



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	Jacque Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day Audrey Rough
Popular Vote	Jacque Bannerman
Coordinators	Jacqui Turner
Benching Officer	Mark Fraser
Judges Choice	Robyn Noel Krysia Szkiela Jane Wright
Librarian	Andrea Robold
Social Media	Mike Pieloor Karen Groeneveld Mark Fraser
Sales Table	Jane Wright Brenda Thompson Bill Ferris

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 have traditionally been held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January). However, our usual venue and schedule have been impacted by COVID-19. Until further notice, meetings will be held at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, at the new time of 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. The day of the meeting may change, depending on availability of the AFC. See details below. Visitors are welcome.

Next Meeting

Monday 1 February 2021 at the Ainslie Football Club. Gary Yong Gee, esteemed orchid photographer, will talk via Zoom. Details on page 2.

Note that we are starting earlier:

*** 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start ***

Upcoming Events

2 Feb (Tues): Orchid Mini-Symposium

Online, 9:30am – 12:30 pm. Details on page 3.

3 March (Wed): Society Meeting

Ainslie Football Club, 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Growing Cattleyas. Further details on page 3.

6-7 March: Canberra Horticultural Society Autumn Flower Show, including Orchids

See <https://hsoc.org.au/activities-and-events-2/#flowershows> for details of venue, schedule etc. Members are encouraged to enter orchids.

www.canberraorchids.org
Email: info@canberraorchids.org
facebook.com/CanberraOrchidSociety
instagram.com/canberra_orchids

Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc
PO Box 221 Deakin West ACT 2600
Australia
ABN 34 762 780 850

Disclaimer

© 2020 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.*

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 Mar-Apr edition is Mon 15 February 2021.

From the President

Welcome to 2021!

We recently sent you a poll seeking your input on our venue and meeting dates/times. While we are still gathering information for a final location, our first few meetings will be at the Ainslie Football Club. Based on your feedback, we will trial a new start time: Benching and the sales table will be available from 7:00pm, with an earlier start time for the meeting of 7:30pm.

We ask you to bear with us while we finalise our approach to venue, day and time. There is a lot to work out and consider in the current ever-changing environment. If you missed our poll and would like to vote, you still can: [ORSOC venue poll](#). Everyone's input is welcome.

Our first topic for the year is **photographing orchids**. Whether you like to be out in the field capturing natives in flower, or leaning on your kitchen bench to snap an exotic with your phone, there are some great techniques everyone can learn to improve their photos of orchids. Orchid photographer Gary Yong Gee will be joining us from Brisbane via Zoom to share his experience and exquisite photos. This is the first time we will be using computer technology to connect with a remote speaker at one of our meetings. Hopefully it will provide a way for us to interact more with interstate speakers during these trying COVID times. More exciting topics to follow.

Electronic voting for the popular vote has been a welcome approach. This year, Jacquie Bannerman and Jacqui Turner have kindly agreed to manage the popular vote process. Please give them support and be patient as they find their feet.

For benching and to help with the overall process, please remember to put out your benching slips. If you need help filing them out or working out what class your plant belongs in, ask one of the friendly benching people. And, if you notice a slip missing for a benched plant, offer to help fill it out.

It was great last year to see so many people interested in growing our native terrestrial orchids. If you haven't already done so, it is time to repot them. For most cultivated species, annual repotting gives better results. If you want some assistance, contact Karen Groeneveld for advice and guidance on the process.

Lastly, give us feedback about how you think the society is going and what you want to see.

New Members

Welcome to David Brooks. We hope you will enjoy a long and rewarding association with the Society. Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Committee if you need advice or help settling in.

Upcoming Events

Our **February meeting** will be held at the Ainslie Football Club on **Monday 1 February**, upstairs where we have our show. You will need to sign in at the desk at the entrance to the club. In response to feedback from members, we will be starting the meeting half an hour earlier. Sales table and benching will be available from **7:00 pm, with the meeting to start at 7:30 pm**. Gary Yong Gee has agreed to give us a talk, via Zoom, about his experience as an orchid



Caladenia hastata
grown by Mark Clements
November Orchid of the Night (Open)
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]

January-February 2021

photographer. We all love orchid picture books – seeing the remarkable and interesting details of orchids up close – and many of us like to dazzle our friends with photos of the exotic fancies we grow. Gary has been photographing orchids in the field and in collections for about 35 years, including displays at the last 10 World Orchid Conferences, and has photographed thousands of orchids. This promises to be a colourful and engaging presentation as Gary shares with us some of his amazing photos along with tips and tricks to getting the best shots. You can check out Gary's work on his webpage: <http://www.yonggee.name/>

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. We won't have the library as all our books are locked up at the other venue.

