

Cymbidium Chatter



Cym. Kimberley Lagoon 'Argyle'
2nd Place in Class 4

Issue 43 (Vol. 4 No. 3): Sept. 2023

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Latest News

Welcome to the third issue of *Cymbidium Chatter* for 2023. I hope all the southern hemisphere readers have been enjoying a good flowering season thus far! It has been a bit of an odd one for myself and several other growers I know, with some plants spiking (and blooming) earlier than usual whilst others are several weeks behind.

The annual Melbourne Orchid Spectacular was held again on the last weekend in August, although unfortunately this year I was not able to attend. However, I did visit the COSV Spring Show – the majority of this issue is devoted to it.

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COSV Spring Show Report

The spring show for 2023 was again held at the Mount Waverley Community Centre and members put together a colourful show across seven displays. This year I requested the breakdown of judging results so I could more accurately share them with readers.



Working clockwise around the room, the displays were: Terry Poulton; Kimberley Orchids; Colin & Karen Gillespie; H&M Morren, Glenda Coutts, Cheryl Lutz & Dennis Oliver; COSV Club Members; Helen Wagstaff; and Wains Orchids.

The Best Large Display Award went to that of H&M Morren, Glenda Coutts, Cheryl Lutz and Dennis Oliver, located at the end of the hall and featuring a variety of hybrids from miniatures to standards.



Kimberley Orchids secured the award for Best Medium or Small Display:



Champion Plants

The champion plants are listed below, with Terry Poulton and the Gillespies taking the majority of categories. Frustratingly, I somehow failed to get a photo of (Valley Splash X Dural Dream)!

Category	Orchid Name	Exhibitor
CHAMPION LARGE FLOWER	Regal Princess 'Bernice'	C. & K. Gillespie
CHAMPION SMALL STANDARD	(Green Spectacle x Daintree) 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
CHAMPION INTERMEDIATE	Khanebono 'Jacinta'	T. Poulton
CHAMPION MINIATURE	New Century 'Rosie'	C. & K. Gillespie
CHAMPION SPECIMEN	Khanebono 'Jacinta'	T. Poulton
CHAMPION SEEDLING	(Valley Splash x Dural Dream)	C. & K. Gillespie
CHAMPION NOVELTY	Winter Fire 'Frosty Tips'	Kimberley Orchids
CHAMPION SPECIES	<i>erythraeum</i> var. <i>flavum</i> 'Paradise'	Wains Orchids



Cym. Regal Princess 'Bernice'
Champion Large Flower



Cym. (Green Spectacle X Daintree) 'Tee Pee'
Champion Small Standard



Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta'
Champion Intermediate and Champion Specimen





Cym. New Century 'Rosie'
Champion Miniature



Cym. Winter Fire 'Frosty Tips'
Champion Novelty



Cym. erythraeum var. flavum 'Paradise'
Champion Species

Top Plants by Class

For judging, plants are grouped into classes. Most plants are grouped by flower size, then colour (with a few exceptions). The COSV categorises flower size as follows:

- Large Standards – majority of blooms larger than 100mm
- Small Standards – majority of blooms between 85 and 100mm

- Intermediates – majority of blooms between 60 and 85mm
- Miniatures – majority of blooms under 60mm

Each size category then gets 14 different classes, as shown in the following table:

Large Flowered Classes	Small Standard Classes	Intermediate Classes	Miniature Classes	Description
1	15	29	43	Predominantly White
2	16	30	44	Blush/Pastel
3	17	31	45	Predominantly Yellow
4	18	32	46	Predominantly Green
5	19	33	47	Pure Colour Type
6	20	34	48	Predominantly Pink
7	21	35	49	Predominantly Red
8	22	36	50	Predominantly Orange
9	23	37	51	Predominantly Brown
10	24	38	52	Any Combination of Colours (Not Blush/Pastel)
11	25	39	53	Novelty
12	26	40	54	Decorative/Arching Spike
13	27	41	55	Seedling
14	28	42	56	Specimen (4+ inflorescences except for intermediates, which require 5+)

There are an additional two special classes:

- Class 57 – historic Cyms (pre. 1975)
- Class 58 – species Cyms

Sadly, examples in these latter two classes were particularly lacking, with only one of each exhibited. The full results from the show are provided over the next few pages.



