

Bankstown Orchid Society Inc.



BULLETIN

August-September, 2023 (Volume 54, Issue 4)

PRESIDENT
Veronica Clowes

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TREASURER
Lyn Donald

NEWSLETTER/WEB
Toni Benton

Plant of the Night (Sept) : *Den. speciosum* var.
grandiflorum Creek Aureum (S Lee)



Novice Plant of the Night (Sept) :
Cym. Kimberley Splash 'Teepee' (A Zderic)



Plant of the Night (Aug) :
Den. Issy's Gem (S Crosby & T Costa)



Novice Plant of the Night (Aug)
Colm. Masai Red (A Zderic)

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President's Report

Hello again everyone

Our shows are over for 2023 and I want to congratulate all members who took part. If you won...Congratulations!....if you came 2nd....well done, perhaps next time, if you came a little further down the score sheet?...let me say THANKYOU for participating in our annual shows, without your enthusiasm and help we would not be staging these events.

Bunnings Sausage sizzles – we are blessed to have a core few members on our committee who show up rain, hail or shine to help raise, for our society, the necessary funds to keep us healthy financially. Our effort last Saturday 2nd September was the stuff Christmas party dreams are made from.....raising \$2000+ in one day. How do I thank Joseph, Jim, Stephen, Max, May, Lorraine and Lyn for their continued support of our society? They are a champion group.

So now all our efforts go to ORCHIDS CENTRAL. I know, I rattled on about it until I was hoarse last night, but please, help me to make this new show the success it deserves to be.

A new show, at a new venue (in our locality), a new committee of happy and keen members and 5 enthusiastic societies pleading with members to come along and volunteer for ½ day shifts doing all sorts of necessary jobs around the show. Daniel is super keen to take charge of our display (and we're hoping to win the silver punch bowl again) will need plants+++ and helpers to fetch and carry for him on Thursday 12th October. This is not a show day, rather the day we help get our 17 vendors up one floor at Club Condell Park, set up all the displays and complete the judging in the evening before the doors open at 10am on 13th, 14th and 15th October to hopefully thousands of keen visitors, all eager to spend up big in pursuit of our orchid hobby.

Help us please, if you can't volunteer, come along and support us and maybe spend some hard earned money.

Veronica

ORCHIDS CENTRAL
Proudly Presented by:
The Orchid Society of NSW
Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society
Bankstown Orchid Society
Five Dock Orchid Society
Fairfield Orchid Society

13-15 October, 2023

Club Condell Park
178 Eldridge Rd Bankstown



Committee - 2023

President:	Veronica Clowes
Vice-President:	Vacant
Secretary:	May Chin
Treasurer:	Lyn Donald
Registrar:	Stephen Lee
Editor/Web:	Toni Benton

Committee:	
Joseph Chow	Jim Cootes
Terry Thompson	Max Redman
Marge Yabsley	Lorraine Grey

Plant Benching

At monthly meetings all plants must be benched by 7:20pm
Rewrite those labels if they are illegible.

Applying Fertilizers by Jim Brydie (2016)

(Based on an article by Sue Bottom on applying fertilisers and chemicals)

For the benefit of newer growers, I feel it is worth starting with a statement that if you decide to grow orchids, a fundamental part of your culture regime, no matter what kind of orchids they are, must be that you feed them regularly. The artificial potting mediums we use for orchids have almost no nutritional value and as the orchids in our home collections are not being constantly drenched in the drip of mineral rich exudates from the rainforest canopy above, the only 'food' they will get is what we deliberately provide in fertilisers. In addition, as orchid mediums are generally coarse and open, they retain little of what we supply, so we must supply it again and again.

There are a number of ways to apply fertiliser to your orchids but they can be readily separated into two categories. The most basic is to water with some kind of soluble fertiliser dissolved in the water. The second is to apply the fertiliser to the pot in a form that slowly releases some fertiliser to the pot, and the plant, over a period of time.

