



Committee Members

President:	Mike Pieloor	043 807 1492
Vice-President:	Andrea Robold	041 824 1694
Treasurer:	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Secretary:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Committee:	Jenny Cooke	041 949 7078
	Elisa Pavlic	0459 125 907
	Karen Groeneveld	0418 414 632

Other Roles

Public Officer	Peter Coyne
Bulletin Editor	Karen Groeneveld
Web Master	Bill Ferris
Conservation Officer	Derek Corrigan
Scientific Advisor	Mark Clements
Photography & Art	Zoe Groeneveld
New Member Coordinator	Jacquie Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day Audrey Rough
Audio-visual storage & Support	Andrea Robold Isaac Watson
Benching Officer	Mark Fraser
Judges Choice	Robyn Noel Krysia Szkiela Jane Wright
Librarian	Andrea Robold Geoff Dyne
Social Media	Mike Pieloor Karen Groeneveld Mark Fraser Kristina Neumann Zoe Groeneveld

Members also help in other ways, like storing Society equipment or lending us resources; organising supper for meetings, and setting out and counting the monthly benching/popular vote.

Society meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, corner of Gould and Macleay Streets, Turner, commencing 8pm with the library and sales table open from 7:30pm. This venue and schedule have recently been impacted by COVID-19. See details below.

Next Meeting

Regular meetings are back!

Tuesday 6 October and **Tuesday 3 November 2020**
at the Ainslie Football Club. More details on page 4.

Upcoming Events

Spring Show, Saturday 19 September 2020

This year our show will be staged for members (and their families) only. Details on page 2-3.

Plant sale, 26 September 2020

34 Nardoo Cres O'Connor. Members who have plants to sell are invited to come along. See details on page 3.

Open Greenhouse, Saturday 17 October 1-4pm

Jane Wright will open her garden and greenhouses to members on Saturday 17 October from 1-4pm. Details on page 3.

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Contributions to the next Bulletin

Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome and should be emailed to Karen Groeneveld at groeneveld@internode.on.net
Deadline for Nov-Dec edition is Fri 23 October 2020.

From the President

Welcome to another Bulletin!

This Spring edition contains information on our 2020 Show and news of a return to physical meetings from October. It is also exciting to see that Derek Corrigan has secured participation for the Society in a funded conservation project, and that the Conservation Group has commenced surveying orchid regeneration in the fire-affected regions of Namadgi. Great work! Read on for more details on these activities.

As always, it is reassuring to see the wonderful photos of your flowering orchids you are sharing. Flowers can really fill our dark times with colour. Keep them coming.

The plant sale later in September will provide an opportunity to share the love!

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:
James Jonklaas, Christian Fricker, Peter Ramshaw,
Lauren Hutchison and Kirstie Rea.

We hope to see you at the Show and upcoming meetings and events. Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Committee if you need advice or help settling in.

Correction:

The editor apologises for a mistake that appeared in the Jul-Aug Bulletin. The photos that accompanied Jane Wright's article on how to flower cymbidiums were incorrectly attributed to Jane. The photo of *Cymbidium eburneum* should rightly have been attributed to Mark Fraser, and the photos of *C. lowianum* and *C. insigne*, to John Varigos. The website version has been corrected.

Membership subscriptions now overdue

The membership year begins 1 May. Consequently, renewal of membership subscriptions is now overdue.

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

Pay now by direct transfer to our bank account:

Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.
Westpac Bank
BSB: 032719
Account Number: 620848

Please include your surname in the bank's 'reference' field.

Upcoming Events



The Southern Orchid Spectacular, which was to be held on 9-11 October 2020 at the Sutherland Basketball Stadium, has been **CANCELLED** due to concerns about the ongoing presence of COVID-19 in Sydney.

The Society's Spring Show, Saturday 19 September 2020, Ainslie Football Club

This year our show will be staged for members (and their families) only so that we can provide members an opportunity to see real plants (so much better than images), to chat and keep up interest in orchid growing while keeping within the COVID regulations. A virtual show is still a fall-back position if the meeting cannot proceed.

