



Parramatta & District Orchid Society

NEWS

February Issue 2009



Rhynchostylis retusa 'Keith'
Owned by Keith Harris
Photo – Terry Davis

Next Meeting – 24th February, 2009.

Alan Merriman from Miriam Ann Orchids will be our speaker this month

Green Growers Group with Terry starts at 6.45 pm – topic will be a new potting mix and how to cope with the wet weather.

PDOS disclaims all responsibility for any losses that may be attributed to the use or misuse of any materials mentioned in this newsletter.

Parramatta & District Orchid Society Inc.

February News

President

David Banks
02 9674 4720

Patron – Norm Shipway

Secretary

Bev Clifford
02 9635 7790

Committee

Norm Shipway
Vivian Andrews
Jessie Gatt
Andrew Gatt
Andrew Locke

Vice President

Gerry Smee

Treasurer

Keith Ryan
02 9753 4724

Photos

Terry Davis

Plant Steward

Terry Davis

Editors

Bev Clifford & Jim Ponton

January Meeting

Meeting at Banksia Room, Wentworthville Community Centre, on Tuesday 27/1/2009, at 8.00 p.m.

APOLOGIES

Keith Ryan, Graeme & Lyn Banks, Jurgen Tautz, Ken Massingham

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – Minutes of November, 2008 were confirmed by David Nicholson, seconded by Jim Ponton

SUPPER – Thanks to Jessie and the supper helpers for their efforts last month.

CORRESPONDENCE

Newsletters from other societies, Invitation to exhibit at Sydney Royal Easter Show.

TREASURERS REPORTS - **Bal as at 1/11/08** \$1,175.04 Payments \$271.15
Income \$ 1102.00 **Bal as at 1/12/08** \$2,005.89

Bal as at 1/12/08 \$2,005.89 Payments \$846.60 Income \$117.30 **Bal as at 31/12/08** \$1,276.59
(these reports not presented at meeting due to time constraints)

Many thanks to Catherine & Andrew Locke for producing the great PDOS 2009 calendars that were distributed (there's no excuse for missing a meeting now!)

David Banks spoke about John Keenan's *catasetum expansum* as a good example of a very well grown orchid. They need to be in a glasshouse from May to 1st Oct - then during growing season, give them an excess of everything i.e. water, food, light and air!

Mal Ferguson spoke on coping with the recent heat i.e. move plants to lower position in shadehouse and water the day before - not in the middle of the heat wave. Place Spanish Moss around plants and stand pots in saucers of water.

BEST PLANTS

Open

Rhynchostylis retusa 'Keith

Owned by Keith Harris

Novice

Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamamii'

Owned by Robert Giles

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February News

From the Presidents Desk

The horrific bushfires in Victoria have certainly dominated the media and our thoughts over the past fortnight. The record heat that parts of Victoria felt (48.8°C) were some of the hottest on record. We can only hope and pray for the future of all the individuals and families affected in this disaster.

Last meeting we had an extended discussion on how we can help our plants cope with the excessive heat that we have had in western Sydney recently. Ironically, a week after our high temps, we had much cooler weather with quite a bit of rain. Mal Ferguson warned us about the radiant heat that can literally cook plants that are placed too close to the shadehouse roof. During hot weather, if possible, move plants closer to the ground. Also look at increasing shade levels, by either adding another layer of shade cloth, or using natural "shade" such as hanging up clumps of the bromeliad known as Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*).

Obviously watering your collection will immediately both reduce the temperature significantly and raise the humidity. I was surprised by how well the orchids seemed to cope with this heatwave. In hindsight, I believe more damage is done by prolonged exposure of the plants to the drying westerly winds (that we didn't get this time). These conditions literally suck the moisture out of the plant. It's amazing how much difference it makes by simply spraying the plants even if only for a couple of minutes.

Open Day

The first Hills District Orchids Open Day will be held at 183 Windsor Road Northmead on Sunday 22nd February 2009. All the regulars (Tinonee, Macquarie & Miriam Ann) will be there, as well as Melanquin Gardens Bromeliads. For more info visit the website: www.hillsdistrictorchids.com

Next Meeting (Tuesday 24th February 2009)

Alan Merriman from Miriam Ann Orchids will be our speaker this month. Alan will be talking to us about fertilizers, their use and what all those complicated symbols mean. I am sure they will bring some of their products for sale.

March Meeting (Tuesday 24th March 2009)

We will have an illustrated talk on Native Orchids this month. Alan Stephenson from Nowra, who is the Conservation Officer for the Australian Orchid Council and ANOS, will be speaking to us on the "Native Orchids of the Shoalhaven Region". This will be the first time that Alan has spoken at a PDOS meeting. There is also a chance, as long as we have enough interested members, of holding a field day later in the year where Alan would show us some of these orchids in the wild.

