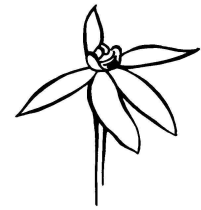


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

Petochilus fuscatus



GPO Box 612, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia
Volume 23, Number 5

Sept-Oct 2008

Regular monthly meetings

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first **Wednesday** of each month (except January) at the **Seventh Day Adventist Church, corner Gould and Macleay St. Turner**. Meetings commence at 8:00pm with the library and trading table open from 7:30pm.

September 2008: Bill Miles from Orchid Species Plus

October 2008: Sam Tsui from Orchids Inn USA

November 2008: Kelli Gowland on fungi and orchids

December 2008: Christmas Party

Orchid Society of Canberra Events

Horticultural Society of Canberra Sept 13-14

Wesley Centre, National Circuit Forrester ACT

Orchid Society of Canberra Spring Show Oct 4-5

St. John's Church, Reid ACT

Upcoming Orchid Events

WA Orchid Spectacular Sept 26-29 at Belmont Oasis
Leisure Centre, Belmont WA

Albury-Wodonga Orchid Show Oct 11-12

Mirambeena Centre, Lavington

Sapphire Coast Orchid Spring Show Sept 18-19

Bega Town Hall, Bega

President's Comments:

As we come towards the Show, now is the time to be looking at your orchids and beginning preparations. Stake flowers if required and clean up the plant and pot for good presentation. I would like to encourage everyone to consider entering flowering plants in the show. There are many different classes for plants. Also remember that there are shows coming up for the Horticultural Society of Canberra and they also love plants on show from our Society. Details are later in this bulletin.

The Show in October is a major event for the Society and I encourage everyone to help out in any way they can. We need people on Friday afternoon to help setup the room and also on Sunday afternoon to help clean it up after the Show. We also need people to be there during the show to help with the Sales and entrance table as well as other jobs. Please bring your slices, cakes and sandwiches for sale at the café.

I would also encourage as many members as possible to come to the next few meetings. The September

speaker is Bill Miles of Orchid Species Plus who is a very knowledgeable speaker. Then in October we have Sam Tsui from America who is speaking on Paphs. and bringing all those flasks you ordered. The speaker in November is Kelli Gowland who will speak on her PhD research on orchids.

REMINDER of 2008/9 DUES

This is a reminder that our new fiscal year started on the first of May and therefore, Annual Subscriptions are due at the next meeting. Please either send your dues check to Treasurer, P.O. Box 612, Canberra or bring it or money to the next club meeting to renew your membership. Our fiscal year ended April 30. **If you have a red dot on your bulletin or an Email, this will be your last bulletin until your dues are paid.**

Annual Subscriptions

\$25 single, \$30 joint, \$5 junior membership.

*****Trophy holders*****

In preparation for the Spring Show, please bring all trophies (polished please!) to the September meeting or contact a committee member to make arrangements to return the trophies.

Committee Members

President-- Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Vice President- Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Treasurer- Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Secretary- Barbara Corsini	04 24836108
Robert Bush	6297 1427
Kevin Dawes	6259 6405
Jim Harper	6254 9618
Scott Mann	
Robert Rough	6241 2729

Committee meetings:

Sept 8: Robyn Noel

Disclaimer

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of this Bulletin

The Horticultural Society of Canberra Show

The September show will be **13-14 September** and held in Lancaster Hall of the Wesley Centre on National Circuit, Forrest. There is a large table in the middle of the show that has our orchids for judging. To enter plants, call **Jim or Robyn Donlan** at 6255 1371 or Email at jdonlan@internode.on.net or call **Jan Livingston** on 6242 9665 **at the latest by 8 PM** on the Thursday before the show. Plants should be brought to the hall on Friday before the show from 6:00 – 10:00 PM. Since we only have one show each year, this is another opportunity to display those plants that you have in bloom. You might win a prize! It is also good for the Society to show off to other plant lovers the diversity and quality of the plants that we grow and to convert some gardeners to orchid growers.

Orchid Society Spring Show **4-5 October 2008**

With this bulletin, you will receive a show schedule and entry form. Set up will be on Friday 3 October starting at noon, judging on Saturday morning, and the show open the public 11AM-5PM on Saturday and noon – 4:30PM Sunday.

