



# Maribyrnong Orchid Society

MAY 2016 BULLETIN

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



Sarcochilus australis

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

## Next Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016



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

This month we have the judges speaking about "Showing Plants"

We thank Mrs Helene Wild for her talk last month on "Orchids in Art" and next month we will publish notes on her talk.

### Supper Duties



Margaret Gatt and Carmen Ellul are rostered to help out with supper for our May meeting. All members are encouraged to bring in a plate of supper

to be enjoyed at the end of the evening, along with your cuppa. Stay a while and have a chat. Our volunteers for next month, June, are Hilda and Peter Caly.

### Club Cultural Certificate



Awarded to Dau Nguyen for her plant of Dendrobium Mingles 'Sapphire'



### Membership renewal extended

**Due to a number of enquiries regarding renewal of memberships the cut-off date is extended to the close of this month's meeting. If you have not renewed by then, unfortunately this will be your last bulletin.**

## Maribyrnong Orchid Society Contacts

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<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> Mr Steve Panagiotou	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> Mr Ron Ryan	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b> Mr Anthony Scerri	
<b>SHOW CO-ORDINATOR</b> Mr Anthony Scerri Ph 9382 6359	<b>NEW GROWERS GROUP</b> Mr Anthony Scerri Mr Eric Wilde	<b>POTS'N'FERTS</b> Mr Tony Lopreiato	<b>PLANT SALES</b> Mr Alex Wild
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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.			
<b>BULLETIN CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month</b>			

### Plant of the Night April

#### Best in Open & Judges Vote

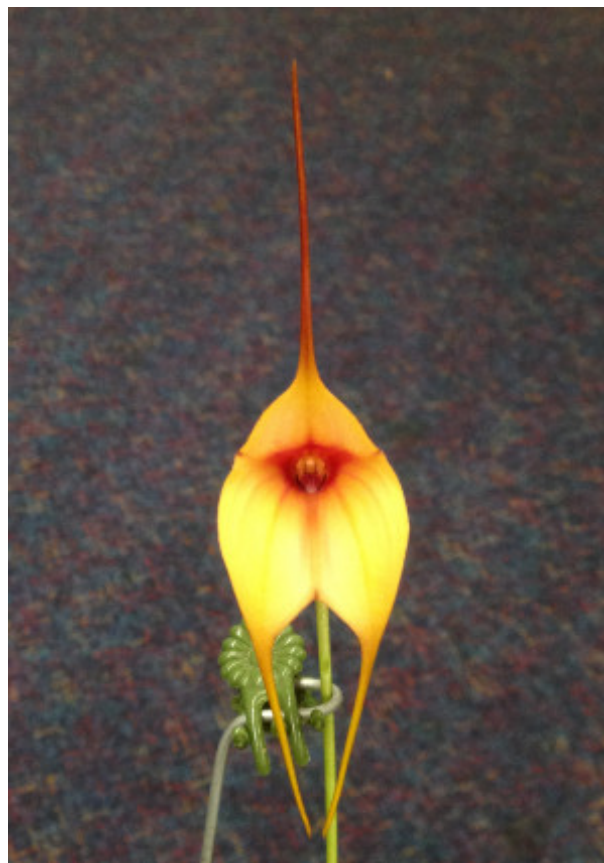
Blc Dad's Girl

Michael Breuer



### HCC Received on the Night

Masdevallia Hoosier Angel x Copper Queen  
Grant Garrett 78 points



## President's Report May 2016

It is a great honour to be president of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society especially since I have only been a member of the club for a short time. I hope, with the support of the committee and members we can, as a team, continue to help our club grow and prosper.

First I would like to thank Timothy for all his hard work over the last three years. I think that he has done a miraculous job. I would also like to thank the old committee and wish the new committee all the best for the coming year. Please do not fear Timothy is not going anywhere, he will be my right hand Prince Panda.

