

# Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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

[www.canberraorchids.org](http://www.canberraorchids.org)

Email: [orcsoc@yahoo.com](mailto:orcsoc@yahoo.com)

ABN 34 762 780 850

*Caladenia fuscata*



Volume 34, Number 2

March–April 2019

## 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.

**6 Mar Growing orchids in Canberra without a greenhouse**

**3 Apr Charles Darwin and his study of orchids**

## Upcoming Events

**2–3 Mar Canberra Horticultural Show including orchids**

23–24 Mar Regional workshop Batemans Bay

17–19 May Orchids Out West, Clarendon NSW

## For further info, visit:

- <http://www.canberraorchids.org/>
- <http://www.hsoc.org.au/pages/events2.htm>
- <https://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Shows2019.htm>

## Committee Members

President:	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Vice President:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Treasurer:	Scott Mann	0414793759
Secretary:	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
Committee:	Geoff Dyne	6231 3681
	Peter Coyne	6251 7660
	Andrea Robold	0418241694

## Contributions to the next Bulletin

All contributions to the bulletin are most welcome. Deadline for the May–June edition is 19 April 2019 to Peter Coyne ([petaurus@gmail.com](mailto:petaurus@gmail.com)).

## Orchid of the Night in February



**Orchid of the Night February** *Vanda coerulea* grown by Ben Wallace. [photo: Karen Groeneveld]

This beautiful orchid of the subtribe Aeridinae is native to Southeast Asia where it lives in gorges at moderate altitudes. Typically, it can be seen growing in outer branches of rainforest trees projecting out into open spaces where good sunlight access, air movement and swirling night mists and cloud impact are regular environmental factors. This provides cues for culture. In my greenhouse it is suspended in a prominent position where sunshine (ie, under 50% shade cloth) and air movement are unimpeded. A fogger provides high humidity at night when the heater tends to dry the air. Low evaporative power of the air, enabling stomates to open allowing CO<sub>2</sub> to diffuse into the leaf for tomorrow's photosynthetic work to proceed, is vitally important for this species and many other (CAM) orchids. I spray or dip the root system in dilute general purpose liquid fertilizer several times in summer and water frequently in warm and particularly, hot weather.

Ben Wallace

## Disclaimer

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## From the President

Our treasurer, Scott Mann, has landed a posting in Hong Kong for 3 years (congratulations Scott!) and so we will definitely need a new person for committee (not necessarily as treasurer). The call for nominations will go out in the May–une bulletin, but can I ask people to have a think about standing for committee? It's a great way to get to know the society and contribute.

We appear to have solved our library cupboard problem. Robyn Noel has donated a cupboard to the society that should meet our needs and Peter Groeneveld has agreed to make the necessary modifications (sturdy shelves and a lock). Thanks to both.

### *Cattleya Dendi's Canberra*

In 2015, just after passing of Dennis Diehm of Dendi Orchids, his widow Dianne gave a whole tray of unflowered seedlings of one of Dennis's crosses to the society. The cross was *Cattleya Dal's Cutie* x *Cattleya Red Elf* and many have gone on to flower for us. They are lovely miniature cattleyas with red/orange flowers. Dianne is still flowering out the last of his crosses and naming them, so we asked Dianne if our society could name the one she gave to us as *Cattleya Dendi's Canberra* and she graciously agreed. So it has been done and now it's time to update your plant tags.



*Cattleya Dendi's Canberra*

[photo: Jane Wright]

## Things to do in March and April

Shorter days and cooler temperatures herald the onset of winter so it's time to winterise the collection. Shading should be reduced by April. Back off on watering as the temperature falls. Some genera need a dry rest over winter so work them gradually into that.

Make sure your growing area will be able to cope with overnight lows of winter. Those -7 degree nights (like we had last year) can do serious damage to almost everything we grow.

If you grow on an apartment balcony, you're less likely to get frost than those folks on the ground, but if it is cold and windy your plants will suffer. Bring them closer to the wall and be ready to cover with frost cloth on very cold nights (or even bring them inside). If your plants are in the garden, provide some cover, bring plants close in under the eaves of the house or even bring them into the house. [For many years when I was younger and fitter, I kept my cymbidiums in my garage up near a north-facing window and carried them out into the sun most mornings in winter and brought them in again at night.]

