



Next Meeting:

**Monday 9th
March, 8pm**

*Hall open 7pm
Benching by 7.50pm*

Meeting Activity for March

**Dr Jane Wright from
Canberra O.S.**

speaking on:

**Lighting, Temperature
and Humidity**

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



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society



Website QR Link

February Meeting Photos
courtesy - Paul Sheaffe

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

Bulletin - March 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: Email: 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 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

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:

****March Meeting is also our AGM - commences first @ 8pm****

Article: What's My Favourite Orchid? - Mark Drury (page 6)

Events and Shows for the Diary 2026 (page 13)

Cover Photo: Cattleytonia Dendi's Toy - exhibited in February by Gary Hodder

February Benching



Monthly Benching Results – February 2026

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Winner Den. convolutum x Den. speciosum 'Hawke' R. Dimon

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

Winner Den. convolutum x Den. speciosum 'Hawke' R. Dimon

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

Winner Bulb. odoratissimum M. Karayannis

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Den. Hibiki x Den. laevifolium 'Fireball-Pink Giant' S. Tropoulos

NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Onc. Sharry Baby G. Towle

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner Angcm. calceolus M. Karayannis

Monthly Benching Results – February 2026

OPEN

CLASS # 5 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS

1st Paph. superbiens var curtsii J. Robinson

CLASS # 6 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

1st Paph. Song of Love V. Petrovski

2nd Paph. Albion T. Thompson

CLASS # 10 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS up to & including 80mm

1st C. Doug's Dream J. Robinson

2nd Ctna. Dendi's Toy G. Hodder

CLASS # 11 CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st Lc. Allen Gondo 'SVO' x Lc. Maui Plum Volcano Queen V. Petrovski

CLASS # 12 NON-CLASSICAL LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st C. Penny Kuroda 'Spots' V. Petrovski

2nd C. Mark Jones 'Lance' x Sc. Katherine Clarkson V. Petrovski

3rd Cattlianthe Siamese Doll 'Kiwifruit' V. Petrovski

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS 60mm & under

1st Banfieldara Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze' T. Thompson

2nd Onc. Misaki Sunrise T. Thompson

CLASS # 14 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS over 60mm

1st Onc. Pagan Scent 'Hanna' V. Petrovski

CLASS # 18 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS EXOTIC

1st Den. convolutum x speciosum 'Hawk' R. Dimon

2nd Den. Andre Miller V. Petrovski

CLASS # 22 DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC

1st Den. anosum 'vietnamese' T. Thompson

CLASS # 23 COELOGYNINAE SPECIES

1st Ddc. latifolium G. Hodder

February Benching



Monthly Benching Results – February 2026 cont'd

OPEN

CLASS #24 SPECIES ASIAN

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1st | Bulb. odoratissimum | M. Karayannis |
| 2nd | Doritis pulcherrina var alba 'Yellow eyes' x coerulea 'pink' | P. Davies |

CLASS #25 ONCIDIINAEE SPECIES

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------|
| 1st | Onc. Excavatatum | T. Thompson |
|-----|------------------|-------------|

CLASS #26 LAELIINAEE SPECIES

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1st | C. bicolor var brasiliensis | J. Robinson |
| 2nd | Prosthechea cochleata | R. Cawley |
| 3rd | Prosthechea radiata | R. Cawley |
| 4th | Epi. Ibaguense | G. Hodder |

CLASS #27 EXOTIC SPECIES

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|
| 1st | Angm. calceolus | M. Karayannis |
| 2nd | Max. schunkeana | J. Ng |

NOVICE

CLASS #33 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------|
| 1st | Onc. Sharry Baby | G. Towle |
|-----|------------------|----------|

INTERMEDIATE

CLASS #38 INTERMEDIATE LAELIINAEE HYBRIDS

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Cattleya 'unknown' | S. Tropoulos |
| 2nd | Laellinae 'unknown' | S. Tropoulos |

CLASS #39 INTERMEDIATE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Den. Hibiki x laevifolium | S. Tropoulos |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------|

A Lovely Species – Den. anosum 'Vietnamese'

Benched in February by - Terry Thompson



Den. anosum is a delightful species that is native to Southeast Asia from the Philippines to Thailand and Vietnam.

This type of Dendrobium drops its leaves just before coming into the flowering season.

Once the plant is finished flowering, new growths will emerge from the base of the plant

*Guest Speaker - February Meeting:
 'Identifying and Preventing Orchid Virus'
 courtesy – Mike Pieloor*



If you couldn't make the February meeting, you missed a terrific practical talk on Orchid Virus by Mike Pieloor from the Canberra Orchid Society.

