

FIVE DOCK RSL ORCHID SOCIETY INC JUNE 2024 BULLETIN

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday in the months of January to November.
at Concord Community Centre, 1A Gipps Street, Concord, NSW 2137

The Society was founded on 19th July 1967.



Society Emblem: *Dendrobium Fivedock Fire* 'Summertime'

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th June 2024 commencing at 7.40 pm.

Five Dock RSL Orchid Society is proudly supported by.

Club Five Dock RSL, Canada Bay Council and MarketPlace Leichhardt Shopping Centre

Visit our website www.fivedockorchids.com for photos of the winning orchids from our Monthly and Annual Shows, Plants of the Night, Class winners, Show Champions, and record of our Social Events.

PATRON: Robert Ridge

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TREASURER: Margaret Reavell

VICE PRESIDENT: Fedora Pristov

COMMITTEE: Peter Booth Dorothy Booth Jane D'Olier Sharon McIlwain

Peter D'Olier Merv Maher Jonathan Tran

Website Coordinator: Jane D'Olier

Presidents Report

I was well pleased that fourteen of our members were able to attend our Friendship night at Club Five Dock RSL. The friendship night gives members the opportunity to share a meal together and to get to know each other better, as at the monthly meetings there is usually very little time to socialise.

I enjoyed, Jane D'Olier's talk on Bhutan last month and this month our Guest Speaker will be Jan Robertson, who has been enjoying her time away on holidays and has not advised the title of her presentation, but she is always entertaining and will not disappoint.

For July 2024 meeting I have asked Trevor Yee to give his presentation on Paphiopedilums of Vietnam which should also be enjoyable.

The dates have been confirmed for our Spring Show Set up 4th September 2024 after 4.30pm and Judging will take place next morning at 9 am 5th September 2024, tear down show will be after 5.30pm Saturday 7th September 2024

Things are also progressing with our Orchids Central Show at Club Condell Park in October 2024.

Members who were not at our last meeting will have the opportunity to purchase a growing competition plant. Any left-over plants will be offered to members who would like a second plant.

As Merv will not be at the next meeting, I would ask members to get to the hall early to help set up the hall for the meeting, Tables, and seating.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday 27th June 2024

Kathy Koutsoukis

Closure:

The President closed the meeting at 9.35 pm thanking members for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home and asked for help to put the tables & Chairs away & vacuum up spilled potting media.

VALE Caterina Zappia

It is with great sadness, I must report the passing of one of our society's most well liked and loved members, Caterina Zappia. Caterina was born 2nd December 1949 in Cirella, Calabria, Italy and died suddenly at Concord West NSW on 24th May 2024. Her funeral service was held at St Ambrose Catholic Church, Victoria Avenue, Concord West on Thursday 6th June 2024 with interment at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. which we represented the Society at.

Caterina loved to attend our meetings and enjoyed showing her orchids along with her sister & Brother-in-law, Louisa, and Sam Campagna. They were always together like the Three Amigos. Caterina always enjoyed chatting with & getting to know the members.

To Caterina's husband, Paulo, and their family, on behalf of the Committee and members of Five Dock RSL Orchid Society we wish to extend our deepest sympathy for your loss at this saddest of times.

Kathy Koutsoukis, President

Secretary's Notes

Last month's presentation by Jane D'Olier on the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore reminded me that the 23rd World Orchid Conference which was held in Taipei, Taiwan back in February 2024. **I found on YouTube a presentation that is about 1.5 hours long, I highly recommend viewing it at, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMemleHvnsw>.** When you see the size of the displays you will be astounded. The previous WOC's are on YouTube but not as detailed as the Taiwan one.

Today's Lessons in orchid growing or What my mistakes have taught me

Many years ago, as a novice grower, I asked the same questions regarding how much light and air movement etc that are needed for growing orchids as I am asked now as an "Experienced grower." Although these questions seem to be a simple, straight forward questions, it hides a much deeper question. Namely, how do we come to understand light intensity versus shading needed against all the other conditions that make up your growing conditions.

Back in the 1980's, Cattleya's were used as the guide on how to grow orchids second only to Cymbidiums, but seriously how does that help the novice grower who does not have Cattleyas or very few Cymbidiums in their collection. What I needed was somebody to tell me was how much light I needed for my Dendrobiums which was one of the few orchid genera I owned at the time, so they could define how my conditions and how that relates to Cattleya's growing conditions? If I knew that, then comparisons to Cattleya's etc would have then become meaningful for me.