For those with shade houses, put on a solid roof to keep the rain off and consider wrapping the whole structure in plastic. Pull plants away from the edges, closer to the middle. Consider getting a small bar heater or two to keep the space just above freezing – these use little energy, are waterproof and made for greenhouse use (available from [www.sproutwellgreenhouses.com.au](http://www.sproutwellgreenhouses.com.au)).

Greenhouse owners should make sure all fans and heaters are working and get a spare fan or two before they disappear from the shops. It is disastrous to not have a spare fan and so satisfying to be able to whip out a new fan in the middle of winter when the old one dies and there are none in the shops.



**Judges' Choice – Hybrid February *Catasetum* Irma Scott** grown by Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett.  
[photo: Karen Groeneveld]

## Working Bee and Barbeque



Part of the crowd

[photos: Karen Groeneveld ]



Many hands certainly made light work of repotting the many *Thelychiton speciosus* seedlings that were deflasked a year ago. Eighteen members got stuck in at 4 tables in the garage and got the job done in 1.5 hours. Thanks to everyone who helped and who took trays of plants home to tend.

Unfortunately some folks had to leave but extras came for the barbeque and we had about 30 people sitting, eating and chatting around the garden. There were so many requests for recipes for the lovely tucker that we've set up a recipe folder for members on Dropbox



Many hands...

[photo: Karen Groeneveld]

## General Meeting, 6 February 2019

Members Present: 38; Apologies: 6; Visitors: 4

Society President, Jane Wright, opened the meeting at 8:07 pm, and welcomed all present. Jane introduced tonight's speakers – Jane and Peter D'Olier. Jane and Peter live in Balmain and both are orchid judges with a great passion for travel and seeing orchids in their natural environment.

### Presentation – Peter & Jane D'Olier: Orchids in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

Peter and Jane do a lot of travelling to places where they can satisfy both their curiosity about local cultures and their love of orchids. In April-May 2017 they spent 2–3 weeks travelling around the highlands of Papua New Guinea, where they saw lots of orchids, both in the wild and planted in the gardens of the guest-houses at which they stayed. We were treated to photos of numerous orchids that they encountered on their trip – from Port Moresby they travelled to Tari and on to Mt Hagen (where they spent 5 days canoeing on the Sepik River); finally to Mt Wilhelm, before driving back to Mt Hagen and flying from there back to Port Moresby.

Very few tourists frequent this region, and Peter emphasised the importance of hiring local guides in order to find orchids. At over 2000 m, the highlands provide a cool, humid and often misty environment for orchids. Many areas have been cleared for cultivation – often proving unsuccessful, the resultant open areas are sometimes re-colonised by orchids such as *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, despite the exposed locations.

Peter explained how many of the locals, including those managing guest-houses for the infrequent tourists, remove orchids from the wild with alacrity and replant them around habited areas, creating gardens for their guests to wander through in relative safety. Consequently, he and Jane saw many species growing and flowering in gardens. However, clambering through patches of jungle revealed gems not found in cultivation at guest-houses, in particular, terrestrial orchids including species of *Calanthe*, *Spathoglottis* and *Corybas*.

Jane Wright thanked Peter and Jane for their many colourful photos of PNG orchids, and the meeting broke for supper.

### Treasurer's report:

Current balance - \$29,481.69

The church has increased the rental for the church hall venue by \$10 per month. However, the Orchid Society will continue to use this venue for the foreseeable future, as a replacement book cupboard has been secured, and the Narrabundah community centre option proved to be too small for our needs.

Treasurer's Report accepted: Krysia Szkiela moved & Peter Coyne seconded.

**Secretary's report:**

Received this month:

- correspondence for Treasurer from the CBA
- Bulletin of the Horticultural Society of Canberra
- *Bulletin of the Horticultural Society of Canberra*, Issue 366, Nov 2018-Jan 2019

Secretary's Report accepted: Scott Mann moved & Ben Wallace seconded.



