PRESIDENT

Louise Gannon lougannon@bigpond.com Ph 0419 241 177

VICE PRESIDENT

Sandra Ellis pollyellis@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Suzanne Knight sjknight50@bigpond.com

Assist. SECRETARY **TBA**

COMMITTEE

Lynne Phelan; Brian Phelan; Ron Findlater; Francoise Sikora; Diane Syle; Don Hogan; Phillip Harrington; Mick Bodycott. **TREASURER**

Tom Gahlonski

tom@gablonski.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Eti Asplin

SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



AFFILIATED WITH the Australian Orchid Council and the Orchid Society of N S W

www.shoalhavenorchidsocietv.com Email:shoalhavenorchidsociety@gmail.com

May 2019

Important Notice Next Orchid Society meeting Monday 20th May

Growing Comp -May - Cym - Joan Bryant 'Keen'

Guest Speakers Lynne & Brian Phelan on-**Eric Young Orchid Foundation**

Change to the time of our regular meeting - Now 7.30pm

Members must have their plants benched by 7.00pm at the latest so the popular vote can take place before the meeting starts

Novices' Corner

There will be an opportunity between 7.00 and 7.15 for newer growers to speak to an experience grower. If you have an orchid question or a plant you would like some advice on (please bring it in plastic bag if you suspect it has a disease or pest problem) you can meet with the experienced grower, who will be introduced by the President on the night. There is no such thing as a 'dumb orchid question'! We all had to learn from scratch, so please don't hesitate to ask for advice



President's Report

Please see Page 2

aleti@shoal.net.au

0407 299 962

SOCIETY NEWS

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



Hi members, Been a funny time, missing out our April meeting. We should be back to normal next month

in June. But for this month of May, due to circumstances, newsletter will be a slightly different format.. May newsletter is rushing out early, to remind us all that our next meeting will

be on **Monday 20th May** back to normal 3rd Monday evening (not Monday 13th May). There will be no pics & prize winners, as there was no meeting in April.

Next Committee meeting- TBA at Bomaderry Bowling Club possibly Thurs 6th June 10am

Attendance - March 20 25; Apologies 8 - Extraordinary Meeting 45, Visitors 4

THE SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY MEETS ON THE **THIRD MONDAY** OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT -JANUARY 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.



It was a great honour to become President of our Society at the recently held Extraordinary General Meeting.
At the time, it was amiss of me not to

acknowledge the work of our previous President, Jim Purtell and his wife Min our previous Vice President and Treasurer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of all members, for the work they have done for our Society.

Our 2019 Committee elected at the February AGM had only 3 Office-Bearers for 4 positions and 2 Committee members; therefore not being able to form a quorum unless 1 or 2 members were invited to attend the meeting. Further resignations from Committee made the Committee completely unworkable.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting, apart from Min Purtell's 3 agenda items it was imperative that a new Committee was formed that night or our Society would fold after 63 years of operating. I know that I felt a great sense of relief along with those attending, to see all the Committee vacancies being filled. I must say, to see the smiles of happiness on the faces of Members/Life Members knowing that our Society had been saved, was a sight I truly will not forget.

Our Committee is strong, and keen to get things done. At our first Committee Meeting held last Friday (3.5.19) we talked about our path forward and in particular how our General Meetings will be run. We are placing a strong emphasis on New/Novice members with each meeting having a 'Novice Corner' from 7.00-7.15pm with one of our experienced Open Growers giving a talk or a demonstration. Francoise Sikora has offered to help the New members feel welcome. We all know that feeling of joining a new group and you don't know anyone. New members, please seek her out.

We will try to source larger raffle plants, plants that are grown in our area and suitable for our climate and conditions.

I believe I am the first woman President of our Society. You may be surprised to know that when I first joined an Orchid Society at the age of 14, orchid growing was quite a male dominated hobby. It is only the last 10-15 years that I see more and more women being involved in this wonderful interest.

I joined our Society in late 2016 after moving from Miranda in the Sutherland Shire. I am still a member of the Sutherland Shire Orchid Society which I joined in 2003. I had served on their Committee for 13 years, serving as Secretary for 7 years, Show Secretary and

Committee Member until I relocated to the Shoalhaven.

