auction. So, we need a few things .... Your participation, your donations of plants and anything orchid related and, of course your cash. This is always a great fund raising night and chief auctioneer David Cannon will be in good form.

Make the most of the last few warm days and I look forward to seeing a full house at the June meeting.

Michael Chivell

## REMINDER: Membership Renewal

The committee has decided that membership fees for financial year 2024 /2025 will remain at the same as last year.

Fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

Adult (single) \$20.00, Family \$25.00, Junior (16 years and under) \$5.00

Please note – to enter or sell plants at the Spring Show a member must be a financial member no later than the Members' Meeting (20 September 2024).

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.

Thank you!

**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:leoorland@totalfundraising.com.au">leoorland@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>

## VALE Max Bomford 1938-2024



We have said farewell to one of our Life Members in May.

Max joined Maroondah Orchid Society in 1990 and quickly became a regular exhibitor at the monthly meetings. Max was also a part of a group of members who called themselves, 'The Naughty Nineties' who put on a combined display stand at our Spring Shows. Max was always on hand to assist at our Spring Shows, particularly in storing Show benching and other Show requirements at his home and delivering and collecting them before and after Spring Shows.

Max willingly assisted whenever he was asked to assist with any tasks that the Society required doing.

Max grew a variety of cold growing orchids, which saw him receive many First prizes at monthly meetings and Spring Shows.

Farewell Max, very special thanks for your friendship.

Our thoughts go to your family.



Max's Orchids





## Interesting Plants From the May Meeting



S. Kappl's *Cattleya willigiana*



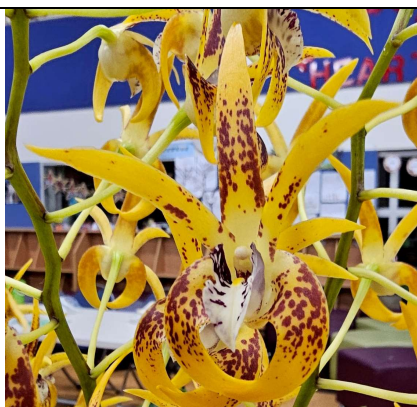
J. Harnetty's *Coelogyne fimbriata alba*



J. Foster-Johnson's *Masdevallia Leopard Dancer 'Ghengis'*



C. Gunawan's *Paph. galrixianum*



D. Cannon's *Dendrobium Avril's Gold*



C. Luth's *Oncid. trulifferum*



G. Moffat's *Coelogyne Mariana 'Brockhurst'*



J. Foster-Johnson's *Catt. Iced Beau*



C. Luth's *Cymbidium elegans*

## BENCH COMPETITION - May – 2024

<b>JUDGES VOTE</b>	Cattleya wittigiana	c	S. Kappl
<b>POPULAR VOTE Open</b>	Cattleya wittigiana	c	S. Kappl
<b>POPULAR VOTE Intermediate</b>	Coelogyne fimbriata ‘alba’	c	J. Harnetty
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Cattleya wittigiana	c	S. Kappl
<b>Intermediate</b>	Coelogyne fimbriata	c	J. Harnetty
	<b>Open Section</b>		
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Dancer x triangularis	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Stripe Icing ‘Who Cares’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Leopard Dancer	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Avril’s Gold	c	D. Cannon
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dockrilla Shoenina x Hotegals	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. Glannura Srer x Aussie Victory ‘Castle Creek’	c	C. Luth
<b>Paphiopedilum Species</b>	1st gatrixianum	c	C. Gunawan
	2st charlesworthii	c	S. Kappl
	3 <sup>rd</sup> gatrixianum	c	C. Luth
<b>Oncidium Small</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> varicosum x moon shadow	c	C. Gunawan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Onc. Nona x Flexiosum x Enderlanum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Laeliinae Intermediate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> mem Ken Martin ‘Win’	c	C. Luth
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Catt. Iced Beau	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Laeliinae Cluster &amp; Novelty</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Bowringiana x lodgessi	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. wittigiana	C	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oncidium trulifferum	c	C. Luth

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Pleurathallis viduata	c	S. Kappl
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Cymbidium elegans	c	C Luth
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dendrobium subclausum	c	L.Le
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Coelogyne mooreana ‘Brockhurst’	c	C. Luth
	<b>Intermediate Section</b>		
<b>Oncidiine Medium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Ondontia Pacifica Paranoia ‘Other Side of Kool’	c	J. Harnetty
<b>Species Any Genera – The America’s</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Laelia gouldiana	c	J. Harnetty
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne fimbriata ‘Alba’		J. Harnetty
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Epidendrum porpax		J. Harnetty

