



Orchid News

January 2015 Vol 40 No 1

Next Meeting: 26th January
Presentation of WOC and Sth Africa trip

Happy New Year!



Selection of Awarded Orchids
2014



Cyc. Swan Cascade 'Brown Ripple' (P&S Radford)
Award of Merit 2014

Paph. liemianum 'Tom' (S Tay)
Award of Merit 2014

What's on at OSNSW Meetings in 2015

26th January Presentation of WOC and Sth Africa Trip
23rd February Presentation of awarded plants by Garrie Bromley



C. walkeriana 'Carmela' (L&G Bromley)
 Award of Cultural Commendation 2014

Management 2014-15

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Membership fees due annually on 1st July

- Single Metropolitan Member: \$25.00
- Joint Metropolitan Member: \$32.00 (i.e. \$27 membership & \$5 for insurance)
- Single Country and Interstate Member: \$22.00
- Joint Country and Interstate Member: \$29.00 (i.e. \$24 membership & \$5 for insurance)
- Associate Member: \$20.00
- Overseas Member: \$32.00
- Affiliated Society: \$62.00

President's Report

Dear Fellow Growers

A happy New Year to all. I trust you have had a safe and enjoyable holiday season despite the vagaries of the weather. At the farm I have already had a number of days over 40 degrees necessitating a few changes to protect the plants. I suspect we will be seeing more of this in coming months. However it has stimulated some excellent growth and hopefully similar flowering for later in the year.

I look forward to seeing you at meetings and shows to enjoy the flowers of our labour.

Good Growing
 Chris

Judge's Roster January - March 2015

	January	February	March
Panel 1	G Scott-Harden W Dhu K Koutsoukis	M Aldridge S Tay N Gill	B Richens C Polis D Brooks
Panel 2	I Bodell P Gibson J Fulcher	T Beehag J McAuley P Radford	W Chapman J Fulcher P D'Olier
Panel 3	G Fulcher C Polis J Robinson	C Scott-Harden T Yee B Britton	G Scott-Harden L Bromley H Choo
Award Panel	W Chapman B Britton K Siew	A Cushway T Peterson M Karayannis	J Keenan W Dhu G Hart

N.B. Reserves and Associate judges for panels will be chosen on the night



Meritorious Awards 2014

Month	Recipient	Society
Feb	Marie Engelbrecht	Wagga Wagga OS
	Warwick Sinfield	Hawkesbury Dist. OS
May	Len Field	Albury-Wodonga OS
June	Doreen Braithwaite	Bellinger Valley OS
August	Marie Ryan	Woodburn OS
October	Gary McNeil	Eastwood DOC
	Aileen Scott	Boolaroo SO
November	Gordon Marion	Eurobodalla OS
November	Kevin Deaves	Central Coast-Hunter CS
	Alan Stephenson	OSNSW
	Jane D'Olier	Five Dock OS
November	Lorraine Swain	Blacktown DOS
	John Emery	Newcastle OS
December	Craig Scott-Harden	Blue Mt & Penrith DOS

Major Events in 2015

- 17-18 April **Castle Hill Orchid Fair**
Castle Hill Showgrounds
22 vendors Friday and Saturday only 9am-4pm
- 15-17 May **Orchids Out West**
Hawkesbury Racecourse
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/OOW2015.htm>
- 7-9 August **National Cymbidium Extravaganza**
Round Corner, Dural
http://www.ccansw.com.au/events_dural2015.html
- 15-16 August **St Ives Orchid Fair**
St Ives Showground
- 2-4 October **Southern Orchid Spectacular**
Caringbah High School



TINONEE ORCHIDS

Visit our Nursery on the Mid North Coast near Taree, NSW.

Buses/Club Groups welcome by appointment.

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Nursery Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm
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TINONEE ORCHID NURSERY
768 Tinonee Road, Tinonee, 2430
Phone: (02) 6553 1012
www.tinoneeorchids.com orchids@tinoneeorchids.com

Shows March-April 2015

- 21-22 March - Eurobodalla Orchid Society, Orchid Workshop Kyla Hall, Tuross Head. <http://orchidworkshop2015.weebly.com/>
- 25-28 March — Alstonville OS, Alstonville Plaza, Alstonville
- 4-5 April — Bribie Island OS, The Orchid House, Indoor Bowls Clubhouse
- 11-12 April - Collector's Fair, Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon <http://www.collectorsplantfair.com>

Available on OSNSW website

- **Powerpoint presentation of "How to use Orchid Wiz"**
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/MembersInfo.htm>
- **Slideshow of selected plants from the Orchid Society of NSW monthly meetings**
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/PhotosMeetings.htm>
- **Excel spreadsheet of all NSW Awards from 1944-present**
http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Documents/OSNSWdatabase1944_2014.xls

Letter from Sam Tsui

We wish you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See our latest flask list* for February delivery. **Deadline for February delivery is Thursday January 15**, so get your orders in now! As usual, we will offer discount as listed on the flask list except NET price items. However, there will be 10% surcharge (after discount) to cover the brokering, customs, inspection, packaging and shipping.