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.

Orchid Mini-Symposium – Tuesday 2 February, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm – Online



Dr. Mark Clements
ORCHID MINI SYMPOSIUM
Synthesis and frontiers of
Australian orchid research

9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Tuesday 2nd of February 2021

To honor the distinguished career of Dr Mark Clements, you are invited to a virtual mini-symposium of preeminent orchid researchers.

Please add this date and time in your calendar and a link to the symposium will be sent out in the new year. Happy holidays.

 CENTRE FOR
AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY
RESEARCH
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HERBARIUM

To honour the career of Dr Mark Clements, who recently retired, the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research is hosting a virtual Orchid Mini-Symposium titled "Synthesis and frontiers of Australian orchid research."

Members are invited to tune in to the webcast via the link below:

Webcast Link: <https://webcast.csiro.au/#/webcasts/markclementssymposium>

Our **March meeting** will also be held at the Ainslie Football Club on **Wednesday 3 March**, with benching and sales from 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Rob Rough will talk about growing Cattleyas, to be followed by a deflasking workshop. The seedlings will be distributed later in the year for a growing competition.

The Spring Show 2021

At this point, the committee is planning for a normal show (but If circumstances change, we will adjust accordingly). Jane Wright will be show convenor and is looking for members to join the show committee. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jane.

Culture tips January–February

- Provide extra shade to avoid sun damage and black pots heating up.
- Water regularly to ensure sufficient moisture for your growing conditions. Watering in the evening gives your plants time to absorb the water before the heat of the following day.
- Repot Australian terrestrials while they are dormant, if you haven't already. Check out our book 'Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia' for methods, or talk to other members if you need help (eg Karen Groeneveld or Bill Ferris). A good quality, well-draining seed-raising mix provides a suitable medium for most terrestrial orchids. Avoid repotting the 'fungus-dependent' terrestrials, such as *Caladenia* sp. These do best left undisturbed.
- Water Australian terrestrials sparingly (and lightly) until the new shoots emerge. Keep pots cool.
- Fertilise your plants to strengthen new growth. Use a fertiliser that orchids can tolerate. Some of the generic versions can be too strong. Always follow the instructions.
- Monitor for pests. Mites are still active and aphids and munching pests can quickly take hold. Check your plants at night with a flash light to do some on-the-spot extermination.
- Repot plants in active growth that have outgrown their current pot, or if the bark has started to rot down.
- Bring your plant along to our next meeting if you are unsure how to care for it over summer.
- Check out our book 'Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia' for more cultural tips.

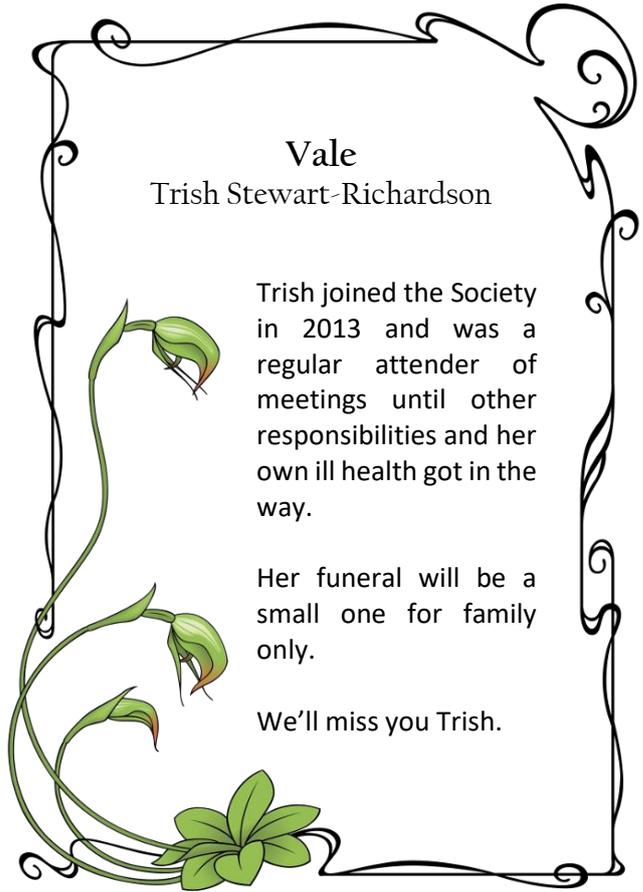
Vale

Trish Stewart-Richardson

Trish joined the Society in 2013 and was a regular attender of meetings until other responsibilities and her own ill health got in the way.

Her funeral will be a small one for family only.

We'll miss you Trish.



