



# EUROBODALLA ORCHID CLUB INC

## Newsletter

WEBSITE: [eurobodallaorchidclub.com.au](http://eurobodallaorchidclub.com.au)

MAY, 2021

### From the President.....

Many thanks to Gordon Marion for his excellent Growers' Workshop presentation – a solid two hours of practical, well explained information on the whys and wherefores of how he does it. I'm sorry if you missed it. You'll have the opportunity to pick up on some of Gordon's experience as the year progresses, as we place particular emphasis on 'practical orchid growing.' Our daytime meetings have concluded by 3.30pm or thereabouts and feedback on timing and format has been favourable thus far. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or discussion topics you'd like covered. I look forward to seeing you on Friday 14 May 2021.

### NEXT MEETING

MAY 14

Doors open 1pm  
for set up, benching  
& Popular Vote  
Meeting: 2pm

### At the last meeting.....



Jean Swindley talked to us about the highs and lows of growing orchids into Specimen plants. Jean purchased a small plant of *Dinema polybulbon* in 2003. This plant grew into an amazing dome-shaped specimen which was Grand Champion at our 2018 Spring Show and received a Cultural Award. Then it began to show signs of browning off. With a good deal of courage, Jean peeled the plant carefully away from the underneath shade cloth, cut away any dead material, retrieved all the little pieces which were jutting out everywhere, then replaced the plant onto new shade cloth with sphagnum moss underneath and secured it. The many small pieces she planted in a variety of ways to see which method was the most successful. Two plastic saucers with holes were used. One contained her hydroponic mix and one bark. The one in bark seems to be the

**President:**  
Tony Groube  
**Vice President:**  
Jean Swindley  
44736963  
**Treasurer:**  
David Hay  
44739547  
**Secretary:**  
Glenda Clapin  
0414721655  
**Committee:**  
Barbara Williams  
Anne-Marie Collins  
Garry Evans  
Una Roberts  
Gordon Marion

most successful though they are both thriving. Jean tied some to an attractive tree branch and whilst alive and growing it is clearly not making growth as rapidly as some of her other plants. She showed us another beginning specimen where the shade cloth is still obvious, but with the moss underneath creating the humidity the plant needs, it will soon be covered with this amazing little plant. Jean explained that small flowering plants often look their best if grown into a Specimen plant though not all orchids are suitable because of their flowering habits. However Specimen plants eventually reach a peak and then decline, so decisions have to be made about their future. This was a most interesting session. Thanks Jean. Those of us with little pieces of your *Dinema polybulbon* have quite a way to go to match your wonderful plants, but we now have some practical information to get us motivated.

Both the Open Plant of the Day and the Novice Plant of the day were Cattleyas. In the Open Section Margaret and Don Hayes benched a magnificent example of *Cattleya bowringiana* whilst Diane and Peter Griffith's lovely *Cattleya* Red Nelly 'Top Dog' x Valley Champion 'Gorgeous' won the Novice Section.



Choosing a Refills Prize



Teljen Marshall EOC Meeting 9.4.2021



Borothy Radlman EOC Meeting 9.4.21

**At the next meeting.....Friday, May 14th.....doors open at 1pm**



A Miscellany of Miscellaneous Orchid Information – A Refresher for Some, News For Others  
Having had a quiet 2020, even the most seasoned of us has become ‘a bit rusty’ and ‘sharpening up’ is slower in the achievement. We have realised that we use a vernacular that can be foreign and off-putting to new growers and the public at large – “benching, seedling, species, mericlone, clone, hybrid, inter-generic, division etc.” Unfortunately, that’s the language of the orchid world. We’ll try and demystify some of that in a non-threatening, non-examinable manner, so that we’re all talking roughly the same lingo.  
We’ll try and provide practical growing tips and current advice, particularly for the newer and uninitiated, and swap ideas that might excite the old and the ‘newbies’ amongst us. Don’t forget to have plants on the bench by 1.30pm and retreat from the benches for a cuppa, with the meeting to start at 2pm.



