



### *Next Meeting:*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>  
January, 8pm**

*Hall open 7pm  
Benching by 7.50pm*

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Meeting Activity for January*

**Member's Popular Vote**  
from the Open Judges  
Choice for best Hybrid  
and Species for 2025

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*



Instagram



facebook

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society

December Meeting Photos  
courtesy – Paul Sheaffe

## *Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.* **Bulletin – January 2026**

*Happy New Year*



*New Year  
New Blooms!*

**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:*

*2025 Annual Point Scores - Individual and by Class (page's 6 - 8)*

*OSNSW Summer Orchid Festival - (report page 4)*

*Other Events for the Diary 2026 (see page 15)*

***\*\*Membership Fees for 2026 are now due (see page 8 for details) \*\****

## December Benching



## Monthly Benching Results – December 2025

### PLANT OF THE NIGHT

**Winner** C. purpurata v. (flamea x sanguinea) R. Cawley

### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

**Winner** Paph. Toni Semple M. Karayannis

### OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

**Winner** C. purpurata v. (flamea x sanguinea) R. Cawley

### INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** C. 'Unknown' S. Tropoulos

### NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

**Winner** Mtps. Breathless 'Brilliant' G. Towle

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

**Winner** Den. Gift by God L. Watkins

## Monthly Benching Results – December 2025

### OPEN

#### CLASS #1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

1st Dienia ophrydis J. Pacewicz

2nd Sarco. ceciliae J. Robinson

#### CLASS #2 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS

1st Den. Anthedon Star R. Jackson

#### CLASS #6 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

1st Paph. Toni Semple M. Karayannis

#### CLASS #7 CLASSICAL PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

1st Paph. Masako's Delight M.S. Drury

#### CLASS #10 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS to 80mm

1st Rth. Alyssa Bruce J. Robinson

#### CLASS #11 CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st Epi. Serene O'Neill 'Hsingying' L. Watkins

2nd Epi. Pacific Stonefruit V. Petrovski

#### CLASS #12 NON-CLASSICAL LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st Blc. Glorious May 'H & R' V. Petrovski

2nd Epi. Green Hornet J. Ng

3rd Laelinnae 'unknown' L. Watkins

#### CLASS #13 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS 60mm & under

1st Brassia V. Petrovski

2nd Wils. Caramel Confections J. Robinson

#### CLASS #14 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS over 60mm

1st Mtps. Red Tide V. Petrovski

2nd Vuyls. Red Cambric V. Petrovski

#### CLASS #18 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS EXOTIC

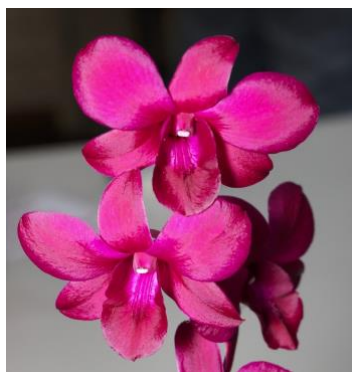
1st Den. Gift by God L. Watkins

2nd Den. Madonna Red V. Petrovski

3rd Den. chryseum V. Petrovski



## December Benching



## Monthly Benching Results – December 2025 cont'd

### OPEN

#### CLASS # 21 MISCELLANEOUS EXOTIC HYBRIDS

1st	Bulb. Mem. Richard Mizuta	M. Karayannis
2nd	Masd. Vin Rouge	J. Robinson

#### CLASS # 22 DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC

1st	Den. chrysotoxum	V. Petrovski
2nd	Den. lindleyi	J. Ng

#### CLASS # 24 SPECIES ASIAN

1st	Aerides multiflora	W. & J. Chapman
2nd	Max. tenuifolia	V. Petrovski

#### CLASS # 25 ONCIDIINAE SPECIES

1st	Rossioglossum grande	M.S. Drury
2nd	Brassia verrucosa	M.S. Drury

#### CLASS # 26 LAELIINAE SPECIES

1st	C. purpurata v. 'flamea x sangrina'	R. Cawley
2nd	C. purpurata v. 'flamea x sangrina'	R. Cawley
3rd	C. lobata var. delicata 'Lusl'	R. Cawley
4th	C. tenebrosa 'Niki'	R. Cawley
5th	C. purpurata var tipa 'Jody's Keeper'	J. Robinson

