

MAROONDAH ORCHID SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Lycastes are orchids of the
New World Tropics and Subtropics



Lycaste Club Emblem

Volume : 49 - Issue : 8

Next Meeting: Friday – 18 September 2026

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

ITEM OF THE EVENING:

Silvia Kappl – Sarcophilus and Their Close Relatives

Topical Chat: Spring Show Preparation

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

Once again, the 2026 Victorian Orchid Spectacular was a great show of beautiful plants. If you were able to get along, you would have seen our fantastic display. Our theme was "Orchid Pollinators". John McCabe and Jim Harnetty did a magnificent job of bringing the display to life with insects, birds, reptiles, spiders and bats. As always, Jim Foster-Johnson was on hand to make sure everything went smoothly.

Whilst I was disappointed that the majority of Maroondah Orchid Society did not submit plants for showing, I would like to sincerely thank the small number of members who did bring plants along. As a result, the quality and number of orchids on our stand was excellent. Our members received a number of ribbons and I would like to call out Tu Le on receiving a second place for her beautiful orchid.

Finally, a big thank you to the members who gave up their time to volunteer at the show.

Michael Chivell

REMINDER: Membership Renewal NOW DUE

Fees were due 1st July 2026 Fees: 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!

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
Website Manager	Heather Coleman
MOS Website Address	www.oscov.asn.au /mos
MOS Facebook Address	www.facebook.com/maroondahorchidsociety

MOS INC. SPRING SHOW 2026

Friendly reminder

MEMBERS' ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER PLANTS IN THE SHOW

To enter plants in the show, you must:
Be a financial member of MOS.

Membership fee is to be paid by September 18th 2026 Club meeting night, prior to the Show.

MEMBERS' ELIGIBILITY TO SELL PLANTS AT THE SHOW

To be eligible to sell plants, a vendor must be an exhibitor with plants displayed either competitively or non-competitively at the Show.

A member is entitled to tender for sale 5 plants for every 1 plant displayed at the Show.

Due to smaller selling area, unless the Sales Manager determines otherwise, a vendor is allowed to tender **a maximum of 50 plants for sale.**

Each plant pot must be marked with the plants:

- (1) Sale ticket number:
- (2) Sale price

Sale Tickets showing Maroondah Orchid Society name will be available at September meeting.

All sale plants must use Maroondah Orchid Society sale tags.

SPRING SHOW STAND ALLOCATION – 2026

If you want to have a stand of any size, details must be received either at September meeting or via email to Show Marshal, David Cannon, davika@bigpond.com by September Club meeting.

Roster sheets and Show forms will be available at September Club Meeting. If you wish to help at Spring Show and not able to come to September meeting, please email David Cannon.

People power is required to ensure that the show runs smoothly over the show weekend.

OSCOV 2026 Show



Preparation of our stand



Champion Orchid of the Show – Dendrobium Cosmic Opal 'Nebula'
Grown by Marita Anderson



Audio Visual Display



Grand Champion Display –
Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society



Maroondah Orchid Society Stand

Congratulations to OSCOV 2026 Maroondah Orchid Society Show Winners

Standard Cymbidium Flower - Hybrid Pure Colour Type:

Second – Dural Snow Purity – C. Luth

Intermediate Cymbidium – Hybrid Predominantly Green:

First – Celtic Imp ‘Caprice’ – J. Foster-Johnson

Miniature Cymbidium Flower - Hybrid Predominantly Yellow:

First -Tepco ‘Freckles’ – J. Harnetty

Any Other Oncidiinae – Large Flowered:

Second – Unknown – Tu Le

Any Other Oncidiinae – Miniature Flowered:

First – Oncidium Twinkle ‘Yellow’ – J. Foster-Johnson

Second - Oncidium Twinkle ‘Red Fantasy’ – J. Foster-Johnson

Masdevallia Predominantly Pink:

Second - Masd. Rubicon 'Launch Lilac' – J. Foster-Johnson

Masdevallia Any other Single Colour or Combination:

Second – Masd. Hot Shot ‘Tiger Tail’ – J. Foster-Johnson

Species Paphiopedilum - insigne:

First – insigne – C. Luth

Species Coelogyne Small (formerly known as Dendrochilum):

First – niveum – D. Weise

Second – veronica – D. Weise

Species Other:

Second – serapias ignea – J. Harnetty.

