

PREVIOUS MEETING – 1st June, 08

APOLOGIES: Robert & Tracy Moss, Alistair & Ann Mackay, Mavis Downey, Marlene & Alvin Peinke.

GONUBIE GOSSIP:

NEW MEMBERS:

We extend a warm welcome to Dean Sangerhaus, Ronnie and Desray Sternberg who have joined us this month. We hope you enjoy many happy years of orchid growing with us.

SHOP NEWS:

The Shop and Library open times for July are:

Saturday 4th July - 15h00 - 16h00

Monday 21st July - 15h00 - 16h00

With fewer chores to do in and around the shade house at this time of the year, you should find that you have a little more time for R & R (Resting and Reading). Our library has lots of books begging to be read, and there are also five new additions, namely:

- ❖ **Minature Orchids – Steven A Frowine**
Everything you need to know to choose and cultivate 300 diminutive gems.
- ❖ **Orchid Species Culture: Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance – Charles & Margaret Baker.** A must read for advice on how to grow these species, includes detailed info on climate and habitat.
- ❖ **Tropical Slipper Orchids – Harold Koopowitz** A great read for paphiopedilum and phragmipedium enthusiasts.
- ❖ **Growing South African Indigenous Orchids – Karsten Wodrich.**
An essential guide for the successful culture of many S.A. Orchid Species. Includes a large section on propagation.
- ❖ **300 Orchids – Jane Boosey.** An introduction to the diverse world of Orchids.

PLANT TABLE RESULTS:

A very small but lovely display of flowering plants this month.

Species on display:

Paphiopedilum spicerianum – This species occurs in NE India, Northern Myanmar and SW China. It grows in shaded spots in pockets of leaf litter on cliff faces. Flowers are long lasting. This species is easy to grow and is recommended for beginners. This plant needs to be kept constantly moist and should never be allowed to dry out completely. It is also recommended that paphiopedilums be repotted into fresh medium annually.

Habenaria arenaria – A terrestrial species from S & E Cape, KZN and E. Transvaal. Also known from S. Mozambique. In cultivation ensure plants are grown in a medium which is free draining. They are best grown in a shady spot. See also latest SAOC Journal Vol.39 - Issue 1, article on Habenarias pages 34-36.

Hybrids on display:

A selection of Cattleyas included - Blc Mount Hood x Lc Persepolis, Blc Chia Lin New City, Lc White Spark, Blc Momilani Rainbow and Lc Memoria Robert Strait.

Members' votes resulted in the following:

Species:	1st	Paph spicerianum	Errol de Villiers
	2nd	Habenaria arenaria	Mike Wigley
Hybrids:	1st	Blc Chia Lin New City	Mike Bond
	2nd	Blc Momilani Rainbow	Carol van Niekerk
	3rd	Lc Mem Robert Strait	Errol de Villiers

Thank you to members for bringing their flowering plants to share with us.

Help Needed!

Members on plant table duty could really use your help. You can assist by placing your plants on the table in their correct categories. Plants are firstly divided into species/ hybrids sections and are then grouped according to genus (family) e.g. Cattleya, Cymbidium, Vanda, etc. Also were possible provide us with plant info on a piece of paper/card next to your plant e.g. plants name, distribution, growing tips, etc. In this way you will also learn more about your own plants by using your books or our library and the OrchidWiz to obtain the necessary information. We request that plants be displayed by 14h30 to facilitate voting.

Members please remember that plants must be in your possession for a minimum of 6 months before entering them on our monthly plant table.

RAFFLE:

The monthly raffle consisted of a Blc Chunyeah 'Good life No. 1' and a Blc Kat Sky Song. These were won by Ray Sizer & Sheila Smith. Congratulations to the winners and good luck with your plants. The raffle plant for July is a Vanda Dr Anek 'Bai' in spike and tickets will be R10.00 each.

GOS QUIZ:

JUNE'S ANSWER:

The Complex hybrid Beallara is a combination of Brassia, Cochlioda, Miltonia & Odontoglossum. The first correct entry drawn was that of Des & Jenny Scherwitz and they won a Potinara Varut 'Gold Beater'. Congratulations and good luck with your plant.

Beallaras grow in a wide range of conditions and have long lasting blooms, which are often fragrant. They have a fine root system and are best grown in a fine bark mix with a little sphagnum moss added. During our hot summer months they need to be watered copiously as they do not like to dry out. However, in winter they prefer a rest period and so should be watered sparingly.

JULY'S QUESTION:

Name the South American genus which Pierre Hendricks mentioned in his presentation at our May meeting which has a symbiotic relationship with colonies of ants that are usually found living in the large, hollowed-out, banana-like pseudobulbs, of the orchid.