



Sarcochilus australis

# MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

(The FRIENDLY Society)

## NOVEMBER 2010 BULLETIN

[www.mosorchid.org](http://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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month**

### Next Meeting – 9th November 2010

The next meeting of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society will be held at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street, Maribyrnong, on **Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010**. The hall opens at 7.00 pm and the Meeting begins at 8.00 pm.

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. The topic for this month will be **"Caring for and dividing Aust. Natives."**

We also have 'Pots and Ferts' and plants sales tables operating at every meeting. Members may bring up to 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 labelled 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 **Jim & Margot Lattimore** who will talk to us about the very beautiful Phalaenopsis Orchids. Jim and Margot have provided us with some notes which have been printed on page 5 of this Bulletin.

Thank you to **Mrs Frances Wilde** who spoke last month about **Sarcochilus**. Maybe we will be a little more knowledgeable about the sarcs we will see at our Sarcochilus Festival coming up in November.

### October Meeting Plant of the Night



**Masdevallia Copper Angel was grown by Darren and Vaso Howard.**

This plant received the Judges Vote and Best in Section for Open at the October meeting.

Congratulations to Darren and Vaso.

On the night there were also two **MOS Cultural Certificates** awarded:

Den *linguiforme* - Bruce Light

Den X Delicatum 'Beryl Clark' - Danica Brus

### Supper Roster

For the November meeting we have Judith Cave and Mary Williams on Supper Duties. All members are welcome to bring a plate of goodies to be enjoyed after the evening's speaker has finished.

## Spring Show Results

### MAJOR AWARDS

**Grand Champion Orchid of the Show**  
Phrag St Ouen J W Crawford



|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Reserve Champion Orchid of the Show</b>       |                 |
| Phal <i>amabilis</i>                             | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Pre-eminent Entry of the Show</b>             |                 |
| Stand 'G'  | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Champion Cymbidium</b>                        |                 |
| Cym Kirby Lesch                                  | M Pearce        |
| <b>Reserve Champion Cymbidium</b>                |                 |
| Cym Ruby Valley 'Clare'                          | A & S Webster   |
| <b>Champion Australian Native Hybrid Orchid</b>  |                 |
| Den Moondara x <i>speciosum</i>                  | A Francis       |
| <b>Champion Australian Native Species Orchid</b> |                 |
| Den <i>speciosum</i>                             | J Hastwell      |
| <b>Champion Masdevallia</b>                      |                 |
| Masd King of Kings                               | B Duncan        |
| <b>Reserve Champion Masdevallia</b>              |                 |
| Masd Reggae 'Idlewilde'                          | S & M Hurwood   |
| <b>Champion Laeliinae</b>                        |                 |
| Dal's Emperor 'Michelle'                         | A Francis       |
| <b>Champion Paphiopedilum</b>                    |                 |
| Paph Raisin Eyes x Sukhakuli                     | J W Crawford    |
| <b>Champion Phragmipedium</b>                    |                 |
| Phrag St Ouen                                    | J W Crawford    |
| <b>Champion Hybrid Any Other Genera</b>          |                 |
| Phrag St Ouen                                    | J W Crawford    |
| <b>Champion Species Orchid of the Show:</b>      |                 |
| <b>Gerald McCraith AM Award</b>                  |                 |
| Phal <i>amabilis</i>                             | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Champion Specimen Orchid</b>                  |                 |
| Phrag Cardinale                                  | J W Crawford    |
| <b>Champion Seedling Orchid 1st Flowering</b>    |                 |
| Phal Anthura Manchester x Leopard Princess       | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Champion Orchid by an Intermediate Grower</b> |                 |
| Phal Unknown                                     | A Philippou     |
| <b>Champion Orchid by a Novice Grower</b>        |                 |
| Encyclia <i>polybulbon</i>                       | K Marshall      |
| <b>Champion Stand</b>                            |                 |
| Stand 'G'  | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Champion Basket of Orchids</b>                |                 |
| Basket 7   | N & J Marshall  |
| <b>Best Open Floral Art</b>                      | M Lattimore     |
| <b>Best Intermediate Floral Art</b>              | A Scerri        |
| <b>Best Novice Floral Art</b>                    | B Carey         |

