



# 'VIOLET TALK'

July August 2015

4/2015

*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.



Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

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



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**Photographs:** Our thanks to Judy Toop and Eric Bateman who are the contributors to the photographs placed in this newsletter. Should other images be from another source, then that will be credited as appropriate.

## 2014/2015 President's Message:

This is the year that our club celebrates a momentous milestone-that of being in operation for 50 years. This would not have been possible without the support the club has received from its members over the years. We have seen the arrival of new members and the sad passing of others. We have members who are regularly able to attend meetings and others who are further afield and receive our newsletter, Violet Talk.

The members are the backbone of our club. Various people take on roles and responsibilities. Our life members have contributed a great deal of help over the years and have shared their knowledge and expertise. Without the continued support and guidance of our judges, the violets displayed at our club meetings and at the two public events in May and October would not be of such quality.

As part of our celebration of our Golden Anniversary year we are attending a lunch with past and present members invited. Our patron, Geoff Richards will give a speech. Life member Norma Dougall will also be formally addressing the gathering. A display of miniature, semi-miniature and standard violets will grace the tables. The cake is a glorious concoction of violets made out of icing.

As we move forward into 2016 we are also advancing in the technology front and have just begun a page on Facebook; [facebook.com/pages/African-Violet-Society-WA-inc/763510640413514?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/African-Violet-Society-WA-inc/763510640413514?fref=ts) this has the potential to become a useful tool, allowing members of the page to converse and ask questions outside of meeting times. Our web page can be located at [www.waavsinc.com](http://www.waavsinc.com) and is a valuable source of information.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my introduction to the club and the growing of violets. The invaluable help I have received from the committee members in my time as Acting President is much appreciated.

*Sarah Pratt (Acting President)*

## Golden Anniversary Celebration 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015

What an enjoyable afternoon, focussed on the nine honorary lifetime members who were able to attend.



Reiko Lee; Aileen La Rosa; Lorna May; Colleen McCormick; Geoff Richards (Patron at back); Arthur Morris; June Woodley; Evelyn Brown; Norma Dougall and Pat Humphreys

Held at Glen Iris Country Club, special speeches were made by our Patron Geoff Richards and Honorary Life member Norma Dougall. Norma recounted 50 years of history from when the first meeting took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1968. Arthur Morris and Lorna May were amongst those at the first meeting in 1965. Our President shared cutting the cake with the Patron as our members. Lorna May was also presented with a membership badge that she originally did not receive. A booklet and commemoration badge was given to each person attending who also signed a Guest book brought for the occasion. Many thanks go to Jacqui Bateman, Diana Osler and the Committee for organising the event.



Ann, June, Joyce, Don,  
Audrey & Joan



The 2014/2015  
Committee



Commemoration Badge



Pat and Alan



Pauline & Alison

Photos by Anne Light

## Some Tasks For Spring



The beginning of the warm weather means that potting can begin in earnest! If you have been nervous about potting or putting down leaves during the cooler weather, you need put it off no longer! With the warmer temperatures and the lengthening days, the plants seem to know it is spring. You will notice an increase in the growth rate.



Some of the chores for spring are:

- Potting up young plantlets from leaves.
- Rejuvenating plants that have outgrown their pots and have necks.
- Putting down leaves of variegated violets.
- Giving high nitrogen fertilizer to violets that are showing too much variegation after the cool weather.
- Potting up gesneriad rhizomes such as *Achimenes*, *Kohleria* and *Eucodonia*.
- Taking cuttings of trailing gesneriads such as *Columnea* and *Nematanthus*.
- Potting up *Sinningia* tubers that are starting to send up new shoots.
- Planting seeds of violets or other gesneriads. Most gesneriads grow easily from seed.



As the weather warms, keep a vigilant eye out for caterpillars, mites and other pests  
Take care of plants growing on windowsills to ensure they are not getting too much direct sun.

*From "AfricanViolet News", Official Journal of the AV Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.*



Spring Festival – M. Taylor



Shimmering Sunshine – B. Donsworth



Migaloo M. Taylor

## Spring Potting Bev Donsworth

How lovely it is to feel the warmth of spring after such a cold, (and sometimes) wet winter! New growth is bursting forth and the spring blossoms are a delight. This is the ideal time of the year to put down leaves, divide baby plants, and repot and rejuvenate older plants.

