

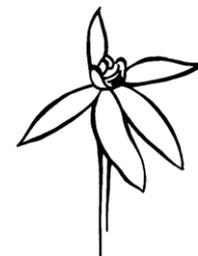
Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

Petalochilus fuscatus

PO Box 221, Deakin West, ACT, 2600, Australia

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Volume 27, Number 5

Sep-Oct 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.

Meeting Program:

September: Preparing for the Show, the Show Schedule & Q&A with Paul Tyerman

October: Jim Brydie - Restrepias & Q&A with Paul Tyerman

Orchid Society of Canberra Spring Show

22nd & 23rd September, Saturday 11am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 4:30pm, St John's Hall, 43 Constitution Avenue, Reid

Upcoming Orchid Events

Southern Riviera Orchid Society: 15th September, 9am - 2pm, CWA Hall, Wason St, Milton

19th Australian Orchid Council Conference: 11th - 16th September, Perth

Southern Orchid Spectacular: 5th - 7th October, Friday & Saturday 9:30am - 4pm, Sunday 9:30am - 3pm, Caringbah High School, between Willarong Rd and Taren Point Rd, Caringbah

Dendi Open Weekend: 12th - 14th October, 9am - 4pm, 624 Overs Rd, Griffith

Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society: 20th October, 10am - 5pm, Soldiers Club, 2 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay

Horticultural Society of Canberra Shows

Spring Bulb and Camellia Show: 15th & 16th Sep

Iris, Rhododendron and Azalea Show: 27th & 28th Oct

Spring Exhibition and Rose Show: 17th & 18th Nov

All events held at the Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forest.



August Judges' Choice Species: *Stenorrhynchos speciosum*, grown by Jane Wright

President's Comments

For the last two months we tried a new activity for novices, run before the meeting by Karen Groeneveld. Unfortunately, there was very little interest in this activity in spite of Karen's best efforts. The Committee discussed the issue and decided to try another way for novices (and more experienced growers) to ask questions and discuss problems with growing orchids. We will now try a segment of 15-20 minutes within each meeting, in which we discuss what we should be doing in the coming month. Members can bring up issues, or talk about successes. Paul Tyerman has agreed to emcee this segment each month – thanks Paul!

Our Spring Show is almost upon us. It would be just great if each and every member was able to exhibit an orchid or piece of artwork, craft or photography. But even if you personally can't enter anything, please participate and sign up for a short stint during the show. We have numerous jobs, many of which do not require extensive orchid knowledge. So mark that weekend in your diary and plan to enter plants, come along to help out, buy new plants and learn more about our hobby.

Committee Members

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| President: | Jane Wright | |
| Vice President: | Bill Ferris | 6297 5635 |
| Treasurer: | Robyn Noel | 6258 5734 |
| Secretary: | Peter Coyne | |
| Committee: | Christine Finch | |
| | Bob Forrester | |
| | Karen Groeneveld | 6299 7080 |
| | Zoe Groeneveld | 6299 7080 |
| | Paul Tyerman | |

Committee meetings:

10th September: Bill Ferris

9th October: Chris Finch

Disclaimer

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Orchid Society of Canberra Spring Show

Getting ready - many hands are needed

Our annual spring show is almost upon us. With this newsletter you will find the show schedule and instructions for registering your plants.

We can't stress enough how important (and fun) it is for everyone to be involved. Even if you are new to growing orchids, there are jobs to be done that don't require a lot of orchid knowledge. We need people to take admission fees, work on the sales table, do re-potting demonstrations, supply sandwiches and cakes or assist in the café and generally keep an eye on things and talk to the public. Even if you don't have plants to show, you should be able to contribute in some way, even if it's just stopping by with a cake for the café. One thing everyone can help with is cleaning up after the show – truly a case of many hands make light work.

Robyn will have sign-up sheets at the September meeting. The shifts are only 1 ½ - 2 hours long. New members who are unsure of the process involved in showing plants will benefit from one of the short sessions at the September meeting by Jane Wright on preparing plants for the show.

Plant Registration

Plants are to be presented for benching between 2pm and 8pm on Friday 21 September.

To assist in the smooth running of the registration process and judging of entries, it is requested that you pre-register your entries by 8pm Thursday 20th September. Please list all the plants you hope to enter – it is easier to delete entries than add additional ones. The information needed for each entry is: class, the full name, whether the plant is a seedling and to identify those plants that will be in a display (if appropriate). Relevant stickers, etc. can then be prepared and ready for when you present the entries.

