

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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

www.canberraorchids.org

Email: orcsoc@yahoo.com

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Petalochilus fuscatus



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Jul-Aug 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

July: Mark Clements – what we know, and don't know, about Australian orchids

August: David Judge – Bhutan

Upcoming Events

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

Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society Winter Show: 17-18 July, Soldiers Club, 2 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay.

Milton-Ulladulla Orchid Society Winter Show: 25-26 July, Civic Centre, Ulladulla.

National Orchid Extravaganza: 7-9 August, Round Corner, Dural.

St Ives Orchid Fair: 14-16 August, St Ives Showground.

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Winter Show: 14-16 August, Twyford Hall, Merimbula.

Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society Spring Show: 4-5 September, Soldiers Club, 2 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay.

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Spring Show: 10-11 September, Scout Hall, Bega.

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Spring Show: 11-12 September, Presbyterian Hall, Kinghorne St, Nowra.

Canberra Horticultural Society Spring Bulb and Camellia Show: 12-13 September, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forrest. www.hsoc.org.au

Southern Riviera Orchid Society Spring Show: 19-20 September, Civic Centre, Ulladulla.

Canberra Orchid Society Spring Orchid Show: 26-27 September, Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 12pm - 4pm. Wesley Centre, 20 National Circuit, Forrest.

For further info: <http://www.canberraorchids.org/>



May Orchid of the Night: *Bulbophyllum plumatum* 'Red Ribbon', grown by Karen Groeneveld

Committee Members

President:	<u>Bill Ferris</u>	6297 5635
Vice President:	<u>Karen Groeneveld</u>	6299 7080
Treasurer:	<u>Bob Forrester</u>	6231 0203
Secretary:	<u>Geoff Dyne</u>	6231 3681
Committee:	<u>Mark Clements</u>	0417 471 917
	<u>Zoe Groeneveld</u>	6299 7080
	<u>Peter Coyne</u>	6251 7660

Committee meetings:

4 August: Karen Groeneveld

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President's Comments

There is no doubt winter is here, along with the usual problems of making sure the heater keeps working in the greenhouse. If you are venturing to warmer climes to escape the Canberra cold, it is wise to have someone regularly check that everything remains ok in the greenhouse.

Many thanks to Jane Wright for the work she has done in handling the orchids the society acquired from John Ryan. Besides organising and doing a substantial part of the repotting, Jane has carefully documented (including updating the botanical names) and priced the plants, and is also managing the sale of the plants. Thanks to other members who also helped by looking after and repotting the orchids. Lists of the remaining plants will be circulated and members still have the opportunity to buy some top quality species and hybrids. Unsold plants will go on the sales table at the show.

Show season is well underway and provides an opportunity to check out the latest productions from the commercial growers and drool over orchids that are difficult to grow in our climate.

Thanks to Jacquie Bannerman for her efforts on the committee last year and welcome to Geoff Dyne who is now secretary.

General Meeting Minutes

6 May 2015

Members Present: 28

Apologies: 5

Visitors: 3

Vice-president Karen Groeneveld opened the meeting, explaining that as Bill Ferris was away the sales table was a bit thin on products.

Speaker: Mark Clements introduced guest speaker, Ryan Phillips, who gave a fascinating talk on the genus *Drakaea*.

Ryan explained the scientific interest in the symbiotic relationships of orchids. Orchids rely on particular pollinators, but such specialisation is risky as the orchid is left dependent on the presence of its pollinator. The genus *Drakaea* has ten species, five of which are rare and one believed extinct. They are endemic to southwest Western Australia, where new populations continue to be discovered.

*Drakaea*s need a specific morphotype of *Tulesnella* mycorrhizal fungus. They rely on thynnine wasps for pollination, engaging in chemical and physical sexual deception to attract the particular species of wasp they need. *Drakaea* is the first group of plants known to use pyrazines as a sexual hormone. Even closely related genera do not have pyrazines. The physical attributes of the wasp and orchid must be precisely matched to achieve successful pollination. There are more than 1600 species of thynnine wasps, most still undescribed. Only nine of 28 species found in a community study had been described; 80% of species found on orchids remain undescribed. One *Drakaea* species and the King Spider Orchid have the same pollinating wasp species.

