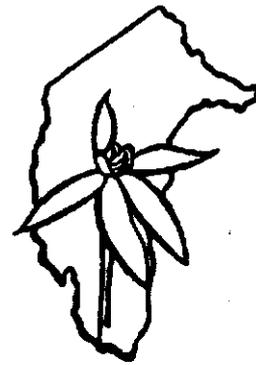


# Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.



Vol 11

No 3

May – June 1996

## News In Brief

### Regular Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the society are held on the first Tuesday of each month in Room 1 of the Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic. Meetings commence at 8:00 pm, with the trading tables and library open from 7:30pm.

### May 7 Meeting

Michael Harrison of Macquarrie Orchids and ANOS judge will discuss Native Dendrobiums. Michael has a wealth of experience, and is currently an Editorial Associate with *The Orchadian*.

### June 4 Meeting

Murray Smith will present a talk on the genus *Sarcophilus*. Murray is currently a member of the society, and has shown a fascinating variety of native and exotic orchids at meetings. Also, the Annual General Meeting!

### Coming Events

Sunday, 12 May: Open greenhouses 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Go and see how other members grow their plants. The open collections are:

Heinz & Priscilla Greve, 12 Brazel St., Higgins  
Robert Rough, 25 Moruya Cct, Kaleen  
Murray Smith, 7 Dewar Pl, Evatt

Saturday, 29 June: The Peat's Ridge Bus Trip, See inside for all the details on this major society outing. Book early as tickets will be limited.

## THE FINE PRINT

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Librarian	Lynne Bullivant	288 1248
Committee Members:		
	Keith Alden	297 3351
	Mark Fraser	287 1106
	Priscilla Greve	254 2067
	Scott Mann	288 8172
	Robert Rough	241 2729

### Committee Meetings:

May 14:	Keith Alden
March 13:	To be announced

## The Editors' Notes...

Over the past few months the popular vote table has seen an enormous diversity of plants presented. This diversity represents one of the major strengths of this Society.

In being able to present a diverse range of orchids we are able to increase each others awareness of the diversity of the Orchid family. Consider this: over the past year or so we have seen the increase in popularity of *Phalaenopsis* species and primary and standard hybrids. Quin Yuen Chung presented a number of fine plants, especially in some of the novelty styles; his plants did a lot to promote the popularity of *Phalaenopsis* within the Society..

Last meeting, in the Vandaceous Alliance section of the Popular Vote the *Phalaenopsis* were beaten by *Angranthes Grandalena* and the mysterious *Sarcoglyphis* species. The *Angranthes* is a primary intergeneric hybrid, derived from *Angraecum magdelanae* and *Aeranthes grandiflora* and produces large and beautiful white flowers with an unusual shape. The *Sarcoglyphis* was not a large species, but possessed delicate and subtle flowers with extremely exotic colours.

When people consider the Vandaceous Alliance they will often forget the Angraecoid orchids of Africa and Madagascar, as well as many of the delightful (but not conventionally beautiful) species. In showing such plants at shows and at the popular vote table we are contributing to each others awareness of the orchid family.

A second major benefit of showing a wide range of plants is that newer members gain a greater appreciation of what can be grown in the Canberra region. It also indicates who is doing well with certain orchids. This allows members to swap advice and information on how to manage a variety of orchids.

Finally, in providing an opportunity to view a variety of plants, the popular vote table has shown us many plants about which we may have been interested in acquiring. There is a world of difference in seeing a *Stanhopea* or *Gongora* in flower and in simply seeing a picture. Many memorable plants have appeared on the benches: I think everyone has their own favourites. Seeing those flowers has helped develop our own interest in orchids.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello Members.