Cym. Kulnura Venus
1st Place in Class 1



Cym. (Red Beauty X Joan's Charisma)
1st Place in Classes 2 and 12

Class	Place	Orchid Name	Exhibitor
1	1	Kulnura Venus	Kimberley Orchids
1	2	Laramie Angel 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
2	1	Red Beauty × Joan's Charisma	D. Oliver
2	2	Kulnura Venus	D. Oliver
3	1	No Entry	
3	2	No Entry	
4	1	Kimberley Winter 'Green Haven'	T. Poulton
4	2	Kimberley Lagoon 'Argyle'	Kimberley Orchids
5	1	Laramie Purity 'Gold'	T. Poulton
5	2	Memoria Merv Dunn 'Compact Gold'	Wains Orchids
6	1	Regal Princess 'Bernice'	C. & K. Gillespie
6	2	Magic Lady 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
7	1	Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts'	T. Poulton
7	2	Kalahari Flames	Wains Orchids
8	1	Prized '105' × Coraki Glowing	C. & K. Gillespie
8	2	Kalahari Fury 'Boris'	C. & K. Gillespie
9	1	Lunar Blaze × Kimberley Pass	Kimberley Orchids
9	2	Atlantic Carat 'No. 1'	T. Poulton
10	1	Kimberley Splash 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
10	2	(Khan Flame × Kimberley Coast) 'Dusty Pink'	T. Poulton
11	1	Vidar 'Harlequin'	Wains Orchids
11	2	Kirby Lesh 'Frances'	Wains Orchids
12	1	Red Beauty × Joan's Charisma	D. Oliver
12	2	Lunar Flame × Barry Baker	D. Oliver
13(N)	1	Kimberley Splash × Dural Dream	C. & K. Gillespie
13(N)	2	Prized '105' × Coraki Glowing	C. & K. Gillespie
14	1	No Entry	
14	2	No Entry	
15	1	Laramie Angel 'White Angel'	T. Poulton
15	2	Justis Pearl 'Bee Jay'	T. Poulton
16	1	Kuranulla 'Maestro' × Spring Flame	Kimberley Orchids
16	2	Laramie Angel 'Snow White'	T. Poulton
17	1	Lunakira × Kimberley Tower	D. Oliver
17	2	(Intense Gold 'Polaris' × Trinity Gold)	D. Oliver
18	1	(Green Spectacle × Daintree) 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
18	2	No Entry	
19	1	No Entry	
19	2	No Entry	
20	1	Blazing Beauty	Kimberley Orchids
20	2	Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'	D. Oliver
21	1	Red Nelly 'Red World'	T. Poulton
21	2	Pink Dream	Wains Orchids
22	1	(Prized '105' × Coraki Glowing) #1	C. & K. Gillespie
22	2	Mighty Tracey 'Royale'	Wains Orchids
23	1	Kalahari Pepper × Pink Splendour	Wains Orchids
23	2	Sundaani's Treasure 'Orange Crush'	D. Oliver