Plant registration

This year, to register your plants all you have to do is to list them in an Email with their class and send it to Bill Ferris via the website (orcsoc@geocities.com), fill out the form on the Website or write it out and give it to Bill at the meeting on Wednesday October 1. You will be assigned numbers which you can pick up when you deliver your plants. **Please send Bill a list of all plants that you might bring.** It is a lot easier to drop a plant out than to add it at the time of the plant delivery.

Also make a note of any seedlings. If you are not sure about the Class talk to the Show Registrar- Bill Ferris (6297 5635) or the Show Marshal Mark Fraser (6287 1106).

You may also log onto the website and either file your list directly or download a Word form which can be returned to Bill Ferris by Email. The Registrar will prepare the stickers to go on your pots. These will be placed in an envelope along with your popular vote stickers.

Between 5.00pm - 9.00pm on Friday 3 October bring your plants and collect your envelope, match and attach the stickers (registration and popular vote) to the plants on your list. Then you take the plant and put it on the bench in the appropriate class area.

If you are unable to register before the show you can still register plants on Friday evening just as you have done in the past.

Make sure the ID numbers are on your entry sheet and give the sheet to the registrar. **THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT**, as it helps with getting the names correct later on the certificates.

Orchids owned for less than 6 months

If you recently purchased an orchid that is not eligible for showing you can still display it in an area reserved for plants that have been owned for less than six months.

Sale of art entries

Entries in the Art, Craft, Photography and Floral Art Sections may be sold but these may not be removed from the Show until 4:30pm on Sunday. Prices should include the Society's **10%** commission.

Plants for sales table

Members are invited to bring orchids to sell. Make sure that they are well-established and firm in their pots, and are clean and healthy. Remember that many plants will be bought by beginners. Please do not place any sickly, infested or poorly established plants on the sales table, as the marshals will be forced to remove them from sale. Please include a separate tag with your name and price marked clearly so that the sales table team can read it easily. Prices posted on plants are assumed to include the Society's **10%** sales commission.

Plant sales on Friday night

Members and other show participants will be able to purchase plants from the society's sales table on Friday night once it is ready. We need all hands on deck when the doors open on Saturday morning and so it seems fair to sell to members on Friday evening so they don't miss out. *Note that all plants purchased on Friday evening must be paid for and removed on Friday evening, otherwise they will be returned to the table for sale on Saturday.*

Show Sponsors

Our generous sponsors enrich our show by donating prizes and trophies. They deserve our support. Please check your Show Schedule and keep the list of sponsors handy so that next time you need supplies you can support the businesses that support us.

Helping Out !!

Sign-up sheets will be available at the September meeting, but if you can't make it then call Ben Walcott (6161 2742) or Email him (bwalcott@netspeed.com.au) to sign up for your 1.5 hr slot. We need people to help on the sales table (people to take the money and people to talk to the customers), to help in the kitchen, to take the

entry fees and sell raffle tickets at the door, and to walk around the show to talk to the visitors. Of course, there's the setting up and taking down too – many hands make light work. **Also, Audrey would appreciate the donation of nice cakes, slices and sandwiches for the café.** So no matter how knowledgeable you are or aren't yet about orchids, there is something you can do to help out and we look forward to having a wonderful time together at the show.

The most important thing that we need is **lots of flowering plants on our show tables, and art, craft and photography entries.** This is what attracts visitors to our show, aside from the great catering!

TIPS ON PREPARING PLANTS FOR THE SHOW

First, make sure that the plant is clean, and that you have removed unsightly dead leaves and bracts. This first step makes a big difference to the way a plant appears. If the plant has dusty or dirty leaves you may want to wash them. Hold the leaf firmly by the base with one hand to make sure you don't pull it off altogether, and gently wash the leaf using a soft cloth. Popular techniques include using a mixture of water and milk or just plain water. NOTE. This technique should not be used on species that have a natural waxy bloom on leaves such as many brassavolas, *Kolopternix* (*Epidendrum sophonitis*), or *Encyclia citrina*.

