

# MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume : 47 - Issue : 9

Lycastes are orchids of the  
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

**Next Meeting: Friday – 18 October 2024**  
Meeting begins at 8.00pm

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

### ITEM OF THE EVENING:

#### **Andre Cleghorn – Plant Hormones**

**Topical Chat:** AGM

**Also Spring Show Trophies will be presented at the October 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

What a fantastic Annual Show!

Those who attended last weekend were treated to some magnificent displays. And the scent of the orchids as you entered the hall was amazing.

As always, Saturday morning was a madhouse with plant buyers queued up by about 8:30 and then the rush as soon as the doors opened. We were lucky to have such a beautiful day on Saturday. But the weather gods weren't as kind on Sunday with quite a bit of rain in the morning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members (and their other halves) who so kindly helped with the set up on Thursday, then assisting with the running of the Show on the weekend and the pull down on Sunday afternoon. The old adage of many hands making light work was so true on the weekend.

We are now in the final stages of securing our new venue and we'll have a lot more to say about that at our Annual General Meeting on October the 18<sup>th</sup>. I think members will be delighted with the results.

Michael Chivell

### **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!

**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

Ron Coleman

**Secretary:** Leo Orland (M) 0419 884 492

Email: [leoorland@totalfundraising.com.au](mailto: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

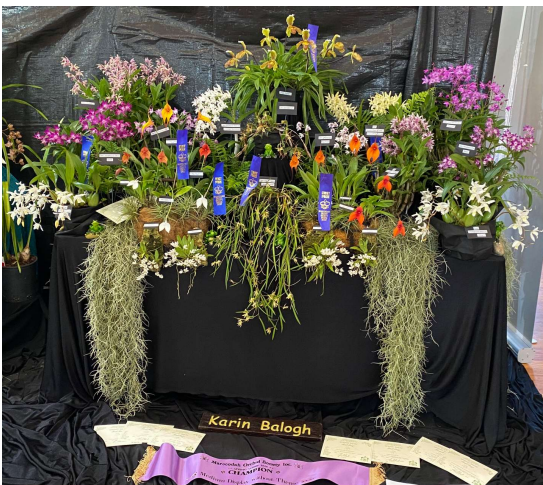
**Newsletter:** Leo Orland

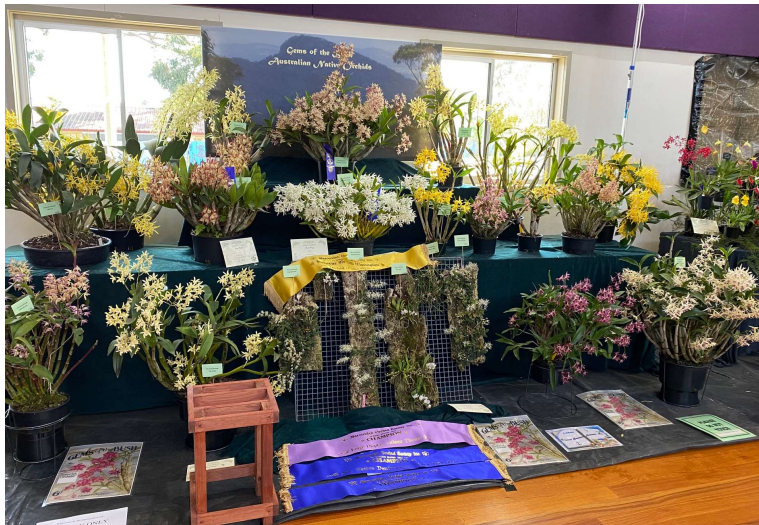
**Floral Art:** Susanne Redpath (M) 0413 138 307

**Website Manager** Heather Coleman

**MOS Website Address** [www.oscov.asn.au /mos](http://www.oscov.asn.au/mos)

# MOS 2024 Spring Show









## David Cannon's *Dendrobium falcorostrum*

### Shown at the MOS Spring Show






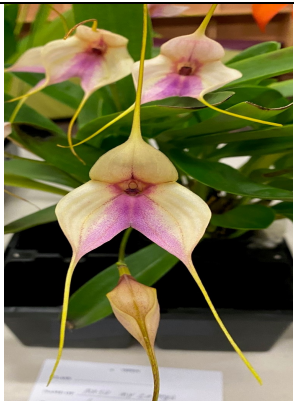


*Dendrobium falcorostrum* is a natural species from NSW, growing mostly on native beech tree's, at high altitudes including cloud forests. This climate is very cold in winter, and plants stay wet in winter. Knowing the natural growing conditions gives us an understanding of how to grow.