Accompanied by his PP presentation, Mike commenced with an overview of what virus is and what it does to our plants and flowers. He then showed us two examples of the more common ones that effect orchids, CymMV (Cymbid. Mosaic Virus) and ORSV. (Odontoglossum Ring Spot Virus)

These are the 2 that are most common and tested for with the disposable type kits. In these cases, we were to look firstly for the appearance of regular patters, dark pitting or sometimes chlorotic type streaking along the entire leaves, and can often be present in the bulbs.

It was to be noted, that in many cases, leaves exhibiting random spotting are more likely the result of fungal attack, or could just be the result of sucking insect pests, or just older leaves beginning to die and 'spotting off'.

The additional tell-tale signs were plants that just don't progress, have poor growth and flower form, or pigment loss within the petals and sepals. This can result in severe cases, of 'colour break' and 'clear windows' forming in the body of the flower, - a more than obvious sign something is certainly not right! (*see photo top center*)

So, Mikes advice was not to panic, but to monitor, especially check new growth, maybe test with a CMV/ORSV kit, or if possible, just replace the suspect plant if it is a favourite.

Cleanliness, i.e. sterilisation of cutting equipment between plants, use of gloves, and not reusing old or suspect mix, and to spread plants apart on the benches (if possible) are the best ways to manage the spread of virus (and also assist with spread of fungal attack and help to reduce pest issues)

Thank-you Mike for making the trip up to our meeting and to be able to provide, and arm us with such valuable information and knowledge to help protect and preserve our collections into the future.

(*Members also enjoyed Mike's virus identification interactive quiz via their mobile phones!!*)

The following examples were **not taken from Mike's presentation, but are of plants with a tested and confirmed virus, to illustrate some of the typical patterns that we may see in the leaves, and flowers (above right)*



ORSV



CymMV



CaCV



CMV



Parent of the PON →



Den. convolutum
(New Guinea species)

**More from the
February Benching**



Monthly Benching Winners – February 2026

Open Judges Choice Hybrid + PON

exhibited by – R. Dimon



Den. convolutum x *Den. speciosum* 'Hawke'

Open Judges Choice Species

exhibited by – M. Karayannis



Bulb. odoratissimum

Intermediate Judges Choice

exhibited by – S. Tropoulos



Den. Hibiki x *Den. Fireball*-'Pink Giant'

Novice Judges Choice

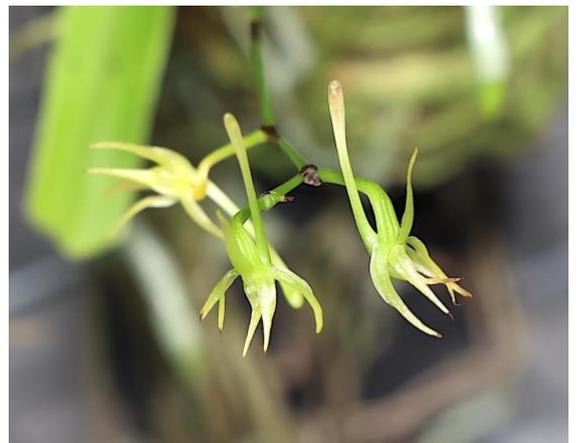
exhibited by – G. Towle



Onc, Sharry Baby

President's Choice

exhibited by – M. Karayannis



Angcm. calceolus

'What's My Favourite Orchid ??'

Article and Photos – courtesy Mark Drury

I have been frequently asked by family and friends my opinion on what is my favourite orchid!

But what is the actual definition of 'favourite' as observed within the Oxford Concise Dictionary?

"a person or thing that you like more than the others of the same type..."

Well, that definition clears up everything.... not.

Like many parents who have been asked to determine who is their favourite child, it is really an impossible scenario to say, (well, within ear shot of the children anyway).

I am fortunate to possess two things. A tolerant wife and a number of orchids. Both are very dear to me. But to be asked in clarification which orchid is the sole favourite of my collection is a very difficult boundary to determine. I could easily give the boring answer in saying my favourite is the **current orchid in flower**; or my **best specimen** plant at present; my **most awarded** orchid; or one specific variety **envied by others**.

But this is not correct. The clarification of such a nomination is cloudied with bias; personal favouritism; colour preference; ease of growing; adaptability to the climate; length of possession and personal opinion.

To cut through these obstructions is not an easy option to achieve without pain.