### NOVICE

#### CLASS # 32 NOVICE LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st	E. Dixie McCulloch	M. Spring
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#### CLASS # 33 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

1st	Mltps. Breathless 'Brilliant'	G. Towle
2nd	Mltps. Arthur Cobbledick 'Springtime'	G. Towle

#### CLASS # 34 NOVICE SPECIES

1st	Brassia 'unknown'	S. Fitch
2nd	Max. tenuifolia	R. Bannell

### INTERMEDIATE

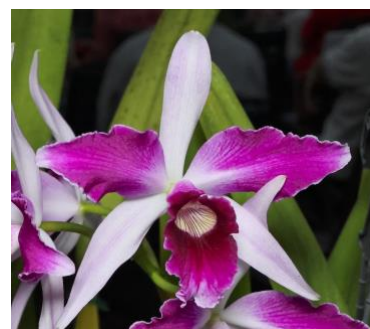
#### CLASS # 38 INTERMEDIATE LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st	Laelinae 'unknown'	S. Tropoulos
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#### CLASS # 39 INTERMEDIATE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

1st	Vanda 'unknown'	S. Tropoulos
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## A beautiful selection of the Cattleya purpurata benched in December



## December Benching



## Sutherland Members Shine at the OSNSW Summer Orchid Festival - 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025

Report courtesy - Jan Robinson

### Grand Champion



*C. purpurata v. tipo x v. sanguinea*  
exhibited by - Jody Cutajar

### Reserve Champion



*Chiloschista lunifera*  
exhibited by - Joel Cass

Our Society pitched in and gave full support to the inaugural Summer Orchid Festival last month. Members benched plants in the competition, volunteered for many shifts, and brought plants for the Sales Bench.

One of our members, Melissa Karayannis, won Champion Specimen and also received an Award of Cultural Merit for her superbly grown and beautifully flowered *Bulbophyllum Memoria Richard Mizuta*. (see below)

Other benching winners were Vic Petrovski, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class 14 with his *Dendrobium Golden Glow* 'Queen Vicki'; Dimitri and Kathy Mitsios 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class 12(b) with their *Brassada Golden Gamine* "White Knight" and *Odontocidium Catatante* 'Sun King'; and Heath Myers 1<sup>st</sup> in Class 10 with *Phrag Grande* and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class 9 with an impressive *Paph Prince Edward of York*. Over 150 plants were benched and the standard was very high. Congratulations to our winners!

We also more than pulled our weight in volunteer participation. Robert Cawley, Terry Thompson, Heath Myers, Dimitri and Kathy Mitsios all worked shifts on Saturday; Jenny Sharpham, Heath Myers, Terry Thompson, Robert Cawley, Melissa Karayannis, Dimitri and Kathy did shifts on Sunday.

The show was a raging success and will be even bigger and better this year!

**SAVE THE DATES:** Setup and benching will be Friday evening 4<sup>th</sup> December; benching and judging Saturday morning 5<sup>th</sup> December; and the show will be open to the public from 10:00 am on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The show will be at a different venue, it will be in the same hall where Bankstown Orchid Society meets monthly in Georges Hall.

Volunteer positions are already being filled, if you would like to put your name down (especially for the sales bench), let me know and I'll save you a spot.

Thank you, Sutherland Shire Orchid Society, for your great support and participation in this event and bring on the Summer Orchid Festival 2026!

