

# Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc.



*Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'*

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The Hon. Shelley Hancock

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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

**August 2021**

## Shoalhaven Orchid Society

### SPRING SHOW



Unfortunately, due to extended COVID restrictions our  
**2021 Spring Show**  
has been **CANCELLED**



## SOCIETY INFORMATION

VENUE: BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
17 BIRRILEY STREET, BOMADERRY.

### NEXT MEETING - CANCELLED

~~Saturday 21 August 2021~~ at 10:00am

Meeting room is open at 9:15am for setting up \*

Benching to be **finished** by 10:00am

Novice Corner 10:00am - 10:15am

Popular Vote 10:15am-10:30am

Meeting commences 10:30am

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

## PLEASE NOTE

The August General Meeting to be held on  
Saturday 21st August has been  
**CANCELLED**  
due to ongoing COVID restrictions



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**COVID AGAIN !**  
**More Cancellations!**



Once again the Committee have had to make the difficult decision to cancel both the August general meeting and our Spring Show due to ongoing COVID restrictions. Members' health and safety are the Society's number 1 priority.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Upcoming Events page has been removed from this newsletter as there are none!



## 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.

## COVID REGISTER



As well as signing the Attendance book, please also remember to sign the **COVID Register** and use the hand sanitiser provided when you arrive at the meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE - DURING THE 3 MONTHS OF WINTER** THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY WILL MEET ON THE **THIRD SATURDAY** OF THE MONTH at **10:00AM** 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



How devastating is the latest news on COVID. It seems the short time of having no cases gave us a false sense of thinking that COVID was over. This Delta strain of the disease has certainly attacked with a vengeance.

With this situation continuing to unfold our Committee decided that our August General Meeting and Spring Show would not proceed and have now been cancelled. It is so very unfortunate. Some may say 'that we don't have any COVID in our area', but how often do you hear that someone has flaunted the rules, putting us all at risk. Our members' safety comes first.

Our cancelled August meeting was to be our Charity Orchid Auction for a Women's Shelter/Refuge in Nowra. This very worthy charity event will take place at a later date.

A Roving Day has been planned for Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. (COVID pending) with 3 members opening up their orchid growing areas so that we can see how they grow their orchids. A BBQ lunch will be provided by the Society in a park in Vincentia. Thank you Lynne & Brian, John Harriman and John Clancy.

Our society's history book – Fifty Golden Years by Alan Stephenson, with later updates from Lynne Phelan has been successfully reprinted. Thank you Lynne for printing all 20 copies. Please see note re book purchase in Newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing the photos of your orchids that flowered around the time of our cancelled Winter Show, in this Newsletter.

The weather is slowly warming up, with Spring just around the corner and it makes me think of getting ready for orchid repotting. At my place that means cleaning some of my used pots I have stored. I always try to clean a few different sizes as there is nothing worse than dividing a plant and not having the right size pot for the orchid pieces. The used pots are soaked and scrubbed clean in a tub - I use the laundry tub, which is a good height. Then they go into a 60L plastic garbage bin (that I keep just for this purpose) which has a mixture of water and bleach. Left for a day or so, remove pots and dry in sun and they are ready for use.

Keep safe, 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

## New Growing Competition Plant



The committee has decided to purchase a Cattleya for the new growing competition. This plant will be a larger seedling and will be purchased using some of the monies donated to the society by Kim Harrington and will be grown in honour of Phil Harrington.

If you would like to partake in this growing competition, please let the committee know by **30th August** by sending an email to the society's email address or contact a committee member.

## Roving Day

Our Roving Day is scheduled for **Saturday 25th September** (COVID permitting).



We will be visiting three members' shade houses. First up will be at Brian and Lynne Phelan's place with morning tea served, then onto John Harriman's place and finishing at John Clancy's place with a BBQ lunch in the park across the road. This is all pending the Covid situation at the time. **Further details 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](mailto:john.clancy50@me.com).

# RE-PRINT OF THE 'FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS 1956 – 2006' BOOK

by Alan Stephenson

With updates: 2007 – present by Lynne Phelan

Since our humble beginning 65 years ago, there have been many interesting times, events and many fine members who have given so much along the way to ensure that our society moves forward and flourishes today.