All *Drakaea* species (and *Paracaleana*) depend on the same species of mycorrhizal fungus, while *Chiloglottis* has a very similar species. Common and rare *Drakaea* germinate equally, suggesting that the availability of the mycorrhiza is not the limiting factor. Ryan investigated the possibility that availability of the necessary thynnine wasp species could be a reason for rarity of some *Drakaea* species. After using orchids as bait for pollinators at more than 300 sites, six out of eight *Drakaea* species had just one unique pollinator species while the other two attracted two wasp species. The wasp species are usually more widespread than their orchid. In rare *Drakaea* species there was less than 10% chance of the pollinator being present. Rare orchid species tend to require the rarest pollinating wasps. Pollination averaged a very high 55% effectiveness.



May Judges' Choice Species: *Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*, grown by David Judge

A conservation lesson arose from this study. These orchids have the potential for cryptic variation. Species indistinguishable to researchers were recognised as different by their pollinators. The distribution of ecotypes corresponds to the most abundant pollinator.

Secretary’s Report: (most not read out)

Bulletins	Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - May	
	Miriam Ann Orchids - April/May	
	Albury–Wodonga Orchid Society - April and May	
	Shoalhaven Orchid Society - April	
	Wagga Wagga Orchid Society - March	
	Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society - March	
	Eurobodalla Orchid Club - May	
	ANOS Victoria Group - May	
	Milton–Ulladulla Orchid Society - April	
	AOC President’s newsletter	
	Horticultural Society of Canberra May–July	
	Magazines	Orchids Australia - April
		Australian Orchid Review – April/May
Other mail	Reminder from the Office of Regulatory Services of our obligation to submit an annual return	
	Wayne Turville’s advice of new web site	
	Flyers for Mingara Orchid Fair and Show, Tumbi Umbi, 27 & 28 June	
	Australian Orchid Federation correspondence including essay comp, book list	
	Flyer for Glenmore House Open Day 3 May	
	Information on 8th Native Orchid Conference and Show, Kempsey, 1–4 September 2016	
	Elermore Orchids 2015 Seedling Catalogue	

Moved by Jim Wheeler, seconded by Robyn Noel - accepted.

Treasurer’s report: Annual subscriptions are coming in so funds will increase. Total funds \$22,850.79 with \$6478.54 in the transaction account. Karen Groeneveld bought a new computer and software for the society, with its first use tonight.

Moved by Ben Walcott, seconded Mark Fraser - accepted.



May Judges’ Choice Hybrid: *Dendrobium bigibbum* ‘Blue Moon’ x Sedgfield’, grown by Rob Rough



May Orchid of the Night & Judges’ Choice Specimen: *Dendrochilum wenzelii*, grown by Don Chesher

Other matters: Jane asked for help with a working bee on 9 May to replot the orchids acquired from John Ryan. The orchids were collected in four cars and a trailer. Saturday’s working bee will be to replot rupicolous Cattleyas. Some will be for sale at the June meeting. There are also some wonderful *Thelychiton speciosus*. John’s orchids will be sold progressively at meetings and any remaining will be placed for sale at the show.

Karen presented David Judge with an AOC award for a *Paphiopedilum*.

David Judge informed members that the Orchata bark had just arrived and is available for \$28 per 40 litre bag. It comes in four sizes and lasts longer than ordinary bark.

Nominations are sought for membership of the committee as the AGM is next month.

Q & A :

- Another suggestion to clean labels is WD40 (previous suggestions were Citro Clean from IGA stores and hair spray).
- Mark Fraser showed *Phelapanthes* plants of a recently discovered species bought as flask last August and explained how he grew them under take-away containers. They have been flowering well; one was even in flower in the flask. The species grows in high altitude cloud forest in Ecuador.

