



The Cymbidium Newsletter

Reg No A0023705W COSV Website: www.cosv.com.au

February/March 2011

2011 Meeting Dates

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

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 - Catering: T.B.A.
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 - Promotions & Sales:, **Peter Sunderland** T: 5998 2535, **Colin Gillespie** T: 03 5998 2402
John Forrest T : 03 5978 6045
- Meetings:** The 2nd 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.

*Last months meeting:

Kevin Hipkins from Royale Orchids gave us a very interesting presentation on what he grows at his nursery and also had quite a few plants for sale at very reasonable prices, we thank Kevin and all the members who supported the evening it was very well attended. Kevin kindly donated two flasks of cymbidiums which we will auction at the May meeting.

*Cultural talk:

Terry Poulton and Colin Gillespie and member participation will form the cultural talk for the evening the subject will be staking and preparing your plants for the upcoming shows, please come along and join us as this is our 20th Anniversary year this will assist members especially novice growers and new members in preparing plants for our upcoming show.

*Main Item for the evening

Depending how long the cultural talk takes we will show the OSCOV Orchids of the year disc which is compiled by Steve Early and is always interesting to see which plants were chosen in each category, David Wain won the 2010 Orchid of the Year with Drouin Masterpiece 'Renaë'.

*Trading Table

The club will have a trading at this months meeting, good plants at reasonable prices, so bring your wallet along.

***Growing Competition**

Please members bring in your plants so we can see how they are doing, the plants that have been on the bench have been of very high growing standard, we are going to add a bit of history to this section, if anyone has any plants that are in flower from the last 4 years growing competition please bring them along so we can see how they are doing. I will list them in the next newsletter.

The plants in this year's competition are:

Mericlone : Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem' – dark red miniature (apologies for the incorrect name in last months newsletter)

Seedling : Lunar Wall 'Dural x Uluru 'Orange Delight' – standard cymbidium which should produce orange/yellow maybe with a bit of a splash petal.

***Bus Trip**

The bus trip will go ahead as detailed below, monies need to be paid by our next meeting, there are a few empty seats for anyone wishing to join the trip, it is an opportunity for members to visit some of our Commercial Nurseries and there will be plants on sale at all stops.

COSV Nursery Visits / Bus Trip 17th July, 2011.

The following nurseries have kindly offered to host our bus trip, Princes Way Orchids (K & B Purcell), Kimberley Orchids (P & J Sunderland) and Orchids for You (A & J Leamon)

Itinerary:

Depart Mt. Waverley Youth Centre 9.00 am

Arrive: Princes Way Orchids 10.00 am (Morning Tea Supplied) - Depart: 11.30 am

Arrive: Kimberley Orchids 12.30pm (BBQ Lunch Supplied) - Depart: 2.30pm

Arrive: Orchids for You 2.45pm - Depart: 4.00 pm

Arrive Back in Mt. Waverley approx 4.30pm

The times listed are approximate only and will be confirmed. Cost \$25.00 per head.

*** Virus Test Kits**

All the virus test kits that the Club purchased have been sold. Any member who may want them will be able to purchase from Randall Robinson.

***Results of April Plant Competition:**

Last month there were not many plants displayed, we are heading into flowering season now so the benches should be filling up nicely in the next while, these are the results for the plants displayed:

Judges Vote and Best in Open Section:

Lancifolium x Floribundum displayed by Randall Robinson.

Congratulations Randall on a plant well grown and presented.

***Monthly Raffle**

If any member would like to donate anything to our monthly raffle they are more welcome to do so, these funds all contribute to the running of your club.

NEW HORIZON ORCHIDS - Andy Easton

One of the world's leading Cymbidium hybridizers is pleased to announce that we will be an agent for their world class stock. We will receive regular flask shipments of all types of their Cymbidium seedlings: Exhibition standards, pendulous intermediates and unique types such as fragrant and heat-tolerant lines. New Horizon Orchids is represented in Australia by Ezi-Gro Orchids of WA and Atlantis Orchids and we join these leading orchid nurseries in introducing our customers to the New Horizon product.



Vivally & Noeka Kluchkovskaya

Specialising in miniatures and pendulous cymbidiums

E-mail: kluch@bigpond.com Phone: 0400 115 082

Email or phone for our free colour catalogue & a [flask list](#) for New Horizon Orchids

***Membership Fees for 2012**

The committee has decided that there will be no increase in fees for next year, your statement is enclosed with the newsletter based on your membership for this year. Please ensure that payment is received by the 1st June 2011, you can pay at the meeting on the 10th May 2011 or post to the Treasurer, details on the statement.

***Annual Raffle**

A book of 5 tickets is included with a newsletter, this is always a well supported raffle and the money raised goes towards the running of the show, as this is our 20th Anniversary Show let's make this raffle a good one, should anyone require extra books they are available from the treasurer.

***20th Anniversary Show Dinner**

At the last meeting we asked for numbers to attend the dinner and list quickly filled, the venue can only cater for 70 people, so therefore we are fully booked anyone wishing to attend who did not put their names down don't despair as we normally have a few members who can't make it, we are running a waiting list please give your names to Karen Gillespie at the next meeting, those who have booked we require full payment as soon as possible by no later than the July meeting, as a reminder the price is \$31 per head to be held at the Hungarian Community Centre on the 10th September 2011.