If you receive the *Bulletin* by mail:

A registration form is included with this release. Please use this form to compile a list of plants/items you intend to enter and phone Peter Coyne (6251 7660) by 8pm on Thursday 20th to advise of your expected entries. Bring your form with you on Friday for checking purposes. A printed form of your entries with relevant codes and stickers will then be ready on your presentation for registration.

If you receive the *Bulletin* by email:

Approximately one week before the show you will receive an email regarding registration. Use either the attached Excel spread sheet (preferred) or Word document for recording your entries. Email your completed form to orchids@canberraorchids.org by 8pm Thursday 20th (contact Peter Coyne if you would like to email your registration later than this). If you do

not have Word or Excel, simply email a listing of your entries, one per line, of the class, name and whether a seedling (in the case of plants) separated by a comma without spaces, e.g. 4,Cymbidium suave 'Dorrigo', N. Entry forms will also be available from our website www.canberraorchids.org for anyone who does not receive the *Bulletin*.

Unable to Pre-register?

If you are unable to pre-register as requested above, please bring in your plants as early as possible on the Friday afternoon.

What Class is my plant?

If you are uncertain as to what class to enter a plant, please contact Mark Fraser - phone: 6287 1106 or email triffids4us@ozemail.com.au.

Entering a Display

If you intend to enter a display, please advise Jane Wright (6254 1119) by Wednesday 19th September. Could you please indicate on your entry sheet the plants that are in your display (this simplifies judging).

Presentation

Between 2.00pm - 8.00pm on Friday 21th September bring your plants and the registrar will give you:

- A printed list of your entries complete with identification codes for plants and owner
- A yellow sticker with an identification number for each entry
- A white sticker which has class and owner code, and
- A green sticker for each seedling.

Attach the stickers to your entries as per the printed entry list (this is especially important for the yellow sticker which is the only means of identification for judging and the popular vote), making sure that the yellow sticker is clearly visible when the plant is in its preferred viewing position. Put your plants on the benches in the appropriate class area. Strike out on your entry form any plant not presented, sign and return the sheet to Peter Coyne.

Consult the Show Schedule for further information on conditions of entry.

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 and Photography 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. Please keep prices to whole dollars to simplify operations of the sales table.

Horticultural Society of Canberra Shows

Enquiries and entries to: Sheila Hodgson, Phone: (02) 6254 8017 email: 2hodgson@tpg.com.au or Jim Donlan, Phone: (02) 6255 1371

Spring Bulb & Camellia Show

15th & 16th September 2012

Entries close with the Honorary Show Secretary at 8pm, Thursday 13th September 2012.

Orchids:

200. One standard *Cymbidium*
201. One intermediate *Cymbidium*
202. One miniature *Cymbidium*
203. One *Cattleya* alliance species
204. One *Cattleya* alliance hybrid
205. One *Paphiopedilum* alliance
206. One Vandaceous alliance
207. One *Oncidium* alliance
208. One Pleurothallid
209. One native *Dendrobium* alliance
210. Any other Australian native orchid
211. One *Coelogyne* alliance
212. Any other orchid species
213. Any other orchid hybrid

Champion Orchid from classes 200 to 213 - ribbon plus \$2

Iris, Rhododendron & Azalea Show

27th & 28th October 2012

Entries close with the Honorary Show Secretary at 8pm, Thursday 25th October 2012.

Orchids:

55. One *Cymbidium*
56. One standard *Cattleya* alliance
57. One intermediate *Cattleya* alliance
58. One miniature *Cattleya* alliance
59. One *Cattleya* alliance species
60. One *Paphiopedilum* alliance

61. One Vandaceous alliance
62. One native *Dendrobium* alliance
63. One native Vandaceous alliance
64. One other native orchid
65. One *Oncidium* alliance
66. One Pleurothallid species
67. One Pleurothallid hybrid
68. Any other orchid species
69. Any other orchid hybrid

Champion Orchid from classes 55 to 69 - ribbon plus \$2

For more information, visit the Horticulture Society of Canberra's website: <http://hsoc.org.au/>

July Orchid of the Night:

Dendrobium Essie Banks, grown by Bob Bush



I purchased this Down Under Native Orchids plant as a seedling at a place in Urunga many years ago. I couldn't get it to flower until I brought it into the glasshouse and hung it up high for extra warmth - and voila! I think that sometimes our plants will get by all right with minimum heat, but really need just a little boost of extra heat to perform at their best.