Propagation of African violets by leaf cutting is very easy to do. In selecting a leaf, do not take one from the outside of a plant, as it may be too old to produce baby plantlets. Instead, take one from the third row from the centre where the growth is still vigorous and the leaf is healthy and mature. Make a clean cut on the leaf stem at an angle of 45° and about 12 mm to 15 mm in length. Some growers strike their leaves in water first and then pot them, but I always prefer to put them straight into African violet potting mix or a 50/50 perlite/vermiculite mix. I find polystyrene disposable cups very useful for this task.

First, cut the side out of the top half of the cup and make some holes in the base. Then, half-fill the cup with your chosen mix. The leaf can be inserted about 1 cm into the damp mix, and will rest against the side of the cup.



Be sure to label the cup with the correct name and the date so that growth can be monitored. It should take about one month to form roots and another month for the baby plants to appear.

Roots and plantlets form from the cut area and, if the leaf stem is planted too deeply, the plants will become spindly. The pot needs to be placed in a warm, bright spot for rapid growth. Some growers may dip the leaf stem in a hormone rooting powder, but I have always found that leaves strike well enough without it. Also, the pot can be enclosed in a plastic bag or container, forming a

terrarium for a few weeks. Some may put a wick into the pot and put it on a reservoir.

After about three to four, I give the leaves some weak fertilizer with high nitrogen content. Tiny plants should begin to appear at about two months, although some may take longer.

When they are about 50 mm high, they can be separated from the mother leaf and potted up individually into small

pots. If the pot of baby plants is allowed to dry out for a few days, it will be easier to separate the plants by shaking some of the mix from the root ball. Small pots such as 50 mm or 70 mm are suitable for the small plants at this stage. Wick watering is an easy way to grow African violets. A wick of synthetic material which will not rot (such as acrylic yarn or strips of pantyhose) is inserted into the pot, the little plant added, and the pot topped up with your African violet potting mix. The pot is then placed on a reservoir with the wick taking up the water or weak fertilizer solution. Only when the plant has filled the pot with roots is it repotted into the next size container.

African violets only have a small root system and will flower better if kept slightly root-bound. The final reporting of a mature plant should be into a 100 mm pot. Our plants should be reported at least every year into a clean pot with fresh potting mix. It is best done in the warmer weather, as it will be less stressful to the plant. After a year, peat-based potting mixes become more acidic and compacted and need to be replaced.

As the older outside leaves are removed, the plant will develop a "neck". Roots will be produced from this "neck" area if the scar tissue is removed by gently scraping with a blunt knife. Some of the roots can be cut off from the bottom and the old soil shaken out.

If the plant has been left to dry for a few days, it makes repotting easier and the leaves will be less brittle. The plant is then lowered into a clean pot with a new wick and fresh mix added, the lower leaves being level with the rim. By tapping the side of the pot gently, the mix will settle, leaving plenty of air spaces in the pot. Watering can now be done either gently from the top, or by immersing the pot in tepid water for half an hour. I usually put a repotted plant on a water only reservoir for about two weeks, especially if some of the roots have been cut off.

After having cleaned up the pot and the plant, do not forget to clean the leaves by gently brushing with a soft brush from the center outwards, to remove any dust and dirt. Then, you can just sit back and enjoy the new blooms that will be produced from a happy plant.



Den's Isabella – D. Halton



Red Delicious – M. Taylor

The following is an excerpt from an article named **Thirty-five years down the track** by one of our interstate members; **Margaret Taylor**. Margaret provided the article for the AVAA's *African Violet Newsletter* just this month:

"Someone once told me that experience is the best teacher, (another wise piece of wisdom upon which I often reflect). Experience comes with many mistakes, some disheartening. True Av addicts do not give in to temporary failure. It is simply not an option.

Simple lessons I have learned:-

- Home-made potting mix is the best idea. It may take several attempts to get it right. It is good to know the ingredients which are rarely the case with commercial mixes. Do not add lots of weird and wonderful ingredients. It is counter-productive.
- Keep the pH as close 6.5 as possible. A pH meter is the best way to ensure this.
- Under-fertilise. Less is better than more. Av's are not heavy feeders.
- Do not over-water or allow drying out. Swamp/drought culture can be lethal.
- Groom plants regularly and watch for problems.
- If obtaining plants from another source do be sure to quarantine them well away from your own collection.
- If showing or distributing do check that your name labels are accurate.
- Be very cautious about using strong chemicals. Preventative spraying for pests is counter-productive.
- Have a compost bin handy and learn to be ruthless. It pays in the long run.
- "Let there be light" Av's will not flourish without it."

## CURRENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2015

- **Saturday and Sunday September 12th and 13th September – Garden Clubs & Societies Plant Fair South Perth Civic Centre.** Starts at 9 AM until 4 PM. Growers there by 8 AM to set up tables and display.

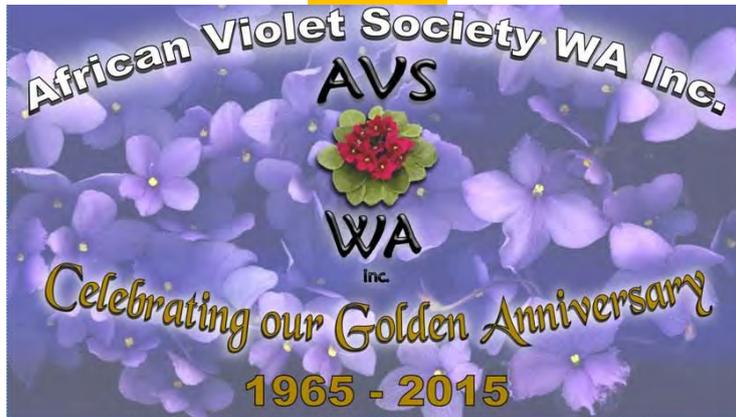


- **Meeting September 19<sup>th</sup>** General Information, Competition Table, Trade Table, Beginner's questions and answers. Gesneriad item Micro mini Sinningia. Rejuvenating a plant. Crown cuttings. Report from Gesneriad Council Meeting. Door Prizes September Leaf and a Presentation by Bob Hunter from Cactus Society, who is a very entertaining personality and recently featured on "Garden Gurus".

**Please note Members:** Trading Table hours are 12.30 PM to 1.40 PM there will be no exceptions or sales after the Table is closed. BE EARLY, to avoid disappointment. We start the meeting at 2 PM and the Trade Table do want to finish reconciling funds after that time!!

- **Meeting October 17<sup>th</sup>** The third Saturday in October, Plenty of Activities; Bonsai presentation. Grooming check list. Repotting. Annual May Show countdown (what we need to do this month). Show & Tell – Anne Cowie, beginner's questions and answers.

## Continuing our Golden Anniversary Year 1965 to 2015 and the Beginning of another



## CHIMERAS

A Chimera (pronounced ki-mir-a) is a unique type of African violet that cannot be reproduced from a leaf. These plants have flowers have pinwheel arrangement of colour. Each petal has a centre stripe and a stripe on each side. They are usually very attractive and different looking. You cannot just put down a leaf and get an identical plant like the parent.



(Tineke Humako above)

Chimera African violets are grown just like any other violet. The only difference in propagating them you must use suckers instead of leaves. If you put down leaves you will probably get a plant with flowers that are solid coloured. The way to tell the difference between a sucker and a flower bud: Flower buds will only have two leaflets. A sucker will have at least four leaves and can be removed to root. You can use a sharp knife or small scissors to remove the sucker.

Let dry a few minutes. Place it on your regular potting soil. Make sure that the cutting is touching the soil. If you are using a fluorescent light, they can be placed in a clear plastic container or bag. The higher humidity will allow the sucker to root without drying out. Usually it will root in a couple weeks. When removing from a closed container opening it slightly and allow the plant to harden to the lower humidity. (Enigma right)

In a few days, you will be able to remove it from the pot.

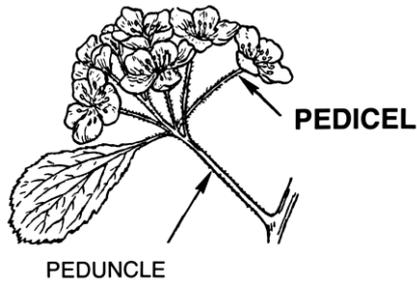


## Propagation of Chimera African violets



Most African violets can be successfully propagated from leaf cuttings to vegetatively reproduce plants that will be identical to the plant from which the leaf cutting was taken. This is because the genetic make-up of any cell in the leaf cutting is the same as any other cell. This is not true with "*Chimeras*". These are plants that have developed plant tissues where the individual cells are genetically different. Because of this, plants produced from leaf cuttings frequently are not identical to the plant from which the cutting was taken from.

