

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 49 - Issue : 5

Next Meeting: Friday – 19 June 2026

Venue:

**Parkmore Primary School
38 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.**

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.**

Time:	8.00PM
Supper:	Please bring a plate
Special Effort:	No Special Effort
Sales Table:	No Sales Table

There will be Benching Competition

President's Report

We made it back from Africa a few weeks ago after an amazing trip where we saw plethora of wildlife and just one orchid in the wild on the top of Table Mountain in Cape Town. It was a *Disa Ferruginea*. Unfortunately we were there at the wrong time to see more plants. Maybe next time ...



Our June meeting is our annual auction of everything orchid – plants, pots, stands, mounts etc. It's our major fundraiser for the year and we rely on donations for the auction. We also love to see as many people as possible coming to get excellent bargains. David Cannon, our Auctioneer will once again be in great form. So, bring your donations, your friends and your cash and we'll make sure you don't go home empty-handed (just with a slightly lighter wallet).

Finally, I'm happy to let you know that your Committee has resolved to hold membership subscriptions at the same rate as last year. If you haven't yet paid 2025/2026 subs, can you please do so as soon as possible. Also, as annual subscriptions are what keeps the club alive, it would be great if you could pay the 2026/2027 subs early in the new Financial Year.

Michael Chivell

REMINDER: Membership Renewal

Fees are due 1st July 2026.

The membership fees for financial year 2026 /2027 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 (18 September 2026).

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

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







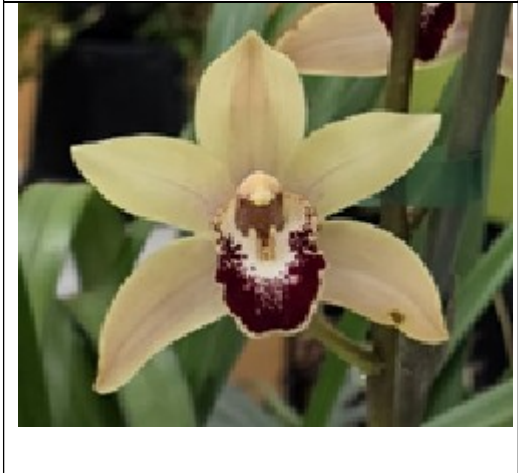

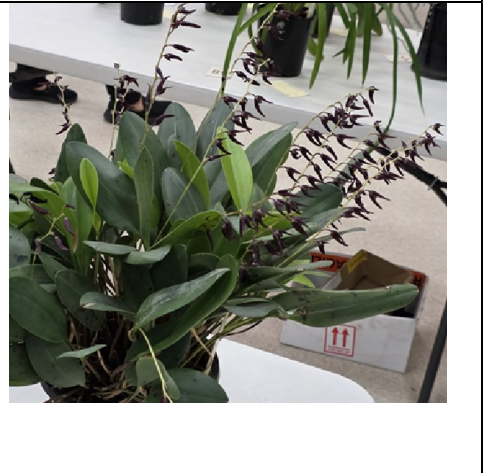
Website Manager Heather Coleman

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

MOS Facebook Address www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety

In preparation for the Maroondah Orchid Society Show on 26 September to 27 September we will need boxes and bags for the sales area. If you can, please store some boxes and bags for us to use at our show. Thank you.

Interesting Plants From the May Meeting

		
<p style="text-align: center;">S. Kappl's <i>Cattleya</i> <i>wttigiana</i> 'Lava Burst'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C. Gunawan's <i>Prosthechea</i> Edith Arakawa 'Sophie'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D, Weise's <i>Paphiopedilum</i> <i>gratrixianum</i></p>
		
<p style="text-align: center;">J. Foster-Johnston's <i>Zygopetalum</i> Peter Nelson x Adelaide Meadows</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J. Harnetty's <i>Masdevallia</i> Richard Tongue 'Perfect Stripe'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C. Luth's <i>Cattleya</i> <i>Orpettii</i> 'Pink'</p>
		
<p style="text-align: center;">R. & H. Coleman <i>Cymbidium</i> Sunbreeze</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J. Foster Johnston's <i>Oncidium</i> (Nona x Flexuosum) x Enderianum #4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J. Wong's <i>Stellis</i> <i>restrepioides</i></p>