Slow Release : There are several types of slow release. The first one is a scientifically engineered form which is really a little ball of concentrated soluble fertiliser encapsulated in a special coating that allows the fertiliser to slowly release through osmosis into the moisture of the pot. Typically, the little capsules are like 2 to 3 mm diameter balls as pictured at the right. One such commonly available product is called Osmocote (*pictured on the right*)



Slow release pellets like these have different 'life' periods depending on the brand and type. Some last for up to 9 months, some much less. You can use them by incorporating some pellets in with the medium when you repot, or sprinkling them on the surface periodically. The packet will advise on the amounts.

Personally, I find that there is one serious drawback with osmotic release pellets, in that you can't readily measure whether the slow release pellets are still supplying anything. Dead pellets look the same as active ones. You never know when to put some more on.

If you have only a small collection of orchids, perhaps you could just apply pellets to every pot all at the same time. That way you wouldn't need to be able to tell by appearance. The calendar would tell you when they were running out. However, in reality, most of us repot orchids throughout the year and would likely apply fresh pellets when we repot. I am not saying that slow release osmotic pellets aren't a very valuable tool in a scheme of fertilising orchids, it is just that in my view they can't practically be used as the sole basis of nutrient application.

Organic Slow Release : The next type of 'slow release' fertilisers are the organic varieties such as the pelletised manures like Dynamic Lifter and Rooster Booster etc, and the more traditional products like powdered blood and bone fertiliser. Pelletised products like Dynamic Lifter are relatively mild manure based fertilisers that are safe enough to use from the point of view of fertiliser strength. You can add a small volume to the medium when repotting or apply a small pile around the base of the plant during the growth cycle from time to time. For orchids however, the drawback of pellets like Dynamic Lifter is that as they break down they clog the air spaces in the pot. Orchid mediums are designed to create a delicate balance between moisture retention and air spaces. Air content is vital to replicate the root environment an epiphyte would encounter in real life in nature - that is, when growing on a tree or on rocks. Pellets such as Dynamic Lifter contain a high proportion of physical organic material that releases as the pellets break down, and they clog up the medium.



Another organic - Blood and bone, is less a problem in this regard, but it is best suited to finer, wetter mixes like some Cymbidium mixes or semi terrestrial mixes. It is not absorbable directly by the orchid. It needs to interact with bacteria and other microflora in the pot to break down the

fertiliser to mineral forms that can be absorbed by the plant.

The final slow release type that I want to mention is "Magamp". This is an unusual form of pelletised fertiliser that looks like little white rocks, about pea size and a little less. They are formulated to just gradually dissolve away in water, releasing the fertiliser as they dissolve. I have read that they are used in Bonsai culture as a slow release fertiliser mixed into the soil mix, but that is not the way we use it with orchids. Orchid growers use a see through plastic tube mounted in line with your hose. You can make it yourself, or buy a ready made one called a "Nutriflow" applicator. The tube has a wad of shade cloth fitted to each end to stop the fertiliser nodules washing out.



You fill the tube completely with Magamp pellets and use standard clip on hose fittings to attach it to the tap at one end and the hose at the other. They come ready to use in that regard. As you water the orchids, a very small amount of fertiliser is dissolved away from the pellets in the water flow and applied to the orchids every time you water. You can see the Magamp slowly disappearing over a period of a year or more, depending on how often you water. When it is getting down to a quarter full, dismantle the tube and refill it. (NB: you **can't** use the Magamp Nutriflow applicator at the same time as the venturi suction device below)

Soluble Fertilisers : The alternate strategy for fertilising your orchids is to apply soluble fertiliser as a drench. If you only have a small number of orchids, you can just make up the solution in a watering can, and pour it over your orchids, or use a pump action sprayer, or a battery powered sprayer. In all cases make sure the pots are moist before you do. When using a sprayer, make sure that you properly soak the plant and the medium with the spray.

