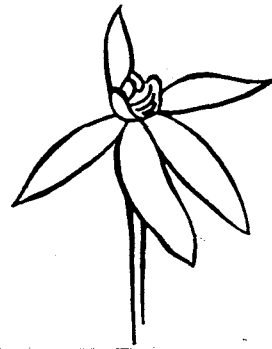


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.



Volume 9 Number 1 February

1994

News in brief

Regular monthly meetings

Monthly meetings of the society are held on the first Tuesday of each month in Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Civic.

Meetings commence at 8.00pm with the trading table and library open from 7.30pm

At the February meeting (Feb. 1) there will be a talk on the genus *Disa*. The speaker will be Barry Long of Albion Park in Sydney. He is the official photographer of the Orchid Soc. of NSW and is a champion orchid grower. He will be selling a variety of plants including *Disas*.

SOCIAL EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 1994

WALKING FROM THREDBO LOOKING FOR ORCHIDS

February 5 and 6th, see inside for details or contact Sheila Cudmore (phone number on back page)

OPEN ORCHID HOUSES

February 20th (Sunday), 10am-3 pm Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett, Brian Phelan, Sheila Cudmore (addresses back page) and Bill Keeley (29 Eugenie St., Rivett 288 5605) will be happy to show you how they grow their orchids.

SOCIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH 1994

S.P.E.C.I.E.S. Auction and BBQ. 13 March. Details on this bus trip inside.

Next committee meeting will be at Sheila Cudmore's

In this bulletin

Minutes

From the president

On the Tables

Wanted urgently

Membership News

Major forthcoming events

Preview -talks at meetings

Social event for Feb. 1994

Growing orchids in Canberra - the book

Book reviews

Thunia marshalliana - a low maintenance Orchid

Time is all you need

Popular vote results

Advertisement

About the Society

page

2

2

2

3

3

3

4

4

4

4

5

5

6

7

7

Please note our new postal address on back page (ed.)

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

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 1993.

President Sheila Cudmore opened the meeting at 8:05pm.
Attendance 51 Apologies 3
Guest Speaker: Barney Greer
Minutes of the October general meeting as published in the bulletin were accepted on the motion of Ina Smith and Seconded by Laurence Woods.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our current bank balance is \$8,703.61

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Latest Wagga Wagga Orchid Society has a very good write up on *Sarcochilus* if anyone wants I can do them a copy. Several new catalogues have come in. Australian Orchid Foundation list of books. The secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted on the motion of Del Carey and Seconded by David McCarthy.

COMING EVENTS

6/11/93 Horticultural Society Open Day.
14/11/93 Exploration of the Camel Trail at Tidbinbilla meet at Information Centre at 9:30.

DOOR PRIZE

Dendrobium kingianum "Merellen no 1" x Rouge Roy won by Del Carey
Cymbidium Unknown (donated by Vic Grosvenor) won by Frances Butterfield

RAFFLE

Cymbidium Unknown (donated by Vic Grosvenor) won by Jean Egan
Cattleya Old Whitey 'Mt Empress' AM/AOS x Lc Persepolis 'Splendour' won by Catherine Vallance.
Slc. Wendy's Valentine 'June' AM/AOS won by Di Smith.

REPORT OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD 7 DECEMBER 1993

Attendance:32 Apologies:2

Popular Vote Trophy:

Congratulations to Brian Phelan winner of the Graham Phillis Popular Vote Trophy for 1993.

Most frequent attendance award:

This years winners for the most frequent attendance at a general meeting was a 3 way tie between Vic Grovenor, Jean Egan and David McCarthy.

The Raffle:

Orchids of Brazil Book: Xiaomei Wallace.
Cymbidium Wallamurra 'Jupiter' AM: June Alden.
Maxillaria: Laurence Woods.

Door Prize

Sarcochilus hartmanii fma Blue Knob X self won by Nan and David Lyons.

POPULAR VOTE

Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett: *Lemboglossum stellatum*.
Nan Lyons: *Cymbidium* Name Unknown

Sandra Corbett
Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Happy New Year. I hope your orchids are surviving the summer which has not really been too bad so far, luckily. Pity the poor plants in N.S.W. which have been burnt out. The plants in the wild, especially the terrestrials, might survive but not the potted treasures that belonged to folk.