I have met some interesting and wonderful people and made some great lasting friendships through a common interest in growing orchids. No matter what walk of life you come from, being a member of a club is a great leveller, as we are all drawn together by a common interest.

We have a busy year ahead of us with 3 Shows, BBQ's and more. We need all members to support us in any way you can. I look forward to sharing this time with you. This is a great club and can only get better with your support.

Warm regards, Louise Gannon

May Guest Speakers

Lynne and Brian Phelan will be telling us about the visit to the **Eric Young Orchid Foundation** on the island of Jersey.

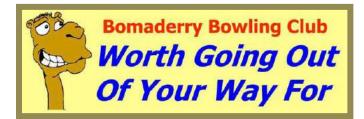
Eric Young was a wealthy British businessman whose love of orchids led him to amass one of the finest living collections. In order to promote orchids and support orchid growers worldwide he set up a foundation dedicated to growing, breeding and showing the finest quality orchids.

The Foundation site on Jersey has a public display area which is always massed with orchids in bloom and out the back are huge glasshouses which are not open to the public, but Lynne and Brian were lucky enough to have the Curator guide them through and spend a couple of hours with them. The photo below shows a small part of the huge public display room. (Attached)



The Society Thanks our Generous Sponsors

We encourage our members to support them













2019 CALENDAR

See back page for the Year

What's on at a Glance

Attention - Attendance Book

It is important that members and guests sign in the attendance book. This is required for insurance purposes. *If you don't sign, you are not covered* and cannot claim in the event of an accident. Also, can you please sign beside your number you have been given by the society after payment of fees.



C. Chocolate Shop ' Kodoma' - : Louise Gannon

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Inc

Minutes of General Meeting held at Bomaderry Bowling Club on Tuesday 19 March 2019

Meeting opened at 7.20 pm. **Present**: As per sign on sheet **Apologies**: As per sign on sheet

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting held

on 18 February 2019

Moved Eti, seconded Robin that the Minutes of

February Meeting be accepted as read.

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence: Suzanne read the Correspondence Report. Moved Louise, seconded Don that this be accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance \$10,579.89

Income

Expenses \$3,164.97 Closing Balance \$9,765.42 Bendigo Bank \$1,886.47

Moved Don, seconded Bob that the report be accepted.

Moved Don, seconded Bob that the special motion to allow Min to continue as Caretaker Treasurer to sign cheques and pay outstanding bills at this time was passed by 16 positive votes.

WHS Report: No report for this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim reported on the Committee meeting, details of which are covered in General Business below. As per the Constitution, an Extraordinary General Meeting will be called, and letters sent to all members.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Min's Life Membership which was approved at the AGM was discussed. Min wrote a letter to the Committee regarding the issues raised after she had been honoured with Life Membership to the Society, which was tabled and is on file. Louise also wrote notes which she discussed, a copy of which is on file. Louise raised the main issue, that of the constitution section 3.3, which states "a two thirds majority of those present and voting, which shall be by ballot, shall be necessary for such election." At the AGM the original total vote was 37 with 14 voted NO and 23 voted YES. These figures did not reach the two-

thirds required by the constitution but two people (George Birss, who was chairman of the AGM and Jim Purtell) made the same mistaken calculation. After the AGM there was much discussion, as two people who had applied for membership voted but were not yet eligible to do so and when contacted they advised they had voted NO, which changed the numbers yet again. The final figures resulted in one third of a vote, not two thirds, and according to the current constitution the final vote did not entitle Life Membership. Jim advised that he had miscalculated on his phone calculator. Min advised that she had received an email from Tom Gablonski in which he gave his YES vote for life membership (copy on file) and his apology for the February meeting. Unfortunately, this