Venturi siphon devices : For growers with larger collections, a more practical way to apply soluble fertiliser is to use a venturi siphon device that uses water pressure from your tap to suck concentrate from a reservoir and mix it with the tap water. These devices send a scientifically diluted fertiliser through your hose for you to just water onto your orchids which is very convenient. The device connects to your tap at one end, the hose at the other, and has a smaller diameter hose coming from the side with a filter at the end that goes into the concentrate bucket.



There are a number of brands and designs available, including two of the brass made devices that I have always used. I think the one that George Birrs and Mike Hichcock sell (for \$50?) is the "Hozon siphon mixer" which operates at 16 : 1 (ie it sucks up one litre of concentrate for every 16 litres of tap flow). I have also seen the "Dramm Siphonject" sold here, and that one operates at 20 : 1.

I use one of these siphon devices to apply fertiliser in both my glasshouse and my shadehouse. Because I water thoroughly as I fertilise, I use a lot of fertiliser when



20lt Bucket & 60 Lt Bin

I do. I need roughly a 20 litre bucket of fertiliser concentrate to do my 20 foot (6 metres) long glasshouse. When I do my much larger shadehouse, I need a larger volume of concentrate solution and I use a 60 litre garbage bin. It takes two garbage bin batches to thoroughly water and fertilise the shadehouse. It is probably a bit wasteful of fertiliser, but it is the most simple and easily used methodology.

Fertiliser Rates : To give you an example of how to calculate the amount of fertiliser to use, let us assume you are using a Hozon 16:1 device. If you were making up a 10 litre bucket of concentrate in which to place the siphon hose, by the time the bucket is emptied the total

amount of water delivered through the hose would nominally be 170 litres (the 10 litres from the bucket plus 160 litres from the tap). For the 20 litre bucket I use, there is 340 litres of diluted fertilizer delivered to the plants.

If you are using the Peter Excel Calmag Finisher fertiliser that we sell on our Society sales table, the manufacturer's recommended rate is 0.8 - 2.0 grams per litre of water applied once a week "to the soil" - obviously this is meant for soil grown plants. For orchids, most of our experienced growers recommend much less concentrated rates. Perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the recommended rate, but on the basis it is applied regularly.

Now be warned. Fertilisers do not weigh the same as the same volume of water. 1 millilitre of water weighs exactly 1 gram but with soluble fertilisers powder - volume does not equal weight. i.e. a 5 ml spoon of fertilizer powder does not weigh 5 grams.

Each fertiliser is different. Some fertiliser packs come with their own measuring spoon which takes this volume/weight issue into account but the spoon in that pack is only designed for that fertilizer. A friend and I did some sample measures a few years back which showed for example, that dry Peters Finisher weighed nearly twice as much as Aquasol soluble fertilizer powder. (5 mls of Aquasol weighed 3.2 grams - 5 mls of Peters weighed 5.8 grams. But, when I re-measured the latest Peters Calmag Finisher we are using today, 5 mls weighed 6.25 grams.

For practical purposes, I personally use a 200ml yoghurt cup when measuring the fertiliser into the bucket or bin. A 200ml cup of Peters weighs about 250 grams. For the 340 litres of diluted fertilizer delivered to the plants from my 20 litre concentrate bucket, that works out at 0.73 grams per litre (250 grams divided by 340 litres). I usually use a little less than a yoghurt cup full in the bucket so I am more likely delivering about 0.6 to 0.7 grams per litre.

When using a different fertilizer or the bigger bin, I just adjust the volume up or down accordingly.

Making the siphon work : There are limitations you must consider when using the siphon device. The siphon jet requires adequate water pressure and water flow to work properly. You need at least 35psi water pressure to make it suck properly. Sydney's water supply should easily supply more than that, but the water pressure and flow can be reduced by any of a number of factors:

The length of the hose. Maximum length when using the siphon is 15 metres but 10 is better larger diameter hose may also help if you have problems with low pressure.

Old hoses may be damaged internally, and may restrict flow. Try a new hose.

Any chronic kink in the hose, will restrict flow.

A spray head at the end of the hose that restricts the flow too much and does not deliver a full water flow will be a problem. Don't use a gun type hose end. (I always use a high volume aluminium waterbreaker spray rose on the end of the hose.)

