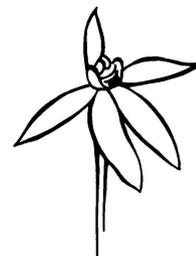


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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Petalochilus fuscatus



Volume 25, Number 4

Jul-Aug 2010

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.

July 2010: Geoff Dyne - Orchids in tropical Australia

August 2010: Ben Wallace - Orchids in Laos

Upcoming Orchid Events

Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day: 25th July, 9am - 4pm, 183 Windsor Rd Northmead.

St Ives Orchid Fair: 14th - 15th August, Saturday 9am - 4pm, Sunday 9am - 3pm, St Ives Showground.

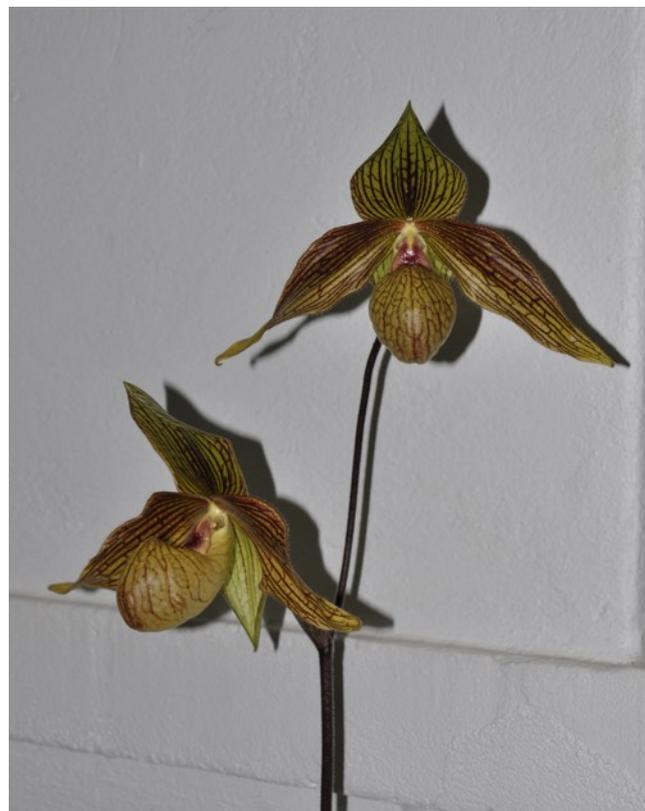
ANOS 6th Conference and Show: 25th - 29th August, Newcastle Panthers, cnr King and Union Sts, Newcastle. Show Open to the public 10am - 5pm, 27th - 29th.

President's Comments

Once again I would like to thank the Committee for all their work last year especially those who have left the Committee - Bob Bush, Kevin Dawes, Jim Harper and Ross & Tina Anderson. I would like to extend a welcome to the new members John Ryan, Peter Coyne, Bob Forester and Karen & Zoe Groeneveld and look forward to working with them during the next year. I believe we have had a fairly successful year with some very good speakers and remember if there is someone you would like to hear talk at one of our meetings, please let either myself or one of the committee know as we are always looking for different speakers. We are coming up to a busy time with preparations building up for our Show in September and it is a time to visit Shows staged by other Societies in our general area either on the coast or in Wagga. Also, if you haven't paid yet, your Membership is now due. Anyway, good growing for the coming year.

Life Membership

At the Annual General Meeting, Bob Bush was nominated for life membership for his valuable contribution to the Orchid Society and in promoting the cultivation of orchids. The proposal was supported unanimously.



Judge's Choice Hybrid for May: *Paphiopedilum* Harold Koopowitz, grown by David Judge.

Committee Members

President:	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Vice President:	Laurie Woods	6258 6187
Treasurer:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Secretary:	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Committee:	Peter Coyne	
	Bob Forrester	
	John Ryan	
	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080

Committee meetings:

July 12: Karen and Zoe Groeneveld

August 9: Robyn Noel

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Eriochilus dilatatus (White Bunny Orchid)

- Kevin Dawes.

