

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

Volume 13 Number 4

July—August 1998

News in Brief

Regular Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) in Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda St, Civic. Meetings commence at 8:00 p.m. with the trading table open from 7.30 p.m.

July Meeting

Dennis Diehm will be speaking on the subject of miniature Cattleyas. Dennis has recently won some major awards for his miniature Cattleyas. He is also a keen Phalaenopsis grower, and many of you may know him as a judge and supporter of our Society.

August Meeting

A double feature tonight! As a prelude to the Show season our own Jane Wright will lead a discussion on the qualities that are sought for in the presentation of orchids for judging. Frank Fogliati will explain how he cultivates Pleiones, a delightful Asiatic alpine group with very large flowers for the size of the plants.

26-27 September: Annual Spring Show

Are you ready? It's that time again, we are planning for the Show. Start grooming those plants, and contact the committee to get involved in the organisation of our major event!.

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Committee Meetings

July	Lila Rose
August	Sandra Corbett & Mark Fraser

Committee Members

President	Laurie Woods	6258 6187
Vice President	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Treasurer	Sandra Corbett	6287 1106
Secretary	Frank Fogliati	6236 3281

Ordinary Committee Members

Keith Alden	6297 3351
Don Chesher	6259 1041
Mark Fraser	6287 1106
Brian Leedham	6251 6621
Lila Rose	6292 7554

The Fine Print

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The Editor Notes...

Another year has passed, as well as another Annual General Meeting. This will be a year of changes for us. Firstly, welcome to our new President, Laurie Woods.

Other changes are also afoot. The reorganization of the Australian Orchid Council and the Orchid Society of New South Wales are under way. That these bodies have recognised a need for reorganisation is a positive thing, as it emphasises a recognition that they need to be responsive to the needs of all their affiliates. These days organisations have a need to ensure that they are serving their stated objectives, and are functioning equitably.

And in another reorganisation, there has been an alteration in our methodology for producing the bulletin. Hopefully over the next few issues you will see a more professional and accomplished looking bulletin, with more and better pictures and photographs. Changes are occurring everywhere at every level.

Welcome to the future!
Mark Fraser



Pleurothallis tribuloides
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<Postscript to my editorial: Sunday afternoon, and we are back after the Royale Orchid Fair. Thank you to everyone who attended, it was a happy day for all of us, catching up with old friends, and buying lots of goodies. I was particularly pleased to acquire a number of Neofinetia hybrids and a cheerfully offensive little *Pleurothallis tribuloides*. 37 travellers is a

record effort for the Society, and meant that we were able to have a final coach fare of \$25.00 per head! MF>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 5 MAY 1998

Attendance: 46 Apologies: 5

President Jane Wright opened the meeting at 8.04pm welcoming members and guests, including Les Fox, a visitor from New Zealand.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the March & April meetings were accepted; moved on the motion of Mari Millucci and seconded by Ben Wallace.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Sandra Corbett

- Current bank balance is \$6914.75
- The Society's financial year concluded 30 April, with the annual report to be presented at the AGM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Frank Fogliati

Inwards -

Newsletters:

- Albury-Wodonga, Gosford, Campbelltown & District, Kiama & District, OSNSW, Wagga Wagga - April
- Albury-Wodonga- May

Letters:

- D & J Errington- payment for advertisement
- Hort. Society of Canberra- thank you for Show participation
- Communication Station- invoice for April
- Gosford & Dist.- Australasian Orchid & Exotic Plant Spectacular
- Austmoss- invoice
- Eric Young Foundation- declined offer to speak
- OSNSW- changes to AOC constitution
- Orchid Club of SA Inc.- discounts on publications
- Sky High Orchid Wholesalers- inaugural open weekend
- Vancouver Orchid Society- 16th. WOC information
- Tinonee Orchid Nursery- complimentary gift voucher
- OSNSW- Ira Butler Trophy, Meritorious Service Award

- E. Callanan- membership dues
- Orchid Productions- orchid adventure brochures
- Communication Station- invoice for May
- Helen Hufton- membership dues

Catalogues:

