

# ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Group Inc.

## Newsletter February 2007

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**Next meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm**  
at the Montrose Primary School Hall (Mel. 52 D7)  
**(NOTE: orchids for judging must be benched between 7.00 and 7.30 p.m.)**

**Topic: Orchid Habitats** - presenter Darryl Williams. Daryl will be giving a slide-illustrated tour of orchid habitats in eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales.

- There will also be a short segment on current cultural aspects to grow our plants to their full potential.
- Please bring along your flowering plants to the meeting for judging and for every body to enjoy.
- Members are welcome to exhibit plants that have non-Australian parentage but these will not be judged.
- Formal judging will commence at 7.30 pm.
- Members are invited to bring in any problem orchid to any meeting for discussion and cultural advice.

### Last meeting

Despite some technical problems 'the show went on'. Not all members were convinced about the benefits of the digital revolution around photography. Both OSCOV and The Australian Cymbidium Society have switched to digital for award purposes. AOC has accepted digital images for some time already. Interesting these bodies expect an improvement in photographs since if initial images are poor others might be taken on the spot, rather than the usual impossibility with film owing to the time delay of development. A copy of the handout is attached this email newsletter.

### Supper

Please bring a contribution for supper. As usual, cups of tea/coffee and food will be available throughout the course of the meeting.

### Plant Sales

Members are welcome to sell plants without commission. Commercial growers may sell at 15% commission.

**Next committee meeting:** Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

**Next judges' seminar:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007, venue yet to be decided.

**Visitors and new members are welcome.** For more details contact Peter Adams (at [gallangowan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gallangowan@optusnet.com.au)) or David Brewster (telephone 03 9761 1100), or write to ANOS(MSG), P.O. Box 239, Mount Evelyn 3796. Information about our group is available on the ANOS Victoria website at <http://www.anosvic.org.au>

### Membership

Ms Angela Bonfadini is our new membership secretary, please direct all enquiries regarding membership to her.

### Diary dates:

Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Regular ANOS(MSG) meeting at 7.30pm – Growing Australian Orchids on mounts
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Orchid Species Society of Vic. Open Day – Horticultural Centre, Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill
Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Regular ANOS(MSG) meeting at 7.30pm - Growing Aust. natives on mounts
Sun. 22 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Judges' training seminar No. 2 of 2007
Thu. 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 May	Victorian International Orchid Fair – Greensborough Vic
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Judges' training seminar No. 3 of 2007
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Judges' training seminar No. 4 of 2007
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug-2 Sep	<b>NOW CANCELLED:</b> ANOS 6 <sup>th</sup> National Conference Brisbane (a replacement activity for this weekend is being planned...ANOS Inc website.)
Fri. 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 Sep	Ted Walmsley Speciosum Spectacular and Native Species Show – Kempsey NSW
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> -30 Sep	ANOS(MSG) Spring Show at the Montrose Public Hall
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> -30 Sep	ANOS(VIC) Spring Show at the Mt Waverley Community Centre

## **Handout: Orchid Photography Presentation. ANOS (MSG) January 2007**

### **OSCOV Goes Digital (from the OSCOV website):**

*With the increasing difficulty of obtaining and having slides processed it has been decided that from the start of 2007 all images for awards and Orchids of the Year will be in digital format. There are minimum specifications but should be easily met by a 5 megapixel camera. Slides will be accepted in 2007 but any extra costs incurred having them converted to digital may be passed on to the grower. OSCOV will also not accept any responsibility in the quality of an image converted from a slide. Images that do not conform to the standards specified will be rejected from Orchids of the Year and may also result in some cases to the award not being ratified. As part of this process OSCOV will be converting all existing slides over a period of time to digital format. Slide programs will still be available to clubs but these will not be updated and eventually we hope all such presentations will be available in digital format.*

(The AOC has been accepting digital photos for some time).

### **What is the difference between digital and film?**

The big difference between standard cameras and their digital counterparts is the lack of film. Digital cameras use a computer chip (CCD) to record the image as a series of dots called pixels, this rather than light sensitive silver based chemical film. The more pixels the bigger one can print it without losing detail. This is the resolution and is measured in megapixels (millions of pixels). Best (photo lab) printing requires 300 dpi

Digital cameras have lots of advantages:

- they're often light and small

- they give you control over an image from the moment it's taken to the point where you decide to discard it

- they have lots of useful and convenient features yet offer simple 'point and click' automation

- digital images are easy to store and should last as long as the media they're recorded on

- images can be sent to as many people as you want without harming the original.

- they cost much less to use than a conventional film camera of similar price.

- you can simply compose a photo just by looking at the LCD monitor on a compact digital camera's back

The advantage of being film free is that you can take as many photos as you like (that your storage can handle) and delete any that aren't up to scratch without cost. In addition, you won't have to necessarily visit a photo lab to have your photos developed/printed/edited nor wait for an entire roll of film to be used up. On the downside, however, the quality of your images is limited to the maximum resolution of the camera's chip.

Until the last few years the main disadvantage of digital cameras was slow speed and limited screen size and quality.

### **What is a SLR?**

An acronym for "single lens reflex" camera. Film SLR cameras have been around for a long time. By using mirrors and prisms, they allow you to preview and compose your image through whatever lens you happen to have attached to the camera. You see just what the lens will see; in fact, it's like looking at a finished print of your image. When you're ready to capture the picture, an internal mirror momentarily swings out of the way to let the light hit the camera's film/sensor, the exposure is made, and the mirror quickly swings back down to let you continue viewing.