### **Monthly Maintenance.....**

\*Try to make a practice of regularly inspecting every one of your plants individually. (easier if your collection is small). Pick up the plant and look under the leaves first of all, then examine every part of the plant. Hopefully you will find nothing, but if you do find Mealy Bug, Boisduval Scale or Soft Scale, treat it immediately, isolate it and check it again in the following days. This is a repetitive message but a vital one.

\*The wet weather of several weeks ago has produced many snails and slugs. A strong coffee spray is one suggested organic means of control on garden plants and should be fine on strong, thick- leafed orchids. If you double pot your orchids, regularly check between the two pots for snails and slugs.

\*Grasshoppers or juvenile locusts have also been spotted. Watch out for them and take action.

\*Spiders in the orchid house can be controlled with a soapy water spray. ( Thanks to Dorothy Kauffman for this advice. It works.) An orchid stake twirled through webs soon gets rid of them.

\*It seems that the mouse plague has extended to our area. Keep a careful watch for signs of them and deal with them as you see fit.

\*Dendrobium Beetles are still around. They are tough little creatures! The good news is that they seem sluggish at the moment so can be fairly easily caught by hand.

\*Consider double potting any orchids which prefer warmer temperatures than you can provide in Winter. The extra insulation could help them through the cold nights.

### **Sphagnum Moss**



There seems to be a current shortage of quality sphagnum moss so here are some tips found on the internet to help you grow your own.

Jean Swindley produces enough for her own needs in her bog garden and that is one recommendation. Dig a shallow pit and fill it with growing medium. Sprinkle with pieces of moss and keep it constantly damp. Mist it regularly and flood it from time to time. A light layer of mulch is recommended too.

Gordon Marion has successfully grown it in a tray on top of some spent orchid mix and this method is also suggested. Any growing medium is able to be used but it should be fairly airy.

Live moss will be productive more quickly than dried moss but both will grow under the right conditions.

One suggestion to quickly produce live moss (if you can’t obtain any) is to take a handful of dried moss and wet it with rain water. Place it in a plastic bag in indirect sunlight and watch for the green tips. Cut them off and sprinkle them over your growing tray or pit. Flood with water and keep moist.

Sphagnum moss likes high humidity and pure water, though on one site the grower had used tap water successfully. Another grower of sphagnum suggested that temperature is all important....not too hot and not too cold. That is an interesting comment given that Tasmania and New Zealand produce high quality moss in their mountainous regions. Different species of sphagnum could account for this.

This is a long term project and if you decide to give it a try,  
please feel free to share your results through this newsletter.

**Peter Vanest has been unable to attend a number of recent meetings due to health issues. He has very kindly agreed to share some of the practices which help him to be such a successful Masdevallia grower.**

**Thank you Peter and we hope to see you and Laurina back at our meetings soon.**

From Peter Vanest...

I try to repot my masdevallias every two years.

Last year I had to repot about 80% of my collection.

To do so I had to make up three batches of 30 litres coco husks. Always when I start using another batch, I write it down on the calendar, and keep an eye on them. After repotting, most of the time about two or three weeks later, they respond by making plenty of new roots and growths.

This time as well, except for the ones I repotted in the second batch of medium. They grew but didn't thrive as the ones in batch one and three, although I treated them exactly the same. I should have repotted them again but I had other things on my mind at that time, so I left them.

Because the best time I think to repot masdevallias is in March or September, I started this year late Feb. First I repotted the ones that were visibly off colour, most of them because of break down of the medium.

However when I started with the ones I repotted in the medium of the second batch last year, I got a big surprise.

When I looked at the first one I picked up I noticed nice new growths coming up. And when I took the plant out of the pot I also noticed that the plant had not made many roots last year but made up for it this year. I looked at three more plants I repotted in the same batch and they were all the same, good new roots and growths. I did not touch the others.

I am growing masdas for about twenty years and never had this experience before. One of the mysteries of growing orchids, and what makes our hobby so interesting.

The reason that I am repotting in Sept. and March and have the best results by doing so is I think because masdevallias grow in the Andes right on the equator and therefore have the same daylight as night hours every day all year round, but at high altitudes by a temperature of about 21 degrees Celsius at day time, also all year round, and a bit cooler at night.