\$2,350,950 was not counted on the night. Louise based her argument on the rules of the constitution and not as a personal attack against Min. However, Min felt overwhelmed by the way the whole matter had evolved. Lynne Phelan (who is a life member) did not speak at the meeting but sent an email to Shoalhaven Orchid Society on 19 February re the vote for Life Membership (copy on file). Mick spoke of what Committee could do, as there was some dispute about who would do what had been agreed to be done. There was also discussion about the way in which other Life Memberships (Lynne Phelan and Allan Taylor) had been decided and if it had been done in accordance with the Constitution. In reference to the Constitution, 13.1.4 "Disputes between members" [states] "... to be referred to a community justice centre for mediation in accordance with the Community Justice Centres Act 1983." Committee will follow this action – secretary and President to follow up and advise. Once mediation is arranged, Lynne and Allan

Min tabled her resignation from the Committee and asked that all society assets be removed from her home immediately.

2. Sales table requires help and since Min has resigned, someone will be required to undertake the role she has held.

will be advised.

- 3. Bunnings BBQ 11 April 2019 This has been cancelled, with all Committee members in favour of the cancellation.
- 4. Bunnings BBQs before shows will also need to be cancelled as Min is no longer able to do the work she has done in the past. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.*
- 5. Sponsorship for the shows will need to be sourced.

After Jim spoke of the business from the Committee Meeting, and Min had read her letter to the General Meeting, there was discussion from the floor.

Marie Martin spoke highly of the work Min had done behind the scenes and how much she had appreciated it.

Jim then advised the meeting that he would be stepping down from the position of President in support of Min. As Min had also been the Vice President and Treasurer this would mean the positions would all need to be filled.

OTHER BUSINESS

Louise spoke of the large orchid collection of June and Alan Soden which is no longer needed as they are both going into a Nursing Home. Francoise and Louise have taken four trays each of the collection home. A letter will be written to June and Alan in appreciation of their gift. The orchids are in very poor condition, but will be used as training for tidying up plants and also to add to raffle prizes over a few months.

Newsletter – Eti will require assistance with photos and preparation of the newsletter. Volunteers will be requested at the next general meeting.

NEW MEMBERS: Tom Gablonski and John Vincent were given their welcome packs. **Lucky Badge:** \$10 – Suzanne Knight \$5 – John

Clarke

Raffle: The following people received raffle prizes: Tom Gablonski, Louise Gannon, John Clarke, Marie Martin, Diane Slye, Helen Douglas

MEMBERS VOTE:

Open – Louise Gannon Intermediate – Helen Douglass Novice – John Clarke

GROWING COMPETITION (Plus Plant):

Open – no plants exhibited Intermediate – Min Purtell Novice – Denis Milligan Junior – no entries

JUDGES CHOICE:

Louise Gannon – Plant: Neobenthamia gracilis

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.



Oncidium - Heaven Scent 'Redolence' F. Sikora

BBOFS

Winter Show 19th & 20th July Spring Show 6th & 7th September Native Show 18th & 19th October

MUOC

Winter 13th&14th July Spring 14th & 15th September

Life Members Shoalhaven Orchid Society

Mrs N.Rodway - First Life Member (Dec) Mr Dan. O'Brien - 1962 (Dec) Mr John. Apperley - 1971 (Dec) Mrs Amy. Morton - 1972 (Dec) Mr Fred. Morton - 1972 (Dec) Mrs Nada. Watts - 1976 (Dec) Mrs Edith. Crowford - 1983 (Dec) Mr Eric. Crowford - 1983 (Dec) Mrs Dulcie. Gray - 1986 (Dec) Mr John.Gray - 1986 (Dec) Mr Alf. Grady - 1996 (Dec) Mr Stuart. Crowther - 1999 Mr Alan, Stephenson - 1999 Mr Ian. Morschel - 2005 (Dec) Mr Colin. Marstin - 2007 Mr John. Webb - 2009

> Mr Tom. Newing - 2010 (Dec) Mrs Lynne. Phelan - 2012

Mr Allan. Taylor - 2014

Orchid Essay Competition

The Australian Orchid Foundation holds an annual essay writing competition with generous prizes of 1st - \$350, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$150. This year the topic is *How do my orchids survive while I'm away from home?* The deadline for receipt of entries is 30 June, 2019. It must original, must not exceed 4,000 words and may include art work or images.

