



### *Next Meeting:*

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
2025, 8pm.**

*Hall open 7pm  
Benching by 7.50pm*

### *Speaker for June*

**Craig Scott-  
Harden**

*Paphiopedilums*

**Members, Partners and  
Visitors** - please ensure  
you sign our attendance  
book on entry to the  
meeting hall.



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society

**Cover Photo:** The striking colour  
and display of the orchid featured  
on this month's cover is *Laelia  
anceps 'Rosy Tiger'* exhibited at  
the May meeting by *R. Cawley*

**Cover & May Benching Photos:**  
*courtesy - Paul Sheaffe*

## *Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.* **Bulletin – June 2025**



**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:** Melissa Karayannis

**Secretary:** c/o [secretary@ssos.org.au](mailto:secretary@ssos.org.au)

**Treasurer:** Michael Vitnell

**Committee:** David Hicks | Paul Sheaffe | Jenny Sharpham | Mark Drury | Robin Bannell

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

**Life Members:** Murray Aldridge | Wal & Janette Chapman | Jan Robinson,  
Col Brandon | Frank Daniel | George Birss

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

**Member Contributions** – to have your articles or photos of 'Special Interest' 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:*

*The 'Magic' of Specimen Orchids - Mark Drury (see page 11)*

*SSOS Winter Show 2025 (see flyer page 5)*

*Mingara Orchid Fair 2025 (see flyer page 13)*

*Orchids Central 2025 (see flyer page 13)*

*St Ives Orchid Fair 2025 (see flyer page 13)*

*Other Events for the Diary 2025 (see page 15)*

### May Benching



### Monthly Benching Results – May 2025

#### PLANT OF THE NIGHT

**Winner** Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' W & J Chapman

#### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

**Winner** Zyg. Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay' D. Mitsios

#### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

**Winner** Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' W & J Chapman

#### INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** Paph. spicerianum 'Darch' x P. spicerianum 'My Best' M. Drury

#### NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable' S. Tropoulos

#### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

**Winner** Bc. Glorious May V. Petrovski

### Monthly Benching Results – May 2025

|                   |  |              |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>OPEN</b>       |  |              |
| <b>CLASS # 2</b>  | <b>AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS</b>                     |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Den. Esme Poulton 'Tinonee'                          | R. Dimon     |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Den. Star Imp 'Lovely Lady'                          | D. Mitsios   |
| <b>3rd</b>        | Sarc. Galaxy 'Pineapple'                             | V. Petrovski |
| <b>4th</b>        | Den. Elegant Flame                                   | J. Hely      |
| <b>CLASS # 5</b>  | <b>SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS</b>                        |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Paph spicerianum 'Fat Freddy'                        | J. Robinson  |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Paph. insigne var Harefield Hall                     | J. Robinson  |
| <b>3rd</b>        | Paph insigne var sanderæ                             | H. Myers     |
| <b>4th</b>        | Paph gratixianum                                     | J. Robinson  |
| <b>CLASS # 6</b>  | <b>NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS</b>                 |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Paph. Vanguard                                       | D. Mitsios   |
| <b>CLASS # 8</b>  | <b>LAELIINAE HYBRIDS over 110mm</b>                  |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Cat. Shelley Compton 'Touch of Class'                | J. Ng        |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Blc. Lyn Evans 'Nadia's Gold'                        | G. Hodder    |
| <b>CLASS # 9</b>  | <b>LAELIINAE HYBRIDS 80mm up to &amp; inc. 110mm</b> |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Pot. Quing Ming Beauty                               | J. Ng        |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Cat. Mini Purple Tinonee                             | R. Cawley    |
| <b>CLASS # 11</b> | <b>CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS</b>                     |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Cat. Little Suzy 'Joy'                               | R. Ettrick   |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Cat. Porcia Cannizaro                                | J. Hely      |
| <b>CLASS # 12</b> | <b>NON-CLASSICAL LAELIINAE HYBRIDS</b>               |              |
| <b>1st</b>        | Eplc. Mae Bly 'Ching Hua Splash'                     | V. Petrovski |
| <b>2nd</b>        | Bc. Glorious May                                     | V. Petrovski |