Make sure that the plant is in a clean pot: if the pot is dirty you may want to try cleaning it, or you may find it easier to double pot the plant into a second container. This can be quite decorative, and a number of our members use a variety of decorative pots and containers.

Next, please check your plants for all manner of pests and diseases. Every year the Show Marshals have the unhappy task of disqualifying the odd plant for suspected disease or infestation. It is in everyone's best interests to make sure that their plants are free of all insects and other pests. An orchid show offers a rich opportunity for all manner of nasty creatures to colonise new plants and display their maleficent claw and mandible work.

Make sure your plants are labelled clearly and legibly: the public (and other growers) want to know what plants you are showing. Whilst the good old faded plastic tag might be enough in your greenhouse, the judges need to have clearly identified. Write out a new tag with the plant's name IN FULL, that is write *Brassolaeliocattleya* rather than *Blc*. Also make sure that the plant has a tag with your name concealed under the pot or inside the pot: this helps avoid confusion later on.

If the plant is normally hung or suspended in your growing area it is your responsibility to ensure that the plant is appropriately staged. Some members have created a variety of stands for their plants: all you need is something that will display the plant to its best advantage. This is particularly important for plants with trailing or hanging flowers.

Staking is one of those tasks that should commence (but rarely does) early in the development of the flower spike. If staking is left too late the results can look rather

peculiar, as flowers can be twisted out of position. To a large extent staking is now at the individual's discretion. The judges have the right to remove the stake if they so wish. As a general aesthetic comment, be sensible with your staking, and try to keep the stake shorter than the raceme of flowers it supports: this avoids the unsightly phenomenon of the 'tomato stake syndrome', a rich and varied forest of stakes, with the occasional flower.

By all means, use additional stakes and ties to help support your flowers and racemes while you transport them to the Show but remove the 'transport stakes' once you have the plant safely benched.

Water your plants well the day before you bring them in because it will not be possible to thoroughly water them for the duration of the Show.

ORCHID DISPLAYS – A PRIMER

After the success of the displays at last year's regional conference, we have expanded the display categories a little to allow people to express their creativity again this year. For those that haven't tried a display before, these notes may help you have a go.

What makes a good display? There are 3 key elements: quality flowers, a pleasing, balanced design, and attention to the finishing detail.

1. Good quality, clean flowers on clean and healthy plants are the starting point, as for all plants in a show. Make sure they are staked properly so that they show to their best advantage.
2. There are several things to consider with design.
 - a. Consider incorporating a focal point – usually your best flower(s).
 - b. Try to achieve balance in the display. This doesn't mean that it has to be strictly symmetrical, but from a distance, the display should appear stable, not top-heavy or strongly weighted to one side. Sometimes the 'weightiness' is more about strength of colour than size or quantity of flowers.
 - c. Cohesion is important – are all the elements of the display needed and in harmony?
 - d. Use of negative space can be very effective. Displays can easily be packed with too many things, and lose impact.
 - e. Colour placement can be used to develop either harmony or contrast. It is often useful to group plants of a similar colour together and then place those groups in relation to each other.
 - f. Try to create a display that has impact from a distance and close-up.
3. Finishing detail. This involves covering up the pots and labeling the plants. The plant label should be clear and readable by the public at some distance, but not detract from the overall effect. For that reason, starkly white tags can be a disaster.

July General Meeting 2008

Attendance: 41

Apologies: Gert and Trudi Friedrich, Carol Ede, Bob and Norma Bush, Brian and Lynne Phelan.

Announcements:

Future talks -

July – Mark Clements will speak on Dendrobiums

August – Dennis Diehm from Dendi Orchids. Dennis will speak on breeding orchids

September – Bill Miles from 'Orchid Species Plus'

October – Sam Tsui will speak on slipper orchids and Catasetums

Guest Speaker:

