



Horsham & District Orchid Society (A1452M) Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 5, May 2017

Presidents Report

Hello everybody, I hope you all had a nice Easter, the weather has just been beautiful. The frosts are about to start soon so don't forget to cover your orchids when you think there might be a frost coming up. I'd like to say thank you to Michael Matthews for stepping in and doing a very interesting talk on cool growing orchids, unfortunately our guest speaker was unable to make it for that meeting.



At our next meeting, we will have Jane Higgs talking on her trip to Thailand. Jane is from Adelaide and comes over every year to judge at our spring show. She grows some wonderful orchids herself so we are looking forward to hearing what she has in store for us.

This is our last meeting for paying for the bus trip and the challenge moneys. The \$300 for the bus trip needs to be in to Catherine so that she can send the cheque off by this meeting. If anyone wants to go to the challenge let us know as there is a spare booked room up for grabs. The money for the meals for the challenge needs to be in (\$61) by the end of this meeting as well. We will also be coming around looking for plants in preparation for the challenge at some point next month so start getting them ready!

See you at the meeting!

Joy

From the Editor

Hi everyone, just a quick note to say hello from the editor. Hopefully everyone enjoys this issue of the bulletin for the Horsham and District orchid society. I'd like to join Joy in thanking Michael Matthews for speaking at the last meeting, I found his talk particularly interesting on cool growing orchids. In some ways his talk has inspired some of the content of this bulletin. At the end of this bulletin you will find an article taken from the OSCOV website on what to do with your orchids on the cold and frosty nights that are ahead of us. There are some great photo's taken by Jan of the orchids at the last meeting... Congratulations to Brad and Joy for showing us these stunning orchids. To help us get ready for the cooler weather I have included a recipe that's surely to warm us up, a favourite of mine, Jamie Oliver's autumn Minestrone soup, perfect served with fresh bread and parmesan cheese!

I'd also like to encourage anyone to contribute to the bulletin by sending suggestions and hints to hdsorchids@gmail.com.

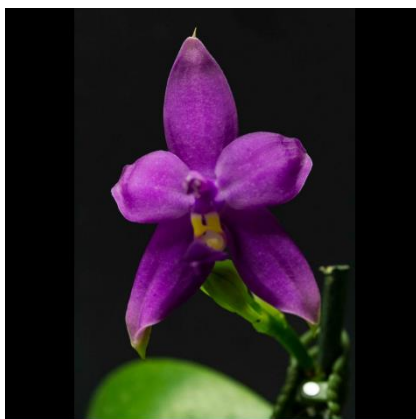
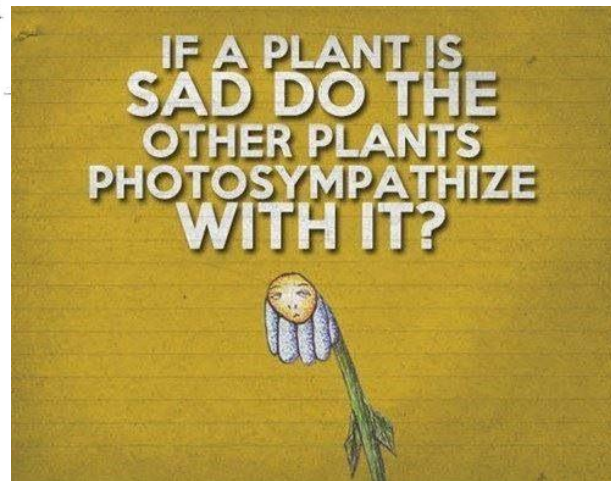
Please enjoy,

Jamie Graves



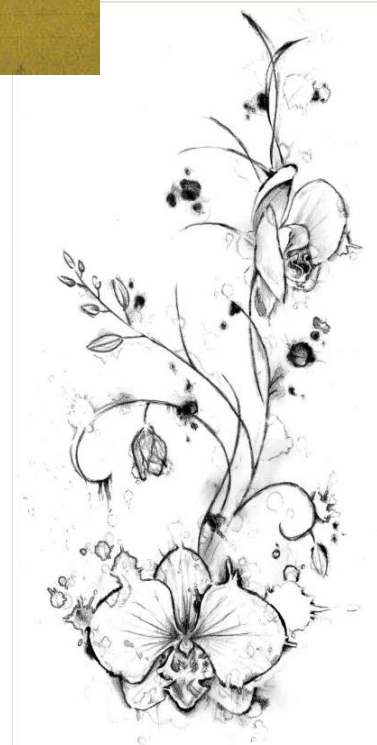
Paph. Hsinying Dragon 'Ching Hua' x Hsinying Citron 'Ch#4'