The show schedule and rego form is attached to this bulletin. Classes will be the same as previous years except there will **not** be any display classes. There will be the usual certificates and engraved glasses but no other prizes.

Timing:

Wed 16 Sept 10pm – deadline for registration forms.

Friday 18 Sept 5:30-9pm – Bring plants to the club and complete registration.

Saturday 19 Sept:

10am judging commences

1-5pm show open to members and their families

4:45pm Award presentations

5:00pm show breakdown.

To manage the show safely:

- The show tables will be widely spaced though the hall to enable physical distancing.
- There will be no plant sales at all.
- The show will NOT be open to the public and therefore no advertising will occur.
- We will provide hand sanitiser and masks for attendees and will follow all procedures required by the AFC.
- We ask that members who do not have plants entered in the show attend between 1 and 3pm, if at all possible, to reduce the crowding at the end of the show (the venue is approved for up to 100 people only).
- We will have stations set up for people to drop off and collect their plants to avoid a mad scramble and crowding especially at the end of the show.

We will need a few volunteers during setup on Friday (4-10pm) and between 1 and 5pm on Saturday to manage the entry of members and COVID precautions and to ensure physical distancing within the show. Please contact Jane Wright or Karen Groeneveld if you can assist.

If you are having trouble getting your plants to the show, please call Jane or Karen (or another member of Committee) and we will work out a way to assist you.

Plant sale, Saturday 26 September 2020

A plant sale will be held in the front yard of Dave Rowell, one of our newer members, at 34 Nardoo Crescent, O’Conner ACT (0402 122 159). We invite members who have plants for sale to bring them to Dave’s place at about 1pm and help set up. The sale will be from 2-4pm, then members will take any unsold plants home again.

Put a tag with your name and price into each pot and we will handle the sales as we normally do at a meeting or show, i.e. the society collects all the money (cash or card) and then pays the members their share minus 10% commission.

Please note that it will only be member and society plants (no nursery vendors) and few if any will be in flower. However, there will be enough people there who know the orchids to help you choose something that will do well in your conditions.

Thank you Dave, for the opportunity to use your front garden!

Open Greenhouse, Saturday 17 October 2020

Jane Wright will open her garden and greenhouses to members on Saturday 17 October from 1-4pm. The address is 135 Osburn Drive, Macgregor ACT (0406 379 054). Please come and have a look, have a chat and share some afternoon tea with other members – at a physical distance of course!

Regular meetings are back!

Well – at least as regular as anything can be these days. Our **October meeting** will be held at the Ainslie Football Club on **Tuesday 6 October**, upstairs where we have our show. You will need to sign in at the desk at the entrance to the club. Doors open about 7:15, meeting starts at 8:00.

We will run a sales table so you can get all those pots and supplies you need for repotting, and the door prize give-away table as normal. We won't have the library as all our books are locked up at the other venue. We are just finalising arrangements for a speaker.

Please let Jane Wright know if you plan to joining the group for dinner in the restaurant downstairs at 6pm, so she can ensure we have an ample reservation.

The **November meeting** will also be held at the Ainslie Football Club on **Tuesday 3 November**.

Please note that we are holding our meetings on Tuesdays as a temporary measure only, because Wednesday evenings aren't available to us at the AFC, and members' next preference was for Tuesdays. Meetings will revert to the usual first Wednesday of the month when we are able to go back to using the Church hall.

Minutes of General Meeting, 15 August 2020

Meeting conducted via Zoom. Members present: 19

Meeting commenced 4pm, chaired by Andrea Robold in the absence of Mike Pieloor.

Presentation: Taiwan Orchids – Robyn Noel & Jan Robinson

Andrea invited Robyn Noel and guest Jan Robinson to tell of their experiences in an organised tour to Taiwan to see what were to be the Taiwan International Orchid Show and the International Orchid Congress. Although the shows were cancelled at late notice, there were many displays set up and judging of locally grown orchids. The tour included visits to several orchid nurseries which are large commercial operations. Both Robyn and Jan commented on exciting range of food and beverage they enjoyed while in Taiwan.