### **Why is SLR desirable?**

The camera virtually becomes a part of your eye. And it's not necessary to hold the camera away to view an LCD screen (an unstable way to hold a camera and also prone to being washed out by bright sunlight).

While the ability to switch lenses isn't limited to SLRs, SLRs make this efficient and effective, with standards since the 1950s for 35 mm film. An SLR can accept multiple detachable lenses, each of which is designed for a specific purpose. Depending on their photographic needs, owners can attach wide-angle, portrait, telephoto, zoom and other specialty lenses. These detachable lenses tend to higher quality optics (at high cost), which make for sharper photos.

### **BUT why so many buttons and dials?**

Despite the apparent complexity, those buttons and dials make it easy to use SLRs, limiting menu items to those you usually set infrequently. With buttons and dials, the stuff you use all the time is always quickly at your fingertips (but you do need to learn them). SLRs are fast to use and suited to action shots, variable light conditions, etc

### **Digital SLR (dSLR)**

If your idea of the ultimate camera is something that fits in your pocket, then forget all about dSLRs. The most obvious difference between any SLR and compact digital cameras (besides price) is sheer size. Even a newer more portable sized digital SLR camera is twice the size and weight of a compact camera. Professional

dSLRs are big and heavy because they have to take a lot of physical abuse, perhaps shooting hundreds of pictures every day (reliably in hurricanes and wars). Prosumer dSLRs are relatively small and light and there's no difference in features and the picture quality between the two, just the duty cycle/engineering quality.

### Lenses and Digital SLRs

Most dSLRs are designed to accept the same lenses as their film counterparts, which is a great benefit for photographers who already own a film SLR camera with one or more quality lenses.

While swapping lenses is easy, there's an important thing to know: while 35mm lenses are designed to project an image into a single 35mm frame, image sensor of a digital camera is only about 2/3 the size of a 35mm film frame. As a result, most current digital SLR's will multiply the focal length of a traditional lens by approximately 1.5. For example, a 50mm focal length lens (lifesize) put on a digital SLR will produce an image similar to that of a 75mm lens (1.5X magnification). The focal length multiplier issue is a mixed blessing. Long lenses will zoom further (a good thing to some photographers) while wide angle lenses will lose part of their ability to capture a full scene.

### Close-up photos (macro photography)

The wider the angle-of-view, the greater the depth-of-field. Maximising depth-of-field, by setting an aperture of f/16 or smaller, is important because the closer you get to your subject the more limited depth-of-field becomes. At a larger aperture, such as f/5.6, parts of the subject will almost certainly be out-of-focus.. But as soon as you start setting small apertures you'll see your shutter speeds start to tumble, and if you're hand-holding that brings an unnecessary risk of camera-shake. Anchor your camera firmly, though, and your shutter speeds can be as long as you like. Flash is tricky at close distances but can compensate smaller apertures. (A ring flash might be considered.)

A technique used by many flower photographers is to really limit the depth of field. Enabling just the labelum to be sharp and the foreground and background sepals and petals really soft.

### Some advice...

If you only want to take quick snap-shots of the family (kids and dog) and holidays and orchids you only need a digital compact, something like a Canon PowerShot, Sony Cyber-shot or a Panasonic Lumix, ... about \$200 to \$400.

If you are more interested in nature (including orchids, especially in the field) you will probably want to take some close-up photos (macro, micro photography). To take better than adequate macro photograph you need 'depth of field', that is, a good depth of the subject in sharp focus. To obtain a good depth of field you need a small aperture setting in the lens (large f stop number). Point and shoot cameras do not have f stops larger than f8. ( Remember, big number, small hole, small hole sharp image).

Another major problem with point-and-shoot cameras is that they do not have a view finder that is good enough to determine if the subject is in **sharp focus**. Digital view finders are useless for this nor are the LCD screens on the back of the camera. Only an optical view finder, looking through the lens, can give you the detail to focus correctly (or check if using auto-focus). This type of view finder is found only on 'real' SLR cameras (digital or otherwise).

Unless you have an absolute need for it you should not spend more than \$600 on a point-and-shoot digital camera. Beyond this value, save your cents and get a digital SLR. The price of digital SLRs has crashed in 2006 and will continue to drop. A digital SLR camera is light-years ahead of any point-and-shoot camera, no-matter what the price. All digital SLR cameras have full auto settings so in the beginning you can just point and shoot till you get the hang of it. But, **you cannot use point and shoot for really good macro work!**

If you're not yet willing to spend the extra money for a digital SLR, but you still want a high quality digital camera with the controls of a film SLR, you should investigate advanced compact cameras currently available for between \$500 and \$600. With the exception of the detachable lenses, these convenient models offer the creative control and flexibility previously only found in film SLRs.

For photographers who have a film SLR and who don't want a second camera, staying with film for a while isn't out of the question. Prices of high-end digital SLR cameras will continue to fall, and full-frame dSLRs will hopefully be more affordable soon. In the meantime, scanning your pictures to a computer will allow you to experience some of the benefits of digital photography, particularly the ability to work with images in the "digital darkroom" provided by image editing software (eg Adobe Photoshop).

Digital photography is a completely different and better way of doing photography. Because film is "free" and images are instantly visible, it is possible to rapidly improve one's photographic skills. Coupled with the ability to edit images after the fact, digital technology provides the photographer with unlimited flexibility.