

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: December 2021

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



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



Den. Thrysiflorum (Tom Scerri)



Mps. Breathless Florence  
(Sonia Tropoulos)



L. purpurata v tipo x Lc. Irene Finney (Frank Daniel)



Pot. Little Magician  
(Melissa Karayannis)



Z. Crinit 'Loddiges' X Z. Dynamo 'Splashes'  
(Melissa Karayannis)



Odontonia Futurisque Gloria  
(Sonia Tropoulos)

### Next Meeting:

Monday 13th December

8pm Main Meeting

(Please arrive at 7.45 to be Covid Checked-In)

### 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

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### EDITOR

*Melissa Karayannis*

*mjbk1@bigpond.com*



# Jan Robinson, Bloomin'Awesome

*Paph. delenatii* var *semi alba*  
(Jan Robinson)



*Bifrenaria inodora* 'Cherry Lime'  
(Jan Robinson)



From Golden Leopard  
(Jan Robinson)



*Masdev Vin Rouge*  
(Jan Robinson)



Thanks Jan for all your Bulletin help and support...so many articles, photos, texts and phone calls.....every month!

-Ed

*Dendrobium officinale*  
(Jan Robinson)



*Den Gatton Sunray*  
(Jan Robinson)



*Cattleya unknown*  
(Jan Robinson)



*Dendrobium tortile*  
(Jan Robinson)





# Robert Nicol, Bloomin'Awesome



Angcm. Magdalene  
'Keith S' (Robert Nicol)



Cuitlanzina pendula  
'Kevin'  
(Robert Nicol)



Coel. confusa  
(Robert Nicol)



Onc. stramineum 'Nellie' x  
'WOC' (Robert Nicol)



C. Dream Walk  
(Robert Nicol)



Sophrontis coccinea 'Royal Red' X  
Self (Robert Nicol)



Onc. Kenneth  
Bivin (Robert  
Nicol)

*Robert has sent me photos  
every month during  
lockdown and beyond!*

*Thanks Robert!*

*-Ed*



Den. loddegessii  
(Robert Nicol)



C. mendelii  
(Robert Nicol)



L. sincorana  
(Robert Nicol)

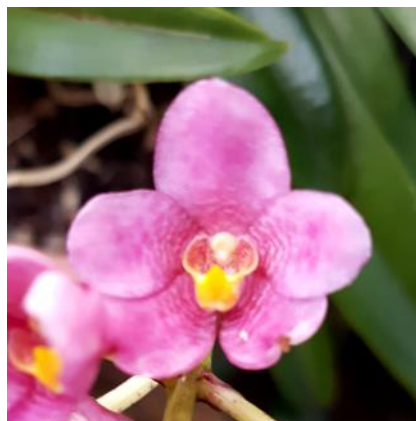
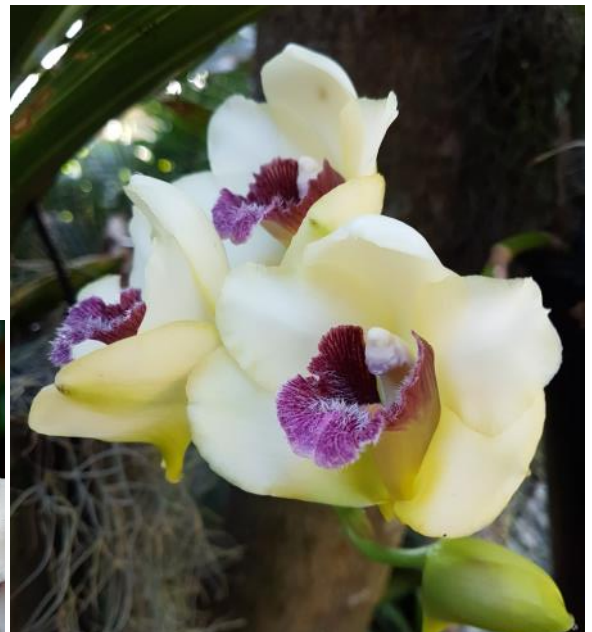




# *John Hely, Bloomin'Awesome*



*John has sent in photos most months during lockdown.  
Thanks John! -Ed*





# Wal Chapman, Bloomin'Awesome

*Paph. esquirolei* (Wal Chapman)



*C. purpurata* Var tipo (Wal Chapman)



*Ascocentum aurantiacum* (Wal Chapman)



*Cym Cricket* (Wal Chapman)



*Pholidota chinensis* (Wal Chapman)



*Bulb. sikkimensis* (Wal Chapman)



*Bulb. mastersianum* (Wal Chapman)