Further information available from our Secretary, Suzanne, at the meeting or go to the AOF website.

Open Letter

Some Personal Thoughts on the Shoalhaven Orchid Society

I had a feeling of great relief when at the end of the Extraordinary Meeting held onMonday, 29th April, 2019. I realised that the Shoalhaven Orchid Society would be still able to operate, with a completely new and competent executive and committee.

This situation was brought about by Jim and Min Purtell resigning from their executive positions. I would like to say a word of thanks to Jim and Min for taking on the positions of President and Treasurer when no-one else was prepared to nominate for those positions.

When new people take on executive positions they have the right to propose new ideas and bring them for a vote to the membership. A number of changes were accepted during the past few years that didn't sit well with me. But then I'm only one member and others were happy to accept the changes.

Let me spell out what I appreciated in the 'Old' Shoalhaven Orchid Society --- and which was changed!

Venues: We usually met at the Presbyterian Hall, Nowra, which was reasonably easy to access with orchids for benching. The move to the Bomaderry Bowling Club wasn't that easy especially if one had to park your car in the under-building car park. (I'm not a 'club person' which also made it unattractive!) I will admit that there were advantages in space and available tables and supper provision in the meeting room

Orchid Shows: The Winter Show was held in the Berry Masonic Hall (showgrounds). The Spring Show was held in the Nowra Presbyterian Hall. I felt it was of advantage to be in the two different localities. Once more I didn't like the use of the Bomaderry Bowling Club for both these shows, and for the third show that was also introduced there as well.

At Club Meetings a change occurred in the reporting of the benched orchids. I liked the multiple species being judged and given a 1st or 2nd placing, on the night. This was reported in our monthly newsletter, and it was pleasing to see my name appear at times, and the names of other members as well. This was done in the three divisions, so we were able to become familiar with the names of other members in the other divisions.

The Growing Competition I enjoyed being involved in as it allowed me to compare my growing practises against others, and meant I was sometimes humbled by the outstanding success other members had with their 'growing plant'. Lately though we have only had a limited species to work with.

While thinking about what I appreciated from earlier days in the Shoalhaven Orchid

Society I must mention the "Potting Club". This I believe started as an initiative of Stuart Crowther. We gathered monthly on a Saturday Morning at members addresses on a rotation basis, and received two to four small plants, costing between \$2 to \$5 each. These plants were of various species, often introducing us to species not heard of before. It became an educational challenge and I admit I had failures, but also successes in my efforts with these tiny plants! I have learnt much in my time with the S.O.S. And look forward to the new executive and committee fostering the Society in the coming years.

Lawrie Cowell



Society Meeting Evenings
If are able, on meeting night,
could members
bring a plate of 'goodies'

to share with our 'cuppa'.. Good to have a variety.



Books! Books! Books!

Our society has many great books for you to borrow - Come & see!!

Speak to Robin Gunter who would be delighted to help you

Shoalhaven Orchid Society

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2019 at 6.00 pm Meeting was held at Bomaderry Bowling Club

In attendance:

Millie Rupa, Lyn Phelan, Brian Phelan, J Butterfield, Alan Stephenson, Ross Hahn, Michelle Hahn, John Webb, Jim Purtell, Min Purtell, Sandra Ellis, Ron Findlater, Eti Asplin, Robin Gunter, Sandra Vincent19, 20, 21, G Webb, C Marstin, M Bodycott, J Bodycott, Francoise Sikora, D Slye, Bede Smythe, Don Hogan, Marie Martin, Louise Gannon, R Korber, Lawrie Cowell, P Harrington, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, John Clancy, Sandra Vincent, Christine Browne, H Douglass, Dennis, S Knight, John Clarke, Graeme Chapman, Pam Chapman, Tom Gablonski, Garry Douglass

Visitors

Veronica Clowes (Secretary of OSNSW), John Horne **Apologies**:

George Birss, Annette Fletcher, Therese Bourke, Mike Hitchcock

Diane Slye moved, seconded Francoise Sikora that a sitting committee member chair the meeting and not Jim Purtell who has indicated that he will resign after this meeting. When asked if anyone would be willing to accept the position, Louise Gannon agreed to take on the role

Louise read the reference to the constitution 12.2.1 and the reason for the meeting - receipt of a letter from Min Purtell, with signatures from seven additional members. Members were advised of the meeting by email and post on 2 April 2019 by the Secretary, Suzanne Knight. Unfortunately there were some issues raised when a few members advised that they had not received the email and it was necessary to send another message to double check receipt of the information.