### May Benching



### Monthly Benching Results – May 2025 cont'd

|                   |  |               |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>CLASS # 13</b> | <b>ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS 60mm &amp; under</b>             |               |
| 1st               | Onc. Sweet Ears  | J. Ng         |
| 2nd               | Onc. Sweet Sugar                                       | J. Robinson   |
| 3rd               | Onc. Wild Cat 'Blood Shot'                             | J. Hely       |
| <b>CLASS # 14</b> | <b>ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS over 60mm</b>                    |               |
| 1st               | Aliceara Pacific Nova 'Butter Buds'                    | J. Hely       |
| 2nd               | Banfieldara Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'                 | V. Petrovski  |
| <b>CLASS # 18</b> | <b>DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS EXOTIC</b>                       |               |
| 1st               | Den. Emma White (Mutation) M/C                         | V. Petrovski  |
| <b>CLASS # 21</b> | <b>MISCELLANEOUS EXOTIC HYBRIDS</b>                    |               |
| 1st               | Zyg. Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay'                   | D. Mitsios    |
| 2nd               | Zyg. Adelaide Jester x Arthur Elle 'Essendon'          | R. Ettrick    |
| 3rd               | Coel. Lyme Bay   | D. Mitsios    |
| 4th               | Zyg. Blue Eyes Annie x Titanic 'June' HOC/ADC          | V. Petrovski  |
| <b>CLASS # 22</b> | <b>DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC</b>                       |               |
| 1st               | Den. nobile  | V. Petrovski  |
| <b>CLASS # 23</b> | <b>COELOGYNINAE SPECIES</b>                            |               |
| 1st               | Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst'                            | W. Chapman    |
| 2nd               | Dendrochilum saccolabium                               | R. Cawley     |
| 3rd               | Dendrochilum arachnites                                | R. Cawley     |
| <b>CLASS # 24</b> | <b>SPECIES ASIAN</b>                                   |               |
| 1st               | Bulb. medusae  | M. Karayannis |
| 2nd               | Gastrochilus/Aerides dasypogon                         | M. Karayannis |
| <b>CLASS # 25</b> | <b>ONCIDIINAE SPECIES</b>                              |               |
| 1st               | Onc. sotoanum  | W. Chapman    |
| <b>CLASS # 26</b> | <b>LAELIINAE SPECIES</b>                               |               |
| 1st               | Epi. porpax  | D. Mitsios    |
| 2nd               | Epi. pariculatum Mitao                                 | R. Cawley     |
| 3rd               | Laelia anceps 'Rosy Tiger'                             | R. Cawley     |
| <b>CLASS # 27</b> | <b>EXOTIC SPECIES</b>                                  |               |
| 1st               | Pinalia spicata  | R. Ettrick    |
| 2nd               | Maxillaria schunkeana                                  | D. Mitsios    |
| 3rd               | Maxillaria schunkeana                                  | V. Petrovski  |
|                   |  |               |
| <b>NOVICE</b>     |  |               |
| <b>CLASS # 32</b> | <b>NOVICE LAELIINAE HYBRIDS</b>                        |               |
| 1st               | Rlc. Dream Trader Manning x Rlc. Brunswick Gem 'Coral' | M. Clasper    |
| 2nd               | Blc. California Girl                                   | S. Tropoulos  |
| 3rd               | Rlc. Village Chief North 'Green Genius'                | M..Clasper    |
| <b>CLASS # 33</b> | <b>NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS</b>                    |               |
| 1st               | Onc. Sea Snake 'Unforgettable'                         | S. Tropoulos  |
| 2nd               | Vanda 'Unknown'  | S. Tropoulos  |
| 3rd               | Vanda Gracie's Hearthrob                               | S. Tropoulos  |
| <b>CLASS # 34</b> | <b>NOVICE SPECIES</b>                                  |               |
| 1st               | Den. alexandrea  | S. Tropoulos  |
| 2nd               | Coel. ovalis   | S. Fitch      |