Though a *Chimera* is any plant having this genetic characteristic, in African violets, this term is typically used to describe the "pinwheel" blossomed varieties, which frequently don't propagate "true" to description from leaf cuttings. Generally speaking they must be propagated by suckers. This is because a *Chimera* African violet has two different types of cells in the leaf and stem. One genetic type is located in the skin cells and the other type is located in the middle cells. When a leaf from a *Chimera* African violet is put down to root,



either one cell type or the other will generally produce plantlets. As a result, the vast majority of plantlets will bloom with only one colour rather than the bicolour pattern. Sucker propagation as described is fine if you do not want to make too many copies of the parent, but *Chimeras* are very much in demand so another method is used to obtain plantlets. It is called peduncle propagation. The peduncle is the main blossom stem of the plant. If you look closely at a peduncle you will see it has two small leaves just below the point where the individual blossom stalks branch off. In the axil of each leaflet there is a very tiny sucker. These suckers can be induced to grow into larger suckers

with which we can work by cutting the blossom stem about 6 mm below the leaflets and cutting off all the branching blossom stems about 3 mm above the leaflets. The remaining leaflets and their tiny piece of stalk are rooted in rooting medium. If conditions are right, the almost invisible suckers will expand and eventually turn into little plantlets which may be cut from the stalk and rooted.

Ruth Coulson has one of the best collections of *chimera* images called Pinterest on the web and can be found at: <http://www.pinterest.com/coulsonruth/african-violets-for-everyones-chimera-african-viol/>

## Salty Pots

**Wick Watering** – This is the preferred method by the African Violet Society of WA. It is a self-watering system that takes away the necessity of watering every few days and more from 7 to 10 days depending on the season and size, type and catchment container. This method eliminates the wet base and keeps the potting mix that the Society recommends, evenly moist. It is also very easy to add fertiliser which can be prepared in a litre bottle and stored at room temperature. The watering method also aids inspection of the African violet as you need to examine it for anything considered odd or maybe clean it up a bit. You can purchase a specially designed well suitable for 100mm pots (ideal for standards) and there is a smaller well designed for miniatures and semi miniatures. Adaptions can be made from yoghurt containers to sit the 100mm/75mm pot in or placing the pot with the African violet on top of container used as a reservoir that can last several weeks. Every few months



water the African violets through the top and thus the potting mix to eliminate the build-up salt which will if not done start to effect the plant.

**Top Watering** – A watering can with a "thin" spout can be used to water your African violet to fit between and under the leaves, to one side or even better three points. Dry any water from the leaves or the centre of the plant so taking care with this method will save time. Paper towels or a tissue will do the job. Handle the pot when using this method and be aware of its weight (it may not need watering) and if very heavy could be developing root or crown rot.

**Standing the Pot in Water** – Has certain disadvantages. Forgetting to remove the plant from the saucer could render the potting mix too wet. Another one is that the fertiliser salts can rise to the top and cause a brown crust around the rim, healthy leaves could be lost. Similar to the wick watering system water from the top and make sure the African violet is clear of the saucer ensuring the crust will not quickly form again.

Repotting should be considered each six months to ensure refreshment of the potting mix.

## Salty Tip

If your plants have been troubled by excess salts or 'muck' from the peat moss being drawn up and deposited on the centre leaves of young, newly potted plants, you might like to try Jenny White's (AAVA) remedy. She fills her sprayer with warm water and a drop of detergent, and then directs a jet onto the affected leaves. A bit of care should be exercised to avoid actually damaging the leaves, but it simply washes the problem away! Repeat application may be necessary.



## Methylated Spirits Tip

If your problem has been soil mealy bugs, here is an idea from Reg Townsend (AAVA) who says he has had success in dealing with these pests by treating infested plants with undiluted methylated spirits. When he finds evidence of soil mealy bugs (you will notice them on top of the water in the reservoir, or on the wick, around the collar of the plant, or you may notice them when repotting) he washes the soil off the roots of the plant, then dips or sprays it with methylated spirits. After a few moments he re-washes the roots to remove the methylated spirits before potting up the plant. Reg reports very few bad effects on the plants.

## Baking Soda Tip – Powdery Mildew



A way to treat Powdery Mildew is to mix a ratio of 1 litre warm water with  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of Baking Soda. Add 1 mil of liquid soap and mix the solution in a spray bottle to spray the leaves. Do not store unused mixture. It is recommended that you water your infected plants well a couple of days before applying this mixture. If the plant is just in bud, powdery mildew can grow on the surface of the bud stems. Leaves and flowers can become distorted and they, as well as any buds, can drop from the plant prematurely. Plants can die when the powdery mildew goes unchecked. Dispose of any foliage, flowers or buds with signs of powdery mildew and keep the plant

isolated and in ideal conditions.

