

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 48 - Issue : 6

Next Meeting: Friday – 18 July 2025

**Venue: NEW Venue -
Parkmore Primary School
38 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.**

ITEM OF THE EVENING: John Varigos – Dresden Orchid Show

WINTER SHOW – In House

Topical Chat: Preparation for OSCOV Show

Time: 8.00PM

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 night we had at our June meeting with Auctioneer David Cannon in full swing. The auction was a great success with members taking home some excellent bargains. Thank you to everyone who donated plants, pots and trays. Everything was sold and one member learned the hard way that scratching their nose during an auction resulted in parting with a bit of cash!

As we move into the new financial year, I need to ask members to please pay their annual membership subscription as soon as possible. The very modest fee is what keeps the Maroondah Orchid Society running. Also, it's timely to mention that only financial members are permitted to enter plants for judging at our annual Show in September.

Finally, a big thank you to Mariana Hawkins, owner of White Hill Orchid Nursery in Dromana, for giving us a quick talk about her family business and providing an ongoing 10% discount to Maroondah Orchid Society members. So, if you are down that way, pop in and say hello to Mariana and grab a bargain.

Stay warm and hope to see you at our next meeting.

Michael Chivell

WINTER SHOW – IN HOUSE

The July Meeting will be our winter show meeting for 2025. The format for the night will be a sash for the Champion Orchid of the night and there will be prizes for the classes listed below. (Open section class will stand alone with the Intermediate and Novice sections grouped together.)

- Best Cymbidium of the Show.
- Best Australian Native of the Show.
- Best Paphiopedilum of the Show.
- Best Hybrid any other Genera of the Show (Excluding Cymbidium, Australian Native, and Paphiopedilum orchids).
- Best Species of the Show.
- Best Specimen of the Show.

REMINDER: If you have a MOS Perpetual Trophy please return to the club.

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

Life Members: The late Frank Date, Jim Foster-Johnson, David Cannon, The late Alan Cockram, 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

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 Facebook Address www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety

REMINDER: Membership Renewal

Fees were due 1st July 2025

The membership fees for financial year 2025 /2026 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 (19 September 2025).

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

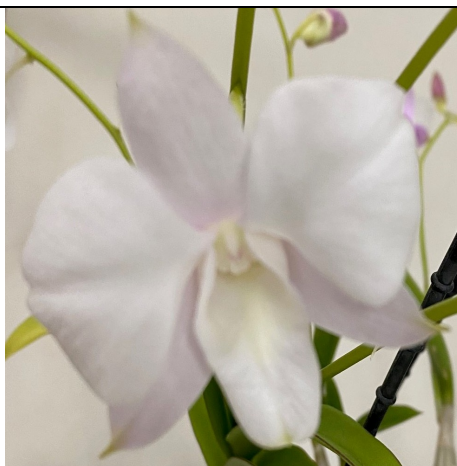
Please remember to fill in the reference field with your name.

Thank you!

Interesting Plants From the June Meeting



C. Gunawan's Paphiopedilum
fairrianum



A. Baker's
Dendrobium bigibbum



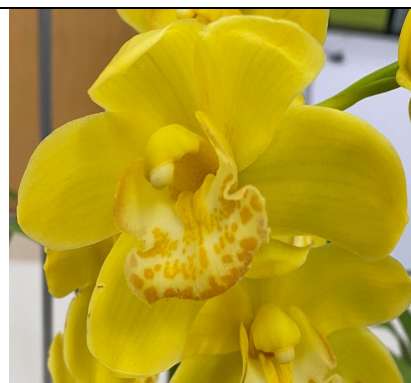
Tu Le's Dendrobium
Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'



C. Luth's Masdevallia
Earl Bishop



S. Kappl's Dendrobium
Amphion Lampetia 'Stardust'



L. Orland's
Cymbidium Golden Ramsom
'Golden Princess'



S. Kappl's Paphiopedilum
Ruby Fire



C. Gunawan's Laelia anceps 'San
Ban oaxaquena' x Laelia alibida



Tu. Le's Oncidium
Wild Cat Sky Beauty

BENCH COMPETITION - June – 2025

JUDGES VOTE	Paphiopedilum fairrianum	c	C. Gunawan
POPULAR VOTE	Isabelia pulchella	c	S. Kappl
BEST IN SECTION			
Open	Paphiopedilum fairrianum	c	C. Gunawan
Intermediate	Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'	c	Tu Le
	Open Section		
Intermediate Cymbidium	1st Golden Ramsom 'Golden Princess'	c	L. Orland
	2nd Death Wish	c	L. Orland
	3rd Ruby Anniversary	c	L. Orland
Minature Cymbidium	1st Another World	c	L. Orland
Masdevallia Hybrid	1st Earl Bishop	c	C. Luth
	2nd Midas Touch	c	C. Luth
	3rd Blazing Wind	c	C. Luth
Paphiopedilum Species	1st fairrianum	c	C. Gunawan
	2nd spicerianum	c	S. Kappl
Paphiopedilum Maudiae	1st Ruby Fire	c	S. Kappl