We are now well in to 2016 and the first bus trip is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2016. We will be going to Steven Stebbing at Stanhope and then on to Castle Creek in the afternoon. There are still a number of places left. Places are filling fast and payment is required at the May meeting to secure your seat.

Our Winter Show is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016. This will be our first show for the year. If you could spare an hour or two to help with the show set up etc, it would be very much appreciated as there is plenty of work to be done. Please give a little of your time and help the show be a wonderful success.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting.

Kind regards

Maria Malacria  
President

## FROM THE COMMITTEE April 2016

Lots of things discussed at the last committee meeting, so let's get right into it.

-Place Ribbons. Do you have place ribbons sitting in a drawer somewhere? You know the ones, the blue or red 8x2 inch ribbons with first or second printed in gold. If you no longer want or need them, please bring them back to the club. I know of some members who take them home from a show and throw them into the rubbish bin. "Shock horror". We are running out and it takes about six weeks for them to be manufactured and mailed out. That could stretch out to whenever knowing how slow the mail is these days. Yes they have been ordered but we may be short for the next meeting. The Treasurer in me has to tell you that ribbons are 45c each. Hope you can help out.

-Pop Up Sale. Yes folks our sale is looking healthy. Tony informed the committee on progress so far. Keep an eye open for information in this bulletin and future bulletins.

-Membership. Membership dues will no longer be accepted after 7.45pm at club meetings. If you have the correct money, and don't want to wait around, put it in an envelope with your name and amount written on the front and leave it with the membership secretary. Julianne will have envelopes to help you out. Your

receipts can be picked up at the next meeting, or if requested, mailed out.

-Shows. The winter show schedule has had a few alterations and was presented at the first show committee meeting for this year. It has been passed by the committee, and now offers the Mick Condon Award for the best Laeliinea, either species or hybrid. Don't forget, you can still sell other plants besides orchids at this show.

That seems to be it for this month. Not as much as I thought.

Catch up again next month.

Bye for now.

Elizabeth.

## Information about special orders of BARK from the Show Coordinator

I will be placing an order for bark for the Winter Show in the first week of May and if any members would like to place a special order for a large amount of bark please see me at the April meeting.

All special orders are to be paid for in advance and they will be put away at the show for you to pick up when you come in.

I look forward to see you all at the April meeting

Anthony Scerri  
Show Coordinator

## Show Coordinator Report

Maribyrnong Orchid Society  
Winter Show  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The Winter Show (which is our first show for this year) will be held on Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July 2016, not the dates I placed in the last newsletter. The set up the show will be on Friday 8 July 2016, after 1.00pm. Please book this dates in your diaries.

I will be taking any special orders for bark at the May meeting. All special bark orders are required to be paid for in advance.

Again this year we are permitting free entry into our shows for our members who have their name badge on. However, you are required to show your 2016/17 membership ticket at the door as well.

Tony Lopretiato has work very hard to arrange a Sales Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016; you can book a table from Tony and sell any plants you like on the day. The cost for a table will be \$50 and you can come along with your friends and there is no charge for admittance.

I look forward to see you all at the May meeting and at our Winter Show.

Anthony Scerri  
Show Coordinator

## Would you like to win?

We are holding a NEW competition

All you have to do is write an article and have it published in our bulletin this year. This entitles you to be in the running for a \$30 Pots and Ferts Voucher to be presented at the December meeting.

That's all you need to do.

It doesn't need to be long and you don't need to be an expert. Have you been to a recent show? Have you had some success with your orchids? Are you perplexed about your orchids? Can you recommend a great orchid book? These are just a few ideas. Novice growers are encouraged to submit an article.

All entries should be submitted to the editor. If you have any queries at all about this, contact the editor. Jenny Dark [mosbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:mosbulletin@gmail.com) or 0418 135 819

## BUS TRIP 5<sup>TH</sup> June 2016

Where? Steven Stebbing at Stanhope and then on to Castle Creek in the afternoon.

