



Cymbidium Shoalhaven
'Touch of Class'

SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

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SECRETARY Francoise Sikora fsfrancoise@gmail.com

TREASURER Kerrie Carter kerriecarter10@gmail.com

COMMITTEE John Clancy, John Clarke, Sandra Ellis, Ron Findlater,
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.

Next Meeting: Monday 17th February.

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:

For the February meeting we will have different members talking about things they have tried, changed or experimented with over the summer in their Orchid House. Louise will start and then Martin and other members will be called upon.

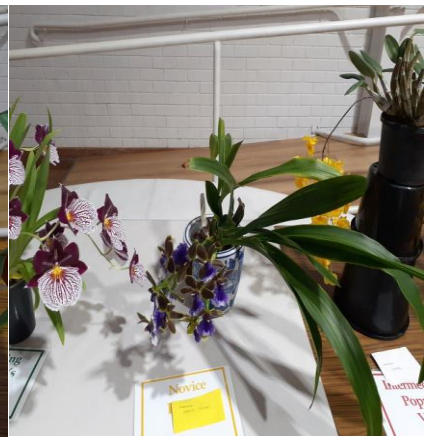
Novice Corner: Martin Montebello talking on "Orchid planning for the year ahead".



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

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.

BENCHING RESULTS		Month	December	Year 2024
Class	Orchid Name		Name of Grower	
NOVICE				
Oncidiinae Alliance	Milt. Golden Snow ‘Write Light’		K. Carter	
Species	Thunia venosa		J. Cameron	
Miscellaneous orchid	Phal. Speechless Elegance		K. Carter	
Novice Orchid of the Night	Zygopabstia Dragon Kitten ‘Purr’		K. Carter	
INTERMEDIATE				
Species orchid	Den. lindleyi		W. Lee	
Oncidiinae Alliance	Brassia gireoudiana Note. This is a species so it has lower case for the specific name.		W. Lee	
Miscellaneous orchid	Phal. Unknown		R. Bristow	
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	Den. lindleyi		W. Lee	
OPEN				
Paphiopedilum – species/hybrid	Paph. rothschildiana x P. kolopakingii		W. Simmons	
Oncidiinae Alliance	Milt. Breathless Beauty		M & S Montebello	
Dendrobium – species/hybrid	Den. Jade Junior		M & S Montebello	
Laeliinae Alliance	Catt. Orpettii		B. Phelan	
Vandaceous Hybrid	Phal. Sunrise		M & S Montebello	
Species	Den. lindleyi		L. Phelan	
Australian native species	Den. fleckeri		R. Korber	
Cymbidium	Cym. Rothesay ‘Butterfly’		F. Sikora	
Miscellaneous orchid	Catasetum Mark’s Red Hermosa ‘Mark’s Jungle Girls’		L. Watkins	
Open Orchid of the Night	Paph. rothschildiana x P. kolopakingii		W. Simmons	
Species of the Night	Den. lindleyi		L. Phelan	
Hybrid of the Night	Catasetum Mark’s Red Hermosa ‘Mark’s Jungle Girls’		L. Watkins	
Assistant/ Benching Marshal’s Choice	Milt. Breathless Beauty		M & S Montebello	
Growing Competition Den. Phena’s Charm x Den. speciosum Moonmere	Lynne Phelan 5 pts. Martin Montebello 3. 1 pt. John Cameron, John Clarke, Martin de Launey, Pauline de Launey, Sandra Ellis, Ron Findlater, Will Fisher, Francis Flack, Ross Hahn, Richard Korber, Sue Montebello, Brian Phelan, Francoise Sikora, Noelene Weatherby, Ros Wraight, Sharyon Wynn.			
Number of plants benched - 81		Number of Growing Comp. plants - 16		Number of Seedlings - 2
<div><div><div>ANNUAL SEEDLING COMPETITION: 20 seedlings that were exhibited throughout the year were photographed. The winner by popular vote was: Den. Burgundy Bride x Den. Hunter Titanium grown by Ron Findlater</div></div><div></div></div>				



