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Volume 57 Number 2 February 2017

GREENHOOD

Newsletter of the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc.



Onc. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Bay'
Dendrobium hepatica

R. Dadson
N. Doyle

C. aclandiae x intermedia
Sedirea japonica

S. Jackson
R. Dadson

Greenhood Vol. 57 No. 2 February 2017

Diary Dates

February 20th. Regular monthly meeting at Legacy Hall Macquarie St

Feature :- Our 70th Birthday, guest speaker Jo Pinner Floral Art :-
Flowers and Fire

February 26th. Sunday Annual T.O.S. BBQ.

March 6th. Committee meeting 7.30pm. Village Centre Piper's Rd. Geilston Bay

March 20th. A.G.M. Afterwards Jim to lead a debate on potting mixes.

John Sharman and Gordon Hagen to speak on Paphs

Feature :-

Floral Art :- "Free Choice, be creative"

April 3rd. Committee meeting 7.30pm. Village Centre Piper's Rd. Geilston Bay

April 17th. Regular monthly meeting at Legacy Hall Macquarie St

Feature :- Auction Night. Bring a plant or other article to donate to the auction'

Floral Art :- "Fruit or Nuts"

May 4th. Sunday Fun day at Ross

May 5th. Committee meeting 7.30pm. Village Centre Piper's Rd. Geilston Bay

May 19th. Regular monthly meeting at Legacy Hall Macquarie St

Feature :- Autumn Show

Floral Art :- "Autumn Design"

Disclaimer

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Permission is given to reprint articles from this newsletter subject to their source being acknowledged. Contributions to this newsletter are welcome.

The deadline for all articles is the Friday, ten days prior to the monthly meeting. **No Exceptions.**

President's Report.

Jo Pinnier is our special presenter at our February meeting. Jo was probably one of the first to pioneer growing orchids in fernmania. She is an extremely successful grower and only too willing to share her knowledge with us. Give thought to your questions because Jo has indicated she is willing to assist us by answering your questions - so prepare yourself.

Planning is under way for our Ross Orchard Day in May. We are pleased to advise that Clive Halls - Mt Beenak Orchards will be our Key note presenter. He is a specialist grower and breeder of Masdevallia and will give two presentations on this day. He will also bring plants for sale. Mt Beenak Orchards has a good computer section "Growing Instructions". Very interesting section on fertilizing plants growing in moss. Very interesting section under Miscellaneous Genera -

"Feeding:

Keep up the Seaweed liquid feed every 10-14 days. Use 1/2 strength soluble fertilizer Manutec, Peters or similar. Add 1 gram per litre white or brown sugar. Plants need sugar and when under stress this is even more important. We use sugar with every feed. Make sure you water into pot, not just leaf spray".

We encourage more people to bring their flowering orchid plants for judging at the Ross Orchid Day.

Following our February Committee meeting we decided to provide you with an abundance of growing culture this year.

In March both John Sharman and Gordan Hagan will be detailing how they culture Paphiopedilum. Members are very welcome to bring their Paphiopedilum plants to the meeting where personal assistance can be given by these two growers.

March is the month for our AGM. Nomination forms for Committee positions are printed on the inside cover of our magazine. It would be nice to welcome some new faces onto the Committee.

Peter Willson

Orchid Seedling Competition

**The following seedling competitions are current:-
Australian Native Orchid**

Reminder

Members are reminded that before any plants can be tabled at Monthly Meetings or Shows, they must have been owned by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months. To qualify for a Cultural Award the plant must have been owned for a minimum of two years.

..ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETY INC. WILL BE HELD AT LEGACY HALL, 159 MACQUARIE STREET, HOBART ON MONDAY THE 20th. MARCH, 2017 TO COMMENCE AT 7.30 PM

Completed Nomination Forms, Notice of Motions and other items you wish to have placed on the agenda must be forwarded to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Please use the nomination forms inside your newsletter and keep the 'business' end ticking.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AND THE NEAR FUTURE

FEBRUARY: IT'S OUR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

It all started 70 years ago, we were the first orchid club in Tasmania. I personally know very little of our history so am hoping that Jim Smith will fill us in at our February meeting.

Jan is organising a Birthday cake and we are asking our members to bring along a plate to share. Our supper time will be prolonged so the first half of the evening will be cut short. There is talk of wearing a party hat????????? I think Peter will ok a prize for the best on the night.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY WILL BE JO PINNER

Most of our people know Jo who belongs to the Launceston club and comes from Piper's River. Jo is one of the few growers in Tasmania to do her own seed crossings and carries it through from lab work, flasking, deflasking, seedlings, and eventually winning grand champions and have her plants awarded.