Photos from the May Meeting



Graeme receiving a cultural award for his Stanhopea



David demonstrating how to mount orchids



Jim showing how to care for Masdevallias

BENCH COMPETITION - May – 2026

JUDGES VOTE	Cattleya wittigiana ‘Lava Burst’	c	S. Kappl
POPULAR VOTE	Prosthechea Edith Arakawa ‘Sophie’	c	C. Gunawan
BEST IN SECTION			
Open	Cattleya wittigiana ‘Lava Burst’	c	S. Kappl
Intermediate	Stellis restrepioidos	c	J. Wong
	Open Section		
Miniature Cymbidium	1st April Showers	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Masdevallia Hybrid	1st Tongue ‘Perfect Stripe’	c	J. Harnetty
	2nd Kimbelliana x Midas Ponch ‘CV’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	3rd Star Fire ‘50’ x Copper Wing Sunburst	c	C. Luth
Masdevallia Species	1st Manatoi	c	D. Weise
Paphiopedilum	1st Rosy Dawn	c	C. Gunawan
Paphiopedilum Species	1st gratrixianum		D. Weise
Oncidium Large	1st (Nona x Flexuosum) x Enderianum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2nd (Nona x Flexuosum) x Enderianum	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Miltonia	1st Kismet	c	C. Gunawan

	2nd Guanabara	c	Leo Orland
Australian Native - Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Shoenina x Hot Coals ‘Devil’s Fire’	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2nd Avril’s Gold ‘Ray’	c	Leo Orland
Australian Native – Sarcochilus Hybrid	1st Velvet x Elise	c	B. Clemson
Laeliinae	1st Prosthechea Edith Arakawa	c	C. Gunawan
	2nd Prosthechea Edith Arakawa	c	L. Orland
	3rd Prosthechea Edith Arakawa	c	L. Orland
Laeliinae Intermediate	1st Cattleya Cherry Bee x Caudebec	c	C. Luth
	2nd L.C. Miss Wonderful	c	C. Gunawan
Laeliinae Minature	1st Catt. Orpethii Pink	C	C. Luth
Laeliinae Cluster & Novelty	1st L.C. Wrigleyi x (C. Chocolate Drop x L. Gouldiana)	C	J. Harnetty
Any Other Hybrid	1st Zygopetalum Mom Peper Nelson x Adelaide Meadows	C	J. Foster-Johnson
	2nd Coelogyne Colmanii	c	J. Harnetty
	3rd Cym Pakkret Panorama	c	L. Orland
Species Any Genera – The America’s	1st Cattleya wittigiana ‘Lava Burst’	c	S. Kappl
	2nd Pleurothallis sclerophylla	c	D. Weise
	3rd Epidendrum porpax	c	S. Kappel

Species Any Genera – Asia	1st Coelogyne fimbriata ‘Alba’	c	L. Orland
	2nd Coelogyne mooreana ‘Brockhurst’	c	J. Harnetty
	3rd Cymbidium dayanum	c	C. Luth
	Intermediate Section		
Intermediate Cymbidium	1st Sunbreeze	c	R. & H. Coleman
Species Any Genera – The America’s	1st Stelis restrepioides	c	J. Wong

Points tally – 2026

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	59
S. Kappl	15
C Luth	24
D. Cannon	4
C. Gunawan	25
A. Baker	4
D. Weise	19
L. Le	7
G. Chivell	5
G. & M. Moffat	14
L. Orland	12
B. Clemson	14
J. Harnetty	24
J. Wong	4
R. Kasman	4
Intermediate	
Tu Le	4
Jenny Wong	23
R. & H. Coleman	4
Novice	Points

S. Liu	7
Y. & P. Lock	4

HOW I GROW MASDEVALLIAS

by Brendan Larkin

Why did I start growing masdevallias? As a junior grower, I was constrained by many factors, not least the size of my plants. Even though I was allowed to put my plants among my parents' collection and eventually be allocated my own space, I still had to be mindful of how much room I was using, especially in the heated igloo, which my parents were always complaining was too crowded. Masdevallias seemed to be the perfect solution as mature plants can fit comfortably in quite small pots. Their flowers come in such a wide range of colours, sizes and shapes that they seemed to me to be the perfect orchid. There are 300-400 different masdevallia species and many more in allied genera, so there are plenty to choose from. As a junior I found it a highly rewarding genus – there is almost always one or another in flower, and each month I could count on something different to exhibit on the show bench.

Habitat. Masdevallias are native to the central and South American continent. *Masdevallia floribunda* is the most northerly species, being found in the mountains of Mexico. Most grow in the equatorial regions of central and South America, usually in the mountains. They enjoy a temperate climate with little seasonal change.

Culture. Most masdevallias prefer an intermediate environment with a minimum temperature of 10-12°C. Our igloo has a warm end and a cooler end, and our plants are placed in it according to their preference. *Dracula* species and hybrids prefer warmer conditions, while other more robust masdevallia species prefer it cooler. Some masdevallias, such as the awarded *Masdevallia veitchiana* 'Sol', prefer to grow outdoors with the cymbidiums.