Last month I gave you a list of intergeneric orchids. You may ask 'How do they mix a series of species and then come up with a seemingly unconnected name for the plant produced?'. Well, let us look at *Vuylstekeara*, an orchid made up of *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*. This orchid was first made by a man named Charles Vuylsteke who was born in Belgium in 1844, not a modern man nor hence a modern orchid cross at all. In 1898 he brought out the first *Odontoglossum* hybrid, a cross between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. harryanum*; he also made the cross between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. pescatorei*. He was also the first hybridiser to make a trigeneric cross, naming it *Vuylstekeara*. If you wish to know more about this exciting man and his orchids, there is an article in the English Orchid Review of Nov/Dec 95.

As promised here are some more intergeneric crosses with their shortened names:

Ascocenda (Ascda)  
= Ascocentrum x Vanda  
Bifrenidium (Bifdm)  
= Bifrenaria x Cymbidium  
Brassidium (Brsdm)  
= Brassia x Oncidium  
Dorandopsis (Ddps)  
= Doritis x Vandopsis  
Dorifinetia (Dfta)  
= Doritis x Neofinetia  
Dracuvallia (Drvla)  
= Dracula x Masdevallia  
Epicattleya (Epc)  
= Cattleya x Epidendrum  
Brassoepidendrum (Bepi)  
= Brassavola x Epidendrum  
Renafinanda (Rfnda)  
= Neofinetia x Renanthera x Vanda  
Odontioda (Oda)  
= Cochlioda x Odontoglossum

Happy Growing  
Sheila

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 6 February 1996

Attendance: 43 Apologies: 2  
President Sheila Cudmore opened the meeting at 8.15 pm and welcomed members.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Peter Cudmore. Current bank balance is \$9876.84

- \$890 spent on new pots
- Cost of renting the room at the Griffin Centre is going up to \$45.30 per night.
- There appears to be a rise in rent approximately every 6 months.
- The second cassette and case plus one spare lamp has been purchased.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Sylvia Timms

### Inwards:

*Newsletters* - Gosford & District, Wagga Wagga, Griffith - Oct; Parramatta & District, Griffith, OSNSW - Nov; Albury Wodonga - Dec; Gosford & District, OSNSW - Jan; Albury Wodonga - Feb.

### Letters from:

- International Orchid Festival 17-21 February 1996 in Thailand
- AOF request for a donation towards work on the Fleck Virus
- February 1996 cultural notes have been received from Miriam Ann Orchids.
- Griffith Centre confirmation of bookings for room 1
- 4 requests for our "Growing Orchids in Canberra" book.
- Orchids Australia sent information on a new book published about Virus Disease in Orchids.
- Guest Orchids sent information on a new book on Cymbidiums

*Catalogues:* Ausmoss, Orchids by Olympia, Barry & Coral Anderson, Aranbeen Orchids, Jodi's Orchids, Burleigh Park Orchids, Brautigan's Hat Orchids.

### Books for the Library:

Sept edition of the South African Orchid Journal;  
Sept/Oct edition of the Orchid Review;  
Oct and Nov editions of the American Orchid Society Bulletin (with winter 95/96 booklist);  
Dec edition of the Orchadian, Orchids Australia, Australian Orchid Review; Alpine Garden Society.

### Outwards:

- Sent to each delegate of the South and West Regional Orchid Group an invitation to the next meeting to be held in Canberra 24 February 1996.
- Sent to each member of the Canberra Orchid Society Committee a reminder that the next meeting is to be held on 16 January 1996
- Information sent about the Society's book to James Bennett Pty Limited.
- Notification to Orchids Australia of the Society's 1996 show.

*The Secretary's and Treasurer's report was moved on the motion of Jane Wright and seconded by Frank Fogliati.*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- The November minutes in the Bulletin were agreed, moved by Keith Alden and seconded by Lila Rose.

