

## **PREVIOUS MEETING: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Apologies:** Alvin & Marlene Peinke, Johan Gauche, Ann & Alistar Mackay & Michael & Shirley Hart.

## **GOS Show 21-24 September**

Tracy congratulated members for putting together a most magnificent display and also thanked members for all their tremendous help with various duties for the duration of the show.

### **Public voting resulted in the following:**

|         |     |   |                 |
|---------|-----|---|-----------------|
| No. 131 | 1st | Lc Taida Swan 'Taida'                                   | Gordon Sonemann |
| Prize   |     | Rhyncostylis gigantea 'Red'                             |                 |
| No. 125 | 2nd | Blc Quarmby 'Aurora'                                    | Freda Steel     |
| Prize   |     | Ascocenda Kultana Gold x Viroonchin Gold                |                 |
| No. 138 | 3rd | Lc Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire' x Lc Firedance 'Blanche' | Dot Norval      |
| Prize   |     | Blc Tzeng Wen Beauty x Lc Trick or Treat                |                 |

Members assisted with the deflasking of a flask of *Sophranitis brevipedunculata* and each member went home with a baby to nurture. Remember that these babies will be recalled to the October 2008 meeting and the owner of the best grown plant will receive an orchid prize.

### **Tips on caring for your babies:**

- ❖ Place in a warm, bright room with **NO** direct sunlight reaching onto the plant.
- ❖ Keep covered with a clear plastic bottle for up to a month to maintain a high humidity.
- ❖ Thereafter the covering must be partially opened to allow air in around your plant. This will toughen your plant. Remove the covering completely after 2-4 weeks.
- ❖ Plants need to be watered as soon as the surface of the medium begins to dry. Rain water is best.
- ❖ Start fertilizing your plants with a very weak solution of fertilizer after 4-6 weeks from deflasking.
- ❖ Keep a close watch for fungal infections which must be treated with previcur immediately.

*Sophranitis brevipedunculata* is the easiest species in the genus to grow and is

warmth tolerant. These plants grow well mounted. They prefer a high humidity of 70–90%. Be sure not to over water them – they must dry out between waterings (once they are established !). Water quality is also important and therefore rain water is best.

## **Plant Table**

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

### **Members votes resulted in the following:**

|         |                 |  |             |
|---------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Species | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Arpophyllum spicatum                                 | Freda Steel |
|         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Angraecum sesquipedale                               | R & T Moss  |
|         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Eulophia streptopetala                               | Mike Wigley |
| Hybrids | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Paphiopedilum Clarissa x paphiopedilum sukhakulii    | R & T Moss  |
|         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Vanda Manuvadee                                      | R & T Moss  |
|         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Paphiopedilum rothschildianum x Paphiopedilum stonei | R & T Moss  |

## **Raffle:**

The plant on raffle, *Ascocenda* (suksamran moonlight x denisoniana) x Fuchs Golden Shiner was won by Errol de Villiers. Congratulations and good luck with your plant. The raffle plant for November is *Cattleya jenmanii* and tickets will be R10-00.

## **GONUBIE GOSSIP:**

**New Members:** We extend a warm welcome to Michael & Shirley Hart, Ray & Selome Sizer, Colleen & Gary Midlane and Jean & Berend Schuitema who have joined us this month. We hope you enjoy many happy years of orchid growing with us.

## **Shop News:**

Stocks were low at the last meeting due to our busy trading during the show. We have received new stocks of orchid mix, labels, Polyfeed and 20cm Bowls.

The shop will be open on :

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October : 14h30 – 16h00
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: 15h30 – 16h30 (Please note change in time)
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November: 14h30 – 16h00

Remember that these are the final open days for 2007. The shop will be closed until the February 2008 meeting – so make sure you stock up now.

## **Library:**

All library books must please be returned to Mirle on or before 4<sup>th</sup> November. The library will be closed until the February 2008 meeting.

