



Next Meeting:

Monday 9th
February, 8pm

Hall open 7pm
Benching by 7.50pm

Meeting Activity for February

Mike Pieloor from
Canberra O.S.

'Managing and Preventing
Virus'

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



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society



Website QR Link

January Meeting Photos
courtesy - Paul Sheaffe

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

Bulletin - February 2026



Web: www.ssos.org.au | E: 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

Treasurer: Michael Vitnell

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

(Committee meets 1st Wed. monthly except January - Tradies Gymea @ 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

Member Contributions - to have your articles or photos of 'Special Interest' included in the Bulletin, please send to: davehicks@outlook.com.au (*prior to 28th each month*)

In this Month's Bulletin:

Article - An 'Oncid Journey' - by Melissa Karayannis (page 6)

Notice of Annual General Meeting (page 3)

It's Stanhopea Season!! (page 9)

Other Events for the Diary 2026 (page 14)

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

Cover Photo: Lycaste bradeorum - exhibited in January by D. Mitsios

January Benchling



Monthly Benchling Results – January 2026

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Winner Paph. Wyruna 'Vietnam Magic'

J. Robinson

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

Winner Paph. Wyruna 'Vietnam Magic'

J. Robinson

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

Winner Aerides houletteana

W&J Chapman

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner No Entries

NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Mtps. Arthur Cobblewick 'Springtime'

G. Towle

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner Paph. bellatulum

T. Thompson

Monthly Benchling Results – January 2026

OPEN

CLASS #1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

1st Den toressae

R. Jackson

CLASS #2 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS

1st Den. 'unknown'

R. Jackson

CLASS #5 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS

1st Paph. bellatulum

T. Thompson

2nd Paph. lowii

T. Thompson

CLASS #6 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

1st Paph. Wyruna 'Vietnam Magic'

J. Robinson

2nd Paph. Prince Edward of York

D. Mitsios

3rd Paph. Rothschildianum

D. Mitsios

4th Paph. Gold Dollar

T. Thompson

CLASS #9 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS 80mm up to & inc. 110mm

1st C. Dal's Choice

D. Mitsios

CLASS #11 CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st Epidendrum Sunny Girl

D. Mitsios

CLASS #13 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS 60mm & under

1st Odontocidium Wildcat 'Carmela'

V. Petrovski

CLASS #14 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS over 60mm

1st Odontocidium Wildcat 'Blood Ruby'

V. Petrovski

2nd Tolumnia Golden Sunset x Golden Glow

D. Mitsios

3rd Oncidioda Pagan Scent 'Hanna'

V. Petrovski

4th Odontocidium Catatante 'Sun King'

D. Mitsios

CLASS #18 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS EXOTIC

1st Den. Chao Praya Sweet x Den. Chao Praya OX108

V. Petrovski

CLASS #20 PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS

1st Masd. Falcata 'Gold' x Dazzla 'Beenak'

V. Petrovski

January Benchling**Monthly Benchling Results – January 2026 cont'd****CLASS #21 MISCELLANEOUS EXOTIC HYBRIDS**

1st Lyc. bradeorum D. Mitsios

2nd Prom. WOC Angels Fire J. Robinson

CLASS #22 DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC

1st Den. macrophyllum 'New Guinea' V. Petrovski

2nd Den. Nora Tokunaga V. Petrovski

CLASS #24 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Aerides houletteana W. & J. Chapman

2nd Phal. fasciata W. & J. Chapman

3rd Bulb. lobbii V. Petrovski

4th Neofinetia falcata T. Thompson

CLASS #26 LAEIIINAE SPECIES

1st C. forbesii T. Thompson

2nd Prosthechea radiata R. Cawley

CLASS #27 EXOTIC SPECIES

1st Stenoglottis woodii D. Mitsios

NOVICE**CLASS #29 NOVICE PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS**

1st Seedling 'Unknown' G. Finn

CLASS #31 NOVICE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES & HYBRIDS

1st Calanthe triplicata G. Towle

CLASS #33 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

1st Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobblewick Springtime G. Towle

From the January Meeting:

*Congratulations to our Winners of the Member's Popular Vote
from the 2025 Monthly Open Judge's Choice Awards:*

Member's Choice Hybrid
Dimitrios Mitsios



Cymbidium Mary Green 'Show Girl'

Member's Choice Species
Jan Robinson



Miltonia moreliana 'Big Ben'

January Benching



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with Part 4, Section 28 of the Society's Constitution, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society will be held on:

Monday, 9th March 2026 at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Flora and Merton Street Sutherland - commencing 8.00pm

The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall be in accordance with Part 4, Section 28 (4) of the Society's Constitution.