Heat is a killer for masdevallias, so provide extra protection on hot summer days by keeping them in as humid an environment as possible and by providing plenty of air movement. If you can afford the cost, buy an evaporative cooler for your growing area.

Potting. Most of my plants are grown in chopped Sphagnum moss mixed with small polystyrene chips, which stop the mix from becoming waterlogged. Some growers use other materials, such as Versa Rock and pine bark or Rockwool,

Perlite and polystyrene chips. If you use bark in your mix, it's a good idea to add some Canunda shell or granite chips to minimise the development of acidity as the bark ages, especially if you fertilise heavily. Basket pots should be used for those plants that need to dry out more quickly than others, or those (such as draculas) that send their flower spikes down through the mix. Some plants are more conducive to mounting than potting. If you have a large plant that needs dividing, try growing the pieces in different ways (eg. in a hanging basket, on a mount, or in a pot) to find out which method suits best.

Watering. I water my plants once each week at this time of year (September) but by summer they are watered every day. Water and humidity go hand in hand, and the key to a happy masdevallia is humidity. Masdevallias do not have pseudo-bulbs and rely entirely on their leaves for nourishment and water uptake. A humid environment is essential, especially as keeping the roots too wet can cause them to rot.

Humidity. The higher in the greenhouse, the greater the humidity of the environment. Hot air rises, and the higher the temperature, the more moisture the air can absorb. There is a two-fold advantage in hanging your masdevallias high, as we have found that our plants now flower more prolifically, due to the combination of higher light and humidity levels. Plants with light green leaves will produce twice as many flowers as those with darker green leaves grown in heavier shade.

Air movement is a critical factor, as masdevallias require good air movement all year round. We use electric fans all year, and when the weather becomes warmer, even in spring, we use an evaporative cooler to keep the plants in their comfort zone.

Fertilising. Plants like to be fertilised but only at low concentrations. Peter's fertiliser, applied at one quarter of the manufacturer's recommendation, seems to be the correct strength for our masdevallias.

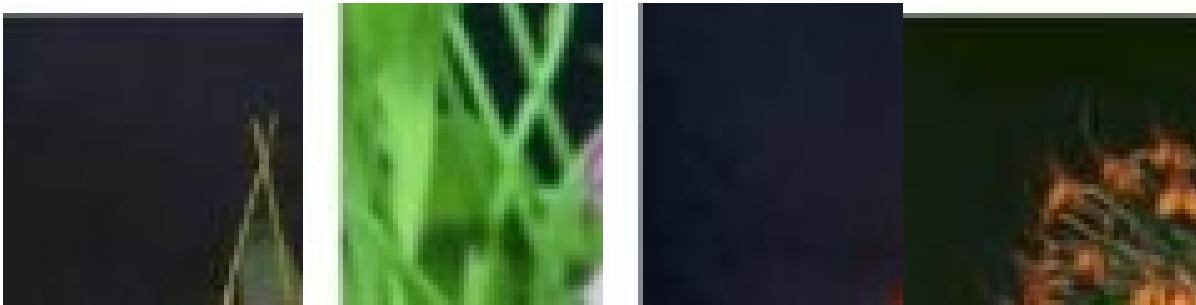
Pests and Diseases. Slugs and snails are our greatest problem. Snail bait works well (beware: it can also kill dogs and other pets) and so too does the heel of your boot! Caterpillars are currently a problem, as they chew the young flower spikes. I try to catch them in the act and remove them from the scene of the crime but you may prefer to use an insecticide.

Virus. There is only one known virus that infects masdevallias, namely, the yellow bean virus. If you suspect that your plant is infected, remove it from your

collection and seek expert advice. If the infection is confirmed, destroy the plant as the infection could spread throughout your whole collection.

Yes, it hurts to destroy cherished plants but it's better than eventually throwing out your whole collection.

Starting Out. *Masdevallia veitchiana* and its hybrids are the best plants to begin a masdevallia collection. They are robust plants that provide large flowers of good substance in orange or sunset tones. Don't be afraid to try masdevallias – they really are very rewarding orchids to add to your collection. Good Luck!



