THE NEMOS NEWS

May 2012. Issue no. 230

The monthly newsletter of the
North East Melbourne Orchid Society Inc.
President: Michael Coker
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NEMOS meets on the third Monday of each month at the Marwal Centre,
9-11 Marwal Avenue, Balwyn North (Mel. 46-B3). Culture Corner, the early session for new growers, commences at 7.15 pm.
The main meeting begins at 8.00 pm.
Visitors are welcome.

THE NEXT MEETING

NEMOS treasurer **John Skews** will show us a collection of short films, 45 minutes of nostalgia, fun and orchids: an **Orchid Tropfest.**

Alan Hope's topic in Culture Corner (7.15 pm start) is **Caring for Cymbidiums and other Orchids during Winter.**

THE NEMOS WINTER SHOW

Members are reminded that our Winter Show will be held in the Bulleen Heights School Hall next month. Set-up will be from 4.00 pm to 6.45 pm on Friday, 22 June, and the show will be open to the public from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, 23 June and from 10 am until 4 pm on Sunday 24 June. More details and the show schedule will be included in the June newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MAY 2012

Hello everyone! Our next bus trip has finally been locked-in. On Saturday 26 May we will head off to Castle Creek Orchids, in Merrigum (near Shepparton). The plan is to meet our coach in the grounds of The Manningham Club, Bulleen (Melways 32-D10) – enter the grounds from Bulleen Road and park near the coach. We plan to leave at 9:30am sharp so please don't be late as ***the coach won't wait***! The trip will be held in conjunction with Maroondah Orchid Society – so I hope there will be around 30 people in total. We will ask for the names of interested NEMOS people at our May meeting. The cost will be only $15 per attendee – great value!

I thank Frances Wilde, our guest speaker for March, for her wonderful presentation on Sarcochilus culture. Not only did we all learn some very useful tips on cultivation of one of our favourite Australian Native genera, but we saw some of the fabulous breeding lines that are currently being pursued. My personal view is that Sarcochilus is a greatly ***underrated*** genus – its species and hybrids are easy to grow, rewarding and very attractive. Recent breeding has greatly enhanced the range of colours and patterning – so the clear lesson is to get some, or more, Sarcochilus for your collection.

As I noted at the April meeting, we are making a real effort to improve the quality of our raffles. There will be around $40 of newly purchased plants at each meeting on the raffle table. These will mostly be cool/cold growing quality plants. I encourage you all to support the raffle with its extra prizes. The raffle is designed to cover our hall hire cost, which in all honesty it hasn't come close to doing for years; nevertheless – it does contribute to that cost, and the more money we make, especially now that we're paying for extra prizes, the healthier our Society will be.

Our 2012 growing competition plant is now available. Brian writes elsewhere in this edition about *Oncidesa* Golden King, and provides his suggestions about its culture. I agree completely with him that you should all grow it according to your own environment and conditions – take others' advice, but don't take any single suggestion as the panacea to all your growing issues; work out what will suit your situation best!

I also noted at our April meeting that we will be introducing 'name change cards' to our meetings. If the Judges think that a plant on the show bench is not correctly named, they may leave a card on it suggesting an alternative name. It may be a new genus name (such as suggesting *Oncidium* instead of *Odontoglossum*) or a new varietal name (such as suggesting *alexandrae* instead of *crispum*). Please don't be offended if you find your plant with one of these cards on it – feel free to ignore the name change (which, I understand, you can do if you're over 70 ☺), or choose to embrace it!

The list of OSCOV Society Shows for 2012 is attached to this newsletter. I encourage everyone to go to as many shows as they can. Not only does this support other kindred

Societies, but doing so will greatly enrich your orchid experience (and possibly also your collection!). Regards to you all, and see you in May! MJC

THE MYSTERIOUS *Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana* by Michael Coker

At our April meeting, I explained what has recently happened to the species *Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana*, and how this change has affected certain hybrids in the genus *Miltonia*. The explanation is inherently complex, so I've written a brief article to clarify the situation.

Miltonia spectabilis is a species from Brazil, first officially named in 1837. Most forms of *Miltonia spectabilis* are white or light pink in colour (there is also an alba form) but a special very dark pink form of *Miltonia spectabilis* was also collected, and named *Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana* in 1848. Much breeding was subsequently undertaken with this *moreliana* variety, producing hybrids such as *Miltonia* Guanabara, *M.* Belvedere and *M.* Anne Warne.

