



The Bulletin

the monthly newsletter of
MELBOURNE EASTERN ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

<http://www.oscov.asn.au/meos/index.html>

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Reg. No. A 8968 X

May 2011

Melbourne Eastern Orchid Soc.
 P.O. Box 2117
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(for email see top page)

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 at top page)*

Main points in this Issue

- ✿ Diary Dates, Word from the President
- ✿ Around the Traps, Meeting Reports
- ✿ AOF - Species Orchid Seed Production & Collection
- ✿ Southern Record for *Phaius australis*
- ✿ Orchid Calendar, Monthly Competition Results
- ✿ M.E.O.S. Winter Show Conditions
- ✿ Winter Show Schedule June 2011 - Classes & Awards

MEETINGS:

Evening Meeting **Last Monday of month** - next meeting 30 May - 8 pm,
 Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall,
 Blackburn Road 347 (Cnr. Burwood Hwy), BURWOOD EAST

Day Meeting **First Monday of month** - next meeting 6 June - 10.30 am,
 Bennettswood Guide Hall, 19-21 Station Street,
 BENNETTSWOOD
 (on west side; off-street parking at hall)

Membership Fees (1 July - 30 June): \$16 Singles, \$ 20 Couples

For an Electronic version of the Bulletin (instead of a paper one) contact Editor.

If undeliverable please return to



M.E.O.S.
 P.O. Box 2117
 Mt Waverley, VIC 3149

**POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA**



Cymbidium Grand Monarch



Trish's Treasures (*)

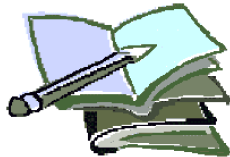
*Some people make only
one mistake in their live.
They avoid making errors
by not doing anything.*

(*) *Trish capably assisted by many others*

Something about our next Speaker(s)

Hendrik Venter: Hendrik has been growing orchids since the age of 10 when he joined his local orchid society in South Africa - 37 years ago! He became a judge in 1995 through the South African Orchid Council, and became the editor of Orchids South Africa in 2006, a position he still holds. After publishing the first major hobbyist orchid culture guide in South Africa (Growing Orchids in South Africa - a gardeners guide) in 2006, he was appointed as the Orchid Specialist at the Durban Botanic Gardens in Durban South Africa, where he managed a diverse collection of over 10 000 plants, as well as an orchid display house. He held this position up to the end of 2009 when he moved with his wife and 2 teenage sons to Melbourne. In late 2010, Hendrik received accreditation as an Australian Orchid Council judge. He is a member of, among others, the Warringal Orchid Society, and has a preference for growing species orchids, and especially micro-miniature species. Hendrik lives in Bundoora and is presently a customer service manager for a local company.

Phil Richie: Phil and his wife Irene have an interest in Indonesia and the Indonesian culture, while Phil also has an interest in orchids, which he has been growing for many years. He is an active member of a number of orchid clubs, including VOC and ANOS. During their holidays in Indonesia and West Irian they have been able to satisfy both interests, Indonesian culture and orchids.



DIARY DATES

MEOSEVENTS

- 30 May MEOS Evening meeting,
Spkr: Hendrik Venter speaking on
African Orchids
start 8:00 pm.
- 6 June MEOS Day meeting,
Spkr: Phil Richie speaking on Culture
and Orchids in PNG, Bali and Sulawesi
start 10:30 am.
- 11-12 June MEOS Winter Show,**
9am-4.30pm/12noon-4.30pm
Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall,
cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
East Burwood (Melw 61 K7)
info 9807 6206
- 27 June MEOS Evening meeting,
Spkr: Colleague Doreen Donovan
demonstrating flower arranging
start 8:00 pm.
- 4 July MEOS Day meeting,
Spkr:
start 10:30 am.

1-2 October

MEOS Spring Show,

9am-4.30pm/12noon-4.30pm
Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall,
cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
East Burwood (Melw 61 K7)
info 9807 6206

OTHER EVENTS

- 21-22 May Goulburn Valley OC Autumn Show
9am-4pm
Shepparton Harness Racing Club,
Goulburn Valley H/Way, Kialla .
- 28-29 May Maribyrnong OS Autumn Show
Maribyrnong Community Centre
Randall Str., Maribyrnong (Mlw 28 A8)
- 29 May Mornington Peninsula OS Autumn Show
St Paul's Church Hall High Street
Frankston
- 25-26 June North East Melbourne OS Winter Show
9am-4pm/10am-4pm
Scout Hall, Finn's Reserve, Duncan Str
Lowe Templestowe (Mlw 33 B4)
- 25-26 June Geelong Orch & Ind. Pl. Cl. Winter Show
Christchurch Hall, 10am-4pm
cnr Moorabool and McKillop Str, Geelong
- 2-3 July The Victorian Country Club's Challenge,
Hosted by Mid Murray OC
Kerang Memorial Hall, Nolan st
Kerang.
- 9-10 July Maribyrnong OS Winter Show
Maribyrnong Community Centre
Randall Str., Maribyrnong (Mlw 28 A8)
- 9-10 July OC Sth Australia Winter Show,
10am-4pm
Enfield Community Centre
540 Regency Rd, Enfield
info 08 8357 4484
- 16 July Horsham & Distr. OS Winter Show
1pm-4pm, info (03) 5382 5597
Horsham Senior Citizens Centre.
Cnr Roberts Av & Urganhart St, Horsham
- 16-17 July Victoria Orchid Club Winter Show
9am-4pm, info (03) 9478 9764
Red Cross Centre, Heid.b. Repat Hospital
entry Gate 8, Waterdale Rd,
Heidelberg (Mlw 31 F4)
- 16-17 July Yarra Valley OS Winter Show,
9am-5pm/9am-4pm
B&T Ferns 30 Wiseman Rd
Silvan Sth. (Mel 123 E7)
- 26-28 August Melbourne Orchid Spectacular &
International Orchid Fair
Springers Leisure Centre, Cheltenham Rd
Keysborough.
- 3-4 September Kempsey Speciosum Show,
10am-11am+12noon-4pm/9am-2pm
57 Spooners Ave.,
Greenhills via Kempsey.
info (02) 6562 7150 or (02) 6554 9733 or
anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com
- 13-20 Nov. 20th World Orchid Conference
Singapore
info: www.20woc.com.sg

Word from the PRESIDENT May 2011



Hi and Hello to every one,
April has gone and May is here, and next will be June. Ten Days later will be are Winter Show.

