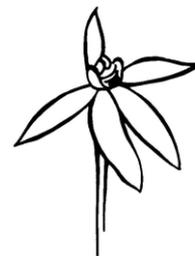


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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Petalochilus fuscatus



Volume 28, Number 2

Mar-Apr 2013

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 sales table open from 7:30pm.

Meeting Program

March: Mark Clements - Orchids of Western Australia

April: Ken Siew - Orchid travels through South America

Upcoming Orchid Events

Orchid Workshop: 9th & 10th March 2013, Saturday 9:30am - 5pm, Sunday 9:30am - 1:30pm, Seahorse Function Room, Narooma Golf Club, Narooma. Speakers will be Ray Clements (*Tinonee Orchids*) and Bill Miles (*Orchid Species Plus*).

Castle Hill Orchid Fair: 5th & 6th April, Castle Hill Showground, NSW

Collectors Plant Fair: 13th & 14th April, Hawkesbury Race Course, Racecourse Road, Clarendon NSW

Orchids Out West: 17th to 19th May, Hawkesbury Race Course, Racecourse Road, Clarendon, NSW

For more information please visit the Orchid Society of Canberra website: www.canberraorchids.org/

Horticultural Society of Canberra Shows

Autumn Show: 2nd & 3rd March 2013, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Horticultural Society of Canberra website:
<http://www.hsoc.org.au/index.htm>



February Judges' Choice Species: *Neofinetia falcata*, grown by Nita Wheeler

Committee Members

President:	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Vice President:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Treasurer:	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Secretary:	Peter Coyne	6251 7660
Committee:	Christine Finch	6292 4867
	Bob Forrester	6231 0203
	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Paul Tyerman	6254 9682

Committee meetings:

11th March: Bob Forrester

8th April: Karen Groeneveld

Disclaimer

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President's Comments

2013 is the 30th anniversary of the formation of the society. It is also the 100th anniversary of Canberra. It is fitting then for us to host the South and West Regional Show and Conference in October. Your committee is working on finalising details such as the venue for dinner on Saturday evening, but it is already shaping up to be a great weekend. We expect to host up to 80 visiting club members. Obviously, we'll need all hands on deck for the weekend, but one thing that all members could do right now is to plan to sell quality divisions of plants at the show. So when you re-pot, make sure to prepare quality divisions for sale to the visitors and the public.

We have some very good speakers lined up for you this year, with an emphasis on topics we haven't touched upon much in recent years, such as Paphiopedilums, Oncidiums, and Catasetums. We are privileged to be hearing from Mark Clements in March on his recent trip to WA and the orchids he found there. Continuing the travelogue theme, Ken Siew from Sydney will speak on orchid travel in South America. It's amazing how many of the orchids we grow come from South America and understanding where they grow in the wild always helps us with culture.

Although the weather is still warm (even hot), it is time to think about winter and get prepared. Many members have used the horticultural bubble wrap from Sancell with great results. Bill Ferris is ordering more this year, so make sure to get your order in to him now so you don't miss out when you really need it.



February Orchid of the Night: *Paphiopedilum* Dollgoldii, grown by David Judge

Only six months away!



Proudly supported by
Moreton Bay
Regional Council



Register to come to the
**7th Australasian Native Orchid Society
Conference & Show**

Held at Strathpine (Queensland, Australia)

Hosted by Kabi Group (Inc.)

Full Conference - 22-25th August 2013

Public show days - 23-25th August 2013

NOTE: Program update
ANOS General Meeting for affiliated members -
23rd August

For fuller details see www.ourshopfront.com/kabi
and follow the Conference link

General Meeting Minutes 6th February 2013

Members Present: 31

Visitors: 2

Apologies: 11

Speaker:

Nita Wheeler presented a very informative and encouraging talk on growing terrestrial orchids. She listed a number of advantages of growing terrestrials in Canberra:

- A diverse range of terrestrials is available to buy and tubers are relatively cheap; many species multiply quite quickly
- The potting mix is nothing special and can be purchased at any hardware store. Old mix can be easily recycled onto the garden; part of it can even be re-used.
- Terrestrials are generally pest-free in Canberra (apart from slugs and snails, and sometimes, mice)
- They are ideally suited to Canberra's cold climate as they don't need warmth during winter
- Many require little water, particularly during summer
- Apart from annual re-potting, terrestrials are generally low maintenance. The tubers rest for a number of months over summer and don't need any attention
- There is no need to fertilise after potting
- They are spectacular en masse