The following three points were copied from the letter presented to the last meeting by Min Purtell: *Constitution 3.3 Life Membership*

- The voting processed (to be changed in the Constitution needs to be MAJORITY not Two Thirds, as it is a disgrace that the Society would like to cut Members into pieces.
- I would like my life membership re-voted as it was a disgrace to myself being a member was voted into pieces. (I would like a show of hands for those present please, the number

counted and recorded in the minutes. Any electronic votes also to be counted.)

3 Life Membership should not have to wait until an AGM. If there is any Member put forward for Life Membership it should be expected to be looked at by the Committee.

Francoise spoke about how Min had been nominated prior to the AGM.

In accordance with the Constitution regarding the EGM and also the message forwarded by the Secretary on 2 April 2019 said "for discussion".

To make any changes to the Constitution, Clause 15 of the Constitution must be addressed – a written proposal with alterations and new clauses shown. This was not sent to members prior to the meeting and only left as a sheet of paper on chairs for members to read as they arrived.

There were three items open for discussion in Min Purtell's letter under the heading <u>Constitution 3.3 –</u> Life Membership.

As both No 1 and No 3 relate to the wording of the Constitution under Life Membership, they were discussed one after the other.

From Min's letter, point 1, for discussion:

The voting processed (to be changed in the Constitution – needs to be MAJORITY not Two Thirds, as it is a disgrace that the Society would like to cut Members into pieces.

Min opened the discussion and said that it should be a majority vote and that she felt like she was cut up into pieces, like a piece of meat.

- There will always be a fraction of a vote when there is an odd number of members voting
- The result is a Mathematical calculation based on the number of financial members voting, not on the person nominated for Life Membership.
- Some other Orchid Societies have two-third majority and some even have 75% majority

From Min's letter, point 3, for discussion:

Life Membership should not have to wait until an AGM. If there is any Member put forward for Life Membership it should be expected to be looked at by the Committee.

Min confirmed what she had stated in point 3.

- Francoise spoke and advised that Min had been nominated prior to the AGM.
- A number of members present said that it should be voted on at the AGM
- Louise advised that there are areas in our Constitution that needed reviewing and proposed that a new Committee undertake this.

From Min's letter, point 2, for discussion:

I would like my life membership re-voted as it was a disgrace how myself being a member was voted into pieces. (I would like a show of hands for those present please, the number counted and recorded in the minutes. Any electronic votes also to be counted.)

The background to the 2nd item was explained by the chairperson.

Min Purtell's Life Membership was voted on at the February AGM and was unsuccessful. Although originally given Life Membership on the night it was found that the calculation was incorrect missing out by 1/3 of a vote.

There were 35 members present, 23 voted YES while 12 voted NO. To have a clear majority 24 YES votes were needed.

Min spelt out quite clearly what she would like. Discussion followed, with some of the comments from members listed below:

- Min's Life Membership has already been voted on at the February 2019 AGM and under the terms of the Constitution cannot be voted on again.
- John Webb (Life member) spoke of how Life Membership was written into the constitution many years ago and how there had not been any problems in the past.
- Colin Marstin spoke against the motion (life member). He gave an outline of his experiences over the years.
- Lyn Phelan spoke of the technical details involved in incorporation and relevant Acts.
 She spoke of the contravention relating to making changes to the Constitution as outlined by the Department of Fair Trading.
- Alan Stephenson is a life member and gave his view of the points raised.
- Lyn Phelan advised that it is against the constitution that item 2 be voted again.
 Voting must be in accordance with the Association's guidelines. Lyn also spoke of the correct way that electronic voting may be accepted, according to the Department of Fair Trading guidelines.

