

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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Caladenia fuscata



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Jul - Aug 2016

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

6th July: Growing Orchids on Mounts – various speakers

3rd August: Mark Clements (topic to be advised)

Upcoming Events

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Winter Show: 2 - 3 July, Pavilion, Berry Showground

Eurobodalla Orchid Club Winter Show: 8 - 9 July, CWA Hall, Queen St, Moruya NSW

Milton-Ulladulla Orchid Society Winter Show: 16 - 17 July, Civic Centre, Ulladulla NSW

National Orchid Extravaganza: 5 - 7 August, Round Corner, Dural NSW

St Ives Orchid Fair: 19 - 21 August, St Ives Showground, Sydney NSW

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Winter Show: 19 - 21 August, Twyford Hall, Merimbula NSW

Eurobodalla Orchid Club Spring Show: 26 - 28 August, Narooma Sports and Leisure Centre, Blue Water Dr, Narooma NSW

Shoalhaven Orchid Society Spring Show: 9 - 10 September, Presbyterian Hall, Kinghorne St, Nowra NSW

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Spring Show: 22 - 23 September, (venue to be confirmed), Bega NSW

Canberra Annual Spring Orchid Show: 24 - 25 September, Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre, 20 National Circuit, Forrester, Canberra ACT

For further info, visit:

<http://www.canberraorchids.org/> or

<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Shows2016.htm>



June Judges' Choice Species: *Restrepia antennifera*, 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:	Geoff Dyne	6231 3681
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Jane Wright	6254 1119



June Judges' Choice Specimen and Orchid of the Night: *Cattleya maxima*, grown by Ben Walcott

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President's Comments

Welcome to the committee members for 2016-17. It is a pleasure to have Jane Wright return to the committee. Thanks to Mark Clements for his valued contribution over the last two years.

It is that time of year when we need to keep a close eye on the weather forecasts and be alert to potential severe frosts. Otherwise the somewhat milder conditions so far has encourage good growth and budding of the *Thelychitons*. Native terrestrials are also showing good growth. Limit watering and no fertilising of soft cane dendrobiums.

Our July meeting will focus on growing orchids on mounts. Issues to be covered include what are mounts, what material can be used as mounts, what orchids are best grown on mounts, how to secure the orchid to the mount and cultural conditions for growing orchids on mounts. It will be an opportunity for members to share experiences as well as being informative to members who have little experience growing orchids on mounts.

Over the next couple of months, preparations for our 2016 show will keep the committee busy. The committee will be approaching members for their assistance. We will have two first time vendors at our show this year, namely Sequoia Cymbidiums and Johnston Orchids which should ensure an ample supply of plants for sale.



May Orchid of the Night: *Dendrochilum wenzellii*, grown by Don Chesher

General Meeting Minutes

4 May 2016

34 members present

9 apologies

Bill Ferris opened the meeting, noting that the unusually warm weather has affected some orchids, such as some *Thelychiton speciosus* which are starting to develop flower buds, but the bush or garlic snails and the odd caterpillar are also benefiting from the warmth. Bill presented membership badges to Chris Szigetvari, Tony Tritschler and Gael Walton.

Introducing the session on greenhouses, which was chaired by Jane Wright, Bill commented that a considerable number of orchids can be grown without a greenhouse, especially in a sheltered spot or under a north-facing pergola. While some hot climate orchids might grow without heating they might not flower.

Overview by Jane Wright

Objective: To grow the best plants you can

- What does the plant need?
- What does the species experience in nature?
- How different are those conditions to Canberra outdoors?

It comes down to:

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Watering
- Light/shade (intensity and day-length)

The Orchidwiz software can help guide you on a plant's requirements. The Society has a computer with Orchidwiz installed on it which can be borrowed from the library. Orchidwiz has information on more than 30,000 species and almost 160,000 hybrid registrations, over 140,000 photos and over 100,000 awards. For many of the species it describes the natural monthly temperature, rainfall and humidity, as well as light, fertiliser, growing media and rest period requirements.