Ching Hua Orchid Plantation, Taiwan
Photo: Jan Robinson

occasions. He had a sale on the afternoon of the meeting and had plenty of buyers. Karen Groeneveld had taken terrestrial orchids to Dave's place and she said more might have been sold if there was someone there to explain how to grow them. Dave is prepared to have another sale in September, and will work with committee to plan a suitable day and arrangements. Jane Wright commented that the Society would try to arrange open greenhouses and these could also be an opportunity to sell plants.

Andrea noted that with no sales table at this year's show, some members were looking for opportunities to sell plants. Some sales could be achieved through the sales table on the society website but the market was limited to members. Andrea invited Dave Rowell to outline selling opportunities through his business. Dave grows trees and occasionally has sales at his home to a range of clientele and has offered society members the opportunity to sell orchids on these



Paphiopedilum at Hung Sheng Orchid Farm, Taiwan
Photo: Robyn Noel / Jan Robinson

Jane outlined arrangements for the show. It will be a members-only show at the Ainslie Football Club with no sales tables and no entry to the public. Registration forms to be sent to Jane Wright as normal by Wed 16 September. Plants to be brought to the Ainslie Football Club between 5 and 9pm on Friday 18 September. Judging will take place on Saturday morning and the show will be open to members and their families between 1 and 5pm. The awards will be done at 4:45pm and then the show broken done. Because we are limited to 100 people in the venue, it is requested that members who do not have plants entered in the show plan to attend between 1 and 3pm, to avoid over-crowding at the end of the afternoon.

Derek Corrigan noted that activity in conservation was gearing up. Leaves of terrestrial orchids were apparent in the bush and it would be possible to identify the plants and their location as they came into flower. On behalf of the Society, Derek obtained a grant from the ACT NRM under their Bushfire Recovery Program to undertake post-fire orchid surveys in Namadgi National Park. Derek is planning a first excursion into Namadgi shortly to get started. For further information members were encouraged to contact Derek and join the conservation group.

Members displayed a range of plants in flower. Karen requested photos be forwarded to her by 21 August for inclusion in the next Bulletin.

No date was set for the next meeting, but it was planned to hold one before the show.

Meeting concluded 5pm

Culture Tips for September-October

By Mike Pieloor

- Check your growing location daily to make sure your plants are getting appropriate moisture, warmth and light.
- Start to water more often to keep new roots growing. But, be careful of late cold snaps. Take care watering plants that are leaving dormancy. *Pleione* and *Catasetum* can stop root growth if the media is too wet early in the season.
- Monitor for pests, including early aphids and munching pests, like spring grasshoppers or caterpillars.
- Keep your Australian terrestrials moist (but not sodden). Check for slugs and snail damage. Leaves and flower spikes can be eaten in one night! Consider raising your pots or using pest management.
- Check out our book *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia* for more cultural tips.

Growing Phallies in Canberra

By Craig Allen

Many of us get – or give – phalaenopsis plants as presents, and they're cheap enough to treat as a bunch of flowers (that last much, much longer). In recent years they've been readily available through Bunnings, Costco, Big W, Ikea etc, however mostly without any identification tags. But what if you want to actually GROW them and see them reflower?

The setup in my loungeroom is very simple – and if you've got a bright, airy room you can easily replicate the conditions.



Phalaenopsis hybrids grown in semi-hydroponics
Photo: Craig Allen

I've had a lot of luck with phallies, much of which I put down to having a perfect indoor space for them to grow. They're low-care plants (by orchid standards), and just need an occasional spruce up, trimming dead or dying leaves and roots. They reward us with colourful sprays of flowers for most of the year. My record for a single plant is 8 months in bloom. Most of them easily flower for 3-4 months each year.



LECA clay balls (Lightweight Expanded Clay Aggregate)
Photo: Craig Allen

in a protected NE corner of the room, and get a few hours of direct light from sunrise, then a few hours late afternoon sun (but in summer this is reduced by the higher angle of the sun). But it's more a 'bright' environment than a 'sunny' one.

