

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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ABN 34 762 780 850

Petalochilus fuscatus



Volume 30, Number 3

May-Jun 2015

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

May: Ryan Phillips – hammer orchids

June: Annual General Meeting
David Judge – Bhutan

Upcoming Events

Orchids Out West: 15-17 May, Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon. Fri/Sat 9am - 4pm, Sun 9am - 3pm.

Mingara Orchid Fair: 27-28 June, Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi. Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 9am - 3pm.

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Winter Show: 4-5 July, Pavilion, Berry Showground.

May General Meeting

Our speaker for May will be Ryan Phillips on: **'The specialised ecology of hammer orchids - a precarious existence?'**

Summary: The hammer orchids are a bizarre group of plants, all of which are endemic to south-western Australia. In the botanical world they are famous for their sophisticated sexual deception of thynnine wasps, even featuring in Sir David Attenborough's 'Private Life of Plants'. However, many of the species are listed as endangered. This talk will focus on the role of their highly specialised mycorrhizal and pollination ecology in driving rarity.



March Judges' Choice Specimen: *Vappodes phalaenopsis*, grown by Jane Wright

Committee Members

President:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Vice President:	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
Treasurer:	Bob Forrester	6231 0203
Secretary:	Peter Coyne	6251 7660
Committee:	Mark Clements	0417 471 917
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Jacquie Bannerman	6154 7178

Committee meetings:

May: Bill Ferris

June:

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President's Comments

I would like to congratulate Tony Groube and the Eurobodalla Orchid Club for a very enjoyable and interesting Workshop run in March at Tuross Head. The speakers were entertaining and informative. A comprehensive report on the workshop proceedings prepared by Sue Carroll is available on the Eurobodalla Club website:

(www.eurobodallaorchidclub.webs.com).

The Sapphire Coast will be hosting the 2016 Workshop and Canberra has offered to host the 2017 Workshop.

Time to prepare for winter. Remove any surplus shading of your greenhouse and make sure the heater is working. Keep the fan going and the humidity high at night for CAM orchids. Reduce watering of the soft cane dendrobiums. Keep an eye on cymbidiums for any signs of spikes.

From time to time the club is offered plants from members and the public who no longer want to or are able to care for the plants. These are very useful to the society for repotting demonstrations and to stock the sales table. I would like to thank Joan Powell and John Ryan for giving the club first offer on their plants. John's plants included numerous 'rupicolous cattleyas' which need repotting and new homes urgently. Plans for the dividing and repotting of John's rupicolous cattleyas are outlined in this Bulletin and will be discussed at the May meeting. Thank you Jane for arranging. Also, cultural notes prepared by Jane Wright are included in this Bulletin.

The May meeting is the beginning of our new financial year, so membership fees for 2015-16 are now due.

The June meeting is the AGM and election of committee and officer bearers. Our revised Constitution adopted last year means the committee is comprised of four office bearers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and three committee members. Being on the committee is a rewarding experience and an opportunity for greater involvement in Society activities. Please talk to any current or previous committee member regarding what is involved and if interested complete the nomination form circulated with this Bulletin. Note that nominations must reach the secretary Peter Coyne by 27 May.

Membership Fees

A reminder that our 2015-16 financial year starts on 1 May and the AGM is on 3 June. Membership fees for next year are the same as this year, except that full time student membership is the same as for juniors, i.e.

Single membership is \$25, Joint membership is \$30, juniors and full-time students \$5.

Payments may be made by direct deposit to the society account:

Name: Orchid Society of Canberra Inc

BSB: 062913

Number: 28036165

or at a meeting or by posting a cheque or postal note.

If by direct deposit, please clearly identify your name.

Plants for the society from John Ryan

Jane Wright

John has decided to downsize his collection of orchids and has offered a selection of Cattleyas and Australian natives to the society for a good price. As you know, John has always had an eye for the best clones of orchids and so we are privileged to be able to share some of these with the Society. The first ones that we will be making available to society members are the rupicolous Cattleyas. These are tough little plants with very bright flowers that could be grown quite satisfactorily on a bright windowsill. See the article below by Lynne Phelan for more on this lovely group of orchids.