Jan Robinson – (SOF Volunteer Co-Ordinator)



Congratulations to  
Melissa Karayannis  
winning  
First in Class,  
and Champion Specimen  
with  
*Bulbophyllum Mem.*  
*Richard Mizuta*

Also receiving an OSNSW  
Award of Cultural Merit





### December Benching



### Monthly Benching Winners – December 2025

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

exhibited by – R. Cawley



*Cattleya purpurata* v. (flamea x sanguinea)

#### Open Judges Choice Hybrid

exhibited by – M. Karayannis



Paph. Toni Semple

#### Intermediate Judges Choice

exhibited by – S. Tropoulos



C. Unknown

#### Novice Judges Choice

exhibited by – G. Towle



Mtps. Breathless 'Brilliant'

#### President's Choice

exhibited by – L. Watkins



Den. Gift by God

## *2025 - Annual Point Score Results*

*Congratulations to our Trophy Winners for 2025  
(Presented at the December Meeting)*

### **1<sup>st</sup> - Open Class Point Score**



Dimitrios Mitsios

### **Rona Goudie Trophy 2025**



Wal Chapman

## *2025 Individual Annual Point Score Results*

### **OPEN**

Mitsios D	354
Petrovski V	317
Robinson J	183
Watkins L	115
Jackson R	113
Karayannis M	104
Cawley C	97
Chapman W & J	89
Ng J	82
Hodder G	63
Dimon R	62
Myers H	60
Nicol R	52
Brandon C	49
Hely J	44
Aldridge M	27
Ettrick R	26

### **OPEN**

Phillips D	24
Sanaphay P	21
Thompson T	18
Costa J	16
Davies P	12
Dimon M	5
Ware I	5
Brooks D	3

### **INTERMEDIATE**

Drury M	180
Chan J	54
Mans C	43
Hannah D	5

### **NOVICE**

Clasper M	55
Tropoulos S	37
Towle G	35
Fitch S	32
Bannell R	24
Strong L	23
Vitnell M	21
Riley J	20
Tuen Mok M	11
Sutton J	8
Finn G	5
Micet V	4
Randle M	4
Sheaffe P	4

## 2025 Annual Point Scores by Class

### OPEN

1st	Mitsios D (+ APS Trophy)	354
2nd	Petrovski V	317
3rd	Robinson J	183

### INTERMEDIATE

1st	Drury M	180
2nd	Chan J	54
3rd	Manns C	43

### NOVICE

1st	Clasper M	55
2nd	Tropoulos S	37
3rd	Towle G	35

### OPEN

#### CLASS #1 AUST. NATIVES SPECIES

1st	Jackson R	34
2nd	Mitsios D	10
3rd	Robinson J	8

#### CLASS #2 AUST. NATIVE HYBRIDS

1st	Jackson R	28
2nd	Mitsios D	15
3rd	Robinson J	9

#### CLASS #3 DOCKRILLIA HYBRIDS

1st	Brandon C	35
2nd	Jackson R	12

#### CLASS #4 NATIVE SARC. HYBRIDS

1st	Mitsios D	18
2nd	Petrovski V	10
3rd	Brandon C	7

#### CLASS #5 SPECIES PAPHS

1st	Robinson J	46
2nd	Mitsios D	19
3rd	Dimon R	11

#### CLASS #6 NOVELTY PAPH. HYBRIDS

1st	Mitsios D	45
2nd	Robinson J	18
3rd	Karayannis M	11

#### CLASS #7 CLASSICAL PAPH. HYBRIDS

1st	Mitsios D	22
2nd	Karayannis M	8
3rd	Petrovski V	7

#### CLASS #8 LAEL. HYBRIDS over 110mm

1st	Petrovski V	17
2nd	Ng J	14
3rd	Robinson J	5
3rd	Nicol R	5

### CLASS #9 LAEL. HYBRIDS 80 - 110mm

1st	Mitsios D	24
2nd	Petrovski V	12
3rd	Ng J	9

### CLASS #10 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS to 80mm

1st	Hodder G	13
2nd	Mitsios D	5
2nd	Ng J	5
2nd	Myers H	5

### CLASS #11 CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st	Petrovski V	20
2nd	Mitsios D	7
3rd	Cawley R	5
3rd	Ettrick R	5
3rd	Hodder G	5
3rd	Watkins L	5

