



Sarcocochilus australis

# MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

(The FRIENDLY Society)

JULY 2009 BULLETIN

[www.mosorchid.org](http://www.mosorchid.org)

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

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**BULLETIN CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

The Early 'new growers' group starts 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 plant 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.

## Supper Roster

For the July meeting we kindly have Barry Harrison on Supper Duties. We only had Barry offer to do Supper duty in July on the Supper Roster. If there is another kind individual who could help Barry on the night, it will be greatly appreciated. All members are welcome to bring a plate of goodies to be enjoyed after the Evening's Speaker has finished their presentation

## Guest Speaker this month

Our guest speakers this month will be Mr. Julian Coker. He will be speaking on Cymbidium Orchids.

## JUNE 2009 COMPETITION RESULTS

As per judges sheets

### OPEN SECTION

#### **Cymbidium – Large**

1<sup>st</sup> Lancashire lady x Khan Rose M Pearce

#### **Cymbidium – Medium**

1<sup>st</sup> Pinafore comet N & J Walsh

2<sup>nd</sup> erythraeum x erythraeum A Scerri

#### **Dendrobium – Australian Native Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Avril's Gold G Garrett

#### **Cattleya Exhibition**

1<sup>st</sup> Lc Puppy Love 'True Beauty' J & M Lattimore

#### **Cattleya Novelty Type**

1<sup>st</sup> Sc Bakemannia x Slc Tiny Titan E & F Wilde

2<sup>nd</sup> Pot Dal's Moon J & M Lattimore

#### **Oncidium – Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Twinkle 'Red Fragrant' J & M Lattimore

#### **Odontoglossum – Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Wils. Hilda Thorntree M Pearce

2<sup>nd</sup> Odm Bic Ross x biconience M Pearce

#### **Phalaenopsis – Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Brother Goldsmith J & M Lattimore

2<sup>nd</sup> Brother Goldsmith J & M Lattimore

#### **Masdevallia Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Machu Picchu 'Jay Vee' M Pearce

2<sup>nd</sup> Bright Spice 'Cheetah' M Pearce

#### **Any Other Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Od Leopard x Tiger Lamburen  
M Pearce

#### **Species Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Soph coccinea A Wild

2<sup>nd</sup> Cym tracyanum A Scerri

#### **Best in Section**

**Masd Macchu Pichu 'Jay Vee' M Pearce**

### INTERMEDIATE SECTION

#### **Cymbidium – Medium**

1<sup>st</sup> Rudy Parker 105 R Ryan

#### **Paphiopedilum – Species**

1<sup>st</sup> Paph gratixianum E Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> Paph insigne sanderae E Walker

#### **Cattleya Novelty Type**

1<sup>st</sup> Blc Sun Coast 'Sun Spots' E Walker

#### **Species any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Dendrobium glumaceum E Walker

#### **Best in Section**

**Paph gratixianum E Walker**

### ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION

#### **Cymbidium – Large**

1<sup>st</sup> Valley Freestyle B Whearem

2<sup>nd</sup> Frosty Jack M Mally

#### **Cymbidium – Medium**

1<sup>st</sup> Morialta falls M Mally

#### **Dendrobium – Australian Native Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Hilda Poxon T & J Dark

2<sup>nd</sup> Bellinger River G & A Hardingham

#### **Dendrobium – Australian Native Species**

1<sup>st</sup> Liparis swensonii T & J Dark

#### **Dendrobium – Hybrid / Species**

1<sup>st</sup> Malones D Brus

2<sup>nd</sup> Evryalus D Brus

#### **Odontoglossum – Hybrid**

2<sup>nd</sup> Burning Red Idahoe G & A Hardingham

#### **Phalaenopsis – Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Unknown D Brus

#### **Species any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Laelia anceps J Hastewell

2<sup>nd</sup> Cym tracyanum M Mally

#### **Best in Section**

**Den Malones D Brus**

### NOVICE SECTION

Cym Delores Hoyt x Tom Thumb P Edmonds

P Edmonds has now been promoted to Advanced Novice Section for Competition.

### NON SECTIONAL

#### **Seedling Flowering for 1<sup>st</sup> time**

Phrag Besseae M Pearce

#### **Best Cultivated**

Oncid Twindle 'Red Fragrant' J & M Lattimore

#### **Judges Vote**

Masd Machu Pichu 'Jay Vee' M Pearce

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor sees Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor speaks to Morris and says, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that ... I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

## ORCHID SHOW CALENDAR

### Maribyrnong 2009 Orchid Shows

Winter Show: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Spring Show: Cancelled & replaced by  
AOC Conference  
8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September

Sarcochilus Festival: 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November  
All Maribyrnong Orchid shows are conducted at our club rooms, which are located at Maribyrnong Community Centre in Randall Street.

