



SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY



BULLETIN: December 2020

www.ssos.org.au



NOTE: The December Meeting has been cancelled



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome:

Sophranthis coccinea (Jan)

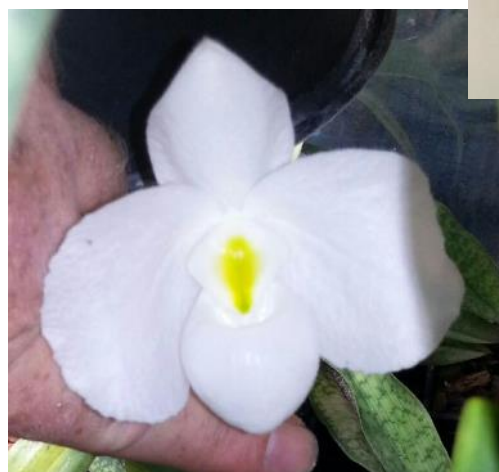


Paph. St Swithens X haynaldianum (Wal)

Cuitlauzina pendula
'Kevin' (Robert)



Paph. delenatii alba (Heath)



C. Mark Jones 'Lance' x
Sic. Cathryn Clarkson 1
(Christoff)



Miltoniopsis Maui Mist
'Golden Gate'
(David Hicks)



Ble. Toshies Magic x

Lc. Aussie Sunset (Vic)



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SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Masd Veitch's Candy Cane 'Super Striper'
(Rhonda)



Cym. Unknown (Chin White)



Rlc. Dlgbyanna Golfer Green (John Ng)

Paph. Unknown 'rph'
(Jan)



Zygopabstia Dragon Kitten 'Purr' (David Hicks)



Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' (Wal)



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Mps. Bret Fields 'Crimson Glow (Vic)



Lc. Ballet Folklorico Eloquence 2 (Christoff)



Phal. Unknown (Jenny)



Laelia sincorana (Robert)



Laelia purpurata v tipo x Lc. Irene Finney (Frank)



Maxillaria tenuifolia (Melissa)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Paph. Hung Sheng Bay (Heath)



Iwanagara Apple Blossom (Robert)



Ascocentrum aurantiacum (Wal)



Paph. Isabel Booth (Heath)

Ctt. Armonia de Suenos 'SVO Sunspots' x C. Mark Jones
'SVO' (Christoff)



Masd. Unknown (John Hely)



DECEMBER MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE



2020, a year like no other!! But as our PM says, "How good is Australia!!" We've had some challenges this year and will undoubtedly face more next year. In the meantime, the Committee would like to say thank you for your continued support of our Society during these difficult times. We would especially like to say "THANK YOU" to each of you who has helped in the following ways:

- ♦ contributed an article for the Bulletin;
- ♦ agreed to share your orchid experiences in an interview for the Bulletin;
- ♦ sent in photos of your beautiful orchids for the Bulletin;
- ♦ participated in the Society's Face Book page;
- ♦ supported our "virtual raffle," we appreciate each and every one of you who has taken the time to enter your name in the monthly draw;
- ♦ bought plants in the recent disposal of a deceased member's orchid collection, helping to keep his memory alive through those plants as well as assisting his family.

The Committee would also like to extend a special thanks to Wal Chapman who initially volunteered to be the "returning officer" to preside over the virtual raffle draw, then expanded his assistance to advising us on various Society matters. We appreciate your experience, knowledge and level headedness very much, Wal!



We look forward to seeing you all early in the New Year. Best wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas,

SSOS Committee



NOTE: As a special "thank you" to all the current members, your 2021 annual membership dues have been waived!



A CHAT WITH JOHN HELY

By Melissa Karayannis

When Did You First Start With Orchids, What Hooked You In?

When I was in my teens (about 1965) some of my friends grew orchids. I helped them with repotting etc, and started collecting a few cymbie back-bulbs. Mum also took me to the shopping centre orchid exhibitions around this time. This was sometimes depressing because the displays looked so terrific but it was exciting as well. When I got my driver's license at 18yo I often took myself off to Hancock's Nursery, to observe



'Mr.Hancock'. I received a lot of encouragement from Mr.Hancock. A Minister at that time also gave me a piece of a scented cymbidium. This plant has flowered for me annually for about 52 years. In my teens I had around 30-40 cymbies and when in flower, I could have up to 150 spikes at a time!

