



# Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.

## Information for New Members

### Membership

Membership is open to any person interested in orchids. Membership fees are due on 1 May for our financial year of May- April. Types of membership and current fees are: Single (\$25), Family (\$30), Junior (<14 yo) (\$5).

### Information about the Society and growing orchids

- The society maintains a comprehensive website of useful information, including the constitution and bulletins at [www.canberraorchids.org](http://www.canberraorchids.org)
- The Society has a Facebook page with information on upcoming events at [www.facebook.com/CanberraOrchidSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CanberraOrchidSociety)
- The Society has a Facebook group for discussion of orchid matters in cool climate Australia at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117759295631446/>
- The society has written a book entitled, "Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia", available to members at a discounted price.

### The Bulletin

The Society publishes an electronic bulletin 6 times per year with information on past and future orchid events, minutes of the meetings and articles on orchids. Contributions from members are welcome!

### Monthly Meeting

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, corner Gould and Macleay St. Turner. Meetings commence at 8:00pm with the library and sales table open from 7:30pm.

The society has a standing restaurant reservation at the Ainslie Football Club at 6pm, for members who would like to have dinner together before the meeting.

### Meeting format

- Welcome by the president
- Introduction of the speaker for the evening
- Speaker's presentation
- Break (refreshments, library, sales table, popular vote and door prize)
- General business
- Results of the popular vote table
- Judges' choices for best species, hybrid and specimen
- Discussion of particularly interesting plants on the bench
- Discussion on what to be doing in the orchid house for the next month

### Benching Categories

- Open Grower: a grower with some years of experience growing orchids
- Novice: an inexperienced grower, usually of <5 years duration who has not won an aggregate of 3 first prizes at the OSC annual show.
- Junior: a grower <14 years of age.

### Monthly Benching

After the tables and chairs have been set up, members are welcome to put their plants on the tables. It is important that novices and juniors put their plants into the correct areas. Experienced members will then sort the orchids into categories according to what is presented on the night rather than using fixed categories. The object is to have categories with approximately the same number of plants and no categories with singletons. For example, if there are a lot of pleurothallids benched, they may be divided into species and hybrids, or into genera. If there is just one cymbidium benched, it may be put into a category with other singletons called "Any other Orchid".

### Popular Vote

Each person attending the meeting is encouraged to take a voting slip and vote for the orchid within in each category that s/he likes the best, and then to select from those an overall "Orchid of the Night". The winning plants are announced at the end of the evening. A photograph is taken of the Orchid of the Night for publication in the bulletin.

### Judges' Choice

Our accredited orchid judges choose the best species, hybrid and specimen for the table each

meeting. Photos are taken, and these are published in the bulletin.

### *Yearly Point Score for the Popular Vote Trophy*

The trophy is presented annually at the Christmas Party meeting for the preceding year (Dec-Nov). Each category winner gets 1 point, orchid of the night 2 points.

### *Library*

Financial members are entitled to borrow books from the library. In general, books would be borrowed for one month and returned but longer loans may be made at the discretion of the librarian. The society also has a small laptop with the software program, "OrchidWiz" available for members to borrow.

### *Sales Table*

The Society operates a sales table at most monthly meetings. The objective is to provide members (only) with orchid-growing products that are not easy to purchase in normal nurseries at reasonable prices. In addition, some products can be purchased out of meetings by contacting the appropriate person. If you want a specific item or large numbers of any item, it is best to contact the appropriate person ahead of the meeting to ensure your products are brought in. The correct contact details for the products are listed in the bulletin.

Members may sell plants to other members through the sales table. Ensure that the plants are established, pest-free and correctly labelled. Put a second label into the pot with your name and price. The Society will take a 10% commission on sales and your money will be available from the treasurer at the following meeting. Any plants not sold must be taken home by the owner.

### *Door Prize*

Each evening, members bring donations for the door prize. It may be orchid related or not. At the break, several names will be drawn from the sign-in list and those members have first choice to select something from the table. After that, any member present may select from the table. Any donation not selected at the end of the evening must be taken home by the person who brought it in.

### *Prize for Attendance*

Each year at the Christmas Party, those members (excepting committee) who attended the most meetings during the year win a prize.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is held in June each year just prior to the general monthly meeting. The committee is elected for the coming financial year, and the audited financial report is presented. See Part 6 of the constitution for full details on the AGM.

### **The Committee**

The committee of the society is responsible for the proper management of the affairs of the society. The committee is composed of 7 members, of which there are 4 executive positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. A member may be re-elected annually except that no member may serve in the same executive position for more than 3 years consecutively.

### **Annual Spring Show**

The annual show is held in September each year, usually on the third weekend. Plants are benched on Friday afternoon, judging is done on Friday night and the show is open to members and the public on Saturday and Sunday. We usually have a meal at the club on Saturday night, on a pay-as-you-go basis to celebrate the show.

There is a large sales area with several commercial vendors and our own Society sales table. As usual, members may sell plants that are established and pest free. The commission is 10%.

As the biggest event of our orchid year, it is important that every member participate in some way, benching plants and helping at the show in some capacity.

### **Other Activities**

From time to time, the society holds hands-on workshops aimed at novice growers and open glasshouses when members can see others' growing arrangements.

The society also participates in events organised by regional societies and stages displays of society members' plants.