The night's speaker was Mark Clements. Mark is a researcher on orchids with the Herbarium at the Australian National Botanic Gardens and he has done a lot of work on the genus Dendrobium. According to DNA work that he has done, as well as comparing the morphological characteristics of many orchids with type specimens (the original described genus/species, often a pressed/preserved specimen but can also be a plate drawing), Australia has only one true Dendrobium and that is Dendrobium stuartii. This species is most closely related to the Dendrobium aphyllum group. (It was interesting to find that many type specimens were in fact plate drawings rather than pressed/preserved specimens, and some were actually only written descriptions). This finding has meant that Mark has renamed the genus of many Australian 'Dendrobiums'. This has upset many orchid growers, but as Mark said, the orchids need to be compared to the type specimens to find their true origins. Mark was able to show us his DNA tree for the orchids he has worked on and once this tree is seen his argument is quite convincing. A member asked Mark where he drew the line when it came to splitting off genus, and Mark's response was that he thought a genus should have a single origin. The single origins of his newly named genus were clear in his DNA tree. Other institutions do not necessarily agree with Mark's findings, and while many growers do find his research convincing, it is obvious that it is still hard for many people to change over to the new names. Many of the new names have been published with more to come.

Secretary's report:

Publications – Australian Orchid Review

Newsletters – Albury-Wodonga (June), Eurobodalla (July), Sapphire Coast (June), OSNSW (June), Gosford and District (June), Bateman's Bay (June).

Other – A winter catalogue from Burbank Orchids and fliers for open gardens and other orchid shows (see Barbara Corsini/secretary if interested).

Report moved by Ben Walcott, seconded by Robyn Noel and accepted by all.

Treasurer's report:

The bank balance is just over \$20,000

Report moved by Ben Walcott, seconded by Anne Mackenzie and accepted by all.

Judges course: There will be a new course coming up to train for judging orchids.

Raffle winners: Bob Evans, Sheila Cudmore, Terry Turner, Kevin Dawes, Kay Chee Lance.

Lucky door prize: Nita Wheeler

August General Meeting 2008

Attendance: 49

Apologies: Carol Ede, Lynne and Brian Phelan, Theo and Jenny Shutz

Visitors: Marilu Costa

Announcements: Members were reminded to sign in when attending meetings for our insurance and that those who are still to pay membership fees will be reminded with a red dot on the coming bulletin. Robyn also announced a number of shows that were coming up (see Robyn for details)

Guest speaker:

The night's speaker was Dennis Diehm from Dendi Orchids in Griffith. Dennis breeds orchids and he spoke on how he chooses the parents and the process that he goes through. He stated first that his approach is not scientific, rather, when he has a successful cross he needs to try to remember what he has done and retrace his procedure. He said that when breeding from orchids he considers the parentage, if it has been a good past breeder, and the desired results. To help there are now good CD-ROMs available that also show (in pictures) the parentage and history of many hybrids available on the market. Dennis showed us slides of the many beautiful hybrids that he has created. After a cross is made Dennis sends the green pods off to a laboratory to be germinated. It is important to note that seedling variation is part of the game, and therefore many of the offspring will not be worth keeping. After all the careful deliberations, luck seems to play a part. It is also impossible to keep all of the seedlings so many are sold off before flowering has occurred, so potentially some great results are sold along with the rest. Ultimately to be successful, the three P's were required: passion, persistence and patience.

Secretary's report:

Publications – The Orchid Review (July-August), Orchid Digest (July, August, Sept).

Newsletters – Hort Society of Canberra Winter Bulletin, Campbelltown and District, Albury-Wodonga, Sapphire Coast, OSNSW, Bateman's Bay, Gosford and District, Miriam Ann.

Other – Catalogue from Easy Orchids and a flier for the Berry 2008 Garden Festival.

Report moved by Leanda, seconded by Mari and approved by all.

Treasurer's report: Balance is at \$20,700

Report moved by Bill, seconded by Barbara and accepted by all.

Raffle winners: Jim Harper, Jan Furniss, Kevin Dawes, Bill Osmand, Bob Forrester, Marilu Costa.

