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SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY

*Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'***DECEMBER 2019****PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Our Guest Speaker for November, Gary Hodder, seemed to be a big hit with our members with his talk on South East Asian

Dendrobiums. Gary emailed me the next day with information regarding his talk and also to say thank you for his gift. This information can be found in this Newsletter.

Have you ever had an orchid that has never flowered for you? Well I have one, and finally my patience has been rewarded! I have in flower at the moment a *Laelia lobata* species orchid which I bought over 10 years ago. I have moved it around in my shade house year after year with no luck, repotted it a number of times – now have 3 pots (dare I say – of the darn thing). Well to my surprise, it has now flowered with 2 spikes of mauve flowers. It is pot bound and hanging high which must be to its liking. It's a matter of persevering and thinking that – 'all plants want and need to flower'.

It is a great time of the year with most of my repotting done and what isn't, will be left to around March or September next year. I enjoy looking at the repotted orchids in their new pots and compost, sending out new roots into the mix and the fresh new growths coming away. These new growths will hopefully produce next year's flowers.

Still lots happening with our Bunnings BBQ, Christmas Get-Together and Presentation and our December General Meeting. It certainly is a busy time of year. Don't forget there is no January General Meeting and the February General Meeting will be our AGM.

George and Mike will be at the meeting with their orchid products. Please contact them by email or phone beforehand if you would like to place an order. I wish all our Committee, members and their families, all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Warm regards,

Louise

AFFILIATED WITH

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

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**SOCIETY NEWS**

**VENUE: BOMADERRY BOWLING CLUB,
154 MEROO ROAD, BOMADERRY.**

**The Editor notes...**

Last newsletter for 2019 and I'd like to wish all members a very happy and safe festive season. I hope that summer is

kind to you and your orchids. **Lynne**

NEXT MEETING Monday 16 December. 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 opens 7.30pm.

GROWING COMPETITION *Can you find your*

Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'.

GUEST SPEAKER Bromeliads and ferns are very good companion plants for orchids and tonight **Phil Harrington** will show us how to mount one of these. Phil grows and benches some excellent specimens in the Ferns and Foliage section at our shows and is obviously a very good grower. I'm sure he will be happy to answer and questions you may have.

THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY MEETS ON THE **THIRD MONDAY** OF THE MONTH- at **7.00 PM** IN THE BOMADERRY BOWLING CLUB, 154 MEROO ROAD, 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.



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...

Attendance Book

Members and guests to sign the attendance book.
Required for insurance purposes

Special reminder Re: Newsletter Distribution... If you know someone who *hasn't received* the monthly SOS Newsletter, please contact Lynne or Suzanne a.s.a.p to have it rectified.

Novices Corner Workshop

Between 7pm and 7.15pm newer growers can speak to experienced grower. This month **Question Time with Brian Phelan**. This is your chance to ask about all things orchidaceous. If you have a problem orchid you need advice on try to bring a photo of the problem or bring the plant itself. (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*'!



VALE Frank Bowyer

The Society regrets to advise members that our friend and member, Frank Bowyer, has passed away. Our sincere sympathies to Frank's family and friends.

Frank joined the Shoalhaven Orchid Society in 1994 and was an active member of this and several other orchid clubs. He was a very successful grower and his love of cymbidiums led to many championship prizes over the years. Frank was also very keen and successful with his large exhibition paphiopedilums as well as many other genera.

Frank contributed to the society's activities at meetings and shows and was a very willing mentor to newer growers in Novices' Corner. At repotting time he frequently bought in a bundle of spare backbulbs, carefully labelled, to give to novices along with his helpful cultural advice. He will be sadly missed.

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

Annual Fees A reminder that fees are due for 2020. These must be paid prior to the AGM in February to be eligible to vote. Fees are: Family \$30, Single \$20, Partner of Life Member \$10. This can be paid at a general meeting or send a cheque to the society (address on front page) or do a direct deposit to **Shoalhaven Orchid Society, BSB 062 585, Acc. No. 10263191** *putting your name so we know who it is from.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: The bank account number published in last month's newsletter was incorrect so if you used that number to make a deposit to the society please contact the Treasurer a.s.a.p.

Fun Fact When the Shoalhaven Orchid Society was formed in 1956 the annual subscription was fixed at £1-11-6 for husband and wife; £1-1-0 for husbands without wives and vice versa; with children under 15 at 2/- (2 shillings - our 20¢ - for those not familiar with the 'old money'). According to one calculator I used, in 2018 this equated to \$50.86 for Family membership; \$33.90 for Single and \$3.23 for a child under 15. Considering the average wage in 1956 was £15-4-0 (in 2018 value about \$491) that was quite a hefty commitment for their new hobby. Considering wages today, I think our membership fees are an absolute bargain!



