



ORCHID NEWS

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E-mail address: orchidsocietynsw@yahoo.com.au

Web site: www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au

PATRON: Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of New South Wales.

President Geoffrey Fulcher gfulcher@ bigpond.net.au	Registrar Ian Chalmers ichalmers@ optusnet.com.au M: 0400 220 192	Secretary Veronica Clowes secretaryosnw @yahoo.com.au M:0424 070 757	Treasurer Ralph Payne raljo8@bigpond.com M: 0409 154 041	Editor Henri Choo orchidsocietynsw@ yahoo.com.au (02) 9411 5227
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Vice President: Chris Dalrymple

Committee Members: Ken Siew, Irene Bodell, Garrie Bromley (02 9452 3202), Peter & Annette Stubbs (02 9837 2527).

All Correspondence: The Secretary, PO Box 5396, Chullora, NSW 2190

VENUE: Next Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, 29th June 2009 @ Ermington Community Hall, River Road, Ermington, NSW 2115.

Guest Speaker: Garrie Bromley on NSW awarded orchids for 2008

What's Coming Up?

27 th July	4 or 5 members talk about their favourite plants and their cultivation.
1 st - 2 nd Aug	Gosford Orchid Spectacular, Wyong Racecourse, Howarth Street. (150m from Wyong Railway Station)
29 th August (Sat)	OSNSW's 75 th Birthday Dinner @ The Phoenix Restaurant, Rhodes Shopping Centre. (Tickets \$20 for members, \$40 for guests need to be purchased by the July meeting night).
31 st August	Eric Hunt - Botanical photographer
19 th - 20 th Sept	Orchid Show at Ermington Community Hall.
28 th September	To be confirmed.
9 th - 11 th Oct	Southern Orchid Spectacular, 'Sharkies', Cronulla.
30 th November	It's Christmas Party time!

Judges' Roster - June 2009

Panel 1	P Anderson, V Clowes, B Richens, D Burns
Panel 2	G Hart, A Midgley, P Gibson, G Parker
Panel 3	K Siew, K Wilson, T Beehag, H Choo
Reserve	I Bodell, N Roper, M Aldridge, S Yuen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Ku-Ring-Gai Orchid Society's newsletter Jim Brydie wrote about the fact that some growers are able to master the art of growing a particular genus or group of orchids, whereas most of us manage to grow our plants just

well enough to be happy with their performance. One arrives at the point of being a master by two routes, either one is passionate about a particular kind of orchid and one moves heaven and earth to do everything that suits it, or one chances upon a genus or group which grows wonderfully in one's existing conditions.

In my own case, I love phalaenopsis and grow them well, but I don't flower them well enough. I'm really going to have to do something about the light. Jean's masdevallias didn't like our summers so we had to put in some air conditioning.

I wasn't particularly interested in Paph's until I chanced on a better combination of cultural factors, so now maudiae types are a bit of all right. Quite by accident I discovered that gongora's do well at our place so they are a good thing, in spite of their flowers lasting only a few days. If you belong to a few societies there will nearly always be a meeting you can get the plant to. Keep trying, we'll get there yet!

Geoff Fulcher.

Orchid Society of NSW Monthly General Meeting held on Monday, 25th May, 2009 at Ermington Community Hall, River Road, Ermington, NSW 2115.

Opening

The meeting was declared open at 8.00 pm by the President Geoff Fulcher, who welcomed those present. Geoff told members of the passing of Vic Miscamble and Gordon Hansen. He read an account of Vic's Life provided by Ros Capell - Registrar Far North Coast Regional Judging Panel. (Vale – please see enclosed)

Apologies

Apologies were received from John Allen, Graham Larkham, Chris Dalrymple, Greg Kazarian, Bob Cole, John and Margaret Moss, David Burns and Keith Irvine.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2009 were confirmed as a true account of that meeting. Moved by the President and unanimously passed by members.

Matters Arising

75th Birthday celebrations.

OSNSW's birthday dinner will be held on **Saturday, 29th August 2009** at **The Phoenix Restaurant, Rhodes** (on top of the new shopping centre). Table settings look to be for 8 persons, so societies might decide to organize group tables. Cost per member: **\$20.00** each Guest: **\$40.00** each

There will be official tickets issued for the dinner so all monies for the dinner must be paid **by the July meeting**, so that tickets can be collected by participants. Only members will be sponsored by OSNSW at \$20.00 per person. Guests of members will be required to pay the full amount of \$40.00. Tickets issued will be endorsed with member's/guest's name. Only people with tickets will be admitted.

