



Next Meeting:

**Monday 13th
April, 8pm**

*Hall open 7pm
Benching by 7.50pm*

Meeting Activity for April

**Murray Aldridge
speaking on:**

**When is a 'species' a
'species'??**

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



Sutherland Shire Orchid Society



Website QR Link

Cover & March Meeting Photos
courtesy - Paul Sheaffe

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

Bulletin - April 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:

Vice President: Melissa Karayannis

Secretary: Richard Dimon Email: secretary@ssos.org.au

Treasurer: Michael Vitnell: Email: mikevitnell@gmail.com M: 0431 942 934

Committee: Jan Robinson | Paul Sheaffe | Margaret Spring | 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:

President's Annual Report for 2025 (page 6)

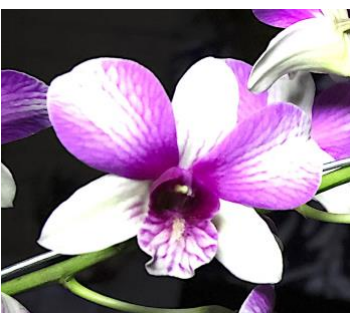
Treasurer's Report for FY 2025 (page 8)

March AGM Minutes (page 10)

Events and Shows for the Diary - 2026 (page 15)

Cover Photo: Cat. 'Streeter's Choice' - exhibited in March by Jan Robinson

March Benching



Monthly Benching Results – March 2026

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

Winner Den. Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory' V. Petrovski

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE HYBRID

Winner Den. Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory' V. Petrovski

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE SPECIES

Winner Coel. speciosa 'Occy' J. Robinson

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner V. Somsri Glory 'Blue' S. Tropoulos

NOVICE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner C. Chocolate Drop M. Clasper

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner Milt. moreliana P. Sanaphay

Monthly Benching Results – March 2026

OPEN

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

1st Den. monophyllum J. Ng

CLASS # 4 NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRIDS

1st Sarco. Bonanza 'Lacno11' D. Mitsios

2nd Sarco. Galaxy 'Pineapple' V. Petrovski

CLASS # 6 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

1st Paph. Song of Love V. Petrovski

2nd Paph. St. Swithins x haynaldianum W. & J Chapman

3rd Paph. Brisianum x Paph. Harrisianum D. Mitsios

4th Paph. Doll's Kobold M. Karayannis

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

1st Pot. Lebenkreis J. Robinson

2nd C. Streeter's Choice J. Robinson

3rd C. Snow White V. Petrovski

4th C. Dal's Choice D. Mitsios

CLASS # 10 LAELIINAE HYBRIDS up to & including 80mm

1st Lc. Tokyo Magic 'Lea' x Ctna Why Not 'Max's' G. Hodder

2nd Rth. Warren's Jewel J. Robinson

CLASS # 11 CLUSTER LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

1st C. Caudebec Candy D. Mitsios

2nd C. bowringiana x (Lc. Susan Holcomb x Chocolate Drop 'Quality Chocolate' M. Karyannis

