



# VIOLET TALK

AUGUST 2014

ISSUE 4/2014

The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY of WA (Inc.)

Affiliated with the Gesneriad Council of Australia and New Zealand

Founded August 1965

PO Box 197, Como 6952.



Red Delicious  
M. Taylor



Daydream  
M. Taylor



Optimara Stockholm  
Holtkamp



*Greetings all, the 'Violet Talk' newsletter is both a revue of our past meetings and events, combined with informative and interesting articles gathered from within our African violet world and sometimes written by our own members. The "colour" version will be available to all members who have access through our **Members Only** page on our web site where a password is necessary. To other members who do not have web access, I can only apologize to you as fees do not cover colour printing costs and hope one of the other members who do have web access, will print you a copy in colour after downloading it from our web site.*

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Visit our website at [www.waavsinc.com](http://www.waavsinc.com) or **Google** African Violet Society WA

## Outgoing President's Report August 2014



### Acting President's Outgoing Report

It has been a very busy and eventful 2014 year for all the members of the AVS Committee. The year began with Sandra Groves as President but Sandra resigned due to ill health. Our Secretary Val McKirdy was finding the computer aspect of writing up minutes difficult. Val also retired recently from the position and many thanks to Val for all your help, it was greatly appreciated. Many thanks go to our Treasurer Diana Osler for her tireless work adding the numbers with husband Brian, also to assistants Pauline Ellerker and Juliet Tang. Barbara Johnson re-joined us with loads of experience and valuable computer skills having previously performed the tasks as Secretary. She has done a great job sorting out our paperwork, typing up minutes and a host of other jobs. It has been a great joy to work with all the committee, who are a lovely hard working, kind and generous group. The stalwarts, Reiko, Aileen, Pat and Barry never failed me when I needed help.

Many thanks to Don Bullock for providing our delicious afternoon cups of tea and coffee and others who helped out when Don was absent for a period of time. My thanks go to Audrey Wiltshire and Joan Edwards who help Barry at the trading table, Allison Fox who has runs the Library, the girls who ran the raffle and Judy Toop for the lovely photos taken at all AVS functions.

The May Show was a great success with a stunning display of African Violets. As usual all flowers were sold and the club made a good profit. The Show Committee and all members of the Committee worked very hard in the months leading up to the Show. Thanks also to all the members who came to help at the Hats Off to African Violets Show held at the Kardinya Park Shopping Centre. Once again Aileen, Barry and Reiko took top honours with Peter Fry winning the trophy for Most Successful Novice Grower.

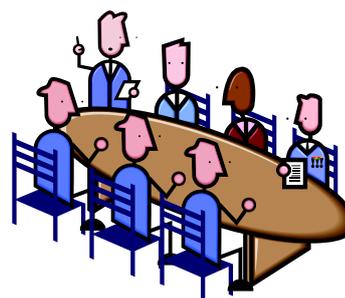
The AVSWA participated in various shows through the year bringing African Violets to the public. Our two trophy presentation functions; the Christmas lunch and the Mother's Day luncheon went very well, with as usual an array of delicious food.

Throughout the year we have listened to some informative and interesting speakers. Allison Fox (Flying Doctor Service); Bob Hunter (Cactus Society plants) bringing with him a lovely display of them. Sandra gave us a presentation on the Chelsea Flower Show held in 2013. Recently we had Afon Edwards speak to us on Bees and Bee Keeping a most interesting informative talk with members being able to obtain some delicious honey. This was followed by a talk on care of roses and a pruning demonstration by Hugh Rutter. Both speakers were inundated with questions. Barbara Johnson brought along three rose plants for the raffle table. Throughout the year our experienced growers shared their

knowledge with demonstrations and hands on activities (workshops) where members were able to participate in growing African Violets learning to sow seeds, divide and separate young plantlets, and repotting of violets. Earlier in the year Barry and Aileen showed us how to set up lights for growing violets and Juliet Tang showed us her plans for setting up a three tiered framework for plant stands in sheds or garages.

