

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 1992

Acting President Mark Fraser opened the meeting at 8:07PM

ATTENDANCE 45 APOLOGIES: 5
Minutes of previous meeting as published in the Bulletin were accepted.

New members / visitors

A warm welcome to Joy Page and Lorraine Mason.

Secretary's report

Correspondance received: Certificate of currency received from NZI insurance. Mt Beenak Orchids catalogue. Australian Orchid Review 'Oct 92'. Orchids Australia 'Oct 92'. American Orchid Society Bulletin 'Aug 92'. The English Orchid Review 'Aug-Sept 92'. Orchids Australia Subscription applications. Wagga Wagga Orchid Society Bulletin. Orchid Society of New South Wales Orchid News. Albury Wodonga and District Orchid News. Parramatta and District Orchid Society News. Acceptance of the Secretary's report was moved on the motion of John Frizelle and seconded by Morris Drew.

Treasurer's report

Current balance for the month of November is \$6,702.67.
\$600 of Debco bark has now been purchased in 20, 30 and 50 litre bags.
The Report was accepted on the motion of Ben Wallace, seconded by Paul Tyerman.

General business

Thank you to Pat Butt for stepping in to do the raffles for the evening, and Brian Phelan for agreeing to do the tea and coffee.

Thanks also to Tony Smith and Vic Grosvenor who helped with the potting up of the cymbidium seedlings at the meeting which were then sold for: \$6, \$4, and \$2, depending on size.

Sales Table

-Some cool growing Cattleya, Paphiopedilum seedlings and Phalaenopsis in spike have just arrived and for sale. Mark and Sandra also bought back a range of seedling Cymbidium primary hybrids from their visit to Mt Beenak orchids. A copy of the book 'Exotic Orchids' is available for \$10. Latest edition of Orchids Australia is available. New 140mm size of Dome Pots now available at \$1 for 4 pots.

Coming events

Stephan Herndl is opening his house this

Saturday afternoon from 1pm. He grows mainly native orchids and ferns. Joyce England who had been to Stephan's highly recommended a visit.

Popular vote results

Cymbidium

Nan Lyons: *Cymbidium* Chinese Lace

Paphiopedilum

Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett:
Paphiopedilum Calloso-Barbatum

Australian Natives

Robert Rough: *Cymbidium suave*

Vandaceous

Ron Coleman: *Phalaenopsis* (Dawn Hunter 'Jane' x Gladys Read 'Snow Queen')

Cattleya Hybrids

Anne Hughes: *Cattleya* (Michiko "Fuji Show" x *intermedia* 'Suavissima')

Oncidium Alliance

Brian Phelan: *Odontoglossum crispum*

Dendrobium

Judy Osborne: *Dendrobium* Stardust 'H&R'

Miniature Cattleya Alliance

Pam and Richard Phillips Lc.(L.Icarus x L.Gold Star x Trick or Treat)

Coelogyne

Lynne Bullivant: *Coelogyne massangeana*

Pleurothallid Alliance

Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett: *Stellis* sp.

Other

Judy Osborne: *Disa* Betty's Boy 'Sunrise'

REPORT OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD 2 DECEMBER 1992

Popular Vote Trophy:

This years winner of the Graham Phillis Popular Vote Trophy was Judy Osborne. As Judy is still overseas the trophy will be presented to her at the February meeting.

Most frequent attendance award:

This years winner for the most frequent attendance at general meetings was a 3 way tie between Robert Rough, Paul Tyerman and Scott Mann. They were each given a choice of the plants available.

The Christmas Party Raffle:

1st Prize was a *Odontioda* Picador X
Odontioda Matanada with 2 flower spikes. Won by Lynne Bullivant.

2nd Prize was a large clump of *Oncidium*

spacelatum with several spikes on it. Won by Nan Lyons

3rd Prize was a *Angraecum Longiscott* 'Hihimanu' which was also in spike. Won by Morris and Joan Drew

Winners of the Best Orchid mask:

Mark Fraser had made a large mask of *Dracula cutis-bufonis*.

Joyce England was awarded for the best double entendre she had also made a Dracula mask complete with large fangs.