There will also be a commemorative glass tumbler on sale soon.

Correspondence

Flyers from the Cymbidium Club of Australia advertising Round Corner at Dural from 7th-9th August 2009.

Flyers from the Mingara show from 27th and 28th June 2009.

Newsletters from Affiliated Societies and Interstate Societies.

Requests for Meritorious Service Medals: 2 Medals sent this month.

Show Committee reports

Chris Dalrymple is retiring from the position of Show Chairman and from the OSNSW Management Committee because of work commitments, but will stay on SOS Committee.

Southern Orchid Spectacular 9th to 11th October 2009

Preparations continue, with an additional 2 vendors this year (Easy Orchids and Rosella Orchids)

St. Ives Village 17th to 21st June 2009

Preparations on schedule. Plastic setup on Tuesday 16th June after shops close.

Plant set up from 7.30am on Wednesday 17th June, continuing until 9-9.30pm.

Show then open until 4pm on Sunday, 21st June.

Roster for security is as follows:

Thursday	8am - 1pm	Eastwood O/S.
	12.30pm - 9.30pm	(Late night shopping) Kur-Ring-Gai O/S.
Friday	8am - 6pm	North. Shore O/S.
Saturday	8am - 1pm	Eastwood O/S.
	12.30pm - 6pm	Awaiting confirmation
Sunday	8am – show pull down	Awaiting confirmation

NB The judging system used at St. Ives will be the same as that used recently at OOW...so there will not be a need for societies to provide someone to identify plants/owners for judges on the Judging night. Instead, each society will need to have a representative available on the morning after judging (in this case on the Friday morning 19th June) with the list of plants/owners for the judges' scribe.

Royal Botanic Gardens

Darwin celebrations on 7th to 10th August 2009. Display and sale of plants proposed. There has been a change of personnel, and we are waiting to hear from the new manager regarding plans etc.

Orchids out West – 1st to 3rd May 2009

A post mortem meeting will be held on 22nd June to discuss issues raised both at the show and after.

Orchids in Ermington - 19th to 20th September 2009

We will use the same schedule as for the monthly meetings. However, it is expected that there will be 2 or 3 table-top displays.

General Business

Geoff reminded members of the **ANOS Auction** to be held at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, Lake St. Warners Bay NSW on 6th June 2009. Viewing @ 9.30. Auction @ 11am. (Please check it out on the ANOS website)

AOC Conference in September. OSNSW will be setting up a display and need plants preferably of a size which can be transported easily.

OSNSW Sales table began this evening with plants supplied by Ray Olstan, thanks go to the Bradds for their volunteering to man the table.

Registrars Report:

This months awards: at Orchids out West.

Lc Aloha Case 'Ching Hua' "Doug"	AM	Owner N & K Koutsoukis
Dendrobium bigibbum "Samford Splendor"	AM	Owner Cedarvale Orchids

*Blc. Glen Maidment 'Southern Cross'	HCC	Owner Dendi Orchids
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*Slc. Dendi's Jewel	HCC	Owner Dendi Orchids
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*Slc. Dendi's Perfection	HCC	Owner Dendi Orchids
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*Pot Sanyo Butterfly	AM	Owner Dendi Orchids
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*These last 4 awards are pending a decision by owner.

Irene Bodell (speaking for the Registrar) advised that there had been a metropolitan Judges meeting at Five Dock on Friday 22nd May in atrocious weather.

She also advised that the Judges training day was also at Five Dock on Saturday 23rd May, and that training was going very well.

Treasurers Report

Ralph informed members that finances were sound despite the financial difficulties of the present time.

He also advised that despite door takings being down on last years OOW, profits were actually up on 2008 because show costs were less than last year.

Guest Speaker

Robert Bisetto was our speaker tonight who talked extensively about fertilizers, ph balance and potting medias, and their effect on our orchid cultivation.

Thanks Robert. The biggest lesson we all learnt was that it takes two growing cycles for a plant to display the signs which determine whether the latest change in cultivation is a success or failure (as in using new potting media). And, of course, if it is determined unsuccessful, then another two cycles to try and fix the problem.

Robert also drew members' attention to the importance of the acidity/alkalinity of growing media, and the necessity of calcium for strong growth.

Raffle Prizes were won by V Clowes x 2, C Nidal, R Toombs, J Keenan and G Scott-Harden.

Best Species: <i>Laelia anceps</i> 'Pierce'	Owned and shown by Garrie and Lesley Bromley
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Best Hybrid: <i>Masdevallia</i> Maccu Picchu 'Jay West'	Owned and shown by Ray Olstan
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Lucky exhibitor: Lou Mayer

The President thanked everybody for coming as well as those who helped prepare the supper and wished everybody a safe trip home.

