

Volume 41 No. 2 / Next Meeting: 11th April

The Cymbidium Club of Australia presents the 2nd in a series of presentations to teach you how to:

Grow Your Cymbidium Better!

Get your cymbidiums to flower - what to do if they won't flower

by George Serhan

April 11th - 8.00 p.m.

Allan G Ezzy Community Centre,

1 Newport St Pemulwuy

Visitors welcome! It's Free!

Learn from expert growers, some of the best in the country. Supercharge your results. Be thrilled at how your cymbidiums grow and flower. Win more prizes at shows and impress your families and friends! Great plant raffle! You'll be so glad you came.....



MANAGEMENT

PRESIDENT: Dr Geoff Le Marne 9449 9648

VICE PRESIDENT: George Serhan

SECRETARY|TREASURER |CORRESPONDENCE:
Judith Brooks, 51 Chamberlain Rd, Padstow Heights
2211 (9773 9197)

All correspondence to: Judith Brooks:
jahamilton.17@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE: David Brooks, Bill Goodridge, Seong Tay,
Nat Cicciari & Andy Gatt

PATRON: Kevin Black

EDITOR|WEB: Toni Benton, 0418 263 899
editor@ccansw.com.au

MEETING DATES FOR 2024

- 11 April (AGM)
- 9 May
- 13 June
- 11 July
- 8 August - (No meeting - Show)
- 12 September
- 10 October
- 14 November - Christmas



Neutrog Australia Pty Ltd
288 Mine Road, Kanmantoo
South Australia 5252

T (08) 8538 3500
F (08) 8538 3522
E info@neutrog.com.au
W www.neutrog.com.au

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Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month, March to November inclusive, at the Allan G Ezzy Community Centre, 1 Newport Street, Pemulwuy NSW commencing at 8.00 pm.

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PRESIDENT'S BLURB APRIL 2024

The April Meeting represents the end of the club year with the Annual General Meeting. Please consider nominating for committee, the meetings aren't onerous and no experience is required. It's always good to get new people with fresh ideas on the committee.

The last 12 months has been another interesting and successful year for the club. We started off in April with an excellent talk by Mr Scott Barrie (Barrita Orchids) on both cymbidiums but also other genera he is growing .

At the May meeting we had a great talk by Dr Seong Tay (The Orchid Mart) on how to flask orchids and Seong passed on some of the knowledge he has acquired from over 30 years in his Lab.

In June we had an interesting talk by Dr Randall Robinson on Cymbidium Intergenerics which is a really new frontier of cymbidium hybridising .

July, August and September were our shows for the year which were all well supported. Special mention of another great show in August - The National Orchid Extravaganza - which was a great success.

In October we had another great talk by Cymbidium canaliculatum grower Steve Dunstan on how he grows this wonderful species .

In November we had an end of year feast and presentation of prizes and at the March meeting I gave a talk on "Grow your Cymbidiums Better" which was well attended, and we also started our growing competition.

A very big thank you to all the Guest Speakers we had over the last year!

At the March meeting I gave the first Cymbidium Culture talk for the year and many more are planned . The meeting was well attended and most members snapped up the growing competition plants which were an absolute bargain.

Obviously to be a successful club takes hard work, and nobody works harder than our Secretary /Treasurer Judith Brooks. Thank you Judith for the gift of your time, experience and competency.

Thank you to all the committee for your hard work and support. George Serhan (Vice President), David Brooks - Judging / organising the judges, collating results and all the other work he does. Thank you to Seong Tay , Nat Ciccari, Bill Goodridge and Andy Gatt . I look forward to working with you all again.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the Supper - Kay Goodridge, Judith Brooks and Jessie Gatt. Thank you to Bill Goodridge and Ken & Sharon Wynn for growing the raffle plants. Thank you to Toni Benton for the invaluable work she does producing the newsletter each month, running the website and selling the Raffle tickets. Thank you to Mick Benton for being the Judge's scribe .

The Club success is a culmination of the efforts of all members - thank you everyone for your contributions throughout the year.

