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.

3 July   The orchids of Greece — Mark Clements
7 Aug    Growing orchids in inorganic media and semi-hydroponics — Mike Pieloor

Upcoming Events
13–14 July Milton Ulladulla Orchid Society Show
13–14 July Shoalhaven Orchid Society Show
19–20 July Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society Show
9–11 Aug National Orchid Extravaganza, Dural
16–18 Aug Sapphire Coast Orchid Club Show, Merimbula
16–18 Aug St Ives Orchid Fair
23–25 Aug Eurobodalla Orchid Club Show, Narooma
31 Aug-1 Sept Shoalhaven Orchid Society Show
6–7 Sept Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society
21–22 Sept Canberra Orchid Show

For further info, visit:
- http://www.canberraorchids.org/

Judges’ Choice – Species May Habenaria rhodocheila ‘Red’ grown by Mike Pieloor. [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Committee Members
President: Mike Pieloor. 0438071492
Vice President: Bill Ferris 6297 5635
Treasurer: Jane Wright 6254 1119
Secretary: Karen Groeneveld 6299 7080
Committee: Geoff Dyne 6231 3681
Jenny Cooke 0419497078
Andrea Robold 0418241694

Contributions to the next Bulletin
All contributions to the bulletin are most welcome. Deadline for the September–October edition is 23 August 2019 to Peter Coyne (petaurus@gmail.com).

Disclaimer
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From the President

I’m excited to re-join the committee this year and step into the President’s role.

Welcome to the new committee

A huge thank you to Jane Wright for her wonderful leadership over the past two years. It’s reassuring to have her stay on as Treasurer. Also continuing their great work on committee are Bill Ferris as Vice President, Karen Groeneveld as Secretary; and Geoff Dyne and Andrea Robold as committee members.

This year we say goodbye to Peter Coyne from the committee. Peter has taken on a wide range of roles over the years, contributing to the smooth running of the society. He’s agreed to stay on as Editor of the Bulletin and help with other tasks. Thanks Peter.

We also say goodbye to Scott Mann, who has been posted to Hong Kong for three years. Scott has been a member since he was a teenager and has done a great job as our treasurer the past two years. He’s managed our books and modernised our financials. We look forward to him returning after his posting.

I’m thrilled to welcome a new member to the committee, Jenny Cooke. It is great to see new people step up to have a voice in how our society is run.

The role of the committee is to shape out direction and manage the business of our society. I encourage all members to talk with these wonderful people on committee, to share your views on what you want from our society.

Day and Audrey Rough at the door, and Jacquie and Bob Forrester collating and presenting the popular vote.

If you’d like to help, please let a committee member know.

Speakers’ program

We have started work on the speakers’ program. We are aiming for a mix of presentations from members and interstate guests covering topics such as culture, conservation and travel. It would be great to hear your ideas about what you want to feature at our meetings. Please let us know what you’d be interested in.

What do you want as a monthly topic?

July and August meetings

In July, Mark Clements will present us with a talk on the orchids of Greece. His scientific perspective of these plants will be very interesting. In August, I’ll talk on my experience growing orchids in inorganic media and semi-hydroponics.

2019 Spring Show Update

Plans are well under way for our Spring Show on 21–22 September. This year, we will have at least three vendors: Sims, Orchid Species Plus and Johnston’s Orchids. What a great range of orchids to choose from! More details, including registration and schedule information, will be in our next Bulletin.

2019 South and West Regional Conference of Orchid Clubs – October

This conference and show is rotated between various southern NSW orchid clubs, including Canberra. It is run every two years. This year it is hosted by the Eurobodalla Orchid Club and is running October 5 and 6 in Moruya. Benching of plants from midday Friday 4.

Our Society will have a display, so think about what you may have in flower that you can contribute. Let’s make it a winner!

Society supplies

UV stabilised bubble wrap is now available. This product helps with insulation and reduces costs for heating. It also prevents frost in unheated greenhouses. Because it is UV stabilised, it does not break down as fast in sunlight and can last years. It is 1.6m wide, and the price is $11/m. It will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your orders in to Bill Ferris.