The next meeting is on 29th June 2009 at ERMINGTON.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm

POINT SCORES FOR MAY 2009

Best Hybrid

Masd Machu Picchu 'Jay West' R Olstan

Best Species

L anceps 'Pierce' L&G Bromley

OPEN CLASSES – HYBRIDS

Class 1 Cymbidium – More than 90mm

1. *Cym* Henri Choo 'Choo' Royale
2. *Cym* Henri Choo 'Two' Royale

Class 2 Cymbidium – Up to 90mm

Class 3 Cattleya Classical Exhibition

1. *Blc* Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tami' J&S Atwal
2. *Blc* Fort Lauderdale Show 'Lou' L Mayer
3. *Blc* Oconee Mendenhall x Prophecy Monterey L Mayer

Class 4 Laeliinae Cluster (Min 5 Flowers)

1. *Blc* Pokai Tangerine 'Lea' J&S Atwal
2. *Lc* Little Suzie 'Orchidglen' P Murn
3. *Lc* Angel Heart 'Hihimanu' L&G Bromley

Class 5 Laeliinae (71mm to 119 mm)

1. *Slc* Gillian Lee J&S Atwal
2. *Pot* Sanyo Butterfly D R Symons
3. *Lc* Aloha Case 'Ching Hua' N&K Koutsoukis

Class 6 Laeliinae Miniature (up to 70mm)

1. *Pot* Burana Angel L&G Bromley
2. *Sc* Beaufort 'Gold Country' L&G Bromley
3. *Slc* Tiny Titan 'Orange Bubbles' L&G Bromley

Class 7 Paphiopedilum Classical Shape

1. *Paph* Tommie Hanes 'Willow Dale' A&G Cushway
2. *Paph* Betty Bracey 'Limelight' J&S Atwal
3. *Paph* Orchilla Chilton P Murn

Class 8 Cypridioideae Other

1. *Paph* Transvaal J&S Atwal
2. *Paph* Envy Green J&S Atwal
3. *Paph* Raven x Spellbound 'Deacan' F&L Woolnough

Class 9 Specimen Orchid - Nil

Class 10 Terrestrial Species/Hybrid Any Genera -Nil

Class 11 Seedling Any Genera

1. *Onc* Robsons Gold x Dr Desmond 'Waterford' R Olstan

Class 12 Phalaenopsis Standard 76mm and over -Nil

Class 13 Phalaenopsis 51mm to 75mm -Nil

Class 14 Phalaenopsis – Up to 50mm

1. *Phal* Sunrise Goldamour x Bro Lawrence x Buena Jewel B&M Long

Class 15 Vandaceous

1. *Vasco* Pine River 'Wasana' L&G Bromley
2. *Ascda* Sufan Beauty 'Orange Belle' S Harrison
3. *Ascda* Reno's Rocket 'Classic Red' L&G Bromley

Class 16 Dendrobium

1. *Den* Hot Lips 'Lesley' L&G Bromley
2. *Den* Banana Royale x Blue Twinkle L&G Bromley
3. *Den* Dal's Classic x Dal's Wonder J&S Atwal

Class 17 Oncidiinae (Odm, Oda, Odt, Vuyl,

Miltoniopsis, Wils.)

1. *Wils* Pui Chin 'Flying Tiger' A&G Cushway
2. *Odm* Anna-Claire A&G Cushway
3. *Oda* Avoca x June Appleby A&G Cushway

Class 18 All Other Oncidiinae

1. *Onc* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' J&S Atwal
2. *Onc* Unknown M Bradd
3. *Onc* Unknown M Bradd

Class 19 Australian Native Hybrids

1. *Den* Topaz Dream 'Weva' L&G Bromley
2. *Den* Fantasyland Princess L&G Bromley
3. *Den* Avril's Gold 'Pumpkin Pie' P Murn

Class 20 Pleurothallidinae

1. *Masd* Machu Picchu 'Jay West' R Olstan
2. *Masd* Mary Staal 'Laurie Jeannie' R Olstan
3. *Masd* King of Kings 'On the Prowl' J&S Atwal

Class 21 Hybrid Not Elsewhere Specified

1. *Bulb* Wilmar Galaxy Star G&J Fulcher
2. *Z* Kiwi Choice 'Florasfest' J&S Atwal
3. ?*Clorocheaon* Unknown B&M Long

