

# Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.



*Cymbidium Shoalhaven*  
'Touch of Class'

## PATRON

The Hon. Shelley Hancock

## PRESIDENT

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John Clancy; John Clarke, Ron Findlater; John Harriman; Don Hogan; Val Starling

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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.

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2023



*Dendrochilum macranthum*  
Sandra E.

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Ron Boyd on Paphiopedilums.** Ron has been growing orchids for many years, specialising in paphiopedilums but also many other orchid genera. There are some excellent articles by Ron on the internet on deflasking and raising paphs, sarcs, watering etc. Check them out: <https://batemansbayofs.weebly.com/articles>

## SOCIETY INFORMATION

VENUE: BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
19 BIRRILEY STREET, BOMADERRY.

### NEXT MEETING Monday 15 May, 2023

Meeting room is open at 6.30pm for setting up \*

Benching to be **finished** by 7.00pm

Novice Corner 7.00—7.15pm

Popular Vote 7.15—7.30pm

Meeting commences 7.30pm

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



*Oncidium unknown*  
Ross H.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello Members

Autumn is certainly with us and it is time to make sure your orchids are ready for the winter chills. I use Anzac Day as my trigger to reduce watering for those orchids that require a resting or dormant period in the growing cycle.

There is a good slide show on winter orchid care on the internet. Google *Chris Dalrymple Orchids*. I would love to hear him give the talk that goes with the slides but the presentation itself is worth looking at. Lynne



**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](mailto:john.clancy50@me.com).

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

Temperatures are certainly cooler and it's time to prepare your orchids for the cooler months of Winter.

If you have had a chance to look at our website recently you will see that our Gallery has been updated with photo highlights from 2022. Our website also has a number of interesting topics in the Article Section which are well worth reading. We are very grateful to Barbara Simmons who continues to update our website.

Ron Boyd will be our Guest Speaker at our May Meeting. Ron's presentation will be on growing Paphiopedilum – slipper orchids. He will also be bringing along some cymbidium seedlings to sell.

Members from SOS & MUOS are looking forward to the get-together at the Phelan's home on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – weather permitting. After looking through both Lynne and Brian's separate growing areas we will sit down to enjoy a talk by our invited guest, Jeanne Dunne, a well-known Australian native orchid grower from Victoria. Lunch at Club Jervis Bay at Huskisson. It should be a great day out.

Warm regards,  
**Louise**

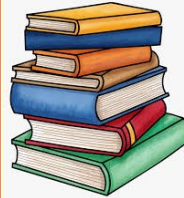


Our Executive team.

**POTS FOR SALE** Pots in various sizes have been donated to the society. These are now reasonably priced on the sales table.

## 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



## Books! Books! Books!

**Our society has many great books for you to borrow!!**

**Speak to Robin Gunter who would be delighted to help you**

## 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. **February: *Staking and tying cymbidium spikes with Ron Findlater and John Clarke.***

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 Lynne** (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 renew your membership. Please bring your old card to the meeting to exchange for the new card. Secretary Françoise has the new cards.**



*Ornithophora radicans*  
Don H.



Slc. Love Castle 'K'  
Francoise S.



*Vanda falcata*



GROWING COMPETITION

The Society thanks our generous  
Sponsors

We encourage you to support them.



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YOUR ORCHID NEEDS

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## Benching Results - April 2023

BENCHING RESULTS		Month	Year
Class	Orchid Name		Name of Grower
JUNIOR Orchid			
<b>NOVICE</b>			
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wilsonara</i> Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'		V. Starling
Laeliinae Alliance	C. Chocolate Drop		R. Ballard
Species	<i>Coelogyne fulginosa</i>		R. Wraight
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown		R. Gunter
<b>Novice Orchid of the Night</b>	<b><i>Coelogyne fulginosa</i></b>		<b>R. Wraight</b>
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>			
Australian Native	<i>Den.</i> Unknown		J. Harriman
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Onc.</i> Unknown		R. Hahn
Species orchid	<i>Dendrochilum macranthum</i>		S. Ellis
Laeliinae Alliance	C. Australian Frangipani		R. Hahn
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Bulbo.</i> Eed		J. Harriman
<b>Intermediate Orchid of the Night</b>	<b><i>Dendrochilum macranthum</i></b>		<b>S. Ellis</b>
<b>OPEN</b>			
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph.</i> Prime Child		W. Simmons
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Psychopsis</i> Mendenhall		B. Phelan
Laeliinae Alliance	SLC. <i>Love Castle 'K'</i>		F. Sikora
Aust, Native Species	<i>Den. lichenastrum</i>		J. Clancy
Species	<i>C. bowringiana</i>		J. Clarke
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Masd.</i> Kimball's Sun		B. Phelan
<b>Open Orchid of the Night</b>	<b><i>Epi. porpax</i></b>		<b>D. Hogan</b>
<b>Species of the Night</b>	<b><i>Dendrochilum macranthum</i></b>		<b>S. Ellis</b>
<b>Hybrid of the Night</b>	<b><i>Onc.</i> Unknown</b>		<b>R. Hahn</b>
<b>Benching Marshal's Choice</b>	<b><i>Dendrochilum macranthum</i></b>		<b>S. Ellis</b>
<b>Growing Competition</b> <i>Catt.</i> (Rlc.) Brunswick Gem	<b>1st D. Hogan, 2nd P. Bell</b> , 1 point each to: J. Cameron, J. Clancy, J. Clarke, L. Gannon, R. Hahn, W. Lee, M. Montebello, S. Montebello, F. Sheil, F. Sikora, V. Starling, Y Young		
<b>Seedlings benched</b>	NIL		

