



THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

(Established in 1947)

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Annual Membership : **\$15 single, \$18 family**

Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow

President : not appointed

Vice President : Jim Brydie

Secretary : Jenny Richardson

Treasurer : Lina Huang (and Sales Table)

Committee : Dennys Angove

Editor : Jim Brydie

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Web site (active link) : <http://kuringaiorchidsociety.org.au>

Committee : Herb Schoch (Community outreach, Sales Table)

Committee : Jessie Koh (Membership Secretary / Social Events)

Committee : Stuart Ruthven

Committee : Julie Iyengar

Committee : Adrian Zderic

Committee

Society email : kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

facebook : www.facebook.com/p/Ku-Ring-Gai-Orchid-Society

Next Meeting : Mon 18th November 2024

Venue : *The West Lindfield Community Hall, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

COVID remains in the community. **In consideration of others, PLEASE stay home if you are not feeling well.** We prefer all meeting attendees to be Covid vaccinated, masks are optional.

Please note : For insurance purposes, you now need to **SIGN the ATTENDANCE SHEETS at the front door on arrival.** Please sign against your name rather than just using a tick.

The hall is open from 6.30pm This is initially to set up the hall (please help). Benching can begin from 7 pm but please no benching until all the class dividers are in place. Give the set up team time to get everything organized.

Our Culture Class – Unfortunately there will be no culture class this month. We are presently working to fill the booking engagements for next year.

The sales table will be open as usual but as announced previously, please respect the “*Sales Table Open / Sales Table Close*” sign and work with the sales table managers.

The Supper Break – The society supplies the tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc, **but members are asked to bring along a contribution for the supper table** - cake, slice, or biscuits, etc. *There have been some excellent offerings lately – Thank you. Keep up the good work members, show us what you can do.*

AND - please everyone, bring your own mug or cup for tea or coffee.

Our Supper Volunteers this month are **Jessie Koh and Di Flinders**. Thank you so much ladies, what would we do without your continuous help – you are treasures.

Remember - Supper is not self-serve, PLEASE DON'T go get your own - helpers are used to minimise handling

After the tea break, we have a wonderful **Guest Speaker** with **Cary Polis from the Manly Warringah OS** talking to us about **growing orchids in waterwell pots**. In the early days waterwell pots would be outright rubbish but we were gradually forced to accept that it really works for many orchids. Perhaps there are some tricks to it? Come along to our November meeting and let Cary tell us all about it and how it's done.

Best of The Evening – Species – Den. lindleyi - grown by **Trevor and Pauline Onslow**

Trevor and Pauline have always benched magnificent specimens of lindleyi. It used to be known as Den. aggregatum but not so long back there was a refresh of registered names and I now agree that this is correctly Den. lindleyi.

This is a miniature Dendrobium compared to most of its sisters in Dendrobium section Callista (like Den thyrsoflorum, densiflorum and farmeri). Lindleyi's pseudobulbs are given as 5 to 10 cm tall and they have a single terminal leaf. In nature it is found in a wide sweep from northern India through Asia across Thailand, Vietnam and eastern China. It's habitat elevations range from about 500 - 1300 metres and I believe that in many areas it is only found at the lower end of the range which probably explains why I have always found this one tricky to grow. My place is a touch cold for it. The Onslows only live a couple of kilometers from my place but they live along the higher ridge of Galston road which stays a little warmer but then, Trevor is also a much better grower than I which may be a better reason.

Congratulations Trevor and Pauline. It's a delight to see the gems you bring in to our meetings.



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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au)

Dennys' Desk – **Jim** suggested that I follow up with some feedback after our AGM without a President, albeit that **Jim** is acting as vice-President until we are able to fill that position. There was an amazing 162 plants benched on the night with our AGM attended by 51 people including one visitor. It was busy night with lots of interaction and it was good to see some folk at the AGM that I have not seen at our monthly meetings for a while.

Garrie acted as chairperson through the transition and we had 3 new people join the committee bringing our total to 9, which I have to say, will help the society benefit enormously from their contributions. We still need a President to chair the meetings at the committee level as well as the monthly meetings. These functions can be managed over a short period, especially with the experience that **Jim** offers as the vice-President and that I can offer as past-President, that is, until we gain a new President.