### CLASS #12 NON-CLASS. LAEL. HYBRIDS

1st	Petrovski V	23
2nd	Watkins L	14
3rd	Mitsios D	9

### CLASS #13 ONCID. HYBRIDS to 60mm

1st	Robinson J	18
2nd	Petrovski V	16
3rd	Mitsios D	14

### CLASS #14 ONCID. HYBRIDS over 60mm

1st	Petrovski V	26
2nd	Cawley R	10
3rd	Phillips D	9

### CLASS #16 INTER. CYM. HYBR. 60-90mm

1st	Mitsios D	19
2nd	Petrovski V	5
3rd	Chapman W & J	4

### CLASS #17 CYMBID. HYBRIDS to 60mm

1st	Petrovski V	29
2nd	Mitsios D	23
3rd	Myers H	4
3rd	Hely J	4

### CLASS #18 DEN. HYBRIDS EXOTIC

1st	Petrovski V	69
2nd	Mitsios D	13
3rd	Robinson J	9

### CLASS #19 PHAL. AND VAND. HYBRIDS

1st	Ng J	18
2nd	Mitsios D	11
3rd	Davies P	7

### CLASS #20 PLEURO. HYBRIDS

1st	Mitsios D	10
2nd	Chapman W & J	5

### CLASS #21 MISC. EXOTIC HYBRIDS

1st	Petrovski V	20
2nd	Mitsios D	18
3rd	Karayannis M	17

### CLASS #22 DEN. SPECIES EXOTIC

1st	Petrovski V	17
2nd	Robinson J	15
3rd	Hodder G	12

### CLASS #23 COELOGYNINAE SPECIES

1st	Chapman W & J	26
2nd	Mitsios D	14
3rd	Cawley R	10
3rd	Nicol R	10

### CLASS #24 SPECIES ASIAN

1st	Aldridge M	23
2nd	Karayannis M	22
3rd	Chapman W & J	15

### CLASS #25 ONCIDIINAE SPECIES

1st	Petrovski V	15
2nd	Robinson J	9
3rd	Jackson R	7

### CLASS #26 LAEIINAE SPECIES

1st	Cawley R	32
2nd	Mitsios D	14
3rd	Robinson J	10

### CLASS #27 EXOTIC SPECIES

1st	Mitsios D	17
1st	Watkins L	17
3rd	Robinson J	11

### CLASS #28 SEEDLING

1st	Watkins L	24
2nd	Myers H	19
3rd	Dimon R	9

### NOVICE

#### CLASS #29 NOVICE PAPH. HYBRIDS

1st	Clasper M	5
1st	Fitch S	5
1st	Strong L	5
1st	Sutton J	5

#### CLASS #30 NOVICE CYMBID. HYBRIDS

1st	Riley J	12
2nd	Vitnell M	10
3rd	Tuen Mok M	4



## 2025 Annual Point Scores by Class (cont'd)

### CLASS #31 NOVICE AUST. SPEC. & HYB.

1st	Strong L	9
2nd	Riley J	8
3rd	Fitch S	5
3rd	Towle G	5
3rd	Finn G	5

### CLASS #32 NOVICE LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st	Clasper M	13
2nd	Bannell R	10
3rd	Tropoulos S	4

### CLASS #33 NOVICE MISC. HYBRIDS

1st	Towle G	23
2nd	Tropoulos S	20
3rd	Clasper M	18

### CLASS #34 NOVICE SPECIES

1st	Fitch S	22
2nd	Clasper M	19
3rd	Tropoulos S	13

### INTERMEDIATE

### CLASS #35 INTERMEDIATE PAPH. HYB.

1st	Drury M	68
2nd	Chan J	9

### CLASS #37 INTERM. AUST. SPEC. & HYB.

1st	Drury M	23
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### CLASS #38 INTERMEDIATE LAEL. HYBRIDS