Thank you to our original editor, Alan Stephenson and more recently Lynne Phelan who has updated our history from 2006 to 2021. After requests from members to reprint the book the committee made enquires as to its printing. I am pleased to say to keep the cost down, Lynne has been able to successfully print it on our Society printer using an original copy, with the result being a very good reproduction.

Having to print in colour instead of black and white increased the cost up a bit but the end result of clearer print and pictures etc. made it very worthwhile. Officeworks did the binding, resulting in a nice presentation of the book.

Twenty copies have been printed and will be offered to members at the next General Meeting for the price of \$15.

Thank you so much Lynne for taking on this challenge and giving up your spare time to print this book for the enjoyment of our members.

We are so fortunate to have the history of our Society now in one book and all up-to-date. Let's keep our history going!

Louise Gannon



**Don't forget we have a Facebook page! This is a great way to showcase your orchids between meetings.**

**Let's face it, our beautiful orchids don't always make an appearance at the right time for meetings. Post your orchids on Facebook so we can all admire them.**

**Please note: Our Facebook page will remain private due to much unsolicited advertising being posted on public pages. We will, however, allow non society members to join our page after being vetted by the Administrators. Any unsolicited advertising will be removed and that person will be blocked.**

## Society T-Shirts

Society shirts are available again. We have obtained some samples for sizing that members will be able to view, once we are able to have a meeting again. They will need to be ordered on-line as the Embroidery Shack no longer has a shop front.



## CASH OR CARD?



In recognising that many people these days prefer to use card transactions over cash, the society has invested in a device that will enable us to take payments using a debit card. The Eftpos machine will be trialled at the next meeting as well as the Winter Show.

## AROUND THE SHADEHOUSE with Stuart Crowther

*(Reprint from our newsletter in July 2009)*

Over the last few years in our society we have experienced a rapid increase in the group of orchids known as the Oncidium Alliance and as such we now have three sections in our show schedule. There will be no doubt that in our winter show these sections will again be well up in entries. I have been looking up my records in the hope that I could give members a list of the parentage of these orchids, however it covers 2 pages and this would be better printed out for those who wish to have the information as a reference. However here is a list of twelve of the common types you may see on the show bench.

1. Aliceara. (Alcra.) = Brassia x Miltonia x Oncidium
2. Beallara (Bllra.) = Brassia x Cochlioda x Miltonia x Odontoglossum
3. Brassidium (Brsdm.) = Brassia x Oncidium
4. Burrageara (Burr.) = Cochlioda x Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium
5. Colmanara (Colm.) = Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium
6. Degarmoara (Dgmra) = Brassia x Miltonia x Odontoglossum
7. Howeara (Hwra.) = Leochilus x Oncidium x Rodriguezia
8. Maclellanara (McIna.) = Brassia x Odontoglossum x Oncidium
9. Miltassia (Mtssa) = Brassia x Miltonia
10. Odontocidium (Ocdm.) = Odontoglossum x Oncidium
11. Vuylstekeara (Vuyl.) = Cochlioda x Miltonia x Odontoglossum
12. Wilsonara (Wyls.) = Cochlioda x Odontoglossum x Oncidium

For those wishing to add some of these to your collection here are some cultural notes which can help you along the way.

These orchids are generally classed as intermediate to warm growing and as such are suitable for growing in the Shoalhaven district. Some research into the parentage should give you an indication as to whether they require slightly warmer condition in summer and vice versa. Most of the orchids will require bright light conditions if they are to flower well and by changing the position of the plants in your shadehouse you should be easily able to place the plants in their optimum growing position. Those plants with Brassia in their parentage will appreciate more light.

Potting and Potting Mixes - I have had reasonable success in growing these plants in Coco-chip and also a mix of bark and stone. Many growers use Sphagnum Moss which is sometimes mixed with granulated styrene foam. Whatever mix you use it should satisfy the following requirements:

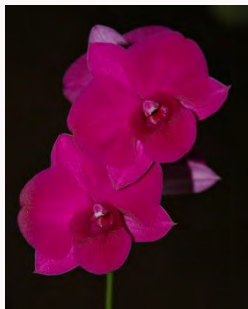
1. Be reasonably cheap and easily obtained.
2. Well drained and has good lasting qualities.
3. Be of suitable size for the plant and the pot used.