Around 1967-69 I was given a back-bulb of Stanhopea tigrina, my 'Chocolate Stan'. I've made about 50 divisions of this stan over the years, some of them I've given away, many are lined up along my back fence.

I found that people were happy to share and give me encouragement. I really liked the idea of nurturing something to grow and then being able to give it away; it was then a meaningful gift.



I moved to my Sutherland home about 32 years ago with my cymbies, paphs, spider orchids and stanhopeas. I was increasing my collection of kingianums obtained from local fetes. About 3-5 years ago I collected small tubes of orchids from Helensburg; I'm very pleased that these are all flowering now.

I couldn't get to SSOS meetings whilst I was still working. I managed occasional meetings from around 2013 and then finally joined in January of this year. My brother-in-law Ian Ware and Archie Mitsios have been very supportive of me.

At the orchid exhibitions that I used to visit, the Catts were always outstanding. I never thought I could grow them but I'm now more confident. The recent addition of Ted's Catts has boosted my collection and I'm looking forward to the process of nurturing them back to health and flower.

But I won't ever forget the cymbies that started me off !

What's your greatest orchid challenge?

Losing tags! Thinking I know their names and finding out I've got it wrong. I'm trying to learn all the genera names and to build a catalogue.



What's the oldest orchid in your collection?

I've had my Stan. tigrina for about 50 years and a fragrant Cymbie that I don't know the name of. The Stan has been particularly intriguing with it's fist-sized flower.

Which genera have you tried and failed with?

I've sometimes failed but then they come good when I've worked out their growing requirements. I take it as a challenge to work out their correct locations and growing conditions.

What's on your orchid wishlist? What are your future plans?

I want to create a flow chart for different genera, to include things like temperature, fertilising, watering, light, media requirements and then work out what works best in the space I have.



I also like to engineer (my profession, after all) new spaces to fit a genera's requirements. I have done this a lot already at ground level, now I'm looking at expanding upwards into my trees.

Around 5-6 years ago I converted my swimming pool into a pond. This has been great for my plants but also for some fish and endangered species of frogs.

I love to create/build a platform, then grow something on it, improving the environment for each species. I'm happy to try Ted's cattis now as the next challenge, and I've very happy they've all got names! I'd also like to try some bulbos. I'd like to experiment a bit more now that I'm 70, but then I want my area and orchids stable for my older years.

I love my garden. I love watching the iridescent dragonflies in amongst the frogs, chickens, worm bins, compost bins.....it's very satisfying, nothing much leaves the property!



**SSOS December
Virtual Raffle Winner:
Wal Chapman**



Jan Riley's July raffle prize,
Bifrenaria odora olive,
has flowered!

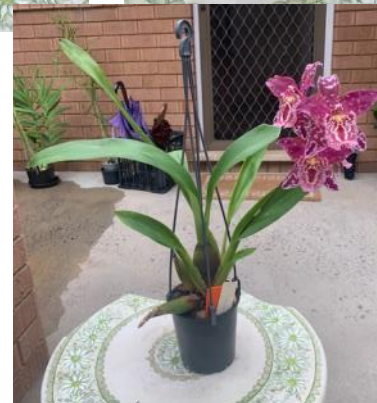


January Raffle:

November's virtual raffle prize was the last big plant that the Society had purchased from John Allen early in the year.

The December raffle will be smaller plants – but more of them! Plus your odds of winning will be higher, as there will be five orchid prizes given out this month!

The prizes include ***Paph Coos*** (a primary hybrid between *Paph glanduliferum* and *Paph chamberlainianum*); ***Bulbophyllum ambrosia***, a cold growing species; ***Dendrobium (Blushart x Rutherford Sunspot) x Tyab*** for you Aussie native lovers; ***Lgra Roman Emperor***, an oncidium hybrid currently in flower; and ***Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Brilliant'***, a warm-growing hybrid.



