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Harrington; Don Hogan;

Suzanne Knight; Brian

Phelan; Lynne Phelan.

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44478280

SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY



Cymbidium Shoalhaven 'Touch of Class'

AUGUST 2020

AFFILIATED WITH

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

www.shoalhavenorchidsociety.org.au

Email: shoalhavenorchidsociety@gmail.com

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Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc

AUGUST MEETING

Deflasking This month there will be a deflasking demonstration and the little plants will be potted up by members. This orchid will be added to our growing competition. The Society will cover members' cost for this plant and pots/media.

Mini Auction As well as the deflasking demonstration/workshop there will be a mini-auction to raise money for Ronald McDonald House; a home-away-from-home for seriously ill children and their families. This special charity fund-raiser was endorsed by Committee to show support for our member and ex-treasurer, Tom Gablonski, who is currently residing in Ronald McDonald House (RMH) at Westmead Children's Hospital along with his daughter's family while Tom's two ill grandchildren receive ongoing treatment. The money raised does not go to Tom but to the organisation to enable it to provide free accommodation with cooking and laundry facilities, as well as access to medical and support staff close to each child's ward. If you would like to donate a plant for the auction it can be an orchid or a fern/foilage plant – something that would be eligible to be benched at a show. Cash donations are welcome if you miss out on the orchid of your choice. Members who are unable to attend may also support the charity by making a direct debit to the Shoalhaven Orchid Society BSB 062585 Acc. No. 10263191. Please put RMH in the description line so we know what it is for and include your name so we know who sent it. Hoping we can all get behind this very worthwhile Charity.

NOTE: *The monthly sales table will operate for pots and supplies but there will be **no** plant sales.*

SOCIETY NEWS

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



The acting editor asks ...

Could this be you?

We are looking for someone to become the society's new newsletter editor. Please speak to Lynne if you think you may be able to do this for the society.

NEXT MEETING **Monday 17 August. 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

August *Cym.* Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and
Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x (Star Angel x Charisma)

NEW MEMBER A very warm welcome to Pauline de Launey. We hope that you will enjoy being part of our orchid growing community.

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

It was so nice to see members enjoying being back together again at our July meeting after months of isolation. Members were already very aware of the Corona Virus restrictions and kept the necessary distance from each other. Thank you Di, our designated Covid-19 Officer, for overseeing the necessary precautions. Also, Suzanne and Teresa for your assistance at supper time. The Corona Virus has certainly put a damper on our way of life and now unfortunately I have to inform you that our Spring Show has been cancelled due to visitor/member numbers at the BBC.

There was a great response from members regarding our new hall. I think it will work well for our Society. At the moment there is a maximum of 50 members attending per meeting.

At the last meeting I was delighted to see Lawrie Cowell's Growing Competition plant *Cym*. Joan Bryant 'Keen' presented flowering. It is something we don't see very often! Well done Lawrie.

Our August Meeting will be a busy one with the deflasking of the two *Sarcochilus* flasks and also our Charity Mini-Auction in aid of Ronald McDonald House. Please support this very worthy charity. (Please read more about this auction in this Newsletter).

I was very sorry to hear of the passing of member Michelle Hahn. Michelle was a hard worker despite quite often being unwell and was always friendly to everyone. Our sincere condolences to her husband, Ross.

Louise



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

These are the 'parents' of the new growing comp. plant to be issued tonight.

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

Please Note

The Library will be not be operating until the danger of Covid 19 transmission has passed. If you wish to return a book/magazine you may bring it to the meeting.

Attendance Book

Members and guests to sign the attendance book AND the BCC sign in sheet. This is required for insurance purposes.

Workshop Novices Corner

Between 7pm and 7.15pm newer growers can speak to experienced grower.

August topic is: Q&A John Clancy will be available to help members with orchid culture questions.

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. Treasurer Tom has the new cards.