### Congratulations to

Sylvia Kappl’s Cattleya wittigiana awarded a Club Cultural

### Points tally – 2024

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	61
S. Kappl	49
C Luth	37
D. Cannon	4
G. Moffat	8
L. Orland	23
L. Le	9
C. Ng	3
C. Gunawan	29
K. Lam	7
Intermediate	Points
Tu Le	15
J. Harnetty	34
J. Wong	11
Novice	Points
G. Chivell	10
T. Pham	4

# Miltoniopsis Culture

mil-tone-ee-OP-sis



## LIGHT

should be considered with temperature. You can give more light, as long as the plants do not get too hot. This is why growing indoors is ideal for these plants (or in a temperate-zone greenhouse). The best flowering happens when the plants get some direct sun exposure.

- In a greenhouse, 70% to 80% shade cloth is required to reach about 10,750-26,900 lumens/1,000-2,500 foot-candles.
- In the home, east, north or west windows where they will get about 1-5 hours of direct sun are ideal.
- If using artificial lights, they should be on for 10 to 14 hours a day.

## TEMPERATURE

Depends on the hybrid/species, but in general, Miltoniopsis are happy with 55F-72F (12.7C-22.2C) nights and 70F-85F (21.1C-29.4C) days.

- If growing indoors, no need to worry about temperature; room temperature all the time is fine.
- When growing outdoors or in a greenhouse, error on the side of cooler, wetter, and shadier conditions if your growing space gets too hot.

## WATER

When thinking about *Miltoniopsis* water needs, think about the environments that they come from – equatorial. That means that these plants should not dry out. If insufficient water is given, or there's too much time between waterings, the plants will exhibit "accordion" growth. Regardless of growing indoors or in a greenhouse, water should be liberally applied. Potting mix should be perpetually moist and dry slightly between waterings. Plants should not dry out completely, or if they do, water needs to be immediately applied when the media hits dryness. If growing indoors, you may keep the plant sitting in a tray of water that is about ½" (1-2 cm) deep. If adding more water, always add to the top of the media. Avoid wetting foliage, as they are rather susceptible to various infections.



- In a greenhouse – water daily; twice a day if the temperatures are above 85F (29.4C) regardless of whether or not it's potted or mounted.

Indoors – *Miltoniopsis* should only be grown potted, and you should keep the media perpetually lightly moist like a wrung-out sponge. This can be done by occasional light watering. The frequency of watering will depend on how fast it takes for the media to dry in your conditions. Indoors, you can get away with watering less frequently by letting them sit in their own flow-through and by using a more water-retentive mix. Always use lukewarm water, as temperature below 50 F may injure plants, as will hard water or water softened by the addition of salts.

## HUMIDITY

is not necessary if you have mastered how to water these plants. Because they are kept perpetually moist, they have water at the roots to draw from, and will not need air humidity. However, if you are a forgetful waterer, or your greenhouse gets hot, then humidity will be essential to ensuring that the media does not dry out as fast. If you do need to worry about humidity, anything >50% should be alright. Be sure to incorporate airflow if conditions are soggy, or the humidity is >75%.

## FERTILIZE

*Miltoniopsis* less frequently than other orchids. *Miltoniopsis* are from equatorial, rainy environments, so they actually have adapted to a lower nutrient environment than other orchids (the rain washes away any would-be nutrients quickly). Therefore, it's easier to burn the plants, as evidenced by black tips. Use a ½- ¼ strength dilution of a high nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) for most of the year, periodically switching to a ½ - ¼ strength dilution of a high phosphorus 10-20-10 to promote flowering.

## POTTING

should be timed to coincide with the initiation of new growth, usually in the spring, but these equatorial plants tend to grow year-round, so anytime is the right time, so long as they are not in spike. New roots will be produced quickly at the time of new growth, and plants will experience minimal setback. These plants have vigorous root systems and require a moist, but breathable potting medium during the growing season. Even though they can be mounted, many greenhouse growers pot their *Miltoniopsis* to ensure that they do not dry out.

- In greenhouses, plant in anything from 100% sphagnum to 50% sphagnum and 50% fine-grade orchid bark mix. Planting in 100% tree fern fiber (or mixed with some sphagnum) also works.

Indoors, plant in either 100% tree fern fiber or 50% sphagnum and 50% tree fern fiber. Planting in 100% sphagnum also works, as long as it is not sitting in water with the 100% sphagnum. For *Miltoniopsis* to sit in a tray of water indoors, 100% tree fern fiber is recommended.

