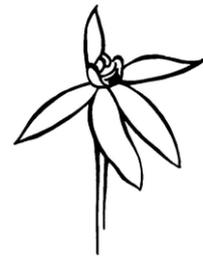


# Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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*Petalochilus fuscatus*



Volume 27, Number 2

Mar-Apr 2012

## 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.

## Speakers:

March 2012: Orchid Tray Company

April 2012: TBA

## Upcoming Orchid Events

### The Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn

**Flower Show:** 3-4<sup>th</sup> March, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forrest.

**Orchid Workshop:** 10-11<sup>th</sup> March, Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Beach Road, Batemans Bay.

**International Orchid Fair:** 13-14<sup>th</sup> April, Friday 9am - 7pm & Saturday 8am - 5pm, Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill.

**Mingara Orchid Fair:** 23-24<sup>th</sup> June, Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi.

## President's Comments

After such a non-summer, it's hard to believe that we'll have to bed down the orchids for winter by Anzac Day. Don't forget that Bill Ferris has the roll of Sancell horticultural bubble wrap for lining your glasshouse or shade-house for winter. I did mine last year and it made a huge difference to the environment in both winter and summer.

Although I had a complete brain fade and forgot to go to see Karen Groeneveld's greenhouses, I understand that other members were more organised and had a really good and informative time. Thanks to Karen for being prepared to show her collection and growing environments.

If anyone has an idea about a social event that would be fun for the society members, please let any member of committee know.

Jane



February Orchid of the Night: *Miltassia* Aztec 'Toni', grown by Karen Groeneveld

## Committee Members

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

## Committee meetings:

March: Karen & Zoe Groeneveld

April: Robyn Noel

## Disclaimer

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## March General Meeting

The Orchid Tray Company ([www.orchidtrays.com.au](http://www.orchidtrays.com.au)) will be featured at our March meeting and will bring plenty of products for sale. If there is something special that you want, please contact them in advance so they can bring it for you.



February Judges' Choice Species: *Gomesa recurva*, grown by Bill Ferris

If you can't fit everything back into the space you have available, consider selling some spare divisions on the sales table. Put the price and your name on a separate tag and remember to allow for the society's 10% commission when you price the plants. Donations to the raffle table are also much appreciated.



February Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Bulbophyllum* Wilmar Galaxy Star, grown by Jane Wright

## Orchid Culture Notes March and April

Jane Wright

Winter will be here before we know it, so now is the time to start getting prepared. My rule of thumb is to get all the plants into their winter arrangements by Anzac Day at the latest. Now is a good time to re-line the glasshouse and shade-house with horticultural bubble wrap (available from Bill Ferris) and check that your heaters and thermostats work. Remove the extra shading to allow in the weaker winter sun. I always like to buy an extra oscillating fan while they are still available, as insurance for the one that's guaranteed to die just after the stores stop stocking them in winter. Warm days and cool nights cause the initiation of flower spikes in *Phalaenopsis*. If your conditions are very stable with little difference between day and night, it may be worthwhile to give your plants a holiday outside for a week or two. Just make sure you don't scorch the leaves or let them dry out under these different conditions.

Start to ease back on watering, especially for orchids that need a winter dry spell. On the other hand, you should be watering your Australian terrestrials from now on, keeping them slightly moist. Be careful when watering any orchid that you don't allow cold water to sit in the crown of a plant over a cold night. Bacterial soft rots can kill a plant in no time at all.

Before settling plants in for winter, it's a good idea to check them all over very carefully for insects.

Personally, I like to do one comprehensive spray of all orchids to ensure that I don't have big problems during winter.

## General Meeting Minutes

1st February 2012

Visitors: Ron & June Doyle

Apologies: Lynne & Brian Phelan, Theo & Jenny Schutz, Laurie Woods, Mark Fraser, Sandra Corbett, Joe Portelli, Ron & June Doyle.

Members Present: 32

Minutes of previous meetings from the Bulletin - acceptance proposed by Ros Walcott, seconded by Kevin Dawes - accepted.

Bill Ferris presented badges to new members who were present.

Several items were auctioned by auctioneer Ben Walcott: a picture (from a contact of Rob & Audrey Rough), embroidery and Magazines.

**Speaker:** Karen Groeneveld

Karen showed a slide show of a trip that four of our members did in November, starting at the World Orchid Conference in Singapore and moving on to Vietnam. Photos of the WOC Show gave an idea of some of the exhibits, and details of the flowers in the displays. Karen also included photos of Singapore showing the harbour foreshores, the convention centre and Marina Bay Hotel, Gardens by the Bay (a developing showcase of local and international horticulture), the Botanical Gardens and the National Orchid Garden.

The group then went on to Vietnam and Karen showed how they started in the south at Saigon, and worked their way north to Hanoi. They saw several orchid nurseries along the way, and were invited to the private gardens of some members of the Hanoi Orchid Club to see the way orchids are grown by individuals in

Vietnam. Karen explained that they couldn't see orchids in the wild because everything within two days walk into the forest has been poached and sold off.

