

## Next Meeting:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
2024, 8pm.**

**Speaker** – Gary Hodder on  
'Orchids for New  
Growers'

*\*The AGM will be held  
prior to our 11<sup>th</sup> March  
General Meeting  
commencing at 8pm.*

**NOTE** – members, partners  
and visitors, please ensure  
you sign our attendance  
book on entry to the  
meeting hall.

Use of hand sanitiser, and  
social distancing is highly  
encouraged.



**Cover Photo:** Ctsm. Marks Red  
Hermosa 'Jungle Girl' – owner and  
photo courtesy L. Watkins.

# Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc. Bulletin – March 2024



**Web:** [www.ssos.org.au](http://www.ssos.org.au) - **E:** [info@ssos.org.au](mailto:info@ssos.org.au)

*The Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc. was founded in 1952 and is dedicated to the promotion, development and encouragement of a general interest and understanding of all aspects of orchid culture.*

## Monthly Meetings -

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Uniting Church Hall, corner Flora and Merton Streets, Sutherland @ 8pm, doors open 7pm. Visitors are always welcome (please arrive by 7.45pm to check in, plant benching by 7.50pm)

**President:** Rhonda Jackson M: 0407 458 784

**Vice President:** Frank Daniel

**Secretary:** David Hicks E: [davehicks@outlook.com.au](mailto:davehicks@outlook.com.au) M: 0431 799 230

**Treasurer:** Margaret Spring

**Committee:** Murray Aldridge, Diane Phillips, Melissa Karayannis,  
Jenny Sharpham, Mark Drury.

*(Committee meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. monthly except January - Tradies Gynea @ 7.30pm)*

**Life Members:** Murray Aldridge, Wal & Janette Chapman, Jan Robinson, Bob Moar,  
Col Brandon, Frank Daniel.

**Bulletin / Website:** David Hicks

**Member Contributions** – to have your 'Photos @ Home' or written articles included in the Bulletin, please send to: [davehicks@outlook.com.au](mailto:davehicks@outlook.com.au) (prior to **28<sup>th</sup>** each month)

## *In this Month's Bulletin:*

*Why I Chose to Specialise in Paphs* – courtesy Mark Drury (page 6)

*Cymbidium Club of Australia - Workshop Series* - (see flyer page 15)

*SSOS Grower's Group Report* – Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (page 13)

**For the Diary:** *St Ives Orchid Fair* - (see flyer page 14)

*SSOS Winter Show* - 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June

**Final Reminder** – *membership fees are now overdue!*

*Please ensure you have finalised your membership for 2024 by the March meeting  
(see payment details page 14)*

## February Benching



## Monthly Benching Results – Feb. 2024

### PLANT OF THE NIGHT

**Winner** Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds' M. Karayannis

### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

**Winner** Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds' M. Karayannis

### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

**Winner** Den, tapiniense D. Mitsios

### INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** No Entries No Entries

### NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** V. Unknown S. Tropoulos

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

**Winner** Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawsons Sunrise' x  
Ctsm. Dentigrianum 'SVO' Excellence L. Watkins

