

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: October 2021

www.ssos.org.au

SSOS Members, Bloomin' Awesome At Home

Dendrobium linguiforme
(Col Brandon)



Dendrobium Wayne Turville
(Jan Robinson)



Lc. Mini Purple 'Blue Pacific' x C. labiata v coerulea
'Blue Star' (Robert Nicol)

Lycamerlycaste 'Neve' (Sonia
Tropoulos)



Coel flaccida
(John Ng)

OCTOBER MEETING CANCELLED

Next Meeting:
To Be Advised !

SSOS MEETINGS @

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



Find us on FB

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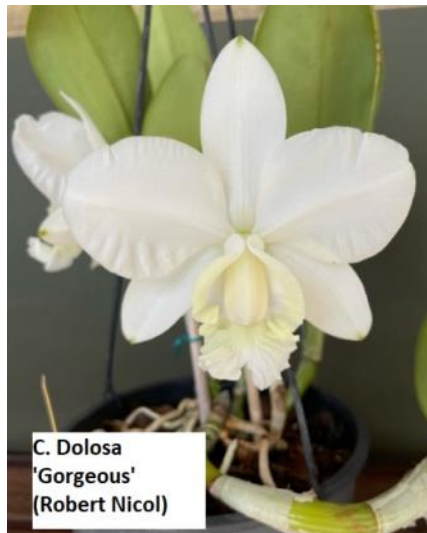
Melissa Karayannis

mjbk1@bigpond.com

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome At Home



C. Claesiana
(Melissa Karayannis)



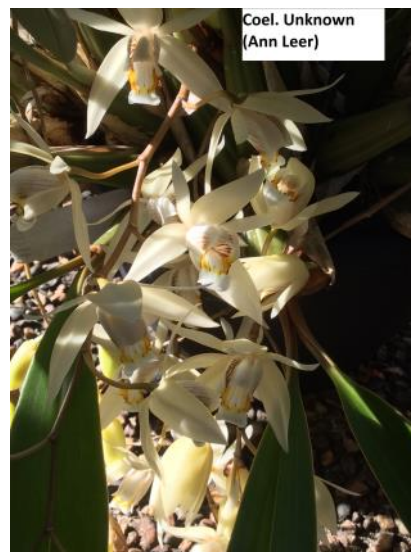
C. Dolosa
'Gorgeous'
(Robert Nicol)



Bulb longiflorum
(Wal Chapman)



Coel. Unknown (John Hely)



Coel. Unknown
(Ann Leer)



Dendrobium striolatum
'Ruffles'
(Col Brandon)



Dendrobium striolatum 'Ruffles'
(Col Brandon)



Sophronitis coccinea 'Royale Red' x
self (Robert Nicol)



Cym. Unknown (John Hely)

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Cym. Unknown (Ann Leer)



Phal. philippinense
(Murray Aldridge)



Den. Red Dragon (Vic Petrovski)



Den. Unknown (John Hely)



Lc. Trick or Treat (Melissa Karayannis,
ex Jan Robinson)



Dendrobium striolatum var album
(Jan Robinson)



L. superbiens
(David Hicks)



Cym. Unknown (Ann
Leer)

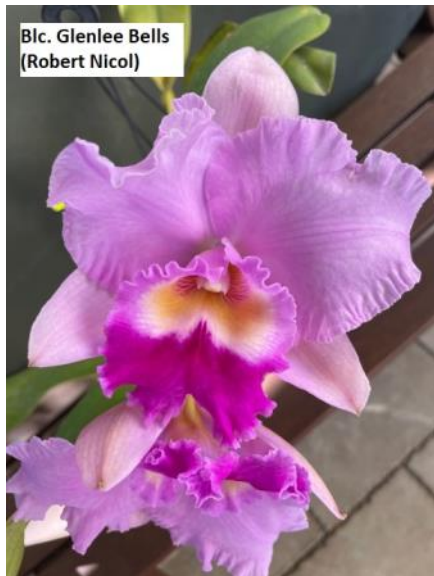


Bulb flaviform
(Wal Chapman)



Rlc. Hsinying Sunbeam 'Auranti-Gem'
(Melissa Karayannis)

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome At Home



Blc. Glenlee Bells
(Robert Nicol)



Cym. Nam Khan 4N
x Nancy Montgomery
'Shapely'
(Melissa Karayannis)



Den. Unknown
(John Hely).