Jo is not scared to try something new, many of us have benefited from Jo's growing her plants in fern mulch.

Jo is going to speak on her experiences in orchid growing. Being the relaxed person she is please pump her with questions as she will only be too pleased to answer them.

Jo is also bringing plants for sale.

Our Annual BBQ at Tolosa Park

Every year we have a Society BBQ at Tolosa Park, hut number 5 which is on the top of the road on the reservoir side. This is always a very relaxing event which gives our members and their guest's time to enjoy each other's company. We can talk Orchids all day and there will always be someone who will listen to us, how good is that!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The society supplies the meat and we ask you to bring a plate to share, either salads or sweets. The society will supply plastic cutlery and plates but if you want to use more substantial implements please bring them along. Supply your own drinks and a chair.

Jim is in charge of the BBQ and the weather so any compliments or complaints his your man. Jim starts cooking at 12pm for us to start eating at 12.30 but please come earlier to help set up, choose a good spot and to give Jim unwanted BBQ advice.

MARCH IS OUR AGM NIGHT

Every successful organisation requires new members to join its management committee so that the future is strong. Please consider what you have to offer the society. There is a nomination form printed on the cover of the newsletter.

APRIL IS OUR AUCTION NIGHT

Bring along all the excess orchids or companion plants that you can donate and others may like to buy. All other items are most welcome. Just bring anything along that someone may want. Preserves, cut flowers, books, games, puzzles, pruners, stakes pots etc. are all welcome. This is a major fundraiser for our society.

2017 Ross Orchid Day

Every year we hold a gathering for all of the four Tasmanian Orchid Clubs at Ross. This year it's on Sunday May the 7th at The Ross Hall. We will have as our main speaker Clive Halls from Mt. Beenak Orchids,

Victoria. Clive is one of the largest growers of Masdevallia in Australia (as well as growing many other genera) and we are very fortunate to have him and his wife come to Ross. This is the first time for a long time, if ever, we have had an interstate speaker.

Clive will also be bringing a van packed full of orchids for sale at a reduced price. He will have Masds both hybrids and species, odonts, zygos, cymms in community pots, sarcs and the list goes on. The prices are from \$3.00 to \$10.00 according to size but a lot will be flowering size. I don't think that we have ever had an opportunity like this in Tassie before. This will give new comers to orchid growing a chance to build up a good collection as well as adding to the already bulging orchid houses of the rest of us.

Catering is organised for us. For \$20 there will be a cuppa at 10am, a substantial lunch at 12.30 and another cuppa before we set off for home. We do need numbers and payment for the lunches ASAP. Please pay Jan Dicker our Treasurer at our general meeting or ring her on 62435802. **There is no other cost involved in the day.**

We would like you to bring items for our giant raffle; orchids are always popular, other plants, jams, cakes or anything else you may wish donate.

The doors are open at 9pm for sales; please not before as to allow the seller's time to set up.

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Annual T.O.S. BBQ. Sunday 26th. February 2017

Bring a chair, a salad or desert to share and your drink of preference. T.O.S will

supply meat, bread, onions and sauce. Come along, relax and enjoy each others company at Hut 5 ("Banksia") at Tolosa Park, Glenorchy 11am till ???

Hopefully we will have lovely weather; we have had snow and extreme heat.

*****WARNING*****

Have you renewed your subscription ??

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are due on 1st January 2017. These can be paid by cheque, cash or Direct Debit.

If paying by Direct Debit, please put your name/s in the description area.

Direct Debit details are :-

Account Name – Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc.

BSB – 067000 Commonwealth Bank

Account No. 28035122

Cheques can be posted to GPO Box 467, Hobart 7001 or paid directly to Mrs. Jan Dicker at a Meeting. Remember that only Financial Members may vote at the AGM on 20th March 2017.

New members who joined at or after the 2016

Spring Show are already paid up for 2017 Get your renewal in now and avoid missing an issue of Greenhood

Editor



The Orchid Festival Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Runs from the 4 February-5 March 2017 The Orchids Festival at Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens in south-west Lond on opens on Saturday (4 February 2017), and features more than 36,000 different orchids from across the world. Inspired by the vibrant colours, culture and magnificent plant life of India, this years festival includes giant floral displays created using exotic orchids, decorative rickshaws, Indian soundscapes and films.