## May Benching



## Monthly Benching Results – May 2025 cont'd

| INTERMEDIATE |  |          |
|--------------|--|----------|
| CLASS # 35   | INTERMEDIATE PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS                             |          |
| 1st          | Paph. Marion Fischer   | M. Drury |
| 2nd          | Paph. Giantstone 'Great Day' x Paph Lunar 'Maria Basin'        | M. Drury |
| 3rd          | Paph. (Toyko Bells x Waideka) client x Paph. Hopewell Big Peta | M. Drury |
| 4th          | Paph. Crossianum var Album                                     | M. Drury |
| CLASS # 38   | INTERMEDIATE LAELIINAE HYBRIDS                                 |          |
| 1st          | Blc. Krawnprapa  | J. Chan  |
| 2nd          | Blc. Hawaiian Polka Dot  | J. Chan  |
| CLASS # 39   | INTERMEDIATE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS                             |          |
| 1st          | Phal. 'Unknown'  | M. Drury |
| CLASS # 40   | INTERMEDIATE SPECIES   |          |
| 1st          | Paph. spicerianum 'Darch' x Paph spicerianum 'My Best'         | M. Drury |

## Bunnings Kirrawee Mother's Day Promotion Stand Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society was very fortunate to be invited to participate in Bunnings' night of celebrating Mother's Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Many thanks to our Vice President Melissa Karayannis, and Committee member Mark Drury, who managed the stand not only to help celebrate Mother's Day, but advertising our wonderful Society.

We had brochures, banners and advertising our monthly meetings and upcoming winter show. Plus, a number of flowering orchids displayed on the benchtop that brought many people over to give us compliments and make general enquires.

The celebration had many other societies in attendance, such as the Loftus Rose Society, the Caringbah Gardening Club, the Men's Shed, face painting, games, BBQ, funny photography and many more.

It was a wonderful night and another opportunity to garner interest in our Society and gather up some potential new members.

Lock in next year for another chance to enhance our Society, meet new friends and celebrate Mother's Day.

All members and volunteers are welcome! – *cheers Mark Drury*

### May Benching



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

# WINTER 2025 Orchid Show

FRIDAY 20th JUNE - SATURDAY 21st JUNE

WOOLLOOWARE SHORES RETIREMENT VILLAGE  
2-28 ALEXANDER AVENUE, TAREN POINT

**FREE ENTRY**

10AM - 4PM FRIDAY

10AM - 2PM SATURDAY

**ALL WELCOME**

**ORCHID DISPLAYS | PLANTS FOR SALE  
GROWING ADVICE | ORCHID RAFFLE | CAFE**

**CASH SALES ONLY**

Show Enquiries: [info@ssos.org.au](mailto:info@ssos.org.au)

Show Marshal: Jan Robinson 0412 566 722



## ***SSOS Winter Show Setup:***

*Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June from \*2pm -5pm*

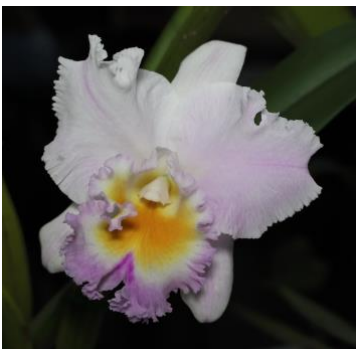
*\*Plant booking-in times subject to completion  
of benching setup*

**Reminder** – to ensure adequate space is allocated, entries into Class 1 (table top display) must be advised to the Show Marshal 48 hrs prior to the set-up date

*(show schedule and all associated show documents will be sent out to members with, or prior to the June Bulletin)*



### May Benching



### Monthly Benching Winners – May 2025

#### Open Judges Choice Species + **PON**

*exhibited by – W & J Chapman*



Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst'

#### Open Judges Choice Hybrid

*exhibited by – D. Mitsios*



Zyg. Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay'.