Now have you checked all your orchids, staked up all the spikes (late in the day when it is warm I hope). They tend to brake off early in the day. Everyone manages to brake one off now and then (BBB). Clean off all the old husks, trim broken leaves, check and see that they don't have any nasties under the leaves, clean the pot. If the pot is not black, put it in another black pot, it will look better.

Now have you pick up your plant name cards, they are different to the monthly ones, no name on the back, all paper work etc. will be at our May meeting. See me there. Well I Must go now all these Girls have made me tired (April, May, June). See you all at the night meeting on 30th May. . . . Bye, Bye for now .??

President : *Len Porter*



AROUND THE TRAPS

Note: Most articles mentioned in this section, can be included in our Bulletin on request from members.

For library users:

The **Orchids Australia's** Apr'11 issue has "Selected Species - *Paphiopedilum gratixianum*" (Peter Taylor), a reference to a new website (www.africanorchids.dk) about African Orchids, "The Reichenheims and their Orchids" (Rudolf Jenny), "Orchid Wise", "Toowoomba Flood", "Flared *Phalaenopsis*" (Dr Graham McKay), "The Ira Butler Trophy" (Irene Bodell), Vale for Rex Johnson, Len Lawler and Joyce Stewart, "Helen Richards OAM" (Andrew Dilley), "Margaret MacDonald OAM" (ANGAIR Inc and Helene Wilde), "The Delightful *Dendrobium profusum*" (Jim Cootes), "Forthcoming Showdates". The **Australian Orchid Review** Apr-May'11 issue has the extensive "Spring in Spili - Tales from an Orchid Trip to Crete" (Gary Backhouse) with close-ups of many mediteraneum terrestrial orchids, the growing guide articles (Tinonee Orchid Nursery) "Cymbidium Culture", "Australian Native Orchid Culture - *Dendrobium* & *Sarcochilus*", "Phalaenopsis Culture", "Cattleya Culture", *Paphiopedilum* (Slipper Orchids) Culture", "Softcane (Nobile Type) *Dendrobiums*" & "Coelogyne Culture", as well as "Eria globifera (Jim Cootes), "Tying Shin Orchids - New Directions in *Phalaenopsis*", "Southern Record for *Phaius australis*" (David Banks - see this issue), "Austr. Orch. Foundation Award of Honour to Dr Mark Clements", the new book "Starting out with Orchids" (David L Jones) and in the mailorder bookshop cheap discounts "Lycaste Orchids" (\$15) and "Growing *Phalaenopsis* at Home" (\$12.80), "Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing" (\$12.50).

The **ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Group's** Apr'11 newsl. has "Symptoms and Treatment of Chewing Pests - Cockroaches and Grasshoppers and also mentions the availability of an Australasian Orchid Hybrid Checklist (ANOS Kabi Group). The **Victorian OC's** Apr'11 bulletin has "Symptoms and Treatment of Botrytis Petal Blights - *Botrytis sp.*", "Jobs for May" (Brian Milligan - NEMOS newsl.), Sum-

mary of Cultural Notes April (MEOS) and "Recent AOC Awards".

The **Horsham & Distr. OS's** Apr'11 bulletin has "The Cattleya Alliance" (Denis Oliver - OSCOV website). The **Mid Murray OC's** Apr'11 newsl. has some humour about Slimming the Irish way, "What to do on Frosty Nights" (Brian Milligan - OSCOV's Orchids in Victoria). The **Goulburn Valley OC** Apr'11 newsl. has some humour about the "Husband Store" and their trip to Clive Hall's nursery at 3 bridges. The **Southern Suburbs OS' May'11** newl. has some humour about a man and his meaty bites.

The **Orchid Species Society of Victoria's** May'11 newsl. has an introduction to Hendrik Venter's talk about Sth African terrestrial orchids, a summary of Paul Carter's talk about the genus *Stanhopea*, info on John Skews *Bulbophyllum corroliferum* which received a Certificate of Cultural Rarity, a follow up on the Buthanese (orchid) cuisine (from Dick Thomson), some snippets about a planning battle in the Staffordshire Moorlands won by retired dentist Dick Hartley (allowing his orchid collection to be retained for future generations) and the *Cypripedium fargesii* who fools flies (required for pollination) in believing it is deceased with fungi.

The **Geelong Orchid & Indoor Plant Club's** May'11 bull. has some words of wisdom on good eggs, some humour about an old gentleman who feels like a newborn baby, "Stanhopea Season" (Brian Milligan - NEMOS News Feb'11), "Tillandsia General Care" (from www.reedsgreenhouse.com). The **Warringal OS' Apr'11** bull. has a summary on Gary Backhouse' talk on "Orchids of Cyprus", "Cultural Notes April-May" (Orchids Australia), "Are you Ready for Winter?" (Brian Milligan - OSCOV's Still More Orchids in Victoria) and "The Little Black Ant, Scale Insect, Mealy Bug, Aphid Alliance" (Ben Wallace - AOF).

The **Bairnsdale & Distr. OG's** Apr'11 newsl. has some words of wisdom (Roger Rankin), some humorous poems about the sound of munching pests and about marching ants an "Growing Orchids on Mounts" (Brian Milligan). The **Gippsland OC's** Apr'10 newl. has, aside from club info, "Scale and its Control" (Denis Oliver). The **Mornington Peninsula OS' Apr'11** Newsl. has "Black Portuguese Millipede" (Ian Johson - Westgro P/L), "General Culture for Month", "Mini Cattleyas" (Rex Johnson - OSCOV's Even More Orchids in Victoria) and "How to Grow *Dendrobiums*" (from NEMOS Orchid Culture Series).

The **Maroondah OS' Apr'11** newsl. has some culture info on *Phragmipedium Grande (caudatum X longifolium)* and "Species Orchid Seed Production & Collection" (AOF - see this issue). The **Maribyrnong OS' Apr'11** bulletin mentions that their bulletins are now available via email. The **Sale & Distr. OC's** Mar'11 newsl. has a short write up on Josef Šeštokas' book "Welcome to little Europe - Displaced Persons and the North Camp".

The **Ringwood OS' May'11** newsl. has "Odontoglossum Intergenerics" (Clive Halls - Yarra Valley Newsl.), "Australian Native *Cymbidiums*" (Ron Schliefert) and "Earthworms". The **South Gippsland OC's** Apr'11 newl. has some culture info about autumn as well as a poem from Glenda about the trip to the Mt Beenak Nursery.