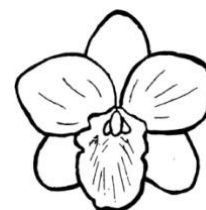
1st	Mans C	23
2nd	Chan J	19

### CLASS #39 INTERMEDIATE MISC. HYBRIDS

1st	Drury M	55
2nd	Mans C	20
3rd	Chan J	9

### CLASS #40 INTERMEDIATE SPECIES

1st	Drury M	29
2nd	Chan J	17
3rd	Hannah D	5



## \*ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2026 ARE NOW DUE\*

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

### ANNUAL FEES:

<b>Adult Single</b> - \$20	<b>Adult Double</b> - \$30
<b>Pensioner Single</b> - \$15	<b>Pensioner Double</b> - \$20
<b>Junior</b> (under 16 years) - \$5	

*(If you wish your Monthly Bulletin Printed / Posted – \$20 pa will apply in addition to the above)*

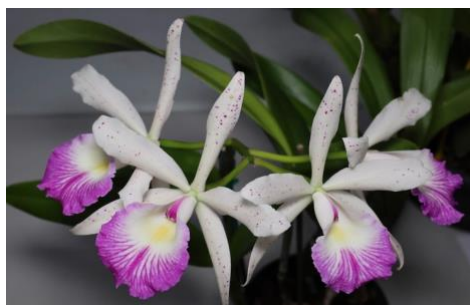
**Method of Payment** - preferably by **Direct Deposit** (or by cash at the meeting)

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\* - ALL DIRECT DEPOSITS TO OUR NEW SOCIETY ACCOUNT BELOW:**

**BSB: 032-112. Account #: 368041**  
**Account Name: Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.**

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

### *More from the Benching in December*





*Thunia marshalliana*  
courtesy – Frank Daniel



*Thunia marshalliana* – is a robust deciduous terrestrial orchid endemic to India, Myanmar and southern China.

Leaves 10 -15cm, lanceolate (of a narrow oval shape tapering to a 'lance type' point at each end) grey to green.

Drooping inflorescences to 30cm, of 4-9 flowers in summer.

Fragrant flowers, approx. 12cm across, sepals and petals pure white, lip orange or yellow with fine purple stripes.

A striking and unique orchid grown by a number of our members, but unfortunately mostly due to timing, rarely seen on the monthly meeting benches

*Thank-you Frank for sharing your success in flowering this one!*

*A lovely Selection flowering for December / January*  
courtesy - Robert Nicol



Bulb. lobbii



Bulb. bicolor



Stan. ambreei



Bulb. Wilbur Chang

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES

#### GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

President Rhonda declared the meeting open at 8 pm and welcomed everyone.

**VISITORS:** Veronica Clowes, President of OSNSW and Bankstown Orchid Society.

**APOLOGIES:** Christine Castle, Murray Aldridge, Gary Hodder, Robert Nicol,

The order of activities tonight was the general business and annual awards and trophy presentations. Once the judging was finished, our plants were put in our cars and then the hall arranged for supper and the Christmas raffle and judging awards.

#### **MINUTES:**

Rhonda motioned that the November minutes were an accurate record. Seconded, Jenny Sharpham. Carried.

#### **Correspondence**

- Invitations sent out to Toni Benton and Veronica Clowes to attend our Christmas meeting. Veronica Clowes responded and accepted our December Christmas meeting invitation.
- SSOS November Bulletin sent out to OSNSW and various other Orchid Societies and we received their bulletins.
- Email from Priscilla Greve, Australian Orchid Council making contact with Societies
- Sarah Long, Woollooware Shores re availability of the Reef Room for our shows.
- Monique Page, Neutrog invitation to join their Neutrog Online site
- Email from Rhonda Daniels, APS Sutherland re their Neutrog online order.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **SQUARE USE ON SALES TABLE:**

With the use of the Square on the sales table, less cash is being received which requires our Treasurer to visit the bank to withdraw cash so he can pay cash to members who sold plants. He withdraws the cash from the ATM and then queues to see a teller to have the cash broken up in the denominations that he requires.