### MINOR AWARDS (Rosette)

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Best Large Cymbidium</b>                        |                 |
| Cym Kirby Lesch                                    | M Pearce        |
| <b>Best Medium Cymbidium</b>                       |                 |
| Cym Ruby Valley 'Clare'                            | A & S Webster   |
| <b>Best Small Cymbidium</b>                        |                 |
| Cym Willunga Regal                                 | M Pearce        |
| <b>Best Seedling Cymbidium</b>                     |                 |
| Cym Lancashire Khan x Khan Flame x Valley Olympic  | E & A Bevan     |
| <b>Best Australian Native Terrestrial</b>          |                 |
| <i>Pteris baptistii</i>                            | E & F Wilde     |
| <b>Best Australian Native Specimen</b>             |                 |
| Den <i>speciosum</i> x Ivory Seniors               | D Breuer        |
| <b>Best Seedling Australian Native Orchid</b>      |                 |
| Den White Eye x Muskey x Aussie Rose Beauty        | A & S Webster   |
| <b>Best Seedling Orchid Not Listed Elsewhere</b>   |                 |
| Phal Anthura Manchester x Leopard Princess         | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Best Speciman Orchid Any Other Genera</b>       |                 |
| Phrag Cardinale                                    | J W Crawford    |
| <b>Best Cultivated Orchid</b>                      |                 |
| Den <i>speciosum</i> x Ivory Seniors               | D Breuer        |
| <b>Best Maxi Stand Open</b>                        |                 |
| Stand 'G'  | J & M Lattimore |
| <b>Best Mini Stand Open</b>                        |                 |
| Stand 'A'  | S & H Randall   |
| <b>Best Mini Stand Novice</b>                      |                 |
| Stand 'I'  | C Polidano      |
| <b>Best Basket of Hybrid &amp; Species Orchids</b> |                 |
| Basket 5   | G Manna         |

### Other 2010 Orchid Club Show Dates

#### ANOS Geelong Group Annual Show

5th & 6th November 2010 10am - 4pm  
Masonic Centre, Regent St, Belmont  
(next door to Coles Supermarket)  
Geelong, Victoria. Entry \$3.00  
(Mel.Ref. 451 G10)

### Addition to the Library

There is a new addition to the Library, a Powerpoint presentation on CD titled "Growing Phalaenopsis in the Home", donated by Margot and Jim Lattimore. The CD (and anything else in the Library) may be borrowed by members for 1 month. Browse the library & see Wilma if you wish to borrow.

### Wanted to Buy

To request anything orchid-related through this column please phone 9748 7345, fax 9748 6933, email [Jenny.Dark@darteks.com.au](mailto:Jenny.Dark@darteks.com.au) or see me at one of the meetings where I will have a sheet you can fill in with your request.

**Liz Walker** is looking for a *Paphiopedilum venustum* and *Paphiopedilum insigne* var. *albomarginatum*. She can be contacted on 9689 1142.

### Guest Speakers for 2010

Thank you to all the guest speakers we had throughout the year. The topics have been very varied, everyone has been very interesting and I'm sure we've all learned something new. Keep up the good work!

## PRESIDENTS REPORT NOVEMBER 2010

Hello there to all you happy orchid growers. I hope that you are enjoying your lovely plants that are in flower at the moment. The natives have been wonderful this year and it is a shame to see them finishing. Now comes the time for repotting and so forth. I have a few cymms that are badly in need of cleaning up, and I suppose that you have the odd plant or two in the same condition. With the weather getting better, it will be nice to get outside and get stuck into these jobs.

It is disturbing to hear feedback being received from members. NO, the club is not going down the drain and the membership is not dropping but staying constant. YES, the show exhibits have been down this year, but other clubs have had the same problem, weather being a big factor. YES, some of the people on show set up day {Friday} can get a little "testy". Please remember that we are working to get set up quickly so that you can bring in your plants by 1.30pm. {There is a lot to do in that first hour.} PLEASE, do not bring in your plants before 1.30pm as they may get damaged. YES, the club is advertising the shows, even on Magic 1278. YES, we do need help with setting up the show and on Saturday and Sunday. YES, you can enter your plants in the non-competitive section if you have not owned them for more than six months. NO, you do not have to be on the General Committee to join the show committee. We would love to see you. NO, I have not noticed any "cliques" in the club. Any perception that there are cliques in the club is unfortunate and incorrect.