**President's announcements:**

- Open Glasshouse Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at the Groenevelds' house, from 10.00am to 1.00pm with a bring-your-own barbecue lunch.
- Part of a roll of bubble wrap for sale - speak to Bill Ferris.
- Horticultural Society/Orchid Society Autumn Show - 3 & 4 March - details are in the Bulletin.
- Workshop at Bateman's Bay - 10 & 11 March - the registration form is on our website and some were handed out at the meeting.
- Early notice of Mingara Orchid Fair - 24 & 25 June.

**Secretary's Report:**

- Bulletins: Eurobodalla - Miriam Anne Bulletin  
 Sapphire Coast - Nov 2011  
 Horticultural Society of Canberra  
 Quarterly Bulletin - Feb -Apr 2012
- Magazines: Australian Orchid Review - Dec 2011-  
 Jan 2012  
 Orchids Australia - Oct 2011  
 Orchadian - Dec 2011  
 Orchid Digest Oct-Dec 2011 & Jan-Mar  
 2012  
 English Orchid Review

- Catalogue: Burbank Orchid Nursery  
 Other mail: Letter from Bateman's Bay giving  
 change of committee members  
 Bank statement

Acceptance of the Report moved by Terry Turner and seconded by Nita Wheeler - approved

**Treasurer's Report:**

Balance: \$21,469.02  
 Acceptance of the Report moved by Mark Clements and seconded by Jim Wheeler - approved.

**Tip of the month:** Karen Groeneveld showed how to make a fertiliser attachment for the hose using an in-line filter and hose fittings.

Raffle Prizes: Chris Finch, Yvonne Day, Sarah Turner  
 Door Prize: Bob Bush  
 Meeting closed: 10:05pm

<u>Sales Table</u>		
Pots/Fertilizer/wire products	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Shirts	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
25th Anniversary glasses	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Bark	David Judge	
Orchid Mate	Laurie Woods	

**Out and about around Canberra - February**

This month we have the rare *Corunastylis ectopa* in flower, as well as *Speculantha multiflora* in the hills around Canberra. One of our members had sweet little *Spiranthes australis* flowering in his front lawn – how amazing!



*Spiranthes australis*



*Speculantha multiflora*



*Corunastylis ectopa*

## Tip of the Month



An in-line fertilising wand – available commercially for around \$25-30. Make your own for half that price (or less, depending what fittings you already have lying around!)



1. Take an in-line filter – available for \$5 or less at hardware stores



2. Add a short piece of hose (5-10cm is enough) to the outward end; then add a hose fitting to allow you to attach a water-breaker to the end. At the inward end, replace the screw-on fitting with a standard 1” tap fitting.



MagAmp is a pelletized slow-release fertiliser that can be used in an in-line device to release a small amount of nutrients each time you water. It includes Nitrogen (7%), Phosphorous (17.5%), Potassium (5%) and Magnesium (7%). Given the high proportion of Phosphorus, use with caution on Australian natives.



3. Take some MagAmp and fill the inner filter to within around 2 cm of the top.



4. Cut a piece of shade-cloth about 30cm long by 2 cm wide and roll up. Push the rolled-up wad of shade cloth it into the open end of the inline filter insert to keep the fertiliser in place.



5. Push down into place; return the insert to the in-line filter and screw the tap fitting back onto the end. You’re now ready to attach a hose and a water-breaker and get fertilising!

The only disadvantage of this DIY model is that you cannot keep an eye on the level of fertiliser in the wand. However, a small amount of MagAmp goes a long way, and should last months with normal use, before needing to be topped-up.

**Popular Vote February 2012**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Laeliinae species	<i>Cattleya tigrina</i>	Mark Clements
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>Encyclia</i> Cindy	Don Chesher
Vandae species	<i>Aerangis verdickii</i>	Mark Clements
Vandae hybrid	<i>Sartylis</i> Blue Knob 'Lara'	Murray Smith
Oncidiinae	<i>Miltassia</i> Aztec 'Toni'	Karen Groeneveld
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia</i> Southern Sun 'Orange Purity'	Bob Bush
Coelogykinae	<i>Coelogyne pulverula</i>	Kevin Dawes
Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Wilmar Galaxy Star	Jane Wright
Australian Dendrobinae	<i>Dockrillia cucumerina</i>	Bill Ferris
Australian terrestrial	<i>Diplodium abruptum</i>	Mark Clements
Any other orchid	<i>Spathoglottis longifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Orchid of the Night	<i>Miltassia</i> Aztec 'Toni'	Karen Groeneveld
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Wilmar Galaxy Star	Jane Wright
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Gomesa recurva</i>	Bill Ferris

**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.

**By mail:** 112 Tharwa Road, Karabar NSW, 2620. **not** the Orchid Soc PO Box

**By phone:** (02) 6299 7080 (h)

**By email:** [zoe.groeneveld@internode.on.net](mailto:zoe.groeneveld@internode.on.net)

**Editor:** Zoe Groeneveld

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