Benching Results for July 2020

Category	Plant	Owner
JUNIOR		
NOVICE		
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Paradisian Ruby 'Pinky'</i>	B Smythe
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Ctt. Siamese Doll 'Kiwi Fruit'</i>	F. Sikora
Aust. Native Spec/Hybrid	<i>Den. Class Pink Blush x Den. Zip</i>	F. Sikora
Miscellaneous	<i>Epi. Lilac Queen</i>	D. Slye
Novice Orchid of the Night	<i>Cym. Paradisian Ruby 'Pinky'</i>	B Smythe
INTERMEDIATE		
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. New Addition x P. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable'</i>	J. Harriman
Aust. Native Spec/Hybrid	<i>Dock. Ida Mary x Dock. Lemon Pepper</i>	S. Ellis
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Onc. Twinkle</i>	J. Clarke
Species	<i>Dinema (Syn. Encyclia) polybulbon</i>	S. Ellis
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Alexandras Flame x Cym. Pink Impression</i>	????
Intermediate Orchid of the Night	<i>Paph. New Addition x P. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable'</i>	John Harriman
OPEN		
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Via Model Susan X Veritalaria Susan X Amanda Hill</i>	D. Hogan
Oncidiinae Alliance	<i>Milt. Klienbach 'Crowhurst'</i>	Phil Harrington
Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Slc. Duckett Ruby 'HQ Supreme'</i>	L. Gannon
Vandaceous	<i>Phal. Golden Treasure</i>	R. Korber
Species	<i>Laelia anceps</i>	P. Harrington
Australian native species	<i>D. Ballnarring 2</i>	J. Clancy
Australian native hybrid	<i>Dock. teretifolium</i>	L. Phelan
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Cherry Cola 'Tikitere' l.</i>	L. Gannon
Miscellaneous orchid	<i>Galeopetalum Ariens Armour 'Conching'</i>	D. Hogan
Open Orchid of the Night	<i>Milt. Jersey Anne 'Sweet' x M. Jersey Anne 'Red'</i> <i>Paph. Via Model Susan X Veritalaria Susan X Amanda Hill</i>	B. Phelan D. Hogan
Orchid Species of the Night	<i>Dock. teretifolium</i>	L. Phelan
Orchid Hybrid of the Night	<i>Milt. Klienbach 'Crowhurst'</i>	Phil Harrington
Growing Competition		
<i>Cym. Joan Bryant 'Keen'</i>	1st Lawrie Cowell	
<i>Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'</i>	1st Lawrie Cowell	
<i>Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' x (Star Angel x Charisma)</i>	1st Diane Slye	
<i>Cym. Arachnid</i>	1st Louise Gannon	2nd Françoise Sikora
<i>Den. Purple Paddle Pop x Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'</i>	1st Marie Martin	2nd Yvonne Young
1 point to T. Bourke, J. Clarke, L. Cowell, S. Ellis, L. Gannon, R. Korber, L. Phelan, F. Sikora, B. Smythe.		

If you think I have made an error in the recoding please let me know. Lynne (landb.phelan@gmail.com)

VALE
MICHELLE HAHN

We are saddened by the news of the recent death of Michelle Hahn. Michelle and her husband, Ross, joined the Shoalhaven Orchid Society in September 2012. Together Michelle and Ross were keen members who participated in many society activities, helping out whenever they could. They served on Committee in 2017-18 and their ongoing contribution to the Society was recognised with each being awarded a Meritorious Service Badge in August 2018. The Society extends its sincere condolences to Ross.

Meeting Protocols Reminder

- Please do not come to the meeting if you do not feel well.
- Please maintain a distance of 1.5 meters from each other at all times, keeping to your seat as much as possible.
- **You must sign in, leaving your name and contact phone number** each time you attend.
- Do not congregate in the doorways or entry hall to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- Please use hand sanitizer as you enter, before you do Popular Vote and before supper.
- Do not engage in any activities that involve physical contact, including hand shaking and hugging or multiple people having contact with equipment.
- Feel free to wear a mask if you wish.
- **Please Bring Your Own Mug and a PEN to sign in.**
- A **BIG** thank you to the members who provided supper at the July meeting and to **Suzanne** and **Teresa** who catered so efficiently. Members are again invited to bring some supper.

