

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume : 47 - Issue : 10

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Next Meeting: Friday – 15 November 2024
Meeting begins at 8.00pm

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

ITEM OF THE EVENING:

At the meeting we will be holding our annual Sarcochilus Show

Topical Chat: Sarcochilus

Also Spring Show Trophies will be presented at the November meeting.

Supper: Please bring a plate

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

Sales Table: Pots, stakes, labels and hangers – Leanne Le

President's Report

I am honoured to have been elected as President for a second term and I look forward to another great year for the Maroondah Orchid Society. I would like to thank your dedicated Committee members for their continued excellent service to our great orchid society.

As I mentioned at our October meeting, we have been very fortunate to secure a new hall at Parkmore Primary School. The premises has plenty of off-street parking and is only a short distance from St Timothy's. I'm sure that members will be very happy with our new digs. The big move will occur on Saturday, November 23rd and we'll be hosting our Christmas dinner at Parkmore Primary.

Finally, I'd like to express our sincere thanks to St Timothy's Primary School, with whom we have had an excellent relationship over quite a few years.

Michael Chivell

Christmas Dinner

**Date: 13 December; Time: Arrive 6.30pm for 7.00pm; At Parkmore Primary School
38/54 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill VIC 3131**

**Cost: Members \$20, Non-members \$40 Children aged between 6 -12 years \$18 each
and children under 6 years free.**

**You can pay at the November meeting 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.

**Also please email me the name of person with dietary requirement and the ages
of child/ren attending, at leorland@totalfundraising.com.au**

Deadline for bookings is Friday November 30.

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, The late Max Bomford, Cheryl Luth, G Moffat.

Current M.O.S. Inc. Committee:

President Michael Chivell (M) 0402 568 217

Vice Presidents: David Cannon (M) 0418 394 282

Vacant

Secretary: Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492

Email: leoorland@totalfundraising.com.au

Treasurer: Ron Coleman (M) 0477 311 188

Committee: 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

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)

SARCOCHILUS SHOW NIGHT

The November meeting is our Sarcochilus Show Meeting. There will be a sash for the Champion Sarcochilus and prizes for the classes listed below.

Open section will stand alone and Intermediate and Novice will be classed together. The classes listed below –

Best Classic Shape - White	Best Classic Shape – Red/Pink	Best Classic Shape – Any other colour/combination of colours
Best Novelty Shape – open shaped plants. (e.g. Australis etc.	Best Specimen (Hybrid/Species)	Best Species
Best Seedling flowering for the first time.		

REMINDER: Membership Renewal NOW DUE

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

Fees were due 1st July 2024. Fees: Adult (single) \$20.00, Family \$25.00, Junior (16 years and under) \$5.00

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!

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

SPRING SHOW 2024

MAJOR PRIZES WINNERS

CATEGORY & ELIGIBILITY	TROPHIES	WINNER	PLANT
PRE- EMINENT ORCHID OF THE SHOW All sections & all classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bert Cusack Perpetual Trophy &• Keepsake• Sash & Cash	John Wong	Sarc.aequalis
GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID OF THE SHOW All sections & all classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetual trophy – Ice Bucket• Sash & Cash• OSCOV medallion	Dieter Weise	Stenorrhynchos glicensteinii
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID OF THE SHOW All sections & all classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crystal vase• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	David Cannon	Den.falcorostrum
CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM OF THE SHOW All sections & all classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President's Cup• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	Terry Poulton	Cym.Laramine 'Art' 'Tee Pee'
CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE AND OR Terete Style. Dendrobium Orchid of Show (Species or Hybrid)Excluding Sarcochilus. All sections & Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetual Trophy .Tray. Cash, Sash &• RHSV SS Mackay medallion	David Cannon	Den.falcorostrum
CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE Sarcochilus Orchid Hybrid/Specie All sections & Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	Jim Foster-Johnson	Plectochins Richard Jost
Champion Coelogyne Hybrid/Specie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	Hanh Truong	Coelogyne Unchained Melody
Champion Masdevallia Hybrid/Specie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	Clive Halls	Masd.Rein Stall x Super Nova
Champion Laelilnae Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sash & Cash• Pewter medallion	John McCabe	LcWrigleyi x (C.Chocolate Drop x L.gouldiana)


