

Maribyrnong Orchid Society

SEPTEMBER 2015 BULLETIN

www.mosorchid.org



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

Next Meeting – 8th September 2015



The Early 'New Growers' Group starts at 7.15pm. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting. The group will be led by Anthony Scerri and Eric Wilde.



The pots'n'ferts and plant sales table operate at every meeting. See Tony Lopreiato for the supplies you are looking for, and then talk to Alex Wild about the sales plants.

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

Our guest speaker this month is Mr Hendrik Venter who is very experienced in the orchid field, has published books on orchids and is an AOC judge.

Hendrik's topic will be "Orchids in habitat - what can we learn from seeing how and where orchids grow".

Our guest speaker last month was Mr Geoff Bailey who spoke on Cymbidiums Thanks Geoff for the interesting talk.

Supper Duties



Carmen Ellul and Margaret Gatt are on supper duty this month. Next month our volunteers will be Denise Colquhoun AND Judy Marshall.

All members are encouraged to bring in a plate of supper to be enjoyed at the end of the evening.

Plant of the Night - August



Best in Open and Judges Choice, Phrag St Ouen 'Maribyrnong' by Joe Crawford.



Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Solstice Gold' benched by Paul Saliba in the Novice Section. Paul will now move up to Advanced Novice.

Maribyrnong Orchid Society Contacts

PATRON Mr Eric Wilde	PRESIDENT Mr Tim Scerri Ph 0477 374 682	PAST PRESIDENT Mrs Elizabeth Walker	VICE PRESIDENT Mrs Wilma Carlesso
SECRETARY Ms Patricia Edmonds Ph 5784 3416	TREASURER Mrs Elizabeth Walker Ph 9689 1142	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mrs Julianne Diwell 0419 112 377 mosmembership@bigpond.com	PUBLICITY OFFICER Mr Peter Caly Ph 0421 011 236 petercaly@icloud.com
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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

NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSTE

NEW! NEW! NEW! Our Application and renewal form are available on the web. See "Join our club now!"

For any members who have access to the internet, some of our show documents are now available from the website, to help make your entries a little easier.

Show schedule Show entry forms Show conditions of entry Sales consignment sheets Floral Art entry form and conditions

All the above documents are available as PDFs from the MOS website at http://www.mosorchid.org/index.php Only sales tickets will need to be picked up from the meeting or ring Elizabeth on 03 9689 1142.

The show flyer, which is also available on the website, closer to each show, can be downloaded, printed and distributed to friends and neighbours and maybe your local shops and businesses.

FACEBOOK

MOS also has a Facebook page. This is another way we can share our orchid hobby with others from all around Victoria, Australia and the world. You are welcome to use this page to share comments and photos with other Facebook users, both individuals and groups, and other club members. Why not try it?



Saturday 19 - Tuesday 22 September 2015 9am to 5pm Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre
Mackay - Queensland, Australia





Conference

Friday 18 to Tuesday 22 September

Orchid Show Open to the Public





President's Report September 2015

The Spring Show will be held on Friday 11, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September, at the Maribyrnong Community Centre and you could win one of the two \$30.00 vouchers from the Pots and Ferts sales area. The first voucher is given away to a person who enters a plant in the show for the first time and the other is a draw from all the people who enter plants in the show. The winners will be drawn at the October meeting. So all you have to do is enter a flowering orchid in the Spring Show.

Anthony and I are going to the 20th Australian Orchid Council and 50th Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference and Show, after the Spring Show and we are asking members to provide us with orchid flowers to take with us and make up a stand. We will be collecting them after the Spring Show and packing them up for the trip. If you would like to provide us with your cut orchid flowers, it would be appreciated.

The Show Coordinator will again require assistance throughout the weekend to run the Spring Show. Also please do not forget that members can sell only orchids or orchid-related things like books, at the next 2 shows ie: not plants other than orchids.

Members who wear their name badge to the show and present their 2015 membership card will receive FREE entry.

I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Tim Scerri President

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Not much has been happening lately, which is usually the way between the Winter and Spring shows. Committee meetings are short and we seem to breeze through them in no time.

Don't forget to let the Membership Secretary or a committee person know if you do not want your information to go beyond the Membership Secretary. Perhaps you might prefer to have your mail sent to a Post Office box or a relative's home.