These plants like a humid climate with around 50% to 60% for optimum growth and the potting mix should not be allowed to dry out completely between waterings but be kept just moist. Of course, the plants will need more water on hot days and when the air movement around the plant is increased with windy conditions. I fertilize my plants twice a week with 1/4 strength fertilizer using low nitrogen fertilizer for flowering size plants and high nitrogen for small plants. As far as disease control goes, I have found that black spot is the major problem. Possibly the worst plants I have in my collection for this problem are Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance', both the red flowering and yellow flowering types. Repeated spraying with fungicide and good air movement is a must.

If you see a nice plant on the show bench record its name and the owner of the plant. They may have a division which they may sell you or be able to suggest a nursery where it may be purchased. They are very rewarding and reasonably easy plants to grow some crosses may flower two or three time a year but make sure that the spikes are trained up into position as they grow so the flowers will be well presented

If you are an ardent viewer of the ABC Gardening Australia program on Saturday night like I am you will often see some really good gardening tips, one which interested me greatly was mixing your own oil to spray your plants against scale insects. Organic Spray—a mixture of 2 cups vegetable oil and 1/2 a cup of washing up liquid and diluted at a rate of 20mls/litre of water.





### *Did You Know?*

Left: *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* (syn. *Den. bigibbum*) is like the photo

In 1890 Frederick Sander ordered orchid hunter William Micholitz to New Guinea in search of a variety of

*Dendrobium phalaenopsis* (then known as *Den. schroderianum*, now known as *Den. bigibbum*) which was very coveted at the time. After suffering many difficulties, he found himself a guest in a native village and was invited to watch a war dance. After a while, he became bored and while walking about, stumbled across some ritual sacrifices. Feeling horrified and sick, he rushed towards the jungle where perched on the boughs of trees, *Den. phalaenopsis* was rediscovered. Large quantities were removed and readied for shipment to England. While en route, fire broke out on the ship and the precious cargo was lost.

Ordered back to find more plants, Micholitz grudgingly returned to New Guinea and in June of the following year on some rocks in a small village he once again found plants growing on bare limestone between a large number of human skulls and bones. After bribing the reluctant natives with trinkets, he had brought from England for this purpose, every plant in the area was collected. Despite his promise to Sander to not send any bones or skulls with his precious cargo, one plant attached to a skull arrived in England where it created quite a sensation when it was put up for auction.

Ref. Swinson, Arthur, *Frederick Sander: The Orchid King*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1970, pp. 103-106.

**NOTE:** Kew currently accepts *Den. bigibbum* as the correct name.

### Activities that are low risk of contracting Covid19

- Watering your orchids
- Fertilising your orchids
- Repotting your orchids
- Talking to your orchids
- Looking at orchids online
- Buying orchids online
- Weeding your orchids
- Having a coffee with your orchids
- Enjoying the sun with your orchids
- Exercising around your orchids
- Pruning your orchids

**Looks like having orchids is the best prevention**

**Happy gardening** 😊



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
GROW  
ORCHIDS

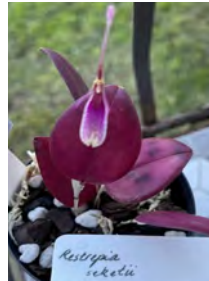


### WISH LIST

**Teresa Bourke** - Cym. Wallamurra Ninja'

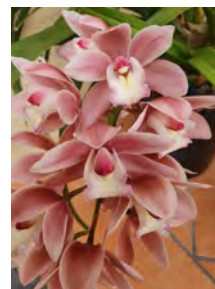
# Virtual Benching

## NOVICE



Teresa Bourke

## INTERMEDIATE

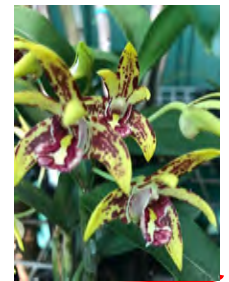
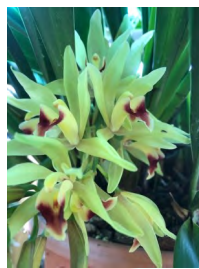


New Century 'Rosie'

