

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

PO Box 221, Deakin West, ACT, 2600, Australia
www.canberraorchids.org Email: orcsoc@yahoo.com
ABN 34 762 780 850

Petalochilus fuscatus



Volume 29, Number 2

Mar-Apr 2014

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 - *Rhizanthella slateri*

April: The Orchid Tray Company (if members wish to order anything special, check out their website www.orchidtrays.com.au and let them know before the meeting)

Upcoming Events

Orchid Workshop: hosted by the Eurobodalla Orchid Club, CWA Hall, Queen St, Moruya

When: 8 - 9 March 2014, Saturday 9:30am - 5:15pm, Sunday 9am - 12:30pm

- Cost is \$40 and registrations close 21 February 2014
- Speakers will be Neville Roper, Dennis Diehm, David Wain and Phil Grech

eurobodalla.org.au/3419.html

Connect and Participate Expo: 29 March 11am - 4pm, Old Bus Depot Markets, 21 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston

Castle Hill International Orchid Fair: 4 & 5 April, 9am - 4pm, Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showgrounds, Castle Hill

- Free admission

Horticultural Society of Canberra Shows

Autumn Show: 1 - 2 March 2014, Wesley Centre, 20 National Circuit, Forrest

www.hsoc.org.au



February Orchid of the Night, Judges' Choice Species & Judges' Choice Specimen: *Paphiopedilum dianthum*, grown by David Judge

Committee Members

President:	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Vice President:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Treasurer:	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Secretary:	Peter Coyne	6251 7660
Committee:	Mark Clements	0417 471 917
	Christine Finch	6292 4867
	Bob Forrester	6231 0203
	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080

Committee meetings:

12 March: Mark Clements

9 April: Karen Groeneveld

Disclaimer

© 2014 The Orchid Society of Canberra. The Orchid Society of Canberra disclaims liability for any loss, financial or otherwise caused as a result of the contents of this Bulletin

President's Comments

A most important issue for your committee is to understand the motivations of members and to try to provide a program that satisfies their varied interests. We have new members who have just inherited Aunt Sally's cymbidium collection and want to know how to care for it. We have members who have grown orchids a very long time and seem to have heard it all before – finding something new for them is a challenge. There are members who are primarily interested in very specific groups of orchids and their cultivation. Other members are not actually interested in cultivation at all – they are interested in the orchids in the wild. We know we can't please all the people all the time, but it would be good if we could please most of the people at least some of the time. That means talks and workshops aimed at novices, some talks on unusual groups, some travelogues, and some more scientifically-oriented talks.

At the most recent committee meeting, we discussed the fact that we really have not been meeting the needs of members who are very interested in orchids in the wild and their conservation. Indeed, it was easy to name a number of past members who had eventually left the society because we did not meet their needs in this regard.

In other places, the "turf" is divided between societies such as ours, that have an emphasis on orchid cultivation (often of exotics), and a chapter of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS). Many members will have read the newsletter of the Victorian ANOS group that is circulated and been inspired by its many special interest groups and activities such as the tuber bank.

In the absence of an ANOS chapter here, your committee has decided to build links with people in Canberra and the local region that have an interest in local native orchids and see what kind of conservation projects we might become involved with. It may be a special interest group starting to do regular orchid surveys at key locations to track population fluctuations, all the way up to assisting in the propagation and re-establishment of threatened species. A few talks a year on the topic will introduce the broader membership to the local issues. Watch this space!

Connect and Participate Expo

The society will have a stall at the Connect and Participate Expo to tell the public about our club. We'll need folks to spend some time at the stall and to lend us orchids for display. Please let a committee member know if you can help.

It will be held at Old Bus Depot Markets, 21 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston on 29 March 11am-4pm.

What is OrchidWiz?

From time to time, members may hear one of us mention OrchidWiz and wondered what it is. In my opinion, it is one of the most useful tools an orchid grower can have – I use it almost every day. It is a computer program that is updated four times a year, with incredible amounts of information and photos of orchids. At present, it contains over 130,000 images and all of the registration information of orchid hybrids from the Royal Horticultural Society. For most of the species, there is information on the climate where the species originated and cultural tips. It also has a journal feature that allows you to keep track of your own collection and add your own photos. It comes in 2 versions: The original, fully-featured Encyclopedia (about \$US 300, plus \$90 per annum for the quarterly update and maintenance plan), and OrchidWiz Express which has the species information, RHS info and journal but only about 4000 photos (\$US 75). Go to www.OrchidWiz.com for all the info. There are better deals for multiple licenses – let one of the committee members know if you are interested in buying – it may be that the Society can arrange a better price. Jane Wright



February Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Paphiopedilum Lebaudianum*, grown by David Judge

General Meeting Minutes

5 February 2014

Members Present: 28

Apologies: 10

Visitors: 0

President Jane welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the planned program. She then introduced the speaker for the night, Karen Groeneveld, with a talk on orchids in Europe.