The **North East Melbourne OS' Mar'11** issue has "Codlin Moth & Other Pests" (Michael Pender - AOF's Growing Orchids), "The Orchid Hunter: Part 6 - Wilhelm Micholitz (1854-1932) "Odontoglossums" (Clive Halls - Mt Beenak Orchid Website), "Growing Orchids a Century Ago" (BM), "Softcane (Nobile Type) *Dendrobiums*" (John Skews-Harry Schulz) and "More Room Please" (BM).



Short Note on the Evening Meeting of 25 April 2011

18 Members brought 79 plants (of which 59 were listed by the judges). This month we again had two plants that were awarded with a Club Cultural Certificate (L Porter's *Miltonia Guanabara* and T P Nguyens *Dendrobium capitaliflorum* - congratulations to the owners). The Judges voted John Skew's *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* the Best Plant of the Night, while the members chose Len Porter's *Miltonia Guanabara* as their favourite plant. The Best Culture went to Tai Nguyens *Dendrobium capitaliflorum*.

The speaker of the night was Barry Larkin, who showed that he not only grows a *Cattleya* well, but that he also knows his way around on the internet. He started with showing a number of useful sites for collecting information, including the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society UK) site where you can get info on crosses (GreX), like for two parents the GreX name (Registered Hybrid Name) and for a GreX name both of the parents. He further showed how you can use Google to obtain Culture info on orchid or picture (search image mode). Thanks Barry, even computer and internet savvy people will have picked up something useful. For those interested here some of the websites Barry mentioned (and sent to me by email - thanks Barry):

RHS Orchid registration database: <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/>

Ron's Catts: <http://www.ronscatts.com/photosno1.html>

Ask search engine: <http://www.ask.com/>

Jay Pfahl's species site: <http://orchidspecies.com/>

JK



Report on Day Meeting of 2 June 2011

29 Members attended the meeting with apologies from Tess Slater, Ron & June Harris and Reneta Dodds. Although only 20 plants were tabled, the quality was very good and was admired by all. Wendy Clarke had the winning popular vote plant *Zygo*. Arthur Elle 'Essendon'. Interesting enough only 1 vote separated three plants.

Our Guest Speaker, Noreen Donovan from the Waverley Garden Club, made 4 separate flower arrangements all of which were greatly admired (greeted with applause) - Thanks Noreen.

Ten members shared the raffle prizes, with many "double headers" but members were kind enough to take only one prize - ain't that kind!!

Ron Jones



REMINDERS

REMEMBER

Don't forget your name on the back of the Plant Name Tickets! (unless you want to stay anonymous) Please leave Plant Name Tickets on the table after the meeting! (For scoring and verifying plant names)

Meeting Supper Rosters

May. Evening Meeting:

Bob Orwin

....

Jun. Day Meeting:

Dawn Brabham

....



NOTE: Don't be shy! Get your name on the Supper Roster!.

CLUB NAME BADGES



New or replacement Name Badges are available for club members, from the membership officer (\$8.50 per badge). Payment when placing the order.

Treasurer

Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!!



VALE

Doug Cant

With great sadness we heard of the passing of Doug Cant on Tuesday 19 April 2011.

Doug Cant has been a MEOS member for a long time. He joined the club in 1986.

Doug will be sadly missed by his wife Marie, his family and many orchid growing friends

Our thoughts and sympathy go out to his wife Marie and his family and friends.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY



The following has been added to our club library:
The Astonishing Stanhopeas - the upside-down orchid (Barney Greer - 1998).

Orchids Australia's Apr'11 issue.

Australian Orchid Review's Apr-May'11 issue

JK



BUS TRIP Castle Creek

YES, Len has another bus-trip to Castle Creek on the programme, with stop-overs at the SPC factory outlet and likely at a winery (Tabhilk). The trip to Castle Creek is planned for Saturday 23rd July 2011 (sorry Sunday wasn't possible because "on Sunday CC goes to market" (but not to buy a little lamb). The bus hiring cost is now \$150 higher than last year, so

the the member costs had to be adjusted to \$30 a person. The bus will leave at 7.30am sharp. The departure point is, like last year, the **Old Burwood Rd** (M1w 61 G6), close to RSPCA at cnr Middleborough Rd and Burwood Hwy (see map below). You can park along Old Burwood Rd. For info and/or bookings contact Len (9708 6206). JK



The main topics covered are:

- Selection of Parent Plants
- Capsule Formation and Care
- Seed Extraction and Drying
- Pollination
- Picking Ripe Capsules
- Seed Storage and Posting

We hope that this information sheet provides information to growers to enable them to produce high quality seed of orchid species, so that these species can be widely distributed to ensure their conservation through cultivation.

SELECTION OF PARENT PLANTS

Your selection of parent plants for seed production will have the greatest impact on the quality of the seed and progeny produced; so take care in the following:

- Choosing plants which are good representatives of the species
- Choosing quality clones with the best flowers
- Choosing plants which are healthy

Orchids with viruses must not be used for producing orchid seed, as the viruses can be transferred to the seed and all subsequent seedlings grown from that seed. Typical symptoms of orchid viruses include:

- Colour break in the foliage (irregular patterns or spotting)
- Wrinkled. or malformed foliage
- Striations or variegations in foliage

Do not use pollen from other people's orchids to pollinate your flowers without checking their plants for virus symptoms, as transferring pollen from infected plants onto your parent plant will also transfer the virus, which will then infect and may eventually kill your plant.