### **Donations:**

Thank you to Carol van Niekerk and Marie Turner for their donation of cymbidiums which have been sold for club funds. Thank you to Dot Norval for the donation of some plastic pots.

### **End of Year Function – 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2007**

Our end of year function will be an informal braai. The society will supply braai packs, salads, bread rolls & desserts. The cost is R45-00 per head. Friends & Family are welcome to attend. Payment must please be made to Cynthia at the November meeting.

### **Subscriptions for 2008**

A reminder that subs are now due. The subscription for 2008 is R140-00. Subs can be paid to Cynthia at the next meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING: 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2007**

Our guest speaker Bill Leonard from U.S.A. will be giving a presentation on Cattleya species. Bill has been growing orchids for 30 years and enjoys hybridising. He has registered 70 of his own hybrids. A rare opportunity – we are very fortunate to have an overseas speaker, so make sure you do not miss this meeting. There will be a plant table so please remember to bring your flowering plants.

### **GOS QUIZ:**

#### **OCTOBER'S ANSWER:**

The first correct entry drawn was that of Baby Victor and she won an Epidendrum garcerianum. Congratulations and good luck with your plant. Cattleya skinneri is the national flower of Costa Rica. Cattleya skinneri has recently been renamed Guarianthe skinneri. Guarianthe is based on the Costa Rican common name Guaria, generally used for orchids and other epiphytes.

#### **NOVEMBER'S QUESTION:**

Which orchid is commonly known as the 'Jewel Orchid'?

### **Directions to St Martin-by-the-Sea Anglican Church Hall**

**From Main Road, Turn right into 7<sup>th</sup> Street (directly after Gonubie Butchery)  
Parking at Cnr 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

### **This is the first of a Series of Mini Talks on our Indigenous Orchids – by Mike Wigley.**

I am starting off with Eulophia streptopetala. Eulophia was named by Robert Brown, Eu means well and lophos means crest and refers to the lip of the flower. Streptopetala was named by John Lindley meaning twisted petals. Both these authors were well known botanists of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

E.streptopetala is one of our local orchids. It is a very widespread species found from here right up through East Africa to Eritrea and across to Angola in the west.

This is an easy and rewarding species to grow and a good choice for beginners. This is what they look like (picture shown) and in a robust plant and can reach 2,5m in height. Eulophia streptopetala grows on the edges of forests amongst scrub and never in the open grasslands. In Natal and Gauteng they have been found growing in Eucalyptus plantations. It enjoys 50% shade and is best grown in the ground if you have the right spot. The disadvantage of growing the plant in the open is that you cannot then bring it here to show the rest of us, especially after a number of years when it becomes a large clump with multiple stems.

Now most of us will be growing them in pots, but which ones. First of all do not use cement or clay pots, as Eulophias attach their roots to them and so make it very difficult to repot. What is left? We have round and square plastic pots. Size for size square pots are better as they allow you more time between repotting. Streptopetala has an extensive root system so requires a large pot. A suitable potting mix consists of one part coarse river sand, two parts compost and one part medium bark chips. The plant is set in the corner of the pot to give it lots of room to grow. The pseudobulbs should be kept exposed. Water the plant copiously during the growing season, starting once the new growth emerges and allow the potting mix to dry slightly between watering. During the active growing period feed the plant every 2-3 weeks with Supranure or Chemicult No.3 at the rate of one teaspoon per 5 litres of water. From April onwards reduce the watering frequency and stop feeding. Once the leaves start to turn yellow, stop watering. Moisten the potting mix every 3-4 weeks during this dormant period. During the cold weather streptopetala is prone to fungal spotting, so watch out for it. It is time to repot when the plant reaches the side of the pot, as Eulopies do not like turning. If they cannot distort or split the pot they tend to die off. The best time to repot is just before or when the new growth appears. When dividing always have a minimum of 3 pseudobulbs and finally do not forget to put the label in the pot.