I recently returned from a full-on 4WD trip to WA on the old Eyre Highway and back along the beaches and Old Telegraph Line south of the current Eyre Highway. It is almost impossible to start describing the wonderful native flowers on this trip even though many think that Spring is the time to go. If it is better in Spring then I can't wait to go again. But, the timing was definitely wrong for orchids. Although *Eriochilus* was the only one to be seen (Fitzgerald River NP) it made up for it in numbers and cuteness.

It grows about 20 cm high on an initially leafless shoot with the inflorescence carrying up to 10 flowers although often only three or four. It flowers over a four month period from March to June pushing its way through ground litter on flat low lying ground close to the coast and salt air. There were literally hundreds of them and what a treat they were.

Whilst in Bremer Bay (400km west of Esperance) I found that a local woman – Barbara Miller-Hornsey has produced a book, *Some of the Orchids of Bremer Bay – An Orchid Ramble*. I found her comments on the back cover fascinating so I've quoted them here for you to share. She writes, "Where else but in a place like Bremer Bay would you find Donkey Orchids and Spider Orchids growing on the street verges and footpaths? And I wonder if there are any other places where Leek Orchids come up in hanging baskets."



Eriochilus dilatatus, photo: Kevin Dawes.



May Orchid of the Night: *Howeara Mary Eliza*, grown by Rob Rough.

Minutes of the Meeting of May 5th 2010

Members Present: 36

Apologies: Lynne and Brian Phelan, Jane Wright and Roger Williams, Theo and Jenny Schutz, Geoff Dyne

Guests: None

Robyn introduced the speaker, Neville Roper, who talked on *Sarcochilus*.

Neville said that he was growing plants in Sydney and what he was going to tell us related to Sydney conditions. Canberra would be a bit different (colder, dryer). He has *Sarcs* in flower all year round, with those that flower at "odd" times generally having progressive flowers (opening first at the base of the inflorescence and then dying off with the next flowers further down the spike). He grows them under shade cloth, although he has a small glasshouse to "push along" those plants he wants to flower for a particular show. He has one layer of 70% shade cloth in the cooler months (from Anzac day onwards), but he adds another layer of 70% in the warmer months. *Sarcs* are cool growing rainforest plants that grow on trees and rocks. They like mist, high humidity and not much light.

One of his secrets is to fertilize with a mixture of 50% blood and bone and 50% dolomite. When re-potting, he uses a shaker to sprinkle it on, but with his whole collection, he distributes it by hand not being too careful. The mixture will form brown clumps on the plants but they break down and feed the plants progressively. He fertilizes "when he thinks they need it".

He then demonstrated how to re-pot a large overgrown plant. After removing it from the pot, he pulls and twists to pull the plant apart into pieces. He finds the weaknesses in the connecting rhizomes of the plant and pulls them apart. He pots in a mixture of 8-12mm and 12-18mm cocoa peat (Orchid Mate) with some diatomic rock, perlite and bark. He hasn't had any trouble with salt in his Orchid Mate although others have said you have to wash it. He wets it before use but doesn't wash it. He says to pat or bump the mix down around the plant rather than push it with your

fingers. Pushing it down compacts it too much and doesn't allow for drainage. He believes in watering more heavily but less often. Autumn is the ideal time to re-pot Sarcs as they are starting root growth at this time.

Sarcochilus are very hard to breed. You can pollinate a lot of flowers, say 500, and get only a few pods of seed. However, he has discovered that he is able to get more pods than many other breeders and so has been encouraged to keep going. Neville then showed a lot of pictures of the crosses that he and others have made. By various combinations, he can get full white flowers with red centres, flecked reds and almost pure reds. He has also created some "poached egg" flowers, which are white with a yellow centre. He had seedlings for sale and said that it took about six years to go from pollination of the flower to the production of a seedling. He pointed out the large variety of colour forms that could come from a single cross.

Secretaries Report:

Miriam Ann Orchid Newsletter - April
Eurobodalla Orchid Club - April
Letter from Geoff Taylor ordering book
Orchids Australia - April
Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Soc. - April
Fliers for Mingara Orchid Fair and Show - 26 & 27 June
Sapphire Coast Orchid club - April
Miriam Ann Orchid Newsletter - May
Bateman's Bay Orchid and Foliage Soc. - April
Australian Orchid Review - April/May
The Orchid Spike Albury-Wodonga - May
Moved Tina Anderson and seconded Bill Ferris. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance was \$17,150.45 with little activity. The Church had been paid for the hall rental.
Moved Tina Anderson and seconded Bill Osmand.
Approved.

