



Horsham and District Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 17 Issue Number 10 November 2009

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Meetings:

The Horsham and District Orchid Society welcomes visitors and potential new members. We meet on the third Friday of each month at:

The Day Centre Wimmera Base Hospital

Benching of popular plants by **7:30pm**
Popular vote **7:45pm**
Meeting at **8:00pm**

Monthly Committee Meeting: on the first Tuesday of the month at **7:30pm**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2009. This will be our last meeting for the year and we are privileged to have Mark Finnigan from B & T Ferns & Orchids as this year's final Guest Speaker. If anyone has ideas for guest speakers for the coming year please fill me in as I have a few gaps in next year's calendar.

Next month will be our Christmas Dinner, and it will be held at the Bull & Mouth Hotel, names for the dinner to be given to Colleen, 53 82 5597. (For further information check in the Bulletin.) The Popular Vote of the year will be judged at the dinner and the results announced and presented.

Not much news on the orchid front, I have repotted about ½ my cymms but still have a long way to go, the weather has become too hot this last week, so will have to leave the rest for better weather.

We will be having tea at the Royal Hotel before the meeting Friday night, please let me know if you are coming so I can book.

Thank-you,
See you at the meeting
Joy.

NEXT MEETING: Friday 20th November - 7:30pm

FROM THE EDITOR:

Hi everyone!

It is just so hard to believe that 2009 is almost over and it will be Christmas before we know it! Our Christmas Party / Dinner is booked at the Bull & Mouth Hotel, just the actual menu to be finalized at this stage. Hopefully we will have a large turn-up, and I would ask all considering attending to please contact me as soon as possible so that we can provide the venue with numbers before too much longer.

Our Club 'Shop' is once again fully stocked with those '**HARD TO GET IN HORSHAM**' items, and at very reasonable prices. Many thanks go to Rod & Sandra Dunn who look after this for us. Club Vouchers may be used but only those dated 2009.

ITEMS IN OUR CLUB 'SHOP':

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>	<i>PRICE</i>
100mm Squat Pots		3 for \$1.00
100mm Slim line Pots		3 for \$1.00
125mm Squat Pots		3 for \$1.00
125mm Slim line Pots		3 for \$1.00
150mm Squat Pots		50 cents each
150mm Slim line Pots		50 cents each
175mm Squat Pots		50 cents each
175mm Slim line Pots		50 cents each
200mm Slim line Pots		\$1.00 each
Universal Hangers	Pack of 5	\$3.00
900mm Stakes	Pack of 14	\$2.00
Calcinite Soluble Calcium		\$3.00
80mm 2 prong Wire hangers		\$2.50
125mm 2 prong Wire hangers		\$3.00
150mm 2 prong Wire hangers		\$3.00
150mm Hanging Pots	Includes Hanger & Tray	\$1.50
100mm Plant Ties		\$3.00
6B Pencils	Pack of 2	\$2.00
Perlite	10 Litre pack	\$3.00
Small Butterfly Clips		\$3.00
Medium Butterfly Clips		\$4.00
Large Butterfly Clips		\$5.00

LAST MONTHS MEETING:

Lorraine Mercer, our own Cattleya expert, gave an excellent presentation and demonstration on the culture of the Cattleya Alliance. Lorraine had brought along with her several catalogues some of which dated from the 60's x 70's, and it was so interesting to see that some of the show-bench champions of that era are still winning prizes today. Famous names such as Blc Sylvia Fry 'Supreme', C. Tiffin Bells 'Orchidglade', Lc Chit Chat 'Tangerine', to name just a few. Lorraine also supplied some very helpful Cultural Notes and these follow later in this Bulletin. Thank you Lorraine for sharing your extensive knowledge with us.

POPULAR VOTE FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2009:

JUNIOR

There were no entries in this section

NOVICE

- Cymbidium 1st Cym. Touchstone 'Mahogany' Owned by C.Dix
- Hybrid 1st Lc. Trick or Treat 'Orange Beauty' Owned by R.Forsyth
2nd Dtps. Ji uhabo Red Rose Owned by R.Forsyth
- Species 1st Den. kingianum Bushy's 'Flat White' x 'White Fairy' Owned by J.Overall

INTERMEDIATE

- Cymbidium 1st Cym. Ruby Anniversary 'Pink Surprise' Owned by R&S Dunn
- Hybrid 1st Ptst. Cutie 'Harold's Pride' Owned by R&S Dunn
- Species 1st Caladenia tentaculata Owned by R&S Dunn
2nd Diuris sulphurea Owned by R&S Dunn

OPEN

- Cymbidium No entry
- Hybrid 1st Ascda Princess Mikash 'Blue' Owned by T&B Buwalda
2nd C Louise Georgianna Owned by J.Richards
- Species 1st C. intermedia 'alba' Owned by J.Richards
2nd Laelia autumnalis Owned by J.Richards

ORCHID OF THE MONTH & ALSO JUDGE'S CHOICE



Ascda Princess Mikash 'Blue' Owned by Theo & Beth Buwalda
Congratulations!