You don't need to buy any raffle tickets to be in the draw! It's FREE !

All you need to do is to send an email to Rhonda at info@ssos.org.au saying "please put my name in the raffle draw for January".

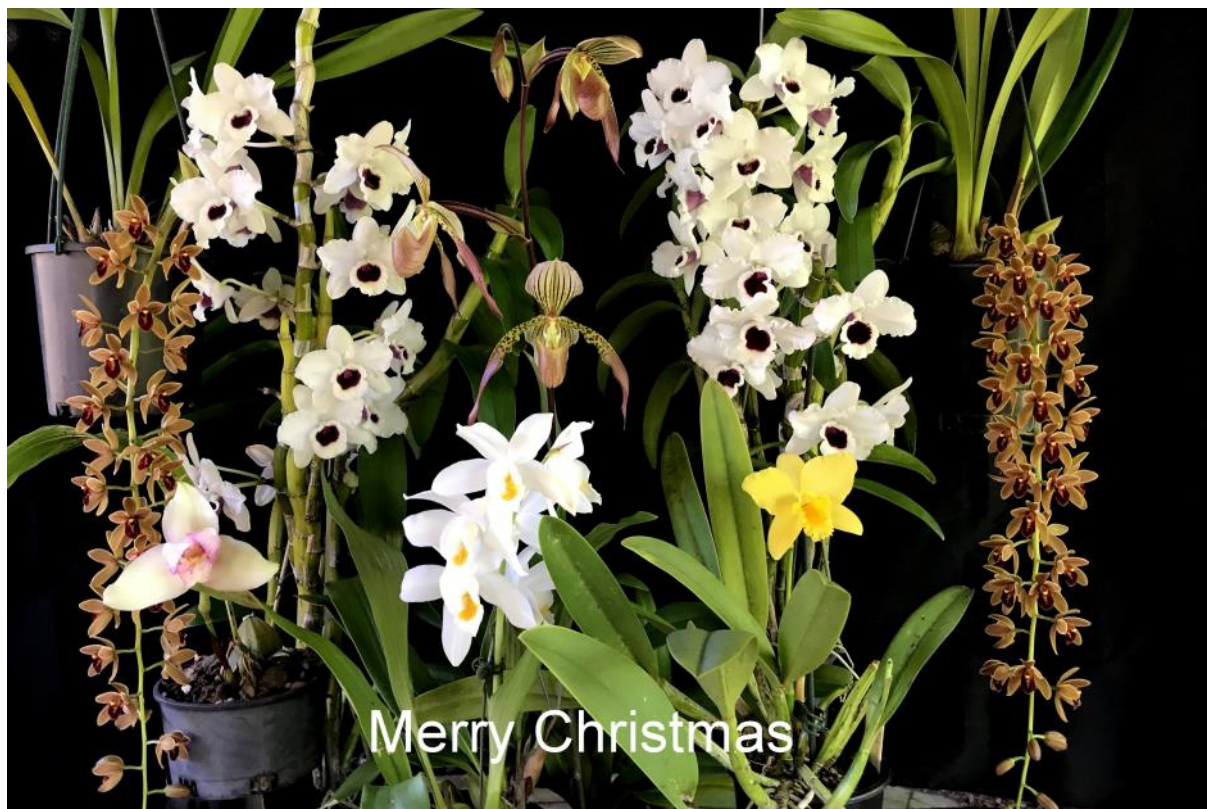
The deadline for participating entries is **Sunday 27th December 2020**

All the names of participating members will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn on the 22/8 . One entry per member. The plant will then be delivered to the lucky winner on a day and time agreed by that



Welcome to Wal Chapman's
Guess The Genera!

