

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: November 2020

www.ssos.org.au

NOTE: The November meeting is cancelled.

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome:

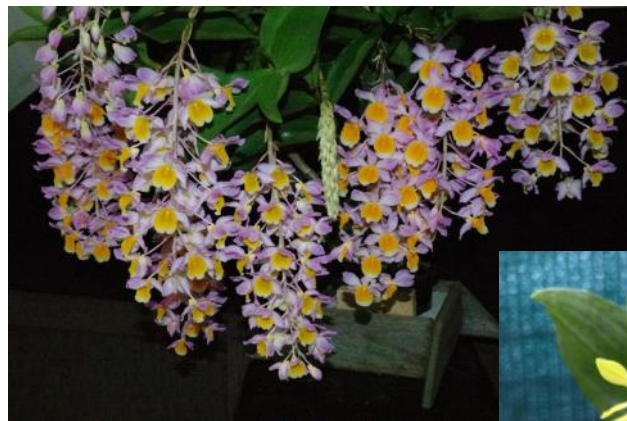
Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' (Wal)



Paph. Jamie Morre 'Lucky' Fo4 x
Paph. Mario Palmieri 'Big
Tex' (Heath)



Cym. Dean Roesler 'Jaffa'
(Vic)



Den. Mousmee
(Gary Hodder)

Den. Unknown (Mark Drury)



Sarco argochilus 'Willsey'
(Jan)

PRESIDENT

Jan Robinson

VICE PRESIDENT

Frank Daniel

SECRETARY

David Hicks

davehicks

@optusnet.com.au

0431 799 230

TREASURER

John Costa

EDITOR

Melissa Karayannis

mjbk1@bigpond.com

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Sarco. Unknown (Diane)



Rlc. Pink Diamond (David Hicks)



C. intermedia var. alba (Robert)

Burrageara Alkmaar (Rhonda)



Bifrenaria harrissoniae (John Hely)



Dendrobium Yukidaruma 'Queen' (Jan)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

Dryadella edwallii (Wal)



Den. loddegensii (Robert)



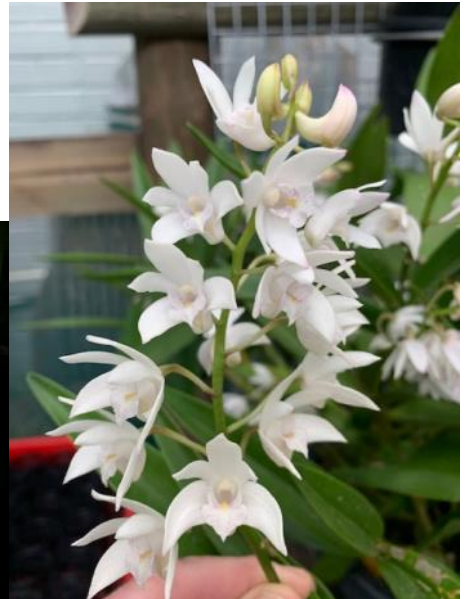
C. Rosella Bells (Jan)



Sarco. hartmannii
(Heath)



Den. Unknown (Melissa)



Sarco. Unknown
(John Hely)

Den. Unknown (Algia)



President's Message...

Greetings Fellow Members—

As Covid 19 grinds on, it is easy to get bogged down in negativity. Things aren't the way they "used to be" and probably will not be again for a very long time, if ever. We need to be mindful of our mental health and the importance of having a positive outlook on life.

So in an effort to view my schooner as being half full instead of half empty this month, I would like to say **CHEERS** to the 18 SSOS members who participated in recent sale of a deceased member's orchids. If all 100+ of you would have expressed an interest in attending or helping, it would have been a C19 social distancing--and a "who gets first go"--logistical nightmare!!



CHEERS to those members who bought plants at the sale and are embracing the nurturing of their new orchids in a positive way. We all knew the plants hadn't been repotted for awhile and are in need of some TLC. I look forward to seeing many of these catts and sarcs back on the show bench next year, thanks to you. By the way, John Hely bought one of the few boxes that had a plant in bud and check out the lovely flower now. **CHEERS**, John! (It is (Blc. Yellow Buttons x Lc. Aussie Sunset) x Lc Aussie Sunset.)



CHEERS to the member who told me other Societies are having orchid shows in shopping centres during Covid19. (Obviously our Society has not been able to have any shows at our regular venue this year.) The thought of having to organize an army of SSOS volunteers to safe guard our orchids at a shopping centre for 12+ hours a day during a show for several days does my head in!! Not to mention trying to police social distancing around sales tables. Your Committee is so happy we're not doing any shows in shopping centres!!!



CHEERS to the member who remarked that he "is actually enjoying not going to monthly meetings." I'm ecstatic to hear that not all of you are busting your bloomers to get back to regular Society meetings!! Monthly meetings take work to organize in the best of times, much less during a pandemic when health precautions are a major concern and government restrictions must be complied with. When it's safe to resume our meetings and we have worked out all the details on reduced benching of plants, a new annual points score system, supper or no supper, sanitizing all the chairs, tables, door handles, etc etc etc, we will let you know.