The Chairperson then said 'that a full and adequate discussion has been held in accordance with the Constitution and now proposed that the matter is now finalised.

Election of new office bearers:

Colin Marstin was elected to be the returning officer for the evening.

President: Nominations – Louise Gannon, seconded by Lyn Phelan. Declared appointed unopposed.

Vice President: Nominations – Sandra Ellis selfnominated , seconded by Lyn Phelan. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Nominations - Tom Gablonski selfnominated, seconded Brian Phelan. Elected unopposed.

Committee Members:

Louise Gannon resigned her Committee position after accepting the position of President.

Nominations were received from the following members:

- 1 Francoise Sikora, seconded by Ron Findlater
- 2 Brian Phelan, seconded by Lyn Phelan
- 3 Lyn Phelan, seconded by Brian Phelan
- 4 Ron Findlater, seconded by Francoise Sikora
- 5 Diane Slye, seconded by Sandra Ellis
- 6 Phillip Harrington, seconded by John Webb
- 7 John Clancy, seconded by Louise Gannon
- 8 Don Hogan, seconded by Marie Martin

All nominations were accepted and become Committee members up to the next AGM.

Stewart Crowther spoke of the need to ensure safe keeping of all books and paperwork belonging to the Society in accordance with Department of Fair Trading guidelines.

Francoise Sikora moved, seconded Alan Stephenson, that the Public Officer (Diane Slye) is required to submit to the Department of Fair Trading the changes to the Committee of Management.

Changes to signatories at the Commonwealth Bank in Nowra are required immediately and this shall be done by Tom Gablonski and Suzanne Knight.

John Webb moved a vote of thanks to all people in the past who have done work to keep this society going.

Louise spoke of the privilege she feels to become President of our Society and will do her best; from tonight it is a new beginning for our club. She acknowledged the presence of Life Members and gave thanks for their support. Thanks were also given to those who have volunteered for the Management and Committee positions – there is now a full Committee of mostly experienced members. Suzanne Knight was thanked for staying on in her position of Secretary. The Committee will meet within the next week and a Newsletter will be prepared. The General meeting had previously been brought forward to Monday 13 May, but with a lot to be done in a short time they will try to set back the date to Monday 20 May. Members will be notified of the correct date when you receive your next newsletter.

Meeting closed at: 6.50 pm

Note:

Michael Bodycott remains on Committee until we hear otherwise. Attempts to contact him by phone and email have been unsuccessful and he was not present at our first Committee Meeting. If he would like to stay on committee, one of our newly elected committee members will fill the vacant Asst Secretary's position after going through the normal election process.

2019 Shoalhaven Orchid Society What's On at a Glance

Committee Meetings 2019

11th February 11th March

8th April

13th May

10th June

8th July

12th August

9th September

14th October

11th November

9th December

Society Meetings 2019

20th May

17th June

15th July

19th August

16th September

21st October

18th November

16th December

Shows 2019

Winter -12th July -14th July

Spring - 30th August - 1st September

October - 25th October - 26th October

Coming Events

Mingara Orchid Fair and Show

Mingara Recreation Club Tumbi Umbi Sat. 29 June 9am – 4 pm Sun. 30 June 9am – 3 pm. 21 vendors

Growing Competition 2019

May - Cym - Joan Bryant 'Keen'

June - Cym.Khanebono 'jacinta' x (star Angel x Spring Charisma) 'Kirsty'

July - Cym. Death Wish 'Withering Glance

August - Cym - Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'

September - Cym - Joan Bryant 'Keen'

October - Cym.Khanebono 'jacinta' x (star Angel x Spring Charisma) 'Kirsty'

November - Cym. Death Wish 'Withering Glance'

December - Cym - Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' Last benching..

2019 Guest Speakers for your Calendar

February - George Birss

May - Lynne and Brian Phelan will be telling us about the visit to the **Eric Young Orchid**

Foundation

June - TBA

July - Graham Larkham on Thunis

Marshalliana

August - Peter Stubbs on Orchids of Borneo **Septembe**r - Gerry Welsh - The Rock Lilly Man

October - TBA November - TBA