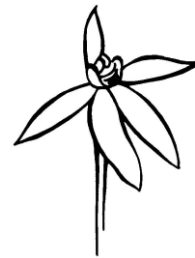


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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ABN 34 762 780 850

Petalochilus fuscatus



Volume 26, Number 1

Jan-Feb 2011

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.

Speakers:

February 2011: Ray Clements - Tinonee Orchids

March 2011: Gary Backhouse

Orchid Society of Canberra Events

Annual 2 Day Workshop: 12 & 13 March 2011, Canberra Carotel Motel, cnr Aspinall and Zelling Sts, Watson.

Upcoming Orchid Events

Canberra Horticultural Society Autumn Show: 5 - 6 March, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forest.

Sydney International Orchid Fair: 8 - 10 April, 9am - 5pm, Castle Hill Showground, cnr Showground & Carrington Roads, Castle Hill.

20th World Orchid Conference: 14 - 23 November 2011, Marina Bay, Singapore.

Mingara Orchid Fair: 25 - 26 June, Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumby Umbi, NSW.

President's Comments

Happy new year to everyone, and welcome to 2011. We start off the New Year with Ray Clements from Tinonee Orchids visiting in February, followed by Gary Backhouse in March. The first weekend in March is the combined Show with the Horticultural Society which gives members the chance to enter their Autumn flowering plants. On the next weekend in March (12-13) we have our workshop combined with the other orchid societies in our region at the Carotel in Watson. Please show your support for our Society by registering for the weekend - the speakers for the weekend will be Dennis Dhiem and Wayne Turville and both will bring plants to sell. Included later in this bulletin is a list of many of the Shows in the coming year for your information and as a guide to planning your trips to see lots of orchids.

A further point of interest in March is the Judge's Training Course on the 19-20 March. This will be a come and see what is involved with the course and if you are interested please let Jane Wright know.

Xmas Leftovers

Several serving platters were left at the Church following the Xmas party. These can be picked up at the meeting or if you are unable to attend, please contact Bill Ferris.



November Judge's Choice Specimen: *Dendrobium loddigesii*, grown by Rob Rough.

Committee Members

President:	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Vice President:	Laurie Woods	6258 6187
Treasurer:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Secretary:	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Committee:	Peter Coyne	
	Bob Forrester	
	John Ryan	
	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
	Zoe Groeneveld	6299 7080

Committee meetings:

February 7: Robyn Noel

March 7: Bob Forrester

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Orchid Shows

Date	Event
8 - 10 April 9am - 5pm	<u>Sydney International Orchid Fair</u> Castle Hill Showground, Cnr Showground & Carrington Roads, Castle Hill (Entrance off Carrington Rd)
20 - 22 May	<u>Orchids Out West</u> Hawkesbury Race Course
25 - 26 June	<u>Mingara Orchid Fair</u> Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi, NSW
15 - 16 July Fri 9am - 5pm Sat 9am - 1pm	<u>Eurobodalla Orchid Club</u> CWA Hall, Queen St, Moruya
22 - 23 July Sat 10am - 8pm Sun 10am - 3pm	<u>Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society</u> 2 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay
12 - 14 August Fri/Sat 9am - 5pm Sun 9am - 1pm	<u>Sapphire Coast Winter Show</u> Twyford Hall, Merimbula
19 - 20 August	<u>St Ives Orchid Fair</u> St Ives Showground, Mona Vale Road, St Ives
26 - 28 August Fri/Sat 9am - 5pm Sun 9am - 1pm	<u>Eurobodalla Orchid Club</u> Narooma Sports and Leisure Centre, Blue Water Dr, Narooma
9 - 10 September Sat 10am - 8pm Sun 10am - 3pm	<u>Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society</u> Soldiers Club, 2 Beach Rd, Batemans Bay
15 - 16 September Thu 9am - 5pm Fri 9am - 4pm	<u>Sapphire Coast Spring Show</u> Scout Hall, Gipps St, Bega
17 - 18 September Sat 11am - 5pm Sun noon - 4:30pm	<u>Canberra Orchid Society Spring Show</u> St Johns Hall, 43 Constitution Av, Reid
24 - 25 September	<u>Wagga Orchid Society</u> Community Centre, 1 Tanda Place, Glenfield, Wagga Wagga
1 - 2 October	<u>'The South and West Regional Conference and Show'</u> Shoalhaven Orchid Society, Nowra High School
7 - 9 October	<u>Southern Orchid Spectacular</u> Sharkies Club, Cronulla
4 - 5 November Fri 9am - 5pm Sat 9am - 3pm	<u>Australian Native Plant and Bonsai Show</u> Twyford Hall, Merimbula
13 - 20 November 2011	<u>20th World Orchid Conference</u> Marina Bay, Singapore. For information see their website or contact Bill Ferris.
11 - 16 September 2012	<u>19th Australian Orchid Council Conference</u> Perth