My plant was purchased as a small natural division about 15 years ago. I grow my plants hanging high, above 2 metres from ground. Growing under both shade cloth and a solid opal white laserlite roof. The sides where they grow has shade cloth for the top 60cm above fence height. This gives maximum air movement. Depending on daytime temperatures, plants are overhead watered at least twice a week in winter and in summer on hot times, every day, for between 3 and 4 minutes depending on temperature. I use mainly rainwater which I have collected in tanks. Plants are grown in a mix of bark, charcoal, and scoria in squat pots. *Dendrobium falcorostrum* has one of the strongest perfumes of any of our Australian Native Dendrobiums



## Interesting Plants From the September Meeting

		
<p style="text-align: center;">S. Kappl's vandachostylis Pinky</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S. Kappl's Paph. Ruby Fire</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H. &amp; R. Coleman's Cymbidium Charming Ying</p>
		
<p style="text-align: center;">G. Chivell's Dendrobium Sid's Yellow x Goldmoon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J. Foster-Johnson's Pleione Shantucy 'Lanberra'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">K. Balogh's Sarchochilus falcatus 'Purple Lip'</p>
		
<p style="text-align: center;">P. Hince's Serapias lingua</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J. Foster-Johnson's Masdevallia My Copper 'Cream Flares'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">K. Balogh's Dendrobium tetragonum</p>

## BENCH COMPETITION - September – 2024

<b>JUDGES VOTE</b>	Paphiopedilums Ruby Fire	c	S. Kappl
<b>POPULAR VOTE</b>	Vandachostylis Pinky	c	S. Kappl
<b>BEST IN SECTION</b>			
<b>Open</b>	Paphiopedilums Ruby Fire	c	S. Kappl
<b>Intermediate</b>	Cymbidium Charming Ying	c	H. & R. Coleman
<b>Novice</b>	Dendrobium Sid's Yellow x Goldmoon	c	G. Chivell
	<b>Open Section</b>		
<b>Masdevallia Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Falcata	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Copper Wing 'Sunburst'	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> My Copper 'Cream Flares'	c	J. Foster-Johnson
<b>Masdevallia Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Schroederiana	c	S. Kappl
<b>Australian Native - Dendrobium Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Dockrilla tetragonum	c	K. Balogh
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Catherine x J. D. 'Dark'	c	A. Baker
<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Jonathan's Glory	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kingianum x	c	B. Clowson

	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kalon's Ginger (Australasian)	c	S. Kappl
<b>Australian Native – Sarchochilus Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> falcatus #2	c	K. Balogh
	2 <sup>nd</sup> aequalis	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3 <sup>rd</sup> falcatus #1	c	K. Balogh
<b>Paphiopedilum Primary or Novelty</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Ruby Fire	c	S. Kappl
<b>Species Any Genera – Asia</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> vand	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coelogyne tenella	c	S. Kappl
<b>Species Any Genera – Other</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> vandachostylis Pinky	c	S. Kappl
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Serapias neglecta	c	P. Hince
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Serapias lingua	c	P. Hince
<b>Intermediate Section</b>			
<b>Minature Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Charming Ying	c	R. & H. Coleman
<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Kingianum Big Foot Sapphire x Big Foot Sparkles	c	R. & H. Coleman
<b>Novice Section</b>			
<b>Standard Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Betty Wait	c	S. Liu
<b>Miniature Cymbidium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Roby Eyes 'Tetra Baron'	c	S. Lin
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	c	R. Solowig
<b>Dendrobium</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Spring Dream 'Kumiico'	c	W. Han
<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Species</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> falcatus	c	G. Chivell