# JUDGING RESULTS FOR April 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



*Epidendrum porpax*  
Open Popular Vote.  
Don H.

**Don Hogan Open Popular Vote**



*Dendrochilum macranthum*  
Sandra E.

**Sandra Ellis Intermediate Popular Vote, Orchid Species of the Night and Benching Marshal's Choice**



Novice Popular Vote *Coelogyne unknown*  
Ross W.

**Ross Wraight Novice Popular Vote**



Best Hybrid  
*Oncidium unknown*  
Ross H.

**Ross Hahn Best Hybrid of the Night**



*Paph. moquettianum*  
Wayne S.

Wayne Simmon's  
*Paphiopedilum moquettianum*

**ALSO ON THE BENCHES**

John Harriman's  
*Bulbophyllum concinnum*



*Bulbophyllum concinnum*  
John H.

**ON THE BENCHES IN APRIL**

*Cattleya bowringiana* is an orchid species identified by O'Brien in 1885. It is a lithophyte found growing on rocky cliffs in the Central American countries of Belize and Guatemala. It is a fairly large, autumn flowering species and is unique among the *Cattleya* species for having a bulbous swelling at the base of its pseudobulbs, from which the roots and growing "eyes" emerge. Well grown plants may have clusters of 15-20 flowers on each lead, making excellent specimen plants. This lovely example was benched by President Louise.



*Paphiopedilum chamberlainianum* x *P. praestans* (left pic.) is a primary hybrid and was benched by Wayne Simmons. I found pictures of the two parent species on the web and it is interesting to see which of the traits from each of the parents dominate in the primary hybrid. The spots on the petals and the lovely mauve labellum are from *P. chamberlainianum* (middle pic.) and the stripes on the dorsal sepal are most definitely from *P. praestans* (right pic.).

**Benching Class Numbers**

Class		Class		Class	
1	JUNIOR		INTERMEDIATE		OPEN
	NOVICE	8	Paphiopedilum	17	Paphiopedilum Species/Hybrid
2	Cymbidium	9	Dendrobium	18	Oncidiinae Alliance
3	Oncidiinae Alliance	10	Australian native species/hybrid	19	Dendrobium Species/Hybrid
4	Laeliinae Alliance	11	Species orchid	20	Laeliinae Alliance
5	Australian native hybrid/species	12	Oncidiinae Alliance	21	Vandaceous
6	Species orchid	13	Laeliinae Alliance	22	Species
7	Miscellaneous orchid	14	Cymbidium	23	Australian native hybrid
		15	Miscellaneous orchid	24	Australian native species
				25	Cymbidium
				26	Miscellaneous orchid
Note: Seedlings benched in Class.		29	Growing Competition		

## Some information about Sphagnum Moss

*This information is provided by Clive and Agi Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids. At the time of writing, Summer of 98/99, Clive sourced his sphagnum from Austmoss on Tasmania. This company is no longer supplying moss but you can currently purchase NZ sphagnum or sphagnum from Chile. Both are very good.*

There are some very important requirements for successful culture in moss.

First, prepare moss to be **just** moist; you should not be able to squeeze out water.

Second, pot firmly. Pack moss between roots and aim to press from side to centre of pot, not down. Work around placing small wads of moss and firming in place. Work around and pack moss wherever you feel a soft spot to equally firm. Tuck in all loose ends. Do not overpot. Choose a pot just big enough for one year's growth.

