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Next Meeting : Monday, 16th July, 2018

Venue : *The Lindfield Community Centre, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

The **Culture Class** this month is back to normal, **starting at 7.15 pm**. The subject is Australian native terrestrials and it will take the form of a question and answer session with three of our most experienced with these orchids holding session to let you ask the questions. Many of our terrestrial orchids are really easy to grow once you understand what they need, and that isn't so much. The panel will be Christine Rethers, Jim Brydie, and Chris Wilson.

The **main meeting commences at 8pm**. After the general meeting, the judging, and the tea break, our guest speaker will be a presentation featuring some of our amazing "Best of the Evening" orchids of the past year. We are hoping to get their owners and other experienced growers to talk about each one, how to it grows, and let us know what are the key aspects of its culture require. This is the first time we have done this but the format has proven very popular elsewhere. It should make for a very interesting meeting and send you home with some excellent insights.

Our **supper volunteers for July** are **Lina Huang** and **John Chang**. Thank you, we all appreciate your help.

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Cynodes Taiwan Gold 'Orange' - grown by **Geoff and Jean Fulcher**

Since Fred Clarke visited us some years back to tell us all about the *Catasetum* and their related genera, we are really starting to see many more exotic combinations among these genera. This lovely hybrid is a cross between the *Mormodes badia* and *Cynoches chlorochilum*.

M. badia is a species endemic to Mexico on the central Pacific coast at elevations between 300-1700m. Like *Catasetum*, it is deciduous, but it flowers in early winter after it drops its leaves, then rests until late winter/early spring. It can be variable in flower colour, with some being red, some yellow and some a pale brown. The spectacular spike can have up to 25 (5cm) flowers, which, like most orchids, have both male and female organs.

C. chlorochilum is found from Panama to Venezuela (generally between 400 to 900m). The flowers can be male only, female only, or both. They the flowers are quite large at around 16cm across but there are only about 4 to 7 flowers. They are usually fully lime green but can sometimes have a yellowish tinge and sometimes have a white lip. The prominent column has a long, skinny and arching stem ending in a broader sexual part, reminiscent of a swans neck and head, which is why it has the common name of 'swan orchid'.

At first glance, the hybrid name of Taiwan Gold seems curious when you see this wonderfully coloured orchid but remember, there are yellow forms of *Mormodes badia* as well and there are gold coloured Taiwan Golds as well as greenish yellow and full green.

The combination of different genera combines slightly different growth patterns and some growers find these lovely mixed hybrids a bit tricky to grow. However, I feel sure that this is mostly because they are relatively new to the orchid grower world and we are still learning what we need to do to succeed with them, and where their boundaries are. With experienced growers like the Fulchers who are also brave enough to experiment and to lead the way, it will probably not be too long before we take their culture for granted. If you would like to try them, the Townsville nursery Alice's Orchids (who will be at St Ives Fair) sell a number of different types.

Congratulations on your Best of the Evening Geoff and Jean. At least I can now see what mine should look like.



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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@bigpond.com)

1. Social Dinner Friday 13 July – Don't forget – this is the Friday night BEFORE our next meeting.

The venue is the **Eastern City Chinese Restaurant**, at **7 Hillcrest Road Pennant Hills**. We will meet at the restaurant at **6.30pm for dinner at 7pm**.

The deal is \$20 per head (subsidised by the society), a small entree, a variety of main dishes (banquet style) with plain or fried rice, and a choice of one of two desserts. The restaurant is fully licensed and can supply all drinks but they also allow BYO wine subject to a small per person corkage charge. There will be a small volume of softdrink supplied to each table at the start of the evening but further drinks (alcoholic or softdrink) are to be ordered from the bar and paid for as you go along. **If you haven't booked, please contact Angie urgently to do so (0418 963 164) .**

There is plenty of parking – behind the restaurant, in the street outside, or across the road.

2. Photo Competition – Congratulations to Graeme Mohr for his wonderful organisation, and to all participants for the terrific pictures we had on display. The standard was so high that there were popular vote tickets for just about every entry. I know there were a number of other people who liked the particular picture I voted for but it didn't get 1st 2nd or 3rd. That was a really an even, high standard of entries. Fantastic work, and much appreciated by all.

3. 21st AOC Conference Windsor in July - AOC Conference, open to the public from 9am to 4pm Fri 20th, Sat 21st, and 9am- 3pm Sunday. Location : Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium, 16 Stewart St, South Windsor NSW Australia.