Some of Gary Hodder's beautiful dendrobiums.

Benching Results for November 2019

Category	Plant	Owner
JUNIOR		
NOVICE		
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Black Sheep 'Come in Spinner'</i>	John Clarke
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Zelglossa</i>	Garry Douglass
Miscellaneous	<i>Den. Yodogimi Tancho 'Princess'</i>	Garry Douglass
Novice Orchid of the Night	<i>Cym. Black Sheep 'Come in Spinner'</i>	John Clarke
INTERMEDIATE		
Dendrobium	<i>Den. Chorus Girl 'Painted Lady'</i>	Helen Douglass
Aust. Native Species/ Hybrid	<i>Sarco. Zoe 'Crimson' x S. Orange 'Flame'</i>	Helen Douglass
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wils. Pacific Pancake 'Fire Side Fever'</i>	Helen Douglass
Species	<i>Laelia anceps. var. Dawsonii</i>	Helen Douglass
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Odcdm. Sunlight 'Hilo Honey'</i>	Helen Douglass
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	<i>Odcdm. Sunlight 'Hilo Honey'</i>	Helen Douglass
OPEN		
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Wilsonara Pharlap</i>	Brian Phelan
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Sc. Sincomedia x Catt. Walkerinter</i>	Lynne Phelan
Dendrobium	<i>Den. thrysiflorum</i>	Louise Gannon
Vandaceous	<i>Sartylis Blue Knob</i>	Colin Marstin
Species	<i>Den. densiflorum</i>	Phil Harrington
Australian native species	<i>Cym. suave 'Musical Bay'</i>	John Clancy
Open Orchid of the Night*	<i>Den. densiflorum</i>	Phil Harrington
Orchid Species of the Night*	<i>Den. thrysiflorum</i>	Louise Gannon
Orchid Hybrid of the Night	<i>Wils. Pharlap</i>	Brian Phelan
Growing Competition <i>Cym. Arachnid</i>	1st John Clarke	2nd Milli Rupa
* Selected by Alan Stephenson		Number of plants benched - 37

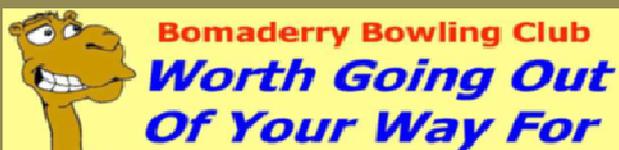
WHAT'S YOUR ORCHID TYPE? Are you a Vanda, Phalaenopsis, Miltonia or something else? With more than 25,000 types of orchids coming in all shapes, sizes, and colours, there's an orchid for every personality. But for a novice customer, it could be a little overwhelming. Luckily there's an app to help, following celebrations for International Day of the Orchid, [Flower Council Holland](http://www.flowercouncilholland.nl) has launched its '[Orchitypes' personality test](https://www.theflorist.co.uk/the-florist-magazine-news/1928-personality-quiz-which-orchid-are-you) that promises to show exactly which orchid is right for you. You can find the test at: <https://www.theflorist.co.uk/the-florist-magazine-news/1928-personality-quiz-which-orchid-are-you>

I took the test but found it fairly difficult because mostly I want to tick 'none of the above' but it wasn't an option. Nevertheless, I quite like the orchid I ended up with; a white dendrobium. Just so happens, I own an alba *Den. bigibbum* and love it. **Lynne**



The Society
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TWO OCTOBER SHOW CHAMPIONS



A very proud Marie Martin displays her Champion Novice Orchid of the Show sash. Congratulations, Marie. Well done.



Helen Douglass is no stranger to the Champions league and was again Intermediate Champion Orchid winner. Another well-deserved win. Congratulations Helen.

You have to be in it to win it!

Seeing these happy winners is a timely reminder to all our novice and newer growers to take every opportunity to bring in your flowering orchids to meetings and shows. You are not expected to have an award-winning orchid (though it can and does happen!) but every time you bench an orchid and invite feedback you can learn from more experienced growers and gain confidence. If it is in flower, bring it in and share it with us.

JUDGING RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019



Best Hybrid
Miltoniopsis Rubenesque
Brian Phelan



Best Species
Den. thrysiflorum
Louise Gannon



Novice Popular Vote
Cym. Black Stump 'Come in Spinner'
Garry Douglass



Intermediate Popular Vote
Odcdm. Sunlight 'Hilo Honey'
Helen Douglass



Open Popular Vote
Den. densiflorum
Phil Harrington

It is obvious that these weren't taken by Alan. © Snaps taken by Lynne.

Back to Basics

You do not need a glasshouse to start to grow orchids.

(Article sourced by Di Slye from an Australian Orchid Council publication. Thanks, Di.)