This month is the time to attend to your terrestrials. I buy a bag of Cymbidium Mix (the earthy-looking stuff), mix in about an eighth of River Sand and an eighth of Peat and if I can get hold of some leaf-mould, that as well. I put some shade cloth in the bottom of some new pots to stop the earthy-looking stuff from coming out and repot my little tubers. I put chopped pine needles across the top, carefully water-in the tubers, label and leave in a shady place. For more information read the book 'Cultivation of Native Orchids' produced by the Australasian Native Orchid Society, Victorian Group Inc..

All the Best for good orchid growing.

Sheila

ON THE TABLES

The philosophy behind the sales table has always been to provide a service to members. We do this by supplying orchid growing items that are difficult to acquire in Canberra or which we can buy at a discount in bulk and pass the savings on to members. We also buy plants in from various nurseries around the country and think that this is a good way to get quality new plant species and hybrids into the society. We also provide a mechanism for members to easily sell their divisions to other members at the regular meetings, at the show and other events.

The sales table is a money-making venture - it needs to be, as the annual subscription fees do not cover the fixed costs of the society's endeavours such as rental of the Griffin Centre and publication and mailing of this bulletin. There is a small markup on every item we sell and we charge commission on members' plant sales (10% normally, 20% at show). By

buying supplies and plants from the sales table we all support the society and each other.

February will be a special "members' sales only" night. We will not be selling any of the society's plants that night. Members are encouraged to bring along their divisions for sale. Remember that other society members (your friends!) will be purchasing your plants. Bring plants that you would like to buy - well established ones, free of insects and disease, and at a realistic price. Put a second label into each pot with the price and your name. We use these labels to double-check on sales and return these to you when we pay you the money.

We are pleased to announce that it is no longer necessary for the society to stock orchid bark. Robert Rough of our society is now the Canberra agent for Orchid care bark (his details on the back page). He has 50 L sacks of small, medium and large bark at \$18 and cymbidium mix at \$9.75. Debco bark enthusiasts will be pleased that the Good Earth Nursery at Jamison (formerly the Jamison Garden Centre) has undertaken to keep in stock at all times the Debco bark that you need. See their ad on page 6 and please mention that you are from the orchid society when you go there.

Jane Wright

WANTED URGENTLY

We urgently need round plastic take away or bean sprout containers in which to pack fertiliser to sell to members. The ones we especially want are round in shape, with a lid and 12 cm dia. by 10 cm deep. Please bring any spare (washed!) along to the February meeting or contact Mark Fraser on 287 1106.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Frances and Allan Sherriff as new members of our society. Frances and Allan are especially interested in native orchids and have already gone walking locally with members. We hope you will enjoy your association with us.

MAJOR FORTHCOMING EVENTS

February 5th and 6th. Canberra Sheila and Peter Cudmore have organised various walks around the Thredbo region, (more details are in this bulletin).

February 20th (Sunday), 10am-3pm. Canberra Open orchid houses on south side. Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett, Brian Phelan, Sheila Cudmore (addresses back page) and Bill Keeley (29 Eugenie St., Rivett 288 5605) will be happy to show you how they grow their orchids.

March 13th. (Sunday) Oakville Sydney. S.P.E.C.I.E.S. Auction and BBQ. We plan to run a bus trip to this very popular event. The cost will be \$30 per person. Pay your \$5

deposit to Jane Wright to secure your place, as soon as possible please.

March 25th Sydney Royal Easter Show. Plants have to be at the site on Thursday March 24th for the 1st judging and on Thursday 31st March for the second judging. A sales table will operate.

March 26 Canberra Institute of Technology Agriculture Open Day. This is a bi-annual event held at the Weston campus. Our society will be exhibiting and selling plants, along with other societies such as the African Violet and Gesneriad Society. Not to be missed by general gardening enthusiasts.

March 27 and July 31 Sydney Manly - Warringah Orchid Society Orchid auction. Cromer community centre, Fisher road, North Cromer, Sydney. Inspection 9am, Auction 9.30 am. We are getting a list of plants to be auction. Contact Sandra for details.

April 20th Sydney Garden Festival. OSNSW will be doing a feature display at the festival. A sales table will be operating.

April 28 to 4 May Brisbane International Festival of Orchids The show and conference begin on Sunday 1 May. The show will be held at the Walter Burnett building in the R.N.A. Showgrounds in Brisbane with a major trade sales area.

June 13th Sydney Winter show at Roselands. Set up on Sunday 12th. Open Monday 13th to Sunday 18th. A sales table will be operating.