Wilsonara
Kolibri
'Pink'
(David
Hicks)



Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue
Birds' (Sonia Tropoulos)



Dendrobium Hartiana Lake
'Dream'



Eplc. Magic Wand
(Melissa Karayannis)



Den. linawianum (Gary Hodder)



Unknown (Ann Lear)



Onc. croesus
yeowie(John Ng)

Bloomin'Awesome @ Rhonda Jackson's



President's Message...



Dear Fellow Members – Happy October! Hopefully we'll be out of lock down



soon. How is your repotting going? Sonia texted me a few days ago saying when I finished mine, maybe I could help her with hers. Very funny, Sonia—I am NEVER finished repotting!! Sorry to hear that some of you are running out of repotting supplies and no place to replenish within your LGA. Delivery charge on one bag of jumbo perlite is somewhat exy apparently.

Our friends the Dendrobium Beetles are back with a vengeance. Having had the best native orchid flowering season in 30 years, does that mean it's going to be the worst summer of Dendrobium Beetles in 30 years as well?!?! Let's hope not!



Who else is running out of growing space? With no place to sell our excess orchids, they just keep getting bigger and bigger and taking up more and more room in our prime growing areas. I've been hinting to hubby that we need to enclose the pergola (it would make a fantastic bush house!), but so far no luck.

Frequent orchid-spotting bush walks continue to be one of the few highlights of lock



down, at least for me. So many wonderful orchids out there, you just have to look in the right place! We are very lucky to have a reference book specific to our area, "Native Orchids in Southern Sydney," and even luckier to have the author, Margaret Bradhurst, agreeable to helping ID orchids we can't work out the name for ourselves. Some of the flowers are so tiny, it is really difficult to get a good photo, even when laying on the ground with your phone about an inch away from the plant! Using a backdrop has helped in some cases, but even that can be tricky. Luckily only one leach has found us so far.....and not on me..... and only one red-bellied black snake.



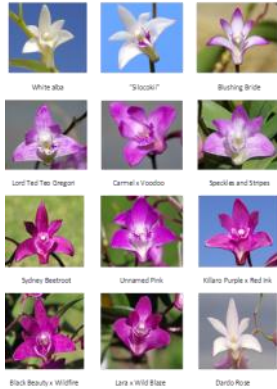
Needless to say, no October monthly meeting will be happening. We await the Public Health Orders from the NSW government as well as restrictions from the church regarding use of our regular hall for monthly meetings going forward. If the 4m2 rule is back, we'll be limited to the # of members who can attend. Anyone for a masked ball instead of a Christmas party this year??



Stay tuned, stay safe and keep enjoying your orchids,

DENDROBIUMS By Gary Hodder

Gary Hodder's Dendrobium Kingianum collection



Gary Hodder: Dendrobium Speciosum



Dendrobium Delicatum

This hybrid is one of the few Australian naturally occurring hybrid orchids and is a cross between Den speciosum var. hillii and Den kingianum. In nature it grows as a Lithophyte (Grows on rocks). It's habitat is on The Great Dividing Range on the New South Wales and Queensland border. Flowers occur on 250 mm long stems in clusters of up to 14 or more flowers. They are usually pure white to cream with purple dots on the labellum and are often sweetly scented. Flowers are seen from late winter to spring. This Orchid is a favourite to hybridise and is now available in colours including pinks, reds and yellows.

- Parents
- Dendrobium Speciosum var hillii
- Dendrobium Kingianum

**Natural
Dendrobium
Delicatum**



Australian Dendrobiums

Dendrobium jonesii

(Also known as Den. ruppianum or the Oak Orchid)
It is an Australian Species orchid that has a habitat in far north Queensland from Paluma (Townsville) up to Iron Range National Park (Cape York Peninsula). It has dark brownish green pseudo-bulbs. There are between 2 and 7 dark greenish leaves. It flowers with a long raceme having up to 35 creamy flowers having a labellum which is cream with purple markings.

Some people say that you can not flower it in Sydney without a hothouse but I do not have that problem.



