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SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'

AFFILIATED WITH

the Australian Orchid Council and the Orchid Society of N.S.W.

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc

OCTOBER 2020

SOCIETY NEWS

**VENUE: BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE
17 BIRRILEY STREET, BOMADERRY.**

NEXT MEETING Monday 19 October. 7.00pm

Meeting room is open at 6.30pm *
Benching to be **finished** by 7.00pm.
Novice Corner 7.00 – 7.15pm
Popular Vote 7.15 – 7.30pm
Meeting opens 7.30pm.
* Many hands make for a quick set up/pack up.

FROM THE *(new)* EDITOR'S DESK



Gosh, I sure do have huge shoes to fill. Thank you for your kind words Lynne. I will endeavor to fulfil the role of Editor to the best of my ability and I'm hoping I can maintain the beautiful standard you've achieved.



Members, I have my **L**'s on and I'm all for feedback. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you think of anything that I can do better. Also please send me anything you would like included in the newsletter. My email is above!

GUEST SPEAKER - Jim Cootes will be our guest speaking in October. Jim will be talking about the 'Orchids of the Philippines'. It should be a very exciting and informative talk.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are able to renew their membership for 2021 after 1st October. Membership dues remain at **\$30 Family, \$20 Single** and **\$10 Partner of Life Member**. Payment can be made at a General Meeting, by cheque to the Society (address at the top) or by direct deposit to **Shoalhaven Orchid Society, BSB 062585, Account No. 10263191**.

Please remember to include your name in the 'description' if you are making a direct deposit so we know who it's from.

GROWING COMPETITION

Cym. Lancashire Khan Debonair' and Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x Start Angel x Charisma)

LAST BENCHING FOR THESE TWO SO THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO EARN POINTS

THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY MEETS ON THE **THIRD MONDAY** OF THE MONTH- at **7.00 PM** IN THE BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 17-19 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

It's great to see the weather improving as Spring progresses.

I have been busy repotting my orchids with some being divided, creating 2 or more plants and others being put into a larger pot. In the meantime, I am wondering, where on earth am I going to put all of these plants in an already crowded shade house. Ah!

The dilemmas of orchid growing!!

All the Australian native orchids have been flowering beautifully especially the *Den. speciosum*. They have always looked spectacular at our past Spring Shows. Missing out on this show due to COVID has been very disappointing. Our October Show has also been cancelled. I hope next year will be more favourable.

Mitch Kernaghan's demonstration at last month's meeting of how to attach a *stanhopea* orchid to a mount was interesting. Of more interest, was the design of the well-made mounts. Years of research by Mitch has produced a unique product. I bought one and look forward to placing a *Dock. striolata* 'Ruffles' onto it. I know a number of members bought one and I look forward to seeing what orchid you have placed on it and how well the orchid grows.

Thank you Teresa Bourke for taking on the important role of Newsletter Editor and also, to our temp. Editor, Lynne Phelan for doing a marvellous job in the interim.

Our Committee has been busy, working on a number of fronts, one of which is our Constitution. A few minor changes have been made but mainly focusing on language, replacing 'shall' with 'will' etc. These changes will be brought to a General Meeting before the end of the year, for member's approval.

Members, enjoy this beautiful weather and I look forward to seeing you all at our October meeting. Our Guest Speaker will be Jim Cootes talking on the 'Orchids of the Philippines'.

Warm regards,
Louise

Current Life Members Shoalhaven Orchid Society

Mr Stuart Crowther - 1999
Mr Alan Stephenson - 1999
Mr Colin Marstin - 2007
Mr John Webb - 2009
Mrs Lynne Phelan - 2012
Mr Allan Taylor - 2014



LIBRARY

**Temporarily suspended
until further notice**

Attendance Book

Members and guests must sign the attendance book. This is required for insurance purposes.

If you don't sign, you're not covered.

Please sign beside your number given by the society.

Workshop Novices Corner

Between 7pm and 7.15pm newer growers can speak to experienced grower. **October: John Clancy** will be sharing **Cattleya** orchid care tips. Any problem orchid for advice on? (Please bring it in plastic bag if you suspect it has a disease or pest problem.) Remember, there's no such thing as a '*dumb orchid question*'!



