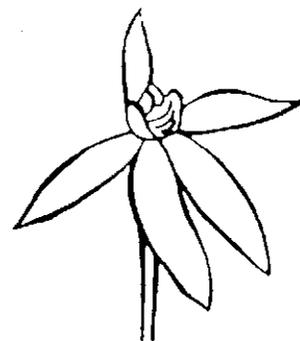


# Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.



Volume 12 Number 5

September - October 1997

## News in brief

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.

## September Meeting

Priscilla Greve will explain her techniques of growing and presenting a variety of orchids. You will have seen Priscilla's beautiful plants on the Popular Vote table and on the Show Bench.

## October Meeting

Where have all the Dendrobiums gone? Mark Fraser will show the reorganization of the genus Dendrobium, and discuss its impact for growers. This has implications for growers of both natives and exotics.

**13-14 September: Horticultural Society Show at the Albert Hall.**

**27-28 September: THE SPRING SHOW**

Attached you will find your Show Schedule and pass for the Spring Show. This is our big annual event, a chance to show off some of our best plants, and buy lots of goodies!

## 19 October: Beginner's Workshop

After the success of the Autumn workshop we thought we should offer another for members joining at the Show. We will be concentrating on starting out with orchids.

**31 October - 2 November:**

## Native Orchid Weekend

A sequel to the Autumn Barren Grounds Weekend, again featuring Leo Cady. See page 4 for details.

**1-2 November: Horticultural Society Show at the Albert Hall.**

**1-2 November: Horticultural Society Show at the Albert Hall.**

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## The Fine Print

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The postal address of the Society is:  
GPO Box 612, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

## Committee

President	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Vice President	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Secretary	Frank Foghati	6236 3281
Treasurer	Sandra Corbett	6287 1106
Keith Alden		6297 3351
Mark Fraser		6287 1106
Lila Rose		6292 7554
Laurence Woods		6258 6187
Kate Ziesak		6299 5256

## The Editor Notes...

I spoke at a meeting of the Horticultural Society of Canberra recently. My subject was 'Growing Orchids in Canberra...without a greenhouse. The response from those present was very enthusiastic. The talk provided a good springboard for me to start selling our Spring Show. This was an audience who wanted to hear and see more orchid related material.

Selling the Show is something we all need to start planning for now: enclosed is your copy of the Show Schedule, and a supply of flyers will be available at the next meeting.

We need your help on the Sales Tables, the Door, and as floorwalkers. We need volunteers to bake cakes! The lists will be out at the next meeting.

Get your plants ready for the competition: groom them and clean the pots. We want your plants to look their best for the Spring Show.

Cheers,

Mark Fraser

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 1 July 1997

**Attendance:** 48      **Apologies:** 3

President Jane Wright opened the meeting at 8.02pm. welcoming our members and guests. Jane expressed the Society's delight at the return attendance of Helen Hufton after an absence of some time.

### PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes for May and June General meetings and the AGM were accepted, moved on the motion of Laurie Woods and seconded by Mark Fraser.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Sandra Corbett.

Current bank balance is \$7556.25, due to recent expenditure for the bus trip and purchase of fertiliser, sphagnum and pots.

- membership fees are now overdue and next bulletin will be the last for unfinancial members
- approx. 80 members have paid

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Frank Fogliati

#### Inwards:

Newsletters -

Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Kiama & District, Illawarra and OSNSW - May; Gosford & District, Wagga Wagga - June; Albury-Wodonga - July

Letters -

- AOF preliminary & progress reports on Detection and characterisation of Orchid Fleck Virus.
- SGAP leaflets advertising 1997 Native Plant & Garden Spectacular 15-17 Aug.

- Orchid Heaven 97 update inc. Show Schedule, Entry Forms and accommodation info.
- Hort. Soc. of Canberra calendar of July events inc. Trivia Night 21 July.