Generally speaking you do not need an expensive glasshouse to start growing orchids if you select plants that will grow happily in the local environment. That is another good reason to speak with local growers and enthusiasts - they will always be keen to share their knowledge and plants with new growers. They may keep secret details of their own special potting mix or fertiliser program, but they are sure to give you plenty of basic information to get started. As you become more interested you can talk with other beginners and more experienced growers to increase your knowledge.

In most regions of Australia, there are orchids that will grow and flower in the shade of trees that you may already have in your garden. In particular, cymbidiums and Australian native orchids will tolerate such conditions in the temperate regions (NSW, Vic, SA, WA). Cymbidiums produce good results when grown in the shade of deciduous trees - they only require about 50% shade for the whole day during summer. In the more tropical regions of Australia, cattleyas, dendrobiums, vandas and phalaenopsis will grow under similar shadehouse conditions and produce abundant flowers. Greater success however will be achieved if you provide the plants with protection afforded by shade cloth covering a shadehouse. Remember when constructing your shadehouse not to position it in the shade of overhanging trees. This will affect the percentage of light transmitted through the cloth - the trees will reduce the total amount of available light.

As you progress into the hobby, and acquire some exotic orchid plants, you may choose to erect a glasshouse, but one is certainly not mandatory to start with.

John Clancy's *Cymbidium suave*



GROWING COMPETITIONS 2020

We currently have 4 orchids in the growing competition:

- Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'
- Cym. Joan Bryant 'Keen'
- Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x (Star Angel x Spring Charisma) 'Kristy'
- Cym. Arachnid

Some of these were due to be 'retired' over the next few of months but most of them have only been benched a couple of times so they will continue to be benched for another year. In 2020 we will add a new one. This is a seedling, *Den.* Purple Paddle Pop x *Den.* Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'. It should be a good, quick grower and, because they are seedlings, we should see a big variety in the flowers they produce.

We are keen to see more members participate in the monthly benching of growing competition plants so a couple of hints to help:



- Keep your GC plants grouped together in your growing area to make it easier to find them and add them to your flowering plants to bring to each monthly meeting.
- Put a different coloured tag in your GC plants.
- Keep a list

(laminated or in a plastic sleeve) in your growing area for quick reference as you collect your flowering orchids for a meeting. This can be cut out of the February newsletter which will have a calendar for benching throughout the year.

All members will bench their growing competition plant in the same area. Points will be awarded as before: 5 points for first and 3 points for second.

SUPPER UPDATE

The Bomaderry Bowling Club has agreed that, for the time being, we can continue to provide our own supper eats so let's make our December supper a festive celebration.



NOVEMBER 2019 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Members and guests to the meeting were welcomed by President Louise Gannon. A special welcome was extended to Guest Speaker, Gary Hodder, from Sutherland Shire Orchid Society, who spoke about the South East Asian Dendrobiums. Ron Findlater was thanked for taking the Novice Group tonight. We also welcomed back Garry Ware, who was an apology for the meeting.

We have two visitors, apologies from Ken Coates, Garry Ware, Françoise Sikora, Yvonne Young, Don Hogan and Rebecca Exley, and there were 24 members in attendance.

Moved Lynne Phelan, seconded Ron Findlater, that the October General Meeting Minutes printed in the November Newsletter were correct.

CORRESPONDENCE: Moved by Suzanne Knight, seconded Diane Slye that the correspondence report be accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Moved by Tom Galblonski, seconded Phil Harrington that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Long-time member, Frank Bowyer passed away on 28 October after a battle with cancer. Frank was a member of our Society for 25 years and was a keen grower of cymbidium and paphiopedilum orchids. Frank was always a willingly helper at meetings, and shows, especially on the Sales Table. Frank was 90 years old. A Funeral Service was held at the Shoalhaven Memorial Gardens Chapel on Tuesday 5 November. A Sympathy Card has been sent on behalf of members to his wife Pat and family. Members all stood for a minute silence, in memory of Frank.

Tonight's meeting at the Golf Club was necessary due to a large function being held at our regular location at Bomaderry Bowling Club. Our society paid for the 'cream biscuits' that the Golf Club provided. Discussions continue with the Bowling Club about bringing our own supper into our meetings.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Last chance to pay for attending our Christmas Party and Presentation Night on Friday 6 December at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. The cost is \$35 per person and members can bring guests for the same price. The venue is at the University of Wollongong's Shoalhaven Campus. You will enjoy a 2 course formal dinner - with a choice of roast beef or roast chicken with accompaniments, plus a choice between two desserts. There is bar service or BYO. There will be a presentation to the winners of this year's monthly benching competition, and we will also be announcing which members will be elevated for next year, and a few other surprises.

Our **October Show** was a great success. Thanks were extended to all the hardworking members who worked solidly throughout the Show.