General Meeting Minutes

4th July 2012

Visitor: Hendrik Maat

Apologies: 17

Members Present: 23

Speaker: Geoff Dyne

Geoff presented an illustrated talk on Maxillarias. This is a large and diverse genus with about 600 species, and is one of the top 50 largest genera of Angiosperms. They occur in the American tropics and sub-tropics. The genus name comes from the side-on appearance of the labellum and column, suggestive of a jaw (maxilla). One interesting species is the Coconut Orchid, *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, which has a coconut-like aroma that is a mix of 34 different odour compounds.

Geoff suggested Maxillarias be grown in a “miscellaneous mix” of sphagnum and perlite. They need high humidity as well as good air movement. Temperatures should generally range between 12 and 30 degrees Celsius, although some species can tolerate temperatures outside that range. *Orchid Species Plus* has a wide range of Maxillarias available.

Minutes of June meeting: The minutes were in the latest bulletin.

Acceptance of the minutes moved by Ros Walcott and seconded by Nita Wheeler - approved

Secretary's Report:

Bulletins: Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society
Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society with articles on Bulbophyllums and Cirrhopetalums, *Botritis* and useful tips
Eurobodalla Orchid Club
Sapphire Coast Orchid Club

Brochures: Eurobodalla Orchid Club Workshop 9th and 10th March 2013 - maximum 50 participants
Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 24th - 26th August 2012

Dendi Orchids Open Weekend, Griffith 12th - 14th October 2012 with several vendors

Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - Winter Orchid Show Schedule 19th - 21st July 2012

Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney
Plantbank - seeking tax-deductible donations

Magazines: Australian Orchid Review
Orchids Australia

Other mail: Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit renewal
Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria affiliated club membership renewal
Thank you note from ComStat (printer of our bulletin)

Acceptance of the report moved by Ben Walcott and seconded by Karen Groeneveld - approved



July Judges' Choice Species: *Dockrillia hepatica*, grown by Mark Clements

Treasurer's report: Bank Balance \$21,151.80 - still memberships coming in.

Acceptance of the report moved by Ben Wallace and seconded by Geoff Dyne - approved

Meritorious Service Award: Robyn Noel presented Bill Ferris with a well-earned Meritorious Service Award.

Vice-President's announcement: Bill Ferris reminded members about the email he had circulated about ordering Sam Tsui's flasks.

Raffle Prizes: Louisa Chung, Yvonne Day, Ben Walcott, Nita Wheeler & Mark Clements
Lucky Door Prize: Lance Sanders

August Orchid of the Night:

Cymbidium Without Peer 'Soft Touch', grown by Ben & Ros Walcott



I purchased C. Without Peer 'Soft Touch' in August 2004 from Orchid World in Victoria as a seedling potted in bark in a 4 inch pot. It first bloomed in July 2008 with one spike then bloomed again in May 2009 with 4 spikes, so it developed quickly once it began to bloom. We divided the original plant into two several years ago and both plants bloomed with two spikes this year. They grow in a shade-house with a cover during winter and are placed outside under shade for the summer. I water almost every day in the summer and maybe only once a fortnight in the winter. This cymbidium is noted on the internet as an upright grower, but Ben and I prefer to let it cascade down to show off its beautiful colour.

General Meeting Minutes

1st August 2012

Visitors: Hendrik Maat & Norma Bush

Apologies: 9

Members Present: 31

Speaker: Ben Walcott

Ben and Ros have recently returned from a guided trip to Europe that took them to some of Italy's fabulous renaissance gardens, as well as the Chelsea Flower Show in England. Ben showed us photos of the Italian gardens, which included the very formal Villa D'Este with its amazing water features, as well as Parco dei Mostri with its strange follies and monstrous statues. Ben then showed photos of the Wisley Gardens in England, which is the headquarters of the Royal Horticultural Society. There were blooms of every kind at the Chelsea Flower Show, including plenty of orchids. Many of the displays used fields of orchids, the most notable of which were the beautiful Lady's Slipper Orchids. Ben showed us a display from Thailand which was mostly made up of cut orchid blooms packed so tightly together that all one could see was a mass of colour. Any inch that was not smothered with orchids was covered in gold paint.