In the meantime, keep safe and be positive. We are so very fortunate to be living in Australia during these trying times, what's there to be negative about?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan".

A Chat With Rhonda By Melissa Karayannis

When did you start with orchids?

I've been growing orchids for about 30 years; poorly in the beginning. We decided to start a native garden at our home in about 1998. We bought plants from Sydney Wildflower Nursery at Heathcote. They also sold native



orchids back then. My first orchid purchases were Den. kingianum and Den. shoeaninum.

I hung these dendrobiums on a wall initially. I had no time to foster them and they were neglected until I retired two years ago. I used to drop into SSOS meetings now and again to buy pots. In 2013 I finally joined SSOS. In my first year as a Novice (when I didn't know what I was doing) I mounted a

cattleya and a sarc on a piece of bottlebrush. The sarc died and the catt took over, flowered it's head off and won me my first award: Novice Champion. Murray was the President back then and was asking for a Society Secretary. I volunteered to be Secretary even though I knew nothing about orchids (I had an annual point score of 2!). My stint as Secretary then lasted 7 years. My son, Mitchell, built me a green house in 2016 and then my plants took off! I accumulated orchids from nurseries, shows, gifts and raffle plants; I had to fill my new Green house!



What hooked you in?

I loved the fragrance and the daintiness of the sweet Australian native orchid flowers. My husband, Anthony, and I had seen many of these on our bushwalks. We grow only Australian natives in our garden; we love anything Australian!

What's your favourite genus?

Dockrillias and sarcochilus! I love the variety in the flowers: sweet little things and highly perfumed. I display my flowering orchids under my covered pergola area to

appreciate them and their fragrance. As our kids grew up, I always encouraged them to look at what I had on display there...they hated it!



What do you grow now?

Predominantly Australian natives but I've been tinkering with paphs and cymbies lately. My setup is actually good for natives: it has great air flow.

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

At the moment my greatest challenge is to get cymbidiums to flower, and Phalaenopsis to grow and flower. My zygopetalums tend to rot and not flower, so that's a challenge too.

What's on your orchid wish list?

I'd like to grow more bulbophyllum. I'm happy that my Cym. suave is flowering at the moment. The person who sold it to me threatened "Don't kill it", and I didn't! I've never really wanted a hot house. I don't want my whole life to be about only orchids, I'm also very active in other groups too such as Bushcare and Probus.

What's the oldest orchid in your collection?

A Den. shoeaninum from the Sydney Wildflower Nursery and a big speciosum that I rescued from a council cleanup 25 years ago. There were two speciosums out on the gutter then; I only picked up one and I still regret it!



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

Now that I'm retired, I can spend more time on my orchids. I'm happy to grow what I already have and produce more flowers.



They should flower, I play bluegrass music to them whilst repotting!



SSOS November Virtual Raffle Winner: Terry Thomson



December's Raffle Prize:

Neobenthamia gracilis, a species from Tanzania. It needs light as bright as possible, short of burning the leaves, to flower. The photo of the flower is off the internet, not the actual flower of this particular plant, but should be indicative of the species.



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 December".

The deadline for participating entries is Sunday **22nd November 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 person and a Committee member. Don't miss out on a chance to win a fantastic flowering size orchid, send your email now!

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.





Welcome to Wal Chapman's
Guess The Genera!

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



Maxillaria nigrescens, Pterostylis pedunculata, Paphiopedilum esquirolei,
Dendrobium striolatum, Pterostylis baptisii 'Gosford',
Cymbidium Mimi Sacramento,
Lycaste Calymea, Dendrobium striolatum 'Ruffles'.

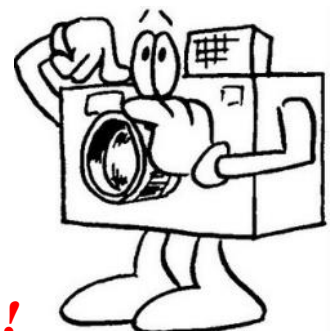
Orchid photos for the **December Bulletin??**

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 Nov 22nd please !



ORCHID OPULENCE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Hubby and I spent several days in the Blue Mountains recently—where we struck pure gold in finding heaps of native orchids in flower!

On **Day One** we had barely stepped foot out of the car when we found our first orchid, a green hood, *Pterostylis pedunculata*.



A bit further along and there was another type of green hood, *Bunochilus tenuis*.



Soon we were seeing colonies of “lady finger orchids,” the pink ones are *Caladenia carnea* and the white ones are *Caladenia catenata* (we think!).



The next sighting was *Caladenia transitoria*, which was pretty exciting because our orchid book says it is “not common” and the flowers are only out for 1 – 3 days!



We ended our walk with the largest orchid we had seen all day, *Prasophyllum elatum*, the Tall Leek

Orchid. So many different orchids in just one afternoon, brilliant!



Day Two: The bush was more open here and we saw quite a few sun orchids, although not sure of its name—the blue one!!



Donkey orchids are one of my favourites and there they were, right on the edge of the track just waiting to bray at us.