Take a guess then read the up-side-down answers



*Left to Right: Cymbidium Cricket, Lycaste Koolea
Dendrobium Yuki-daruma 'King', Coelogyne mooreana, 'Brockhurst'
Paphiopedilum St Swithens X haynaldianum, Dendrobium Yuki-daruma 'King'
Laelia Tokyo Magic 'Lea' x Pot. Free Spirit 'Laina Mutant', Cymbidium Cricket*

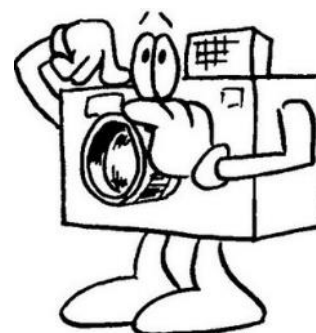
Orchid photos for the **January Bulletin??**

Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa
at **mjbk1@bigpond.com**

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

Email to **mjbk1@bigpond.com**

Both before Sunday Dec 27th please !





WHAT'S BUGGING YOU??

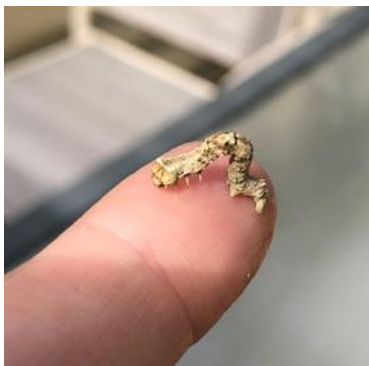
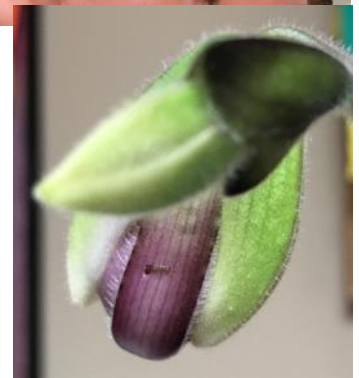
By Jan Robinson

Spring, what a lovely time in our orchid areas. New insects. New grubs. New creepy crawlies. New bugs. And all looking for tender young orchid growths to feast on.

Beautiful butterflies and moths flitting through our gardens, showing off their lovely colours—while sneakily looking for someplace to lay their eggs, preferably on our orchids!

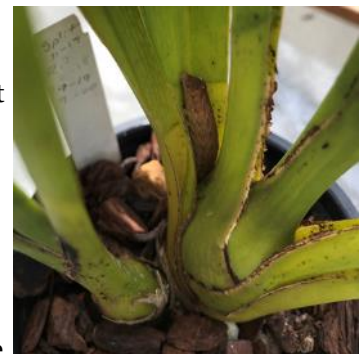
The eggs aren't so bad, it's the next step in the reproduction cycle that wreaks havoc. Luckily David Brooks was at my place the day I found these tiny white balls on my Paph, he told me they were cabbage moth eggs and we carefully tried to remove them without damaging the bud.

We thought we got them all—but then a week or so later I noticed several tiny pinholes on the bud in two places. (It's so unusual for me to have two buds on a multi floral paph, I was looking at them every day---luckily!) That night I went hunting for the enemy and found the tiny little bugger crawling out of his hidy hole. Had to remove him with tweezers, he was so small! Squish.



Who has some of these sneaky things, cleverly disguised as little brown sticks – until they move! Are they the so-called “inch worms”? They seem to prefer new growth on orchids as their food of choice.

Unlike this larger caterpillar, tucked safely amongst the old growth on my cymbidium! Who knows what he had been feeding on before getting busted.



Slugs are a disgusting nightmare. If you are lucky – and check your plants every day – you may notice the slime trail on or around your plant and you can put some pellets out to kill them before much damage is done. Unfortunately, you may not notice you have a slug or snail problem before it's too late.



Or you may have slugs in your potting mix, nibbling away on the new tender root tips and you'd never know it if you didn't find them while repotting! Yuck.





As if slime isn't bad enough, then there is the smelly problem: Stink beetles! This particular one is The Bronze Orange Bug (according to Google) and "sucks the juices from young shoots, fruit and flowers." Not only is the smell and their appetite a problem, Google also says, "This bug should be handled carefully as it can squirt a foul-smelling fluid that will burn human skin and cause great discomfort if it gets in your eyes." So don't look too close if you find one!

