

# BULLETIN

Volume 65, Number 03

April 2023

## EASTERN SUBURBS ORCHID SOCIETY INC

### NEXT MEETING:

General Meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 27th April 2023  
Corner of Arden and Varna Sts. Clovelly.

### AOC Orchids of the Year 2023

#### President

Gavin Curtis

#### Joint Vice Presidents

Ian Kaplin

#### Secretary

Ross Trethewy

#### Joint Show Marshal's

Ian Kaplin  
Chao Ping Li

#### Treasurer

Chin Wong

#### Editor

Ian Chalmers

#### Sales Manager

Warleiti Jap

#### ANNUAL

#### MEMBERSHIP

**Single \$15 Family \$20**  
(Due 1 July each year)

All correspondence and membership enquiries to:

<http://www.esos.org.au/contact-us/>

Website: [www.esos.org.au](http://www.esos.org.au)

COVID SAFETY IS PRACTISED



*Dendrobium tetragonum* 'Jess' FCC



*Paphiopedilum* Wossner Favourite 'Colette' FCC



*Paphiopedilum micranthum* var. *eburneum* 'T.O.M. 6

# General Meeting

## Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society Inc.

Held at the Community Hall cnr Varna & Arden Sts Clovelly  
at 7.30pm on 20th February 2023

### OPENING:

The Vice President, Ian Kaplin warmly welcomed Members to the second general meeting for 2023.

### APOLOGIES:

Ross Trethewy, Gavin Curtis, Graham Mertz, Ian and Irene Chalmers, Chao Ping Li, Elizabeth Ying, David Bullock, Judy and Jim Linton, Kylie Pellagreen.

### NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS:

The Vice President warmly welcomed the evening's guest judge Lesley Bromley as well as prospective new member Pat Chaitarvornkit.

### MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous general meeting of 20th February 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were seconded by Michael Morrow. No changes to the minutes were requested by attendee members.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to ESOS and sent to Members included: Orchid Appreciation Workshop by Orchid Society of NSW commencing 14 May; The Cymbidium club of Australia March 2023 Bulletin, Eastwood & District Orchid Circle - March 2023 Bulletin; Bankstown OS Newsletter Feb/Mar, Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc. SSOS Bulletin for March, March 2023 newsletter from Mingara Orchid Club; Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society March Bulletin.

Correspondence by ESOS (internal): Minutes of ESOS General Meeting 20th February 2023, ESOS Bulletin March 2023. Call for nominations for ESOS President, Urgent request for Volunteer Orchids Central Organising Committee.

### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS:

The only nomination for president received is for Chin Wong. A special meeting is needed for further nominations to be received.

### UPCOMING SHOWS:

Orchid Central - request for an ESOS volunteer for Orchids Central Organising Committee (monthly) sent out 6th March – no volunteers received to date.

- 1-2nd April – Blue Mountains and Penrith OS Show
- 11-13th May – WSOS Autumn Show
- 18-21st May – Bankstown OS show
- 26-28th May – Orchids Out West show
- 15-17th June – North Shore OS show
- 24-25th June – Mingara show

- 1-2nd July - Blue Mountains and Penrith OS show
- 20-23rd July – Campbelltown OS show
- 11-13th August – Cymbid OS and Paph OS show
- 17-20th August – Campbelltown OS show
- 18-20th August – St Ives show
- 24-27th August – WSOS Winter Show
- 14-16th September – North Shore OS show
- 21-24th September – Campbelltown OS show
- 13-15th October – Orchids Central show
- Flower Power - TBC

### OTHER BUSINESS

Venue Hall Hire It was highlighted to Members that the St Luke's Hall is scheduled to undergo renovation in 2023 and that the ESOS lease may extend only up to September/October. Discussion followed on other venues.

A number of members committed to making enquiries on Halls or other suitable venues in their area which will be discussed at the next meeting on 17th April 2023.

### PLANT OF THE NIGHT:

There were joint Open Category winners of the Plant of the Night:

Herbert Chen for his *Masdevallia* Bright Spice. Lesley commented that these were difficult to grow and that it was a lovely colour and symmetrical;

Chin Wong for *Vanda* unknown which had good colour and shape with the whole flower spike above the foliage.

Plant of the Night Novice Category was awarded to Cathy Starrett for her *Cym.* Sue "Aalsmeer Emerald".

