



The Cymbidium Newsletter

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

June/July 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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 - Membership co-ordinator: **Andy Leamon** T : 03 9796 7935
 - 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:

Many thanks to Randall Robinson for his most informative slide show and talk about the plants that he saw and judged at the Santa Barbara Show in California, USA, It was thoroughly enjoyed by those members who attended.

We also had our 20th Birthday celebration with cake and quite a few foundation members were also present, a great evening was had by all.

Neutrog gave us an update on their products and a talk on their Gogo juice and also handed out 1 litre cans of the product to each member, thank you Neutrog.

*Cultural talk:

This month cultural talk will be by Terry Poulton, Terry is always interesting and entertaining, we look forward to hearing from Terry.

*Main Item for the evening

This month is our Annual Auction, please members bring along some plants for the auction, remember this is our only fund raising effort for the year, and the funds go along way to assisting with our day to day running expenses, all plants must be named, clean and in good health, please do not water the plants on the day you bring them in, as Ern Kettle would prefer not to have a shower and auction the plants at the same time.

***Growing Competition**

Please remember to bring in your plants for the growing competition, members who have been supporting this competition we thank you, by all accounts you are all growing your plants very well, we would also like you to bring in any of the last 4 years growing competition plants they do not have to be in flower, below is a list to remind members of which plants we had for our growing competition.

2007	Mericlone – Lunakira Gleam	Seedling – Kellys Winter x Khan Flame
2008	Mericlone – Foxfire Veridian ‘Stargate’	Seedling – ?? (anyone know)
2009	Mericlone – Kimberley Splash ‘Calypso’	Seedling – Alvins Star ‘Southern Ocean x Paradise Star ‘White Cloud’
2010	Mericlone – Valley Olympic ‘Pink Perfection’	Seedling – Joans Era ‘No 1’ x Kingwin ‘South Park’

The plants in this year’s competition are:

Mericlone : Radiant Ruby ‘Aussie Gem” – dark red miniature

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 SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2011**

Everyone who has booked on the bus trip, please bring suitable footwear, as we have had a lot of rain lately you might find it a bit wet at Colin and Karen Gillespies place.

ITINERY AS A REMINDER

Morning

Depart Mt. Waverley Youth Centre 9.30am

Colin & Karen Gillespie - Devon Meadows at 10.10am - 12.15pm approx (Morning Tea Supplied)

Afternoon

Kimberley Orchids - Devon Meadows 12.20pm - 3.00 pm approx. (Lunch Supplied)

Terry Poultons - Narre Warren - 3.15pm to 4.00pm approx.

Arrive back at Mt. Waverley 4.40 approx

***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 for the monthly Competition**

The number of plants being displayed is slowly increasing as more cymbidiums come into flower, so we hope to see full benches soon, the winners for last month were as follows:

Judges Vote, Best in Open and Best

Intermediate

One Tree Hill ‘Doris’

G & B Wright

Best in Novice , Best Species
And Encouragement award

Erythrostylum

Kim Hang

Best Novelty	cyperifolium x Masterii	Randall Robinson
Best Intermediate and best Seedling overall	Sleeping Sarah x Ruby Eyes	Paradisnia
Best Seedling Large Standard	Traceyanum x Khan Flame	David Wain
Best Miniature Seedling	Gladys Whitesell x Sarah Jean 'Vapour'	Paradisnia

*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 & Noela Kluchkoobey

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

Thanks to all members who have paid their subs and raffle tickets, there are still a few outstanding, those who have not yet paid, this will be your last newsletter. Payment can be made at the meeting or you can post to the treasurer.

***20th Anniversary Show Dinner**

Thanks to members who paid for their dinner at last meeting, we would like payment as soon as possible as we have members on a waiting list as all tickets were pre-sold.

***Cymbidium Orchid Festival (20th Anniversary Show)**

The COSV Show is on the Saturday & Sunday 10th & 11th September with set up on Friday 9th September from 10:00am – 5:00pm, judging commencing at 6:00pm.

The venue is the Hungarian Community Centre 760 Boronia Rd. Wantirna.

It would be wonderful if all members could put up a display stand. If you feel you are unable to put up a stand on your own why don't two or even a few of you get together and set up a stand. The hall is very large so we need to put on a great display & fill it with as many cymbidiums as possible.

If you are unable to set up a display there will be a club stand for you to put your plants on.

Also if you have plants for sale there are Trading Tables at \$60.00 per table, & again a few of you could get together and have a table between you.

There will be Display Registration & Vendor Registration forms available from Julie Forrest at the next meeting.

***Basket Supper**

Kindly bring a plate of eats to share after the meeting.

***Club Badges**

For any member who does not have a club badge these are available to order from Henk at a cost of \$12 each.

***Neutrog Order for August delivery**

We are enclosing an order form for Neutrog products, this order must be sent to the Secretary by the **1st AUGUST 2011**. **NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.** As a friendly reminder this offer is available to financial members only, and is not to be passed on to the general public as this is a breach of our contract with Neutrog. Thanks for understanding.

***COSV Website**

All members who have access to a computer please make use of our website for all the up to date news, show dates, photographs etc, we thank Geoff Bailey for all his hard work in maintaining the website.

