

The

## **TASMANIAN**

ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

# GREENHOOD

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

17th April 2023 at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart.

**Auction Night** Please start putting aside orchid oriented and other donation/s (cakes, biscuits, jams etc.) for this, our Annual Fund Raising event. Many bargains will be available on the night, so bring cash or cheque as we do not have Credit or Debit card facilities.

Floral Art: "Bowled Over"

15th May 2023 at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart.

**Autumn Show.** Gary Hill will talk on botanical names of orchids and pronunciations.

Floral Art: Refer to page 6 for the Show Schedule

**19th June 2023 at** Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart. Guest speaker will be Vicki Cleaver who will show us how to deflask orchids and what is the next step with potting the seedlings.

Floral Art: "From the Garden"

**17th July 2023** at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart. Guest speaker to be confirmed.

Floral Art: "Inspired by Winter"

**21st Aug. 2023** at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart. Guest speaker is Helen Lovell from Neutrog Fertilizers

## 51 Years of Service on the Committee

Jim Smith has been on the Committee in some form or another for the last 51 years. We will all miss his enormous contribution and sage advise as we all wish him all the best in his 'retirement'.

He will still serve as the Registrar of Judging for the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. but has handed on the State Registrar's Position to Priscilla Greve of the Launceston Orchid Society Inc.

Well done Jim, a good and faithful servant. You certainly deserve a rest after all those years attending Committee Meetings.

The Photo on Page 1 shows Vice President Glenn Durkin presenting a basket of "treats" to Jim as recognition of his stellar commitment to our Society.

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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G'day All,

Firstly, thanks to Barry Davidson for his presentation at our last meeting. We hope that you learned some helpful information from it.

The next big thing on our meeting schedule is the annual auction, which is to be held on 17th of this month. Last year's auction was a great success thanks to you, the members, who donated a lot of very good orchids and other great items to sell. We hope we will be able to match last year's impressive total of over a thousand dollars. Please come along on the night and get some bargains. We hope to see you there.

Our May meeting will be the Autumn Show where unlike our ordinary meetings, there is no 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Plants are benched according to genre. Just a reminder for all our meetings that plants must be benched by 7.15pm to be eligible for judging and the popular vote.

We have been asked by one of our members to do a deflasking demonstration so at our June meeting, there will be a demo on deflasking and information on how best to keep them alive once they have been potted.

We welcome Eve Mills and Ian Crocker and thank them for joining the committee.

Stay safe and enjoy your orchids,

Noel.

# TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETY INC. ORCHID POTTING MIX

Bags of Orchid potting mix suitable for Cymbidiums, and Australian Native Dendrobiums is available at \$10.00 for Members and \$15.00 for Non-Members.

Anyone needing to purchase some should contact:-

Dave Cleaver on 0408 170 400

To arrange a convenient time for both Dave & you for collection.

#### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO WITH MY NEWLY PURCHASED, OR WON, ORCHID PLANTS?

Just a note to all our Members who receive any orchids from either the Society or from another person. Everyone will have their own recipe for potting media to keep their plants thrive in their own environment or Orchid House and watering management.

It is highly recommended that you repot any plants you receive from any other source, and repot you new acquisitions into your preferred, and proven, potting mix and watering habits. This is so they can survive in their new habitat with you.

Just remember that everyone has their own recipes for potting mixes. If this has confused you, don't hesitate to ask any one on the Committee for help. We can assist you with experienced advice. What the mainlanders use may not work in Tasmania.