However, after careful consideration, thoughtful contemplation, much navel gazing and numerous sleepless nights tossing and turning, I have choicen three good potential contenders and a rank outsider up for selection into my team of favourite orchids...

Paphiopedilum Marion Fischer (see photo A)

My first consideration is the **Paphiopedilum Marion Fischer**. This slipper which could be considered as a 'heritage style' Paphiopedilum because it's a very old fashioned orchid that was once popular and common in the past but with changing fashion tastes and the continued development of spectacular new hybrids is now rarely seen.

I have had this specimen for many many years (unfortunately I can't remember where I actually obtained this plant); but it is a very strong growing orchid; with large and thick leathery dark green leaves that doesn't need much care and attention; is rarely attacked by insects or fungus but seems to thrive in a open/exposed position facing nearly a full westerly sun(!). The leaves never seem to get burnt or even wilt, which is a truly amazing feat.

I have found this plant enjoys a rich free draining media to grow in, with the odd sprinklering of rooster booster to give it a kick along during the growing season; and flowering season; and any other reason for me to scatter these pellets around it's surface.

It generally produces only a single flower, despite a flourishing display of rich green growth, but the reward for me is the size of that single flower which is enormous and **very** long lasting. The colour is always a vibrant green veined dorsal with similar colouring on its petals with a splash of brown/red flavouring upon it's upper portions. I find it very eye catching and extremely fetching to see up close and personal (but I could be biased?).

I have been very fortunate (and lucky) to have won a number of awards and placings with this specimen, (which in truth) requires very little effort on my behalf. I hold it very close to my heart, as it is always a winner to in my eyes no matter how it fairs. *(cont'd next page)*

What's My Favourite Orchid - cont'd

Article and Photos – courtesy Merck Drury

Coelogyne cristata (see photo B)

My second nomination is the species **Coelogyne cristata**. I have had this special orchid for well over ten years and with each passing year it grows larger in width and fatter in bulbs (am I allowed to say that?). It sits in a large protected corner of my shade house (this orchid definitely needs a large area to expand) in a terra cotta bowl that is now way too heavy for me to lift alone. I simply water it heavily (daily in summer), mixed with the water a weak fertiliser, and I help along it's leaf growth by using a hand full of dynamic lifter (rooster booster) pellets sprinkled throughout the plant to encourage a slow release of nutrients enabling them to filter throughout the orchid's media and eventually into it's root system.

I have been told that this specific Coelogyne is **very** difficult to grow and successfully flower in Sydney. But I have found this is not true! Yes, the harsh Sydney weather can be difficult for **Coelogyne cristata**, nevertheless the secret to it's growing success (in my opinion and experience) is finding the ideal place in your shade house for this wonderful orchid. Don't be afraid in experimenting with your cristata by moving it around the shade house in order to find that perfect location for it to flourish. Preferably **before** your Coelogyne expands to an impossible weight to move it.

Initially, I had to continuously move my Coelogyne around, (when it was smaller and lighter), to prevent it from being in a position too hot (resulting in burnt leaves) or to a position too dark (no flowering and stuned or overelongated growth) until finding that perfect situation where it is protected from winds (particularly from the west) and complemented with a soft dappled and filtered light. Which enables the species to flourish, thrive and reward you with an ocean of multiple flower stems coupled with succulent fresh new growth and multiple fat juicy storage bulbs, (which is essential for the next years flowering season).

I have never brought this magnificent specimen to any orchid shows or monthly meetings (mainly because of the size and weight of the plant); I do not care that it has never received an award or recognised in excellence of culture. Nor do I care it has never received a favourable placing in any competition.

I do not care it has been rarely seen by anyone other than me and family. But every year it greets me with a colossal amount of flowers (that still stuns me even to this day) with it's great but simple abundant beauty. *This orchid always lifts my spirits when I see it and never fails to bring a smile to my face!* (cont'd next page)



Photo A - Paph. Marion Fischer



Photo C - Paph. Sandalwood 'Blumen Insel' x Paph. Hamana Anne

What's My Favourite Orchid - cont'd

Article and Photos – courtesy Merik Drury

Paphiopedilum Sandalwood 'Blumen Insel' x Paph. Hamana Anne (see photo C)

My third nomination is another wonderful slipper, **Paphiopedilum Sandalwood 'Blumen Insel' x Paphiopedilum Hamana Anne**, a really intricate name for a stunningly simple orchid.