Finally, if you have a problem or a suggestion then PLEASE see me or one of the committee members and we will do our best to solve the problem or take up your suggestion. All of the committee are very approachable.

Well I hope that I have answered some of the questions that have been asked. There is a documentary on Pompeii on T.V. soon, and I also have to water the babies {orchids} so I had better sign off.

Bye for now

Elizabeth Walker  
President

## Early Growers Workshop and BBQ lunch

Date: Sunday 21st November 2010

Time: 10am till whenever.

BBQ lunch, meat provided

Visitors to bring salad or sweet for sharing.

BYO Chair and alcohol / drinks

Tea and coffee provided

PLEASE ADVISE STEPHEN if attending  
(for catering purposes).

Phone 0412 352 604 or 9308 2025.

Programme - walk and talk of how, why and where it grows, till lunch,

After lunch, question and answer section with hands on demos for queries.

This is a good fun learning day and a great social day.  
All welcome.

## NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Well you will be pleased to know that the committee meeting last night was thrown into overdrive. Many new policies and directions were discussed some are to be trialled. Please remember that this is your club, so if you think the changes are better (or worse), take the time to discuss them with a committee member. The committee is always open for your ideas, or input, we would even like to see you on the committee and hence take responsibility for your club.

### Show report

Anthony reported that the show, although small went well. There were 380 customers through the door, 275 plant entries, 42 exhibitors, 32 sellers, 1 plant missing and we expect to make a small surplus.

Also from the Show Committee many suggestions have come forward to try to improve our shows, especially your participation in them.

1. Because of the aging factor of our membership and the need to supply Orchid Bark to our membership, it has been decided to **employ** 2 men to help in the unloading of the bark and the setting up of the hall for the show. The cost of this is estimated at \$500.
2. Due to the increase in the cost of Orchid Bark and the above, the cost of Bark to members will increase to \$23, immediately, and possibly another \$1 increase next year.
3. To try to improve our shows, it has been decided to increase the rewards for exhibitors. First prizes will earn \$5 and second prize \$2. The cost incurred for the Sarcochilus Festival is estimated at approximately \$800.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As some of you are aware next year is our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some arrangements are being undertaken to celebrate the event. Barry Harrison is co-ordinating the event. So far, we have begun to arrange that the event will be celebrated on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011, it will take the form of a dinner (similar to our Christmas dinner). There will be a guest speaker. A suitable momento will be produced. The cost will be shared between attendees and the club.

### Club apparel

A member has requested that we consider the production of a club logo to be embroidered on jackets, polo shirts, etc. The club has approved to finance the set-up costs of the scheme (\$40), the clothing will be at members own cost. Sales will not be available until next year. For further information contact Jenny Dark.

Eric Wilde  
Secretary

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The last meeting for this year will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Preceding the meeting will be our Christmas dinner. To be a part of this fun event, please book your seat. Payment is due at the November meeting.

Cost for Members is \$15.00.

Please note: the correct cost for Non-members is \$18.00.



## Seedling Flowering for the First Time

This category is one that is used every month for the plant benching at our meetings and at our Shows. It seems to cause confusion with some members.

**Definition: this class is for the FIRST time the seedling has flowered EVER.**

- It must be a seedling, not a mericlone.
- It must have been owned and grown by you for at least six (6) months.
- It may have belonged to someone else previously, but this must be the first flowering. If it has previously flowered for someone else, it does **not** qualify as a 'first flowering'.
- If it flowered last year or last season, it does **not** qualify as a 'first flowering'.
- At a show, the seedling may be entered in another class, as well as First Flowering (this is identified at our Shows by the use of a red sticker on the plant label, along with the plant number).

## Floral Art



If anyone is interested in taking up Floral Art and possibly entering into our shows, please don't be shy. There is a section there for entrants of all levels of ability.

Our new judge, Liz, is very approachable and is being very helpful by offering written advice and encouragement to all our entrants. She is also holding floral art demonstrations on the Saturday morning of all our shows for this year if you'd like to learn a little more.

Next show: 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November, so start practising. See Liz at **Flower Temple, 18-22 Artemis Lane, QV, Melbourne, 3000**, or phone **1300 650 344**

## Presentation of Displays at Shows

When setting up a display stand at our shows, a lot of thought goes in to the presentation of the plants and the display as a whole.

