



## 2012 Meeting Dates

January –  
February 14  
March 13  
April 10  
May 8  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11

# The Cymbidium Newsletter

Reg No A0023705W COSV Website: [www.cosv.com.au](http://www.cosv.com.au)

## June/July 2012

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**Meetings:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except January), Mt Waverley Community Centre, Youth Centre Hall, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley (Melway 61/D12 and 70/D1). The hall is off Stephenson Road and is next to the Library.

**Meetings start at 8.00pm. Basket Supper please.**

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### \*Last Month's Meeting

Thanks to Glenda Coutts for enlightening members of what she does with her collection of orchids with the little spare time she has as she works fulltime, I am sure a lot of members find themselves in the same position, well done Glenda. We also held our annual auction at last month's meeting, thanks to everyone who donated plants and especially to all members who purchased plants at the auction, we raised over \$800 for club funds. A special thanks to Ern Kettle and his helpers for auctioning the plants.

### \*Cultural Talk this Month

As the shows will soon be here we will be having a demonstration of preparing plants for the show, many of the experienced members will know all this but as we have quite a few new and novice growers I am sure that they will find this interesting.

### \*Main Item for the evening

Greg Bryant will be our guest speaker for this month's meeting, Greg will be giving a slide presentation, please members kindly attend this meeting as it is not often we get the opportunity to have such a renowned orchid grower and hybridizer visiting our club. If any member has a friend or member from another club who would to attend they are more than welcome to join us for Greg Bryant's presentation.

### \*Condolences

On a sad note we wish to advise the passing of Noel Gard, Noel and Judy have been active members of our club for many years. Our thoughts are with Judy and family at this sad time..Our thoughts are also with David Wain and his family on the passing of David's Mother.

## **\*Cultural Notes**

As it is nearing showtime I have included an article by Alan Hope on preparing orchids for a show, which we hope you will find of some use in preparing your plants for the upcoming shows.

## **\*Growing Competition for 2012**

This is our sixth month of this year's growing competition so please bring your plants in so we can all see how they are progressing. There have not been many plants brought in each month, please members bring your plants in, the plants that have been brought in are all growing very well and members are to be congratulated for this, the plants for this year's competition are:

Mericlone – Flaming Vulcan 'XTC' grown and supplied by David Wain, this is a dark red large standard cymbidium.

Seedling: Kirby Lesh 'Pink Ice' x (Cape Banks x Red Beauty) – hybridized and grown by Colin Gillespie, this cross should give light and dark pinks and is also a large standard, the Kirby Lesh 'Pink Ice' comes from Kimberley Orchids and the Cape Banks x Red Beauty comes from Royale Orchids in Sydney.

The committee are busy sourcing plants for next year's competition and these should be available at the November meeting.

## **\*Results for the monthly competition.**

Congratulations for the winners in last month's competition the results are as follows:

Judges Vote & Best in Open - Lovely Angel 'Zeus' - Kimberley Orchids

Best in Novice & Encouragement Award - Valley Blush - Carol Hubbard

Best Miniature Seedling & Best Overall Seedling - Jessie Blakiston x Valley Olympic – A Tran

Best Small Standard Seedling Khan Flame x Traceyanum - John & Julie Forrest

Best Intermediate Seedling Evelyn Victoria x Minneken - Terry Poulton

## **\*Request from City of Monash regarding Smoking**

Our meeting Hall : 10 metres within the front and back entrances of the Hall are SMOKE FREE, kindly adhere to this requirement as this could jeopardise future leases of the Hall. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## **\*COSV Annual Seedling Competition – Sponsored by Malcolm Campbell of SAGE**

Firstly a big thank you to Malcolm Campbell for kindly sponsoring this new competition, this will be held on an annual basis as is for current seedlings in flower and will be a photographic competition, Ken West will photograph seedlings that are brought into our monthly meetings, if you are unable to attend a meeting you may submit your own photographs, we will require a photograph of a single flower and also the whole plant, final date for entry will be the end of November for more details kindly speak to a committee member.

## **\*Guest Speakers**

August Meeting: Geoff Bailey will be giving a presentation, details to follow next month.

September Meeting: Our guest speaker will be Kevin Hipkins from Royale Orchids in Sydney.

## **\*Cymbidium Orchid Festival – update by Julie Forrest**

We welcome Collectors Corner as naming rights sponsor for the show, a big thank you to Jenci Kapitany.

The show is on Saturday & Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September, set up Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am-5.00pm at the Hungarian Community Centre Boronia Rd Wantirna

A reminder we will need volunteers to help with set up & at the entrance to collect admission & sell raffle tickets.

Entries for the show will close on the **31<sup>st</sup> July**. Display Registration forms will be available at the next meeting, if you are unable to attend the meeting please email or phone Julie Forrest at [efo28308@bigpond.net.au](mailto:efo28308@bigpond.net.au) or mobile 0417339026 with you name and address and a form will be sent to you.