SPECIES

Class 22 Laeliinae Species

1. *L anceps* 'Pierce' L&G Bromley
2. *L anceps* ('Helen' x 'TierraDel Fuego') BV Will
3. *S cernua* B&M Long

Class 23 Cypridioideae Species

1. *Paph* spicerianum J&S Atwal
2. *Paph* insigne 'Harefield' P Murn
3. *Paph* venustum 'Alba' L&G Bromley

Class 24 Vandaceous Species

1. *Phal* amboinensis PYeung/JKeenan
2. *Phal* pulcherrima PYeung/JKeenan
3. *Angrm* germinyanum J&S Atwal

Class 25 Oncidiinae Species

1. *Onc* forbesii J&S Atwal
2. *Onc* onustum L&G Bromley
3. *Onc* lanceanum L&G Bromley

Class 26 Dendrobiinae Species

1. *Den* victoria-reginae J&S Atwal
2. *Den* sulaweisience L&G Bromley

Class 27 Australian Native Dendrobium Species

1. *Den* bigibbum L&G Bromley
2. *Den* bigibbum 'Compactum alba' x self S Harrison

Class 28 Australian Native Other Species

1. *Lip* reflexa M Bradd
2. *Cad* taylori BV Williams

Class 29 Miniature Flowers Less than 12mm

and the distance between the first and last flower is less than 200mm

1. *Ischls* linearis BV Williams
2. *Ischls* linearis L&G Bromley
3. *Isblia* virginalis G&J Fulcher

Class 30 American Species Other Nil

Class 30A Pleurothallidinae species

1. *Pths* fastidiosa 'Who Cares' R Olstan
2. *Scapho* swertifolium var Roseum G&J Fulcher
3. *Rstp* sanguinea G&J Fulcher

Class 31 Species not elsewhere Specified

1. *Cirr* maryohannae G&J Fulcher
2. *Bulb* putidum J&S Atwal
3. *Bulb* digoelense I Nelson

NOVICE CLASSES

Class 40 Laeliinae Hybrids

Nil

Class 41 Other Exotic Hybrids

1. *Paph* Night Arrow x Flame Arrow J Major

Class 42 Australian Native Hybrids

Nil

Class 43 Australian Native Species

Nil

Class 44 Species – All Other

Nil

Vale:

Victor Norman Miscamble

Victor Norman Miscamble, known as Vic, passed away on Monday, 11th May 2009. He was born on Australia Day 1926 in Roma, Queensland. He joined the Air Force at the age of 18 and was posted to Morotai. (*I think he also spent some time in New Guinea because once when we were discussing *spatulata* Dendrobiums he told me that he was in New Guinea towards the end of the War and being young and agile he climbed trees to collect orchids for an artist colleague who was making sketches of them there. The artist sent the drawings to OSNSW. Ros.*)

After the War, Vic returned to Roma. He worked as a linesman and also part time with the local fire brigade. He moved to Coolangatta with his first wife, Betty. He bought a fishing boat and was a professional fisherman for a number of years until in the late 1950s he joined the Queensland fire brigade full time. He quickly progressed in that career to become station commander and enjoyed a distinguished career as a fire officer for 40 years.

His first wife died in the 70s. He later met Sue during an overseas trip and they married. Vic became interested in orchids after meeting her and he embraced that hobby enthusiastically. They were both made life members of Tweed District Orchid Society. Vic will be greatly missed by that Society as he was a very valued member. He often contributed to plant commentaries, gave slide shows. He was the mainstay at display organization and compiled the show schedules. He shared his great fount of knowledge and set an example to the society members with regard to ethics and a professional approach to all aspects of the orchid world.

Vic became a judge in 1981 and registrar of the Far North Coast Regional Judging Panel in 1995. He resigned last year on 31st December 2008.

He had the reputation of being a man of great personal integrity and determination, and was also a person possessed by a great deal of curiosity and knowledge about the world around him.

Vic was also a very keen fisherman and had made a number of trips to northern Australia to fish for barramundi. He was also a keen and enthusiastic golfer, and also kept a collection of Discus fish. He also had an extensive shell collection.

Vic had a son, Allan, with his first wife, and grandson, Reed, and granddaughter, Kirsten. He had a sister, Margaret, and two brothers: Ken and Des.

Several fire brigade colleagues attended his funeral service and one senior officer spoke about Vic's career and the high regard in which he was held. The fire brigade members formed a guard of honour after the service and the cortege was escorted by fire trucks. An RSL official spoke at the service and the Last Post was played. The service was a moving tribute to his full and interesting and rewarding life.