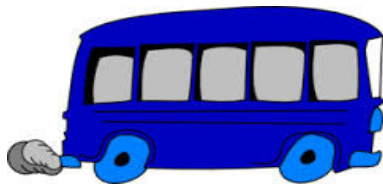
Yes we are off again {hopefully} for this year's first bus trip. Steven Stebbing has moved from Craigieburn to Stanhope just west of Shepparton and just up the road from Castle Creek Orchids. A barbeque lunch will be available and all we ask members to bring is their own chair. Steven has a vast selection of orchids for sale and Castle Creek have their beautiful Catts, Mini Catts, and Natives.

Cost for the trip will be \$35.00 and leaving time will be 8.00am and returning at 5.00pm .

The Coach will be leaving from Footscray Park Bowling Club corner of Hoadley Court and Ballarat Road, Footscray. (Opposite V.U.T.)

Wilma or Elizabeth will be taking names and monies at the next two meetings {April and May}.

Looking forward to seeing you.



Elizabeth

## Club Champion Cymbidium Orchids

Yes, back by popular demand at the MOS August meeting the "Club Champion Cymbidiums Orchids".

There will be some money prizes for what the judges judge as the "Club Champion Cymbidium Orchid"

So start preparing you Cymbidium Orchid now for the August Meeting

## The Pop-Up Orchid and Related Plants Sale

Hi members. You may recall a few meetings ago I mentioned that I was interested in organising a plant sale as a fundraiser for MOS. In the mean time we have moved from four to three shows a year which means one show less to sell plants. It was suggested to have a plant sale in the spring when most orchids are in bloom and therefore members could market their plants at their best. I have looked at dates when other shows are on and have suggested to committee **Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup>** as it does not clash with any other metropolitan orchid show. We are looking at **Footscray Park Bowls Club** (thanks to Elizabeth) as a venue and looking to hold it **between 9:00 am and 4:00pm**.

To be more precise: **Setup 9-10am Sales 10-3:30pm Pack up 3:30-4:00pm Go Home 4:00pm**

**There will be no limit on the number of plants you can sell.**

I am intending to set up two types of stands.

**Growers can set up their own stand (a 2m x 1m table space)** and sell as many plants as they want in that space for a donation of **\$50 per table to MOS**. If we have to supply the table then there will be an **extra cost of \$20 per table for table hire**. Growers will be expected to sit with their stand for security and spruik and sell their own plants.

**There will also be a club stand** which will run much the same as we do our normal sales at our shows. On this stand all plants will be ticketed and plants will be sold by the club less 15% commission.

Maribyrnong Orchid Society will not be paying for any plants that go missing.

I am intending for us all to be undercover and indoors (in case of rain) but depending on the response we get for the day and weather permitting there may be some stands being set up under the veranda.

There will be a barbeque set up for the day so lunch or snags can be purchased for \$2.50 if needed. I am informed the bar will be open on the day.

Tea and coffee facilities will also be provided.

If you don't have many plants to sell, may I recommend joining up with other members to set up a stand and share any costs.

Members, here is an opportunity to be involved with something a little different. It is an opportunity to reduce your collection of excess plants without the restrictions of a show and hopefully make some money for yourself as well as the society.

With your input this could be a fun day!

**For any enquiries and booking of stands call Tony on 0425 771 930.**

**Welcome New Member**

Jim Perry - Your welcome plant and nametag will be available at our next meeting.

**Valé  
Malcolm  
Pearce**



*It is with great sadness that I inform our members that our good friend and fellow member Malcolm Pearce has passed away.*

*Malcolm joined Maribrnong Orchid Society in August 2002.*

*Malcolm was quick with the wit and cheeky too. He was one of our Show Marshalls, helping those of us who were not sure in which section to put our plants. For those who wanted to know what the judges were looking for, he would also take a tour of our show room and impart his vast knowledge. His orchid stands held a variety of orchids and whilst he would have many ribbons, he would also point out why his plants may not have won on the day.*

