

PREVIOUS MEETING: 4th March 2007

Apologies: Mike Wigley, Selwyn & Toni Krull, Stan Winson, Norma Murray & Sylvia Coates.

The 4th March 2007 was a very special day as it marked the 9th Anniversary of GOS. It started with only 10 members and as a few of them reminisced, they realised that the weather was very much the same, very wet. A walk has been arranged for the 19th May, more details closer to the time.

Basics of Vanda Culture:

- ❖ Vandas thrive in temperature range of 15 – 32 deg. C.
- ❖ Vandas are best grown in baskets with no medium.
- ❖ Vandas must be watered heavily to a point of saturation – the roots will turn dark green.
- ❖ Always ensure your plants are dry by nightfall.
- ❖ Vandas are best fertilized with a balanced fertilizer – avoid high nitrogen fertilizers.
- ❖ Vandas are heavy feeders and should be fertilized twice a week in summer and once a week in winter.

Plant Table Results: Thank you to everyone for braving the weather and bringing their flowering beauties to share with us. Plants on display included well-grown specimens of *Stenoglottis fimbriata*, *Aerangis mystacidii* and a number of intergeneric hybrids eg: *Colmanara*, *Aliceara* and *Cattleytonias*.

Member's votes resulted in the following:

Hybrids:	1 st	Paphiopedilum primulinum Var.	Freda Steel
		Purpurascens x Susan Booth	
	2 nd	Dendrobium Apichart	Maureen Wells
		Rainbow	
	3 rd	Bc Mount Hood X	Mike & Yvonne
		Blc Bryce Canyon	Bond
Species:	1 st	Epidendrum porpax	Mavis Downey
	2 nd	Arpophyllum spicatum	Robert & Tracy Moss
	3 rd	Ornithophora radicans	Robert & Tracy Moss

We apologise for an error in last month's newsletter. The 2nd placed Cattleya Walkerana belonged to Freda Steel.

Raffle:

The plant on raffle, *Maxillaria praestans*, was won by Colleen de Villiers. Congratulations and enjoy your plant.

A *Vascostylis* Pine River "Deep Sea" – is the raffle plant for April which is a free flowering hybrid with deep blue flowers and is in spike at the moment.

Raffle tickets will be R10.00 each.

2 New Books available from the Wellington Orchid Society for R90 each

1 on Cattleya - 1 on Cymbidium - available from the shop.

New Name Badges available at R15-00 each – contact Mike Bond.

GONUBIE GOSSIP:

Shop News

The shop will be open on Sunday 1st April from 14h15 – 14h40 and also on Monday 16th April from 14h30 – 16h00. Please note that these are the only times that you will be assisted with purchases from the shop.

Culture Tip for the Month:

With the emphasis on water this month, the following table is a guide to adjusting how often to water your plants.

<u>Water more often when:</u>	<u>Water less often when:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is more light• Temperatures are higher• Humidity is lower• There is lots of air movement• The plant has thin leaves and growths• The plant is mounted on a slab or is growing in a slatted wooden or wire basket• The pot is small• The pot is clay (porous)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is less light• Temperatures are lower• Humidity is higher• There is little air movement• The plant has thick leaves and growths• The plant is in a pot• The pot is large• The pot is plastic (non-porous)

(Reference: AOS Bulletin: March 1993)

NEXT MEETING: 1st April, 2007 – 14h45

Water quality is one of the most important aspects of growing orchids. Tracy will discuss PH and EC levels of water. Remember to bring your samples of water and fertilizer solutions for testing

Plant Table:

There will be a Plant Table at the next meeting, so please remember to bring your flowering plants.

There will be a number of Vanda & Ascocendas as well as other orchid plants for sale at the next meeting. See Mike Bond in this regard between 14h15 – 14h40.

GOS QUIZ:

MARCH'S ANSWER:

A *Hawkinsara* is a complex hybrid between *Cattleya*, *Sophranitis*, *Laelia* and *Broughtonia*.

The first correct entry drawn was Alvin Peinke and he won a *Dendrochilum glumaceum*.

APRIL'S QUESTION:

A rather unusual occurrence in the orchid family is an orchid, which bears separate inflorescences for male and female flowers. Name a genus in which this occurs.