STOP PRESS

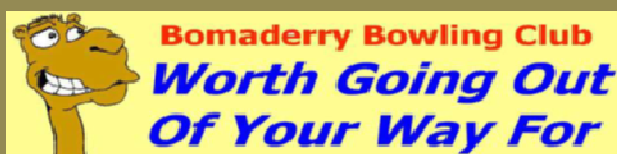
After consultation with management of the Bomaderry Bowling Club Committee has decided it has no option but to **cancel the Spring Show** due to limitations on visitor and member numbers. We hope that the situation will change so that we can have our October Show but it does look doubtful.

The Society Thanks our Generous Sponsors

We encourage you to support them.



The logo for Bunnings Warehouse, with "BUNNINGS" in a large, bold, blue font and "warehouse" in a smaller, white font on a red background below it.



NOWRA ZOO AND ADVENTURE WORLD



The logo for Bishops, featuring the word "BISHOPS" in a large, bold, red font with a green leaf above the 'i', and "EVERYTHING FOR PLANTS & ANIMALS" in a smaller font below it, all within an oval border.

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JUDGING RESULTS FOR JULY 2020



Novice Popular Vote

Cym. Paradisian Ruby 'Pinky' B. Smythe



Species Orchid of the Night

Dock. teretifolia L. Phelan



Intermediate Popular Vote

Paph. New Addition x *P. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable'*
J. Harriman



Hybrid Orchid of the Night

Milt. Klienbach 'Crowhurst'
P. Harrington



Open Popular Vote Equal First

Milt. Jersey Anne 'Sweet' x *M. Jersey Anne 'Red'* B. Phelan



Open Popular Vote Equal First

Paph. Via Model Susan X *Veritalaria Susan* X *Amanda Hill* D. Hogan

SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY 20th July 2020

HELD AT BOMADERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Meeting opened 7.31pm.

President, Louise Gannon gave a lovely welcome back to members and visitors to our New Venue and after a 3 month break due to Covid-19.

Apologies: Tom Gablonski, Bob Turnbull, Robyn Gunter, Gary Ware, Ken Coates, Rebecca Exley and Val Starling

Attendance: 26 Members Visitors: 1

Acceptance of Minutes for the March meeting as printed in the April Newsletter: Moved D. Slye. 2nd L. Phelan that Minutes be accepted

Correspondence: As Read. Moved F. Sikora. 2nd R. Findlater that correspondence be accepted.

Treasurers Report: As Read. Moved D. Slye. 2nd S. Knight that Treasurer's report be accepted.

W.H.S. Report: Sandra reminded all about social distancing and hand hygiene especially around the supper table.

- New members Brian Shelvey and John Harriman were given their welcome pack.
- Louise spoke about our new venue. It has many bonuses, it is a large hall which presently can allow 50 people, it has a handy carpark, its own kitchen and she hopes everyone is pleased with the hall.
- Committee arrived early to set up tables, chairs and supper etc. Louise extended an invitation to any member that would like to assist in the future.
- Louise thanked our still Temporary Editor, Lynne Phelan for the interesting Newsletters over the past few months and all members who contributed photos of flowering orchids also Alan Stephenson for an interesting article and John Harriman's story on his orchid house extension.
- The new Counter System was used for the first time tonight, we hope everyone found it easy to follow. Also hope Sandra found it quicker to count results.
- Lynne Phelan covered the Novice Corner which was a General Question night.
- Our Guest Speaker tonight was Brian Phelan who gave a very informative talk of "Sphagnum Moss as an Orchid Potting Medium". It's a good medium for reviving sick plants, back bulbs, deflasking and plants with no roots but it is not good for large plants like Cymbidiums. Brian also did a demonstration of re-potting a plant in sphagnum. Many members asked questions and everyone found it interesting. Louise thanked Brian and gave him a token of appreciation.
- We broke for Supper, with Louise reminding everyone of the new procedures to be followed. Thank you to Suzanne and Teresa for volunteering for supper duties.