Canberra Horticultural Society Shows

Date	Event
5 - 6 March	Autumn Show
17 - 18 September	Spring Bulb and Camellia Show
29 - 30 October	Iris, Rhododendron and Azalea Show
12 - 13 November	Spring Exhibition and Rose Show

Note: all shows at the Wesley Centre

Cymbidium canaliculatum likes Oolines

The Tregole National Park just south of Morven in central Queensland contains one of the few remaining stands of Ooline trees (*Cadellia pentastylis*). Also known as Scrub Myrtle, the Ooline is listed as 'vulnerable to extinction' due to clearing for grazing and agriculture as it grows on moderately fertile soils. The stands at Tregole are unusual in that Oolines prefer climates that are much cooler and wetter than the Morven area.

Ooline is a medium to large tree with bright green leaves and rough bark. The trees provide an excellent medium for *Cymbidium canaliculatum* that is plentiful in the park and readily observable from the walking track. One Ooline is host to at least ten colonies of the orchid (see picture).



Exciting Orchid Growing Opportunity

Like to help propagate, grow and display a wide range of orchids? Then become an Orchid Volunteer at the Australian National Botanical Gardens. All that is required is half a day a week of your time.

It is an exciting time in the ANBG orchids. There are plans for a substantial increase in the size and range of the collection and the public presentation of the orchids, much of which will be done by the Volunteers. If you would like to become a Volunteer or find out more about the role of the Volunteers, please speak to Mark Clements, Jane Wright, Ben Walcott, Bob Bush or Bill Ferris.

Maintaining humidity around native epiphytic orchids

Most of my orchids sit on the benches in the glasshouse either in nursery plastic plant trays or in Styrofoam vegetable packing boxes (this stops the smaller pots falling over). The Styrofoam boxes have had their sides trimmed to the height of the pots that sit in them.

Two of the Styrofoam boxes are broccoli boxes and have no drainage holes in them. So, when I water, the water tends to lie in the bottom of the box until it evaporates.

The two Styrofoam boxes in question have plants of *D. kingianum* in them and what I have noticed over time is that I get better growth and flowering from these plants than I do from plants that sit in the plastic nursery plant trays or the Styrofoam boxes with holes in them.

This is not surprising as Canberra can be very dry at times and the humidity levels over summer are generally very low. So anything that raises the humidity levels around plants, particularly in summer, is likely to be beneficial.

Earlier this year I decided to try growing more of my kingi's in moisture retaining boxes. A friend suggested I try using hydroponic plant trays instead of Styrofoam boxes.

About 6 months ago I bought one hydroponic tray about a 100cm x 35cm, put a bung in one end and added a short length of plastic irrigation pipe with a tap in the end of the pipe. In the bottom of the tray I placed a layer of expanded clay beads (see photos).



The plants sit on top of the beads and the tap allows me to drain water from the tray as required (usually so that it is level with the top of the beads). This means that a high level of humidity is maintained around the plants' root systems for a longer time than would normally be the case.

D. kingianum seems to like the high levels of humidity. Thus far the results have been promising and I have bought a second hydroponic tray.

It will be interesting to see how it goes over the long term.

John Ryan
November 2010



Orchid Society at Floriade

The Society again participated in Floriade for the first three days (11 - 13 September, 2010). The Society's display of orchids and presentations on orchid growing in the Actew AGL Look 'n' Learn marquee were well received. Presentations were given by Bill Ferris and Ben Walcott who, with the assistance of Bob Bush, arranged the display. Jane Wright, Laurie Woods and Peter Coyne staffed the display and fielded many questions from the public.