3rd C. Caudebec Candy J. Chan

CLASS # 12 NON-CLASSICAL LAELIINAE HYBRIDS

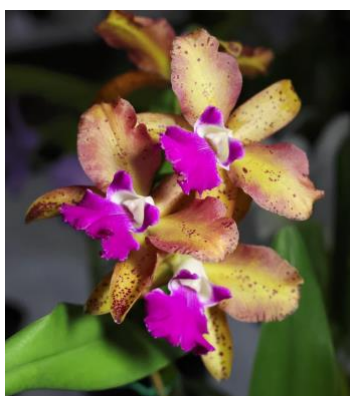
1st C. Caudebec Candy D. Mitsios

2nd Blc. Wainiae Leopard x Slc. Jungle Treasure D. Mitsios

3rd C. Caudebec Candy D. Mitsios

4th C. Topaz T. Thompson

March Benching



Monthly Benching Results – March 2026 cont'd

OPEN

CLASS # 13	ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS 60mm & under	
1st	Onc. Pacific Passage 'Peach Cobbler'	J. Robinson
2nd	Ons. Rontante 'Sunrise'	M. Drury
3rd	Onc. Misaka Sunrise	T. Thompson
CLASS # 14	ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS over 60mm	
1st	Onc. Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	D. Mitsios
2nd	Banfieldara Guilded Tower 'Mystic Maza'	V. Petrovski
3rd	Ondontocidium Cherry Fudge 'Carmela'	R. Jackson
CLASS # 16	INTERMEDIATE CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS 60 - 90mm	
1st	Cym. Florida Cracker	J. Robinson
CLASS # 17	MINIATURE CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS - under 60mm	
1st	Cym. finlaysoniaum x canaliculatum var sparkesii	V. Petrovski
CLASS # 18	DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS EXOTIC	
1st	Den. Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory'	V. Petrovski
2nd	Den. Hawaii Spectacular	J. Robinson
3rd	Den. Chao Praya 'Sweet' x Den. Chao Praya	V. Petrovski
4th	Den. Hibiki	D. Mitsios
CLASS # 19	PHALAENOPSIS AND VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS	
1st	Vasco. Pine Rivers with blue	V. Petrovski
2nd	Neostylis Lou Sneary	J. Robinson
3rd	Phal. 'unknown'	J. Robinson
4th	Asco. Fralur 'Kultana'	W. & J. Chapman
CLASS # 20	PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS	
1st	Masd. Marguerite 'Geyersland Yellow'	W. & J. Chapman
CLASS # 21	MISCELLANEOUS EXOTIC HYBRIDS	
1st	Zygopetalum Jumpin Jack	D. Mitsios
2nd	Zygopetalum Artur Elle 'Tombstone'	M. Drury
3rd	Prom. Samsui x ovatiloba	J. Robinson
4th	Coel. Usitana	D. Mitsios
CLASS # 22	DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC	
1st	Den. sanderae var. luzonicum	R. Cawley
CLASS # 23	COELOGYNINAE SPECIES	
1st	Coel. speciosa 'Occy'	J. Robinson
2nd	Ddc. magnum	W. & J. Chapman
3rd	Ddc. uncatum	J. Ng
4th	Coel. speciosa	J. Ng
CLASS # 24	SPECIES ASIAN	
1st	Mediocalcar decoratum	W. & J. Chapman
2nd	Mediocalcar decoratum	R. Cawley
CLASS # 25	ONCIDIINAE SPECIES	
1st	Milt. spectabilis var moriana	D. Mitsios
2nd	Onc. flexuosum 'Newbold'	D. Phillips
CLASS # 26	LAEIINAE SPECIES	
1st	Prosthechea cochleata	J. Ng
2nd	Brassavola nodosa	R. Nicol
CLASS # 27	EXOTIC SPECIES	
1st	Max. schunkeana	J. Ng
CLASS # 28	SEEDLING	
1st	Paph. cocor pawridge x bellatulun	J. Chan
2nd	Rlc. Rungnapha fancy warren welcome	P. Sanaphy

March Benching



Monthly Benching Results – March 2026 cont'd

NOVICE

CLASS # 33 NOVICE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

1st	Chocolate Chocolate Drop	M. Clasper
2nd	Milt. Anne Warne	S. Fitch
3rd	Milt. 'unknown'	P. Sheaffe
4th	Coel. Kirribilli Hubert Dixon	M. Clasper

CLASS # 34 NOVICE SPECIES

1st	Bulbo. pardalotum	M. Clasper
2nd	Milt. moreliana	M. Vitnell
3rd	Onc. clowesii	J. Sutton

INTERMEDIATE

CLASS # 39 INTERMEDIATE MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS

1st	Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue'	S. Tropoulos
2nd	Vanda Gracie's Heartthrob	S. Tropoulos
3rd	Ctsm. Susan Fuchs	S. Tropoulos

Guest Speaker - March Meeting:

'Light, Temperature and Humidity'

courtesy – Jane Wright, President Canberra O.S.



At our March meeting, we welcomed Jane Wright who presented on the importance of Light, Temperature & Humidity in the culture of orchids. She also talked on the effects of temperature on humidity and how Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) interacts with different types of orchids. Also, on the properties of different colours of shade-cloth.