Australian terrestrial orchids

Australian terrestrial orchids are a diverse and fascinating group that are easy to grow once you understand their requirements and respect their growing cycle. They generally survive our hot Australian summers as dormant underground storage organs, or tubers. Many species can produce a stunning display of flowers in a single season, growing on your porch or balcony, without the need for heating or fancy environmental controls. For a number of years, Karen Groeneveld has hosted a terrestrial repotting workshop in January. Due to ongoing COVID concerns, there won't be a terrestrial repotting workshop this summer, but if you need advice you can give Karen a call, or talk to other members at the February Society meeting.

Minutes of General Meeting, 3 November 2020

Present: 34; Apologies: 4; Visitors: 1

Meeting commenced 8pm, chaired by Society President, Mike Pieloor.

Mike introduced the night's speaker Rob Rough and the topic, *Sarcochilus*, noting the rise in popularity of these orchids following recent advances in breeding by growers such as Scott Barrie from Baritta Orchids.

Rob noted that the colour range of his *Sarcochilus* is extensive with yellow, white, coral and red flower shades. Rob then outlined his steps for successful culture:

Growing media: Rob has found that bark alone (regardless of size) does not hold sufficient moisture. He adds crushed oak leaves and peat moss, in no particular ratio, judging by feel until these form a light coating on the bark. Adding perlite made no improvement to the media.

Light: Rob grows his plants in shade and aims to keep the leaves in light to dark green colour. If winter is wet and cloudy, plants need more light or they will grow long and lanky.

Watering: It is important that sarcs are not allowed to dry out, or the leaves will grow crinkley.

Repotting: Rob recommends this not be done before three years or until the pot is completely full. In his view, it is best to simply cut off the long growths rather than break up the plant. This gives the suckers a chance to grow and the cuttings can then be potted up.

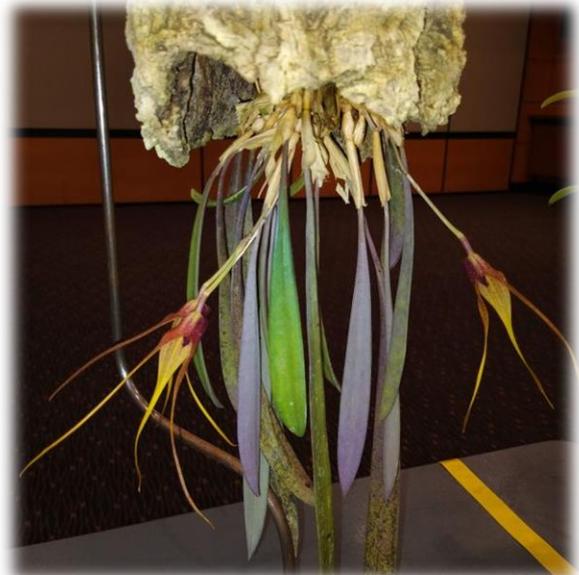


Cattleya Royal Beau 'Dendi'
grown by Rob Rough
Judges' Choice Hybrid, November
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]

Mark Clements outlined the distribution and growing conditions of Australian *Sarcochilus* species. He noted that one of the more spectacular of the native species, *Sarcochilus australis*, cannot be grown in cultivation. The two most popular *Sarcochilus* species used in breeding are *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii*. Some *Sarcochilus* species have been over-collected from the wild, although some grow in inaccessible places such as cliff faces. Bill Ferris presented tables listing all the native species, their position in the vanda tribe and some of the sarc hybrids. Mike Pieloor noted that he had experimented and successfully grown sarcs in pure scoria or perlite.



Miltoniopsis Bert Field 'Leash'
grown by Jane Wright
Judges' Choice Specimen, November
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]



Masdevallia caesia 'Kingston'
grown by Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice Species, November
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]

Following the break, Jane Wright outlined arrangements for the Society Christmas party to be held at the AFC. Mike thanked Karen Groeneveld for producing the Bulletin and Bill Ferris for updates to the website. Jane noted that the society was able to obtain a limited number of copies of the updated version of David Jones book *Native Orchids of*

Australia at a concessional price through the Australian Orchid Foundation. Expressions of interest should be forwarded to Jane.

Derrick Corrigan gave an update on the activities of the Conservation group. The group has been searching the bushfire-ravaged areas of the ACT to assess the survival and re-establishment of native terrestrial orchids. The group has also assisted researcher Emma Cook to find suitable locations (where there are appropriate mycorrhizal fungi and wasp pollinators) where *Caladenia actensis* could be populated, given the decline in its current location. This was successful and a video is on the society facebook page. The group has also been looking for plants listed as rare and located populations of *Diuris subalpina*.