Popular vote results

Australian Natives

Lynne Bullivant: *Cymbidium suave*

Vandaceous

Scott Mann: *Phalaenopsis Camerice Magic*

Oncidium Alliance

Brian Phelan: *Odontonia* Susan Bogdanow 'Sweetheart'

Other Species

Sheila Cudmore: *Brassia verrucosa*

Cattleya Alliance

Brian Phelan *Slc. Jewel Box* 'Scheherazade'

Other Hybrids

Sheila Cudmore *Disa* Biunard Podlark

COMING EVENTS

March meeting (Monday 1 March):

"Odontoglossums". Guest speaker is Philip Altmann of Warrnambool Orchids. We have been trying to entice him to Canberra for some time - this is a meeting not to be missed.

Mid-March: Open glasshouses, southside. Details in the next bulletin.

Saturday 27 March: TAFE School of Horticulture Open Day, 9am-4pm, Heyson St., Weston. We have been invited again to participate in our usual way, selling plants and giving cultural advice to the public. All keen gardeners should make this event a must.

April Meeting: Guest speaker is David Jones from the National Botanic Gardens

This, our tenth anniversary year, promises to be a great year. Plan to be involved, as we have a lot of superb guest speakers booked and a number of events planned. ♦

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations and farewell to our committee member Terry Paff, who leaves at the end of January for a 2-3 year posting on Christmas Island as Officer-in-Charge of Police. Another of his official roles will be Controller of Customs. Orchids abound on Christmas Island and Terry is keen to discover new orchid species and possibly genera. Perhaps he will even start an orchid society. He assures us that he will keep in touch. His genial but persuasive style of selling raffle tickets will be sorely missed as will his efforts publicising our society. Our very best wishes go to Terry and Jenny. We look forward to their return. *

ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

Our 1993 Annual Spring Show dates are Saturday 9th, and Sunday 10th October. The venue will again be St. John's Church Hall, Reid. Note this in your diary as this annual event is always great because of your ready participation.

Wanted immediately: Show Convenor(s) and Show Committee Members.

Volunteers are needed to fill these positions; please let Judy Osborne know if you are willing to fill any of these positions.

Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett did an excellent job as the convenors of the 1992 show, with the extra challenge of the new venue. With that experience and the excellent records they kept of the organisation of the show, the new convenor(s) have a solid base to work from. *

WANTED - *Cymbidium tracyanum*

A man who attended our spring show has asked whether he could buy a plant of *Cymbidium tracyanum*. If you are willing to part with one for \$15, please let Jane Wright know. Thanks.

NAME TAGS

Could I please remind members to wear their name tags at our meetings so that others may more easily get to know you. Remember to return the tag to the folder before you leave.

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STANHOPEAS

Our guest speaker in February is Barney Greer of Collaroy Beach, Sydney. he has been specialising in Stanhopeas for many years and published a number of articles including:

1. Australian Orchid Review (Autumn 1987) "Those Incredible Stanhopeas"
2. Journal of the Orchid Species Society of Victoria (1992) Vol. 11 Nos. 4-6 co-author Olive Howard "An Annotated List of *Stanhopea* Species"
3. The Orchid Society of N.S.W. Ltd Orchid News (March 1985) Vol 10 No. 3 "Sorting Out the Stanhopeas"

What is so astonishing about stanhopeas? Once you have seen one in flower, you'll want to have your own. Once you have experienced the wonderful spectacle of those ever lengthening spikes emerging from the bottom of their hanging basket, followed by the sudden bursting open of the huge unusual flowers with their vanilla-like fragrance, you'll be hooked. Needless to say, I've been hooked by these for quite some time. Even my non-orchid-growing husband cannot resist them - they really are astonishing.

The most commonly grown species is *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* which has long been called *Stanhopea tigrina* by mistake in this country. The real *S. tigrina* has only a very small maroon central patch on the sepals, whereas *S. nigroviolacea* has huge splashes of maroon. See p26 of article 1 above for a clear photograph of both together. *S. tigrina* is quite rare in Australia.

