



SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY

AFFILIATED WITH

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

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER December 2022



PATRON The Hon. Shelley Hancock

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

VICE PRESIDENT Sandra Ellis pollyellis@outlook.com

SECRETARY Francoise Sikora fsfrancoise@gmail.com

TREASURER Tom Gablonski tom@gablonski.org

EDITOR Lynne Phelan phelan.landb@gmail.com

COMMITTEE John Clancy

John Clarke

Ron Findlater

John Harriman

Don Hogan

Val Starling

Next Meeting: Monday 19 December Bomaderry Community Centre 19 Birriley Street Bomaderry
Room opens at 6.30pm for set up*; benching to be **finished** by 7.00pm; Novice Corner 7.00-7.15pm;
Popular Vote 7.15-7.30pm. Meeting commences at 7.30pm. * Many hands make light work.

Guest Speaker: Sandra Ellis will be showing us some of the wonderful orchids and sites seen recently on a trip to Western Australia.

Novice Corner: Committee member, **John Clancy**, is the co-ordinator and 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, 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 44439072 or email john.clancy50@me.com. **We will not have Novice Corner at the December meeting.**

Editor's Note: Hello Members. You will notice the newsletter looks different this month. I have used Microsoft Word to produce this edition to show you that you don't have to use a dedicated publishing program to be the editor of our newsletter. If you would like to try your hand at editing our newsletter please contact me. I will be very happy to give you all the help you need and, if you find it is not your cup of tea, that will be fine. **Lynne**



Our best wishes to any members who are on the sick list. We hope you will soon be back with us. We miss you!

IMPORTANT Remember – there is no monthly meeting in January. Our next meeting is on Monday 20 February, 2023

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.

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President's Report:

Summer has officially arrived and hopefully all the rain has finally disappeared. With the warmer weather we are more out and about enjoying what the outdoors is offering.

Last meeting, member Bruce Parker had a medical episode. Thankfully our First Aid Officer, Brian Shelvey, and Sandra Ellis were on hand to give Bruce immediate attention. With help from John Harriman an ambulance was called and Bruce was taken to Shoalhaven Hospital then flown by helicopter to Prince Of Wales Hospital in Sydney. I am pleased to say that Bruce is making a good recovery from his stroke and is now back in the Shoalhaven. Once again, many thanks to Brian, Sandra and John.

I have received great feed-back from members regarding our Guest Speaker, David Brooks. David's talk was on where cymbidium breeding is heading plus a brief description on how to improve the flower arrangement on a spike. David is always well received by members, some of whom have seen him attend our shows as a judge and happily returning the next day for an informal chat to members.

Tom Gablonski continues to make a slow recovery from his heart operation and we look forward to seeing him return to meetings sometime next year.

Our society's Christmas Party and Presentation Night will be held on Friday 9th December. It will be a great social occasion to enjoy each-others company and congratulate members on their recognised achievements. Don Hogan has sourced another great Growing Competition plant which will be gifted first at the Christmas Party and then at the December meeting. Thanks Don.

At our December meeting I will be presenting prizes to members for the Annual Benching Competition. This friendly competition runs from December to November and the results from each month's benching are tallied and annual prizes awarded. Towards the end of the evening, we have our Giant Raffle, which is always a lot of fun. It would be very much appreciated if members could bring along a gift for the raffle. I have noticed wine and chocolates are always a popular choice.

There is no meeting in January and the February meeting is our AGM. All Committee positions become vacant. I encourage members to please think about being a member of our committee. I have been President since 2019 and have always enjoyed our committee meetings with all items discussed thoughtfully. I thank Tom Gablonski for his role as Treasurer which he fulfilled with the utmost care. Tom will not be nominating for this role due to his ill health. Thank you, Françoise for temporarily stepping into the Treasurer's role and doing a great job. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2022 committee who continue to do wonderful work.

Lynne Phelan has been our temporary society Newsletter Editor this year. I strongly emphasise temporary. Lynne already does several jobs on meeting/show nights, advertising our shows and so much behind the scenes. I know Lynne and our society would be very grateful if a member came forward to fill the role as Editor.

Thank you, members who help-out through the year by placing tables and chairs out, assisting at suppers, photography, etc. It all helps to make our meetings run smoothly.

I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Warm regards,

Louise

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Society News:

DECEMBER MEETING

For our final meeting of the year we will be having a special festive supper. The society will provide soft drink/juice, sweets/desserts, plates, cups etc. Members are invited to contribute a savoury platter of finger foods to share. There is a small microwave for reheating if required.



GIANT RAFFLE

We will again have a supersized raffle festivities at the December meeting.