There will be great orchid displays and a sales area with visting vendors from all over Australia and some overseas vendors as well. General Admission to Show and Vendor Area \$10 per person (children under 15 free)

Website <http://aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/>

4. St Ives Orchid Fair 2018 – orchid displays, floral art, painting and photography. Orchid vendors from everywhere.



We are one of the clubs that run this fair and we also put on one of the displays 'The Big One' in the display hall. – This is your show – We need your Support and your Help

Get your plants ready, get entered, and make sure you get there. Set up day is Thurs. 16th (see below)

Public show hours -- Friday 17th August, 9-4pm, - Saturday 18th August, 9-4pm, - Sunday 19th August, 9-3pm

location - ST IVES SHOWGROUND, MONA VALE ROAD, ST IVES

5. Show Details for participants - Members please read carefully.

Pre show set up help : we need some extra workers to set up the halls on Wed. from 10.30am. Bring a sandwich for lunch but there will be tea and coffee available. If you can help, just show up at the halls at the grounds on Wed.

(a) The Volunteers Roster – at the July meeting we will again pass around rosters asking for helpers to man the Fair. Please, every member should put their name down for at least one 3½ hour shift. If you do a shift, you get to wander the show free of charge for the rest of the day. We need people to do security in both halls, people to help on the sales table, and people to help at the front doors. The roster managers will allocate you to where they need you, but, if for example, you have a problem standing up for that long, let them know and we will accommodate your needs. .

(b) Plants for our display - We know that many of our members also belong to other societies. Many traditionally support the 'other' society in their displays, **but can we ask even those to find a couple of plants for us as well?** Members providing orchids and foliage for our display is entirely voluntary of course, but the number of members currently contributing is alarmingly small compared to the number of members who bench every month at meetings. Come on people, we are all in this together, let's have a go.

Set up day is Thursday and we need both flowers and foliage. They need to be there by 9am Thursday 17th Aug.

If you can't get your plants to the show, we have some capacity to transport them for you but if you can get them there yourself we would appreciate it. **If you do need help to get your plants there, please phone Trevor Onslow on 9477 3516, or Kevin Crocker on 9484 7072, to see what arrangements can be made.**

(b) If you are displaying orchids, no matter how they are getting there, we need you to fill in a "nomination form" (supplied separately with this bulletin). It is a simple sheet to record your name and the names of your orchids, to ensure that we know who owns which plants when they are judged. If you happen to win a prize, it also makes sure we know who to give the money to, and/or the prize cards or ribbons.

(c) You also need to mark each pot clearly with your name or initials so that it comes back to you. Most of us use white removable labels available from office supply stores but painters masking tape is also good. Put it on the back, away from where the flowers face, and write your name or initials boldly and clearly. The pull down process on Sunday can be a mad-house, so labelled pots are a must to help us quickly sort which plants belong to whom.

(d) Grooming your plants - Finally, to show off your plants to their best, please trim off dead or badly damaged leaves, and stake the flowers so that they stand up properly and face the viewer as best you can.

(e) Selling Plants - If you want to sell plants, each plant must be clean, disease free, and established, and have a yellow sales tag marked clearly with the selling price, your name or initials and KOS to identify which society you belong to. Take your sales plants to the combined societies sales table during the show. 15% commission applies

6. Please note there are changes to the laws regarding the sale of Australian native orchids – As President Kevin mentioned at the last meeting, we have received advice that there are new laws applying to these plants (species *and* hybrids) wherever they are sold to the public. This will therefore apply to sales by members at upcoming shows at St Ives and Westfield. We are investigating the detail to see whether it may be possible for the Society to become licensed and whether this would enable us to cover sales of our members plants on our sales tables at these events and just how we might do this. When we have any more specific information to tell you we will pass it on immediately.

Advance Diary Dates 2018 (for details of shows in other parts of Sydney, see www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Shows2018.htm)

Fri 13 July – our social dinner at the Eastern City Chinese restaurant Pennant Hills (see item 1. above)

Wed18 (**) - Sun22 July – (** Note : Only open to the public from Friday 20th) Australian AOC conference and show – Windsor. Full details on the website (aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au)

Fri16 to Sun18 Aug - St Ives Orchid Fair - St Ives Showground – “**the Biggest one of all**”

Thur27- Sun30 Sept - the proposed combined Berowra and Kuringai Orchid society’s show at Hornsby Westfield.