At the the April meeting we will be having a second cultural talk for the year - Mr George Serhan on 'Flower your Cymbidiums Better' - what to do if you cymbidiums don't flower. George is a commercial Cymbidium grower with over 35 years of experience and this talk is a great opportunity to learn and ask questions.

Don't forget financial members are able to sell plants at the back of the hall before meetings and during the break . The table is unmanned and no commission is charged . Plants should be healthy and disease free . It's a great way to get rid of excess divisions, community pots, flasks and back bulbs.

The March Newsletter had a page of benching labels - don't forget to print out your own if you are able - pre-fill them before the meeting and benching will be quick and easy.

The Club will continue to run the Tay Cymbidium of the Year, The Seedling of the Year, The Annual points score competition , and the Keith Harris Memorial Trophy this year.

See you in April..... *Geoff Le Marne*



MEETING MINUTES 14th MARCH 2024

The meeting opened at 8pm by the President, Geoff Le Marne.

Apologies: George Kovacs, Nat Cicciari, Phil Festa, Jessie Gatt and Barbra and George Kyriotis

We had several visitors to the meeting, which was wonderful to see.

The raffle plants are an assortment of seedlings, all standard cymbidiums.

Geoff spoke of the passing of Louis Friess late last year. Louis was a long time member of the Club, although we had not seen him at our meetings since the Covid outbreak. Irma (his wife) did bring him along to our Extravaganza last year and it was lovely for him to be able to come and see some of his old friends and for us to catch up with him. A minutes silence was held in honour of Louis.

We have the AGM next month and general call was put out for Committee Members. We try to ensure that Committee members are not burdened with too much administration and generally hold our Committee Meetings before our Club meetings for the convenience of everyone. If further meetings need to be held, they are often undertaken as conference calls. We would welcome any new members to the Committee to assist with the running of the Club and shows.

The Club is undertaking a series of presentations for Members and guests on Promoting Culture in cymbidium growing. The presentations will be aimed at all levels of growers and should provide some useful insights and ideas for everyone to help them to get the best from their plants and best utilise their growing space, giving them more and better flowerings to bring in and bench at the meetings and shows. Geoff is presenting tonight on "How to Grow your Cymbidiums Better", while George Serhan will be presenting at the next meeting on flowering, looking at reasons why your plants may not be flowering or producing at their best. At our May meeting, we will be looking at how to get your plants ready for showing.

Secretary, Judith Brooks, informed Members that Committee had taken the decision to increase the Membership Fees from the 1st April. We have not changed our fees in many years and we feel that the small addition of from \$15 to **\$20** is reasonable and affordable. Please note that this Membership fee covers the individual and spouse and allows you to bench plants at all our meetings and shows and includes our Newsletter which is published from March to November. Any Members who have prepaid before the 1st April will not be asked to pay the additional fee, but will need to pay \$20 when they next renew their membership.

Information relating to the next AOC conference has been received and will be available on the front table for everyone to review. If you wish to have this information forwarded to you, please let Judith know.

Our schedule for the year will include our Winter and Spring shows in July and September respectively, the National Orchid Extravaganza in August and our series of cultural talks throughout the year, ending with our Christmas Party in November.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, we are running a Growing Competition over 2024-25. The plants are all seedlings of Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts', an AM award winning champion cymbidium. The entry is \$5 per person/plant, limited to one plant per member. Pointscore judging of the plants will take place in September this year and March and September for 2025 and 2026. The plants will be judged on their overall condition, not necessarily the best flowered.

Those members wishing to be part of the competition drew random numbers from the hat and were assigned their plants accordingly with no option to choose any individual plant.

The meeting broke for supper at 8.40pm and resumed at 9.00pm for Geoff's presentation. Following this, the raffle was held and the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

POINT SCORE 2024

George Serhan	4
G Le Marne	7

SECRETARY'S REPORT – APRIL 2024

Another new year and some new and exciting additions to our agenda. We are pleased to announce we will be providing a series of cultural presentations on growing your cymbidiums, being given by experienced growers to assist you all in getting the best from your plants. Hopefully this will help everyone to bring in some more fabulous flowering cymbids during the year and help novice growers to progress and get more confidence in nurturing their orchids.