Members are invited to donate a wrapped (if appropriate) gift which could be an orchid or something edible, drinkable or other item to make a fellow member happy. The committee will contribute a number of prizes to the raffle as well.

New Members: The Society is pleased to welcome new members: Stella Sadler from Shoalhaven Heads, Pat Larkins, also from Shoalhaven Heads and Lorraine Edmonds from Callala. Please make our new members welcome and help them to feel at home in our friendly orchid family.

Sales Table: There will be no sales table at the December meeting.

Library: There won't be any library borrowing at the December meeting but members may return books/magazines if they wish.



New Growing Competition Plant: This lovely cattleya hybrid, C. Brunswick Gem 'Coral' x C. Dal's Choice 'Rudak', is our new growing comp. plant. It will be free for members and will be given out as a gift plant at the Christmas Party on 9 December. If you cannot attend the Christmas party you will be able to collect your plant at the monthly society meeting.

Plant Benching: Our annual benching competition (including the best seedlings) starts with our December meeting so all members are encouraged to bring along their flowering orchids.

Changes to the Monthly Benching Classes Committee has made three changes to the benching classes and these changes will start from the December meeting. In the Novice Section there is a new class for Species Orchids. In the Open Section, the Paphiopedilum Class will now be for both species and hybrids and the same will apply to the Dendrobium Class. If you are not sure where to bench your orchid please check with the benching marshal.

Current Life Members Shoalhaven Orchid Society

Mr Alan Stephenson - 1999
Mr Colin Marstin - 2007
Mr John Webb - 2009
Mrs Lynne Phelan - 2012
Mr Allan Taylor - 2014
Mr Brian Phelan - 2022

Covid Safety: If you are unwell please do not come to the meeting. Face masks may be worn if you wish. Supper will be served. Please bring your own cup/mug and use the hand sanitiser.

Membership Dues: Membership fees for 2023 are due to be paid by 1 January. Membership dues remain at **\$30 Family, \$20 Single** and **\$10 Partner of Life Member**. These can be paid at a meeting, by post or deposited directly into the society's bank account: **BSB - 062-585; Account No. - 10263191** **Please reference your name so we know who has paid.**

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AGM: Reminder: The society's annual general meeting will be held at our meeting on Monday, 20 February 2023. You do need to be financial to vote so please make sure you have renewed your membership before then.

All executive and committee positions will be declared vacant and members are strongly encouraged to nominate. Being a part of the decision making team is a great experience and new ideas are always needed so the society can progress and meet the needs of its growing membership.

2023 Auctions We have two auctions scheduled for meetings next year. In March we will have our auction to raise funds for a worthwhile local charity. Member will be asked at the December meeting for their thoughts and suggestions on where we might direct the proceeds. The members orchid auction will be held in August.

New Computer Committee has approved the purchase of a new computer to replace the one used by the editor. The current machine is again in for repairs and, at around 10 years old, is well past its prime.

Nursery Closure The Hanging Garden Nursery is closing at Christmas. They carry a range of different mounts and orchids that can be purchased online.

2023 Bishops Discount Card A new Bishops' discount card will be available at the December meeting for members who have paid their 2023 membership. Your 2022 card will be honoured up until the February AGM if you cannot get to the December meeting.

STOP PRESS The **South and West Regional Orchid Show** is back on the calendar after a COVID hiatus. In 2023 it will be held on the October long weekend (30 September – 1 October, with set up on 29 September) at the Cobargo Showground hosted by the Sapphire Coast Orchid Club with the theme 'Australia in Poetry and Song'. Before COVID, a number of members enjoyed attending previous regional shows and the society entered a display at the last one at Moruya in 2019. Committee has decided to again join 6-7 other orchid societies in 2023 in putting on a 2m x 2m display. Cobargo is about half an hour north of Bega. There will be catering on site. Members who may be interested in being part of the display team are invited to speak to a committee member.

Growing Competition December Can you find you Laelia anceps, Wallbrunn x Laelia anceps Rosminah? You earn a point for just benching it.

2023 Orchid Shows The Committee has decided that our three one-day shows will be open to the public from 9.00-4.00 on each Saturday. The dates being: Winter Show Saturday 8th July 9am- 4pm (Set up Friday 7th); Spring Show Saturday 2nd September 9am - 4pm (Set up Friday 1st); October Show Saturday 21st October 9am- 4pm (Set up Friday 20th)

Best Seedling Competition During the year members bench any seedling orchids in a special section. These plants are photographed and, at the December meeting, members get the opportunity to vote for the seedling they think was best. What makes a good seedling? The OSNSW judging manual states: A seedling shall be judged as per the Standard applicable for the genus with the following exception; the flower count requirements for the genus shall be waived with allowances being made for the generally smaller first flowering plants. When choosing the one you think is best, try to think what a good example of a mature orchid of each one would look like and select the one that seems to fill the criteria.