Karen and her husband Peter travelled in the UK, France and Holland all of May and June last year in what was clearly a fascinating and spectacular trip.

The first significant location was Down House, the home of Charles Darwin. There is a collection of plant species in the glasshouse which is similar to what Darwin would have had, including orchids and carnivorous plants. The woods out the back were a noteworthy feature, especially knowing Darwin used to walk in the woods every day for thinking time.

At the Globe Theatre in London, a replica of Shakespeare's theatre, Karen found and photographed the slipper orchid featured on the iron gate at the entrance. The gate featured all the animals and plants that Shakespeare had ever referred to, but although he mentions an orchid, it was *Orchis maculata*, not the slipper orchid, so a bit of artistic license was used.

We were treated with a beautiful photo of the remarkable bluebell wood at Coton Manor in the Midlands, the carpet of bluebells close to full flower. The gardens of the estate are also beautiful, and home to a small group of flamingos and fancy chickens.

We saw photos of Hill Top Farm, one of Beatrix Potter's estates in the Lakes District. This is the site of Mr MacGregor's Garden, and home of Peter Rabbit.

On their way up through Scotland Karen and Peter took a delightful train trip from Fort William over the Glenfinnen Viaduct, the bridge featured in a Harry Potter movie (and many others). At Glenfinnen, a boardwalk meandered around Loch Shiel and through ancient Caledonian Pine forests.

Continuing north-east along Loch Ness, the monster failed to make an appearance (perhaps a relief). We saw photos of Dunrobin Castle, an almost fairy-tale castle with spectacular formal gardens. They went on to Ackergill Tower at Wick - a highly atmospheric 15th century seaside castle, the grounds of which were managed by Karen's ancestors - before reaching the north-eastern tip of the mainland at John O'Groats. Karen and Peter crossed to the Orkney

Islands where Karen photographed beautiful wildflowers around the coast and the wealth of Neolithic sites.

Back on mainland Britain, Knocken Crag, part of the North West Highlands Geopark, had geological interest, amazing views and giant black slugs.

Heading south again along the west coast they saw Doune Castle, a medieval castle built in the thirteenth century on the site of a Roman fortification. It was rebuilt in its present form between 1375 and 1425. Bonnie Prince Charlie famously stayed there.

In Cheshire, Lud's Church was spectacular, not as a place of worship, but as a deep, narrow gorge, its walls clad in ferns and mosses. In contrast the open Cornish coast provided fields of diverse wildflowers.

At Land's End, the south-western tip of mainland Britain, Karen and Peter turned eastwards along the coast, through Battle (site of the Battle of Hastings), Hastings and Hobbs Barton Farm at Framfield in East Sussex where the first wild orchids, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, of the trip were seen.

After crossing from Dover to France by ferry, a visit to Mont St Michel provided numerous photo opportunities. Not only is the site a highly picturesque medieval abbey dating from 500–600 AD, but orchids (*Anacamptis campestris*) were growing right on the road side leading to the town.

We were also shown a photo of a *Dactylorhiza*, an oak at least one thousand years old, and Neolithic burial sites. At Monteneuf photos showed *Dactylorhiza maculata* with ancient standing megaliths in the background. More than 400 of these extraordinary and huge stones are contained within a few hectares. Near St Just, there were more standing stones, and a field of *Anacamptis morio* that had finished flowering.

Then an unexpected bonus — at Versailles, in Marie-Antoinette's estate, Karen found bee orchids, *Ophrys apifera*. This was the last we saw of France, and in Holland it was Delft and Haarlem, where orchids often appeared in window displays.

Karen then showed some orchid photos from a previous trip in 2004, including *Orchis militaris*, *O. purpurea*, *O. anthropophora*, *Dactylorhiza sambucina* and a number of *Ophrys* species (bee orchids), among others. Many of these were growing in the Dordogne in France.

Karen's talk was a very tempting taster for travelling in Britain, France and Holland.

Show and Tell Segment

Karen is coordinating a program of short talks to add variety to the content of meetings and enable topics to be brought up which would otherwise not be addressed during meetings. Mark Clements provided the first of these short talks, on orchids in flower at work at CSIRO during the last couple of months. The “talk” was a series of photographs of the orchids including *Bulbophyllums* and their close relatives *Cadetias* (from New Guinea and Australia) and *Cirrhopetalums* (from China, Burma, Thailand and Malaysia), *Dendrobiums* (from China to Indonesia) and their close relatives *Grastidiums*. An unusual orchid which Mark had brought to the meeting was *Eria ornata*, which had prominent, bright orange bracts below the relatively inconspicuous flowers. This species grows in Malaysia and Borneo.

