

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

PO Box 221, Deakin West, ACT, 2600, Australia

www.canberraorchids.org

Email: orcsoc@yahoo.com

ABN 34 762 780 850

Caladenia fuscata



Volume 32, Number 2

Mar-Apr 2017

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 sales table open from 7:30pm.

Meeting Program

1 March	Australian Native Dendrobiums with Travis Milton (Wagga Wagga)
5 April	Catasetinae with Jane Wright
3 May	TBA
7 June	AGM and Miniature Orchids with Geoff Dyne

Upcoming Events 2017

4-5 March. **Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn Flower Show**. Wesley Centre, Forrest. Sat 12-5, Sun 11:30-3:45.

18-19 March. **South and West Region Societies Orchid Workshop**, hosted by the Orchid Society of Canberra.

24-26 March. **Royale Orchids Open Weekend**. 70 Brieses Road, Peat's Ridge. Free lunchtime BBQ, plenty of free parking.

31 March- 1 April. **Sydney International Orchid Fair**. Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill 9am-4pm.

8-9 April. **Collector's Plant Fair**. Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon. Sat 8-4, Sun 9-4.

26-28 May. **Orchids Out West**. Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon. Fri, Sat 9-4, Sun 9-3.

24-25 June. **Mingara Orchid Fair**. Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi. 9-5.

23-24 September. **Orchid Society of Canberra Spring Show**. Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue Ainslie ACT. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.

For further info, visit:

<http://www.canberraorchids.org/> or

<http://www.hsoc.org.au>

Paphiopedilum Vanda M. Pearman



Orchid of the Night and Judges' Choice Hybrid – February 2017; *Paphiopedilum* Vanda M. Pearman grown by David Judge

I bought this plant as a seedling (*Paph. delenatii* 'Pink Spring' x *bellatulum* alba 'Moonlight') from P&R Orchids around 2005/06. I first flowered it in 2008 and have flowered it quite a few times since then. It has proven to be a good reliable plant. It sits on the top bench alongside my multi-floral paphs. I grow it at a minimum temperature of around 15°C while in summer maximum temps can reach up to 38°C. The humidity in my glasshouse is almost always above 65%. The plant is grown in a 100mm pot in straight Orchiatra bark. It is watered once a week in winter and around every four days in summer. I fertilise regularly with Peters CalMag Grower and MAGAMP.

Continued page 2 ...

Committee Members

President:	<u>Bill Ferris</u>	<u>6297 5635</u>
Vice President:	<u>Karen Groeneveld</u>	<u>6299 7080</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Bob Forrester</u>	<u>6231 0203</u>
Secretary:	<u>Peter Coyne</u>	<u>6251 7660</u>
Committee:	<u>Geoff Dyne</u>	<u>6231 3681</u>
	<u>Zoe Groeneveld</u>	<u>6299 7080</u>
	<u>Jane Wright</u>	<u>6254 1119</u>

Disclaimer

© 2016 The Orchid Society of Canberra. The Orchid Society of Canberra disclaims liability for any loss, financial or otherwise caused as a result of the contents of this Bulletin.

Continued from page 1

Paphiopedilum Vanda M. Pearman is a relatively old hybrid, registered in 1939. It is a primary hybrid between *Paphiopedilum delenatii* and *bellatulum* which are species from different sections of the genus. *Paph. bellatulum* belongs to the Brachypetalum group while *Paph. delenatii* belongs to the Parvisepalum group. Both groups, and especially the brachypetalums, are quite difficult to grow. *Paph. bellatulum* would be considered one of the toughest species of slipper orchids to cultivate. Relative to other species of parvisepalums, *Paph. delenatii* isn't difficult to grow, especially the more modern clones. Still it is not one for the beginner. The hybrid involving these two species is extremely vigorous and easy to flower. It is a lot easier to grow than either of the parents.



You will notice from the photo above that my plant has two flowers on a spike. The first couple of times I flowered it with only one flower but the last couple of flowerings have had two. *Paph. bellatulum* only ever produces one flower on a raceme so it is not responsible for the hybrid producing a second flower. *Paph. delenatii* is not considered a multi-floral species but it can often produce two flowers on a spike and some clones can even produce a third flower. *Paph. delenatii* would probably be the only slipper orchid you would consider pretty. It can also be quite fragrant which can be passed down to its offspring. I haven't noticed any fragrance on my Vanda M. Pearman but then I don't seem to have a nose for these things.