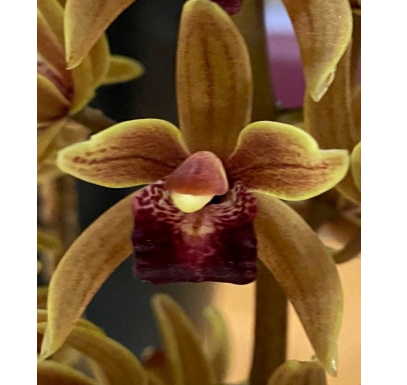

CATEGORY & ELIGIBILITY	TROPHIES	WINNER	CASH / PRIZE (DONATED BY)
Champion Oncidiinae Hybrid	* Sash & Cash * Pewter medallion	Cheryl Luth	Onc.Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'
Champion Any Other Hybrid Orchid	* Sash & Cash * Pewter medallion	Jim Foster-Johnson	Den.White Pony 'Akamato'
Champion Specimen Overall	* Sash & Cash * Pewter medallion	David Cannon	Den.falcorostrum
	*		
CHAMPION SPECIES Orchid Overall Excluding Australian Native Orchids All sections	* Myrtle & Horrie Foster-Johnson Memorial Award * Keepsake * Sash & Cash	Dieter Weise	Stenorrhynchos glicensteinii
CHAMPION SEEDLING OF THE SHOW All sections & all classes	* Tray, Sash & Cash * Pewter medallion	Clive Halls	Masd.Rein Stall x Super Nova
CHAMPION ORCHIDS BY AN INTERMEDIATE GROWER Intermediate section growers only	* F Date Memorial Trophy * Sash & Cash & Pewter Medallion	John Wong	Sarc.aequalis
CHAMPION ORCHID BY A NOVICE Novice section growers only	* Perpetual Trophy - Tray * Sash & Cash Pewter Medallion	Ricky Kasman	Coelogyne Unchained Melody
CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA AWARD. The award is for an outstanding Cymbidium exhibit which does not win a major prize. All sections & all classes	* COSV Plaque * Cash	Graeme & Merilyn Moffat	Cym.Bulbarrow 'Maid Marion'

PART 2 - DISPLAYS

CLASS & ELIGIBILITY	TROPHIES	WINNER
Champion Large Display Without Theme – All sections (Over 2.5mtr Frontage)	* Sash & * Pewter medallion	David Cannon
Champion Medium Theme Display – All Sections (1mtr to 2.5mtr frontage)	* Sash & * Pewter medallion	Cheryl Luth
Champion Medium Display Without Theme – All Sections (1mtr to 2.5mtr frontage)	* Sash & * Pewter medallion	Karen Balogh
Show Marshall's Ribbon. To be awarded by the Show Marshall for an outstanding Exhibit not otherwise recognised or catered for in the schedule	* Sash & * Pewter Medallion	Graeme & Marilyn Moffat

CLASS & ELIGIBILITY	TROPHIES	WINNER
Mini Stands: Open. To be awarded for best decorative arrangement of an area of 500 mm square with a maximum of 5 plants	* Sash	Christian Gunawan
Mini Stands: Intermediate/Novice To be awarded for best decorative arrangement of an area of 500 mm square with a maximum of 5 plants	* Sash	Ricky Kasman
Encouragement Award. Intermediate/Novice Sections	* Sash	Tu Le
Champion Floral Art Exhibit. LAUREL HARRIS MEMORIAL AWARD All sections..Open,Intermediate & Novice	* Perpetual tray. Sash & Pewter Medallion	Christian Gunawan

