

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.

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AFFILIATED WITH

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

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc



Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'

December 2021

FEBRUARY AGM - 21st February 2022

Please consider nominating to be a member of the Committee in 2022 at the AGM which will be held in February 2022. It's an opportunity to have your say and represent all members of the society.



COVID RESTRICTIONS

Although COVID restrictions have been eased considerably the following rules still apply and must be adhere to:

1. Attendees must be **DOUBLE VAXXED** and show proof on entering the premise.
2. As well as signing the Attendance book, you must either sign the **COVID Register** or use **the QR code** which will be provided at the entrance.
3. Sanitise your hands with the hand sanitiser provided when you arrive.
4. Wear a mask throughout the meeting.
5. Maintain social distancing rules, i.e. 1.5mts
6. Entrance to the premise will not be permitted until set-up has been completed, so please be patient..
7. There will be a COVID Safety Plan available for members' convenience.
8. **If you are unwell, please do not attend.**

SOCIETY INFORMATION

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

NEXT MEETING -

Monday 20th December at 7:00pm

Meeting room is open at 6:30pm for setting up *

Benching to be **finished** by 7:00pm

Novice Corner 7:00pm-7:15pm

Popular Vote 7:15pm-7:30pm

Meeting commences 7:30pm

* Many hands make for a quick set up/pack up.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK *Merry Christmas*

Sadly, this will be my last newsletter. Unfortunately, work and family commitments have taken their toll and I just can't continue this role in 2022.

Please consider taking over the mantle! It's a great opportunity to support the Society and its members.

If you're interested in becoming the next Editor please speak to our President Louise or a committee member.

I hope to see you at as many meetings as we can get to in 2022.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas with family and loved ones. Have a happy, safe and restful break!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are due now. Remember the committee has reduced membership fees as follows due to COVID restrictions over the past two years resulting in missed meetings and cancelled shows. 2022 fees will be:

Singles - \$10

Family (same address) - \$15

Fees can be directly deposited into the Society's bank account:

BSB - 062-585

Account No. - 10263191

Please reference your name so we know who has paid.

THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY WILL MEET ON THE **THIRD MONDAY** OF THE MONTH at **7:00PM**

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 certainly been a trying year for us all with Covid and its restrictions. I can't believe how quickly this year has gone. I hope 2022 will bring us all a better way of life than what we have had over the past two years.

The weather lately has been very unusual for this time of year. The rain, clouds and cool days are not what we know of summers past. It is a good idea to watch your orchids during this time as wet, then sunny days, can lead to rot in your orchids, especially cymbidiums.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Party and Presentation night. A good time of year to enjoy each other's company and congratulate the winners of our Annual Benching Competitions. At the moment I am putting some questions together for a Trivia quest. The questions will be a mixture of orchid and general knowledge, so come with your thinking caps on!!

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 you could please bring along a gift for the raffle. And, if you have all been good through the year there might even be a visit from Santa.

A new Growing Competition seedling – an Australian Native Orchid, will be available at our December Meeting at a cost of \$5. Francoise purchased these for our society on a recent trip to Wayne Turville's nursery at Tyabb in Victoria. Thank you Francoise.

I mentioned last month that our Newsletter Editor Teresa, is unable to continue in this role due to family and work commitments. Teresa has done a wonderful job in creating a newsletter each month. We are hoping that a member may like to volunteer to help our society by being our new editor. I know Teresa has enjoyed this role and it is certainly one you can put your 'own stamp' on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Committee who continue to do a wonderful job. At our last Committee Meeting we discussed next year's agenda including a roving day, potting day, native orchid walk in Spring and hopefully a bus trip.

Thank you members who help-out through the year by placing tables and chairs out, assisting at suppers 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, especially members who are unwell and can not make it to meetings. We are thinking of you.

Roll on 2022

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

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, plastic 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 as part our 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 plants to the raffle as well.

NEW GROWING COMP. PLANT



There will be a new Dendrobium Growing Competition plant available for purchase at the December meeting at a cost of \$5.00

Newsletter

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

The monthly Society newsletter is a critical channel for providing our members with up-to-date information and material.

It's an opportunity to express your creative flare and keep readers entertained and informed.

The Shoalhaven Orchid Society is in need of a Newsletter Editor for 2022.

If you are interested in becoming the next Editor, please speak with the President or a Committee member.

Benching Results - November 2021

Category	Plant	Owner
JUNIOR		
NOVICE		
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Den. fimbriatum</i>	R. Hahn
Novice Orchid of the Night	<i>Den. fimbriatum</i>	R. Hahn
INTERMEDIATE		
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Little Green Apples</i>	F. Sikora
Aust. Native species or hybrid	<i>Sarc. Peace x S. Cracker</i>	F. Sikora
Species orchid	<i>Den. loddigesii</i>	F. Sikora
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wils. Eye Candy</i>	F. Sikora
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Epicatt. Wayne's Scarlet</i>	F. Sikora
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Kuranda</i>	F. Sikora
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	<i>Den. Little Green Apples</i>	F. Sikora
OPEN		
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Unknown</i>	G. Jonas
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Miltoniopsis Breathless</i>	B. Phelan
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Hagoromo x D. Lovely Virgin</i>	D. Hogan
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Catt. Aqui-Finn</i>	G. Jonas
Vandaceous	<i>V. Cherry Blossom</i>	L. Phelan
Species	<i>Den. unicum</i>	B. Phelan
Aust. Native species	<i>Cym. Suave</i>	J. Clancy
Aust. Native Hybrid	<i>Sarc. Elegance x S. Bunyip</i>	L. Phelan
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Cricket</i>	G. Jonas
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Galeopetalum Arlene Armour</i>	D. Hogan
Open Orchid of the Night	<i>Cym. Cricket</i>	G. Jonas
Orchid Hybrid of the Night	<i>Cym. Cricket</i> <i>Miltoniopsis Breathless</i>	G. Jonas B. Phelan
Growing Competition <i>Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x S. Sweetheart 'Speckles'</i>	1st. B. Shelvey 2nd. F. Sikora 1 point to : J. Cameron, B. Phelan, L. Phelan, F. Sikora, D. Slye, Y. Young	
Note that the Best Species was inadvertently omitted from the judging.		