The committee feels this is an unreasonable expectation on the Treasurer. As a result, the committee has decided that members who wish to sell plants on the sales table, are required to give Mike Vitnell their bank account details.

This will take effect from the January meeting. If anyone has an issue with this, would they please come and talk to Rhonda about it?

##### **2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

Our membership renewal fees are now due and can be paid at the meeting using the Square or by cash. You can also make an EFTPOS transfer. Robin Bannell assisted Mike with the payments.

For those of you who wish to pay by direct debit, the details of our new Westpac bank account were published in the bulletin. Please record your name in the reference field so we know who the payment is from. The Westpac account is: BSB: 032-112; A/C 368041.

As the Commbank account is a cheque account, we cannot transfer money from this account to the Westpac account, so please use the Westpac account.

We will be closing the Commbank account early in the new year.

If you have changed your address or contact details, please let us know so we can update our records.

##### **JUDGING REWARDS CERTIFICATES:**

Members were asked to see the Treasurer if they wished to redeem any Judging reward certificates for Bunnings vouchers.



## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – *cont'd*

#### GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### AOC EMAIL:

The Society received an email from Priscilla Greve, Hon Secretary of Australian Orchid Council which was forwarded by OSNSW for distribution to societies. Rhonda read it to the meeting.

*"I'm writing on behalf of the Australian Orchid Council to ask how your club is doing.*

*We hope your members have been keeping well and enjoying their time with orchids, whether at meetings, shows, or in the comfort of their own homes. If there are any matters you'd like to discuss or resources you require from the Council, please don't hesitate to let us know.*

*Please feel free to share any recent achievements, challenges, or upcoming events your club is planning. We look forward to fostering an open line of communication and working together to promote our shared passion for orchids."*

Rhonda commented that the AOC has had a change of executive positions so it is a lovely gesture that they are making contact with Societies.

#### OUR 2026 SHOW DATES:

We have confirmed the dates for our 2026 shows.

Winter show: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June with set upon 18<sup>th</sup>.

Spring show: 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September with set up on 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### NEUTROG PRODUCTS:

Monique Page from Neutrog® contacted Rhonda as her details had been passed on by Rhonda Daniels of Australian Plants Society (APS) Sutherland. APS wish to put in an order with Neutrog via their member online store and have invited our members to contribute to the order as they are under the minimum order of 500kgs. The collection point is in Bonnet Bay.

Some of the products available are Bush Tucker, Gogo Juice, Popul8, Rocket Fuel, Rooster Booster, Seamungus, Strike Back for Orchids and Whoflungdung. The products are at greatly reduced prices.

To access the products, APS will pass your contact details to Neutrog's Membership Manager, Monique. She will then create an online account for you, and then you will receive an Account Activation Email. You will then simply need to set a new password and will be all ready to place your first order! There is no obligation to make an order.

When you place your order you will select the collection point, which is an APS member's house in Bonnet Bay. When your order arrives with APS Collection Coordinator, they will contact you to arrange a time for you to come and pick your order up.

APS wish to lodge the order early in the new year. Rhonda circulated a page where interest members wrote their name and email address. She will then pass the details onto to Rhonda Daniels.

#### 2026 COMMITTEE:

Our AGM will be held in March and at least four positions will be vacant. Rhonda advised she will be stepping down after 12 years on the committee, with 8 years as Secretary and 4½ years as President. David Hicks will be stepping down after 6 years, 5 of those were as Secretary. Jenny Sharpham will also be stepping down after 3 years. Jenny manages the tea & coffee at our meetings.

