

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

**BULLETIN: August 2021**

[www.ssos.org.au](http://www.ssos.org.au)

## ***SSOS Members, Bloomin' Awesome At Home***

Lyc. Abou Sunrise (Jan Robinson)



Ddc cootesii (Robert Nicol)



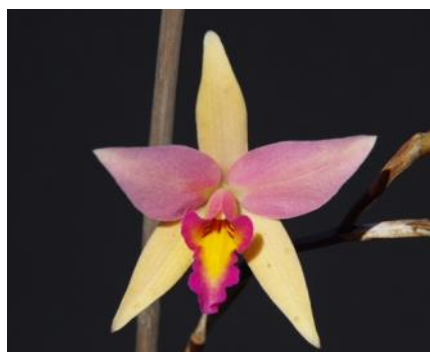
Cym sleepy Sarah "snow blind"  
(Diane Phillips)



Cym. Smiley Face (Vic Petrovski)



Lc Santa Barbara Sunset  
'Tyabb' (Gary Hodder)



Den De Pablo x teretifolium 'fairfaxii'  
(Col Brandon)

## **AUGUST MEETING CANCELLED**

**Next Meeting:  
To Be Advised !**

### **SSOS MEETINGS @**

Sutherland Uniting  
Church Auditorium,  
Cnr Flora & Merton  
Streets, Sutherland



Find us on FB

### **PRESIDENT**

*Jan Robinson*

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

*Frank Daniel*

### **TREASURER**

*Margaret Spring*

### **SECRETARY**

*David Hicks*

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### **EDITOR**

*Melissa Karayannis*

*mjbk1@bigpond.com*



# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome At Home

*C. Portia X C labiata* (Tom Scerri)



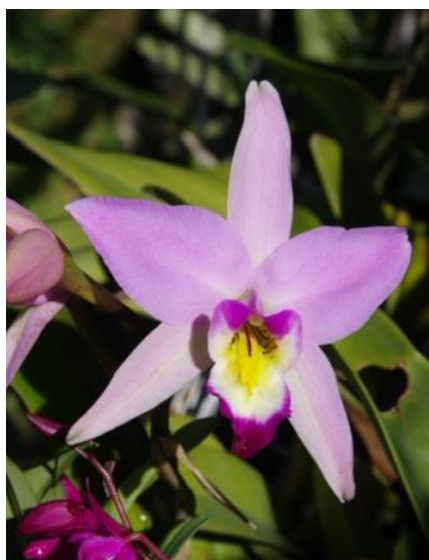
Cymb. tabletop display (Frank Daniel)



*Medicatum decoratum* (Wal Chapman)



*Cym. Unknown* (Diane Phillips)



*L. anceps* var *Williamsiana* x *L. anceps* var *Veichiana* 'Blue Lip' (Gary Hodder)



*Cym. Strathbran Cooksbridge Fantasy Pleoric* (John Hely)



# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome At Home



(Diana Hannah)

Paph Macabre Inn (Jan Robinson)



Phal. Unknown (John Ng).

Zg. Cynosure 'BlueBirds' (Melissa Karayannis)



Den Memoria Groffen (Col Brandon)



Rth Rosella's Graceful Moon x Rth Koura  
(Robert Nicol)





# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome At Home



Cym Peggy Foo Sim (Frank Daniel)



Cym. Unknown (John Hely)

Lc. Susan Holcombe 'Jaffa' X (Blc. Dimma Kimura X Susan Holcombe)  
(Melissa Karayannis)



Paph esq (Wal Chapman)



Cym. Unknown (Gifford Bunt)



Mikika blk. Princess and Theresa  
(Tom Scerri)

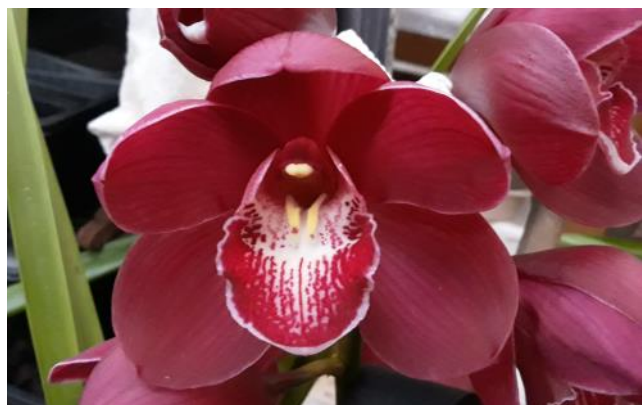
Epidendrum floribundum (John Ng)





# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

## Vic Petrovski's Cymbies



Flaming Vulcan 'XTC'



Kimberley Meadows 'Green Beret'  
X Paradise Island 'Emerald'

Stephen 'Err'



Koranulla Maestro

X Lovely Angel 'Bubbes'



Red Khan Negrito

X Musket The Emperor



Spark Sprite'''Sparkey'



# President's Message...

Dear Fellow Members

I hope you all are keeping well during lock down. When will it end, who knows? In the meantime, our wonderful hobby continues to provide us with plenty of things to do. Keeping our plants hydrated with all these high winds is challenging, a day after watering many of my hanging plants are dry again. Better too dry than too wet though!



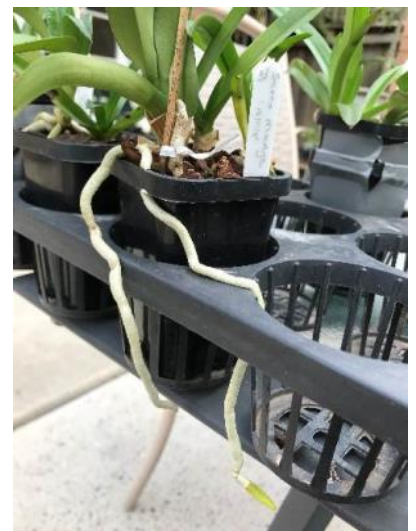
Spring is prime repotting time, there is prep to do to get ready. Who has a big stack of used pots that need washing/sterilizing before being used again? I wash mine with hot soapy water and then soak them in a water/bleach solution for several hours before rinsing and putting them in the sun to dry. There is also potting mix to prepare. Some bark needs to be soaked for awhile before it will hold any moisture, I pour a bag in a big garbage bin, fill it up with water and leave it for at least a week before use.

Just because it's not September yet doesn't mean we can't repot. The late Kevin Wilson, an excellent grower, used to say, "The best time to repot is when you've got time!" I spoke to one of our senior growers last week and he had deflasked a tray of sarc seedlings the previous week and they looked great. Some of my sarcs were "wandering around" my bush house, I've started repotting the most adventurous ones, finding some in spike during the process which is encouraging.

In those super cold days, I've been updating my orchid data base spreadsheet. Inputting all the plants I've killed from my bag of "dead plant tags" was somewhat depressing, maybe that wasn't such a good idea during lock down. Now I'm doing a stock take, matching my list to my orchids, a project guaranteed to keep me off the couch for a few weeks.

What are you doing to keep occupied? One of our members is experimenting with different growing lights for his indoor orchids, setting up a "mini hothouse" on a heat mat with a red and blue LED light panel suspended over it. Another was going to start repotting—and then the Olympics started, so he has deferred his repotting for another two weeks.

No August monthly meeting of course and I can't see our Spring Show happening in early September, either. What about a late Spring show, in October or November? Your optimistic Committee hasn't given up hope of having a show sometime in 2021, stay tuned and keep up the TLC on your orchids just in case!



Stay safe and I hope to see you all soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan".



## Ted Beehag Blooms

Many of our members have orchids that were originally part of the late Ted Beehag's orchid collection. We are featuring some of Ted's current blooms in the hands of new caretakers.

If you would like to join in, just email ([mjbk1@bigpond.com](mailto:mjbk1@bigpond.com)) photos to Editor as they open up!



#248 C. Darling  
(Slc. Bright Angelx Blc. Bryce Canyon)  
(John Hely)

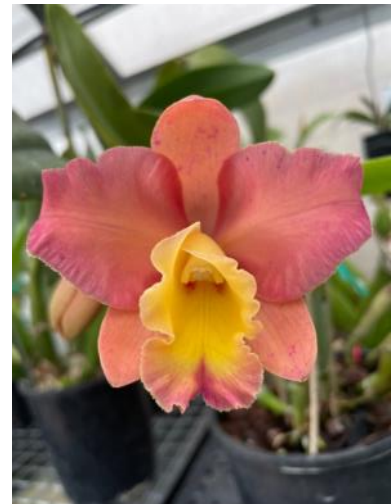


Den. Unknown  
(Rhonda Jackson)