It should be noted that you don't need to know a lot about orchids to be a President but you do have to have some insight into running meetings. Now that we have a larger committee of 9 for support which is fantastic, I expect the President's role to be much less demanding. After the AGM, the member's auction went well with **Lina** at the helm assisted by **Janine** with **Jim** and **Trevor** calling the offerings, which including a nice starter's lot which contained many plants put up for sale by **David Floyd**. Supper was nice and **Di**, **Julie** and **Ethan** contributed to its success. It took more time than normal to pull down the hall, but to those helped, thank you so much for your efforts.

Other Society News

1. New Members - We have a new member who has joined us – Lynn Dabbs. Welcome to our club Lynn. I hope you enjoy the lovely orchids you see benched, learn a little bit about orchid culture, and make some new friends.

Would all members, please go out of their way to say hello to Lynn and get to know her. It is always an uncertain time when you first join a new group. Trying to find your way with the subject matter but also to get to know new people.

2. Welcome to our new committee members – On behalf of all members I am so pleased to welcome **Julie Iyengar**, **Stuart Ruthven** and **Adrian Zderic** to our committee. Thank you so much for putting your hand up to help. It will be great fun getting to know you all in coming months.

3. November and membership fees – November is the restart of our membership year after our AGM so now is the time to make payment for your next year's annual membership to Sydney's best value orchid club.

Fees are \$15 single, \$18 family. You can pay by bank transfer to **Westpac Bank, BSB No 032 188, account name - Kuring-gai Orchid Society Inc. and account number 103568**. If you use this method, **please** use **your full name as the payment description** or your **phone number** if your financial institution does not allow you to enter a name. If you wish, you can email kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com to confirm your payment.

Alternately, you can pay directly to membership secretary Jessie Koh at a meeting.

4. Christmas Party Reminder – Just an early notice to get it in your diary – our Christmas Party meeting is on Monday Evening 9th December (that's a week earlier than our usual meeting night). And it starts at 7.30 pm.

There will be a lot more detail in the December bulletin but just to let you know in advance –

Benching – There is less bench space available so we ask you to limit yourself to your best 3 orchids for this night.

Sales Table - We do not run the sales table at our Christmas party so if you need items please make sure you purchase them at the November meeting.

The Party food - The Society provides all the foods, including dessert, and a limited range of soft-drinks, beer and cask wine. **To minimise cross handling of foods, we ask that YOU DO NOT bring food contributions.**

If you have special dietary requirements and need to bring food or drink specific to meet your own needs, then by all means go ahead but please remember that the kitchen is off limits. There will be no facility for cooking or warming anything you bring. And please, NO REAL GLASS. Hall hire insists we use no actual glass.

Have you ever thought about why people come to orchid meetings? Jim Brydie and Dennys Angove Individuals are all unique and each of us probably has their own main reason for coming to orchid meetings. Apart from the obvious of taking pleasure in seeing a large number of very beautiful orchids displayed each month, there are many more human reasons people come to meetings as members or visitors. The list below is perhaps just some of the most common :

- If you happen to be thinking about trying to grow some of these strange, wonderful, exotic plants, then one of the best places to learn is at an orchid club. Orchid grower members have learned over a long time how each type of orchid has its own requirements. They have the knowledge.
- If you already grow orchids and want to see how you are doing, in other words, to learn and compare your skills, club meetings are a great place to compare yourself against other growers.
- At the monthly meeting there is often a sales table making available growing supplies at more manageable prices and there are often spare divisions of members' spare plants for sale.

- If you like a little entertainment, the club process usually involves a guest speaker at each meeting. They present topics about specific kinds of orchids, how to grow them, or perhaps recent orchid trips to the wilds of some overseas country or to an international orchid show. We also host plant doctor nights and auction nights for members orchids.

But do you know the biggest reason of all to come to meetings? It is because we are humans, and we enjoy human contact as part of our existence. We are curious. We like to meet other people, to say hello, to ask how their day went and to be asked how we are doing. To hear their experiences and to share ours. Our whole society is based on social interconnection and cooperation and Orchid Clubs are just another form of that experience.