Best regards,
Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn, Ltd.
www.orchidinnusa.com

* Flask List available on OSNSW website:
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Documents/SamTsuiFlaskListWinter2015.doc>

PHALAEENOPSIS CULTURE

by Geoff Fulcher

Phalaenopsis

Phalaenopsis, the Moth Orchids mainly native to tropical East-Asia, are one of the best orchids for growing in the home, as well as a favourite with glasshouse growers, due to their long lasting showy flowers.

Temperatures

To promote growth temperatures for Phalaenopsis should range between 24-29°C for most of the year. Temperature held constantly above 22°C suppresses flower initiation, so night temperatures between 16 -18°C are desirable for several weeks in autumn, in order to initiate flower spikes. Although higher temperatures produce faster growth, higher relative humidity and increased air movement must accompany the higher temperatures, the recommended maximum being 35°C. Fluctuating temperatures can cause the buds to drop on plants with buds ready to open.

Light

In a glasshouse at least 75% shade is desirable, although slightly more light can be provided in winter. In the home they grow easily near a bright window, with little or no direct sun. A north or east facing window providing bright indirect light is ideal; shaded west windows are acceptable. Artificial lighting is excellent; usually four fluorescent tubes in one fixture are placed 150 - 300mm over the leaves, 12 -16 hours a day, following natural day length.

Water

As Phalaenopsis have no significant water-storage organs other than their leaves, they should never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered, then not watered again until nearly dry through the pot. (In the home, with good ventilation, twice a week, in summer will suffice; in winter, once every five days.). In the heat of summer plants may require water every second day. Watering is best done in the morning, avoiding the crown if possible, so that the leaves and crown are dry by nightfall.

Humidity

This is important to Phalaenopsis, the recommended humidity being between 60% and 80%. In the glasshouse, keep the floor moist and use misting to maintain humidity but not water the growing medium. In the home, stand the plants over trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the pots sit above the water. Mist the plants often on dry days, or during dry weather. Grouping plants together helps raise the humidity. During humid days, ensure that the air is constantly moving to prevent air around the plants becoming stagnant. A small fan, blowing away from the plants may help.

Fertilizer

Apply on a regular basis, especially if the weather is warm when the plants are most often growing faster. A rate of 500ppm (approx. 1 tsp to 10 litres) once a week is adequate. Fertilizers not high in nitrogen (NPK approx. 15:2:15) and with trace elements and higher calcium and magnesium are ideal, such as Peters Excel. This can be applied with normal watering. While night temperatures are falling below 22°C fertilising can be reduced to once a fortnight.

Potting

Best done in the spring or after flowering. Phalaenopsis plants can be potted in bark, perlite, sphagnum moss, or a combination of these. If using bark it should be soaking overnight in a solution of pool algacide before use. Potting is usually done every 1-3 years, except plants in sphagnum moss should be re-potted every year. Mature plants can grow in the same pot until the potting medium starts to decompose, usually in two years. Root rot occurs if left in a soggy medium. Small plants usually grow fast enough to need re-potting yearly, and if in bark should be in a fine grade bark while small. Mature plants in bark are potted in medium -grade. If using perlite, jumbo size is preferred. When mature, a plant may stay in the same sized pot for many years, but must have the medium changed. To re-pot, remove all the old medium from the roots, trim soft, rotted roots, and spread the remaining roots over a handful of medium in the bottom of a new pot. Fill the rest of the pot with medium, working it through the roots, so that the bottom leaf is just above the medium. Keep the plant shaded and humid. A plant hormone promoting root growth may be helpful in establishing plants.



Pests

The most common pest usually found in Phalaenopsis is mealy bug. Frequent inspection to remove them and periodic spraying with Eco-oil will control their numbers. Slugs and snails are attracted to new leaves and flower spikes. Fungi and bacteria (e.g. Erwinia) can usually be controlled by spraying regularly with a peroxide, colloidal silver mix such as Hysan.