Although not overly spectacular—and the individual flowers are about the size of the head of a match stick—it was still fun to add a *Microtis* (one of the so-called onion orchids) to our list of orchid species spotted that day, 8 in total!



Day Three: We got attacked by squillions of orange cicadas!! They literally kept smacking into us as we walked! Conversation was impossible, they were so loud. Amazing.



Equally amazing were the orchids we found that day--more of the same we had seen the previous two days, plus a good specimen of *Calochilus robertsonii*, the Purple Bearded Orchid, and my all time favourite Aussie native orchid, *Caleana major*, the Flying Duck Orchid. So aptly named! We saw flocks and flocks of duck orchids that day. What a fabulous few days of orchid spotting, I can't wait to go back!



By Jan Robinson



Den. thrysiflorum
X Den. farmerii
(Gary Hodder)

Den. Hamma Lake
'Dream'
(Vic)



Dendrobium Mousmee Collection
(Gary Hodder)



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.

REPOTTING CHALLENGES

Some of us are having our repotting expertise tested by the plants we bought at the sale of the late Ted Beehag's orchids. We all knew in advance that the plants hadn't been repotted for a few years and would need some TLC, and that the format of the sale would be a "lucky dip" as all the plants were in boxed lots.



There are plants that are hanging out of their pots, with only a few roots holding them in.

There are plants that have obviously been hung up for a very long time and have roots dangling a meter or more underneath the pot. What a challenge these are to repot without damaging too many roots---or do you just cut them all off and hope for heaps of new ones??



There are plants with roots so firmly attached to the bottom of the pot that the only way to get the roots out is to cut the pot carefully into small pieces.



There are plants growing in some kind of moss.



There are plants with hardly no roots at all and of course some have the dreaded scale.





But all the plants have one thing in common: They want to **SURVIVE!!** Even if some don't have many good roots, most of the plants have viable eyes that may not be visible until all the dead bits are removed and the green bits are given a gentle scrub with a toothbrush that has been dipped in 50/50 solution of metho and water to remove the scale.

Have a look at how good this scrappy piece came up after a bit of TLC. Sure, it needs to be staked well so that when the new roots form, they don't wobble around in the potting media and break off—but look at all those eyes where the new growth is just waiting to take off if they're just given half a chance!

A couple of firm anchor points to hold everything in place and Bob's your uncle. Yes, this potted catt is the same piece in the prior two photos, now as happy as can be.

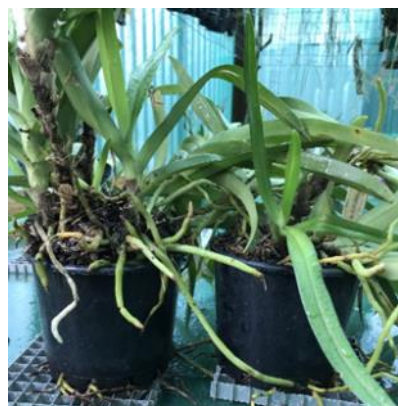


Louise Gannon bought several boxes of catts and says her feelings went from “why did I buy these plants” to “let's see how they go being repotted.” After working on all her purchases, she reports she is “happy with them now and they look 200% better. It may take a year for them to be more robust but that's fine.” Good on you, Louise.

Terry Thompson was lucky enough to acquire some small crickets in the boxes of plants he bought. No worries, he said he will just soak his plants in insecticide prior to repotting.

Most of the plants had labels that had a number as well as the plant name, although in many cases some of the printing had faded. Ted was meticulous and kept a detailed list of his plants by tag #; this list was distributed to the buyers and most of the plants were able to be traced back to the list and the complete name ascertained. John Hely says of his plants, “some tags had lost their code number, however some parts of the name could be read, enabling a match to be found. Others, the code was nearly invisible, but with parts of the name more matches were found on the list.”

As well as catts, there were some boxes of sarcs on offer. Rhonda Jackson bought one and amongst her purchases were two nice healthy plants. They obviously had been living closely together for quite awhile, as the roots from one pot had grown into the adjoining pot. Good luck separating those two plants, Rhonda



There were also a few odontocidiums included in the sale plants which David Hicks bought. He says, “They all had obvious cosmetic issues but I was happy with the price and extremely happy with the outcome once they were cleaned up and re-potted. After taking off all the shrivelled and dead back bulbs, cleaning off the old growing sheaths and flower spikes, I was left with some very good forward growing divisions. Over the last 2



weeks and especially with the current rain, they are all showing signs of new growth, with some plants showing 2 or 3 new growths! I now have 8 very healthy divisions with new roots forming and looking forward to seeing them flower next season. The mix used is 50% 12mm bark and 50% expanded clay pebble with a pinch of blood and bone and some ‘strike-back’ orchid fertiliser sprinkled on the surface using 100mm pots. These orchids are all cool growing in the open bush-house with about 70% shade in summer, 50% in winter.”

David sums it up with, “If you are a Novice grower and considering purchasing orchids in this condition, always look for healthy forward growth and see the potential in your purchase, after all, the fun of orchid growing is in the challenge!”

Compiled by Jan Robinson