Secretary's Report:

Bulletins: Sapphire Coast - July 2012 including details of their Winter Show 11th - 12th August & Spring Show 13th -14th September

Horticultural Society of Canberra August - October 2012

Campbelltown - June 2012

Miriam Anne Orchids - August 2012

Invoices: Orchid Society of NSW - Affiliation dues
Australian Orchid Council - Membership
Statement from Comstat

Other Mail: Bank Statement

Term Certificate Reinvestment & end of
Financial Year Statement on deposit
account

Acceptance of the Report moved by Nita Wheeler and seconded by Ben Walcott - approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance - \$20,445.58
Acceptance of the Report moved by Laurie Woods and seconded by Karen Groeneveld - approved.

President's announcements:

Popular vote and judge's choice results announced

Raffle Prizes: Ros Walcott, Nita Wheeler, Bill Ferris, Bob Forrester, Joe Portelli and Paul Tyerman

Lucky Door Prizes: Chris Finch and Anne Mackenzie

Meeting closed: 10.10pm

Sales Table

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 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 & about around Canberra: August

There hasn't been a lot to see just yet, but Mum and I went out one icy-cold day to Black Mountain and found some cute *Corysanthes* in bloom.

Zoe Groeneveld



What's flowering in the glasshouse this week?

By John Ryan, 1 July 2012



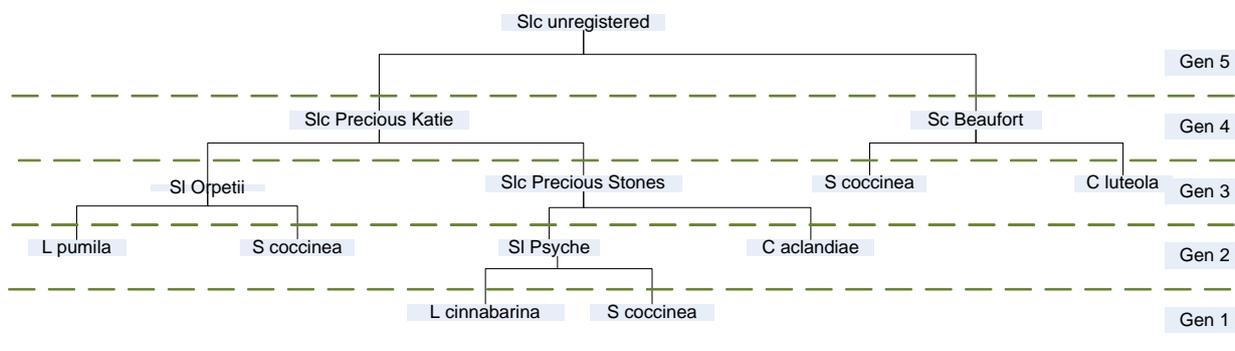
There's not a lot to look at in the glasshouse this week, but the little that's there is good.

The photo on the left is of *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Precious Katie (4n) x *Sophrocattleya* Beaufort (4n) - a miniature growing plant. It has a reasonably good flower and there are two flowering growths on the plant. The growth shown here has one flower on it and the other has three buds. The best thing in its favour is that it flowers well in mid-winter. Many hybrids which flower well in spring, summer and autumn are sub-standard when flowering in winter. The only minor fault in its flower is a slight reflexing of the lip.

The plant came from Aranbeen Orchids as a small un-flowered seedling. I usually buy three seedlings of crosses I am interested in, hoping to get at least one that is worth keeping. I have flowered one other seedling of this

cross and it is nowhere near as good as the one shown above, so it will be consigned to the bin.

This is a 5th generation hybrid. It may be of interest to some members to know what the lineage of this orchid is, so I have included it's family tree below:



There are five species in its background, with *Sophrontis coccinea* dominating in the parentage.

Re-discovered article on Masdevallias

By Nita Wheeler

Recently while forced indoors by inclement weather, I was going through some of my old orchid magazines and came across an article which may be of interest to *Masdevallia* growers. I grow Australian native terrestrials and manage to transport them to Sydney without staking and have noticed most of the *Masdevallias* exhibited in Canberra are staked, which to me somewhat spoils the effect. Perhaps this grower's tips may help.

Australian Orchid Review - June 1969

- extract of an article by Chris Nicholas

The Plant was *Masdevallia coccinea* var. *harryana* and was awarded a Cultural Certificate in 1968.

Growing in a 6 inch plastic pot, the plant carried 29 strikingly beautiful flowers on long, even, unsupported stems. Average stem length was 21 inches thus holding the flowers well clear of the 11 inch foliage. The consistently sized flowers averaged 2 ½ inches across by 3 inches deep being surmounted by 2 ¾ inch well held dorsal sepals. Foliage was strong, upright and vigorous.