## Monthly Benching Results – Feb. 2024

OPEN CLASS		
<b>CLASS # 1</b>	<b>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES</b>	
1st	Den. taylorii	D. Mitsios
<b>CLASS # 2</b>	<b>PAPHIOPEDILUMS HYBRIDS</b>	
1st	Paph. Song of Love	V. Petrovski
2nd	Paph. Vanguard	D. Mitsios
3rd	Paph. Somers Phil	D. Mitsios
4th	Paph. charlesworthii x Paph. Hsinying Cyber	D. Mitsios
<b>CLASS # 3</b>	<b>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS</b>	
1st	Sarco. Bonanza "Lac No.11"	D. Mitsios
2nd	Sarco. Amber Dawn	D. Mitsios
<b>CLASS # 4</b>	<b>LAELIINAE HYBRIDS (CLASSICAL SHAPE)</b>	
1st	Pot. Lebenkreis	J. Robinson
2nd	C. Rosella's Royal Flare	D. Mitsios
3rd	Ctna. Dendi's Toy	G. Hodder
4th	C. Love Angel	I. Ware
<b>CLASS # 5</b>	<b>DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS</b>	
1st	Den. Jade Junior 'Sawadee'	V. Petrovski
2nd	Den. Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory'	V. Petrovski
3rd	Den. Red Dragon	V. Petrovski
4th	Den. Adora Nishii	V. Petrovski
<b>CLASS # 6</b>	<b>LAELIINAE HYBRIDS (NON-CLASSICAL SHAPE &amp; CLUSTER)</b>	
1st	C. Raspberry Smoke	V. Petrovski
2nd	Slc. Angel Eyes x Cat. Caudebec	D. Mitsios
3rd	Blc. Copper Queen	J. Ng
4th	Lc. Hawaiian Fantasy 'Dora' x Lc. Mini Purple'OC'	V. Petrovski

## February Benching



## Monthly Benching Results – Feb. 2024 cont'd

<b>CLASS # 7</b>	<b>ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS</b>	
1st	Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	V. Petrovski
2nd	Odcdm. Cherry Fudge 'Carmela'	R. Jackson
3rd	Beallara Diana Dunn	D. Brooks
4th	Mtssa Kauai's Choice 'Tropical Fragrance'	V. Petrovski
<b>CLASS # 9</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS</b>	
1st	Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds'	M. Karayannis
2nd	Bulb. Karen Lewis	M. Aldridge
3rd	Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawsons Sunrise' x Dentigrianum	L. Watkins
4th	Ctsm Mark's Red Hermosa 'Mark's Jungle Girls'	J. Ng
<b>CLASS # 10</b>	<b>SPECIES COEOGYGINAE</b>	
1st	Ddc. latifolium var macranthum	G. Hodder
2nd	Ddc. uncatum	I. Ware
3rd	Ddc. uncatum	W & J Chapman
<b>CLASS # 11</b>	<b>SPECIES LAELIINAE</b>	
1st	C. bicolor var. brasiliensis	J. Robinson
<b>CLASS # 12</b>	<b>SPECIES ASIAN OTHER THAN COEOGYGINAE</b>	
1st	Den. tapiniense	D. Mitsios
2nd	Bulb. electrinum v. calvin	M. Aldridge
3rd	Dts. pulcherrima var alba 'Yellow Eyes' x var coerulea 'Pink'	P. Davies
4th	Neofinetia falcata	D. Went
<b>NOVICE CLASS</b>		
<b>CLASS # 18</b>	<b>NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
1st	Vanda 'unknown'	S. Tropoulos
2nd	V. Rothschildiana	S. Tropoulos
3rd	Vanda 'unknown'	S. Tropoulos
<b>CLASS # 19</b>	<b>NOVICE SPECIES</b>	
1st	Vanda tricolor	S. Tropoulos

## Our Congratulations to George Birss for achieving the following Awards in 2023:

*Masd. Rein Touch 'Kora' AM*  
12.07.23



*Masd. Golden Monarch 'Chloe' FCC*  
12.07.23



## February Benching



## February Meeting Presentation

courtesy - Melissa Karayannis

*Topic: Fusarium, 'a fungus amongst us', and the 'P' in NPK*



Last meeting, our members were treated to a very interesting talk by Melissa, split into the two topics above.

Melissa's talk was also accompanied by a number of great PP slides.

The 1<sup>st</sup> part focussed on the Fusarium 'fungus' which in orchids, presents itself predominantly (i.e. visually) in the cut rhizomes of Cattleyas and others, as the 'pink ring of doom' (photo right)

Also, other symptoms like leaf wilting and spotting, flower underdevelopment etc. are all possibilities.

Most of us wouldn't know we had it until we cut the rhizome to divide and repot, and probably blame the poor health of the orchid on something else.

Variations can also affect other plants and grain crops, and certain strains can even have an impact on human health!!