This classically shaped **Paphiopedilum** makes my favourite team list for very good reasons. It grows in very similar conditions to **Paph. Marion Fischer**, meaning its easy to grow and is as tough as old boots relating to its resistance to disease and fungal attack.

The leaves are a rich dark green in colour, large and leathery, but not as thick as **Paph. Marion Fischer**.

The unusual aspect of this favourite orchid is that it frequently springs up with 'twin' single stemmed flower spikes, which are large and long lasting. The flowers produced are frequently spectacular to see in person and/or under competition conditions, with its vibrant colours and twinness in coupling.

I live in hope that one day this Paphiopedilum will produce a potential sea of flowers that will shock and astonish all who witness this wonderful and hardy slipper.

In fact this year I was rewarded, for the first time, with a display of triple single stemmed flower spikes that lasted for several months before finally fading, (maybe my 'sea of flowers' dream is not too far away after all?). I know it doesn't have the 'classical' style dorsol, (covered by a sprinkling of dots/spots that are so popular today), but I personally find its mauve and white colouring contrasting nicely with the yellow and brownish petals gives it a real show stopper look (in my humble opinion).

This Paphiopedilum is another easy to grow specimen, that gives you strong multiple long lasting single stemmed flowers for only a little attention from me. It is one of those lucky orchids you can put up the back of your collection (because of its large and spreading nature) and doesn't require constant attention and care. Just give it a regular check up, adding water, fertiliser and a yearly media repotting and I can assure you this beauty will consistently give you a grand flower display to be proud of year after year with little to no effort!

Phalaenopsis 'unknown' (miniature type) (see photo D)

This is my outside bolter for selection as my favourite orchid. It was given to me a few years ago as a gift (from Coles), so I have no idea of the correct botanical name, unfortunately, other than a miniature white flowering *Phalaenopsis* with a slight lemon coloured labellum. Now, I have to admit I'm not a real fan of *Phalaenopsis* orchids personally.

I can appreciate their beauty and their many spectacular colour combinations, but I guess they just didn't tick my boxes as a 'must have' orchid to add to my collection.

So, when I received this one as a gift, I put it up the back of my shelf and promptly forgot about it. I never deliberately neglected this orchid, (I don't believe in killing an orchid with inattentiveness), but I continued to forget about it until one day I was scratching around my collection. In my endeavours in attempting to find some flowering orchids to take with me to the April 2024 Royal Easter Show I found to my utter bewilderment my little unknown ***Phalaenopsis*** not only surviving but actually thriving and flowering up a storm!

With some hesitation and reluctance, I brought my unknown miniature ***Phalaenopsis*** to the Show and much to my great astonishment found it had won first place!! Instantly my opinion on this unassuming ***Phalaenopsis*** had suddenly changed, to perhaps one of my new favourite orchids?

My waning opinion was strengthened and reinforced a year later in the 2025 SSOS Spring Show where again this humble little white ***Phalaenopsis*** won first place, with the judges going bananas over its beauty, its flower 'perfection' and its lushness in growth! (cont'd next page)

What's My Favourite Orchid - cont'd

Article and Photos – courtesy Mark Drury

I have many other possible candidates that I could easily nominate as a favourite orchid besides these four mentioned already, such as the tiny **Masdevallia**, gloriously hanging **Stanhopeas** and of course the wonderful native **Sarcochilus**. But if you really push me for a definitive answer, where there is **always** the one orchid in my collection that continually captures my eye and leaves me...

Spell bound when seen in full bloom or;

Breathless with anticipation of new growth and buds or;

*Even heartbroken the **most**, if this orchid is attacked by insects/fungus and finally;*

Proud to be able to grow such an intensely beautiful orchid!

There is no other true contender but my humble - **Coelogyne cristata!!**

Can you nominate your favourite orchid?

Happy Growing! - *Mark Drury*



Photo B – *Coelogyne cristata*



Photo D – *Phal. unknown (Mini Type)*

Another Beautiful Species – C. bicolor var. brasiliensis

Benched in February by - Jan Robinson



Native to Brazil, *Cattleya bicolor* is a cool to warm growing epiphytic species found in forests and coastal mountains at elevations of approx. 1000 to 1400 meters. The flowers of this variety *brasiliensis*, are particularly highly colourful and glossy in texture, long lasting and fragrant.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

9th February 2026

President Rhonda extended a warm welcome to everyone, especially including our **visitors:** Mike Pieloor (from Canberra Orchid Society), Randy & Gwen Hodges (from Colorado USA)

APOLOGIES: Mark Drury, Frank Daniel, Ian Ware, Margaret Spring, Maria Bootland, Murray Aldridge

MINUTES:

Robert Nicol motioned that the January minutes were an accurate record. Seconded, Di Hannah. Carried.