**Judges' Choice – Species February** *Bulbophyllum cupreum* grown by Mark Clements .

[photo: Karen Groeneveld]

**Other Business (President):**

1. A reminder that there will be a potting-up workshop/working bee (to pot up deflasked seedlings purchased by the Society) at Jane Wright's place on Saturday 9 February. Jane's greenhouses will be open to participants and there will be a barbeque to follow (details were published in the bulletin).
2. The Minutes of the November meeting were published in the last bulletin.  
Minutes accepted: Andrea Robold moved & Mike Pieloor seconded.
3. The first Horticultural Society Show of 2019 will be held on Sat-Sun 2-3 March. Jane highlighted

the importance of the Hort Society's Autumn Flower Show to our society – we use the March Hort show as our 'Autumn Orchid Show' – and encouraged all members to consider entering their flowering orchids. Entries close at 8pm on the Thursday before the show, and should be emailed to the Hort Society Show Secretary. The Schedule and show details can be found on the website of the Horticultural Society of Canberra; Jane also had some hard-copy schedules on-hand for members to take.

The President opened to discussion from the floor about how members (or rather, their orchids) were coping with the spate of hot weather. Some members reported sunburn, but many reported extraordinary growth this season, particularly in *Thelychiton*s. Some members had introduced airconditioning to their greenhouse; other strategies included moving plants to a friend's place at the coast! Mealy bugs and mite infestations were reported to be worse with the hot, dry weather.



**Judges' Choice – Specimen February** *Paphiopedilum dianthum* grown by David Judge.

[photo: Karen Groeneveld]

Mark Clements talked about some interesting *Bulbophyllum*s on the bench tonight, including *Bulbophyllum cupreum* and *Bulbophyllum nodosum*. The first is an Asian species – fly-pollinated, the flowers are small and clustered tightly along the raceme; dirty-orange in colour, they smell of rotten

fruit. *B. nodosum* is also fly-pollinated and smells of 'dead cheese'!

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 6 March 2019. Scott Mann & Andrea Robold will talk about options for growing orchids without a greenhouse.

Meeting closed: 10:30 pm

**Have you moved, or your email changed?**

Please make sure we have your current address and contact details, including email address.

**Popular Vote - February 2019**

Category	Plant	Owner
NOVICE	<i>Vanda christensoniana</i>	Andrea Robold
<b>OPEN</b>		
Laeliinae	<i>Encyclia livida</i>	Karen Groeneveld
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum cupreum</i>	Mark Clements
<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Vanda M. Pearman	David Judge
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Dracula</i> Cookies and Cream	Karen Groeneveld
Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	Ben Wallace
Exotic <i>Dendrobium</i> species	<i>Dendrobium lancifolium</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Any other orchid	<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Karen Groeneveld
<b>Orchid of the Night</b>		
Orchid of the Night	<i>Vanda coerulea</i>	Ben Wallace
<b>Judges' Choice - Hybrid</b>		
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Catasetum</i> Irma Scott	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
<b>Judges' Choice - Species</b>		
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Bulbophyllum cupreum</i>	Mark Clements
<b>Judges' Choice - Specimen</b>		
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge

**Internet resources**

Initial Observations on the Pollination of *Corybas* (Orchidaceae) by Fungus-gnats (Diptera: Sciaroidea). Rudie H. Kuitert and Mitchell J. Findlater-Smith. 2017. Aquatic Photographics Short Paper 5, October, 2017

<https://nossaorg.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/corybaspollinationiolrpr.pdf>

Comparative Biology of *Chiloglottis* RBG(Orchidaceae) and its thynnine wasp pollinator project undertaken at The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and supervised by P Weston.

[http://www.hermonslade.org.au/projects/HSF\\_99\\_8/hsf\\_99\\_8.htm](http://www.hermonslade.org.au/projects/HSF_99_8/hsf_99_8.htm)

Caught in the act: pollination of sexually deceptive trap-flowers by fungus gnats in *Pterostylis* (Orchidaceae). Ann Bot. 2014 Mar; 113(4): 629–641. Ryan D. Phillips, Daniela Scaccabarozzi, Bryony A. Retter, Christine Hayes, Graham R. Brown, Kingsley W. Dixon, and Rod Peakall

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3936588/>

Pollinator specificity, floral odour chemistry and the phylogeny of Australian sexually deceptive *Chiloglottis* orchids: implications for pollinator-driven speciation. Rod Peakall, Daniel Ebert, Jacqueline Poldy, Russell A. Barrow, Wittko Francke, Colin C. Bower and Florian P. Schiestl. New Phytologist (2010) 188: 437–450

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1469-8137.2010.03308.x>