The displays took the team of 45 volunteers and horticulturalists more than 1,600 hours to create, and includes a giant peacock made from orchids and a giant Indian flag cut from the flowers. Visitors can also attend sessions with volunteer guides and enjoy Indian-inspired dishes in The Orangery restaurant.

Cultural Notes Feb.-March

Cymbidium Culture with Ann Orkid

We are coming to the end of the peak growing period for cymbidiums but the good news is that it appears to have been a good growing season in contrast to last year! The new growths seem to be well made up which is essential if one hopes to get flower spikes from them. My advice is to keep plants shaded particularly on those really hot February days but maximize their exposure to that filtered light. Do not allow plants to dry out at any stage as this checks the growth. By this stage you should be using a more balanced fertilizer rather than high nitrogen.

Also watch out for two-spotted mites (red spider) as bad infestations will retard plant growth. Although I prefer safer sprays such as Yates Natrasoap or Eco-oil occasionally I use a systemic spray like Confidor but do heed safety warnings and cover up. Remember that a follow up spray is necessary 8 -10 days as their life cycle is about 8 days during this warmer time of the year.

This year has been particularly dry with my hygrometer regularly showing only 20% humidity in the middle of the day. A spray beneath the plant leaves slows up mite infestation. Damping down the floor is also beneficial to keep humidity and prevent plant stomata from closing if potting mixture is dry and days are hot.

Have not noticed any fungal problems this year, possibly because of the low humidity but treat any plants with rotted bulbs by removing and

sealing the cut and a spray of fungicide. Of course you have sterilized your shears?

The first good rain after this dry spell will bring slugs and snails out of hiding. A torch and stout boots may be the 'order of the day' or should I say night?

Oncidiums & Laelias

I have finally come to the conclusion that, as with fanatical surfers, orchid growers lives are controlled by today's weather and tomorrow's forecast.

I refer of course to retired growers who have nothing better to do than bask in the sunshine all day and watch their plants grow. I wish!

Actually the foregoing has little to do with orchid culture, except that we're always conscious of the weather and try to plan according to the forecast.

January's notes should be good for the next 2-3 months provided you work by the weather and water accordingly, and hope for that Indian Summer.

It's still a good time to repot those plants just making new growth or roots. In my case the laelias are all done but I'm still waiting on a few reluctant oncidiums and after that the encyclias and sophronitis are pleading to be potted, plus a few tail-end mini-catts. So much for basking in the sun!

I've heard talk of a little red spider (false spider mite) showing up here and there. Red spider thrives in dry conditions so get to work with that daily misting especially up through the leaves, that I'm always harping about. I like a hard misting which really moves the leaves around and ensures all surfaces are covered.

You'll get as wet as the plants, but you'll soon dry out this time of the year.



Sarcochilus

It's February and from December to March is the flowering time for *Sarcochilus ceciliae*. The main time is January and February. These orchids have quite small flowers that are about 1cm across. The flower is very neat, with clean and clear colours. Typically, they are orchid pink in colour, but there are white forms. If you are new to orchids you probably had your interest aroused by larger flowering ones, but you will develop a liking for smaller flowers and plants. They take up less space and are very attractive and interesting. The first question is, where do I get *S. ceciliae*? Ray Clement at Tinonee Nursery, www.tinoneeorchids.com, has them for sale. Don't be put off by the small size of your purchases. They will flower in about two years.

How do you grow them? To answer this we have to ask, where do they come from? The natural range is from the Atherton Tableland to Bundaburg. There are two other species which are closely related and, to the untrained eye, the same; *S. eriochilus*, *S. roseus*. *S. hillii* occurs further south and is smaller in all parts, a little less showy and more difficult to grow. The *S. ceciliae* plants will take it quite cool, down to just above a frost. The important thing is that they grow on cliff faces in shade or full sun, favouring crevices where a little litter accumulates. You grow them in a very open mix. Warren and Val Brooks at Turners Beach have a magnificent specimen placed between two granite rocks with minimal organic matter. It looks natural and stunning. Under these circumstances you cannot overwater them. These are like the majority of orchids They like to be regularly wet then almost dry. Slowly, but surely your plants will develop into small clumps smothered in flowers. *S. ceciliae* is for the patient connoisseur. These are among my favourite orchids. You could buy a few and place them in a single pot for a quick massed effect. The judges won't like multiple plants in one pot, but the popular voters will.