While we're on the subject of orange nasties, check this one out. I had been wondering why my Cattleya Trick or

Treat was looking so manky. Upon closer inspection, I discovered it was crawling with these bright orange grubs. Gross!! These horrible things had been having a lovely feed for who knows how long. Apparently they are the dreaded Dendrobium Beetle larvae—which must have had a very confused Mum, as this plant is definitely NOT a dendrobium. The bubs take on the colour of whatever plant they are eating. Revolting.



Maybe this is the confused Mum, on yet another genera rather than its preferred Aussie dendrobiums! Why don't they like dandelions instead of orchids??



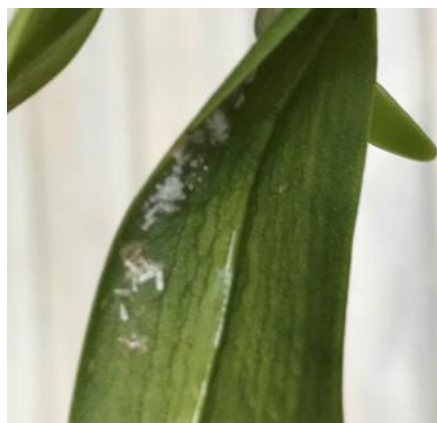
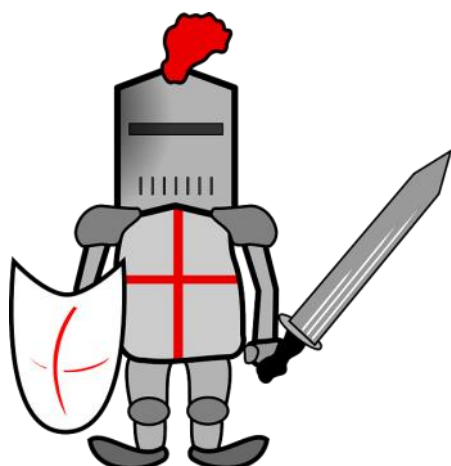
Last but by no means least, does anyone else have a plague of those pesky mealy bugs thriving in your orchid collection as well as plenty of scale? It's an ongoing battle keeping both of these pests under control. (Whoever said sarco's don't suffer much from scale hasn't seen my plants!!) Incidentally, I learned the hard

way not to spray Pyrethrum on paph flowers for mealy bug---if you want to see your flower drop off its stem almost instantaneously, spray the back of the petals with insecticide—big mistake!! A little bit on a cotton swab is a much better idea.



Here's hoping you don't have quite the variety or quantity of nasties bugging you and your orchids at the moment that I seem to have.

Cheers and good growing!



RESUMPTION OF MONTHLY MEETINGS – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Going forward, we hope to resume some form of monthly meetings early next year in a Covid-safe environment. For planning purposes, we are asking whether you would be prepared to attend a monthly meeting if the following restrictions applied:

- No suppers (or very limited);
- Reduced mingling;
- Social distancing observed at all times, including in areas around the orchids;
- Wearing of masks preferred;
- Limited benching of plants (possibly restricting # of plants each person can bring);
- Possibly pre-booking your spot at a meeting, given limited number of people are allowed in our hall;
- Wiping down your own chair as you leave the meeting (materials to be supplied).

We realize these factors are a bit of a moving target and rules can change overnight as we've seen recently in South Australia. We are also undecided about resuming our Sales Tables in the first few meetings, depending on meeting attendance.

If you would be willing to come to a monthly meeting under the above circumstances, please either send in a “YES I WOULD ATTEND” email to Rhonda at our Society’s email address, info@ssos.org.au, or phone our Secretary David Hicks on 0431 799 230 by SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER>

Based on the number of positive responses we get, the Committee will put together some guidelines for our “new format” meetings. Stay tuned for further info!

Keep in touch via our Facebook Group: “Sutherland Orchid Society”

Post your growing tips, recent mail order purchases, questions or just what's in flower at your place..... we'd all love to hear about it.!

If you are having any problems, please contact Jan Robinson jadrob@bigpond.com or Dan Coulton 0419 466986 for assistance.



Disclaimer: The growing guides are provided only as a starting basis to cultivation. Local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. SSOS will not be responsible for the results of your cultivation practices. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the author and not those of SSOS, SSOS in no way endorses or supports any claims or opinions of said authors.