*He was one of the first to welcome me to our society and was generous with his time and patience as I started to learn the ins and outs of showing plants. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him whether it be here in the orchid world or the world outside of orchids. He was a qualified AOC Judge and was studying to become an ANOS judge. Many of his orchids were awarded by the AOC.*



*My condolences to his family, we have lost a gentleman a true gentle man. R.I.P Malcolm and thank you for being you.*

*Julianne Diwell  
Member and Membership Secretary  
Maribrnong Orchid Society Inc.*



**Competition Results April  
As per judging sheets**

**OPEN SECTION**

**Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium**

1<sup>st</sup> Den Anne's Rainbow J Haniver  
2<sup>nd</sup> Den Valepeck x Jazz J Haniver

**Australian Native Species Dendrobium**

1<sup>st</sup> Liparis swenssonii A Wild  
2<sup>nd</sup> Den schneiderae A Wild

**Australian Native Terrestrials**

1<sup>st</sup> Chiloglottis 'Coral' x 'Pesco Hiana Boy' A Scerri  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chiloglottis diphylla A Scerri

**Sarcochilus Hybrid/Species**

1<sup>st</sup> Sarc Misty x Velvet E & F Wilde  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sarc Cindy A Scerri

**Novelty Paphiopedilum**

1<sup>st</sup> Paph Lady Light x Camberwick J W Crawford

**Cattleya Exhibition Type**

1<sup>st</sup> Blc Dad's Girl M Breuer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lc Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' J W Crawford

**Cattleya Novelty Type**

1<sup>st</sup> Lc Tokyo Magic 'Lea' x Cherry Chip J & M Lattimore  
2<sup>nd</sup> Slc Mini Purple J W Crawford

**Cattleya Cluster Type**

1<sup>st</sup> Catt Chocolate Treats x Wings of Red M Breuer

**Miltonia Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Milt Guanabarra A Scerri  
2<sup>nd</sup> Milt Guanabarra G Ragg

**Oncidium Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Onc Lava Flow J W Crawford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colm Black Cat M Breuer

**Masdevallia Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Masd Midas Touch 'Crown Vista' G Garrett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Masd Midas Touch 'Golden Dynasty' D Visser

**Any Other Hybrid**

1<sup>st</sup> Phrag Cardinale J W Crawford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bulbo Wilba Chang G Garrett

**Species Any Genera**

1<sup>st</sup> Dendrochilum magnum G Garrett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cym erythrostylum A Scerri

**Best in Section**

Blc Dad's Girl M Breuer

### Intermediate Section

#### Medium Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Kasuda Shining 'Geyserland' R Ryan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cym Mia Zia 'Perisane' R Ryan

#### Oncidium Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Onc Kalihi Dau Nguyen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Onc Kalihi M Mally