We also have our Growing Competition, which will be taking place over the next three years. The choice of seedlings for the competition (Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts') should produce some great plants and we're looking forward to seeing how everyone progresses.

As you will see from the Minutes, we have taken the decision to increase the Membership fee this year to \$20. The revised

Membership form is attached in the Newsletter and provides our bank details for those who wish to pay by direct transfer. If you do this, please ensure you email me at jahamilton.17@btinternet.com with your details so that I can check and update our records. Please use your name as reference for any online payments so that I can identify individual payments.

Next meeting will be the AGM and I would join with Geoff to invite all members to consider standing for the Committee this year. The job is not onerous and, as most of our meetings are held before our Club meetings, there is no need for additional travel. Any assistance you can provide with the running of the Club, our meetings and shows would be much appreciated.

We have already started the planning for the National Orchid Extravaganza and are expecting another great show later in the year. Fliers will be available in the near future and you can pick them up at the meeting to help promote the show in your area. Alternatively I can post some to you if you can't make it to meetings – just let me know.

As a result of enquiries following the talk by Steve Dunstan last year, we have included in the Newsletter an extract from his presentation on growing *canaliculatum* for your information.

Wishing everyone a wonderful growing season and looking forward to seeing you all at our meetings and shows during the year.

Judith

My Guide to Repotting *Cym. canaliculatum* - by Steve Dunstan

The Media

- 33% small to medium pine bark (soaked in hydrated lime for 2 weeks)
- 33% small clay balls or large charcoal plus clinker ash (from Steve's coal burning process) 50/50
- 13% rock mineral powder and polystyrene balls
- 20% cymbidium and bromeliad mix combined with Perlite 50/50 to provide the little moisture the *Cym. canaliculatum's* need.

Plus to the above add - per 20 litres:

- 1 handful of Dynamic Lifter or Rooster Booster
 - 1 handful of blood and bone
 - 1 handful of brickies lime - for a high alkaline mix (ph 8-9)
 - 1 handful of Soil Wetter - *Cym. canaliculatum's* are thirsty
- Mix thoroughly.

Pots

- Don't over pot
- A form of water well pot is the best
- Hand made using tall pots. Make holes about 30 mm from the base of the pot forming a well and make lots of holes in the side of the pot for air and fast drying.

Potting Methods

Method 1 - for a repot into next size pot

- Fill water well void with styrene chunks
- Add 25 mm of new potting media
- Dust with ant powder and brickies lime
- Add new potting media so that undisturbed plant is 25 mm from top of the new pot - **very important**
- Place plant to be repotted into the new pot and back fill around the new plant
- Top dress with Dynamic Lifter and rock mineral dust

Method 2 - for dividing an existing plant and potting

- Fill water well void with styrene chunks
- Divide the plant
- Remove as many old/dead roots as possible (similar to what we do with *Den. speciosums*)
- Remove any unwanted back bulbs
- Soak plant bulbs and roots in a growth hormone such as Auxinone
- Sulphur or lime any cuts when dry
- Add 25 mm of new potting media
- Dusty with ant powder and brickies lime
- Add new potting media so that the divided plant is 25 mm from top of the new pot



- Place the plant to be repotted into the new pot and back fill around the new plant
- Top dress with Dynamic Lifter and rock mineral dust and leave for 2 or 3 days
- Well water with an anti rot fungicide and then water again in 1 week
- Water fortnightly in Summer or if very hot weekly (in the wild plants get 'The Wet' or in Summer daily thunderstorms)
- Reduce watering in cooler months - OK to mist as channelled leaves will capture moisture but not wet the nix
- Hang to get air movement and bright light
- Feed with any 1/4 strength liquid fertilizer (say Peter's) every time you water and add, if you like, fungicide once a month when you water
- Occasionally check the pH - should be at least 8.