And so, the answer came to me, with 20/20 hindsight, I can now see that it was a matter of experience. You do not get understanding of needs from books or reference material but get the clues and find out how they grow in their natural habitat & what weather conditions they need. But back to the old trial & error method to find out what works as about every experienced grower has advised in their lectures. Plus, the conditions you need to mimic to get them to flower & grow

Let me try to put this in a way that makes sense. Experience is made up of umpteen dumb questions you have asked of someone whom you hope has at least some of the answers you needed. Those experienced growers who have made the same mistakes you have but have learnt what works for their conditions and shares their experiences. Sometimes their methods work and sometimes they do not it is all trial & error. This is all about horses for courses. You must first consider the environmental conditions that your orchids live in, and then adjust the range of factors to suit the orchid. You cannot grow Tropical Orchids in Cool Montane conditions

These answers then need a great deal of thought, and YOU must glean which bits are rubbish and which bits are gold. Then you need to take a small trial group of your orchids not all as the trial may fail and you could lose all your orchids and try to grow them under the trial conditions. Sometimes the trial conditions group fails. When it fails, you must ask yourself what went wrong. You will not always be able to answer that question immediately. (That comes with experience)

The other major factor is time. After ten years, you will know more about growing orchids than you did after the first year. Unless you stop asking the question what went wrong or on a positive note what you did right. So, keep smiling and observing and asking dumb questions (because someone else might be too afraid to ask them) and one day you will find that other growers will be asking you questions about how you grow your orchids and you will be giving them the “right” answers. But the most import point is we all must answer the question that begins "I killed this orchid because.... Or This orchid flowered because

There is no right or wrong answer it depends on your growing conditions. With all these things, you must give the trial a fair chance to succeed. If, it seems to not be working, then try something else. Start the change with light, the golden rule is give them lighter until they either get markings on the leaves or sunburn. The sunburn is not OK and means that you have gone too far, and you need to dial back with more shade.

You need to understand your own environmental conditions. For example, an orchid in full sun may sunburn, but an orchid in full sun with gale force fans blowing on it, may not sunburn Why? My old polyhouse, in summer, had oscillating fans running most of the time. The air movement across the leaves helped to keep them cool and moved the “humid” air around, no plant likes stagnant air. Then update fertiliser and watering and even potting media & hanging vs benches. Whatever it takes.

Point Score May 2024			
Open			
Class 1A Cymbidium Intermediate 61-90mm		Class 21 Oncidiina Species	
1. <i>Cym. Arachnid</i>	P&J D'Olier	1. <i>Onc. sotoanum</i> 'Royale Stink'	F. Pristov
Class 4 Laeliinae (Cattleya) 66-110mm		Class 22 Oncidiinae under 35mm	
1. <i>C. Hawaiian Honey Moon</i>	J. Tran	1. <i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i>	N&D Tzelis
2. <i>C. Elisabeth Calov</i>	J. Tran	2. <i>Onc. Sharry Baby</i> 'Sweet Fragrance'	GJ&SW Cook
Class 7a Laeliinae (Cattleya) Species		3. <i>Onc. Lemon Heart</i>	N&D Tzelis
1. <i>C. cernua</i>	P&J D'Olier	Class 31 Australian Epiphytes Species	
2. <i>C. endsfeldzii</i>	P&J D'Olier	1. <i>Den. monophyllum</i>	N&D Tzelis
3. <i>L. anceps</i>	P&J D'Olier	Novice	
Class 10 Cyripedioideae Species		Class 39 Novice Laeliinae	
1. <i>Paph. primulinum</i> 'In Charm' x sib	J. Tran	1. <i>L. anceps</i>	Kelly Xu
Class 15 Coelogyninae Species		2. <i>L. anceps</i>	I. Leong
1. <i>Coel. usitana</i>	P&J D'Olier	3. <i>L. anceps</i>	M. Grasso
2. <i>Coel. ovalis</i>	N&D Tzelis	Class 44 Novice Misc. Hybrids Not Listed	
3. <i>Coel. fimbriata</i>	GJ&SW Cook	1. <i>Onc. Unknown</i>	M. Reavell
Class 19 Pleurothallidinae Species		2. <i>Alcra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter</i> 'Morning Joy'	M. Grasso
1. <i>Masd. menatoi</i>	P&J D'Olier		
2. <i>Asianthera prolifera</i>	P&J D'Olier	Number of plants benched 27	

Dates for the Diary

29th June 2024

25th July 2024

9th August 2024

16th August 2024

18th August 2024

22nd August 2024

4th September 2024

26th September 2024

04th October 2024

08th October 2024

24th October 2024

10th November 2024

28th November 2024

07th December 2024

Mingara Orchid Fair & Show

Monthly Meeting

National Orchid Extravaganza Arena Sports Club Yagoona

St Ives Orchid Fair

Ferragosto Great North Rd Five Dock

Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging

Spring Show Marketplace Leichhardt set up.

Monthly Meeting

Orchids Central at Club Condell Park, Bankstown

Friendship Night at Club Five Dock RSL

Monthly Meeting

Manly Warringah Orchid Society Orchid Auction Cromer

Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging

Presentation Night / Christmas Party, Club Five Dock RSL