WISH LIST

Looking for a special plant??

Email Teresa (front page for address) with

Your Name, Phone number & plant name

and I will add it to our newsletter.

See Back Page for your Wishes...

IMPORTANT NOTICE

about your Bishop's discount card

A new discount card will be issued when you re-new your membership. Please bring your old card to the meeting to exchange for the new card. Treasurer Diane has the new cards.

Mitch Kernaghan - Our September Guest Speaker

Mitch spoke about the innovative mounts that he had developed and perfected over a number of years and trialling them with several different species of orchids. The mounts are made of a sturdy PVC pipe, felt weed mat, shade cloth and filled with bean bag beads (plus a few other bits and bobs). Mitch brought along a few different orchid plants that he had previously mounted. The mounts can hold up to 4 plants and do not rot over time. He then demonstrated the mounting of a Stanhopea on one of the mounts he brought in. Many questions were asked and answered. Members found the information Mitch provided very interesting. Thank you, Mitch for a very enjoyable and engaging talk and we all learned something new tonight. Mitch was presented with a token of our gratitude and a copy of Alan Stephenson's book, *Orchid Species of the Shoalhaven* as a Thank You gift.



Mitch, Mitch's Dad and Sandra Ellis



Examples of some of the mounted orchids.



Mitch with his workshop

VISIT TO RON FINDLATER'S SHADE HOUSE

Recently I was invited around to Ron Findlater's place to look at his Dendrobium speciosums in flower. It was on Saturday 5th September and that weekend is usually when our Spring Show is held but of course due to the COVID it was unfortunately cancelled.

Also invited was member Phil Harrington and together we 'ooed and arhed' our way through Ron's 2 shade houses and glasshouse. It was a magnificent display with spectacular colours of white through to shades of rich yellow and gold. Ron mentioned that there were a number of Gerry Walsh's crosses (Guest Speaker late last year) amongst the display. My favourite was Den. Australian Goldrush with its strong large flowers. All plants were beautifully grown and a real credit to Ron. Hopefully we will be back to having shows next year and you to will be able to enjoy Ron's beautiful Den. speciosums.

Louise Gannon



Ron Findlater with his magnificent Dendrobium speciosum

NOVICE CORNER

John Clancy will be talking about Cattleyas in October's Novice Corner session. So if you're a lover of Cattleyas, don't miss this one.

John is the co-ordinator of Novice Corner. Members who have a cultural problem or any questions about their orchids are invited to speak to John during Novice Corner. If it is not within John's area of expertise he will refer you to another grower who may be able to help. If there is a particular topic you would like to have covered in Novice Corner please feel free to contact John on 4443 9072 or email john.clancy50@me.com.



NOVICE CORNER Richard Korber talking about paphiopedilum care and potting.



John Clancy



John Clarke and Don Hogan - enjoying the beauty of the orchids.