The issue is you may never cure your infected plants, so the suggestion was to try treating the best you can with fungicides and improved watering regimes, general housekeeping, plus good air movement etc. and ensure any cutting tools are sterilised well. Failing that, unfortunately you may have to dispose of your plant!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part focussed on the beneficial effect (or not) of the various levels of Potassium relating to increased flower production and quality, general plant health, and by the way it is thought to relate to, and benefit the uptake of other nutrients.

The conflicting data that Melissa uncovered by her research on the 'benefits of various levels of potassium' was certainly 'food for thought' and we would all definitely benefit by continuing to researching and discussing this topic to draw our own conclusions.

Thank-you again Melissa for your great presentation, sharing your thoughts and the comprehensive research you undertook on these two topics.

## Members at the recent Grower's Group inquired about clear pots

*The following size range is available at Bunnings stores*



**February Benching**



**Monthly Benching Winners – Feb. 2024**

**Open Judges Choice Hybrid + PON**

*exhibited by – M. Karayannis*



Zns. Cynosure 'Blue Birds'



**Open Judges Choice Species**

*exhibited by – D. Mitsios*



Den. tapiniense



**Novice Judges Choice**

*exhibited by – S. Troupoulos*



V. 'Unknown'

**President's Choice**

*exhibited by – L. Watkins*



Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawsons Sunrise' x Ctsm. Dentigrianum 'SVO' Excellence

## *Why I Chose to Specialise in Growing Paphs.*

*Article and Photos courtesy - Mark Drury*



Like many people before me, the thought of even attempting to grow the notoriously difficult species and hybrid variety of Paphiopedilums was daunting!

There was the high cost of purchase, especially if the plant is in full flower; the difficulty in finding an easy to grow variety; the question of where to grow them (inside the house, outside under a tree, in a glass house or perhaps in a shade house?)

Should I attempt to grow a mottled leaf variety or a straight green leaved variety? The choice was endless and did I have the money to 'waste' on plants that could die the following day, week or month?

However, on the plus side, Paphiopedilums are a modest size orchid, making it a very desirable for growers who have restrictive growing space either inside or outside of the house.

As a young bloke I grew the easy varieties of orchid typical for the beginner. Cymbidiums and Australian Dendrobiums. But I when visited many Orchid Shows around, I found myself drifting towards those amazing flowering Paphiopedilums on display. Walking amongst multi stemmed slippers, taking photographs of mottled leaved species and the straight green varieties, I knew deep down I wanted to possess these exotic orchids for myself.

One day I approached a grower I greatly respected and asked him about the orchids he grew and questioned him why those particular plants he chose. He gave me a very simple answer....

***"Grow the variety of orchid you love"***

My fate was sealed.

Research is the key to success. I questioned growers of Paphiopedilums and picked their brains on where to grow them, what variety is easiest to grow (*P. insigne* – see below); where best to get the cheapest seedlings, (should I buy a fully grown plant or be patient and buy a seedling?) and more importantly, where to grow these little treasures?

A friend helped me build a shade house, covered in 50% cloth – perfect conditions for Paphiopedilums in Sydney.

Unfortunately, I found out from experience (too many died) that mottled leaf varieties are too difficult to grow without heat, so I targeted the straight green variety, which loved the shade house conditions. – *cont'd*



Paph insigne



A healthy and thriving group of Mark's Paphs.

## *Why I Chose to Specialise in Growing Paphs. - cont'd*

Initially I purchased flowering species but these proved very expensive and besides if you have the patience and time seedlings prove very much more satisfying.

Once you have established a number of seedlings growing in the shade house, the secret to 'my success' is continued and keen observation.

**Placement** is key to growing the plant from seedling to flowering. **Feel** is key to success; **soil** is key to success and most importantly the **method of watering** is key to success.

I found, in my humble experience, that if you observe the Paphiopedilum closely and it appears to be still growing but the leaves look faded or lighter lime green than it should be; it may be getting too much sunlight. Do not be afraid to move your plant around to find a darker more shaded spot in the shade house. The opposite is also true.