Temperature – As tropical plants, phallies are happiest in temperatures we would find comfortable too. Our loungeroom doesn't go below 15 degrees overnight in winter. They'll initiate flower spikes around April when the nights start getting chilly and the difference between day and night temperatures widens. In summer the room can get quite warm – up to 30 degrees or so if we're out of the house, while air con drops that to mid 20s if we're home.

Light – the room is a bright environment with lots of windows bouncing light through the room. The plants sit



Phalaenopsis potted into LECA
Photo: Craig Allen

Water/humidity – my plants get remarkably little water.

But I've established a humid micro-climate by sitting their pots into larger tubs, which is lined with about 3cm of leca clay balls. They absorb any runoff water and gradually release it back around the roots and leaves of the plants. In winter they're watered about once every 3 weeks, in summer normally once a week. A few times a year I choose a mild day and take all the plants outside to a sheltered spot, and give them a good drenching with the hose, cleaning leaves and washing away any chemical buildup. The plants love any extra humidity, so I keep a spray bottle nearby to give them a mist on warmer days.



Phallie placed in glass vase with LECA
Photo: Craig Allen

Fertiliser – Every month or two (this is not scientific!) I add either a bloom booster (from April – Oct) or growth booster (Oct – Apr) soluble food to my watering regime. When I have the plants outside I'll sometimes give them a weak seasol feed too.

Growing media – most of my plants still grow in a traditional bark mix. However I'm experimenting with leca clay balls as a growing medium. Mine is a hybrid semi-hydroponic model – I've repotted several plants into straight leca, then placed these pots into glass vases similarly filled with leca. I water the plant, and the water runs off into the vase. I ensure the collected water remains around the bottom of the potted orchid. That water then evaporates up and around the plant and the roots go crazy! The good thing about leca is it doesn't break down like bark does.



Phallie in LECA - detail
Photo: Craig Allen

Pests/diseases – I have virtually no problems growing inside, with the odd exception of mealy bugs which I jump on pretty quickly. I've not had any fungal problems, although I ensure not to spray the actual flowers.

Conservation Group Report

By Derek Corrigan & Karen Groeneveld

The Orchid Society has obtained a Grant of \$2000 from the ACT Government to assist in the recovery following the recent fires in the Namadgi National Park. The Conservation Group has been invited to support the Rangers and other similar groups in the recovery work in a volunteer capacity, and the Grant is to help cover the costs of conducting orchid surveys and associated work in the burnt areas of Namadgi. The Society wishes to thank the ACT Government for our inclusion in this recovery work and for the associated Grant.



Conservation group looking for orchids in the burnt forest
Photo: Derek Corrigan

The first outing for the Conservation Group was held on Saturday 29 August, and provided an opportunity to test our skills and methodology prior to what is likely to be a busy Spring. Thirteen people attended, included three new or recently joined members, plus Jean Egan and Matthew Mullaney who offered their expertise. We met at the Visitors Information Centre and were welcomed by Senior Ranger Nathan Kay. Then we drove South down the Boboyan Rd, stopping to survey orchids at the Hospital Hill Lookout and the Yerrabi track before continuing to the Mt Clear Campground for lunch. The weather was perfect (with a dusting of snow still visible on the Namadgi peaks), and after an enjoyable day, we made a final stop near the Shanahan's Mountain Track before heading home.



Speculantha rosettes and *Thelymitra* leaves
Photo: Derek Corrigan

We found numerous orchid rosettes and leaves of nine different genera (more than one species of most genera were seen) with several plants in bud (*Bunochilus* sp. and *Pterostylis nutans*). *Speculantha* sp. and *Chiloglottis* sp. were particularly common; other genera observed were: *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Eriochilus*, *Hymenochilus* and *Thelymitra*.

Surrounded by the blackened skeletons of forest trees, it was quite amazing to see orchid rosettes and leaves literally rising from the ash and charcoal littering the ground. Many species, particularly the *Chiloglottis*, didn't look too happy about their level of exposure, and there was little evidence that autumn-flowering species had managed to flower this year (only a very few *Speculantha* sp. and *Eriochilus* sp. with seed pods).



