



## Committee Members

<b>President:</b>	Mike Pieloor	043 807 1492
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Andrea Robold	041 824 1694
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jane Wright	0406 379 054
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bill Ferris	02 6297 5635
<b>Committee:</b>	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 Krysi 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 are now held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Visitors are welcome.

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday 3 March 2021** at the Ainslie Football Club. Rob Rough to talk about growing Cattleyas, followed by a deflasking demo. Details on page 3.

Note the new starting time:

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

## Upcoming Events

**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.

**7 April (Wed): Society Meeting**

Ainslie Football Club, 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Jane Wright on Pleurothallidinae. Details on page 4.

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### Disclaimer

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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](mailto:groeneveld@internode.on.net)  
**Deadline** for May-Jun edition is Fri 23 April 2021.

## From the Vice-President

How quickly the year goes! It's already February, and we will soon need to think about how to keep some of our orchids warm enough!

February's presentation on orchid photography by Gary Yong Gee was awesome, as he gave us many tips and tricks. So many beautiful orchid photos! Amazing efforts by Jane, IT staff from the Ainslie Football Club and Gary made this remote presentation possible, via Zoom. Thanks again to our volunteers for the 'hands on' part: Mark F., Derek, Zoe and David J.

The ongoing pandemic keeps rearing its ugly head. It has made it very difficult to attract and confirm external speakers with any certainty. It means that we may not always be able to announce the topic of a presentation much ahead of a meeting, and hope that members will understand. It is likely that we will continue to rely on the expert growers within our own community to provide their insights into growing particular groups and to enlighten us on orchid and conservation research, for the next year, or until travel restrictions ease. If there is a topic that you would like to see featured at our meetings, please me or another Committee member know.



*Vandachostylis Blue Fairy x Vanda falcata*  
grown by Rob Rough  
Orchid of the Night (Open), February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)

### Membership subscriptions due soon

The membership year begins 1 May, so renewal of membership subscriptions is due by the end of April 2021.

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

Pay 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.

Or you can pay the Treasurer, Jane Wright, at the April meeting.

The pandemic also continues to impact our choice of venue, with the church having been inaccessible to us for many months. We now have the opportunity to return to the church, should we wish, and Committee members have put a lot of energy into considering the pros and cons of the church vs the AFC as our longer-term venue. Thank you to those members who contributed their views via the recent online poll – your views have also been taken into consideration. The cost of both venues has increased somewhat – the AFC has added a fee for use of the audio-visual equipment (which we can get around to some extent by using our own data projector); and the church has imposed a large cleaning fee. As a result, the difference in cost between the two venues is now marginal. The AFC has a lot going for it in terms of convenience (among other things, not having to set up and take-down chairs and tables, clean floors etc) which means that we can start the meeting earlier. It also has reliable Internet access and the restaurant for dinner. Based on these considerations, and that slightly more members indicated a preference for the AFC, the Committee has decided to remain at the Ainslie Football Club for the foreseeable future. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Wed of the month, with

benching and sales table opening at 7:00 pm and the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. The Show committee will look to improving returns from our Show to offset costs. In the longer term, the Committee will continue to investigate venues that may provide a cheaper option.

I hope many of you were able to watch the virtual mini-symposium in honour of Dr Mark Clements in early February. It was truly inspiring to hear some of Mark's collaborators and friends explain about the many contributions Mark has made in the field of orchids during his career, and to learn more about the current understanding of orchid evolution in Australia. If you missed it, the symposium is available to review online - a link is provided in this bulletin.

The Conservation Group is continuing to impress with their hunt for orchids. Thank you again to Derek Corrigan and the volunteers who are spending much time outdoors and actively contributing to orchid conservation!

I would like to remind members that our new financial year starts soon, and membership fees are due by the end of April. Karen has included the information about the fees and society account number in this bulletin.

Lastly, I hope that you can all join us for the March meeting where we will learn a little more about cattleyas from Rob Rough, followed by a deflasking session. There will be both hybrid and species seedlings. Once they have grown on a little, we will make them available to our members for another growing competition. Rob will be taking questions, so have a think in advance about what you'd like to know about these colourful classics!

Happy orchid growing!

