

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: February 2021

www.ssos.org.au

WE ARE HOPING TO RESUME COVID-RESTRICTED MONTHLY MEETINGS ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 8TH, STAY TUNED FOR ANOTHER EMAIL WITH DETAILS SHORTLY

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome:



Slc. Highland Bauble 'Tiger Tail' X
C. walkneriana 'Alba' (Robert Nicol)

Bulbo. Longifolium
(Murray Aldridge)



Masd Hani X triangularis
(Wal Chapman)

Stan inodora (Jan Robinson)



Den. Bohemian Rhapsody
(Christoff Mans)



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SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



S. ruckeri (Robert Nicol)



Neofinetia falcata 'Pink' (Wal Chapman)



Paph. leucochilum (Murray Aldridge)



Vanda falcata (Jan Robinson)



Stanhopea costaricensis (John Hely)



Stanhopea var *nigroviolacea* "Barry"
x *Stanhopea* var *virginia* (Gary Hodder)

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

Den. loddigesii (Christoff Mans)



Cattleya var Intermedia Alba (Gary Hodder)



Zelenkocidium calico gem "green valley"
(Diane Phillips)



Stanhopea hermandezii (Frank Daniel)

Onc. Aka Baby Raspberry Chocolate
(Sonia Tropoulos)



Stan. Unknown (Ann Leer)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

Slc. Angels Pride x Pot. Hawaiian Chic (Christoff Mans)



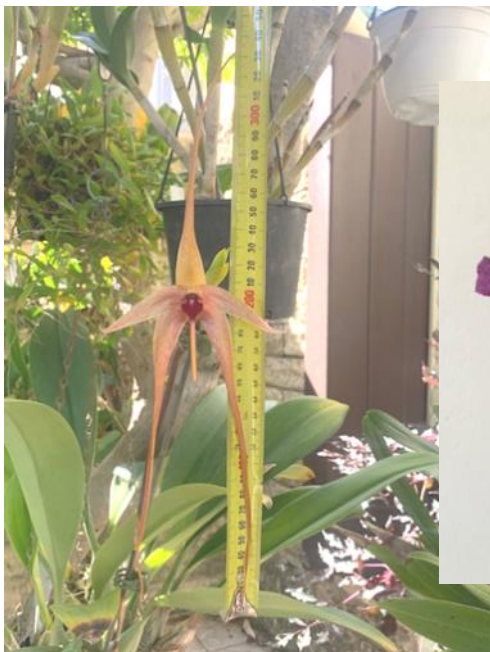
Prom. Florafest Cheetah 'Brown Red' X
'Orange' (Melissa K)



Lc. Hausermans Jade (Sonia Tropoulos)



B. nodosa (Robert Nicol)



Bulbo. echinolabium (Robert Nicol)

Unkown
(Sonia Tropoulos)



Aerides houlletiana (Wal Chapman)

President's Message...

Greetings Fellow Members

It's a goer!! We're giving monthly meetings a try again, starting with the 8th Feb—assuming there are no lockdowns in The Shire between now and then, of course!

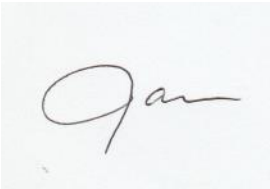
We'll finally be able to see our orchid colleagues and show off our beautiful plants! But it's going to be very different from our previous monthly meetings. No sitting shoulder to shoulder during the meetings. No clustering around the Sales Table, as there won't be a Sales Table at our first meeting. No congregating around the benching tables. The number of benching tables will be drastically reduced, which means the benching classes are also reduced as well as the number of plants allowed per exhibitor. We're going to try a limit of 5 plants per exhibitor for February and see how that works. No supper, either, at least not for February. You'll also have to book a spot in advance to attend the meeting in February.