If the Paphiopedilum's leaves are rich and very dark green in growing, but doesn't seem to be flowering it may need to be moved to a brighter location within the shade house (hopefully facing west). Experimental movement is the necessary evil in finding just right spot in your shade house for perfect growth and flowering.

The same method goes with the feel of the leaves. I constantly feel a seedling's leaf to ascertain its health. I found that a firm strong leaf generally indicates no problems, however, if you feel the leaf is somewhat limp and saggy there's a strong possibility of a problem, so start looking more closely at it.

Thirdly, **soil observation** is necessary. If the soil is constantly damp, perhaps moss growing on the surface or small mushrooms are popping up, then drainage is definitely an issue. Quickly remove the plant and place in fresh soil, ensure all drainage holes are open and clear. I have found replacing the entire soil content at least once a year is a good basis for healthy growth and prevents their roots from rotting and overcrowding in the pot. Be warned they generally like their roots packed together!

**Pests and diseases** have a relatively low impact upon Paphiopedilums, which is good! Sometimes spiders like to use Paphiopedilums to hide underneath their leaves, which are easy to remove by crushing them with your fingers, (which is very satisfying), but does little to no damage to your plant.

The biggest problem I have is the rare attack of brown spots (fungal) on the leaves and growing crown. These brown spots can quickly enlarge and eventually kill the entire plant.

Unfortunately, I have lost many Paphiopedilums to this disease until I worked out what I was doing wrong.

I have found without needing to utilise poisons or herbicides moving the infected plant to the brightest side of the shade house, (in my case facing west), and isolating the plants from all other healthy Paphiopedilums and adding a dose of patience, realising that the orchid will initially struggle for a while until it is able to produce a fresh new leaf that is clear of brown spot.

This may take a while, (or not at all), but I have found the plant will 'generally' recover, and you will now be aware the once infected orchid needs a bright, warm position in your shade house to continue to thrive. -cont'd



## *Why I Chose to Specialise in Growing Paphs. - cont'd*

Lastly, how you water your Paphiopedilum is **critical** to successful growth. Never, never, never water over the crown and leaves. Always water from underneath the leaves, directly upon the soil.

If you mistakenly get water upon the leaves, ensure there is no pooling of water within the crown of the leaves, where the new growth emerges. Leaving water in this region will cause the leaves and the plant itself to rot and die.

I know the temptation to wash the leaves as you hose the plant is strong, but don't. Resist and desist. If you accidentally have water pooling in the crown, there are two options to correct this. Either tip the entire plant over (covering the soil with your hand) to ensure the pooling water runs out; or better yet, use a paper towel to tip into the crown and absorb the offending pooling water.

Remember also to reduce watering during the winter (dormant) periods.

I am not claiming to be an expert on everything Paphiopedilum related, because I am not. I am simply an enthusiastic grower of Paphiopedilums who hopes to share with people who also enjoy growing them the tricks that have worked for me to successfully grow these wonderful orchids.

*Happy paph. growing!! - Mark*

### **Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

#### **MINUTES**

#### **GENERAL MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

President Rhonda declared the meeting open at 8pm and extended a good evening, and welcome to our February meeting.

A very warm welcome was also extended to our numerous visitors tonight:

*Maria Perreau, Wendy Brown, Vicki Micet, Joan Sutton, Margaret Reid, Wendy Griffiths, Graham Towle, Ron Dyaki, John Knupp, John Pacewicz,*

#### **APOLOGIES:**

*George Birss, Phil and Marcia Green, Mike and Diane Hannah, Ed and Arline Ronsisvalle, Jim Riley, Jeff Bartlett.*

#### **NEW MEMBERS:** Nil

President mentioned that our guest speaker tonight is Melissa Karayannis who will be talking on Fusarium fungus and an insight into the benefits to orchids from the 'P' (or phosphorus) in the NPK ratios on fertilizers.