<b>Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sid's Yellow x Goldmoon	c	G. Chivell
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jonathan's Glory	c	G. Chivell
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Chaotic Gold 'Foxtail'	c	G. Chivell
<b>Any Other Hybrid</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Coelogyne Unchained Melody	c	G. Chivell
<b>Species Any Genera – The America's</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Maxillaria phorphystele	c	S. Liu

### Points tally – 2024

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	102
S. Kappl	97
C Luth	45
D. Cannon	8
G. Moffat	8
L. Orland	48
L. Le	16
C. Ng	5
C. Gunawan	41
K. Lam	7
A. Baker	6
D. Weise	17
K. Balogh	13
G. McCully	8
S. & M. Early	3

P. Hince	4
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Points</b>
Tu Le	23
J. Harnetty	43
J. Wong	11
R. & H. Coleman	24
S. Lim	1
<b>Novice</b>	<b>Points</b>
G. Chivell	34
T. Pham	14
R. Kasman	19
W. Han	4
P. & Y. Lock	3
S. Liu	15

### ORCHID SHOWS 2024

Show	Date/Time	Venue
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 9-3pm	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 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE DENDROBIUMS**

There are over 1400 species of dendrobiums and related dockrillias to be found growing in nature throughout Asia and Australia. More than 60 species are native to Australia, most growing in coastal New South Wales and Queensland, although two species occur in Victoria and one in Tasmania. Many Australian native dendrobium species and their hybrids are suitable for growing in Victoria under shade house conditions or in a garden situation where they are sheltered from frost and direct sunlight. Over a thousand hybrids are now available, with flowers of nearly all colours, shapes and sizes.

**POTTING.** While a few species grow best when mounted on hardwood mounts or on tree fern slabs, the majority of Australian dendrobium species and hybrids grow well when potted in a 4:1-mix of pine bark (5-10 mm) and river gravel (5 mm). Black plastic squat pots with plenty of drainage holes are ideal. It is important not to use too large a pot – one that will comfortably accommodate the roots and allow enough space for two year’s growth is large enough. Dendrobiums are best repotted after they have flowered, just as their new growths are appearing between October and early December. If their roots are in good condition, simply transfer the plant to a larger pot and fill in with new mix. If some of the roots show signs of decay, remove them and all old potting mix and repot in fresh mix.

**LIGHT AND AIR.** All dendrobiums grow and flower better if grown where they receive diffuse light (approximately 50% sunlight) for most of the year, full light during winter. They grow best if their pots can be suspended near the roof of the shade house so that receive good light and plenty of air movement. In summer native dendrobiums require frequent watering, especially during hot weather. However, they should not be kept continually wet and grow best if the mix is allowed to dry briefly before being watered again. In winter, much less water is needed, once a week being enough for flowering-sized plants grown under cover.

**FERTILISING.** Australian native dendrobiums may be fertilised in two different ways or by a combination of both. One option is to apply granules of a slow-release fertiliser, such as Osmocote-Plus®, to the top of the mix in October (shake the pot so that the fertiliser enters the mix). The other is to apply a weak solution of a liquid fertiliser at fortnightly intervals between October and April. Use at only half of the manufacturer's recommended concentration. Potassium-rich fertilisers, such as Campbell's A®, generally result in better flowering.

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



## HOW TO PRODUCE ORCHID SEED

by Andre Clegorn

The first step in growing orchids from seed requires careful planning. The choice of parent plants will determine the success of the cross, so the parent plants should have desirable characteristics such as vigorous plant and root growth, disease resistance, good flower shape, size and colour, good flower count, strong stems to support the flowers, compact plant habit and good tolerance to heat and cold. Selfings produce seedlings that resemble the parent plant more closely than do sibling crosses but they tend to produce weaker plants.

**POLLINATION** is the process of transferring pollen from one flower to another. Orchids do not have powdery pollen like most other flowering plants. Their pollen grains are compressed into structures called pollen masses, which are about the size of a grain of wheat. Instead of transferring pollen from one flower to another with a brush, as with other plants, orchid pollen is removed by means of a toothpick because of its compact structure.