## Upcoming Events

Our **March meeting** will be held at the Ainslie Football Club on **Wednesday 3 March**, upstairs where we have our show. You will need to sign in at the desk at the entrance to the club. As we did last month, we will be starting the meeting earlier. Sales table and benching will be available from 7:00 pm, with the meeting to start at 7:30 pm.

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

### Cattleyas!

The topic for our March meeting is cattleyas. The genus *Cattleya* and its related genera (e.g. *Laelia*, *Encyclia*, *Epidendrum*, *Prostheca*) are in the subtribe Laeliinae, which we judge together in one class at meetings. There are over 2600 described species and 45,000 named hybrids of this Central and South American group of orchids.

Although there are always exceptions to the rule, cattleyas in the broad sense grow best in bright light and require some warmth in winter in Canberra. The very showy large flowers on large plants are most easily grown in a climate-controlled greenhouse, but there are many small species and hybrids that are well-suited to life on a sunny windowsill. Because they are CAM plants, which means they generally only open their



*Cattleya labiata semialba*

(Photo: <<https://www.orchidweb.com/orchids/cattleya-alliance/species/cattleya-labiata-semi-alba-various-crosses>>)



*Cattleya labiata alba*

(Photo: <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/finboy/7963222176>>)

stomata at night when the humidity is higher, they can cope quite well in the drier environments of our homes in winter.

After we hear from Rob Rough and other members about how they grow cattleyas, we will demonstrate deflasking of a small *Cattleya* hybrid ( *Rhyncattleanthe* Volcano Prince X *Cattleya* Topaz Highlight) and a medium-sized *Cattleya* species (*Cattleya labiata alba* X *C. labiata semialba*) at the meeting. Once the babies have established and grown a bit, we will make them available to members to try their hand at growing them in a growing competition.



*Rhyncattleanthe* Volcano Prince X *Cattleya* Topaz Highlight

(Photo: <<https://www.ebay.com.au>> vendor's site)

**6-7 March – Canberra Horticultural Society Autumn Flower Show**, including Orchids.

The Autumn Flower Show will be held at the Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday and from 11.00am to 3.15pm on Sunday.

The Autumn Flower show provides Orchid Society members with an opportunity to display their orchids to the public, and is an important event in our annual calendar. The prizes are modest, but the prestige is great, and it helps to raise awareness of orchids and our own Spring Show. Please consider entering your flowering orchids.

For details of the location and schedule, see <https://hsoc.org.au/activities-and-events-2/#flowershows>

Our **April meeting** will be held at the AFC on **Wednesday 7 April**. Jane Wright will talk about orchids in the subtribe Pleurothallidinae – a group that contains over 4,000 species, representing some 16% of Orchidaceae. This hyper-diverse group is distributed in the Americas, from Florida to Argentina, and includes genera popular in cultivation, such as *Masdevallia*, *Restrepia*, *Dracula* and others. 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Contact Jane if you plan to join the group for dinner at the AFC at 6:00 pm.

## The Spring Show 2021

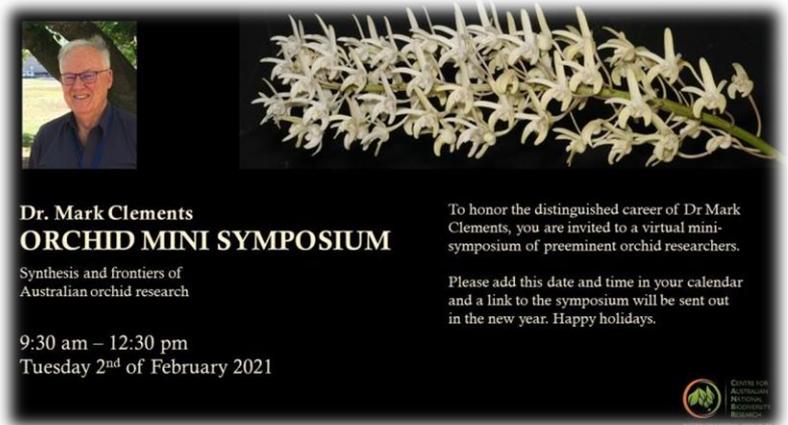
As previously mentioned, the committee is planning for a normal show, but If circumstances change, we will adjust accordingly. Jane Wright will be show convenor and is looking for members to join the show committee. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jane.