At the June meeting, Lynne will speak for 5 minutes on this group of orchids and plants will be available for sale from the sales table.

Working Bee

Sat 9 May 10am until whenever we're done.

We would like some help from members to re-pot and divide the rupicolous cattleyas from John Ryan's collection. The working bee will be held at Jane Wright and Roger Williams' place (135 Osburn Drive, Macgregor) on Saturday 9 May from 10am. We'll fire up the BBQ at lunch time, so bring something to char and something else to share. Also, bring along your secateurs and any clean 70, 80 or 100 mm squat pots that you are willing to donate to the cause. It will be a good opportunity to get to know something about this group of lovely plants, have a look at Jane's glasshouses and generally enjoy each other's company. To help Jane with planning please let her know if you can come (6254 1119 or janewright@grapevine.com.au).

Rupicolous Cattleyas

Lynne Phelan

This interesting group of orchids grows in gravel substrates in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. Formerly they were included in the genus *Laelia* and were referred to as rupicolous (meaning 'rock dwelling') *Laelias*. These species are now considered to be in the genus *Cattleya*.

Though located in the tropics, the rupicolous *Cattleyas* actually require a temperate climate because most are found at high altitude. Most of these species are found in south-eastern Brazil growing at an altitude of between 500 and 1500 metres. (Canberra is about 570 metres above sea level but is cold and dry because of distance from maritime influences.)

Rupicolous *Cattleyas* are xerophytic; that is, they can withstand seasonally dry conditions. They grow in a climate with a cool dry 'winter' when growth stops and the plants are virtually dormant. The only moisture for many months in some areas comes from evening fogs. With the onset of spring rains and warmer weather new growth starts and this matures over the warm, wet summer. Maturity is reached before autumn dryness and cooler temperatures again stop growth. Within this general pattern conditions can be extreme with temperatures ranging from freezing to 40°C+ in some areas. Big diurnal (day/night) temperature variations are normal.

So how do rupicolous *Cattleyas* cope with the climate and environment? The leaves are fleshy allowing plants to store food and moisture and they have a thick cuticle to prevent water loss. In very bright conditions such as exist on the lava plateau in Minas Gerais (Brazil), the leaves develop a bright red pigmentation that protects the sensitive photosynthetic cells. Leaves also have a V-shaped leaf section to support the heavy leaf tissue. This shape also decreases the area exposed to the environment and serves to channel any available water down to the roots. Another factor that allows these *Cattleyas* to thrive in their environment is that they rely on CAM metabolism (see 'Orchids in a Cool Climate' by Bill Ferris in the society's book (2nd ed) for a simple explanation).

To cater for the CAM function of rupicolous *Cattleyas*, provide moderate night temperatures (mine go down to 5°C) and maintain high humidity levels at night to allow respiration and the intake of CO₂. Provide relatively high daytime light levels (similar to that required by *Cattleyas*) to drive photosynthesis in the succulent chlorophyll-bearing tissue. Make sure there is a fairly strong diurnal (day-night) temperature

fluctuation to ensure the completion of the process. Be sure to provide adequate air movement. Along with this, aim to replicate the seasonal climate with a dry winter rest followed by an active growing period through spring and summer.

These hardy little plants are not prone to pests and diseases but the tightly clustered pseudobulbs can harbour scale or mealybugs which should be treated quickly because they can be difficult to eradicate if they get among the roots and growing medium. These plants need to be allowed to dry out between waterings as rot will set in if the plants are kept wet. To replicate their growing in gravel, use a free-draining potting mix, e.g. bark and gravel, and repot only when necessary as they do not like to be disturbed. I feed my plants fortnightly in the growing season with a very weak fertiliser solution.



March Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Coelogyne* Lime Bay: grown by Kevin Dawes

General Meeting Minutes 4 March 2015

Members Present: 37

Apologies: 7

Visitors: none

President Bill opened the meeting with an outline of the program for the evening.

