

BULLETIN OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF CANBERRA INCORPORATED

Volume 6 Number 5

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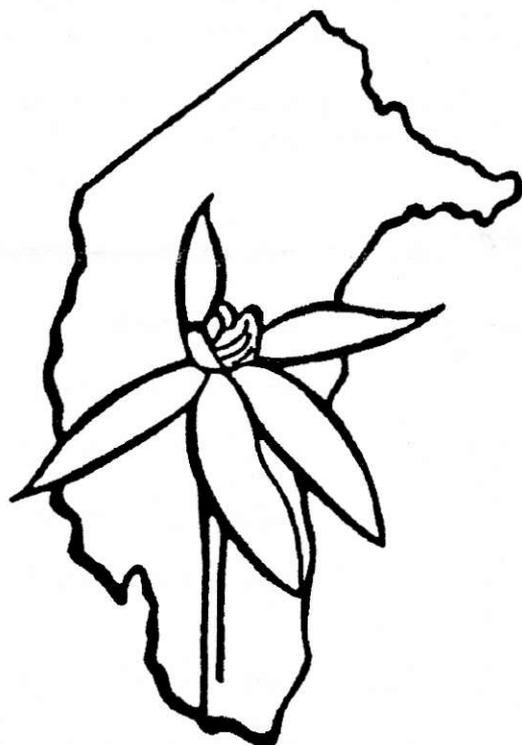
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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first Tuesday of each month in Room 1, Griffin Centre, Civic. Meetings Commence at 8.00pm, with the plant trading table and library open from 7.30pm.

SEPTEMBER MEETING - TUESDAY 3RD JULY

Dendrobiums. Geoff Dyne will talk on developments in breeding in these orchids and their culture in Canberra. Final tips on show presentation will be discussed.

OCTOBER MEETING - TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Annual Spring Show results. Certificates for show prize-winners will be presented. Jane Wright will talk about scale insects.

The Orchid Society of Canberra Inc. disclaims all liability for any losses which may be attributed to the use of any material mentioned in the Bulletin.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 2 JULY 1991

The President Geoff Dyne opened the meeting at 8:05pm

Attendance: Approx. 40

Apologies: N. McLean, C. Sewan, Felicity Lee, Jane Wright, Sheila Cudmore, Greg Slater, Vic Grosvenor, Pauline and Yves Le Borgne.

Visitors & New Members:

Fergus Martin (Parramatta Orchid Society) and 6 New Members welcomed.

Minutes of June meeting accepted on a motion moved by Judy Osborne Seconded by ?

Treasurers Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Judy Osborne reported that all accounts had been paid and that the bank account showed a substantial credit balance.

Correspondence Received

Conference Notices

1. Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference 5-8 June 1992 (Mackay)
2. Griffith Orchid Society Workshop 5 October 1991
Venue: Wade High School, Griffith
 - large number of guest speakers and interesting topics
 - The Canberra Orchid Society will mount a display (see article this newsletter).

There is a Wine show and other events on the same weekend, so it is advisable to book accommodation as soon as possible.

3. Gosford Australia Orchids & Exotic Plants 10/11 August 1991.
Venue: Gosford Showground
4. Fourth Asian Orchid Conference 20-26 January 1992
Venue: Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Meritorious Service badge

The Annual Orchid Society of NSW "Award for Meritorious Service" badge was presented to Mrs Judy Osborne for outstanding service to the Society.

Excursion Report

Visit to the Woy Woy Orchid Festival organised by Royale Orchids was undertaken by 10 members and was acclaimed a very successful outing, with plenty of purchases made.

- thanks to Judy Osborne (organiser).

Library

A number of new acquisitions have been made

- the President urged members to use the facility

• Mr Mark Fraser will have copies of the new Sanders parentage volumes available from home for use by members outside meetings

Main Business

Judy Osborne gave a talk on *Pleiones*.

100 bulbs of select varieties were available from sale table for purchase by members.

Other Matters

3 copies of the members survey have been returned to date (Smith, Keese, Wang) members were urged to complete and send in.

Pennants to (Previous) Popular Vote were awarded to those winners present at the meeting by the President.

Popular Vote Results

Cymbidium

Lynne Bullivant Cym. Mini Splendour "April Love"

Native

David Rentz *Dendrobium* Ellen

Other Species

Judy Osborne *Masdevallia barleana*

Other Hybrid

Judy Osborne Zygo. (Vinitim x Blackie "negus")

Paphiopedilum

Jane Wright *Paphiopedilum godefroyae*

Oncidium

Brian Phelan *Wilsonara* Susi "Lippe"

Vandaceous

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 6 AUGUST 1991

The Vice President Judy Osborne opened the meeting at 8.04 p.m. in the absence of the President Geoff Dyne whose orchid house had been damaged by gales that day.