Cork! Small to medium cork mounts will be available at the next monthly meeting for a very reasonable $2–4.

Don’t forget we also have various pots, tree-fern mounts, fertiliser and plants for sale at our meetings. We purchase these and provide for you at a discount. Head to the sales table during our meeting break.

Society roles

Please consider whether you’d like to be more involved in the society. There are plenty of tasks required to run meetings and keep us moving forward. You don’t have to be a committee member to help. We already have Jacquie Bannerman doing a great job in welcoming and supporting our new members, Yvonne

Judges’ Choice — Hybrid in May, Oncostele Wildcat ‘Carnival’ grown by Rob Rough

[photo: Zoe Groeneveld]
Orchid of the Night, May

Corybas (Corysanthes) hispidus (bristly helmet orchid) grown by Mike Pieloor.  [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

A very rewarding space-saving native species. Fast multiplying and easy to grow; tricky to flower. You have to love these diminutive native Australian terrestrial orchids. A whole colony takes up one pot space on my shelf.

I’ve been growing this clone for several years. It originally came from Wulgulmerang in Victoria via the Australasian Native Orchid Society Victoria tuber bank. A red form of this species is also in cultivation. Over the years I have tried it in various terrestrial mixes, inorganic mixes and even fine bark. This year it was another inorganic mix. Growth has never been a problem. It is very forgiving. But this year has been its best for flowering.

Getting flowers: In the wild, late summer rains trigger growth and bud development. So, to get flowers, you need to water early. I start watering in early to mid-February. If you wait (like we do for our other terrestrials), the tubers will shoot too late and buds will be less likely. While it grew really well last year, I didn’t get a single flower. I guess I watered it too late. Once you have buds, maintaining humidity is essential, as they blast easily. Some people use plastic bags (with air holes) or cups turned over the top of the pot. I use an upturned glass bowl. In Europe, terrariums are a popular growing environment for this group.

The flowers last about three weeks. Sadly, you can’t bring them inside to enjoy, as they wilt rapidly in dry warm conditions.

Once the flowers finish, they need to be removed. It is essential not to leave them on the plant, or wait for them to turn brown. These flowers often go mushy very quickly and if left on the leaf, they rot and promote fungus. A very quick way to lose your plant. Despite its tricky flowering, it multiples well. Each year I donate tubers back to the ANOS tuber bank, give a few away to a society member and still have enough to fill a pot.

Mike Pieloor

Note: Our society has a subscription with ANOS Victoria and members can acquire species or dormant Australian natives from the tuber bank at the end of the year.

General Meeting, 6 March 2019

Members Present: 34; Apologies: 4; Visitors: 7

With our President, Jane Wright, enjoying a break in Canada, Society Vice President, Bill Ferris, opened the meeting at 8:05, and welcomed all present.

Bill commenced with a reminder that annual membership fees are now due, and members can check their financial status with the Treasurer, Scott Mann. Next meeting (June) is the AGM and nominations for the Committee are currently open (Bill Ferris has emailed the Committee nomination form to members). With Scott Mann’s imminent departure on an international posting, we need a replacement for the Treasurer and another for Peter Coyne, who has decided to step down from Committee (although Peter has generously agreed to continue producing the Bulletin). Bill encouraged newer members, especially, to consider nominating for Committee, to bring new ideas and help ensure that the Society’s activities remains relevant to the broader membership.

Bill introduced tonight’s speaker, our Society librarian, Geoff Dyne, who spoke about Charles Darwin and the role that his research on orchid pollination played in his monumental work, On the Origin of Species.

Presentation – Geoff Dyne: Charles Darwin and his fascination with orchids.

