



Cymbidium
Shoalhaven

SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

PRESIDENT Louise Gannon lougannon@bigpond.com Ph 0419 241 177

VICE PRESIDENT Martin Montebello orchid-hunter@hotmail.com

SECRETARY Francoise Sikora fsfrancoise@gmail.com

TREASURER Kerrie Carter kerriecarter10@gmail.com

COMMITTEE John Clancy, John Clarke, Sandra Ellis, Mary Ahonen ,
Will Fisher, Stafford Lester, Sue Montebello, Val Starling

EDITOR Wayne Lee wglee1964@gmail.com

LIFE MEMBERS Colin Marstin 2007, John Webb 2009,
Lynne Phelan 2012, Allan Taylor 2014, Brian Phelan 2022,
Sandra Ellis 2025.

Next Meeting: Monday 19th May

Bomaderry Community Centre. 19 Birriley Street, Bomaderry.

Room opens at 6.pm for set up*; benching to be **finished** by 7.00pm; Popular Vote 7.00-7.15pm;
Novice Corner 7.15-7.30pm. Meeting commences at 7.30pm. * Many hands make light work.

Novice Corner: John Clancy will be dividing and repotting/mounting a Dockrillia



THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY MEETS ON THE **THIRD MONDAY** OF THE MONTH- at
7.00 PM IN THE BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 19 BIRRILEY STREET, BOMADERRY.

The Shoalhaven Orchid Society disclaims any liability for losses which may be attributed to the use of any of the material mentioned in this newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope your orchids have all been growing well. With the weather becoming increasingly cooler its time to take off your shade house any additional shade cloth you have added over the hot summer months.

A big thankyou to all our committee/members who worked on our Bunnings BBQ on Sat. 26th April. It was a busy day with constant serving. 58Kgs. of sausages and 25kgs of onions were cooked resulting in a very successful day.

Our 2025 Show Schedules have had extra classes added to the Paphiopedilum Class. This reflects the changing orchids that our members grow. Plus 2 more Champions have been included – Champion Seedling and Champion Specimen Orchid. All were suggestions made by or 2024 Show Judges.

A Social Day at Ron Finlater's home is fast approaching (1st June). Please see note in this Newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Charity Auction next meeting.

Warm regards,

Louise



BENCHING RESULTS		Month April	Year 2025
Class	Orchid Name	Name of Grower	
NOVICE			
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Catt.</i> Ontario Miyuki Odorike	F. Flack	
Species	<i>Coelogyne ovalis</i>	J. Cameron	
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Den.</i> Hybrid Unknown	F. Flack	
Novice Orchid of the Night	<i>Coelogyne ovalis</i>	J. Cameron	
INTERMEDIATE			
Paphiopedilum	<i>P. spicerinaum</i> ‘Tinonee’ x <i>P. spicerinaum</i> ‘Goliath’	S. Ellis	
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> Unknown	W. Lee	
Species orchid	<i>Coelogyne macranthum</i>	W. Lee	
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Onc.</i> Sharry Baby	W. Lee	
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Catt.</i> Unknown	W. Lee	
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Vanda</i> Unknown	S, Ellis	
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	<i>Coelogyne macranthum</i>	W. Lee	
OPEN			
Paphiopedilum – species/hybrid	<i>P. spicerinaum</i> ‘Tinonee’ x <i>P. spicerinaum</i> ‘Goliath’	G. Jonas	
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Mtps.</i> Lillian Nakamoto ‘Tonto’	M. & S. Montebello	
Dendrobium – species/hybrid	<i>Den.</i> Yaya Victoria	M. & S. Montebello	
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Catt.</i> Portia Cannizaro	L. Gannon	
Vandaceous Hybrid	<i>Phal.</i> Buttercup	M. & S. Montebello	
Species	<i>Bulbo. rothschildianum</i>	L. Gannon	
Australian native species	<i>Den. bigibbum</i> var. <i>compatum</i>	R. Korber	
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Phrag.</i> Fritz Schombergi	R. Korber	
Open Orchid of the Night	<i>Den.</i> Yaya Victoria	M. & S. Montebello	
Species of the Night	<i>Gongora scaphephorus</i>	L. Gannon	
Hybrid of the Night	<i>Den.</i> Yaya Victoria	M. & S. Montebello	
Assistant/ Benching Marshal’s Choice	<i>Phrag.</i> Fritz Schombergi	R. Korber	
Growing Competition	5 points R. Korber, 3 points W. Lee, 1 point : R. Bristow S. Ellis, R. Findlater. W. Fisher, N. Weatherby.		
Number of plants benched	57	Number of Growing comp. plants	7 Seedlings 2



**Open
Popular
Vote**

**Intermediate
Popular
Vote**

**Novice
Popular
Vote**



**Best
Species**

**Best
Hybrid**

**Benching
Marshal's
Choice**



From The Committee

May Novice Corner – John Clancy will be dividing and repotting/mounting a Dockrillia.