Next meetings: June – AGM, then David Judge on Bhutan. Lynne Phelan will also give a short talk on rupicolous Cattleyas.

Raffle Prizes: Ben Walcott, Don Chesher, Mark Fraser, Therese Burke, Mark Clements and Nita Wheeler

Lucky Door Prize: David Judge

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.
3 June 2015

Meeting opened by President Bill Ferris, welcoming all to the meeting.

Members Present: 37

Apologies: 4

Visitors: 1

Minutes of 2014 AGM (printed in the July/August 2014 Bulletin): moved by Kevin Dawes, seconded by Ros Walcott – approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bob Forrester advised that the auditor's report validating the financial records had been received. Bob noted the income for 2014 was augmented by the regional show and conference and the first year the new edition of the book was available for sale. The assets value for 2015 below includes books worth nearly \$7800 but does not include Orchidata bark bought recently for more than \$2000.

	2014	2015
Income	\$24,030.45	\$19,082.66
Expenditure	\$16,041.60	\$16,392.49
Surplus	\$7,988.85	\$2,690.17
Assets	\$30,031.59	\$31,808.24

Moved by Ben Walcott, seconded by Robyn Noel – approved.

President's report:

Bill summarised the last year as busy and successful, with diverse activities including a workshop on de-flasking and working bees. The annual show was successful. Book sales have been a bit slow, with about 1300 copies left. He thanked the committee for their support during the year.

Election of office bearers and committee:

Peter Coyne acted as returning officer. He noted the following nominations for the 2015–2016 year had been received:

President: William (Bill) Ferris

Vice President: Karen Groeneveld

Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Forrester

Secretary: Geoffrey (Geoff) Dyne

Members: Mark Clements, Zoe Groeneveld and Peter Coyne

There were no other nominations and the Committee for 2015–16 was declared elected.

General Meeting Minutes

3 June 2015

Members Present: 37

Apologies: 4

Visitors: 1

President Bill Ferris welcomed all to the meeting and explained the program for the evening.

Jane Wright advised that about 600 orchids were received from John Ryan. A lot of effort, including during working bees, has been put into repotting them and getting them into good condition. Tonight some of the *Thelichiton speciosus* and rupicolous Cattleyas are available for purchase.

Speakers: Lynne Phelan presented a short talk on rupicolous Cattleyas (formerly Laelias). She explained the historical sequence of their nomenclature, from *Laelia* to *Sophronitis* and then to *Cattleya*. Only the Mexican ones remain in the *Laelia* genus. Rupicolous means these plants grow on or among rocks, colonising crevices. Consequently they need excellent drainage and an open potting mix. Some which grow among grasses have long flower stems to reach above the grass, while others which grow with mosses have short flower stems. In the wild they can have a 6-month period without rain, relying on condensation on the leaves trickling down to the roots. It is best to mist plants during winter, rather than watering, unless the pseudobulbs shrivel.

David Judge gave a short talk on orchids of Sikkim as there was inadequate time for his advertised talk on Bhutan, which was rescheduled to the August meeting (a spectacular preview photo of Bhutan made that talk an unmissable event). Sikkim is an Indian state bordered by Nepal on the west, Tibet to the north and Bhutan to the east. The Sikkim government is trying to diversify the economy and is encouraging commercial orchid growing. The Cymbidium Development Centre grows plants which are given to farmers. It has extensive glasshouses. The Sikkim Botanic Gardens also have a good orchid collection. David showed us photos of trees in parks which were covered in orchids.