The general public and the judges look to these displays to show the plants off to their best advantage. A black backdrop (or similar) adds to the "framing" of displays and focuses attention on the plants. A backdrop also adds to the photography of the plants, both individually and as part of the display.

Please give some thought to using a backdrop the next time you set up your display at our shows. If you need assistance with this, Show Coordinator, Anthony Scerri may be able to help.

## Guest Speaker at the Sarc Festival

Be there on Sunday morning to hear one of our judges talking about orchids.

If there was ever anything you wanted to ask the judges, now is your chance. So be there and have your questions ready.

## MARIBYRNONG SARCOCHILUS FESTIVAL 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November

**Our Sarcochilus Festival is happening this month!**

The Show schedule, sales tickets, entry forms and tickets, etc, for the Sarcochilus Festival can be picked up at the November meeting. The Show schedule is also available on the website.

New members please note: you may exhibit as many orchids in flower as you want in the show, but they must have been grown and owned by you for a minimum of 6 months. Orchids that have been owned by you for a lesser time may be exhibited in the Non-competitive section.

If any members would like to offer their help during the show it will be greatly appreciated. Please let Anthony know, and he will allocate you a designated duty. Those members who help all day are given a lunch voucher, in appreciation. Those helping with the set up should be there by 12.30pm.

Orchid entry times are from 1.30pm - 6.00pm. Entries after this time will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements are made. Members are asked not to bring their plants into the hall on the set up day for shows until the tables and chairs have all been reorganised, or until the Show Coordinator declares it is safe to do so.

If you wish to sell plants at our shows you must exhibit on the show-bench - the ratio is 8 plants to one exhibit. Members selling plants at our shows may bring them in after 3.30pm on the Friday preceding the show.

**The Show closes at 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.**

Please Note: The Sales area closes at 3.30pm on Sunday to enable members in this area to start the clean up. You are therefore required to collect your unsold plants at 3.30pm. Sales tickets must be removed and checked off on your sales sheet before taking plants away.

The Show area stays open till 4pm. The show area is cleaned up after that time.

## Show Schedules

The schedules for Maribyrnong Shows will now also be available on the website before each show.

The download link is at:

[www.mosorchid.org.au/downloads/nextshowschedule2010.php](http://www.mosorchid.org.au/downloads/nextshowschedule2010.php)

Sales tickets, entry forms and tickets, etc, for the Sarcochilus Festival can be picked up at the November meeting.

## It's Repotting Time!!

Have you done your repotting? Traditionally done on Melbourne Cup weekend in Melbourne, it's a busy time of year for all orchid growers, particularly those with cymbidiums.

If you haven't done yours yet, or you have underestimated your supplies, the club will have bags of bark available at the show and plenty of pots available at the show and on meeting nights. If you need a lot it might be best to put in an order.

### Giveaways at our last meeting

Last month one of our members gave away keiki growths to members from his plant.



If you received a keiki, please label it. The name of the plant is **Dendrobium kingianum var silcockii** - a variety of Kingianum with a white flower and purple labellum.

### AOC Conference 2012

**19th AOC Conference & Show**  
**Perth, Western Australia**  
**11th to 16th September 2012**  
**"Wild About Orchids"**

The Australian Orchid Conference, held every three years, will return to Perth for the first time since 1991 and promises to be even more spectacular than all previous conference successes.

[Expression of Interest](#) in attending, what will be a truly wonderful event, and to ensure regular and up-to-date developments of the event, are invited.

See our "Contacts" page

<http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Contacts.htm>

Or subscribe to our e-newsletter...

[http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Subscribe\\_to\\_e-Newsletter.htm](http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Subscribe_to_e-Newsletter.htm)

For further information, please contact:  
the Chairman at +61 (0) 0417 903 280  
or the Secretary at +61 (0) 0415 116 960  
or via snail mail to:

The Secretary  
19th Australian Orchid Conference  
P O Box 576  
MORLEY 6062  
Western Australia

### World Orchid Conference 2011

**"Where new and old world orchids meet."**  
**20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference**  
**Singapore**  
**13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011**



A spectacular upcoming event. For more information go to: <http://www.20woc.com.sg>