On the Origin of Species was the conclusion of many years of varied study and experimentation undertaken by Charles Darwin, mostly at Down House, his home in Kent, England. Geoff visited Down House recently, and showed photos of the house and its beautiful gardens, which are open to the public. In a fascinating presentation, Geoff provided an overview of Darwin’s orchid research, accompanied by photos of orchids that illustrate Darwin’s findings.
Among many other things, Darwin explored the selective breeding of domestic animals and birds (pigeons), and the pollination of orchids. He was particularly interested in orchids and considered them highly evolved. Possibly through his work with animal breeding, Darwin recognised the importance of cross-fertilisation in maintaining diversity and vigour. He explored how orchids attracted pollinators through deception (sexual deception based on mimicry of form and odour; and using the odour of decay to mimic food sources) and through ‘gifts’ of nectar.

Many of Darwin’s observations of orchid pollination took place on the ‘Orchis Bank’ close to his home, which boasted a large number of native terrestrial species. He also cultivated a range of ‘foreign’ species in a greenhouse in the grounds of Down House, including epiphytes from Asia and the Americas, and Australian and New Zealand terrestrials sent to him from Kew Gardens (Pterostylis, Chiloglottis and others).

Darwin explored the role of bees, birds and night-flying moths in pollinating orchids. Birds don’t have a sense of smell and are attracted by bright colours; while orchids that attract moths are generally pale in colour and night-scented. In 1862, Darwin received a box full of orchids from the horticulturalist James Bateman and was astounded to see the extremely long nectary on flowers of *Angraecum sequipedale*. He famously predicted that in Madagascar there must be “moths with proboscises capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches.” It was another 40 years before the moth was identified and described as *Xanthopan morganii praedicta*.

Darwin’s research on orchid pollination culminated in his 1862 publication titled, *On the Various Contrivances by which British and Foreign Orchids are Fertilised by Insects, and on the Good Effects of Intercrossing*.

Geoff recommended that members check out a National Geographic video (which failed to load in his presentation) on the pollination of *Coryanthus*, and concluded his presentation with a photo of Darwin’s study, warm and homely, as the great man would have known it.

**Secretary’s note:** If you are interested in reading more, I’d recommend *Darwin’s Island: the Galapagos in the Garden of England* by Steve Jones (2009, published in the UK by Little, Jones). The book provides a witty overview of Darwin’s works other than “the Origin” and includes a lively and engaging discussion of his research on orchids.

The *Coryanthus* video can be viewed online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uHJGdTgtXE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uHJGdTgtXE)

4. Upcoming events include Orchids Out West (17-19 May) and the Mingara Orchid Fair (29-30 June). Details in the May/June Bulletin. Both provide an opportunity to purchase more orchids!

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 5 June 2019. AGM, and Lyn & Brian Phelan will talk about their visit to the Eric Young Foundation on Jersey.

Meeting closed 9:40pm.

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**General Meeting, 5 June 2019**

Members Present: 32; Apologies: 7; Visitors: 2

Society President, Jane Wright, opened the meeting at 8:05pm

The AGM preceded the ordinary monthly meeting, and AGM Minutes have been compiled separately. The AGM ended at 8:18pm and the former President, Jane Wright, handed over to the Vice President, Bill Ferris, to chair the meeting in the absence of the new President, Mike Pieloor.

Bill introduced tonight’s speakers – members Lynne & Brian Phelan, who travelled to the Channel Island of Jersey in September 2018, where they visited the Eric Young Orchid Foundation and were lucky to get a behind-the-scenes look at the Foundation’s orchid cultivation practices.

**Presentation – Lynne & Brian Phelan: Eric Young Orchid Foundation**

Lynne started with a bit of history of the island of Jersey, which is situated in the English Channel, close to the coast of Normandy, France. Jersey is a self-governing Crown Dependency – Britain is responsible for its defence, but Jersey is otherwise independent. Its favourable tax laws have seen a lot of wealthy business people settle on Jersey.

Eric Young was one of these. His fascination with orchids began in his teens, but his first collection was destroyed during the Second World War. A move to Jersey and a successful business career rekindled his passion – he amassed an amazingly diverse collection of orchids and developed a scientific interest in breeding new and improved hybrids. He also supported the broader orchid community, and is seen as one of the great orchidists of his time.