July 8- 12 Darwin 13th Australian Orchid Conference. Marrara Indoor Sports Stadium, Darwin, NT.

18th September Sydney Spring Show, Royal Botanic Gardens. This show runs from Monday the 18th to Sunday the 25th.

1994 ANNUAL SPRING SHOW. SATURDAY 24/9/94 - SUNDAY 25/9/94.

This year our show will once again be held at St John's (cnr Constitution Avenue and Anzac Pde, Reid). Please pencil these dates in your diary and keep that weekend free. Anyone interested in helping to run this years show please contact any of the committee members.

1995 ANNUAL SPRING SHOW and REGIONAL CONFERENCE

In 1995 Canberra will host the South West Regional Conference. This conference has been held previously by Albury-Wodonga, Griffith and Wagga Wagga societies. We have had some expressions of interest from members who would like to help plan the conference but more people will be needed if you are interested approach any of the committee members at our February meeting or ring Sheila Cudmore.

We have made bookings with both Reid TAFE and the Lakeside Hotel.

In some cases the above details are all we have for some events but if you do want further information about any of the above events contact me and I will see what we have on file.

Sandra Corbett
Secretary.

PREVIEW - TALKS AT MEETINGS

John Cater will speak at the March meeting on the 14th World Orchid Conference and Norma Stafford from the Sapphire Coast will be our guest speaker in April.

SOCIAL EVENT FOR FEBRUARY 1994

WALKING FROM THREDBO LOOKING FOR ORCHIDS

February 5th: Dead Horse Gap Walk (from top of Crackenback Chairlift).

Meeting Place: Thredbo Chairlift Ticket Station

Time: 10.30am

Distance: 10Km from top of Chairlift

Duration: 4 to 5 hours

Bring: At least 1 litre of water per person

Packed lunch

Sweater/Parka or other suitable clothing as even in summer the weather can change rapidly.

Footwear should be suitable lace-up walking shoes or boots

February 6th: Walks around Thredbo (you will not need to go up the Chairlift today). These are easy walks although sensible shoes would be a good idea.

Meeting Place: Thredbo Chairlift Ticket Station

Time: 10.30am

If you wish to stay in Thredbo for the weekend there is an accommodation service on 008 801 982 or 064 576387 or Fax 064 576057. Peter and I have booked into the Candlelight Lodge.

This weekend is at the end of the Alpine Wildflower Week (Sunday 30th January to Sunday February 6th). During the week a local naturalist will lead wildflower walks, a photographer will lead photographic walks and there will be painting workshops. The brochure also describes Thredbo as 'coming alive to the sounds of classical music' on Feb. 5th and 6th. If you are interested in these activities call Wendy O'Donohue, 064 576275.

GROWING ORCHIDS IN CANBERRA - THE BOOK

The committee is very keen to produce a book detailing how orchids are grown in the Canberra area. The Society has

many members who are successfully growing orchids in a variety of conditions and many specialise in growing particular species or genera.

We would like as many members as possible to make contributions to this publication. If you are not sure about what is wanted then ask a committee member. Hand written notes are as welcome as polished typed articles.

If possible, your notes and articles should reach me by the end of February. Please contact me if there is a problem with this.

Lynne Bullivant (06) 288 1248 (Home)

BOOK REVIEWS

For this bulletin I have reviewed two books that are of considerable interest to anyone interested in the native orchids of Australia

Hoffman N. and Brown A. (1992) *Orchids of South-western Australia*. 2nd edition, University of Western Australia Press, Perth WA \$59.95

The authors' aim of this book is to provide a means to easily identify the 300 or so orchids (all terrestrial) that grow in this region. Each species is given a page with an colour photo illustration a distribution map and text on flowering time, size and distinctive features of identification etc.

This book is an essential requirement to anyone interested in these plants. The reproduction of the photographs in particular appears very good. The book is of a size and the binding of a quality that could see it of use in the field.

I feel however this book has a major short-coming that is there is no way some-one new to a particular genera can identify a plant without wading through lots of colour pictures. It is very intimidating having to look through pages of *Caladenia* species for example. What is needed are some well-written illustrated keys. Information on distribution, flowering time, habitat could be tabulated to also act as a quick reference to eliminate many species while zooming in on potential candidates. These extras would not need many extra pages, as space could be saved by only illustrating those species with distinctive features that can be seen from the photograph as presented.