- 35 people were present with 8 apologies
- A New member welcomed - Robert Rough.

Visitors welcomed - Dennis Mann, Ellen and Gary Waters from Canberra and Joyce Schmerl from Adelaide.

Treasurers Report

Jane Wright reported a balance in the bank of \$2622.43.

The report was accepted on a motion by Eric McLean seconded by David Rentz.

Members were encouraged to contribute to the Bulletin, on IBM compatible disks if possible.

Secretary's Report

A letter from Dingley Fern Market with flyers advertising their "A Week of Orchids" was tabled.

Library

Books and magazines added to the library were -
Orchids Australia June 1991
Orchid Review Vol. 56 No. 4
Orchids by Joyce Stewart
Bee Orchids by Stephen Blackmore
Orchids for the Home and Greenhouse Vol 41 No. 2
Orchids from Seed by P.A. Thompson

Main Business

Judy Osborne gave a talk on plants for show preparation and also explained the rules of the show schedule. It was also suggested that we show a few slides of show orchid displays at the next meeting. The job rosters for the show were tabled for volunteers to add their names. A request was made for volunteers to make lunch for the judges.

There was a request for potting demonstrators for the show, Jackie Dunstan volunteered to pot up a *Phalaenopsis*.

A request was made for help in writing up show certificates; Jane Wright, Sandra Corbett and Kath Seeuwen volunteered.

Other Matters

Members were reminded of the Gosford Show on the coming weekend, the Griffith Orchid Workshop and Show and an outing to the Sapphire Coast to walk among the orchids. Members to meet at 10.30 a.m. at the park on the south side of the bridge at Moruya on 8 September. BYO lunch.

Raffle Winners were:

Lynne Bullivant (1st), Robert Rough (2nd), Louisa Chung (3rd). Joyce Schmerl won the door prize.

Popular vote results

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Cymbidium</i> | |
| Lynne Bullivant | Cym. Melanie "Champagne" |
| <i>Cattleya</i> | |
| David Rentz | C. Horace Maxima x C. Earl |
| <i>Other Species</i> | |
| Lynne Bullivant | <i>Laelia anceps</i> |
| <i>Other Hybrids</i> | |
| Pat Wu | <i>Pleione</i> Alishan |
| <i>Paphiopedilum</i> | |
| Jane Wright | <i>Paphiopedilum godefroyae</i> |
| <i>Oncidium</i> | |
| Brian Phelan | Odcdm. Arthur Elle 'Columbien' |
| <i>Vandaceous</i> | |
| Quin Yuen Chung | Phal. Gladys Read 'Snow Queen' x Phal. Joseph Hampton 'Snow White' |
| <i>Native</i> | |
| Lynne Bullivant | Den. Kim Heinz |
| <i>Novice</i> | |
| Ina Smith | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> unknown |

Sheila Cudmore
 SECRETARY

From the President

Getting the Blues

Members may have noticed newspaper reports in recent days of a breakthrough by the Australian company *Calgene* in the area of plant genetic research. After an exhaustive research program, they have been able to isolate the gene from petunias responsible for blue pigmentation. The ultimate aim is to insert the gene into plants that have no naturally occurring blue pigments (e.g. roses, carnations) and hence produce some very desirable and hitherto unattainable flower colourations. They plan to market blue roses as an exclusive (and expensive) designer product.

There is no reason that this technique won't one day be extended to orchids. The best initial candidates for gene transplants would probably be *alba* forms of orchids, which have no pigment, and hence present an uncomplicated template for the expression of blue colouration. It would be a reasonably safe bet that we will see the first truly blue *Cattleyas* before the decade is out. Undoubtedly such creations will be prohibitively expensive at first, but like most consumer novelties, they will eventually come within the reach of ordinary folk.

In due course, the painstaking and serendipitous methods of orchid breeding that are now so familiar may become a thing of the past. Genetic engineering means that through direct manipulation of the genetic make-up of plants, we can have not only blue *Cattleyas* and *Cymbidiums*, but intergeneric mixtures of selected traits that are unthinkable at present because of incompatibilities in the reproductive processes of distantly related orchid tribes.