The orchid's pollen masses are located behind the pollen cap at the end of the column. To gain access to the pollen masses this cap must be hinged to one side or removed completely. The pollen masses may then be transferred to the stigmatic area, a sticky depression located below the pollinia. Pollination tends to be more successful when

the flowers are fragrant and fresh. Make sure that you record all information about the pollination in a notebook and also tag the pollinated flower(s). It is a good idea to make a reverse cross as well, because one plant may be a better capsule parent than the other.

If you want to make a cross between two orchids that flower at different times of the year, you may store pollen from one flower for later use with a flower from another plant. The pollen will last for several months in a refrigerator at about 4°C if kept dry by storing it with a moisture-absorbing reagent, such as silica gel. When you are ready to use the stored pollen, it must first be re-hydrated. Place the dry pollen masses on a glass plate so that they just touch a drop of water and leave stand for an hour; the swollen pollen masses will then be ready to use.

**CAPSULE DEVELOPMENT.** Once the pollen masses have come into contact with the stigmatic area of the recipient flower, the pollen grains that comprises the pollen mass will be stimulated by chemicals on the sticky stigmatic area. Each pollen grain will produce a pollen tube and the resultant mass of tubes from the many thousands of pollen grains will grow down through the column until they reach the ovary behind the flower. Fertilisation then takes place and hopefully each ovule in the ovary will produce an orchid seed. A few days after pollination the flower will fade in response to the removal of the pollen masses but this phenomenon does not necessarily indicate successful pollination.

Over the following weeks or months, as seed forms, the ovary develops into a seed capsule that gradually matures. Initially the capsule will be dark green and quite hard; it will have thick walls and be largely empty. As the embryos grow inside the capsule, its walls will become thinner, and the seed will develop, causing the capsule to swell until it eventually reaches maturity. During this time the capsule usually changes to a yellowish green colour and its three ribs become more prominent. The plant should be protected from temperature extremes, rain, excess humidity, direct sunlight and insects, because temperature extremes may cause seed capsules to drop, excess humidity may result in fungal damage, insects may eat the seed capsule and its contents, and sunlight may cause premature splitting.

**COLLECTING SEED.** The following table gives a rough indication of when a seed capsule is likely to mature. It's simply a guide because the time taken for a capsule to mature depends not only on the genus but also on the time of year, climatic zone, ambient temperature and light intensity. The process takes from a few weeks for disas up to 18 months for some paphiopedilums. When the capsule reaches maturity, it cracks and releases dry seed.

#### **HARVEST TIMES FOR SEED CAPSULES OF VARIOUS ORCHID GENERA**

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Time (days)</b>	<b>Genus</b>	<b>Time (days)</b>
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<i>Aerides</i>	150-180	<i>Epidendrum</i>	100-120
<i>Ansellia</i>	120-180	<i>Laelia</i>	120-180
<i>Ascocentrum</i>	110-180	<i>Masdevallia</i>	80-90
<i>Brassavola</i>	120-150	<i>Maxillaria</i>	120-140
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	140-180	<i>Miltonia</i>	130-150
<i>Cattleya (labiate)</i>	130-180	<i>Odontoglossum</i>	210-270
<i>Cattleya (bifoliate)</i>	200-250	<i>Oncidium</i>	70-240
<i>Cirrhopetalum</i>	140-180	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	180-440
<i>Cymbidium</i>	270-350	<i>Phaius</i>	120-150
<i>Dendrobium</i>		<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	200-220
nobile type	150-180	<i>Pleione</i>	150-180
phalaenopsis type	120-140	<i>Sarcochilus</i>	300-360
Australian native	60-150	<i>Sophronitis</i>	75-100
<i>Disa</i>	35-45	<i>Vanda</i>	150-195
<i>Encyclia</i>	210-250	<i>Vandopsis</i>	160-180

**INTACT CAPSULES OR DRY SEED?** There are advantages and disadvantages with either way of collecting orchid seed. Dry seed must be treated with strong disinfectants to kill any fungi or bacteria present, a process which often destroys some seed. Using intact seed capsules eliminates the need to sterilise seed before sowing, which generally results in faster and more complete germination. However, if intact capsules are harvested while the seed is immature, there may be little or no germination. Also, harvesting a capsule too soon may result in only half the seed being mature, as it matures progressively along the length of the capsule.