Bunochilus in bud
Photo: Derek Corrigan



Burnt out swamp, Yerrabi Track
Photo: Karen Groeneveld

These sites will be revisited, and new sites explored, over the Spring-Autumn. If you are interested in joining the Conservation Group and helping with this valuable citizen science, please contact Derek Corrigan by phone: 0418696731 or email: derek.corrigan@bigpond.com

Chiloglottis sp Namadgi Nat Pk
Photo: Karen Groeneveld



New Orchid Field Guide

Members may be interested in the imminent release of a new orchid field guide by local naturalists Jean Egan, Roger Farrow, Tobias Hayashi and the late Tony Wood. The *Field Guide to Orchids of the Southern Tablelands of NSW including the ACT* is a comprehensive guide to the orchids of our region and is aimed at citizen scientists and bushwalkers. A page is dedicated to each of the 181 species found in the area, and includes photos and useful notes on habitat, flowering periods and other features. There's also a section on how to photograph orchids. The book is expected to be on sale in bookstores by the end of September.

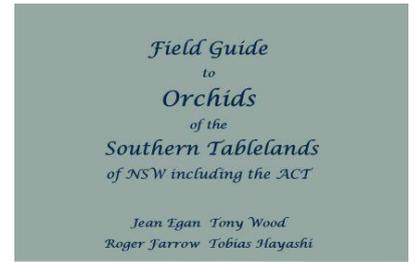


Photo: supplied by Jean Egan

Member's Gallery of flowering orchids - September 2020

With physical meetings still in abeyance due to COVID-19 restrictions, members provided photos in lieu of the Popular Vote. A selection follows.



Dendrobium lituiflorum
Photo: Mark Clements



Dendrobium Burgundy Bride 'Melbourne' x Delicatum 'Tracy'
Photo: Bob Forrester



Paphiopedilum Startler x Pure Spirit
Photo: Ben Walcott



Phalaenopsis Sasquach 'Dendi'
Photo: Ben Walcott



Pelatantheria insectifera
Photo: Mark Clements



Coelogyne Unchained Melody
Photo: Richard Mayoh



Miltoniopsis Sun Glow 'Amazing'
Photo: Jane Wright



Cattleya Burana Beauty
Photo: Andrea Robold



Cattleya Royal Beau 'Dendi'
Photo: Jane Wright



Pterostylis curta
Photo: Karen Groeneveld



Dockrillia congesta
Photo: Mark Clements



Oncidium maculatum
Photo: Ben Walcott



Medicalcar monticola
Photo: Mark Clements



Stenorrhynchos speciosus
Photo: Karen Groeneveld



Corysanthes incurvus
Photo: Nita Wheeler



Tetrabaculum tetragonum 'melaleucaphilum'
Photo: Bob Forrester



Bulleyia yunnanensis
Photo: Mark Clements



Phalaenopsis unnamed hybrid
Photo: Craig Allen



Phalaenopsis unnamed hybrid
Photo: Craig Allen



Phalaenopsis unnamed hybrid
Photo: Craig Allen



Phalaenopsis schilleriana
Photo: Karen Groeneveld



Vanda miniata
Photo: Mark Clements



Vanda Somsri Glory 'Blue'
Photo: Christian Fricker



Phalaenopsis unnamed hybrid
Photo: Craig Allen



Epidendrum centropetalum
Photo: Zoe Groeneveld



Cattleya coccinea
Photo: Andrea Robold



Phalaenopsis lobbii
Photo: Jane Wright



Dendrobium paxtonii
Photo: Zoe Groeneveld



Cymbidium pendant miniature
Photo: Julia Hu



Bulbophyllum wallichii
Photo: Zoe Groeneveld



Phragmipedium x sedenii 'Candidum'
Photo: Zoe Groeneveld



Paphiopedilum Red Fusion 'Spotted Leopard' x P. Hsingying Flame 'Roy'
Photo: Krysia Szkiela



Cyrtostylis reniformis
Photo: Nita Wheeler