### October Competition Results As per judges sheets

#### OPEN SECTION

##### Large Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Butterfly 'Dillabirra' B Rowlands

2<sup>nd</sup> Cym *lowianum* x A Scerri

##### Medium Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym O'Beaston J & D Sharam

##### Small Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Ken Gorey B Rowlands

2<sup>nd</sup> Cym Eye of the Tiger 'Joan' B Rowlands

##### Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Den Giltpet x Hewitt Glow D & V Howard

2<sup>nd</sup> Den Giltpet x Hewitt Glow D & V Howard

##### Australian Native Species Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Dockrillia ? A Wild

2<sup>nd</sup> Den *tetragonum* J & D Sharam

##### Sarcochilus Species/Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Sarc Aussie Dawn A Wild

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarc *falcatus* A Wild

##### Paphiopedilum – Exhibition Type

1<sup>st</sup> Paph Captain Cook J W Crawford

##### Paphiopedilum – Novelty Type

1<sup>st</sup> Paph Honey J W Crawford

##### Paphiopedilum – Species

1<sup>st</sup> Paph *delanatii* x self M Pearce

##### Cattleya – Novelty Type

1<sup>st</sup> SI Lana Coryell 'David' J & N Marshall

2<sup>nd</sup> C Cherry Suisse D & V Howard

##### Oncidium Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Onc Aloha Iwanaga J & Y McIntyre

2<sup>nd</sup> Onc Twinkle E & F Wilde

##### Lycaste Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Lyc Aquila Detente J & D Sharam

2<sup>nd</sup> Lyc Wildfire 'Superb' M Pearce

##### Dendrobium Hybrid/Species (not Aust Native)

1<sup>st</sup> Den Adastra J & M Lattimore

##### Masdevallia Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Masd Copper Angel D & V Howard

2<sup>nd</sup> Masd Rubicon D & V Howard

##### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Phrag Noirmont M Pearce

2<sup>nd</sup> Pleione Versailles M Condon

##### Species Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup> Phrag *lindleyanum* J W Crawford

2<sup>nd</sup> Cym *pumilum* J & D Sharam

#### Best in Section

Masd Copper Angel D & V Howard

#### INTERMEDIATE SECTION

##### Large Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Rotnesay 'Black Label' B Whearam

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

##### Medium Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Street Tango 'Desire' B Whearam

##### Small Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Unknown B Whearam

##### Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Den Glamour x King Wong L & E Johnstone

2<sup>nd</sup> Den *beckleri* x *teretifolium* x *striolatum*  
G & A Hardingham

##### Australian Native Species

1<sup>st</sup> Den *linguiforme* B Light

2<sup>nd</sup> Den *tetragonum* G & A Hardingham

##### Sarcochilus Species/Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Sarc *falcatus* G & A Hardingham

**Cattleya – Cluster Type**1<sup>st</sup> Lc Milleri x bowringiana R Austin**Phalaenopsis Hybrid**1<sup>st</sup> Phal Unknown R Austin2<sup>nd</sup> Phal Unknown R Austin**Best in Section**

Den Glamour x King Wong L &amp; E Johnstone

**ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION****Large Cymbidium**1<sup>st</sup> Cym Black Flame ‘Starburst’ M Mally**Medium Cymbidium**1<sup>st</sup> Cym Paradisian ‘Bullseye’ F & J Spiteri**Small Cymbidium**1<sup>st</sup> Cym So Bold x *devonianum* M Mally2<sup>nd</sup> Cym Paradisian Pride M Mally**Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium**1<sup>st</sup> Den X Delicatum ‘Beryl Clark’ D Brus2<sup>nd</sup> Den Grumpy P & H Halil**Australian Native Species**1<sup>st</sup> Den *gracilicaule* G Ragg2<sup>nd</sup> Den *tetragonum* T & J Dark**Australian Native Terrestrial**1<sup>st</sup> Pts *Nodding Grace* P & H Caly2<sup>nd</sup> Pts *curta* P & H Caly**Cattleya – Novelty Type**1<sup>st</sup> Lc Unknown V Vika**Masdevallia Hybrid**1<sup>st</sup> Masd Funky ‘O’Boy’ T & J Dark**Any Other Hybrid**1<sup>st</sup> Coel Unchained Melody T & J Dark2<sup>nd</sup> Den Euryalus D Brus**Best in Section**

Den X Delicatum ‘Beryl Clark’ D Brus

**NON SECTIONAL****Seedling Flowering for 1<sup>st</sup> time**1<sup>st</sup> Paph *primulinum* x Gold Dollar J W Crawford**Best Cultivated**

Den X Delicatum ‘Beryl Clark’ D Brus

**Judges Vote**

Masd Copper Angel D &amp; V Howard

**MOS Cultural Certificates Awarded**Den *linguiforme* B Light

Den X Delicatum ‘Beryl Clark’

D Brus

**VINTAGE CATTLEYA - L.C. Culminant La Tuilerie**

Was bred by the French nursery Vacherot & LeCoufle Received a Gold Medal award at the 1060 Paris Flower Show.

