



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GREENHOOD

Volume 64 No 10 October 2021



Congratulations to Geoff Curry for winning Grand Champion, Champion Australian Native Orchid Species and Class 21A *Dendrobium speciosum* with his well grown plant displaying two equally proportioned and floriferous bloom spikes. A true beauty.
Dendrobium speciosum var. *curvicaule* x *speciosum* var. *speciosum*
Photograph S. Greatbatch

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From the Editor

Hello and Welcome to the GREENHOOD newsletter for October. Returning and New Members this month are Jennifer Roberts and Martin Pedersen, Kevin and Sharon Dorsett, John Shipley, Lynda Drake, Maria Marshall, Sophie Feltrin, Stephanie Semmens, Glenys and Ian Rojo and Peter and Belinda McEwan.

Welcome! We look forward to seeing you at the Society's Monday General Meetings held on the third Monday of each month except December which is on the second Monday. A note/reminder for members: - **You need to own the plant for 6 months before entering it for judging at meetings or shows.**

*Congratulations to Everyone who participated in the 2021 Spring Orchid Show at the Hobart Town Hall. It was a wonderful group effort by all involved. Thankyou. Glenn Durkin our Show Marshall wanted to give Shirley a special Thank you for getting our prize cards laminated at the last minute. Next month we can look forward to the Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show held this year at Legacy Hall. The Show Schedule is on pages 9 and 10. * Are you planning to go out this Spring to find and photograph our wild native orchids? Here is an article that might make you consider the impacts on these fragile beauties, entitled, Orchid hunting is growing in popularity but there are fears the flowers are being 'loved to death' – from ABC News. The link is <https://apple.news/AqtskGj98QV2GHQDx0c57mg> check it out if you haven't seen it already. * A few reminders for Monday's Meeting. Please bring your own pen, wear your name badges, bring in your competition plants (softcane Dendrobiums) some cash for Raffle tickets, plants and potting supplies, plants for benching (judging) and pot plants and have a go at a floral arrangement. * The deadline for items and articles for the November Greenhood is **Friday 5th November 2021** but don't delay, get your items and articles in today. Cheers for now

Sandra Greatbatch Editor.

Contact the Editor:

Mobile 0488741608 **Email** srgreatbatch@gmail.com
Please address any e-mailed items for the newsletter with the word GREENHOOD in the subject line.

Deadline for the newsletter Friday 10 days prior to the general meeting.

The GREENHOOD editor endeavours to assure the reliability of articles and dated information. The opinions and views are those of individual authors and not necessarily of the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. and disclaims all liability.

Calendar of Events

Month	Event
October	General Meeting Monday 18 th October 2021 Legacy Hall 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. Guest Speaker – Show prize presentation and general discussion on culture Floral Art – Include Orchids GCA Southern Tasmania Zone Plant Fair ‘Valleyfield’ Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 October 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.
November	General Meeting Monday 15 th November 2021 Legacy Hall 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. Guest Speaker - TBA Floral Art – Use an Unusual Container Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show Saturday 6 th November. Venue Legacy Hall 159 Macquarie Street Hobart. See the Show Schedule on pages 9 and 10
December	Christmas Meeting Monday 13 th December 2021 Legacy Hall 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. Special Guest Appearance – Santa Clause Floral Art – Xmas Table Centre Piece
January	General Meeting Monday 17 th January 2022 Legacy Hall 6.30 for 7.30 start. Details TBA
February	General Meeting Monday 21 st February 2022 at Legacy Hall 6.30 for 7.30 start. Details TBA

Tasmania’s COVID-19 safe app ‘Check in Tas’

enables you to quickly sign into venues and events all around the state where your contact details will be securely retained for 28 days with the Tasmanian Department of Health. It enables quick contact tracing of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the community. Details can be found here-

<https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

If you already have the app you can sign in others who are unable to get or use the app. Please consider this at our orchid meeting places.



Pot. Dal’s Paradise x Slc. Rosella Jewel grown by Ian Crocker. Photograph Gary Hill.

Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. Orchid Mix

The T.O.S. Orchid Mix, 40lt bags, are available at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The keeper of the mix is **Peter Willson**. Please phone Peter on 62484375 (who lives near Cambridge) to arrange pickup and payment.

2021 October President's Report.

Our 2021 Spring Show is done and dusted and we can all pat each other on the back for a job well done. Congratulations to all of our winners. Geoff Curry rocked up on set-up day and told me that he had the grand champion; I took one look and knew he was right. Glenn surprised himself with his reserve champion.

Not so long ago we were in doubt as to whether Covid would allow us to go ahead, but we did and a very successful show eventuated. We tried a few new ideas with varying success. As the saying goes 'if you don't give it a go, you'll never, never know'.

The main aim of the show is to showcase Orchids and our society to the public. That we did in buckets. We were down in exhibits and exhibitors, but had sufficient entries to make a lovely display. With the clever placement of displays and the general setup our hall looked spectacular.

Our plant sales were very successful. Even though we had very few cymbidiums for sale, I felt that it was heartening that the general public purchased large quantities of other genera. Hopefully these plants are successful for the buyers and they spark an interest in general orchid growing.

So many of you made the show possible and you all know who you are. I believe that Glenn is going to thank you all in his article. Apart for a general big thank you from me, I will leave it to him. I do thank Glenn from all of us for the dedication and hard work he put into organizing the show. My only gripe is that he popped my balloon which would have denoted the best display.

At our October meetings we quite often get new members coming along for the first time. Please everyone, make them welcome and remember your first meeting.

Shirley

Sunday Get Together.

It has been a while since I have organized a gathering. Our numbers were going down and I thought we could do with a rest. Finding venues is also difficult. I think that we really should hold one in November. Are there any of you who would be able to host it? I would suggest my place but lots of you have been here a few times now and probably don't want to come again for a while. I think that we should get the momentum going again. If we don't have a venue, we could have a luncheon somewhere.



It would also be good to hold one to welcome new members.

Please give me some feedback because I think this group is an important part of our orchid growing experience.

I am also asking for photos taken at our show for a presentation at the next general meeting. I particularly would like photos with our members in it at this time, not so many of orchids.

Cheers, **Shirley**

Champion Cymbidium Hybrid grown by Shirley Jackson.
This is *Cym.* Kimberly Splash 'Tee Tee'
Photograph S Greatbatch.



Congratulations to Vicki and David Cleaver on winning 1st in Other Orchid Species, Best Species and Orchid of the month for this *Brassia verrucosa* at the September General meeting.
Photograph by Gary Hill.

Tasmanian Orchid Society payments and treasury matters

Members should be aware that the Treasurer is **Christine Doyle** and can be contacted:

By **email noel.doyle3@bigpond.com**, by **phone 62729820**, or at all general meetings.

Should payment be required, the preferred method is by direct debit. **Direct Debit details are**

Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. BSB – 067000 CBA Acc. No. 28035122.

Please put your name/s in the description area and inform Christine by sending an email. Cash / cheque can be paid directly to Treasurer Christine Doyle at a meeting or **posted to PO Box 51 South Hobart 7004**. Thank you for your past membership of the Society as we very much value your attendance and contribution to this dynamic and active Society of Orchid growers. As of the 1st January 2021 membership renewal dues are required. Dual & family renewal membership is \$35.00 p.a. and \$25.00 for individual's renewal. These can be paid by Direct Debit, cheque or by cash at any meeting. Direct Debit details are given above.



SPRING SHOW 2021



Masdevallia Mary Staal 'Laurie Jeannie' grown by V Byers and G Durkin Reserve Champion, Champion Hybrid, Champion Novice Species or Hybrid.

Photo S Greatbatch.

Now that the dust has settled from our five days of the show it is time to reflect. This was the first show I have been Show Marshall for without an assistant. No training wheels!! After a period of two years, as Covid-19 cancelled our event last year, I approached the event concerned that I would forget something if not everything.