#### Intermediate Judges Choice

*exhibited by – M. Drury*



Paph. spic. 'Darch' x P. spic. 'My Best'

#### Novice Judges Choice

*exhibited by – S. Tropoulos*



Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable'.

#### President's Choice

*exhibited by – V. Petrovski*



Bc. Glorious May

## *Some Snapshots from the Benching at the May Meeting*



The great selection on offer for our May Auction Night!!

## **VALE**

*Archie Mitsios*

1944 - 2025



It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Archie Mitsios

Having already been an orchid enthusiast for 20 years, Archie joined Sutherland Shire Orchid Society in March of 2001

He was a great ambassador for our Society, willingly helping out where he could, and over the years, contributed many plants to the sales table and for our auctions.

He also supplied plants towards our show raffle, and donated plants at times for our monthly raffles, and enjoyed participating in fund-raising activities for the Society at the popular Bunnings BBQ's.

Archie had a wonderful knowledge of orchid culture on a wide variety of genera, as he did with many other plant varieties, which he regularly sold along with his orchids at various local markets.

His character, personality and sense of humour will be greatly missed in our Society

From the Members of the Sutherland Shire Orchid Society, we convey our sincere condolences to Archie's Family, Dimitrios and Family



## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES

#### GENERAL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

With President Rhonda currently away, Vice-President Melissa Karayannis chaired the meeting, extending a warm welcome to everyone, and declaring the general meeting open at 8:00pm

Also, a warm welcome was extended to our visitors tonight:

*Veronica Clowes - President of the OSNSW, and Justine Clasper*

**APOLOGIES:** *Rhonda Jackson, David Hicks, Di Hannah, Jan Riley, Stephen Wain, Nina Woodcock.*

**NEW MEMBERS:** Nil

**TONIGHT'S ACTIVITY:** After the break, we will hold our auction. Thank-you to Murray Aldridge who has agreed to be our Auctioneer and to Wal Chapman and David Brooks who will be assisting. Just a reminder that it is cash only and must be paid for after your successful bid. You can have the chance to go to an ATM in the break if you need to.

#### MINUTES:

Vice President asked for a motion that the April Minutes as distributed in the May Bulletin, were an accurate record, *Robert Nicol* motioned they were correct.

Seconded by *Margaret Spring*. Carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

April /May Bulletins in from various orchid societies, including OSNSW, Caringbah Garden Club, and Neutrog.

Emails and messages to Veronica Clowes, Cary Polis and Nick Gill who are judging at our Winter Show. The advertised time for our show judging was 8pm instead of 8am. They were advised of the correct time

An email sent to Ian Chalmers advising him of the correct time for our judging. Ian agreed to correct it and alert the judges.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

**WINTER SHOW 2025:** We are holding our Winter show on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, setup on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 5 pm.

#### VOLUNTEER ROSTER:

Tonight, we are circulating the volunteer roster for our winter show, and urging members to put their name against the tasks listed on the sheet. This is our show and is for the benefit of all, and of course we need your support and participation to ensure it runs efficiently. Spots will fill quickly so please make sure you put your name down tonight.

There are sections for the sales table, repotting, raffle sales and general plant security. It will be circulated again at the June meeting.

We have decided to run with the repotting. Richie Dimon will provide two large plants to be repotted – a *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* and *Oncidium sphacelatum*. Thank you, Richie.

#### SHOW SCHEDULE:

The committee agreed to not make any changes to the schedule from last winter show. Shortly you will receive an email with the show schedule and associated show documents.

If you're not sure about where to bench your plants, please ask for assistance.

#### CALL TO NOVICES AND INTERMEDIATES:

Melissa urged our Novice and Intermediate members to put plants in the show, and bring them along to our meetings. You may feel intimidated with your plant not looking like those in the Open Class, but we want you to be proud of your efforts and your plants.

You may even receive points or awards for your plant. So, if your plants are in flower, please bring them along you will not regret the experience.



## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – *cont'd*

#### GENERAL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### POTENTIAL CHANGE TO SOCIETY BANKING:

Members were advised that we wish to move away from cheques and make on-line transfers instead of paying cash. We are looking into the feasibility of this. If we agree to have two people process the transfer, Commbank requires both of them to be at the same computer to process the transaction. We are considering changing banks as Westpac allows them to be done independently.

The impact for members will be that you would be asked to supply our Treasurer with your bank details and we will transfer the money into it. Some cash will still be used. We'll keep you informed of the progress.

#### BUNNINGS:

As part of the Bunnings Promotion Calendar for May, we participated in the Mother's Day event at the Kirrawee Store on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May. This was an evening event giving us the opportunity to promote our Society and the upcoming Winter show. Melissa Karayannis and Mark Drury attended the evening, and managed the table. We thanked Bunnings for their \$50 voucher donation towards our Winter Show prize money.

#### PROMOTIONAL TABLE AT BUNNINGS:

We have been encouraged by Bunnings to participate in further display tables and potting demonstrations; details will follow when dates are confirmed.

#### GROWERS GROUP REPORT:

Our Grower's Group meeting was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the home of John and Robyn Hely in Sutherland. 21 people attended, which was an amazing contribution from members. It was a very well organised and enjoyable event, with great assistance from John Costa with re-potting. Thanks everyone!

#### AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION (AOF):

Melissa advised members of the Foundation and their annual essay competition and urged anyone interested to contact the AOF via the Website. The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> July, and details will also be in the May and June Bulletins.

#### FOR INFORMATION OF MEMBERS:

Richie Dimon is talking on *Rainforest Restoration* at the meeting of the Australian Plants Society on 21<sup>st</sup> May commencing at 7:30pm. They meet at Gynea Community Centre, 39 Gynea Bay Road, Gynea. Members to be advised.

#### SYDNEY ROYAL FLOWER and GARDEN SHOW 2025 (Easter Show) – UPDATE:

Mark Drury gave a brief overview of the 2025 orchid competition and results, and actively encouraged members to seriously consider participating in next year's orchid show display. Our thanks to those SSOS members who volunteered time on the OSNSW promo cart.

#### OSNSW SUMMER ORCHID FESTIVAL SHOW – (New Show) UPDATE:

Jan Robinson gave a brief overview of this December's Summer Orchid Festival being held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, encouraging members to consider participating.

#### ACTIVITIES / GUEST SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**June** – Craig Scott-Harden on Paphs.

**July** – David Hemmings on Australian Natives & perhaps a cultural demonstration

**August** –

**September** - Jan Robinson on '*Resuscitate or Euthanise*'

**MEETING RAFFLE PLANTS:** Melissa gave a brief description of tonight's raffle plants.

#### TONIGHT'S AUCTION:

We now have the pleasure of commencing our Auction, and handing the meeting over to our Auctioneer, Murray Aldridge.

If your bid is successful, please stay seated and have your payment ready as your plant will be brought to you. Good luck everyone!!

On completion, Melissa thanked Murray for being our auctioneer this evening, and to Wal Chapman and David Brooks for assisting. Thank-you also to our money collectors and plant deliverers – Robert Nicol and Russell Ettrick.

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – cont'd

#### GENERAL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### MONTHLY PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:

**Raffle Winners for May:** Congratulations to all members who won a prize tonight

**Name Badge Winner for May:** *Russell Hudson*

#### JUDGES FOR MAY:

Melissa thanked our Judging Panel for this Evening:

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

#### May Judges' Choice Awards:

**PLANT OF THE NIGHT:** Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' - *W & J Chapman*

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN HYBRID:** Zyg. Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay' – *D. Mitsios*

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN SPECIES:** Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' - *W & J Chapman*

**JUDGES CHOICE INTERMEDIATE:** Paph. spicerianum 'Darch' x Paph. spicerianum 'My Best' – *M. Drury*

**JUDGES CHOICE NOVICE:** Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable' - *S. Tropoulos*

**PRESIDENT'S CHOICE:** Bc. Glorious May - *V. Petrovski*

#### CLOSING:

On closing, Melissa asked for a volunteer to sweep the floor.