## **March Meeting Results**

### Judge's Results 1st. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm No Entries

Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm & Under1st. Grcym. Pakket Adventure '#1' D & V Cleaver

Laeliniae Species & Hybrid 1st. Rlc. Goldenzelle D & V Cleaver

2nd. Procatavola Golden Peacock B Woodward

Oncidium & Allied Sp. / Hyb. 1st. Oip. Cambria 'Lensings Favorit' B Woodward

2nd. Lem. uroskinneri 'D'Entrecasteau Channel'

B Woodward

Gomesa Species or Hybrid 1st. No Entries

Masdevallia & Dracula Sp./Hyb 1st. Masd. Bob Hoffman 'Best Bob' B Woodward

2nd. Masd. Galaxy x Bellisimo Stripes N & C Doyle

Other Orchid Species 1st. Prom. stapelioides 'Bambi' B Woodward

2nd. Lyc. cochleata 'Wirrilda' M Smith

Other Orchid Hybrids 1st. Den. Red Ballerina 'Macquarie' D & V Cleaver

2nd. Lyc. Unknown M Smith

Aust. Sarcochilus & Allied Sp./Hyb. No Entries

Australian Native Tuberous 1st. Ptst. atrans J & B Smith

Australian Native Other Sp. /Hyb. No Entries

Best Species Orchid Promenaea stapelioides 'Bambi' B Woodward

Best Hybrid Orchid RIc. Goldenzelle D & V Cleaver

Best of the Best RIc. Goldenzelle D & V Cleaver

Orchid of the Month Grcym. Pakket Adventure '#1' D & V Cleaver

## Judges Results 2nd. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm No Entries

Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm & Under No Entries

Laeliniae Species & Hybrid 1st. Rlc. Creation 'Wafer' W Glidden

2nd. Rlc. Creation 'Sakura Candy' I Crocker

Oncidium & Allied Sp. / Hyb. 1st. Ons. Tan Treasure 'Lavender Picotee' | Crocker

2nd. Nohacidium (Nhc.) Parquet 'Uptown Girl' I Crocker

Gomesa Species or Hybrid 1st. No Entries

Masdevallia & Dracula Sp./Hyb 1st. No Entries

Other Orchid Species 1st. No Entries

Other Orchid Hybrid 1st No Entries

Aust. Sarcochilus & Allied Sp./Hyb. 1st No Entries

Australian Native Tuberous 1st No Entries

Australian Native Other Sp. /Hyb. 1st. No Entries

Best Species Orchid No Entries

Best Hybrid Orchid

Ons. Tan Treasure 'Lavender Picotee' | Crocker

Best of the Best

Ons. Tan Treasure 'Lavender Picotee' | Crocker

Ons. Tan Treasure 'Lavender Picotee' | Crocker

House Plants

**Floral Arrangements** 

1st. African Violet A Gerrard 1st. "Garden to Vase" W Glidden

2nd. "Garden to Vase" G Allen

## **Popular Vote**

1st. Division 2nd. Division

1st. Rlc. Goldenzelle D & V Cleaver 1st. Ons. Tan Treasure 'Lavender

2nd. C. Natalie Clark x C. Jungle Gem N & C Doyle Picotee' I Crocker

3rd. Den. Red Ballerina 'Macquarie' D & V Cleaver 2nd. C. Creation 'Sakura Candy'

I Crocker

3rd Nhc. Parquet 'Uptown Girl' I Crocker

**House Plants** 

Floral Arrangements

1st. African Violet A Gerrard 1st. "Garden to Vase" G Allen

2nd. "Garden to Vase" W Glidden

## **PLANT COMPETITION RULES**

Just a reminder to all members who have purchased more than 1 plant of Aliceara Snowblind. To enter the monthly competition for the rest of the year, only bring the first plant you purchased from Christine Doyle, who runs the Plant Competition, to mark your plant as having been checked in.

Good luck as you may just win another orchid plant for your collection in the lucky draw,

BUT ONLY IF YOU BRING YOUR PLANT TO THE MEETING AND HAVE IT REGISTERED

## **WORKSHOP FOR NOVEMBER 2023**

Due to the great success of the workshop that was held at the Cleaver's home last year, they have graciously offered to host another one this year.

We all must thank them for their generosity and we will have plant sales available for attendees as well as displays of repotting and cultural advice.

There will be a BBQ available and further details will be made available once we get the Spring Show out of the way.

### ESSENCIAL TASKS NOW AUTUMN HAS ARRIVED

There is so much that you need to do now the temperatures are dropping and watering is reduced as the nights get cooler and the daylight is shorter.