Dendrobium falcorostrum

This orchid is a natural species orchid which is more localised than other Australian natives, growing as far south as Dungog New South Wales, to just beyond the Queensland border. It is generally found growing on Beech trees in gullies around Mount Banba-banba, near the Macleay River and because of this it is known as the Beech Orchid.

The flowers are very large and numerous for the size of the plant. The spikes appear in July on leafless as well as leafed bulbs and will flower four or five times on the same pseudo-bulbs. The flowers are slightly creamy instead of pure white in colour and vary from 10 to 20, they are produced on every pseudo-bulb and exhale a very distinct perfume. The pseudo-bulbs are club-shaped, thickest at the base on an almost non-existent rhizome, tapering to about one-quarter of their base thickness at the tip and carrying from two to five leaves.



Dendrobium Gracillimum



- This Orchid is a hybrid between Den speciosum var. hillii and Den gracilicaule and can be distinguished by its longer thicker pseudo-bulbs and larger more numerous flowers which are not blotched on the outside.
- It is sometimes called the Wattle Orchid because of their mass of strong Cootamundra wattle like blooms.
- The pseudo-bulbs may flower as many as seven or eight times, occasionally with two or three spikes from each one.

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)photos to Editor as they open up!



#523 Sc. Dal's Good One
(Jan Robinson)



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We still need help with bulletin content!

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 for the bulletin??

Both before Sunday Oct 24th please !





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

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



Rhynchosstylus gigantea
Dendrobium gracilicula
Bulbophyllum longiflorum
Dendrobium teretifolium
Phalaenopsis Nobby's Little Candy
Bulbophyllum flaviflorum
Dendrobium striolatum
Phalaenopsis Unknown

Left to right:

FREE

¾ inch O.D. Gal pipe & Downie fittings

Enough to build 4m X 3m shade house. You dismantle and take away, can have shade cloth on existing structure. Also available a couple of metal table frames, previously used as benches.

FOR SALE

Walk in Green House / Hot House W 2m x D 2m H x 2.2m

Removable Heavy Duty PE Cover Strong, Tubular Steel Construction
Roll up front panel. Still in box, never opened, (would not fit my available space).
Cost \$150, Sell \$100. **Ring George 0409 521 869**

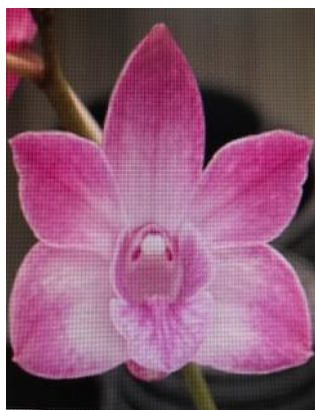


AWARD-WINNING AUSSIE NATIVES

Just because there aren't any orchid shows happening doesn't mean your plants can't win any prizes. In the best flowering year for Aussie natives in the last 30 years (according to Col Brandon), members are using the Covid Award Judging Procedures to get some well-deserved recognition for their top-of-the-line orchids. A good example of this is Murray Aldridge's recent Award of Merit granted to his *Dendrobium Gracillimum* 'Nifty', named after the late Neville Roper (whose nickname was Nifty), a

long time member of our Society. Neville gave this plant to Murray as a small seedling and told him, "Look after it, it's a good one." He wasn't wrong. Not only is the mature plant very well flowered,

but have a look at the width of the flower segments!



Col Brandon is another top Aussie native orchid grower in our Society as you probably know. Recent prizes include an Award of Merit for his hybrid *Dendrobium Esme Poulton* 'Henk' which had particularly large and well-formed flowers. (Col named this one 'Henk' after Henk Van den Berg, another great Australian native orchid grower.)