This year's event was still impacted by restrictions imposed on us because of the pandemic. We were required to submit a Covid plan which caused me plenty of angst, only to find in the end all was relatively simple and straight forward. What a relief that was! These changes required some modification to the hall, the most notable, our usual three Community stands making way for one large one in the centre of the hall. Entries arrived throughout Wednesday resulting in this stand being extended twice to make it, at 8.1 sq. metres the largest I am aware of.

The number of the public who attended, showed how our event is eagerly anticipated. Their donations on entering the show reflecting their appreciation. Plant sales were well supported with almost all plants available sold. When the doors were opened to the public at 1.00pm Thursday it was like watching the beginning of the Boxing Day Sales.

I have been congratulated by a number of people on the success of the show. I have thanked everyone for their kind words, but the achievement is not all mine. Yes, it was a very successful show, and made so by all who entered a display or contributed to the Community Stand. That said every member who assisted in any way made the show a success. There was much planning and consultation with the Hobart Council and WorkSafe Tasmania before we even arrived at the Town Hall. The Ballroom set-up on Wednesday morning by members before displays were erected, judges assistants, stewards, greeting desk, plants sales all required members to volunteer and you made a successful show. Thank you one and all for a great effort. I have not named anyone for fear of omitting someone which I am apt to do.

Congratulations to the Champion and Reserve Champion winners, both of whom were first time winners of these awards, Geoff Curry and Byers / Durkin respectively. Also, congratulations to Shirley Jackson, Champion Display, and everyone who won an award.

Till next year.

Show Marshall **Glenn Durkin**



Best Cultured Orchid, *Sarcocochilus* Cream Cake x Fitzhart Grown by Ian Woodgate.

Photo S Greatbatch.

Pleiones

Article and Photographs by Barry Davidson

Pleiones have great spring bulb like flowers and are easy to grow. They were originally classified in *Coelogyne*, but were later separated out into their own genus, *Pleione*. Both genera have similar plicate leaves, veins like a folding door, which are deciduous in winter in pleiones. If you compare a coelogyne and a pleione flower you can see the link. They mainly come from the eastern end of the Himalayas from India to China, where the climate is monsoonal, that is wet summer and dry winter. Most are terrestrial with some epiphytic, but all can be grown in pots in an open potting mix.

They are easy to grow. In Hobart outdoors in dappled light is fine. Light frost can be tolerated, but you should not push your luck. You can use plain Garden Centre potting mix,



Pleione Orangutan 'Sekara'

but I don't like this. I use half Stoneman's potting mix and half coarse perlite. Always wet perlite before using it, the jury is still out on the dangers, but don't risk it. Any pot will do, but most use squat pots or similar. When dormant in late autumn and winter trim the old roots back a little. Leaving a little stubble will help hold the bulb in place when repotting. Insert the bulb about one third into the new potting mix. Top with about one centimeter of potting sand or smallish river



Pleione formosana 'Snow White'



Pleione Shantung Sulphureum



Pleione Tongariro 'Stormy'



Pleione Alishan 'Noojee'

to keep the pleione dry until a leaf forms as the new growth will drain moisture from the bulb making it shrivel a little. Get the roots working. I use weak, about one fifth strength fertiliser, every time I water. Pleiones like to be kept moist when in leaf and they grow rapidly. They need feeding for optimal growth. With half perlite the mix will not hold too much water. When watering, make sure that plenty of water flows out the bottom of the pot to ensure that salt buildup does not occur. Although pleiones should be kept drier after the leaves have dropped off for winter, it does not seem to matter if they get some rain, but don't overdo it.

pebbles around the bulb, but make sure at least the top of the bulb is sticking out. Limestone chips are not suitable. The top-dressing helps the bulb stay in place and controls weeds.

Commence watering when the growing tip starts to move. Many say that you should wait until a leaf starts to form, but I do not agree with this. Roots start to grow when the tip does. Roots do three things; hold the plant in place, absorb water, absorb nutrients. It does not make sense



Pleione Shantung 'Peter Bradbury'



Pleione Chobe #7

Pleiones are just about pest free. Keep an eye out for slugs and snails. If you grow them in the garden, where they do well in dappled light, be warned rabbits and wallabies love them. Mites, scale, aphids, mealy bugs and thrips don't seem to trouble pleiones. Good airflow in the great outdoors controls a lot of pests. I have no fungal problems.