June Woodley was presented with life membership by valued friend and colleague Norma Dougall. Congratulations June! A most rewarding year, thank you. Lastly my best wishes to the new committee for 2014 / 2015.

Acting President, *Anne Light.*



### New Leaders at the Table!

A huge welcome and congratulations to our new Executive Committee, President Helen Gilbert, Vice President Sarah Pratt and Treasurer Judy Toop. Barbara Johnson continues in her role of Secretary. Congratulations also to the Persons of Importance who provide the committee with much needed support and valuable input to our activities during the year to come.

The 2014/2015 AVSWA Inc. Committee		
<b>Executive Committee</b>		
President	Helen Gilbert	0423 332 254
Vice President	Sarah Pratt	08 9350 5827
Secretary	Barbara Johnson	0409 371 800
Treasurer	Judy Toop	08 9455 4685
<b>Positions of Importance</b>		
Membership Secretary	Aileen LaRosa	08 9417 4117
Trade Table Organiser	Barry Edwards	08 9437 3149
Mentor	June Woodley	
Librarian	Alison Fox	
Competition Table Organiser	Reiko Lee	08 9447 9941
Editor/Web	Eric Bateman	0407 702 879
Caddy	Don Bullock	
Raffle Organiser / Door Person	Margaret Green	
Gesneriad Council and Horticultural Representative	Barbara Johnson	0409 371 800

### Special positions

Assistant to Treasurer – Diana Osler  
 Assistant to Trade Table – Audrey Wiltshire



### Coming Events September 2014

Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014 WA Horticultural Show South Perth Civic Centre

A wonderful event for the Society to mingle with other Horticultural Associations in WA but more special for the public who get a chance to share our beautiful hobby with us.



Plum Crazy

Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Manning Activity Centre

Monthly meeting commencing 1.30 PM to around 3.30 PM featuring the competition table, trade items.

Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Proposed Bus Trip to Gingin. Contact Secretary Barbara Johnson for further details.

### A Healthy Environment?

There are multiple things to consider when looking after African violets that a healthy environment plays an important part in the African violet culture. Many factors can be considered and if not practiced or applied such as fertiliser, cleanliness, temperature, humidity, watering, light, soil, pots and space. If a plant is growing in a cold room or well lived in with family pets, this could create a "dusty" atmosphere and lead to various problems particularly with the health of leaves. It has been often said by visitors to our displays that "I have an African violet and I never do anything but water it and it's full of blooms." Well here is an example as to how hardy these African violets can be. The photograph below shows African violets that have been in a plastic roofed shade house with shade cloth walls for 12 months.



Midas Glow and Little Pro are grown outdoors

Temperature during the summer reached 32° C and winter temperatures as low as 6° C. They are sitting on plastic

trays in plain water and when the owner remembers to, he adds a slurp of fertilizer. These plants have flowered continually over the last 12 months and while they may not be show plants they are healthy.

Contribution in part from Barry Edwards.

### Competition Results

#### June, July and August 2014

The heat is on at the Competition Table as the combatants in the Open and Novice divisions present their best.

Our meeting was highlighted by Reiko Lee, ably supported by her cohorts, the terrific threesome, demonstrating how to plant strep seedlings. Reiko has recently enjoyed success in this important area and used seeds sent by Andy Kuang.