Third, be careful with water. In the initial post-potting period of 6-8 weeks keep the plant in the **just** moist condition. Spray leaves daily, unless very cold, allowing some to run off onto the pot. As the roots develop and growth picks up you will be able to water more freely.

Fourth, do not overfeed. Use no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  strength of your favourite **liquid** fertiliser. Do **not** use a slow release pellet type fertiliser. High Nitrogen is NOT necessary.

Moss used in this way will last two years in the pot but we recommend small plants be potted annually for best results.

*Clive and Agi's website, [mtbeenakorhids.com.au](http://mtbeenakorhids.com.au), has some excellent videos and culture notes for cool growing orchids - masdevallias, oncidiums, miltoniopsis, odontoglossums, etc. They also have a mail order service for their orchid sales.*

NOTES: Clive's article was written 20+ years ago. Brian has been using sphagnum for many years and he offers the following additional advice:

- When teasing out the dried sphagnum from its compressed bale prior to damping down, be aware that it may have sharp prickles in it as these are sometimes harvested with the sphagnum.
- To make removing the old sphagnum easier at repotting time, chop the strands of sphagnum into short lengths as it is very difficult to untangle and remove long strands without damaging the roots. To chop, Brian puts a handful of sphagnum in an ice cream container and roughly chops it with a strong pair of scissors.
- He also adds a coarse grade of perlite to the sphagnum to open it up a bit and provide air spaces. It also makes the sphagnum, which is quite expensive, go further. The perlite is added to the chopped, damp sphagnum.
- If using the perlite in the mix, make sure the top layer is just sphagnum as the sharp edges of the perlite can damage the sensitive tips of the new roots as they try to enter the growing media.
- If you use a lot of sphagnum, Bishops currently has 3kg bales in stock. This works out to be more economical than buying multiple 500g packs. It lasts indefinitely in its dehydrated state. Brian advises to only hydrate as much as you need for a potting session.



# 2023 Shoalhaven Orchid Society

## What's On at a Glance

### Society Meetings 2023

15th May - Ron Boyd - Paphiopedilums  
**Saturday Day Meetings 10am – 1pm**  
17th June – Gary Hodder  
15th July – Jane Wright on Orchids and Other Adventures in Ecuador  
19th August- Members Plant Auction  
18th Sept – Deflasking Demonstration  
16th October - David Brooks on Sarcocilus  
20th November- Jan Robinson  
18th December – Christmas Party

### Society Shows 2023

SOS Inc. Winter Show Saturday 8th July  
SOS Inc. Spring Show Saturday 2nd September  
SOS Inc. October Show Saturday 21st October

### Society Coming Events

**Bus Trip** – August- St Ives Orchid Fair  
(Depending on numbers)  
**Train Trip** - Committee is investigating a possible train trip to Sydney to the Botanic Gardens for a tour of the Glass House and orchid collection.  
**Native Orchid Walk**- TBA  
**Potting Day**– April date TBA  
**South-West Regional Show - Cobargo**  
30<sup>th</sup> September - 1<sup>st</sup> October

### Other Society Shows

#### MUOS

Winter Show 1<sup>st</sup> - 2nd July  
Spring Show 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September

#### BBOFS

Winter Show 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Spring Show 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
Native Show 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October

#### IDOS

Winter Show 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
Spring Show 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September

### 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.

### Growing Competition 2023

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.

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

**June.** *Catt.* (Rlc.) Brunswick Gem 'Coral' x *Catt.* Dal's Choice 'Rudak'

**July.** *Laelia anceps* 'Wallbrunn' x *L. anceps* 'Rosminah'

**August.** *Catt.* (Rlc.) Brunswick Gem 'Coral' x *Catt.* Dal's Choice 'Rudak'

**September.** *Laelia anceps* 'Wallbrunn' x *L. anceps* 'Rosminah'

**October.** *Catt.* (Rlc.) Brunswick Gem 'Coral' x *Catt.* Dal's Choice 'Rudak'

**November.** *Laelia anceps* 'Wallbrunn' x *L. anceps* 'Rosminah' **"Last Benching"**

**December.** *Catt.* (Rlc.) Brunswick Gem 'Coral' x *Catt.* Dal's Choice 'Rudak'

### ORCHID EVENTS

**Orchids Out West** - 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> May (New venue)

**Mingara Orchid Fair and Show** 24-25 June

**St Ives Orchid Fair** - 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August

**Paphiopedilum and Cymbidium Show, Yagoona**  
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August

**Orchids Central, Bankstown** - New venue - 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October

**Australian Native Orchid Show Revesby**—TBA



**Reminder** – Please make sure you sign in on arrival as this is an insurance requirement of the society.