The issue the Society has is that we need someone to take on the role of President. This is required under the Associations legislation as we are an Incorporated Association. The current committee members do not wish to take on this role. If someone doesn't nominate as President we cannot continue as an organisation, as this person will lead the society and conduct our meetings etc. We also need to fill the other four vacant positions. (*cont'd*)

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – *cont'd*

#### GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### **2026 COMMITTEE:** *(cont'd from page 12)*

We are calling for enthusiastic and committed people who are keen to take on the tasks that need to be done. Ideally, we need some people with computer experience as a lot of the work is administrative. You will be provided with assistance and support.

Would you please seriously consider nominating for the committee in March? It would be a great shame to close the Society after 73 years. Rhonda feels it is important to continue as it provides an outlet for our shared interest in orchids, fostering friendships and social contacts, and provides us with opportunities to sell our plants.

#### **BENCHING CLASS ELEVATIONS:**

At this time of year, the committee decides who will be escalated from Novice and Intermediate classes based on a person's ability in growing their orchids and their annual point scores.

Two members will be escalated due to their successful performance during 2025.

From Novice to Intermediate: Sonia Tropoulos

From Intermediate to Open: Mark Drury.

Rhonda congratulated both of them.

The list with everyone's annual points and the list of the first three place getters in each class will be published in the January Bulletin.

#### **APPRECIATION AWARDS for 2025:**

There are some members who deserve special recognition.

- Robert Nicol for his contribution to the society for managing the sales table at our meetings. As Robert was absent, he will be presented with a \$25 Coles/Myer card at the next meeting.
- Diane Phillips for her contribution to the society for managing the sales table at our meetings. Diane received a \$25 Coles/Myer card
- Pam Davies for her contribution to the society in her efforts in recording the monthly judging results. Pam received a \$25 Coles/Myer card
- Rhonda thanked everyone who brought a plate of food to share, and a donation for our raffle and Russell Ettrick for getting the drinks and ice.

**President's Service Award:** This award is presented for outstanding service to the Society during the year. It doesn't need to be awarded each year.

**Recipient:** Robert Cawley for his service in selling raffle tickets and setting up the hall at our meetings, assisting at the Shows in the set-up of the hall and sales table, and volunteering each day. Following a request from a member of the public, Robert willingly offered to visit her to repot her large cymbidiums.

At the show set-up Robert stayed behind until after 5pm with Margaret Spring and the President. Rhonda really appreciated this. Robert received a \$50 Coles/Myer card

#### **SHOW VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DRAW:**

In appreciation for the efforts of our volunteers at our shows Rhonda drew a name from those who volunteered at each show and the winners had a choice of a gift from the raffle.

**Winter show:** John Hely

**Spring show:** Mike Vitnell



## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – *cont'd*

#### GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### ANNUAL POINT SCORE PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:

##### NOVICE CLASS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Melanie Clasper with 55 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Sonia Tropoulos with 37 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Graham Towle with 35 points

##### INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mark Drury with 180 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – John Chan with 54 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Christoff Mans with 43 points

##### OPEN CLASS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Dimitrios Mitsios with 354 points - winner of the Open Class Point Score Trophy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Vic Petrovski with 317 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jan Robinson with 183 points

The **Rona Goudie trophy** is awarded annually to the person who wins the most first place prizes at our two shows without winning a Championship. Rona Goudie was made a life member of the society in 1977. This year's winner is Wal Chapman.

#### President thanked the following:

The Society doesn't function well without a great committee and supportive members. Rhonda thanked

- The committee who has worked very hard in managing the business of the Society, especially David Hicks, who has made my job a lot easier due to his efficiency and willingness to take on tasks;
- Our judges who willingly judge our plants and miss out on the general business part of the meeting;
- Our members who bring plants to our meetings, put out and put away the tables and chairs, socialise with each other and volunteer their time at our meetings and show. We have a great society, and this is due to the commitment of you, our members, in working together to ensure its success. I would like you to give yourself a round of applause as you deserve it.

**TRAINEE ASSOCIATE JUDGES:** Rhonda was pleased to announce that three of our trainee judges are now Trainee Associate Judges. They are Melissa Karayannis, John Ng and Mark Drury.

