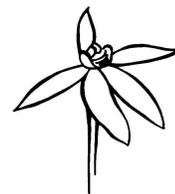


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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Petochilus fuscatus



Volume 24, Number 4

July-Aug 2009

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 trading table open from 7:30pm.

July 2009: Don Cheshier on Coelogynas

August 2009: TBA

Orchid Society of Canberra Events

Horticulture Society of Canberra, Spring Bulb and Camellia Show. 12 & 13 September

Wesley Centre, National Circuit Forrest ACT

Orchid Society of Canberra, Show 19 & 20 September
St. Johns Church, Reid

Upcoming Orchid Events

Tinonee Orchids Open Day 12 July

Tinonee (near Taree) NSW

Eurobodalla Orchid Club, Winter Show 17 & 18 July

CWA Hall, Moruya

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

St Ives Orchid Fair 14-15 August

St Ives Showground

18th Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show

17-18 September, Wyndham Events Centre, Warrabee VIC

South & West Regional Orchid Show and Conference

“Dream Time”, 2-4 October, RSL Club

Wagga Wagga, NSW

President's Comments

We commence a new year with some changes on the Committee and I would like to again thank the members of the out going committee for all their work during the year. I would also like again to welcome the new Committee members – Ross & Tina Anderson and Laurie Woods. I would also like to thank all the members who have helped out with various tasks over the last year especially Anne & Bill Osmand who have done a great job with the tea for some years have now taken a break and handed over to Karen & Zoe Groeneveld; to Rob Rough who has been doing the Popular Vote for many years who has handed this over to Jane Wright; to Audrey Rough & Sheila Cudmore who have been doing the door and raffle for many years and to Ros Walcott who has been looking after the library. I hope that in the coming year we will continue to have as many interesting speakers as we have had in the past year.

Please do not hesitate to suggest to myself or members of the Committee people you would like to have as speakers.

Disclaimer

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In Memoriam

We are sad to report that Gerald McCraith AM died on 26th May 2009, aged 100 years. Many of you will remember that Mark Clements reported to us on the 100th birthday party that was held for Gerald not so long ago.

In the 1930s, Gerald purchased his first orchid and joined the Victorian Orchid Club. Soon he built greenhouses and expanded his collection of plants. He was particularly interested in *Odontoglossums* and related genera, *Disas* and many small orchids from New Guinea. In 1969, he was instrumental in the formation of the Australian Orchid Council which was to coordinate the activities of orchid societies in each state and to represent Australia in world orchid affairs. He became its first Vice President and then President. Gerald also founded, along with Herman Slade, the Australian Orchid Foundation which has funded many projects on orchids in Australia. Gerald was an active promoter of orchids and was rewarded for this activity by being made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Committee Members

President-- Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Vice President- Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Treasurer- Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Ross Anderson	6259 8149
Tina Anderson	6259 8149
Robert Bush	6297 1427
Kevin Dawes	6259 6405
Jim Harper	6254 9618
Laurie Woods	6258 6187

Committee meetings:

6 July-Ben Walcott

10 August – Laurie Woods

7 September – Robyn Noel



Judge's Choice Hybrid June: *Paph. Psyche*

Grown by Terry and Julianne Turner

Annual Subscriptions
\$25 single, \$30 joint, \$5 junior membership.

Paul Tyerman
Barbara Corsini

Theo Schutz

As Robyn announced at the last meeting, Theo was in Sydney last month and was planning to come to Canberra to attend our meeting. Unfortunately, he caught pneumonia and had to go to hospital in Sydney. There he developed further complications and underwent a triple by-pass operation. We are pleased to report that he is doing well and has been moved to the Moruya hospital which is good news indeed. Get well Theo!