The technology might already exist, but a major problem will be in identifying and isolating the genes you want. This will be a long haul, but eventually we will know, for example, the precise location on certain chromosomes where the genes controlling petal and sepal width are located. We will be able to design a plant in the laboratory with all its floral characteristics defined with great precision.

It will take a lot of the romance out of orchid breeding, to be sure, but it will also prevent a lot of wastage. Currently, commercial breeders must be ruthless and discard, say, 95% of a grex. And let's face it, the orchid world is awash with the progeny of a lot of speculative crosses which should never have been made.

Despite all the advances in genetics, culture will remain as the great variable. Experienced growers and judges know that identical genetic mericlones grown under different conditions often yield startlingly different floral results! That coupled with the almost boundless genetic diversity in the orchid world means we need have no fear that orchid growing will ever become a purely clinical exercise.

Good Growing!

Geoff Dyne

ON THE TABLES

At our September meeting we will be having an extra-special prize for some lucky person to win in our monthly raffle. How would you like to own a large piece (in flower) of last year's Grand Champion of our show? Yes, the highly awarded *Cymbidium* Leopard 'Mary Smith' HCC-AD/AOC is one of 2 plants kindly donated by the winner, James Whitehouse. Here is an opportunity for you to win in future years. The plant one both the Highly Commended Certificate and the Award of Distinction from the Australian Orchid Council in 1983.

We are planning a bus-trip to Sydney late in October, mainly to visit the wonderful collection of softcane *Dendrobiums* owned by Lorna and Keith Oxley. Last year they were featured in a program of "Burke's Backyard". We will probably visit another private collection as well as a couple of nurseries. Further details will be announced at the September and October meetings. The expected cost is \$30 and a partial refund should be made after actual costs are calculated. Maybe we could visit the new glasshouses in the Botanic Gardens in Sydney. I believe they are just fantastic!

We have been obtaining a number of orchid books for members through the American Orchid Society at reduced prices. They have a large range in their catalogue and it is often cheaper to buy through them, so see Jane or myself if you want a special book.

New Popular Vote certificates have been designed and these will soon replace the banners.

Reminder: Entries in the Popular Vote each meeting must have been owned and in the possession of the exhibitor for a period not less than 6 months.

We will provide a special table for those wanting to show off recent purchases and who do not satisfy the above requirement.

What a busy two months ahead! See you all at the show.

Judy Osborne

ABOUT THE POPULAR VOTE

At the first meeting of the new Committee of the Society the various necessary functions were allocated. Due to a brief bout of the 'flu, Sandra and I were unable to attend. We were consequently slightly surprised to discover at the July meeting that we were now in charge of co-ordinating the monthly popular vote competition and tables. Isn't democracy wonderful! Given the popularity of the popular vote competition, witnessed by the vast numbers of plants being benched over the past few meetings it seemed like a good idea to

review the situation. A number of issues had arisen, including a substantial degree of confusion about the various classes.

Firstly, the classes on display; apparently the definition of the various classes has varied over time. This is a source for some concern: should we base our standards on the categories we use for the show? To an extent we have done so, and are inviting your comments on the proposed classes set out below:

- Cymbid:** Any standard, intermediate or miniature *Cymbidium* hybrid.
- Catt.:** Any hybrid containing one or more of: *Brassavola*, *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Sophranitis*. Hybrids crossing these genera with other genera will also be included in this category (e.g. *Epiphronitis*, *Cattleytonia*).
- Species:** ALL species plants except Native and Novice Classes will be benched under this category.
- Paph:** Any hybrid, primary, complex or novelty of the genus *Paphiopedilum*.
- Oncid:** Any hybrid involving any members of this large group. I am not going to list all the genera here, but the well known ones are: *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Brassia*, *Miltonia*, *Aspasia*, *Cochlioda*.
- Vanda:** Any Vandaceous hybrid, excluding those derived exclusively from Australian Natives (*Plectorrhiza*, *Sarcochilus*, *Rhinerrhiza*, the Australian *Vandas* and *Phalaenopsis*).
- Native:** Any species, or hybrid derived from species, solely native to Australia.
- Other Hybrid:** Any hybrid which does not fit into any of the above classes (e.g. Softcane *Dendrobiums*, *Zygopetalum* Arthur Elle, or *Angulocaste* Darius.)
- Novice:** Any orchid benched by a member who has not previously won this class.

The chief purpose of restating the classes like this is to get comments from members as to how they want to see the popular vote run. If you are unhappy with these definitions come and talk to us. If members concerns are such, we will modify the definitions to meet what is the most generally acceptable rule.