And that's very similar to our times of daylight and temperatures we experience in March and Sept.

But when you have a masda that needs to be repotted, do it any time.

I also applied every couple of weeks a weak solution of Seasol to my masdas on top of the usual weak weekly fertiliser, but reduced that to about every six weeks because of the quick break down of the coco husks by using organic fertiliser. I have not noticed any difference in the growing of flowering pattern.

This might not work for you, but is maybe worth a try.

Good growing, Peter.



And some more items of interest....

- Covid Vaccination Centre Ulladulla – 4455 5422 if you're having trouble finding somewhere more local for a shot of AstraZeneca.
- From Eden, exhibits from Bob and Muriel Bell might be a bit limited for this year's show season – given that Bob's been put on a restricted driver's licence. Muriel hasn't been real flash but is now coming good. We wish them well and will see if we can't get some of their output on to the Show Benches.

## Gordon Marion's Growers' Workshop, 17 April 2021, Tuross Head.....

Nearly twenty Members attended and absorbed all that Gordon provided. He ran through his Cymbidium and Cattleya growing practices, with examples of potting-on (into a bigger pot, not disturbing roots) division etc. Whilst Gordon uses what we might call a 'synthetic' mix, the growing practices remain similar as with an organic mix. Managing a major collection means most plants get similar treatment as far as fertilising (quarter strength of Gordon's own formula with every watering) and pesticide and anti-fungal treatments. The time to undertake 'soft' or 'eco' treatments is limited as is their efficacy, on such a large collection. Gordon's knowledge and observations will be tapped at General Meetings, as the year progresses.



## Editor's Orchid Spotlight



### Orchid Spotlight.....*Dinema polybulbon*

This plant comes from Central America, some Northern parts of South America and is also found on several islands off the coast. It grows on trees and rocks in areas of humid oak and mixed forests at heights of 600 to 2000 metres above sea level. As Jean has shown us, it is ideally suited to grow in our climate if it is given the conditions it needs. It flowers from Autumn to Early Spring.

Two common synonyms are

*Encyclia polybulbon* and *Epidendrum polybulbon*.

## Graham Jackson's devastation.....

Graham recently had an enforced stay in hospital in Canberra and returned home quite some days later to see that many of the pots in the orchid house (where most of his *Dendrobiums* are kept) were tumbled over. On closer inspection he could see that many leaves had been munched.

The culprit met him.....a baby rabbit that had somehow gotten into the house but couldn't get out. It didn't go hungry as you can see by the photos. 92 plants were either totally or partially eaten.

New canes on the *Dendrobium speciosums* and leaves on the other *Dendrobiums* were attacked.

Seedlings and tags were pulled out of the pots. If he can get the plants to grow again there will be many named *Dendrobium Surprise!* First fire and now rabbits. We all feel for you Graham.

*Dendrobium Ann's Rainbow Surprise 'Diana'* was flowering in a hanging basket out of the reach of the munching bunny, providing a spot of colour amidst the chaos.





**EUROBODALLA ORCHID CLUB INC.  
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
CWA HALL, MORUYA ON 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**



The Meeting opened at 2:08pm with the President Tony Groube in the Chair.

PRESENT: Members: 27 Apologies:3 Visitors: 1

Minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, accepted as true copy of meeting.

Motion: Glenda Clapin Seconded: Anne-Maree Cee

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Plant of the Day Certificates – February: Phalaenopsis Unknown - David and Diane Hay.

March: Open Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani' - Ray & Gayle Huddleston

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer read his report for March:

Income: \$415.23 Expenditure \$135.95

Profit for Month: \$279.28 Loss for Year: \$553.64

Motion for Report to be Accepted: David Hay Seconded: Liz Cleaver



**SECRETARY**

Payment for Club Shirts and Jackets due in 1 week so order can be placed.