The June results were judged by P. Humphreys

#### Open Class

1 Std, AV Single colour	1 Timothy 2 Ness' Echo Pink	B. Edwards B Edwards
2 Std. AV Multi colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Party Time 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rainbow's Quiet Riot	R Lee B Edwards
3 Std AV Variegated	1 <sup>st</sup> Milang Shuz 2 <sup>nd</sup> Buckeye Daydreamer	A Larosa R Lee
4 Mini AV	1 Jolly Orchid 2 <sup>nd</sup> Frosted Denim	B Edwards R Lee
5 Semi-mini. AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Teen Sweetheart 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rob's Slap Happy	R Lee R Lee
6 Trailing AV	1st Milky way Trail	R Lee

#### Novice Class

22 Std. AV Multi Colour	1 <sup>st</sup> Unnamed Chimera	P Fry
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#### Points Tally Feb-June 2014

Open		Novice	
A Larosa	19	P Fry	16
P Humphreys	4	J Meadowcroft	3
R Lee	29	J Toop	12
B Edwards	19	G Currie	7
		M Green	1

July signalled the penultimate meeting preceding our AGM in August and was highlighted by two presentations from Hugh Rutter from the Rose Society and Afron Edwards on Bees and Bee Keeping.

The July results as judged by N. Dougall and J. Woodley were:

#### Open Class

1 Std, AV Single colour	1 <sup>st</sup> Repeat Performance 2 Opt. Stockholm	R Lee B Edwards
2 Std. AV Multi colour	1 <sup>st</sup> Music Box Dancer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Powder Keg	B Edwards B Edwards
3 Std AV Variegated	1 <sup>st</sup> Matinee 2 <sup>nd</sup> Crazy Lace	R Lee B Edwards

4 Mini AV	1 Gleeful Elf 2 <sup>nd</sup> Orchard's Bumble Magnet	R Lee R Lee
5 Semi-mini. AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Plum Berry Glow 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ness' Crinkle Blue	A La Rosa B Edwards
6 Trailing AV	1st Milky Way Trail 2 <sup>nd</sup> Duchess Trail	R Lee B Edwards

**Novice Class**

21 Std. AV Single Colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Soraya x Biara	P Fry
22 Std. AV Multi Colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Land Down Under	P Fry
23 Mini/Semi Mini AV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Opt. Little Maya	M Green

**Points Tally Feb-July 2014**

<b>Open</b>		<b>Novice</b>	
A LaRosa	22	P Fry	23
P Humphreys	4	J Meadowcroft	3
R Lee	43	J Toop	12
B Edwards	32	G Currie	7
		M Green	4

August was all about the AGM but that did not deter competition and it produced some beauties judged by N. Dougall and J. Woodley:

**Open Class**

1 Std, AV Single colour	1 <sup>st</sup> Red Baron 2 Sorcerer	B Edwards R Lee	
2 Std. AV Multi colour	1 <sup>st</sup> Chiffon Print 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rainman	B Edwards B Edwards	
3 Std AV Variegated Matinee	1 <sup>st</sup> Crazy Lace R Lee	B Edwards	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 Mini AV	1 Gleeful Elf 2 <sup>nd</sup> RD's True Blue	R Lee B Edwards	
5 Semi-mini. AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob's Scrumptious 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ness' Crinkle Blue	R Lee B Edwards	
6 Trailing AV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Duchess Trail	B Edwards	

9 Gesneriad-Fibrous Root	1 <sup>st</sup> Streps.RL#3	R Lee
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**Novice Class**

22 Std. AV Multi-Colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Impact	M Green
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**Points Tally Feb-Aug. 2014**

<b>Open</b>		<b>Novice</b>	
A LaRosa	22	P Fry	23
P Humphreys	4	J Meadowcroft	3
R Lee	56	J Toop	12
B Edwards	49	G Currie	7
		M Green	7

*Did you Know?*

African violets combine beautifully with white wax begonias, pink impatiens, and foliage plants like grape ivy and ferns like the rabbit's foot fern. However, you hardly need these extras to make a special splash of colour. A window garden or similar can look marvelous with a small collection of Saintpaulias alone with singles, doubles, variegated, multi-coloured, standards, miniatures and trailers. Some very artistic entries have been created with similar combinations.