Gordon Hansen

Gordon Hansen was 95 years old, a life member of OSNSW (nominated by Barry Collins) and a Judge since the early 60's. He was a Patron to Cumberland Orchid Society and a member of Eastwood since the late 40's and became their President from 1965 to 1967 just prior to Lou Sasso. He was on the management committee of OSNSW for over 20 years, and also formed part of the show committee which conducted so many magnificent shows at the Roselands Shopping Centre. He was also heavily involved with the OSNSW exhibits at the "old" Royal Easter Show at Moore Park. His main orchidaceous interests were in the vandaceous lines and Cattleyas.

As Gordon loved to visit the country areas of NSW and the far North Coast of Queensland he was instrumental in the formation of many of the Queensland and NSW country Orchid Societies, and always available for advice on Judging matters. He probably judged more shows than anyone as an active member, and would always put his hand up to officiate. He was always delighted to help with the Judges training program, giving advice and guidance to trainee Judges, and became mentor to Associate Judges of the time.

He served a number of terms on the Ira Butler Trophy Committee and was on the Editorial Committee of the *Australian Orchid Review* at the time that Ron Kerr and David Wallace were editors.

(Some of the information above was kindly provided by Werner Raff of Eastwood Orchid Circle and David Banks. Thank you both.)

Gordon's funeral is this coming Wednesday 27th May, at 11.15am in the North Chapel of the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. No flowers by request please.

Gerald McCraith AM (1909-2009)

Gerald McCraith AM, one of Australia's best known orchid growers, has passed away, just three months after celebrating his one hundredth birthday. We offer our sympathy to his daughters June and Lois, and to his extended family, which includes seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Born on 24 February 1909, Gerald did not have an easy life at first. He was a clever boy, winning a scholarship to Trinity Grammar School at age 14. However his parents could not afford the cost of his uniform and books, and so Gerald left school to work as a grocer's boy. By his early twenties Gerald had a wife (Nell) and two daughters to support. They survived the Great Depression by setting up a travelling library in Essendon, lending detective stories, westerns and romances to borrowers at threepence each per week. At first Gerald carried the books in a handcart, then (when he could afford to buy them) on a pushbike, and eventually on a motorbike.

Gerald spent World War 2 as an RAF signals instructor in Darwin, fortunately having been transferred there whilst en route to Singapore – otherwise he would have spent the war in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. When he was demobilised in 1944, Gerald joined his brother Jack in the rabbit export business that eventually led to their prosperity. From the late 1940s to the mid 1950s McCraith Brothers exported an average of 32,000 rabbits to England each week.

Gerald began growing orchids in 1927, when he was only 18 years old. He bought Australian native dendrobiums and sarcochilus from a Victoria Market trader and other orchids from Basil Hodgins' nursery in Essendon. In 1931 Basil invited Gerald to attend a meeting of the Victorian Orchid Club, which met every second month in those times. About 30-40 members attended the meetings, which were mostly held in an office building in the city. However, on one occasion the usual venue was unavailable, so the meeting was transferred to a garden shed in the Fitzroy Gardens. Gerald could still remember the occasion well ten years ago, because there were insufficient seats available and he had to spend the evening seated on a very cold iron garden roller!

In 1950 Gerald and his wife Nell built their house at 107 Roberts Street in Essendon, where Gerald lived until his death. The first of his two large glasshouses was built at the same time as the residence. Gerald served as President of the Victorian Orchid Club from 1959-1962 and assisted Sir John Hall-Best to form the Australian Orchid Council in 1960. He succeeded Sir John as President of that body in 1963 and played a large part in the organisation of the World Orchid Conference held in Sydney in 1969.

In 1974 Hermon Slade, Gerald and several other orchid enthusiasts founded the Australian Orchid Foundation with the major aim of raising money to support orchid research in Australia. Hermon Slade set the ball rolling with a donation of \$10,000, while Gerald decided to raise funds by breeding odontoglossum hybrids and selling flasks of the resultant seedlings. Over the following 25 years he raised over \$70,000 for the Foundation in this way! In 1993 Gerald was made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to orchids.

Gerald made numerous trips abroad to see orchids in the wild – six trips to Central and South America, four to China and several to Papua New Guinea. Most of these strenuous expeditions were undertaken after he was 80 years old, several of them after he was fitted with a heart pacemaker at age 87. Incidentally, Gerald wore that pacemaker out, and had another fitted in July 2006!

Species orchids were Gerald's great favourites. He had a large and diverse collection, which he regularly showed at the Orchid Species Society of Victoria's meetings until shortly before his death. All those who knew Gerald will fondly remember him.

Brian Milligan