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SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY



Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'

JULY 2020

AFFILIATED WITH

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

www.shoalhavenorchidsociety.org.au

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc

Room Rocks bush walk Alan writes about is well worth doing if the weather is fine. It is about 4½km return. Take Woodhill Mountain Road (just north of Berry township) and follow it to the end. There are only 1-2 car parking spaces at the end but some more about 100m further back. Some parts are a bit steep but the path is well marked and the view from the top is phenomenal! Not suitable for young children or pets. Watch out for leeches after rain! Search the internet for Berry Drawing Room Rocks for more information or a map.

NEXT MEETING Monday 20 July. 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 starts 7.30pm.

JULY GROWING COMPETITION To make up for lost benching times, please bring **ALL** of your growing comp. plants this month:

Cym. Arachnid **and** *Den.* Purple Paddle Pop x *Den.* Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks' **and** *Cym.* Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' **and** *Cym.* Joan Bryant 'Keen' **and** *Cym.* Khanebono 'Jacinta' x Start Angel x Charisma) **and** Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x S. Sweetheart 'Speckles'.

GUEST SPEAKER Our scheduled speakers, Peter and Jane D'Olier, will now be coming in November. Tonight **Brian Phelan** will give a talk on **using sphagnum moss as a potting medium**. This is a topic that was suggested by members at an earlier meeting.

WE ARE BACK!!!

on **MONDAY 20 JULY**

at our

NEW VENUE:

**Bomaderry Community Centre
17-19 Birriley Street,
Bomaderry.**

NOTE: This is not a day meeting.

**Please read meeting conditions on Page 6
VERY carefully.**

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Please Bring Your Own Mug

I hope you enjoy the articles by John Harriman and Alan Stephenson in this issue. The Drawing

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

Finally, after months of isolation we can now all come together for our long-awaited meeting at our new venue, Bomaderry Community Centre (BCC) on the 20th July between 6.30pm and 9.30pm. It will be just so good to enjoy each other's company and to see the results of our orchid grooming over the past few months. There are still social distancing rules and other regulations which are mentioned in this Newsletter.

Unfortunately there will be no Day Meetings this year as the BCC already has a long standing day-time booking on our meeting day.

Our Winter Show has been cancelled – another victim of the virus. We are waiting to hear from the Bomaderry Bowling Club (BBC) as to whether our Spring Show will be going ahead.

Thank you members who have sent their lovely orchid photos to our Editor, Lynne, for inclusion in the Newsletter. It is also great to see members contributing to our Facebook page as well.

Our Committee Members have done a wonderful job over the past months under difficult circumstances. A number of us are unfamiliar with keeping in touch with 'Zoom' so we have had to email the agenda and wait for replies and then our Secretary, Françoise, pieces it all together. We are all extremely happy that the next Committee Meeting will be held face-to-face.

In the meantime please read our informative Newsletter with its stories, photos and up-to-date information.

Kind regards,
Louise



This is Lynne Phelan's *Mediocalcar decoratum*. The flowers look edible!

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

Books To Borrow!

Come & see!!

Robin Gunter

Attendance Book

Members and guests to sign the attendance book. This is required for insurance purposes and for Covid 19 contact tracking if required.

Workshop Novices' Corner

Between 7pm and 7.15pm newer growers can speak to experienced grower. **July topic: Orchid Troubleshooting** Tonight newer growers are invited to speak to an experienced grower who will try to help you with any problems or questions you might have regarding growing your orchids. (Please bring your plant 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.

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. Treasurer Diane has the new cards.



POCKETS ON PLANTS

The title is how some might describe the covering of certain flowers with a close mesh fabric, designed to protect a pollinated flower from predation by an insect, bird or other animal.

During a walk in late 2018 I discovered a significant number of plants with this covering and immediately recognised why it was there and who was responsible because 35 years previously I first encountered such an undertaking although it was not an orchid. A workmate asked me to accompany him on a walk from Barren Grounds Nature Reserve to a rock formation overlooking the town of Berry, which is 20km from Nowra. As I was always willing to venture somewhere I have not previously been I readily agreed. This reserve is primarily for bird watching but both he and I felt there should be some orchids on the site.

As I wasn't yet a member of any orchid society my ability to detect terrestrial orchids was very limited and at that time my interest was just to go for a good walk. Not long after we began our walk, we noted the occasional plant of *Blandfordia* (Christmas Bells) and several of the flowers were wrapped with a mesh pocket and this, at the time, was puzzling. At the same time, we also noted motorbike tracks and wondered about their origin.