Secondly, what constitutes an eligible plant for entry in the popular vote? For the purpose of our competition an eligible plant is one that the member has owned for six months or more. This ensures that the popular vote goes to a product of the members expertise.

Finally, when benching the plants at the meetings please ask Sandra or myself if you are in need of any assistance, or wish to rearrange the plants already benched. This should help ensure that the plants are adequately displayed for all to see and minimize any risk of damage. Please also try to ensure that there are no unpleasant critters lurking about your plants: this will protect everyone's plants from all sorts of unpleasant surprises.

Mark Fraser

ORCHID WORKSHOP - GRIFFITH

The O.S.N.S.W. is sponsoring this Orchid Workshop, hosted by the Griffith Orchid Society, on Saturday 5th October, 1991. It is to be held at Wade High School, Poole Street, Griffith in conjunction with the 2-day South-west Regional Orchid Show, commencing at 8:30 am.

Cost: \$15 which included lunch as well as morning and afternoon teas.

Lecture Program:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Alan Merriman | Growing <i>Cymbidiums</i> |
| Margaret Robinson | Plant Tissue culture |
| Phil Spence | Modern trends in Native Orchid hybridising |
| Gordon Hansen | Practical aspects of Orchid Growing |
| Judy Osborne | Growing <i>Disas</i> |
| Wal Rhodes | <i>Odontoglossums</i> |
| Murray Aldridge | <i>Masdevallias</i> |
| Kevin Hipkins | <i>Paphiopedilums</i> |

In the evening there will be a Dinner at the Griffith Ex-Servicemens' Club At a cost of \$15.00. The after-dinner speaker will be Ted Gogerly; the subject "Philosophy of Orchids". He is an excellent speaker and the evening promises to be most enjoyable.

The other Orchid Societies in the region are challenging us for the trophy we won two years ago at Wagga. We will need a lot of orchid plants, foliage and helpers. Our display will have to be constructed on Friday 4th. I will need to have all orchids and ferns, etc. delivered to collection points on the Thursday so that cars can be parked ready for an early start on Friday morning. The drive to Griffith takes about 4 hours, and some 5 hours will be needed to construct the display. We need as many people and cars as possible to help with this exercise.

The weekend promises to be a great holiday event.

Schedule:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| FRIDAY 4TH | Drive to Griffith, build display. |
| SATURDAY 5TH | Workshop; view Show; Dinner. |
| SUNDAY 6TH | Show; Organised trip to nearby Nature Reserve where the Park Ranger will show us the native orchids. Other events on in Griffith include open gardens, lapidary shows and visits to local wineries. |

Pull-down of the show is at 4:30 PM Sunday, and we will need help in returning plants to Canberra.

I am not returning to Canberra until the Monday and if enough people are also staying until then, we need not pull down our display until Monday morning.

This is a wonderful opportunity to mix with other orchid

enthusiasts from NSW and Victoria, to buy plants and products from 8 invited specialist nurseries, to have your special orchids considered for an Australian Award and maybe to win a major prize at another show.

Registration forms will be available at our September meeting from Judy Osborne, Sheila Cudmore and Jane Wright.

NOTE ON ACCOMMODATION: Book immediately as there are lots of events on in Griffith that weekend, including a large number of weddings!

Judy Osborne

Outing to the South Coast

The Sapphire Coast Orchid Society has kindly planned an outing for us. On Sunday 8th September we will be meeting them at 10.30 a.m. at the northern end of Moruya Sporting Centre. We will meet at the park on the left, just over the bridge (on the town side).

SHOPPING

WHAT TO WEAR: Clothes suitable for walking in the bush, along formed tracks.

LUNCH: Bring your own. There are barbecue facilities available.

We've been promised that there will be an incredible display of native orchids for us to see in their natural habitat. This is a wonderful opportunity, so bring your camera. A number of members have already indicated that they will be participating.

TRANSPORT: We will be forming a car pool, so please contact Judy Osborne so that we will know who is expected to turn up and to arrange to share transport. Ring any day except Sundays.

This will be a great family outing also. We have been assured that it is not a difficult walk.

FINAL SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING



Tuesday 17th September at 8.00 p.m. at Judy Osborne's.

FOR SALE: *The genus Pleione* by Philip Cribb & Ian Butterfield, reduced from \$39.95 to \$22.00. 1 copy only - be quick! See Judy Osborne.