Future meeting venues and days were discussed. Given the current COVID situation, the church may not be an option for some time. Those members present expressed a preference for the AFC, but were invited to provide any views to the committee before a final decision was made.

Mark Clements advised that he had been invited to see a site of *Rhizanthella* in Sydney and to watch a trained dog locate the plant. The ability of the dog was amazing and demonstrated the value of using trained sniffer dogs in locating rare orchids and other plants.

Meeting closed 9.55pm.

Popular Vote Results: November 2020

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dendrobium</i> Black Gold	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: Sarco. Earth's Magic, Sarco. Memoria Jack Abell, Sarco. Kiwi Ice x2, Sarco. Kulnura Emotion, Sarco. unknown, Sarco. Pixie Pearls 'Prolific, Cadetia taylori</i>		
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Caladenia hastata</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Diuris concinna, Diuris punctata, Diuris minor</i>		
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium</i> hybrid unknown	Brian Dear
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Jackfowlieara Apple Blossom</i>	Rob Rough
	<i>Others Benched: C. Royal Beau 'Dendi', Rlc. Lila Rose, C. Tangerine Fire x3, C. purpurata, Epi. paniculatum,</i>		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grande	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Phragmipedium Wossner Super Grande</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
	<i>Others Benched: Cleisostoma arietinum, Luisia morsei, Phal. parishii, Phal. hybrid unknown Renanthera citrina, Vanda Blue Fairy x falcata, Vanda Cherry Blossom, V. garayi, Phal. Dendi's Lattimore</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Bert Field 'Leash'	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Mps. Breathless'Good Woman', Mps. Morris Chestnut 'Vivien', Mps. Golden Snows 'White Light', Mps. Sun Glow 'Amazing', Aliceara Tahoma Glacier, Aliceara Snowblind 'Sweet Spots'</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia caesia</i> 'Kingston'	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched Acianthera bragae, Pleuro. viduata, Masd. Red Hot Chilli x Copperwing, Rstp. trichoglossa, Masd Rein Stripes, Masd. Andean Treasure, Anathallis schlerophylla, Dryadella simula</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Durabaculum tangerinum</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Den. hercoglossum, Den. ceraula, Den. Samurai, Den. loddigesii, Den. moniliforme,</i>		
10	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne brachyptera</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst', Coel. flaccida,</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum burfordiense</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
12	Maxillariinae & Lycastinae	<i>Maxillaria</i> sp.	Karen Groeneveld

	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Satyrium humilis</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Satyrium ligulatum x2</i>		
NOVICE			
15	Australian Native	<i>Sarcochilus</i> hybrid unknown	Tony Tritschler
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium</i> hybrid unknown	Jacqui Turner
	<i>Others Benched: Cym. hybrid unknown x2</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Dendrobium unicum</i>	Tony Tritschler
	<i>Others Benched: Calanthe hybrid unknown</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night	<i>Caladenia hastata</i>		Mark Clements
NOVICE Orchid of the Night	<i>Dendrobium unicum</i>		Tony Tritschler
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Masdevallia caesia</i> 'Kingston'		Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Cattleya</i> Royal Beau 'Dendi'		Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Bert Field 'Leash'		Jane Wright

Notes on the Orchid of the Night:

Open section: *Caladenia hastata*, grown by Mark Clements (see photo on page 2):

Caladenia hastata is an Australian terrestrial orchid that is endemic to Portland in Victoria. With much of its natural habitat at Point Dangar having been destroyed by an aluminium smelter, it is nationally threatened. These plants were grown from seed as part of a conservation program, aimed at eventually reintroducing plants to the wild. The seedlings germinated in 2011 and have flowered regularly the last 3-4 years. Mark grows them like any other terrestrial which is dormant in summer - grown in seed-raising mix with a mulch of casuarina needles on top, and watered about once a week while in growth. However, repotting is avoided for as long as possible, as most *Caladenia* species resent disturbance.

Novice section: *Dendrobium unicum*, grown by Tony Tritschler:

Dendrobium unicum is a miniature orchid from South east Asia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The flowers, about 4 - 5cms across are supposedly fragrant but I can't say I've noticed any fragrance with them on my plant. My references advise to keep it moist and fertilise during the growing season, with reduced watering over winter, and very little watering for the last month or two of its resting period. My plant is in Orchiata bark with some charcoal and is kept moist. The greenhouse does get hot in the summer, it is already up to the high thirties, in spite of fans, damping down and misting etc. Over winter the greenhouse is heated and the thermostat keeps the temperature hopefully above 6 C.