Interesting Plants From the October Meeting

		
<p>J. Foster-Johnson's Dendrobium Mild Yumi Lotus</p>	<p>J. Harnetty's White Phalanopsis</p>	<p>T, Pham's Cymbidium Scallywig 'The Crumpet'</p>
		
<p>S. Kapp'l's Sarcochilus dilatatus</p>	<p>C. Gunawan's Paphiopedalum Gael x lawrenceanum</p>	<p>G. & M. Moffat's Cymbidium Miss Muffet</p>
		
<p>L. Orland's Sarcochilus Kulnura Roundup x Kulnara Absolute</p>	<p>J. Foster-Johnson's Masdevallia Copper Wing Sunburst</p>	<p>R. Kasman's Dendrobium Coral Orap</p>

Winners of the Popular Vote

Open	Jim Foster Johnson's Dendrobium Mild Yumi Lotus
Intermediate	James Harnetty's White Phalanopsis
Novice	Thuy Pham's Cymbidium Scallywag 'The Crumpet'

Points tally – 2024

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	103
S. Kappl	98
C Luth	45
D. Cannon	8
G. Moffat	9
L. Orland	48
L. Le	17
C. Ng	5
C. Gunawan	42
K. Lam	7
A. Baker	6
D. Weise	17
K. Balogh	13
G. McCully	8
S. & M. Early	3
P. Hince	5

Intermediate	Points
Tu Le	24
J. Harnetty	44
J. Wong	11
R. & H. Coleman	25
S. Lim	1
Novice	Points
G. Chivell	34
T. Pham	15
R. Kasman	20
W. Han	4
P. & Y. Lock	3
S. Liu	15

ORCHID SHOWS 2024

Show	Date/Time	Venue
Ringwood / Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 2 Nov 9-4, Sun 3 Nov 9-3pm	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

CULTURAL NOTES : HOW TO GROW SARCOCHILUS

Most *Sarcochilus* (pronounced Sar-co-kyle-us) orchids are native to Australia; only one species is found overseas. The most widely grown species (*Sarcochilus hartmannii*, *S. fitzgeraldii* and *S. ceciliae*) grow on rocks in New South Wales or Queensland. However all three of these species grow happily in pots in Melbourne shade houses. Another species (*S. falcatus*) is found growing mostly on tree trunks, and is best grown on mounts, such as pieces of tree branch. Many hybrids have been made in recent years using the above four species, and also some of the other *sarcochilus* species that are less amenable to cultivation. In many instances these hybrids show hybrid vigour and are even easier to grow than their parent species.

POTTING. *Sarcochilus* are best repotted during their most active growing season, which commences in March and continues into early winter, when the plants rest until they flower, mostly in mid- to late spring. *Sarcochilus ceciliae* and some of its hybrids flower a little later, usually during summer. Most *sarcochilus* species and their hybrids are best potted in a mixture of pine bark pieces (5-10 mm diameter) and river pebbles of similar size. Approximately two parts of bark to one of pebbles gives good results. Well-drained plastic 'squat' pots are ideal. In the case of *Sarcochilus ceciliae* (and to a lesser extent its hybrids) the plant should be placed high in its pot – it seems to do best if its roots are allowed to wander over the surface of the mix rather than penetrating into the mix.

LIGHT, TEMPERATURE AND AIR. *Sarcochilus* orchids enjoy breezy, shaded, humid conditions and do best lower down in a shade house or fernery than other orchids, such as Australian native *dendrobiums*.

WATERING. These orchids require plenty of water when in active growth but during Winter, when they cease growth, watering once each week is ample.

FERTILISING. Regular applications of liquid fertilisers at no more than half the concentration recommended by the manufacturer stimulate growth during summer and autumn. They should be used less often during spring and not at all in winter.

FLOWERING. Care should be taken not to wet the flowers when watering, especially in dull, still weather. *Sarcochilus* flowers tend to spot very readily due to the growth of *Botrytis* (Grey Mould), which is most prevalent in damp conditions.