Mark Fraser

For those who missed the Annual General Meeting on June 3, the Committee nominated Mark for Life Membership. Mark has been very active over the years for the Society. He did the formatting of text and photographs for the book, has been marshal at our shows for many years as well as the orchid bench at the Horticulture Society of Canberra shows. All this requires knowledge, time and effort and we are all very grateful for his willingness to perform these important duties. His life membership was unanimously approved at the Annual General Meeting

Dendrobium kingianum



D. kingianum 'Wauchope Red x Inferno'

One of my main orchid interests is the beautiful and highly variable Aussie native, *Dendrobium kingianum*. I was wondering if anyone in the society would be interested in participating in an informal interest group for this species. Such a group would meet probably 3 to 4 times a year at member's houses. Activities may include sharing of growing tips, purchase of flasks and sharing of the seedlings, bulk purchase of seedlings, growing competitions, displays at the Spring monthly meetings and the like. If anyone is interested would they talk to me at the next monthly meeting or contact me at the e-mail address below. It probably requires about 4 to 5 people to be a viable proposition.

John Ryan
e-mail: johnr@hle.com.au

Minutes of the Meeting of 6 May 2009

Visitors: Alan Stephenson
Jim Kilvey

Apologies: Ann Osmand
Lynne and Brian Phelan
Theo and Jenny Schutz

New Members: Sarah Eccles
Chris Howard and Sophie Peterson
John Nielsen

Speaker Mark Clements on "Lumpers and Splitters"

This issue was raised recently in an article published in *Lindleyana*, the scientific journal of the American Orchid Society, which proposed to lump genera to make it easier to classify orchids. For example, it is proposed to lump *Sophranitis* into *Cattleya* to create one large genus. Historically, the taxonomy of orchids has depended on the morphology of the flowers, pollen and sexual parts, the pollinia. Now, we can add the DNA sequences of genes to the morphology to get a more accurate picture of plant relationships.

DNA analysis in other plants, for example, has led to the discovery that the genus *Dryandra* is actually embedded within the larger genus of *Banksia*. Given the rule that you can not have a genus within a genus, *Dryandra* was deleted as a genus. These changes are not popular with many but they are the outcome of the DNA analysis. Here is an example where "lumping" is justified by the data. In other cases, however, the lumping of genera may not be justified.

Certain plant taxonomists are considered to be "splitters". They publish papers that split one genus into many. Mark gave some examples where authors simply described a plant, with no evidence, as part of a new genus. This is as bad as arbitrary lumping. Modern taxonomy has to be based on both morphology and DNA analysis together. Morphology alone can be misleading due to parallel evolution which can make one flower look like another but they in fact evolved at different times.

Mark gave a number of examples of the results of DNA analysis. One example was the *Dendrobiums*, where the DNA analysis shows that they really have to be split into two major groups because of the rule that you can not have one genus within another. This means that Australia really has only a few examples of a real *Dendrobium* and that the majority have to be given a new name, eg *Thelychiton*.

He also gave an example, the *Coelogyneae*, where there are "splumpers" who split their own plants of interest but insist on lumping everyone else's plants. The DNA evidence suggests there should be two genera but some want more.

Mark raised the issue of what defines a species. For example, among European orchids, specific bee species will only pollinate one species of orchid and another bee will only pollinate another. Thus the pollinator actually determines the species of orchid. In the case of *Corybas dowingii*, the *Bulahdelah* orchid he has been working on, there are different colour forms in different regions. Are they the same or different species? The DNA analysis suggests they are all one species

DNA analysis is an objective method of classification. Different people get the same results which makes it reproducible. Judgments on morphology can be much more subjective and different people can come up with very different results.

President's Announcements: Robyn Noel

1. Tina Anderson had some of her Masdevallias judged at a recent judge's meeting. They were so impressed with one that it was awarded an AM. Congratulations to Tina.
2. Dues are now due. Please either bring them to the next meeting or mail them.
3. The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting. Scott Mann is leaving for China, Rob Rough is seeking a break as is Barbara Corsini. Therefore, there are three vacancies on the Committee including the Secretary's position. Robyn urged members to speak to any member of the committee and consider standing for election.
4. Rob Rough has been doing the organization of plants for the popular vote for years and has asked to be relieved of his duties. Jane Wright has agreed to take over the leadership role with help from Mark Fraser and Ben Walcott.

Secretary's Report: Given by Robyn Noel due to the absence of Barbara Corsini

We received the following:

Orchids Australia – April

Australian Orchid Review – April/May

Orchid Digest – April/May/June

Bulletins and Newsletters from:

Miriam Ann Orchids

Orchid Society of N.S.W.

Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society

Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society

Albury-Wodonga and District Club

Eurobodalla Orchid Club

Sapphire Coast Orchid Club

Approved by Mark Fraser and seconded by Scott Mann

Treasurer's Report: Bill Ferris

Bank balance of \$ \$ 20,111.44

Approved by Bill Osmand and seconded by Ros Walcott

Raffles won by: Ben Walcott, Richard Phillips, Bill Osmand, Alan Stephenson, Janice McDonald, Bob Evans and Ross Anderson

Door Prize: Roger Williams

Minutes by B. Walcott

Annual General Meeting

June 3, 2009

1. Minutes of the previous annual general meeting were approved. Bob Bush moved and Kevin Dawes seconded
2. The following committee was approved for 2009-2010

Robyn Noel President
Ben Walcott Vice President
Bill Ferris Treasurer
Ross Anderson
Tina Anderson
Bob Bush
Kevin Dawes
Jim Harper
Laurie Woods

Moved Nita Wheeler, seconded Mark Clements

3. The Committee nominated Mark Fraser for Life Membership. The vote of the membership in attendance unanimously approved.

The annual meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM
Minutes by B. Walcott

Minutes of the General Meeting June 6, 2009

Visitors: Lilian Shakh

Apologies: Sheila and Peter Cudmore, Chris Howard, Craig Allen, Peter Gowland, Theo and Jenny Schutz, Jane Wright and Roger Williams

Members attending: 38

President Robyn Noel announced the passing of Gerald McCraith last week. He was among the original founders of the Australian Orchid Council and a strong supporter of orchid research. He will be missed.

Robyn also announced that Theo Schutz who was unable to attend our previous meeting due to ill health while in Sydney has now had to have a triple bypass operation. He is doing well in Westmead Hospital.

Robyn introduced Scott Mann our speaker of the night.

Scott talked on the Cymbidiums have been cultivated in China for centuries. It seems that most are still identifiable as species.

Cymbidium sinense: very fragrant spring flowering plant with slightly variegated leaves and very upright spikes of flowers. The flower type is variable between plants and has been in cultivation since 500 BC and therefore has been subject to a lot of breeding. In regions of China, it can grow in the ground as a mass with tall spikes, 15-20 per clump.

Cymbidium kanran: Has a longer labellum than sinense with more drooping spikes. It is grown in volcanic rock fragments, various mud types and dirt. It requires more light and water than sinense.

Cymbidium goeringii: The flowers are much closer to the leaves and are buried among them. Grows in 40-50% organic matter with the rest being volcanic stones etc.

Cymbidium ensifolium: Variable flower, also in culture for a long time, very fragrant but flowers last only a week or so with 5-6 flowers per spike. Flowers often hidden within the foliage.

These Cymbidiums are most often grown in tall thin pots. Even a small plant will have a large root system.

Hybrids: Cymbidium insigne X sinense for example has tall multiflowered spikes held very upright. Cymbidium 'Cricket' is a cross between Cym. devonianum and Cym. madidum and has pendulous, heavy substance flowers.

Scott also showed a picture of Cymbidium tortisepalum growing in a tall pot with a large mound of sphagnum moss at the top of the pot. This was a common practice to get longer roots. The pots used were often glazed but had holes in the bottom and along the edges for drainage. Also the pots usually have feet to allow for better drainage.

Secretary's Report:

This was given by Robyn Noel as Barbara was not present. We have received:

Wagga Wagga orchid club with news about the SW regional Conference

Orchid Society of NSW –bulletin
Sapphire Coast –bulletin
Aubury Wodonga Orchid –bulletin
Easy Orchids catalogue of supplies

Report moved by Sandra Corbett and seconded by Bill Osmand Approved

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Ferris reported that our account stood at \$ 17,850 with some memberships still coming in.

Report moved by Ben Walcott and seconded by Mark Fraser Approved

Robyn Noel announced that a local family wished to sell a galvanized iron shade house (10 ft X 8 ft X 10 ft high) covered in shade cloth. The cover can be removed and the house disassembled for transport. In addition they have a number of named cymbidiums, some pots and other materials. The price is negotiable. If you are interested, contact Robyn.