However, it was quite recently decided (quite possibly by the RHS or Kew Gardens) that *Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana* should be afforded independent species status as recognised by its 1848 varietal recognition. Therefore *Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana* became *Miltonia moreliana*. This would have been OK but for the fact that many miltonia hybrids have been registered with names based on their parentage as *Miltonia spectabilis*, not *Miltonia moreliana*.

By way of example, as noted at the April meeting, *Miltonia* Bluntii has been registered as *Miltonia clowesii* x *Miltonia spectabilis*. However, the variety of *Miltonia spectabilis* used to make *Miltonia* Bluntii will have impacted significantly on the colour of the resultant hybrid – some plants of *Miltonia* Bluntii will clearly have used the now recognised *Miltonia moreliana* rather than the traditional white or light pink *Miltonia spectabilis* as one of its parents.

From the perspective of plant nomenclature this means, generally speaking, that a dark pink *Miltonia* Bluntii is most likely to be *Miltonia clowesii* x *Miltonia moreliana*, whereas a lighter-coloured *Miltonia* Bluntii is most likely to be *Miltonia clowesii* x *Miltonia spectabilis*. To confuse matters further, *Miltonia clowesii* x *Miltonia moreliana* has now been formally registered (in 2009) as *Miltonia* Wine Leopard FCA. Quite a silly name, yes – but if you have a dark pink *Miltonia* Bluntii, it is quite likely to be *Miltonia* Wine Leopard FCA. I dread to think what the new names of *Miltonia* Guanabara, *M.* Belvedere and *M.* Anne Warne will be as OrchidWiz hasn't caught up with developments yet – but stay tuned. I hope this clarifies any confusion! MJC

Miltonia moreliana 'Campbell' HCC/OSCOV

ANOTHER ORCHID NAME CHANGE

Some readers will have *Miltassia* Estrelita in their collections. I recently had occasion to look up its parentage on the RHS web site, and was surprised to learn that this well-known hybrid no longer exists – at least not under the above name! It has been given the new name *Bratonia* Estrelita, even though the names of its parents are still *Brassia maculata* and *Miltonia regnellii*. The hybrid was first registered as *Miltassia* Estrelita in 1962. There are now 163 hybrids in the genus *Bratonia*. The old genus name was made from a partial combination of its parent genera (***Milt****onia* and *Br****assia***), while the new name is a partial combination of ***Bra****ssia* and *Mil****tonia***. BM

OUR NEW SEEDLING: *Oncidesa* Golden King

While the labels on the new seedlings issued as part of our regular seedling competition at the last meeting read *Oncidium* Golden Kin, it should have read *Oncidesa* Golden King (not Kin, which is apparently a typo made on the printed labels). Recent name changes of some of its parents means that it is now correctly called *Oncidesa* Golden King. An *Oncidesa* is the intergeneric hybrid between the natural genera *Oncidiu*m and *Gomesa.* Two of Golden King's ancestors (*Oncidium varicosum* and *Oncidium flexuosum*) have recently been renamed *Gomesa varicosa* and *Gomesa flexuosa*; thus the hybrid genus name must be changed from *Oncidium* to *Oncidesa*.

Incidentally, our growing competition plants are mericlones, which in theory are identical in all respects. The plants, as received, were planted in a mixture of moss and perlite which, in my opinion, will retain two much moisture during winter. I have therefore re-potted my plant in medium-sized pine bark, which will dry out much more quickly than moss after watering. Others may not share my view, and it will be interesting to compare the progress of plants potted in different media. BM

ANOTHER MYSTERY MEMBER

One of these happy sailors is now a member of NEMOS. Which one? And where and when was the photograph taken?

HOW TO GROW PAPHIOPEDILUMS

One in a Series of NEMOS Cultural Notes

Paphiopedilums, commonly known as slipper orchids, are among our most popular orchids. In nature they are found in many of the countries located immediately to the north of Australia, the highest concentrations being found in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as in southern China and northern India. While we tend to think of these regions as being tropical and therefore hot all year round, most paphiopedilums grow in mountainous regions where the high elevation, constant air movement and shading by trees reduce temperatures to more temperate levels. Accordingly, many species paphiopedilums can be grown satisfactorily in cool to warm protected conditions, while those hybrids with cool-growing species in their parentage will tolerate even cooler conditions.