Paphiopedilum Primary or Novelty	1st Double Deception	c	C. Luth
Australian Native - Dendrobium Species	1st Dend. moorei	c	S. Kappl
	2nd Den. bigibbum	c	A. Baker
Australian Native - Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Den. Amphion Lampetia 'Star Dust'	c	S. Kappl
Australian Native – Sarcochilus Hybrid	1st Plectochilus Orkology Trimaran	c	S. Kappl
Laeliinae Intermediate	1st Laelia anceps 'San Ban oaxaqugena' x Laelia alibida	c	C. Gunawan
Any Other Hybrid	1st Janine Banks	c	C, Gunawan
Species Any Genera – Asia	1st Vanda nana	c	S. Kappl
Species Any Genera - America	1st Isabelia puchella	c	S. Kapl
	2nd Pleura paliata	c	D. Weise
	3rd Maxillaria schunkeana	c	C. Gunawan
Species Any Genera - Other	1st Zygopetalum mackayii	c	C. Gunawan
	Intermediate Section		
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'	c	Tu Le
Oncidiinae Medium	1st Oncidium Wild Cat Sky Beauty	c	Tu Le

	Intermediate & Novice Seedling Flowering for the First Time		
	1st Zygotetulum Happy Boy ‘Radio’ x Freestyle Meadows ‘Ruby Lips’	c	G. Chivell

Points tally – 2025

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	60
S. Kappl	76
C Luth	45
A. Baker	16
C. Gunawan	36
J. Harnetty	37
B. Clemson	4
D. Wiese	30
G. & M. Moffat	15
L. Orland	17
K. Balogh	6
Intermediate	
Tu Le	11
G. Chivell	18
R. & H. Coleman	8
Novice	
W. Han	4
T. Pham	4
R. Kasman	8
S. Liu	10

TWO COOL-GROWING LAELIAS

by Brian Milligan

The genus *Laelia*. There are about 75 species in the genus *Laelia*. Most epiphytic species of *Laelia* grow in Mexico while the rupicolous laelias (those that grow on rocks) grow in Brazil. The Mexican species, *Laelia anceps* and *Laelia gouldiana*, are arguably the easiest to grow under cool conditions, especially if you have a shadehouse with a fibreglass roof, so that the plants can be kept fairly dry in winter. *Laelia anceps* has been cultivated in Europe for over 150 years. Over twenty different varieties were then cultivated but only a few are common in Melbourne today.

Laelia anceps in Nature. In its native habitat *Laelia anceps* grows on tree trunks or branches on the edge of forests at altitudes of 1500-2000 m. The plants are often exposed to full sun and strong winds, with hot days and cold nights. Summer (the main growing season) is very wet and the plants receive heavy rain each evening and remain wet overnight. The next morning strong winds and sunshine quickly dry the plants before rain falls again in the evening. By contrast, the weather is cool and dry in winter and the plants receive little water until misty rain arrives in spring. New growths begin at this time with the new flower spike emerging from the centre of the new growth during summer. The flowers open as the new growth matures in late autumn.

Cultivation of *Laelia anceps*. Based on the above information, it would seem reasonable to:

1. grow *L. anceps* on a mount (e.g. tree-fern slab or a rough, long-lasting branch of oak or Casuarina, in my experience, cork mounts do not suit *L. anceps*).
2. hang the plant where it receives good air movement and good light (30-50% shade in summer, less or none in winter).
3. water heavily in summer and early autumn, preferably in the evening, applying liquid fertiliser occasionally.
4. after the plant has flowered (usually in late autumn), water only occasionally until spring.
5. then mist the plant daily until new growth appears. At this stage begin the cycle again with heavy watering each evening.

Laelia anceps can also be grown in a pot, using coarse bark as the potting medium. Because each year's new growth is separated from the previous year's growth by about 50 mm on the ascending rhizome, the plant soon climbs out of its pot and the new roots hang over the edge. Although the plant grows happily like this, it soon becomes top-heavy and will then probably need to be broken up and repotted. The flowers are usually rose, pink, violet or white in colour, with a darker labellum carrying a central yellow spot. The tall stem usually carries two to six flowers. Chamberlain's variety has larger, more deeply coloured flowers than most.