The walk took several hours and eventually we encountered the people responsible for the motorbike tracks. We thought that as this was a nature reserve such activities would not be permitted but after speaking with the riders, we learned consent had been provided. The riders had placed the protective covers over all the *Blandfordia* flowers we had seen and told us this was necessary as the seed capsules produced by them were to be used for a commercial operation.

At the end of our walk we stopped at a rock formation known as Drawing Room and as expected this was a weather constructed rock table with several weather constructed surrounding chairs. I had been to this site once before with two other work associates and they convinced me to sit in an overhanging rock and dangle my feet over a 70m cliff. The rock was sculpted in the shape of a tractor seat and as rain had fallen the night before, the chair contained some water which provided a predictable result when I sat down. I know a photo was taken of this occasion. I did see it once and it reminded me of how gullible I was at the time but I did enjoy that experience, partly due to being in my 30's and not the 75 years I am now, when I would like to think I have more sense. I do recall seeing some orchids which I now realise would be a *Specularantha* species of some type and will visit that site again from the Berry side to try to determine the species and this is assuming suitable rainfall in the weeks prior.

The covered plants on the well supplied orchid site were in good numbers last season as rainfall had been good in the weeks prior. There were about a dozen protected plants and when I saw them, I knew that a scientist who is completing her Entomology PhD at the Australian National University was responsible as I had been able to provide her with locations for this particular species which, because of its unusual pollination mechanism, is a favourite of many entomologists. The site is just 200m off a main road and due to its environmental vulnerability is inaccessible by vehicles and this is a good thing as it also contains a number of *Genoplesium baueri*, including a rare Xanthic (yellow) form. It also contains two colonies of *Cryptostylis hunteriana*, each comprising 10-12 plants and I believe is this only recorded site for this species as it is considered to be found only as an individual or in loose groups, but my photographs indicate otherwise.

This is one of my favourite sites as it also contains what I know to be the largest plant of *Cymbidium suave* I have ever seen and this is a common species in the Shoalhaven. It grows on a branch parallel to the ground at 5m. This plant is 1m wide and 4m long and is a further five minutes' walk from the *Cryptostylis* and due to being so common will almost certainly never have a flower protected as per the vulnerable species *Cryptostylis hunteriana*.

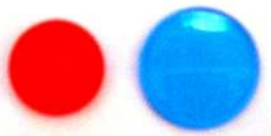


All of the above convinces me I have taken the correct path by getting out there and seeing things rather than either staying at home or filling my days as an aging surfboard rider, although that was once my sole reason for being outdoors, although the habitat differences from the water were less varied than anything I see during outings these days.

Alan W. Stephenson

POPULAR VOTE Tonight we start a new, simpler method for doing the Popular Vote. It will still commence at 7.15 but, instead of pencil and paper, members will be given a bag containing numerous blue and three red counters.

Please apply hand sanitiser before you collect your bag of counters.



Our orchids will be benched as they usually are at every General Meeting. Each orchid benched will have a container/cup in front of it.

Instead of writing down the number of your favourite orchid for each Class, you will now simply put a **blue** counter in the cup in front of that orchid. (One blue counter per class.)

After you have 'judged' all the classes in a section, put one **red** counter in the cup of the orchid you think is best in that section; so one red 'vote' for your favourite Novice, Intermediate and Open orchids.

A Committee member will be on hand to help if you are unsure about what to do.

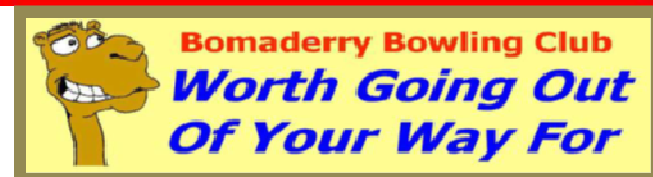


Sandra Ellis's huge *Paphiopedilum insigne*. It even gets its own garden chair.

CORRECTION In last month's newsletter I labelled my bright yellow rupicolous laelia *Laelia gloediana*. It should have been *Laelia gloedeniana*. Thanks for picking that up Don. I appreciate members bringing errors in the newsletter to my attention.

The Society Thanks our Generous Sponsors

We encourage you to support them.