Well done for achieving this milestone in becoming qualified as a Judge. Phyllis Khor is also a new trainee with us.

#### OSNSW SUMMER ORCHID FESTIVAL:

December 13th, and 14th 2025 at Ermington Community Centre. Jan Robinson spoke to members to encourage them to attend and advise who were volunteering.

#### ACTIVITIES FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**January** – The members' popular choice vote for the Hybrid of the Night and the Species of the Night from the 2025 meetings. Members will get a chance to vote for their favourite plant from the photos shown in the presentation. The two winners will receive a prize.

**February.** Mike Pieloor "Preventing & Managing Virus" (from Canberra O.S.)

**March** AGM & Karen Groeneveld on Stanhopea (from Canberra O.S.)

**December Name Badge Winner:** Rhonda Jackson

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### MINUTES – cont'd

#### GENERAL MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**PLANT OF THE NIGHT:** Robert Cawley – C. purpurata v. (flamea x sanguinea)

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN HYBRID:** Melissa Karayannis – Paph. Toni Semple

**JUDGES CHOICE OPEN SPECIES:** Robert Cawley - C. purpurata v. (flamea x sanguinea)

**JUDGES CHOICE INTERMEDIATE:** Sonia Tropoulos – C. unknown

**JUDGES CHOICE NOVICE:** Graham Towle – Mtps. Breathless 'Brilliant'

**PRESIDENT'S CHOICE:** Lawrence Watkins – Den. Gift by God

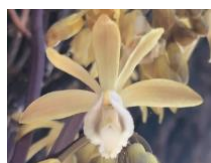
**Rhonda thanked our Judging Panel for this evening:** David Brooks, Wal Chapman, Jan Robinson, Richie Dimon. **Trainee Associates** – Mark, Melissa and John.

#### CLOSING:

Richard Dimon kindly volunteered to sweep the floor. Thank you, Richie.

Rhonda thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone and their families a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to your company at our next meeting on **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

Meeting closed at 9.37 pm



### 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**

### Dear SSOS Members



Do you have a lovely **specimen plant** in full flower that is always too large to transport to a meeting or show?

*How about sending in a photo for the Bulletin to share it with other members?*

*And tell us something about its history?*

*Please forward to the Editor:*

**David Hicks E:** [davehicks@outlook.com.au](mailto:davehicks@outlook.com.au)  
(before 28<sup>th</sup> of the month)

## Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

### CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

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

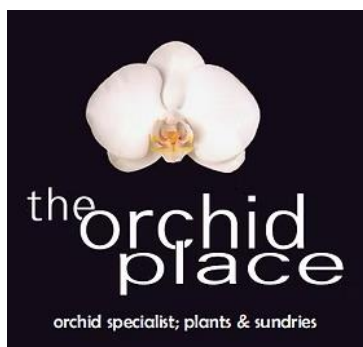
*“Members and visitors shall treat each other in a respectful, friendly and cordial manner at our meetings and Society activities.”*

The complete document is available from our Website, or by clicking on the following **LINK:**

[SSOS Code of Conduct](#)



*Our appreciation  
to the following for either  
providing sponsorship,  
support or association to  
our Shows and Society  
Activities for 2026*



*3 Short St Heathcote*



*Kirrawee and Caringbah*



*Woollooware Shores  
Taren Point  
for providing our  
Show Venue*



## *Events for the Diary 2026*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - SSOS General Meeting.** Activity -  
Members' Popular Vote of our Open Judges Choice Awards for 2025

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - SSOS General Meeting.** Speaker - Mike  
Pieloor from Canberra OS "Preventing & Managing Virus"

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - SSOS AGM and General Meeting.** Speaker –  
Karen Groeneveld from Canberra OS on 'Stanhopea'

★★ *From the Editor* ★★  
*Thank-You!*

*To all Members who contributed - photos, articles,  
flyers or general information of interest to share in our  
Bulletin during 2025*



## *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.