Robyn also said goodbye to Leander O'Connor who has been a regular attendee even though she travelled from Yass. Leander is moving to the Coast. Also a goodbye to Kevin and Judy Osbourne who are moving to Newcastle.

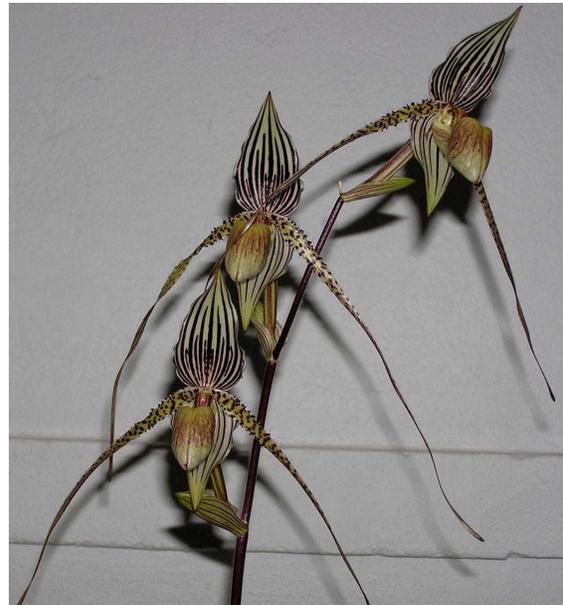
There were 5 raffle prizes and a door prize.
Meeting ended at 10:30 PM
Minutes by B. Walcott



Judge's Choice Species June **and** Orchid of the Night
Bulbophyllum maximum grown by Mark Clements



Judge's Choice Species May **and** Orchid of the Night:
Drac. gigas "Marnie" Grown by Ross Anderson



Judge's Choice Hybrid May: *Paph. St Swithin Jill*
Grown by Terry and Julianne Turner

Popular Vote May 2009

	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>C. Little Suzie "Fay"</i>	Ben Walcott
Laeliinae species	<i>L. gordiana</i>	Rob Rough
Coelogyne species	<i>Dendrochilum wenzelii</i>	Don Chesher
Paphiopedilum hybrids	<i>Paph. St Swithin Jill</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Pleurothallid hybrid	<i>Drac. vampire X Masd. Enchantment</i>	Ross Anderson
Pleurothallid species	<i>Drac. gigas "Marnie"</i>	Ross Anderson
Onchidium alliance Tie	<i>Onc. Mary Eliza</i> <i>Miltassia Aztec Toni</i>	Rob Rough Sylvia Timms
Other Hybrids Tie	<i>Cirr. Longissimum X Cirr. Putidum</i> <i>Cymbidium Enzan Summer</i>	Mark Fraser Ros Walcott
Any Others Species	<i>Bulb. rothschildianum</i>	Mark Fraser
Orchid of the Night	<i>Drac. gigas "Marnie"</i>	Ross Anderson
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paph. St Swithin Jill</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Drac. gigas "Marnie"</i>	Ross Anderson

Popular Vote June 2009

	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae hybrid	<i>Cattleytonia Why Not "Lee"</i>	Rob Rough
Coelogyne species	<i>Dendrochilum saccolabium</i>	Kevin Dawes
Paphiopedilum hybrids	<i>Paph. Psyche</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Masdevallia species	<i>Masd. exquisita</i>	Bob Bush
Masdevallia hybrid	<i>Masd exquisita X ionocharis</i>	Bob Bush
Odontoglossum alliance	<i>Oda. Phoenix March "floricultum"</i>	Mark Fraser
Cymbidium species	<i>Cym. traceyanum</i>	Rob Rough
Australian Terrestrials	<i>Tanrantha collina</i>	Nita Wheeler
Other Hybrids	<i>Dockrillia X grimesii</i>	Mark Clements
Any Others Species	<i>Bulbophyllum maximum</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Bulbophyllum maximum</i>	Mark Clements
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paph. Psyche</i>	Terry and Julianne Turner
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Bulbophyllum maximum</i>	Mark Clements

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 either Robyn Noel or Bill Ferris.

By mail: 10 Wickham Cres, Red Hill, ACT 2603 **not** the Orchid Soc PO Box

By phone: (02) 6161 2742 (h)

By email: bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

Editor: Ben Walcott