Harden, G.J.(editor) (1993) *Flora of New South Wales, Volume 4*, NSW Press, Sydney NSW. vol. 4 \$120, Vols. 1-3 \$90.

Don't pass this by because of the title, but this is the most recently published comprehensive work on the identification of wild orchids (and for that matter all other vascular plants) of NSW and the ACT.

In this four volume work orchids are to found in volume 4. They are covered in some 120 pages and 9 pages of colour

photographs. There are keys to the genera and then to species within genera. For each species there is a line drawing in the margin by the text showing either its form in growth or structure of the flower useful for its identification. The text has been written in such a way as to be consistent between species so that one species description is directly comparable with other of that genus - a very professional touch. Colour photos are used as a guide to what the different genera and some very distinctive species look like in nature. I think this mixture of keys, descriptions and illustrations works well and draws on the strengths of each one as a tool for identification.

This is an excellent book (as are the other 3 volumes!), the editors and authors are to be congratulated on a world-class product. However it is not cheap - quality like this never is though!, nor is it very portable (the four volumes take up a foot of book shelf). What needs to be done now is to take this information and turn it into a series of pocket-sized field guides, say one for Orchids, others for other popular families of plants. This type of guide has revolutionised plant identification in Europe and North America, even for difficult groups like grasses, it's time it did so here as well.

David Rees, Editor.

THUNIA MARSHALLIANA, - A LOW MAINTENANCE ORCHID

Mark and I were given a stick in a pot which we were told on good authority was an orchid, and that it grew like a weed in Brisbane. We have had this plant for two years now and one thing really impresses us about it (apart from the fact we manage to flower it) is that Thunias are low maintenance plants. They are generally pest free and during the Winter period need virtually no attention.

The flowers are up to 12.5cm across, white with a rich yellow/orange funnel shaped labellum.

WINTER

There is a long green grey stick in your pot that looks vaguely like bamboo.

SPRING

A light green shoot appears at the base of the bulb.

These plants should be repotted every year as soon as the shoot is one or two inches long. We put ours into a coarse cymbidium mix or coarse Debco bark to which has been added a little Osmocote and Dynamic Lifter.. These plants grow very quickly so do not delay the repotting. Once you have repotted your plant stand the pot in water. We have our plan in a 10cm deep pot sitting in an ice cream container 7cm deep. The ice cream container is filled to the top with water and a couple of pellets of dynamic lifter are added to the water.

SUMMER

By Christmas the spring growth is 45cm or more in length and if the flowers are not already open buds should definitely

be visible. *Thunia marshalliana* can have up to eight flowers in a cluster at the tip of the growth and is the end of growth for that stem. Keep water and food up to the plant even after flowering, as it will aid towards next year's growth.

AUTUMN

Take the plant out of the saucer but keep the mixture moist. By the end of Autumn the leaves will wither and fall at which time watering should cease.

WINTER

The plants are fully dormant and require minimal light and NO water or food. We tuck our plant out of the way somewhere and forget about it until Spring. Unfortunately it is rather ugly at this stage and looks truly dead, do not be alarmed.

While in growth the plant takes a fair amount of light but not full sun.

Sandra Corbett

TIME IS ALL YOU NEED!

M Fraser & S Corbett

We have been growing orchids for about five or six years now. We were lured into this hobby by Sandra's brother, and quickly became enthusiasts. It is only in this last year that we have really started to see the real benefits of our hobby.

In 1993 we managed to flower a number of plants we had never flowered before, amongst them *Masdevallia* Red Gum, *Zygopetalum mackayii* and *Sophranitis coccinea*. What makes this significant is that these three were amongst the first orchids we purchased. These plants have all demonstrated a surprising degree of resilience to our attempts at cultivating them. We also flowered (and then almost killed due to late detection of a massive infestation of horrible little mealy bugs) the rather finicky *Rossioglossum grande*. This is a plant which many people seem to find difficult to manage. Whilst in growth (in Summer) it revels in bright sun and warmth. Whilst dormant (in Winter) it favours a cool but very dry rest.