Housing. Given Melbourne's climate of hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters, paphiopedilums require some protection throughout the year. In summer the plants need to be shaded to avoid sunburn and excessive heat, while in winter protection is required from rain, hail, frosts and low temperatures. A heated glasshouse is best for those with a large collection of paphiopedilums, while small collections can be grown perfectly well indoors on a shaded windowsill or bench. If desired, the plants may be moved outdoors in summer to a well-shaded position, and placed above ground level to ensure good air movement.

Air Movement and Light. Paphiopedilums appreciate good air movement. In a glasshouse this can be provided by means of an electric fan; indoors the plants should be placed in an airy position but not in a draught. Good light is also important but avoid placing the plants in direct sunlight shining through the window, as this can burn the leaves and stunt growth.

Watering. Paphiopedilums prefer a damp (but not soggy) mix, and their pots should never be allowed to dry out completely. Watering is required throughout the year, usually once each week in winter and two or three times a week in summer, depending upon the weather. After watering, use paper towelling to soak up any water that may have collected in the centre of the growths.

Potting Mixes and Re-potting. Paphiopedilums grow well in small pots and should never be over-potted. While large plants can be left in the same mix for up to two years, smaller plants respond well to annual re-potting, preferably in spring. A bark-based mix (5-10 mm) provides quick drainage. Fortnightly applications of liquid fertiliser at half the

manufacturer's recommendation will ensure good growth and regular flowering. NEMOS

POTTING MIXES

If you ask for orchid potting mix at a nursery today, you are almost certain to be offered a choice of pine bark or coir (coconut fibre). Neither are "mixes", one comprising the chopped bark from pine trees (usually *Pinus radiata*) and the other the chopped husk of the coconut. The most suitable bark will have been "composted" to remove most of the tannins (which are toxic to plants) and to make it more water absorbent, while the coir will have been soaked in water (often sea water) for the same reasons. I always soak coir in water several times to remove any salt present, and sometimes also wash bark with water before use. I have used both materials successfully for many (but not all) orchids but have a preference for bark. The main advantage of coir over bark in my old age is that it comes in lighter packages!

When I first began growing orchids over 30 years ago, orchid potting mixes really were mixes. Pine bark was slowly being introduced, and coir had apparently fallen out of favour since its first use in the 1890s! (I learnt this during Frances Wilde's talk at our last meeting). In his first book, entitled *Growing Orchids* (*Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums*), published by Jim Rentoul in 1980, he advocated the use of a potting mix comprising peat moss, rice hulls or peanut shells and gravel for cymbidiums. He used the same mix for paphiopedilums but recommended top-dressing the mix with lime to combat acidity.

Earlier in the twentieth century, *Osmunda* fern fibre (the chopped roots) was regarded as one of the best potting media for many orchids, especially in Europe and America. Early supplies came first from Ireland and then eastern USA but the supply eventually ran out. I remember many years ago Gerald McCraith showing me some that he had imported from England in the 1950s.

Tan bark was also used as one of the components of a potting mix sold in Adelaide at that time. Tan bark is the waste product left after wattle bark has been soaked with lime to remove tannins, which were then used to tan leather. (This vegetable tanning process has now largely been replaced by mineral tanning with chromium salts).

In the nineteenth century, a mixture of fibrous peat and live *Sphagnum* moss was one of the more common potting mixes used in England, although fern roots (*Polypodium* sp.) were gaining popularity towards the end of the century. *Sphagnum* moss has always been regarded as an excellent potting mix for orchid seedlings but has the disadvantage of needing replacement every year or two. I once used moss as the sole mix for my disas, until it became unprocurable during the long drought here in Victoria and also in Tasmania, from where I imported the moss). Moss is best used in small pots, as it becomes water-logged in large pots.