If as a club, we become dissociated from a role in the social interconnection of our members and friends we could be considered as being nothing but a service provider. A facility that can close-up at 5 o'clock, go home, and not care a hoot about the customers. --- WE ARE NOT LIKE THAT.

If we neglect the development of building a team and fostering connections between members, what will happen when we try to do something as a team? Like putting on an orchid display as part of an orchid fair. Like counting on our members to pitch in and help running the fair that keeps us viable, like running our club and our meetings.

SO – as a team related operation, we ask every member to understand what that means in terms of how we run. We do not hire and fire, we pay no member to do anything other than to repay pre-agreed out of pocket expenses. We depend on our membership to actively participate as best they can. We recognise that participation for some is highly limited, but we ask that you pitch in for the benefit of all where you can. You will benefit from the work of some, and others will benefit from your participation.

Over a long time in the administration of different orchid and other clubs, it is surprising the number of times different members (admittedly mostly new sign-ons) have decided to stop coming to meetings and to cease membership because they have been unable to make friendships and were finding no-one to talk to at meetings.

This is a disappointing situation, but there is no simple flip-switch to fix it. There is no law that stipulates that you must all be friends. It simply would not work.

Humans are complicated beings with individual needs, interests, and relationships. We each go about finding our way in society, and creating relationships, in our own manner. If you get a new job with a new company, it is the responsibility of the newbie to find out about their new colleagues, to engage with those who they feel comfortable with, and hopefully make new friends. It is the same at social clubs like ours.

Participation is the key and is an excellent way to find another who thinks like you do and in whose company you can feel comfortable. Current members all went through the same process when they joined, and they will usually do their best to participate with an approach from a new member.

We have several members who do their best to try and introduce new members to older members but more often than not the best that can do is put faces to names and sometimes slightly overcome a shyness barrier. Each of you is the master of your own destiny. Try and be brave and make the effort and you will find friends.

It is a bit embarrassing to be writing this next bit because we can hardly be called any kind of relationship experts, but we are also past being too shy. -- Don't be afraid to reveal something of yourself when you talk - we don't mean give everyone your life story whether they want it or not– but if your acquaintance mentions a subject, you know something about, then don't be too shy to tell them. This is a good example of self-measured participation.

Participation and connection are what provides wider opportunity for those involved. Participation and connection are also goals that everyone could achieve and are more easily attainable with courtesy and patience. In conclusion, come along and have fun and get involved as you are able. The involvement is where the fun is.

Coming events - Mon 9th Dec - 7.30pm Ku-Ring-Gai Orchid Society Annual Christmas Party

Philosophy



Best of the Evening Novice – *Paphiopedilum delatanii* var. *album* - grown by Nancy Yao



This one, a 'variety album' is something you will rarely see. The more typical Paph delatanii has white sepals and petals but a lovely pink lip as shown in the picture below.

As a side note, I have always found the expressions variety or forma album or alba a curiously mixed lot. The descriptor comes from the latin word album which means white, however in botany both terms have adopted a slight variation on that. They have both been taken to mean a flower lacking the red pigments and as red is a fundamental component of purple and brown it means the flower can't have tones of those either. But that doesn't necessarily mean it is a white flower. Some 'album' or 'alba' flowers are white, some green, some green and white. Individuals like any of these will also have no red pigments in the leaves.

Paph delatanii is usually pink and "Pink" is a rather unusual colour in Paphs. In the early days there were some hybrids that you would probably call pink, but examined more closely they were usually more a

white background with finely scattered tiny red dots. Nice try but not really pink. It has only since Paph delatanii became more available they are now coming up with some genuine pastel colours.

Paph delatanii comes from Vietnam. This species was first described in 1924, from plants brought back by returning French soldiers but was believed to be extinct. It was only 'rediscovered' in 1993. It comes from SE Vietnam at elevations around 800-1300 meters and plants are generally found in granite pebbles or on mossy tree trunks, usually near water in a shady area. It is a white flower with a lovely pink balloon shaped lip and is the first of what we nowadays call the Chinese Paphs or more correctly 'Subgenus Parvisepalum'. These are the ones with that typical balloon shape lip and includes Paphs: armeniacum, emersonii, jackii, malipoense, micranthum, vietnamense, and perhaps others still to be found.