After you have admired the flowers and they are spent, how do you remove them? You could use a pair of scissors or similar. The best way is to put your pointer and middle finger tips of the left hand on the bulb to hold it in place and pull the flower stem with your right hand. It will snap off at the base.

TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETY INC.
SARCOCHILUS & MASDEVALLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

Venue – Legacy Hall 159 Macquarie St. Hobart

Date - Saturday 6th November 2021

Setting up from 8.00 – 9.30am Open to public 11.30am – 4.00pm

Prizes for all sections: First - \$5.00 and certificate

Second – Certificate

SARCOCHILUS

Champion Sarcochilus - Medal and \$30

Reserve Champion – Medal and \$20

Best Species - \$10

Best Hybrid - \$10

Best Specimen Plant - \$10

Best Culture - \$10

Best First Flowering Seedling - \$10

Most colourful orchid - \$10

SPECIES SECTION

- 1 *hartmannii*
- 2 *fitzgeraldii*
- 3 Other Australian Species Sarcochilus
- 4 Australian Sarcanthinae – Other than Sarcochilus

HYBRID SECTION

- 5 Melba
- 6 Fitzhart
- 7 George Colthup
- 8 Burgundy on Ice
- 9 Heidi
- 10 Sarcochilus – *Sarco. weinthalii* as one parent
- 11 Sarcochilus – *Sarco. ceciliae* as one parent

FIRST FLOWERING SEEDLING

- 12 White
- 13 Red
- 14 Pink
- 15 Spotted
- 16 Other Colour
- 17 Red Centre
- 18 Yellow
- 19 Australian or other Intergeneric Sarcanthinae Hybrid

OTHER SARCOCHILUS HYBRID

- 20 Predominantly white
- 21 White with red centre
- 22 Predominantly yellow
- 23 Predominantly red
- 24 Predominantly pink
- 25 Any other colour or colour combination
- 26 Spotted

NOVICE

SPECIES

- 27 *hartmannii*
- 28 *fitzgeraldii*
- 29 Other species

HYBRID

- 30 Predominantly white
- 31 Predominantly coloured
- 32 First flowering seedling

MASDEVALLIA

Champion Masdevallia - Medal and \$30

Reserve Champion - Medal and \$20

Best Species - \$10

Best Hybrid - \$10

Best Specimen Plant - \$10

Best Culture - \$10

- 1 Dracula Species or Hybrid (includes Dracuvallia)

Masdevallia

- 2 Yellow
- 3 Pink
- 4 Orange
- 5 Red/Brown
- 6 White/Blush Shades
- 7 Purple
- 8 Striped
- 9 Miniature under 40mm (any colour)
- 10 Other Pleurothallidiniæ Species or Hybrid

OTHER GENERA

- 1 **Best Hybrid** - \$10
- 2 **Best Species** - \$10
- 3 **Best Specimen Plant** - \$10
- 4 **Best Culture** - \$10

MISCELLANEOUS GENERA

- 1 Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm
- 2 Cymbidium Hybrid under 90mm
- 3 Laeliniæ
- 4 Oncidium & Allied Species or Hybrid
- 5 Gomesa Species or Hybrid
- 6 Other Orchid Species
- 7 Other Orchid Hybrid
- 8 Australian Native Tuberous
- 9 Australian Native Other Species or Hybrid



Invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of

The Australian Orchid Foundation

Guest Speaker

MIKE DUNCAN

Many people around the world have been entertained and educated by one of Mike Duncan's orchid talks on his global travels looking for orchids. This time Mike is taking us to two special areas of Australia.

His topic: In big things, little things grow: mountains of orchids

There's nothing like an adventure in the mountains. Being immersed in nature, dwarfed by mighty peaks, and soaking in breath-taking views. Mountains draw strong emotions and primal feelings. Mike's going to talk about two of his favourite places in Australia.