Our thank-you tonight to *Ritchie Dimon*

Melissa thanked everyone for attending tonight, and that we look forward to your company at our next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

### *From the Benching in May - **Maxillaria schunkeana***

*A dark flowered species - exhibited in Class 27 by D. Mitsios and V. Petrovski*



**Maxillaria schunkeana** (syn. *Brasiliorchis schunkeana*) is a species orchid.

The colours of its flower are very close to black, but it is actually a very dark purple-red, giving the impression of a black flower.

The plant is endemic to the rainforests of Espirito Santo State, Brazil at elevations of 600 to 700 meters.

#### Temperature:

It is an intermediate / intermediate-cold greenhouse species (depends on specimen to specimen), and does not adapt much to high temperatures. Recommended 18 - 22 ° C during the day. The minimum night temperature ideally is 10 -15° C.

During the summer it can be suitable to keep outdoors, placing it in a bright place (but without direct sunlight), ventilated and protected from heavy rains and winds.

#### Humidity:

Being cultivated in a pot, this species is not demanding regarding the humidity of the air, and is content with 50 - 60%.

If instead it is cultivated with bare root, the humidity of the air should be at least 75%.



## *The 'Magic' of Specimen Orchids*

article courtesy - Mark Drury



Lovely example - a specimen of *Coelogyne cristata* in full display!

Many orchid lovers, being either casual observers, novice, intermediate or open growers dream of having in their group that one special plant that is the pride of your collection.

That special orchid that **always** gets your priority attention. The first plant to be watered, the first to be fertilised or repotted, the first to be pruned and or moved to protection if the weather warning justifies and finally the first inspected for insect attack, mould, virus or anything that may harm your special orchid. Make no bones about it, this is your crowning glory and **nothing** will stop you preening this orchid, this specimen orchid, as the master of all your collection. It demands attention and perfection and you are the willing servant to its needs, because a specimen orchid reigns supreme in your collection.

Nothing is more satisfying, as you walk into that monthly meeting or that special winter/spring show, and all people around you stop and stare at the magnificence of your special orchid (*specimen orchid*) is carried into the room for display, admiration and competition and accreditation.

You are not smug or conceited or arrogant, but you just **know** your specimen orchid (being either Jan's Big Ben or Wal's Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry) that you are carrying into the room a winner, a champion, a **Bonafede** envy of **every** person in that room.

Victory can be sweet without even looking at the competition, because you have a specimen orchid at the peak of its flowering powers. You have a specimen orchid that has growth of outstanding measurements that all others wish for. You have a specimen orchid of such health and vigour that all others in your category wish they'd come at a later date and not be judged against you at the same time/day.

But being in this position did not come easy or overnight. To get a specimen plant can take you years to reach and that's the catch, that's the skill you need to acquire. You will need patience, durability, knowledge and a willingness to adapt to lighting, potting mix, pot type/style, a willingness to listen to the wisdom of your betters and above all else.... Luck!

*Firstly* - you will need to find an orchid that you love to grow, an orchid that suits your growing environment (glass house, shade house, indoors or dappled light outside).

*Secondly* - you will need to find the perfect location in your growing environment that is 'just right' for that orchid. This will need you to constantly realise you will have to move your orchid around that glass house or shade house until you locate a position that your orchid is happy with. When you do, don't move it! (*cont'd*)

## *The 'Magic' of Specimen Orchids (cont'd)*

*article courtesy - Mark Drury*

*Thirdly* - ensure the right potting mix for that orchid and ensure the right pot for that orchid (either a free draining mixture or a rich organic mix whatever that plant requires).

*Fourthly* - ensure correct water and fertiliser requirements are strictly adhered to.

*Fifth* - time and patience are essential for your specimen orchid to flourish. If you adhere to all the above suggested guidance points then insect, virus and/or mould will not be a factor you will need to address.

**Just a hint** - the bringing of your favoured orchid into being the specimen orchid of your collection will defiantly take **years** to achieve, that is why they are so stunning to view and why they are usually the envy of the show because it takes **years** to grow and reach their zenith of flowering triumph.