Speaker: The UK and France now have some competition. Sandra Corbett (and Mark Fraser) continued the travelogue/geographic theme with a presentation on orchids in Japan. They highly recommended Japan as a travel destination where it is easy to get around. Prices for food, accommodation and transport are fairly similar to those in Australia. A spine of mountains runs the full length of the country. The climate is wet and humid. The environment ranges from Palearctic in the northern island of Hokkaido, where *Paphiopedilums* grow, to more tropical Okinawa in the south. The Nagoya Orchid

Gardens had a great display of *Phalaenopsis* for sale and a display of massed *Thelychiton kingianum* hybrids. The Sapporo University Botanic Garden had a Wollemi Pine.

Due to shortage of space, the Japanese grow a lot of plants in pots. A currently popular style is kokedama, a moss sphere (with a mud core) replacing a clay pot. Sandra showed us *Maxillaria* and *Cymbidium* grown as kokedama. We saw photos of lots of variegated *Vanda* (*Neofinetia*) *falcata*, a species native to Japan which traditionally was grown by the samurai class.

Secretary's Report: (most not read out)

Bulletins	Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - March
	Miriam Ann Orchids - February
	Shoalhaven Orchid Society - February
	Wagga Wagga Orchid Society - January
	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - September
	Eurobodalla Orchid Club - March
	ANOS Victoria Group - March
	OSNSW Orchid News - February
Magazines	Orchid Digest - January to March
	Orchids Australia - February
Other mail	Bank documents
	Subscription renewal notices for Orchid Digest, Orchids Australia and Australian Orchid Review
	Offer of free large <i>Thelychiton speciosum</i> and a large <i>T. kingianum</i>
	Membership application
	Flyers for Castle Hill International Orchid Fair 17 & 18 April (21 orchid nurseries and suppliers)
	Promo for Adam Woodham's Gardeners' & Gourmets' tour of Norfolk Island
	Flyer for ACT Public Trustee seminars for Seniors Week
	Enquiry re Canberra Society hosting the next regional workshop
	The March workshop is now fully booked
	Request for judges for our show
	AOC/TQOC Conference Early-bird registration has been extended to 21 March
	Elernmore Orchids flask list
	Catalogue for Manly Warringah Orchid Society Orchid Auction 29 March

Moved by Nita Wheeler, seconded by Ben Walcott - approved.

Treasurer's report: Total funds \$25685.25 with \$9313 in transaction account. Moved by Jacquie Bannerman, seconded Ros Walcott; adopted.

Q & A:

- *Diplodium* (formerly *Pterostylis*) produces two forms — flowering and non-flowering.

- *Goodyera* grow in cold and low light, and spread by runners.
- Garlic snails are susceptible to Metaldehyde, but not to other snail killers. Slugs can be killed by squirting them with methylated spirits.
- What orchid is used in France for cosmetics? — probably *Calanthe vestita* and maybe *Vanilla*.



March Orchid of the Night: *Cattleya Meadii* 'Alwin', grown by Ben Walcott

Other matters: Bill reminded members that the society will have a stand at the Connect and Participate Expo on 28 March. Volunteers will be needed and will be sought at the March meeting. Jacquie Bannerman is coordinating. With postal rates about to rise to \$1 the bulletin is getting expensive to post out so everyone who can receive the bulletin by email is encouraged to do so. Those who do not receive it by email can collect a printed copy at the next general meeting.

Raffle Prizes: Nita Wheeler, Tom Calma, Don Chesher, Dora Chapman, Heather Macgregor, and Ann McKenzie

Lucky door prize: Peter Coyne



April Orchid of the Night & Judges' Choice Specimen: *Epigeneium nakaharae*, grown by Mark Clements

General Meeting Minutes

1 April 2015

Members Present: 24

Apologies: 8

Visitors: none

President Bill opened the meeting with an outline of the program for the evening, and reminded members that now the weather is getting cooler they need to reduce watering and shading, and check heaters.