## A few Observations of Cultivating African Violets

Monitoring your plants on a daily basis is always a good idea. You can spot plants which are showing signs of wilt and are in need of water. Did you know when a plant is in bloom, particularly full bloom; it needs much more water to support those blooms?



Nymph  
Thrips

The first signs of mildew can also be detected, and immediate steps to prevent or treat can be started. Spilled pollen from a bloom can indicate thrips, and again, if caught early can be treated easily before an infestation begins.

More to the point, fading blooms can be removed as soon as the first signs of aging are detected. This will help steer essential nutrients and water to vital blooms, but will also prevent diseases from infecting your plants. You can pinch the blooms with your fingernails, or you can be more neat and precise and use fingernail or cuticle scissors. It is important to sanitise utensils as you move from plant to plant so as not to spread unwanted diseases. Dipping them in alcohol or a 10% chlorine/water

mixture is most prudent. Properly disposing of the removed blossoms also helps, as they contain so much water they will mould quickly. By the time you have one or two blossoms remaining on a bloom stem, it has probably become unsightly with faded blossoms and bare stems, so the entire stem should be removed. If your fingers are very nimble, you can snap the entire stem from the plant's axil. If not, use a sharp knife or pencil point to snap it out. Every effort should be made to remove the stem cleanly, again, to prevent damaged areas from introducing disease, and to keep the leaf petioles growing straight and undamaged. If the stem has become soft and limp, remove it as cleanly as possible.



An Adult Thrips

## How I grow *Eucodonia* by Reiko Lee

*Eucodonia* is one of the seasonal gesneriads from Mexico.

Growing *Eucodonia* from Rhizomes (long white tubers) starts with planting in spring, and finishes with flowering in late autumn, forming more Rhizomes under potting mix.

The one I grow is called E. "Adele". This plant can be grown under light in a small pot, but I grow it in a 20cm hanging basket, in my courtyard which is covered with shade cloth and opaque plastic sheets. The courtyard is quite hot during summer, and the plant gets filtered sunlight most of the day. It starts blooming from the end of summer to autumn, just in time for our Annual Show. I won the Princess of Gesneriads with this species and combined with two other types of Gesneriad the State Championship this year. I use the following potting mix.

**Potting mix:** AV mix ½ + good quality commercial potting mix ½.

AV mix can be used alone but it dries up very quickly outdoors.

**Planting:** In spring between the end of September and early October, plant a few rhizomes in pots or hanging baskets horizontally, cover them with p/mix 1-2 cm deep.

Feed them with African violet fertiliser (Manutec), also a small amount of 'blood and bone' can be added to the potting mix when the mix is made.

**Growing:** When new shoots form 6-8 leaves, pinch centre 2 leaves to make plants bushy. Repeat pinching until small flower buds form in mid-end summer. Turn the pot around regularly. Be careful not to show bare soil, especially at the centre. After flowers finish, the plants die down at the end of June to early July, reduce the water gradually and keep the pot barely moist till spring.

Then collect more rhizomes and start all over.

The original rhizomes were given to me when I attended the 1995 Gesneriad Council meeting. A couple of years later, I had enough rhizomes to share with other members of the Society who wanted to try. When my hanging basket failed to flower one year, there were no rhizomes left.

However, luckily I received a few bulbs back from a member who had kept on growing them!!



*Siningia Richii* "Robson Lopes"



*Eucodonia E. Adele*

More ...



Dish Garden



Harbor Blue

# Monthly Competition

Our monthly competition is very important; Reiko does a terrific job of organising the layout, judging, compilation and reporting of the results. These are for July 2015.

Judged by N. Dougall, J. Woodley

## Open class

1	Std. AV Single Colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Red Baron	R. Lee
2	Std. AV Multi Colour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kiwi Dazzler	R. Lee
4	Mini-AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Texas Space Dust	A. LaRosa
		2 <sup>nd</sup> RD's True Blue	A. LaRosa
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Orchard's Bumble Magnet	R. Lee
5	Semi-Mini AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob's Slap Happy	A. LaRosa
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Magic Blue	R. Lee
6	Trailing AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Duchess Trail	A. LaRosa
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Rob's Boolaroo	A. LaRosa
12	Gesneriads-Trailing	1 <sup>st</sup> Episcia, Sunshine Angel	A. Cowie

## Intermediate class

17	Single Colour AV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Buckeye Daydreamer	A. Cowie
18	Multi Colour AV	1 <sup>st</sup> Irish Ice	A. Cowie
19	Mini-Semi-mini AV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Magic Blue	A. Cowie

## Novice Class

22	Multi Colour AV	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bob Serbin	G. Currie
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Unnamed	G. Currie

## Point Tally February-July 2015

<b>Open</b>		<b>Intermediate</b>		<b>Novice</b>	
P. Humphreys	10	A. Cowie	21	G. Gibbons	3
A. LaRosa	57			G. Currie	32
R. Lee	34			P. Fry	9
				A. Wiltshire	3
				E. Laidlaw	4
				N. Gardiner	2
				D. Osler	4



Irish Ice – S. Sorano



Texas Space Dust – H. Pittman



Rob's Slap Happy – R. Robinson



A collection – how good are you?