***Cultural Notes for this month**

As we are having quite a cold period at the moment I thought an appropriate article on cold and frosty weather would interest some of our members, included is an article Brian Milligan on what to do in this type of weather, courtesy of OSCOV, please note that this is the personal view of Brian Milligan.



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.

***Dates for your diary**

As we enter the show season there quite a few shows coming up, I will list a few all the rest are available on the OSCOV website:

Saturday 16th July - Sunday 17th July

Yarra Valley Orchid Society

B&T Ferns & Orchids

30 Wiseman Rd., Silvan South (Mel 123 E7)

National Cymbidium Orchid Show

Saturday 20 August - 9.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday 21 August 2011 - 9.00am to 4.00-m

Noarlunga Leisure Centre

David Witton Drive

Noarlunga Centre

Friday 26th August - Sunday 28th August

OSCOV Show - Melbourne International Orchid Spectacular

Springer's Leisure Centre

Cheltenham Rd., Keysborough (Mel 89 A10)

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WHAT TO DO ON FROSTY NIGHTS by Brian Milligan

My best advice (for those of my age) is to put another blanket on the bed, pull on some bed socks, go to bed early and get up late! But dedicated growers who follow this advice still won't sleep well unless they've first made sure that their orchids are also cosy for the night.

July and August are probably the worst months for our orchids in terms of frost damage and it's therefore especially important to watch out for frost warnings at this time. Remember that the temperature in the suburbs of Melbourne is usually a degree or two lower than that forecast for central Melbourne. Cymbidiums can withstand temperatures down to freezing, perhaps even a degree or two below for short periods. But temperatures much below freezing can cause extensive damage to flower spikes. The unopened buds first turn brown and then black, before they eventually fall. Even spikes still in the sheath may be damaged. They may appear to be unaffected and still develop normally but when the flowers open they are often found to have pinched lips, sometimes with blackened margins. Australian native dendrobiums are also prone to frost damage, the leaves developing white areas and then falling from the plant. The large, delicate leaves of lycastes are also susceptible and even the fleshy pseudobulbs may freeze and subsequently turn into a rotten mass.

Fortunately most of us who live in the inner eastern suburbs don't usually experience particularly harsh frosts. Our suburban blocks are small and as a result our orchids are fairly close to buildings, either our own or our neighbours, which act as heat banks and therefore tend to keep their surroundings slightly warmer than otherwise. Those in low-lying areas or with open parkland nearby will be more likely to be frost-affected and should take extra precautions.

So what should we do to protect our orchids from frost? For most of us, a shade-house with a fibre-glass roof will provide all the protection we need for 99% of the time. Only on two occasions in the last 15 years have I lost cymbidium spikes due to frost damage and on both those occasions the temperature had fallen to -5°C and remained in that vicinity for several hours. The only way to counter such extreme weather is to provide some form of heat and air movement, for example with an electric fan heater. Alternatively, move all your plants in spike into the house or garage for the night - this is probably the best option for those with a small collection. But do it before you go to bed because it will be too late if you wait until morning.

Such low temperatures are rare in Melbourne's suburbs but we experience mild frosts every year, for which we should be prepared. Several of my shade-houses have shade-cloth fronts mounted on roller blinds. These are normally rolled up during the winter months but on frosty nights I unroll them to provide extra protection. If you have a large tarpaulin, it's a good idea to pull it over the top of your shade-house, particularly if it doesn't have a fibre-glass roof. Draping sheets of newspaper over your cymbidium spikes is also a good idea - slightly warmer air is trapped beneath the paper. There is no wind on frosty nights, so there is no need to fasten the paper down - it won't blow away.

It's always colder at the perimeter than in the centre of your shade-house, so if possible move plants towards the centre. This is not possible in my overcrowded shade-houses and I occasionally notice frost burn on the leaves on my Australian dendrobiums located closest to the perimeter. Leaves touching the roof or walls and those close to the roof are also at risk.

Even those with heated glasshouses have to take care during frosty weather, because any leaves that touch the glass and especially the frame, if it's made of aluminium or iron, may be frost burnt. Also, I find that the orchids in my glasshouse need watering more frequently in very cold weather. The rate of evaporation of water from the pots depends on the temperature differential between the pot and the walls of the glasshouse and this, of course, is greatest in cold weather. It's obvious when you see all the condensed moisture on the glass on cold mornings and ask yourself where it has come from.

Some growers believe that they can counter the effects of frost by spraying their plants with water next morning until the ice has melted. The rationale is that if the ice is allowed to melt naturally under the influence of the sun's rays, additional heat is withdrawn from the plant's tissues (true), whereas the water sprayed on the plant provides the heat necessary to melt the ice. I'm sure that it's sound practice in the event of mild frosts. But at very low temperatures the sap within the plant has already frozen and the damage done, so I doubt if spraying with water helps under these circumstances.

For those members with a small collection, my best advice is to move your cymbidiums in spike indoors to a cool, unheated area. Don't bring them into your heated living room, because the sudden temperature change can sometimes cause bud drop. Of course, you must return them to their normal positions next morning (after the temperature has risen above freezing), making sure that the flower spikes face the original direction. If it seems like a lot of unnecessary work, just protect your best ones - at least you'll have a few plants for your winter and spring shows in the event of another super-frost!