There are also other reasons for choosing either dry seed or intact seed capsules for specific genera. Many odontoglossums are infected with viruses, and scraping their seed capsules to remove their seed almost always transfers these viruses to the seedlings. There is a much lower chance of passing on viruses when using dry seed and thus it is possible to obtain virus-free seedlings from infected plants. Some *disa* seed begins to germinate while it is still inside the intact capsule. This seed will be destroyed when disinfecting dry seed and therefore only intact capsules are recommended for *disas*. The dry seed disinfection process actually breaks the tough seed coat of some *paphiopedilums*, greatly improving germination but this is not always so.

**WHEN ARE INTACT CAPSULES READY?** Probably the best way to determine when to harvest seed capsules is to look for changes in their visual appearance while illuminating them from behind. The best time to harvest seed is just before the capsule splits. The best indications are that the capsule has swollen, its colour has changed and the three ribs that join the capsule segments together have begun to lift. As the seed of many orchid genera nears maturity, its colour changes from white – see some genus-specific notes in the table below. If uncertain whether a capsule is mature, it's probably best to wait and collect the dry seed, because early harvesting will result in immature seed and poor germination.

**SEED AND CAPSAULE APPEARANCE WHEN SEEDS REACH MATURITY**

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Capsule Size</b>	<b>Capsule Swelling</b>	<b>Capsule Colour</b>	<b>Seed Colour</b>
<i>Cattleya</i>	large	little	green	white to cream
<i>Cymbidium</i>	large	much	yellow/green	yellow*
<i>Dendrobium</i>	medium	much	yellow/green	golden
<i>Disa</i>	small	moderate	pale green	tan
<i>Epidendrum</i>	medium	much	yellow/green	yellow
<i>Laelia</i>	small-medium	moderate	green	white to cream
<i>Masdevallia</i>	small	much	pale green	brown
<i>Odontoglossum</i>	medium	much	pale green	cream/yellow
<i>Oncidium</i>	small-medium	much	pale green	cream/yellow
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	small	much	yellow/brown	red/brown
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	medium-large	little	dark green/brown	dark brown
<i>Pleione</i>	small	moderate	pale green	tan
<i>Sarcochilus</i>	small-large	moderate	green/reddish	red/brown
<i>Sophronitis</i>	small	much	yellow/green	yellow
<i>Vanda</i>	medium-large	moderate	yellow/green	cream/yellow

- seed still germinates when a little immature and cream-coloured

**WHY SOME POLLINATIONS FAIL.** Many orchids are self-incompatible. Orchids may have different chromosome numbers and mismatched numbers often lead to non-viable seed or sterile seedlings, e.g. triploids. This incompatibility is especially problematic with complex sarcochilus, odontoglossum and masdevallia hybrids – their seed capsules may turn bright yellow and fall at two-thirds maturity, or simply prove to be empty when they reach full term.

**STORING SEED CAPSULES AND SEED.** Store intact seed capsules or dry seed in paper envelopes, never in plastic bags, as sweating in sealed plastic containers may lead to fungal damage. Seal envelope edges with tape, because orchid seed is so fine that it may otherwise escape. Always pack the envelope in a rigid container before mailing it to the orchid flasking laboratory.



*Coelogyne flexuosa* Seed Pods

## LAST THOUGHTS

Why did the flower crash his bicycle? He lost control of the petals.

It's springtime already? You've got to be pollen my leg.

Why is the letter "A" like a flower? Because a B comes after it.

How do you kiss in spring? With tulips!

Why are trees so forgiving? Every spring they turn over a new leaf.

How do bees brush their hair? With honeycombs.

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.