**Our Lovely Lorna May**

Lorna is a life member of our WA Society and recalls why she first became associated with our Society:

"My interest began when I read in the 'West' (*the West Australian newspaper*) an article on growing these delightful plants. I was not aware that there was such a

Society with members who had the knowledge to pass on to others and it pleased me very much to become a member of this group.

Over many years I not only enjoyed improving the growing of my violets but the friendship was just as important. Anything to do with Horticulture has always been of interest to me and my many years as a member has been an important part of my life."

Thank you Lorna for your thoughts and like everyone else you continue to be a valuable part of our Society. Most of us are drawn to this wonderful hobby and many who read this may feel exactly the same. I had the pleasure of meeting this beautiful lady last year.

**Some Thoughts on Fertilising African violets**

1. It is more important that you do fertilise rather than exactly what you use.
2. Less fertiliser is better than more.
3. Young plants that are not ready to flower will need a good general fertiliser with a balance of Nitrogen: Phosphorus: Potassium (N: P: K). Look up our web site for what we use. The NPK can vary from state to state with different products available.
4. If available use a fertiliser that is high in phosphorus, and medium high in potassium. Nitrogen needs to be available but is rather less important for fully grown plants than it is for young ones.
5. Fertiliser should be used regularly so that growth is continuous and even.
6. When growth is slowed because of cold weather apply less fertiliser, or less frequently.
7. When weather is very hot reduce the strength of fertiliser solution because the plant will take up much more liquid.

**Names, Tags, Labels**

Like everything it is easier to identify any African violet should it have a name. The usual practice is to "tag" or label written on white tape using an indelible black pen on the side of the pot with the cultivars name. Some growers also include details of dates when they first potted the plantlet and then perhaps when next potting on to a bigger pot or refreshing their soil. This is not the 'rule of thumb' as there is no hard and fast instruction that are generic in practice. Prefixes should be included ie. Ness' Jessie and most names do not have more than three words. NOID is a term used for no identification and is often seen at large retailers that have a nursery and sell African violets. It results in reliance from an experienced grower recognising the bloom and the leaf type to confirm the identity. Accuracy of spelling is essential as names are registered by the hybridiser, whose name (I believe) should also be on the tag. Mix ups can occur as many cultivar's names are in US English, ie Harbor not Harbour.



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<p><b>GARDEN CITY PLASTICS</b></p>  <p><b>AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY of WA</b> 2/11 Maillaig Way Canning Vale</p>	<p><b>We are seeking another sponsor for this space.</b></p> <p><b>Can You Help?</b></p>

### Variegated Leaves

Variegated violets are those which have two or more colours in their leaves. There are several different kinds and the variegation can change and disappear altogether if the plant receives too much nitrogen or the temperature is too high.

It is better to grow this type in slightly cooler conditions particularly during the warmer months, and if on a fluorescent stand, on the bottom shelf where it is cooler. Also a fertiliser which contains very little nitrogen is advisable if you wish to get the best from variegated varieties. There is less green colouring in the leaves so it is best to give these plants a little more light if possible for best results. On a light stand this is right in the centre of the tray under the lights.

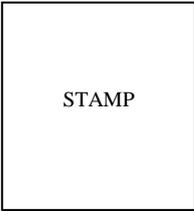
The colouring of the leaves with the green is usually a lighter green, white, cream, tan, pink or copper and the effect on a well grown plant is really delightful.

Variegated foliage is also available in miniatures and trailers.

When propagating variegated leaves the babies will very often come with no green colouring and if this happens it is of no use potting the babies on because they will more than likely not grow. You must wait till they get some green colour in the leaves before dividing them up and a little extra nitrogen and warmth will speed this up.

The foliage with the mosaic pattern on the leaves usually retains the markings and the best will seldom lose it under most conditions. The other types require more care but it is well worth the effort for the beautiful markings on the leaves. Of course the many flowers are an added advantage.

Leaves that have grown green will stay that way and to have a large plant with even variegation throughout makes the plant so much better.



Sender:

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