Thank you everyone for exhibiting your orchids. Congratulations to all the winners. The President presented ribbons to the following members:

- Champion Eugenanthe – Yvonne Young (who was not present)
- Champion Sarcanthinae – Ron Findlater
- Champion Novice Orchid – Marie Martin
- Champion Intermediate – Helen Douglass
- Champion Hybrid Other than Sarcanthinae/Eugenanthe – Brian and Lynne Phelan
- Champion Species orchid other than Sarcanthinae – Brian and Lynne Phelan
- Champion Orchid of the Show – Brian and Lynne Phelan

There is another **Bunnings BBQ** coming up on Sunday 1 December. Sandra and Yvonne have organised the day with volunteers working throughout the day. Teresa Bourke and Louise are slicing the onions up at home 10kgs each. It should be a crying good time we'll be having! Bunnings have asked whether we are interested in having a BBQ in the first Quarter of next year and Yvonne is trying negotiate a time in March.

Last year our Society hired a **storage unit** at Access Storage at Bomaderry which cost our Society \$1,440 for the year. We will not be continuing with this unit and thanks to our Committee members who have been able to store the items at their homes.

We are looking into getting more **Society T-Shirts** made. They are a darkblue t-shirt with yellow writing. Suzanne advised that she had ordered her shirt at a cost of \$30.35. Advice is that they are a small make and members are recommended checking sizes when placing an order. More information will be shared at the December meeting.

Don Hogan and Françoise Sikora are not here tonight. Don has gone to Grafton and is stocking up on raffle plants at Rosella Orchid Nursery. Françoise is in Melbourne and will visit Wayne Turvill's orchid nursery in Tyabb to buy some Australian Native dendrobium seedlings for our growing competition.

Tonight is the last month for benching for this year. The results from the members voting throughout this year will be tallied and the results will form part of the Christmas and Presentation Night. From our December Meeting the voting starts again.

Cont. on Page 8.

2019 Shoalhaven Orchid Society
What's On at a Glance

Committee Meetings 2019

2 December 2.00pm

Society Meetings 2019

16th December

Coming Events

6 December Society Christmas Party and Presentation Night.

2019 Guest Speakers

December - Phil Harrington—companion plants for orchids. Mounting bromeliads.

Growing Competition 2019

December - Cym - Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'.

Some information from Gary Hodder's talk on South East Asian Dendrobiums

Potting media

For larger pots over 150mm:

- 6 parts 18mm treated bark
- 2 parts 12mm bark
- 2 parts 12mm volcanic rock (scoria)
- 2 parts coarse jumbo perlite
- 2 parts coarse charcoal
- 1 part granulated cow manure

For smaller pots:

- 6 parts 12mm treated bark
- 2 parts 12mm volcanic rock (scoria)
- 2 parts coarse perlite
- 2 parts coarse charcoal
- 1 part granulated cow manure

Fertiliser

- Give to plants after their rest period when buds start to appear.
- Sprinkle blood and bone at the start of the growing period (after flowering).
- Fertilise at every watering during the growing period.
- Twice per year dust leaves with 50% blood and bone and 50% dolomite then soak with water.

Monthly preventative mix:

- Eco seaweed at 1gm per litre
- Eco fungicide at 4gm per litre
- Eco oil at 8ml per litre
- Eco neem at 2ml per litre

Watering

- Water in early morning before sun hits the leaves.
- Water daily in summer, and again in late afternoon if over 35 degrees C.
- Saturate the ground to increase humidity.
- Reduce watering during the rest period (in winter).



SOS Plant Wish List

1. Teresa Bourke..

- *Cymbidium* insigne 'Alice' or 'Atlantis' or 'Best Pink'
- *Cymbidium* Joan Bryant 'Keen'(Grow comp.)
- *Lowianum concolor*

2. John Clarke ...

I'm after a piece of *Masdevallia*, I don't care about colour or variety.

N.B. Last posting of these wishes. We will start a new list in 2020 so please make your wishes known to the editor.

Nov. Minutes continued.

Our December meeting will be back at the Bomaderry Bowling Club with the usual benching for the evening. Being our December meeting we can make it a bit festive. We will be having a giant raffle, so if everyone could please bring in a wrapped gift, as a guide only, around the price of say \$10. Orchids, wine and chocolates are always popular. Remember to please check the December Newsletter regarding bringing in supper.

RESULTS OF THE ORCHIDS BENCHED TONIGHT See Page 3.

LUCKY BADGE DRAW was won by Colin Marstin

RAFFLE PRIZES were won by Louise Gannon, Sandra Ellis, Tom Gablonski and Teresa Bourke
The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

2020 NEWSLETTERS

I'm not sure who the newsletter editor will be next year but if you have an item for the February newsletter feel free to send it to me and I will pass it on to the new editor. Copy will need to be submitted before January 27th. Lynne. Email address on Page 1.