At the AGM, the Management Committee of the Society shall be elected and comprises four (4) Executive Office Bearers and five (5) ordinary Committee Members

(Constitution allows for up to nine (9) in total)

A Nomination form for the Management Committee 2026 is attached with this Bulletin, and will also be available at the February monthly meeting.

All completed nomination forms are to be in the hands of the Secretary not less than seven (7) days prior to the AGM i.e. 2nd March 2026.
(by Email: secretary@ssos.org.au - by Post: c/o 548 The Boulevard Sutherland 2232)

***Please Note: Members must be financial to be able to nominate for the Management Committee as well as the ability to vote at the AGM.**

Please consider standing for the Committee of your Society!!



Stenoglottis woodii

From the January Benching

Stenoglottis woodii

exhibited by - Dimitrios Mitsios

This unique and showy species is found growing mostly on mossy rock areas & endemic to Zimbabwe and South Africa at elevations of sea level to approx 1500m.

It grows as a miniature to small sized, cool to cold growing terrestrial, or as a lithophyte, and tends to prefer somewhat drier and more exposed conditions than other Stenoglottis like - Sten. fimbriata, Sten. longifolia or Sten. inandensis.

It occurs mostly in partial shade on forest margins along the tops of south facing cliffs.

Occasionally it is found in grassland in full sun on rocky outcrops adjacent to forest patches or in forest gorges of deep shade in shallow soil.

January Benchling



Monthly Benchling Winners – January 2026

Open Judges Choice Hybrid + PON
exhibited by – J. Robinson



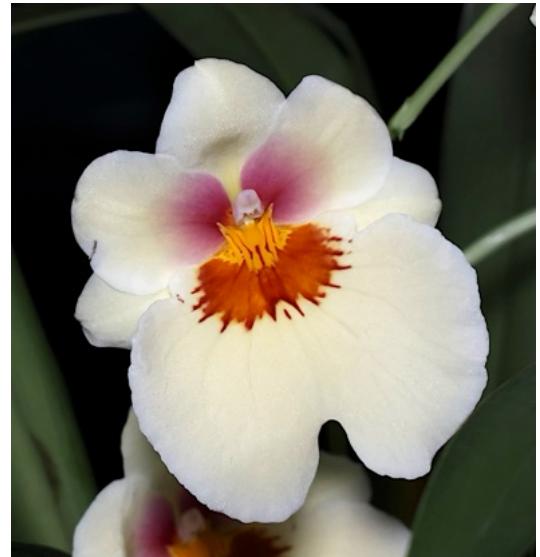
Paph. Wyruna 'Vietnam Magic'

Open Judges Choice Species
exhibited by – W & J Chapman



Aerides houletteana

Novice Judges Choice
exhibited by – G. Towle



Mtps. Arthur Cobblewick 'Springtime'

President's Choice
exhibited by – T. Thompson



Paph. bellatulum

1st in Class 22 - Dend. Species Exotic
exhibited by – V. Petrovski



Dend. macrophyllum 'New Guinea'

An 'Oncid Journey'

Article and Photos – courtesy Melissa Karayannis



Oncidium sphacelatum??

About 30 years ago, I was given a piece of a yellow orchid from my Father-in-Law, Mark Karayannis.

He handed it to me and said “just stick it on a tree branch”. My hobby was at the time creating bonsai in small pots, so the idea of sticking an exotic plant like an orchid in a tree was bizarre to say the least.

But I did as I was instructed and tied it straight onto my ornamental plum tree with fishing line. I was dubious about the orchid’s survival but blow-me-down, it took off like a rocket! Winter sun, summer shade seemed just the ticket!