Class	Place	Orchid Name	Exhibitor
24	1	Kimberley Splash × Dural Dream	C. & K. Gillespie
24	2	Kimberley Splash 'Tee Pee'	D. Oliver
25	1	No Entry	
25	2	No Entry	
26	1	Spicy Khan 'Comet' #3	D. Oliver
26	2	Spicy Khan 'Comet' #1	D. Oliver
27(N)	1	Valley Splash × Dural Dream	C. & K. Gillespie
27(N)	2	Kalahari Pepper × Pink Splendour	Wains Orchids
28	1	Kuranulla 'Maestro' × Spring Flame	Kimberley Orchids
28	2	Kalahari Pepper × Pink Splendour	Wains Orchids
29	1	Barrita Trinket 'Tall White'	T. Poulton
29	2	Gowling's Gem 'Snow Queen'	C. & K. Gillespie
30	1	Careless Heart 'Cutie Pie'	G. Coutts
30	2	White Lace 'Sarah'	H. & M. Morren
31	1	One Tree Hill 'Beenak'	L. Orland
31	2	No Entry	
32	1	Mariflor 'Tee Pee'	T. Poulton
32	2	Gentle Touch 'Payton'	Kimberley Orchids
33	1	Blazing Dream 'HP'	Kimberley Orchids
33	2	Pharoah's Dream	C. & K. Gillespie
34	1	Khanebono 'Jacinta'	T. Poulton
34	2	Templestowe's Charm 'Aiden'	Kimberley Orchids
35	1	Nat's Pride 'No. 1'	Wains Orchids
35	2	Nat's Pride 'No. 2'	Wains Orchids
36	1	Drouin Masterpiece 'Renae'	H. Wagstaff
36	2	Pumisan 'Orange'	H. & M. Morren
37	1	Red Pepper 'Janice'	H. & M. Morren
37	2	Dolly's Torch 'No. 2'	H. Wagstaff
38	1	((Teddy Roosevelt × Beaconfire) × Champagne Robin) 'Royale'	Wains Orchids
38	2	Sleeping Sharon × Drouin Masterpiece	Kimberley Orchids
39	1	Winter Fire 'Frosty Tips'	Kimberley Orchids
39	2	Arachnid	H. Wagstaff
40	1	Touch of Glass 'Flamingo'	Kimberley Orchids
40	2	Fury Land 'Master Travis'	Wains Orchids
41(N)	1	No Entry	
41(N)	2	No Entry	
42	1	Khanebono 'Jacinta'	T. Poulton
42	2	Barrita Trinket	T. Poulton
43	1	Ice-on-Fire 'Nikietta'	H. & M. Morren
43	2	No Entry	
44	1	New Century 'Rosie'	C. & K. Gillespie
44	2	New Century 'Rosie Splash'	C. & K. Gillespie
45	1	No Entry	
45	2	No Entry	
46	1	Templestowe Opal 'Hearts on Fire'	C. Lutz
46	2	Thumbs Up 'Tamara'	C. Lutz

Class	Place	Orchid Name	Exhibitor
47	1	Dolly × Summerland '56'	Kimberley Orchids
47	2	Cindy Lou 'I Love You'	H. & M. Morren
48	1	Rods Tango 'Tobruk'	C. & K. Gillespie
48	2	Mini Jess 'Twinkle'	Wains Orchids
49	1	<i>floribundum</i> × Jessie Blakiston	Kimberley Orchids
49	2	Waringah Winter 'National Show'	C. & K. Gillespie
50	1	Koala 'Cutie'	H. & M. Morren
50	2	Harvest Queen 'Little Imp'	H. & M. Morren
51	1	No Entry	
51	2	No Entry	
52	1	Morialta 'Morialta Falls'	L. Orland
52	2	No Entry	
53	1	Strathdon 'Cooksbridge Fantasy'	C. Lutz
53	2	No Entry	
54	1	No Entry	
54	2	No Entry	
55(N)	1	Name not available	C. Lutz
55(N)	2	No Entry	
56	1	New Century 'Rosie'	C. & K. Gillespie
56	2	<i>floribundum</i> × Jessie Blakiston	Kimberley Orchids
57(N)	1	Pumisan 'Orange'	H. & M. Morren
57(N)	2	No Entry	
58(N)	1	<i>erythraeum</i> var. <i>flavum</i> 'Paradise'	Wains Orchids
58(N)	2	No Entry	