President's Announcements:

Robyn announced she had flyers that gave all the show dates for the Eurobodalla Orchid Club.

The next meeting is the AGM and there are a number of people retiring from the Committee. She urged anyone who was interested in participating to see a member of the Committee.

Last year at the Judge's Workshop, one of Tina Anderson's *Masdevallias* won an award of merit. Robyn gave Tina the certificate. David Judge was also given a Highly Commended HCC for his *Paphiopedilum* Harold Koopowitz.

Robyn handed out certificates and Hort. Show trophies.
Robyn announced that we will be hosting the next annual Workshop on the weekend of March 11 & 12 at the Carotel in Watson.

Raffle: (lots of plants thanks to Neville Roper) Bill Osmand, Mark Clements, Bob Forrester, Tina Anderson, Jim Harper, Ann Osmand, Peter Coyne, Ross Anderson, Tony Smith, Sylvia Timms, Julie Smith.

Door Prize: Audrey Rough.



Judge's Choice Species for May: *Vappodes lithocola* 'White', grown by Mark Clements.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 2nd 2010

1. Minutes of the previous AGM were read.
Moved Laurie Woods and seconded Jim Harper. Approved.
2. The following Committee was nominated:

President:	Robyn Noel
Vice President:	Laurie Woods
Treasurer:	Bill Ferris
Secretary:	Ben Walcott
Committee:	Zoe Groeneveld Karen Groeneveld Peter Coyne Bob Forrester John Ryan

Moved Rob Rough and seconded Mark Clements.
Approved.
3. The Committee nominated Bob Bush for life membership. Bill Ferris stated that the Committee believed that life membership would be an appropriate reward to Bob for his contribution to the Orchid Society and in promoting the cultivation of orchids. Bob joined the society in 2001 and was elected to the committee in June 2003 on which he served until this year. Family and other circumstances have meant Bob could not seek re-election.
Bob served as President 2004/2005.
There are few activities of the Society in which Bob has not played a role:
 - He is always a willing helper at the Show
 - He has assisted at most of our workshops
 - He plays an active role on the sales table
 - He is an inaugural volunteer at CSIRO/ANBG
 - He has assisted in the preparation of our display and presentations at each Floriade in which the Society has participatedIn his own quiet way, Bob is a good sounding board for anything to do with orchids. He is very insightful, not afraid to ask curly questions at the meeting and stimulate discussions. He has provided wise counsel at committee meetings.
Moved Laurie Woods and seconded Ros Walcott.
Approved unanimously.

4. Robyn Noel thanked the previous Committee for all their hard work. Specifically she thanked the retiring members, Bob Bush, Tina and Ross Anderson, Jim Harper and Kevin Dawes.



Judge's Choice Species for June: *Paphiopedilum wardii* 'Royale', grown by David Judge.

General Members Meeting June 2nd 2010

Members Present: 31

Apologies: Yvonne Day, Jane Wright, Roger Williams, Ross and Tina Anderson, Lynne and Brian Phelan, Theo and Jenny Schutz, Tony and Julie Smith, Xoemei and Ben Wallace

Guests: None

Main talk: Robyn introduced Mark Clements.

Mark gave a short presentation on some new orchids that have been described. He showed a picture of an excavated *Rhizanthella slateri* that was prepared using water to wash away the soil. One could see the old flower and the new growths spreading out from the underground rhizome. These were plants that had to be moved out of the way of a new road in Bulahdelah. Some plants were moved in large clumps of soil while others were excavated and moved.

Mark then talked about some new *Dendrobium* species from Borneo that had been recently described. They were bird and moth pollinated.

He described how you had to compare a "new" orchid with descriptions of all those published, and also look at herbarium specimens before declaring it a new species. Sometimes, new species are declared and then it is subsequently shown that they have already been described and given another name. The old name always has precedence.