The outcome of the special general meeting was that the club discontinue the May or Autumn show as of 2016. It will be a shame to see it go and I know it will be missed by many members, but circumstances change and it is no longer profitable to keep this show going. The other three shows will still be at the same time. We were unable to move the Winter show forward as there was no free time at the venue.

Speaking of the venue, the costs for hiring Randall Street have gone up again. It now costs the club \$340 to hire and set up the venue on the Tuesday night. Raffle and plant sales unfortunately do not cover this. What can we do? Any suggestions from the membership would be appreciated.

Don't forget the spring show coming up on 12th and 13th September. This is a great show as the cymbidiums are at their best and make a great display. Hope to see you there.

Bye for Now Elizabeth

SHOW CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Maribyrnong Orchid Society Spring Show Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 September 2015

Our next Show will be the Spring Show and it will be held at the Maribyrnong Community Centre on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September. Yes, I will be requiring help over the weekend, to set up on the Friday 11 September, after 12.30pm. There will be a number of jobs over the weekend that the club will require help with as well, especially on Saturday morning between 9.00am and 12.00noon. Then, after 4pm on Sunday, when the show has finished, when we are all tired and most people have collected their plants and are on their way home. Yes, we have to clean up the hall, so, as many hands make light work, if you could help at any time on Friday, Saturday morning or over the weekend, it would be very much appreciated.

If members require a stand at the show, please contact me so I can allocate a position in the hall for you.

Any members who require sales tickets for the show please ring Elizabeth or see the members at the back of the hall at the September meeting to arrange your sales tickets.

Please note that on the Friday of the show no plants are permitted in the hall till after 1.30pm, and that no sales plants will be permitted into the sales area till after 3.30pm, or after Ron who is in charge of the sales area, gives you permission.

Members will still receive free entry by showing their name badge and 2015 membership ticket at the door, when entering the show.

I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting and at our Spring Show.

Anthony Scerri Show Coordinator

Seddon
Community Bank® Branch
Bendigo Bank

Seedling Report

There were 34 plants returned – the winner was Peter Caly. Our speaker Geoffrey Bailey had a look at the seedlings and gave his comments.

Jessica Scerri

POTS'n'FERTS

Also, remember our Pots'n'Ferts table that runs at most

monthly meetings and at the shows. This is a great opportunity provided by the club for members to pick up all your potting needs. The club carries



pots of all shapes and sizes, fertiliser, stakes, ties, labels and many other accessories at very reasonable prices.

Valé Valé



Michael (Mick) Condon – 27/09/1927 – 09/07/2015

Mick joined the Maribyrnong Orchid Society on the 3rd July 1983. He quickly showed interest in Australian Native Orchids and Species Orchids of all types. He became known for his specimen (large) plants. He was a very good grower of orchids.

Along with some other members from the Sunshine area, they became known as the "Sunshine Boys". The "Sunshine Boys", were not only known for the area from whence they came but also for the attitude and brightness that they radiated, a great group of guys. Mick was the last of the Sunshine Boys.

Mick was a great member of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society, readily aiding and assisting other members of the society. In the early days I have a vision of Mick, at the Orchid Shows, for any child showing any interest in the plants, always magically producing from his pocket a small plant. It was always his belief, that that would start another orchid grower on his way, perhaps to follow in his footsteps.

Mick joined the Maribyrnong Orchid Society Committee in 1995 and served until 2008. During this time he served as a Vice President for at least 4 Years. At the Christmas meeting of 2007, the society gave Mick their highest honour, that of Life Member of the society. He was very proud of this award, he wore his badge at all of our shows and meetings.

On behalf of the society, thank you Mick, your service and duty are noted, a wonderful member rest in peace.

Eric Wilde

In Leving Memory of Mick Condon

Laelias, Dendrobiums By name he knew them all Orchids were a passion For this man who still stood tall

85 years or more He Lived upon this Earth And Like the humble Orchid He Knew what Life was warth

Mick Candon friend to many Forget him we shall hot And here in the Orchid Warld He will always have a spot

Mick will be remembered And missed at future shows His help, his understanding And all the things he knows

The memories he took with him As he slipped awoug
We hope that they were good ones
In which with him we will stay
Thank-youf
Farewell to Our Friend Mick Condon

you shall always be remembered

Mick Condon 27.9.1927 - 9.7-2015

O K. Hounden 2015.