Basically, CAM orchids promote their growth through 'Crassulacean Acid Metabolism'. These plants are usually dry-climate epiphytes which have a habit of breathing at night rather than by day, because the atmosphere is cooler and more humid, and the air movement is reduced. Their stomates (pores under the leaves) open at night and close by day in accordance with temperature and humidity conditions.

Acidity builds up in their leaves overnight, and then is released during the day to promote photo-synthesis. It is therefore essential that such plants be provided with ample humidity overnight and good, but not over-strong, air movement. Heating a glass house in winter, tends to dry plants out. This can be overcome to some extent by watering in the evening, by using a humidifier, and/or by providing ample water storage on the floor of the house. Good air movement is also desirable to help prevent fungus and bacterial infections. But if the air movement is too strong it can tend to dry the plants out too quickly, although they should be dry by morning.

Some compromise is therefore necessary.

As a guide, CAM orchids tend to be those with thick, rigid leaves, and non-CAM orchids generally have thinner more pliant leaves.

**More from the
March Benching**



Monthly Benching Winners – March 2026

Open Judges Choice Hybrid + PON

exhibited by – Vic Petrovski



Den. Yashiga Fantasy ‘Russell Vale Glory’

Open Judges Choice Species

exhibited by – Jan Robinson



Coel. speciosa ‘Occy’

Intermediate Judges Choice

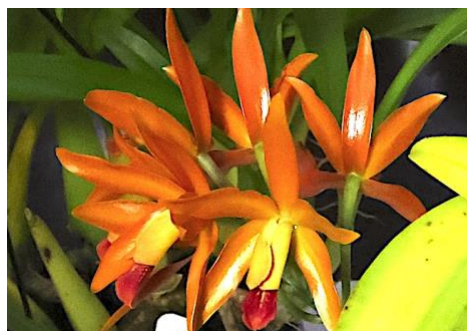
exhibited by – Sonia Tropoulos



Vanda Somsri Glory ‘Blue’

Novice Judges Choice

exhibited by – Melanie Clasper



C. Chocolate Drop

President’s Choice

exhibited by – Pheng Sanaphay



Milt. moreliana

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2025
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

Dear SSOS Members

The following President's Report provides an overview of the highlights of the past year.

In terms of our Finances, in January we lodged our first Not-For-Profit return for 2023/24 with the ATO and then lodged the 2024/25 return in August. We moved Society's funds from Commonwealth Bank to Westpac and purchased a Square Point of Sale terminal for on-line transactions, and moved to on-line payments.

Our current financial status is a term deposit \$10,194 and \$3,525 in our transaction account.

We had an interesting variety of speakers who included Helen from Neutrog, Ritchie Dimon, Murray Aldridge, Craig Scott-Harden, David Hemmings, John Costa, Bev Debrincat, David Brooks and Mike Pieloor. They spoke on terrestrial orchids of Borneo, Paphs, Bulbophyllum, mounting orchids, Australian natives, Orchids of Ecuador, Going Native, Viruses, and a potting demonstration.

Our current membership stands at 70 which includes 63 paid members and 7 life members. We had five new members being Phyllis Khor, Russell Hudson, Katrina Loach Anna Kalas, Algia Vasiliou. Last year our membership stood at 84 with 6 life members.

Life membership was awarded to George Birss in April.

We acknowledged the passing of our life member Bob Moar in January. In May Archie Mitsios passed, Wendy Griffiths in September and Phil Green in July.

We held two successful shows at Woolooware Retirement Village where our members had the opportunity to display their beautiful plants. We were blown away with the quality of the plants and can be proud of the fantastic growers we have in the society.

In February David Hicks held a Growers group meeting, and John Hely held another in April. These were great opportunities for members to come together in a social setting and have time to talk about the hobby they love. It is always interesting to see how people grow their orchids.

Our promotional activities involved a table at the Mother's day promotion at Bunnings Kirrawee, and at both Bunnings stores prior to our show in June.

In August we had a table at the Spring Launch at Bunnings Kirrawee. The society also put on a display at Orchids Central in October where our members were successful in being awarded Champion prizes and first and second places.

In the period December 2024 to November 2025 736 plants were benched at our meetings. October had the highest number benched with 88 plants, followed in January with 77 plants. The month with the least number of plants benched was June with 38 plants.