Shown by Brad and Joy Scott



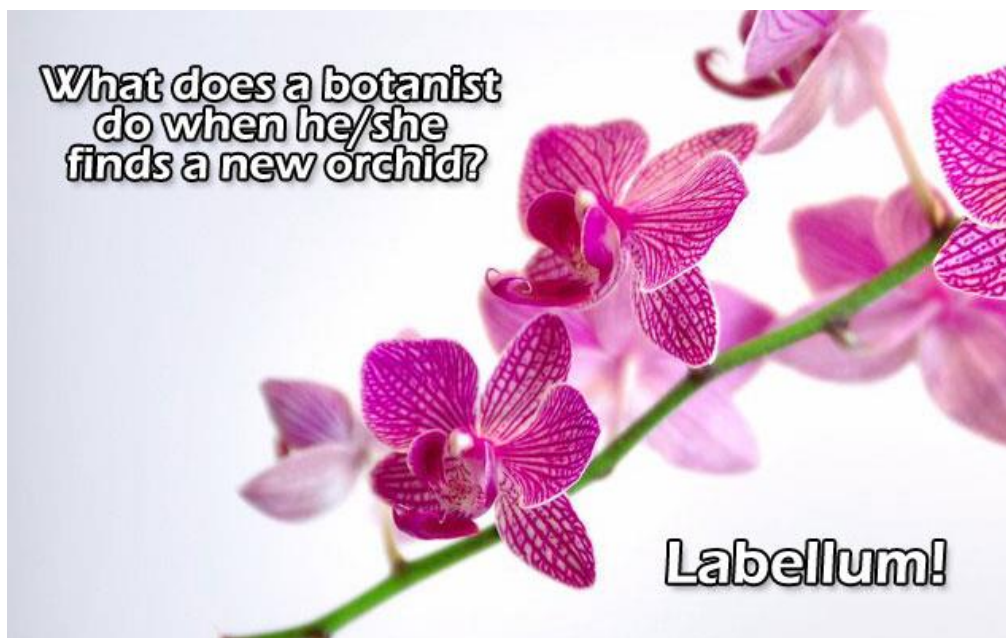
Phal violacea 'Blue'

Shown by Brad and Joy Scott



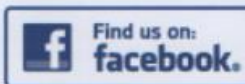
April 2016 Popular Vote Results

<u>Section</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Genus (with Genus Abbreviation) & Orchid Name</u>	<u>Shown by</u>
Novice			
Cymbidium	1st	Cym Jolity Golden Heritage x Mary Pinches Shamrock	W. Nightingale
Hybrid	1 st	Zygo. Arthur Elle 'Essendon' x Kiwi Geyser	W. Nightingale
	2 nd	Zygo. Arthur Elle 'Essendon'	Wes Hazeldene
Species		No Entry	
Intermediate			
Cymbidium		No Entry	
Hybrid		No Entry	
Species		No Entry	
Open			
Cymbidium		No Entry	
Hybrid	1 st	Paph. Hsinying Dragon 'Ching Hua' x Hsinying Citron 'Ch#4'	B & J Scott
	2 nd	Bakeria Samurai	P & L Williams
Species	1 st	Cyc <i>barthiorum</i>	B & J Scott
	2 nd	Phal <i>violacea</i> 'Blue'	B & J Scott
Seedling		No Entry	
Plant of the night		Paph. Hsinying Dragon 'Ching Hua' x Hsinying Citron 'Ch#4'	B & J Scott
Speakers Choice		Phal <i>violacea</i> 'Blue'	B & J Scott



Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & Orchid Sale 2017

0413 599 368
secretary@oscov.asn.au
www.oscov.asn.au



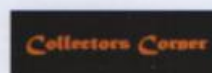
VENDORS

Atlantis Orchids
Aussie Shade & Hot Houses
Bass Valley African Violets
Brogo Riverview Orchid Nursery
Castle Creek Orchids
Collectors Corner
David Keanelly Orchids
David Wain Orchids
Devon Meadows Orchids
Feingold Flower Growers
Flora Lab/KeikiGrow
Johnston Orchids
Kimberley Orchids
Lawranna Orchids
Mount Beenak Orchids
Nicky's Slippers
Orchid Extras
Orchid Species Plus
Orchids On Newbold
Sims Orchids
The Hanging Garden
Western Orchid Laboratory

Venue Boxhall Pavilion, KCC Park (State Dog Centre)
655 Westernport Highway, Skye VIC 3977

Times Friday 25 August 9 am – 4 pm
Saturday 26 August 9 am – 4 pm
Sunday 27 August 9 am – 4 pm

Entry Adults \$10 Children under 15 Free





WHAT TO DO ON FROSTY NIGHTS by Brian Milligan

Taken From <http://www.oscov.asn.au/articles/frostnit.htm>

My best advice (for those of my age) is to put another blanket on the bed, pull on some bed socks, go to bed early and get up late! But dedicated growers who follow this advice still won't sleep well unless they've first made sure that their orchids are also cosy for the night.