This year we have become much more confident in our handling of many orchids, especially Pleurothallids and Paphiopedilums. This has come through experience in repotting and becoming familiar with the way the plants grow. From bitter experience we have also learnt to identify a variety of diseases and pests as they attack. This gives us an opportunity to salvage plants that might otherwise be lost. In the case of the *Rossioglossum* we have the 2 remaining bulbs with a new lead coming in sphagnum moss. Sphagnum is an extremely useful medium for resuscitating sickly plants. The two bulbs were placed in sphagnum after treatment with Rogor, and the removal of all infected and severely damaged tissue. Another plant that gave us some cause for grief over the years was *Brassia brachiata x longissima*. We quickly

found that it did not like living in a pot, and so mounted it on cork. Despite occasional assaults by mealy bugs it grew, and in November produced a startling display of flowers, about 30cm from tip to tip.

Growing orchids takes time, and to get the best out of your plants can take years. We have been lucky, along the way we have been able to get some very good, strong plants.

We are also aware that there is a large number of plants we have killed. Indeed we now have a morbid fear of somehow killing *Masdevallia* Bella Donna, the Champion of last year's show. At the heart of it good growing seems to be about finding out about the plants and their cultivation. Read a lot, and ask a lot of questions to growers who are growing the plants you are interested in. Don't be afraid to try new things and be patient.

POPULAR VOTE RESULTS November 1993

NOVICE SECTION	Catherine Vallance	<i>Cymbidium</i> Unknown, <i>Dendrobium Delicatum</i>
PAPHIOPEDILUM SECTION	Jane Wright	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>
VANDACEOUS SECTION	Scott Mann	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Carnival Magic
NATIVE SECTION (Excluding Sarcanthinae)	Ina Smith	<i>Cymbidium suave</i>
NATIVE SECTION, SARCANTHINAE	Bill Keeley	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Weinhart
CYMBIDIUM SECTION	Jane Wright	<i>Cymbidium tracyanum</i>
PLEUROTHALLID SECTION	Jane Wright	<i>Masdevallia veitchiana</i> 'Prince Des Galles'
ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE SECTION	Brian Phelan	<i>Miltonia</i> Celle 'Feuerwerk'
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE, STANDARD	Sheila Cudmore	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Susan
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE, INTERMEDIATE	Brian Phelan	<i>Sophrrolaeliocattleya</i> Jewel Box 'Scheherazade'
CATTLEYA ALLIANCE, MINIATURE	Sheila Cudmore	<i>Sophrrolaeliocattleya</i> Yellow Doll x <i>Sophronitis coccinea</i>
OTHER SPECIES	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett	<i>Encyclia odoratissima</i>
DENDROBIUM SECTION	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett	<i>Dendrobium pierardii</i>

For December meeting see minutes

Advertisement

The Good Earth Garden Centre

5 Bindubi Street, Macquarie, (Jamison Centre)
Telephone: (06) 251 7714

Debco Orchid Potting Mixes

Are now available from

The Good Earth Garden Centre, Jamison.

The proprietor of the garden centre, Andrew Carter, has experience in plant propagation, cultivation and plant pathology. He would like to share his interests with you and assures customers of friendly and informative service.

About the Society

Orchid Society of Canberra Inc., GPO Box 612, Canberra ACT 2601

The Society aims to encourage and assist members in their interest in Orchidaceous plants. It maintains a library for use of members, is affiliated with the Orchid Society of NSW, publishes a bi-monthly bulletin and holds regular monthly meetings in Canberra. Membership is open to all. Current subscription \$15 single, \$20 joint / family, \$3 under 14 years old. details from the Secretary or Treasurer, at the address above.

Officers of the Society

President	Sheila Cudmore, 10 Nangor Street, Waramanga ACT 2611	288 4817
Vice President	Paul Tyerman, 16 Clode Crescent, Macgregor, ACT 2615	254 6193
Treasurer	Jane Wright, 135 Osburn Drive, Macgregor, ACT 2615	254 1119
Secretary	Sandra Corbett, 45 Angophora Street, Rivett, ACT 2611	287 1106
Editor	David Rees, 135 Osburn Drive, Macgregor, ACT 2615	254 1119
Librarian	Catherine Vallance, 4 Alice Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620	297 7896

Committee Members

Lynne Bullivant	8 Nymagee Place, Fisher ACT 2611	288 1248
Mark Fraser	45 Angophora Street, Rivett ACT 2611	287 1106
Brian Phelan	35 Damala Street Warramanga ACT 2611	287 4813
Robert Rough	25 Moruya Circuit, Kaleen, ACT 2617	241 2729
Catherine Vallance	4 Alice Street, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620	297 7896