Now, I'm gathering up a fistful of spent leaves as I wander around the plants, especially from Cymbidium, Dracula, Lycaste, Masdevallia, Pleione and warmer Dendrobium genera. Much less from Australian Native Dendrobium, Coelogyne, Cattleya, Gomesa, Laelia, Oncidium, Sarcochilus and Zygopetalum.

Bloom Boosting Fertilizer for your Cymbidiums should stop now and you can just change to a good general purpose one for growth, to keep all those new growths chugging along to maturity.

As you are checking each plant, watch out for flower spikes and place a stake of some form, be it bamboo or florist wire, beside any spike you see. Ensure you place the plant back in the exact same spot and position on the bench. You can cause a plant to be disoriented if you put it back on the bench back to front. The flowers will want to twist towards the sun and thus will not present itself at it's best to the Judges when benched.

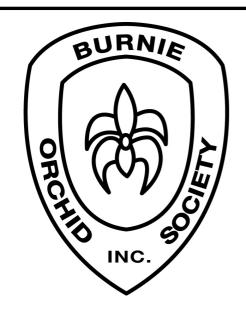
A great rule of thumb is to place all your orchids facing to the North and put your label where it can be easily seen to stop you or your family moving plants around and upsetting nature. In the wild, plants don't get up and move to another spot. My trick is to number the pot, when repotting, with my catalogue number in front of the new growths and always place the plant on the bench with that number facing North. My houses are aligned East/West so on North facing side of the aisle, I ensure the label is facing South so I can read its name without having to lift the pots to see what I'm trying to find.

Your Pleiones will all be starting to drop their leaves for winter, so be very carful as you gather the leaves as you may be disposing the tiny bulblets that are very small now, but will be your flowering bulbs in 2 to 3 years time. It's also time to move them into an area where they will not get rained upon over winter. They originate from Taiwan and China where they have wet summers and dry winters, so they need minimal watering over winter to ensure great flowering for spring. I do my repotting around June / July when all the leaves have been removed and separate the bulblets from the mature bulbs.

Oncidium, Lycaste, Masdevallia and Cattleya Alliances really needs to be under cover from the rain and snow, but they will cope without any artificial heating if kept cool, but not wet. Select the suitable days to water when there is sunshine and a breeze that will dry off the foliage before night-time. The only orchids in my collection with artificial heating are 2 Phalaenopsis plants which sit on a table in my kitchen area. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to ask.

Good growing,

Bev Woodward tel. 0413 136 413



Burnie Orchid Society Inc P.O.Box 332, Burnie 7320.

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Member of: Orchids Tasmania

Australian Orchid Council

29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Secretaries,

On behalf of the President, Committee and Members of the Burnie Orchid Society, I am issuing an invitation to your members to join with us as we will be having Craig Miles from Orchids of Distinction with us on May 3.

Craig has indicated he would like to give a practical demonstration in the afternoon and his talk will be 'The Mechanics of growing Paphiopedilums. We will gather at 3.00 p.m. at the Burnie Golf Club, Scarfe Street, Camdale, have a cuppa and hand over to Craig.

We will have a BBQ meal with meat supplied by the society and ask whoever is coming to bring a salad and dessert to share.

Members will be tabling plants in the evening for judging at 7.00 p.m. A short meeting will be held, commencing 7.30 p.m. and our guest will speak on the topic 'Where did my orchid come from?'

Craig will be bringing with him fertilizer, accessories, plants, species and hybrids of various genera as well as flasks.

Looking forward to catching up with some of your members.

Kind regards

Jenny Hawley Secretary

## CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE SARCHOCHILUS & MASDEVALLIA SHOW

Due to unseen circumstances, we have had to change the date of this show to 12th November 2023.

It will still be held at the Glenorchy Uniting Church Hall, Kensington Street, Glenorchy. Setup time will be from 0730 with Judging commencing at 8.30am.

The Show will open at 11.30am and close at 3.00pm.