- Sheila Cudmore informed members that Nicky Zurcher had agreed to hold a workshop here in Canberra which would be free to the Society's members.
- There will be a coach trip on Saturday 20 April 1996 to Orchid Images and possibly two other orchid nurseries at a cost of \$15 per member (bring your own lunch). Money to be given to Jane Wright.
- Sheila asked for member's interest in becoming the next president and also for a new show convener.
- There will be a plant order going in to Royal Orchids - members to make known their requirements.
- Orchid mugs have been purchased as token gifts for speakers.
- The library stocktake was successful, there are however some books and journals missing which will be published in the next edition of the Bulletin.
- There has been an aerogram left in a library book called The Slipper Orchid, will the member who owns it please contact Lynne Bullivant.
- The Cymbidium which has been left for several months with the Society and not been claimed was this month given as a door prize.
- Next month Alan Stephenson will be speaking on photography, so if members are interested please bring your camera.
- Members were advised on ways the Committee has suggested that the Society's surplus money might be spent:
  - There will be a bus trip around orchid nurseries. Nicky Zurcher will be holding a workshop in Canberra.
- There was some discussion about the purchase of an amplifier for the use at meeting and on the motion of David Rentz and seconded by Chas Cook it was agreed that the Committee report back at the next meeting on the cost of a PA System.
- When asked about the possibility of the Society lowering its dues it was considered that the Society should pay its way.

## SALES TABLE REPORT

Robert Rough and Keith Alden again had some very nice orchids on sale, many of which were in flower.

## GUEST SPOT

Members enjoyed the slide presentation given by Geoff Dyne on *Phaius* - the swamp orchid. This orchid grows from NSW to the Cape York Peninsula and is a vulnerable plant under the common endangered species. For those members who wish to grow the orchid, Geoff gave some good hints on how to keep it alive with a minimum winter temperature of 5-6 deg C, don't keep it too wet in cultivation and be sparing with the water in winter but water well and fertilise when growing, use a fine pine bark/peat/spag moss medium, and give it a reasonable amount of shade at least 50%. Geoff indicated that it was susceptible to most chewing and sucking insects. To propagate Geoff mentioned two ways, it will freely propagate by seed (no need to use the normal sterilising gear),

and also not to throw the flower stems away as these can be used for propagation by cutting up in pieces with a flower node in each piece. Geoff finished his presentation with more slides, this time from the Darwin Show which were quite spectacular. Sheila thanked Geoff for his presentation and gave him a token from the Society.

#### **DOOR PRIZE**

Winners were: Terry Turner, Jane Wright.

#### **RAFFLE**

Winners were: Pat Butt, Julie Turner, Lawrence Woods. Next meeting of the Committee will be at Jane Wright's house.

#### **BUS TRIP 20 April 1996**

Our bus trip to Orchid Magic in Kangaroo Valley, Rob Pollock's nursery at Ulladulla and John Apperley at Nowra is shaping up to be a great day. This trip is being subsidised by the society so that the cost per person will be only \$15. We can take up to 53 passengers and so far 18 people have booked their seats. You can reserve your seat by paying your \$15 to Peter Cudmore at the March meeting (Jane will be out of town) or Jane Wright at any other time. The bus will depart from the Canberra Rex on Northbourne Ave at 8:00am on Saturday 20 April. We expect to return by 8:00pm. Bring along your lunch, a few snacks and drinks and foam boxes and packing material for all your purchases. Contact Jane Wright (254 1119 eve) for any further details.

*Jane Wright*

#### **SOCIETY ELECTIONS**

Yes, it is time to consider who will be on the committee to manage the affairs of the Society for the next year. The committee is composed of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 5 committee members. The committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Nomination forms will be available from the front table at the meetings. Nomination forms must reach the public officer, Sandra Corbett, at least 10 days before the annual general meeting, which means that this year they must be to Sandra by 24 May. Our constitution allows for nominations from the floor at the annual general meeting, but only if there are insufficient nominations to fill all vacancies. In this case all of the candidates that nominated in the normal way will be deemed to be elected and further

nominations may be received from the floor for the vacant positions.

Consider nominating for your committee. It must be a satisfying job - why else would so many committee members stay on year after year? We are always keen to have new committee members - new ideas and ways to do things are what keep a society vigorous.

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

A successful stocktake was completed in January. We are able to account for most books but there are a few outstanding and quite a number of our journals are missing. Please have a thorough search and return at the next meeting if possible -no questions asked!