There are several ways of crossing (pollinating) parents to produce seed, and they are listed below in ranked order of preference:

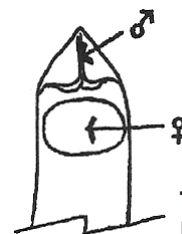
- Out crossing (two separate unrelated clones)
- Sibling Crosses (two related plants, i.e. parent and sibling, or two siblings)
- Selfing

In many cases orchids will not produce good seed from selfing. They may produce capsules but the capsules will be empty or the seeds will have no or few embryos. If you are going to pollinate flowers for seed production it is worth ringing around members of your local orchid society to find pollen from another clone to outcross it, as it is disappointing to produce a capsule, wait 12-18 months only to find die capsule is empty or the seed does not germinate

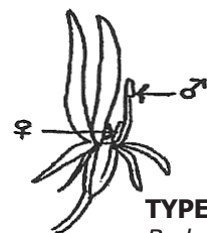
POLLINATION

The actual step of pollination of the orchid flower is simply transferring the male pollen to the female receptive surface (stigma). It does however, take some investigation and study to determine where these male and female parts are located in the orchid flower, and the following are main types of arrangements of these parts:

- ♂ = Male Pollen
- ♀ = Female Stigma



TYPE 1:
Many Orchid Genera
Most Common Type



TYPE 2:
Barkeria
Calanthe
Encyclia

MELBOURNE EASTERN ORCHID SOCIETY INC.
PRESENTS:

The World of Orchids Winter Show 2011

At
BURWOOD HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH
COMMUNITY HALL
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd
11th - 12th June 2011.

Hours: Saturday 9am – 4-30pm
Sunday: 12-00 Noon – 4-30pm
Plant sales, Raffle, Devonshire Teas, Free Advice,
ADMISSION \$4.00, PENSIONER CONCESSIONS \$3.00
ENQUIRIES: Ph 9807 6206

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**Wong & Bendixen Pharmacy, 77 Hamilton Place
Mount Waverley, Ph 9807 2230.**
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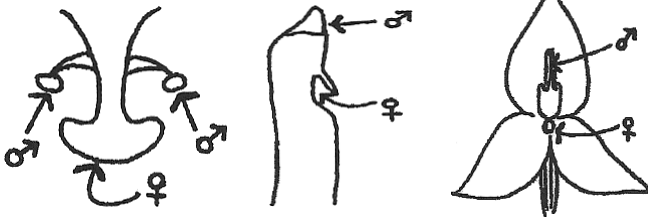
Aussie Shade & Hot Houses
Call Derek Kennedy on 0411135056

AOF - SPECIES ORCHID SEED PRODUCTION & COLLECTION

(from Maroondah OS Newsletter Apr'11)



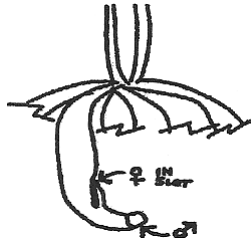
This information sheet has been produced to aid orchid growers in pollinating orchid species and producing seed for distribution by the orchid species seed and protocorm bank in an effort to make orchid species more widely available and better conserved in cultivation.



TYPE 3:
Cypripedium
Paphiopedilum

TYPE 4:
Dracula
Masdevallia

TYPE 5:
Disa
Satyrium



TYPE 6:
Gongora
Stanhoepa



TYPE 7:
Pterostylis

Some pollen (e.g. *Cymbidium*) is hard and is best if squashed or broken up before transfer, while other pollen is almost liquid (e.g. *Cypripedium*).

Transfer is best done with a clean toothpick or similar fine instrument. Flowers are best pollinated a few days after opening, by which time the pollen will be mature. Pollinate flowers in mild even weather, avoiding cold or hot conditions as these can reduce the success of pollinations.

CAPSULE FORMATION AND CARE

Generally the Orchid capsule simply requires the same conditions as the parent plant but do not move the parent plant to a new location as this change in conditions may cause the capsule to abort

PICKING RIPE CAPSULES

The next stop is to pick the capsule when the seed inside is ripe, but before the capsule splits. This is important as the seed is quickly infested with fungus when the capsule splits, and also most of the seed will quickly fall from the capsule. The following methods are useful in picking the capsule, at the correct time:

- Careful observation. Most capsules change colour to yellowish before splitting and in some species the seed inside the capsule changes from cream to brown, and this is visible through the capsule wall.
- If several capsules are pollinated at the same time then as soon as the first splits the remainder can be picked.
- The capsule can be gently squeezed (from top to bottom) and if it splits then it must be picked. Green capsules will not easily split if squeezed.

Do not rely on seed ripening times as a guide, as the time it takes varies greatly, especially in your local conditions. If you are unsure how close the time is for the capsule to begin to split try tying a clean empty tea bag over the capsule a few weeks before hand and examine it from day to day.

SEED EXTRACTION AND DRYING

The mature capsule should be placed in a paper envelope in room conditions (cool, dry) for a week or two until the capsule dries out.

Once the capsules are dry they should be squeezed, and tapped so that all the dry seed falls out of them, onto a sheet of paper. Capsule and old flower fragments should be carefully removed, as they contaminate the seed.

SEED STORAGE AND POSTING

The dried seed should be placed into a clean paper packet which has all the seams and corners carefully sealed with sticky tape (be sure not to expose the tape to the seed as the seed will stick and is impossible to remove).

Seeds should be posted to the seed bank as soon as possible, but if this is not possible they should be stored in the refrigerator. Seeds stored at room temperature lose viability rapidly. Do not store the seeds at high humidity as they may go mouldy, but do not store them with desiccants as these can dehydrate and kill seeds.

Send Seed Donations to:

Australian Orchid Foundation Seed and Protocorm Bank

Manager Dick Thomson
P.O. Box 2152

Templestowe Heights
Vic 3107 Australia

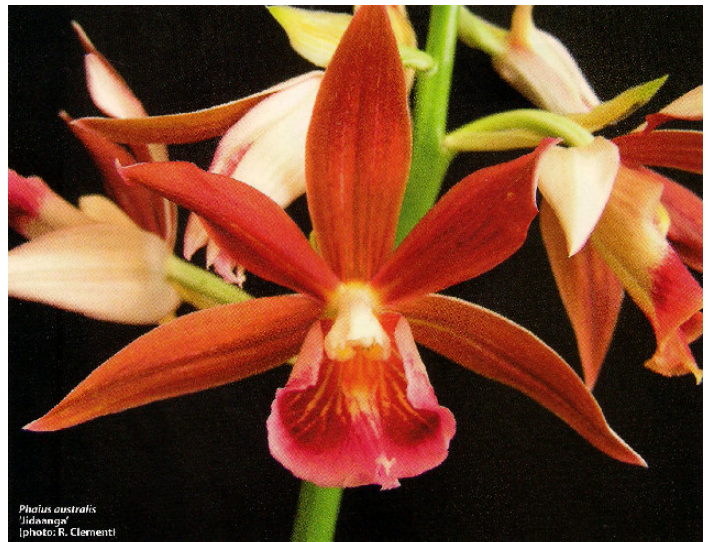
Phone: (03) 9850 9867

E-mail: protocorm@australianorchidfoundation.org.au

Your Support Is Much Appreciated

Southern Record for *Phaius australis*

by David Banks - from *The Australian Orchid Review* - Apr-May'11



Phaius Australis - 'Jidaanga' (photo D. Banks)



Phaius Australis - 'Jidaanga'
showing labellum detail

For such an impressive and horticulturally attractive genus of evergreen terrestrials, there is surprisingly much confusion amongst the identity and distributions of the Australian species of *Phaius*. They are often referred to as 'Swamp Orchids'. Australia has three species and one (colour/albino) variety, two of these species *P. amboinensis* and *P. pictus* are lowland tropical plants that are seldom seen in cultivation. The other species is *P. australis*, with the yellow form known as *P. australis* var.