Dendrobium unicum
grown by Tony Tritschler
Novice Orchid of the Night, November
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]

Canberra Horticultural Society Spring Exhibition & Rose Show, 7-8 November 2020

Class	Description		Plant	Owner
65	One <i>Cymbidium</i>	1	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown	John and Lyn Anderson
66	One standard <i>Cattleya</i> alliance	1	Rhyncholaeliocattleya Lila Rose	Jane Wright
69	One <i>Cattleya</i> Alliance Species	1	<i>Laelia purpurata</i> var. <i>sanguinea</i>	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Leptotes bicolor</i>	Bill Ferris
72	One Phalaenopsis Hybrid	1	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
		2	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Dendi's Lattimore	Jane Wright
73	One Vandaceous alliance Hybrid	1	<i>Vanda garayi</i>	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
		2	<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
75	One Oncidium Alliance	1	Aliceara Tahoma Glacier	Bill Ferris
		2	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Golden Snow 'White Knight'	Jane Wright
76	One native orchid	1	<i>Sarcochilus</i> 'Sweetheart' x self	Bill Ferris
		2	<i>Sarcochilus</i> . Kiwi Ice	Bill Ferris
77	One Pleurothallid species	1	<i>Pleurothallis viduata</i>	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Restrepia trichoglossa</i>	Jane Wright
78	One Pleurothallid hybrid	1	<i>Masdevallia</i> Copper Angel 'Highland'	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Masdevallia</i> . Gold Purse	Jane Wright
80	One Exotic Dendrobium alliance species	1	<i>Dendrobium hercoglossum</i>	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
		2	<i>Durabaculum tangerinum</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Champion Orchid			<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett

Society Christmas Party, 2 December 2020

Present: 37; Apologies: 4; Visitors: 1

The Christmas Party was held at the Ainslie Football Club on Wed 2 December. Thanks go to everyone who made it an enjoyable evening for all; in particular, Mike and Simon who put together and judged the fun quizzes and other entertainment, and Jane and Bill who organised the fabulous plant prizes. Congratulations to Yvonne Day who took out the prize for the most festively, 'orchidaceously' dressed! Prizes for the those who attended every meeting in 2020 went to: Jacque Bannerman, Julia Hu & Peter Holmick, Brenda Thomson and Tony Tritschler. The award for the most successful in the popular vote throughout the year went to Karen Groeneveld, and for the Novice section, to Tony Tritschler.



Yvonne Day and others enjoying the Society Christmas Party
[Photo: Karen Groeneveld]

Popular Vote Results: December 2020

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dockrillia wassellii</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Peristochilus Olive Grace, Cadetia taylori, Sarc. Glowing Embers x Kulnurra Festival</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Encyclia Green Hornet 'Buttons'</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Epidendrum Comet Valley 'Yellow Star', C. milleri, L. anceps, Rlc. Tzeng-Wen Dragon x Rlc. Chunyeah, C. Dendi's Perfection 'Tanya', C. sincorana x Dianne Diehm, C. x elegans 'Blue Lip' x C. Interglossa 'Cerulea'</i>		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum Bel Royale 'Memoria Terry Turner' AM/AOC</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Paph Butler's Effect x Memoria Alan Newbold, Paph ciliolare, Paph William Ambler 'Tazzie Dazzler' AM/AC, Paph. druryi, Paph. William Ambler 'Karob' HCC/AOC</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Vanda Cherry Blossom</i>	Lynne & Brian Phelan
	<i>Others Benched: Phal Chian Xen Piano 'CX339'</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Oncostele Wildcat 'Carnivale'</i>	Rob Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Oncidium edwallii, Mps. Jean Carlson, Mps. Red Knight 'The King', Oncidopsis Home Spun Sprite, Onc. Crisp Sleep, Oip. Cambria 'Lensing's Favourite', Lockhartia lunifera, Mps. Breathless 'Florence', Mps. Bert Field 'Leash', Mps. Red Knight x Bull's Eye, Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant', Mps. Bartley Schwartz 'Highlander', Mps. Herralexandre, Onc. unknown (2)</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Pleurothallis tarantula</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Specklinia grobyii</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium parishii</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Den Samurai x self, Den chryseum, Den. Sophia Ang</i>		
10	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne mooreana 'Brockhurst'</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Cirrhopetalum sikkimense</i>	Mark Fraser & Sandra Corbett
	<i>Others Benched: Bulb. unicum</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night			
		<i>Paphiopedilum Bel Royale 'Memoria Terry Turner' AM/AOC</i>	David Judge
		<i>Dendrobium parishii</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Paphiopedilum ciliolare</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Paphiopedilum Bel Royale 'Memoria Terry Turner' AM/AOC</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Florence'</i>	Jane Wright