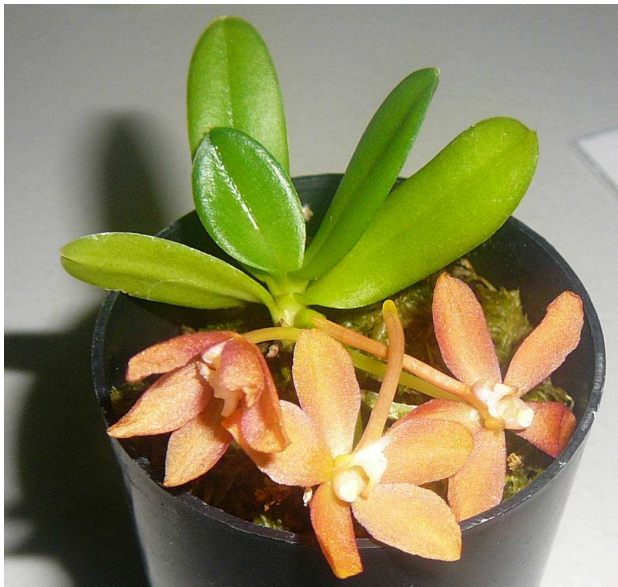
Lucky doors: Martin Zierholz, Ann Osmand



Best of the Night and Judge's Choice Species July
Den. chlorostylum grown by Mark Clements



Best of the Night and Judge's Choice Hybrid August
Paph. Harold Koopowitz grown by David Judge



Judge's Choice Hybrid July
Ceratasiella Rosebud (*Amesiella phillipense* X *Ceratocentrum fesselii*)
Grown by Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbet



Judge's Choice Species August
Dockrillia teretifolia grown by Ben Wallace

Popular Vote July 2008

	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>C. Little Suzy 'Fay'</i>	Ben Walcott
Laeliinae species	<i>Enc. cochleata</i>	Nita Wheeler
Coelogyne species	<i>Dendrochilum cootesii</i>	Don Chesher
Vanda Alliance hybrid	<i>Ascda. Peggy Foo var Angelina</i>	Jane Wright
Bulbophyllum Alliance	<i>Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Bucklebury'</i>	Sandra Corbet and Mark Fraser
Australian Terrestrials	<i>Acianthus sp.</i>	Nita Wheeler
Dendrobium alliance	<i>Den. chlorostylum</i>	Mark Clements
Paphiopedilum alliance hybrid	<i>Paph. Psyche</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Pleurothallid Alliance hybrid	<i>Masd. Pinwheel</i>	Jane Wright
Pleurothallid Alliance species	<i>Masd. veitchiana</i>	Tina Anderson
Any Others	<i>Cochleanthus amazonica 'Royale'</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Orchid of the Night	<i>Den. chlorostylum</i>	Mark Clements
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Ceratasiella Rosebud (Ameziella phillipense X Ceratocentrum fessellii)</i>	Sandra Corbet and Mark Fraser
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Den. chlorostylum</i>	Mark Clements

Popular Vote August 2008

	Plant	Owner
Cymbidium hybrid	<i>Cym. Without Peer 'Soft Touch'</i>	Ros Walcott
Laeliinae hybrid	Lc. Amaroo	Rob Rough
Coelogyne hybrid	<i>Coel. Linda Buckley</i>	Don Chesher
Coelogyne species	<i>Coel. cristata</i>	Jane Wright
Vanda Alliance species	<i>Ascda. Peggy Foo 'Angelina'</i>	Jane Wright
Oncidium Alliance hybrid	<i>Onc. sarcatum 'Mirian Anne'</i>	David Judge
Australian Terrestrials	<i>Corysanthes incurva</i>	Mark Clements
Australian Dendrobium species	<i>Dock. teretifolia</i>	Ben Wallace
Australian Dendrobium hybrid	<i>Den. Pee Wee X falcorostrum</i>	Kevin Dawes
Paphiopedilum alliance species	<i>Paph. hirsutissimum</i>	David Judge
Paphiopedilum alliance hybrid	<i>Paph. Harold Koopowitz</i>	David Judge
Pleurothallid Alliance hybrid	<i>Masd. Copper Angel (Highlander)</i>	Bill Osmand
Any Others	<i>Den. tortile</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paph. Harold Koopowitz</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paph. Harold Koopowitz</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Dock. teretifolia</i>	Ben Wallace

Contributions to the Bulletin

You can get material to the editor by the following means:

In person: At meetings, or if I am not there to either Robyn Noel or Barbara Corsini.

By mail: 10 Wickham Cres, Red Hill, ACT 2603 **not** the Orchid Soc PO Box

By phone: (02) 6161 2742 (h)

By email: bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

The Editor, Ben Walcott