## OTHER

Bud blast most commonly occurs from a sudden change in temperature or watering. Spider mites are a common pest of these orchids. Control spider mites by keeping humidity high and/or spraying with recommended miticides. If multiple applications of pesticide are needed, wash the plant off after every second application to protect the sensitive thin leaves from damaging. When well-grown, these orchids can be divided down to one mature pseudobulb and will then flower on the next mature growth.

**Thanks to American Orchid Society**

## Slugs and Snails

Slugs and snails are different from other pests in that they are land mollusks, which are not insects or worms, but rather more closely related to octopi and squid than anything else.



All slugs and snails are hermaphrodites, which means that any one individual can mate with any other individual, and both will lay eggs and fertilize the other's eggs.

In colder climates, slugs and snails will overwinter in topsoil and other debris, such as a compost pile or deep leaf litter. In warmer, more southern climates, slugs and snails will be active all year. Slugs and snails prefer wet or moist conditions, are typically active at night, and avoid dry or dusty places[1]. Typically, slugs reach maturity after about 3 to 6 months, depending on the species, and lay translucent oval to round eggs in clutches of 3 to 40 beneath leaves, in soil cracks, and in other protected areas[2]. Having their entire bodies covered in mucous, they require moist places to live and hide, or they will die. Because of this, they have an aversion to dry dust, ash, diatomaceous earth, etc.

Slugs and snails are very destructive and noticeable. Unlike most other pests which drain or slash the life out of the plant, snails and slugs straight up chew and consume your plants, leaving big holes of irregular shape and somewhat smoothed edges. Signs of slugs include big holes or chew marks or dents in your plant, moist mucous trails on the plant, and typically more damage as the weather gets wetter.

Slugs and snails are nearly 100% an outdoor pest, but if your plants came from the outside,

or if you just bought a plant, then you will need to inspect it for slug damage. While some folks salt their slugs in the garden, please be strongly advised that table salt (sodium chloride, or any sodium salt) is extremely toxic to plants. We do not recommend salting to kill slugs. Rather, we recommend cultural changes and baits to mitigate the slug problem. There is no way to eliminate slugs or snails in a greenhouse that has a floor that is soil, or from an outdoor garden. It is, however, possible to eliminate slugs from a greenhouse with a concrete floor that is well sealed at the base. Indoors, it's very easy to eliminate slugs and snails, once discovered.

Some solutions for slugs and snails include copper wire, iron baits, beer traps, metaldehydes, predators, and more. Just to be explicitly clear – **BEER TRAPS DO NOT WORK FOR SLUGS**. Do NOT use beer traps to control slugs, as this will just attract even more slugs around, which will steal perfectly good beer and run off to then eat your plants.

Copper sheet barriers have mixed success because the barriers don't go deep enough (if bordering at ground level into the soil), or are not implemented in a way where the snail or slug can't avoid the copper sheet. Copper corrodes into copper oxides, which are sharp, crusty, and dry – all things that slugs and snails hate. The downside is, is that too much copper is also toxic to plants. The copper sheet barrier method is most effective with greenhouse benches, where you only have the four (or more) legs of the bench for snails and slugs to crawl up. The idea is to ring the sheet around the legs of the bench so that the slugs and snails from the ground are blocked from climbing up, as they are reluctant to cross the copper sheet barrier. This does not stop slugs or snails from attacking plants, but rather sets a barrier from more entering.

Diatomaceous earth and/or ashes have also been suggested as another barrier method of slug and snail control. These barriers are immediately rendered ineffective when they get wet, as it's the drying power of the diatomaceous earth/ash that prevents slugs and snails from crossing the barrier.

Truly, the most effective way to eradicate/control slugs and snails is to bait them with iron phosphate. They are naturally attracted to the bait, then are compelled to consume it, then hide away and die. If you have snails or slugs indoors or in a relatively confined area, then it's possible to eradicate snails and slugs with just the bait. Otherwise, this should be worked into your garden or greenhouse's program. Remember, slugs and snails are NOT insects, and are impervious to the effects of insecticides.