When you use the siphon, turn the tap on just about full.

One further issue that can arise is that you need to make sure the fertiliser is fully dissolved as a concentrate before you try to start, and make sure that the filter at the end of the uptake hose doesn't become clogged. Also, if you are using strong fertiliser rates, a salt encrustation may build up over a period of years in either the intake filter or at the siphon jet itself, hidden in the body of the device. When you finish applying the fertiliser, ALWAYS take the intake hose out of the concentrate bucket and apply the hose sprinkler (plain water stream) directly against the intake filter. Continue to squirt clean water through the venturi intake hose for about a minute to make sure you flush any residual salts. This will help ensure its long term use by keeping the inner parts clean.



Waterbreaker hose end

If you think the venturi might be affected by a build up of salts encrusting the insides, I am told that sometimes an overnight soak in vinegar will remove deposits that plug the system and it will begin to siphon properly once again. However, I haven't been able to prove this. I only tried to fix a bung siphon once and that didn't work.

I have been using the brass venturi devices for over twenty years and have only had to throw away one. The part that I always find causes the most trouble is the intake filter. The old ones used to have a 4cm wide, circular intake head fitted with a lovely fine copper mesh filter, which is quite delicate and prone to tearing or falling out. The filter is important to stop the suction head pulling in detritus from the bottom of the concentrate bucket or bin. I eventually had to replace the mesh on mine with shade cloth as a filter, tied it in place with copper wire. I suspect that the device that stopped working, and that vinegar couldn't fix, was probably clogged with a piece of fine debris it sucked in through my adapted, rather coarse filter.

Many growers who buy a siphon applicator without realising the very simple factors above, find that they can't get the siphon to work reliably. If you abide by the rules and take care, these are a great, reliable, orchid growing tool.

Dosatron? While the Hozon is the everyman's siphon device, there are much more sophisticated, more expensive versions of the same kind of device. The "Dosatron" is one example. These are used in many agricultural or horticultural situations where there is a requirement to add a liquid solution to a water flow. It can be used for feeding animals or plants, or applying chemicals for pests or diseases, as well as other functions. It still uses a venturi suction device driven by the water pressure but it is more adaptable because the siphon rate is adjustable and maintains the dosage rate regardless of variations in water pressure. I doubt it is what most growers would be looking for so I won't go into it further here. If you are interested, I suggest you consult Dr. Google.

One final Note : The chemicals in some soluble fertilizer will react with some of the metal parts in your watering system. Peters Finisher certainly reacts with copper elements such as the Hozon uptake filter. After a while it will look like very clean naked copper meaning the copper is being eaten away by some of the other metal compounds in the solution. ALWAYS wash out your equipment thoroughly with clean water after you finish using it.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

4th December

What do you think would make a great Christmas Party?

If you have any suggestions please let Veronica know at the 2nd October meeting.



Orchids Central Orchid Displays and Sales

Club Condell Park
178 Eldridge Road, Bankstown
Club Bistro, Facilities and Parking

13th - 15th October 2023

9.30am - 4pm Friday and Saturday

9.30am - 2pm Sunday

Adults: \$10 Buses: \$8

Children under 15 Free



Results of Meeting 7 August 2023

68 plants were exhibited at the meeting

Plant of the Night

S Crosby & T Costa *Den. Issy's Gem*

Novice Plant of the Night

A Zderic *Colm. Masai Red*

Open Section

Standard *Cymbidium* >100mm

1. V Petrovski *Cym. Flaming Vulcan*
2. P Ius *Cym. unknown*

Small Standard *Cymbidium* 85-100mm

1. V Petrovski *Cym. Lovely Angel*

Intermediate *Cymbidium* 65-85mm

1. P Festa *Cym. Jacintas' Pride 'Jemina'*
2. V Petrovski *Cym. Winter Fire 'Frosty Tips'*
3. V Petrovski *Cym. Paradisian Bell 'Winner'*