May Judges' Choice Species: *Bulbophyllum lindleyanum*, grown by Mark Clements

Factors to manage:

- **Light:** consider shade-cloth & position relative to shading trees and structures
- **Temperature:** the need for heating and cooling to maintain minimum night temperatures, maximum day temperatures, and the difference between day & night
- **Watering:** consider water source (i.e. mains or rain tank), use of a hand-held hose or automatic irrigation, when to water with & without fertiliser, when do the plants require a seasonal wet or dry period
- **Humidity:** can be maintained by wetting the floors or using foggers. Consider the different needs of CAM plants
- **Safety:** electricity & water DON'T mix! Watch out for slippery floors
- **Capital and running costs:** good insulation can help keep down electricity costs. Use twin-wall polycarbonate instead of glass and bubble-wrap lining

Shade-house

A shade-house may be described as a simple structure with shade-cloth walls and may or may not have a solid roof. It provides shading, wind protection, some frost protection, and, if the roof is solid, rain & hail protection. Shade-houses are often adequate for Cymbidiums, Australian terrestrials, and many other Australian natives, especially with solid roof cover.

Cold greenhouse (no supplemental heating)

A greenhouse will have a solid roof and walls, and will usually have shade-cloth over top to shelter your plants from the full sun. A cold greenhouse has all the benefits of a shade-house with the greater advantage of better frost protection and higher temperatures in winter. The disadvantages of a greenhouse over a shade-house are the need to use fans for air movement and the need to manage natural heat in summer. A cold greenhouse is excellent for Cymbidiums, Australian terrestrials, and many other Australian natives.

Heated greenhouse

As the name implies, it's the same as a cold greenhouse, but with supplemental heating. Having a heated greenhouse means a much wider range of plants can be grown, but this range depends on how much you are prepared to pay to turn up the dial (and the electricity bill). Disadvantages include a probable need to actively manage humidity (warmed air is dryer). A heated greenhouse is necessary in Canberra for any plants that require a winter minimum above 4°C.

Jane made further comments including:

- the need for great care to be taken when using electricity in a wet environment
- She bought a humidifier which works with tank water and a pump, not mains pressure

- She stops watering in part of the glasshouse for plants which need to dry out
- If there is air movement, flower stalks will be sturdier

Rob Rough

Rob commented that this isn't a hobby where you can set things up and expect it to run itself. As you diversify your orchid collection you need to diversify the growing conditions. Also, the bigger the greenhouse the easier it is to control.

Rob waters by hand, checking the weight of each pot individually to avoid over-watering. He has found automatic watering within his greenhouse will make the plants too wet.

He has white quartz pebbles on the floor to hold moisture and reflect light. He hoses the floor every 2–3 days to raise the humidity.

Rob grows Cattleyas higher in the greenhouse and *Sarcochilus* lower down to provide different light and temperature regimes. He grows Australian dendrobiums outside on racks under tree cover, moving them onto the back patio for winter to protect them from frost.

For heating Rob uses a thermostat-controlled household fan heater with a constantly running 40 cm (16 inch) fan at the far end of the glasshouse to move and disperse the heated air.

He always has extra bench space for moving plants around (e.g. those in flower).

Bill Ferris

Bill grows a lot of his orchids under a pergola, the west end of which is closed off to protect the plants from hot westerly winds in summer and cold in winter. He also has greenhouses with plastic sheeting over a plastic frame. The greenhouses heat up a lot in the sun if closed up (e.g. outside temperatures 14–15 but inside could be 25–30). Orchids will tolerate high temperatures if the humidity is kept up.



May Judges' Choice Specimen: *Stenoglottis longifolia*, grown by Peter Coyne

Mark Fraser

Mark and Sandra started growing all their orchids as house plants but graduated to a small greenhouse of corflute. They then progressed to a larger shade-house with a heater, later acquiring another small glasshouse for growing their warmer-growing plants. They now have a large dual-wall polycarbonate house and a smaller polycarbonate house which is not heated. They plan to close down the smaller one as providing the range of conditions is too much effort.

Mark found that changing the environment meant it was necessary to change the potting mix. Mark warned that your greenhouse might not be suitable for everything you want to grow. Placing plants in the best locations helps match environment to needs (e.g. plants requiring bright light and high humidity should be put high in the greenhouse next to the humidifier).

A misting system reduces temperatures and reduces the need for watering but jets can clog or disintegrate so need frequent checking. Evaporative coolers are useful to reduce the greenhouse temperature.

Power outlets need careful planning — get at least two more outlets than you expect to need. They must be well protected from moisture. Power-boards and double adaptors are unsafe in a greenhouse.