My stanhopeas enjoy the cool glasshouse (minimum 8°C) although they don't mind more warmth. In summer they relish a warm sunny spot hanging above the cymbidiums outdoors or in a shadehouse. Most stanhopeas flower in January- February.

I use medium-sized wire baskets lined preferably with coconut fibre or a thin layer of paper bark, because the flowers spikes need to be able to pierce this easily. The mix I use is a finer cymbidium-type mix; it must not be too open as hanging baskets dry out very quickly. It is wise to watch for the flower spikes as they

may need some help piercing the liner. A few of mine have come out the side rather than the bottom. Don't use wooden slatted baskets, as the flower spikes won't fit between the slats.

There are about 50 known species and a number of these grow well in Canberra. The main colours are yellow, white and green, often with fine spotting or blotchy maroon markings.

Barney Greer will be bringing plants for sale, showing slides and hopefully (although it is quite a challenge to transport them) a flowering stanhopea to our meeting. I believe that he is an excellent speaker, so this meeting is a MUST.

Judy Osborne

ORCHID HUNTING IN BRISBANE

Sandra and I went up to Brisbane to spend Christmas with her family. Given the opportunity we also visited a number of nurseries up there which you may never have seen or heard of. We found many nurseries very helpful, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of the growers that we had only heard of before. This little article is intended to provide a few notes about the nurseries we visited. If you have the opportunity to visit them, remember to ring in advance to confirm that the nursery will be open.

One important feature we found in our talks with growers was that they will often refrain from listing some items in their catalogues to avoid being bought out of certain stock. This was especially the case with species orchids. Limited supplies or popular stocks are often only available at the nursery. This alone is an excellent reason for visiting these nurseries!

Tamborine Mountain Orchids specialises in cattleyas and softcane dendrobiums. It is a large nursery, open Monday to Saturday, with a very attractively set out display house showing what is currently in flower. In addition to the cattleyas and dendrobiums there was an eclectic mixture of genera on display: *Paphiopedilum* (species and hybrids), *Lycaste*, *Miltonia* (a large range in flower), *Oncidium* and *Encyclia*. One plant that particularly caught our attention was *Baptistonia echinata*, a member of the *Oncidium* alliance, whose flower spikes

resembled a swarm of bees. We were told that we had come at the wrong time of year, because there was so little in flower!

Merellen Orchids. Ted Gregory, who spoke at our Society last year, chatted with us for an hour whilst walking us around the nursery. Most people are familiar with the work he and his wife, Barbara, have done with native dendrobiums and there were still a few in flower. *Sarcochilus* and *Parachilus* hybrids are another area where Merellen Orchids are doing a lot of interesting work. In addition to native orchids, a surprising range of exotic orchids, mainly species, is also grown at Merellen. A number of startling coelogynes were in bloom, as well as some exotic dendrobiums. When we visited the glasshouse area, which was typically overcrowded, we saw, in addition to countless young seedlings, a very fine *Sartylis* Blue Knob. More astonishing was a glorious *Sarcanopsis*, a hybrid between *Sarcochilus* and *Phalaenopsis*. The white flowers were quite large and dusted with lilac spots around the heart of the flower. A remarkable plant, but unfortunately quite rare. A visit to Merellen Orchids when in Brisbane is highly recommended as Ted Gregory is one of the most knowledgeable and friendly growers around. Although he only does natives in his mail order catalogue, he has an increasingly diverse range of plants for sale at the nursery. We left Merellen having enjoyed our visit enormously.

Sunshine Orchid Nursery. I had some plants from this nursery in the past and I was enthusiastic to actually see the nursery. It is another large nursery, but well worth the visit. On display at the front of the nursery were some delightful cattleya hybrids, including a beautiful green hybrid, *Blc. Cadmium Light*. Also on display was the fascinating *Aëranthes grandiflora*, with its bizarre green flower hanging some eighteen inches below the pot. Whilst being shown around the nursery by Bruce Denham we saw the beautiful *Psychopsis* (formerly *Oncidium*) *papilio*, and a number of other unusual species and hybrids. As with Merellen, we spent a lot of time just talking about orchids and their cultivation in general, as it is always interesting to learn from other growers.

