PREVIOUS MEETING: 6th May, 2007

Apologies: Ray Hewson, Selwyn Krull, Manuela Chaput & Trevor Kriedeman.

Last Meeting: We visited three of our Gonubie members' shadehouses and an enjoyable social afternoon was had by all. The hidden Treasure, BLC Bryce Canyon x Ctna Keith Roth was found by Carol van Niekerk. Congratulations and good luck with your plant. A big thank you to Mike & Yvonne Bond and Lina Muller for the opportunity to visit their shadehouses and also to Ann & Alistair Mackay for hosting the meeting at their home.

Plant Table Results:
Member's votes resulted in the following:

Hybrids:	1st	(Vanda Gordon Dillion x Vanda Kazem's Delight) x (Vanda Faye Bennette x Vanda Bangyi Khan 'red')	R & T Moss
	2nd	BLC George King 'serendipity'	R & T Moss
	3rd	BLC Ports of Paradise	M. Downey
Species:	1st	Prosthechea fragrans	R & T Moss
	2nd	Aerangis confusa	R & T Moss
	3rd	Mystacidium venosum	T. Krull

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

Raffle: The plant on raffle, Ascocenda Bicentennial was won by Mavis Downey. Congratulations and good luck with your plant. A Cattleya jenmanii is the raffle plant for June and tickets will be R10.00 each.

GONUBIE GOSSIP:
Shop News: The shop open times for June are:

- Saturday 9th : 14h30 – 16h00
- Monday 18th : 14h30 – 16h00

Culture Tip for the Month:
ORCHID ROOTS & REST PERIODS
(from Orchids in Victoria by: Brian Milligan)
Many Orchids survive stressful times in their native habitats, usually cool dry times, by entering what orchid growers call a rest period. They indicate their intention of entering this phase by gradually extending the protective layer of velamen that normally covers most of the root until the green, actively growing tip is completely encompassed. At this stage the root tips absorb water and nutrients much less efficiently and the plant drastically slows its growth. Flower spikes may continue to grow and buds open, but the energy for these processes is derived from the nutrients already stored in the pseudobulb. Because orchids absorb little water or nutrients through their roots during the rest period, frequent watering and fertilising at this time is unnecessary and may be harmful. Common examples of orchids that enter a rest period during winter are: Laelia anceps, Oncidium varicosum & hybrids, epidendrums and cattleyas. But not all orchids have a rest period during winter; these plants continue to grow, albeit at a reduced rate. Cymbidiums are a prime example. They benefit from continued watering and fertilising during winter, although at a much less frequent rate than in summer. So how do you tell which orchids need a rest period during winter from those that don't? *Examine the root tips*. If they are green and shiny, the orchid is still growing actively. But if the root tips are no longer green and shiny and are completely sealed with velamen, then the orchid has entered its rest period and it should be watered much less frequently, perhaps once every two or three weeks. Occasional misting of the foliage of these plants, especially on days with hot berg winds will keep them from dehydrating. As spring arrives these 'resting periods' will show signs of 're-awakening' by developing fresh root tips. These are signs that you should gradually resume normal watering and fertilising. Because of the importance of active root tips in the absorbing of water and nutrients it is vital to the well-being of your orchids that these root tips should not be damaged. Ensure your plants are secure in their pots and use snailbait to control slugs and snails.
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NEXT MEETING: 03 June, 2007
A walk on Owen Schafli's farm where we hope to spot at least 7 Orchid species. We will depart from Pioneer at 13h00 sharp. Remember to bring your own refreshments and to wear comfortable walking shoes. In the event of inclement weather a meeting will be held at Polly's at 14h45 and the members on duty for June will be required to carry out their duties.

GOS QUIZ:
MAY'S ANSWER: Coryanthes. The first correct entry drawn was that of Alvin Peinke and he won an Epidendrum garcerianum.
In the genus coryanthes the structure of the flower is aimed at efficient cross pollination and the lip has evolved into a pouch. A bee, attracted by scent, alights on the front edge of the pouch in search of nectar or as in Coryanthes macrantha, to eat the interior brim of the pouch. Frequently, either through intoxication or accident, the poor unsuspecting bee tumbles in and because of the angle of the pouch and its slippery interior surface, cannot make its exit through the pouch opening. Instead, assisted by suitably placed hairs on the surface of the pouch, it crawls up the back interior wall towards one of the small openings on either side of the column. These exits are a fairly tight fit and often considerable effort is required before the bee can escape. In doing so it rubs against the stamen, removing the pollinia onto its back. The bee then visits another flower where the "tumbling in' process is repeated. This time, on crawling up the back wall of the pouch, the bee's back comes into contact with the stigmatic surface, leaving the pollen behind. As it completes its escape it collects additional pollen, which will then be transferred to another flower.

JUNE'S QUESTION:
Name the Vanda Species used in creating the famous primary Hybrid, Vanda Rothschildiana.