There are expected to be a number of sellers of Orchid plants and/or accessories who will be keen to sell you just the orchid you desire.

### Don't forget to enter this changed date in your Diary

A Catholic priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates as St Peter processes the new arrivals to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Ahead of the priest in the queue is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, jeans and a leather jacket.

This guy gets to the front of the line and St Peter looks at his clipboard, looks the guy up and down and then asks, "Could you tell me your name please, so I may confirm whether you're to be admitted to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

"Sure!" says the guy. "I'm Joe Cohen and I was a taxi driver in New York City."

St Peter looks down his list and ticks off Joe Cohen's name. He then smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and the golden staff Mr Cohen and you may enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Joe Cohen smiles and walks through the Pearly Gates in his silken robe and carrying the golden staff, whilst it's the priest's turn with St Peter.

Before St Peter can utter a single word the priest says, "I'm Father Joseph O'Donnell and I have been the parish priest at St Andrews Roman Catholic Church in Manhattan for the past 40 years."

Once again St Peter consults his clipboard, ticks off Father O'Donnell's name and then says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff Father and you may enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Having seen Joe Cohen receive a silken robe and a golden staff Father O'Donnell is left feeling a little short-changed.

"Hold it there, just a minute," said Father O'Donnell. "How is it that Joe Cohen got silk and gold and yet I only get cotton and wood? How can this be? Surely there's some mistake?"

"No mistake," St Peter responded. "In heaven we reward by results. When you gave your sermons your congregation slept. When Joe Cohen drove his taxi his passengers prayed."

#### MY FERTILIZER EXPERIMENT

By Vicki Cleaver

I had been fertilising with a known brand of Orchid fertiliser for some time, but I couldn't see any marked difference with my plants. I had gathered information from other growers on what they were using, all said something different or where evasive on what they used. After a very interesting visit to yet another grower, and seeing the results that she had achieved, I decided to do some research into what she had been using as fertiliser. She had been using the same fertiliser brand as myself, however, she had added other bits to it.

To the fertiliser she had added Epsom salts, Blackstrap Molasses and Smoke water/ Wood vinegar, all diluted in water. It was a reasonable amount of work for me as I don't have a sprayer system, so had to make do with a pressure sprayer pack. I have been using my brew on my Cymbidiums for about 9-12 months now, and I'm seeing results for my effort. So far, I've seen nice plump healthy roots when repotting, and I've been amazed at the new growth that I've been seeing, the colour of the leaves has improved and the plants are looking in far better health. I'm seeing flower spikes, and anxiously waiting to see if we have a better Cymbidium flowering than we did last season.

I was recently asked about the chemical breakdown of my brew. I had no idea!!! That side of it didn't interest me, I was only interested in the results. However, that got me thinking so I decided to research, and this is what I found.

Epsom Salts contain high levels of magnesium and sulphur. Both of these aid in photosynthesis and help the absorption of the three main elements, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Also, it can improve root health. Chemically Epsom salts are 10% magnesium and 13% sulphur.

Blackstrap molasses is high in calcium, magnesium, iron and potassium. It also contains sulphur and a host of micronutrients. Using molasses as a fertiliser provides plants with a quick source of energy and encourages the growth of beneficial microorganisms. Molasses increases the overall vitality of plants, so pests are less likely to attack your plants. It can lead to better root growth, stronger stems and stalks and improved flowering. Chemically Blackstrap molasses contains per 28 grams:

Vitamin B12 (B6 0.2mgs.)

Manganese 0.7 mgs.

\*Iron 4.8 mgs

Carbohydrate 17 grams

Selenium 5 micrograms

\*Potassium 3000 mgs

\*Calcium 1333 mgs

Copper 0.6 mgs

\* Magnesium 667 mgs

(\* denotes high levels)

Smoke water/Wood vinegar is known to boost plant resistance to disease. Stimulate growth, enhancing the root system of plants, making a stronger root system. It prevents excessive nitrogen levels and improves plant metabolism.