Jim and Betty Raddatz (formerly Humptybong Orchids). This couple formerly ran a nursery but have now retired and are theoretically running their stock down. The house was easy to identify as it has sobralias and epidendrums in the front garden, together with cattleyas and natives hanging from a tree. Despite the claim of retirement, their glasshouses were full of fascinating plants. Furthermore, their laboratory is still full of flasks. Their collection was something Sandra and I could identify with, as the term 'mixed' did not even begin to describe it. On entering the stock plant area we were astonished to see a huge *Catasetum* in bloom and next to it was a large clump of *Laelia purpurata*, (the white and blue form) in full bloom. Near it was another form of *Laelia purpurata*, this time the pink/purple form. Throughout the glasshouse was one of the most diverse collections of orchids I have ever seen (including *Encyclia*, *Phalaenopsis* species and another *Sarcanopsis*). At one stage Jim admitted to regretting he was unable to manage masdevallias under his conditions. The plants on sale were a similarly chaotic mix of natives, cattleyas, vandaceous, slippers and others. If you intend to visit this fascinating couple you must ring in advance on (07) 284 3283.

K&H Orchids. At the recommendation of Ted Gregory we visited K&H Orchids in Beenleigh, where we spoke to Ken Smart. Ken specialises in slipper species and primary and novelty hybrids, and runs his business from his backyard. Whilst there were relatively few plants in flower when we visited, we did see some magnificent plants. Still in flower was an enormous *Paphiopedilum* St Swithin, with flowers almost a foot from petal tip to spidery petal tip, as well as the species *P. roebelinii* with its twisted hanging petals and *P. parishii*. Ken only sells small seedlings, but he was more than willing to show us the work he was doing, and talk about cultivation of slippers. We promptly put our name on the mailing list as he is continually bringing out unusual species.

Whilst we did not even visit half of the orchid nurseries in and around Brisbane, we would recommend that if you get the opportunity that you visit these growers.

Mark Fraser

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is good to be back after my 4½ months overseas. My orchids have been carefully tended by Jane Wright, her husband David, and Jean and Bill Egan, and I am very grateful for this. It is wonderful to belong to a Society where members are so helpful and friendly.

I particularly thank Mark Fraser for so expertly acting as President. Thank you also to the rest of the committee and all those other members who so willingly assisted in running the society.

Congratulations to you all on the wonderful success of the 1992 Spring Show. Now is the time to start getting your plants ready for our 1993 Show, whether they be for display or sale.

Special thanks from the Society to:

1. Sheila and Peter Cudmore who will be organising the supper for our meetings.
2. Nan and David Lyons who have taken over running the library.
3. Lynne Bullivant for taking on the mammoth task of doing a stocktake of our library. She has also developed a catalogue to reference the magazine articles from 1988 onwards. This is on computer and will be updated regularly.
4. Paul Tyerman for filling the position on the committee left vacant by Terry Paff. Our constitution provides that the Committee may appoint a member of the society to fill a casual vacancy such as this one.

Judy Osborne

ON THE TABLES

I was very disappointed to find that there wasn't an orchid society anywhere near Aberystwyth in Wales. Actually, the list of orchid societies in Britain is quite short, to my great surprise. Fortunately the university glasshouses housed a surprisingly large and varied collection of orchids and I had unlimited access to them. I visited a number of orchid nurseries and private collections in England and I was made very welcome. People kept wanting to give me plants and couldn't understand why it was so difficult and expensive to take plants to Australia. The one thing that made them very envious was our wonderful sunshine. Shadecloth is just not necessary there. It was good though

to see all the same sorts of orchids there that we like to grow here. Australian natives are very much sought after, especially the terrestrials. Nesbitts obviously supply them to Orchid Sundries Nursery in Dorset.

Jane Wright and Paul Tyerman have done an excellent job of decimating our stocks of plants for sale. I was pleasantly surprised to find strange plants in my glasshouse. The slipper orchids and other orchids they acquired for the trading table look very interesting. We've now ordered some new natives from Ken Russell and cattleyas, vandas and phalaenopsis from Aranbeem.