Increased bulb size in healthy cultivated plant of *Phaius Australis* - 'Jidaanga' (photo R. Clement)

bernaysii that appears to be restricted to North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

Many will note a certain species missing from this Australian list *Phaius tancarvilleae*. This is now widely accepted as NOT being an Australian species.

The Type specimen of the true *Phaius tancarvilleae* is from China. There is also much confusion over the spelling of this taxon, with some texts quoting *tancarvilleae*, *tankervilleae* or *tankervilleae*. I would suggest that most plants labelled as *Phaius tancarvilleae* in cultivation at least in eastern Australia, are actually examples of *Phaius wallichii* from northern India. The late Jack Bissett had *Phaius* that he had imported from India in the 1950s that look identical to many of these so called "native" *P. tancarvilleae* trotted out at orchid shows and meetings, and indeed match *P. wallichii*. This also accounts for why this plant has been so successful in cultivation in Australia and why it easily handles temperatures down to the frost level. *P. wallichii* is found throughout the Indian Subcontinent across to Indochina.

The biggest problem today is that most plants labelled as *Phaius tancarvilleae* in cultivation have obviously been in collections for many many years and have lost their original providence data. To the point we can't even be sure what country these clones came from originally. As they are such strong and vigorous growers, they have been divided and traded many times to have successfully spread throughout orchidhouses across this country.

So what are the true Australian plants of "*Phaius tancarvilleae*" and what do they look like? Well, they are actually *P. australis* which has a recorded distribution from Lake Innes/Lake Cathie, New South Wales north along the coast (and Moreton Bay islands) to south of Cooktown in far north Queensland. It is generally a lowland coastal



Phaius tancarvilleae (photo: D. Banks)

plant, yet has been recorded up to 1100m altitude (possibly Atherton Tableland and near the Barren River?).

P. australis also has significantly narrower (and more upright) foliage than the exotic pair of *P. tancarvilleae* and *P. wallichii*. It also lacks the strictly tubular cow horn labellum seen in the exotic species.

Sadly the numbers of both viable and reliable localities and numbers of plants of *P. australis* have declined alarming due to its coastal habit of this species which is one of the first sites cleared for housing or agriculture. I have only ever seen it in situ on South Stradbroke Island a couple of decades ago, and thankfully there was a very healthy population. But future sand mining could threaten these plants. *Phaius* may be confused (out of flower) with the more common *Calanthe australasia* or plants of the smaller growing *Geodorum terrestre*.

Phaius australis has always been an uncommon orchid in New South Wales, with many reported sightings fairly unreliable and not verified by herbarium specimens, photographs or live material. Also many of these reputed sightings were often some generations ago and are often third hand in translation. Recent sightings have been rare. Many of the records are restricted to the far north east of the state, with plants recorded from Piggabeen, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay, Tintenbar, Brunswick Heads and Evans Head. There is also a verified colony of plants further south near Coffs Harbour. I would be very interested to hear of other NSW populations not mentioned above.

There have been rumours for years of swamp orchids occurring at Lake Innes and Lake Cathie (south of Port Macquarie). Perhaps they still occur there, as the habitat is ideal and there is considerable vegetation still protected within the Lake Innes Nature Reserve.

A few years ago, a small but healthy colony of *P. australis* was found within Aboriginal land near Kempsey (Macleay River), on the New South Wales mid north coast. The site was heavily weed-infested and sections of the local Aboriginal community are now maintaining the area and protecting the orchids.

(Continued on page 10)



Phaius wallichii (photo: D. Banks)



ORCHID CALENDAR

(With thanks to Ralph Handcock, Margaret Smith, Mike Tibbs and Ray Bilton, who's "Orchids month by month" and "Orchids an Illustrated Identifier Guide to Cultivation" are the inspiration and foundation of this orchid calendar)

June

Cattleya - Ensure that Cattleyas requiring heat are in a heated glasshouse or indoors. Avoid having any of the Cattleyas being subjected to frost. Ventilate well on mild days (unless this cools down the plants too much).

Cymbidium - Not much work for this month (no need to water non flowering plants unless in small pots, but watch for slugs and snails), but a good time to start preparation for the Spring nursery jobs in August, like repairing benches and preparing or re-arranging work space as well as acquiring and preparing materials like potting mix.

Paphiopedilum - Reduce watering in the May-July period (stop overhead watering). Plants with buds need to be sheltered during bad weather. Glasshouses should be ventilated on mornings (only) of mild sunny days. Group flowering plants together in a cool airy location where you can see them well (your own show). Continue tying up flower scapes to get a good flower presentation.

Dendrobium - SOFTWOOD DENDROBIUMS (Indian noble varieties) - Flower nodes should start developing. Continue watering the plants sparingly (once a fortnight or less, depending on weather and soil condition and let the mixture dry out occasionally, without damage to the roots and shrivelling of the stems). - **HARDWOOD DENDROBIUMS** (Cooktown orchids - N.coast of Queensland and neighbouring islands)- Keep water up during the growth period and reduce watering considerable during flowering (only sparingly in the morning). Close vents during cold periods to keep the plants warm, have air movement when humidity is high and have the vents open during warm sunny days.