Cym. Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts'
1st Place in Class 7



Cym. (Lunar Blaze X Kimberley Pass)
1st Place in Class 9



Cym. (Khan Flame X Kimberley Coast) 'Dusty Pink'
2nd Place in Class 10



Cym. (Kimberley Splash X Dural Dream)
1st Place in Classes 13 and 24



Cym. (Kuranulla 'Maestro' X Spring Flame 'Blushing')
1st Place in Class 16



Cym. (Intense Gold 'Polaris' X Trinity Gold)
2nd Place in Class 17



Cym. Blazing Beauty
1st Place in Class 20



Cym. Red Nelly 'Red World'
1st Place in Class 21

Two different plants of Sundaani's Treasure 'Orange Crush' were exhibited by Dennis Oliver. This grex is still often seen with its parentage (Pure Treasure X Red Beauty), despite having been registered in 2012. The two plants provided an example of the variation possible in colouration in this clone, which I expect are most likely due to growing conditions or a timing difference in when the spikes opened.



Two different divisions of *Cym. Sundानी's Treasure 'Orange Crush'*. One of these was 2nd Place in Class 23.



The larger of two divisions of *Cym. Spicy Khan 'Comet'* exhibited by Dennis Oliver
1st Place in Class 26

Non-alba yellows were in the definite minority at this year's show, with no large standards or miniatures entered for judging and only one intermediate – *Cym. One Tree Hill*, a well-known grex that is nearing 35 years old. In fact, there were more alba (aka "pure colour") yellows awarded than non-albas (alba yellow intermediates seems to be the most popular of the various yellows). Even browns and oranges, which can be finicky colours to produce, were more numerous.



Cym. One Tree Hill 'Beenak'
1st Place in Class 31



Cym. Blazing Dream 'HP'
1st Place in Class 33



Cym. Nat's Pride 'No. 1'
1st Place in Class 35



Cym. Drouin Masterpiece 'Renae'
1st Place in Class 36



Cym. ((Teddy Roosevelt x Beaconfire) X Champagne Robin) 'Royale'
1st Place in Class 38



Cym. Red Pepper 'Janice'
1st Place in Class 37



Cym. Thumbs Up 'Tamara'
2nd Place in Class 46



Cym. New Century 'Rosie Splash'
2nd Place in Class 44



Cym. Latigo 'Cooksbridge Fantasy'

A few plants that I have not previously seen at the show (i.e., in the past 7 years) included New Century 'Rosie Splash', a mutant form of 'Rosie' that arose during the cloning process. The 1983 hybrid Latigo was another that made an appearance as well.

The oddest Cym, in my opinion, was Cym. Sweet Wine 'Latour'. This petal peloric didn't even register as a Cymbidium when I first saw it out of the corner of my eye! (Full disclosure: I'm not a fan of most pelorics but recognise that they certainly get the attention of the public and that some people enjoy them.) To me, it was the most "novel" of the plants exhibited.



The unusual Cym. Sweet Wine 'Latour'.

I hope the reader has enjoyed this selection of photos from the show!

Backbulb Propagation Media

Recently I received an email from Terry Poulton pointing me to a scientific paper¹ that he had come across. It was an interesting small-scale study of the impact of different types of media used when striking backbulbs. This topic has previously been discussed in Issues 36 (April 2022) and 37 (June 2022), but I thought it useful to share the results of the study here.

The study considered five different types of media under controlled growing conditions (15 hours of natural light, 18 to 25°C, 75% relative humidity):

- Pure perlite
- Perlite and sand (50:50)
- Pure sand
- Cocopeat and sand (50:50)
- Cocopeat and perlite (50:50)

Surprisingly, the pure perlite produced the best results, with the backbulb propagations grown in perlite having the longest leaves and roots of all of them. Pure sand was the worst performer in terms of root production (the plants on average had fewer roots), whilst the perlite and sand mix had the both the shortest root system and shortest foliage. The study authors theorised that the neutral pH, porosity, and texture of the perlite provided good conditions for root establishment and that the production process (involving heating to 650°C) minimised the risk of biological contamination.