New issues have arrived of the following journals:

- \* American Orchid Society Bulletin
- \* Australian Orchid Review
- \* British Orchid Review
- \* Orchadian
- \* Orchids Australia
- \* South African Orchid Journal

Because of storage problems I have three boxes of interesting archival material at home. These include bound volumes of:

- AQS Bulletin (1950's - 60's)
- Australian Orchid review (1950's - 1980's)
- New Zealand Orchid Review (1957 - 1976)
- Orchadian (1965 - 82)
- South African Orchid Journal (1965 - 1969)

Although written some time ago, some of the information is still very pertinent and most of it is very interesting. If you would like to borrow any of these please phone.

Lynne Bullivant

#### **BOOK ORDER**

The Society will be placing a book order with the American Orchid Society book shop in March. Make a point of looking at the catalogue at the March meeting and placing your order. The books usually take several months to arrive, and you only pay once they have arrived. We get 10% discount on our order and if we have a big enough order freight is free. The exchange rate does vary so I won't be able to tell you

exactly how much your books will cost until the cheque is drawn on the bank. Jane will speak to all those that placed orders last year (when we had too small an order to send off) to check whether they still want the books.

### **CANBERRA JUDGES-TO-BE**

Five of our members recently started the 18 month course to become orchid judges. Sheila Cudmore, Jane Wright, Scott Mann, Lila Rose and Chas Cook made their way to Bawley Point earlier this month to learn about cymbidiums and novelty paphs from Kevin Hipkins. It was a very interesting day for the 20 or so students. In addition to the lectures, we tried our hand at judging the different plants we brought with us. We all agreed that it is harder than we thought!

(Also noted, *The Orchid Paintings of Franz Bauer* is available through Clouston & Hall Booksellers/Academic Remainders, a beautiful book of orchid illustrations, including a few Australian Natives. A must for any fan of Orchid Illustration.)

### **THIRD AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AND SHOW ADELAIDE 26-29 SEPTEMBER 1996.**

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia (NOSSA) has been granted the honour of hosting the Third Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show. NOSSA is attempting to put together the largest and most spectacular display of native orchids and hybrids ever assembled in Australasia, and to bring to Adelaide speakers of the highest level to deliver papers on an exciting range of topics. A photographic competition/exhibition will be held in conjunction with the event. Also included are organised field trips that will allow delegates to see a large number of terrestrial orchids in their natural habitat.

Contact Gerry Carne - Chairman, 118 Hewitt Avenue, Toorak Gardens, South Australia 5065 for further information.

### **ON THE INTERNET**

I am lucky enough to have access to the Internet through my work and have taken the opportunity to join an orchid discussion group, called Orchid Digest. It is run from the USA and most of the discussants are American, but we do hear from

people from all over the world. I thought that I might pass on to you some interesting snippets in this new column for the Bulletin.

I have been impressed with the amount of interest in the USA in Australian natives. There is actually an orchid nursery on the west coast that specialises in Australian orchids. Lots of discussion about how to grow *Dendrobium speciosum*. I confess to being very amused by the difficulties that one American had with growing *Dendrobium kingianum* - but I guess it's all in what you are used to.

One fellow from Seattle gave this tip on saving paphs without roots. 'When I do find a weak plant, now I know I can save it, where before it was just resigning myself to watching it die slowly. I take the plant with bad or NO roots what-so-ever and wrap the bottom with the moss and then place it in a large zip loc bag, blow it full of air and shut it. I keep the bag under the lowest bench so that it wont ever overheat when we have sunny days. ( not likely this time of year, but does happen a lot in summer) It usually take 6 months or more, but I am always rewarded with really nice healthy long roots.'

Another thing that fascinated me was the interest in potting in straight perlite. The idea is to use a plastic container without holes, put some holes in the side about 2 cm from the bottom and pot the plant into straight perlite. The bottom of the container holds water and holes keep the level right. Root growth is said to be fantastic. The pots are not very stable and prone to fall over because they are so light and there was lots of discussion about what to put on top of the perlite to make it look better. Hmmm.