June - General Subjects

Cymbidium - Preparation of potting mix - Sterilise any leave mulch or other materials collected with boiling water. When using other methods of sterilisation, ensure that there is sufficient time to avoid effects on the orchids. Test the medium on one or two plants and check these after a month to see if it is safe, before using the mix on other plants. **EPIPHYTES** - Epiphytes need air around their roots and kept wet when actively growing and quite dry when dormant. Tree ferns, lumps of bark, branches pieces of stone or pine bark can be used as growing medium, while orchids more attuned to humid conditions can be potted in sphagnum moss. **SEMI-TERRESTRIALS** - Semi-terrestrials covers orchids growing in pockets of decaying matter (in rocks or cliffs or trees). The mixture for these plants should contain leave mulch, wood shavings, tan bark, spend brewers hop and sphagnum moss and should be finer grained than for epiphytes (recipe for semi-terrestrial mixture - by volume: Take - 100 parts seasoned long lasting wood-shavings [season by keeping heap of wood-shavings wet for 6 month], 100 parts of new tan bark, 50 parts of sharp sand, 12 parts of fowl manure, 1 part of blood and bone fertiliser, 1 part of complete garden fertiliser with high phosphoric acid content - and mix thoroughly and keep it damp for 10 days turning it over during that period). **TERRESTRIALS** - Terrestrials can be grown in normal garden soil preferably a loam rich in humus. For Australian native terrestrials from the southern states however, the following mixture is recommended:

2 part fine gravel or very coars sand (2-4mm),
1 parts rich loam,
1 part eucaliptus buzzer chips or mulch,
1 part leaf mold.

Add to each 9 litre of this mixture:

1 desert spoon blood and bone,
1 desert spoon garden lime or dolomite.

Plant Presentation - Before putting a plant on the show bench:

- clean the plant up (remove old husks),
- remove ungainly parts of leaves (cut off at an angle to make it less obvious),
- remove dead flowers,
- ensure the flowers are properly staked if they need it (stake not to be higher than bottom of flower spikes),
- put plant in an optimal position (plants with downward looking flowers positioned high, plants with upward looking flowers positioned low).

Summary of Culture Notes - June

	Freq. of Watering	Feed. type	Shade	Ventil.	Humidity	Repot	Worst Pests
Paphiopedilums	4-5 days #)	Bal.(60%)	none	light	60 %	probl.cases	mealy bugs
Miltonias, Masdev.	infrequent #)	Bal.(25%)	none	light	medium	no	snails-botrytis
Phalaenopsis	infrequent	Balanced	none	light	low	no	general
Cattleyas	infrequent **)	Bal.(50%)	none	light	60 %	no	garlic snails-scale
Cymbid./Zygopet.	weekly	Balanced	none	light	low	no	snails-fungus-rot
Odontoglossum	infrequent #)	Bal.(25%)	none	light	medium	no	snails-botrytis
Softwood Dendr.	14 days	Bal.(12%)	90 %	average	70 %	no	mites-snails
Austr. epiphytes	at need #)	Bal.(25%)	none	light	low	no	snails-slugs-aphids
Vandaceous	3 days	Altern./2 wks	0-50 %	good	high	no	scale-mites

Note: Fertiliser(50%)=tsp/20litre, #) keep moist, *) Potash when flowering, **) Soak & let dry

MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS – APRIL 2011

JUDGES' VOTE	<i>Bulbophyllum rotschildianum</i>	J W Skews
BEST CULTURE	<i>Dendrobium capituliflorum</i>	P T Nguyen
SEEDLING		
1ST FLOWERING	<i>Laelia pumila</i> X self	C Luth
OPEN	<i>Bulbophyllum rotschildianum</i>	J W Skews
INTERMEDIATE	<i>Oncidium</i> Moonshadow 'Tigertail'	T Jones
NOVICE	<i>Dendrobium</i> Duno Burgundy Sheen X Ausie Victory	C Yang
POPULAR VOTE	<i>Miltonia</i> Guanabara	L Porter

GERALD McGRAITH MEMORIAL TROPHY for BEST SPECIES (*)

1st	<i>Bulbophyllum rotschildianum</i>	J W Skews
2nd	<i>Dendrobium violaceum</i>	P T Nguyen
3rd	<i>Dendrobium capituliflorum</i>	P T Nguyen

LAUREL & RAY LOBB MEMORIAL TROPHY for BEST CATTLEYA ALLIANCE HYBRID

1st	<i>Blc.</i> Dal's Girl	M & B Larkin
2nd	<i>Slc.</i> Tiny Titan	C Trainor
3rd	<i>Cattleya</i> Horace X <i>Potinara</i> Dal's Emperor	M & B Larkin

AWARDED PLANTS

<i>Miltonia</i> Guanabara	CC / Club	L Porter
<i>Dendrobium capituliflorum</i>	CC / Club	P T Nguyen



OPEN

Intermediate Cymbidium

1 st Willunga 'Eyecatcher'	D Zontanos
2 nd Mini Goddess 'Apricot'	D Zontanos

Large Cattleya

1 st <i>Blc.</i> Dal's Girl	M & B Larkin
2 nd <i>Blc.</i> Dal's Select	M & B Larkin

Intermediate Cattleya

1 st <i>C.</i> Horace X <i>Pot.</i> Dal's Emperor	M & B Larkin
2 nd <i>C.</i> Mini Purple	L Porter
3 rd <i>C.</i> Momiloma Rainbow	A M Goode

Mini Cattleya

1 st <i>Slc.</i> Tiny Titan	C Trainor
2 nd <i>Lc.</i> Love Sound 'Taka Guci'	M & B Larkin
3 rd <i>Cattleya</i> Grape Wax	L Porter

Cluster Cattleya

1 st <i>Cattleya</i> Lavender Lulu	F Fraser
2 nd <i>Cattleya</i> Portia X Little Susie	M & B Larkin

Phalaenopsis

1 st <i>P.</i> Sarah Robertson X <i>P.</i> Glasshouse Mtns	P & G Young
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Vanda

1 st <i>Ascda.</i> Kultana Gold Spot X Aroonsri Beauty	P T Nguyen
2 nd <i>Neofinetia falcata</i> X <i>Ascda.</i> Yip Sum Wah	J W Skews

Masdevallia

1 st Heather X Hebe	J & E Krens
2 nd Heathii (?) X Hebe	C Luth
3 rd Parlatoriana	F Fraser

Dendrobium

1 st King Dragon	P T Nguyen
2 nd Miyuki 'White Lass'	D Zontanos

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1 st Lynleigh Koopowie	P T Nguyen
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Oncidium

1 st (<i>flexuosum</i> X Nona) 'Golden Shower'	F Fraser
2 nd Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	J W Skews