**Thanks to American Orchid Society**

## **ORCHID SHOWS 2024**

<b>Show</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Melbourne Eastern Orchid Society	Sat 8 June 9-4, Sun 19 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East

Geelong	Sat 29 June 9-4, Sun 30 June 10-3	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets
Country Challenge	Sat 6 July 12.00-4, Sun 7 July 9-3	Brauer College, 37 Caramut Rd Warrnambool
Bayside	21 July Shopping Centre hours	Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre, Cnr Matthew Flinders Av & Heatherton Rd, Endeavour Hills
Gippsland	16 Aug -17 Aug Shopping Centre Hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princes Highway
OSCOV	Fri 23 Aug -Sun 25 Aug 9am-4pm	'KCC Park', 655 Western Port Highway, Skye
Sale & District	Sat 31 August 9.30 -4, Sun 1 Sept 10-3	VRI Hall, Pettit Drive (Opposite the Sale Railway Station)
South Gippsland	Fri 13 September, 9.30 -4.30, Sat 14, 9.30-4	Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
Cymbidium Orchid Society	Sat 14 Sept 9-4, Sun 15 Sept 9-4	Mt Waverley Community Centre. Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley
NEMOS	Sat 14 Sep, 9-4 Sun 15 Sep 10-4	Bulleen Heights Secondary School 221 Manningham Rd Lower Templestowe
Bairnsdale	Sat 14 Sept 9-4, Sun 15 Sept 10-3	Lucknow Memorial Hall, 105 Great Alpine Rd, Lucknow
Southern Suburbs	Sat. 21 Sept 10 – 4 Sun. 22 Sept 10 - 4	Snr City Hall, 964 Nepean Hwy. (Cnr. Exley Dr.)
Mid-Murray	Sat 21 Sept 10-4, Sun 22 Sept 10-3.	Kerang Memorial Hall, Nolan Street Kerang
West Gippsland	Sat 21 Sept 9-4, Sun 22 Sept 10-3	Anglican Church Hall, Cnr. Princes Way & Francis Ave, Drouin.
Geelong	Sat 21 Sept 9-4, Sun 22 Sept 10-3	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets
Bayside	Sun 22 Sept Shopping Centre Hours	Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre Sth Gippsland Hwy Cranbourne
Stawell	Friday 27 Sept 10 -5 Sat. 28 Sept 10-4 Sun 29 Sept 10-3	Stawell Entertainment Centre, Town Hall 117 Main St. Stawell
Goulburn Valley	Sat 28 Sep, 9-4 Sun 29 Sep 10-3	Shepparton Harness Racing Track, Melbourne Rd, Kialla
Berwick	Sat 28 Sept 9-4, Sun 29 Sept 9-4	Senior Citizens' Hall, 112 High Street, Berwick
Maroondah	Sat 28 Sep, 9-4 Sun 29 Sep 9-3	St. Timothy's Catholic School, 21 Stevens Rd, Vermont
Warrnambool	Sat 5 Oct Sept 9-4, Sun 6 Oct 9 – 3	Our Lady Help of Christian Hall , 28 Selby Rd, Warrnambool
MPOS	Friday 4 Oct.	Cnr McMahon's Rd and Gertrude St Frankston
MEOS	Sat 5 Oct, 9-4, Sun 6 Oct, 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East

Ringwood	Sat 5 Oct 9-4, Sun 6 Oct 9-4	Keystone Hall 20 Civic Square Croydon 3136
Gippsland	Sat 5 Oct. Sun 6 Oct. Centre Hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princess Highway
Bendigo	Fri 4 Oct 1-4, Sat 5 Oct. 10-3	Truscott Reserve 18 Murdock St California Gully
Colac	Sat 12 Oct 9-4, Sun 13 Oct 10-4	Colac Show Grounds Cnr. Bruce St & Princess Hwy
St Arnaud	Sat 12 Oct 9-4 Sun 13 Oct 9-4	Town Hall Napier St, St Arnaud
Cobden	Sat 19 Oct 10-4, Sun 20 Oct 10-4	Civic Hall, Victoria Street
Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 19 Oct 9-4, Sun 20 Oct 9-3	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Ballarat	Fri 18 Oct 12-5, Sat 19 10 – 3 Sun 20 10-3	Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre 1 Holly Grove Wendouree
MPOS	Fri. 25 Oct	Bunnings Mornington 1100 Nepean Highway Mornington
Bayside	Sat 26 Oct 9 - 5 Sun 27 Oct 9 - 4	Cranbourne Public Hall, 166-168 South Gippsland Hwy
Ringwood / Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 2 Nov 9-4, Sun 3 Nov 9-3	Keystone Hall, Keystone Hall Civic Square, Croydon
Bairnsdale Sarc Show	Sat 9 Nov 9-4, Sun 10 Nov 10-3	Paynesville Community Centre 55 The Esplanade Paynesville

## LAST THOUGHTs

How does a flower whistle?  
Using it's tulips.

What do you call a flower that glows in the dark?  
A light bulb.

Where do roses sleep at night?  
In a flowerbed.

Did you hear about the flower that went on a date with the other flower?  
It was a budding romance.



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.