Catalogues -

P&R Orchids

Books for the Library -

American Orchid Society - April

Orchids Australia - June

Orchids of Brazil - donated by Lynne Bullivant

#### Outwards:

Order to Scroll Products for 150mm hanging wire baskets.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted; moved on the motion of Robert Rough and seconded by Keith Alden.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- New members badges will be available next month
- Jane Wright presented Meritorious Service Award to Peter Cudmore. The Committee chose Peter in recognition of his years of service and excellent book-keeping.
- Gosford Spectacular - Jane will be attending, and would appreciate spectacular but small plants to mount a tabletop display. Jane leaves Wed 29 July and will set up on Thursday.
- Extraordinary meeting Wed 27 August with Philip Altmann of Warrnambool Orchids as guest speaker
- Reminder to members of events this Spring-  
Sept. - Society's Spring Show  
Oct. - Orchid Heaven 97  
Nov. - Horticultural Society of Canberra Show ( Lila can provide Schedule )  
- Barren Grounds Orchid Weekend
- Peat's Ridge Bus Trip - Jane emphasised what a great (and expensive) time all 22 people enjoyed.
- Austmoss evening - Keith & June Alden were thanked for hosting this informative event.

### SALES TABLE

Keith Alden and Mark Fraser spoke about some of the interesting plants and products for sale. Wire products, 2 grades of sphagnum and new fertiliser formulations are now in stock.

### NEW MEMBERS Nil

### GUEST SPOT

Ben Wallace presented a talk on photosynthetic pathways and respiration in the Orchidaceae. Ben discussed the implications of growing CAM ( Crassulacean Acid Metabolism ) orchids with conventional C3 orchids. It was emphasised that unless provided with a suitable environment of nocturnal humidity, CAM plants suffer due to inadequate CO<sub>2</sub> intake and therefore disrupted photosynthesis.

Of significance was the fact that all vandaceous orchids use the CAM system, as do some members of the *Cattleya* alliance and some *Dendrobiums*. Significantly, no members of the Paph Alliance use this adaptation.

Cultural guidelines - 1) water in evening to raise humidity and activate stomates,

2) if heating air also raise humidity, 3) daily fluctuation in temp. and humidity is important, 4) provide strong air movement

Ben then talked us through a photographic guide to native and exotic CAM and C3 orchids.

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

Jane introduced this as a new segment of our General Meetings.

Jane and Sheila ( our Probationary Associate Judges ) looked at 2 plants from the Popular Vote. The first was Odm. Murray River 'Golden Fire' AD/AOC, an auctioned plant from Peat's Ridge, acquired by Brian Phelan. Jane and Sheila commented on shape ( pleasingly round although a little starry ), colour and attractiveness ( well defined and balanced, with 'luscious colour') and the good size, substance and texture of the flowers. Next was Paph. Hamana Wave grown by Colleen Sinclair. Jane described the flower as well balanced and symmetrical on a straight, strong stem, with the dorsal not excessively twisted.

**DOOR PRIZE** Audrey Rough

**RAFFLE** Edna O'Dell, Sheila Cudmore,  
Heinz Greve

Meeting closed at 10.32pm

### **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 5 August 1997**

**Attendance:** 43 **Apologies:** 4

President Jane Wright opened the meeting at 8.03 pm. welcoming our members, guests ( Wolfgang & June Strube), and visitors, including a member's relative from Italy.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Presented by Sandra Corbett.

Current bank balance is \$7,231.90

- There have been recent purchases of plants for the sales table and for the Spring Show.
- Colleen Sinclair's prize money from the Gosford Show was donated to the Society.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Presented by Frank Fogliati

##### **Inwards:**

Newsletters -

Griffith, OSNSW, The Alpine Garden Society (UK), Kiama & District - June; Gosford & District, Illawarra, Wagga Wagga, OSNSW - July; Albury -Wodonga - August

Letters -

- AOC re: 1997 AGM
- The Orchid Pot Co.
- Gosford & District Orchid Society - Winter Orchid Show Results
- Townsville Orchid Society - Asia Pacific Orchid Conference Townsville 1998
- Vancouver Orchid Society - 16th World Orchid Conference Vancouver 1999
- Hort. Society of Canberra - 1997 Private Garden Openings
- CIT - Hort. Spring Fair 1.11.97
- Merrellen Orchids - re: sale of nursery

Catalogues - Nil

Books for the Library -

- American Orchid Society - May & June
- Australian Orchid Review - June
- The Orchadian - June
- Alpine Garden Society - June

Outwards:

- Calwell Garden Centre - confirmation of sponsorship for Spring Show
- OSNSW re: Meritorious Service Award to Peter Cudmore
- Response to anonymous request to purchase Society's book

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted; moved on the motion of Mark Fraser and seconded by Murray Smith.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- New badges were distributed to members
- Gosford Show

Jane presented the 4 prizes to Keith Alden, Brian Phelan (2), and Colleen Sinclair. Jane presented to the Treasurer a cheque for \$110 (awarded for exhibiting displays).