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



Sarcochilus Burgundy On Ice
'Rose' HCC/OSCOV



Sarcochilus falcatus 'Jacki'
AM/OSCOV



Cattleya Culture

LIGHT

Light is the most important factor in growing and flowering Cattleyas, whether in a greenhouse or in the home. They can receive direct sun indoors in a South, East, or West window, or direct sun in a greenhouse. Leaves should be a chartreuse-green color; pseudobulbs erect and require no staking.

- In a greenhouse, 50%-70% full sun or about 32,250-53,750 lumens (3,000-5,000 foot-candles) is ideal. Southern climates below the 37th parallel will need to use shade cloth. Northern growers can expose some species to full sun with no consequence.
- Indoors, *Cattleya* should be placed in any window (ideally south-facing) that gets more than 4 hours of direct sunlight to bloom. You cannot sunburn a *Cattleya* indoors.
- If grown under lights, *Cattleya* should receive more than 3000 lumens of light to bloom and grow.

TEMPERATURE

Temperature depends on the hybrid/species, but in general, *Cattleya* are happy with 55F-72F (12.7C-22.2C) nights and 70F-85F (21.1C-29.4C) days. Seedlings should have night temperatures a few degrees higher. Higher day temperatures can be tolerated (up to 95F (35C) if humidity, water, air circulation, and shading are increased.

- If growing indoors, there is no need to worry about temperature; room temperature all the time is fine.

WATER

When thinking about water for epiphytes like *Cattleya*, you must keep in mind that they like to have quick wet/dry cycles. *Cattleya* like to go dry between waterings but like to be immediately watered when their media hits dryness. Always use lukewarm water, as water temperature below 50F (10C) may injure plants, as will hard water or water softened by the addition of salts.

- If growing in a greenhouse, you should adjust your watering so that the plants have time to dry before the next watering. Mounted cattleyas may require additional watering in warm/hot conditions.

- Indoors, *Cattleya* should be grown potted, and watered from the top. Otherwise they can be taken to the shower or sink and be watered, drip dry, then be placed back. The frequency will depend on how fast it takes for the media to dry in your conditions.

HUMIDITY

Humidity for *Cattleya* is a bonus but is not necessary for growing these well. Remember that humidity is an anti-dryness factor. If you raise the humidity, the plant will be slightly more robust, but not incredibly so.

- In a greenhouse, air should always be moving around the plants to prevent fungal or bacterial disease, especially if high humidity or cool temperatures exist.
- Indoors, as long as the *Cattleya* are well-watered and frequently watered, you do not need to worry about humidity.

FERTILIZE

Fertilize on a regular schedule. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ strength of a normal dose regularly when plants are actively growing. A higher nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) is recommended during active growth. In autumn, or after growth slows, fertilizer should be reduced or eliminated for the winter. Some growers use a high-phosphorus formula in the spring to promote flowering.

POTTING

Potting is necessary when you first get the plant, if the rhizome of the plant protrudes over the edge of the pot, or if the potting medium starts to break down and drain poorly (usually after 2 to 3 years). If you see new roots or shoots just starting to grow, that is the best time to repot. Otherwise, you will have to wait until after flowering. Mature *Cattleya* are usually potted in coarser potting material than are seedlings. Until a plant has at least six mature pseudobulbs, it generally should be repotted into a larger pot and not divided. If dividing a plant, three to five pseudobulbs per division are required. Select a pot that will allow for approximately two years of growth (usually a 2-3 inch (5–8 cm) larger diameter pot) before crowding the pot.

- If growing in a greenhouse, use medium to coarse orchid bark mix. No sphagnum is necessary, except for perhaps the smallest of seedlings.

- If growing indoors, you will want to mix about ¼- 1/3 of sphagnum to either fine or medium grade orchid bark mix (which is bark+perlite+charcoal).
Alternatively, planting into 100% treefern fiber works well with plastic pots indoors.