Several years later we moved house. I just had to take some of this dainty yet ferocious orchid with me, so I cut off a piece and then tied it to a melaleuca tree in my new backyard.

The ‘Bloomin’ thing took off like a rocket again! Well by this stage I’d found out it was an **Oncidium Unknown**, probably **sphacelatum**. It seemed I couldn’t kill the darn thing, so I decided to experiment!

I grew it in a tray, I grew it in pots on a wall, I tied it to more trees, I gave it away, I included it in raffles.....it just kept taking over the universe!

The only hurdle I struck with this Oncid, was when it’s light was reduced.

The Oncid in the tree didn’t flower one year when its host’s canopy became too dense. And **the *Wall of Oncid** in pots didn’t flower this year because the overhead palm fronds blocked their light. (cont’d next page)

An 'Oncid Journey' - cont'd

Article and Photos – courtesy Melissa Karayannis



So basically, it has been a “weed” growing in our Sydney climate.

All it really has needed is full sun most of the day and extra water in hot weather. If tied to a tree, it has received all its fertiliser from the detritus collected within its leaves.



*The *Wall of Oncid*



Anybody want any??? Please.....

*Happy Growing!
Melissa*

* ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2026 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 Treasurer)

ANNUAL FEES:

Adult Single - \$20	Adult Double - \$30
Pensioner Single - \$15	Pensioner Double - \$20
Junior (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 February meeting)

**** NOTE ** - ALL DIRECT DEPOSITS ONLY 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!!!

Another lovely species from the January Benchling

Aerides houletiana

Open Judges Choice species - exhibited by Wal Chapman



Aerides – from the Greek *Aer* meaning air, and in reference to their epiphytic habit, is a genus of 19 known species.

Aerides houletiana is a medium to large sized, warmer growing species from SE Asia: Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, occurring mostly in evergreen, semi-deciduous and deciduous dry lowland forests

Found at elevations of sea level to 700 meters in partial shade, with bilobed leaves, it blooms in the spring and summer

It exhibits a 30-40 cm long, dense, pendulous inflorescence carrying many [12 to 20], large, fleshy flowers that are quite delicately coloured and fragrant.

An amazing selection of Stanhopea for January / February
courtesy - Robert Nicol



Stan. inodora



Stan. wardii aurea



Stan. nigroviolacea



Stan. connata



Stan. pozoi.



Stan. Mem. Paul Allen



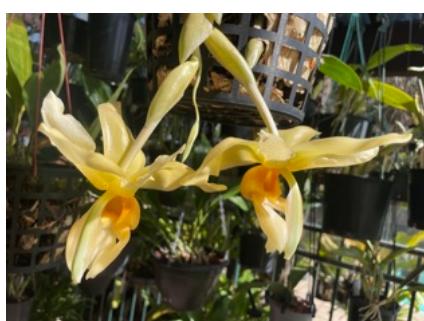
Stan. oculata var. ornatissima



Stan. nigroviolacea



Stan. ruckeri



Stan. wardii var. aurea



Stan. Assidensis (tigrina x wardii)

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

12th January 2026

President Rhonda conveyed best wishes for the New Year to all and extended a warm welcome to everyone.

APOLOGIES:

Diane Phillips, David Brooks, Di Hannah, Jan Riley, John Hely

MINUTES:

John Costa motioned that the December minutes were an accurate record. Seconded by Pam Davies. Carried.

Correspondence

- Email to Monique Page at Neutrog with the names wishing to join their online store
- Mark Drury emailed AOC with our show dates for publication in Orchids Australia
- Marissa Coombs, Woolooware Shores confirmed the dates for our 2026 shows
- David emailed Toni Benton requesting our 2026 monthly benching classes to be uploaded to our website
- David sent a request for judges for our Winter and Spring shows to Ian Chalmers
- Two letters from Veronica Clowes 1) ideas for attracting new members and 2) a thank you for our support of the Summer Orchid Festival

GENERAL BUSINESS

2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Rhonda advised the annual membership fees are now due. They can be paid by direct deposit to the Society's Westpac bank account or in cash at our next meeting. The fees need to be paid by the February meeting or members will be unfinancial.