## Orchid Mini-Symposium – Now Available to Review Online

To honour the career of Dr Mark Clements (who recently retired) the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research hosted a virtual Orchid Mini-Symposium titled “Synthesis and frontiers of Australian orchid research,” in February.

If you missed it, or if you want to review any of the presentations, they are available online at the following link:

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



**Dr. Mark Clements**  
**ORCHID MINI SYMPOSIUM**  
Synthesis and frontiers of Australian orchid research  
9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Postponement of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show ‘For the Love of Orchids’



*For the LOVE OF ORCHIDS*  
**AOC 2021**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show**  
**POSTPONED**  
Now 31 August – 4 September 2022  
Stay up to date on our website:  
[www.aocc2021.org](http://www.aocc2021.org)

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It is with considerable regret that the AOCC planning committee has had to make the difficult decision to postpone the 22nd AOC Conference & Show by 12 months. This is due to ongoing uncertainty with respect to travel, borders, vaccination timelines, and social distancing for everyone’s safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new dates for the event are **31st August to 4 September 2022**.

On the positive side, the AOCC planning committee now has 18 months to plan for a fantastic event, with the probability that more people will be able to attend. Close off dates for various events and entries will of course also change, and these will be updated on the AOCC website <https://www.aocc2021.org> as soon as they are finalised.

The first change is to the **early bird registrations** which will now close 12 months later on 31 March 2022. Keep an eye on the website for further announcements. If you require further information, you can contact any member of the planning committee. Contact details are on the AOCC website.

## Culture tips March–April

- Reduce additional shade cloth as the days get shorter and the sun’s intensity declines.
- Water to ensure enough moisture for your growing conditions. But be careful of cooler nights for some groups, as wet feet in the cold can lead to fungal or bacterial problems. Ease back watering for those species that like

a winter rest or go dormant. Water your Australian terrestrials more regularly. Most will start to appear in March and April. Do not despair if you do not see anything, some species do not emerge until May.

- Place your *Phalaenopsis* moth orchids near a south facing window to let them get a cooler night. This will help with initiating flower spikes.
- Fertilise your plants while they are actively growing but consider easing back as growths finish maturing. Use a fertiliser that orchids can tolerate. Always follow the instructions.
- Check you have the right equipment for the approaching cold months. Do you need heaters or thermostats? Do the ones you have work? Will your plants survive where they are when the temperature gets to freezing? Do you need to insulate your growing area? Do you need a spare fan (before the shops no longer stock them)?
- Monitor for pests. Keep a close eye out for mites – they start to get active now. Use a magnifier and keep the humidity up to slow down their feeding. Consider spraying all your plants to reduce the chance of pests in winter.
- Bring your plant along to our next meeting if you are unsure how to care for it.
- Check out our book 'Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia' for more cultural tips.



*Stenoglottis woodii*, grown by Karen & Zoe Groeneveld  
Judges' Choice Specimen, February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)



*Coelandria victoria-reginae*, grown by Karen & Zoe Groeneveld  
Judges' Choice Species, February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)

## Minutes of General Meeting, 1 February 2021

Present: 32; Apologies: 3; Visitors: 2  
Meeting commenced 7:30pm, chaired by Vice-President, Andrea Robold, in the absence of Mike Pieloor.

Andrea thanked Karen Groeneveld for compiling the *Bulletin* and the photographic supplement. She urged members to keep to the requested formatting of photos and naming of the files – in particular the file names should have the name of the photographer and the plant which makes it a lot easier to keep track of many files.

Jane Wright and Andrea presented Bill Ferris with awards for cultural excellence and highly commended certificates from both the

Australian Orchid Council and the Orchid Society of NSW for his *Tetrabaculum tetragonum* 'Urunga' which won champion orchid at the society's Spring Show.

Audrey Rough commented that both Peter and Sheila (a life member and former president of the Society) Cudmore were going through difficult times health-wise and encouraged members to offer them support.

Andrea introduced Gary Yong Gee in the Zoom meeting to give his experiences and techniques in photographing orchids.

Gary noted digital photography was helpful in recording the location of orchids in the wild and their identification.