Keeping in mind that the ideal media is highly dependent on one's growing conditions (temperature, airflow, watering regime, etc.), I think I will be doing a little experiment to see how well a few plants grow in pure perlite! At least one advantage I can think of is that the use of organic fertiliser will not cause the breakdown of the perlite, which is a problem I have previously encountered when I tried Powerfeed on bark mixes.

Plants Wanted

The editor, Joshua White, is looking for some older Cymbidium hybrids:

- Candida
- Early Bird 'Pacific'
- Melinga
- Sleeping Beauty 'Golden Queen'
- Sussex

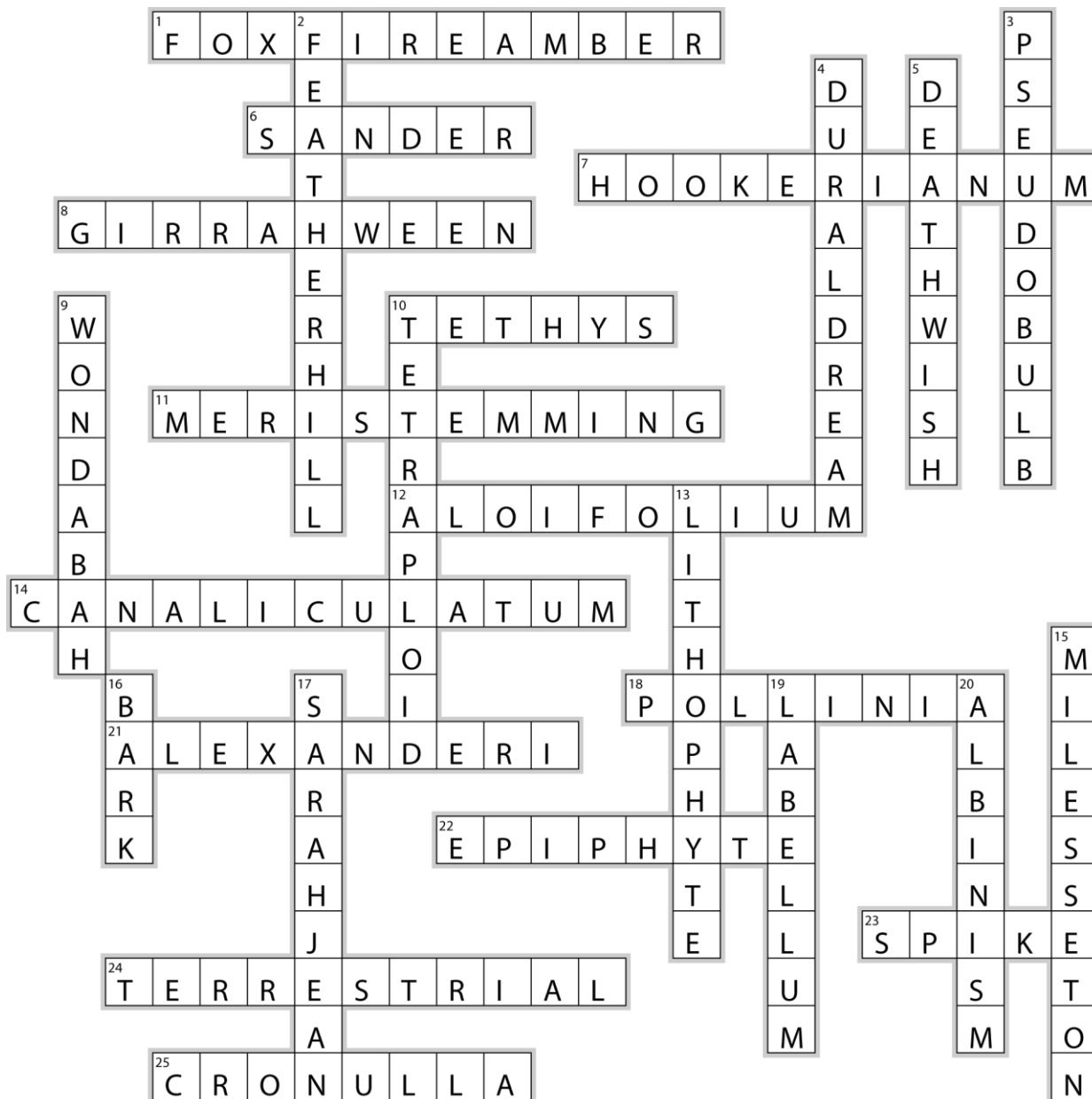
Please contact me at jwhite88@gmail.com if you can help! If any Australian readers would like their wish list included in the next issue, please contact me as well.