You cannot hurry the process. You cannot place your potential specimen orchid in larger than necessary pot size, you cannot give your potential specimen orchid extra water or extra fertiliser or extra sun/shade or move to a different location hoping to hurry up their growth.

Because you will fail, you will crash and burn and you will be faced with either a dead or dying potential specimen orchid and you will have to begin the process of growing a specimen orchid from scratch.

That is a situation you don't want to face.

There is a reason these wonderful plants are called 'specimen' orchids, because it takes a special patient kind of grower to produce a specimen orchid, an orchid that takes your breath away - an orchid you too can achieve!

*Happy Specimen Growing! - Mark*

## *Lovely Selection Flowering for June*

*courtesy – Robert Nicol*



Blc. Shelly Compton 'Touch of Class'



Blc. California Girl 'Orchid Library' x  
C. Aram Powder 'Southern Cross'



C. 'Unknown'



Blc. George King



C. 'Unknown'



L. anceps 'Yellow' x veitchiana



## 2025 Mingara Orchid Club Inc. Fair & Show

to be held at



Mingara Recreation Club  
Tumbi Umbi  
Central Coast NSW



Saturday 28th June 9am–4pm

Sunday 29th June 9am–3pm

Mingara Orchid Club Inc. extends this invitation to your members and their friends to visit our 21st annual event.....the 2025 Fair & Show.

Entry is FREE

✓ 20 Vendors

✓ Orchid displays

✓ Potting and culture demonstrations throughout the weekend.

We provide vouchers for Bus groups; please contact us for further details.

For further details please contact:

[secretarymoc08@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymoc08@gmail.com) or Marie Bartlett 0404041803

We look forward to welcoming you.

Kind regards,

Mingara Orchid Fair & Show Committee



## Orchids Central Orchid Displays and Sales

Club Condell Park  
178 Eldridge Road, Bankstown  
Club Bistro, Facilities and Parking

17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025

9.30am - 4pm Friday and  
Saturday

9.30am - 2pm Sunday

Adults: \$10

Buses: \$8

Children  
under 15 Free

### Last major orchid show in Sydney for 2025

Last opportunity to buy from more than 16 of the best local, interstate and international vendors offering native and exotic orchids ranging from seedlings to mature plants, flasks from international nurseries, orchid growing supplies and other unusual and rare plants to grow along with your orchids

For more information email [orchids\\_central@mail.com](mailto:orchids_central@mail.com)  
Facebook [Orchids central](https://www.facebook.com/OrchidsCentral)

Proudly Hosted by... **Woolgoolga District Orchid Society**

2025 AOC  
International Conference & Show

**Orchids from the Mountains to the Sea**

**23rd Australian Orchid Council International Conference & Show 2025**  
Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 5

**Woolgoolga Sports Complex**  
Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga  
New South Wales, Australia

**VENDOR REGISTRATION**  
Table space for vendors will be limited.  
Early registration recommended.  
COST: 4 Tables \$575  
Frontage - 7.2 metres wide  
Contact Ann Deans on 0466 265 357  
[woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com](mailto:woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com)

**CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION**  
For early bird registration price paid before July 1 - \$220 per person  
Full price - \$300 per person  
Contact Annie Houston on 0410 628 662 or email Annie [woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com](mailto:woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com)

**8 International and Australia-wide Guest Speakers**

**FLOOR OR TABLE DISPLAY**  
Hundreds of magical orchids and flasks will be on sale by vendors from around Australia and the world to add to your orchid collection. This is a wonderful opportunity for your Society to stage a magnificent floor or table top display - contact [woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com](mailto:woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com)

See our Website for more information - [www.aoc2025.org.au](http://www.aoc2025.org.au)

## St Ives Orchid Fair 'The Big One'



In partnership with  
Ku-ring-gai Council



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

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 9 am to 4 pm  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 9 am to 4 pm  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025 9 am to 3 pm

Bus Routes 196/197: Gordon Station - St Ives Village - Terrey Hills - Mona Vale  
ADMISSION \$10 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, Orchid Mania  
Orchids on Newbold, Robertson Orchids, Rosella Orchids,  
Tinonee Orchids, The Orchid Mart / Serhan's Orchids

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



### 2025 AOF Essay Prize

The AOF Essay Prize is an annual writing competition, established with a generous endowment by the Slade family.