In the early 1980s Eric Young developed plans and guidelines for the creation of a new Foundation, which continues to be supported by the financial legacy he left upon his death in 1984. The primary aim of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation is to develop new orchid hybrids and to advance the cause of orchid horticulture internationally, including through mounting award-winning orchids displays at international events. Lynne showed photos of the Foundation’s gold-medal-winning display at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Lynne then showed us photos of the public display areas at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on Jersey. Magnificent specimens of a wide variety of orchids, including Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Bulbophyllums, Phalaenopsis, and others were on display in a naturalistic setting, with ponds, logs and foliage plants filling the vertical and horizontal spaces in a series of ‘rooms’ representing different landscapes. Orchids are grown in the greenhouses and brought into the display area when in flower, so the display is always changing.

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**Jude’s Choice – Specimen, June** *Laelia anceps* grown by Lynne & Brian Phelan.  
[photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

**Judges’ Choice – Specimen, June** — *Pleurothallis gargantuan* grown by Jane Wright.  
[photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

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**Joint Orchid of the Night, June** — *Pleurothallis gargantuan* grown by Jane Wright.  
[photo: Zoe Groeneveld]
The Foundation has eight large greenhouses, which Lynne and Brian were privileged to see – these are not normally open to the public. To maximise space in the greenhouses, the benches are on rollers and can be moved to make a passageway. Many of the orchids are grown in inorganic mix, requiring less frequent repotting, and environmental control, watering and feeding are largely automated.

Jersey is a small island, and Lynne and Brian walked most places, although they found the roads very narrow and the distances longer than expected! Other attractions that they visited include the Maritime Museum (with a display about smugglers using dog costumes to frighten locals), a steam and motor museum, archaeological sites (an ancient stone chapel and Neolithic passage graves), WWII tunnels and the Gerald Durrell Conservation Trust and Zoo.

Thank you Lynne and Brian.

**Secretary’s report:**

Received this month:

- *Orchid Digest* vol 83-2 (Apr-May-Jun 2019)
- *Orchids Australia* – June 2019
- *Gardener’s Gazette* (magazine of the RHS, Victoria)
- correspondence for the Treasurer (advertising material)

Secretary’s Report accepted: Ben Wallace moved & Andrea Robold seconded.

**Treasurer’s report:**

Total assets were reported earlier this evening in the AGM, as per the audited accounts (details in the AGM Minutes). The Society posted a net cash surplus of approximately $1,200, bringing the total assets (including stocks of the Society’s book) to $34,921.52.

Treasurer’s Report accepted: Jacquie Bannerman moved & Andrea Robold seconded.

**Other Business**

1. Horticultural Bubble Wrap for insulating greenhouses – the Society has purchased 4 rolls of bubble wrap and is looking to arrange transport from Victoria. If you can help, see Bill. Each roll is 50m long x 1.6m wide, and the price will work out at about $11/m. It will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your orders in to Bill Ferris.

2. Mingara Orchid Fair is coming up on 29–30 June – see the Bulletin or website for details. The website also has details of a number of shows in June-July being hosted by South Coast orchid clubs.

3. Upcoming meetings – at the July meeting, Mark Clements will talk about the recent trip he and Anne McKenzie did to Greece and the amazing number and diversity of terrestrial orchids they saw. In August, Mike Pieloor will talk about growing orchids in inorganic media and semi-hydroponics. At the September meeting, Jane will talk about preparing your orchids for our annual Spring Show.

**Next meeting:** 3 July. Mark Clements on the orchids of Greece.

Meeting closed: 10:10 pm
Culture tips

- Check your growing location daily to make sure your plants are getting appropriate moisture, warmth and light.
- Continue to be sparing with water for plants that prefer a drier rest over winter. This includes soft cane dendrobiums and tropical deciduous species. While dormant, keep them dry until after new growth begins.
- Many cymbidiums and native dendrobiums will be producing flower buds. Ensure spikes have room. Start staking early to get the best display.
- Monitor for pests, including scale for plants grown in greenhouses or indoors. They thrive in the drier warm environment.
- All Australian terrestrials should now have leaves. If any pots have not grown, don’t throw them out as the tuber can still make a replacement for next year. You should aim to keep them moist (but not sodden) until spring.