## **\*OSCOV Show**

This year Julie & John Forrest will be co-ordinating the COSV display at the OSCOV Show which will be held at Springers Leisure Centre on Friday, Saturday & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Set up is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. We would like as many members as possible to bench plants. Set up time & further details in next newsletter.

## **\*Plant Auction**

Southern Suburbs Orchid Society will be holding an Auction on behalf of Greg Crozier who is the husband of Rosemary Crozier who was a member of our Club, as you will recall Rosemary passed away earlier in the year, the Auction will held on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at 9.00 am for 10.00 am at 48 Barrani Street, East Bentleigh. For copies of the catalogue you can either check the following website [www.oscov.asn.au/shows.html](http://www.oscov.asn.au/shows.html) or email [southernsuburbs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:southernsuburbs@yahoo.com.au)

## **\*Annual Subscriptions**

Our annual subscriptions are overdue, if you have already paid we thank you, payment may be made at the meeting.

## **\*Website manager**

Carole Hubbard is looking after our website.

## **\*Assistance in the Kitchen at our monthly Meeting**

The Committee is appealing to members who would like to be part of running the kitchen at our meetings to speak to a committee member, this can be on a permanent or roster basis. We thank you in advance.

We kindly request you to bring a plate of eats to share at the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## PREPARING AND SHOWING ORCHID PLANTS by Alan Hope

I'm sometimes asked "How many plants will I need to set up a display?" Many Spring Show schedules provides for mini-stands (maximum of ten plants) as well as the more traditional larger displays. Obviously each will require a different number of plants but half a dozen plants would probably be adequate for a mini-stand. You need to check the area allocated for mini-stands and then practise your set-up at home. You'll be amazed at how attractive a small group of orchids can look and the satisfaction that building a display will provide! I can clearly remember my first stand as a novice. It comprised a mere nine cymbidiums plus the beautiful Australian native species *Dendrobium falcorostrum*. My stand didn't win but I gained experience and a desire to do better next time.

**Preparing Your Plants.** A well groomed and presented plant is an excellent start to winning the hearts of the judges. Cleaning and tidying-up is rather time-consuming but it is absolutely necessary. It is probably best to start with the raceme (flower spike), which should have all brown sheaths removed. In most cases the stake and ties will already be in place and you will have only to trim the ends of any ties that protrude. If the raceme requires a stake, remember to allow the raceme to follow its natural inclination. Pulling an arching or pendulous raceme upright when the flowers are partially or fully open will look unnatural, and may also cause damage.

Use a solution of detergent or Cleansel® and a small sponge or cloth to clean the leaves and the pot. But take care not to pull out the central leaves of any new growths or to damage the flowers. Any scale found on the leaves can be removed by wiping them with cotton wool soaked in methylated spirits. Remove dry husks and dead leaves by splitting them apart and then pulling each section away from the bulb separately. If any leaves have black tips or unsightly damage, you can trim them to a natural leaf-tip shape. Ensure that you sterilise any scissors or secateurs used, especially if you intend to use them on more than one plant. It's a good idea to have several pairs soaking in a sterilising solution, such as a strong solution of Tricleanium®, so as to avoid cross-infection as you move from one plant to the next. At this stage your plant should be looking great. Note its best position for viewing and insert a removable label to help you place the pot in the best orientation at set-up time.

**Labels.** You will need to label your plants according to the instructions in the show schedule. Use stiff card of the required size. White card is often used but if there are many labels, the mass of white cards is distracting. A neutral colour, such as leaf-green, results in a better overall appearance. Correct spelling and the use of large print is important, as the card should be legible when viewed from a distance of 2 m. Blu-Tac® can be used to fasten the label either to the foliage or to a stake, or you can use a piece of thin, straight wire which has a double loop at its top to hold the card.

**The Stand.** You are usually required to build your own stand, so you may need to obtain some foam boxes or to devise other structural materials. You will also need some black or green covering to hide the boxes and perhaps to disguise the pots. If the Society provides a pre-fabricated stand your job will be made a lot easier. Put your best orchid in a position where it can be clearly seen - probably in the centre at eye level. If you have a plant with pendulous spikes that extend below the base of the pot, it can be better displayed by placing the pot in a stack of pots of the same size. Alternatively, you can place the pot on top of another up-turned pot. However, in this case you will need to tape the pots together to avoid the possibility of the plant falling if its pot is bumped or moved during judging.

**Transporting Plants.** The aim is to arrive at the show venue with the flowers undamaged. Place the pots in a foam box or in a protected position in your car and ensure they can't move or topple over if you have to brake suddenly. Be careful that the racemes don't become entangled, because many a plant has been ruined when a flower is caught up as the plant is being removed from the car. Last, but not least, don't forget to check in your plants with the show marshal on arrival and receive registration numbers.