Vacherot and LeCoufle Nursery was established in 1886 and was the first nursery to use Tissue Culture for the Multiplication of orchids.

Michel Vacherot still operated this nursery and specialises in Doritaenopsis and Phalaenopsis breeding.



Photo by Jim Lattimore

**Photography**

Photographs printed in this Bulletin were taken by Terry Dark and/or Jenny Dark unless otherwise acknowledged.

**Bulletin by Email**

Should you like to have your newsletter emailed, please drop a quick line to my email address: [jenny.dark@darteks.com.au](mailto:jenny.dark@darteks.com.au)

**Bulletin Contributions**

If you would like to contribute, help is available to write or proofread articles.

If you have an opinion about the bulletin or suggestions and contributions for the bulletin content please contact [jenny.dark@darteks.com.au](mailto:jenny.dark@darteks.com.au) or phone 9748 7345.

Please note that the BULLETIN contribution deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.



Phalaenopsis orchid species grow from North Queensland, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan.

Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid, is perhaps the most suited orchid for growing in the house, where average temperatures and conditions are usually suitable. The growing period being summer, flower stem initiation during the cooler autumn and flowering in winter and spring. Flowers are long lasting, for up to three months, with mature plants producing multiple flower spikes of up to twenty or more flowers.

#### POSITION

A suitable position in the home is facing a shaded north or east window, with sufficient light to cast a dull shadow when a hand is held above the plant. Do not position the plant in direct sunlight, as the leaves will burn during the warmer months.

#### TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Temperatures for phalaenopsis should be 15 degrees C or more at night, with day time around 25 degrees c. Humidity of 50% or more is beneficial and can be aided by setting the plant onto a tray of pebbles with some water in the bottom of the tray. The plant roots should not be immersed in the water as this will cause the roots to rot.

#### WATERING

Careful watering is required, with the media being kept just moist and not allowed to completely dry out. Watering can be as often as every second day during summer, to once a week in winter. It is preferable to water into the pot as leaves need to be dry by night. An alternative method of watering is to immerse the pot into a container of water for several minutes. If tank water is available it is preferable to mains water. Water at room temperature is preferable to cold water during winter.

#### POTTING

Potting is best done after flowering and before new roots appear. Medium size bark for mature plants & small bark for pots less than 100mm diameter. Small amounts of coconut fibre and perlite can be added to the potting mix to aid water retention. Mature plants can be repotted into fresh mix every two years to replace decomposing media. Small plants will usually outgrow their pots after one year. When repotting, care must be taken not to damage any new soft root tips.

#### FERTILISER

Liquid or soluble granular fertilizer can be added to the water at each watering using half the recommended strength. If using organic fertilizer some seaweed or fish emulsion fertilizers are accompanied by a "fishy" smell!

#### PROBLEMS

Phalaenopsis have few cultural problems. If water is allowed to remain between the two top leaves, crown rot may occur. The base of the leaves will become brown and the plant will usually die. Insect infestation is mostly by long tail mealy bug, which is a silvery insect 1 to 2mm long. Usually it is found under leaves or on the flower. Control can be with a cotton bud dipped in a mixture of half methylated spirit and half water directly onto the insect.

#### CULTURE

Phalaenopsis are mainly monopodial, having only one growing stem so plant division is not normally possible. New plants are produced by seed, tissue culture or by stem propagation which is initiated by the application of growth hormone paste applied onto the small stem nodes.

When the flowers have finished the stem can be cut off at the base and normal flowering should follow the next year or the flower stem can be cut about three nodes above the base. This may encourage another flower stem to develop from the top node. This secondary stem may not have as many flowers as the original stem but will extend the flowering period for several months.

