

# 'Cymbidium Chatter'

Edition 19 - August 24 2020



Cym Kimberley Pass 'Victoria'  
Photograph: Dr Carl Slusarczyk

Welcome to this edition of Cymbidium Chatter, boy isn't the year disappearing quickly. It would seem that the lockdown measures put in place here in Victoria are at last starting to have an effect. Please continue to follow the guidelines, stay safe and well!

I did mention in last week's introduction that I would be doing an article on Surfcoast Orchids, I have held this over until the next edition as I haven't been able to speak with Jim Frame.

A very big thank you to Dr Carl Slusarczyk for some more wonderful photographs of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia Winter Show, supported by an excellent article. Carl also provided me with some outstanding photographs when I was producing Australian Cymbidium Scene, so I am indeed very grateful for his continued support. I will continue to produce Cymbidium Chatter for as long as I possibly can, Cymbidium orchids deserve to be spoken about, but it is people like Dr Carl and two of my more regular contributors, Joshua White and Weegie Caughlan who add that extra dimension to CC. I could probably find something to write about or report on each week but these good folk make my task so much easier. CC is now received by several hundred people, new comers and very experienced growers alike, please consider sharing your stories and photographs with us - we all have a tale to tell!

I would like to point out that Weegie Caughlan is a very experienced grower, judge and hybridiser of Cymbidium orchids in California, USA. While she shares a very similar growing environment and climate to Melbourne, she wanted me to point out that the comments she makes relate to northern California. This aside, I'm sure we could all learn a lot from Weegie, as she is a highly successful exhibitor at many shows, including the prestigious and wonderful Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Weegie is also an administrator for the Facebook page, Gold Coast Cymbidium Society Inc., San Mateo, California. On this page she posts under the name Sam Willis, a combination of her middle and maiden names. This Facebook page is an excellent one and a real positive is that you get to see some wonderful flowers while our plants are bunkered down in late Autumn and Winter.

If you have specific things you would like covered in Cymbidium Chatter please let me know. If I can't provide the article or answers that you are looking for, I am sure I can find someone that can.

Normally at this time of year I would be scooting around the local Cymbidium growers taking photographs, however with the Stage 4 restrictions and the no more than 5km travel from home rule imposed, I am not able to, so please keep the contributions coming!

**All contributions - articles and photographs to [grb17@bigpond.com](mailto:grb17@bigpond.com)**

# COCWA Winter Show

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia held its Winter Show from 24-26 July in the grounds of Kevin Butler's Ezi-Gro Orchids. The theme of the show was "Cymbidiums In Lock-down". Inspiration for the display was taken from caged birds. A number of colourful replica birds were perched throughout the display which was all enclosed with netting. If only hotel quarantine were that easy. At the time of the show we were coming out of most of our coronavirus related restrictions which made staging of the show much easier. Our thoughts are with our Victorian friends and family who are now doing it tough.

The Grand Champion of the Show was Ezi-Gro Orchids' Kimberley Pass 'Victoria' with the Reserve Champion being Carl Slusarczyk's Daniel Thomas '#3'. The Daniel Thomas was bred by Steve Thomas from Kimberley Wilderness and Kimberley Meadows. These plants were a fitting tribute to the legacy of Peter Sunderland.

As with many of our WA shows the Novelties were to the fore. The two Kevins, Butler and Hipkins, have popularised these types but their breeding lines are different. Kevin Hipkins' lines are mostly based on the species *tracyanum* and *erythraeum*. Kevin Butler's lines frequently trace back to Robin. The Robin was a green diploid, striped and spotted in brown tones, bred from Khyber Pass and Doris Aurea, which in their most popular cultivars are both reds. In addition, his Novelties commonly have genes from Tethys and Red Beauty which are also both bred from Khyber Pass.

One of Kevin Butler's most influential parents is Hot 'n' Spicy which is a cross of Red Beauty and Robin registered in 1992. The cultivar that he took forward was "Galaxy" which was a yellow with red markings. The Darch Dots grex has been very successful and is the fusion of the two Kevin's styles being a mating of Hot 'n' Spicy with Pywacket.

The ploidy of the Novelty types is an interesting topic. Many of them are diploids, which contributes to the "novelty" shape of the flowers. However there are some chance tetraploids amongst them and some matings have been deliberately bred as tetraploids. With increased ploidy at some point the colouring may be the only novelty remaining and the Best Novelty Seedling of this show, Darch Explosion 'Iris' (Hot 'n' Spicy x Scott) from Peter and Andrew Middlecoat may be a step in that direction. This cultivar could be diploid, triploid or a chance tetraploid.

Jerry Hamera added to the novelty of the show with his multi-spiked Pywacket 'Evergreen' which earned him an Encouragement Award. Helen Stretch received some reward for her tireless efforts in advancing the interests of the club with her plant of Maluka 'Baby Pink' winning the Champion Miniature and Specimen awards. Champion Small Standard was Ezi-Gro's Albryant 'Superstar' which once again demonstrated why it truly is a superstar.