Check out our book ‘Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia’ for more cultural tips.

Joint Orchid of the Night, June — Epigeneium amplum grown by Mark Clements. [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Annual General Meeting 5 June 2019

Meeting opened at 8:05 pm by President Jane Wright, welcoming all to the meeting.

Members Present: 32; Apologies: 7; Visitors: 2


President’s report:

The Society has had another good year. We continue to attract and retain new members – many of whom are of the younger set. I put it down to our social media presence (thanks to Mike Pieloor, Karen Groeneveld and Mark Fraser) and our special meet-and-greet officer – Jacquie Bannerman. We ran a few workshops that were well attended, especially by the new members. We had a good line-up of speakers and even managed to get Wayne Turville to come and speak – a rare occurrence these days.

Our annual show at the Ainslie Football Club went very well again this year, so we have booked in again for the next spring show. Each year we try to improve and this year we had extra lighting in the display area (thanks to Thomas Robold and Roger Williams) and increased the size of the display area too, leaving more space between tables.

Our Society participated in some events with local clubs. Some members continued to enter orchids in the Horticultural Society’s shows as a way of promoting the society and the growing of orchids. At the Autumn Horticultural Society show, Karen Groeneveld was awarded a Certificate of Botanical Merit for her plant of Barbosella cogniauxiana ‘Stellar’. Society members set up a display of our orchids at the Australian Orchid Council Show in Windsor last July and for a small display with small plants, we did very well, winning 2 champions, 6 firsts and 8 seconds. My plant of Masdevallia caloptera won Champion Species Americas and Karen’s pot of Pterostylis x ralphcrainei won Champion Native Hybrid and received an AM award. The paddlewheel had its last outing at the Southern Orchid Spectacular in Caringbah on October – and I think it was the best display we did with it – practice does make perfect. Our members won 3 champions: Champion Cyprepediodeae and Vandaceous by David Judge and Australian Native other than Sarcochilus by Mark Clements. David’s Paphiopedilum Bel Royal was awarded an AM. At a judge’s workshop held in Canberra last November, the judges were in awe of the array of multifloral paphiopedilums that David Judge provided for the training session. The judges awarded an AM to his Paphiopedilum philippense var. roebelinii ‘Coco’ and the highest award possible, an FCC, for his plant of Paphiopedilum Susan Booth ‘Paracombe’. It went

Joint Orchid of the Night, June — Epigeneium amplum grown by Mark Clements. [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Membership subscriptions now due

The membership year began on 1 May. Consequently renewal of membership subscriptions is now due.

Single: $25.00; Family or Joint: $30.00; Junior (younger than 17 years and full time students): $5.00

If you haven’t renewed for this year yet, please pay Treasurer Jane Wright or pay by direct transfer to our new bank account:

BSB: 032719
Account Number: 620848
With your surname in the bank’s ‘reference’ field
on to be voted Australian Orchid Hybrid of the Year. Quite an honour and a testament to David’s outstanding culture of a difficult group of orchids.

In March, another big contingent of Canberra members attended the Orchid workshop hosted by the Bateman’s Bay Society. As usual, we rented a large house and had a really fun weekend.

I wish to thank the committee for doing such a great job. Bill Ferris continued to manage the website and email address, run the sales table and run meetings when I was away. Scott Mann took us to the modern age so we can now take payments by card. Karen Groeneveld wrote the excellent minutes that you read in every bulletin and with Zoe has provided refreshments at each meeting. Geoff Dyne continued as Librarian, and Peter Coyne has done an excellent job of producing the bulletin and publicising the show. Andrea Robold has been an active committee member and contributed lots of good ideas from the perspective of a new member and grower. Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to Scott, as he and his family take a 3 year overseas posting in Hong Kong – but he promises to return! Peter Coyne has decided to step down but thankfully will continue to produce the bulletin and do show promotion.

I must also thank all the members who take on responsibilities and pitch in at meetings. The popular vote, the entry table, and the set up and take down don’t happen by themselves.