This article mentions only those materials which have been widely used in potting mixes for epiphytic orchids. Others that have had more fleeting popularity include sequoia bark (from the American west coast), charcoal, perlite, and scoria, to name just a few. Over the years virtually every natural and industrial waste product has been tried as a component of orchid potting mixes, the main criterion being that it was cheap and easily available! BM

SPANISH MOSS

Some orchid growers have masses of this unusual plant hanging from their shade-house roof. It has few special requirements, and multiplies quite rapidly under favourable conditions. However, it dislikes iron, and therefore should not be hung from an iron nail or using iron wire. I prefer to hang it from the branch of a tree, using a piece of string or plastic-covered wire. Its characteristic grey leaves turn green when wet but the plant can manage without watering, surviving on natural rainfall and on moisture that it absorbs from the atmosphere at other times. When suspended among other mounted plants it serves a useful role by helping to maintain a humid atmosphere.

Spanish moss growing under a tree in my front garden

Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneiodes*) is not a true moss, being one of over 400 species of *Tillandsia*, which are members of the pineapple family (Bromeliaceae). In nature it grows from mid-USA to as far south as Argentina and Chile. It often featured in the scenery of early films made in Florida and Louisiana.

Plants of Spanish moss appear to carry hundreds or even thousands of leaves but if you look closely you will find that your plant consists of many small plants joined together. Each plant has only three leaves and is linked to its immediate neighbour by a slightly withered stem. Individual plants flower only once; the tiny green flowers are hidden among the mass of leaves, and soon wither and die. There are two varieties of Spanish moss, one with much finer foliage than the other, the coarser sometimes being labelled as variety *maxima*. BM

COOL-GROWING SPECIES ORCHIDS

Occasionally I'm asked what species orchids can be grown outdoors without heat. I grow (or have grown) all of the following species orchids in a "cosy" shade-house in Melbourne. The shade house has a fibreglass roof, which I cover with a layer of shade cloth (shade factor, 50%) between late April and early May. A few may do a little better if provided with warmth in winter but most will do as well without.

Species from Central and South America
Arpophyllum spicatum
Cattleya intermedia 'alba' (but not the pink 'type' species)
Epidendrum polybulbon
Gongora galeata
Laelia anceps and *L. gouldiana*
Lycaste aromatica
Masdevallia coccinea and *M. veitchiana*
Maxillaria porphyrostele and *M. sophronitis*
Osmoglossum pulchellum
Stanhopea tigrina and *S. nigroviolacea*

Species from South Africa
Disa uniflora
Satyrium candidum
Stenoglottis longifolia and S. woodii

Species from Europe
Serapias lingua
Species from Asia
Coelogyne cristata, C. flaccida and *C. mooreana*
Dendrobium nobile, D. regium and D. moniliforme
Neofinetia falcata
Pleione formosana (P. bulbocodioides)
Thunia marshalliana.
These are just some of the exotic (overseas) species that I grow outdoors. If you want a collection of orchids that will provide flowers for twelve months of the year, and tremendous variety both in plants and flowers, then species orchids are the way to go. BM

CALAMITIES

Present day orchid growers occasionally face calamitous situations, such as severe hail storms, which may destroy glasshouse panes and even shatter polycarbonate or other plastic material used for cladding greenhouses. At least we're unlikely to suffer the same fate as Mr. Pitt, an amateur grower living close to railway lines in England in 1922. At that time plastics in general and modern shade cloth in particular were unknown, and a light cotton material was used instead. Apparently sparks from a passing steam locomotive set the blinds on one glasshouse alight, the blaze then

spreading to four adjoining glasshouses and cracking over a hundred panes of glass!

Much more serious was the destruction wreaked on Belgian glasshouses in the closing stages of World War 1 in 1918. At that time there was a thriving orchid industry in Belgium. The largest nursery was that of Sander and Sons at Bruges but Theodor Pauwels and Charles Vuylsteke also owned substantial establishments (many readers will be familiar with *Cymbidium* Pauwelsii and the hybrid genus *Vuylstekeara*).

Vuylsteke managed to preserve his famous odontoglossum collection during the war by heating his glasshouses with wood obtained by chopping down 200 large trees on his property, and Pauwels also managed to keep many of his plants alive for most of the war. Unfortunately Pauwel's nursery was located close to railway yards, an airfield and an ammunition dump, so the German forces made a last-ditch stand there, only 300 m from the nursery. Two days before the armistice was signed, the allied forces carried out a massive bombardment of the German lines, in the process totally destroying Pauwel's nursery and residence. Severe frosts on the next two nights finished off those orchids that survived the bombardment, and a famous collection of breeding plants built up over 25 years was lost.