#### **MINUTES:**

President asked for a motion that the January Minutes as distributed in the February Bulletin, were accurate. *Melissa Karayannis* motioned they were correct, Seconded *Robert Nicol*. Carried.

#### **Correspondence In:**

- Various Society Bulletins, plus the Orchid News from the OSNSW.
- Advice from the Uniting Church regarding the bark etc left on the floor after the January meeting
- Flyer from OSNSW calling for volunteers for the Easter Show promo cart
- Flyer from DUNO Orchids regarding their latest catalogue
- February Newsletter from Neutrog
- Renewal advice for our Affiliated Annual Insurances from OSNSW
- Request from OSNSW for our requirements for 2024 Show Judges
- Response from Ian Chalmers on the OSNSW Orchid Appreciation Course

**Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

**MINUTES – cont'd**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Correspondence Out:**

- SSOS January Bulletin to various orchid societies
- Two entries to the *OSNSW for Orchid of the Year* competition from our Spring Show – Dimitri Mitsios and John Ng.
- Reply to the Uniting Church's email regarding our future diligence to sweeping the floors and cleaning the tables etc.
- Letter to Ian Chalmers regarding issues with the OSNSW Orchid Appreciation Course

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

President reminded members that membership fees for 2024 will be over-due after this evening and 35 members are yet to rejoin. To be able to bench your plants, sell plants and receive the Bulletin you need to be financial. Please see Margaret to pay this evening.

**MARCH AGM**

Next meeting is our AGM where we conduct our elections for Committee. All positions are declared vacant and open for nomination.

To nominate, we have forms here tonight.

All nominations must be returned to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**SSOS GROWERS GROUP:**

Next Growers Group meeting will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm. Unfortunately, George Birss is unable to host this session and David Hicks has kindly offered to have the Group meeting at his home

The address is - **548 The Boulevard Sutherland**

We will be dividing a couple of large donated Stanhopeas.

There will also be the usual opportunity to bring along and discuss your problem plants.

The session is open to all members and visitors, but we especially want our Novices to attend

**ROYAL EASTER SHOW:**

President provided all the details for the Royal Easter Show competition, plus a roster was circulated with members being encouraged to donate some time to the OSNSW promo cart. Please see Jan Robinson if you require some additional information.

We have been advised that Jan Robinson, Mark Drury, and John Ng are entering plants this year, and we wish them all the very best.

**OUR SHOWS FOR 2024:**

The committee has decided to hold two shows again in 2024 of two days duration

President advised that our committee is currently liaising with Woollooware Shores to secure bookings for our two show dates. (Friday 14 & Sat. 15 June 2024; and Friday 13 & Sat.14 September 2024).

Due to significant financial losses at both shows last year, committee has decided to decrease the prize amounts back to previous years.

At the meeting, Frank Daniel advised that our proposed Winter show date is likely to clash with some refurb works to the café, which will impact on our sales bench area. We will continue to liaise with WWS management and provide more details once known.

**Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

**MINUTES – cont'd**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**GEORGE BIRSS AWARDS:**

President was pleased to announce that George Birss had been awarded a First-Class Certificate from OSNSW for his *Masdevallia Rein Touch 'Kora'* and an Award of Merit for his *Masdevallia Golden Monarch 'Chloe'*. As George is not with us tonight, we'll present this, plus his awards from the December meeting at the Growers Group meeting. Congratulations were extended to George for this wonderful achievement.

**OSNSW ORCHID APPRECIATION COURSE FEEDBACK:**

Following some negative feedback from our 5 attendees, committee approved a Society letter outlining our concerns to be forwarded to Ian Chalmers, OSNSW Registrar who is managing the judging course.

We received a response that our concerns would be taken on board, and we await any further updates on those actions.

**RAFFLE PLANTS:**

Rhonda mentioned the difficulty we are having in obtaining quality raffle plants at a reasonable price. If anybody sees some suitable stock, to please purchase a few, to then be reimbursed by the Society.