Society Polo Shirts

Our Society Polo Shirts can be ordered on-line from Shoalhaven Embroidery.

Please note, the company no longer has a shop in Meroo Rd., Bomaderry.

Last meeting we had on hand 5 polo shirts - 3 ladies sizes 14, 16 and 20 and 2 men's sizes L and XL. If you are interested in buying one please check the shirts for sizing at our December meeting as they will then be returned to the embroidery company. The shirts are \$29.70 each.

To order, please visit the Shoalhaven Embroidery website and follow the prompts.



GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

Lynne Phelan

No, I didn't spend the week's grocery money on an expensive orchid but there comes a time when almost every hobby orchid grower decides, "Enough is enough!" The collection has exceeded the capacity of the growing space. This often comes in late spring after the annual repotting and dividing of orchids results in a space crisis in the orchid house. It is time for a 'conscious uncoupling' as Gwyneth Paltrow said, or even, a 'rapid disassembly' as Julia Roberts called her quickie divorce. *

Here are some of my criteria for deciding what orchids must leave home.

Duplicates - This is easy. After dividing orchids, the spare/s can be sold (**S****), donated (**D**) for society raffles or gifted (**G**) to friends. I usually keep a back-up plant for rare or valuable orchids but (if space is critical) you can give a division to a trusted friend so if you lose yours you may be able to get a piece back. Make sure the divisions have re-established before you move them on.

Non-flowerers - Sometimes, no matter what you do, the orchid makes multiple growths and gets repotted every couple of years, gets moved around the growing areas, gets lots of attention (usually positive for a few years and then negative) but still never produces a flower. It may be that someone else's growing area will suit it better or it may just be a dud. Disposing of this one should come with a disclaimer citing its reluctance to flower so the buyer/recipient is aware of the problem. You could sell/donate it without but that's not a very nice or ethical thing to do to a fellow orchid hobbyist.

Space Gobblers - This is not a problem for everyone but, when you are trying to downsize, the very large plants in big pots and/or with expansive foliage must come into contention in the divorce stakes. You need to weigh up how much joy each one gives you against the bench space it occupies. I sadly parted with a lovely *Vanda Rothschildiana* recently because it was so big it totally blocked access to part of the shadehouse. I've also parted with the largest divisions of some cattleyas and kept a smaller, flowering size piece for myself.

Ho-Hums - These are the orchids that don't bring an immediate, "Not that one!" response when you are casting about for some extra space. They aren't bad but they don't make your heart sing. It may be something you were interested in but now your tastes have changed. It may be that it is quite similar to another, more superior orchid, so choose to keep the better one and **S, D or G** the Ho-Hum.

Sicky-Poos - Sometimes an orchid goes into decline and, no matter what you try, it just clings to life and demands full time intensive care but never responds. Bin (**B**) it!

Suss plants - If it looks like it might have a virus, get it checked or **B**!

The Nameless - Unless it is an exceptional plant which I cannot live without, orchids without names are high on the list of plants to come before the divorce court. Usually the loss of a name is my fault by losing a label or allowing the writing to become illegible. If I know for certain what it is when it flowers I can make a new label but if it is a hybrid and I am not certain then **S, D or G** with Genera Unknown on the tag. I'm off to Court!

* Disclaimer: I don't read celebrity magazines: I just looked for something silly on the internet.

** Commercial orchid growers have to earn a living from their orchid sales but I think society sales tables should enable members to add to their collections at 'mate's rates' so that's how Brian and I price our plants.

New Plant ID Card System

In 2022 we will see a new plant ID card system introduced for benching, making it much simpler for those who do the count and calculate the results. The tokens will still be used by members to vote. More information to follow.

NOVICE CORNER

John Clancy is our Novice Corner Coordinator. Members who have a cultural problem or any questions about their orchids are invited to speak to **John**. 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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO



The committee has proposed several events for 2022 COVID permitting, of course. These are:

- ◊ a roving day,
- ◊ a potting day,
- ◊ a bus trip and
- ◊ a guided walk,

Watch this space, More information to follow in 2022.

November Benchling



Important Note

NEWSLETTER POSTAGE LEVY

For a number of years now our Society has absorbed the increasing cost of mailing to members our Society's Newsletter but, with the price of stamps now at \$1.10, Committee has decided to introduce an annual levy of **\$10** for members who receive their newsletter by mail. The levy will help cover the cost of posting out 11 copies each year.

There will be no levy for Life Members.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

We encourage you to support them.

