

'Cymbidium Chatter'



Cymbidium seidenfadenii 'Lyi'

Thailand form Photo: Peter Alonso

Edition 28 December 26 2020

Welcome to this edition of Cymbidium Chatter. This will be the last CC that I produce but I am very pleased to announce that Joshua White has agreed to continue publishing it in 2021 (more on this later in this edition).

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone all the best for the festive season and the New Year! Since I last put my fingers to the keyboard we have made tremendous advances in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, so much so, that here in Victoria we were almost able to enjoy a 'normal' Christmas Day. My thoughts though, are with all the people of nations throughout the world, who are doing it so much tougher! Special thoughts for our fellow Cymbidium growers in California, some of whom receive Cymbidium Chatter, they still have a long, hard road to travel but hopefully the vaccine will enable them to return to some sense of normality in the near future.

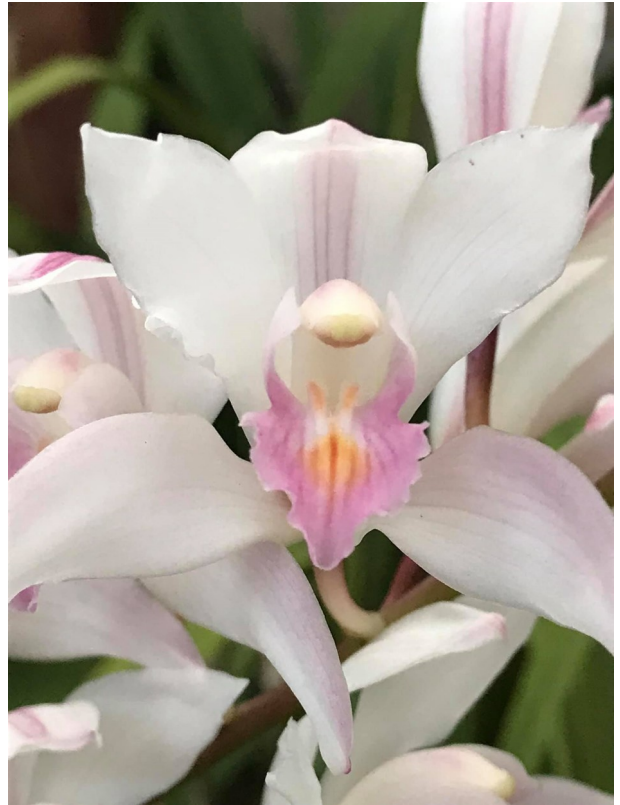
As indicated in an earlier edition of CC I am taking a break from the orchid club scene, not only COSV but all the clubs where I am a member, this includes judging and registrar duties. I will continue look after my collection but I feel as though I need a break from sitting in meetings, several times per month. I know I am going to miss the contact with you all but hopefully our paths will cross many times in the years ahead. For the time being I intend to pursue more active outdoor activities (lawn bowls, fishing, caravanning, walks along the beach etc) while I'm still fit enough to enjoy them. The greenkeeping duties at Somerville Bowls Club are certainly keeping me active and the greens themselves are certainly throwing up some challenges. Who would have thought that algae and fungal blooms would be a problem on synthetic surfaces. I am gradually winning the battle though and lowering the hedges around the perimeters of the greens, much to the disgust of some members, certainly improved the air-flow over the surface of the greens - the howling winds have certainly made bowling more of a challenge!

Thankfully the Cymbidiums are beginning to flower in the Northern Hemisphere, I have included photographs of some of the earlier flowering ones in this edition of CC. My plants are putting on tremendous growth, I think they are enjoying the weekly dose of Peters Excel Finisher. The seedlings from the two crosses that I made are finally starting to grow more evenly and I intend to grow these out to flowering stage, the challenge will be finding space for several hundred larger plants. I have promised plants of Cym Mem Ern Kettle (New Century 'Kimberley' x Plush Canyon 'Red Eye' 4n) to a couple of growers, I haven't forgotten you!

Stay safe and well, thank you for your friendship over many years!

Cymbidium seidenfadenii

Cymbidium seidenfadenii was originally considered a subspecies of *Cymbidium insigne* but it is now classified as a species in its own right. This variety differs from the typical subspecies of *Cymbidium insigne*, it is often referred to as the Thailand form. Kevin Hipkins, Royale Orchids, had several different forms of *Cym seidenfadenii* and was using it in a number of hybrid crosses, prior to his passing.



Cymbidium seidenfadenii 'Lyi' - from Thailand Photograph: Peter Alonso



Some other flower forms of *Cym seidenfadenii*





Blooming now (16/12/2020) is this *Cymbidium seidenfadenii* (Laos form). It is a very beautiful species.
Photograph and grower Peter Alonso

A *Cym seidenfadenii* hybrid

Richard Copeland a Cymbidium grower in California and a member of the Gold Coast Cymbidium Society Inc. Facebook page recently posted photographs of this attractive *Cym seidenfadenii* hybrid - Cym Point Conception 'Bayview' (*seidenfadenii* x Trigo Royale). Santa Barbara Orchid Estate were the hybridisers of this beauty.



Cym Point Conception 'Bayview'

A Primary Hybrid - *Cym seidenfadenii* x *Cym sinense*

Blooming now (18/12.2020) is Cym. sinseiden 'Ensefadenii'. Bred and registered by Kevin Hill
Photograph: Peter Alonso



A Real Eye-Catcher



Another very interesting flower from Peter Alonso. This time a first flowering seedling - Cym Bob Marlin 'Erika' x Cym Cherie 'Prolific' This was hybridised by the very talented Loren Batchman.

My first assignment as a judge was to pick the most Eye-Catching orchid on display, the Dean Roesler Award. This flower would have been a contender.

It would be interesting to see this flower on a subsequent flowering. Flower count would need to increase and heavier shading may result in a wonderful green/red contrast!

The Future of Cymbidium Chatter

While Joshua White, our youngest COSV member has agreed to produce Cymbidium Chatter in 2021, he can't do it on his own! Joshua will need your support! He is a very busy young man, who has demanding work commitments but like me he shares a belief that Cymbidium orchids deserve to be written about. Joshua showed through his contributions to CC this year, that he has a sound knowledge of the genus and he is meticulous in his research to further expand his knowledge of it and as a result all members of COSV will benefit.

Joshua is aiming to produce six copies of CC in 2021 and I have no doubt that they will be outstanding pieces of work. He is keen to address the interests of our members and has put together a survey (see link below) to better understand the types of Cymbidiums members choose to grow. Apart from our COSV members there is an ever expanding list of growers from interstate and overseas who receive CC. Joshua wants to make the editions relevant to your needs, so please take the time to respond to the survey.

For those of you who are unaware Joshua updated our COSV web page, infact he actually rebuilt the whole site. All copies of Cymbidium Chatter can be found there.

I wish Joshua well and I once again appeal to all members to support him in his efforts. You don't have to write lengthy articles but please remember, 'We all have a story to tell!' and other members will be interested in what you write and the photographs you provide.

Survey link: <https://forms.gle/JNQJCZFy9qSJqmcz6>