## 2015/2016 Committee

Our new 2015/2016 Committee was elected after a great year 2014/2015. Congratulations and a happy and fun year to you and all our members:

Executive			
<i>President</i>	Eric Bateman	<i>Vice President</i>	Peter Fry
<i>Secretary</i>	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Treasurer</i>	Diana Osler
Supporting Committee			
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Aileen LaRosa	<i>Competition Table</i>	Reiko Lee
<i>Trade Table</i>	Ernie Laidlaw	<i>Mentor</i>	Pat Humphreys
<i>Librarian</i>	Alison Fox	<i>Caddy</i>	Don Bulloch
<i>Raffles and Attendance</i>	Margaret Green, Barbara Johnson	<i>Gesneriad Council</i>	Norma Dougall
<i>Website Administrator and Violet Talk Editor</i>	Eric Bateman	<i>Photographer</i>	Judy Toop

## 2015/2016 President's Message

Many thanks go to the retiring committee, of 2014/2015. Our outgoing President Sarah Pratt is to be congratulated in doing a terrific job as is very appreciated by all members for stepping in and looking after committee matters and conducting meetings when Helen Gilbert who was our President had to withdraw in February. Sarah showed us in her first year with us, the type of people we have as a part of our membership who continue to contribute to the Society's administration and success. Thanks so much to Helen for her wonderful contribution up until that point. Judy Toop was our Treasurer and also photographer. Our Secretary, Barbara Johnson for all of her Secretarial work and archiving of documents. To Aileen, Reiko, Alison, Pat, Margaret and Don for continuing in their roles. Thanks to our judges Norma Dougall, Colleen McCormick, June Woodley, Aileen LaRosa and Reiko Lee for the judging of competitions and the Annual May Show, whom I am sure, will continue their excellent assistance.

Thanks to our Patron Geoff Richards who continues his support of our Society and the role of Patron. Welcome to all of the new members of the 2015/2016 Committee, Peter Fry and Ernie Laidlaw for taking up their new roles, Diana who returns as Treasurer and Jacqui Bateman who with myself has returned from a year in the Eastern States to participate and hopefully continue the good work of our previous committees that we celebrate over the past 50 years. Thanks to all of our members for attending and continuing their loyalty to our meetings and presentations. Particular thanks to our growers for their endless dedication and production of the beautiful Gesneriaceae over the 2014/2015 period. Thanks must also go to the Glenn Rogers and his staff at the Manning Activity Centre for providing an excellent facility for our meetings. To our Honorary Life members for their valuable and continuing support to our club on special occasions and whenever they can come to share with us. We sadly lost two members; Barry Edwards and Alison Weir who are sadly missed.

Our aim is to have fun while we grow beautiful African violets and Gesneriads to impress the judges and the public particularly in our Annual May Show. I would like our Society to forge stronger links to our friends in SA, Qld, NSW, Victoria and NZ. This year will be our best yet with the new committee and all members giving their best at growing and promoting our wonderful passion.

### TIP 1

**Turning Your Violets:** If you are growing your violets in a position where they receive light from one side (this applies to most situations), it is necessary to rotate your plants a quarter turn each day, otherwise the leaves grow towards the light and if not rotated regularly the main stem will bend in that direction, and once that occurs no amount of turning will straighten it again. This spoils the shape of the plant. It has been suggested that to turn the plant in an anti-clockwise direction will be more beneficial than clockwise. This may or may not be true, but you may like to experiment. African violets need no rest period. Given good conditions they will flower continuously forever.

### TIP 2

**Always use warm water** for your violets, no cooler than room temperature. Cold water will damage the roots and cause markings on your leaves. Rain water is best for violets; tap water contains salts and has usually a higher pH than desirable.

# OUR SPONSORS



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## THE AUSTRALASIAN AFRICAN VIOLET COMMUNITY



**The Wanganui African Violet & Gesneriad Club**

## OUR HISTORY