In agriculture, wood vinegar has been used in cropping in order to combat disease, pest control, improve growth and fruit quality, seed germination accelerator, and as a herbicide. Assists in plant growth by being able to accelerate the development of plants.

My original fertiliser has a chemical composition of:

Nitrogen 13% Manganese 0.06%

Phosphorus 2.2% Boron 0.02%

Potassium 16.6% Copper 0.015%

Magnesium 1.2% Molybdenum 0.01%

Calcium 5.0% Zinc 0.015%

Iron 0.12%

It is said to promote healthy growth, providing the right chemical elements for perfect colour and growth.

So far, I'm extremely happy with what I can see happening in my Cymbidiums, so I've started using my fertiliser brew on the rest of our orchids and looking forward to seeing the changes that it might achieve. I'm not saying that everyone should rush out and change their fertiliser, but if you're not seeing the results that you would like to, it might be time to explore and research to see if you can make the improvements that you wish to achieve.

Happy growing!

This is out to you all, as Members of the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc.

Is there something you would like to see / and or hear about as you are growing your Orchids? Is it a battle or a joy?

The Committee would like to know what you think as we endeavour to plan out the next year's speakers.

Don't be shy, just let **us** know what **you** need to know.

## 2023 AOF Essay Prize

The AOF Essay Prize is an annual writing competition, established with a generous endowment by the Slade family.

There will be three prizes – 1st Prize \$350.00 2nd Prize \$250.00

3rd Prize \$150.00

The Foundation invites all Australian orchid growers to consider the topic for 2023 and submit an entry.

We would like to hear about your ideas and experiences and benefit from them.

#### **ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2023:**

# How do you deflask your orchids and look after your seedlings?

That question must be asked hundreds of times by new (and old) orchid society members. Hopefully everyone will try it at some time, a daunting and challenging task when first attempted.

## The deadline for receipt of all entries is 31st July, 2023

Send your entry:

electronically to aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au or AOF Essay Prize P.O. Box 440, Yarra Glen Vic. 3775 Please include your name, address and telephone contact.

#### **Entry Rules:**

- This competition is open to Australian residents only.
- The essay will be an original article, not previously published.
- The essay must be no more than 4,000 words, short essays are most welcome.
  - The essay is to be in English and typewritten.
    - Entries may include artwork or images.
- The authors of the essays will remain undisclosed to the judges, whose decision will be final. If in the opinion of the judges, no worthy essays are received, there will be no award that year.
- Non-winning entries will be returned to the sender if requested. These entries may be submitted to the editors of Australian orchid periodicals for publication, with permission from the author.
- The winning essay will be announced at the AGM of the Foundation in October 2023.
  - The winning entries will be placed on the AOF web site and may be published in Australian orchid periodicals.



#### SEED CAPSULE MATURITY

Estimating the ripening time of a seed capsule is a difficult task. Many an amateur and professional hybridizers have had the disappointment of finding the seed capsule of that desired cross split and its contents scattered to the wind.

There are many factors that come into play regarding the ripening of a seed capsule e.g. time of the year, weather conditions during maturation of the capsule, the fertility of a cross etc.

After fertilization, seed development can be gauged by the swelling and ripening of the developing seed capsule which may take a few weeks or occasionally as long as a year or more, depending on the genus. As a seed capsule ripens it changes colour from green to yellow or brown then splits to release the seed into the air. It is recommended that when the seed capsule begins to yellow at one end, it is ripe for harvesting and sending to the seed bank.

If you are unsure of how much time is left before the capsule will split, try tying tissue paper or an empty tea bag over the capsule a few weeks beforehand and examine it from day to day.

Below is a list of the expected time for ripening of seed capsules. This is an approximate guide only and may be of assistance to new growers.