The display at Floriade

General Meeting 3rd November 2010

Apologies: Ros Dudek, Lynn and Brian Phelan, Theo and Jenny Schutz
Guests: Claren Kidd, Helen Richards, John Arundell
Number of Members: 53

Jane Wright showed some slides of the orchid show at Cronulla. The Canberra display was minimalist with plants arranged with pink/white on one side and yellow/red/orange on the other. Roger Williams had made a multi segmented screen on which many plants were hung. We won the Champion Display as well as many awards for individual plants. Jane thanked all those who contributed plants as well as Sandra Corbett, Roger Williams and Robyn Noel who helped her take plants up and set them up in the display.

Mark Clements introduced Helen Richards who is Chair of the Australian Orchid Foundation and an expert in growing native terrestrial orchids.

Helen Richards talked on the cultivation of native terrestrial orchids.

All have some form of tubers which can vary in shape from small round forms to larger finger-like ones. Many of these plants reproduce by growing new tubers each year.

How to grow them:

She uses

- Friable loam: 1 part
- Wood shavings: 1 part (no cedar or treated timber shavings, pine works well)
- Leaf mould: 1 part
- Coarse sand: 2 parts

Vary the mix to suit the particular plants that you are growing. Add blood and bone and lime if necessary. This mix should have a pH of around 6.

She has also had some success with:

- Native planting mix: 3 parts
- Sand: 1 part

She uses 150mm pots with good drainage holes and covers the holes with shade cloth to keep the mix in and insects out. When re-potting, she uses ½ old mix and ½ new mix so that some of the fungus in the old mix gets transferred into the new.

Most of her plants are colony formers so she re-pots each year and grows them in a shade house. Other people have enclosed a porch which has a clear roof and shade cloth walls.

Light requirements:

- *Diuris* need bright light
- *Pterostylis* need medium light
- *Corybas* need more shade and high humidity

Watering:

In general, water terrestrials when they are growing and don't water at all when they are dormant, except to give a brief mist now and again to keep them from drying out completely.

Helen then gave a list and showed pictures of plants that were relatively easy to grow:

- *Diplodinium abruptum*
- *Diplodinium coccinum*
- *Diplodinium pulchellum*
- *Acianthus pusillus*
- *Corysanthus fimbriata*
- *Taurantha concinna*
- *Pterostylus curta*
- *Chiloglottis trapesiformis*

Even small tubers can produce flowers although the larger the tuber, the larger the flower. *Caladenia* are difficult to grow and require excellent drainage. *Diuris sulphurea* needs really good light to do well. For this species, don't re-pot each year as you need many closely packed tubers for the plant to flower.

Problems growing terrestrials:

Mice can eat the plants and flowers, and get rid of black rotting leaves as the fungus can spread. Thrips are a problem and mottled leaves are a sign of virus. Virus-infected plants have to be destroyed.

Propagation:

You can propagate by seed: pollinate the flowers and spread the seeds around parent plants. Don't re-pot parent or growing seedlings until they are a reasonable size.

You can also propagate by tubers: in some plants, you can carefully knock the flowering plants out of the pot. They will have formed a new tuber to the side or below the original. Carefully break off the new tuber and replant the flowering plants. They will then form new tubers so that you can double the number of tubers produced each year.

Helen pointed out that it was illegal and improper to collect material from the wild. The Canberra Orchid Society belongs to ANOS who have a tuber bank and can provide tubers for some of the terrestrial orchids.

In response to questions, Helen said that she plants the tubers about 3 cm below the surface of the pot and covers the topsoil with Casuarina needles. She re-pots starting Boxing Day and goes until March. She waters the new tubers in and then doesn't water until growth appears.



November Judge's Choice species: *Paphiopedilum praestans*, grown by David Judge.

Award: The Australian Orchid Foundation funds research on orchids in Australia, mostly but not always on native orchids. At its most recent meeting in Melbourne, the AOF announced that it was giving an Award of Merit to Mark Clements for his work on orchids and orchid conservation. Helen gave Mark the trophy which had not been available in Melbourne.

President's Announcements:

Robyn announced that this would be Bill and Anne Osmand's last meeting with us, as they are leaving next week for Taree. Robyn presented them with a 6 pack of our glasses. The last Horticultural Society of Canberra show is the 13th & 14th of November. The schedule for the show is on the Hort Society's website.