David Judge

David's old glasshouse was glass and too expensive to heat. He now has a new polycarbonate greenhouse. The twin walls are polycarbonate sheets 10 mm thick which provide good insulation. The whole structure is lined with greenhouse-grade bubble-wrap. He also installed about 5 cm thick polystyrene foam under the floor slab. To enable solar heating in winter he has installed shade-cloth inside, leaving a space between the shade-cloth and the roof. He has also Aluminet shade-cloth on the outside. The roof has two automatic vents.

David pointed out the greenhouse should be in a very sunny position and the front side of his faces east so it heats up quickly in winter. For environmental control he has an electronically controlled humidifier at the top of the glasshouse to cool and humidify, and a greenhouse heater on a thermostat. He also has a lot of fans because otherwise the high humidity can lead to a lot of rot. David does not use automatic watering and waters only on sunny days.

Karen Groeneveld

Karen's husband, Peter, has built an electronic system to monitor and regulate her glasshouses. She has a cool glasshouse (6 to 28°C) and a warm glasshouse (13–14 to 33–34°C). She relies on greenhouse-grade bubble-wrap for insulation. Watering is automated in summer but done by hand in winter.

Ben Wallace

Ventilation helps cool the greenhouse, but air movement is important to prevent fungal and bacterial spores settling and to accelerate drying of the leaves which also reduces the risk of infection.

Ben recommended a thermometer and hygrometer available from Jaycar to enable monitoring conditions in the greenhouse. The base station, XC0328 \$39.90–\$49.95 with one remote sensor depending on number bought, can support up to eight remote sensors (<http://www.jaycar.com.au/Outdoors-%26-Auto-Products/Weather-Forecasting/Desktop-Weather-Stations/8-Channel-Wireless-Thermometer-Hygrometer-with-Jumbo-LCD/p/XC0328>). The remote sensors (XC0329) cost \$15.95–\$19.95 depending on number bought. The unit stores maximum and minimum temperature and humidity records.

In concluding the discussion, Jane said that if anyone would like to discuss greenhouse management in greater detail, visits to particular growers can be arranged.

Treasure's Report: the business account stands at \$12,422.35, and term deposits at \$16,483.05 with a total of \$28,905.40. Accepted.

Minutes of the March and April meetings were in the bulletin. Accepted.

June Meeting: Bill reminded members that the June meeting will include the Annual General Meeting, at which the accounts for the financial year will be presented and the committee and office-bearers elected. He encouraged members to seek election to the committee, with nominations to be sent to Peter Coyne by Wednesday 1 June.

Meeting Program: The speakers at the June meeting will be Scott Mann and Godfrey Seto, who is Vice President of the PNG Orchid Society. They will give a presentation on native orchids around Port Moresby, including the elusive *Bulbophyllum fletcherianum* as well as showing photos of the Port Moresby annual show. They will also discuss growing techniques of growing orchids in the tropics, especially the hard-caned dendrobiums.

Upcoming Orchid Shows:

13–15 May: Orchids out West

25–26 June: Mingara

2–3 July: Shoalhaven

8–9 July: Eurobodalla

Raffle: Gael Walton, Trish Stewart-Richardson, Nita Wheeler, Ben Wallace, Chris Szigetvari, Tony Tritschler
Door prize: Jim Wheeler

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 June 2016

Meeting opened at 8:05pm by President Bill Ferris.
Members Present: 26
Apologies: 10
Visitors: 1

Minutes of 2015 AGM (printed in the July 2015 Bulletin and circulated again on 31 May 2016): moved by Ben Walcott, seconded by Robyn Noel. Approved.

President's Report:

Bill noted 2015–16 was his second year as president. He expressed hope members are happy with the activities and direction of the club. Financially the club is in a very sound position, though that is not its prime objective. Speakers at the meetings covered a wide range of topics that were hopefully both interesting and informative. The acquisition of OrchidWiz and the ongoing subscriptions to publications are useful tools which members are encouraged to use.

The show was again successful in drawing public attention to the world of orchids. Considerable effort has been made in acquiring and maintaining a stock of products for orchid growing. The club has also put a lot of effort into caring for and growing-on for sale, orchids of several members who were no longer able to care for those plants. Many of these plants were of top quality breeding. It was pleasing to see nine new members. A sad note to the year was the passing of Dennis Diehm and Bob Evans. Bill thanked the committee members, and other members for their efforts.



June Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Masdevallia* Partizan 'Vanilla Stripes', grown by Jane Wright

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bob Forrester advised that the auditor's report validating the financial records had been received. He presented tables of income and expenditure and current assets. Bob noted the income for 2016 was augmented by sale of Dennis Diehm's plants. The assets value as of 30 April 2016 (below) includes books worth about \$7000.

	2016	2015
Income	\$30886.64	\$19,082.66
Expenditure	\$25552.43	\$16,392.49
Surplus	\$5334.21	\$2,690.17
Assets	\$36009.65	\$31,808.24

Moved by Geoff Dyne, seconded by Ann McKenzie. Approved.

Election of office bearers and committee:

Peter Coyne acted as returning officer. He noted the following nominations for the 2016–17 year had been received:

President: William (Bill) Ferris

Vice President: Karen Groeneveld

Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Forrester

Secretary: Peter Coyne

Members: Jane Wright, Geoffrey (Geoff) Dyne and Zoe Groeneveld

As there were no other nominations the Committee for 2016–17 was declared elected.

Meeting closed 8:18pm.



May Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Cyrtocidium* Kolibri, grown by Peter Coyne

Popular Vote - March 2016

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae	<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum Dollgoldi</i>	David Judge
Vandaeae	<i>Holcoglossum kimbalianum</i>	Mark Clements
Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum grandiflorum</i>	Mark Clements
Any Other Orchid	<i>Habenaria medusae</i>	Jane Wright
Australian Native	<i>Vappodes bigibba</i>	David Judge
Orchid of the Night	<i>Habenaria medusae</i>	Jane Wright
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum Dollgoldi</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Bulbophyllum grandiflorum</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Karen Groeneveld

Popular Vote – May 2016

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae hybrids	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Bonanza Queen 'Panamint'	Rob Rough
Laeliinae species	<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	Jane Wright
Paphiopedilum species	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i>	Bob Forrester
Paphiopedilum hybrids	<i>Paphiopedilum fairrieianum</i> x (P. Laser x P. Hsinying Flame)	Jane Wright
Pleurothallidinae species	<i>Restrepia antennifera</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	Jane Wright
Pleurothallidinae hybrids	<i>Masdevallia exquisita</i> x <i>ionocharis</i>	Jane Wright
Any Others	<i>Lockhartia</i> sp.	Bill Ferris
Maxillarias	<i>Maxillaria schunkeana</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Maxillaria praestans</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Oncidiinae	<i>Howeara</i> Mary Eliza	Rob Rough
Vandae hybrids	<i>Vascozentrum</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Neofinetia falcata</i>	Rob Rough
Vandae species	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	Ben Wallace
Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Coelandria victoriae-reginae</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum lindleyanum</i>	Mark Clements
Coelogyninae	<i>Dendrochilum wenzellii</i>	Don Chesher
Australian Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon	Bill Ferris
Terrestrials	<i>Diplodium laxum</i>	Nita Wheeler
Orchid of the Night	<i>Dendrochilum wenzellii</i>	Don Chesher
Judges' Choice – Hybrid	<i>Cyrtocidium</i> Kolibri	Peter Coyne
Judges' Choice – Species	<i>Bulbophyllum lindleyanum</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice – Specimen	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	Peter Coyne

Popular Vote – June 2016

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	Ben Walcott
Masdevallia hybrids	<i>Masdevallia</i> Partizan ‘Vanilla Stripes’	Jane Wright
Masdevallia species	<i>Masdevallia sanctae-inesae</i>	Jane Wright
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Restrepia antennifera</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Pleurothallis</i> sp.	Karen Groeneveld
Paphiopedilums	<i>Paphiopedilum villosum</i>	Ben Wallace
	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i>	Bob Forrester
Any Others	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sasquatch ‘Dendi’	Jane Wright
	<i>Coelogyne assamica</i>	Don Chesher
Terrestrials	<i>Taurantha tenuicauda</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	Ben Walcott
Judges’ Choice – Hybrid	<i>Masdevallia</i> Partizan ‘Vanilla Stripes’	Jane Wright
Judges’ Choice – Species	<i>Restrepia antennifera</i>	Jane Wright
Judges’ Choice – Specimen	<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	Ben Walcott

Contributions to the Bulletin

Editor: Zoe Groeneveld

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.
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