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Spotted on the benches in November

Wayne Simmons benched a lovely plant of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. *D. chrysotoxum* is an epiphytic (lives on other plants) or lithophytic (lives on rocks) member of the orchid family. As with many *Dendrobium*, the spindle-shaped pseudobulbs are grooved lengthwise from which two or three extended oval leaves will grow. The flower stalk grows out of the tip of the pseudobulb and is covered with up to 20 of the most spectacular flowers. These are yellow, with an orange throat and frilly edge. This is a very showy species that will develop into large multiflowered clumps, so a large pot or basket is needed to contain it.



These plants grow robustly during spring and summer and the growth stops altogether in late autumn, but this species does not shed its leaves during the winter resting period. They need copious water and fertiliser while growing and less when mature. If well grown, it develops into a very showy large specimen with large multi flowered clumps. The plant can be grown in a pot or basket with lots of water and fertiliser when in active growth. The plant needs a dry period as it approaches winter and the rest primes it for eventual flowering. During this 'rest' period the plant does not need regular water or fertiliser; watering can be done sparingly to ensure that the pseudobulb does not shrivel. The species prefers bright light for good growth and flower production and overall prefers intermediate temperatures.

The Society Thanks our Generous Sponsors

We encourage you to support them.

APIA Bakehouse Delights **Bunnings** **Bishops** **Royale Orchids**
Shoalhaven Zoo **Southern Business Machines**

Also on the benches in November



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BENCHING RESULTS		Month November	Year 2022
Class	Orchid Name		Name of Grower
JUNIOR Orchid			
NOVICE			
Cymbidium	Cym. Unknown	J. Cameron	
Oncidiinae Alliance	Onc. Unknown	B. Shelvey	
Australian native hybrid/species	Den. loddigesii	R. Ballard	
Miscellaneous orchid	Phal. Unknown	B. Shelvey	
Novice Orchid of the Night	Den. loddigesii	R. Ballard	
INTERMEDIATE			
Dendrobium	Den. Chorus Girl ‘Painted Lady’	J. Harriman	
Australian native species/hybrid	Sarc. Peace ‘Lava’ x S. Cracker Purple	F. Sikora	
Species orchid	Maxillaria meleagris	S. Ellis	
Oncidiinae Alliance	Odm. Orizaba ‘Everglade’	J. Harriman	
Miscellaneous orchid	Masdevallia Falcata ‘Donna’	R. Hahn	
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	Den. Chorus Girl ‘Painted Lady’	J. Harriman	
OPEN			
Paphiopedilum	Paph. Black Velvet x P. Macabre	W. Simmons	
Oncidiinae Alliance	Milt. Bert Field	B. Phelan	
Dendrobium	Den. Chorus Girl ‘Painted Lady’	D. Hogan	
Laeliinae Alliance	Lc. Tropical Pointer x Brassavola perrenii	L. Watkins	
Vandaceous Hybrid	Phal. Sasquatch ‘Dendi’	L. Watkins	
Species	Den. chrysotoxum	W. Simmons	
Australian native species	Cym. suave Vincentia ‘Bayswood’	J. Clancy	
Cymbidium	Cym. Cricket	G. Jonas	
Miscellaneous orchid	Masd. Marguerita ‘Julie’	D. Hogan	
Open Orchid of the Night	Lc. Tropical Pointer x Brassavola perrenii	L. Watkins	
Species of the Night	Vanda miniata	R. Korber	
Hybrid of the Night	Cym. Cricket	G. Jonas	
Benching Marshal’s Choice	Laelia (Cattleya) milleri	L. Phelan	
Growing Competition	1 st Brian Shelvey, 2 nd Brian Phelan; 1 point to R. Findlater, D. Hogan, L. Phelan		

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Novice Orchid of the Night
Den. loddigesii Robert Ballard



Intermediate Orchid of the Night
Den. Chorus Girl 'Painted Lady' John Harriman

OUR NOVEMBER WINNERS

Thanks to
Richard Korber
for our
November
benching
photographs.



Visiting Judge's Choice
Cattleya milleri Lynne Phelan



Open Orchid of the Night Lc. Tropical Pointer
x Brassavola perrenii Lawrence Watkins



Hybrid Orchid of the Night
Cym. Cricket Gary Jonas



Also on the benches.



Species Orchid of the Night
Vanda miniata Richard Korber

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