Secretary's Report: (not read out)

Bulletins	Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - June
	Miriam Ann Orchids - May
	Wangaratta & District Orchid Society - May
	Shoalhaven Orchid Society - May
	Wagga Wagga Orchid Society - April
	ANOS Victoria Group Bulletin June and council news for March
Magazines	Orchid Digest April-June
	Australian Orchid Review - June/July
	Australian Cymbidium Scene - Winter
Other mail	Order for a copy of the society's book
	Orchid Societies Council of Victoria flyers for Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 28-30 August and list of Victorian club shows
	Bank documents
	Promotional material for The Repat Foundation's DVD 'Doin' It For The Troops'
	Information on Orchiata bark bought by the society, available now from David Judge
	Promotional material for Norfolk Island Flora Week tour 28 September - 5 October
	List of John Ryan's speciosums and Cattleyas available for purchase
	Info on Toowoomba Orchid Society 60th Birthday Conference and Show 24-25 July
	1% for Orchid Conservation Update 30
	Advice of the four judges allocated for our show

Other matters: Mark Clements commented on the native terrestrial orchids on the display bench. He mentioned that *Acianthus exertus* and *A. collinus* grow on Black Mountain and are in flower at this time of the year. *Diplodinium* has both a flowering and a vegetative form. *Urochilus*, which has an exposed labellum, does not reproduce by producing new tubers, but by seed.



June Orchid of the Night & Judges' Choice Specimen: *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry', grown by Rob Rough



June Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Oncidium* (syn. *Wilsonara*) Tiger's Answer 'Trappers Gold', grown by Brian Phelan

Q & A : Kevin Dawes spoke about his method for growing *Coelogyne* on carpet underlay foam over plastic on his weldmesh benches. The roots grow onto the wet foam and benefit from the accessible water.

Next meetings:

July - Mark Clements on Australian orchids: what we do and don't know

August - David Judge on trekking in Bhutan.

Raffle Prizes: Therese Bourke, Trish Stewart-Richardson, Lynne Phelan

Lucky Door Prize: Rob Rough



June Judges' Choice Species: *Urochilus sanguineus*, grown by Nita Wheeler

Popular Vote May 2015

	Category	Plant	Owner
America	Laeliinae species	<i>Prosthechea fragrans</i>	Ben Walcott
America	Laeliinae hybrid	<i>Cattlianthe Porcia</i>	Rob Rough
America	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Acronia gomezii</i>	Karen Groeneveld
America	Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'</i>	David Judge
America	Any other	<i>Zygopetalum mackayi</i>	Mark Clements
Asia	<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum plumatum 'Red Ribbon'</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Asia	Coelogyninae species	<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Don Chesher
Asia	Coelogyninae hybrid	<i>Coelogyne Kirribilli Ellen</i>	Don Chesher
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne f. sanderianum</i>	Jane Wright
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum Harrisianum</i>	Jane Wright
Asia	Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum 'Blue Moon' x Sedgfield'</i>	Rob Rough
Asia	Any other	<i>Eria coronaria</i>	Mark Clements
Australia	Epiphyte species	<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>	Nita Wheeler
Australia	Terrestrial	<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	Nita Wheeler
Orchid of the Night		<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Don Chesher
		<i>Bulbophyllum plumatum 'Red Ribbon'</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Dendrobium bigibbum 'Blue Moon' x Sedgfield'</i>	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Paphiopedilum gratixianum</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Don Chesher

Popular Vote June 2015

	Category	Plant	Owner
America	Laeliinae	<i>Laelia gouldiana 'Tyabb'</i>	Bill Ferris
America	Laeliinae	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya (syn. Potinara) Goldernell 'Mango'</i>	Geoff Dyne
America	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Acronia semiscabra</i>	Jane Wright
America	Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidium (syn. Wilsonara) Tiger's Answer 'Trappers Gold'</i>	Brian Phelan
Asia	<i>Cymbidium</i>	<i>Cymbidium tracyanum</i>	Bob Forrester
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	<i>Paphiopedilum wardii</i>	David Judge
Asia	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum Wrigleyii</i>	David Judge
Australia	Australian native terrestrial	<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>	Nita Wheeler
Any other orchid		<i>Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'</i>	Rob Rough
Orchid of the Night		<i>Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'</i>	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Oncidium (syn. Wilsonara) Tiger's Answer 'Trappers Gold'</i>	Brian Phelan
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Urochilus sanguineus</i>	Nita Wheeler
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'</i>	Rob Rough

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

Editor: Zoe Groeneveld