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT

You will all have received your copy of the Show Schedule by now. Our small committee has managed to plan our major event, expand the program and redesign the First and Second Prize Certificates. We're very grateful for the help that so many of you have already offered. However, we desperately need more people to volunteer to be rostered on:

Set-up (Friday night 5.00 - 9.00 p.m., Saturday 7.30 - 9.00 a.m.)

Plant sales

Entrance & raffle ticket sales

Refreshment

Floor walkers - advisers

Potting demonstrations

Clean-up on Sunday 5.00 - 6.00 p.m.

The following people are coordinating these sections:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Jenny Taylor | Refreshments |
| Sandra Corbett-Fraser | Raffles |
| Jane Wright | Slide Shows |
| Judy Osborne | Plant Sales & Show Marshal |
| Lynne Bullivant | Registration of entries |
| Ernie McLean | Set-up & Clean-up |

Cakes, scones, sandwiches and other goodies are needed for the refreshments

We need members to donate orchid plants (before the show opens) for usual beginners raffle for those who join at our show.

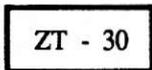
Plants for sale must be clearly tagged with a separate price tag bearing the seller's name. Remember that 20% commission has to be allowed for in the price. We need you to stock the sales tables with lots of plants. Sales are usually brisk on Saturday when we first open, so I need lots of helpers. There are lots of vacancies on the Plant Sales roster, so please sign up.

The most important thing that we need is LOTS OF FLOWERING PLANTS ON OUR SHOW TABLES, AND FLORAL ART, ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRIES. These are the main things that draw visitors to our show.

Art entries may be sold, if you wish. The asking price must be clearly displayed (including 20% commission). They will be sold on condition that they are picked up at 5.00 p.m. on the Sunday.

This year to facilitate registration of entries, especially for those with a lot of entries, you may obtain entry forms and stickers from Lynne Bullivant (assisted by Sheila Cudmore) at the September meeting. Each member will be allocated 2 letters of the alphabet at random. These must be displayed on the sticker together with the class number, and displayed on the side of the pot.

Example:



If your allocated letters are ZT and my plant is entered in class 30.

All entries must be listed on an official entry form. Please count all the plants that you expect to enter in the competition so that you will know how many stickers to obtain from Lynne.

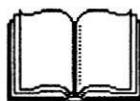
There will be a special display made up of all those flowering orchid plants that you have not owned for the requisite 6 months period. Please bring them along and show them off.

Have you a very fragrant *Cymbidium*? As long as it has no insect infestation or virus bring it along as there is a really special prize for the most fragrant.

Entry to the show is free to all financial members, who will find a pass in this newsletter. Come along, join the fun and bring your family and friends.

Don't forget to clean up your plants and pots and make them really presentable.

Judy Osborne
SHOW CONVENOR



LIBRARY NEWS

Sanders lists of Orchid Hybrids.

The Society library has recently acquired four volumes of this famous listing of Orchid hybrids, covering the period 1960-1985. These volumes are invaluable for anyone interested in the history of Orchid hybridization, and the genealogy of plants. Given the rather substantial investment these volumes represent, there was some discussion as to how these volumes should be kept. Currently Sandra and myself are acting as custodians for the volumes.

What use are such books? Sanders allows you to trace the family trees of a given hybrid, which can provide you with clues about the plants preferences, as well as clues about the nature of its flowers. Here is an example: some months ago we purchased a fine specimen of *Sophrrolaelia* Tiros from the sale table. The plant still had its original tag, indicating that it was a cross between *Sl. Affi* and *Laelia harpophylla*. Now I knew about the *Laelia* involved in this hybrid, but what could I find out about the other parent.

Sl. Affric is a hybrid involving the species *Sophronitis coccinea* and the well known hybrid *L. Coronet*. From this information it is clear that *Sl. Tiros* has a parentage in which the orange *Laelias* dominate, with the exceptions of the *Sophronitis* and *L. cinnabarina*, one of the parents of *L. Coronet*, both of which produce vivid red flowers. Given this information it is clear that the hybridist was attempting to develop an orange red, cluster flowering variety. This sort of genealogical information I find fascinating for its own sake, but it odes also provide an insight into what was sought in the development of a hybrid.

Given that these volumes of Sanders are a resource for the whole club, if you wish to use them please contact myself or Sandra to arrange a time. Alternatively, I am quite willing to trace hybrids as far as I am able to. Simply give me the names and I will do the research.

Mark Fraser