Best of the Evening Species – Zelenkoa (Oncidium?) onustum - grown by Trevor and Pauline Onslow



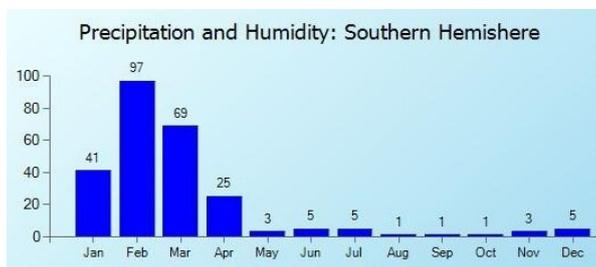
So is this an Oncidium or a Zelenkoa? It was certainly an Oncidium up until 2000, but in 2001 the new genus name Zelenkoa was proposed by M W Chase and others for just this one species. Orchidwiz presently still regards Zelenkoa to be the correct name, but the online Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (a distinguished free orchid resource supported by many taxonomists and botanical experts) refers the name Zelenkoa back to Oncidium. For the moment at least, let’s call it a Zelenkoa but at the very least we must say it is very closely related to Oncidium.

This is a visually stunning and popular orchid but many find it hard to grow. It can be doing well one moment and dead the next. We are lucky however, to have several members in our club who have mastered it, and nearly every year at this time, we see wonderful specimens decorating

our benches. But why is it a bit tricky? For an answer we need look no further than its unusual natural habitat.

World expert Charles Baker tells us : “Plants grow in the humid coastal lowlands of western Ecuador and North-western Peru, in areas where scant rainfall occurs. They are found on both cactus and trees in dry forest, usually near sea level, but have been reported as high as 1200m elevation.”

As you can see from Mr Baker’s rainfall chart for the area, the “wet” season such as it is, starts in January with about 40mm rain. Feb gets 96mm, March 68mm, April 25mm, and then the “dry” starts again. In the dry, no month gets above 5mm. Surprisingly, the high relative humidity in these areas barely varies year round. From 75% in December’s dry, to 82% in February, the wettest month. That sure is humid by Sydney’s standards.



Ian Chalmers from the OSNSW gave us a great insight into these habitats with a description he gave to a Species Orchid Society meeting some years back when he told members about his visiting a typical area where the species grows. It was the dry season, and he was surprised to find that he was walking on soft, bone dry silt on the ground. He said it wasn’t compacted, but sort of squished underfoot. Apparently in the wet season, the whole area is flooded, and a boat is the only access. Where the orchids were growing, Ian said you could see that all the orchids on the trees (catasetums, Zelenkoas, and others) were growing at virtually the same height up the trees. Looking off into the distance along the plants showed that no plants grew below a distinct line exactly the same distance off the ground, perhaps the seasonal flood line or some other distinct environmental condition.

The area is characterised by desert, dry scrubby trees, and cactus. There is practically no rain, but when rain does come, the orchids take advantage of it and grow like crazy.

Weather patterns along the South American west coast are dominated by the Humboldt ocean current. This is a huge system which flows from the southern tip of Chile to northern Peru and can extend up to 1000 kilometers out into the Pacific. It is one of the major “upwelling” systems of the world. A cold, low-salinity current that supports an extraordinary abundance of marine life. It affects land climate by its low temperature. Although the impact varies depending on latitude (distance south to north) and has less effect as the current warms toward the equator, the generally cold water effect on the coastal land climate is substantial. Pacific Coast summers in these areas are generally hot, humid, and sunny, with occasional afternoon and nocturnal rain showers. Summer rainfall rarely exceeds 20cm in total, except in El Niño years which can provoke much higher rainfall and major flooding. Winter is characterized by warm yet comfortable conditions and no rain. The Zelenkoa habitats are on the extreme edge of this, but the pattern applies.

I don’t want to give you all the impression that west side of South America is a desert. There are other geological

formations, such as hills and mountains, that also have a huge impact on climates. The Andes mountain range is just one of these. As soon as the humid air off the ocean is pushed up by hills and mountains, it condenses and creates clouds, fogs, and rains. Especially late in the day as the sun's heat reduces. This is the reason that in many areas in both Asia and South America, it rains nearly every afternoon around 4pm but this is not what happens in the areas where *Z. onusta* grows. It is a species which has evolved and adapted to a long period of practically no growth each year and a short quick growth burst when conditions allow.

I have as much trouble growing this species as the average grower, but our experts (Trevor and Garrie) tell me that you should put it somewhere in its rest period where you won't be tempted to water it. When it starts to grow, make the most of it while it is in the mood. It also seems to do best in shallow pots or baskets with exceptional drainage.