General culture for *sarcochilus* from February to April is simple. Diseases are rare. Pests are also not common, but keep an eye out. Woolly aphids, scale, mealy bugs and aphids are all sucking insects and can all be easily controlled with minimal use of Confidor; a systemic spray that is legal to use. It is not listed to be used for, but will effectively control, red spider in all orchids. Kelthane for red spider is banned in Tasmania. If you have plenty of time on your hands and like to be green, dabbing with methylated spirits on a cotton bud will work. You can water your very free draining

potting mix regularly and fertilise weakly weekly. *S. ceciliae* quite likes a little sun and mainly shade combination, but all of the others prefer shade.

Happy growing. **B. Davidson**

Native Dendrobiums

It's great to see all the suppressed growth from last year raking off and the new shoots around the edge of the pots. A continuation of the warm weather will ensure growths develop fully, mature and start flowering in the spring.

One problem that comes with hot weather and new growths is the trapping of water down in the soft growth and hot burning sun during the day heats the trapped water and cooks the soft tissue of the new growth.

Early morning watering is one defence and not doing heavy overhead watering during the heat of the day is another. If you must reduce the temperature and increase the humidity in your growing area, water under the benches and on the paths.

Although mounted plants are not as susceptible to this problem they do need additional attention during the current spell of hot weather. To ensure plants receive adequate moisture, fine misting will be of great benefit.

Potting on can continue but be careful with new growths and roots, water well after repotting and keep plants shaded until they have re-established themselves properly.

Aphids are still about (they don't all just stay on the roses) when sighted, don't leave one! because it will soon become a 1000 and once new leaves are damaged they will never recover.

Attention to detail now will pay off in the spring with a fine flowering.

Jim Smith

Pleiones

For the genus *Pleione* in its species and hybrids, vegetative growth is now at its peak. Despite the weird weather that we have experienced over the past few weeks,



growth with my lot is generally very good, with a few exceptions. Perhaps they are rather slow taking off or maybe the runts of the litter.

A problem that could be affecting them may be spider mite. The common ones we all know are easily seen, but there is one called *Brevipalidus oncidii* which is invisible to the naked eye and can only be seen under high magnification under a microscope. This tiny nasty feeds on the plants vital juices, but also injects a toxin into the leaf which eventually infects the newly forming bulb, killing it. Fortunately spraying with a mix of Eco-Oil or Eco-Neem will control and kill them.

I now have access to a USB digital microscope which will magnify up to 500 times, so detecting them now will be easy.

To gain maximum growth over the next few months fertilise with any high nitrogen fertiliser at about a quarter to half a teaspoon in a nine litre bucket of water (rain water if possible), which is about 180 to 200 ppm, each week.

Hopefully we may have access to Focus Orchid Grow and Focus Orchid Blossom. K&D Mitre 10 in Moonah have some in now and say they will continue to stock it if the demand is there. Look for the black container with *Phalaenopsis* blooms on it. Directions for use are on the bottle and can be applied weak or strong.

On these warm to hot days *Pleione* seems to enjoy a good misting during the late evening, especially if you have a fogger nozzle which is very effective in dropping the temperature on those hot days over 30°C.

Keep up with watering on an almost daily basis and fertilise weekly.

Vic Dawes Chigwell

Did You Know ? with Ann Orkid

...that the first recorded hybrid produced in Australia was *Cymbidium lowianum* x *C. eburneum* by a Mr Godwin, gardener to John Hay Esq. of Crows Nest, Sydney



January Meeting Results Judges' Vote 1st Division

Cym Hybrid > 90mm	1 st No entry	
Cym Hybrid < 90mm	1 st . Phar Lap 'Geysersland'	S. Jackson
	2 nd . No Entry	
Cattleya & Allied	1st C. aclandiae x intermedia 'Blue'	S. Jackson
	2 nd C. purpurata var. Flammea	S. Jackson
Oncidium Etc.	1st Brsdm. Golden Gamin 'White Knight'	J&B Smith
	2 nd Colm. Wikdcat 'Camela'	S. Jackson
Gomesa	1st No Entry	
Masdevallia & Allied	1 st Dracula erythrochaete	J&B Smith
	2 nd Dracula Unknown	S. Jackson
Other Species	1 st No Entry	
Other Hybrids	1 st Bifren. Unknown	S. Jackson
	2 nd Promenaea crawshayana	S. Jackson
Sarcochilus	1 st Plchs. Rumrill	J&B Smith
	2 nd Plchs. Mini Rose	J&B Smith
Australian Tuberous	1 st No Entry	
Australian Native	1 st Den. cucumerinum	J&B Smith
	2 nd . No Entry	