The plant is growing on a conventional bench at the northern end of a north south unheated glasshouse...the glass is heavily shaded and a moist, buoyant atmosphere is retained at all times. Plants and ferns are growing under the benches.

The pot stands inch-deep in a tray of water, so the compost is wet at all times. Compost consists of rice hulls, peatmoss, tan bark, bracken fern, buzzer chips, charcoal and sand. It is essential that all the constituents are capable of remaining wet for indefinite periods without souring. A pinch of blood and bone is added when potting, the only other fertilizer being an occasional watering with weak liquid cow manure.

[The grower] considers 6 inches to be the optimum pot size. If grown in larger pots, the plants deteriorate, presumably due to soggy conditions in the greater volume of compost.

[The grower] re-pots annually. The plant is removed from its pot, all compost cleaned away and the roots and foliage washed thoroughly with the hose. The back portions are discarded and the leading growths re-potted keeping to the same 6 inch-sized pot. By using this method the plant is retained in prime condition and flowering potential is always at the maximum.

This plant had been grown in Tasmania and the article ends with “So if you are living in an area subject to cold frosty winters and can give your plants moist buoyant growing conditions try some Masdevallias, they love it.”

This article was of interest to me as I grow my terrestrials in a north-south, 90% shade cloth tunnel house and also add a pinch of blood and bone when re-potting. They grow very upright and straight in flower, so maybe it has something to do with the north-south aspect; like all questions with orchids, who knows.

I have never really been interested in Masdevallias, mainly because everyone seems to grow them in sphagnum moss, which I don't like, but as soon as the rain stopped I raced up the back to find the one poor *Masdevallia* I do have (which is growing in bark), apologised to it, moved its position and promised it a whole new life from next spring.

Popular Vote July 2012

| Category | Plant | Owner |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| Laeliinae species | <i>Encyclia polybulbon</i> | Karen Groeneveld |
| Vandae | <i>Phalaenopsis</i> name unknown | Bob Forrester |
| Oncidiinae | <i>Oncidium</i> Sweet Sugar | Ben Walcott |
| Paphiopedilum | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> name unknown | Quin Yuen Chung |
| Dendrobium - exotic | <i>Dockrillia hepatica</i> | Mark Clements |
| Pleurothallidinae | <i>Masdevallia</i> Abbey Sarah (= <i>Falcata</i> x <i>Antizana</i>) | Bob Bush |
| Cymbidium | <i>Cymbidium</i> name unknown | Ben Walcott |
| Australian epiphyte | <i>Dendrobium</i> Essie Banks | Bob Bush |
| Terrestrial | <i>Taurantha ophioglossa</i> | Nita Wheeler |
| Any other orchid | <i>Maxillaria variabilis</i> | Karen Groeneveld |
| Orchid of the Night | <i>Dendrobium</i> Essie Banks | Bob Bush |
| Judges Choice - Hybrid | <i>Dendrobium</i> Essie Banks | Bob Bush |
| Judges Choice - Species | <i>Dockrillia hepatica</i> | Mark Clements |

Popular Vote August 2012

| Category | Plant | Owner |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| Laeliinae species | <i>Cattleya lundii</i> | Jane Wright |
| Laeliinae hybrid | <i>Slc.</i> Elegant Oak | Rob Rough |
| Paphiopedilum | <i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i> | Bob Forrester |
| Oncidiinae | <i>Wilsonara</i> Franz Wichmann ‘Riverview’ | Ben Walcott |
| Coelogyninae | <i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Artist | Rob Rough |
| Vandae | <i>Phalaenopsis</i> name unknown | Bob Forrester |
| Bulbophyllum | <i>Bulbophyllum lobbii</i> ‘Red’ | Mark Clements |
| Pleurothallidinae | <i>Porroglossum muscosum</i> | Jane Wright |
| | <i>Restrepia striata</i> x <i>lankesteri</i> | Karen Groeneveld |
| Australian terrestrial | <i>Bunochilus chlorogrammus</i> | Mark Clements |
| Any other orchid | <i>Cymbidium</i> Without Peer ‘Soft Touch’ | Ben Walcott |
| Orchid of the Night | <i>Cymbidium</i> Without Peer ‘Soft Touch’ | Ben Walcott |
| Judges Choice - Hybrid | <i>Cymbidium</i> Without Peer ‘Soft Touch’ | Ben Walcott |
| Judges Choice - Species | <i>Stenorrhynchos speciosum</i> | Jane Wright |

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

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