There were three technical factors in taking photos:

- The F stop – a low value meant large aperture, more light entering the camera and less depth of field, while a high value did the opposite
- Shutter speed – the slower the shutter speed the longer the camera had to be held steady. At least 1/60th of a second was necessary if hand holding the device
- ISO, the sensitivity of the camera, needs to be higher in lower light conditions, such as a forest.

Lighting arrangements depended on whether indoors or outdoors. Gary suggested using reflected light, especially for photographing downward hanging flowers, and using a ring flash when taking close ups of flowers.

Portrait or landscape should be varied to suit the situation, eg portrait for a tall flowering plant. The composition could be varied to improve the picture, eg rather than a flower only, include some leaf in the picture.

The background could be busy or neutral, depending on what the object of the shot was, eg a single flower or a bench of plants. Gary suggested the use of black backcloth for lighter coloured flowers and light coloured cloth for dark flowers.

Gary's final tips were:

- Know your equipment (ie read the manual)
- Be aware that the prevailing lighting (eg fluorescents) can affect the flower colour
- Watch focus, depth of field and avoid movement
- Choose the composition (portrait or landscape) that best suits
- Have minimal distraction in the photo.



*Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Golden Age x Phal Tying Shin Tarzan*  
Grown by Rob Rough. Judges' Choice Hybrid, February.  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)



*Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'*  
Grown by Nick Westerink.  
Orchid of the Night (Novice), February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)

In closing, Gary noted that OrchidWiz has a facility for storing your images and plant details, or there were other databases that could be used. During the tea break Zoe Groeneveld, David Judge, Derek Corrigan and Mark Fraser were available to provide advice/assistance to members wanting to improve their use of their photographic devices.

Andrea noted that the next meeting would be held at the AFC on Wednesday 3 March. The Society was still awaiting advice from the Church re availability and conditions of use because of the COVID situation. Also, contributions for the next Bulletin were due by 15 February.

Meeting concluded 9:30pm.

## Popular Vote Results: February 2021

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
<b>OPEN</b>			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Cadetia taylori</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Bua Luang	Robert Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Cattleya maxima; Lc Wakayama 'White Wedding Song'; Cattleya harrisoniana</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Vandachostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Vanda falcata</i> ; <i>Phal.</i> Tying Shin Golden Age x <i>Phal.</i> Tying Shin Tarzan	Robert Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Doritis regneriana; Phal bellina; Phal violacea f. coerulea.</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Stelis sp.</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Coelandria victoria-reginae</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Den macrophyllum; Den parthenium; Froscula fuerstenbergiana</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Jersey	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Bulb. elevatopuncaetum</i>		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria rufescens</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Stenoglottis longifolia</i>		
<b>NOVICE</b>			
18	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Brassidium</i> Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Vandachostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Vanda falcata</i>	Robert Rough
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Brassidium</i> Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	Nick Westerink
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Coelandria victoria-reginae</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Phal</i> Tying Shin Golden Age x <i>Phal</i> Tying Shin Tarzan	Robert Rough
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Stenoglottis woodii</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld

### Notes on the Orchid of the Night:

**Open section:** *Vandachostylis* Blue Fairy x *Vanda falcata*, grown by Robert Rough.

Rob bought this beautiful orchid as a seedling many years ago. For a long time it maintained a monopodial growth habit, flowering off a single central growth. A couple of years ago it sprouted side shoots, which also flowered to create an impressive display. Rob grows it as a hanging plant high up in the centre of his greenhouse, where it gets



*Vandachostylis Blue Fairy x Vanda falcata* (Detail)  
Grown by Rob Rough.  
Orchid of the Night (Open), February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)

flowers are designed to attract a particular wasp that lays its eggs on spiders. Once the wasp realises the “spider” is in fact a flower it moves on to the next flower, thus pollinating the plant. Nature can be very clever.

Thankfully, no wasps on my *Brassidium*! Mine grows in a greenhouse which has 2 layers of shade cloth. I learnt that trick from Bill or Jane I think (thank you J) after frying half my orchids in my first year as an orchid grower! They are much happier these days. So much so that this one gave me 12 flowers on the one spike and was rewarded by living inside my house for a couple of months so I could show it off to friends and family.

It grows in bark and I sit the pot on pebbles in a pot plant saucer filled with water to create additional humidity. It gets watered twice a week in summer and once in winter, with a weak feed of fertilizer every one or 2 weeks.



*Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'* (Detail)  
Grown by Nick Westerink.  
Orchid of the Night (Novice), February  
(Photo: Zoe Groeneveld)

lots of light and good air movement. The plant has not been repotted in a long time, surviving on aerial roots supported by, but no longer growing in, the pot. Rob waters (and rarely fertilises) the plant using a spray bottle. To reduce fungal attack, Rob keeps the humidity in his greenhouse on the low side. This is not a problem, as Vandas and Cattleyas are CAM plants, so tolerate much drier conditions during daylight hours. Rob heats the greenhouse in winter – the minimum temperature is about 8°C and the maximum is whatever the summer dishes out. However, the greenhouse enjoys the shade and climate conditioning provided by a large deciduous tree during summer; after leaf-fall in autumn, Rob covers the greenhouse with shadecloth – the opposite of what most of us do!

**Novice section: *Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'*, grown by Nick Westerink. Nick says:**

This is my first “Orchid of the Night” prize. Very exciting! We’ll ignore that the only competition was another orchid I entered! It has a commercial name of *Brassidium Golden Gamine 'White Knight'* and is a *Brassidium* hybrid created in 2006 between an *Oncidium sotoanum* and a *Brassidium Gilded Urchin*. *Brassidiums* are native to wet, tropical forests in Central and South America. The spider-like

## Conservation Group Report

**By Derek Corrigan**

Since our last Bulletin report and Society Meeting, the conservation group was back in the Tumbarumba area assisting with the Fire Affected Orchids Project being conducted by the Cranbourne Gardens and Latrobe University. In just 2 days over 4000 *Paraprasophyllum* orchids were counted in those swamps being surveyed. These same swamps were also visited in early December to survey for 2 different species of *Paraprasophyllum* and is an important location for several special species. While these are private properties, the owners work with

## March-April 2021

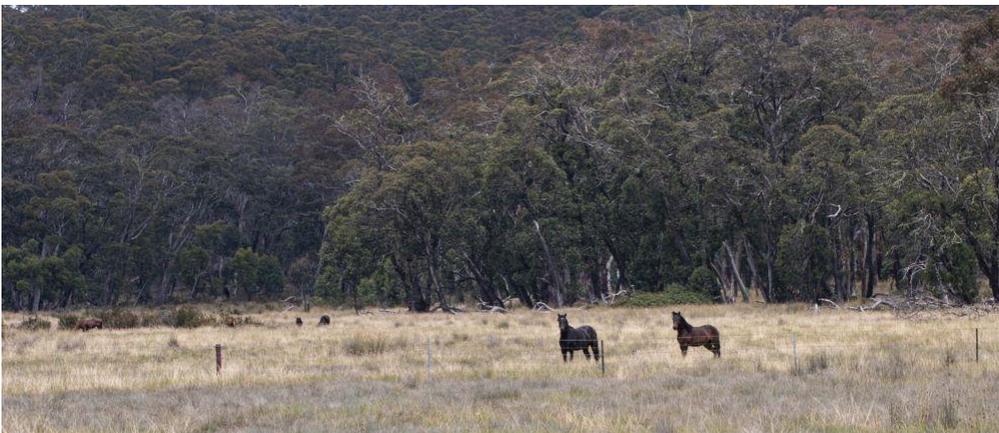
Government agencies and in some cases special fences have been provided to exclude brumbies from these sensitive areas. On our return a second visit to the Mt Gingera area was organized at truly short notice. With a key to the Mt Ginini gate and a radio collected from the Cotter Ranger station we made an early start out along the Mount Franklin Road in search of those white flowering *Paraprasophyllum* species we had been too early for on our last visit. It proved a long and rewarding day with several species found but more about them at a future date. The Fires started in the Namadgi on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> January last year and burnt for much of February, so it's likely that those orchids flowering now would have been directly impacted by the fires. Knowing the full impact of the 2020 fires will take many years to ascertain while the cycle of regrowth plays out.

The conservation group is now in a particularly good position to make a significant contribution in exploring the recovery process by identifying and adopting several areas to document their developments over time.



Finding a way back through the swamp after surveying the orchids on the far side.

(Photos: Derek Corrigan)



Being closely watched by the Brumbies from behind the exclusion fence.

(Photo: Derek Corrigan)