Notes on the Orchid of the Night:**Open Section: *Paphiopedilum Bel Royale 'Memoria Terry Turner' AM/AOC*, grown by David Judge:**

Paphiopedilum Bel Royal is a primary hybrid between *P. rothschildianum* and *P. kolopakingii*. *P. rothschildianum* is the finest species in the genus and can have as many as 6 huge (30 cm across) flowers on a spike. *P. kolopakingii* has smaller flowers but can have as many as 14 flowers on a spike (the most in the genus); it can be an extremely large plant with leaves as long as 70 cm. These large leaves tend to be inherited in Paph Bel Royal so this plant can take up a lot of space in the greenhouse. The best clones of this hybrid have large rothschildianum like flowers with a high flower count from the kolopakingii.

This clone was awarded an AM in 2018 and I named it in memory of Terry Turner who was a long-time member of our society before he sadly passed away in 2013. Terry was a fellow grower of *Paphiopedilum*s and like me he loved the multi-floral slippers. It was Terry's wonderful *Paphiopedilum* Prince Edward of York 'Jules' AM/AOC that



Paphiopedilum Bel Royale 'Memoria Terry Turner'
AM/AOC grown by David Judge
Tied Orchid of the Night, December
[Photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Tied with: *Dendrobium parishii*, grown by Karen Groeneveld:

Dendrobium parishii is a small-medium epiphyte that grows in evergreen forests in lowland to mountainous areas through China, India and South East Asia. As such, it's quite adaptable and will take cool-hot conditions. I grow it mounted on hard tree fern in hot, moist conditions – the greenhouse is thermostatically controlled to vary between 14°C minimum and 32°C maximum, with 70% humidity. For fertilising I rely mainly on the use of Magamp slow-release fertiliser in the water line (so plants get a little, often). My mounted plant is hung on an A-frame with other mounts and gets watered daily with extra misting throughout the day in summer. Like most true Dendrobiums, it likes a dry period in winter, which stimulates flowering – plants will produce kiekis instead of flower buds if kept too wet over winter. The flowers have the most marvellous smell of raspberry jam!



Dendrobium parishii, grown by Karen Groeneveld
Tied Orchid of the Night, December
[Photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Conservation Group Report

By Derek Corrigan

Much has been achieved since the last Bulletin report. The survey work of the burnt areas of Namadgi has continued with organized field trips continuing into early December followed by less formal visits to areas by those available and interested in participating. By arrangement with the Namadgi Rangers (who supplied gate keys and the loan of a radio), several visits were made to areas still closed to the public. Areas visited included Orroral Valley, Honeysuckle Creek, Smokers Flat, Smokers Gap, Gibraltar Falls, Boboyan Road areas, Mt Clear and Old Boboyan Road. Since Christmas, the group has focused on the Brindabella Ranges. Official field trips resumed on Sunday

17th January, with a visit to the Mt Gingera area and those areas south of Stockyard Spur which had been burnt. It was a long but rewarding day!

All this work has revealed many interesting finds, with some orchid species found in new areas and some displays of flowering only seen following fires. We have been able to expand the known species for many areas, but it is not all good news, as we have found some areas with significant damage and probable local loss of local species.



Orchid conservation group in Namadgi Nat Pk

[Photo: Brian Dear]



Pararasophyllum odoratum

[Photo: Derek Corrigan]

The Group has also continued to provide assistance to the ACT Government Conservation Research, with several field work visits to both Mt Tennent and Smokers Gap and some visits to areas of the Brindabella Range looking for rarer orchid species. This work is intended to continue into this year.

In a similar federally funded project, some of our members assisted with survey work in the Snowy Mountains, near Tumbarumba, during December. This is part of the same project that was reported in the January ANOS Victoria Bulletin. This project, conducted by La Trobe University and the Royal Botanic Gardens, and headed by Ryan Phillips, is part of a large post-fire research program to assess a number of listed orchid species. <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2020/release/bushfire-recovery-research-funded>. Our members contributed by counting species of *Paraprasophyllum* in swamps in the McPherson Plains area. Some members will also participate in a second survey in this area during the first week of February 2021.



Prasophyllum canaliculatum

[Photo: Derek Corrigan]



Thelymitra juncifolia

[Photo: Derek Corrigan]



Oligochaetochilus squamatus

[Photo: Derek Corrigan]

This month's special article

By Craig Allen

TO PROTECT THIS RARE UNDERGROUND ORCHID, RESEARCHERS ARE KEEPING ITS LOCATION TOP SECRET

Maree Elliott admitted feeling a bit despondent as she poked around the leaf litter in the Barrington Tops National Park north of Newcastle four years ago.