- A knowledge of terrestrial orchids adds an extra level of interest to bushwalking

Nita then gave a re-potting demonstration, highlighting the following:

The potting media for terrestrials must have excellent drainage. Australian terrestrial growers use a wide range of mediums, including sand, Australian native plant mix (particularly Martins), sphagnum moss, and horse manure. However, Nita's preferred mix is Amgrow seed-raising mix. She warned growers to avoid incorporating gravel or small quartz pebbles into their mix, as this can make it difficult to identify the tubers when re-potting (and avoid the temptation to squeeze tubers to check as they can pop!)

Nita recommends using the same sized pots for the whole collection to keep watering consistent, and prefers to use deep pots, rather than squat ones, because the roots grow downwards. A 12cm pot will accommodate about 10 to 20 tubers depending on their size. When the plants are mature, it looks best if their leaves completely obscure the surface of the pot. Allow the potting mix to dry out when the tubers are dormant in summer to prevent the tubers from rotting.

Terrestrials generally like to be re-potted annually, in late December or early January. To re-pot, tip the potting mix out onto a tray and search through it two or three times to collect all the tubers, which can be very small. Even tiny tubers are good, so there is no need to select just the largest ones (at least for *Pterostylis*). Without lining the bottom of the pot, fill it up with potting mix to 65 mm below the rim. Sprinkle a pinch of blood and bone on the surface. Add another 25 mm of mix and lay the tubers on that surface with the 'eyes' facing up (don't worry if the 'eyes' are not obvious, as the tubers will reorientate themselves and grow the right way regardless). They do well when crowded, but not if they are squashed together. Add more potting mix to a depth of 25 mm above the tubers and then cover with a mulch of pine or *Casuarina* needles. Some people include a bit of the old potting mix when they re-pot, in order to ensure the transfer of mycorrhizal fungus to the new pot. However Nita has found this to be unnecessary and uses only fresh mix when re-potting.

Water the pot to settle the mix, but then don't move the pots or water again until the shoots are up. Terrestrials need protection from the direct sun and torrential rain, but they need good light to ensure that the flower stems grow vertically.

For showing, it's nice to use a larger pot to gain the advantage of a mass of plants. Judges will be looking at the aesthetics of the pot - no staking; no mixing of clones; the quality of the flowers compared with the optimum for the species; and flower colours must be distinct.

Pterostylis curta, *P. truncata* and *P. nutans* are all pretty easy to grow and are good for beginners. Nita

has found that hybrids can be a bit inconsistent and sometimes revert towards the original species after a few years.

To highlight the fact that not all terrestrial orchids are so easy-going, Mark Clements displayed a pot of an undescribed *Acianthus* species. It is known from only two colonies near the Queensland-NSW border, where it grows in a very wet habitat. Mark demonstrated re-potting these tubers in sphagnum moss.



February Judges' Choice Specimen: *Bulbophyllum trichocephalum*, grown by Mark Clements

Awards: Jane Wright (NSW and national), Kevin Dawes (NSW and national) and Mark Clements (NSW) received certificates for plants of botanical significance which they had displayed at the spring show.

Secretary's Report:

Bulletins: Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - December

Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society - November, December and February

Eurobodalla Orchid Club - November, December and February

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - November and January

Miriam Anne Orchids - November and January

Wagga Orchid Society - November

Orchid News - January

ANOS Victoria - December and February

Eurobodalla Orchid Club - February and attachments

Canberra Horticultural Society - February to April

Magazines: Australian Orchid Review - December and January
The Orchadian - December
(Victorian) Gardeners Gazette
Orchid Digest - October to December and January to March
Orchid Review - December

Other mail: Certificates of botanical merit
letter from Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society advising of new committee and 2013 show dates
Burbank Orchid Nursery January catalogue
membership application
renewal forms for two magazines (Australian Orchid Review and Orchid Digest)
term deposit renewal documents
cheque book
account balance sheet
AOC Minutes of Board of Management 16/9/2012 and AGM

Treasurer's report: Robyn reported the current bank account balance of \$19160.05.