Miltonia

1 st Guanabara	B & L Milligan
2 nd Guanabara	L Porter
3 rd Binottii	C Trainor

Odontoglossum

1 st <i>Odm. cirrhosum</i> X <i>curtiednordii</i>	A & M Goode
2 nd <i>Burrageara</i> Stephan Isler	L Porter

Australian Native Hybrid

1 st <i>Den.</i> Hilda Poxon	P & G Young
2 nd <i>Den.</i> Louise's Rainbow	D Zontanos
3 rd <i>Den.</i> Colonial Surprise X Jesmond Gold	C Luth

Any Other Hybrid

1 st <i>Coelogyne</i> Linda Buckley	P & G Young
2 nd <i>Brassia.</i> Edvah Loo 'Hellis'	J & E Krens
3 rd <i>Aliceara</i> Dorothy OKA 'Dark Waters'	J & E Krens

American Species

1 st <i>Miltonia moreliana</i> 'Campbell'	G Trainor
2 nd <i>Oncidium venustum</i>	B & L Milligan
3 rd <i>Laelia pumila</i> ('Albira' X 'Sonbae')	P T Nguyen

Asian Species

1 st <i>Bulbophyllum rothschildianum</i>	J W Skews
2 nd <i>Dendrobium capituliflorum</i>	P T Nguyen
3 rd <i>Dendrobium violaceum</i>	P T Nguyen



Any Other Species

1 st <i>Aerangis</i> species	C Trainor
2 nd <i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	C Luth
3 rd <i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	D Zontanos

Seedling 1st Flowering

1 st <i>Laelia pumila</i> X self	C Luth
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INTERMEDIATE**Intermediate Cymbidium**

1 st Kusuda Shining 'Geyserland'	H Wagstaff
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Intermediate Cattleya

1 st C. Lulu X Goudebac	T Jones
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Novelty Cattleya

1 st <i>Bl.</i> Richard Tauber X <i>Blc.</i> Toshie Aoki	T Jones
2 nd <i>Lc.</i> Interceps	W Clark

Paphiopedilum

1 st (Yarba Buena X Caddiana) X (Green Moon X <i>charlesworthii</i>)	F & B Coysh
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Oncidium

1 st <i>Oncidium</i> Moonshadow 'Tigertail'	T Jones
2 nd Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	W Clark

Miltonia

1 st <i>Miltonia</i> Guanabara	H Wagstaff
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Odontoglossum

1 st <i>Comanara</i> Wildcat 'Carmella'	W Clark
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Any Other Hybrid

1 st <i>Zygo.</i> Elphin Jade 'Purple Heart' X Blue Eyes 'Purple'	W Clark
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NOVICE**Intermediate Cattleya**

1 st <i>Lc.</i> Interceps	A McCormick
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Australian Native Hybrid

1 st <i>Den.</i> Duno Burgundy Sheen X Ausie Victory	C Yang
2 nd <i>Den.</i> Saigon X Ausie Victory	C Yang
3 rd <i>Den.</i> Elanora X Ausie Victory	C Yang

Seedling 1st Flowering

1 st <i>Slc.</i> Mahalo Jack X <i>Slc.</i> California Apricot 'Orange Circle'	C Yang
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Club
Cultural
Certificate



Best In Section



PROGRESSIVE COMPETITION RESULTS APRIL 2011

OPEN	J Doney	4	A Krepp	4
G Trainor	80 B Orwin	4	S Kell	1
M & B Larkin	78 J Laurent	3		
T P Nguyen	64 B Nitz	3	Gerald McGrath Mem.	
D Zontanos	45 K Smith	1	Trophy - Best Species	
J & E Krens	33		T P Nguyen	8
B Larkin	32	INTERMEDIATE	J W Skews	6
J W Skews	32 W Clark	55	D Weise	5
C Luth	26 H Wagstaff	25	M Coker	4
F Fraser	21 T Jones	20	G Trainor	2
L Porter	21 G George	16	Laurel & Ray Lobb Mem.	
D Weise	20 M Fong	11	Trophy - Best Cat.All.Hybr.	
M Coker	19 F & B Coysh	4	M & B Larkin	17
A & M Goode	16	NOVICE	G Trainor	5
P & G Young	12 G Blake	24	B Larkin	1
I Maher	11 C Yang	17	C Luth	1
B & L Milligan	11 A McCormick	7		
G Oesch	8			

(Continuation of *Phaius australis* story - page 7)

The NSW Government Scientific Committee, in its recovery plan for this species, records that there are currently about 14 known populations of this orchid in the State, noting that most have only a few individuals. They estimate a total of only about 180 plants known in the wild. They state the main threats are from land clearing and the illegal collection of plants. As orchid enthusiasts regard the species as one of the most desirable species for their collections and exploitation of the wild populations is a continuing and constant threat. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the species is likely to become extinct in nature in NSW unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.

The exact location of these Kempsey plants remains secret, but thankfully their numbers are on the increase. A couple of

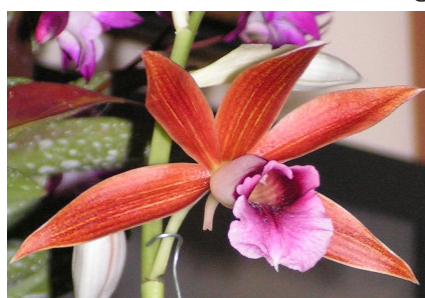
years ago, the Aboriginal elders presented two nurserymen Hans Schaible of Dark Star Orchids and Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchid Nursery with a division each off two separate clones. This was so they could be artificially propagated, with genuine plants ultimately made available to orchid enthusiasts as well as the potential for the reintroduction of plants into the wild.

The Tinonee plant, known as *Phaius australis* 'Jidaanga' is growing very strongly and flowered in October 2010. Ray Clement took the photographs that are shown with this article, which I thank him for. The spent flower stems were sent to a specialist laboratory in Thailand for mass production via tissue culture off the dormant eyes on the fleshy inflorescence. Lab reports have confirmed that this was successful with flasks of mericlones expected within 12 months.

It is hoped that the first batch of young plants will be available to orchid growers towards the end of 2013. Thereby they will have an exact replica of the plant in the accompanying photographs from a known location (Kempsey, NSW), now regarded as the verified southern point of its distribution. Furthermore, they will be genuine Australian plants, current examples benched as Australian plants are highly suspect and of doubtful origin. Furthermore, orchid judges, and show marshals once and for all should no longer accept *Phaius tancarvilleae* as an Australian species.

