

Cumberland Orchid Circle Inc.

The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on **Wednesday 27th August** 2014 in Barton Hall, which is situated in Gough Drive (off David Road), Castle Hill. The meeting will start at 8.00pm and will last approx 2.0 hrs. At the meeting, orchids in bloom will be benched for a monthly



Cymbidium Wallamurra 'Jupiter'

point score competition. Circle member John Hestelow will talk about the culture of cymbidium orchids in this meeting.

At each meeting there is a sales table selling plants brought along by members, in addition to accessories used for orchid culture. During our supper interval, there will be time to "compare notes" and seek advice from other members.

Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Circle's secretary on 0412 982 830.

Spring Orchid Show at Winston Hills Mall Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

Wednesday 3rd – Saturday 6th September

From Wednesday 3rd September till Saturday 6th September, during shopping hours, Winston Hills Mall, in Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills, will host a Spring Orchid Show by Cumberland Orchid Circle. On show will be many of the orchids in flower at this time of the year and there will be members of the Circle present at all times to discuss orchids and their culture as well as advise on any cultural problems that members of the public may have. The Circle will also maintain a sales table where orchids, many in bloom, may be purchased for very little cost and also conduct repotting demonstrations. Free cultural information leaflets will be available covering the cultivation of many specific orchid genera. There will also be a raffle where orchid plants can be won, the proceeds of this raffle being donated to the Westmead Hospital Medical Research Foundation.

For further information on Cumberland Orchid Circle or the show please contact the Circles secretary on 0412982830.

Beware those Nice Yellow Flowers!

By Barry Lees

Have you noticed the yellow flowers along roadsides and in paddocks recently? They may look nice, but they have a dark side. They belong to a toxic plant called Fireweed and it is invading our area. In other places, it totally dominates roadsides and paddocks. Fortunately in our area, with some effort, we can still

control it. It grows all year, but best in August and September.

We urge all residents to pull them out at every opportunity. When you walk the dog, take a shopping bag and pull it out as you go. If you walk without a dog, do likewise. Save on gym fees – pull fireweed instead! If you have it in your paddocks, collect at least a shopping bag full each day. Bribe the kids to do it, especially if they ride the horse that's in the paddock. Take it home and put it in the green bin. Try to stop the seeds escaping.

Fireweed is toxic to horses, cattle and native animals. It has an accumulative poison that damages the liver and can lead to loss of energy, retarded growth and even death. It has a bitter taste so animals will graze around it, but if food is scarce, or there are too many small fireweed plants, there is increased chance they will eat it. The plants grow to about 60cm tall and each plant can have up to 30,000 seeds. Seed is blown large distances by wind, and is spread along roadsides by movement of vehicles. Flowers left on the ground can still produce seed – that's why all plants removed should be bagged and disposed of. It is easy to pull out. Slashing or mowing before flowering is another way to control it.

So together, let's get rid of this nasty weed. There is some in my back paddock, so I will take my own advice – now where is that old shopping bag?

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WINTER IS HERE • FIREWOOD IS IN STOCK • HARDWOOD & DRY