OTHER

Cattleya usually bloom once a year, though through hybridization, some hybrids can bloom multiple times a year. Most are fragrant, unless there are certain *Laelia* or *Sophranitis* in the background. *Cattleya* are the most succulent of the orchids (besides *Eulophia*), and you will also see other closely related genera lumped in with them for their ability to be hybridized or their similarity in care.

Thanks to American Orchid Society

ORCHID SCENTS AND POLLINATORS

by Brian Milligan

Most orchid flowers are scented, even though it may not seem so at times to our relatively insensitive noses. Of course, they are not scented to please us but to attract pollinators, whose attentions ultimately lead to fertilisation and seed production. The vast majority of orchid flowers are pollinated by insects. However, a few non-scented orchid flowers are pollinated by humming birds and sunbirds during their search for nectar.

In his book *The Scent of Orchids* (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1993), Roman Kaiser classifies orchids into various groups, based upon the nature of their pollinators. The moth-pollinated, night-scented group of orchids, predominantly from Africa and Madagascar, give off scents reminiscent of jasmine, honeysuckle, tuberose and gardenia, which are released predominantly in the evening and at night. Most of these flowers are white, providing an additional visual guide for the moths. About 8% of all orchids are believed to be moth-pollinated. *Angraecum sesquipedale* is probably the best known, being pollinated by a hawk moth with a proboscis over 300 mm long, as postulated by Charles Darwin in the nineteenth century. But certain American orchids, also with white flowers, such as *Brassavola* species, are also moth pollinated.

In contrast to these sweet-smelling orchids, there are fly-pollinated orchid flowers, mostly red or brown in colour, whose scent resembles that of rotting flesh. Many bulbophyllums, especially those in the section *Cirrhopetalum*, are of this type. The prime example is the evil-smelling *Bulbophyllum robustum* of Papua New Guinea.

Bee-pollinated orchids produce a wide range of scents, resembling those of the rose, violet, lily-of-the valley, hyacinth and sweet pea. The honey bee, and presumably most other bees, have a different sensitivity to colour than humans, in they cannot perceive the colour red but can see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to us. There are a few bee-pollinated red flowers but all of these flowers also reflect ultraviolet light, which makes them visible to bees. Many

orchid flowers have ultraviolet guide lines that direct bees to the nectar-producing glands concealed within the corolla tube, where the pollinia and stigma are also located. Most bee-pollinated flowers rely solely on attracting the bees by their perfume and leave the business of pollen transfer to and from the pollinator to chance. But others have a more specific mechanism; for example European terrestrial orchids of the genus *Ophrys*, whose perfume closely resembles the sex attractant of certain female bees. Pollen is transferred from one flower to another when a male bee attempts to mate with a succession of flowers, whose labellum closely resemble a female bee in shape, colour and scent.

Butterfly-pollinated flowers are less common but most of us are familiar with the prime example, *Disa uniflora*, from South Africa. The pollinia of this species, being among the largest of all orchids, need quite a large pollinator to carry them from flower to flower.

Most bird-pollinated flowers are red or orange, because birds are more sensitive to this end of the visible spectrum. They are also scentless, because birds have almost no sense of smell. Some species of the American genera *Masdevallia*, *Cattleya*, *Epidendrum*, *Cochlioda*, *Comparettia* and *Laelia* are pollinated by humming birds. In PNG and Malaysia many dendrobiums are pollinated by sunbirds. However, bees and other insects are the main pollinators of orchids, only 3% being pollinated by birds.

An amazing facet of orchid pollination is that in some cases a particular orchid species is pollinated by only a single insect species. In other words, each of these orchids has its own pollinator, thus ensuring that no cross-pollination with related orchid species occurs. But that's another story.

LAST THOUGHTS

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere.

Why did the golfer get a new pair of pants? Because he got a hole in one.

What happens when you take a watch on a plane? Time flies!

What did the platypus say when he bought some lipstick? Put it on my bill.

How do you make a fire with two sticks? Make sure ones a match.

Why couldn't the bike stand on its own? Because it was two tyred 🚲.

Want to hear a joke about a piece of paper? It's tearable.

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.

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