

PREVIOUS MEETING: 3rd June 2007

Apologies: Mike & Yvonne Bond, Johan Gauche, Carol van Niekerk, Manuela Chaput, Sylvia Coates, Mavis Downey, Ann & Alistair Mackay, Norma Murray and Maureen Wells.

For once, perfect weather for the walk on Owen Schafli's farm. What a wonderful afternoon spent in the relaxed company of Great People and the Great Outdoors. We managed to find: *Mystacidium capense*, *Mystacidium venosum* in flower, *Aerangis mystacidii*, *Angraecum pusillum*, *Cyrtorchis arcuata*, *Bonatea cassidea* & *Bonatea speciosa*. Owen donated two plants for a lucky draw. The *Mystacidium venosum* was won by Jenny Scherwitz and the *Cyrtorchis arcuata* by Trevor Kriedemann. Congratulations.

Raffle: The plant on raffle, *Cattleya jenmanii* was won by Errol de Villiers. Congratulations and good luck with your plant. *Ascocenda* (Suksamran Moonlight x denisoniana) x Fuchs Golden Shiner is the raffle plant for July and tickets will be R10.00 each.

GONUBIE GOSSIP:

Shop News: The shop open times for July are:

- Saturday 7th : 14h30 – 16h00
- Monday 23rd : 14h30 – 16h00

Library:

Mirle has kindly offered to assist members with the library on **Monday's** when the society shop is open. The library will be open on Monday 23rd July 14h30 – 16h00 and you can loan or return books. Take advantage of this excellent facility especially now in winter as you should find a little more time for R & R (resting & reading). There are lots of books in our library begging to be read. To be able to really grow orchids well, you need to understand where particular species come from, their preferred habitat as well as general climate conditions. Only if you have an in-depth understanding of the above will you be successful in growing the plants you like.

Culture Tip for the Month:

Tips on Cymbidium Spike Management

You spend a lot of time trying to get flowers. Once they have arrived, spending some additional time on your plants will ensure the best possible display.

- ❖ As the flower spikes appear, they should be supported with suitable stakes. This enables the spikes to be trained and also protects them from being accidentally broken off.
- ❖ Do not tie the spikes firmly to the stake unless the plant is being transported, rather just enough to retain it in a satisfactory position, allowing normal growth to continue.

- ❖ Any staking must allow natural spike form to develop, as this will produce the most attractive display.
- ❖ As the spikes grow, do not move the plant around any more than is necessary until the spike shape is set. If the plant is turned around in relation to the light sources, not only will the spike become twisted, but also the presentation of the individual flowers on the spike will be uneven.
- ❖ Manipulation of spikes / buds should never be done in the morning as they will tend to be brittle and snap easily. Spikes / buds are more pliable later in the day.
- ❖ There is a close relationship between the amount of light received by a plant and the flower colour. Reds, pinks & yellows require bright light during the development of the buds for maximum colour, while white, green and pastel coloured flowers should be completely shaded for best results.
- ❖ Do not bring a plant in spike into your home before the flowers are fully open. (Reference Phil's Orchid World).

NEXT MEETING: 01 July 2007 - 14H45

Our guest speaker, Pierre Hendriks, will give a talk and slide presentation, "A whistle stop tour of Java, Bali, Bornea & Thailand". Pierre's talks are always most interesting, so make sure you don't miss this one!

Venue: Fig Tree, Main Road, Gonubie.

There will be a plant table so please remember to bring your flowering plants

GOS QUIZ:

JUNE'S ANSWER: *Vanda Rothschildiana* = *Vanda* (*Euanthe*) *sanderiana* x *Vanda* *coerulea*. The first correct entry drawn was that of Desmond & Jenny Scherwitz and they won a *Maxillaria praestans*. Congratulations and good luck with your plant.

Vanda Rothschildiana, registered in 1931, is nothing less than a classic. Setting the benchmark for future breeding in the genus. Few orchid hybrids have attained such extensive and enduring success. Over ninety clones of this grex have received AOS quality award recognition. Too frequently the story of *Vanda* breeding is seen as the tale of the "colonization" of *Euanthe sanderiana*. The role of *V. coerulea* is typically understated. The species has contributed much more than its colour and stem length.

E. sanderiana is a difficult greenhouse subject: large, weak rooted, slow growing, slow maturing demanding an abundance of light and heat. *Vanda coerulea* brought to their marriage qualities of plant architecture which overcame these obstacles. A cool grower with broader, more compact and efficient leaves, *Vanda coerulea* contributed to *Vanda* hybrids a vigorous root system as well as light and temperature tolerance. Without these qualities *vanda* hybrids of today would still be as intractable and impractical as *E. sanderiana* itself.

JULY'S QUESTION:

Which genera are combined to create the intergeneric hybrid *Brassada*?