The class with the most plants benched was Class 21 Miscellaneous Exotic Hybrids with 48 plants, followed by class 18 Dendrobium Hybrids Exotic with 43 plants.

Dimitri Mitsios was awarded the Annual Points Score Trophy.

All these activities are possible due to the magnificent contribution by our committee and members.

I'd like to thank the committee for their commitment to managing the society and assisting at our promotional activities.

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Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2025 *(cont'd)*
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9th March 2026

This year has been more challenging for me with not having a Secretary, however David Hicks and I covered this role.

I wish to thank David Hicks for being Bulletin Editor and doing a lot of the administrative work associated with the role of Show Secretary and our meetings. He willingly took on this large workload. After 6 ½ years, 5 of which he served as Secretary, he is stepping down from the committee. David has been a great support to me.

Melissa Karayannis has taken on the role of sourcing guest speakers and our raffle plants, and manages our Facebook and Instagram sites. She keenly assists at meetings and shows and also has been a great support for me.

Mike Vitnell took on the challenge of Treasurer when only a newbie to the Society. He has worked tirelessly in the transition to on-line payments and negotiating with the banks.

Robyn Bannell is also a new member and assists with setting up the hall and takes the notes for me at our meetings.

Paul Sheaffe takes the photos of our benched plants at our meetings for our bulletin.

Jenny Sharpham has been on the committee for 3 ½ years and is stepping down. She is our supper organiser. Mark Drury who has been on the committee for two years, one of which as Vice-President is stepping down. Both Jenny and Mark have provided valuable assistance to the committee. I greatly appreciate the committee's support and friendship and have thoroughly enjoyed working with them.

To all of you who have contributed to the success of our shows and meetings I thank you, especially our judges, raffle ticket sellers, sales table managers, those who set up and put the tables away at our shows and meetings. I thank the members for their friendships, participation in our events and happiness when they attend our meetings.

It has been an honour for me to have been President of the Society for the past 3 and half years and I wish the new committee every success for the coming year.

Rhonda Jackson

A 'Showy' species – Brassavola nodosa
orchid and photo - courtesy Robert Nicol



Brassavola nodosa is a small, tough species of orchid native to Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and northern South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana and French Guiana). It is also known as "**lady of the night**" orchid due to its citrus and gardenia-like fragrance which begins in the early evening.

It has been widely hybridized and cultivated for its showy flowers and pleasing scent.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.
TREASURER'S REPORT – FY 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

Dear SSOS Members

The SSOS Treasury for 2025 had numerous challenges for a new treasurer. My gratitude and thanks go to all members for helping and guiding me through these many tasks.

Annual Outcome for the Financial Year 2025:

Opening balance \$14,746.14

Closing balance \$13,913.00

Current YTD P/L - loss of \$833.03. *(Year prior - loss of \$450.41)*

Explanation: not one standout item(s) on either revenue or expenses: it's an accumulated outcome.

Examples:

- Two Shows twice the prizes money (increased cost – increase on last year)
- One show, no sponsor plants provided at sales desk (loss of income)
- Income from monthly meetings has been less that previous year (raffles \$\$)
- Printing & stationary exp. up on last year (even though we did use generic print)
- Monthly meeting prizes up on last year.
- No Perlite for example or hardware sales to assist in revenue
- Overall show & display costs were double on last year

In Summary: basically, **income** was up by \$600 but **expenses** were up by \$1100 on last year

**Note the trend over the past few years, is continuing to be a loss.*

I see our challenge to bring that up, our aim should be to break even or close to it.

Major Expenses for the Year:

Insurances, Hall Rental, Printing / Stationary and Show Cash Prizes.

- Nothing new, except we held two shows this year, which increased our expenses

Explanation:

- *We usually have two shows. Last year was an exception when we didn't have the spring show. One could say generally our expenses should be the same. Was there an overall increase in costs or was one particular area noticeably higher? Yes - show and display expenses were double that of last year, plus sundries were double, both contributed to increased expenses, compared to last year.*
- **Membership Subscriptions:** at end of February were 69, (includes 7 life members)
 (*Note: un-renewed members represent 25% of total members over last year)
Membership Subs Revenue: is slightly up on last years reported revenue

Monthly Meeting Activities:

- **Income:** raffles - \$2105.00, plant sales - \$691.00 (commissions)