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH:

Cattleya Culture

Courtesy of Lorraine Mercer

The term Cattleya is used to cover plants of Cattleya as well as intergeneric hybrids of the Cattleya Alliance which includes the following genera – Laelia, Brassavola and Sophronitis. These are the plants that have been used for many years to produce the plants referred to as Cattleyas.

Temperature

The temperature required for mature plants is a minimum night temperature of between 8c and 10c, but an occasional night temperature as low 5c can be tolerated so long as the plants are dry, have moving air around them and the low temperature is not for a prolonged period of time. For younger plants it is recommended to maintain the minimum temperatures if possible. The plants most able to survive the cold are plants containing Sophronitis and Laelia, which can be grown in sunrooms, verandahs or patios covered with fiberglass. No heating is required as long as the plants are kept dry during the cold winter weather. Cattleya hybrids and those containing Brassavola digbyana will survive temperatures down to about 5c or even lower for a short time as long as they are kept dry.

Light

Cattleyas require quite high light intensity to flower well but very yellow hard leaves and stunted growth are an indication that a little more shading is needed. Always grow cattleyas in filtered light with about 50% shade and be sure to avoid direct sunlight which will burn them. When growing them inside place them close to the window but always have them behind a light curtain to filter the sunlight.

Humidity

The humidity should be kept between 50% and 70% during the day and no higher than 50% during the night. During the colder months watering or wetting down of the floors should be done early to allow the atmosphere to dry out somewhat before the nightly temperature drop. An excess of water in the atmosphere with the lower night temperatures can cause sepal wilt of the blooms and spotting of the flowers.

If plants are to be grown indoors place a tray of pebbles with an inverted pot in it for the plant to sit on. Keep the tray full of water all the time to keep the humidity around the plant. By having a collection of plants together they help to create a humid environment. During very hot weather or if you keep your house very hot it would also be advisable to mist the plants a few times a day.

Watering

The roots seal off at the end when the plant goes into a rest cycle and at this time which is usually during our winter very little water is required as long as the atmosphere is humid to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling.

Provided your plants are potted in a very open bark mix to allow plenty of air around the roots a good watering every 2 or 3 weeks in winter will do no harm and in between a misting to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling is all that is needed.

A more carefully monitored watering regime is required if the potting mix used is finer. If in doubt leave the watering for another day and wet down the floor instead.

Never fertilize when the plant is resting as the roots will burn.

When the roots start into active growth (when the green root tips are about one centimeter long) gradually increase the water to two or three times a week.

Fertilizer

After watering a liquid fertilizer at never more than half strength can be given. The ideal fertilizer program is little and often so if you prefer to feed more often then add more water so that the strength of the fertilizer is one eighth the recommended strength on the packet. Any liquid fertilizer is suitable with the recommendation that you use organic and inorganic in rotation.

Environment

Cattleyas grow in nature as epiphytes clinging to tree branches where they get an abundance of air movement to dry out the roots after rain. Orchid roots are enclosed in a velamen cover, which acts like blotting paper and absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and transfers it to the root. This velamen is white when dry and changes to green when it is wet and in a healthy condition.

Cattleyas love to have their roots in the open and the healthiest roots are to be found on plants that have overgrown their pot and have their roots over the edge. If you have a glasshouse or an enclosed area where the humidity can be controlled for growing your plants you may prefer to grow your cattleyas attached to a cork bark slab.

I have found they will grow equally well hung vertically or horizontally and as the roots are all exposed there is no fear of rotting them.

Abbreviations for Labels

C.	= Cattleya
B.	= Brassavola
L.	= Laelia
Soph.	= Sophronitis
Bc.	= Brassavola x Cattleya
Bl.	= Brassolaelia = Brassavola x Laelia
Blc.	= Brassolaeliocattleya = Brassavola x Laelia x Cattleya
Lc.	= Laeliocattleya = Laelia x Cattleya
Bnts.	= Brassosphronitis = Brassavola x Sophronitis
Sc.	= Sophrocattleya = Sophronitis x Cattleya
Slc.	= Sophrolaeliocattleya = Sophronitis x Laelia x Cattleya
Pot.	= Potinara = Cattleya x Brassavola x Sophronitis x Laelia
Rolf.	= Rolfeara = Cattleya x Sophronitis x Brassavola

There are also a number of other closely related genera that will interbreed with Cattleyas namely the Epidendrum, Broughtonia, Diatrum, Barkeria and Schomburgkia, the most commonly seen are –

Epc.	= Epicattleya = Epidendrum x Cattleya
Ctna.	= Cattleytonia = Cattleya x Broughtonia

WHAT'S ON IN THE ORCHID WORLD:

Not a lot going on at the moment, however a reminder that the next Country Clubs Challenge will be hosted by the Stawell Orchid Society in early July of next year.

Those wishing to book accommodation are advised to book well ahead, as it looks like being a very popular event.

Christmas Party



The venue of our Christmas Dinner and announcement of Orchid of the Year will be the Bull & Mouth Hotel, Wilson St Horsham (opposite Town Hall). (Menu yet to be finalized, but more info at November Meeting)

**Time: 6:30 pm for 2009
Orchid of the Year Voting & Presentation.**



Following the presentation, we'll eat drink and be merry while we wait for Santa!!!!
Names ASAP please, to
Colleen 5382 5597

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