Laelia gouldiana occurs in the same habitat as *L. anceps* and it can also be grown and flowered in an unheated shadehouse. It usually carries more flowers of deeper colour than *L. anceps* but they are slightly smaller (about 75 mm across). Some botanists once believed that

L. gouldiana is not a true species but a natural hybrid between *L. anceps* and *L. autumnalis*. All three grow together in the same mountainous regions of Mexico. However most authorities today regard *L. gouldiana* as a species and it should therefore be benched in the class Any Other Species or Species Any Genus.

Both *Laelia anceps* and *L. gouldiana* grow readily from leafless pseudo-bulbs in the same manner as cymbidiums do from their backbulbs. They 'strike' better if left in pairs. Many plants grown in Melbourne are probably divisions of older plants. Small divisions occasionally appear on the sales bench at meetings and shows. Small plants raised from seed can sometimes be found in orchid nurseries – these may produce flowers of higher quality, if they have been bred from selected parent plants.



Growing Oncidiums

LIGHT

Light needs can vary from bright to nearly direct sun, depending on the species. Most will thrive with 1-5 hours of sun a day. Generally, thicker-leaved plants, such as "mule-ear" and "equitant" types can stand more light. The more light will typically give you more blooms.

- In a greenhouse, shade to part-sun, or about 21,500-64,500 lumens (2,000-6,000 foot-candles), depending on the plants.
- In the home, east, south, or west windows where they will get about 1-5 hours of sun are ideal.
- Many types of *Oncidium* will grow well under artificial light. Use lightbulbs/LEDs of your choice that are about 1-2 feet above the plant and emit >10,000 lumens (900 foot-candles). The lowest amount of lumens for growth is about 2,000 lumens (100 foot-candles), though flowering may be poor.



TEMPERATURE

Temperature tolerance for this group is generally considered intermediate to warm: 55F-60F (13C-16C) at night, and 80F-85F (27C-29C) during the day. They are happy indoors at room temperature, and you can be successful even if the temperature does not swing that much from day to night. A good general rule: temperatures up to 95F-100F (35C-38C) are tolerated, but only if the plant cools down to 70F-80F (21C-27C) at night and water is increased.



WATER

Requirement vary with the type of plants. Generally plants with large fleshy roots or leaves need less-frequent watering than thin-leaved or thin-rooted plants. Watering should be thorough and the medium should dry at least halfway through the pot before watering again.

If insufficient water is given or if there is too much time between waterings, the plants will exhibit “accordion” growth. Avoid wetting foliage, as they are rather susceptible to various infections. The frequency of watering will depend on how fast it takes for the media to dry in your conditions.

- In a greenhouse, you should water at least daily regardless of whether it is potted or mounted. Water twice a day if the temperatures are above 85F (29C) regardless of whether or not it is potted or mounted.
- Indoors – These should only be grown potted, and you should keep the media perpetually lightly moist like a wrung-out sponge. The frequency will depend on how fast it takes for the media to dry in your conditions.



HUMIDITY

Humidity should be between 30 to 60 percent. many Oncidiums require less humidity than other orchids. In the home, placing the plant above moist pebbles in a tray is ideal. Be sure to incorporate airflow if conditions are soggy, or the humidity is >75%.



FERTILIZE

Fertilize regularly to produce strong pseudobulbs. For potted plants in bark-based media, use regular strength to ½ strength of a high nitrogen formulation (such as 30-10-10) while plants are in active growth. A 20-20-20 formulation should be used on plants in other media or on slabs. A bloom-booster formulation (such as 10-30-20) should be used as flower spikes are forming. Do not fertilize during the winter.



POTTING

Potting should be timed to coincide with the initiation of new growth, usually in the spring. However, these plants can grow year-round, so anytime is the right time, as long as they are not in spike. New roots will be produced quickly at the time of new growth, and plants will experience minimal setbacks. These plants have vigorous root systems and require an evenly moist, but breathable potting medium during the growing season. Even though they can be mounted, many greenhouse growers pot their *Oncidium* to ensure that they don't dry out. When repotting, you should position the newest growth away from the edge of the pot, allowing the maximum number of new growths to form in the center as the plant expands. Spread the roots over a cone of potting medium and fill in around the roots. Firm the medium around the roots.

- In greenhouses, plant in anything from 100% sphagnum to 50% sphagnum and 50% fine-grade orchid bark mix. Planting in 100% treefern fiber (or mixed with some sphagnum) also works.
- Indoors, plant in either 100% tree fern fiber or 1/3 sphagnum and 2/3 fine orchid bark mix or tree fern fiber (or both). Planting in 100% sphagnum also works, as long as it is not sitting in water.

OTHER

Equitant, or twig epiphytes, and mule-ear, more succulent types, as well as other fleshy-leaved or large-rooted plants can be grown on either mounts of cork bark or tree fern or in pots filled with a coarse, well-drained medium. This allows the drying between waterings that these types need. Keep in mind that equitant types need either very quick wet/dry cycles (going from wet to dry in a few hours, then wet to dry again in one day), or high humidity and normal watering cycles. *Oncidium* are especially easy to bloom, because they have no blooming requirements. Many species and hybrids will simply bloom once a new growth matures, which can happen as often as 3x a year!