### Other 2009 Orchid Club Show Dates:-

1. Victorian Country Clubs Challenge  
St Arnaud Town Hall Complex  
Napier St, St Arnaud  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 12 noon to 5.00pm  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 9.00am to 3.00pm
2. Yarra Valley Orchid Society  
B&T Ferns & Orchids  
30 Wiseman Road  
Silvan South (Mel 123 E7)  
Saturday 18th July - Sunday 19th July
3. Maroondah Orchid Society  
Blackburn H.S. Hall, Cnr Springfield  
& Williams Rd,  
Blackburn (Mel 47 - K7)  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July
4. Warringal Orchid Society  
St Savas Hall  
Greensborough  
24<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> July
5. Werribee Orchid Club  
Elderly Citizens hall.  
Synott Street  
Werribee (next to RSL)  
Saturday 8th August –  
Sunday 9th August
6. Melbourne International Orchid  
Spectacular  
Springer's Leisure Centre  
Cheltenham Road  
Keysborough (Mel 89 A10)  
Friday 21st August –  
Sunday 23rd August

### President Report - July 2009

The next bus trip will be held on the 2 August, 2009, However this trip is fully booked out, could all members that put their name down, please pay at the July meeting, as there are people on a waiting list that would like to go on this trip.

Our next show (Winter Show) will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The club needs people to help over this weekend and your help would be very much appreciated.

At the June meeting we had a draw for people who entered plants in a show for the first time, and another draw for anybody who entered a plant in the show. You can win a great prize just by entering your plants in the next show. I would like to see as many members placing their plant in the show as possible.

Don't forget that if members wear their name badge to a show you will receive FREE entry.

I look forward to seeing you at our July meeting.

A senior citizen drove his brand new BMW Z4 convertible out of the car salesroom. Taking off down the motorway, he floored it to 160kmh, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down the N1, enjoying pushing the pedal to the metal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 180kmh, then 220, then 240kmh. Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the police officer walked up the driver's side of the BMW, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old man, looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir", said the policeman.

## Viruses in Orchids

Viruses are a group of minute infectious agents characterized by a lack of independent metabolism, and the ability to replicate only within the living cells of the host organism. As such they are obligate parasites.

A number of viruses are known to affect orchids.

For many years growers have been aware of Tobacco Mosaic Virus, Cymbidium Mosaic Virus, Cymbidium Necrotic Ringspot Virus and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus. In recent times a new group of viruses known as Rhabdovirus, has been identified in collections in Australia.

In a series of articles in some of the orchid journals including the "Orchadian", and Orchids Australia, over the past 18 months or so, Don Gowanlock of the University of Queensland has detailed the symptoms associated with these "new" viruses. They are excellent articles, and all growers should read them and take note of the pictures.

However, for the average grower, precise identification is not really important. All we really need do is recognize the symptoms of virus infection generally, and take steps to prevent its spread.

The presence of virus in orchids disrupts normal growth, and may cause weakness, distortion and malformation. The effects are especially noticeable in stressed plants. Leaf symptoms include irregular chlorotic or mosaic patterns, necrotic streaks and spots, often in circular or mosaic patterns and erosion of the leaf surface. Other symptoms include reduction and or distortion of stems, leaves and inflorescences, colour-break in flowers and bud drop. Plants weakened by virus are also more susceptible to attack from other diseases and pests.

In the collections of most growers, it will be leaf symptoms that will indicate the presence of virus. While leaf symptoms are many and varied, and may be quite different from genus to genus, the main differential diagnostic features are the more or less circular arrangement of the necrotic spots, and the presence of chlorotic areas, usually in association with the necrotic spots and patterns. Chlorosis is an absence or reduced amount of chlorophyll, giving a yellow or bleached appearance.

Even plants with no apparent symptoms may be infected, with good culture masking the effects, but eventually the signs will show through.

As with other plants, sap transmission will carry virus from an infected orchid to a noninfected orchid. This commonly happens with cutting implements such as scissors, secateurs, knives and the like. Plant leaves rubbing together or even just touching, on the nursery bench, during transport or at shows may also transmit virus. Touching your plants, and especially running your fingers along the leaves as many growers do to kill aphids, may also transmit virus. Pollen transfer is also known to result in virus transmission.

Virus particles are very small and can enter through the tiniest of wounds on a plant, wounds that may be quite invisible to the naked eye.