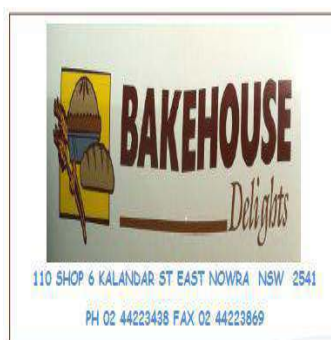


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Members' orchids flowering in June



Lynne Phelan

Laelia anceps is one tough cookie! The **1.** *L. anceps* var. *chamberlainianum* with 7 spikes on the left is growing on a Callistemon tree and the **2.** *L. anceps* var. *vietchiana* on the right is growing on the brick wall on an east facing verandah. (Note the extensive root system.) They both flower every single year. **3.** *Cym. erythrostylum*.



Don Hogan also has **4.** *L. anceps* var. *chamberlainianum* in flower but his is house-trained; **5.** *Onc. sotoanum* (Syn. *ornithorhynchum*) and **6.** *Soph. coccinea*



Cym. erythrostylum



Ken Coates has lots in flower at the moment including some lovely vandaceous types:

7. Vanda Anek x Pakchong 'Blue'

8. Ascocenda Blue Boy 'Reno'

9. V. Fuch's Delight 'Black'

10. Porterara Blue Boy 'Jill'





COUNCIL CONDITIONS FOR USE OF BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please read carefully.

- **ANY ONE ATTENDING YOUR GROUP WHO IS UNWELL SHOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Please do not come to the meeting if you do not feel well.**
- All participants must maintain a distance of 1.5 meters from each other for the duration of the time you are there.
- We are required to have 4 square meters per person in the hall so your group **can not have any more than 50 people in attendance.**
- Any one in the hall for or with your group **must sign in, leaving their name and contact phone number** each time they attend your group. This includes babies and children attending with adults. Group leaders need to ensure that everyone in the hall is accounted for on the sheet.
- Please ensure that participants and others do not congregate in the doorways or entry hall to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- Please ensure that hand sanitizer is available for all group members or participants bring their own and that hand washing is also takes place before and after your meeting.
- Do not engage in any activities that involve physical contact, including hand shaking and hugging or multiple people having contact with equipment e.g. microphones, sound equipment, etc.
- If you serve tea, coffee and snacks at your group we ask that you provide disposable cups, plates, cutlery etc. ******
- At the conclusion of your group please ensure that you clean surfaces that your group has contact with and throw out ALL rubbish.



**** In our endeavours to combat Covid 19 every effort will be made to avoid multiple handing of any item. To this end, Committee has decided that members be asked to bring your own keepcups/mugs to each meeting if possible. Members can still bring a plate of supper food to share.**

June Committee Report

- Winter Show cancelled as venue unavailable. Future of Spring and October Shows to be advised.
- Orchid Society of NSW has a competition on their Facebook page. SOS members are eligible to participate.
- Barrita Orchids to be contacted to send flasks.
- Committee agreed to circulate a list of books given to Alan Stephenson for disposal.
- Winter day meetings unavailable due to pre-existing hall bookings.
- Guest speakers affected by the shutdown will be rescheduled.
- To minimise the risk of transmitting Covid19 members will be encouraged to bring their own mugs and special supper arrangements will be put in place.

Treasurer's Report

Opening balance	\$15,363.10
Income	Nil
Less presented cheque's and fees	\$672.77.
Balance as at 31 May	\$14,690.33.

August Meeting Next month there will be a deflasking demonstration and the little plants will be potted up and distributed to members. This orchid will be added to our growing competition.



Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x S. Sweetheart 'Speckles'

EDITOR WANTED

While we were unable to meet I refrained from putting this notice in the newsletter but now that we are, hopefully, back to regular meetings I would like to invite any member who thinks they may be able to take on the editor's job to talk to me about it. The society's large printer can remain at our house and I will continue to print and dispatch the hard copies of the newsletter if required. Lynne

John Harriman's Orchid Growing Area

I have just completed an extension to my growing areas. Over the last four years I have learnt so much and used the information collected to hopefully make this completed project a success.

The main issues I considered were:

- 1) Maximising light to all areas within the green houses.
- 2) Positioning plants where they could receive rain (for those that like rain).
- 3) Keeping a good level of humidity within the greenhouse .
- 4) Creating good air movement throughout the greenhouse areas.
- 5) Creating a covered area for the protection of flowering plants with plastic over shade cloth.