- Tinonee Orchid Nursery
- P & R Orchids
- Orquidário Quinta do Lago (Brazil)
- Orchidaceous Books
- Merric Nursery
- Northern Beaches Australasian Orchids
- Stockers Nursery

Library:

- Orchids (AOS)- February
- Australian Orchid Review- April/May

Outwards -

- Beryl Robertson- invitation to speak

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted; moved on the motion of Lila Rose and seconded by Keith Alden.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- membership dues- discount applies until 30/6; however members must be financial before the AGM to vote or stand for the committee
- '98-'99 committee- nomination forms available; Sandra Corbett is the returning officer; nominations close 10 days before the AGM
- the committee has approved a \$100 donation to the AOF research project on 'Micropropagation of native terrestrial orchids'
- members were reminded about coming events; northside open glasshouse day; Peat's Ridge bus trip; - details as per bulletin
- popular vote and benching details were outlined, including 'Plant of the Night' category

SALES TABLE

- catalogue table- this new idea was introduced to members
- *Masdevallia veitchiana* seedlings ex-flask
- Vandaceous seedlings from Brighton

GUEST SPOT

Laurie Woods introduced our guest speaker, John Riley. John is an exceptional floral artist and a skilled grower of native terrestrial orchids. Members were treated to a stunning exhibition of his drawings and prints. In additions to his illustrations, John provided many fine living examples of his work with Australian terrestrial orchids, including a *Corybas* in bud. John shared much of his knowledge on terrestrial cultivation; including his successful media mix, repotting techniques for various genera, and ways to promote flowering in *Corybas*. Water and fertiliser regimes were also discussed. Finally John presented slides of his orchids, including an explanation of the fascinating pollination process of *Pterostylis*.

NEW MEMBERS Nil

DOOR PRIZE David Rees, Orietta Serenelli

RAFFLE Lila Rose, Jessie Pearce, Heinz Greve

Meeting closed 10.26pm

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
2 JUNE 1998**

Attendance: 43 Apologies: 4

President Laurie Woods opened the meeting at 8.23pm welcoming members and guests. As his first official duty Laurie invited David Rentz to give, on behalf of the Society, a special Committee Service Award to Jane Wright. David spoke very highly of Jane and her services to the Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Sandra Corbett

- Current bank balance is \$7173.75

The Treasurer's report was accepted; moved on the motion of Mark Fraser and seconded by Robyn Noel.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Frank Fogliati

Inwards -

Newsletters:

- Alpine Garden Society (UK)- March
- Griffith- April
- OSNSW, Illawarra, Gosford & District, Kiama & District - May

Letters:

- Orchids Australia- credit for magazine return
- OSNSW- Winter Orchid Festival
- Griffin Centre- Griffin Centre Accommodation Working Party Report
- OSNSW- Information & Discussion Paper/AOC Constitution Changes
- Griffith Orchid Society- thank you for invitation to Royale
- Cymbidium Orchid Society of Vic.- Australian Cymbidium Festival
- Gosford & District- Winter Orchid Festival
- Merv & Joan Lane- membership dues
- Horticultural Solutions- product information
- Sky High Orchid Wholesalers- inaugural open weekend
- OSNSW- response to speaker list query
- Eastlake Football Club- information re: facilities/ functions

Catalogues:

- Norm Collins- Pleione

Library:

- Alpine Garden Society (UK)- March

Outwards -

- OSNSW- proxy vote & comments re: speaker list

The Secretary's report was accepted; moved on the motion of Robert Rough and seconded by Mari Millucci.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- popular vote and Show certificates were distributed to various members
- Pleione order to be placed with Norm Collins, members were also directed to the book 'Pleiones at Gladysdale' which is now on sale for \$10.

SALES TABLE

- Native terrestrials, potted and growing, were on sale at very reasonable prices.
- Pleione bulb order to Norm Collins to follow next committee meeting. Pleione books on sale at \$10.

GUEST SPOT

Mark Fraser presented a talk 'Lines from the Library', in which he detailed the publications available for loan

through the Society and also items available through other sources. Mark spoke about, and demonstrated by example, the various categories; beginners books, cultural guides, the 'Floras', encyclopedias, picture books and journals. Suggestions as to the best use of each type of publication were made to members.