Miniature *Cymbidium* under 65mm

1. J&N Janz *Cym. Izi Orched 'Leeione' (?)*
2. V Petrovski *Cym. Mem. Garvin Gaye 'Royale'*
3. P Festa *Cym. Spark Sprite 'Sylvia'*

Exhibition *Cattleya* alliance over 110 mm

1. J&N Janz *Blc. Brunswick Plush 'Coral'*

Miniature *Cattleya* alliance (65mm—110mm)

1. M Chin *C. Kawai Starbright 'Fire Magic'*
2. V Petrovski *Lc. Cariad's Mini-Quinee*

Cluster *Cattleya* alliance (min. 5 flowers per inflorescence)

1. M Chin *Lc. Amethystella 'coerulea'*
2. M Chin *Lc. Boambee 'Carnival'*
3. L Valli *C. unknown*

Oncidiinae hybrids up to 30mm

1. V Petrovski *Onc. Twinkles 'Red'*
2. L Wu *Onc. Jairak Fragrance 'Bordeaux'*

Oncidiinae Hybrid (31-65mm)

1. P Festa *Wils. Tiger Tail*
2. V Petrovski *Wils. Orobino 'Coronal'*
3. L Wu *Onc. Sweet Sugar*

Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium species

1. V Petrovski *Paph. venustum*

Australasian Dendrobiinae hybrids

1. Crosby&Costa *Den. Issy's Gem*
2. S Lee *Den. Windsor Downs*
3. S Lee *Den. Brimbank Uluru 'Curvey'*

Australasian Dendrobiinae species

1. L Wu *Den. gracilicaule*
2. S Lee *Den. spec. var capricornicum 'Big Boy' x Autumn Show*

Vanda/Ascocenda > 55mm

1. J&N Janz *Vanda. unknown*

Species: The Americas

1. S Lee *Dinema polybulbom*

Species: Any other

1. S Lee *Bulb. tigrinum*
2. S Lee *Bulb. tigrinum*
3. S Lee *Bulb. longiflorum 'Red'*

Any other genera

1. V Petrovski *Zns. Murasakikomachi*
2. P La *Coel. Linda Buckley*

Pleurothallidinae hybrids

1. Crosby&Costa *Masd. Blazing Wing 'Winter Fire'*

Novice Section

Cattleya Alliance hybrids

1. A Zderic *Cym. unknown*
2. A Zderic *Cym. Feng Shui x Maureen Carter 'His and Hers' x erythraeae*
3. A Zderic *Cym. sanderiae x Magic Chocate x ensifolium*

Paphiopedilum: Species or hybrids

1. C Bechara *Paph. insigne*

Species

1. C Bechara *Ddc. wenzellii*

Any other genera

1. A Zderic *Colm. Masai Red*



Bulb. tigrinum



Cym. unknown

Results of Meeting 4 September 2023

109 plants were exhibited at the meeting

Plant of the Night

Stephen Lee *Den. speciosum* v *grandiflorum* Creek Aureum

Novice Plant of the Night

Adrian Zderic *Cym. Kimberley Splash* 'Teepee'

Open Section

Small Standard Cymbidium (85-100 mm)

1. V Petrovski *Cym. Cleo's Melody* 'Multi Colour'
2. P Ius *Cym. Kulnura Freedom* 'Shapley'

Intermediate Cymbidium (65-85mm)

1. P Festa *Cym. Fury Land* 'Master Travis'
2. V Petrovski *Cym. Glory Daze* x *Sleeping Dawn* 'Royale'
3. P Ius *Cym. Kiwi Volcanic*

Miniature Cymbidium under 65mm

1. V Petrovski *Cym. Mem. Marvin Gaye* 'Royale'
2. J&N Janz *Cym. Dorothy Stocksill* 'Forbidden Fruit'
3. L Valli *Cym. Mem. Marvin Gaye* 'Royale'