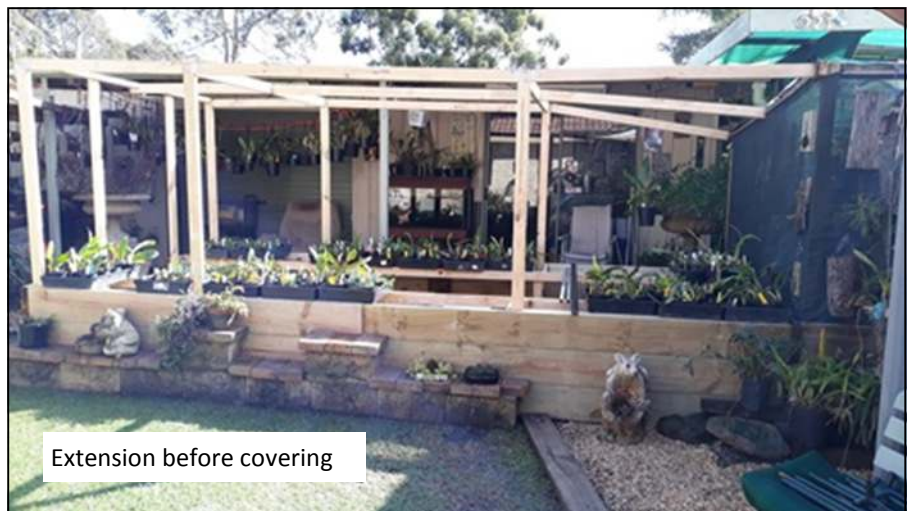
The green house construction is as follows:

Frame - The base area is made up of 200 x 50mm treated pine and the balance is treated pine for external use. The total greenhouse is covered with 70% shade cloth. The

shelving is, as shown in photo, to sit trays of orchids on (making it easy to service plants). Chain is used within all the orchid areas to hang pots up (3 cm chain).

Floor - I have filled it with fine black gravel (70mm thick) and this helps the humidity.

Covering - The last item I had to consider was keeping out the nas-



Extension before covering

ties (dendrobium beetles, etc). I am still refining this.

I consider myself a learner with these addictive plants even though it has been four+ years since I became involved with orchids .

The one thing I would recommend to all, irrespective of how long we have been growing orchids, is to listen to others, read books, and take notice of growers that have been there, made mistakes and learnt what was required to make wonderful healthy plants and flowers.

Being an orchid grower that has mainly bulbophyllums but also many other varieties such as sarcochilus, phragmipediums , miltoniopsis, cymbidiums, cattleyas and oncidiums, I have much to learn, however I hope that the information in this article may assist others in some small way .

John Harriman



Completed extension

2020 Shoalhaven Orchid Society

What's On at a Glance

Committee Meetings 2020

7 July 2.00pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Society Meetings 2020

20 July

17 August

21 September

19 October

16 November

21 December

Society Shows 2020

Spring Show 5-6 September

October Show 24 October

2020 Guest Speakers

July - Brian Phelan

August - Deflasking new growing comp. orchid.

September - Mitch Karnaghan – Australian Natives

October - TBA

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

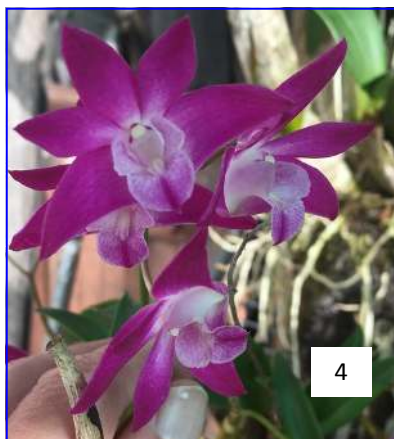
December - TBA



John Clancy has lots of natives in flower:

1. Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'.
2. Den. Long Tahn
3. Den. Robbie Mc Innes 'Lemon Drops'
4. Den. Jonathon's Glory 'Electric Fireworks'

John also sent some photos of Den. speciosum taken on a bushwalk at Tianjara Falls. Nice to see they survived the fires. →



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.

July Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and Cym. Joan Bryant 'Keen' and Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x Start Angel x Charisma) and Cym. Arachnid and Den. Purple Paddle Pop x Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'

August Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and Cym. Joan Bryant 'Keen' and Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x Start Angel x Charisma)

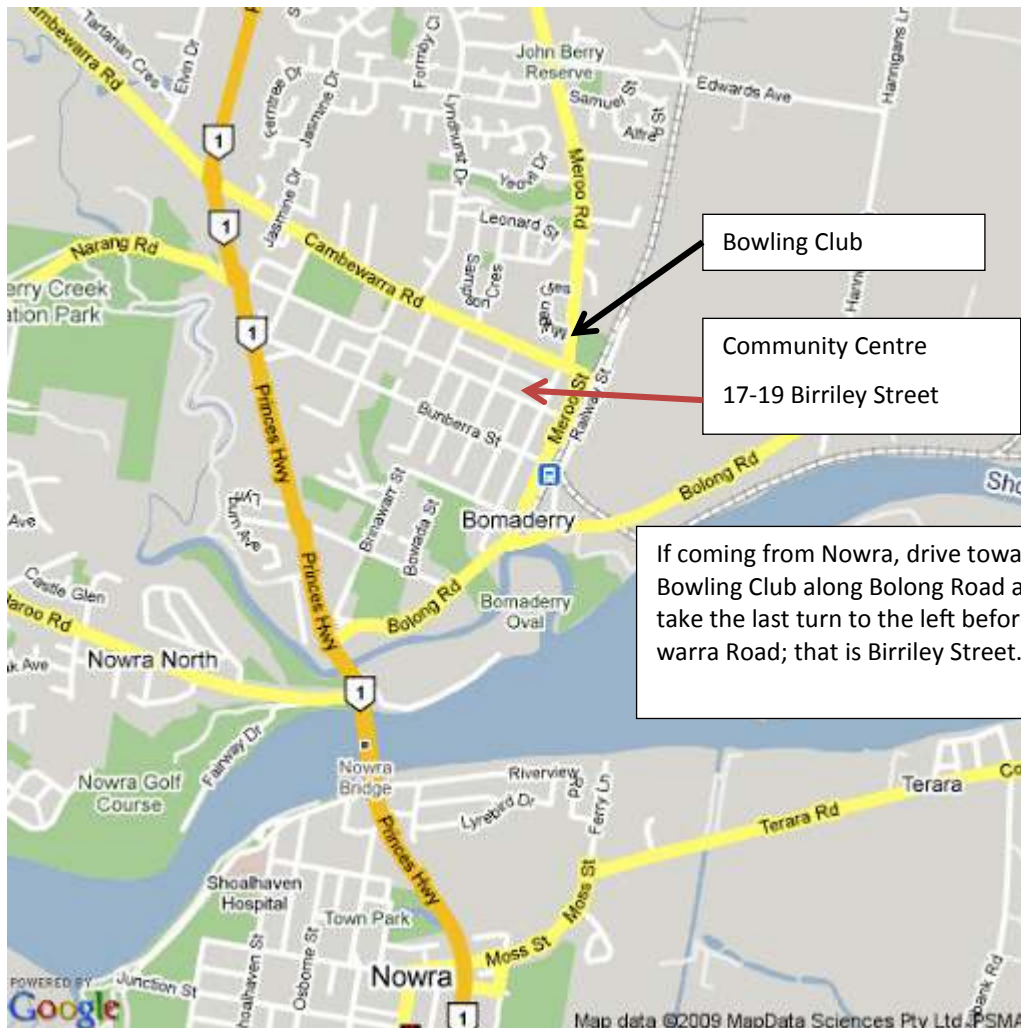
September Cym. Arachnid and Den. Purple Paddle Pop x Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'

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

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

December Den. Purple Paddle Pop x Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks' and Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x S. Sweetheart 'Speckles'. **FIRST BENCHING for this one.**





Getting to our new venue

How apposite is this for us in 2020. Copied form the Berry Gardens Club newsletter. It was 1869, after the Irish famine, when Kathleen O'Meara wrote this poem, which was reprinted during the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1919.

And people stayed home.
And read books,
and listened,
and rested, and exercised,
and made art,
and played,
and learned new ways of being,
and stopped.
And listened deeper
Someone meditated,
someone prayed,
someone danced.
Someone met their shadow.
And people began to think differently.
And people healed.

And, in the absence of people who lived in
ignorant ways,
dangerous,
meaningless,
and heartless,
even the earth began to heal.
And when the danger ended, people found
each other,
grieved for the dead people,
and made new choices,
and dreamed of new visions,
and created new ways to life and
healed the earth completely,
just as they had been healed themselves.

Eds. Fact Check: According to Mr Google this was actually written by a woman from Wisconsin called Kitty O'Meara in March 2020 but the message is still salutary.