Peter Kiernan – 15/02/1945 – 23/07/2015

When Peter took up hobbies, he did it with a vengeance, be it gardening, metal detecting, growing orchids or conserving them.

Peter Kiernan joined the Maribyrnong Orchid Society in 2000 and became experienced and successful in



grower of exotic orchids and was heavily involved in the running of our society, including being on Committee for 5 years and Show Coordinator for 3 years (12 shows). Exotic orchids were his passion, especially Masdevallias and Cymbidiums — he had a newly constructed orchid house specifically for his Cymbidiums.

Peter was on the committee for the 18th AOC Conference and Show in Werribee for a time and was the Show Marshall, where he worked very hard to make the conference a great success.

Peter also became a member of ANOS Geelong in 2002 where his conversion to growing Australasian orchids began in earnest. The following year he joined ANOS Victoria, initially involved with growing epiphytic orchids, but soon fell under the spell of our beautiful terrestrial orchids, developing a love for our local orchids and their conservation.

Typical of Peter, he soon became involved in the running of ANOS Geelong, first as a committee member, then vice-president and then as secretary, a position he held for the past seven years with distinction.

Peter was also committed to the Terrestrial Study and Conservation Groups of ANOS Victoria.

At Peter's funeral, many colleagues from ANOS Victoria and Geelong, Maribyrnong Orchid Society, State departments (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria), Academia plus private contractors he had worked with were in attendance to farewell him – a testament to the regard in which Peter was held in the orchid world.

His special territory was the Long Forest Reserve area near Bacchus Marsh and the Dumpy Greenhood - Pterostylis truncata, which grew there. He became the 'expert' on the orchids of the area ensuring that the orchids were well looked after, both in the reserve and along the road side. There are 5 square markers along the Long Forest road ensuring that the rarer orchids are not damaged by any roadside works - they will also remind us of Peter.

Our condolences go out to Pete's children, Helen, Cheryl and Brian and grandchildren Darcy, Bonnie, Hamish, Joe, Archie and Zoe

Rest in Peace Pete

 Anthony Scerri (with information from ANOS GEELONG GROUP BULLETIN and input from Neil Anderson and Dick Thomson)

Competition Results August As per judging sheets

OPEN SECTION Large Cymbidium 1st Cym Lancashire Khan 'Pink Dream' G Ragg **Medium Cymbidium** 1st Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon' **B** Rowlands 2nd Cym Valley Splash 'Awesome'? G Ragg Small Cymbidium 1st Cym Warringah Winter 'Madge' **B** Rowlands 2nd Cym Strathran Cooksbridge 'Fantasy' B Rowlands Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium 1st Den Warringah x falcorostrum Le Tan Liep 2nd Den Brolga x Aussie Victory A Scerri Australian Native Species Dendrobium 1st Dock levetifolia J W Crawford 2nd Dock levetifolia A Wild **Australian Native Terrestrials** 1st Pts *curta* G Ragg 2nd Pts Dusky Duke A Scerri Sarcochilus Species/Hybrid 1st Sarc falcatus A Wild **Exhibition Type Paphiopedilum** 1st Paph Sparshot x World Venture J W Crawford Cattleya 1st Slc Royal Beau x Sl Beaufort J W Crawford Phalaenopsis Hybrid 1st Phal Tying Shin 'Classic' J & M Lattimore 2nd Phal Tying Shin 'Classic' J & M Lattimore

Best in Section

2nd Zygo Big Red

Any Other Hybrid

Phrag St Ouen 'Maribyrnong' J W Crawford

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

1st Phrag St Ouen 'Maribyrnong'

Large Cymbidium

1st Cym Grand Monarch H Nyssen 2nd Cym Kerry T Scerri

Medium Cymbidium

1st Cym Cherry Cola 'Feathered Friend' Dau Nguyen

Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium

1st Den Aussie Victory T Lopreiato 2nd Den Rutherford 'Sunspot' x Rutherford 'Blushing Bride' T Lopreiato

Australian Native Species Dendrobium

1st Pts *curta* x *pedunculata* T Scerri 2nd Pts *curta* T Scerri

Any Other Hybrid

1st Zygo Titanic x John Banks T Lopreiato



Best in Section

Zygo Titanic x John Banks T Lopreiato

ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION

Small Cymbidium

1st Cym Unknown Anh T Tieu

Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium

1st Den Elandra Star x Aussie Victory D & L McCoy

Australian Native Species Dendrobium

1st Den *teretifolium* J Bradley

Phalaenopsis Hybrid

1st Phal Unknown Anh T Tieu



Best in Section (above)