May Meeting – Is our Charity Auction, please remember to bring some boxes or bags to carry your lovely purchases. There are bound to be some bargains. Cash or Eftpos will be accepted.

2025 Show Schedules – Have now had some extra classes added and also there will be a Champion Specimen and Champion Seedling awards added to the Champion Table for each show.

Bunnings BBQ – was a huge success. It was a very busy day and we thank all who volunteered for the day. It was a long day for some that were there all day. We hope to have more Volunteers for the next one, should we be offered another BBQ. We did clear a net amount of \$2,435.95 for the society.



Alan Stephenson on local orchids.

Following an enquiry from a Bunnings BBQ customer, Lynne did a search for a video of Alan talking about finding native orchids in the local area. It was a segment on Gardening Australia when he took Clarence Stockee on an orchid hunt around Jervis Bay its worth a look. You will find it if you put Chasing Orchids – Gardening Australia into your search engine.

S.O.S. CHARITY AUCTION

Our May Meeting will be our Charity Auction night. All money raised will go to our chosen charity, the North Nowra Branch of Meals on Wheels. As previously mentioned, our Secretary Francoise is a volunteer, and her son Luke is the Chair, and both have firsthand knowledge of the demands on this charity.

Members with sizeable collections are asked to please donate up to 6 orchids to the auction. Of course, members who own only a few orchids are not included but you will certainly be able to add to your collection on the night! Donated plants should be in good condition, disease and pest free and well established in their pots or on mounts. Please bring your plants to the front stage area on arrival.

Richard Korber will be our Auctioneer and will have the assistance of a few of our open members. Purchases will be tallied through the evening and payments completed at the end of the Auction.

Auction nights are usually a lot of fun plus the chance to buy some more orchids for your growing collection at a reasonable price.

Louise

S.O.S. SOCIAL OUTING

A social get-together has been organised by our committee to visit member Ron Findlater's home on Sunday 1st June, starting at 10am. Ron welcomes members to view his growing areas where you will see a variety of orchids. This is a great opportunity for both old and new members to see orchids growing well.

Our Society is providing lunch of BBQ chicken, (fish cocktails for the members who don't like chicken), salads, bread roll, soft drink/tea/coffee. Members may like to bring a cake or slice to share and enjoy after lunch. Please bring your cutlery and a chair. For catering purposes please let Francoise or me know at the May meeting or email/phone (details on front page of Newsletter).

Ron's address – 56 Kardella Avenue, Nowra (Carrington Park Estate)

Our committee hope you will join us for a great relaxed day out.

Please note: The day will unfortunately have to be cancelled if the days before or on the day are very wet.

Louise

Reading the (Tea) Leaves

Lynne Phelan

Orchid leaves can tell you a lot about the health of your plant and give you feedback on your culture. Often, the leaves will be the first to signal your orchid is not happy. You need to become a leaf reader (cup of tea optional).

Function of Leaves

If epiphytic orchids were houses the leaves would be the kitchen where all the raw ingredients are cooked up and food is prepared which is fed back to the plant to keep it growing. The process is called photosynthesis. It is the 'process by which gaseous carbon dioxide, CO₂, is chemically combined with water to produce simple sugars such as glucose.'¹; i.e. the energy food to build new roots, stems, leaves and flowers. The raw materials come via the roots for water and minerals and through the leaves that take in carbon dioxide through the stomata while sunlight activates the green pigment chlorophyll to drive the photosynthetic process.

Reading the leaves – What to look for

It would take several books to cover completely the multitude of leaf markings so these are just a few of the some common problems.

Droopy, wilting leaves – Could be a sign of dehydration/underwatering. Give it a drink. BUT, on the other hand, it could also be because it has been overwatered and the roots are drowned so they can't take up any water. Just as the foot bone is connected to the neck bone, so the root zone is vitally connected to the leaf zone and, very often, the problem in the leaves can be traced to the roots. When in doubt, check the roots!

Very deep green leaves – Often a sign that the plant is not getting sufficient light. If this is the case it probably won't flower so it needs to be relocated into brighter light.

Pale/very light green/yellowish leaves – The opposite situation. Too much light. This is a problem for plants that come naturally from low light environments. Give more shade.

Bronzing on the top surface of the leaf – Some orchids have a natural tendency for bronzing but mostly it is a sign of too much light. Give more shade.

Yellow spots – Immediately suspect scale insects. Check the underside of the leaf for clusters of the insects which are sucking the sap/chlorophyll causing the yellowing.