A.G.M. Nomination Form 2024

Election of Office Bearers for the Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc. for the year 2024

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc. hereby nominate.

Name: for the position of:

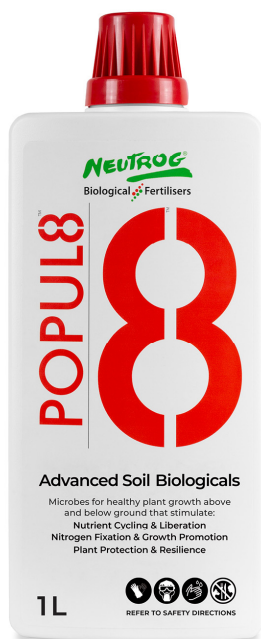
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Editor
- Committee

Signed: Seconded:

I accept the above Nomination

Signed: Judith Brooks, Secretary

CHANGE OF SEASON, IS A GREAT REASON TO POPUL8 YOUR SOIL



Get your garden autumn ready with a seasonal application of POPUL8 for healthy plant growth above and below ground.

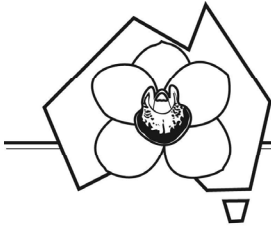
POPUL8 is designed to occupy and populate the biological space in the soil and on plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit - hence its name.

POPUL8 contains a diverse microbiome of 200+ naturally occurring microbes, plus a further 42 specifically selected bacteria and fungi have been isolated, identified and added for their individual and joint symbiotic purpose and beneficial characteristics.

The number and diversity of living microbes in POPUL8 can positively influence nutrient cycling, nutrient liberation, nitrogen fixation, production of plant growth hormones, protection and resilience against disease and bio stimulation.

POPUL8 should be applied once per season across the entire garden, and then as needed for plants showing signs of stress.





Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc.
www.ccansw.com.au

Affiliated with the Orchid Society of New South Wales and the Australian Orchid Council

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please **PRINT** clearly and neatly

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr (*cross out non applicable*)

Given names _____

Surname _____

Postal Address _____

Home Address _____

Phone No _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

I would like my Cymbidnews posted/emailed (*cross out non applicable*) to me*.

* **Email is preferred by the club to minimise postage costs**

I wish to join the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) Inc. My membership includes 9 monthly issues of the Club Newsletter "Cymbidnews".

Annual membership is **\$20** and can be paid in **cash** at our monthly meetings, by **direct bank transfer** (see below) or by **cheque**. *Please make cheques payable to Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc and forward to:*

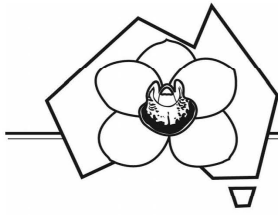
Mrs Judith Brooks
Secretary
Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) Inc
51 Chamberlain Road
Padstow NSW 2211

Bank Details for direct deposit (Please use your name as reference) -

Account Name: Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc

BSB: 012 310 (ANZ Banking Group Ltd)

Account No: 226002092



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Affiliated with the Orchid Society of New South Wales and the Australian Orchid Council

2024 NATIONAL ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA

**Including a wonderful display of slipper orchids and sales by
The Paphiopedilum Society of NSW**

Friday 9th August to Sunday 11th August 2024

The Arena Sports Club

140 Rookwood Road

Yagoona NSW 2199

9am to 4pm Friday and Saturday

9am to 3pm Sunday

Come along and see some of the best flowering orchids in the country on display and purchase some top quality plants from industry experts.

Championship Benching and a variety of displays, including Floral Art and Individual Blooms.

Admission – Adults \$10

Pensioners \$5

Children under 14 years free

FREE PARKING



Vendors Include:

David Wain Orchids

Orchid Mania

The Orchid Place

David Keanelly Orchids

George Serhan Orchids

Orchids on Newbold

Johnston's Orchids & Indoor Plants

And many more