Exhibition Cattleya alliance over 110 mm

1. V Petrovski *Blc. Waianae Leopard* 'Chang Hua' x *Slc. Jungle Treasurer* 'Mohave'
2. A Baker *Blc. Lyn Spencer Cha*
3. L Valli *Blc. Sylvia Fry Supreme* x *Mount Hood* 'Orchid Glade'

Miniature Cattleya alliance (65–110mm)

1. A Baker *Blc. Man's Magic* 'Chief Satisfaction'
2. A Baker *Cat. Best Friend* 'Cleopatra'
3. V Petrovski *Lc. Sierra Skies* 'Learner'

Cocktail Cattleya Alliance <65mm

1. A Baker *Slc. Jillian Lee Kym*

Cluster Cattleya alliance (min. 5 flowers per inflorescence)

1. L Valli *Slc. Aloha Jewel*
2. P Festa *Slc. Kauai Starbright*

Oncidiinae hybrid up to 30mm

1. L Valli *Onc. Twinkle* 'Oro'

Oncidiinae Hybrid (31-65mm)

1. P Festa *Col. Wildcat Bobcat*

Oncidiinae Hybrid (>65mm)

1. D Went *Vyl. Red Cambic*

Phalaenopsis Classic Shape <80mm

1. S Lee *Phal. Rong Guah* 'Amah'

Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium complex hybrids

1. L Wu *Paph. Papa Wings World* x *Pacific Ocean*

Paphiopedilum/Phragmipedium novelty hybrids

1. L Valli *Paph. Primulinum* x *Master Nature*
2. L Wu *Paph. unknown*

Australasian Dendrobiinae species

1. S Lee *Den. speciosum* v *grandiflorum* Creek

Aureum

2. S Lee *Den. polysema* forma
3. S Lee *Den. gracillimum*

Australasian Dendrobiinae hybrids

1. P La *Den. Australian Goldrush*
2. S Lee *Den. Essie Banks* #41
3. R Cawley *Den. Australian Artist* 'Limetime Green'

Australasian Terrestrial species

1. M Chin *Ptst. curta* h.f. *variegata*

Non-Australasian Dendrobium hybrids (soft cane/hardcane)

1. J&N Janz *Den. Star Sapphire*
2. J&N Janz *Den. Honey Leen* 'Red Emperor'
3. J&N Janz *Den. Miyuki* 'Forest Mist'

Species: monopodial or vandaceous

1. S Lee *Phal. schilleriana*
2. S Lee *Phal. lobbii*
3. S Lee *Aerangis citrata*

Species: The Americas

1. A Baker *C. walkeriana* var. *flames* 'Tokutsu-s'
2. R Cawley *Din. polybulbon*
3. R Cawley *Max. chrysantha*

Species: Any other

1. M. Redman *Ddc. tenellum*
2. S Lee *Bulb. mearnsii*

Any Other Genera

1. D Went *Coel. Unchained Melody*
2. M Zanetich *Coel. Unchained Melody*
3. P Ius *Coel. Unchained Melody*

Pleurothallidinae hybrids

1. V Petrovski *Masd. Copper Wings* 'Sunburst' x *Latin Bride* 'Sunset'
2. V Petrovski *Masd. Falcata Gold* x *Dazzla* Beenak

Novice Section

Cymbidium Hybrids

1. A Zderic *Cym. Kimberley Splash* 'Teepee'
2. A Zderic *Cym. Khan Flame* 'Tuscany'
3. A Zderic *Cym. Mok Verhal* 'Jenzen' x *Alexandra Beauty*

Dendrobium hybrids

1. A Zderic *Den. Yukidaruma* 'The King'

Paphiopedilum: Species or Hybrids

1. A Zderic *Paph. Rosy Dawn*

Australasian Natives: Terrestrial or Epiphytic

1. A Zderic *Den. speciosum*
2. A Zderic *Den. kingianum*
3. S Mucha *Den. kingianum*

Species

1. S Mucha *Coel. flaccida*

Any other genera

1. C Bechara *Onc. unknown*
2. A Zderic *Phal. unknown*
3. A Zderic *Phal. unknown*

**Minutes of General Meeting of Bankstown Orchid Society held at Georges Hall Community Centre,
188 Birdwood Road, Georges Hall 7th August, 2023**

The meeting was opened by President Veronica Clowes at 7.30pm

Visitors: Eva Liu

Correspondence: Garden Clubs, Bunnings Padstow, Any Spaces, Judges – Wal, Kathy, Jan, Orchids Central, Canterbury Bankstown Council, Lidcombe Shopping Centre, 2GB radio and Westpac.