Slc Mahalo jack  
(John Ng)

#246 Pot. Rosella Supreme  
(Melissa Karayannis)



## We still need help with bulletin content!

**Email** photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa at [mjbk1@bigpond.com](mailto:mjbk1@bigpond.com) for the next bulletin

**Want to write an article for the bulletin??**

Email to [mjbk1@bigpond.com](mailto:mjbk1@bigpond.com)

***Both before Sunday Aug 29th please !***





## My Cymbidium Orchids Journey-Gifford Bunt

I lived in Brighton Le Sands in my younger days and my mum grew all our vegetables plus different flower groups including cymbidium orchids. The area we lived in was basically all white sand and we supplanted the soil with a mixture of cattle/cow/ horse fertilizer and compost. Our house was about 400 yards to the beach.

We lived next to a dairy /horse training facility so were able to supplement and enrich the sandy soil base with these materials.

The Cymbidiums were planted down one eastern side of the house under the eaves so only had sun from east and then till north midday sun . The orchids thrived as best I can recall.

A couple of these plants were placed in ceramic pots when my parents moved to a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor unit at Ramsgate Beach again facing east /south in the 1980s. These orchids thrived there as the unit was about 100 yards from the beach. The unit was also in a high traffic area so there was at times lots of unclean air which showed up within the complex where hardly any plants thrived either in the gardens or on balconies. Mums orchids were commented upon as nothing seemed to knock them down.

Post that time we were given some pot bulbs to plant when we were living in Moorebank and then Casula which were planted in plastic pots but with limited or poor success. Not sure if close to seaside works better that 30kms away for these orchids.

When we decided to move back into our home base area near Botany Bay in 2010 while our house was being built we rented in Dolls Point in a house but again with some success with a few spikes but only about 3 plants flowering in a few plastic pots but again could only face east/south with limited success under the house eaves as no other area suitable .We were then down to 2 pots of cymbidium orchids as we got black spot for the first time so destroyed those affected

When that house was pulled down we moved to rent in Monterey to a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor unit with the balcony facing south with very little success but we kept the 2 pots of Cymbidium orchids we had left as one did flower. We were not able to grow orchids in doors as windows there were tinted or were covered with flyscreens. The unit was also very close to the beach.

When we moved into mums unit at Ramsgate Beach post her going into a nursing home in 2012 her orchids were still flowering (in ceramic pots)and we added our just one plastic black pot as that was all we had left by then but ours did flower there.

When we moved into our current house in Sandringham in 2014 we had just a couple of pots left after doing some repotting ,but over the past few years were able to repot orchids so that by around 2019 there were around 18 or so plants in pots but again were struck by black spot so were left after destroying those affected with around 8. That year only one orchid flowered. We have 3 pots flowering at present.

Just to close we are about 350 yards to Botany Bay but although we are close to and get salt in the air the orchids do not seem to be bothered by it. This year to date after lots of repotting/regular fertilizing we have now 11 pots of cymbidium orchids and these plants are all prodigy from those plants from the 1950/1980s mother plants as we have no other cymbidium orchids just these family members. Unfortunately pictures taken of mums plants at home were all taken on a box brownie camera and those black and white pics have since become illegible due to their age.

Also due to space constraints I have no shade/bush/glass house so my orchids live outdoors uncovered and can only face west which is fine at present and when the weather changes the orchids are moved around the sides of the house with the best place to keep them active. I have kept orchids as they are easy to maintain when we are away and are just about indestructible





# Lycastes – Water Well or Not At All?

Have you ever not cared much about a particular genera of orchids that somehow made its way into your collection – until one of them flowers and then you get all excited? That happened to me recently. When hubby and I went away in June, one of my Lycastes which had never flowered before had a big bud. I presumed that it would have either flowered and dried up before we got home or something would have munched it, as usually happens. Miraculously neither of those things happened and the flower was in pristine condition when we returned. And wasn't it drop dead gorgeous!

After spending a few days admiring this flower, I decided to have a look at my other Lycastes to see how they're going, hoping there might be potential for another flower this winter.