In the cross I have, an alba form of *Paph. bellatulum* was used, which you can see in the photo on the right below. You might be wondering why my plant has spots when these are absent from the *Paph. bellatulum* parent. Alba or album flowers lack any red pigments and hence the flowers are usually pure yellow or white. The alba form of *Paph. bellatulum* does have spots, but they are white so you cannot see them against the white background. When the alba form of *Paph. bellatulum* is crossed with a coloured form of *Paph. delenatii*, the coloured form dominates

and the red pigment returns making the spots visible. If an alba form of *Paph. delenatii* was used the offspring would all be alba in colour. You might be thinking what would be the point of using an alba form of *Paph. bellatulum* in this cross if it can only produce coloured flowers. While my plant is not alba in colour, it does carry the alba gene. So, if I selfed this plant or crossed it with another seedling from the same cross, about 25% of seedlings would be alba in colour.

David Judge



Paphiopedilum bellatulum



Paphiopedilum bellatulum – alba form



Paphiopedilum delenatii

President's Comments

Hopefully we have seen the worst of the hot weather for some months. Even during the hot weather, the orchids have been remarkably resilient if humidity levels have been kept high. Towards the end of April we will need to be alert for frosts.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Travis Milton. Travis is an orchid judge and will talk on growing and hybridising Australian native orchids, particularly thelychitons (formerly called dendrobiums). He has won awards for his plants and will have plants for sale.

At the April meeting Jane Wright will talk on catasetums and will have plants for sale. These plants are interesting in that they are dormant over winter and can be stored away until growth starts in spring.

Our new arrangements for the raffle/door prize wasn't quite as successful as I had hoped, but we can work on that. Please feel free to bring any item/s you would like to give away – it doesn't have to be orchid plants – and these will be placed on the door table.

A reminder of the Orchid Workshop the society is hosting on 18-19 March. There is no limit on numbers attending, but could you please get your registration in by 10 March so we can advise the Raiders club of number attending. At only \$25 for a day and a half of talks and morning and afternoon teas it is good value. Both growers will have interesting and less common plants for sale and a wealth of experience in orchid growing that will be shared with those registering for the workshop. You can register at the March meeting.

The Canberra Horticultural Society has its Autumn Flower Show on the weekend of 4-5 March which includes a section for orchids. The schedule for orchids is included in this Bulletin and members are encouraged to support this event. Please note the change in contacts for registration for this event and the separate categories for novice growers.

Finally an early notice that membership fees for 2017-18 (scary isn't it) will fall due on 1 May. Fees remain unchanged at \$30 for joint membership, \$25 for single and \$5 for juniors (including full time students).

Bill Ferris

Orchid Workshop

In 2017 it is our turn to host the annual Orchid Workshop in Canberra over the weekend of 18-19 March 2017. Bill Miles of Orchid Species Plus and Stephen Stebbings will be our guest presenters and vendors. It's not too late to sign up.

Check out their websites to see what they have for sale, and perhaps even place an advance order for pickup at the workshop.

<http://www.orchidspeciesplus.com.au/>

<http://stores.ebay.com.au/Orchids-on-Newbold>

Horticultural Society Autumn Flower Show

This serves as our autumn show, so please support it with entries and attendance.

Please phone or email your entries by 8pm on 2 March 2017 with the Show Secretary, David Ross (6251 2859, davidross28@bigpond.com). Exhibits may be staged 6-10pm Friday 3 March and 7:30-10am Saturday. Be sure to pick up your plants from the hall at 3:45 pm on Sunday.

Section A: OPEN	
130	Cattleya Alliance Species
131	Cattleya Alliance Hybrid - Standard
132	Cattleya Alliance Hybrid - Intermediate
133	Cattleya Alliance Hybrid - Miniature
134	Paphiopedilum Alliance Species
135	Paphiopedilum Alliance Hybrid
136	Vandaceous Alliance Species
137	Phalaenopsis Hybrid
138	Vanda and Ascocenda Hybrid
139	Other Vandaceous Hybrid
140	Oncidium Species
141	Oncidium Hybrid
142	Odontoglossum Alliance Species
143	Odontoglossum Alliance Hybrid
144	Other Oncidium Alliance Species
145	Masdevallia Species
146	Other Pleurothallis Species
147	Pleurothallid Hybrid – 30mm or greater
148	Pleurothallid Hybrid – less than 30mm
149	Coelogyne Alliance Species
150	Dendrobium Alliance Species
151	Dendrobium Alliance Hybrid
152	Any other Orchid Hybrid
153	Any Other Orchid Species
Section B: NOVICE	
154	Cattleya Alliance
155	Paphiopedilum Alliance
156	Vandaceous Alliance
157	Oncidium Alliance
158	Pleurothallid Alliance
159	Orchid not otherwise specified

Sales Table News

At the April meeting, we will have catasetum plants for sale, enough for everyone to have a go at these interesting plants, from as little as \$10 per plant.