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Sydney International Orchid Fair

This again will be held at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion at Castle Hill Showground (Cnr. Showground & Carrington Roads). It will be held from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th April 2009, open from 9am each day. Free entry and free parking, so you can come and go as often as you like! There will be over 24 vendors from NSW and interstate covering a wide range of orchids and orchid-related products, as well as a new vendor selling exclusive Australian native plants – for the garden and in pots. www.orchidfair.com.au

David Banks

President, PDOS - Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on 24th March, 2009. Nomination forms are printed at the back of this newsletter. Members must be paid up at the time of the AGM to be eligible to vote.

Have a look at this link to photos taken at PDOS monthly meetings since 2003 - <http://picasaweb.google.com/parraorchids>

JOKE CORNER

Fresh Water

A man is cupping his hand to scoop water from a highland stream in Scotland. The gamekeeper spots him and shouts, 'Dinnae drink thon water min, it's foo o' coo's shite n pish.'

The man replies, 'my good fellow, I'm English.... repeat that in English.'

The gamekeeper replies, 'I said use both hands - you get more that way.'

Children's science exam answers!

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour? (brilliant, love this!)

A: Keep it in the cow.

Parramatta & District Orchid Society Inc.
January Point Score

OPEN			January 2009	
3.	Cymbidium	1.	V & J Andrews	Cym. Suzukazi = Peter Pan x Katydid
	Miniature			
	Under 60mm			
5.	Cattleya	1.	N & V Shipway	Ctna. Why Not
	Cluster			
	5 or > flowers			
6.	Cattleya	1.	T & M Brutto	Blc. Memoria Vida Lee
	70 – 110mm	2.	T Davis	C. Lulu 'Pink Blush'
		3.	A & J Gatt	Slc. Dal's Buddy
7.	Cattleya	1.	A & J Gatt	Sc. India Rose Sherwood x C. Chocolate Drop
	Under 70mm	2.	P Yeung & J Keenan	C. Caudebec x Ctna. Why Not
8.	Native	1.	P Yeung & J Keenan	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>
	Species -			
	Epiphyte			
10.	Native	1.	D Nicholson	Sarc. Riverdene
	Hybrid			
12.	Oncidium	1.	C Galea	Onc. Sweet Sugar
	Only	2.	N & V Shipway	Onc. Gower Ramsay
13.	Oncidium	1.	P Yeung & J Keenan	Wilsonara Arosa
	Alliance	2.	P Yeung & J Keenan	Wilsonara Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'
	Other			
15.	Paphiopedilum	1.	A & J Gatt	Paph. Black Falcon = Paph. Red Maude x Paph. hilippinense
	Novelty Hybrid			
18.	Phalaenopsis	1.	K Harris	Phal. Bongangar's Beauty 'Gavin'
	Hybrid	2.	P Yeung & J Keenan	Phal. pulcherrima x Phal. Kateel
		3.	P Yeung & J Keenan	Phal. violacea x Phal. Tassy Evergreen
19.	Exotic	1.	K Harris	<i>Rhynchostylis retusa</i> 'Keith'
	Species -	2.	D Nicholson	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>
	Asian	3.	P Yeung & J Keenan	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>
20.	Exotic	1.	T Davis	<i>Bifrenaria tetragona</i>
	Species -	2.	D Nicholson	<i>Prosthechea radiata</i>
	Other	3.	G Ansell	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
22.	Miscellaneous	1.	V & J Andrews	Epi. Golden Valley 'Hildos'
	Hybrid	2.	P Yeung & J Keenan	Ctism. Susan Fuchs
NOVICE				
29.	Novice	1.	R Giles	Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamamii'
	Cattleya	2.	E Herat	Lc. Karen Amanda = C. Hallie Rogers x L. anceps
	Alliance	3.	R Giles	Blc Hawaiian Wizard x Blc. Blanche Aisaka
30.	Novice	1.	E Heart	<i>Prosthechea radiata</i>
	Exotic Species	2.	R Giles	<i>Prosthechea cochleata</i>
32.	Novice Misc	1.	D & K Mitchell	Epi. Green Hornet
	Hybrid			
BEST PLANTS				
	Open		K Harris	<i>Rhynchostylis retusa</i> 'Keith'
	Novice		R Giles	Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamamii'

Change Labels Please

Cym. Suzukazi = Peter Pan x Katydid

Paph. Black Falcon = Paph. Red Maude x Paph. Philippinense

Lc. Karen Amanda = C. Hallie Rogers x L. anceps

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Onc. Sweet Sugar
Owned by Charlie Galea



C. Lulu 'Pink Blush'
Owned by Terry Davis



Sarc. Riverdene
Owned by Dave Nicholson



Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamamii'
Owned by Robert Giles



Paph. Black Falcon
Owned by A & J Gatt



Epi. Golden Valley 'Hildos'
Owned by V & J Andrews

**Parramatta & District Orchid Society
NOMINATION FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

I hereby
nominate.....

For the position
of.....

Proposer..... Secondar.....

I accept the above
nomination.....

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