**Open
Popular
Vote**

**Intermediate
Popular
Vote**

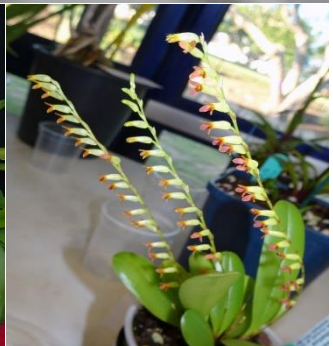
**Novice
Popular
Vote**



**Best
Species**

**Best
Hybrid**

**Benching
Marshal's
Choice**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the blink of an eye the first month of 2025 has quietly slipped away. I hope the year ahead will be an outstanding year for us all.

I felt members who attended our Presentation Night/Christmas Party all had a good time. Good food, good company and prizes everywhere! I really do like the seating plan for the evening with members seated together in table groups of 8 as it allows members to socialise together. It nearly didn't happen as many of the tables that are usually in the hall on opening, were not there. An urgent call went out to members to please bring in your trestle tables. After a worrying moment, our call was answered, and we finally had enough tables. Thank you Martin, for overseeing it all.

The night was jammed pack full of 'happenings' and I must apologise for no photos being taken of many of our presentation winners. We planned to take a group photo at the end of the presentations, but it went completely out of my head. My sincere apologies.

Congratulations to all the members who grew their orchids so well last year that you were prize winners. To members who did not win a prize – and we have all been there! continue to grow your orchids, seek advice when needed, particularly from our Open growers who will be only too pleased to help you.

All members were gifted a Sarcocylus seedling on the night. This orchid will be a part of our Growing Competition. Thankyou John Clarke for purchasing the 2 flasks from Barrita Orchids and repotting them, they all looked healthy. We look forward to seeing them as part of the Growing Comp. through the year. Thank you, Mary Ahonen, for the lovely Christmas Cake which was decorated beautifully with our yellow Cymbidium emblem flower (Cym. Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class') and Christmas Bells all made from icing sugar.

A well-deserved OSNSW Meritorious Service Medal was presented to our Secretary, Francoise Sikora, acknowledging her extraordinary service to our society. Congratulations, Francoise.

I sincerely thank all the 2024 committee for a job well done. We have all worked very well together. Our February meeting will be our AGM meeting. All committee positions including executive positions, will become vacant. Ron Findlater will not be nominating again for committee. Ron was one of our original committee members back in 2019 that changed the future course of our society. Ron has been a friendly, reliable and hard working committee member. Ron will continue to help our society. On behalf of committee and members I thank Ron for his commitment and support.

The topic for a member discussion at the February meeting is – 'What have members been doing in the orchid house this Summer', ie. changes made, experiments, moving of orchids around for a reason, ways of creating more shade during the hot weather etc. It will be an open discussion, and I would like all members to please join in.

See you at the AGM,

Warm regards,

Louise

2024 Benching Competition Winners

NOVICE

(Pleasing to see 7 different Novices on the winner's table.)

Ray Bristow	60
Frances Flack	33
John Cameron	32
Stafford Lester	17
Diane Slye	15
Pat Bell	8
Martin de Launey	3



INTERMEDIATE

Wayne Lee	96
Sandra Ellis	36
Ross Wraight	22
Bede Smythe	3
Frances Flack	3



OPEN

Martin and Sue Montebello	101
Louise Gannon	52
Wayne Simmons	48
Richard Korber	47
Brian Phelan	32
John Clarke	30
Lynne Phelan	28
Ken & Shayron Wynn	27
Gary Jonas	25
Ron Findlater	20
Lawrence Watkins	19
Ken Coates	17
John Clancy	11
Francoise Sikora	11
Yvonne Young	11
Noelene Weatherby	9
Ross Hahn	6
Adriana van Bockel	3



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Memberships:

2025 Fees are now due. If you are not financial you cannot vote at the AGM. Fees can be paid into our bank account with the Commonwealth Bank BSB:062 585, A/C no: 1026 3191. Don't forget to reference your name so we know who has paid. Fees can also be paid at the February meeting.