Acceptance of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports moved by Kevin Dawes and seconded by Karen Groeneveld - approved

Notice: Jane drew attention to the Autumn Flower Show Schedule of the Horticultural Society.

Q & A: To avoid burning roots, watering only at night was recommended, along with spraying the floor during the day.

Next meeting: Mark Clements will present a talk on the orchids of Western Australia.

Raffle Prizes: Jane Wright, Nita Wheeler, Bob Bush, Bill Ferris, Ben Walcott

Lucky door prize: Ben Walcott



February Judges' Choice Hybrid *Durabaculum* hybrid unknown, grown by Karen Groeneveld

Expanded Clay Balls as potting medium for orchids

Expanded clay balls have been used by the hydroponics industry for some time as a growing medium. I started experimenting with them as a component in my orchid mixes a couple of years ago, and have been very impressed. They come in a couple of sizes (c.5mm and 10-12mm) and are readily available from the hydroponics supply shops in Canberra.

For Vandaceous species and others that like to dry out a bit between watering (e.g. Phalaenopsis, Cattleyas), I mix about 50:50 with bark of the appropriate size. For things that like it a bit moister (e.g. Thelychitons, Bulbophyllums), I add well-soaked/repeatedly-rinsed coir chips in approx. equal proportions. The clay balls retain moisture for a time without being wet, and I believe their shape (and possibly the fact that they are hollow and porous) improves drainage and aeration in the pot. Clay balls don't degrade, so mixes with bark remain 'sweet' for much longer.

I've also started using the small balls as a substitute for Styrofoam, mixed with sphagnum or mini bark, for growing Pleurothallis (e.g. Masdevallias and Restrepias). Unlike Styrofoam, clay balls can be recycled into mulch in the garden bed.

To date, I've not had any issue with salt build-up, and orchid roots seem to love them! They are a little more expensive than bark, but I think the results are worth it.

Karen Groeneveld



<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	

Southern Orchid Spectacular 2012

Canberra winners:

Class	Class name	Prize	Owner	Plant Name
14	Laeliinae cluster type	2 nd	Rob Rough	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Trick or Treat
18a	Pleurothallid 15mm and over	2 nd	Jane Wright	<i>Masdevallia</i> Solar Flare
18b	Pleurothallid under 15mm	1 st	Karen Groeneveld	<i>Restrepia striata</i> x <i>rankisteria</i>
19g	Bulbophyllinae	1 st	Mark Clements	<i>Bulbophyllum lobbii</i>
19g	Bulbophyllinae	2 nd	Mark Clements	<i>Bulbophyllum picturatum</i>
19h	Exotic Species - other	1 st	Paul Tyerman	<i>Serapias neglecta</i>
19i	Miniature	1 st	Mark Fraser & Sandra Corbett	<i>Ascocentrum garayi</i>
21a	Dendrobium	1 st	Karen Groeneveld	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
21b	Terrestrial	1 st	Nita Wheeler	<i>Chiloglottis</i> x <i>pescottiana</i>

Popular Vote February 2013

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae species	<i>Epidendrum medusae</i>	Jane Wright
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>Encyclia</i> Cindy	Don Chesher
Vandae species	<i>Neofinetia falcata</i>	Nita Wheeler
Vandae hybrid	<i>Vascostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Neofinetia falcata</i>	Rob Rough
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Delrosi 'Florafest'	David Judge
<i>Maxillaria</i> species	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
<i>Coelogykinae</i> species	<i>Dendrochilum yuccafolium</i>	Kevin Dawes
<i>Dendrobium</i> Alliance	<i>Durabaculum</i> hybrid unknown	Karen Groeneveld
Terrestrial	<i>Pecteilis (Habenaria) radiata</i>	Mark Clements
Any other orchid	<i>Bulbophyllum trichocephalum</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Dollgoldii	David Judge
	<i>Vascostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Neofinetia falcata</i>	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Durabaculum</i> hybrid unknown	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Neofinetia falcata</i>	Nita Wheeler
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Bulbophyllum trichocephalum</i>	Mark Clements

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

Editor: Zoe Groeneveld

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