Congratulations on your Best of the Evening Trevor and Pauline. It is going to look amazing in a couple of years

Best of Evening Novice – Paphiopedilum liemianum - grown by Lisa Huang



Of all the slipper orchids, the multiflowered types are by far my favourites. Some need to be grown a little warmer, but many will grow cold. Please note though, if you would like to try them, patience is required. They can all be particularly slow to grow up from a seedling to a mature flowering plant. *Paph liemianum* is one of a sub group of about 8 species known as Section Cochlopetalum. The section name comes from the Greek word Kochlas, meaning spiral shell and referring to the more or less spiral twist in their petals. The other Cochlopetalum species are *glaucophyllum*, *moquettianum*, *chamberlainianum*, *victoria-reginae*, *primulinum*, *victoria-mariae*, and perhaps a relatively new one, *Paph dodyanum* from Indonesia. (see pictures below)

All these have a sequential flowered inflorescence with usually only one or two flowers open at a time. Generally, by the time the second flower opens, the first is reaching its life's end so most of the time there is only one. Still, this sequential process can mean that a plant can be flowering for 6 months or more, so it does have its advantages, and the flowers are very attractive. .

Paph liemianum is found only in northern Sumatra at elevations of 600-1000m, on vertical limestone cliffs and on the ground in humus around them. They flower in the late winter to early spring. The plant is medium size with leaves 20-25cm long by 3 or 4cm wide. It has a short inflorescence for one of this group, usually only 30cm or so but sometimes a bit longer, which means the flowers/buds are tightly packed together. The flowers are about 10cm across the petals.



chamberlainianum



moquettianum



glaucophyllum



primulinum



victoria-reginae



victoria-mariae

Liemianum comes from the tropics, and from moderate elevations, so I would assess that it needs protection in winter.

Culture: The following, based on extracts from a *Paph* growing article in a Canberra Orchid Society newsletter, give some solid, wisdom filled, common sense insights into growing all *Paph* orchids:

- it may seem an unnecessary statement, but to grow *Paphs*, you must grow roots on your plants. They are basically terrestrial by nature & have no pseudobulbs to store water, so a healthy root system is vital. If the mix gets too wet or too acid the roots die, the leaves desiccate, and maybe the plant dies. There are no pseudobulbs to fall back on.

- *Paphs* require a growing medium that retains some moisture but absolutely does not keep the plant wet. If the plants were to be repotted every year, a medium of just medium to smallish bark would probably suffice, but few of us are disciplined enough, or have time, to repot strictly annually. As a result, you need to take steps to open the mix and make it last longer without getting too wet or too acidic. You might do any or all of: adding something like non degradable styrene foam; use slightly larger bark; pot in terracotta pots to aid drying; add a little dolomite.

Personally, I use a mix of multiple bark sizes to get a blend of moisture retention and air flow/drainage. I also add about 20% by volume crumbled styrene foam (the softer type), I use terracotta pots for my larger plants and always try to sprinkle some dolomite over the finished pot after repotting.

When you are growing *Paphs*, keep an eye on the health appearance of your plant. If it starts to look sick, it is almost always worse than you think. Tip it out of the pot immediately and check the roots. If they are in fair condition but in decline, repot into fresh bark. If the roots are nearly gone, you might try potting into as small a pot as possible and use tightly packed sphag. Water sparingly until it looks like it is in recovery.

Congratulations on a spectacular Best of the Evening Lisa.

Starting Out With Orchids - part 1

Jim Brydie

I meet many people at garden clubs, orchid shows, and other events that are showing a newly developing interest in orchids and I have grappled more than once with how best to help them as a new orchid grower.

So what is the issue you might ask? These people are usually smart, experienced gardeners who know plants and their culture. Well briefly, the problem is the new growers misconception of what they want. They usually have a vision of "orchids" as a Cymbidium/Cattleya/Phalaenopsis, or some other orchid that they have seen in flower somewhere, and they think learning to grow 'orchids' will be like learning to grow Azaleas. Just tell me sun or shade, soil needs, pH etc. To start with, they don't understand the fundamental differences of epiphytes. Nor do they yet realise how gigantic is the cluster of ridiculously different plants that are orchids. Wet growers dry growers tropical plants high altitude plants. There is no single set of instructions that applies to all.