Paph delatanii

Congratulations on a very classy and well grown orchid Nancy.

Do you know How our annual point score system works?

At each monthly meeting our members bring in their flowering orchids to share their pride and delight in their orchids. To provide a little friendly competition, the club organises judging teams to judge orchids in each class and select 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in each class each month. They also select 3 Best of the Evening orchids.

The ONLY BENCHING PRIZES given out at our monthly meetings are the three Best of the Evening prizes selected by the judging panels. There is **one prize for - Best of the Evening Species**, one for **Best of the Evening Hybrid**, and one for **Best of the Evening on our Novice benches**. Winners are asked out front during the meeting to select a prize plant from a pool of 3 plants allocated.

You **do not get any prize** on the night for the 1st 2nd and 3rd class judgings, other than a boost to your pride. But you do get some points in your bucket for a point score competition that runs for the whole of the year.

For the class placings judged on the night, points are allocated toward the annual point score on the basis of :-

- 5 for first,
- 3 for second,
- 1 for third in each class

In addition to these points for placings, and because we want to encourage members to bench plants, each plant will receive ONE "benching point" just for being benched, up to a maximum of 5 benching points in each class, for each membership, each month.

So for example if you benched 5 plants in one class and amongst those 5 got – first, second, and third in that class, you would get 14 points (5+3+1+5), --- If you benched 5 plants but only got a third, you get 6 points. --- If you bench 10 plants in one class and get no placings, you get 5 points (you can only get 5 benching points per class per membership).

At the end of the year (after November) we tally up each members points across all classes throughout the year and make a list of the order of placings in the tally of total points. The club committee then allocates prizes based on your placement in the order. Those prizes are given out at the Christmas party.

Benching Competition Rules – There are formal benching competition rules provided to each member in the

welcome package provided when you join. They are set out in a document titled *“The Benching Guidelines”*.

There is also a copy on the society website.

I won't repeat the whole list here but two key provisions are that **your plant needs to be free of pests or diseases** to protect other benched plants. If you inadvertently bring in a plant with a problem, senior members may ask you discreetly to take it back to your car. **You also need to have owned and grown an orchid for at least 6 months to compete in the benching competition.** If you haven't quite owned it 6 months but would really like to bring it in to show it off, you can bring it but you must mark your card **NOT FOR JUDGING** so that it doesn't inadvertently get judged 1st 2nd or 3rd. But, subject to the maximum 5 per class per membership rule you will still get a benching point.

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Cymbidium Cricket - grown by **Dora Law**



What a delightful specimen this was displayed at our last meeting and how perfectly grown by Dora. And I also got a little surprise when I began to research for the bulletin.

There was a second plant of this one in our members auction last month and I think I incorrectly promoted it as a hybrid between two of our local species - Cymbidium suave and probably Cym canaliculatum. My apologies to all concerned. The parentage of Cricket is actually Cym devonianum x Cym maddidum. The latter is the third of the three Cymbidium species found in Australia but devonianum is from the NE India area from Nepal and Bhutan, Sikkam, and Meghalaya.

I suppose I guessed right in it being partly Australian but that's about all you could credit me.

I should have known better because Cricket has been a popular and famous hybrid that has been around a long time. It was registered way back in 1964 and many cultivars have been awarded since the first, to Wally Upton here in Sydney in 1983. That cultivar was "Jill" named after Wally's wife.

Both maddidum and devonianum have small flowers like Cricket and flower with a sharply pendent inflorescence. Devonianum is the one that provides the dark colours in this cultivar of Cricket. Other cultivars can be more greenish but usually only to about khaki rather than the green-green you can see in the other parent maddidum.