Interesting Plants From the August Meeting



D. Cannon's Dendrobium
Jesmond Star



J. Foster-Jonson's Pterostylis
curta



J. Harnetty's Paphiopedalum
(Candello x Vision) Oliver x
Warp Dream



S. Kappl's Dockrilla Tamara
'JD Spots'



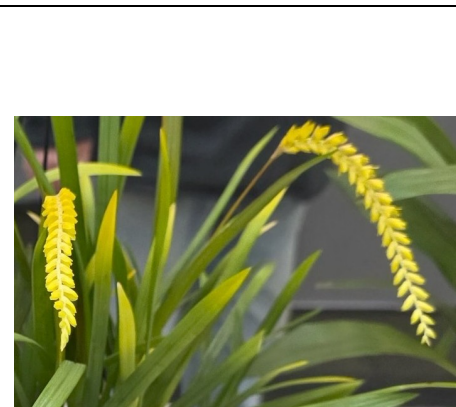
R. Solowiej's Cymbidium
Valley Oracle



Tu Le's Dendrobium Cosmic
Gold 'Nathan' x Jesmond
Spartler 'Greg Hail'



L. Orland's Cymbidium
Green Zenith x tracyanum x
Tetra Royale



L. Le's Coelogyne javieriana



J. Foster-Johnson's
Masdevallia
Super Nova

BENCH COMPETITION - August – 2026

Judges' Vote	Dendrobium Jesmond Star	c	D. Cannon
Popular Vote	Paphiopedallum (Candello x Vision) Oliver x Warp Dream	c	J. Harnetty
	Best in Section		
Open	Dendrobium Jesmond Star	c	D. Cannon
Intermediate	Dendrobium Cosmic Gold 'Nathan' x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hail'	c	Tu Le
Novice	Cymbidium Valley Oracle	c	Rosa Solowiej
	Open Section		
Standard Cymbidium	1st Green Zenith x tracyanum x Tetra Royale	c	L. Orland
Miniature Cymbidium	1st Cariad	c	J. Harnetty
Masdevallia Hybrid	1st Super Nova	c	J. Foster- Johnson
	2nd Copper Fire x (Triangularia Macura)	c	J. Foster- Johnson
Paphiopedilum	1st Candello x Vision) x Warp Dream	c	J. Harnetty
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Jesmond Star	c	D. Cannon
	2nd Australian Obsession x Hamilton	c	G. Chivell

	3rd Elegant Autumn	c	G. Chivell
Australian Terrestrial	1st Pterostylis curta	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Laeliinae Cluster & Novelty	1st LC Miss Wonderful x Tethey's Magic	c	D. Cannon
Any Other Hybrid	1st Dockrilla JD Spots	c	S. Kappl
	2nd Zygotetrum Happy Days x Happy Day	c	J. Chivell
Species Any Genera – The America's	1st Dryadella simula	c	J. Foster-Johnson
	2nd Cattleya coccinea		S. Kappl
	3rd Pleuro seatiolies	c	J. Foster-Johnson
Species Any Genera - Asia	1st Coelogyne javeriana	c	L. Le
	2nd Coelogyne glumaceum	c	J. Harnetty
Species Any Genera - Other	1st Serapias lingua	c	J. Harnetty
	Intermediate		
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Cosmic Gold 'Nathan' x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hail'	c	Tu Le
	2nd Jonathan Glory 'Olympic'	c	Tu Le
	Novice		
Standard Cymbidium	1st Valley Oracle	c	R. Solowiej
Australian Native – Dendrobium Hybrid	1st Avril's Gold	c	S. Liu

Points tally – 2026

Open	Points
J Foster-Johnson	116
S. Kappl	37
C Luth	28
D. Cannon	19
C. Gunawan	41
A. Baker	4
D. Weise	25
L. Le	11
G. Chivell	14
G. & M. Moffat	19
L. Orland	33
B. Clemson	23
J. Harnetty	42
J. Wong	4
R. Kasman	4
K. Keily	21
Intermediate	
Tu Le	30
Jenny Wong	23
R. & H. Coleman	8
Novice	Points
S. Liu	18
Y. & P. Lock	10
W. Han	13
R. Solowiej	4

THE CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

by Denis Oliver

The term ‘Cattleya Alliance’ is usually applied to a group of four related genera, namely, Cattleya, Brassavola, Laelia and Sophronitis, all found in Central and South America. They are cultivated extensively as species, primary hybrids and complex hybrids. Some of the many inter-generic hybrids are Brassocattleya (abbreviated Bc), Laeliocattleya (Lc),

Sophrocattleya (Sc) and *Brassolaeliocattleya* (Blc), while that involving all four genera is known as a *Potinara* (Pot.).