These changes are just a first go. If something doesn't work, we'll have another go. The Committee will be open to your suggestions on improvements. But we've got to start somewhere—and as we know, the rules can change overnight! A separate email will be sent out shortly detailing the procedures for the 8th February meeting and enclosing the revised benching class list as well as our Covid Safe Plan.

In the meantime, I hope you and your orchids weathered the recent spate of heat wave conditions without many problems. We finally got some proper summer temperatures, and already there were grumblings about “bring on winter!” My glasshouse got up to 40 one day, even with frequent misting, fans running 24/7, and some ice cubes placed on the support beams in places where the cold water wouldn't drip on my plants. Time will tell what effect these extreme temperatures had on our orchids.

Keep cool, keep safe, check your inbox for the email about procedures for the 8th February meeting, and I hope to see some of you soon!



A Snippet from Ian Ware.....

Orthocerus strictum found growing beside the Endrick River Fire Trail in the northern sector of Mortin National Park last weekend.

Growing in sandy ridgetop soil, fully exposed to sun and wind on clear ground denuded after the fires.

We walked for a 3 day trip in and back and all but a few small areas were fully burnt but recovering brilliantly



Award Judging During Covid



Just because societies are not having meetings due to Covid, or you aren't attending society meetings due to Covid, doesn't mean you have to miss out on an award if you flower a great orchid! A procedure has been set up to enable judges to grant awards from photographs. (Photos taken with a proper camera are preferred over ones taken with a phone.) If you think your orchid is good enough to be considered for a quality award (HCC, AM or FCC), a cultural award (ACC, ACM, or ACE), or an award of distinction (AD), give our Society member Ian Chalmers a ring on 0400 220 192 and he will talk you through the process, as he is our NSW State Registrar of Judges and is overseeing this procedure. Garrie Bromley on 0425 336 049 will also be happy to help you.

If you are comfortable with having an orchid judge come to your house to look at your plant, Ian or Garrie will send one of the accredited judges at a mutually-agreed time. Or you can agree to meet somewhere other than your home with your plant. You can put your orchid in a safe place and social distance while the judge looks at your plant. If that person thinks your plant has award potential, he/she may take the required photographs and measurements or assist you in doing so. If you are not comfortable with this procedure, you can take the photos and measurements yourself and email them to Ian or Garrie.



The five photos required are one of the entire plant; the front, side, and back of one flower; and one inflorescence. To see if your plant "measures up", the length and width of the labellum, ventral sepal, dorsal sepal, and petals needs to be recorded in mm's as does the height and width of one flower (as per the form in this photo) and the length of the inflorescence being judged. Then the fun really starts—you need to count the number of inflorescences on your plant, # of flowers and buds on the "best" inflorescence, and the total number of flowers and unopened buds on your

plant! Counting might be easy if your plant is a Paph---but not so easy if your plant is a *Dendrobium speciosum* with heaps of spikes!! (See, there's more to getting an award than you may have previously thought!)

After looking at your photos and other data, if it is determined that your plant has merit, your information and photos will be distributed to a "Covid Award Judging Panel" for examination. If the judges on that panel agree on an award, then Bob's Your Uncle and congratulations! Of course, the regular fees apply to process your award if granted, which is around \$55 for a combined National and State Award.

Apparently quite a few awards in NSW were granted during 2020 using this procedure, so give it a go this year and good luck!!

(N.B. The above information is as per a telephone conversation and an email between Garrie Bromley and myself, Jan Robinson, in early January of this year.)

