

# Bankstown Orchid Society



## BULLETIN

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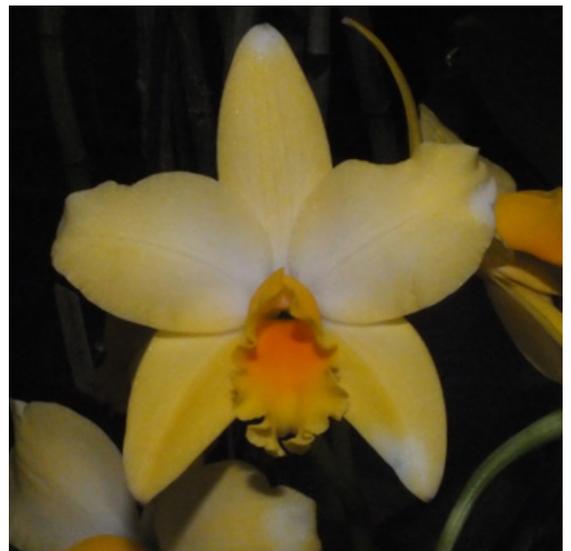
*Paph. Neeri Gold*



*Asco. Brighton 'Fushia' x Princess Mikassa 'Pink'*



*Den. Suzanne x tangerinum*



*Hth. Love Sound 'Baguri Iguchi'*

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## President's Report

Hello everyone

I'm sure you all, like me, are tired of being cooped up 'in self isolation'. I know much advice has been bandied about, telling us all to take the opportunity to re pot, weed and feed our plants and make preparations for winter.....but if you're like me, this whole virus thing has caused me to be a bit depressed and anxious, and not really in the right mood to take care of the repotting duties.

However, during these wonderful sunny Autumn days I must admit that once I force myself to begin the task, the old enthusiasm returns, and the love I have of Orchids encourages me to 'get on with the job'

As I write this message our Premier is looking to start to ease restrictions, I fear though that meetings at our hall will be one of the last things to be restored. Firstly because it involves 'many' people inside a dwelling, and because it is very difficult for us to provide 4 square metres per person.

Thankfully, the Council has closed the hall, so we are not being charged rent. (Unfortunately, the storage payments continue, and this is money we hoped to collect from our Bunnings B B Q's which have been cancelled also) We will need to be ready and willing to work hard when things return, to preserve our 'kitty' and pay the bills.

I still have hope for our July Show at Lidcombe Shopping Centre. I was there today and found many people out shopping at the centre, and most shops open. Fingers crossed xx

When we do meet again we will have a look back at the trip some of us took to Taiwan in early March. Jim, Stephen and I were among a group of 23 who toured the wonderful sites (both orchid and not) in Taiwan, healthy and safe, and managed to get back 2 days before the compulsory 14 day isolation period began. Jan Robinson has drafted a talk of our journey using pictures we all took, and will come and present to our meeting asap.

Thinking of you all....stay well...keep safe

Veronica

### **BANKSTOWN SHOWS & MAJOR EVENTS 2020**

- ◆ 15-17 May Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon - **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **21-24 May** BOS Show: Chester Square Shopping Centre, 1 Leicester St Chester Hill - **CANCELLED**
- ◆ 27-28 June Mingara Orchid Fair & Show, Tumbi Umbi - **CANCELLED**

### **PENDING SHOWS & MAJOR EVENTS - MAY BE CANCELLED (?)**

- ◆ **23-26 July** BOS Show: Lidcombe Shopping Centre, Level 1, 92 Parramatta Rd, Lidcombe
- ◆ 7-9 August National Orchid Extravaganza, Round Corner Dural
- ◆ 14-16 August St Ives Orchid Fair
- ◆ 9-11 October Southern Orchid Spectacular, Sutherland

## What Should be Happening in Your Shadehouse in April/May

(Courtesy Blue Mts & Penrith Districts Orchid Society)

### **Cattleyas**

Check the protective sheaf on Autumn flowering plants, place under cover before buds start to emerge. Stake the growth that will flower so that as the flowers progress they can develop fully. If plants are overgrown now is the time to divide and repot use a medium or coarse bark. Leave plants with at least four bulbs. Check for scale & treat with Eco-Oil, once potted stake all moveable bulbs so as when being watered the plants will not move. During April/May fertilise fortnightly with some calcium added to assist spike strength. Watering once a week should suffice but on hot days a morning mist would be beneficial.