And they just happen to contain mountains of orchids!

**Venue: City of Whitehorse Horticultural
Centre 82 Jolimont Road
Forest Hill VIC 3131**

A Zoom link is available for those unable to travel to the meeting.

Date: Saturday, 23rd October 2021

Time: 2 pm for AGM followed by Mike's presentation.

Afternoon tea provided. Plant & Book Sales

PLEASE EMAIL:

AOF@AUSTRALIANORCHIDFOUNDATION.ORG.AU

FOR THE LINK TO THE MEETING

September Meeting Results

Judges Vote 1st. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm		No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	1st.	<i>Cym. Unknown</i>	N & C Doyle
	2nd.	<i>Cym. Unknown</i>	N & C Doyle
Laelinae Species and Hybrid	1st.	<i>C. coccinea</i>	N & C Doyle
	2nd.	<i>L. anceps</i>	J & B Smith
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Onc. Twinkle</i>	J & B Smith
	2nd.	No Entry	
Gomesa Species or Hybrid		No Entry	
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Masd. Copper Wing</i>	N & C Doyle
	2nd.	<i>Masd. Golden Kreiks</i>	J & B Smith
Other Orchid Species	1st.	<i>Sophranitella violacea</i>	J & B Smith
	2nd.	<i>Ddc. wenzellii</i>	N & C Doyle
Other Orchid Hybrid		No Entry	
Australian Sarcophilus & All. Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Sarco. (Bessie x Molly) x (Rona x Fitzhart)</i>	N & C Doyle
	2nd.	No Entry	
Australian Native Tuberos		No Entry	
Australian Native Other Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Den. Warrambool</i>	I Woodgate
	2nd.	<i>Den. Emily de Leon</i>	I Woodgate
Best Species Orchid		<i>Sophranitella violacea</i>	J & B Smith
Best Hybrid Orchid		<i>Den. Warrambool</i>	I Woodgate
Best of Best		<i>Den. Warrambool</i>	I Woodgate
Orchid of the Month		<i>Den. Warrambool</i>	I Woodgate

Judges Vote 2nd. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm.		No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm & Under	1st.	<i>Cym. Royal One</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	No Entry	

Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	1st. <i>C. Dal's Paradise</i> x <i>Rosella Jewel</i>	I Crocker
	2nd. <i>Rth. Shinfong Little Cat 'Harvest'</i>	S Greatbatch
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	1st. <i>Onc. Gallipoli</i>	S Greatbatch
	2nd. <i>Onc. Hawaiian Sunset</i>	S Greatbatch
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	No Entry	
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./Hyb.	1st. <i>Masd. Rubicon 'Top Gun'</i>	I Crocker
	2nd. <i>Masd. King of Kings 'Dane Hill'</i>	M Kemp
Other Orchid Species	1st. <i>Brs. verrucosa</i>	D & V Cleaver
	2nd. <i>Restrepia Unknown</i>	M Kemp
Other Orchid Hybrid	1st. <i>Den. Montrose</i>	S Greatbatch
	2nd. <i>Den. Unknown</i>	S Greatbatch
Australian Sarcophilus Sp./Hyb.	1st. <i>Srts. Braveheart 'Sandy'</i>	S Greatbatch
	2nd. <i>Sarco. Royal Ruby</i> x (<i>Ruby</i> x <i>Cherie</i>) ' <i>Rich Port</i> '	I Crocker
Australian Native Tuberos	No Entry	
Australian Native Other	1st. <i>Den. Esme Poulton 'Tinonee'</i>	I Crocker
	2nd. <i>Den. striolatum</i>	E Mulder
Best Species	<i>Brs. verrucosa</i>	D & V Cleaver
Best Hybrid	<i>Masd. Rubicon 'Top Gun'</i>	I Crocker
Best of Best	<i>Masd. Rubicon 'Top Gun'</i>	I Crocker
Orchid of the Month	<i>Brs. verrucosa</i>	D & V Cleaver

House Plants

No Entry

Floral Arrangement

1st. "Curvaceous"