This example highlights the fact that sometimes the best way of saving a rare plant species is to enlist the help of a professional nurseryman.

David Banks Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



Editor comment:
I'm confused. Do I understand that our *Phaius tankervilleae* (left) is now a *Phaius tancarvilleae* (non Australian)?

M.E.O.S. Winter Show Conditions - 10 June 2011

1. Entries are free and open to members of all clubs.
2. Setting up will commence at 1.00pm on Friday, 10th June. All exhibits must be in position by 6.30pm to enable judging to take place at 7.00pm.
3. All orchids shown must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for not less than 9 months immediately prior to the show.
4. A seedling is defined as the entire plant grown from seed flowering for the first time. Minimum flower count does not apply.
5. Two or more growers from the one property or plant house must show as a single exhibitor.
6. Exhibitors may show in the Section in which they show at meetings.
7. Judging will be conducted under Orchid Societies Council of Victoria rules.
8. The Judge's decision is final.
9. If no exhibit is worthy of a prize, the judges have the power to withhold the prize.
10. All plants submitted for judging are to be clearly labelled on their respective section coloured label card with the correct name of the plant accurately spelt. This label must be clearly readable from 2 metres, accurately indicating the plants to be judged. The exhibitor number allotted must be placed in the lower right-hand corner of the label card. For plants with the same name, a number (#1, #2) should be added to the name.
11. Plants must be accessible for close scrutiny by the judges or they may not be judged.
12. All classes, which have been marked Notifiable (N) on this schedule, must be notified by the exhibitor on the form provided. All 'N' class plants will be identified by a coloured disk appropriate to the class, which must be placed on the bottom left-hand corner of the label card. Only plants thus labelled will be judged in that particular Class.
13. Plants entered in "Groups of Three" must display a yellow disk on the label card.
14. Extra classes may be created at the discretion of the judging panel or by the Show Marshall or his appointee.
15. No flowers other than Orchids or Anthuriums are permitted.
16. A plant suspected by the M.E.O.S. Virus Committee of being affected by virus is NOT acceptable for Competition or sales bench. Such plants will be isolated from all other plants and must be removed by the grower immediately on notification of said conditions.
17. The Show Committee or its appointee reserves the right to reject, remove or rearrange any exhibit.
18. The utmost care will be taken to satisfy exhibitors and to care for plants, however the M.E.O.S. Committee accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may occur.
19. No person, including exhibitors, is permitted to handle any flower or plant during the Show. Should any attention be necessary, the exhibitor must be accompanied by the Show Marshall or his appointee.
20. Names, catalogues, etc. shall not be placed on any exhibit prior to judging.
21. All plants eligible for judging may be judged for Champion and Reserve Champion of the Show.
22. Class Label Cards: Open (Green) Intermediate (Yellow) Novice (Blue).
23. Class Label Cards will be available at the next two meetings and at the hall on set up day.
24. **Basket Displays**
No larger than 600mm. May contain no more than 10 orchid plants. Foliage plants may be used (Plants must have name tag and number, to be judged.)

Sales Plants

25. All plants become the property of the M.E.O.S. Committee for the duration of the Show. At the end of the Show they are returned to their owners. No plants or flowers may be removed from the Show without the permission of the Show Marshall, or until closing time as declared by the Show Marshall or his appointee. Plants in the sales area will be released at a later time, after being booked out by the sales area staff.
26. It is the responsibility of all exhibitors to make their own transport arrangements.
27. Submission of plants to the Sales Bench is reserved for exhibitors only. For each plant exhibited, five (5) plants up to a maximum of twenty (20) plants per exhibitor are permitted on the set up day. On succeeding days plants may be accepted at the discretion of the Sales Manager or his appointee. All plants must be in the pot for at least **9 months** prior to the Show. Only plants in good condition will be accepted for sale.

WINTER SHOW SCHEDULE JUNE 2011

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND AWARDS

Champion Orchid of the Show	Purple Sash	+ Prize
Champion Open Section	Red Sash	+ Prize
Champion Intermediate Section	Red Sash	+ Prize
Champion Novice Section	Red Sash	+ Prize
Champion Orchid by a Non-Commercial Grower	Green Sash	+ Prize
Champion Paphiopedilum Hybrid	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Cymbidium Hybrid	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Cattleya Hybrid	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Australian Native Hybrid	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Any Other Hybrid	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Species	Blue Sash	+ Prize
Champion Specimen (Any Genera)	Blue Sash	+ Prize

Classes will be judged for each of the three Sections of Exhibitors - 1. Open 2. Intermediate 3. Novice

Open Exhibitors.	Green name cards
Intermediate Exhibitors	Yellow name cards
Novice Exhibitors	Blue name cards
Class 'N' (Nominated Classes)	Name cards marked with Gold Star or Disk

PAPHIOPEDILUMS	1	Green -White or Yellow -Exhibition Type
Hybrids only	2	Red- Exhibition Type
	3	Spotted - Exhibition Type
	4	Maudiae
	5	Multi -flowered
	6	Novelty Type
	N 7	Seedling Flowering for the First Time
CYMBIDIUMS	8	Large
Hybrids only	9	Intermediate
	10	Miniature
	N11	Seedling Flowering for the First Time
CATTLEYA	12	Cattleya Green, White or Yellow
ALLIANCE	13	Cattleya Mauve, Purple or Red
Hybrids	14	Any Other Colour
	15	Cluster
	16	Novelty
OTHER GENERA	17	Vanda Alliance
Hybrids	18	Phalaenopsis
	19	Masdevallia
	20	Dendrobium other than Australian Native
	21	Odontoglossum Alliance
	22	Miltonia
	23	Oncidium
	24	Zygopetalum
	25	Hybrid not listed elsewhere
	N26	Seedling Flowering for the First Time (not Cymbidium or Paphiopedilum)
AUSTRALIAN NATIVES	27	Epiphytic - Hybrid Pink
	28	Epiphytic - Hybrid Yellow
	29	Epiphytic - Hybrid - Any Other Colour
	30	Epiphytic - Species
	31	Terrestrial - Species or Hybrids
SPECIES	32	Paphiopedilum
	33	Cymbidium
	34	Laeliinae
	35	Masdevallia
	36	Any Other Species
DISPLAY	37	Basket Display
SPECIMEN PLANT	38	(ANY GENERA)