**ACTIVITIES FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**March** – our AGM plus Gary Hodder presenting 'Orchids for New Growers'

**April** – Wal Chapman speaking on 'Preparing your Orchids for Shows'

**May** – Annual Auction Night.

**SWEEPING THE HALL FLOOR:**

President advised that following the Uniting Church's complaint about mess left behind on the hall floor last month, we will be calling for a volunteer each month to undertake the sweeping.

Our thanks to *Lee Strong* for volunteering to undertake this task tonight.

**TONIGHT'S ACTIVITY** – Melissa Karayannis gave us a fantastic talk (with PP slides) from her research into the fungus Fusarium, and also an insight into the varying thoughts on the benefits to orchids from the various ratios of the Phosphorus (P) component in fertilizer NPK

(A summary of Melissa's presentation will be published in the March Bulletin)

On conclusion, President thanked Melissa on behalf of the members and presented her with our gift of appreciation, to a hearty round of applause.

**MONTHLY PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:**

**Winner February Name Badge Draw:** *Frank Daniel* (prize pick from the Raffle)

**Raffle Winners for February:**

*S. Tropoulos, Visitor, M. Karayannis, J. Hely, D. Went, I. Ware, Visitor, N. Woodcock.*

**President thanked our Judging Panel for this evening:**

*David Brooks, Wal Chapman, Murray Aldridge, Jan Robinson, Trainee – John Ng*

**Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

**MINUTES – cont'd**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**February Judges' Choice Awards:**

**PLANT OF THE NIGHT:** Zns, Cynosure 'Blue Birds' – *M. Karayannis*

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN HYBRID:** Zns, Cynosure 'Blue Birds' – *M. Karayannis*

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN SPECIES:** Den tapiniense – *D. Mitsios*

**JUDGES CHOICE INTERMEDIATE:** *No Plants Benched*

**JUDGES CHOICE NOVICE:** V. 'Unknown' – *S. Tropoulos*

**PRESIDENT'S CHOICE:** Ctsm. Portagee Star 'Brian Lawsons Sunrise' x  
Ctsm. Dentigrianum 'SVO' Excellence – *L. Watkins*

Our thanks also tonight to John Ng, for the donation of the lovely cakes for supper - celebrating Chinese New Year.

**President thanked everyone for their attendance tonight, and we look forward to your company at our next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> March.**

*Would everyone please assist by putting the chairs and tables away, and if you see a table is dirty, would you please wipe it?*

Meeting closed at 9.35pm,

\*\*\*\*\*

*Courtesy – Rob Nicol*

(endemic from Mexico to Columbia).



Stan. oculata subs. ornatissima

(endemic to Sulawesi and Borneo)



Bulb. echinolabium  
(with pollinating bee caught in the act!)

*Link to Neutrog's March Newsletter:* [Neutrog March 2024 Newsletter](#)