Orchid growers on the other side of the English Channel also suffered war damage, although none fared as badly as Pauwel's nursery and (to a lesser extent) Sander's establishment at Bruges. Charles Curtis, orchid curator at Kew Gardens and later editor of *The Orchid Review* for many years, had his private orchid collection destroyed by bombs twice – once during World War 1 and again during World War 2!

The main problem for British nurserymen was the lack of coal and oil to heat their premises. At the commencement of World War 2 many sent part of their breeding stock abroad to USA and Australia for safety. No doubt the American and Australian growers with whom the plants were entrusted made good use of them for breeding purposes, events which in part led to the great expansion of the orchid industry in those countries at the expense of later English operations. BM

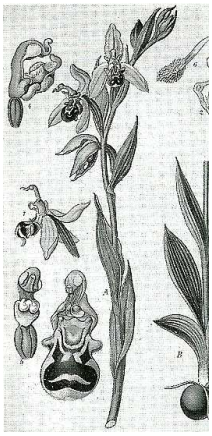
LONGEVITY of ORCHID FLOWERS

Why did Nature design some orchid flowers to last longer than others? What was her purpose in designing cymbidium flowers to last two or three months but stanhopea flowers to last for less than a week? Not to delight cymbidium growers and frustrate stanhopea growers, I assure you!

No, orchid flowers were designed with the express purpose of attracting pollinators (usually insects) to start the chain of events that leads ultimately to the production of seed. Those flowers that are visited infrequently by their pollinators must last much longer than those that attract swarms of pollinators as soon as they open.

Stanhopea flowers have an overpowering 'perfume' that is no doubt highly attractive to the swarms of euglossine bees that pollinate them in nature. This combination of factors (many pollinators, all strongly attracted) ensures that at least some of the flowers are pollinated within a day or two. The native bees that pollinate Australia's three native cymbidiums species probably visit a variety of flowers in their search for nectar, and happen upon cymbidium flowers only occasionally. These flowers must remain open long enough for this occasional event to occur.

Usually the flowers of the European terrestrial orchid *Ophrys apifera* are pollinated by male bees, attracted both by the odour of a sex attractant and by the similarity of the labellum to the body of a female bee. The bee's visit to a second flower results in the transfer of pollen from one plant to another (out-crossing).



Ophrys apifera

But *Ophrys apifera* has a fail-safe mechanism to ensure that its flowers are pollinated, even if no pollinator comes along. If the flower begins

to wilt before attracting a male bee, the pollinia are ejected on their stalks, so that they dangle down onto the stigma, and cause self-pollination. Many Australian orchid species resort to self-pollination if insect pollination is unsuccessful, and a few are wholly adapted to self-pollination.

Exactly why some orchid flowers are able to last so much longer than others is not clear to me. Long-lasting flowers are said to have a smooth surface layer (cuticle) which is tough but elastic, and/or a waxy surface layer. But that is exactly how I would describe the surface of a stanhopea flower, yet it wilts within a few days! BM

The above article first appeared in the October 1994 issue of THE NEMOS NEWS.