If they happen to go to an orchid club meeting, they see a mind boggling array of gorgeous and exotic flowering orchids, but equally, they are confronted with the strange lingo spoken by orchid growers. They just wanted a simple set of instructions on how to grow "orchids" but if they can find someone that perhaps determines that it is a Cymbidium, or a Phalaenopsis etc they are really interested in, and tries to give them what they ask, it is going to be full of references and language for which the new grower has no context.

Some only come to a few meetings before giving up in frustration at all the gobbledygook. Lets face it growers, we do have our own terminology – latin names, genera lumped together and called Laeliinae or Oncidiinae, etc. Potting mixes we make up ourselves – big/medium/small bark, composted or not, sphag, cocofibre, rock, foam. And what is a Degamoara? They just wanted to learn how to grow a few orchids, not to get degrees in botany & chemistry.

Perhaps the best way to help the growers who do not want to go further is to just give them printed sheets on how to grow each of the most commonly sold orchids, and let them go away to experiment. The more you try to explain, the more the eyes glaze over. If they maintain interest, or later want more, they may come back some time in the future.

Those that persevere, soon come to see that an "orchid" is a much wider concept than a Philodendron or an Anthurium. They eventually get on top of the language too, but it is frustratingly slow. It is very hard to absorb all this stuff in one go. There is a sort of basic quantum of info and language that must be absorbed before you can properly associate it all and link it together, The more you learn, the more of what you already knew makes sense.

A bit negative? – The object of all that negative opening is really just to try and convince every new grower that what they are seeing and feeling is not different. EVERY orchid grower they will ever meet has gone through the same process. If you can stay with it for a while I am sure you will be pleased you did. It can be very rewarding.

Which Orchids Can I grow? - I was recently approached by a member of a garden club for some advice on growing their collection of orchids. Some they had bought on a recent holiday to Cairns. Some had been accumulated at various shows and plant fairs in recent years. I was familiar with some of this amazingly mixed collection, but some were beyond even my 40 years of accumulated knowledge. Some I had tried to grow in the past and given up on because the special conditions they demanded were beyond what I could offer. Others I could grow but choose not to because they are too labour intensive or too difficult. Some were so rare I only knew of them from books.

Limit your starting stable – When you start out with orchids, like the grower above you will be tempted by nearly all of them. We all were (or still are), but please be patient. Try to keep it simple and restrict the range of what you grow to what your orchid mentors tell you. Stick with a few easier types at first, and learn not just how to keep them alive, but how to excel with them. Desirable as they all may seem, NO-ONE can just buy up a massive range of orchids and expect to grow them successfully. Even with a smaller range of easier orchids to grow, you **will** kill a few in those early years, and many of those you do grow are unlikely to reach their full potential. Don't worry about it.

When you have a wide range of different types of orchids, some of the issues for you are :

- * the range of different growing environments that may be required. Only a limited range of orchid types can be grown in the backyard under trees. If you have more than just a few tough orchids, a shadehouse is a minimum requirement. Some types require a hot house with artificial heating.
- * the breadth of knowledge of the requirements that you need for different types. eg hot/cold, watering regimes.
- * as different orchids require different types of pots or baskets (or other containers), the grower needs to have on hand a store of multiple sizes and types of quick draining orchid pots.
- * you need to store a wide range of different potting mediums, and know which to use for what, and how.
- * from season to season you must be prepared to move some plants from one place to another within your set up, to help the plant cope within its evolved annual growth cycle. (All plants, even each type of orchid evolves to function within a specific annual cycle : light and temperature related to the seasonal cycle - days get longer, days get shorter, temperatures vary with season. Wet weather and associated growth may be quite seasonal.

The wall of knowledge - There is much to learn and the learning process is like building a wall. You must get the foundations right first. You have to have some basics taught to you to begin with, but in my experience you can 'read about' or 'be told' about something many times before you really get it. Everyone needs to understand that the growing instructions you get are usually given in relation to a particular type of orchid are generalised for application

to an 'average' grower and 'average' growing area. They may also be applicable to other orchids and conditions but you need experience to know how to make whatever variations will make the right differences to your situation.

Watering is a good example - You are told to water about every two days in summer and every week or two in winter, but those are just generic averages. The real rule is "water when they need it" but obviously that isn't so easy to figure out until you have more experience. Essentially, when you soak an orchid with the hose it is really a bit wetter than it likes. In warm to hot weather it will dry out to just right after a few hours, in winter it might take days. The time it takes to dry out will be strongly affected by weather and the specific conditions of your growing area - the amount of light or shade, the air movement, whether it has a weatherproof roof to protect from showers and dew, etc.