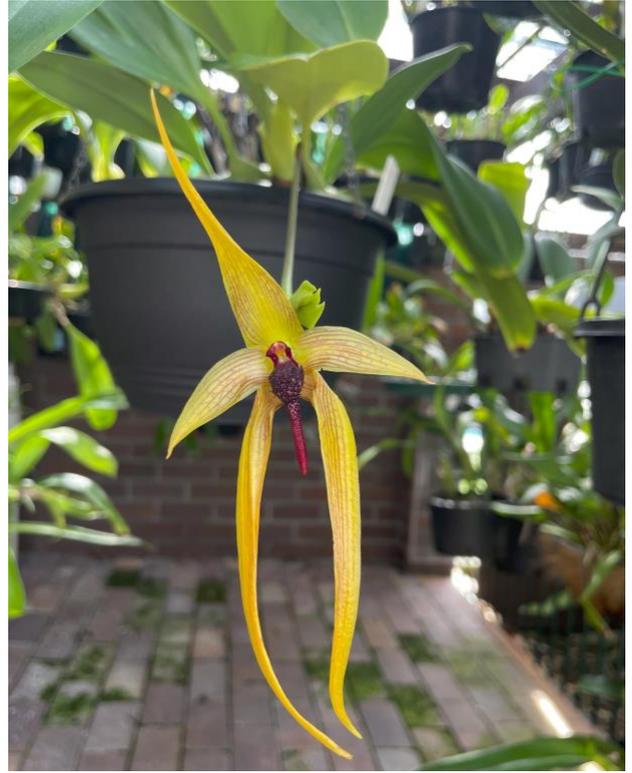
*Milt. Charles M. Fitch 'Izumi'*

courtesy - Melissa Karayannis



*Bulb. Wilbur Chang*

courtesy - Rob Nicol



*Coch. (Warcewiczella) marginata*

courtesy - Melissa Karayannis



*Den. bigibbum var. compactum*

courtesy - Melissa Karayannis



**\*\*\* Orchid Pests and Diseases \*\*\***

Here's a link below to one of the most comprehensive articles available – courtesy Sue Bottom / AOS:

[http://Orchid Pests and Diseases.](http://Orchid Pests and Diseases)

## February Benching



## Report on our recent Grower's Group Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024



The recent grower's group was held at the home of David and Ursula Hicks with 18 members attending.

Nearly half were new members or visitors which was great to see.

The main topic of the session was Stanhopeas, and being the flowering season for them, we were fortunate to have two very large older plants donated for us to dissect and repot.

The repotted divisions were given out to attendees, plus we had a number of donated Kingianums to give away as well.

Our thanks to George Birss who wrestled with a very large Phalaenopsis that had grown quite long and hanging with huge roots right over the pot!

Members also brought along other Phallies, Sarcochilus and some other genera for assistance.

It was a very informative afternoon, with everyone participating and sharing their knowledge

The weather was also kind to us, as it had been very warm on the days before

The session was concluded with a very enjoyable chat over a cuppa and nibbles.

Thank-you to everyone who attended, and on behalf of those present, Rhonda thanked David and Ursula for hosting this grower's group, and we look forward to further sessions throughout the year.

### *Stanhopea wardii* – was in bud on the day (in photo at back above)



**February Benching**



**Orchids Out West**

**Orchid Displays and Sales**  
17th - 19th May 2024

9am-4pm Friday and Saturday  
9am-2pm Sunday

Philip Charley Pavilion  
Hawkesbury Showground  
Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon  
(Opposite Richmond RAAF Base)

*First Orchid Show & Fair of the Year!*

**Vendors**

Tinonee Orchids	Orchids on Newbold
Kiwi Orchid Bark	Sim's Orchids
Dark Star Orchids	The Orchid Place
Orchid Species Plus	Johnston's Orchids
Fong Ping Orchids	Nicky's Slippers
Rain Orchids	Ten Shin Gardens
Orchid Mania	Orchids of Distinction
Rosella Orchids	Aussie Hooses
Kingfisher Nursery	

Adults: \$10.00 | Buses: \$8.00  
Children under 15 yrs free

- Plenty of free parking
- Close to Clarendon Railway Station
- Free growing advice
- Sausage sizzle and light refreshments

Further information:  
Phone: 0408 264 040  
<https://orchidsocietynsw.com.au/orchids-out-west-2024/>

**St Ives Orchid Fair**  
*'The Big One'*

**ST IVES SHOWGROUND**  
Mona Vale Road, St Ives

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024** 9 am to 4 pm  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024** 9 am to 4 pm  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024** 9 am to 3 pm

Bus Routes 196/197: Gordon Station - St Ives Village - Terrey Hills - Mona Vale  
**ADMISSION \$8** Children under 18 free

Bus groups welcome - concession, Unlimited Free Parking, Wheel chair access

**Orchid displays, and advice from experts**

**MAJOR SPONSORS**  
Rosella Orchids  
Garden City Plastics

**ORCHID VENDORS**  
Alice's Orchids, Barrita Orchids, Dark Star Orchids, Ezi-Gro Orchids, Fong Ping Orchids, Hills District Orchids, Kings Orchid Nursery, Macquarie Native Orchids, Nicky's Slippers, Orchid Care Services, Orchid Species Plus, Orchids of Distinction, Orchids on Newbold, Robertson Orchids, Rosella Orchids, Tinonee Orchids, The Orchid Mart / Serhan's Orchids, Woolf Orchidculture