Den teretifolium J Bradley

Novice

J W Crawford

A Scerri

Large Cymbidium

1st Cym One Tree Hill 'Solstice Gold' P Saliba Paul will now move up to Advanced Novice

NON SECTIONAL

Seedling Flowering First Time

1st Paph primulinum x armeniacum J W Crawford 2nd Paph (Herbie Poole x Greenoaks) x (Gwenpur x Irish Luck) J W Crawford

Judges Vote

Phrag St Ouen 'Maribyrnong' J W Crawford



Other Orchid Shows Coming up

Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria Saturday 12th Sept - Sunday 13th Sept Hungarian Community Centre 760 Boronia Rd Wantirna

Bairnsdale & District Orchid Group Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Lucknow Memorial Hall Omeo Hwy Lucknow

Goulburn Valley Orchid Society Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Shepparton Harness Racing Track Hall Goulburn Valley Highway Kialla

Mid-Murray Orchid Club Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Memorial Hall Nolan St Kerang

Southern Suburbs Orchid Society Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Senior Citizens Hall Cnr Exley Dve & Nepean Highway Moorabbin (Mel 77 D6)

West Gippsland Orchid Society Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Anglican Church Hall Princes Way Cnr Francis Ave Drouin

North East Melbourne Orchid Society Saturday 19th Sept - Sunday 20th Sept Bulleen Heights School Pleasant Road Bulleen (Mel 32-G6)

Murray Valley Orchid Club Spring Show Sat 19th Sept

Dandenong Orchid Club Spring Show Sat 26th Sept – Sun 27th Sept Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 18-32 Buckley St Noble Park Mel 89 E 2

Werribee Orchid Club Spring Show Sat 26th & Sun 27th Sept Italian Sports Club Werribee 601 Heaths Road Werribee Mel Ref 205 F3

Geelong Orchid & Indoor Plant Club Sat 26th & Sun 27th Sept Christ Church Hall Cnr Moorabool & McKillop Streets Geelong Mel Ref 401 G7

Maroondah Orchid Society Saturday 26th Sept - Sunday 27th Sept St Timothy's Catholic Community School 21 Stevens Rd Vermont (Mel 62 G3)

Berwick Orchid Club Saturday 26th Sept - Sunday 27th Sept Senior Citizens Hall 112 High St Berwick (Mel 111D8) Australasian Native Orchid Society VIC Group Saturday 26th Sept - Sunday 27th Sept MtWaverley Community Centre 47 Miller Crescent Mount Waverley (Mel 61 E12)

Victorian Orchid Club Spring Show Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Sat 3rd & Sun 4th Oct 300 Waterdale Road Heidelberg Mel Ref 31 F4

Bendigo Orchid Club Friday 2nd Oct - Sunday 4th Oct Eaglehawk Soccer Club Pavilion Truscott Reserve Murdock St California Gully

Horsham Orchid Society Saturday 3rd Oct - Sunday 4th Oct Horsham College Hall Dimboola Road Horsham

Melbourne Eastern Orchid Society Saturday 3rd Oct - Sunday 4th Oct Uniting Church Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd East Burwood

Ringwood Orchid Society Saturday 3rd Oct - Sunday 4th Oct Melba College Hall Brentnall Rd Croydon (Mel 50 E3)

Warrnambool District Orchid Society Saturday 3rd Oct - Sunday 4th Oct Warrnambool College Hall Grafton Rd Warrnambool

Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society Sunday 4th Oct -Saturday 10th Oct Karingal Shopping Centre Frankston Cranbourne Rd Karingal

Gippsland Orchid Club Friday 9th Oct - Sunday 11th Oct Mid Valley Shopping Centre Princess Hwy Morwell

St Arnaud Orchid Society Saturday 10th Oct - Sunday 11th Oct RSL Hall Raglan Street St Arnaud

Albury/Wodonga Orchid Club Spring Show Sat 10th Oct

Colac Orchid Club
10 - 11 Oct 10am - 4pm
Colac Show Grounds
(first right after crossing the railway bridge)

Warringal Orchid Society Show Sat 10th & Sun 11th Oct St Sava Community Centre 212 Diamond Creek Road Greensborough Mel Ref 11 C8

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.



WHY ISN'T MY ORCHID FLOWERING?

