



Sarcophilus australis

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

(The FRIENDLY Society)

FEBRUARY 2008 BULLETIN

www.mosorchid.org

Affiliated with the Australian Orchid Council
Incorporated in Victoria Reg No 1193Z

Disclaimer: The Maribyrnong Orchid Society Committee will not take any responsibility for actions taken on advice or views expressed in: this or any future Monthly Bulletin, or by Guest Speakers. It is always advisable to get a second opinion.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE – 3rd Thursday of the month

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society will be held at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street, Maribyrnong on Tuesday the 12th February, 2008.

The Early 'new growers' group start at 7.15pm and is conducted by the informative Steve Stebbing. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting. We also have 'Pots and Ferts' and plants sales tables operating at every meeting. Members may bring 10 orchids to be sold on the sales table each month. The Society deducts 15% commission on the sale of all plants. Please note that all plants must be labeled correctly and state whether they are hot/cold growing and expected floral colour, if not in flower. Plants are also to be listed on a sales form, available from members on the Sales table, to be filled out by the selling member.

Welcome

Welcome to all members new and old to the 2008 Orchid year. Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe festive season. Look forward to seeing you all at the Club meetings.

Guest Speaker this month

The guest speaker this month will be Mr Dick Thomson and he will be talking about Terrestrial Orchids and the Tuber Bank.

Supper Roster

Thank you to all those who provided and helped prepare the supper at monthly meetings through out last year. I will be bringing the Supper Roster to the February meeting, to be passed around so members can select a month to help with supper duties. Meanwhile the Club needs two members to help with the supper duties for this meeting. If you can help it would be much appreciated. All members are welcome to bring in a plate for supper for the evening.

CULTURAL NOTES – PERIOD FEBRUARY/MARCH

	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS	PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE EPIPHYTES	Regular waterings to ensure plants don't dry out completely, plus dampening down on hot days to maintain humidity is essential.	Give a balanced fertilizer approx. one teaspoon to ten litres water.	Caterpillars are a constant threat to new growths as are the ever present slugs & snails	With plants in active growth, maintain an optimal environment to ensure best growth for next flowering.
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE	Being true epiphytes, cattleyas require thorough soakings followed by dry periods with high humidity. Increase frequency of watering during the hottest spells.	Continue feeding with a balanced fertilizer at the same concentration as for Aust. Natives, with added potash for the autumn flower clones.	Scale, especially <i>Boisduval</i> are constantly present. Mealy bug may also pose a problem. Caterpillars, snails & slugs are a constant threat.	Being fleshy leaved plants, intense sunlight will cause severe burning. Add shade but maintain sufficient light for maximum growth and spike initiation.
CYMBIDIUM	Maintain frequency of watering according to the weather & plants' requirements. Compost must always be moist. Maintain reasonable humidity especially on very hot days.	Continue at full strength with each watering. This is especially important for seedlings where a higher concentration may be beneficial.	Aphids may still be a problem and red spider may appear as the weather warms. Predator mites are effective when the night temperature is over 12-15 degrees.	Remove old flower stems & stakes & encourage an active growing phase. Early initiation of growth is important for flowering next year.
MILTONIA ODONTS, ALLIANCE MASDEVALLIA	Water as required to keep plant moist at all times. Maintain adequate humidity to ensure plants are never placed under stress from lack of water.	Feed regularly but at a low concentration especially if you grow in Sphagnum moss. A balanced fertilizer at one quarter strength will be adequate.	Slugs & snails are a constant problem & must be kept under control at all times. <i>Botrytis</i> can also be a problem in cool airless & moist conditions.	With light intensities increasing, pay special attention to shading. These plants are very intolerant of high light intensity & high temperatures.
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Maintain constant moisture around the roots while keeping the leaves dry. Never allow the compost to dry out. Maintain humidity on very hot days.	Give a balanced fertilizer at approx one third to two thirds of a teaspoon to ten litres water.	Mealy bug, the systemic bacterial and fungal infection are ever present. Don't allow water to stand in the crown for prolonged periods.	Maintain air movement. Increase shading as required as these plants are generally intolerant of high light intensity.

GENERAL: February and especially March are active growing months so make sure the conditions are such that this is encouraged to the maximum. With some plants March is the most appropriate time for breaking up. Maintain shading, watering, feeding and ventilation to benefit from this active growing period. Remove all dead & diseased material from plants and remove dead leaves/weeds etc. from the growing areas, as pest & diseases will also increase during this time.

With acknowledgement from Orchids Australia Magazine and Author.

We have copies of the Orchids Australia Magazine in our library which are available for members to borrow. These magazines are full of useful information and handy hints.