Cym. devonianum is a very different Cymbidium. The Bakers tell us that it is usually found in broken shade growing on old decayed trees, on mossy rocks, and moss-covered trees where humus and leaf litter have accumulated. The temperature statistics in its area would indicate a low minimum of just a few degrees C in mid-winter but also rather just moderate day time temperatures in summer as well. The most unique features are 1. its ultra sharp pendent inflorescence, even to the extent growers need to take precautions to make sure it doesn't catch on the edge of the pot and get trapped. 2. The rather different spathe shaped leaf, and 3. The very dark red lip. At least the last two of these have been dominating features in its hybrids. The pictures below are examples of the dominance of the devonianum lip.



maddidum

devonianum



Bulbarrow 'Friar Tuck'



Fatal Beauty



Bulbarrow 'Will Scarlet'



Devon Gala 'New Horizons'



Lee Teakell

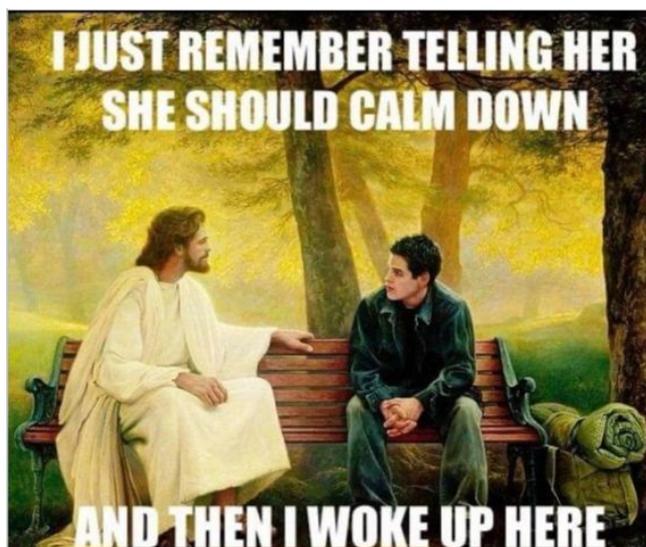
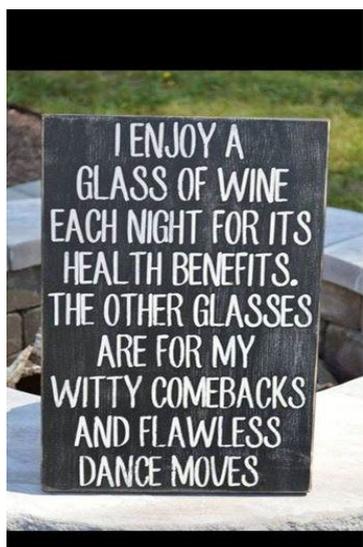
Devonianum has in fact been specialised as a parent in a whole line of red/black lipped miniature to intermediate Cymbidiums.

Cymbidium maddidum on the other hand is a BIG plant with big bright green leaves and what you might call massive pseudobulbs compared to its miniature flowers. It occurs from the top of the state of Queensland right down to about Port Macquarie on the northern coast of NSW. I have never seen it in the wild but Orchidwiz tells us that it generally grows in damp areas such as swamps, rainforests, and open forests with high rainfall. Plants often grow at the base of epiphytic staghorn or elkhorn fern, on rotting wood, in hollows of trunks and branches of trees. They usually grow where they receive full sun for at least part of the day, but they can tolerate heavy shade, and seem to like cool humid conditions with strong air movement. Sydneysiders find it easier to grow than the other two Australian species but all can be cultivated with the right understanding. We are hoping to have a specialist on Cym canaliculatum along as a

guest speaker next year.

Congratulations on your growing Dora. You are getting to be quite a star these days. Well done.

Insights into Wisdom



Terracotta pots - Jim Brydie

At our last meeting, during the auction, I mentioned that a plant I was selling might do well in a squat terracotta pot. I would like now to just talk a bit about these clay pots which have become somewhat out of fashion in recent times.

Terracotta pots are made from red clay and although they are ‘fired’ to harden and set the clay, they are not glazed. As a result, both inner and outer surfaces are capable of absorbing or evaporating water which is a clear difference to their plastic cousins.

In research for the content of this month’s newsletter I found an excellent article by Bart Jacobs that he has given me permission to reproduce but before I pass your attention to that article I wanted to explain a few reasons I have always kept a supply of terracotta pots in **my** supply stacks.