Genus	Approx.days for ripening	Genus	Approx.days for ripening	Genus	Approx.days for ripening
Ascocentrum	150-170	Laelia	140-160	Phalaenopsis	130-140
Bulbophyllum	80-120	Leptotes	120-140	Phragmipedium	180-190
Cattleya	160-180	Masdevallia	100-110	Pleurothallis	45-50
Cymbidium	250-330	Maxillaria	130-150	Renanthera	180-200
Dendrobium	160-180	Miltonia	145-160	Sarcochilus	200-210
Encyclia	160-180	Oncidium	100-130	Restrepia	50-80
Epidendrum	130-145	Paphiopedilum	150-170		



#### **AOF ORCHID SPECIES SEED & PROTOCORM BANK**

#### URGENT APPEAL FOR ORCHID SPECIES SEED

The Australian Orchid Foundation runs an international seed bank to promote and facilitate the propagation and conservation of orchid species.

## The Orchid Species Seed Bank urgently requires more fresh seed.

AOF members and friends frequently ask, "What can I do for the AOF?"

There is something everyone can do, donate seed from one ripe capsule at least, just once a year, and suggest that your friends do also, especially that interesting species.

Cross pollinate flowers of different clones if possible which will produce more viable seed.

Send the dry seed to the SEED BANK, harvested as the capsule yellows. Place in a paper envelope and post in a crush-proof container, e.g. small postal carton. Believe it or not, orchid seed is delicate and can be crushed in the mail.

Don't delay; try your hand at pollination for the conservation of species.

For all seed and protocorm enquiries contactAOF Species Seed and Protocorm Bank
Mr Bryan Lawrence
27 Miller Grove
Kew Vic 3101
Mob. 0431 342 208
Protocorm@australianorchidfoundation.org.au

TROWEEN	A ORCHIDS	<b>ACCES</b>	<b>SORIES</b>	PRICE LIST		
70 mm squat pots	20		\$3.60			
100mm squat pots		for	\$3.00 or \$0.35 each			
100mm tall pots	10 1	10 for		\$4.50 or \$0.50 each		
115mm squat pots		10 for		\$3.25 or \$0.35 each		
125mm squat pots		10 for		\$3.50 or \$0.40 each		
150mm squat pots	10 1	10 for		\$5.00 or \$0.60 each		
175mm squat pots	10 1	10 for		\$6.00 or \$0.65 each		
200mm slimline pots			\$0.80 e			
80 mm Net pots			\$1.40 e	ach		
3 prong Hangers, black heavy weight 35cm			\$4.00			
3 prong Hangers, black he	avy weight 45cı	m 4 for	\$4.00			
Shuttle tray 140mm	\$3.	50 each				
Shuttle Tray with handle		\$7.00 each				
<u>Vinyl Labels</u>						
Mini white labels		approx. 50 for \$0.25 Priced to cle		\$0.25 Priced to clear		
White, yellow, red, blue & o	orange labels.	18mm	21 for	\$2.00 old stock		
White, yellow, red, blue & o	18mm	27 for	\$3.00			
White & Yellow labels		18mm 4	18mm 48 for \$5.00			
Pink		25mm	22 for	\$3.00		
<u>Bamboo stakes</u>						
45mm	20 1	for	\$2.00			
60mm	20 1	20 for				
90mm	10 1	10 for				
Plastic dipped florist wire 45mm hear		y gauge	\$3.00 b	undle		
Florist's Knife		\$2.9	90			
<u>Tapex Twisties</u> 100	Omm	\$1.00 bundle				
150mm \$1.30 bundle						
	•	for	<b>\$4.00</b>			
		30 bundle	\$4.00	•		

 Easyklips
 Small
 27 for
 \$4.00

 Medium
 20 for
 \$4.00

 Large
 11 for
 \$4.00

Growth Technology Orchid Growth Focus 1 Litre \$19.00

Perlite 8 litre bags Jumbo Grade \$ 9.00

As I don't bring a full sample of the above items to meeting any more, please email or phone me on 0413 136 413 with details of your requirements and I will bring your order to the next General Meeting of the Society. As I don't have any credit card facilities any more, cash or cheque or even a direct debit to my account is the way to go.

Many thanks,

Bev Woodward, Troweena Orchids <u>bev@troweena.com.au</u> 4/2023