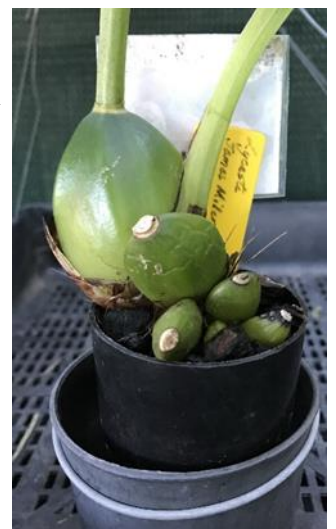
Wrong! Not knowing much about growing Lycastes, I had heard that they like to be in saucers of water during the summer but to take them out of the saucers in the winter so they can dry out. Dry out indeed, more like complete dehydration of several of them! On one plant, the bulbs had shrivelled so much that the ties had slipped down to the bottom of the stakes! Not good.



So this got me to wondering why the plant of my Lycaste in flower looks so good? Even Blind Freddy could answer that question—it's in a water well pot! Not a fancy pot, one of those "DIY" pots that I got from George a while back that you drill holes a couple of inches up from the bottom and create a "well" of water at the bottom.



Clearly my plant likes that. Upon further inspection, I found a few smaller lycastes in various stages of growth, some looking good and some, not so good. The ones that have big fat healthy bulbs had been accidentally left in their jerry-rigged watering devices in the winter. I had forgotten that I had stuck some of the smaller lycastes in small plastic cups that basically turned them into "water well" pots. For a few others, I had placed a tiny porcelain bowl in the bottom of a bigger pot and set the Lycaste pot on top of it, creating another type of "water well" pot.







Luckily I had forgotten to remove the cups and bowls for the winter or these plants would be desiccated like the others! For once a poor memory worked to my advantage.

Another thing I've been told is that most Lycastes are deciduous. Oddly enough, only one of mine has lost all its leaves and its bulbs look quite healthy—and it was not sitting in any kind of water retaining device.



Hmmmm..... are orchids so smart that if they are not getting any water in the winter and the only way to absorb any moisture is from the air through their leaves, then they don't drop those leaves? And if their bulbs are big and fat and full of water, then they don't need to keep their leaves which would be a drain on the stored nutrients and they shed those leaves?

Who knows?? At any rate, I will be putting all my lycastes in water well pots this spring, as I reckon that's key to growing them at my place where all my orchids are under cover during the winter and don't get any rain and very infrequent watering. So stock up on water well pots please George, I'll be dropping in after lock down!

By Jan Robinson

*Humble Jan recently won an  
HCC for this Lyc.  
Congratulations Jan!  
-Editor*





# *Scale on Dendrobium Orchids*

By Gary Hodder



Scale, are sucking insects that attach to and feed on the underside of leaves, on pseudobulbs and on rhizomes. They often are hidden under old leaves and pseudobulb sheaths. Severe infestations cause large areas to appear on the leaves and plant surfaces which will yellow and may darken and can cause the leaf to drop prematurely.

The white boisduval scale is the bane of the Dendrobium grower's existence. Mature males are cottony white masses while the mature females lay their eggs under whitish circular shields. The crawlers are the nymph state, that emerge from under the shield until they find their new home. Hard scale is another armoured scale, that ultimately forms a brown conical structure, protecting the scale underneath it. Soft brown scale is light yellowish to dark brown, with oval to circular shells appearing on leaves, flowers, flower spikes, pseudobulbs and sometimes rhizomes and roots. Soft scale produces honeydew, while hard scales do not.

If there are only a few scale, use a cotton bud dipped in alcohol or a pesticide like Malathion, White Oil or ECO-oil (used as per label instructions) to physically remove scale. For more severe infestations, apply the pesticide at the crawler stage and repeat the application 2 weeks later. Be sure to spray all plant surfaces, particularly the undersides of leaves. Use a drench with one of the above sprays and pour it through the mix to thoroughly drench the potting mix. The orchid will absorb the spray through the roots into the leaves and kill the scale from the inside out. Distance, is an inexpensive insect growth, that will reduce scale from your orchids.

To reduce the infestation of all scales, remove old leaf and flower sheaths to eliminate hiding places and allow easy inspection. Check new plants carefully before adding to the area, where the existing Dendrobiums are growing





Welcome to Wal Chapman's  
***Guess The Genera!***  
*Take a guess then read the up-side-down answers*



Cym Freeling 'Green Ice'  
Cat Tiffin Bells 'Orchid Glade'  
Paph insignne  
Paph esquivrolei  
Vanda Wirat  
Cym Beacon Fire 'Cecil Park'

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