The manufacturer of the slatted baskets is delivering a large order to us when he comes to visit the exhibition at the Art Gallery. This will result in greatly reduced prices. Sizes are 4", 6", 8" and 10". We should have fresh stocks of Campbell's blue fertiliser available in February.

The new 140 cm Dome pots look good. I'm finding that my Disas are doing best in Dome pots sitting in a shallow dish of rainwater. The extra-large holes at the side provide excellent ventilation. I regularly fertilise them with 1 drop of the liquid fertiliser, Garden Party, placed in the dish of water. A lot of Disas are still in flower. They are fairly easy to grow, don't take up much room and produce brightly coloured flowers after the cymbidiums have finished.

Please bring lots of plants to sell on our trading table. The commission is still 10%, so allow for this when you price your plants.

The December edition of Orchids Australia arrived after the Christmas Party, so be sure to get your copy at the February meeting, still at the old price. The 1993 editions will be selling at \$6, with the new annual subscription price of \$34 for 6 magazines. These are excellent reading and on your travels you may wish to visit one of the orchid nurseries that advertises in them. Visiting orchid nurseries is certainly an excellent way to see more of the countryside and to meet some really friendly people. This is true all over the world as we have recently found in Britain, Singapore and America (even when they know you can't buy any plants from them!). I am so glad that I didn't buy any flasks

as the fees have just gone way up and it really isn't worthwhile unless you bring a lot.

Some excellent raffle prizes have been acquired and we will continue to offer a number of prizes each meeting. We are always on the lookout for suitable plants or books. Donations for the raffle or door prize will be very gratefully received. Remember the enormous *Oncidium spicatum* that was brought in to the show, with all those spikes? Ron Boulton very generously donated that to the Society. After a large number of pieces were cut off and sold to various members of the society and the plant was again a manageable size, it was raffled off at the December meeting. Many thanks Ron.

The Popular Vote will continue in its present form, so bring along any plants you have in flower. If you haven't owned it for at least 6 months, put it into the "display only" category. Talk to each other and ask questions of the owner of any plant that intrigues you. Lynne Bullivant or Brian Phelan should be able to point out the owner to you. There will be plenty of space in the Rehearsal Room for a big display.

For the plant sales, library and so on to start on time, we always need lots of helpers to set up the tables and chairs from 7:15. We follow directly on from another group in February, so if there are lots of us waiting at 7:15 pm, we will be more likely to get the early group out on time.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on 9th February. The Rehearsal Room is very large and well-ventilated, so it should be quite pleasant on a hot evening.

Judy Osborne

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Stocktake: Missing books or journals
During the holidays I did a stocktake of the Society's library holdings. We have an impressive reference library that is continually growing. The stocktake is not quite complete because some members were unable to return outstanding books at the December meeting. These people are asked to bring them to the February meeting or get them to any

Committee member who will return them. Also, according to our records, a number of books and journals purchased by the society cannot be accounted for. These may have been inadvertently been borrowed without the card being removed or they may not have a card at all. Of particular concern are missing issues of various journals to which the Society subscribes because it means that our volumes are incomplete. All members are asked to help search for these.

Reference Index

A reference index has been compiled of the topics written about in the society's journal holdings from 1988 onwards. The journals covered include:

The Orchid Review

American Orchid Society Bulletin

Orchids Australia

Australian Orchid Review

The Orchadian (a new subscription)

Orchids in New Zealand (a few issues)

The reference index also lists some of the relevant books for particular topics. This may assist beginners to find out more in their area of interest.

The index mainly covers different species or genera. For example, there have been 8 articles written about *Odontoglossum* to which an Odont enthusiast might refer. It also covers general topics such as greenhouses; there are 17 articles covering aspects of greenhouse management.

The reference index will be held by the librarian(s). It is incomplete as there are quite a number of journals out on loan or missing. With the return of these it will be updated and then kept up to date by incorporating new journals/books as they arrive. I hope you find it useful.

Lynne Bullivant

**Report Your Australian Terrestrial Orchids
NOW!**

This issue of the Bulletin was prepared by Jane Wright.