Car pooling to Shoalhaven, Phil Harrington's place for Orchid/Bromeliad Sale

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Club Shirts- Please order by email to Glenda. Jacket Price \$41.95 +\$7.70 for logo. Old stock being run out so we will need to get the order in expeditiously.
2. Workshop by Gordon Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 start. Cymbids and Cattleyas + others
3. Reminders for Members:
  - a. Must do 2 meetings to sell orchids at a show.
  - b. Must be financial.
  - c. Members "Can't take their own plants off benches" until Show Marshall has given permission.
  - d. Reminder "Don't move other people's benched plants-Ask Show Marshall to do so."
  - e. Must own the plant for 6 months before showing.
  - f. We also need people to move back after benching, so that Show Marshall can access orchids.
  - g. We will trial having cup of tea at the beginning of meeting. Must preserve benching etiquette.
  - h. Finish cuppa then vote.
  - i. New members can bring in new plants for advice but don't have to bench them.
  - j. What are we voting for? Popular vote. Not necessarily best plant.
  - k. Ask members to check 'species' and what category they fall into: Species Australia, Species Asia, Species America and Species other. Check on Google. Jean has lists of each category at meetings.
  - l. Update on Graham Jackson.

**Plant of the day** – Open Section: *Cattleya bowringiana* Don and Margaret Hayes

Novice Section: *Cattleya* Red Nelly Top Dog Peter and Diane Griffiths

**Raffles** – Suzzane Nash, Jean Swindley, Raye Huddleston, Barbara Williams, Dorothy Kauffman,

**Members Badge Draw**– No:10 Diane and Peter Griffiths

**Demonstration by Jean Swindley**

Are we happy with cup of tea at beginning-Majority yes.

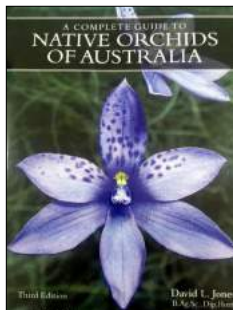
**Meeting Closed 3:24pm**

Committee Meeting Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> Moruya Bowling Club

Next Monthly Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Doors open 1:00pm for set up & voting, Meeting 2pm

Glenda Clapin

EOC Secretary



If you would like to add your name to the list of borrowers for the latest addition to our library just phone your friendly librarians....

D&D: 0409911087

*We send our best wishes to Members who are ill or undergoing treatment.*



*We hope you are soon feeling much better.*

## Open Section

### **Species Aust.**

Ray & Gayle Huddleston

### **Species Asia**

Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube

### **Species Other**

Don & Margaret Hayes

David & Diane Hay

### **Std Cym**

Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube

### **Int. Cym**

Gordon Marion

### **Cattleya**

David & Diane Hay

### **Paphiopedilum**

Don & Margaret Hayes

### **Aust. Native**

Jean Swindley

### **Vandaceous**

David & Diane Hay

### **Miscellaneous**

Gordon Marion

Ray & Gayle Huddleston

### **Plant of the Night**

*Cattleya bowringiana*

Don & Margaret Hayes

## Novice Section

### **Cattleya**

Peter & Diane Griffiths

### **Plant of the Night**

*Cattleya* Red Nelly Top Dog

x Valley Champion

'Georgeous'

Peter & Diane Griffiths



*Cattleya bowringiana*

## April Popular Vote

*Cattleya bowringiana*

Don & Margaret Hayes



Den. Bigibbum 'Ronander' x Den. Bigibbum 'Sunset'

Den. Bigibbum 'Ronander' x Bigibbum Sunset

Ray & Gayle Huddleston



Zygo. Adelaide Meadows

'Braeburn' x Zba Beenak

Jester

Gordon Marion



Den. Candy 'Mornington'

Jean Swindley



*Cymbidium* Unknown

Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube



Paph. Leyburnense

'Magnificum'

Don & Marg Hayes



Bc. Yellow Bird

Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube



*Stenoglottis fimbriata*

*Stenoglottis fimbriata*

Sue Carroll



*Paph. insigne*

x

*Paph. gael*

Jean Swindley

*Haraella*

*retrocalla*

David &

Diane Hay



*Haraella retrocalla*