Correspondence

- Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society invitation to attend the South & West Regional Workshop in March
- Affiliated Societies Insurance renewal advice received from OSNSW
- Confirmation from Jane Wright who will speak at the March meeting
- St Matthews Peakhurst Garden club request for a guest speaker
- Response to President OSNSW on how the Society attracts new members.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Rhonda advised February is the deadline for paying for fees. At last count only 56 out of 76 members had renewed. 23 are yet to renew. At the end of February, we use the number of financial members for our insurance premium. If you are unfinancial you won't be able to bench plants or go on the committee. Members can still renew until the end of the month.

2026 AGM:

Next month will be our AGM. As is the usual practice, all positions on the committee will be vacated. Rhonda asked members to please consider nominating for the committee. We currently have a vacant Secretary position, and four committee members are stepping down, which leaves 5 vacant positions. The President and Secretary positions need to be filled. Nomination forms were available to complete. If completed at home, the form is to be posted to David, or emailed it to the Society's email address which is info@ssos.org.au. The return address is on the nomination form. The deadline for the receipt of the nomination form is 2 March.

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW: Veronica Clowes has invited our Society's participation in the Sydney Royal Easter show. The show runs from Thursday 2 April to Monday 13 April. The OSNSW information cart will operate during the 4 days of orchid competition on 6-7 & 12-13 April. She has invited us to put our society flyer on the cart, which we usually do.

Veronica has also called for volunteers to man the cart. She needs 2 volunteers each shift (x 3 shifts per day: 8am – 12 noon, 12 noon – 4pm, and 4pm – 8pm). Please contact her if you wish to volunteer. Veronica can be contacted on 0424 070 757 or email president@orchidsocietynsw.com.au.

At the meeting a member advised that only the afternoon slots are available.

SALES TABLE: It appears that some members are selling plants on the sales table prior to 7:30pm. The society's policy is that sales commence at 7:30pm to allow everyone to have a chance of buying plants. We prefer payments using the square please.

Also, if plants are sold on the sales table, then Mike Vitnell needs to be provided with your bank account details as payments will not now be paid in cash.

SOUTH & WEST REGIONAL WORKSHOP:

Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society has asked societies to promote the South & West Regional Workshop which they are hosting on 21 & 22 March at the Soldiers Club in Batemans Bay. They have provided the Registration form and suggested program. It costs \$40 for the two days with morning and afternoon tea included (\$55 for non-members of a society). If you are interested in attending let Rhonda know and she will forward the email to you.

PHOTOGRAPHING BENCHED PLANTS:

Paul Shaeffe has been asked to photograph the benched flowers front-on. This is sometimes difficult due to the placement of the plant. He has been reluctant to move plants to get a better shot. So, in order for him to take the best photo of our benched plants, Paul may be required to turn a plant. He won't be touching the flowers.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES – cont'd

GENERAL MEETING

9th February 2026

ST. MATTHEWS PEAKHURST GARDEN CLUB:

Has requested for one of our members to present to their members on orchid culture. It will be a general talk on keeping phallies and cymbidiums etc. alive and how to repot. They may also have speciosums or kingianums in their yard.

Their Club meets on the morning of the first Friday each month (except this April when their meeting will be the second Friday). They meet at Peakhurst Heights, in the Uniting Church Hall. No-one volunteered from the meeting to speak to the Garden Club.

ACTIVITIES / GUEST SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 2026 - AGM & Dr. Jane Wright - Light, Temperature & Humidity (Jane is from Canberra O.S.)

April 2026 - Murray Aldridge - When is a species a 'species'?

May 2026 - Annual Orchid Auction Night

June 2026 - Jan Robinson - Topic TBC

Tonight's Raffle Plants - Rhonda gave an overview of the raffle plants, and thanked Mike Pieloor for the generous donations from the stock he had brought up to sell at the meeting.

Members Question - 'Salt on Orchids' - Rhonda asked if anyone knew what affect sea salt spray has on orchids. The person who wishes to know lives 150m from the beach. The feedback was that there is no apparent impact on the plants.

GUEST SPEAKER - Rhonda welcomed Mike Pieloor, from Canberra Orchid Society, who spoke on 'Preventing & Managing Virus'. Mike presented an extremely informative talk on identifying symptoms of virus through showing examples of virused plants.