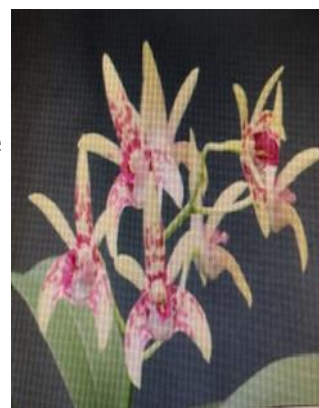
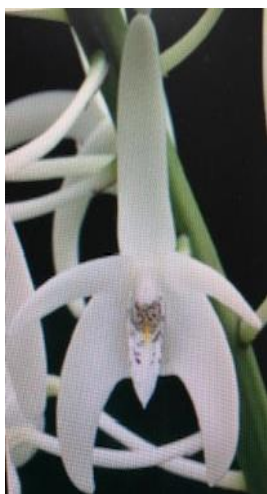
Col has heaps of Dockrillias—or terete-leafed *Dendrobiums*—or *Rhizobiums*—or whatever you want to call those native orchids with pencil-shaped leaves. Here is one on the left, *Dendrobium Australian Kayla* 'Bella' which was awarded an AM (Award of Merit.) Contrast the broad segments of this winner with the one on the right, *Dendrobium Sunblessed* 'Wayne', which also won an AM and is named after



Wayne Turville, another big name in Aussie native orchids.

Completely different shape but both superior plants in their own right.

Col also grows other Aussie Dendrobiums to perfection. His Surprisekayla 'Dylan' (on the right) received an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) recently. The plant below, Kayla 'Steve,' received an AM. Col named this one after Steve Anyon-Smith, a previous member of our Society who got this plant for Col some years ago at a Bankstown Orchid Society auction.



Kayla is a cross originally made by Col himself in 1995 of *Dendrobium* Lynette Banks x Tweed and is a combination of four *Dendrobium* species—*speciosum* 'National White', *fleckeri*, *falcorostrum* and *jonesii*. (Kayla is also Col's favourite granddaughter but don't tell the rest of the grandkids!!) This hybrid has won many awards over the years. It is a slow grower but worth the time and effort!!



The sixth award that Col has won recently is for *Dendrobium speciosum* 'Neil' which got an AM. He named it after Neil Finch who combined *speciosum pedunculata* 'Herbert' with the infamous *speciosum* 'National White', which explains why it has such pure white flowers, gorgeous!



Congratulations, Murray and Col, and keep up the good work!

Submitted by Jan Robinson

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THE PLEASURES & PERILS OF PLEIONE

By Melissa Karayannis



In the winter of 2019 I volunteered to suddenly take over the (then) modest orchid collection of my late Father-In-Law (Mark Karayannis) after he had suffered a major stroke. The genus I lost within the first 18 months was Pleione.



I had inherited a stack of plants and the only information I had was their tags. There were about 17 different genera, all with different wants and needs. Having previously grown tulips, I thought Pleione sounded like one of the easier challenges.

I read on the internet that they were bulb-like plants, cool to cold growers. I also read that I needed to keep them, unearthed, in the fridge over winter to keep them cold. Then in July, I apparently needed to pot them in a bark, sphag and perlite mix, then wait for the joys of spring.

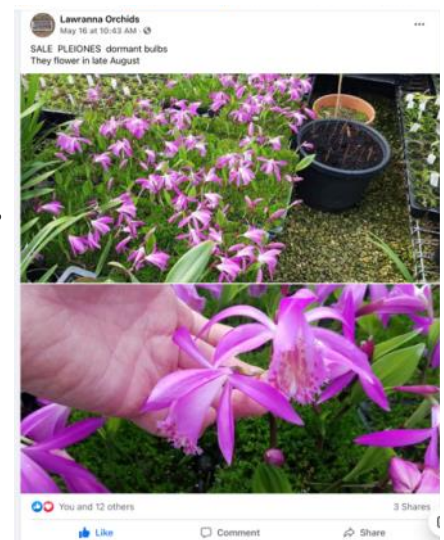
I did this for two years and grew lovely leaves but no flowers. Then in the second year all the bulbs (about eight) died.

During my steep learning curve in the world of orchids, I have developed a love of a 'frilly lip' and the pictures of Pleione that I researched at that time, have stuck in my mind. That, connected with the sadness of losing a whole genus (even if it was only 8 'bulbs') from Mark's collection made me determined to 'keep an eye out' for Pleione in order to attempt them again.

In May 2021, whilst scrolling through Facebook, I noticed an advertisement for a 'sale on pleione' from Lawranna Orchids in Beechworth Victoria. I called them up and spoke to a lovely, down-to-earth lady, Anna Christesen. I told her my Pleione woes. When I asked her if I could grow them in temperate Sydney and that I've read they need to be in the fridge for winter, her answer was a fantastic 'bullshit'! And I thought 'awesome, I'm going to give them another go!'