Major Events: (two shows and one auction)

- Income from shows include: commissions - **\$1604** and raffles - **\$1632**
- Auction income / commissions - **\$310**
- Donations & sponsorship - **\$515**
- Bank interest from term deposit for 2025 - **\$94.77**

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Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.
TREASURER'S REPORT – FY 2025 *(cont'd)*
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

Opportunities and Challenges:

- **Transition** from one account “the cheque book”, to multiple banks with various types of accounts.
- **Electronic Banking:** electronic sales can be mixed with other incomes making it difficult to separate and report weeks later. Some services are limited. Example: cash counting / deposit, fund transactions over a weekend etc.
 (funds held pending until next trading day)

**We need to secure financial Sponsors for our main events and other activities. This will insure our three main events have a more positive contribution to annual P/L.*

We do not have any commitment from Bunnings.

We have some discussions with Neutrog with limited returns.

We need to engage and provide sponsors with known packages so that they can see tangible returns to their funding.

We need to present more structure to Sponsors to trigger increased patronage – (I have many ideas on this!)

Positives:

- **Electronic banking** online 24/7
- **Purchasing, sales and payments** via direct debit including - “the square”.
- Our **term deposit** is forming a layer of financial assurance,
- **Disbursements / Returns/ Reimbursements** to Members are quicker, easier to implement and to track at a glance.
- **SSOS has a modern footprint:** our website, social media, monthly meetings and our shows provide opportunities for income and a potential activity for sponsorship, exposure to potential membership along with community engagement.

Overall SSOS is well managed, we operate within the guidelines of a NFP Association, we are financially capable, and we have engaged members.

Yes - we have some challenges but with consistent and deliberate actions we can enjoy our passion in growing Orchids.

Thanks to our past Treasurer Margaret for her kind assistance, thanks also to Jan Robinson, Robert Nicol, Di Philips and Robert Cawley for your help during meetings and other events. Thank you to my fellow committee in your support and understanding during this year and some challenging transitions.

Special thanks to Rhonda and David, your patience and mentoring have been such a blessing!!

If any members would like to discuss the SSOS 2025 Financials in more detail, or receive a copy, please see me.

All the very best for 2026

Mike Vitnell

Treasurer



Medicalcar decoratum

*exhibited in March by
 Wal Chapman and Robert Cawley*

Is a unique miniature type species native to Papua and New Guinea, Eastern Indonesia, and forming dense vegetative ‘carpets’ in the wild at elevations of approx. 900 to 2500 meters.

Ideally suited to be grown in a hanging container where it forms a specimen ball producing masses of approx. 6mm brightly coloured yellow/orange flowers as pictured left.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

President Rhonda Jackson called the Annual General Meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

APOLOGIES: Richard Dimon, Mavis Randle, Christine Castle, Di Hannah, Lawrence Watkins.

Pam Davies motioned that the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting as attached to the April 2025 Bulletin, be accepted as accurate. Seconded Paul Sheaffe. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Rhonda proceeded to present the President's Report, giving an overview of the highlights of the past year.

The President's Report was motioned to be accepted. Seconded Sylvia Fitch. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mike Vitnell proceeded to present the Annual Financial Report.

John Costa motioned for the Annual Statement for the Financial Year 2025 be accepted for submission to NSW Fair Trading, and that the Treasurer be approved to sign the Statement. Seconded Frank Daniel. Carried

Banking Signatories: President motioned that Rhonda Jackson and Mark Drury be removed as bank signatories, and Melissa Karayannis and Mike Vitnell to remain as bank signatories with Westpac Bank. Seconded Robin Bannell. Carried

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

Rhonda invited Robert Nicol as Returning Officer, to conduct the election of the positions on the Committee.

In accordance with Part 4, Section 28 of the Society's Constitution, Robert declared all positions on the committee to be vacant.

Nominations for the committee were received from the following members:

President:	*No Nomination	
Vice President:	Melissa Karayannis	Seconded by: Michael Vitnell
Secretary:	Richard Dimon	Seconded by: Michael Vitnell
Treasurer:	Michael Vitnell	Seconded by: Paul Sheaffe
Committee:	Jan Robinson	Seconded by: Michael Vitnell
	Margaret Spring	Seconded by: Melissa Karayannis
	Paul Sheaffe	Seconded by: David Hicks
	Robin Bannell	Seconded by: David Hicks

**There were no nominations for President from the floor.*

Robert called for a member's vote with a show of hands to approve the new Committee. Carried.