We encourage members to sell divisions or surplus plants on the sales table. If you are interested in selling plants on the sales table, it's easy to do. When pricing your plants, take into account that the Society takes 10% commission. Put the price and your name on a separate tag in the pot. When the plant is sold, we pull out the tag and it is returned to you with your money, at the following meeting.

Epigeneium nakaharae



Judges' Choice Species and Specimen of the Night February 2017. *Epigeneium nakaharae* grown by Mark Clements.

Epigeneium nakaharae comes from Taiwan, where it grows between 1000 and 2000m on the mountain range. It is a miniature, mat-forming epiphyte that lives in the moist dappled shade of broad-leafed forests.

**Minutes: Orchid Society General meeting
1 February 2017**

32 Members; 5 visitors; 8 apologies

In opening the meeting Bill welcomed everyone. He drew attention to the Schedule for the next Horticultural Society of Canberra show, printed copies of which were available for anyone interested. He introduced the new approach for the raffle, where winners will be drawn from the night's registration numbers in the attendance book. He also announced that from now on a section for novices would be

included on the display bench. Bill then introduced Jane Wright and David Judge who were to jointly deliver the talk on Maudiae Paphiopedilums to complement the collection of these plants on the sales table.

Talk on Maudiae Paphiopedilums: These are excellent slipper orchids for beginners. They have a single flower to each stem and tessellated (patterned) leaves. The hybrid *Paphiopedilum* Maudiae was made in 1900. Maudiae hybrids are derived from species within the section Barbata, especially *P. superbiens*, *P. callosum* and *P. lawrenceanum*. Important other species used in producing Maudiae hybrids are *P. sukhakulii*, *P. mastersianum* (which produces shiny flowers) and *P. fairrieanum* (which has down-swept petals).

The Maudiae paphs have three colour forms: coloratum, albino and vinicolor. All the vinicolor hybrids are descended from two darkly coloured plants of *P. callosum*.

From the judges' viewpoint, a good Maudiae has:

- A large, wide dorsal sepal;
- even and flat petals;
- the lip held vertically and of a size balanced with the other floral elements;
- even colour; and
- a long, straight stem.

Maudiae hybrids are much easier to grow than *Paphiopedilum* species. They are good indoor plants which grow quickly and may even reach flowering stage in two years from flask. They need a lot of water in summer and dim light. To grow in Canberra:

- grow in the house or in a heated greenhouse;
- humidity should be more than 60%;
- minimum winter temperature 10–12°C but warmer is better;
- mid–low light (David uses three layers of 70% shade cloth in summer);
- use pots just large enough for the root system;
- use 9–12 mm Orchidata bark;
- pot with the mix above the bottom of the plant so new roots form;
- water copiously in spring and summer, keep drier in winter;
- do not allow water to sit in the crown in cold conditions – crown rot can be a serious problem;
- fertilise with 1 g per 2 litres Peters CalMag; and
- watch out for mealy bugs, which are the main insect pests.

Once a flower bud has initiated, turn the plant so the bud faces the light. When the bud is close to opening tip the plant forward slightly so the flower will face slightly upwards when the pot is restored to level.

When repotting, an old growth can produce a new bud in addition to the new growth already present. You can potentially get three new growths a year.

Minutes of the November and December meetings: moved Zoe, seconded Ben Walcott; accepted

Secretary's report: Four new periodicals received, available from the library, as are back issues and books.

Moved Ben Walcott, seconded Mark Clements; accepted.

Treasurer's report: The trading account has \$10,404.65 and term deposits \$16,581.11 but there are some un-presented cheques. Bob reminded members about the society tee-shirts, available for \$25. Moved Bill Ferris, seconded Robyn Noel; accepted.

Other business: Bill reminded members of the workshop next month and asked for registrations as soon as possible.

If anyone has notable flowers between meetings, Bill suggested emailing him a photo or putting a photo on the society's Facebook page.

The committee has decided to donate \$200 to Noushka Reiter's project to save highly threatened *Caladenia* species in Victoria. This decision was supported by members.

Next meeting: The March meeting will feature a presentation by Travis Milton on growing and hybridising Australian native orchids.

Time for a new tag



Many members will have purchased or won some New Caledonian greenhoods from the Society variously labelled *Taurantha tenuicauda*, *Pterostylis tenuicauda*, *Pterostylis* aff. *tenuicauda*. Its new name is ***Diplodium repandum***, courtesy of Mark Clements and David Jones (2016). Australian Orchid Review 81(5): 41-51. In this article, they describe the new species and compare it to the other closely-related species in New Caledonia. It's a wonderful species as it grows strongly and multiplies well.