And lastly, I wish to thank the members for making this such a harmonious and welcoming club. You participate in the workshops, open houses, and show and make it a pleasure to serve you.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Scott Mann presented the accounts as audited by Anthony Curtis and Co of Deakin West. The take-home message was that the Society posted a net cash surplus of approximately $1,200, bringing the total assets to $34,921.52 which includes the value of the Society’s book held in inventory and the carry over total cash position.

This year saw the introduction of electronic payment processing – both the capacity to receive payments electronically, and the capability to pay invoices electronically while retaining two person verification. This has streamlined accounting and, as evidenced by the strong book sales at last year’s show, has been worth the 1.9% fee the Society incurs for taking payments by card.

Acceptance moved: Jacquie Bannerman; seconded: David Judge; approved.

Election of office bearers and Committee:

Peter Coyne acted as returning officer. He noted the following nominations for the 2019–20 year had been received:

- President: Michael (Mike) Pieloor
- Vice President: William (Bill) Ferris
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Jane (Jane) Wright
- Secretary: Karen Groeneveld
- Members: Andrea Robold, Geoffrey (Geoff) Dyne, Jenette (Jenny) Cooke.

As the number of nominations received matched the number of positions available, the Committee for 2019–20 was declared elected.

Meeting closed 8:18pm.

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Judges' Choice — Hybrid and Joint Orchid of the Night, June, Paphiopedilum Formosa Lady grown by David Judge [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Welcome new members
- Daniel Chaldi
- Peggy O’Malley
- Roy Sach
### Popular Vote - May 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Owner</th>
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<td>NOVICE</td>
<td><em>Dendrobium</em> Grace Robson</td>
<td>Brian Dear</td>
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<td>Laeliinae</td>
<td><em>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</em> Sanyung Ruby</td>
<td>Rob Rough</td>
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<td>Paphiopedilium</td>
<td><em>Paphiopedilum henryanum</em></td>
<td>David Judge</td>
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<td><em>Masdevallia pumila x floribunda</em></td>
<td>Chris Szigetvari</td>
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<td>Monopodial Vandeae</td>
<td><em>Cleisostoma simondii</em></td>
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<td><em>Gomesa radicans</em></td>
<td>Bill Ferris</td>
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<td><em>Miltonia Sandy’s Grove</em></td>
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<td><em>Corybas hispidus</em></td>
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<td><em>Corybas hispidus</em></td>
<td>Mike Pieloor</td>
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<td><em>Oncostele</em> Wildecat ‘Carnival’</td>
<td>Rob Rough</td>
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<td><em>Habenaria rhodocheila</em> ‘Red’</td>
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### Popular Vote – June 2019

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<td><em>Laelia anceps</em></td>
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<td><em>Cattleya</em> Little Leopard</td>
<td>Ben Wallace</td>
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<td><em>Paphiopedilum wardii</em> ‘Royale’</td>
<td>David Judge</td>
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<td>Ben Wallace</td>
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<td>Jane Wright</td>
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<td><em>Masdevallia Thea</em></td>
<td>Jane Wright</td>
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<td>Monopodial Vandeae</td>
<td><em>Vanda</em> Sansai Blue</td>
<td>Jane Wright</td>
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<td><em>Dendrobium</em> Hilda Poxon</td>
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<td>Mark Clements</td>
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<td><em>Pleurothallis gargantua</em></td>
<td>Jane Wright</td>
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<td><em>Bulbophyllum spathulaum</em></td>
<td>Karen Groeneveld</td>
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<td><em>Paphiopedilum</em> Formosa Lady</td>
<td>David Judge</td>
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<td><em>Dendrobium</em> Hilda Poxon</td>
<td>Rob Rough</td>
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<td><em>Epigenium amplum</em></td>
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<td>Judges' Choice - Hybrid</td>
<td><em>Paphiopedilum</em> Formosa Lady</td>
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<td>Judges' Choice - Species</td>
<td><em>Bulbophyllum spathulaum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Judges' Choice - Specimen</td>
<td><em>Laelia anceps</em></td>
<td>Lynne &amp; Brian Phelan</td>
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