Secretary Report:

- Orchid Digest - Oct, Nov, Dec 2010
- Australian Orchid Digest - Oct, Nov 2010
- Orchids Australia - Oct 2010
- Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society - Oct 2010
- Miriam Ann Orchids Newsletter - Oct 2010
- Campbelltown and Districts Orchid Society - Oct 2010

- Horticultural Society of Canberra Bulletin - Nov-Jan 2010
- Sapphire Coast Orchid Club - Oct 2010
- Burbank Orchid Nursery Catalogue - Oct 2010
- Eurbodalla Orchid Club - Nov 2010

- Moved Nita Wheeler and seconded Mark Fraser - approved

Treasurer's Report:

We have \$ 20,701.36 in the bank. Some payments are yet to go through.
 - Moved Sandra Corbett and seconded Jane Wright - approved

Raffle: Nita Wheeler, Mark Clements, Paul Tyerman, Vi Mach, Mark Fraser, Bob Evans, Quin Chung, Bob Forrester, Ron Boyd, Vi Mach, Pam Phillips, Bill Ferris, Paul Tyerman, Pam Phillips, Jim Wheeler

Door Prize: Quin Chung



December Judge's Choice hybrid: *Miltoniopsis* Beall's Strawberry Joy, grown by Brian & Lynne Phelan.

Sales Table		
Pots/Fertilizer/wire products	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Shirts	Robyn Noel	6258 5734
25th Anniversary glasses	Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Bark	David Judge	
Orchid Mate	Laurie Woods	



November Judge's Choice hybrid: *Masdevallia Machu Picchu*, grown by Tina Anderson.



December Orchid of the Night: *Paphiopedilum robelinii*, grown by David Judge.



November Orchid of the Night: *Miltoniopsis Firewater 'Red Butterfly'*, grown by David Judge.



December Judge's Choice species: *Bulbophyllum lobbii*, grown by Jane Wright.

Popular Vote November 2010

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae hybrids & species	<i>Slc. Damsel x Lc. Trick or Treat</i>	Rob Rough
Paphiopedilum species	<i>Paphiopedilum lowii</i>	David Judge
Paphiopedilum hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum William Ambler</i>	David Judge
Bulbophyllinae	<i>Cirrhopetalum sikkimense</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Oncidiinae	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Firewater 'Red Butterfly'	David Judge
Pleurothallidinae hybrid	<i>Masdevallia Machu Picchu</i>	Tina Anderson
Pleurothallidinae species	<i>Masdevallia veitchiana</i>	Bob Bush
Vandae	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Dendi's Midget	Jane Wright
Sarcochilus species & hybrid	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Fitzhart	Rob Rough
Dendrobium exotic	<i>Dendrobium loddigesii</i>	Rob Rough
Australian Thelychiton	<i>Thelychiton kingianum</i> 'Black Gold'	Bill Ferris
Australian native epiphyte other than Thelychiton	<i>Dockrillia linguiformis</i>	Nita Wheeler
Australian native terrestrials	<i>Dipodium ensifolium</i>	Mark Clements
Any other orchid	<i>Bletilla striata</i>	Rob Rough
Orchid of the Night	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Firewater 'Red Butterfly'	David Judge
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Masdevallia Machu Picchu</i>	Tina Anderson
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Paphiopedilum praestans</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Specimen	<i>Dendrobium loddigesii</i>	Rob Rough

Popular Vote December 2010

Category	Plant	Owner
Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya warneri</i> var <i>coerulea</i>	Rob Rough
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum robelinii</i>	David Judge
Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidium phymatochilum</i>	Bob Evans
Miltoniopsis	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Nancy Binks x Starstruck	David Judge
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia Machu Picchu</i> 'Jay Vee'	Bob Bush
	<i>Masdevallia</i> Hot Shot	Jane Wright
Vandae	<i>Ascocenda</i> Crown Fox 'Red Gem'	Ben Walcott
Australian natives	<i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i> 'Red Eye Willy'	Bob Bush
	<i>Sarcochilus parviflorus</i>	Bill Ferris
Any other orchid hybrid	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i> hybrid	Bill Ferris
Any other orchid species	<i>Bulbophyllum lobbii</i>	Jane Wright
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paphiopedilum robelinii</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Beall's Strawberry Joy	Brian & Lynne Phelan
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Bulbophyllum lobbii</i>	Jane Wright

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: 112 Tharwa Road, Karabar NSW, 2620. **not** the Orchid Soc PO Box

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