After mechanical transmission, which is essentially the result of cultural techniques and practices, the next main method of virus transmission is by sucking and chewing insects. Aphids in particular are known carriers of virus and other suspects must include thrips, mealy bug, grasshoppers, beetles (especially the Dendrobium Beetle) and scale insects.

### Treatment

You cannot do anything about a plant once it is infested with virus. There is no treatment and no cure, so you must at least isolate an infected plant from non-infected plants, and preferably destroy it by burning it.

Do not put it in the bin, or take it to the tip, as someone will pick it up and take it home with them, thereby perpetuating the problem. Remember also that all parts of the plant will be infected, and divisions and Keikis will carry and perpetuate the virus. Even meristem propagations (ie. mericlone) will usually be infected.

Plants can be tested for virus if they are valuable, but even if you only suspect the presence of virus, you must isolate these plants until they can be checked. There are commercial laboratories where this testing can be done at reasonable rates.

It sounds hard to say but you really **MUST DESTROY** infected plants. While they remain in your collection they are a potential source of further infection, and you run a real danger of

contaminating non-infected plants, not only your own but other people's as well if you take your plants to meetings and shows.

### **Control**

Do not use any cutting instrument from plant to plant without sterilizing such instrument in between - by flame or boiling, by alcohol, or by soaking in a saturated solution of Trisodium Phosphate. This means any cutting of plants, including rhizomes, stems, leaves, inflorescences and flowers.

Do not unnecessarily touch or handle your plants, and especially keep your hands off other people's plants at meetings and shows.

When working on your plants (repotting, potting-on, grooming etc) keep your work surfaces clean and use fresh sheets of newspaper between each plant. When you have finished with a particular plant, wrap up all plant debris, old potting material, pots, stakes and the like in newspaper sheets you have been working on, and dispose of the package. Then wash and dry your hands, lay out fresh sheet of newspaper, and start on the next plant.

This may seem like an elaborate and time consuming procedure, but it is simply a habit you must get in to, and it will certainly be worth it in the long run.

Do not re-use pots and potting mixes, stakes, ties and anything else that has been in contact with your plants. The big advantage of using plastic pots is that they are cheap, so you don't have to re-use them.

Do not introduce new plants directly into your collection. Keep them segregated and under observation, especially adult plants and divisions, until you are satisfied that they are clean. Likewise, do not give away, swap or sell any plant, division Keikis growth that is infected or shows any suspicious signs.

Do not allow a build up of insect pests within your orchid house. An effective insect eradication program is an important part of creating and maintaining a virus-free collection. As soon as you see something that needs attention treat it immediately. General orchid house hygiene will assist in this area.

### **Conclusion**

To maintain a virus-free collection, you must adhere to guidelines detailed above. Even if

your plants appear to be free of virus-like symptoms and you believe them to be uninfected, still follow the procedures. In this way you will completely rule out the possibility of transmitting virus through your collection. In the past couple of years there has been considerable amount of research work done on viruses in orchids, and growers should be aware of the signs and symptoms. Contrary to popular belief, native orchids are not somehow less susceptible to virus infection, and native orchid growers cannot afford to be complacent.

### **Update**

Some time ago I rang Don Gowanlock and spoke to him about sterilisation methods for the cutting implements we use on our orchids. These methods include flaming, boiling, alcohol, trisodium phosphate and sodium hypochlorite (bleach).

Based on his investigations and experience, Don made a number of important points.

\* Prior to any form of sterilisation, your cutting blades should be washed or wiped completely clean of any plant debris and sap. Only after this step has been taken will the sterilisation techniques outlined below be effective.

\* Sterilisation by Trisodium Phosphate is the preferred method. This involves making up a saturated solution of this compound (dissolving it in warm water to the point where no more will be taken into solution, and undissolved crystals of TSP remain visible in the bottom of the container), then soaking your cutting implements for 10 minutes. After you remove them, they should be rinsed in clean water to remove any residual Trisodium Phosphate solution.

\* Flaming is effective only if it is hot enough and for long enough. A gas burner is the best thing to use (cigarette lighters are completely ineffective) and the cutting blades should be brought to the point where they begin to glow.

\* Sterilization by 70% is effective (indeed, 70% is more effective than 100%) as long as time is allowed. The alcohol should be in contact with the cutting blades for 10 minutes.

\* Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is probably effective, but longer soaking time should be allowed. As with Trisodium Phosphate, your implements should be rinsed with clean water after soaking.

Article by Mike Harrison

Elanbee Orchids

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/bdobson/Virus%20in%20Orchids.html>