Anna, over a few phone calls and texts, gave me the information I needed. Her sage advice (please note this is my interpretation of her advice, I hope it's correct) included:

1. Use a terrestrial finer orchid mix (not the same as an epiphytic mix...who knew!) and wet it through with half-strength 'Wetta Soil' (or the like) to ensure the mix doesn't become water resistant.
2. Pleione stay better insulated & hydrated in their pots over winter, not bare in the fridge.
3. In June-July (it was June this year), take the 'bulbs' when they start 'moving', from their old mix and repot. You can either cut off all the old roots and balance the 'bulb' on the top of the mix, or remove the root outer-casing and use those threads as anchors in the mix.
4. When repotting, place the old 'bulbs' against the pot edge and point the new 'pups' towards the centre to enable them to have more room to grow.



(Next page)

5. In June, keep them slightly dry, definitely not wet and increase the watering July-August when shoots emerge from the 'bulbs'.
6. The flower bud shoots have a rounded tip, new bulb shoots are pointier.
7. They will flower first, then shoot up leaves.
8. Increase fertilizer when in leaf (Spring/ Summer), reduce in autumn (pull the old leaves off then).
9. Repeat !

Anna said pleiones like semi-shade to full morning sun, especially in cooler months. She suggested I try some in different growing areas and see how they fair.

So I purchased \$50 of Pleione bulbs and gave it a go! I grew some in a warm spot with morning (winter) sun and some in dappled light that resembled a cooler forest floor (yes, I wagered the forest floor would win). The Pleione in the sunnier area sprouted flowers at the same time as the cooler area. They didn't, however, have to 'find the sun' and thus their stems were very short, not allowing enough room for the relatively large flower to unfurl without interference. The flowers in the cooler area with lower light/dappled morning sun sprouted glorious flowers on tallish stems, unmarked by any soil/pot skirmishes.

So I have now (many thanks to Anna) flowered Pleione. I have 'raised a glass' to my Father-in-law's memory and I have beheld so many lovely 'frilly lips'!



Ps. Yes there's a lot of pink colours here.....
I'm collecting whites and yellows next!



Local Native Orchid Spotting



Jan Robinson, Melissa Karayannis, Rhonda Jackson & Ian Ware have all submitted photos of native orchid 'finds' this month. The orchids were all spotted on walks within their 'Covid-restricted' areas. Here they are!



Local Native Orchid Spotting



Hover fly
pollinator?



*Prasophyllum
elatum*



*Ptst. pedunculata
or oblonga*



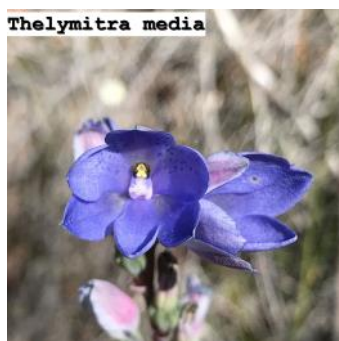
*Ptst.
curta*



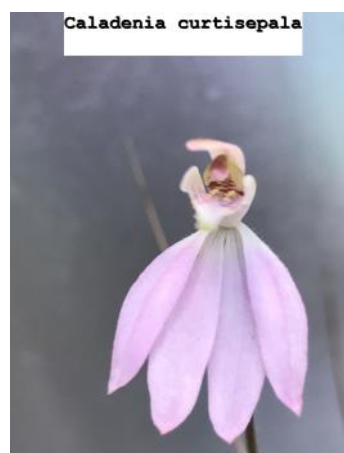
*Thelymitra pauciflora
or brevifolia*



*Chiloglottis
formicifera*



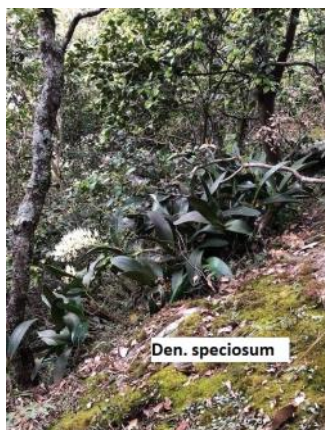
Thelymitra media



Caladenia curtisepala



Den. suave



Den. speciosum



*Caladenia
fuscata*