WINNERS 2025 ANNUAL POINT SCORE CLASSES:

Rhonda presented the certificates to the members who were unable to attend the December meeting.

NEUTROG'S ON-LINE ACCOUNT:

Last month Rhonda invited members to join Neutrog's on-line store where they could purchase products at reduced prices. A few members gave her their email address which she forwarded to Monique Page, Member Advocate Coordinator, Neutrog. Monique sent those members an activation email for the store. Delivery will be in Autumn.

Once it is delivered, members will be responsible for picking up the goods from John Aitken's place in Bonnet Bay. The address was included in the order confirmation.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Rhonda heard on the radio that since Christmas there have been multiple deaths from drowning along the coast and many people were unable to provide assistance as they didn't know how to perform CPR. Rhonda asked members if any were trained in CPR so that they could render assistance to an incident at our meetings. Two members indicated that they are qualified to deliver CPR.

On that note, the Society does not have everyone's emergency contact details. These are necessary in the event of an incident. Rhonda asked again for members to email the Society at info@ssos.org.au to provide the details of who they would like to be contacted in an emergency. Also, if their address or contact details have changed, please inform us so we can ensure our membership register is current.

(cont'd next page)

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES - *cont'd*

GENERAL MEETING

12th January 2026

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF OSNSW:

Veronica Clowes has written to Societies to seek our input for ideas on attracting new members to our societies. This is in response to an enquiry from an affiliate who asked this question. She made the point that on gardening shows we see orchid growers with large collections but should we consider people who have small spaces to grow plants such as villas, balconies and windowsills? Veronica has requested that members are asked for ideas on what we do to attract new members.

General comments:

- Our shows, and potting demonstrations at Bunnings are sources where people can hear about us;
- We promote our society on Facebook and Instagram;
- We hold growers group meetings where the public are invited, to encourage fellowship between members and visitors, and promote the learning in how to grow orchids;
- We have a monthly bulletin with information of activities of the society and minutes of our meetings. This is posted on our website
- We have a sales table at our shows and meetings to enable people to purchase plants at reasonable prices;
- We have a committee who are committed to ensuring the society functions efficiently and successfully;

At our meetings:

- We acknowledge visitors and welcome them
- We have a name badge draw where a member who wears their badge receives a plant;
- Our Judges award a prize certificate for the best Species, Hybrid, Intermediate and Novice plants. The President also awards a prize certificate for a plant of their liking
- We generously remunerate our guest speakers
- Our meetings start on time and finish at a reasonable time
- We have excellent judges and knowledgeable growers who can provide advice to less experienced growers
- We have a Plant Doctor session where members can ask for advice on a troubled orchid
- Photographers have the opportunity to photograph beautiful flowers at our meetings and shows
- Our members attend our meetings, and bring their plants to be judged, and for others to enjoy;
- Two volunteers from our shows have the chance to each win a gift at our Xmas party;

Our shows:

- We repot plants for the public for a small fee which encourages visitors to attend our meetings.
- We hold our potting demonstrations just prior to our shows to publicise the shows and attract the public to attend. These are very popular.
- We have a show flyer professionally designed and printed which attracts people and encourages them to take one.

OSNSW SUMMER ORCHID SHOW:

Veronica Clowes has written to Societies thanking us on behalf of OSNSW for our support shown for the Summer Orchid Festival in December. She said the festival was a resounding success. The quality and diversity of orchids on the show bench, the willingness of members to assist, and the strong sense of camaraderie throughout the weekend truly reflected the strength of our orchid community. She thanked the judges, volunteers and sponsors. Veronica advised that the event in 2026 will be held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December 2026, at a new venue: Georges Hall Community Centre.

Jan Robinson wrote an article on the Show which was published in the January bulletin. Thank-you Jan. We are lucky that a few of our members were successful in being awarded prizes and many volunteered their time.

(cont'd next page)

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES - *cont'd*

GENERAL MEETING

12th January 2026

GROWERS GROUP INTEREST:

The society usually holds a few growers group meetings during the year. Rhonda asked members if anyone was interested in holding a meeting at their house to let her know.

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID REVIEW:

Margaret Bradhurst, who is the author of the book *Native Orchids of Southern Sydney* donated a number of *Australian Orchid Review* magazines for our enjoyment. These were available for members to take.