Speaker: Kevin Dawes gave a talk on *Coelogynes*, using his website *coelogynes.com* to illustrate his talk. This also provided members the opportunity to see how the website worked, how much information is available, and the diversity of the genus.

Kevin started growing *Coelogynes* in a small way, with *C. cristata*, *C. flaccida* and *C. Unchained Melody*, but so began an addiction. The genus *Coelogyne* contains about 200 species, of which about 80 are in cultivation and Kevin is growing 60. There are also 69 registered primary hybrids. Kevin has created more than 100 hybrids with 47 registered. With *Coelogynes* the pod takes about a year to ripen, the seeds are flaked and resealed a number of times over a year-long period before deflasking onto a straight sphagnum mixture and kept warm and very moist for another year before putting into the glasshouse to develop and flower. Thus from pollinating to flowering the progeny can take five years or more; the amount of effort in producing more than 100 hybrids is therefore astounding.

Kevin's website also discusses related genera, including *Dendrochilum*, *Pleione*, and *Pholidota*. Information is provided on 22 of the 270 named *Dendrochilums*. Another useful feature of the website is a list of 75 commonly used and therefore confusing synonyms. Kevin's website provides a wealth of information on the rewarding *Coelogyne* genus, its species and hybrids, and its relatives.



April Judges' Choice Species: *Gomesa crispa*, grown by Bill Ferris

Secretary's Report: (most not read out)

Bulletins	Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - April
	Miriam Ann Orchids - March/April
	Shoalhaven Orchid Society - March
	Wagga Wagga Orchid Society - February
	Wangaratta & District Orchid Society - March and April
	Bankstown Orchid Society - February/March
	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - March
	Eurobodalla Orchid Club - April (including article on the workshop)
	ANOS Victoria Group - April
	Milton-Ulladulla Orchid Society - March
OSNSW Orchid News - February	
Magazines	The Orchid Review - March (including an article on Australian Dendrobiums)
	Information on 2016 Orchids Premium Wall Calendar (orders closed 26 March)
	Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria "Gardeners' Gazette" - Autumn (including information on orchid shows in Victoria up to September)
Other mail	3 invoices
	Australian Orchid Federation correspondence, including essay comp & book list
	Flyers for St Ives Orchid Fair
	information on new textbook "Commercial Orchids"
	New secretary of Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society
	Newsletter on the AOC Conference including information on associated tours

Moved by Sandra Corbett, seconded by Jane Wright – approved.

Treasurer's Report: Total funds \$25995.55 with \$9623.30 in the transaction account. Membership subscriptions are now due, which will augment the funds. Hopefully members who do not yet have a society t-shirt will buy one.

Moved by Ben Walcott, seconded by Ros Walcott – approved.

Other matters: Bill reported on the CAP Expo event and the success of the society's stall. He also congratulated Eurobodalla Orchid Club for hosting an excellent weekend workshop. He commented particularly on the spectacular scale of commercial growing of *Phalaenopsis* in Taiwan. [Comprehensive notes by Sue Carroll describing the content of the workshop are available at

[http://eurobodallaorchidclub.webs.com/Sue's%20Notes.compressed%20\(1\).pdf](http://eurobodallaorchidclub.webs.com/Sue's%20Notes.compressed%20(1).pdf)]

Bill mentioned that Joan Powell has donated about 20 Cymbidiums and Dendrobiums to the society, and John Ryan is providing a substantial number of orchids which he has been unable to maintain, so a working bee might be needed to give them a bit of TLC.

Fees for 2015–16 are now due and can be paid by direct deposit. The June meeting is the Annual General Meeting when office-bearers for the next year will be elected. Anyone who would like to nominate for an office or for the committee is encouraged to do so.

The society is considering buying a load of Orchiata bark. Orchiata is a highly-regarded brand of New Zealand pine bark.