As the orchid dries out further, it will get towards dryer than it wants to be. You should water again just before it gets too dry - whatever that might mean for any given orchid. Some will easily tolerate too wet or too dry for periods of time, others will be seriously damaged by either for even a short time. The more tolerant ones are the ones we call 'easy to grow'. They can live with your mistakes. We would be better to call them 'forgiving'. Other orchids are not.

Learning by doing - Once you know the basic principles, experiencing what works and what doesn't work by 'doing' is ultimately the best teacher by a long way. Be patient enough to only widen your collection and your knowledge and experience just a little at a time. Don't make mass changes every week, you will never know what the impact of a change was if you change again in less than a year. There is only one exception - if you see your orchids start to visibly go downhill after some action, immediately seek advice from someone more experienced. They might be able to diagnose the problem from the appearance of the orchid and its roots, and a discussion with you of what changed.

Don't be scared off - I have probably made it all sound way to difficult. That wasn't my intention at all, but if I just said "please go slow" without the why, no one would take the slightest notice.

All new orchid growers absorb information at a huge rate, and in the first year or two they gradually organise the knowledge in their mind, work out the bits they want and which best apply in their own circumstances - adapting them to the nature of their growing area, the mixes they are choosing to use, and their bias toward the way they will water and fertilise. They are building their wall of knowledge and experience. If you can see that you are somewhere along that track, just let the process proceed. Trying to hurry it never seems to work.

By all means experiment a little along the way. Try a few new types of orchids. Try a change in your culture here and there (on one or two plants), but regard your try outs and experiments as just that - Experiments. Don't be upset if some die or you just can't get an orchid to thrive. No matter how good you are now, you will be a better grower next year, and even better the year after. There is always more to learn and more to play with.

A few showy and hardy orchids that a new orchid grower might start with.

Phalaenopsis - You can't practically grow Phallies in a shadehouse in the winter - they just will not tolerate the cold (in Sydney). But you can grow them in the shadehouse from late spring to mid autumn and get them into spike (cooler autumn nights trigger the spike). Take them into your home as a houseplant the rest of the year. A bright spot (no direct sun) and flower them through the cold. Your house is generally just warm enough. ([see the article on our website](#))

Orchids for the shadehouse all year

(a) the **intergeneric Oncidium family hybrids** are perfect starter orchids. The family group of Oncidium related genera is called "Oncidiinae". Check out their benching classes at your next society meeting. There are some highly colourful, showy, tough orchids that are well worth a try. The most common natural genera groups we see hybridised together here are Oncidium, Gomesa, Miltonia, Brassia, Rhynchostele. Common hybrid genera names are Brassidium, Colmanara, Degarmoara, Vuylstekeara, Burrageara, Miltassia. You will never remember them all, just ask the seller if it is an Oncidiinae and if it grows tough and grows cold. By the way, "Cold" doesn't mean it must be chilled over winter. It just means you can grow it all year round in a shadehouse and that it doesn't need a heated glasshouse.

(b) **Australian native Dendrobium and Sarcochilus species and hybrids** are generally tough hardy growers with smaller flowers but rather pretty and capable of being grown into large specimen plants with hundreds of flowers. There are just a few exceptions. Den bigibbum is a delicious looking orchid from N. Queensland and needs a special experienced hand. There are hybrids between bigibbum and the cool growing types, but these are also better left to the experienced. Again, just ask the vendor if it is a cold grower. Most are and can be easily grown in Sydney. Stick to the more commonly found and don't look for the fringe exotics.

(c) **The cool growing Coelogyne**. There are a large number of very attractive Coelogyne species and hybrids perfectly suited to shadehouse or backyard culture in Sydney. However, there are also quite a number of warmer growing Coelogyne that are unsuitable unless you can supply warmer and more protected conditions. The ones I recommend for starters are pretty much the same as recommended by Ray Clements of Tinonee Orchid nursery in his Coelogyne culture article on our website. ie - C. cristata, C flaccida, C tomentosa, C lactea and the hybrids C. Jannine Banks, C. Unchained Melody, C. Linda Buckley, and C. Memoria William Micholitz. All are strong easy growers with decent size flowers that make an impressive display. ([see culture article on our website](#))

Others? - Of course there are many other easily grown types, but lets not overcomplicate matters. There will be many advisers to steer you along the way. Next month I will continue with a discussion on infrastructures etc.