Benching Results - September 2020

Category	Plant	Owner
JUNIOR		
NOVICE		
Cymbidium	<i>Cym.</i> Unknown	F. Sikora
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wils.</i> Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'	F. Sikora
Aust. Native Spec/Hybrid	<i>Den.</i> Bardo Rose	B. Smythe
Miscellaneous	<i>Paph.</i> <i>Nitens</i>	M. Martin
Novice Orchid of the Night	<i>Cym.</i> Unknown <i>Wils.</i> Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'	F. Sikora F. Sikora
INTERMEDIATE		
Dendrobium	<i>Den. nobile</i> Virginalae	G. Douglass
Aust. Native Spec/Hybrid	<i>Den. x delicatum</i>	S. Ellis
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wils.</i> Passion Handsome	G. Douglass
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>C.</i> Lyn Spencer 'Cha' x <i>Blc.</i> Sylvan 'Snow'	J. Harriman
Species	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	G. Douglass
Cymbidium	<i>Cym.</i> Itchy Tower 'Trinity'	J. Clarke
Miscellaneous	<i>Coel.</i> Unchained Melody	J. Harriman
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	<i>Wils.</i> Passion Handsome	G. Douglass
OPEN		
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> <i>Nitens</i>	D. Hogan
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Oda.</i> Mem. June Appleby	B. Phelan
Dendrobium	<i>Den.</i> Ishidori 'Rainbow'	D. Hogan
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>L. purpurata</i> 'Ruby' x <i>Lc.</i> Marie's Song	L. Gannon
Species	<i>Arpophyllum spicata</i>	L. Gannon
Australian native species	<i>Sarc. falcatus</i>	P. Harrington
Australian native hybrid	<i>Den. x delicatum</i> 'Kiyanti'	H. Douglass
Cymbidium	<i>Cym.</i> Persuasive Touch 'Dark Eyes'	P. Harrington
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Galeopetalum</i> Arlene Armour 'Conching' <i>Lycaste</i> Jackpot King	D. Hogan L. Cowell
Open Orchid of the Night	<i>Arpophyllum spicata</i>	L. Gannon
Orchid Species of the Night	<i>Arpophyllum spicata</i>	L. Gannon
Orchid Hybrid of the Night	<i>Wils.</i> Passion Handsome	G. Douglass

Benching Results - September 2020 (cont'd)

Growing Competition		
<i>Cym.</i> Arachnid	1st Louise Gannon	
<i>Den.</i> Australian Obsession Purple Paddle Pop x <i>Den.</i> Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'	1st Yvonne Young 2nd Richard Korber	
1 point to J. Clarke, L. Cowell, L. Gannon, L. Phelan, B. Smythe.		

I have checked some of the plant names and have used the accepted nomenclature where the spelling on the tag was different. You may wish to update your tag.

If you think I have made an error in the recoding please let me know. Lynne (landb.phelan@gmail.com)



John Clarke with his *Cym.* Itchy Tower 'Trinity'



Garry Douglas with Intermediate Orchid of the night Wils. Passion Handsome

BENCHING YOUR ORCHIDS AT A MEETING.

Now that the peak flowering season is with us the benching marshal asks all members to be mindful that **all plants need to be benched by 7.00pm**. Because we don't know what plants will be benched it is often necessary to shuffle the divisions around to make extra space for classes that have many exhibits. Only after these are settled can the popular vote cups be put in place. Late entries cause confusion and unnecessary stress for the members trying to ensure that each orchid is benched to its advantage for the popular vote.

If you bring your plants after 7.00pm they may not be able to be benched for judging though you are welcome to display them - probably on the stage area unless another suitable place can be found.

JUDGING RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



Novice Orchid of the Night: **Cym. Unknown** and **Wils. Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'**
Francoise Sikora



Intermediate Orchid of the Night and Orchid Hybrid of the Night: **Wils. Passion Handsome**

Garry Douglass



Open Orchid of the Night and Orchid Species of the Night: **Arpophyllum spicata**
Louise Gannon



September Benching



Zygopetalum



Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'



Paph. Nitens - Don Hogan



Miltoniopsis



Phalaenopsis Unknown



Phalaenopsis Unknown

AN ORCHID AND A BRIDGE

As some orchid people and those who know me through my interest in conservation and local Nowra people may be aware there is a new bridge under construction to cross the Shoalhaven, although actual construction is yet to begin but a final date is said to be late in 2022.

The first stage has been the purchase and destruction of four houses in Illaroo Road, which is the right turn immediately before the existing bridges, one of which carries two north bound lanes and the other original bridge carries two south bound lanes. The original bridge has been in place since 1881 and was the only bridge across the Shoalhaven River when I arrived in Nowra in June 1969. Since then a second bridge was built and opened in September 1980 but with the steady increase in population and traffic, this new bridge is expected to greatly reduce traffic density through the town. A bit of odd history but I was told that the week before I arrived people were standing on the old bridge with long poles pushing some caravans and dead cattle under the (original) bridge as these had been washed into the river by heavy rains but fortunately this has not happened since as the caravan park has moved all vans to higher ground.