SHOW-BENCH RESULTS FOR APRIL

OPEN SECTION

INTERMEDIATE CYMBIDIUM
1st. Enzan Summer T. Jones
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES
1st. *Den. bigibbum* v. compactum S. Giarrusso
2nd. *Bulbo. exiguum* A. Hope
CATTLEYA: EXHIBITION TYPE
1st. *Rlc*. Mem. Bill Lihou J. Skews
CATTLEYA: NOVELTY TYPE
1st. *C.* Fitz Eugene Dixon 'Paradise' S. Giarrusso
2nd. *C.* Mini Purple 'Tamami' J. Skews
3rd. *C.* Little Susie T. Jones
MILTONIA
1st. Guanabara B. & L. Milligan
2nd. (Guanabara x Anne Warne) B. & L. Milligan
ONCIDIUM
1st. *Cyrtocidium* Rustic Surprise M. Coker
PAPHIOPEDILUM: EXHIBITION TYPE
1st. (Keyes Hill x Incredible) A. Hope
PAPHIOPEDILUM: NOVELTY TYPE
1st. Crossianum A. Hope
2nd. Swanilda S. Tsoumbakos
3rd. Silvara ?
PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES
1st. *P. barbatum* A. Hope
2nd. *P. wardii* 'alba' M. Coker
PHALAENOPSIS
1st. (Karla's Blush x Taisuco Smile) J. Skews
SPECIES: AMERICAN
1st. *Miltonia moreliana* 'Campbell' M. Coker
2nd. *Gomesa* (*Oncidium*) *forbesii* B. & L. Milligan
3rd. *Ornithophora radicans* M. Coker
SPECIES: ASIAN
1st. *Bulbo. rothschildianum* M. Coker
2nd. *Bulb. sanguineopunctatum* J. Skews
3rd. *Dendrobium subclausum* M. Coker
SPECIES: ANY OTHER
1st. *Stenoglottis longifolia* B. & L. Milligan
2nd. *Stenoglottis longifolia* A. Hope
3rd. *Aeranthes arachnites* B. & L. Milligan
ANY OTHER HYBRID
1st. *Brassia* Edvah Loo T. Jones
2nd. *Bratonia* (syn. *Miltassia*) Estrelita B. & L. Milligan
3rd. (*Zygopabstia* Elfin Jade x *Zygo*. John Banks) = *Zygopabstia* Discworld S. Giarrusso
BEST SEEDLING FLOWERING FIRST TIME
1st. *Paph.* (Luther Slaughter x Campbell McPherson) M. Coker
2nd. *Sarco*. (Velvet x *spathulatum*) = *Sarco*. Zyzzy M. Pender

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES
1st. *Liparis reflexa* R. & M. Thomson
2nd. *Acianthus pusilla* R. & M. Thomson
3rd. *Pterostylis obtusa* R. & M. Thomson
MILTONIA
1st. Honolulu 'Warne's Best' S. Munday
PAPHIOPEDILUM: NOVELTY TYPE
1st. Harrisianum J. Newitt
SPECIES: AMERICAN
1st. *Spiranthes odorata* R. & M. Thomson
SPECIES: ASIAN
1st. *Dendrochilum uncatum* M. Newitt
SPECIES: ANY OTHER
1st. *Stenoglottis longifolia* I. Forrest
2nd. *Stenoglottis fimbriata* R. & M. Thomson
3rd. *Stenoglottis longifolia* R. & M. Thomson
ANY OTHER HYBRID
1st. *Zygo*. Blackii 'Negus' T. Eastaugh
2nd. *Zygo.* Blue Lake 'Sandown' I. Forrest

NOVICE SECTION

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID
1st. *Den*. (DUNO Burgundian Sheen x Aussie Victory) J. Nolan
MILTONIA
1st. Belvedere J. Nolan
2nd. Honolulu 'Warne's Best' J. Quinn
3rd. (Guanabara x *spectabilis*) = Belvedere M. Lagos
SPECIES: AMERICAN
1st. *Laelia pumila* (now *Cattleya pumila*) M. Lagos
2nd. *Oncidium sotoanum* R. & C. Dalgleish
3rd. *Osmoglossum pulchellum* R. & C. Dalgleish
ANY OTHER HYBRID
1st. *Zygo*. Artur Elle 'Frances' M. Lagos

THE BIG WINNERS

BEST IN OPEN SECTION & JUDGES' VOTE
Miltonia moreliana 'Campbell' Michael Coker
BEST IN INTERMEDIATE SECTION
Zygopetalum Blackii 'Negus' Thelma Eastaugh
BEST IN NOVICE SECTION
Miltonia Belvedere Joan Nolan
BEST SEEDLING FLOWERING FIRST TIME
Paphiopedilum (Luther Slaughter x Campbell McPherson) Michael Coker
POPULAR VOTE AND BEST CULTURE
Cattleya Fitz Eugene Dixon 'Paradise'
Sebi Giarrusso

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Did you notice the name of Mike Pender's sarcochilus seedling, which was registered by N. Roper as *Sarcochilus* Zyzzy in 2009! I wonder how the registrant came to choose such a name – perhaps he was feeling sleepy at the time? I know that some people choose names beginning with the letter A because they want them to be first (or early) in any alphabetical listing but who wants to be last!

Dendrobium **JULIA GILLARD**

On 23 April *The Age* newspaper reported that "one of Singapore's famous orchids" was to be named after our Prime Minister, although its registration had not been recorded on the RHS website at that time. Unfortunately the caption to Julia's photo said that she was about to have an *orchard* named after her!