The nice flowers were all open and well above the foliage although some labellae were curled back on themselves. Lesley commented that flowers were best facing all round on a tall *Cym.* Spike but if an orchid had few flowers they were best facing the same way.

Congratulations to both members on their outstanding plants.

Lesley then led further discussion among the members on a range of topics: improving her plant collection over the years; use of molasses in feed as an ant and insect deterrent. She has sent an article to Chin and myself if anyone is interested; October is a good time to buy plants as it allows them to acclimatize; if roots are everywhere, placing the pot in warm water for a short time softens them so they can be wound round in the pot – before a show for example;



**RAFFLE:**

There was no raffle this month due to the reduced number of members present.

**JUDGING:**

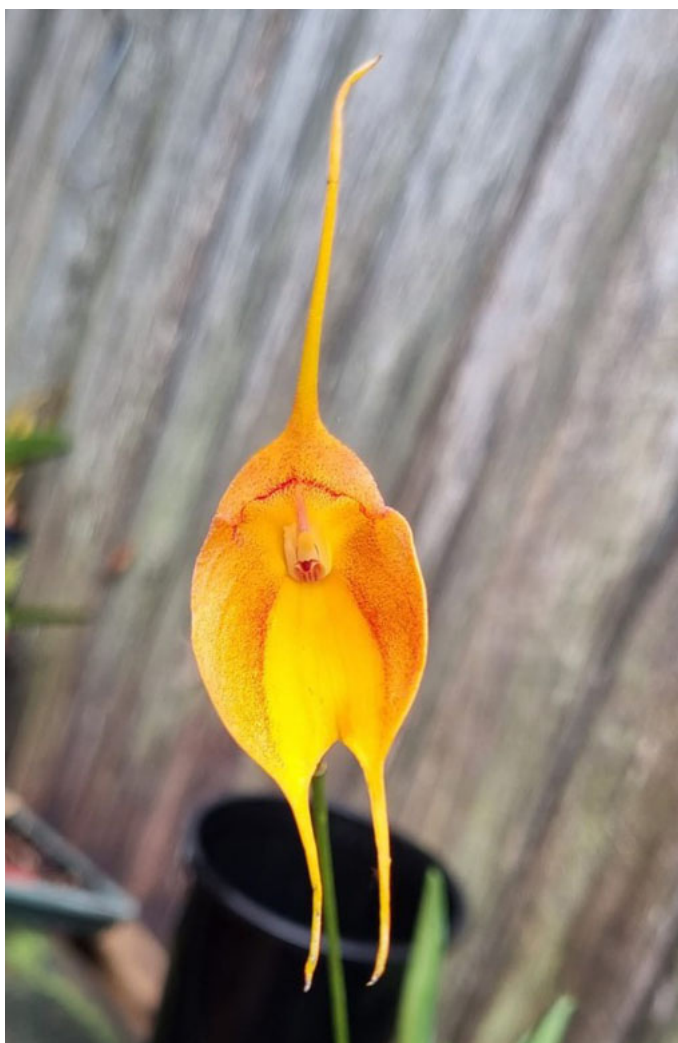
Wal Chapman in April 2023 at the ESOS General Meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next ESOS General Meeting will be convened on 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm at the St Luke's Community Hall, cnr Arden & Varna Sts Clovelly.



*Vanda* unknown. Chin Wong  
Joint Open Plant of the Night



*Masdevallia* Bright Spice. Herbert Chen  
Joint Open Plant of the Night



*Cym. Sue* 'Aalsmeer Emerald' Cathy Starrett  
Novice Plant of the Night  
Image from OrchidWiz

# March 2023 Results

6	Laeliinae Intermedia/Miniature	1st	<i>Rlc. Tokyo Flare</i>	Herbert Chen
		2nd	<i>Rlc. California Queen</i>	Herbert Chen
14	Vandaceous Hybrids	1st	<i>Vanda Unk</i>	Chin Wong Joint Plant of Night
15	Miscellaneous Hybrids	1st	<i>Masdevallia Bright Spice</i>	Herbert Chen Joint Plant of Night
21	Species Asia	1st	<i>Miltonia moreliana</i> ‘Big Ben’	Herbert Chen
29	<i>Cymbidium</i> Intermediate	1st	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sue ‘Aalsmeer Emerald’	Cathy Starrett
	/Miniature			Novice Plant of Night
31	Oncidiinae Hybrids <60		<i>Miltonia</i>	Buda Ivanisevic
			<i>Miltonia</i>	Ian Kaplin
			<i>Miltonia</i>	Ian Kaplin

The results from the unfortunately were destroyed. The above are the best information available at the time of publication.