AGM: All Committee positions will become vacant at the AGM. We always welcome new members to the Committee. We only meet once a month except for January. Please consider nominating for the Committee as fresh ideas are always welcomed.

ORCHID ROOTS 101 Part 2

Lynne Phelan

ORCHID ROOTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PLANT.

Good roots mean good plants but let's debunk a myth. *Too much water causes root rot.*

Unlike most terrestrial plants which do almost all the respiratory gas exchanges through their leaves, epiphytic orchids have evolved to do much of that through their roots. That means we must ensure that the roots have access to air so that they can take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. If the potting medium becomes so dense that the air spaces become blocked up preventing free airflow around the roots then they can't breathe. It's not the water's fault, it is the rotten, clogged up potting mix. The roots aren't drowning, they are suffocating! Give them enough air and the 'problem' goes away. Timely repotting, before the mix has degraded to a point where there is insufficient air circulation, is the key to root survival.

Your job as a grower is to tailor your mix to the type of orchid, your growing conditions and your watering schedule.

Back to Sol's "oils ain't oils". Epiphytic orchid roots aren't all the same.

Orchid roots function to take up water and nutrients, prevent water loss, and also to allow the exchange of gases. Root structures will vary from species to species and from plant to plant, depending on what and where it is growing. As they grow roots adapt on a cellular level to function in their growing environment, be it in the air or within a substrate. This means orchids are highly adaptive to different environments.

Roots can grow fully exposed, dangling in the air, in partial contact with a surface (e.g., mounted on bark), and/or growing in a medium. When an aerial root touches a surface, the portion that contacts the surface will adapt differently. For example, the area that contacts a piece of bark will often develop root hairs on the bottom side which will help an orchid cling to the bark or mount. Roots growing submerged in a medium become accustomed to that environment. When that environment is significantly changed *the plant must grow a different set of roots* acclimated to the new conditions.

As roots grow, they "tailor" their cell structure to function optimally in that environment, and that once they have grown, *they cannot change*. When you change the environment by repotting, the existing root system may no longer be optimal for the plant. Roots adapted to growing in air cannot change their structure to grow immersed in potting media so will weaken and die. Roots of plants grown in sphagnum or a moisture retentive mix will not easily adapt to epiphyte-like conditions. That is why it is always best to repot a plant just as new roots are emerging, as these new roots will develop a structure suited to the new growing environment/media and support the plant as the old roots fail.

A note on watering aerial roots: when wet, the velamen acts as a sponge, soaking up the water to be used later by the plant. You need to see the velamen change colour completely and continue to apply water until you are sure that it is completely saturated.

REFERENCES.

1. Growing Orchids in a Nutshell Ray Barkelow *Orchids Bulletin* of the American Orchid Society Vol. 93, No. 9 2024
2. St. Augustine Orchid Society web page *Growing Orchids in a Cool Climate* 2nd Edition Canberra Orchid Society

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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 4th March 10.00am

Society Meetings 2025

17th Feb -AGM

17th March- Commonwealth Bank “Staying Safe on Line”

21st April- TBA

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 -TBA

15th Sept – TBA

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

Other Society Shows

MUOS

Winter Show 5th – 6th July

Spring Show 13th - 14th September

BBOFS

Winter Show 29th – 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'

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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

Collectors Plant Fair – 12th-13th April. Hawkesbury Race Club Clarendon

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

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

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

Paphiopedilum and Cymbidium Show, Yagoona - TBA

Orchids Central, Club Condell Park

17th-19th October

Australian Native Orchid Show Revesby Workers Club -TBA