Ms Elliott, a scientific illustrator, had been looking for a native fungi to draw for her work, but despite hours of searching the 65-year-old retiree was having no luck.

What she stumbled on instead would rewrite scientific literature.

"I got a big stick and I was playing around with the leaf litter, and this lovely pink thing surfaced," she said.

"I didn't know what it was, it certainly wasn't a mushroom or a truffle. It was just a very small, pinky-creamy thing, it was like a half-opened flower bud."

Ms Elliott said an ecologist in her party "got all excited", and immediately identified her unusual find as a form of underground orchid — an extremely rare plant that never naturally pokes its head up above the leaf litter.

"I had no idea what it was, it wasn't until I came home and started doing my own research that I realised that this was an important find," Ms Elliott said.

Location being kept top secret

While a member of Ms Elliott's party had identified the flower as an underground orchid, nobody could have predicted just how rare of a find it truly was.

Four years on, the Ms Elliott's discovery now been confirmed as an entirely new species previously unknown to science.

Ms Elliott's find has been described as a once-in-50-year botanical discovery, but one whose location will never likely be openly shared with the public.

"I'm really reluctant to say where it is, because it is an endangered species and the location is private, or under wraps, or secret," Ms Elliott said.

"It is close to where people would go walking, so I think under the circumstances ... it's our responsibility to protect it I think."



Rhizanthella speciosa in full flower at Barrington Tops National Park.
(Supplied: Mark Clements)



The flower Maree Elliott discovered while "poking around in leaf litter" in June 2016. (Supplied: Maree Elliott)

The cryptic orchid she discovered has now formally been named *Rhizanthella speciosa*.

Mark Clements, from the National Herbarium in Canberra, recently published his description of the plant in an International Journal on Orchidology.

"It's probably the most unique orchid on earth, and orchids are the largest family of plants on earth," Dr Clements said.

"It's not something I imagined would happen in my lifetime. It's a really, really fortuitous find."

Why should we care about something we will never see?

Conservation of the underground orchid poses some interesting challenges for ecologists, including how to inspire public passion for a plant that will never likely be seen.

Unlike so-called "flagship" conservation species, like the koala, panda, or lion, which were chosen largely for their public appeal, [researchers are worried "ugly" species are valued less in conservation.](#)

But Dr Clements said it was important to conserve these "hidden" species to maintain biodiversity, because they are "distinctly Australian", and rely on native animals to spread.

"It's very Australian. It's the only underground orchid on earth, it occurs in Australia, and we're pretty lucky to have it," he said.

"To flower, to grow entirely underground, to produce seed under the leaf litter and then to have a wallaby or bandicoot come and eat its seed, then pass through its gut and move the seed that way.

"All of those things are significant."



*Dr Mark Clements says the discovery is important for maintaining Australia's biodiversity.
(ABC News: Craig Allen)*

Tracker dogs helping find cryptic orchids



*Taz (left) and Missy (right) are professional detection dogs employed by OWAD Environment consultants.
(Supplied: OWAD Environment)*

Spurred on by Ms Elliott's find, researchers from the NSW Department of Environment spent 10 days scouting the forests of Barrington Tops National Park for more underground orchids, without success.

So they enlisted some four-legged plant detectives to help.

Consultants, OWAD Environment, brought in tracker dogs Missy and Taz, and, within 10 minutes, the English springer spaniels had found their first underground orchid.

"It's a real breakthrough," Dr Clements said.

"They can train the dog to find the orchid, even when it's not in flower.

"One of the things that the dogs will enable us to do is look at other potential sites, and see if there are any more."

With the help of the detection dogs, scientists have now geotagged the locations of 39 flowering heads at Barrington Tops, over an area roughly 30 by 20 metres.



Missy indicating she has found the flowering head of a Rhizanthella underground orchid. (Supplied: OWAD Environment)

Dr Clements said *Rhizanthella speciosa* was one of only three species of underground orchid on Australia's east coast, while two species were found in Western Australia.

And he said their scarcity pointed to their vulnerability.

Orchids were once more widespread

Dr Clements said underground orchids could have once covered a large area of Australia.

"We could have lost most of them because of clearing for agriculture, not even knowing they were there," Dr Clements said.

But he said the Barrington Tops discovery gave hope to researchers that other populations of underground orchids were out there, just waiting for another "lucky find".

"It would be difficult for me to believe that it's the only site on earth for that species to occur," he said.

"It gives you hope that there might be some other ones out there as well.

"There are many people who'd love to see it, but the safest thing to do is not to have it known where it really is. The best protection is not telling people where it is, and not showing them."