Bulletins: Sutherland OS, Ku-ring-gai, Shoalhaven, Western Suburbs, Berowra, ANOS, OS NSW, Blue Mountains, Five Dock, Central Coast Cymbidium and North Shore.

Meeting

Veronica welcomed everyone to the August meeting and pointed out that our AGM in November and our December Christmas party are approaching.

The growing competition was judged tonight by Terry and the points went to Marga and Veronica. The next inspection will be at the November meeting.

Our shows have been run and won for the year. Well done to everyone who entered and thank you to everyone who helped with setting up, security, sales table and breakdown. The shows can't be run without everyone's help. We will once again hold the last week in July for next year and hopefully Lidcombe will have us back.

Lidcombe show had a few issues with parking. The only thing that was mentioned to May prior to the show was the list of number plates required. Unfortunately, subcontractors now control the on site parking areas and it wasn't until problems arose with having to pay on exit that we were instructed to park in the Staff parking bays at \$4 a day. This communication gap was resolved with Centre Management (Lizzy – Centre manager) deciding to pick up the parking fees for our Society. Besides this, the Show was a roaring success. Congratulations to the Grand Champion Dimitrios for Masd. Rein Touch Beenak and Champion Novice Adrian for Cym. Spicy Khan x Uluru Orange Delight, and of course to the other Champions of the show.

Thank you to Phillip Festa, Stephen Lee and Adrian Zderic for donating the raffle prizes, won by May and two members of the public.

Awards for Lidcombe Show were then handed out.

Upcoming events are the Cymbidium and Paphiopedilum show at Yagoona Friday and Saturday, then next week is St Ives, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Fairfield also have their Spring show coming up in September at Bonnyrigg.

We have purchased a new advertising banner. The banner will be used at Bunnings and at other BOS events. Bankstown now have a facebook page. Thank you to our enthusiastic administrator. Please visit and add comments.

We have been invited to Bunnings Spring Launch on 16th September. Anyone wanting to sell plants are very welcome to attend, thank you Adrian for your interest in this event.

Veronica has given an Orchid talk to Bunnings Padstow's garden club which was very successful. Perhaps she will respond to the request to do another sometime soon.

May then gave her Orchids Central Report.

Club Condell Park was then discussed being the Orchids Central venue. Anyone wanting to see the venue are welcome to meet Veronica at the Club on Wednesday at 11am. Those who so kindly have their names down to assist at Orchids Central should think about visiting the club and joining for \$5.50. The process of signing in on every visit is much easier and speedy if you are a member.

Plants of the night were then announced:

Open: *Dendrobium* Issy Gem grown by Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa

Novice: *Oncidium* Massai Red grown by Adrian Zderic

David and Jim then gave talks about Novice and Open plants of the night as well as *sotoanums*, *bulbophyllums* and *Cym. canaliculatum* hybrids which were benched tonight.

The meeting then broke for supper.

The raffle was then drawn and a big thank you to Stephen who donated all the wonderful raffle plants for tonight.

Veronica then thanked Lorraine for doing an amazing job with supper.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Minutes of General Meeting of Bankstown Orchid Society held at Georges Hall Community Centre,
188 Birdwood Road, Georges Hall 4th September, 2023**

The meeting was opened by President Veronica Clowes at 7.30pm.

Correspondence: Square, Westpac, Bunnings Padstow, NPWS, Orchids Australia Magazine, Any Spaces, Orchids in Print, Australian Orchid Foundation and Woolgoolga Conference. **Bulletins:** Sutherland, Berowra, OS NSW, Western Suburbs, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Garden Clubs and North Shore.