Terracotta’s ability to absorb water and to let it go has some very useful advantages. I find it an excellent potting container for the *Cattleya* family and especially those that are rather touchy to wet feet syndrome like those we used to call the rupicolour *Laelias* (such as *lucasiana*, *rupestris*, *bradei* and many others). These lovely little orchids that are all now genus *Cattleya*, grow in an almost desert like rocky environment where they are rarely wet to saturation for long and in my experience they act like that in home culture as well. They like to be watered but to dry again fairly quickly. If they are grown in plastic and watered regularly, the mix stays too wet and all too often the roots disappear with rot. Terracotta helps the mix dry more quickly and makes culture of tricky plants easier in a mixed collection.

And that expression “mixed collection” is where the secret comes in. When you grow a whole range of different orchids, some of which need water often and full on, others that grow more dryly, what do you do? Do you have separate growing areas for wet grower vs dry growers? Do you water your growing areas differently – such as one side every day, the other side every week?

The answer is that growers can rarely manage separation as a strategy. What they do is adopt a watering frequency somewhere between the two extremes and use other techniques to help the more extreme plants cope. For orchids that prefer wetter conditions you grow them lower in the growing area where the air humidity is a little higher and they dry slower. For dryer types you hang them higher in warmer dryer air, perhaps with air movement from fans, to ensure they dry between waterings. Terracotta is yet another tool to help you manage a wider range of orchid needs in a small area.

One last thing before I pass on to Jacob’s article, I want to mention cleaning and re-using terracotta pots. Jacob uses an accurate expression “... an orchid growing in a clay pot that is reluctant to leave its old home” which is a perfect description of how orchids can cling like glue to a terracotta pot. When you remove an orchid from a clay pot you are nearly always left with plenty of organic root remains stuck to the sides of the pot. Any organic residue can carry and transmit diseases if there are any about. What I recommend is that after a pot has had its orchid removed, scrape the sides as best you can with a knife to remove residue but then throw the pot in a plastic bin of water with a strong solution of floor cleaning bleach. Here in Sydney I use White King. A week or so soaking in bleach will eat away all organic residues and sterilise the pot for reuse. Just make sure that after the bleach you give the pot a good soak in clean water to remove any lingering bleach. After that fresh soak I sit stack of the newly cleaned p[ots] in the sun to dry out before storage.

What Are the Benefits of Growing Orchids in Clay Pots? - by Bart Jacobs 2023

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What are the benefits of growing orchids in clay pots?

The container or pot your orchid grows in is more important than you might think. Some experts swear by clay or terracotta pots. Why is that? What makes clay pots so suitable for most orchids? In this article, we zoom in on their benefits and I share some tips when choosing a pot for your orchid.

Choosing a Pot for Your Orchid

Choosing a pot is important when you are about to repot one of your orchids. Don't throw away the pots your orchids are currently growing in if they are doing fine. We take a look at the benefits of clay pots. Consider a clay pot the next time it is time to repot one of your plants.

Orchids prefer growing in a medium that is airy. The roots need access to oxygen and water should be able to drain easily. Remember that [orchids don't like wet feet](#). Plastic pots are the norm these days. Nurseries use them because they are cheap and don't easily break. Plastic is much lighter than terracotta, which is convenient if you need to ship orchids to customers.

There is no need to repot the orchid you just bought if it is growing in a plastic pot. Plastic pots are fine, but you may want to consider a clay pot when you need to repot the orchid you just bought.

Why Choose a Clay Pot for Your Orchid

A clay pot has a number of interesting characteristics that are suitable for growing orchids. Clay or terracotta pots are **porous**. The porousness of the pot promotes gas exchange and that is something that benefits the roots of your orchids. As I wrote earlier, the medium an orchid grows in needs to be airy. Gases, such as oxygen, can freely pass through the wall of a clay pot and that is something benefiting the orchid growing in it.

How do you water orchids in clay pots?

The porous nature of a clay pot also helps drain excess moisture. It ensures the medium the orchid grows in dries more evenly. This also has a subtle downside. Orchids that grow in a clay pot need to be watered more frequently as the water is absorbed by the pot, evaporating on the outside.