For more Information: Show Marshal: Garrie Bromley Ph: 0425 336 049  
<http://www.stivesorchidfair.com/>



*We are thinking of you and send our best wishes to all our members who are currently recovering from recent health issues*

**REMINDER - Membership Fees for 2024 are now over-due.**

*(Please Note: if any of your contact details have changed, please ensure you complete the fee renewal form, and return to the Secretary)*

**ANNUAL FEES:**

<b>Adult Single</b> - \$15	<b>Adult Double</b> - \$20
<b>Pensioner Single</b> - \$10	<b>Pensioner Double</b> - \$15
<b>Junior (under 16 years)</b> - \$5	

*(For Bulletin Postage - \$20 pa in addition to the above)*

**Method of Payment** - preferably by direct deposit, or by cash at the meeting.

**SOCIETY DIRECT DEPOSIT DETAILS:**

**BSB: 062-278. Account #: 10023286**  
**Account Name: Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

***\*Please ensure you put your name in the reference field!!!***

**February Benching**



The Cymbidium Club of Australia presents the first in a series of presentations to teach you how to

**Grow Your Cymbidiums Better!**

**Presentation 1. Light ,Temperature , Humidity and Water by Geoff Le Marne**

March 14th 8p.m.

Allan G Ezzy Community Centre , 1 Newport St  
Pemulwuy 2145

**Visitors welcome! It's Free!**

Learn from expert growers ,some of the best in the country . Supercharge your results. Be thrilled at how your cymbidiums grow and flower.

Win more prizes at shows and impress your families and friends! Great plant raffle !

You'll be so glad you came.....



**Local Orchid Spotting**

*Have you recently spotted one of our beautiful and unique Aust. native orchids in your local area?*

*Like to share the photo with other members? Please forward to the email address below to have it published in our Bulletin.*

*Many thanks - Editor*

**Please forward to: [davehicks@outlook.com.au](mailto:davehicks@outlook.com.au)**

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

**CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

The Society has a Code of Conduct which members must comply with:

*“Members and visitors shall treat each other in a respectful, friendly and cordial manner at our meetings and Society activities.”*

## February Benching



## Upcoming Events for 2024.

**Friday / Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – South and West Region Orchid Workshop, Nowra Golf Club (*booking required, for details - see flyer as attached with January's Bulletin*)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – SSOS General Meeting and AGM. Speaker - *Gary Hodder: 'Orchids for New Growers'*

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024** – SSOS General Meeting. Speaker – *Wal Chapman: 'Preparing your Orchids for the Shows'*

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024** – SSOS General Meeting + Auction Night (*details advised closer to the meeting*)

**Fri, Sat, Sun, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024** – Orchids Out West Fair Hawkesbury Showground (*see details in flyer page 12*)

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024** – SSOS General Meeting – Speaker Daniel Coulton (*subject TBC*)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024** – SSOS Winter Show, Woollooware Shores Ret. Village, Taren Point (*details to be confirmed*)



## Light Supper at Meetings

Tea or Coffee plus biscuits are available during the break at the back of the hall.

***\*As disposable cups are no longer provided, please remember to bring along your own mug!***

***Dear SSOS Members*** – we would really appreciate your ***Photos @ Home or Articles*** to include in our monthly Bulletins.

**To contribute, please email to the Editor:**

**David Hicks E:** [davehicks@outlook.com.au](mailto:davehicks@outlook.com.au)

**(by the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month)**

*thank-you - Editor*

**Disclaimer:** The growing guides included in this Bulletin are provided as a starting basis to cultivation, and local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. The Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc. does not endorse or support any claims or opinions expressed by the authors of these articles, and are not responsible for the results of your cultivation practices.