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL Inc.		Application Form for National Award	
		AOC Number AOC Award	
Name of Applicant(s)			
Regional Panel			
Name of Plant			
Clonal or Cultivar Name			
Parentage			
Regional Award		Date	Regional ID No.
DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS			
Reason for Granting Award			
Total Number of Inflorescences:		Number of Flowers on Relevant Inflorescence:	
Total Flower Count:		Number of Buds on Relevant Inflorescence:	
Total Unopened Buds:		Length of Relevant Inflorescence:	
Length of Relevant Inflorescence:		Other significant features and remarks:	
Points awarded		Photographer	
Voting of Panel:		Event/Meeting	
FCC	AM	HCC	AD
CBM	ACE	ACM	ACC
N/A			
SEGMENTAL DETAILS			
Floral Segments	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Colour of Flower R.H.S. Colour Chart Numbers to be used
Height & Width of Flower			
Petals			
Dorsal Sepal			
Ventral Sepal			
Labellum			
Date of dispatch to Registrar General			
Date of dispatch to Regional Registrars			



Welcome to Wal Chapman's
Guess The Genera!

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



Left to Right:
Masdevallia Vin Rouge
Phalaenopsis violacea 'Sumatra Form'
Maxillaria nigrescens
Masdevallia Margurite 'Geyersland Yellow'
Aerides houllettiana
Masdevallia Hani X triangularis

If you can't make the General Meeting,

Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa

at mjbk1@bigpond.com for the next bulletin

Want to write an article or just a little snippet for the bulletin??

Email to mjbk1@bigpond.com

Both before Sunday Feb 21st please !



It's not just the flowers By Jim Brydie

Last month I wrote about the differences between various Callista group Dendrobiums and highlighted flower differences. For example, Den. densiflorum is all gold/orange, Den. thyrsiflorum is white with a gold/orange lip. I focused on these popular species because they are so popular and EVERY orchid grower gets them mixed up when they first start growing them. However, although in that particular case, colour is the obvious and most simple way to tell which is which, **Flower Colour** is **not** a characteristic used in taxonomy to separate species. --- In fact, as explained in discussions about Cattleya purpurata, variable colour is even a notable feature of some orchids.

The point I wanted to make here is that to work out what any given unknown orchid in your collection might be, there are a whole range of factors you need to take into consideration, and the first is the 'whole of plant' assessment. Does it look like a Dendrobium? And if so is it a softcane or a hardcane? If it's not a Dendrobium, what else might it be? A Cattleya type? A Vanda? Or some kind of Oncidium or Oncidium relative? They all do have quite different looks you know. However, let's not get too deep all in one go.

D lindleyi 15cm tall ►

Let's just say, for the sake of this discussion, that your unknown orchid is a Dendrobium and it has yellow flowers. Look at these three plants. Before you get into comparing the flowers, each has such a distinctive shape, size, and style that if yours looks like one of them, it can't possibly be either of the other two. That is the first step of identifying an orchid. Look at the whole thing. Take into account that it might be still a baby and could grow a little, and that some cultivars are just bigger or smaller than others of the same, but if it has flowered, the general form should already be established.



Your first question is "Does it look anything like what you are thinking it is?" If the answer is yes, but there are a couple of other possibilities, then try to rule out possibilities ONE AT A TIME. Look for a comparison factor that will clearly rule out one or another possibility without going any further. It's not all that hard and you learn more and more about your orchid as you go along. You will see things about it that you had never noticed before and the process itself is quite fascinating. Look at pseudobulbs, leaves, flower lip, or any other distinctive characteristic.

Apart from the general plant size differences, and the variances from one cultivar to another, look at the close-up detail below of the actual pseudobulbs and leaves of each of the three species above. Despite size differences, they are quite different to one another.

(right fimbriatum)

(below 2 different lindleyis)

(below 2 different chrystotoxums)



(Excerpt from KOS January 2021 Bulletin, thanks Jim !)

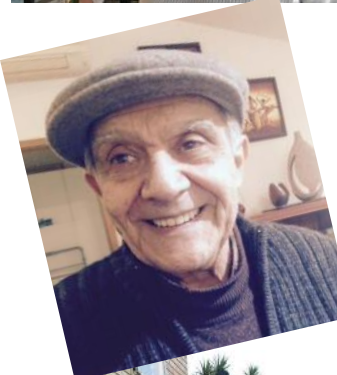
It was a bit tough to find someone to talk to this month, so

A Chat with Myself by Melissa Karayannis

(first sign of madness??)