NEW MEMBERS Nil

DOOR PRIZE Kyra Suthern, Angela Wallace, Priscilla Greeve

RAFFLE Irene Altinger, Chris Wallace, Kyra Suthern

Meeting closed 9.52pm.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2 JUNE 1998

Attendance: 43 Apologies: 4

President Jane Wright opened the AGM at 8.01 and handed over to the Returning Officer Kevin Osborne.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 1997/98

The Orchid Society has had another good year, with old and new friends sharing our common love of orchids. Your committee worked hard and successfully at bringing a full program of speakers and social events to pass. Robyn Noel, as vice-president, took the helm on numerous occasions this year when my work took me out of town. Sandra Corbett did a marvellous job again as treasurer. Frank Fogliati kept the society's correspondance up to date and also launched the Society onto the World Wide Web. Lila Rose once again acted as our link with the Horticultural Society and took responsibility for the Popular Vote, ably assisted by Kate Ziesak. Keith Alden and Mark Fraser kept the supplies and plants flowing on the sales table, Laurie Woods worked on the sales table, helped organise speakers and came up with some great ideas (I know he'll be great president). Even though they were not on committee, Lynne Bullivant minded the library, Brian Phelan provided supper at each meeting and Sheila Cudmore minded the desk at the door.

A great many other members contributed in so many ways at the spring show and the Hort shows, opening their glasshouses, and simply helping out at meetings. I speak for the Committee too when I say how gratified we have been at the good response we have had from the membership to our various activities. Thank you all.

Jane Wright

Treasurer's Report

- Details as per attached Balance and Income & Expenditure sheets.
- The Society made a slight surplus for the year, including a pleasing profit for the Show.

The Treasurer's report was accepted on the motion of Lila Rose and seconded by Laurie Woods.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 1997 AGM held on 3 June 1997 were accepted on the motion of Keith Alden and seconded by Robyn Noel.

Committee Nominations

Kevin Osborne announced that no voting would occur as he had received only one nomination per vacancy. The following committee members were elected:

President- Laurie Woods

Vice President- Robyn Noel

Secretary- Frank Fogliati

Treasurer- Sandra Corbett

General Committee- Keith Alden, Don Chesher, Mark Fraser, Brian Leedham, Lila Rose.

The AGM closed at 8.23 pm

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The Committee has awarded the 1998 Meritorious Service Award to Laurence Woods. Laurie has given much of his own time and resources to assisting the Society. During this last year Laurie arranged for the collection of between 300 & 500 phalaenopsis then organising a working bee to repot the same - in fact he's still looking after quite a lot of them. He also designed and built the famous 'Stairway to Heaven' for the Orchid Society display at the Orchid Heaven '97 (the Regional Conference).

Laurie is always keen to help members from the newest to the most established. He has helped build glasshouses, shadehouses, benches and all manner of equipment to help his fellow growers. The Society has recognised the enthusiasm, generosity and energy of Laurie by awarding him the Meritorious Service Award. Thanks Laurie.

Coming Events

7 - 9 August 1998

Gosford Orchid Spectacular: get your plants ready, are you ready? This is one of the great Shows to attend. All going well, we may be competing again this year!

The Spectacular is a great opportunity to meet growers, and to see an enormous variety of plants both on display and for sale. Some remarkable bargains occasionally pop up here, and it was through Gosford that we got to better know Orchidaceous Books, Robertson Orchids, and Johnstone Orchids!

26 - 27 September 1998

Our Spring Show. Start grooming your plants, or if you are enthusiastic, talk to the committee about how you can help at the show.

Our shows enjoy a reputation for the diversity of plants displayed, and we keep striving to improve. Our Show schedule is being used by other Societies. To keep running successful shows we really need your assistance and support.