- Reminder to attend the extraordinary meeting 27.8.97 featuring Philip Altmann. Jane encouraged a big turnout for this special event.
- Spring Show reminder- start attending to your plants now, esp. inflorescence staking. Priscilla Greve will give a short talk on plant presentation at the September meeting.
- Orchid Heaven 97 - Jane has requested plants for mounting a large ( 2m x 2m) display.
- CIT Open Day - 1.11.97
- Horticultural Society of Canberra Show - 1.11.97
- Barren Grounds Weekend - 1&2 Nov.
- Articles on CAM photosynthesis and vascular epiphytism made available to members as follow up to Ben Wallace's talk in July.

#### **SALES TABLE**

Keith Alden and Mark Fraser spoke about the range and quality of plants for sale, including recent purchases from the Gosford Show. Also there were several new products including 150mm wire hanging baskets, and two larger sizes of net pots (140mm & 200mm).

**NEW MEMBERS** Nil

#### **GUEST SPOT**

Wolfgang and June Strube were our guest presenters. Wolfgang introduced himself as an agronomist with Horticultural Solutions, a company established 7 years ago. He spoke about the HSO formulations available for orchid culture, which are buffered to a pH of 5.8 - 6.2. Wolfgang gave advice concerning good orchid nutrition, which is based on the principle of 'little and often'. Orchids can only tolerate and use very weak solutions. He stated that the best uptake occurs in the morning, and in sunny, warm weather. Foliar feeding works in the morning also - tests have confirmed this. From May to August fertilise at 1/3rd strength. Growers using sphagnum as a medium should avoid fish based fertilisers, as they contain high levels of chloride in salt form (eg. Potassium Chloride). These will raise the pH and kill the sphagnum with prolonged application.

**RAFFLE** Robyn Noel, Lila Rose, Don Chesher,  
Helen Hufton, Diana Martin.

**DOOR PRIZE** Pat White, Robert Edwards

Meeting closed at 10.09 pm.

## SHOW REGISTRATION — 1997

Your entry form is included with the Show Schedule in this Bulletin. To register your plants **please fill in the form** and present it with your plants and/or other exhibits at the registration table on Friday evening between 6-9p.m..

The classes for registration are much the same as last year: there have been a few editorial changes to meet the varying needs of our membership. The most conspicuous areas of revision are the introduction of classes for Laeliinae Alliance outside of the Cattleya Alliance, and in the introduction of a sub class for Phragmipedium. If you have problems classifying your entries according to the schedule please contact Mark Fraser.

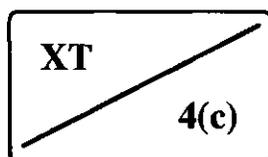
At the registration table you will be issued with the following stickers:

- White, oblong stickers
- Yellow circular numbered stickers
- Other stickers.

Each of these stickers serves a different function, but all need to be clearly visible to the judges and the public.

### White, oblong stickers:

These are used for identifying plants in the judging process. The stickers should be completed so that your two letter registrant code is clearly visible on the upper left and the class of the entry on the lower right.



This is an example of a completed sticker. These stickers are used for all exhibits, including floral art and art, craft and photography.

### Yellow, round, numbered stickers

These are used for identifying plants for the popular vote competition. These stickers are very important to members of the public, so please make sure that they are attached. These stickers are used for plants only.

### Other stickers

These are used to identify plants entered in the seedling classes. They are important if you want your plant to be considered in these classes.

Full definitions of the seedling classes are included in the Show Schedule.

After attaching the stickers leave the plants in the marshalling area. Remember to conceal your name somewhere on or in your plants container. Plants will then be benched by the Show Marshals. If you are entering art craft and photography or floral art see the co-ordinators for requirements regarding benching.