When did you first start with orchids? What hooked you in?

I've had a few cymbies, oncidis, soft canes and phallies in my garden and house for about 20 years. I really only grew them as part of the general garden, not orchid-specifically. Back then I was spending a lot of time creating and growing Bonsai. Then three years ago my Father-in Law, Mark Karayannis (an orchid grower and judge) suffered a severe stroke and was moved to an Aged Care Facility. My husband, Lucas and I finally rescued



Mark's orchids after they'd had no care for several months. We brought them home and stuck some of them in an existing bush house (not ideal) and others we put into a hastily purchased plastic greenhouse.

That started a huge learning curve for me, trying to group plants into genera and find out what the hell I was meant to do with them all. Hubby was happy to help arrange growing areas but the detailed growing was up to me. Mark was growing mainly sarcs, paphs, proms and dendrobis. Of course I wish I knew then what I know now and that I didn't kill so many, but I did my best at the time. I



remember being puzzled why Mark had this big Anthurium in amongst the orchids. I finally worked out it was a large pleurothallis; but alas, too late, it died. I was starved for orchid growing information, so I joined SSOS in Sept 2018. Mark had been an SSOS member for many years and I joined at his recommendation. I became a

committee member several months later and then Editor in August 2019.

Last year I got a second-hand 4 foot fish tank and used it as a heated area for some paphs and bulbos during winter. This year I was lucky enough to get a heated polycarb greenhouse (not just for beer drinking) which allowed me to expand my own collection.

What hooked me in initially was the fact that these poor orchids were going to die if I didn't do something and Mark's orchid legacy would be destroyed. Then I progressed from "how the hell do I keep them alive" to "oh yes, they're quite beautiful, maybe I need to buy more".

Mike Hitchcock helped me a lot in the early days. Thanks Mike. I have also been very thankful for the generous mentoring of various SSOS members, especially Jan Robinson & Robert Nicol; thanks Guys! And whilst I'm on the topic, thank you to all who have helped to keep the bulletin going (sending in photos, articles & information) throughout the Covid upheavels when our meetings were cancelled. Your help has been much appreciated, thank you.

What's your favourite genus?

Well I can see this will change, but at the moment I



love catts. I like Angraecum and Aerangis type flowers too. I've also been really impressed with Stans this year and now have a few of my own.



What's your greatest orchid challenge? Which genera have you tried and failed with?

My greatest challenge from the beginning has been always paphs. I've unfortunately killed quite a few and the ones I still have just tend to sit there and not do a lot. I was pretty excited, however, to finally flower one this year! I'm also finding Sarcs a challenge at the moment. I seem to be battling root rot with them and can't seem to find a spot that they like.



What's on your orchid wish list?

I just counted up the orchids on my wishlist.....139 so far! Even though I was lucky enough to be given a modest collection initially, my wish list is still large! I'd love several more angraecums & aerangis (I only have two). I love any B. nodosa or digbyana crosses.



What's the oldest orchid in your collection?

I guess my oldest two orchids are a cymbie and a soft cane (names unknown), and the oncid in my trees. I've had them for about 20 years.

What are your future orchid plans or are you happy with your lot?

No, not nearly satisfied with my lot yet. I'm definitely in collection mode! And I want every single one growing beautifully and flowering well, as do we all! I really liked it when Wal Chapman told me he has planned his orchid collection so that there's something in flower throughout the year. I like that idea, it's something to aspire to!



**This Month's Virtual
Raffle Winner:
Michael Dimon**



STAY TUNED FOR INFO ON NEXT MONTH

Can anyone
help ID Frank's
unknown
orchid??



Exactly the same
plant. On the left is a
Sept '20 bloom at
one grower's house.
Below is a January
bloom in a new
grower's house!

Otaara (Volkertara)
Redland Kew 'Gaby'



**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.