



Sarcophilus australis

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

(The FRIENDLY Society)

MARCH 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 11th March, 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.

Guest Speaker this month

The guest speaker this month will be Mr Mark Finnigan and he will be talking about growing orchids

Supper Roster

For the March meeting we kindly have Jeff and Doris Walker on Supper Duties. All members are welcome to bring in a plate for supper to be enjoyed in the evening, after the Guest speaker has finished his presentation.

Thank-you to our members who came forward to help our club with supper duties. We graciously have the following members on supper duty for the months listed below:-

April	Peter Caly	Hilda Caly	August	Dennis Kennedy	Margot Lattimore
May	Hubert Nyssen	Alex Wild	September	Alma Bevan	Marge Paul
June	Julia Galea	Jenny Dark	October	Olga Grigorovitch	Geoff Ragg
July	Wilma Carlesso	Gail Cunliffe	November	Ana Medic	Amee Medic

Happy Birthday Gerald



All the members of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Gerald McCraith AM.

Our highly esteemed Patron Gerald celebrated his 99th Birthday on Sunday 24th February. To celebrate this happy event, Gerald, his sister May, his daughters June and Lois, his grandchildren and his 2 great-great grandchildren all enjoyed a party gathering at a Chinese Restaurant. Our Gerald loves Chinese food.

For those who do not know, Gerald McCraith is the Patron of our Orchid Society. Gerald was one of the founding members of the Australian Orchid

Foundation and was also once President of the Victorian Orchid Club.

Gerald's interest in orchids started before marrying his lovely late wife Nell. In the late 1920's Gerald would visit the Victoria Market to do shopping. There he would see a fellow selling Stag ferns, Elk ferns and Australian Native Orchids. Well the orchids caught Gerald's eye and he was hooked. Gerald then began collecting orchids.

This interest enticed Gerald to travel to many countries in search of orchid species. He traveled with friends to Thailand, China, Borneo, Japan, India, USA, Brazil and Papua New Guinea. His traveling companion to Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile was a Dutchman named Franz Beukelman, of the Orchid Species Society of Victoria, (OSSV). IN addition, in 1993, Gerald was made a Member of the Order Of Australia. (AM) for his service to horticulture, particularly orchids.

I asked Gerald how he found the time to travel to so many destinations. Gerald advised me that he was a self-employed business person. Gerald exported rabbits for food to Britain up until Whitlam came into Government. After Prime Minister Whitlam was elected there were many restrictions introduced on his type of business which unfortunately convinced Gerald to sell his main income source.

His late wife Nell had no interest in Orchids but was a marvelous support to Gerald. Helping with the rabbit business and looking after the children. Gerald fondly remembers his lovely wife Nell. The assistance that Nell provided allowed Gerald to follow his passion of collecting orchids.

Gerald has vivid recollections of his travels to Ecuador and Peru. In fact some of the orchids in his Orchid house bring back specific memories. Gerald can remember the area they were found in and can sometimes even recollect the tree they were attached to. Whilst in the Andes, Gerald found that orchids growing in the mountains 6000 foot about sea level were growing in similar conditions to Australia's cool climate. Therefore realizing that orchids grown in those regions could easily be grown in Melbourne.

Gerald loves attending the Maribyrnong Orchid Society meetings and shows. Gerald states that, "Maribyrnong is one of the Best run Orchid Societies in Melbourne." Gerald happily conveys that the Maribyrnong Club has a great crowd, excellent committee members who are well organized and the Shows are always terrific.

Gerald has enjoyed the pursuits he has had in his life. Other than being passionate about orchids, he is also extremely proud of his two wonderful daughters June and Lois and all his grandchildren.