General Business:

Veronica welcomed everyone noting that although down a few members, the benching tonight is wonderful with a nice range, particularly of native hybrids. Veronica told members that last Friday night she was one of the judges at the Blue Mountains and Penrith Society show where they also had lots of native species and hybrids. The Grand Champion was the same cymbidium that won the Cymbidium Extravaganza and was grown by George Kovacs. The Reserve Champion was won by our own Mick and Toni Benton who displayed a magnificent *Dendrobium speciosum*. (Toni told us that they had been given this plant by Tony Costa a year or so ago) A round of applause was awarded to the Benton's.

On a sad note Revesby Workers Australian Native Orchid Club looks like they may be closing down. There was talk that they would amalgamate with Panania East Hills Orchid Society, I believe the various options are being explored.

Plants in our growing competition will next be inspected in November.

I hope all the Dad's here had a great day yesterday. Happy Father's Day.

We had a Bunnings Sausage sizzle on Saturday. Last meeting we discussed that the profit from the day would be spent on our Christmas party. We made a profit of \$2,000. It was a lot of hard work for only 8 people. Please consider supporting us next year with a few hours.

Please think about what you want this year for our Christmas party on 4th December. How are we going to celebrate with our regular member's. I have already got the rum and raisin ice cream that our mate Stan requested last year. Please think about it and we will discuss Christmas at our next meeting.

Only **37** days to **Orchids Central** All the big shows have gone for the year, this is the last opportunity for people who still have some dollars burning in their pockets to buy orchids in 2023.

What can we do to help OC? We need lots of people helping as there are 2 easy stair cases. One vendor is even carrying all their own plants. The vendors have staggered arrival time with 3 vendors per hour. We have 4 trolleys which will fit 4 crates on each. We need people to push these trolleys and get them to the first floor so it's a continuous stream from vans to venue and back.

Why is Bankstown supporting OC? OC has replaced Southern Orchid Spectacular as people didn't seem as if they wanted to travel to Sutherland so it was decided to bring it to a more central position.

5 Societies took over the management – OSNSW, Bankstown, Fairfield, Five Dock RSL and Eastern Suburbs. We all put in \$500 to create a float. The arrangement is that 20% of the profit will go back to each society - so we need it to be a success. The management arrangement is each society has to put in 20% of the work. May – our representative took on the position of volunteers.

What can I do personally? Give some time, even a couple of hours. We need 14 volunteers for the am shifts and 10 for the pm shifts. Bankstown's allocated day is Friday along with Eastern Suburbs. Saturday is Fairfield and Five Dock and Sunday is OS NSW. Please volunteer some of your time on any day that you are available.

The Executive will be wearing purple vests and the volunteers will have green vests. This is to make it easy for people to identify who can help them on the day.

May has sheets tonight regarding what jobs are available and what the jobs entail and what to do on your volunteer day.

I suggest that if you have time before OC to go to the Club and become a member as this will help on the day for easy access to the Club. Please also remember to bring your plastic drivers licence as this makes it easier to ID yourself rather than on a phone.

Our display. Unfortunately Dan isn't well tonight to discuss our display. We need plants. Please bring your plants and help Dan with our display. If anyone wants to put their plants in the display and can't make it to OC on Thursday 12th October you can bring them to our next meeting on 2nd October and we will have someone look after them for the show.

May then gave her OC Report.

Best Orchid of the night was then announced.

Open: *Den. speciosum* var *grandiflorum* 'Greek Aureum' grown by Stephen Lee

Novice: *Cym.* Kimberley Splash 'Teepee' grown by Adrian Zderic.

Jim gave a talk about *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* which was benched tonight by Stephen Lee

David gave a talk about *Dendrobium kingianum*s and peloric cymbidiums and cattleyas.

The meeting then broke for supper. Raffle was drawn. Veronica thanked Lorraine for supper.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.