*Dryadella edwallii* (Wal Chapman)



*Rstp. contonta* (Wal Chapman)



*Bulb. graveolens* Var robustum (Wal Chapman)



Thanks Wal for your content help during lockdown.  
So many photos and the awesome  
'Guess The General'  
(started before you were on the Committee) -Ed



## *Gary Hodder, Bloomin'Awesome*



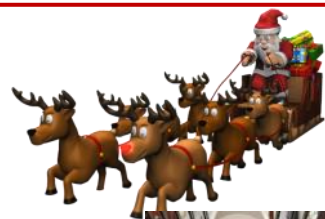
*When I was running out of Bulletin content, Gary jumped in with even more photos ,as well as articles. Thanks Gary! -Ed*







## President's Message...



Dear Members –

We're back after 5 long months of Lock Down Mach 2! You know how Americans call tomato sauce 'ketchup,' right? Well, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> will be a ketchup night. A time to ketchup with orchid friends we haven't seen in yonks. Maybe ketchup on a few prizes. Definitely ketchup on some sales bench \$ owed to members who sold plants way back in June.



Ketchup on the goss around the orchid fraternity. No bottles of ketchup in the raffle though, please! Should be a great night with close to 50 members (including the Committee) having RSVP'd. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sadly, Melissa is having to pull the pin on being the Editor of our monthly Bulletin. She has done a fantastic job for two and a half years. She has put so much work into those 29 colourful issues, especially during both lock downs, to keep us in touch and enjoying each other's orchids through her 'Bloomin' Awesome' section, not to mention all the other great articles and growing information. Thank you so much, Melissa!! The Society has had quite a few different Bulletin Editors during my 15 years of membership, hopefully one of you will give it a go now.



What's the haps with your orchids? Have you repotted them all yet? During those days of high winds my plants were drying out so quickly, I decided to experiment with water crystals to help with hydration. Have you tried them? They are tiny in the container, almost like salt. The directions say for plants already potted, "poke a number of holes into the potting mix and pour a small amount of water storage crystals into the bottom of each hole."



How much is a small amount—how long is a piece of string? I tried to poke holes into the potting mix of a cattleya, but the bark mix was not very cooperative. So I got the bright idea to just sprinkle "a small amount" around the top of the pot. "Water heavily to charge the crystals" was the next instruction, which I thought I did and the pot looked OK, right? Maybe the crystals were a bit close to the pseudobulbs, I got a skewer and pushed them further to the outside of the pot.



Then the rain set in. That "small amount" of crystals expanded until they were overflowing out of the pot!! OOPS! I scraped them off the top as best I could and hope to use them later—in the BOTTOM when I repot the next batch of cattleyas. And only a teaspoon or two!



On that embarrassing note, cheers and I hope to see you on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If not, have a safe and merry Christmas and all the best for 2022.

*Gan*



# THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS ON!!!!!!!!!!!!



--We will be staying in the **main hall**, not moving to the smaller room as we have in the past.

--**Benching** will be as per the reduced Covid schedule that has been in effect for the past 2 years. Plants will be judged and Judges' Choice prize certificates issued on the night as usual. (A new Annual Points Score Year will commence in January 2022.)

--**No Sales Table.**

--**RAFFLE.** Please bring a donation of an orchid or something orchid-related. Sale of raffle tickets will be capped at \$10/person.

--**FOOD.** Chinese finger food will be provided in individual containers. One container/person plus a can of soft drink. **BYO mug** if you would like a cuppa. Wrapped sweets will also be provided.



-- **CHECK IN.** You need to have RSVP'd by 28<sup>th</sup> November to party with us on the 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a check-in list at the front entrance and you will also need to use the QR code. Under current state health orders as well as requirements of using our venue, only members who have been double vaxed can attend.

Social distancing rules are still in place, masks need to be worn except when we're eating and drinking. Almost 50 members have RSVP'd, let's all do our part to make this a fun and Covid-safe evening!



## Welcome to Wal Chapman's *Guess The Genera!*

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



*Left to Right:*  
Paphiopedilum esquirolei  
Ascocentrum aurantiacum  
Restrepia contorta  
Bulbophyllum graveolens  
var robustum  
Dryadella edwallii  
Pholidota chinensis

**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.



## SUAVE AND DEBONAIR IN THE BUSH

There are only three species of cymbidiums native to Australia and we are lucky to have one of them growing quite happily in The Shire, *Cymbidium suave*. Not only growing, but currently flowering its head off!! Huge clumps of it proliferate high up in trees with multiple pendulous



spikes of lovely little yellow flowers. Here is one of the clumps of *Cymbidium suave* that hubby and I saw recently in the bush. Most of the other clumps were too high in the trees to get a good photo, although there were a few little baby ones growing farther down the tree trunks.