Enough for this time I think.  
*Jane Wright*

### **SOCIETY NAME BADGES**

Now that the logo issue has been resolved, the Society is moving ahead on improving the name badges that we all wear at the meetings. At the moment we are getting quotes on a plastic name badge similar to the Committee badges, and expect to have the name badges ready to hand out in a month or two. Each financial member will receive a personalised name badge to start. Each new member will receive a personalised badge within 6 months of joining, rather than the round society badge they receive now. Replacement badges will be available to the

membership at cost when we make our badge order every 6 months or so.

## MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

As you will have seen in the Library News column from Lynne, there are several books missing for which you are asked to check your homes to see if you can locate any of these books and return them - please!

The books are:

1. Growing Orchids in the Home - Cohen & Roberts
2. Native Orchids - Junior Survival - Gould League of Victoria
3. Cymbidiums - G & S Guest
4. The Orchadian - 1994 Vol 6
6. Growing Orchids No 2 - Cattleyas and Other Epiphytes - J Rentoul
7. Expanding Your Collection - J Rentoul
8. Orchid Productions - P Spence

Quite a number of Orchid Society Bulletins are also missing. As the Library is for the use of all we would be happy to have these books and magazines returned. You can always borrow them again!

Sheila Cudmore - President

## MY FAVOURITE ORCHID...

### *Sophronitis cernua*

At this time of year my plant of *Soph cernua* has developed its two new growths for the year. Does not sound like much, but *cernua* is a miniature orchid and relatively slow growing. The real reward not surprisingly is in the flowers.

The first time it flowered was such a surprise. The new growth was developing nicely, with a closed leaf clearly extending from the growth. Then one day I came out to see that this leaf had opened and between the leaf was a mass of creamy, orange buds. Even more surprising within only a week or so of the growth splitting the buds had coloured up and opened.

From each growth I have managed to get between 6 to 10 flowers. The flowers are a clean bright orange colour with the a lovely deep purple in the centre (pollinia). Each flower is about two centimetres. The flowers are very

round and resemble *Cattleya aurantiaca* and some of the miniature *Laelias* in shape.

I have had the plant for about five years. I bought it from our guest speaker, Jack Jenise (I hope his surname is spelt like that). My faithful encyclopedia, Mark Fraser was away at the time and I knew nothing about what I was buying except that it was a species and it was a *Sophronitis* which I have always associated with cool growing plants and the fact that on the tag it said it was from Brazil, home of some of our other orchids.

This was my own personal little find which has flowered every year for me. I grow it on my north facing kitchen window, which has shade cloth over it during the Winter period when the northern sun is low and intense. It is mounted on a small slab of tree fern so needs regular watering. Once a week in winter, and whenever I think of it in Summer which is usually at least twice a week. I am very casual with my little favourite, low humidity, little fertiliser and Winter nights that can sometimes get down to about 3°C.

*Soph. cernua* is a Brazilian native and grows on both trees and rocks throughout Eastern Brazil, in the coastal lowlands and inland Savannah country. Closely allied to *Soph. acunae*, from higher altitudes, it is quite possible our plant may in fact be *acunae*, considering the cooler less humid conditions we give it.

*Soph. cernua* or *acunae* is very hard to come by, I was very lucky to have found such a plant and at one of our meetings. It is rumoured that *cernua* may be available from Tinonee, and you could always try Jodie's Orchid Nursery, Burleigh Park or Mount Beenak. I would love to give you all a cutting from my baby but even after four years it is still quite a small plant.

## ABOUT THE BULLETIN

One of the functions of the Society is the regular production of the Bulletin. What is the Bulletin for? Its primary function is to help keep members informed of what is going on in the Society. To this end the bulk of the material is produced by the editor(s) and a number of members of the Committee.

Beyond these items we have space for articles, reviews and debate. If you would like to contribute material to the Bulletin contact Mark Fraser or Sandra Corbett.