Carl Slusarczyk



Grand Champion of the COCWA Winter Show - Cym Kimberley Pass 'Victoria'



Above: (Gladys Whitesell x Tom Thumb)  
 'Smart Child'  
 Left: (Coral x Darch Dots) 'Dotty'



Left: (Yai x Darch Tai)  
 'Raspberry Ice'



Cymbidium Albryant 'Superstar'



Cymbidium (Darch Splat x Darch Dots) 'Sloth'

# COCWA Winter Show 2020





## Cym Daniel Thomas

Registration: N Lenkic 2016

Originator: S Thomas

Left: Daniel Thomas '#3'

Reserve Champion COCWA Winter Show

Exhibitor: Dr Carl Slusarczyk

Photography: Dr Carl Slusarczyk

Below: Daniel Thomas 'Taurus' AM/AOC

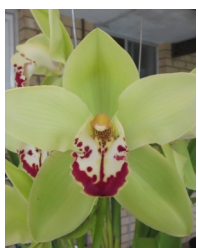
Exhibitor: Nado Lenkic

Photography: Australian Orchid Council



## Cymbidium Daniel Thomas

Steve Thomas the creator of this beautiful Cymbidium grex, is recognised as one of the best growers in Western Australia. The grex was named after Steve's son Daniel and as you would have read in Dr Carl's COCWA Show report was achieved by pairing two of Peter Sunderland's creations, Kimberley Wilderness and Kimberley Meadows. 'Green Beret' was the cultivar of Kimberley Meadows used and it has proven to be a wonderful parent, passing on shape and some very clear green colors, to its offspring. The spike habit is extremely good with the flowers presented above the foliage.



Green and red Cymbidiums are always very popular, the color combination is a real eye catcher! Nado Lenkic, Springfield Orchids, WA, currently has two different crosses using Daniel Thomas 'Green Savannah' (left) listed in his online catalog. Nado has combined this flower with Cronulla 'The Khan' and Beau Guest 'Glenn'. The plants on offer are listed as 'C' in size, bulb and lead for \$12.50.

## Light? Temperature? Camera? - or a combination of all 3



Two different flowerings of Cym Wallamura 'Jupiter' - one here in Melbourne, the other in California, USA. Photographs: (left) Stephen Early & (right) Weegie Caughlan



Two different flowerings of Kimberley Pass 'Victoria' - one in Melbourne, the other in Perth.

Photographs: (left) Joshua White & (right) Dr Carl Slusarczyk

**Why the difference in color?** - **light** does play an important part in the eventual color of a flower. Good lighting during the developing flower bud stage can greatly improve the color of a flower, especially if we are talking about pink, red, orange, yellow or brown flowers. More subdued lighting at the developing flower bud stage will improve the color of green or white flowers. Once the flowers have opened it is important to provide a level of shade to prevent the flowers from fading too quickly, this applies to all colors.

The difference in both the flowers above is quite marked. When I was seeking Joshua's permission to use his photograph of Cym Kimberley Pass 'Victoria' he also added that **temperature** can also play a hand, he commented: *The other factor that contributes significantly to colour is temperature - the cooler the temperature, the stronger the anthocyanin expression, in my experience. I suspect WA and NSW will have warmer temperatures than us and so would expect a lighter-coloured bloom from that as well.*

Or is the **camera** responsible for the color variation? Many people use their mobile phones to take photographs. I personally find that my Samsung phone, with its three cameras, takes a truer photograph than my camera. So there are at least three variables at play here!

I have now seen Cym Kimberley Pass 'Victoria' flowered in four states of Australia, it is at its best in New South Wales and Western Australia - **light, temperature or camera?**



## From Weegie Caughlan:

When I spoke of the pendulous craze dipping downward, it referred to the Northern parts of Ca. There are few hybridizers left of the pendant Cym. type and the primary one of the past ten years is now listed as a "hobby grower". The primary problem with many of the current pendants is the large pseudo bulb size with inflorescences of 3' to 4'+ in length. Clarity of color is improving. For the average orchid grower these take up an enormous amount of space. The original pendants had shorter inflorescences of 12" to 18" and smaller bulbs, thus far easier to handle. They always put out a better display of multiple inflorescences. Once the madidum species came into the mix, even though the number of flowers on an inflorescence may have increased, small plant size went out the window.



Orchid Conference 'Chitoshi'  
CCM/AOS 89pt March 2011  
Exhibitor: Michiaki Kawano  
Photographer: Unknown

Sweet Devon 'Sweet'  
CCM/AOS 91pt June 2012  
Exhibitor: Leo Galvan  
Photographer: Pinkers



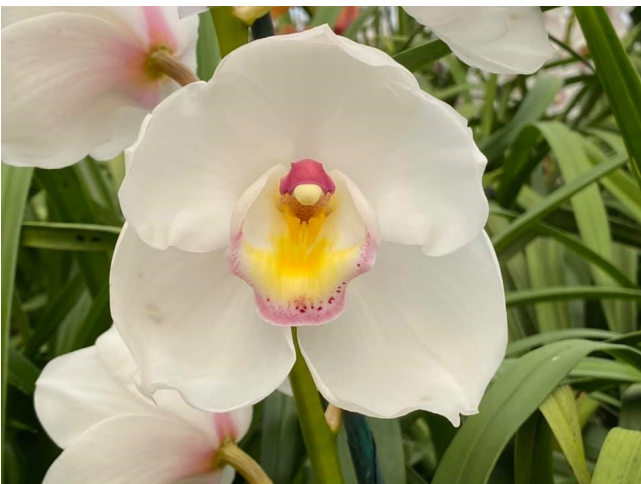


## TeePee says hi!

Above: Cymbidium Joan's Parade 'Tallest'

Left: Just in case you had forgotten what he looks like, Terry in front of the COSV stand at the OSCOV Show.

Below right: Vanity Fair 'Hollywood'



Cym Laramie Angel 'TeePee'