Minutes of the last two meetings: were published in the bulletin - moved by Ann McKenzie and seconded by Warwick Finch - approved.

Secretary’s Report: (selectively read out)

Bulletins	Miriam Ann Orchids Christmas Newsletter
	Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - February
	Horticultural Society of Canberra - February to April
	Bankstown Orchid Society - October to December 2013
	Campbelltown Orchid Society - December 2013
	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - January
	Eurobodalla Orchid Club - February
	ANOS (Victoria) - February
	AOC President’s Newsletter - January
	Magazines
Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria Gardeners Gazette - Summer 2013	
The Orchid Review - December 2013	
Other mail	National Library Legal Deposit receipt for book
	Bank documents
	Comstat invoice
	Order for book
	Sapphire Coast list of committee members and show dates
	List of orchid flasks from Taiwan available from Easy Orchids
	Information from the Canberra Citizens Advice Bureau (CONTACT)
	Information on manufacture of orchard pins and wire guards

	Information on tours of French gardens in June and September
	Update on the 1% for Orchid Conservation program
	Draft survey guidelines for Australia's Threatened Orchids for comment
	Advice about the issue of orchid postage stamps
	Information about the Castle Hill International Orchid Fair 4–5 April 2014
	2014 Workshop list of speakers, brochure and registration form
	Form to request judges for the show
	AOC minutes of AGM and October Board meeting
	Flask list from Sam Tsui
	Request for orchids for sale
	Invitation to have a stall at the “Connect and Participate Expo” 29 March
	OSNSW request for letter of support for bid for 2020 World Orchid Conference (Perth - WA, not Tasmania — also intends to bid for this)
	Email from Bill Ferris re terrestrial orchids needing to be potted
	Request for volunteer to be interviewed re favourite native orchid for Better Homes and Gardens
	Bank documents
	Comstat invoice
Outwards	Letter with flyer and book to OSNSW and six regional orchid clubs

Treasurer’s Report:

Current bank balance is \$17,701.

Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports: moved by Nita Wheeler and seconded by Mark Fraser - approved

Q & A:

- Is it too late to pot terrestrials? Answer: no.
- Is a tiger snake in the backyard normal for Canberra? Answer: that depends where you live. Apparently snakes in backyards are more common than we like to imagine and some snake stories provided entertainment if not enlightenment.
- What should the target temperature range in the glasshouse be? Answer: it was suggested the cooler be set to switch on at 25 C. Evaporative coolers cannot reduce the temperature more than about 10 degrees below the ambient temperature. To cater for the different needs of different kinds of plants they can be arranged in the most suitable spots in the glasshouse.

For instance, those needing cool conditions should be placed right in front of the cooler. Aluminium shade fabric greatly reduces heating in summer but is hard to buy in Australia. It can be bought for a similar price to normal shade cloth from US sellers. Rob raised a problem he experienced with the “bubble-wrap” insulation. He found growth rates suddenly declined when he installed the bubble-wrap, but it now seems to be reverting to normal.

- Can light intensity be measured? Answer: yes - the society has a light meter (held by Ben Walcott) but it needs adjustment, which it is hoped Peter Groeneveld will be able to do. The need to measure the components of the spectrum important for plant growth rather than the full spectrum of white light was discussed.

Raffle Prizes: Nita Wheeler, Mark Clements, Christine Finch, Kevin Dawes, and Bob Bush

Lucky door prize: Simon Barrett

Sales Table (Members Only)

Pots Fertilizer Wire products	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Shirts	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
25 th Anniversary glasses	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Bark	David Judge	
Orchid Mate	Laurie Woods	6258 6187

President’s Report:

Jane reminded members about the Horticultural Society Autumn show, (which is, in effect, the Orchid Society’s autumn show) on 1–2 March and encouraged entries. Jane also mentioned the Orchid Tray Company will be coming to a meeting in the next few months and will bring some of their stock.

Popular Vote February 2014

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae	<i>Rhyncolaeliocattleya</i> Peach Cobbler	Ben Walcott
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Dollgoldi	David Judge
Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne usitana</i>	Kevin Dawes
<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>	David Judge
<i>Vanda</i> hybrid	<i>Vanda</i> Ken Kone ‘Chao Praya Spots’	Jane Wright
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Zootrophion atropurpureum</i>	Jane Wright
Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidium incurvum</i>	Pater Coyne
Australian native epiphyte	<i>Cadetia taylori</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Terrestrial	<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Jane Wright
Any other orchid	<i>Maxillaria schunkeana</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
Judges’ Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lebaudy anum	David Judge
Judges’ Choice - Species	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
Judges’ Choice - Specimen	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	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.

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

By phone: (02) 6299 7080 (h)

By email: zoe.groeneveld@internode.on.net

Editor: Zoe Groeneveld

Orchid Society of Canberra
PO Box 221
Deakin West ACT 2600