February 2008 Competition Results

As per judges sheets

OPEN SECTION

Dendrobium - Australian Native Species

- 1st Den moorei A Wild
2nd Den bigibum J & M Lattimore

Australian Native Species

- 1st Liparis coelogynoides A Wild
2nd Bulb schilleriamum J & D Sharam

Sarcochilus Species/Hybrid

- 1st Sarc hirticalcar J & D Sharam
2nd Sarc eriochilus A Wild

Sarcochilus Hybrid

- 1st Para Duno Nicky's Twin J Crawford

Paphiopedilum - Novelty

- 1st Flavescence x Niveum J Crawford
2nd Lynleigh Kooperwitz M Pearce

Cattleya – Exhibition

- 1st Blc Dal's Girl J & M Lattimore
2nd C Jessie May D McAuslan

Cattleya Novelty

- 1st LC Love Sound J & M Lattimore
2nd SLC Jungle Beau A Wild

Oncidium Hybrid

- 1st Lava flow x Crispum J Crawford
2nd Lava flow x Crispum J Crawford

Dendrobium – Hybrid/Species

- 1st Den atroviolaceum M Breuer

Phalaenopsis - Hybrid

- 1st Brother Wildcat x Ever spring King
J & M Lattimore

Masdevallia Hybrid

- 1st Karas Delight x Kimballiana N & J Walsh
2nd Redwing N & J Walsh

Any Other Hybrid

- 1st Phrag Noirmont J Crawford
2nd BI Yellow Bird D Mc Auslan

Species Any Genera

- 1st Cym suavissimum G Garrett
2nd Cat lodigesii J Crawford

Promenaea

- 1st Florafest Cheetah A Evans
2nd Norman Gaunt x Dinah Albright
A Evans

Best in Section

- Phrag Noirmont J Crawford**

NON SECTIONAL

Seedling Flowering for 1st time

- Prom Michael Wilson J Crawford

Best Cultivated

- Den atroviolaceum x macrophyllum M Breuer

Judges Vote

Phrag Noirmont

J Crawford

Popular Vote

Beallara Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

M Pearce

President Report March 2008

I was very pleased at the last club meeting when I sent the supper rooster around the room and it came back full. I would like to thank those members who offered their time to assist with the supper at our club nights.

The growing competition was very well supported, however we still have 11 plants left, so get in fast, it is your last chance. Remember that these plants are required to be returned to the club each month, so we can make the competition a great success.

Our April meeting is our AGM. As most of the committee members have been in the committee for some time, it would be great to see some new members, nominating to go on the committee so we can get some new ideas.

At the AGM all committee positions are vacated and you can apply for any position, there is a form attached to this newsletter for you to apply.

Anthony Scerri

President

Social Trip

The bus trip will be on Sunday the 20th April has been fully booked. The \$20 fee for this bus trip must be paid at the March meeting. We cannot hold your place if you do not pay at the March meeting because there are a number of people wanting to go on this bus trip that have missed out.

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.

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

Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to May Deeble. May has turned 92 years old this month. May is our generous member who donates the gem stones each year for our Christmas raffle. Wishing you many more birthdays to come.

Growing Competition

There were 37 cymbidiums sold for the Growing Competition, which leaves 11 more for members to purchase next month. If there are any of our members who attend the 'Early Growers Session' who didn't get a chance to buy one, please make sure you buy one before you attend 'Early Growers'.

Committee Nominations

At our April meeting we will be holding our A.G.M. Are there any members who would like to become part of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society Committee? The committee is always looking for new members willing to put in fresh ideas. Give it a good thought as this is your club and we would welcome any member, with new and positive ideas, wanting to join. We have enclosed Nomination forms with this newsletter, to be completed by any member interested in becoming part of our Society's committee.

Transportation Request

An Elderly member who lives in North Essendon would like a lift home after the monthly meetings. If any member could be of assistance could you please contact the Secretary on 5283-1364.

Vale

Bruce Butler

9.11.1927 - 30.1.2008

Bruce Butler passed away on the 30th January, 2008 after a long battle with illness. Bruce was a popular, lovely and happy character whom all our Club members admired.

Bruce joined our society in 1996 and became a committee member in April 1999. He gave 6 1/2 years serving as committee member before resigning due to ill health. Bruce also later joined the show committee.

Bruce attended all meetings and shows. During the shows you would find him in the foyer selling raffle tickets all weekend.

Bruce will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Betty and his children.

Lee, This year our seedling comp turned out to be a mericlone, so call it a growing comp for the year.