ORCHID SHOWS 2026

Show	Date/Time	Venue
Melbourne Eastern Orchid Society	Sat 6 June 9-4, Sun 7 June 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East
Geelong	Sat 27 June 9-4, Sun 28 June 10-3	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets, Geelong
Country Challenge	Sat 4 July 12.00-4, Sun 5 July 9-3	Shepparton Showgrounds, Archer St. & High St Shepparton
Bayside	Sun 19 July Shopping Centre hours	Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre, Cnr Matthew Flinders Av & Heatherton Rd, Endeavour Hills
Gippsland	21 Aug -22 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 05 Sept 9.00 -4.00, Sun 06 Sept 10-3	VRI Hall, Pettit Drive (Opposite the Sale Railway Station)
MPOS	Fri 11 Sept – Sun 13 Sept bunnings Hours	Cnr McMahons Rd and Gertrude St Frankston

South Gippsland	Fri 11 September, 9.30 -4.30, Sat 12, 9.30-4	Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
Cymbidium Orchid Society	Sat 12 Sept 9-4, Sun 13 Sept 9-4	Mt Waverley Community Centre. Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley
NEMOS	Sat 19 Sep, 9-4 Sun 20 Sep 10-4	Bulleen School Manningham Road, Lower Templestowe
Southern Suburbs	Sat. 19 Sept 10 – 4 Sun. 20 Sept 10 - 4	NG Wishart Hall, 964 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin
Mid-Murray	Sat 19 Sept 10-4, Sun 21 Sept 10-3	Kerang Memorial Hall, Nolan Street Kerang
West Gippsland	Sat 19 Sept 9-4, Sun 20 Sept 9-12	Anglican Church Hall, Cnr. Princes Way & Francis Ave, Drouin.
Geelong	Sat 19 Sept 9-4, Sun 20 Sept 10-3	Christ Church Hall, Cnr. Moorabool and McKillop Streets
Goulburn Valley	Sat 26 Sep, 9-4 Sun 27 Sep 10-3	Mooroopna Mechanics Hall, 41 McLennan St., Mooroopna
Berwick	Sat 26 Sept 9-4, Sun 27 Sept 9-4	Senior Citizens' Hall, 112 High Street, Berwick
Maroondah	Sat 26 Sep, 9-4 Sun 27 Sep 9-3	Parkmore Primary School, 38 Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill
Warrnambool	Sat 3 Oct Sept 10-4, Sun 4 Oct 10 – 3	Our Lady Help of Christian Hall , 28 Selby Rd, Warrnambool
MEOS	Sat 3 Oct, 9-4, Sun 4 Oct, 12-4	Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood East
Ringwood/Yarra Valley	Sat 10 Oct 9-4, Sun 11 Oct 9-4	Keystone Hall 20 Civic Square Croydon 3136
Gippsland	Fri 2 Oct. Sat 3 Oct. Centre Hours	Mid-Valley Shopping Centre, Princess Highway
Bendigo	Fri 2 Oct 1-4, Sat 4 Oct. 10-3	Truscott Reserve 18 Murdock St California Gully
St Arnaud	Sat 10 Oct 9-4, Sun 11 Oct 9-4	Town Hall Napier St. St Arnaud
Colac	Sat 10 Oct 9-4, Sun 11 Oct 10-4	Colac Show Grounds Cnr. Bruce St & Princess Hwy
Cobden	Sat 16 Oct 10-4, Sun 17 Oct 10-4	Civic Hall, Victoria Street
Ballarat	Fri 16 Oct 12-5, Sat 17 10 – 4 Sun 20 10-3	Cooinda Community Centre 10 Learmonth Rd Wendouree

MPOS	Fri. 17 Oct- 19 Oct, Bunnings Hours	Bunnings Mornington 1100 Nepean Highway Mornington
Bayside	Sat 24 Oct 9 - 5 Sun 25 Oct 9 - 4	Cranbourne Public Hall, 166-168 South Gippsland Hwy
Ringwood / Yarra Valley Orchid Society	Sat 31 Oct, 9-4, Sun 1 Nov 9-3	Keystone Hall, Keystone Hall Civic Square, Croydon
Gippsland Sarc Show	Sat 7 Nov 9-4, Sun 8 Nov 10-3.30	TBA
Stawell	Sat 7 Nov 10-5, Sun 8 Nov 10-4.00	Senior Citizens Centre, Victoria St., Stawell
MPOS	Fri 13 Nov, Sun 15 Nov. Bunnings Hour	Bunnings Mornington, 1100 Nepean Highway, Mornington

LAST THOUGHT

1. **Why do bees have sticky hair?** Because they use honeycombs.
2. **What did one ocean say to the other ocean?** Nothing, they just waved.
3. **What did the buffalo say to his son when he left home?** Bison.
4. **How do you make a robot angry?** Keep pushing his buttons.
5. **How does a penguin build its house?** Igloos it together.

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.