Though the group as a whole is largely found in tropical areas, some species are cold tolerant, being found at altitudes of 1000 m or higher. Habitat data is quite useful when growing species or primary hybrids but it is more difficult to predict the temperature requirements of some of the complex hybrids. However, there are a few general rules that can be applied, as there are two types of plants in the genus *Cattleya*. One group is bi-foliate, having two (sometimes more) leaves per pseudo-bulb. This group includes *C. bowringiana*, *C. intermedia*, *C. loddigesii* and *C. skinneri*, all of which are cold tolerant. The second type of cattleyas is the labiata group. These species have only one leaf per pseudo-bulb, and produce fewer but larger flowers. They are less cold tolerant, requiring a minimum temperature of 10°C. Examples are *C. lueddemanniana*, *C. trianae*, *C. warneri* and *C. warscewiczii*.

The genus *Sophronitis* is small, both in number and size. All seven species are cold tolerant and have small pseudo-bulbs, most usually carrying a single leaf and a single brightly coloured flower. *Laelia* species have larger plants, their pseudo-bulbs usually being at least 100 mm tall. Their inflorescences may carry from one to many flowers, which are often large and colourful. Temperature requirements depend on their native habitat but cold-tolerant members include *L. anceps*, *L. gouldiana*, *L. pumila* and *L. purpurata*. Both species in the genus *Brassavola* (as used in the *Cattleya Alliance*) have now been transferred to the genus *Rhyncolaelia*. They are warm growers, requiring a minimum temperature of 10°C, preferably higher. *Rhyncolaelia digbyana* produces a single yellow-green flower with a fringed, cream lip per growth, while the flowers of *R. glauca* are similar but their lips lack fringes.

While some species and their hybrids will grow without heat in Melbourne, better results will usually be obtained at a minimum temperature of at least 5°C. If your plants are grown without heat, take care not water them during cold winter weather. Ultimately, trial and error will tell you where these colourful, perfumed orchids grow best among your orchid collection. A few desirable, cool-growing hybrids include *C. Chocolate Drop*, *Lc. Chit Chat*, *C. Portia*, *Slc. Hazel Boyd*, *Slc. Dixie Jewels* and *C. Fitz Eugene Dixon*.

All cattleyas are epiphytes, so their roots require access to air. They grow well on mounts or when potted in 15 mm pine bark. Some growers have good success using tightly packed *Sphagnum* moss as the potting medium. Although I find moss a good medium for cattleyas that have lost their roots, I find that they do better if I transfer them back into pine bark after a new root system has been established. I re-pot in springtime every 2-3 years, using a pot that is just large enough to accommodate the growth anticipated in the following 2-3 years.