There will be three prizes –

|     |       |          |
|-----|-------|----------|
| 1st | Prize | \$350.00 |
| 2nd | Prize | \$250.00 |
| 3rd | Prize | \$150.00 |

The Foundation invites all Australian orchid growers to consider the topic for 2025 and submit an entry.

#### ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2025:

***What sparked your interest in orchids?***

**Were you given a gift of an orchid, did you by chance go to an orchid show, did you go for a walk in the bush one day and notice some fascinating, intricate flowers?**

The deadline for receipt of all entries is July 31st 2025

Send your entry:  
electronically to [aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au](mailto:aof@australianorchidfoundation.org.au)  
or AOF Essay Prize P.O. Box 440, Yarra Glen Vic. 3775

Please include your name, address and telephone contact.

#### Entry Rules:

- This competition is open to Australian residents only.
- The essay will be an original article, not previously published.
- The essay must be no more than 4,000 words, short essays are most welcome.
- The essay is to be in English and typewritten.
- Entries may include art work or images.
- The authors of the essays will remain undisclosed to the judges, whose decision will be final. If in the opinion of the judges, no worthy essays are received, there will be no award that year.
- Non-winning entries will be returned to the sender if requested. These entries may be submitted to the editors of Australian orchid periodicals for publication, with permission from the author.
- The winning essay will be announced at the AGM of the Foundation in October 2025.
- The winning entries will be placed on the AOF web site and maybe published in Australian orchid periodicals.



### 2025 AUTUMN SEEDLING CATALOGUE

*Specialists in Australian native species & hybrids  
The Home of Tropicool®™ Dendrobiums*

**Callyn Farrell, Grahame Young & Lynette Young**

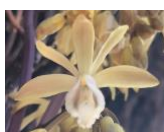
**Email:** [dunoau@gmail.com](mailto:dunoau@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.duno.net.au](http://www.duno.net.au)

**Phone:** Callyn – 0422304490, Grahame – 0466646171

**\*PLEASE ORDER VIA EMAIL\***

**Click on Link to View:** [DUNO 2025 Catalogue](#)



### *Local Orchid Spotting*

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

*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)**



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

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

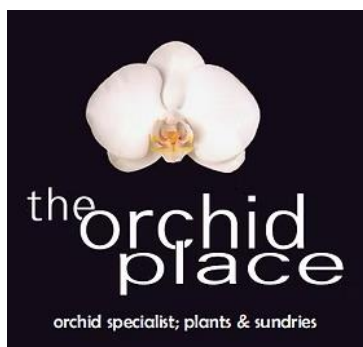
### CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

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.”***



*Our appreciation  
to the following for  
providing sponsorship,  
support or association to  
our Shows and Activities  
for 2025*



*3 Short St Heathcote*



*Kirrawee and Caringbah*



*Woollooware Shores  
Taren Point  
for providing our  
Show Venue*



## *Events for the Diary in 2025*

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - SSOS General Meeting – Speaker: Craig Scott-Harden on Paphs.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> June, SSOS Winter Show 2025 – setup on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2pm – 5pm (see flyer page 5)**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - SSOS General Meeting – Speaker: David Hemmings on Australian Natives**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025 - SSOS General Meeting, (Speaker to be Advised)**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - SSOS General Meeting. Speaker Jan Robinson on 'Resuscitate or Euthanise'**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept - SSOS Spring Show 2025, setup Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2pm – 5pm (details to be confirmed)**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - SSOS General Meeting**

**Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Orchids Central (see flyer p. 13)**



## *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  
Articles or 'Photos of Interest' to include in our monthly Bulletins.***

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