Introducing the Catasetinae

The Catasetinae is a sub-tribe of orchids from Latin America that includes the genera *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Mormodes* and *Cycnoches*. Hybridisation within this group yields the hybrid genera *Clowesetum* (= *Clowesia* x *Catasetum*), *Mormodia* (= *Mormodes* x *Clowesia*), *Cycnodes* (= *Cycnoches* x *Mormodes*) and *Fredclarkeara* (= *Catasetum* x *Clowesia* x *Mormodes*).



Fredclarkeara Midnight Sky

Plants of this group have a very interesting life-history which makes them quite suitable for hobbyists to grow in our area. They come from environments with a distinct wet (monsoon) season in summer and a dry season over winter. So to grow them, we need to understand this seasonal rhythm and adjust our culture to mimic it as well as we can.

In autumn, in response to reduced water and cooler nights, they lose their leaves and go dormant for winter. During winter, they need little or no water and all that is required is keep them dry and protected from very cold temperatures. In spring, the plants start to develop new shoots and these in turn start to produce roots in anticipation of the rains to come. It is important not to water until the new roots are about 10 cm long because as soon as the rains start, the plants shift their emphasis to growing leaves and need all that root growth to support the growing plant. During the growing phase, they require plenty of water and fertiliser to produce large, strong pseudobulbs.

Jane Wright will be giving a presentation on Catasetinae at our April meeting and will have some of these interesting plants for sale.

Orchid Jobs to Do in March and April

After the scorching weather we've had, it's a relief to have some cooler temperatures. But don't forget that winter will be on us soon. My rule of thumb is to get all the plants into their winter arrangements by Anzac Day at the latest. So it's not too early to start to reline the glasshouse and make sure the heaters and thermostats work. It's also worth buying a spare fan before they are all sent back to the warehouse to make space for the heaters.

The days are already closing in and the sun isn't quite so high in the sky. In April, you may want to take off some of the shade cloth layers to ensure your plants get enough light through winter.

With the warm days and cool nights, we get the initiation of phalaenopsis spikes. If your conditions are very stable with little difference between day and night, it may be worthwhile to give your plants a holiday outside for a week or two. Just make sure that you don't scorch the leaves or let them dry out too much under these different conditions!

You may start to see cymbidium spikes emerging any time now. They are the fat new growths and give a little when you gently squeeze them. Move these plants to frost-free spot and turn them so the spike will grow the way you want (towards the light). Put in a stake with something bright or white on the top of the stake so you won't poke out your eye! As the raceme grows, train it up the stake. All the details are in our book, "Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia".

Before settling the plants for winter, it's a good idea to go over them all very carefully, one by one, checking for any insects or disease. I like to do one spray of all the orchids before winter, just to make sure that I don't have big problems during winter.

If it turns out that you can't fit everything back into the space you have available, consider selling some spare divisions on the sales table. A good way to make some space, ensure that there are "insurance" plants in the club if your plant tragically dies, and earn a bit of cash to buy more plants!

Jane Wright

Popular Vote February 2017

Category	Plant	Owner
NOVICE		
Vandaceous	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid	Dora Chapman
Orchid of the Night: Novice	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown hybrid	Dora Chapman
OPEN		
Laeliinae Hybrid	<i>Cattleya</i> Mini Purple x <i>Rlc.</i> Love Call	Rob Rough
	<i>Encyclia</i> Cindy	Don Chesher
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Vanda M. Pearman	David Judge
<i>Maxillaria</i>	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Bill Ferris
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Alliance	<i>Bulbophyllum plumatum</i>	Jane Wright
Vandaceous Alliance	<i>Vandachostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Vanda falcata</i>	Rob Rough
Exotic <i>Dendrobium</i>	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements
Any Other Orchid	<i>Oncostele</i> Wildcat 'Humungus'	Rob Rough
Pleurothallid Alliance	<i>Pleurothallis prolifera</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Stelis</i> sp.	Karen Groeneveld
Terrestrial	<i>Spiranthes australis</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Orchid of the Night: Open	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Vanda M. Pearman	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Vanda M. Pearman	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Epigeneium nakaharae</i>	Mark Clements

Contributions to the Bulletin		Editor:	Jane Wright
You can get material to the editor by the following means:			
In person:	At meetings, or if I am not there to another member of the Committee		
By mail:	PO Box 3312, Belconnen ACT 2617 - NOT the Orchid Society PO Box.		
By phone:	(02) 6254 11119, 0406379054		
By email:	janewright@grapevine.com.au		