All nominees for these positions were then accepted.

On behalf of the Society, Melissa Karayannis extended a very special acknowledgment and thank-you to our President of 3 1/2 years, Rhonda Jackson, who stepped down from the committee.

Rhonda joined Committee in March 2013 and served a term of 7 years within that time as Secretary and 6 months as Vice President. She was also Secretary of Sutherland Orchid Spectacular for 4 years, in which the Society was one of the organising societies.

In all a total of 12 years dedication on Committee, which included (but not limited to) - the chairing of monthly and committee meetings, assisting with the organisation of annual shows, sourcing guest speakers, grower's groups, attracting and engaging new members through participating in external activities and initiatives to raise awareness, and promotion of orchids as a rewarding hobby.

Melissa also thanked David Hicks for his commitment to the Society in the role of Secretary for 5 years and show secretary for 4 years. He is also Editor for the Bulletin, and manages the Society's website.

Rhonda and David were then presented with a gift of a lovely orchid each, in appreciation from the members.

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Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES – cont'd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

Rhonda welcomed Jan Robinson, Margaret Spring, and Richard Dimon to the committee, and thanked those who have re-nominated for positions in 2026.

Robert Nicol was thanked for conducting the elections tonight.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 8:25 pm.

Signed. President.

Date: 9th March 2026

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

Rhonda Jackson advised the meeting that as there were no nominations for President and the new committee hadn't met to determine who will conduct the on-going meetings, she has been asked to convene this meeting. She asked for the meeting's approval to conduct the meeting. Approval was shown by applause. Rhonda asked Robin Bannell to take notes as the new Secretary was absent. Thank you Robin.

Rhonda declared the General Meeting open at 8.30pm, and extended a warm welcome to everyone, especially our visitor and guest speaker for tonight, Jane Wright, President of the Canberra Orchid Society.

APOLOGIES: Richie Dimon, Mavis Randle, Christine Castle, Di Hannah, Lawrence Watkins

MINUTES: Robert Nicol motioned that the February minutes were an accurate record. Seconded, Jenny Sharpham. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Response to St Matthews Peakhurst Garden club re their request for a guest speaker, advising two speakers will present
- Reminder from Christine Rethers, Secretary OSNSW, regarding renewal of our Affiliated Insurances with OSNW by 1st March
- Auction catalogue from Manly Warringah Orchid Society, to be held on 12 April 2026

GENERAL BUSINESS

Annual Statement of Accounts – In the AGM, Mike Vitnell gave an overview of the financial status of the society. If anyone would like a copy of the reports, please let Mike know.

Rhonda thanked Jan Robinson for her assistance to Mike in preparing the Annual Accounts.

Now that these accounts have been finalised, the Commonwealth Bank account can be closed. Mike and Rhonda will go to the bank to do so.

Mike recently paid our Affiliated Insurance with OSNSW.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES – *cont'd*

GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

AGM – Rhonda welcomed Richie Dimon, Jan Robinson and Margaret Spring to the committee, and especially thanked Richie for taking on the role of Secretary. Rhonda said it is great that to have a Secretary as David and she has shared the workload of the Secretary's role.

Rhonda said it's not too late to nominate for President and to give it serious consideration. She is happy to provide assistance.

March Committee meeting - At the March committee meeting a large portion of the agenda was carried over to April. With four members stepping down, it was felt that the new committee should make the decisions on the matters being discussed.

Raffle Plants – To replace the raffle plants, Melissa recently purchased 20 plants of mixed genera from Barrita Orchids and received 2 free plants. These should last for 3 months.

St Matthews Peakhurst Garden Club requested for one of our members to present to their members on orchid culture. David and Rhonda will attend on Friday 5 June and present on *general orchid culture and repotting*.

Supper at our meetings – At our last meeting a volunteer was called for to take over the role of supper organiser, as Jenny Sharpham is stepping down from this role. Robin Bannell has volunteered to do this very important job. Thank you Robin. Rhonda thanked Jenny for her contribution in providing this service for several years.