I encourage you, especially our newer members to make use of our extensive Library. Library books may be borrowed for 1 month.

December 2007 Competition Results

As per judges sheets

OPEN SECTION

Cattleya Novelty

- 1st Slc Dream catcher 'Little Gem' J & M Lattimore
2nd Slc Dream catcher 'Little Gem' J & M Lattimore

Miltonia Hybrid

- 1st Burgundy Gem J & M Lattimore

Dendrobium – Hybrid/Species

- 1st Gonzalesii x Victoria Reginae A Evans

Vanda

- 1st Vasco Pine Rivers Esan J & M Lattimore
2nd Ascda Milibo Aristocrat J & M Lattimore

Masdevallia Hybrid

- 1st Angulata x Heathii A Evans
2nd Morning Glory A Evans

Any Other Hybrid

- 1st Bllra Tahoma A Evans

Best in Section

Slc Dream catcher 'Little Gem' J & M Lattimore

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

Any Other Hybrid

- 1st Laelia pumila x Brassavola nodosa
J & D Portelli

Species any Genera

- 1st Laelia purpurata var Russegiana x self
J & D Portelli

Best in Section

**Laelia purpurata var Russegiana x self
J & D Portelli**

ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION

Cymbidium - Large

- 1st Hazel Tyers 'Blush of spring' R Ryan

Best in Section

Cym Hazel Tyers 'Blush of spring' R Ryan

NON SECTIONAL

Seedling Flowering for 1st time

No Entry

Best Cultivated

- Blc George King J & M Lattimore

Judges Vote

- Miltonia Burgundy Gem J & M Lattimore

Get Well

Our highly esteemed member Bruce Butler is currently in hospital. Our Orchid Club members all extend their best Get Well wishes to Bruce and hope that you are feeling better soon.

Seedling Competition Winners

Our members who bought back their seedlings at every meeting were eligible to be entered into the final seedling competition draw. Three winners were drawn from the nine members who had 100% seedling return. The Seedling winners for 2007 were: Neil Marshall, Roy Crowson and Joe Beggs. Each winner received a \$20 gift voucher from Bunnings.

2008 Seedling Competition

The seedlings for the 2008 Seedling competition will be a Cymbidium. They can be purchased only by those members who are willing to bring them back each month for viewing. The price of the seedling: Cymbidium (Jimbo x Summer Clouds) Pastel Princess will be \$5.

The seedlings will be sold from the front of the hall. Members will be asked to select a number and then they will be given the corresponding seedling that has the same number. Members cannot pick and choose.

Also please have the correct money on hand.

Seedling Competition Report for 2007

50 Promenaea seedlings were allotted to the competition last year and they were taken up across two monthly meetings (the last one took an extra month so I bought it myself).

This species proved somewhat difficult for our Members to rear and only 20 of the original 50 turned up at the final meeting.

Our thanks go to our Members who struggled with these 2007 seedlings, while those Members whose cultural abilities were rewarded by survival, earn our congratulations. For those of us whose seedlings would not co-operate in the survival stakes, commiserations - we've got Cymbidiums this year - we'll show 'em!

Thank you to our Commentators whose wise words of encouragement and the occasional wise crack, help us to keep our seedlings smiling.

Nine members returned their seedlings every meeting and their names went into the draw for 3 prizes at our Christmas dinner.

Jeff Walker
Seedling Competition CO-ordinator

President Report - February 2008

I would like to welcome you all back to our first meeting in February and wish you all the best for 2008. At the February meeting we will be taking booking for our first bus trip which will be held on Sunday 20th April 2008, to Australian Ferns and Orchids and Mt Beenak Orchids, the cost will be \$20.00.

Our April meeting is our AGM and it would be great if we could get new members on the committee. Think about giving some time to your club and become a committee member.

The first show for the year will be our Autumn Show. This show will be on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May 2008, which is not to far away. As usual we requiring HELP over the weekend and on Friday night so keep these dates clear.

I look forward to see you all back at the club at our February meeting.

Anthony Scerri
President

Social Trip

While all members have been taking a break from Club life, our President Anthony has been busy organizing the next bus trip. The bus trip will be on Sunday the 20th April. The bus trip will be traveling to B & T Ferns and Orchids in Silvan, then on to Clive Hall's orchid nursery at Mt Beenak. A Barbecue lunch will be provided. Cost will be \$20.

Names will be recorded at the next meeting for those interested in taking part in the Bus trip.

Vale Owen Carter

We are saddened to report the passing of our respected club member Owen who passed away at his home on 31st December 2007 after a long illness. Owen leaves behind his wife Rosemary, sons Adrian and Rod and daughter Felicity. Our sincere condolences are extended to all the family.

Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due and Eric will be taking renewal fees from members from the next meeting. The fees remain unchanged: Junior \$ 8.00 (under 16 yrs)
Single \$12.00
Family \$15.00

It will be greatly appreciated if members have the correct money on hand.

Life Membership

At our Xmas meeting, Mr. Mick Condon was presented with the Life Membership award.

Mick has been a member of the club for 25 years. During this time Mick has been one of the backbones of the club helping out where he can and storing goods at his home. He has been on the Committee for ten years and has a dedicated interest for the well being of the club. Mick attends all of our shows and meetings in a working capacity and is always more than willing to share his knowledge and to answer any questions you may have.

Congratulations Mick on your achievement, it was well deserved.

Progressive Totals Competition for 2007

Open: Joe Crawford
Intermediate: Viny Dinh
Adv Novice: L & J Karbownick

Congratulations to these members. The winners of Intermediate and Advance Novice now go up a section for competition in 2008.

ORCHID SHOW CALENDAR

Maribyrnong 2007 Orchid Shows

Autumn Show: 24th & 25th May
Winter Show: 12th and 13th July
Spring Show: 13th & 14th September
Sarcochilus Festival: 8th & 9th November

All Maribyrnong Orchid shows are conducted at our club rooms, which are located at Maribyrnong Community Centre in Randall Street.

Other 2008 Orchid Club Show Dates:-

1. Orchid Species Society
Sunday 16th March - 10a.m. to 3p.m.
City of Whitehorse Horticultural Centre
Jolimont Road, Forest Hill
2. Victorian International Orchid Fair
16th, 17th and 18th May
St Sava Hall, Greensborough

Committee Nominations

At our April meeting we will be holding our A.G.M. We are hoping that some members may like to be part of the Maribyrnong Orchid Club Committee? The committee is always looking for new members willing to put in new ideas. Give it a good thought as next months newsletter will include Nomination forms for those interested in becoming part of this committee.

Ice cream threatens Turkey's Orchids

Several rare orchid species found only in Turkey are facing extinction - because of the Turks' love of ice cream.

Ice cream made from salep - a flour produced from the tubers of dried, wild orchids growing in the mountains of south-eastern Turkey - is a great delicacy in the country.

It is so popular that part of the city of Istanbul has become known as the "ice cream district" and regularly jams up with traffic; such is the demand to sample the dessert.



The orchids are disappearing from the mountains
(Image by Swedish Museum of Natural History)

But scientists have warned that the ice cream industry is threatening a major collapse in the number of orchids.

"The orchids in Turkey are under very serious threat," botanist Ozdemir Ozhatay of Istanbul University told BBC World Service's Outlook programme.

"For this reason it is forbidden to export - but they are still using it in Turkey for the ice cream.

Ms Ozhatay added that the quantities needed to supply the booming industry were putting the flower under great strain.

"For one kilogram of dried Salep, around 1,000 orchids are needed," she said. "If you can imagine how many kilograms they are using, this is quite big damage."

Local shepherds - traditional pickers of the orchids - have also offered evidence that the flower is in steep decline in the country.

"Everyone here depends on ice cream," one told Outlook. "We sell the milk of our goats, and collect orchids. But the flowers are more and more difficult to find - more and more ice cream producers are using them, and it is disappearing.

"You have to go higher and higher into the mountains to find them."

The damage is so great that environmentalists are now calling for a total ban on the use of salep in ice cream.

But such drastic action appears to have little support among the ice cream fanatics in Turkey.

"For a very long time, we have been eating ice cream - why should we stop?" said one. "[If it is banned] we will just eat illegal ice cream."

The locals' attitude is backed by the ice cream manufacturers, most of whom are based in the city of Marash - Turkey's ice cream capital.

Factory owner Mehmet Kumble, whose family firm uses up to three tonnes of salep, or twelve million flowers, every year, said he had no plans to cut back on production.

"Ice cream has been made here since the time of the Ottoman farmers," he said. "It has always been special because the roots of wild orchids are used."

Orchids were initially popular because the Ottomans believed they were an aphrodisiac.

"It gives the ice cream its unique strength and special taste," Mr Kumble added.

Indeed, since the export ban on orchids came into force, salep ice cream has been available almost exclusively in Turkey.

But how long it will remain on the market even there remains to be seen.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3126047.stm>

Vale Colin Hamilton

Many people will be saddened to know that Colin Hamilton passed away on Monday 14th January 2008, in hospital after a long illness. Colin was the Editorial Associate for the Rockhampton Orchid Society and was also the Webmaster of Orchids Australia. His contribution to the Australian Orchid societies was immense, he was respected by all who knew him and he will be sadly missed.

Our sincere condolences are extended to all his family.