



THE BENEFITS THAT OSCOV MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER

The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. is a group of Victorian orchid societies (30, as at March, 2005) that have joined together for the benefit of all. Some of the benefits that membership of OSCOV has to offer individual societies are:

1. Access to members of the OSCOV Speakers' Panel, who are especially chosen for their expertise and oral presentation, to act as guest speakers at society meetings.
2. Access to articles, written by members of the OSCOV Authors' Panel, for use in monthly newsletters. In recent years these have been issued as a series of books (*Orchids in Victoria*, *More Orchids in Victoria*, *Many More Orchids in Victoria* and *Still More Orchids in Victoria*), edited jointly by Alan Hope and Brian Milligan. OSCOV clubs receive one copy of each for use in their library/newsletter. Copies of the last two books are still available for purchase from the OSCOV Promotions Officer, Ron Schliefert, tel. 9728 5028 (\$8 per copy for members, \$10 for non-members).
3. Access to the services of the OSCOV Judging Panel (which currently comprises 44 fully qualified judges and 8 judges-in-training) for judging your annual show(s) and for granting OSCOV Quality Awards, Cultural Certificates and other awards. OSCOV Judges are also available to judge at monthly meetings of suburban societies and at some country societies.
4. An invitation for your Society to take part in the annual OSCOV show, held at Collector's Corner (Keysborough) each August. Over twenty suburban and country orchid societies participate each year.
5. The right to send a delegate (and observers) to each of two OSCOV Delegate's Meetings normally held every year to plan future OSCOV activities and initiatives. These meetings are usually held in March and August, the first in conjunction with the Orchid Species Society of Victoria's Open Day and the second in conjunction with the annual OSCOV show in August.
6. Free publicity for society shows, meetings and other orchid related events via OSCOV's online orchid group and OSCOV's website (www.oscov.asn.au), currently accessed by over 1000 visitors per week.
7. The provision of space on OSCOV's website for each society to create and maintain their own individual website. Websites are created and maintained for those societies that do not have Internet expertise. This service is provided free to our member societies.

More details about OSCOV and its activities, including an extensive picture library of orchids awarded by the OSCOV Judging Panel, may be found on the comprehensive OSCOV web site at www.oscov.asn.au.

THE COSTS OF MEMBERSHIP

For a society with up to 50 members the annual subscription for OSCOV membership is currently \$25. The subscription is \$50 p.a. for a society with 50-100 members, \$75 per annum for societies with 100-200 members and \$100 per annum for larger societies. There is a further charge of \$150 for each show judged by the OSCOV Judging Panel, a sum that is used to defray judges' travel expenses to distant shows.

If your society should decide to join OSCOV, I hope that you and your members will participate in its various joint activities (shows etc.) and thereby share the pleasures of growing and exhibiting orchids with the wider Victorian orchid growing community.

For more information, telephone the OSCOV Secretary (Fred Stewart) at 9850 6185 or the Liaison Officer (Brian Milligan) at 9857 6269.

Brian Milligan