#### Any Other Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Dend Mingles 'Sapphire' Dau Nguyen

#### Species any Genera

1<sup>st</sup> Laelia *anceps* K Stringer

#### Best in Section

Dend Mingles 'Sapphire' Dau Nguyen

### ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION

#### Small Cymbidium

1<sup>st</sup> Cym Morialta Falls P & M Gatt

#### Australian Native Hybrid Dendrobium

1<sup>st</sup> Den Avril's Gold Tien & Family

#### Cattleya Novelty Type

1<sup>st</sup> C Gena May x Propin (self) Sat A Chenh

#### Species Any Genera

1<sup>st</sup> Coelogyne *fimbriata* J Hastewell

#### Best in Section

Den Avril's Gold Tien & Family

### NON SECTIONAL

#### Seedling First Flowering

*Ctism denticulatum* x Penang 'Sweetheart' M Breuer

#### Best Cultivated

Dend Mingles 'Sapphire' Dau Nguyen

#### Judges Vote

Blc Dad's Girl M Breuer

#### HCC Received on the Night

Masdevallia Hoosier Angel x Copper Queen  
Grant Garrett 78 points

#### Club Cultural Certificate Awarded

Dend Mingles 'Sapphire' Dau Nguyen

#### Congratulations Grant and Dau

## Cool Growing Orchids by Stephen Early

One of the problems many growers face is trying to select orchids that will grow cool and then working out the best way of growing them. Fortunately for us many orchids although growing in Tropical areas grow high up in the mountains and will tolerate and in some cases thrive in Melbourne temperatures. I will not try and produce a list of all orchids that will grow cool in Melbourne as soon as I do someone will come up with another plant that can be added to the list. However if you look at the species in the background you will get some very useful information on how to grow the hybrid. For that reason I will concentrate on species orchids as not only them but with information about their requirements you can grow their hybrids.

What you need to grow a plant well is to get information about temperature, rainfall, light, humidity, and how this varies from month to month. Finding such information is possible but I find that the Computer Program Orchid Wiz is invaluable. It has so much information and will show breeding as well as

cultural information along with pictures and awards. One needs to be aware that if the species is widely spread in nature it most likely will be easier to grow and also various clones may have differing requirements. For simplicity I will just concentrate on temperature and rainfall as these are the most important.

The first thing to start with is what is the Melbourne weather. If you look at Melbourne weather our maximum temperature of about 25 on average in summer to just below 15 on average in winter. The minimum temperatures on average vary from just over 15 in summer to just over 5 in winter. Remember these are averages only and very few plants can tolerate being frozen in frosts without damage. Our rainfall varies from just over 40mm a month to just over 60mm a month without any distinct pattern. Remember if they come from tropical areas but up in the mountains you will still get a tropical rain pattern with monsoon rains in summer and not nearly as much in the dry season in winter.

I am biased towards cymbidiums so I will start with them. One of the important species in most hybrids is *Cymbidium insigne*. I will concentrate on the Vietnam form which is the main form used in early hybrids. Its temperature maximums vary from 23C to 27C and minimums from 16 in summer to 11 in winter. However the rainfall varies from 250mm in summer to 5mm a month in winter. In comparison *Cymbidium lowianum* maximum temperatures vary from mid to high 20'sC in summer to 18C in winter. The minimums vary from 15C in summer to just under 4 in winter. This is close to Melbourne conditions. However the rainfall is over 180mm from November to March and for the rest of the year monthly averages of 13mm to 0 for the rest of the year. Clearly such a plant getting an

average of 6-10mm of rain a day in summer needs a lot of water in summer and we have found it will tolerate the winter rain.

*Cymbidium hookerianum* temperatures vary form maximums of 9 to 18 in summer and minimums of 14 to under 2 in winter. Clearly if anything we are not cold enough for this plant and it is interesting that those in Sydney have difficulty flowering this species. The rainfall varies from 400 – 800mm a month in summer to about 10mm in winter. So this plant (which is in many hybrids) is used to 25mm+ of rain a day in summer and will thrive on water.

Most of your common cymbidium species have similar rain patterns to those I have quoted. I must mention *Cymbidium devonianum* as people say it is hard to grow. We have no difficulty with this species and when researching it we have found that minimum average temperatures drop to 0C in winter. So clearly it will tolerate cold. The rainfall varies from over 800mm in January to 5mm in June. We grow this plant with a saucer attached to keep it wet and find it grows easily (if not a little slowly). It is water that is the secret to growing this species.

There are some cymbidiums that do require higher temperatures such as *Cymbidium aloifolium* which as average maximums from high 20's to low 30s. Such a plant may survive cold but will need heat to get the best out of it and probably even to see it flower. I mention this as an example – just because one species grows cold does not mean all will and this is almost a rule.