Don't forget to leave your entry form with the Registrar! We need it to keep track of what was entered in the Show

*Lynne Bullivant & Mark Fraser*

## ORCHID WEEKEND at the Barren Grounds

On the weekend of 31 Oct-2 Nov, Leo Cady will once again be the leader of an orchid weekend at the Barren Grounds. You will recall the article written by Jeremy Evans in our May/June bulletin about what a great time we had there with him in March. This time the weekend has been advertised more generally to the public, so it will not be an OSC "special" (less wear & tear on the President), but it is guaranteed to be a great weekend nevertheless. Cost is \$140 (I think) and includes 2 nights accommodation and all meals Friday night to Sunday lunch. Registration will be direct to the Barren Grounds - Jane has forms.

## WESTON CIT / HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE OPEN DAY 1 NOVEMBER

The CIT have restructured the way in which the open day at the Horticultural College in Weston will be run. As part of this restructuring, instead of providing rooms to clubs and societies they are now offering stalls for an open air fair. This arrangement, together with the cost of hiring a stall makes the idea of running a stand at the Open Day appear impractical.

If you want the Society to provide a stall at the Open Day, please contact the committee. Any proposal for running a stall must bear in mind the fact that the cost of a stall will be at least \$130, and we have never collected this amount of revenue from sales and memberships at the Open Day in the past. Without a substantial commitment of time and money it is not possible to consider our involvement in this event.

Whether the Society is involved or not the event is still a popular and interesting one! Attend it, and take the opportunity to learn a lot about horticulture.

## SPRING SHOW NEWS

There are a couple of changes in this years show **RAFFLES:**

There will be no major raffle this year. The reason for this is that there have been some significant changes in the ACT Government's administration of Raffle Permits, and the new rules make it impractical (and too expensive) to continue running a raffle.

### NEW MEMBER'S RAFFLE:

We currently need good flowering, flowering size or near flowering size healthy tough plants for the new members raffle. As these plants are intended to encourage new members they need to be relatively resilient varieties. Contact Robyn Noel or Frank Fogliati.

### TROPHIES RECALL!

We need all the Spring Show trophies back. Either bring them back at the September meeting or contact Jane Wright or Robyn Noel.

### VOLUNTEERS

We will need workers for the show! We need people for the door, people for the Sales Table, Floorwalkers, and people to bake cakes for the catering. Can you help? Robyn Noel will have the sign up lists at the September meeting, or give her a call.

### SHOW SCHEDULE

Whilst the Show Schedule is similar to last year it has undergone a number of minor modifications and refinements. If you have any questions about the rules or the Schedule please contact Mark Fraser.

### BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP Sunday 19 October (2-5pm)

Following our successful workshop last autumn, we will be holding a workshop at Keith Alden's (4 Ullamulla Crs, Qbyn, 6297 3351) aimed specifically at beginner orchid growers and any of our members that are keen to get to know our new members (and pick up a few good tips). We'll be covering the ins and outs of potting media, what plants are goods to start with and how to grow successfully on the windowsill. If you have a topic that would be of interest, we are keen to hear from you - especially if you can present it!

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOWS

The Horticultural Society has dramatically increased the number of orchid classes in each of their Spring Shows, in hopes of luring more of us to exhibit, as they see the orchids as a good

drawcard. Of course, a good display each time is good advertising for our Society too. So I encourage every member to consider exhibiting at the Horticultural Society Shows. The schedules are available at our meetings and from Lila Rose in between times.

The Horticultural Society Shows are on:

13/14 September

1/2 November

15/16 November

**Remember to register your plants by the Wednesday preceding the Show!**

## PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SHOW BENCH

Overall plant appearance is important, so tidy up the plant in general. Remove all appropriate dead husks, sheathing bracts, and so on. Use common sense in this, and do not damage the structural integrity of your plant. Remove dead or discoloured leaf tips (especially on larger *Cymbidiums* and similar plants). Use a sterilized cutting instrument to avoid spreading diseases throughout your collection.

If leaves are dusty or marked with fertilizer or fungicide splashes clean them carefully with a damp cloth, wiping from the base to the tip and holding the leaf firmly at the base to avoid tearing it from the plant, or uprooting the plant. You can use leaf gloss or a dilute solution of milk and water to give the leaves a bit of shine.