Silvering on underside of leaf – The likely culprits are spider mites. Nasty beasts that can spread virus. Insecticides will not kill them. If it is just a few plants wipe/wash them off and spray with white oil. If it is widespread you may need to use a special miticide. Follow all safety directions.

Leaftip dieback – Tricky one. Could be a lack of moisture or not enough. Often caused by an accumulation of fertilizer salts. It is a good idea to flush the pots with plain water every month or so.

Other marks on leaves – streaking, spotting, mottling, etc. The causes can be many. Pathogens such as bacteria, fungus or virus cause markings on the leaves so you need to do some research. The Canberra book, *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia*, has a good chapter on Orchid Pests and Diseases.

Dieback of all mature leaves – hopefully it is a deciduous orchid, and this is part of its growing cycle otherwise it might be time to say, "Goodbye".

1. Ben Wallace, Crassulacean Acid Metabolism in Orchids, *Growing orchids in Cool Climate Australia*
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**The Society thanks its generous sponsors.
We encourage members to support them.**



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NOTICES

Bishops Discount Card. A new discount card will be issued when you renew your membership. Please bring your old card to the meeting to exchange for the new card. Secretary Francoise has the new cards.

Library. Books! Our society has many great books for Speak to Robin who would be delighted to help you.

Attendance Book. Members and guests must sign the attendance book. This is required for insurance purposes. Our insurance cover applies to your attendance at any society organised event. ***If you don't sign, you're not covered.*** Please sign beside your number given by the society.

COVID RESTRICTIONS Please observe the following:

- 1. Sanitise your hands with the hand sanitiser provided when you arrive.**
- 2. Wearing a mask is optional.**
- 3. If you are unwell, please do not attend.**

2025 Shoalhaven Orchid Society

What's On at a Glance

Committee Meetings 2025

Tuesday 3rd June 10.00am

Society Meetings 2025

19th May- Charity Auction

Saturday Day Meetings 10am – 1pm

21st June – Brian/Martin “How to prepare your Plants for a Show”

19th July – TBA

16th August –Ken Coates “Growing Orchids in a Cooler Climate”

15th Sept – Richard Dimon, his trip to Borneo & Peninsular Malaysia

20th October- Neutrog Representative

17th November- TBA

15th December – Christmas Party

Society Shows 2025

SOS Inc. Winter Show Saturday 12th July

SOS Inc. Spring Show Saturday 30th August

SOS Inc. October Show Saturday 18th October

Society Coming Events

Native Orchid Walk- TBA

Potting Day- TBA

Society Get-Together 1st June, Ron Findlater's home.

Other Society Shows

MUOS

Winter Show 5th – 6th July

Spring Show 13th - 14th September

BBOFS

Winter Show 19th – 20th July

Spring Show 6th – 7th September

Native Show 18th – 19th October

IDOS

Winter Show 5th – 6th July

Spring Show 6th – 7th September

October Show 11th October

Growing Competition 2025

Please try to find and bring your growing competition plant each month. If you keep them grouped together with a distinctive coloured label it makes them easy to find.

February. Zga. Pine Road x Zygo. Kosciuszko x Zga. Clare Fisher 'Amanda'

March. Den. Phena's Charm 'Genesis' x Spec. Moonmere

April. Sarc. Bunyip 'Dark Horizon' x Kulnura Bliss 'Orange Ring'

May. Zga. Pine Road x Zygo. Kosciuszko x Zga. Clare Fisher 'Amanda'

June. Den. Phena's Charm 'Genesis' x Spec. Moonmere

July. Sarc. Bunyip 'Dark Horizon' x Kulnura Bliss 'Orange Ring'

August. Zga. Pine Road x Zygo. Kosciuszko x Zga. Clare Fisher 'Amanda'

September. Den. Phena's Charm 'Genesis' x Spec. Moonmere

October. Sarc. Bunyip 'Dark Horizon' x Kulnura Bliss 'Orange Ring'

November. Zga. Pine Road x Zygo. Kosciuszko x Zga. Clare Fisher 'Amanda'

December. Den. Phena's Charm 'Genesis' x Spec. Moonmere

ORCHID EVENTS 2025

Orchids Out West – 23rd – 25th May. Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon

Mingara Orchid Fair and Show – 28th-29th June

National Orchid Extravaganza, The Arena Sports Club, Yagoona 8th-10th August.

St Ives Orchid Fair – 15th – 17th August.

Australian Native Orchid Show Revesby Workers Club – September 6th.

South & West Regional Show & Conference Fitzroy Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Canberra
September 20th-21st

Orchids Central, Club Condell Park, Condell park.
17th-19th October

OSNSW Summer Show, Ermington Main Hall,
Ermington 13th-14th December