He showed some new species from Vietnam.

He also showed a picture of the World's smallest orchid flower, less than 2 mm across and almost transparent. It is from Ecuador.

We then went through the Ira Butler Trophy Winners for the past number of years as well as the Herman Slade winners. There were various comments made, in particular that several of the plants were misidentified.

Mark was thanked for his presentation.



Judge's Choice Hybrid for June: *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop 'Kadoma' X Lucky Stripe 'Stella', grown by Rob Rough.

Committee Comment: Laurie Woods suggested that people who had excess plants should bring them in for the raffle table.

Secretaries Report:

Eurobodalla Orchid Club Newsletter - May

Burbank Orchid Nursery Catalogue - May 2010

Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society - May 2010

The Horticultural Society of Canberra Bulletin - May/July

Comstat Invoice

Canberra Carotel Motel receipt

Orchid Digest April/May/June 2010

The Orchid Spike Albury/Wodonga - May/June

Bateman's Bay Orchid and Foliage Society - May

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - May

Moved Nita Wheeler and seconded Kevin Dawes.

Approved.

Treasure's Report:

Balance is \$17,050.40 with some dues to come in. A deposit has been paid for the Workshop.

Moved Jim Harper and seconded Pam Phillips. Approved.

President's Comments:

Robyn asked if people still wanted to receive certificates.

There was general agreement that yes they were appreciated.

Robyn handed out certificates from previous meetings.

Raffle: Pam Phillips, Karen Groeneveld, Mark Clements, Peter Gowland, Ros Dudek, Robin Beddings, Jim Harper.

Door Prize: Richard Phillips.

Popular Vote May 2010

Category:	Plant:	Owner:
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>C. Little Susie</i> (Fay)	Ben Walcott
Laeliinae species	<i>Encyclia fragrans</i>	Ben Walcott
Onchidium Alliance hybrids	<i>Hwra Mary Eliza</i>	Rob Rough
Onchidium Alliance species	<i>Brassia longissima</i>	David Judge
Bulbophyllum Alliance	<i>Bulb. Rothchildianum</i>	Bill Ferris
Australian Terrestrials	<i>Diplodium truncatum</i>	Nita Wheeler
Pleurothallid Alliance	<i>Drac. gigas</i> 'Marnie'	Ros Anderson
Paphiopedilum alliance	<i>Paph. Harold Koopowitz</i>	David Judge
Any Others Species	<i>D. bigibbum</i> 'Blue Moon' X <i>D. bigibbum</i> 'Seldgefield'	Rob Rough
Any Others	<i>Cym. Moriata</i> 'Morialta Falls'	Rob Rough
Orchid of the Night	<i>Hwra Mary Eliza</i>	Rob Rough
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paph. Harold Koopowitz</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Vappodes lithocola</i> 'White'	Mark Clements

Popular Vote June 2010

Category:	Plant:	Owner:
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>Sc. Beaufort</i> 'Takahashi'	Bob Bush
Laeliinae species	<i>Laelia anceps</i>	Mark Clements
Onchidium Alliance	<i>Beallara Marfitch</i>	Rob Rough
Onchidium Alliance species	<i>Tuberolabium quisumbingii</i>	Mark Clements
Bulbophyllum Alliance	<i>Bulb. Elizabeth Anne</i> 'Buckleberry'	Rob Rough
Australian Terrestrials	<i>Taurantha collina</i>	Nita Wheeler
Pleurothallid Alliance	<i>Masd Redwings</i>	Bob Bush
Paphiopedilum alliance	<i>Paph. wardii</i> 'Royale'	David Judge
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. tracyanum</i> 'Very Dark'	Ros Walcott
Dendrobium alliance	<i>Dend. Avril's Gold</i> 'louanne'	Bob Bush
Any Others Species	<i>Dend. sanderae</i> var <i>luzonicum</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Bulb. Elizabeth Anne</i> 'Buckleberry'	Rob Rough
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>C. Chocolate Drop</i> 'Kadoma' X <i>Lucky Stripe</i> 'Stella'	Rob Rough
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Paph. wardii</i> 'Royale'	David Judge

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 Bill Ferris.

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