***20th Anniversary Show**

As this is our 20th Anniversary we are planning a very special show at the Hungarian Club, more details will be given at each meeting, this is a very big Hall and we need the support of all members to put in displays on their own or with someone else, if this is too daunting there will be a club display. Geoff Bailey is the show co-ordinator and has a team of helpers. Ken West is setting up the Hall for the displays and will require about 10 people to help him on the day of setup (9th September 2011) please let Ken know if you are able to assist. The old saying "many hands make light work" will really assist the Club to make this an excellent show.

***Cultural Notes**

It seems as if we are being pestered more than usual by pesky snails and slugs, here is an article you might find interesting.

***New Member**

We welcome Alan Goode as a new member to our Club and wish him a pleasant and enjoyable stay.

***Note from the Editor**

Colin and I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and thoughts during this sad time for our family, it is very much appreciated.



Announces the release of our
2009 cymbidium seedling flask list
Available via our website

www.barritaorchids.com.au

This list features hybrids in a wide range of colours for the
commercial and the show bench grower.

Email now to ensure you are one
of the first to view and order. Some crosses are limited in
available numbers and early ordering is a must.

Disclaimer

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Natural Slug Control

Slugs are in every garden, and cause more damage than most garden invaders. Commercial slug killers are available, but they can be toxic to birds and other wildlife, and are less effective after rain, when slugs are most active.

Before reaching for the pesticides, here are a few alternative natural, non-toxic methods of slug control:

- **Watering Schedule**

Far and away the best course of action against slugs in your garden is a simple adjustment in the watering schedule. Slugs are most active at night and are most efficient in damp conditions. Avoid watering your garden in the evening if you have a slug problem. Water in the morning - the surface soil will be dry by evening. Studies show this can reduce slug damage by 80%.

- **Beer**

Slugs are attracted to beer. Set a small amount of beer in a shallow wide jar buried in the soil up to its neck. Slugs will crawl in and drown. Take the jar lid and prop it up with a small stick so rain won't dilute the beer. Leave space for slugs to enter the trap.

- **Seaweed**

If you have access to seaweed, it's well worth the effort to gather. Seaweed is not only a good soil amendment for the garden, it's a natural repellent for slugs. Mulch with seaweed around the base of plants or perimeter of bed. Pile it on 3" to 4" thick - when it dries it will shrink to just an inch or so deep. Seaweed is salty and slugs avoid salt. Push the seaweed away from plant stems so it's not in direct contact. During hot weather, seaweed will dry and become very rough which also deters the slugs.

- **Copper**

Small strips of copper can be placed around flower pots or raised beds as obstructions for slugs to crawl over. Cut 2" strips of thin copper and wrap around the lower part of flower pots, like a ribbon. Or set the strips in the soil on edge, making a "fence" for the slugs to climb. Check to make sure no vegetation hangs over the copper which might provide a 'bridge' for the slugs. Copper barriers also work well around wood barrels used as planters.

- **Diatomaceous Earth**

Diatomaceous earth is the sharp, jagged skeletal remains of microscopic creatures. It lacerates soft-bodied pests, causing them to dehydrate. A powdery granular material, it can be sprinkled around garden beds or individual plants, and can be mixed with water to make a foliar spray.

Diatomaceous earth is less effective when wet, so use during dry weather. Wear protective gear when applying, as it can irritate eyes and lungs. Be sure to buy natural or agricultural grade diatomaceous earth, not pool grade which has smoother edges and is far less effective.

- **Lava Rock**

Like diatomaceous earth, the abrasive surface of lava rock will be avoided by slugs. Lava rock can be used as a barrier around plantings, but should be left mostly above soil level, otherwise dirt or vegetation soon forms a bridge for slugs to cross.

- **Salt**

If all else fails, go out at night with the salt shaker and a flashlight. Look at the plants which have been getting the most damage and inspect the leaves, including the undersides. Sprinkle a bit of salt on the slug and it will kill it quickly. Not particularly pleasant, but use as a last resort. (Note: some sources caution the use of salt, as it adds a toxic element to the soil. This has not been our experience, especially as very little salt is used.)

- **Overtured Flowerpots, Grapefruit Halves, Board on Ground**

Overtured flowerpots, with a stone placed under the rim to tilt it up a bit, will attract slugs. Leave overnight, and you'll find the slugs inside in the morning. Grapefruit halves work the same way, with the added advantage of the scent of the fruit as bait.

Another trap method, perhaps the simplest of all, is to set a wide board on the ground by the affected area. Slugs will hide under the board by day. Simply flip the board over during the day to reveal the culprits. Black plastic sheeting also works the same way.

- **Garlic-based slug repellents**

Laboratory tests at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (UK) revealed that a highly refined garlic product (ECOguard produced by ECOspray Ltd, a British company that makes organic pesticides) was an effective slug killer. Look for garlic-based slug deterrents which will be emerging under various brand names, as well as ECOguard.

- **Coffee grounds; new caffeine-based slug/snail poisons**

Coffee grounds scattered on top of the soil will deter slugs. The horticultural side effects of using strong grounds such as espresso on the garden, however, are less certain. When using coffee grounds, moderation is advised.

A study in June 2002 reported in the journal Nature found that slugs and snails are killed when sprayed with a caffeine solution, and that spraying plants with this solution prevents slugs from eating them. The percentage of caffeine required in a spray (1 - 2%) is greater than what is found in a cup of coffee (.05 - 0.7%), so homemade sprays are not as effective. Look for new commercial sprays which are caffeine-based.