Dendrobium speciosum, I rate this species as the hardest orchid we have in Australia as far as its ability to withstand adverse conditions. I know of a few locations on the Southern Highlands where it is subject to the occasional snowfall and its biggest enemy is an uncaring mankind.

Only a few years after my introduction to orchids I noted orchids of many types along the edges of the river as far west as Bungonia Gorge where more than one plant is in a precarious position 20 metres over the cliff and the same applies for plants in a similar position at Tianjara Falls. This is why the "bridge plant" and others in a similar location are only photographed with a 300mm lens as a close-up photo would be a life-threatening event, similar to those who fish from the 100 metre cliffs of Point Perpendicular and its surrounds.

The included photo was taken in late August 2020 but I first saw it in flower in 2016 and I knew of its existence a couple of years before then, despite it being prolific in the Shoalhaven and indeed many places from Genoa Peak just over the border into Victoria and almost to the tip of Cape York. It was what I considered the obvious

possibility of it being lost to this new bridge and as the plant is quite large and valuable to me, not only in a financial sense but as I am - as many people are aware - conservation focussed and would be distraught if it were lost to bridgeworks.



After seeing the loss of homes on the north side of Illaroo Road which runs parallel to the river, I made the move to contact a person whom I thought may be able to have a positive influence regarding this plant. I made some enquiries, was given a name, then made a point of speaking to this person who was most amenable. He drove me from the compound near the Nowra Pool on the south side of the river across to Illaroo Road where together we viewed the plant. The homes were purchased and demolished for the project but in my biased opinion, they were built over a period of a few years, whereas the orchid would take several decades to reach its current size. He was dazzled with it and in a previous job had some experience with orchids, although this was at Bulahdelah and the orchid was the extremely rare *Rhizanthella slateri*, known as the Eastern Underground Orchid.

I am hopeful of a good response from this friendly orchid sympathiser; however, time will tell and I expect it will be soon to provide me a positive result that the "bridge orchid" is safe. If this occurs, screams will emanate from my home and these I assure you will be heard from my place on the south side of Nowra and you will know from the intensity and duration of my screams if the result for which I have hoped is successful or otherwise.

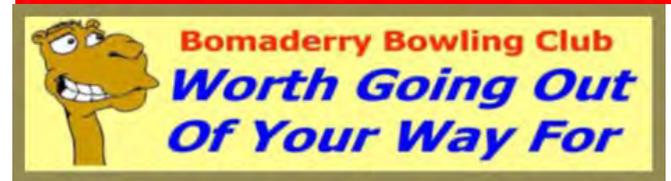
My final words are Watch This Space.

Alan Stephenson

The Society Thanks our Generous Sponsors



Richard and Lawrie — it's all about orchids!



NOWRA ZOO AND ADVENTURE WORLD

 A photograph of a kangaroo in a natural, grassy field setting.


The beautiful array of orchids benched at our September meeting

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Brian and Sandra - judging the Growing Comp. plants

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SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 21st September 2020

HELD AT BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Meeting opened 7.30pm.

President, Louise Gannon welcomed all members, visitors and our Guest Speaker, Mitch Kernaghan and his father, Ron. She also reminded everyone to be sure that they have signed the Covid attendance sheet and our Society Attendance Book, maintain social distancing and use hand sanitiser supplied where appropriate.

Apologies: Robyn Gunter and Marie Martin

Attendance: 25 Members Visitors: 4

Acceptance of Minutes for the August meeting as printed in the September Newsletter were correct:

Moved B. Phelan. 2nd D. Slye that Minutes be accepted

Correspondence: As Read. Moved F. Sikora. 2nd T. Bourke that correspondence be accepted.

Treasurers Report: As Read. Moved D. Slye. 2nd F. Sikora that Treasurer's report be accepted.

W.H.S. Report: Sandra has asked members to leave the 2 car parking spots closest to the entry door free for less mobile members bringing plants into the hall.

Richard Korber took Novice Corner this evening, giving a very interesting talk on Paphs and Phrags. Many questions were asked. Thank you, Richard.