According to Google, the word “suave” suggests a specific ability to deal with others easily” and can also mean “charming, confident and elegant.” The flowers of *Cymbid suave* are certainly charming. The plant “deals with others easily” by growing so high, nothing can touch them and it’s hard for any other plant to encroach on their space.



It’s easy to see why suaves are so easy to kill in captivity. Potting mix in a container doesn’t much resemble the top of a giant Eucalyptus tree where roots up to 10 meters long wind down through rotting bark in a tree trunk. Squeezed into a shade house along with heaps of other orchids doesn’t much resemble being perched in the top of a tree with unlimited air movement, either. Suaves are notorious for not liking their roots disturbed, difficult to avoid when repotting. Overwatering kills them almost instantaneously—trust me, I’ve done it. Some people do grown *Cymbidium suave* successfully though, good on them. These days, I’m content to just see them in the wild.



With so many flowers packed onto multiple inflorescences, is it any wonder that *Cymbidium suave* has been used successfully as a parent in hybridizing programs? OrchidWiz says *Cymbidium suave* has 37 first generation “children.” One of our own members, Dimitrios Mitsios, won Champion Cymbidium and was awarded an HCC for one of these “children,” his Cymbid Bunyip ‘Precious Memories’ at the 2019 Southern Orchid Spectacular. This gorgeous hybrid is a cross of *Cymbidium suave* and *Cymbidium Carisona*. How cool was that to win Champion Cymbidium at the biggest orchid show in The Shire where one of the parents of that orchid actually grows wild?!



Here are a two other hybrids with *Cymbidium suave* as one of the parents, note the pendulous spikes and small flowers of the “kids” (photos from OrchidWiz).

Suave and debonair indeed!

**By Jan Robinson**





# Whiteflies on Dendrobium Orchids

By Gary Hodder

Whiteflies are not a true fly, but are **aleoideae**, a soft-bodied, winged insects closely related to aphids and mealybugs. They are so tiny that they are usually camouflaged. They are somewhat triangular in shape, and are often found in clusters on the undersides of leaves. They are active during the daytime, so they are easier to spot. Whiteflies are capable of reproducing throughout the year in warmer climates.

Check undersides of leaves around the veins for white insects, even if they aren't visible, feel leaf surfaces for honeydew which may also be covered with black sooty mould that can interfere with photosynthesis and kill the orchid. If the whiteflies are feeding, they'll suddenly all fly off the leaves in a swarm, so it's very obvious to see a white cloud.

You may also find eggs laid on the undersides of leaves. This is the beginning of a new generation! When the eggs hatch, the larvae will look like teeny white ovals without legs; they don't move but they immediately start sucking the plant juice. This is why orchid growers miss the whiteflies until it's too late. Adult females can produce up to 400 eggs, which can hatch in between one week and a month. They are usually laid in a circular pattern. Eggs are pale yellow when newly laid and brown when about to hatch.

When eggs hatch, and the young whiteflies gradually increase in size through four nymphal stages called instars. The first nymphal stage (crawler) is barely visible even with a hand lens. The crawlers move around for several hours before settling to begin feeding. Later nymphal stages are immobile, oval, and flattened, with greatly reduced legs and antennae, like small scale insects. The winged adult emerges from the last nymphal stage (sometimes called a pupa, although whiteflies don't have a true complete metamorphosis). All stages feed by sucking plant juices from leaves and excreting excess liquid as drops of honeydew as they feed.

Whiteflies use their piercing, needlelike mouthparts to suck sap from phloem, the food-conducting tissues in plant stems and leaves. Large populations can cause leaves to turn yellow, appear dry, or fall off orchids.

Whiteflies can be difficult to control with insecticides. Most less-toxic products such as insecticidal soaps, neem oil, or petroleum-based oils control only those whiteflies that are directly sprayed. Therefore, plants must be thoroughly covered with the spray solution, and repeat applications may be necessary. Be sure to cover undersides of all infested leaves; usually these are the lowest leaves and the most difficult to reach. Use soaps or oils when plants are not drought-stressed and when temperatures are not hot to prevent possible "burn" damage to plants. Early evening, when there is enough light to safely apply products but when the sun is not shining directly on plants, may be a good time to spray.

Remember the best way to control whiteflies is to be vigilant before an infestation occur by inspecting weekly, remove all dead leaves and don't place newly purchased orchids in your orchid house until they have been quarantined. Ladybugs and assassin bugs will also feed on whiteflies.