Removing plants prior to the end of the meeting: One of our members has been observed removing their plants from the benches while the guest speaker is talking. Apart from the fact that this is very rude to our guest speaker, all plants are to remain on the bench until the end of the meeting. If you need to leave early you need to advise the President or Vice President.

AOC Orchids Quarterly:

The society has received the first edition of the quarterly newsletters from the AOC. They say it is a new and exciting initiative which they are keen to have circulated to all members.

The newsletter will include details of shows and events and relevant information about orchids and orchid people.

They invite contributions from societies such as our upcoming shows and events, the results of shows, photos of interesting plants and people at meetings and shows, and anything that we feel may interest other members and orchid growers around the country.

In this edition is an offer from Red Fox orchids, and information on applying fungicide after heavy rain, warm nights and constant moisture. David will send this out with the next bulletin.

ACTIVITIES / GUEST SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

May 2026 – Annual Auction Night

June 2026 – Jan Robinson – To be advised

GUEST SPEAKER: Jane Wright from Canberra Orchid Society presented on the importance of Light, Temperature & Humidity in the culture of orchids. She explained the difference between the light spectrum for humans and orchids, and the impact shade-cloth has on this. She also talked on the effects of temperature on humidity and how Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) interacts with orchids.

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Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc.

MINUTES – cont'd

GENERAL MEETING

9th March 2026

MONTHLY PRIZE PRESENTATIONS:

Raffle Draw: Heath Myers, Sylvia Fitch, Jane Wright, John Hely, Mark Drury, Margaret Spring.

March Name Badge Winner: Pam Davies

JUDGES FOR MARCH: Rhonda thanked our judging panel for this evening - David Brooks, Wal Chapman, Murray Aldridge, Jan Robinson, Mark Drury.

MARCH JUDGES CHOICE AWARDS:

Plant of the Night: Dendrobium Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory' – *Vic Petrovski*

Judges Choice Open Hybrid: Dendrobium Yashiga Fantasy 'Russell Vale Glory' – *Vic Petrovski*

Judges Choice Open Species: Coelogyne speciosa "Occy" – *Jan Robinson*

Judges Choice Intermediate: Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue' – *Sonia Tropoulos*

Judges Choice Novice: Cattleya Chocolate Drop – *Melanie Clasper*

President's Choice: Miltonia moreliana – *Pheng Sanaphay*

CLOSING: Our thanks to Melissa Karayannis who volunteered to sweep the floor

Next meeting Monday 13 April @ 8pm

Meeting closed at 9:40 pm

More Lovely Stanhopea that keep on Flowering into late March! courtesy - Robert Nicol



Stan. oculata



Stan. graveolans



Stan. pozoi



Den. pseudolamellatum

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)



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/>

Vendors (TBC)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Tinonee Orchids | Orchids on Newbold |
| Kiwi Orchid Bark | Sim's Orchids |
| Dark Star Orchids | Kingfisher Nursery |
| Orchid Species Plus | Johnston's Orchids |
| Fong Ping Orchids | Nicky's Slippers |
| Rollin Orchids | Joseph Wu Orchids |
| Orchid Mania | Orchids of Distinction |
| The Orchid Place | |



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.

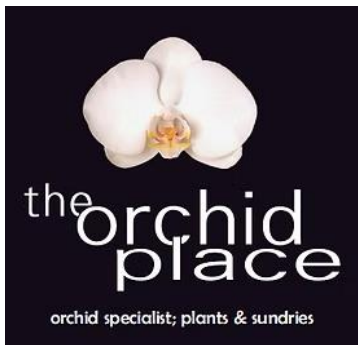
CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

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 and Shows for the Diary 2026

Thursday 2nd – Monday 13th April – Royal Easter Show. *Orchid Show Days 6th, 7th and 12th, 13th (see flyer page 14)*

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 published closer to the May meeting)*

Fri, Sat, Sun, 15th – 17th May 2026 – Orchids out West – Philip Charley Pavillion, Hawkesbury Showground *(see flyer p 14)*

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. (details soon)*

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

Orchids Central: 18th - 20th September 2026, Club Condell Park *(details closer to the show date)*



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.