Thanks to American Orchid Society

ORCHID SHOWS 2025

Show	Date/Time	Venue
Country Challenge	Sat 5 July 12.00-4, Sun 6 July 9-3	Horsham Showgrounds, McBryde Street, Horsham
Bayside	Sun 20 July Shopping Centre hours	Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre, Cnr Matthew Flinders Av & Heatherton Rd, Endeavour Hills
Gippsland	15 Aug -16 Aug Shopping Centre Hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princes Highway
OSCOV	Fri 28 Aug -Sun 29 Aug 9am-4pm	'KCC Park', 655 Western Port Highway, Skye
Sale & District	Sat 06 Sept 9.00 -4.00, Sun 07 Sept 10-3	VRI Hall, Pettit Drive (Opposite the Sale Railway Station)
MPOS	Fri 12 Sept – Sun 14 Sept bunnings Hours	Cnr McMahons Rd and Gertrude St Frankston
South Gippsland	Fri 12 September, 9.30 -4.30, Sat 13, 9.30-4	Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
Cymbidium Orchid Society	Sat 13 Sept 9-4, Sun 14 Sept 9-4	Mt Waverley Community Centre. Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley
NEMOS	Sat 13 Sep, 9-4 Sun 14 Sep 10-4	Marwal Centre, 9-11 Marwal Avenue, Balwyn North
Southern Suburbs	Sat. 20 Sept 10 – 4 Sun. 21 Sept 10 - 4	NG Wishart Hall, 964 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin
Mid-Murray	Sat 20 Sept 10-4, Sun 21 Sept 10-3	Kerang Memorial Hall, Nolan Street Kerang
West Gippsland	Sat 20 Sept 9-4, Sun 21 Sept 9-12	Anglican Church Hall, Cnr. Princes Way & Francis Ave, Drouin.
Geelong	Sat 20 Sept 9-4, Sun 21 Sept 10-3	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets
Stawell	Friday 26 Sept 10 -5 Sat. 28 Sept 10-4 Sat 27 Sept 10-4	Stawell Entertainment Centre, Town Hall 117 Main St. Stawell
Goulburn Valley	Sat 27 Sep, 9-4 Sun 28 Sep 10-3	Mooroopna Mechanics Hall, 41 McLennan St., Mooroopna
Berwick	Sat 27 Sept 9-4, Sun 28 Sept 9-4	Senior Citizens' Hall, 112 High Street, Berwick
Maroondah	Sat 27 Sep, 9-4 Sun 28 Sep 9-3	Parkmore Primary School, 38 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill
Warrnambool	Sat 4 Oct Sept 10-4, Sun 5 Oct 10 – 3	Our Lady Help of Christian Hall , 28 Selby Rd, Warrnambool

MEOS	Sat 4 Oct, 9-4, Sun 5 Oct, 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East
Ringwood/Yarra Valley	Sat 4 Oct 9-4, Sun 5 Oct 9-4	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Gippsland	Fri 3 Oct. Sat 4 Oct. Centre Hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princess Highway
Bendigo	Fri 3 Oct 1-4, Sat 4 Oct. 10-3	Truscott Reserve 18 Murdock St California Gully
Colac	Sat 11 Oct 9-4, Sun 12 Oct 10-4	Colac Show Grounds Cnr. Bruce St & Princess Hwy
Cobden	Sat 18 Oct 10-4, Sun 19 Oct 10-4	Civic Hall, Victoria Street
Ringwood/Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 18 Oct 9- 4, Sun 19 Oct 9-3	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Ballarat	Fri 17 Oct 12-5, Sat 18 10 – 4 Sun 20 10-3	Cooinda Community Centre 10 Learthmonth Rd Wendouree
MPOS	Fri. 17 Oct- 19 Oct, Bunnings Hours	Bunnings Mornington 1100 Nepean Highway Mornington
Bayside	Sat 25 Oct 9 - 5 Sun 26Oct 9 - 4	Cranbourne Public Hall, 166-168 South Gippsland Hwy
Ringwood / Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 1 Nov 9-4, Sun 2 Nov 9-3	Keystone Hall, Keystone Hall Civic Square, Croydon
Sale Sarc Show	Sat 8 Nov 9-4, Sun 9 Nov 10-3.30	TBC

LAST THOUGHTS

What do you call someone with no body and no nose? Nobody knows.

Did you hear the rumour about butter? Well, I'm not going to spread it!

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired.

Dad, can you put my shoes on?" "No, I don't think they'll fit me."

Why can't a nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.

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.