If any one can help reconstructing it please let me know.



*Dendrochillum macrantum* - Chin Wong



*Miltonia moreliana* ‘Big Ben’ - Herbert Chen  
AOC Award Image



## Use of molasses with plants (orchids)

Cheap, easy and does it all! Not your kitchen molasses! Horticultural Molasses does things for your plants like nothing else can and it's the cheapest gardening product per square foot...a gallon can cover a half-acre. Put it in a sprayer, turn some music on and start spraying every inch of your yard, no need to be careful. You simply can't overdo it, but you get to the point of diminishing returns. Molasses can kill insects and causes a massive bloom of microbes in the soil. It also drives out Fire Ants. It will NOT make your plants sticky.

Sweeter plants? Sugars are how plants store energy for rainy days and winter hibernation. So, why is this important to you as a gardener? Aside from basically giving your plants a power boost, you are stopping bugs. "What?" you ask. Yes, it stops bugs. Insects are very simple creatures. They can only feed within a narrow window of sugar content. When the sugar content of plants is raised, insects can't feed on them. They take one bite and move on. The second way molasses controls insects is by being directly ingested by the insect. What most people don't know is that only Sugar Ants and bees can process the simplest sugars. Insects have no way of expelling the gas that builds up from fermenting sugar and the vegetation in their gut (draw your own mental pictures please). Plus, they have exoskeletons and can't get bloated. Their delicate internal organs are crushed from the inside out. All a bug needs to do, is walk through or try to feed on a molasses covered plant. Insects are constantly cleaning themselves. They will try to lick the molasses off their feet and swallow it. If they take a bite of a molasses coated plant, they will swallow it. Microbial bloom and Fire Ants These two things seem unrelated. Microbes and specifically bacteria consume simple sugars (which is why your momma made you brush your teeth).

When soil born microbes are exposed to simple sugars, their numbers can double in just 30 minutes. As microbes go through their life cycle, they add organic matter and micro nutrients to the soil, improving the soil and making nutrients more available to your plants. Regularly applying molasses to your soil and plants greatly improves the quality of the soil over time. Soils with high microbial activity are easier to dig in and stay moist longer.

So, about the Fire Ants...since it seems that the big universities can't make money studying the effects of molasses on Fire Ants...they don't do any research on the subject. But, it has been proven that molasses makes Fire Ants pack up their mound and migrate to your neighbour's yard. It may be that the bloom of microbes irritates the little stinkers. It could be that they are running from a specific microbe. It could be that they just hate sugar (they eat mostly protein which is why you can turn a greasy over baked pan upside down over a Fire Ant mound and they will clean it for you).

Whatever the reason, applying molasses to your yard, makes them leave. Adding it up... If you're crunched for time and money, molasses is the answer to a lot of your gardening problems. The benefits are undeniable, your yard will smell great and you get to feel good about letting your kids and pets play in the yard. Whether you choose dry molasses (applied to soy chaff) or the liquid (which is cheaper to use), molasses is the single best thing you can do for your soil and plants. This is one customer's story. He came in asking about fertilizer for his hay field. He was tired of expensive bags of chemicals and wanted to look at other alternatives. We talked for a while and he decided to run a test for himself. He applied the old stuff on half the field, because he had some left over and molasses on the other half. He came back some months later and told me that his neighbours were pulling in to ask what he had used. The molasses side was 6 inches taller and greener. He swore to me that nothing else was changed.

It was brought to my attention that I forgot to add this info. (It is hard to remember everything when you are trying to rule the world!) during mosquito weather mix:

3 tbsp molasses 1 tbsp Liquid Garlic (a deterrent and has some fungicidal properties) 1 tbsp liquid organic fertilizer of your choice (seaweed, fish emulsion, etc.) into 1 gallon of water Spray with abandon, every week if necessary but it may last up to 2 weeks if we don't get much rain. This also works like a charm on lace bugs on azaleas and lantana.

Lesley Bromley