¹ SEDAGHATHOOR, S.; DEHNO, G. G.; NADERI, R.; KALATEHJARI, S.; KAVIANI, B. *Comparison of different media to produce Cymbidium orchids by pseudobulbs*. **Revista de Agricultura Neotropical**, Cassilândia-MS, v. 4, n. 4, p. 33-37, out./dez. 2017. ISSN 2358-6303. Available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327785763_COMPARISON_OF_DIFFERENT_MEDIA_TO_PRODUCES_CYMBIDIUM_ORCHIDS_BY_PSEUDOBULBS

Cymbidium Crossword #1 Solution

Here is the solution to the crossword included in the previous issue:



EclipseCrossword.com

Across Clues

1. FOXFIREAMBER—Popular orange Cym bred from Electric Ladyland (2)
6. SANDER—Family who produced the precursor to the RHS Orchid Register
7. HOOKERIANUM—Largest green-flowered species
8. GIRRAHWEEN—Name of the grex that received the first Australian FCC
10. TETHYS—Black Magic
11. MERISTEMMING—The process of creating clones
12. ALOIFOLIUM—Type species for the Cymbidium genus
14. CANALICULATUM—Australian native species that prefers a high pH
18. POLLINIA—Name for a pair of pollen globules

21. ALEXANDERI—Famous grex that produced an awarded chance tetraploid
22. EPIPHYTE—A plant that grows on other plants but is not a parasite
23. SPIKE—The flower stem
24. TERRESTRIAL—A type of plant that grows in or on the ground
25. CRONULLA—The grex from which most "Khan" progeny originates

Down Clues

2. FEATHERHILL—Famous selection of Cym. Dolly
3. PSEUDOBULB—Part of the plant that stores nutrients and moisture
4. DURALDREAM—'Picture' was a selection of this grex that won at Dural (2)
5. DEATHWISH—Popular Australian novelty grex created by Kevin Hipkins (2)
9. WONDABAH—Australian nursery that produced Wallamurra
10. TETRAPLOID—A plant with four sets of chromosomes
13. LITHOPHYTE—A type of plant that grows on rocks
15. MILESSETON—Name of the Australian hybridiser known for his *suave* hybrids (2)
16. BARK—A common component of orchid media
17. SARAHJEAN—Popular *floribundum* hybrid in Australia, usually white or pale green/yellow (2)
19. LABELLUM—A modified petal
20. ALBINISM—A lack of anthocyanins

Acknowledgements and Contributions

I hope you have enjoyed this issue. If you have any feedback or would like to contribute (whether it be just one or two photos, an idea for an article, or to volunteer for an interview), please get in touch! I can be reached at jwhite88@gmail.com.

Previous issues are available at <https://www.cosv.com.au/publications-and-resources>. All material is copyright © the original owners and used with permission. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, including the COSV judges and committee for their assistance with the show results.

The next issue is planned for December 2023.