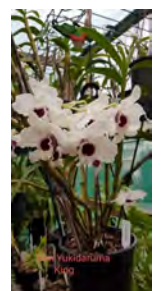
Paradise Surprise

John Clarke

Bede Smythe



Francoise Sikora



Garry Douglass



# Virtual Benching

OPEN



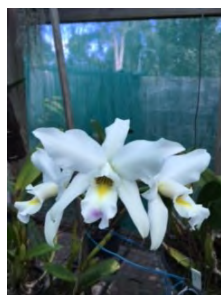
Gary Jonas



Den Avrils Gold 'Bev'



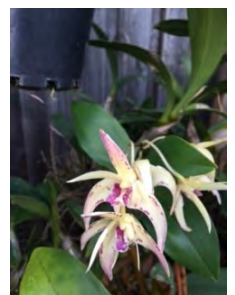
Paph Spicerianum species



Laelia Anceps ssp  
Dawsonii 'Fine White'



Den. tetragonum Conway  
Range x Gig 'Noah's Ark'



Den. ellewong hybrid

John Clancy



# Virtual Benching

OPEN



Cym. Summercloud 'Gowendale'

Don Hogan



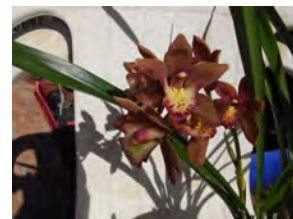
Yvonne Young



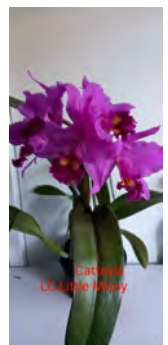
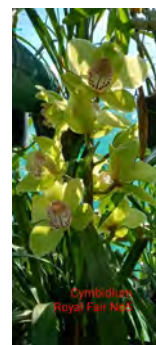
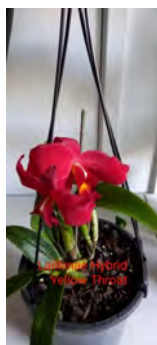
Mary Green 'Rosie' -  
Louise Gannon



Mediocalcar decoratum  
- Lynne Phelan



Lawrie Cowell



Helen Douglass



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# What's on at a Glance

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2021

2nd March 2021	3rd August 2021
6th April 2021	7th September 2021
4th May 2021	5th October 2021
1st June 2021	2nd November 2021
6th July 2021	7th December 2021

## GENERAL MEETINGS 2021

19th June }  
 17th July } Saturday Day Meetings  
 21st August } 10am – 1pm  
 20th September  
 18th October  
 15th November  
 20th December

## SOCIETY SHOWS 2021

SOS Inc. ~~Winter Show~~ - Cancelled  
 SOS Inc. ~~Spring Show~~ - Cancelled  
 SOS Inc. **October Show** Saturday 23rd October

## COMING EVENTS

Roving Day - Saturday 25 September 2021  
 August - ~~Charity Orchid Auction~~ - Postponed

## 2021 GUEST SPEAKERS

July Cancelled - David Brooks - Postponed  
 September - Mitch Kernaghan - Australian Natives  
 October - Gavin Curtis - Callista dendrobiums  
 November - Gary Hart - Paphiopedilums



## WISH LIST

Looking for a special plant??

Email Teresa (email address front page) with ....  
 Your Name, Phone number & plant name  
 and I will add it to our newsletter.

## 2021 GROWING COMPETITION

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. Let's give Lawrie a bit of competition this year!

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

**August** - Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x Sarc. Sweetheart 'Speckles'

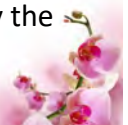
**September** - *To Be Advised*

**October** - Laelia anceps 'Wallbrunn' x L. anceps 'Rosminah'

**November** - Sarc. Elegance 'Super' x Sarc. Sweetheart 'Speckles'

**December** - TBA

\*Note: 'Rosminah' is the spelling used by the hybridiser, Cal Orchids.



## PARKING AT BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE



A reminder to members that the two parking spaces nearest to the rear door of the Community Centre are reserved for our less mobile members.



## Books! Books! Books!

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

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

## SALES TABLE

A reminder to

members that **all** sales must go through the sales table. The society's commission on sales is a small but important part of our revenue raising and a way our members can help