Stake and tie the flower spike if necessary. Whilst the rules about staking seem to have relaxed to some degree, and the judges may untie or restake a plant as they see fit, it is worth reviewing the old staking conventions. If the flower spike is unbranched the highest tie should be below the lowest flower. On branched spikes the highest tie should be below the highest branch. For transporting however, it may be wise to tie heavy spikes of flowers to at least the mid point of the spike to help avoid damage or breakage. The additional tie or ties can be removed before the plant is benched.

Make sure that the pot is clean. If the pot is unable to be cleaned, or is permanently marked it may be preferable to place it in another container of similar size.

Make sure that the name of the plant is clearly visible. This might mean writing out a new tag, but the name should be written out in full correctly. Abbreviations should not be used. The name should be clearly visible to anyone viewing the flowers. This should help reduce the incidence of people removing tags from pots.

If you have a plant on a slab mount or in a hanging basket it is your personal responsibility to provide an appropriate stand for the plant.

The day prior to the Show the plants should be well watered, as it will not be possible to thoroughly water them throughout the duration of the show.

Make sure you place your name, hidden from general view your name on or under the pot.

Lynne Bullivant & Mark Fraser

## Orchid Heaven '97

The Society will be needing all the best plants that the membership can offer to mount its display at the regional show over the October long weekend. Cars will head to the coast early on Friday, 3 October so we can be all set up that day (or night!). Then Saturday and Sunday we attend the lectures that have been arranged and enjoy the show. Lectures will be presented by some well known orchid personalities including Clive Halls, Dean Rossler, Dennis Diehm and Kevin Hipkins. Home again on Sunday night. If you still haven't registered, get a form from Jane at the next meeting.

## Popular Vote Results - July 1997

Standard *Cattleya*  
Intermediate *Cattleya*

Miniature *Cattleya*  
*Cymbidium* Hybrids  
*Cymbidium* Hybrids  
Native *Dendrobium* Alliance  
Hardcane *Dendrobium*s  
*Paphiopedilum* Alliance  
Pleurothallid Alliance  
Vandaceous Alliance  
Any Other Species  
Any Other Hybrids

*Brassolaeliocattleya* Gila Wilderness 'Grandeur'  
*Potinara* (*Sophrolaeliocattleya* Kauai Starbright 'Vi' x *Brassolaeliocattleya* Calvin's Choice 'Capricorn')  
*Sophrolaeliocattleya* Golden Wax 'Galaxy'  
*Cymbidium* Starbright 'Capella'  
*Cymbidium* *tracyanum*  
*Dockrillia* *teretifolia*  
*Dendrobium* *bigibbum* var *phalaenopsis*  
*Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow  
*Masdevallia* Charisma 'Pink Blush'  
*Vanda* (Ratirat x *coerulea* 'Kultana')  
*Amesiella* *phillipinense*  
*Odontocidium* Autumn Tints

Brian Phelan  
Robert Rough

Robert Rough  
Lila Rose  
Lynne Bullivant  
Robert Rough  
Ben Wallace  
Keith Alden  
Priscilla Greve  
Keith Alden  
Priscilla Greve  
Jane Wright

## Popular Vote Results - August 1997

Australian Native  
*Cattleya* - Standard  
*Cattleya* - Intermediate  
*Cattleya* - Miniature  
*Cymbidium*  
*Laelia*  
*Odontoglossum* Alliance  
*Paphiopedilum*  
Pleurothallid species  
Pleurothallid Hybrid  
Any Other Species

*Sarcochilus* *falcatus*  
*Laeliocattleya* Bonanza Queen 'Panamint'  
*Sophrolaeliocattleya* Golden Wax 'Galaxy'  
*Sophrolaeliocattleya* Bright Angel  
*Cymbidium* (*hookerianum* x *eburneum* 'Coburg')  
*Laelia* *anceps*  
*Odontocidium* Elske Stölze  
*Paphiopedilum* Hamana Wave  
*Masdevallia* *exaltata*  
*Masdevallia* Falcata 'Aurora'  
*Rhyncostylis* *gigantea* ('Illustre' x self)

Priscilla Greve  
Robert Rough  
Robert Rough  
Brian Phelan  
Lynne Bullivant  
Lynne Bullivant  
Priscilla Greve  
Colleen Sinclair  
Priscilla Greve  
Murray Smith  
Frank Fogliati

## Advertisement



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

## Debco Orchid Potting Mixes

Are available from The Good Earth Garden Centre, Jamison.