

IDEAS FOR ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

1. Holding shows in places of public access such as shopping centres where information about orchids and their different types and species is available, potting demonstrations and orchid sales are conducted.
2. Promote a society on a medium such as Facebook or Instagram.
3. List a society in the local council's community directory.
4. Hold an orchid auction where members of the public can attend.
5. Have a website which lists all the current activities that the society is undertaking.
6. Have a flyer promoting your society available for distribution at the Royal Easter Show.
7. Distribute the society's flyers to community notice boards in libraries, local nurseries, etc.
8. If possible, give a free plant such as a seedling to each new member when they join up. Make sure to include culture notes.
9. Make sure that plants for sale at shows are of good quality, not just potted up that morning, free of any diseases, weeds or bugs mealy bugs, etc.
10. Use opportunities such as church fetes or market days to have a stall promoting orchids and your society.
11. Display a banner (pull-up banner) advertising the society at indoors/outdoors opportunities.
12. Put up signage around the area where the society is holding a sale and/or a show.
13. Have an experienced member give a talk at one of the Bunnings Garden Club meetings.

IDEAS FOR KEEPING NEW MEMBERS

1. Have a name badge draw where a member wins a plant.
2. Have prizes for show bench winners at a meeting, eg. for Best Species/Hybrid/Novice/Intermediate and President's Choice.
3. Reward volunteers with a Volunteers/Draw for a plant.
4. Make sure meetings start on time and finish at a reasonable time.
5. Have experienced and knowledgeable show bench judges who can give feedback on certain orchid, especially outstanding plants.
6. Acknowledge visitors at a meeting and make them feel welcome.
7. Have a Novice Corner at each meeting where there is a short talk by an experienced grower on a topic likely to benefit a novice.
8. Organise visits to experienced growers' growing areas to see how good growers grow their orchids.
9. Have Open Days and/or Workshops where novice growers can learn from the more experienced growers.

10. Organise 'hands on' sessions where novice growers and new members can learn to report and mount orchids that they can take home.
11. Provide time in meetings for social interaction – possibly at supper time. If a new member makes just one connection at a meeting, that person is more likely to come back to another meeting.
12. Mix up what is offered at meetings so there is something for newcomers as well as the more experienced members.
13. Keep the business stuff to a minimum, only essential matters being brought to a general meeting, the rest to be handled by the committee at their separate meeting.
14. Mix up what is offered at a meeting. Add some practical experiences to the usual offering of talk/PowerPoint presentations.
15. Get new members involved in the society activities such as selling raffle ticket at shows. Make members feel valued and remember to thank them for their help.
16. Take time to talk to new members and make them feel welcome.

This list of ideas and suggestions has been compiled from the contributions given by the following societies:

- Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.
- Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.
- Berowra and Districts Orchid Society Inc.
- North Shore Orchid Society Inc.
- Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society Inc.
- Illawarra District Orchid Society Inc.
- Eurobodalla Orchid Club Inc.