July and August are probably the worst months for our orchids in terms of frost damage and it's therefore especially important to watch out for frost warnings at this time. Remember that the temperature in the suburbs of Melbourne is usually a degree or two lower than that forecast for central Melbourne. Cymbidiums can withstand temperatures down to freezing, perhaps even a degree or two below for short periods. But temperatures much below freezing can cause extensive damage to flower spikes. The unopened buds first turn brown and then black, before they eventually fall. Even spikes still in the sheath may be damaged. They may appear to be unaffected and still develop normally but when the flowers open they are often found to have pinched lips, sometimes with blackened margins. Australian native dendrobiums are also prone to frost damage, the leaves developing white areas and then falling from the plant. The large, delicate leaves of lycastes are also susceptible and even the fleshy pseudobulbs may freeze and subsequently turn into a rotten mass.

Fortunately most of us who live in the inner eastern suburbs don't usually experience particularly harsh frosts. Our suburban blocks are small and as a result our orchids are fairly close to buildings, either our own or our neighbours, which act as heat banks and therefore tend to keep their surroundings slightly warmer than otherwise. Those in low-lying areas or with open parkland nearby will be more likely to be frost-affected and should take extra precautions.

So what should we do to protect our orchids from frost? For most of us, a shade-house with a fibre-glass roof will provide all the protection we need for 99% of the time. Only on two occasions in the last 15 years have I lost cymbidium spikes due to frost damage and on both those occasions the temperature had fallen to -5°C and remained in that vicinity for several hours. The only way to counter such extreme weather is to provide some form of heat and air movement, for example with an electric fan heater. Alternatively, move all your plants in spike into the house or garage for the night - this is probably the best option for those with a small collection. But do it before you go to bed because it will be too late if you wait until morning.

Such low temperatures are rare in Melbourne's suburbs but we experience mild frosts every year, for which we should be prepared. Several of my shade-houses have shade-cloth fronts mounted on roller blinds. These are normally rolled up during the winter months but on frosty nights I unroll them to provide extra protection. If you have a large tarpaulin, it's a good idea to pull it over the top of your shade-house, particularly if it doesn't have a fibre-glass roof. Draping sheets of newspaper over your cymbidium spikes is also a good idea – slightly warmer air is trapped beneath the paper. There is no wind on frosty nights, so there is no need to fasten the paper down - it won't blow away.

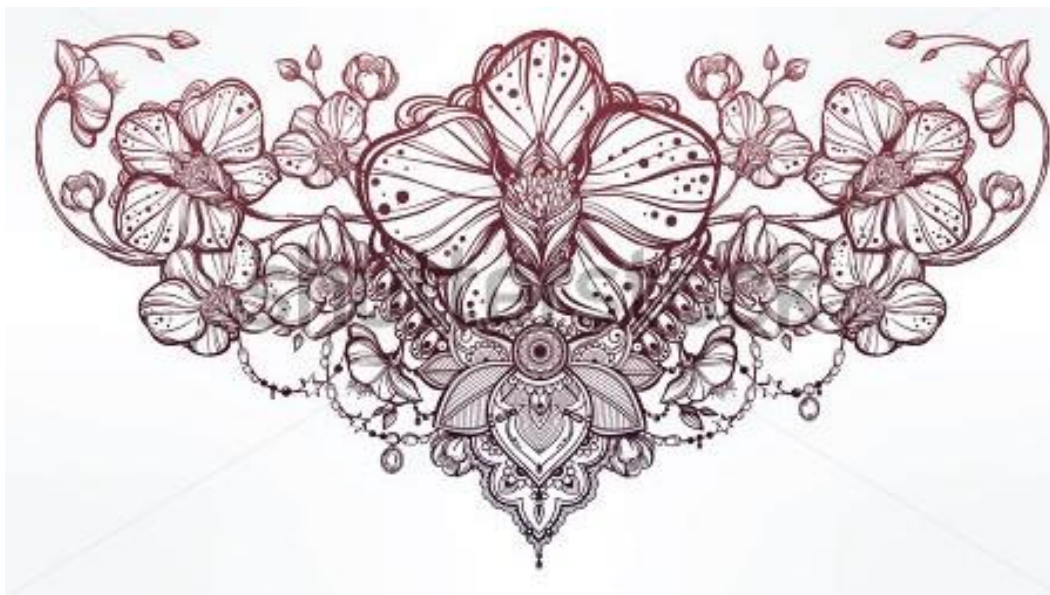
It's always colder at the perimeter than in the centre of your shade-house, so if possible move plants towards the centre. This is not possible in my overcrowded shade-houses and I

occasionally notice frost burn on the leaves on my Australian dendrobiums located closest to the perimeter. Leaves touching the roof or walls and those close to the roof are also at risk.