Other orchids which have a very high summer rainfall and very low winter rainfall and average minimum temperatures below 10C include *Angraecum magdalenae*, *Cattleya milleri*, *Coelogyne barbata*, *Coelogyne cristata*, *Coelogyne flaccida*, *Coelogyne nitida*, *Coelogyne ovalis*, *Coelogyne stricta*, *Cuitlauzina pendula*, *Cuitlauzina pulchella*, *Cyrtorchilum macranthum*, *Dendrobium chrysanthum*, *Dendrobium fimbriatum*, *Dendrobium gibsonii*, *Dendrobium nobile*, *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, *Maxillaria cucullata*, *Maxillaria variabilis*, *Paphiopedilum insigne*, *Paphiopedilum micranthum*, *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*, *Paphiopedilum venustum*, *Paphiopedilum villosum*, *Pleione formosana*, *Rhynchostele bicktoniensis*, *Rossioglossum grande*, *Stanhopea tigrina*, *Zygopetalum mackayi*. All these plants and many more will thrive with plenty of water in summer and I doubt you could ever over water them in summer. In fact quite a few we have found thrive not only with water but growing with the pots standing in a saucer of water, growing in

pots with inbuilt saucers or hanging up growing in pots with saucers attached. Some may require protection from winter rain while others still require a reasonable amount of water in winter.

*Cattleya coccinea* requires a more water than we receive in summer and in winter slightly more than we get as does *Vanda falcata*. *Cattleya purpurata* requires more water year round than we get in Melbourne as does *Gomesa radicans*. The masdevallia species mostly have constant temperatures with average minimums below 10C and average maximums in the low teens. The rainfall patterns vary but a number have a slightly lower requirement in winter. They grow in very mist forests with very high humidity. This means to grow these well you need to avoid very hot areas and keep water and humidity up year round. *Disa uniflora* has high rainfall in winter and low in summer and this may give a good hint to how to grow these as its requirements are opposite to most other orchids. Some of the other species we have grown cold are *Coelogyne mooreana*, *Coelogyne tomentose*, *Gomesa flexuosa*, *Gongora galeata* and *Laelia anceps* all of which have rainfall patterns with high rainfall in summer and low in winter.

For Australian Native growers you will find that most of the species come from NSW and Queensland. As you move north you find the rainfall in summer increases and in winter remains the same or reduces. This is because you are moving towards the tropics. So even your native dendrobiums and sarcochilus will like extra water in summer.

In summary to grow orchids well we need to know what conditions they grow in in nature. Most of those orchids that we can grow cool can be found at high altitudes in tropical areas and this means that although temperatures are not a problem they get in nature very high rainfall in summer (often over 20mm a day) and low in winter (often only a few mm in a month). If we wish to grow these well I believe we need to keep water up to them in summer and may need to protect them from rain in winter although I know from experience many will take Melbourne winter rainfall. There are many things you can do to help plants grow in Melbourne and some are the growing media – such as mounts to enable them to dry out in winter or mediums such as sphagnum moss to keep the plants moist and humidity high. You can use a solid roof to control water in winter, use saucers to keep the plants wet and install misters to help increase the humidity. I have not mentioned light but this also needs to be researched as often you can give too much or too little. I hope this helps a bit in growing your plants successfully.

### Photographs

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

### 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 [mosbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:mosbulletin@gmail.com) or phone 03 9748 7345.

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

### Bulletin Delivery

If, for some reason, you do not receive your bulletin in the week before the meeting, or your bulletin does not arrive by your chosen method (post or email) please contact Julianne Diwell, the society Membership Secretary, at one of the meetings, on 0419 112 377 or email [mosmembership@bigpond.com](mailto:mosmembership@bigpond.com)

### 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 email [mosmembership@bigpond.com](mailto: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. **Please think before you print.**

### Website & Facebook

Go to [www.mosorchid.org](http://www.mosorchid.org) for more information about the society, shows, etc. or on facebook: [www.facebook.com/MaribyrnongOrchidSociety](https://www.facebook.com/MaribyrnongOrchidSociety)

### Bulletin Errors & Omissions

Whilst all care is taken to ensure that the information in the bulletin is correct, sometimes mistakes will occur. If you find an error in the content of the bulletin please contact the editor, Jenny Dark on [mosbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:mosbulletin@gmail.com) or phone 9748 7345.