Cymbidiums are flowering (or in spike) all over the place. What, yours aren't flowering? You want to know why? I knew it would come to this, the old eternal question. Let's see if I can help you find the answer. You see, there are many reasons why Cymbidiums might not flower, and your particular plant/s may not be flowering for any one, or a number of these reasons. *Some* of the reasons are as follows:-

- 1. The most obvious reason that comes to mind is that the plant is just not ready to flower most Cymbidiums will not flower off a plant that has any less than three or four *good*, *big* green pseudobulbs.
- 2. Second on the list just has to be light. Cymbidiums need good light to flower, and I believe this light is needed most when the plant is thinking about initiating its flower spike, which should be sometime between the end of September and the end of December. Now I know most growers, me included, say you should add shade to your plants around Melbourne Show day, which seems to contradict what I have just said, the point is you must use 50% or less shade. This is important, any more shade than this could mean no flowers.

 Much less shade than this could mean burnt plants.
- 3. Fertilising has to be next, but be careful here, I don't believe that lack of fertilising is a major factor in the lack of flowers. In fact I believe that one of the reasons that some people have problems is they give the plants fertiliser that has too much Nitrogen in it at the wrong time. You'll get beautiful dark green leaves, but flowering will suffer. I recommend that no High Nitrogen fertiliser should be given after about the end of November, however there are as many different fertilising programmes as there are growers. A fertilising programme that is often recommended, and works, is to add one level teaspoon each of 8-9 month Osmocote, Dolomite Lime and trace elements to the top 1" of the mix to a 6" pot in September. Naturally you will have to vary this amount if your pot is larger or smaller than 6", but don't overdo it.
- 4. Watering has a lot to do with the general well-being of the plant if a plant dries out too much for too long it will not be healthy, and an unhealthy plant will not flower well, unless it's a last ditched effort to propagate itself before it dies. Similarly, if the plant is constantly wet, the roots, and maybe even the bulbs, will rot and die and you have the same problem an unhealthy plant. Moist, but not soggy at all times is the general rule.
- 5. Potting mix is tied in with the above two factors, fertilising and watering. The mix must be well drained so the roots don't rot, yet it must be able to retain *some* moisture in between waterings. It must be able to support the plant physically and it must be able to provide some nutrition to the plant, or trap and supply fertilisers that are added externally. It must also be non-toxic to the roots.
- 6. Air movement is another essential product for a Cymbidium's well being and therefore, as outlined above, the ability to flower. Cymbidiums need a constant change of air around them to remain healthy, they will not be happy inside the house for any long period of time, nor will they be happy in a closed up glasshouse or other structure which doesn't allow this air movement.
- 7. Pests, diseases and the elements all effect flowering. The obvious way in which they do this is by physically eating, rotting or frosting off the flower spike, or the bulb that the spike would have come from. The not quite so obvious way is by being generally detrimental to the health of the plant, and as I have said before, an unhealthy plant will not give good results.
- 8. The last factor that comes to mind is the effect of a flower spike being left on the plant for too long last year, or the plant being badly disturbed when repotted late in the season, or any other factor which may have set the plant back. Remember, we must aim for a nice large healthy bulb for the plant to flower off. Anything that stops the bulb getting the nourishment that it needs is detrimental, not only to flowering, but to the health and general well being of the plant.

So there you have it in a nutshell, not all, but some of the reasons for a Cymbidium not flowering. When you think about it, it's a pretty good guide for the other often-asked question, "How do you grow orchids?" If you aren't getting results, now is the time to check out your growing conditions and habits, and improve them in preparation for a good flowering next year.

Photographs

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

Bulletin by Email

Should you decide to have your bulletin emailed, please see Julianne Diwell, the society Membership Secretary, at one of the meetings, or send her a message at mosmembership@bigpond.com

Email saves the club money on postage costs, and we help save the trees if we don't use so much paper printing unnecessary copies.

If you receive your copy by email, please think before you print.

Website & Facebook

Go to www.mosorchid.org for more information about the society, shows, etc. or on facebook: www.facebook.com/MaribyrnongOrchidSociety

Bulletin Contributions

If you would like to contribute, help is available to write or proof read articles. If you have suggestions and contributions for the bulletin content please contact jenny.dark@darteks.com.au or phone 9748 7345.

Please note that the BULLETIN contribution deadline is the 3rd Thursday of the month