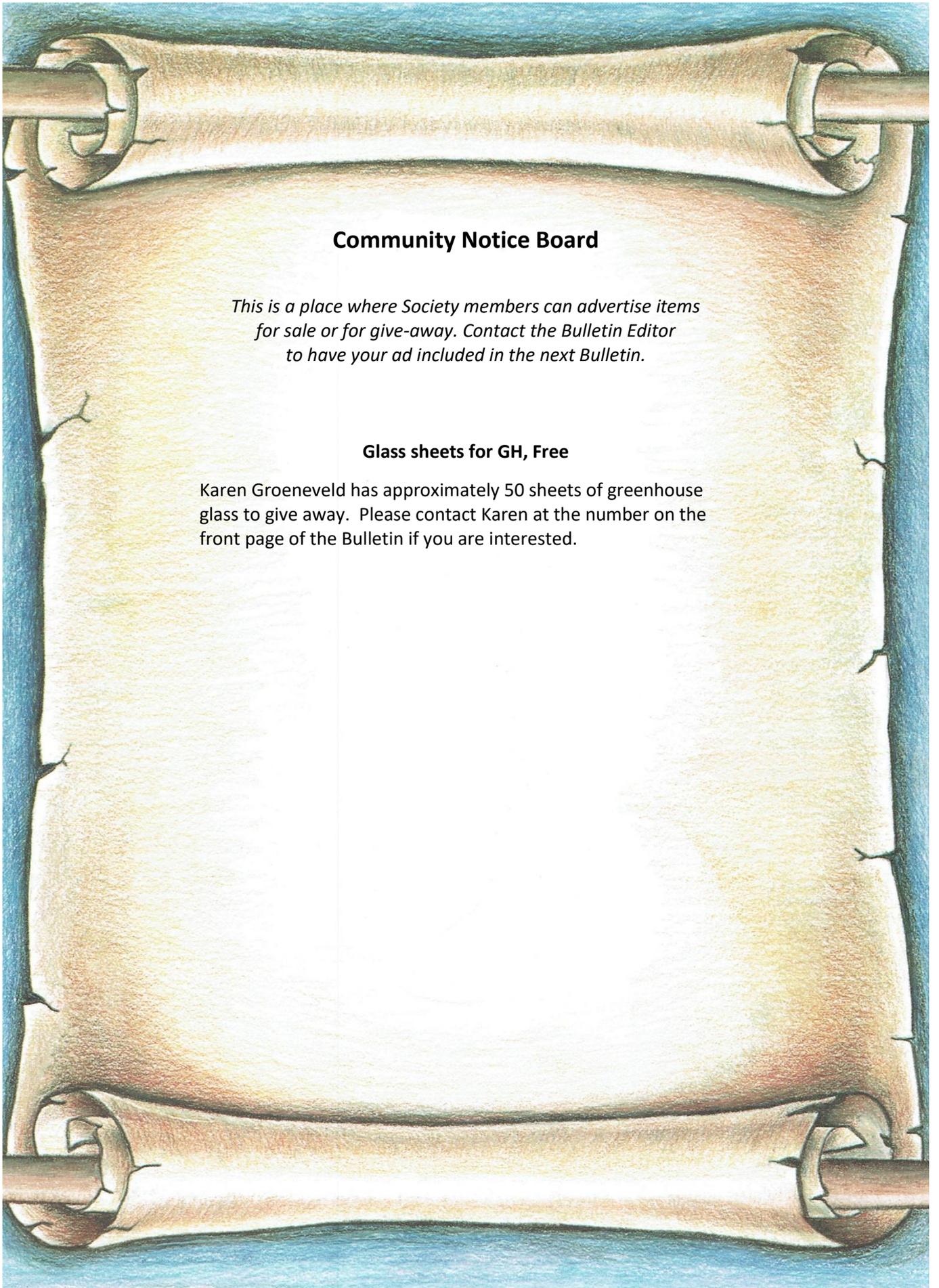
[Article originally posted on the ABC news website, Sunday 13 September 2020. Thanks to Craig Allen for permission to reproduce the article here.]



Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Florence', grown by Jane Wright
Judges' Choice Specimen, December
[Photo: Zoe Groeneveld]



Paphiopedilum ciliolare, grown by David Judge
Judges' Choice Species, December
[Photo: Zoe Groeneveld]



Community Notice Board

This is a place where Society members can advertise items for sale or for give-away. Contact the Bulletin Editor to have your ad included in the next Bulletin.

Glass sheets for GH, Free

Karen Groeneveld has approximately 50 sheets of greenhouse glass to give away. Please contact Karen at the number on the front page of the Bulletin if you are interested.