General Business:

1. Louise thanked Diane Slye for being our Covid-19 safety officer and all members for observing the Covid-19 rules during supper break.

2. At the August Meeting we will be deflasking 2 Sarcophilus flasks which will form part of our growing competition. Ron and Phil will be doing the deflasking but each member will pot up their own seedling plant and taking it home at no cost to them. Society to cover all costs and materials.

3. Earlier this year Tom Gablonski stepped back from his role as Treasurer, as he and his wife Colleen, continue their support for their daughter and her young family. They are all staying in family accommodation provided by Ronald McDonald House at Westmead Children's Hospital so that they are nearby Tom's 2 sick grandchildren who are receiving ongoing treatment. Our Committee has decided to support RMcD House with a mini Auction to be held at the August meeting with all proceeds going to RMc House. Louise spoke at length as to why Committee decided to do this and why this charity was chosen, the important role they play and the support they offer. John Clarke bravely spoke to members as to why he supports this after his own personal experience at RMc House. Louise then invited members to bring in an Orchid, Fern or Foliage Plant to be Auctioned for this worthwhile cause.

4. Bomaderry Bowling Club has not decided whether our Spring Show will be able to be held. Louise to follow up with them and members to be informed.

5. Richard Korber and Helen Douglass did a cross of 2 very good speciosums and Richard has offered the Society one flask at a good price. The Society has accepted. Ron Findlater has kindly offered to deflask them and look after them till they are able to be offered as raffle plants or sold on the sales table.

6. Louise announced the passing of our previous member Alan Coulton. A card will be sent to his wife Betty on behalf of the Society.

7. John Harriman will be storing some potting bark from Bob Bishop, anyone interested in purchasing some should contact John directly.

Benching Results: As published in our next Newsletter.

Growing Comp: As published in our next Newsletter.

Thanks everyone with 88 plants benched and 17 Growing Competition Plants benched.

Badge Draw: Winner Bede Smythe

Raffle Winners: D. Hogan, L. Phelan, L. Gannon, H. Douglass, S. Knight, B. Smythe, Y. Young, J. Clancy, B. Shelvey, S. Ellis, P. Harrington.

Thanks to Yvonne who brought in the bags of mandarins and grapefruit as extra raffle prizes.

Thanks to Richard who brought in several Orchid Australia magazines and orchid trays for members to help themselves to.

Louise wished everyone a good night and safe trip home. It was wonderful to be able to have a meeting, bench plants and catch up all whilst Socially Distancing of course, lets hope things don't change.

Meeting Closed 9.18pm. Next Meeting Monday 17th August .

Mericlone is a process for propagating orchids in large numbers, producing a plant identical to the parent. Although this article has some technical terms it does explain the process clearly.

Mericlone 1—The Technique

Julian Croker

Reproduced with permission from the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria website.

In every shoot tip and root tip there is a small area of cells that are not committed to develop into any particular structure. These undifferentiated cells of the meristematic area are the cells that make mericlone possible. The meristematic area is very small, a sphere about one millimetre in diameter. But if this region is dissected from the shoot tip and placed in a suitable nutritive medium, it is capable of producing countless reproductions of the plant from which it has been removed. It's unnecessary to take such a small piece of tissue in the case of cymbidiums. A cube with a side length of 3 – 4 mm will suffice, provided that it contains the meristematic area. If this is placed into a nutritive medium, either liquid or solid (such as Knudson's medium), it will produce protocorm-like bodies that will eventually grow into new plants.

Aseptic procedures must be practiced at all stages, because the nutritive media are equally supportive of bacteria and fungi and these will quickly overgrow and probably poison the explant. If the excision is successful, the base of the explant will swell within 4-6 weeks and from this swollen tissue one or more green spherical bodies, commonly referred to as protocorms, will develop. They consist of a pith core covered by an epithelial layer.

As they grow, each protocorm will eventually produce a shoot from an area on its epithelium and this will in turn produce a root, thus yielding a new plant. However, this procedure would result in a very limited number of replications, so prior to the development of the shoot, the protocorm is cut or crushed so that it produces a number of second-generation protocorms. This procedure is repeated until sufficient protocorms have been produced to yield the required number of plants (one per protocorm).