That brings us to the next benefit of a clay pot. Because clay pots help drain the medium the orchid grows in, there is another interesting side effect the plant benefits from. Have you ever noticed that the outside of a clay pot develops a white, grainy film or texture? The water you give your orchid contains soluble salts and those salts create the white

film on the outside of the pot. While the water evaporates, the salts remain behind on the outside of the pot. Fertilizers also contain soluble salts and those too contribute to the white deposit on outside of the pot. This is especially true for chemical fertilizers.



How does this help your orchid? Salts build up over time in the medium and that is damaging to the roots of your plant. It is one of the reasons why you should repot your orchids every now and then. Because a clay pot transports some of the salts out of the medium, it takes much longer for the medium to accumulate salts that can damage the roots of your plants.

Where can you purchase clay pots for orchids?

While it is understandable that nurseries don't use clay pots because of their weight, you can use the weight of a clay pot to your advantage. Clay pots can help prevent large(r) orchids from toppling over.

Clay or terracotta pots are made from a natural resource and it happens that algae and moss start to grow on the pot. Most people like this rustic look as it adds character.

Which Clay Pot to Choose

There are plenty of clay pots you can choose from. Choose a pot that isn't glazed. Clay pots that are glazed or baked high temperatures are no longer porous. The porous nature of a clay pot is what makes it appealing for orchids.

Can you plant orchids in clay pots?

Draining holes are another important detail to be mindful of. A clay pot without draining holes isn't a good fit for your orchid. Most clay pots have a draining hole at the bottom, but clay pots designed for orchids (and some other plants) have additional draining holes on the side. [Terracotta pots with holes](#) at the bottom *and* on the side make sure excess water has a way out, the medium can dry out, and the roots of the orchid can breathe.



What Are the Downsides of Clay Pots?

There are a few downsides, but they don't outweigh the benefits clay pots have for orchids. The weight could be considered a downside, but it shouldn't be for most orchid enthusiasts. Because clay pots are made from a natural resource, the roots of the orchid can cling or stick to the pot after some time. This makes repotting a bit more challenging.

When you are repotting an orchid growing in a clay pot that is reluctant to leave its old home, use a knife to free the root ball from the pot. Take a blunt knife and place it between the root ball and the pot. Carefully move the knife up and down, cutting the root ball loose from the pot.

One Liners

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

Anyone who says their wedding was the best day of their life has clearly never had two candy bars fall down at once from a vending machine.

There's only a fine line between a numerator and a denominator but just a fraction of people will find this funny.

They told me that exercise would help me with decision-making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.

Some other lovelies from the Oct 2024 Meeting



Catt Aquifinn 'Dorothy'



Catt skinneri 'Casa Luna'



RLC Fair Catherine 'Nice Partner'

Catt Aquifinn – is an old hybrid from about 1974 but is still a lovely orchid. The aquifinn part of the name comes from *Catt intermedia* var. *aquifinnii* which is the naturally occurring splash petal form of that species. And the 'Finn' part comes from *Cattleya Irene Finney* which is a 1964 famous and highly awarded hybrid involving 10 different *Cattleya* species. It just goes to show that some of the old ones are still amongst the best around.

Cattleya (or Guarianthe) skinneri 'Casa Luna' – this one was regarded as a *Cattleya* for most of its life but with the rehash of the *Laeliinae* family in recent times they found *skinneri* to be more closely related to the group given the new genus name *Guarianthe*. Others in the group are *G. aurantiaca*, *bowringiana*, and *patinii*.

Skinneri has tallish pseudobulbs, two leaves and heads of flowers with up to a dozen lovely tube shaped lip flowers.

RLC Fair Catherine – the combination of a basically white flower with a deeply purple lip is one of the most popular of hybrids. *Fair Catherine* has only been around since 1981 and has only been awarded a few times but I just love that deep purple white edged lip. What a perfect colour combo.