Orchid of the month

Bifrenaria Unknown S. Jackson

Judges Vote 2nd Division

Cym Hybrid > 90mm	1 st No entry	
Cym Hybrid < 90mm	1 st No Entry	
Cattleya & Allied	1 st Laelia purpurata Var. sanguinea x venosa	J&T Dicker
	2 nd . C. Burdekin Delight 'Jay' Dream Trader 'Burdekin'	J&T Dicker
Oncidium Etc.	1 st Onc. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Bay'	R. Dadson
	2 nd . Onc. Corangamite 'Skewbald'	M. Jaschenko
Gomesa	1 st No Entry	
Masdevallia & Allied	1 st Masd. Unknown	R. Mason
	2 nd Masd. Ruby Rose 'Beenak'	S. Johnson
Other Species	1 st Lycaste deppei	M. Jaschenko
	2 nd Max. meleagris	A. Millward
Other Hybrids	1 st Sedirea japonica (Species incorrect class)	R. Dadson
	2 nd Den. Mingle's Sapphire	N. Doyle

Sarcochilus	1 st No Entry	
Australian Tuberous	1 st No Entry	
Australian Native	1 st Den. hepatica	N. Doyle
	2 nd . No Entry	

Orchid of the month

Thunia marshalliana B. Wilson

House Plants	1 st . Staphelia gigantean	P. Willson
	2 nd . Sempervivum calcareum	P. Willson
Floral Arrangement	1 st . 'Let's Go Down to the Seaside'	W. Glidden
	2 nd . No Entry	

Popular Vote

First Division

1 st C. purpurata var. Flammea	S. Jackson
2 nd C. aclandiae x intermedia 'Blue'	S. Jackson
3 rd Brsdm. Golden Gamin 'White Knight'	J&B Smith

Second Division

1 st Epidendrum falcatum	J. Sharman
2 nd Den. Mingle's Sapphire	N. Doyle
3 rd . Onc. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Bay'	R. Dadson

House Plants

1 st . Sempervivum calcareum	P. Willson
2 nd . Staphelia gigantean	P. Willson
3 rd . Scilla	J. Strang

Floral Arrangement

1 st . 'Let's Go Down to the Seaside'	V. Cleaver
2 nd . 'Let's Go Down to the Seaside'	W. Glidden
3 rd . 'Let's Go Down to the Seaside'	S. Davies

Orchid Compost

Orchid compost is available at \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non members. Anyone wanting some should contact :-

Peter Willson	Hobart	Phone 6248 4375
Wayne Dawes	Glenorchy	Phone 6272 9938
John Shipley	Claremont	Phone 6249 1445

T.O.S. Orchid Compost

TOS Orchid Compost is available at \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

CAMBRIDGE IS THE ONLY SUPPLY OUTLET AT THIS STAGE.

Peter Willson - CAMBRIDGE - Phone 6248 4375

Tasmanian Orchid Society Office Bearers 2015/2016

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Committee Messrs Jim Smith, Bev. Woodward, Gary Hill,, John Shipley, Christine Bodger, Trevor Dicker and Marcus Smith

The Tasmanian Orchid Society was first formed in 1947 under the name of The Hobart Orchid Club when a handful of enthusiasts got together to discuss the growing of Orchids. Their first show was held in conjunction with the Hobart Horticultural Society in 1948 and about six years later as more folk became interested the name was changed to The Tasmanian Orchid Society. The number of members varies between 110 and 150.

The Society is not a money making organization but with rising costs and rentals of late, it has been necessary to have a surplus on hand to meet these needs but that has not prevented the giving of donations to charitable organizations.

This Society is a member of the Australian Orchid Council.

The Society meets regularly on the third Monday of every month (December excepted) at Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart, commencing at 7.30pm.

Membership is \$25.00 per annum for families, \$20.00 for individuals. Subscriptions are due in January each year but new members who joined at the Spring Show or later in the year are covered for the following calendar year.

Greenhood can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.tos.org.au/> where there are photos of many of the orchids tabled at meetings.

Visitors are always welcome.