



APPLICATION FORM FOR AN OSCOV AWARD

(to be accompanied by a set of digital pictures)

YOUR NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

ORCHID NAME (incl. cultivar name).....

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GROWN THE ORCHID?.....

IS YOUR ORCHID A SEEDLING FLOWERING FOR THE FIRST TIME?.....

If you prefer that your certificate is NOT laminated please CROSS the box. No lamination

I authorise OSCOV to use, copy or publish any or all of the photographs provided.

YOUR SIGNATURE.....

PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME, ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE.....

.....

IMAGES REQUIRED FOR YOUR AWARD

The minimum standards required are a RAW image (preferred):

- ◆ Image size 2500 pixels by 1900 pixels

Or a Jpeg Image:

- ◆ Image size of at least 2500 pixels by 1900 pixels
- ◆ File size minimum 1.5MB

Any Image that does not truly represent the orchid will be rejected. Images are to be as taken and not modified or altered in any way. No date stamps or other text are to be on any images. These specifications can be met with a 5 Megapixel camera set on maximum resolution.

At least one picture of the whole plant and one of a single flower are required. Apart from these images you may include pictures of a single inflorescence and/or side and back views of a flower. These are recommended if they depict the orchid more favourably than other views. For an **Award of Quality** we require a picture showing the batch of orchids grouped together.

OSCOV AWARDS

OSCOV grants the following awards to acknowledge excellence:

FCC	First Class Certificate	85-100%
AM	Award of Merit	80-84.9%
HCC	Highly Commended Certificate	75 -79.9%

Other awards granted by OSCOV are:

AD Award of Distinction, for an orchid with outstanding distinctive feature, providing that it conforms to reasonable quality standards for the genus.

CBM Certificate of Botanical Merit, awarded once for a species or natural hybrid that is rare or unusual in cultivation, in flower and well established.

CC Cultural Certificate, for a plant superior in flowering, size, robustness and cleanliness of growth to that which could reasonable be expected for a mature plant of its type.

AQ Award of Quality, for at least five siblings (originating from a single seed capsule, flowering together and exhibited by a single grower) which show superior quality; at least one should be worthy of a quality award.

FORMALISATION OF YOUR OSCOV AWARD

Congratulations! A panel of judges has deemed that your orchid is worthy of an OSCOV Award. To illustrate your award certificate, for future reference and for your orchid to be eligible for judging as one of the Victorian Orchids of the Year, You will need to provide some digital photographic images to the OSCOV Judging Panel Awards Secretary (current acting secretary is Marilyn Larkin, 13 Scott Road, CRANBOURNE SOUTH, 3977; telephone 59797024; email mazlarkin@aapt.net.au). She will also need details of your orchid and your permission for OSCOV to publish your photographs.

Images are required in digital format either RAW (Preferable) or JPEG according to the specifications set out above. They may be either put on a CD or emailed. Please ask for a receipt if you use email. If possible, the orchids should be photographed in daylight. Please use a neutral coloured backdrop, and try and fill the frame as much as possible. Without good photographs you cannot hope to win one of the premier awards. At least one photo of the whole plant and one of a single flower should be submitted but other images such as a single inflorescence may enhance your plant and can be submitted. Please use the hints section below to check your image when photographing.

The name of your orchid must also include a cultivar name, appended in single inverted commas (e.g. *Masdevallia* Sunny Angel 'Pepperspot' or *Miltoniopsis vexillarius* 'Robert'). You may confer one of your own choosing, unless the orchid already has one (e.g. *Cymbidium* Narela 'Jennifer Gail'). If your orchid is an unregistered hybrid e.g. *Cymbidium* (Intermission x Borough Green), the OSCOV award is provisional only. The award certificate will not be presented until the crossing is registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (and if this is not done in the same calendar year (unless very exceptional circumstances apply) the orchid will not be entered into Orchids of the Year. It is in your interests to ensure that the hybridiser does so as soon as possible. If there are difficulties, seek advice from the Awards Secretary.

Finally, there will be a charge (currently \$15 for members of OSCOV-Member Societies) when you receive your award certificate, to defray costs involved in its preparation. It's worth it! An award is a big event in the life of most orchid growers, and your certificate, with accompanying photograph, will be a permanent reminder. Recipients who do not belong to an OSCOV-Member Society will incur an additional charge of \$20, covering any and all awards granted to them by OSCOV in that particular year.

Images need to be a true representation of the Orchid and should be sent to the Awards Secretary within 2 months and any images taken late in the year need to be in the hands of the awards secretary before the end of January in the following year. Along with the image you need to complete a registration form on the back of this page. If you wish an electronic form can be downloaded from the OSCOV web site at www.oscov.asn.au

All awarded orchids will be entered into Orchids of the Year. The following minimum requirements are required and where they are not met or the Image is deemed to be of unsatisfactory quality or not a true representation the Awards Secretary in consultation with the Registrar will not be entered into Orchids of the Year and in some cases the award may not be ratified.

The standards required can be met with a 5 Meg Pixel camera set to maximum quality but be warned **the use of digital zoom will often cause the image not to meet these requirements.** Therefore we suggest that you do not use zoom.

The minimum standards required are a RAW image:

- ◆ Image size 2500 pixels by 1900 pixels

Or a Jpeg Image:

- ◆ Image size of at least 2500 pixels by 1900 pixels
- ◆ File size minimum 1.6MB

The image should be as taken and **not corrected** in any way. Colours may be compared with those recorded when the orchid was awarded.

If you have any questions please contact the Awards Secretary. (Contact details above)

Hints for digital photography

Once the image is taken there are a number of things you can do to check the image before sending it. First is to check that the colour truly represents the orchid. Flashes and indoor lighting can change the colour your camera records of an image. Many photographers prefer to take their pictures outside – but place the orchid in shade. A good dark background also helps. Second with a digital image use the zoom controls on your camera to zoom in on the taken image. It should remain in focus, if not most likely the image is not properly focused and is likely to be rejected for Orchids of the Year. The other thing to do is check the camera is set on maximum resolution.

EMAILING NOTE If you are emailing your photos, please use the paper clip icon to attach the photos to the email.

Other methods can result in compression of the file size, depending on the software being used, and this can result in low resolution images being received which are not satisfactory for the Victorian Orchids of the Year competition and may not be satisfactory for inclusion on your certificate .