Exploring the *Huntleya* alliance

Lurking in the *Zygopetalinae* (or *Zygopetalum* sub tribe) is an odd group of plants that are more than a little mysterious. The flowers, generally borne singly, can be heavy and waxy or delicate and diaphanous. Many are fragrant. Structurally these plants bear little resemblance to *Zygopetalum*, *Pabstia* or *Neogardneria*, instead pseudobulbs are greatly reduced or absent, plants being composed of loose fans of leaves. The leaves themselves are generally flat and thin; in texture and substance resembling a *Lycaste*.

So who are these strangers? Most famous of this group is the genus *Huntleya*. Linked to it are the genera *Benzingia*, *Bollea*, *Chaubardia*, *Chaubardiella*, *Chondrorhyncha*, *Cochleanthes*, *Kefersteinia* *Pescatorea*, and a handful of others. I refer to them as the *Huntleya* complex, a term which some authors use, and which immediately segregates them from their better known relatives.

What common features do these plants share? They are epiphytes, lithophytes and terrestrials and are distributed throughout Central and northern South America. The northern limit appears to be Mexico, whilst they are found in Peru and Brazil to the South. Through the resources of the Icones CD-ROM I have been able to establish a more or less consistent pattern regarding plant habitats. Most of these plants are from relatively low in the forest, in shady protected areas. Many are native to cloud forests, where swirling mists saturate the air. Whilst some are lowland species, all of the details I have seen to date agree that these plants come from shady, wet and humid areas.

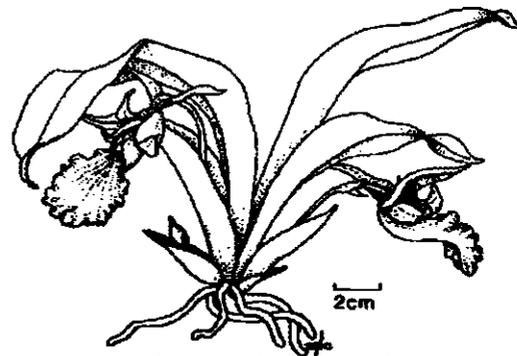
a diverse variety of conditions. Indeed, you will often see the same species being described as cool, intermediate or warm growing. Obviously, the lowland equatorial species are going to prefer greater warmth than a high altitude Peruvian or Venezuelan species. The few species I have experimented with seem to do well in the conditions shared by Masdevallias and other Pleurothallids.



Huntleya burtii
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The flowers are spectacular and variable. Some *Huntleyas* possess huge 20 cm blooms, while *Chaubardiella* and some others are only 3 - 5 cm in diameter. The colours range from the bronze metallic tones of the larger *Huntleyas*, to the delicate pastel greens of many of the *Chondrorhyncas* and *Kefersteinias*. In these latter cases, and in some others such as *Bollea*, *Pescatorea* and *Cochleanthes* the flower can contain strongly contrasting colours, white and blue, yellow and maroon, green and purple.

Cultivating these plants is a matter of being prepared to experiment and take risks. You will almost certainly lose some of them, however a few general notes can be offered. Cultural guides are notoriously obtuse in discussing this group of plants, describing them as growing in



Cochleanthes amazonica
© 1997 Lightbinders

A constant factor with these orchids is the need for good air movement. Like the *Pleurothallids* these plants can suffer from fungal and bacterial problems, especially if the air is too still. These plants need good air circulation to protect their insubstantial foliage, which is the only storage tissue they possess.

Given the shady environments these plants come from I have found that they seem to adapt well to cultivation in bright shade, say near an east facing window. Certainly little or no direct sun (other than early morning) seems necessary.

As far as containers go, when happy these plants will produce vigorous coarse root systems, similar in size and texture to *Odontoglossums* and *Cattleyas*. A well drained pot is a must, as is the use of a good quality potting mix, bark or sphagnum or whatever you prefer. We use tight packed sphagnum and seem to be getting positive results from it. Repot plants carefully, and take care to avoid root damage as the root systems of this group seem to grow and develop over a long period. These plants do not seem to have a real dormant season, so keep the leaves turgid!