Masd. Hot Shot 'Lithgow'



Paph delenatii (dark lip)



Masd. Marguerite 'Firewalker'



Maxillaria seidelii

Masdevallias - There are two lovely *Masdevallias* here, a genus I think is one of the most showy of orchids. *Masdevallia* is a genus in the *Pleurothallis* alliance, a family of orchids from the Americas which has a leaf stem instead of a pseudobulb. Some can be a little touchy to grow but others, especially the hybrids based on the species *Masd. veitchiana* from the Andes around Machu Pichu, are usually quite amenable to culture and grow cold. You can see that *Marguerite* is a *veitchiana* hybrid because it follows *veitchiana's* large flowers and bright orange colour but surprisingly, *Hot Shot* also contains more *veitchiana* than any other *Masd.* species so I imagine it would be open to cold culture as well. It is wonderful to see our members bringing in such a range of exotic orchids these days.

Paph delenatii. This cultivar is interesting. I am only guessing but I imagine that the dark lip is a mankind created variant. Earlier in the bulletin I discussed Nancy Yao's alba form *delenatii* and showed a picture of the more usual soft pink lip type as well. This dark lip form is probably the result of line breeding but is certainly attractive.



V ampullacea



Phal unknown



Phal Unimax 'Sweetie'

Vanda ampullacea is one of the slightly miniaturised group that used to be known as genus *Ascocentrum*. The flowers of *amullacea* are about 12 mm across and the smaller form of both flower and plant led to the old *Ascocentrums* being very popular to breed small form *Vanda* hybrids. However, recent DNA studies showed there was insufficient difference between *Vanda* and *Acsocentrum* to warrant separate genera and the *Ascocentrums* were all moved to *Vanda*. From a hobbyists point of view, a rather sad day. This lovely little plant benched last meeting is a picture of health. Well done to the grower.

The two **Phalaenopsis** here are typical examples of modern times. I think both are what you might call miniature or at least smaller flowered *Phalaenopsis*. Unimax was registered in 2007 so it has a name but the *Phalaenopsis* business in bulk supply stores like supermarkets and Bunnings is leading to the development of new cultivars very quickly and none get registered anymore. The breeders want to keep their breeding secrets for commercial advantage so you buy your latest Phally pretty flower as just that – a pretty flower. The world turns and life changes.

Humour to end the day

A young couple are trying to get married.

The bride's family chose the church so the young couple went along to meet the priest to discuss his requirements. The priest says : "If you wish to get married in my church, you must first go one month without having intimate relations".

One month later the couple return to the church and talk to the priest. He then asks "Have you completed the month?"

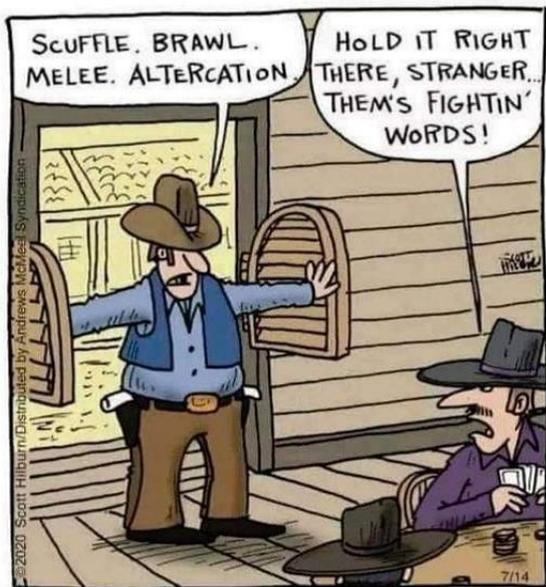
"No we couldn't do it," responds the boyfriend.

"And why was that?" asks the priest.

"Well my girlfriend had a can of corn in her hand and she accidentally dropped it and when she bent over to pick it up ... that's when it happened."

The priest then tells them, "You have shown weakness, you're not welcome in my church."

"We can't win." says the boyfriend, we're not welcome in the supermarket anymore either."



Last night the internet stopped working so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like really good people?

For those of you that don't want Alexa or Siri listening in on your conversation, they are now making a male version...it doesn't listen to anything.

Fuel prices are so high these days that last week I had to go to 3 dealerships for test drives to get my errands done. Watch for more saving tips next month