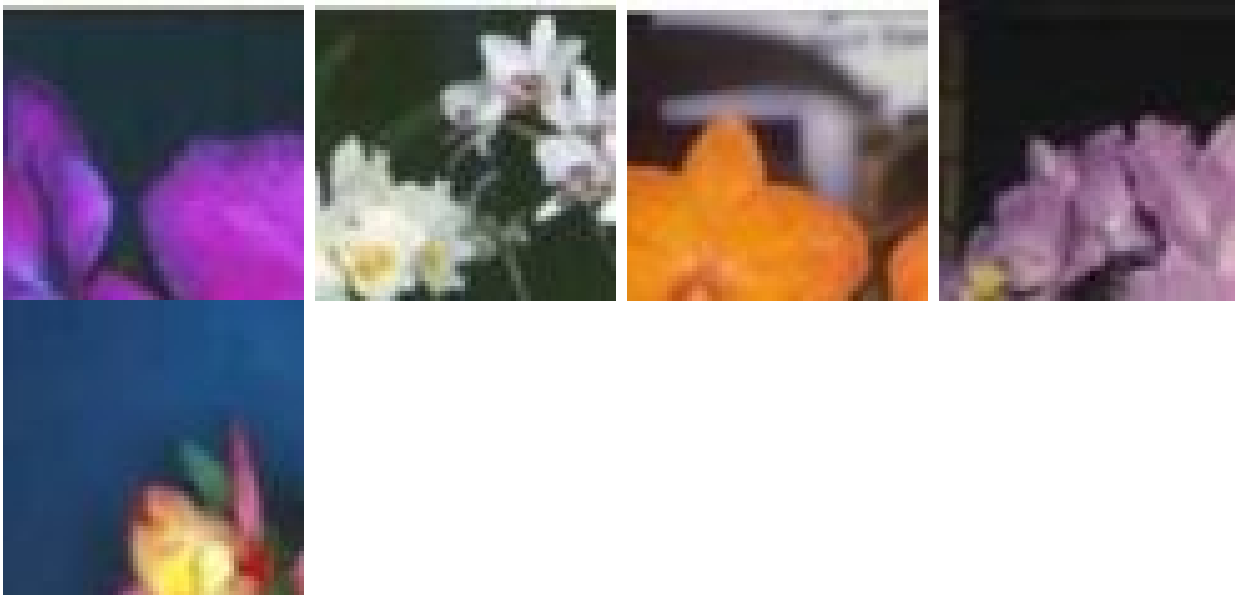
The pots may either be suspended or placed on open wire mesh benches. Cattleyas also grow well on mounts, provided care is taken to prevent their roots from becoming excessively dry in hot weather. They like strong light but the leaves will burn in direct sunlight during summer. Provide good air movement with fans or open ventilators. Fertilising is straightforward. I use any of the commercially available orchid fertilisers, applying a weak solution weekly in the growing season but seldom during winter. Cattleyas require regular fertilising during the growing season because this is their main source of nutrients.

Allow the potting mix to become almost dry before watering again. The surface of the mix should become quite dry and the layer beneath just damp before the plant is re-watered. Potting mixes dry out at different rates, depending on the position of the pot in your collection and on the extent of air movement. Small pots dry out more quickly than large pots, and plants in large diameter bark more quickly than those in fine bark, while mounted plants will dry very quickly. Re-pot all your plants in bark of the same size, so as to eliminate this variable. If a potting mix remains wet for too long, it will become waterlogged and the plant's roots will rot. If a plant is being watered regularly, yet still has withered canes, don't continue to water it – check its root system for rot.

Cattleyas often have an untidy growth habit. They sometimes tend to grow sideways, which makes for a scruffy plant and poor flower presentation. In this case give the new canes guidance and support using stakes and ties. Take care not to snap off the new growths, which may be quite brittle. Also support the inflorescences when they emerge from the sheath to ensure the flowers are displayed to their best advantage. Cattleya buds sometimes abort and rot while inside the sheath, either due to a setback caused by a sudden fall in temperature or perhaps by excessive humidity in the sheath. There may be some benefit in peeling back the sheath if you suspect the occurrence of rot.

A stout rhizome links each cattleya pseudo-bulb to its neighbour. The plant may be divided by severing this rhizome at intervals with a razor blade or sterile knife, a process referred to as back-cutting. Make sure that each division consists of at least four pseudo-bulbs. Back-cutting may be carried out when re-potting but it is best to leave the plant another year after back-cutting before transferring the divisions to separate pots.

The main cattleya pests are aphids and scale. Aphids tend to infest the new growths and flowers, while scale insects hide beneath the sheaths surrounding old pseudo-bulbs and under the leaves. Scale may be particularly damaging if not detected early, so remove all old sheaths from the pseudo-bulbs so that the scale insects have fewer places to hide. The usual sprays and techniques may be used to control both pests and diseases.



ORCHID SHOWS 2026

Show	Date/Time	Venue
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	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
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,	Colac Show Grounds

	Sun 11 Oct 10-4	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 Learthmonth 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	Public Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Gippsland Sarc Show	Sat 7 Nov 9-4, Sun 8 Nov 10-3.30	Sale Agricultural Society Dawson Street Sale
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 THOUGHTS

What's the boldest outfit bees wear in spring?

Answer: Yellow jackets

Why are trees naturally so forgiving?

Answer: Because every spring, they turn over a new leaf

What always goes up when rain comes down?

Answer: Umbrellas

What falls, but never needs a bandage?

Answer: The rain

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.