W Glidden

2nd. "Curvaceous"

G Allen

Popular Vote

First Division

1st	<i>Den. Warrambool</i>	I Woodgate
2nd	<i>Cym. Unknown</i>	N & C Doyle
3rd.	<i>Ddc. wenzellii</i>	N & C Doyle

Second Division

1st.	<i>Masd. Rein Staal 'Sunburst'</i>	M Kemp
2nd.	<i>Brs. verrucosa</i>	D & V Cleaver
3rd.	<i>Masd. Crown Prince 'Royalty'</i>	I Crocker

House Plants

No Entry

Floral Arrangement

1st. "Curvaceous"

W Glidden

2nd. "Curvaceous"

G Allen



Bifrenaria harrisoniae grown by Vicki and David Cleaver Photo S Greatbatch.

Garden Clubs of Australia Southern Tasmanian Zone Plant Fair, October the 30th and 31st

In our last month's issue of our newsletter, I mentioned the plant fair at Valleyfield New Norfolk. I have been asked to put a display on for our society. This is an excellent opportunity for us to advertise TOS. I am going to try and take up orchids to display and information about us but I really don't want to do it on my own. If you can help me out to set up on the Friday, or man it between 10am and 4pm on Saturday and/or Sunday I would very much appreciate it. **Shirley**

GCA Southern Tasmania Zone Plant Fair 'Valleyfield',

120 Hamilton Rd, New Norfolk.

Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 October 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

at the family property of the past Governor of Tasmania, Prof. Kate Warner, AC.

'Valleyfield' is a National Trust listed property with sweeping grounds to stroll through and enjoy the garden. **\$10 entry**. Children under 12 are free. Exhibitors at the Fair will include local Zone Garden clubs, Derwent Valley-based companies, Angus Stewart and his native plants, professional horticultural-related items, specialty plants such as irises, lilliums, orchids, succulent specialist, perennials and more.

Coffee van plus Silverbean Catering will have delicious snacks (including wine by the glass).

Cash only event.

Parking: To making parking easier on the busy Hamilton Road/ Lyell Highway, please make use of the free mini bus shuttle service by parking at New Norfolk Football Club, 21 Back River Road, New Norfolk. To get there from Hobart, get yourself on to the Lyell Highway side of the river. Just after the bridge you will see a road sign 'Magra 3". This is Back River Road. (C184). Turn onto the C184. Cross the railway lines, view the Fire Station on the left and the New Norfolk Football Club is on the right, approx. 250 m from the turnoff. Park your car and then catch the free bus.



Clockwise from Bottom Left. Here we have the winner of the Best Golden Orchid, *Dendrobium gracilicaule* 'Pancake' x Moonmere 'Best 2005' Grown by Vicki & David Cleaver. **Middle Left.** Detail of same. **Top Left.** *Dendrobium* Australian Artist, Champion Australian Native Hybrid grown by Shirley Jackson. **Top Right** is Champion Miniature Cym. *Cymbidium* Mary Green 'Nifty Guy' also grown by Shirley Jackson. Featured **Above Right** is Barry Davidson with his award for Most Pre-eminent Entry in Any Class, *Pleione* Alf. Beecher. **Centre** is the impressive sized bloom of *Masdevallia veitchiana* 'Prince de Galle' grown by Marcus Smith. Congratulations to you and to all members who entered a plant into the 2021 Spring Show. Photographs S Greatbatch.

Dear orchid lovers,

I know some of you will be receiving this notice twice, but now that I have the link to the Zoom meeting, I thought it a good idea to send it further afield.

This is a reminder about the **Australian Orchid Foundation AGM** with speaker **Mike Duncan** coming up soon. Due to Covid Restrictions, the meeting will be held via Zoom. Mike's reputation as a speaker goes before him, he always comes up with something very different and humorous as well as being very informative. I have had a sneak preview of this presentation when he checked his audio additions and effects and **this talk is no exception**. On this occasion he is presenting a postcard of two WA and Victorian orchid hotspots, a must for all orchid lovers to see. It is also interactive, so you can choose your favourite orchid for him to enlarge upon.