### **Oncidiums**



Varicosum types should be starting to bloom though until late June. Oncidiums like plenty of light this time of the year in order to put on their best display. Keep plants just moist especially those on a mount. Fertilise fortnightly and water once a week. Be on the lookout for nasties that want to chew on the flowers, spray with Carbaryl. Intergeneric types are susceptible to rot during damp cooler weather, try to keep them so they are not overly wet. Maintain humidity at shadehouse floor level on hot windy days. Spray with Mancozeb, Anti-Rot or Zineb to keep any rots at bay. Fertilise fortnightly and water once a week.

### **Phalaenopsis**

Keep plants actively growing, fertilise fortnightly and water every week to 10 days depending on your growing area. This time of the year plants will take plenty of light to help assist the development of spikes. Watch for bacterial spot on leaves, don't let it get out of hand use cinnamon powder to stop the spread. Repot any struggling plants into fresh media, removing dead roots then drench with Anti-Rot and keep plants on the drier side until new root growth is visible. A rooting hormone will speed up root development.



### **Australian natives including *Sarcochilus***



Aussie dens are in full growth. Watering once a week and misting early mornings on those warmer days will assist to push them along. A fortnightly fertiliser program with some extra potassium will help to develop winter resistance before the cold sets in. A spray with Mancozeb and Eco-Oil will help the plants weather the damper, cooler conditions of late Autumn. April is an ideal time to divide or pot on the *Sarcochilus* that have outgrown their pots.



### **Softcane *Dendrobiums***

You should be pushing these along to complete their growth before winter sets in. Plenty of potassium with calcium in your weekly fertilising program. Provide them with the maximum amount of light that you can. Reduce watering from the end of May until early Spring.



### ***Cymbidiums***



Early flowering plants should be staked and plants freed of weeds ready for the start of flowering. Sprinkle some snail pellets in each pot to keep the nasties at bay. Give your plants a good spray with Carbaryl or Confidor, making sure you cover the underside of the leaves to ensure your plants are mite free. As buds are just emerging from their protective sheaths give them a spray with a fungicide (Mancozeb or Zineb) to rid plants of potential threats to the developing flowers. Do not over water, once a week to 10 days depending on the daytime temperature and the wind. Fertilise fortnightly and provide some calcium to provide good solid spikes to hold those flowers up nicely.

### ***Paphiopedilums***

In the next few months many of the complex hybrids will begin to put on a show. Keep them just on the damp side and reduce fertilising as very little nutrient is needed at this time of the year. Keep an eye out for spikes, do not let water lay in the axis of the terminal leaves, as the spike may rot off. Use a shepherd's crook stake to hold the spike firmly in place and this will allow you to adjust the angle of the spike to show your flowers at their best. Be on the lookout for mealy bug, they love the conditions at this time of year, if present, spray with Confidor and Eco-Oil.



### **In General**

Start preparing your shadehouse for the onset of Winter. If you use a solid covering make sure that it's in good order and if not, see to any repairs needed. Have a good look through your growing area and re-position any hanging plants that may cast too much shade or their drainage might compromise benched plants below. From now on only water early in the morning when you're sure that there will be a rising temperature on a sunny day, and not because your watering program says it's the day to water. Your plants can last a few more days if need be. Have a look beyond your shadehouse at the trees or shrubs which may have put on extra growth through the warmer weather and, come the low light days of winter, may cast too much shade or block the essential light getting to your plants. Remove any extra shading you had to protect plants from the heat of summer. Clean up around and under your benches of any weeds or dead leaves that may provide any potential problems in the cooler, wet months of Winter. Take stock of those plants that didn't do so well last Winter and have a think of how you can house them in a more sheltered position – maybe that means under a verandah, in a sunroom or perhaps to bite the bullet and purchase a mini greenhouse.

## Understanding Awarded Plants

*(Courtesy Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society)*

Following Warleiti's plant Awards, members may be interested to understand what Awards are all about. You may have noticed on your plant labels that there are some capital letters after the name of the plant. In Australia we have various Quality Awards which are given to species or hybrids. These awards are for when a specific plant is grown particularly well, and can be:

- First Class Certificate (FCC),
- Award of Merit (AM),
- Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)

In addition, Cultural awards are awarded to a specific grower and consist of:

- Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE)
- Award of Cultural Merit (ACM)
- Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC)

In addition to these awards, there are two awards relating to plants:

- Award of Distinction (AD), which is for a distinctive feature that can be used as a benchmark for future judging
- Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM) is for a species or natural hybrid which is rare, and can be used as a benchmark for future judging

There is another award given to a breeder for an outstanding feature or achievement relating to the culture of orchids not adequately covered by the previously mentioned Awards

- Award of Special Recognition ASR

Awards are written after the plant name followed by the authority who judged the Award eg FCC/AOC (Australian Orchid Council) or ACC/AOS (American Orchid Society) So if you have a plant labelled with an Award, look after it carefully, as it has been recognised with something of special value.