SUNBURNT LEAVES:

With this very hot weather, some orchids are getting hammered by the sun resulting in sunburnt leaves. Rhonda sought advice on ways to care for these plants. The suggestions were cutting the burnt sections off the plant and ensure it is well watered. Perhaps provide additional shade on the really hot days.

Rhonda asked what to do if the **bulbs are shrivelled and dehydrated**. The response was to soak in water. A member wished to know if anyone **soaks their bark** constantly so that it is saturated when used. The consensus was not to constantly soak the bark but to moisten it prior to repotting.

ACTIVITIES / GUEST SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 2026 – Mike Pieloor “Preventing & Managing Virus” (from Canberra O.S.)

March 2026 - AGM & Karen Groeneveld on Stanhopea (from Canberra O.S.)

April 2026 – Murray Aldridge – When is a Species a Species?

May 2026 – Annual Auction Night

JANUARY ACTIVITY:

David Hicks presented two PowerPoint presentations for members to cast their vote on their favourite from the Open monthly species and hybrid benching winners from 2025.

The two winners each received a \$20 prize certificate.

Congratulations to:

HYBRID: Cymbidium Mary Green ‘Showgirl’ - Dimitri Mitsios

SPECIES: Miltonia moreliana ‘Big Ben’ - Jan Robinson

Rhonda thanked David Hicks for compiling the presentations and running the presentation.

MONTHLY PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:

Raffle Draw: Paul Sheaffe, Joan Sutton (2), Robert Nicol, Gary Finn, Graham Towle, Maria Bootland

Name Badge Winner – Nil as the names drawn were not present.

JUDGES:

Rhonda thanked our judges, Wal Chapman, Jan Robinson, Richie Dimon, Melissa Karayannis,

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARDS:

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: Paph Wyruna Vietnam Magic – *Jan Robinson*

JUDGES CHOICE OPEN HYBRID: Paph. Wyruna Vietnam Magic – *Jan Robinson*

JUDGES CHOICE OPEN SPECIES: Aerides houletteana – *W & J Chapman*

JUDGES CHOICE INTERMEDIATE: Nil awarded (no entries)

JUDGES CHOICE NOVICE: Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobblewick ‘Springtime’ – *Graham Towle*

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE: Paph bellatulum – *Terry Thompson*

CLOSING: Thank you to Melissa Karayannis for sweeping the floor.

Next Meeting - 9th February.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.



To immerse yourself in the most diverse and amazing collection of species orchids on the planet, click on the link below to Andy's Orchids located in Encinitas California USA.

There are video tours by Andy of the various nursery areas, individual species, guides to mounting orchids, and cultural hints.

Virtually all of the hundreds of thousands of orchids are growing on mounts.

<https://andysorchids.com>



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
(before 28th of the month)

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

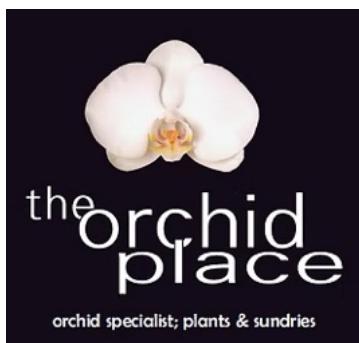
CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

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



Woolooware Shores
Taren Point
for providing our
Show Venue



Events for the Diary 2026

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

Monday 9th March 2026 - SSOS AGM | Elections and General Meeting. Speaker - *Dr Jane Wright from Canberra OS*

Monday 13th April 2026 - SSOS General Meeting. Speaker - *Murray Aldridge on 'when is a species a species?'*

Monday 11th May 2026 - SSOS General Meeting. Activity - *Annual Auction Night*

Monday 8th June 2026 - SSOS General Meeting. Activity - *to be advised*

Friday / Saturday 19th and 20th June 2026 - SSOS Winter Show at Woolooware Shores, set-up Thursday 18th June from 2pm.

Friday / Saturday 11th and 12th September 2026 - SSOS Spring Show at Woolooware Shores, set-up Thursday 10th September from 2pm



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
(by the 28th 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.