EVENT: Australian Orchid Foundation 2021 AGM

SPEAKER: Mike Duncan

TOPIC: Mountains of Orchids (In big things, little things grow)

DATE: Saturday 23rd October

TIME: 2pm AEDT

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83766816132> (Meeting ID: 837 6681 6132; NO password is required to enter the meeting)

Mike's talk is likely to start about 2:30pm following a brief AGM.

All welcome. Hope to see you online.

Helen Richards



Cyrtochilum macranthum 'John's Brilliance' grown by Bev Woodward
Photo S Greatbatch.

SPRING IS HERE SO IT'S TIME FOR POTTING & DIVIDING YOUR PLANTS

With Spring, our orchids are usually bursting out with new growths. So now is the perfect time to get into your re-potting, potting-up a size or dividing your too hard to handle plant that Aunt Gertrude asked for a piece when she saw it in flower at the Spring Show. No matter what variety of genera you grow, look at your plant and be guided by the activity of its new growth/s. Best not to re-pot a dormant plant. That is a recipe for disaster as they don't have active new root systems, so will not be able to get themselves established, steadily, in their new pot.

If you need to get an axe to the plant, please ensure the Head of the axe is sterilized before and after each plant is attacked. Similarly, always sterilize any cutting instrument you use on your orchid, be it just cutting off old flower spikes, trimming leaves, cutting through rhizomes or picking a flower for your best friend. You are at risk of possibly spreading viruses to the next plant if you use that instrument without prior cleaning. Just like we have to do because of Influenza, Measles, Mumps and Covid19. Surely, we are all in that habit by now. Unfortunately, we do not have a Vaccine for Orchid Viruses or stupidity.

To select the size of pot you need for the size of plant you need to pot, take a good look at the plant, and with the oldest part of the plant, place it at the edge of the pot allowing the new growths to establish into the space in the front. Allow enough space to permit 2 years of growth, pack your potting media firmly around the roots and ensure the plant is steady in the pot. The new roots will want a firm foundation to get into. Water well.

I have several potting mixes that I use for the different genera I grow. By using small and/or medium grade radiata pine bark nuggets from Aus-Gro, together with coarse perlite, I can pot 90% of all my orchids. The usual rule of thumb is if the roots are thick, then use a courser mix, the finer the roots, the smaller the mix. I also use Sphagnum Moss, specifically for the Dracula orchids in net pots, as many species flower out of the bottom of their pots, as well as striking new plants from back-bulbs, ie. bulbs where they have lost their leaves. Also great for nursing a plant that is weak or even on death's door. It is a great healer and was used in medicine in the olden days to assist in healing war wounds and any other type of wound that wouldn't heal on its own.

General rule of thumb when selecting pot size and mix, is the bigger the plant, select a larger pot and larger grade of bark, the smaller the pot, choose the smaller grade of bark.

There are many Australian native terrestrial orchids that like to have familiar fungi from the area they grow naturally. When repotting these you can retain that fungi by including some of the old mix with the new.

After you have re-potted your plants, water well and then leave for a while before getting back into your usual routine. Always remember that the smaller the pot, the quicker it will dry out so don't mix up your pot sizes in your growing areas.

Plants that are in hanging pots or on a mount, will also dry out quickly due to wind and sun. So, remember to check them regularly and give water as needed.

It is amazing how quickly a growing area will heat up if you forget to open the doors and vents, so always take note of the temperatures for overnight and the next day. If it is going to be a cold night, DON'T water in the evening. If it's going to be hot the next day, then DO

water the previous evening then hose down the floors in the morning to keep the humidity up for your precious plants.

Until next time, good growing and re-potting.

Bev Woodward



Above Love those fresh young Dendrobium roots radiating over this very interesting clay pipe mount. (and gorgeous Non-resupinate blooms (lips are uppermost)) grown by Noel and Christine Doyle.

Below is our fabulous Spring Show venue, the Ball Room at the Hobart Town Hall.