Thank you everyone who took part in our Mini Auction Fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House at our last meeting, also those who kindly donated. We raised \$970.00 and the Society donated \$30 making it \$1000 that was sent to RMcD House. Thankyou Diane for all the work you put in.

Our October Show has been cancelled, due to Covid restrictions at Bomaderry Bowling Club. Let's hope for a better year next year.

There are still some Growing Comp. Sarcophilus plants that were deflasked at our last meeting available for any member who has not received one.

Teresa Bourke while having an extremely busy work load has very kindly offered to take over as Newsletter Editor. THANK YOU, Teresa.

A massive thank you to Lynne, who seemed to be our forever temporary Newsletter Editor. You always produced a very interesting read when we couldn't have meetings, and there were never any empty spaces. You did a fantastic job and we are sure the tradition will continue.

The President mentioned that the Newsletter is very important to our Society. It's always jam-packed full of information for our members and especially now, during this COVID time when a lot of our members are unable to attend meetings, yet they still feel connected through our Newsletter.

Louise welcomed guest speaker Mitch Kernaghan to the front to give a talk on mounting Orchids.

The President thanked Suzanne, Helen and Diane for serving supper and also thanked everyone who brought along supper for the evening.

Reminder, John Harriman has Bob Bishop bark for anyone who wishes to order some.

Reminder, plants need to be benched by 7pm or risk not having them voted on. Arrive early if you have many plants to bench.

Louise asked members to feel free to take photos on meeting nights and send them to our Editor or to the Society email where Francoise can obtain some for our website.

2021 Membership fees can be paid from the October meeting.

Benching Results: As published in the Monthly Benching Results in our October Newsletter.

Growing Competition: As published in the Monthly Benching Results in our October Newsletter.

There was a total of 95 plants benched and 9 Growing Competition Plants benched tonight.

Badge Draw: Winner John Clarke

Raffle Winners: J. Clancy, T. Bourke, D. Hogan, J. Harriman, J. Clarke, L. Phelan, N. Weatherby.

Thank you to everyone who arrived early to help set up, and everyone who stayed behind to help clean up. Many hands make light work.

Next month's meeting is Monday 19th October and our Guest Speaker is Jim Cootes talking about Orchids of the Philippines.

Meeting ended 9.05pm.

Treasurer's Report

Income:	\$1,302.00
Expenditure:	\$330.18
Balance:	\$14,960.92

2020 Shoalhaven Orchid Society

What's On at a Glance

Committee Meetings 2020

6th October 2020

Society Shows 2020

October Show — *Cancelled*

2020 Program & Guest Speakers

19 October - Jim Cootes on Orchids of the Philippines

16 November - Peter and Jane D'Olier – Orchids of New Guinea

21 December - Christmas Party and Annual Presentations

Growing Competition 2020

Note that we will be benching more than one orchid at each meeting so please bring them all in according to the following schedule. If we get another growing comp. plant during the year we will add it to the schedule.

October *Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x Start Angel x Charisma* **LAST BENCHING FOR THESE TWO**

November *Cym. Arachnid LAST BENCHING and Den. Australian Obsession Purple Paddle Pop x Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'*

December *Den. Australian Obsession Purple Paddle Pop x Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks' and Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x S. Sweetheart 'Speckles'.*

PARKING AT BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

There is only one disabled parking space at the front of the hall but several of our members have compromised mobility. To allow these members to have easier access to the hall to bring in their orchids other members are asked not to park in the **two parking spaces closest to the rear entry**. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

BARK AVAILABLE

FOR SALE

John Harriman has supplies of Bob Bishop's New Zealand Kiwi bark available in the following sizes:

2 - deflasking size; 3; 4 (15mm) and 5 (25mm).

All bark is \$36 per 30kg bag.

John also has some good quality charcoal (about 15mm) available.

Members wishing to purchase bark or charcoal can phone John on 44439462 and John will bring your order to the monthly meeting or you can arrange with John to collect it from his house at Old Erowal Bay if it is more convenient.

LYNNE'S POTTING SET UP

Lynne has kindly provided us with an insight to her potting setup.



Lycaste Jackpot King