Next meetings:

- May - Ryan Phillips on *Drakaea*
- June - David Judge on Bhutan

Raffle Prizes: Bob Forrester, Jane Wright and Peter Coyne

Lucky Door Prize: Sandra Corbett



April Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop 'Kodama', grown by Ben Walcott

Sales Table (Members Only)

Pots	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Fertilizer		
Wire products		
Shirts	Bob Forrester	6231 0203
25 th Anniversary glasses	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Bark	David Judge	
Orchid Mate	Laurie Woods	0412 632 046 (or 6258 6187 after 8.00pm)

Popular Vote March 2015

	Category	Plant	Owner
America	Laeliinae	<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Asia	<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum cornutum</i>	Mark Clements
Asia	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne</i> Lime Bay	Kevin Dawes
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	<i>Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum</i>	David Judge
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> lantha Stage	Jane Wright
Asia	Vandae species	<i>Holcoglossum kimbalianum</i>	Mark Clements
Asia	Vandae hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Dendi's Message 'Anita'	Bob Forrester
Australia	Australian native epiphyte	<i>Vappodes phalaenopsis</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Australia	Australian native terrestrial	<i>Diplodidum coccineum</i>	Bill Ferris
	Any other orchid	<i>Dendrobium lancifolium</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	Orchid of the Night	<i>Cattleya Meadii</i> 'Alwin'	Ben Walcott
	Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Coelogyne</i> Lime Bay	Kevin Dawes
	Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Oxysepala shepherdii</i>	Bill Ferris
	Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Vappodes phalaenopsis</i>	Jane Wright

Popular Vote April 2015

	Category	Plant	Owner
America	Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'	Ben Walcott
America	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Anathallis schlerophylla</i>	Jane Wright
America	Oncidiinae	<i>Gomesa crispa</i>	Bill Ferris
Asia	Coelogyntinae	<i>Dendrochilum parvulum</i>	Jane Wright
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Psyche	David Judge
		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> unknown hybrid	David Judge
Asia	<i>Dendrobium</i> exotic	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements
Asia	Vandae species	<i>Haraella odorata</i>	Jane Wright
Asia	<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Eed	Jane Wright
Australia	Australian native terrestrial	<i>Taurantha collina</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	Any other orchid	<i>Mediocalcar decoratum</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	Orchid of the Night	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements
	Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'	Ben Walcott
	Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Gomesa crispa</i>	Bill Ferris
	Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements

Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn Show 2015

Orchid Section

Champion Orchid			<i>Vappodes phalaenopsis</i>	Jane Wright
Reserve Champion Orchid			<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid unknown	David Judge
Champion Specimen Orchid			<i>Acianthus crinita</i>	Jane Wright
Class		Place	Name	Owner
131	<i>Cattleya</i> Alliance hybrid - standard	1	<i>Cattlianthe</i> Meadii 'Alwin'	Ben Walcott
		2	<i>Cattleya</i> Angelwalker x Rlc. Pastoral	Jane Wright
134	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	1	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
		2	<i>Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum</i>	David Judge
135	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	1	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid unknown	David Judge
		2	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> lantha Stage	Jane Wright
136	Vandae species	1	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>	Mark Fraser & Sandra Corbett
		2	<i>Acampe papillosa</i>	Jane Wright
137	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> hybrid	1	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Lyndon Equator Jewel	
138	<i>Vanda</i> and <i>Ascocenda</i> hybrid	1	<i>Vanda</i> Peggy Foo 'Angelina'	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Vanda</i> Robert's Delight	Jane Wright
146	Other Pleurothallid species	1	<i>Acianthus crinita</i>	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	Jane Wright
148	<i>Masdevallia</i> hybrid <30mm	1	<i>Masdevallia</i> Vin Rouge	Jane Wright
150	<i>Dendrobium</i> alliance species	1	<i>Vappodes phalaenopsis</i>	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Vappodes phalaenopsis</i>	Jane Wright
152	Any other orchid hybrid	1	<i>Coelogyne</i> Kirribilli Noela	Jane Wright
143	Any other orchid species	1	<i>Lockhartia lunifera</i>	Mark Fraser & Sandra Corbett

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 another member of the Committee.

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

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