Even those with heated glasshouses have to take care during frosty weather, because any leaves that touch the glass and especially the frame, if it's made of aluminium or iron, may be frost burnt. Also, I find that the orchids in my glasshouse need watering more frequently in very cold weather. The rate of evaporation of water from the pots depends on the temperature differential between the pot and the walls of the glasshouse and this, of course, is greatest in cold weather. It's obvious when you see all the condensed moisture on the glass on cold mornings and ask yourself where it has come from.

Some growers believe that they can counter the effects of frost by spraying their plants with water next morning until the ice has melted. The rationale is that if the ice is allowed to melt naturally under the influence of the sun's rays, additional heat is withdrawn from the plant's tissues (true), whereas the water sprayed on the plant provides the heat necessary to melt the ice. I'm sure that it's sound practice in the event of mild frosts. But at very low temperatures the sap within the plant has already frozen and the damage done, so I doubt if spraying with water helps under these circumstances.

For those members with a small collection, my best advice is to move your cymbidiums in spike indoors to a cool, unheated area. Don't bring them into your heated living room, because the sudden temperature change can sometimes cause bud drop. Of course, you must return them to their normal positions next morning (after the temperature has risen above freezing), making sure that the flower spikes face the original direction. If it seems like a lot of unnecessary work, just protect your best ones - at least you'll have a few plants for your winter and spring shows in the event of another super-frost!





Jamie Oliver's Autumn Minestrone Soup

- One 200 g can cannellini or borlotti beans
- 4 rashers higher-welfare smoked pancetta or bacon
- 2 small red onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 sticks celery, trimmed and chopped
- ½ head fennel, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 small bunch fresh basil, leaves and stalks separated
- 2x400 g good-quality tinned plum tomatoes
- 1 glass red wine
- 2 small zucchini, quartered and sliced
- 200 g chard or spinach, washed and roughly sliced (including stalks)
- 565 ml organic chicken, ham or vegetable stock
- 55 g dried pasta
- 1 block Parmesan cheese, to serve

Method

1. Make your soffrito. Heat a good splash of olive oil in a saucepan and add the chopped pancetta or bacon, onions, carrots, celery, fennel, garlic and the finely sliced basil stalks. Sweat very slowly on a low heat, with the lid just ajar, for around 15 to 20 minutes until soft, but not brown. Add the tomatoes, courgettes and red wine and simmer gently for 15 minutes.
2. Now add the chard or spinach, stock and beans. Put the dried pasta into a polythene bag, squeeze all the air out and tie the end up. Bash gently with a rolling pin to break the pasta into pieces. Snip the end off the bag and empty the contents into the soup. Stir and continue to simmer until the pasta is cooked.
3. If you think the soup is looking too thick, add a little more stock or some of the reserved cooking water to thin it down a bit. Then taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve sprinkled with the torn-up basil leaves and with some extra virgin olive oil drizzled over the top. Put a block of Parmesan and a grater on the table for everyone to help themselves. Heaven!



The Back Page

Monthly Meeting

Visitors welcome

Held on 3rd Friday night of the month.

Wimmera Health Care Group Horsham
Day centre (Enter from Robinson Street)

Benching of popular Vote plants by 7:25pm

Popular Vote completed by 7:45

Program commences after voting

Bradley J. Scott Blinds & Curtains

Free Measure and Quote

Phone/Fax (03) 53825 520

Mobile 0427 340 693

3 Shirley Street Horsham

Bradjoy1526@bogpond.com

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From the Editor

All photos and comments unless otherwise stated, are from Jan Johns.

Was this bulletin sent to your correct address of both personal members and clubs? Our preference would be to send it electronically, please advise either the editor or Secretary of any changes wanted.

The bulletin is usually on the OSCOV site with additional H&DOS information (www.oscov.asn.au/hdos). While there, go to the OSCOV link, and then 'Societies' – you will see other very interesting bulletins.

Walking in the Wimmera web address – www.walkinginthewimmera.com

Mallee Phallies

Keva Loyd & Lesley Loyd Mallee Phallies

Orchid Importers

13 Greenwill drive Epsom, Vic.
3551

Ph. (03) 54483839

Mob. 0418 579998

Skype malleephallies

Webpage

www.kevalloyd.com.au/mallee-phallies

New lists updated very regularly



Next Meeting
19/05/17