The possibility of mutations increases with successive replications, so a limited number of plants, ideally between 200 and 500, are made. Each plant should be an exact replica of the parent. However mutations can occur during multiplication and variation will occur. Most mutations are deleterious so these are to be avoided, although occasionally a desirable variant results. It is undesirable to mericlone a mericlone. The

original parent plant should be the only source of tissue used. Where mericlones are mericlone and these are in turn mericlone again, the incidence of undesirable mutations increases markedly. It is always the innocent orchid, not the proliferator that receives the blame when the mericlone turns out to be inferior. Try photocopying a picture and then repeatedly copying each copy. Which gives the best result?

In colchicine conversion, where the diploid state is converted to the tetraploid, colchicine is applied to the protocorm in the hope that some epithelial cells will double their chromosome count. If this occurs and the protocorm survives the treatment, a plate of tetraploid-converted cells then develops and if a leaf shoot arises from this area, then a tetraploid plant results.

Mericlone was developed by Morel as a side effect from his attempts to rid cymbidiums of virus disease. It has mixed blessings. It has made replication in many genera so easy that plants can be produced at a very reasonable cost. However, if a particular clone is over-exploited it can remove its exclusivity, and that of cymbidiums in general. Always attempt to purchase your mericlones from the original grower or his/her agent, and try to ensure that they come from a limited run of tissue taken from the original parent plant.



A flask of mericlone cymbidiums.

Mericlone or Seedling?

Unlike mericlones, as the name suggests, a seedling is an orchid grown from seed. Once an orchid flower is pollinated, it will produce a seed pod with thousands of seeds contained within it. The seeds are so small, they actually look like dust when dispersed. These seeds can be germinated in sterile laboratory conditions, but can also take years to grow.

Seedling orchids are different to mericlone orchids because they will not be identical to the parent plant. There is a genetic lottery with seedling orchids; no two seeds will develop the same way. Seedling orchids are usually created when growers wish to produce a new hybrid. If one of the offspring turns out to be very good, perhaps better than the parents, then the owner may choose to have it mericlone, thereby producing perhaps hundreds of identical orchids.

Most hybrid orchids for sale these days are mericlones but the seedling lottery is always exciting. Our new *Sarcochilus* growing competition plant to be deflasked at the meeting is a seedling so come along and get your 'ticket' - you may luck in and get a winner!

2020 Shoalhaven Orchid Society *What's On at a Glance*

Committee Meetings 2020

Tuesday 1 September 12.45 pm.

Society Shows 2020

Spring Show — 5-6 September CANCELLED
October Show 24 October

Coming Events

21 December General meeting, Christmas Party and Presentation Night.

2020 Program & Guest Speakers

August - Deflasking and Mini Auction

21 September - Mitch Karnaghan on Australian Natives

19 October - Jim Cootes on Orchids of the Philippines

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

21 December - Christmas Party and Annual Presentations

Southern Orchid Spectacular Friday 9 Oct-Sun 11 Oct 9am-4pm Friday and Saturday, 9am-3pm Sunday Sutherland Basketball Stadium via Rawson Ave off Old Princes Hwy (behind Leisure Centre) Adults \$5



Coach Groups \$4pp Children <15 yrs free. Impressive orchid displays, plants for sale, growing advice Contact: Helen Mason 0448 535528



Cym. floribundum alba.

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.

August *Cym.* Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and *Cym.* Khanebono 'Jacinta' x (Star Angel x Charisma)

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

October *Cym.* Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' and *Cym.* Khanebono 'Jacinta' x (Star Angel x Charisma) **LAST BENCHING FOR THESE TWO** and *Sarc.* Elegance 'Super' x *S.* Sweetheart 'Speckles'

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'.



WISH LIST

Marie Martin would like a white stanhoepa. If you can help please contact Marie on 0417967331.



Members socially distanced at our new venue.

Thanks to Alan Stephenson for most of the photographs in this issue.