What about the flowers? Well, we are yet to get to that stage yet, but I look forward to

seeing those magical blooms. I will admit that *Huntleya meleagris*, *burtii* and *wallisii* are to my mind amongst the most beautiful orchids of all, metallic and reptilian stars of the dark cloud forests and the cliffs of Auyuan Tepui...
Mark Fraser

Presenting material for publication: We want your thoughts!

We like to receive contributions from our members, discussing any elements of orchid culture. If you want to submit an article either give it to me at a meeting, or drop it off at 19 Kalgoorlie Crescent, Fisher.

If you want to discuss any issues about writing for the bulletin I am more than happy to answer enquiries, but please don't ring me before 7:30 p.m., as Sandra and I are currently working long hours, and need some time to collect our thoughts.

I would prefer material to be submitted as either a typed document, or on a 3.5" diskette, with the document in saved as either a Word document (no later than version 6.0 if you use a Macintosh computer) OR a .TXT or Word for Windows 2.0 .DOC if you are using a Windows or DOS based computer. Whilst I do use a later version of Word I have found that some unpleasant errors can creep into documents saved using later formats when they move across platforms.

One last and very important note about material presented on disk. Do not use styles or elaborate tab schemes, as I am only going to have to strip them out for the final version of the bulletin. If you want material presented in a specific manner, please provide me with a printed version, so that I can attempt to fit your style into that of this publication. Mark Fraser

Popular Vote Results - March 1998 Addendum

Intermediate Cattleya *Laeliocattleya* Brierley's Ferry 'Razzamatazz' Robert Rough

Popular Vote Results - May 1998

Cattleya Alliance Species *Laelia perrinii* 'Coerulea' Lynne Bullivant
Standard Cattleya *Brassolaeliocattleya* (Fortune 'Golden Throne' x Toshi Aoki 'Pizzazz')

Terry Turner

Intermediate Cattleya *Cattleya* Portia 'Cannizaro' Terry Turner

Miniature Cattleyas *Laeliocatonia* Tina Robert Rough

Oncidium Alliance *Odontioda* (Murray River x Golden Fire) Brian Phelan

Paphiopedilum Alliance *Phragmipedium besseae* ('Mont Millais' x 'F') Keith Alden

Pleurothallid Hybrids *Masdevallia* (Angel Frost x *uniflora*) Jane Wright

Pleurothallid Species *Masdevallia macrura* 'Thanks George' Priscilla Greve

Masdevallia ignea Priscilla Greve

Vandaceous *Phalaenopsis* (Paifangs Queen x *mariae* 'Gung Ho') Keith Alden

Other Species *Sophronitis cernua* Priscilla Greve

Other Hybrids *Dendrobium* ((*conanthum* x *lasianthera*)x *conanthum*) Ben Wallace

Orchid of the Night *Phragmipedium besseae* ('Mont Millais' x 'F') Keith Alden

Popular Vote Results - June 1998

Cattleya Alliance Species *Laelia anceps* 'Chamberlains' Judy Osborne

Standard Cattleya

Brassolaeliocattleya (Pamela Heatherington x *Laeliocattleya* Persepolis 'Splendour')

Terry Turner

Intermediate Cattleya

Laeliocattleya (Wrigleyii x *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop 'Kodama') Robert Rough

Miniature Cattleyas *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Ateshpere 'Flamingo Light' Robert Rough

Oncidium Alliance *Degarmoara* Winter Wondeland 'White Fairy' Priscilla Greve

Paphiopedilum Alliance *Phragmipedium besseae* ('Mont Millais' x 'F') Keith Alden

Pleurothallid Hybrids *Masdevallia* (Bella Donna 'Prima' x *urosalspinx*) Don Chesher

Pleurothallid Species
Vandaceous
Any Other Orchid
Novice Orchid

Masdevallia strobellii 'Marni'
Vanda (Ratirat x *coerulea* 'Kultana')
Coelogyne Mem William Micholitz
Laeliocattleya (Oriental Splendour x Scarlet Imp)

Priscilla Greve
Keith Alden
Don Chesher
Kratai Clarke

Orchid of the Night

Vanda (Ratirat x *coerulea* 'Kultana')

Keith Alden

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