The use of our phones to responses to his questions was very interesting and entertaining.

Mike was thanked for his presentation and for travelling from Canberra. He was presented with our gift of appreciation and provided with a motel room for the night.

MONTHLY PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:

Raffle Draw:

Paul Sheaffe (2), Pam Davies, Sylvia Fitch, Russell Ettrick, Di Hannah, David Hicks, Mei Tuen Mok, Mike Vitnell, John Hely, Melissa Karayannis

Name Badge Winner: *Vic Petrovski*

Judges for February: Rhonda thanked our Judging Panel for this evening: *David Brooks, Wal Chapman, Jan Robinson, Richie Dimon, Melissa Karayannis*

February Judges' Choice Awards:

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *Den. convolutum x Den. speciosum 'Hawke' - Ritchie Dimon*

JUDGES CHOICE OPEN HYBRID: *Den. convolutum x Den. speciosum 'Hawke' - Ritchie Dimon*

JUDGES CHOICE OPEN SPECIES: *Bulb. odoratissimum - Melissa Karayannis*

JUDGES CHOICE INTERMEDIATE: *Den. Hibiki x Den. laevifolium 'Fireball-Pink Giant' - Sonia Tropoulos*

JUDGES CHOICE NOVICE: *Onc. Sharry Baby - Graham Towle*

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE: *Angcm. calceolus - Melissa Karayannis*

Next Meeting (and AGM): Monday 9th March @ 8pm

Meeting closed at 9:35pm

Message from Veronica Clowes, President OSNSW - Easter Show 2026



Hello to all our affiliates,

There is again an opportunity for you to advertise your society to the general public at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The 2026 Show runs from Thursday 2 April to Monday 13 April at the Sydney Showgrounds in Homebush NSW.

The Orchid Society of NSW will be operating an information booth (a cart with a display of orchids) during the 4 days of orchid competition (6-7 & 12-13 April), manned by OSNSW judges and members providing orchid advice and society information to the thousands of passing garden enthusiasts.

If you would like to provide me with advertising flyers or society meeting information, I would be happy to make it available to show visitors on our 'cart'.

We need volunteers to man the cart during orchid competition days (like last year) so, I need 2 volunteers each shift (x 3 shifts/day...8am - 12noon, 12noon-4pm and 4pm-8pm) for 6 and 7 April & 12 and 13 April.

Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer for a shift (free entry for the day of your shift) I will have the roster at OSNSW meetings on 26 January and 23 February 2026 or call me if you wish.

Please contact Veronica for further info: 0424 070 757 or email: president@orchidsocietynsw.com.au



Orchids Out West

Orchid Displays and Sales
15 - 17 May 2026

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

Philip Charley Pavilion
Hawkesbury Showground

Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon
(Opposite Richmond RAAF Base)

First Orchid Show and
Sales of the Year

Vendors (TBC)

Tinonee Orchids
Kiwi Orchid Bark
Dark Star Orchids
Orchid Species Plus
Fong Ping Orchids
Rollin Orchids
The Orchid Place

Orchids on Newbold
Sim's Orchids
Kingfisher Nursery
Johnston's Orchids
Nicky's Slippers
Joseph Wu Orchids
Orchids of Distinction



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

- Plenty of free parking
- Close to Clarendon Railway Station
- Free growing advice
- Light refreshments

Further information
Phone: 0408 264 040
<https://orchidsocietynsw.com.au/orchids-out-west-2026/>



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.

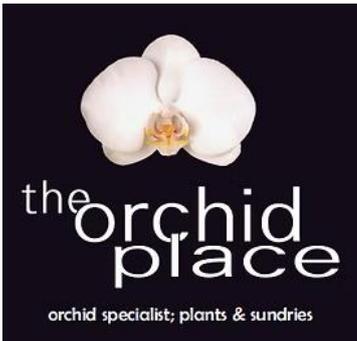
CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

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 March 2026 – SSOS AGM | Committee Elections and General Meeting. *Speaker – Dr Jane Wright from Canberra Orchid Society – ‘Light, Temperature and Humidity’*

Thursday 2nd – Monday 13th April – Royal Easter Show. *Orchid Show Days 6th, 7th and 12th, 13th (see flyer page 13)*

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 Orchid Auction Night (details closer to May meeting)*

Fri, Sat, Sun, 15th – 17th May 2026 – Orchids out West *(see flyer p 13)*

Monday 8th June 2026 - SSOS General Meeting. *Speaker Jan Robinson*

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.