



## Committee Members

<b>President:</b>	Bill Ferris	0428 639 778
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Andrea Robold	0418 241 694
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jane Wright	0406 379 054
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jenny Cooke	0419 497 078
<b>Committee:</b>	Elisa Pavlic	0459 125 907
	Krysi Szkiela	0421 636 324
	Brenda Thomson	0414 979 764

## Other Roles

Public Officer	Peter Coyne
Bulletin Editor	Geoff Dyne
Web Master	Bill Ferris
Conservation Officer	Derek Corrigan
Scientific Advisor	Mark Clements
Photography & Art	Zoe Groeneveld
New Member Coordinator	Jacqui Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table	Yvonne Day
& Door Prizes	Audrey Rough
Popular Vote	Jacqui Bannerman
Coordinators	Jacqui Turner
Benching Officer	Mark Fraser
Judges Choice	Robyn Noel
	Krysi Szkiela
	Jane Wright
Librarian	Andrea Robold
Social Media	Mark Fraser
	Zoe Groeneveld
Sales Table	Jane Wright
	Brenda Thompson

## Society meetings

While not in lockdown, meetings are 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

**On Wednesday 2 March 2022** a regular face-to-face meeting will be held at **7:30 pm at the Ainslie Football Club**. Craig Miles will be giving a presentation on Flowering *Miltoniopsis*. Craig will be bringing plants and flasks for purchase.

## Upcoming Events

**The Horticultural Society of Canberra's Autumn Show** is on 5 -6<sup>th</sup> March at Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre, National Circuit, Forrest from 11.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday and from 11.00am to 3.15pm on Sunday. See the schedule at [www.hsoc.org.au/activities-and-events/#flowershows](http://www.hsoc.org.au/activities-and-events/#flowershows)

### Orchid Society April Meeting

**Topic:** *Orchid Experiments during COVID*

**Presenter:** Jan Robinson. COVID created various issues for orchid growers with limited meetings and shows. Hear what Jan tried with orchids during this difficult period.

www.canberraorchids.org  
 Email: info@canberraorchids.org  
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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 Geoff Dyne at [gdynes@home.com.au](mailto:gdynes@home.com.au)  
**Deadline** for May-June edition is Wed 22 April 2022.

## From the President

An almost normal meeting is planned for 2 March at the Ainslie Football Club. I say almost because wearing of masks in clubs is still required (at time of writing). While mentioning the March meeting, I encourage members to check out Craig Miles website ([www.orchidsofdistinction.com.au](http://www.orchidsofdistinction.com.au)) and the range of orchids and orchid growing supplies he has available. I suggest if there is anything you would like, place an order with Craig so you can be sure of acquiring the item/s at the meeting. There are many products used in orchid growing and it is unrealistic to expect the club to stock supplies of all these items.

In the previous *Bulletin* we outlined the option for members to bench plant images at meetings where the plant was too large/difficult to transport or had flowered within the month. We welcome benching of images of such plants.

An early notice that we will need to find a new treasurer for next financial year. Jane has served us well as treasurer since 2019-20 financial year. However, under the club rules a member can only serve in an executive position for three consecutive years (these positions are not meant to be a life sentence). The role of treasurer has become less of a burden with the use of point-of-sale devices and internet banking, so if anyone is interested in the role and would like to learn more of what is involved, please feel free to discuss with Jane.

As COVID restrictions have eased we can look forward to the return of flower shows and our society is no exception. The AFC has been booked and our usual vendors are keen to attend, good news for our members and to the public who usually attend.

The relatively mild and less dry summer has been more conducive to orchid growing and I hope your plants have also shown lots of new growth. It is also good to see the shoots of various native terrestrials appearing and many of our members showing interest in these interesting and charming plants.

And on the subject of flower shows, I encourage members to display plants at the Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn flower Show on 5-6 March – details under Upcoming Events.

### **Membership subscriptions are due soon**

The membership year begins 1 May, so renewal of membership subscriptions is due by then.

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

You may pay Treasurer Jane Wright at meetings, or pay by direct transfer to our bank account:

**Orchid Society of Canberra Inc. (Westpac Bank BSB: 032719 Account Number: 620848) with your surname in the bank's 'reference' field.**

## Cultural tips for 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 methods or talk to other members if you need help.



February Judges' choice – hybrid: *Rhyncattleanthe* Rosella's Lovely Angel. Grower: Andrea Robold

## Minutes of General Meeting, 5 February 2022

Present: 21 members, 0 visitors

Apologies: 0

Zoom Meeting commenced at 2.38pm.

President Bill Ferris opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the first meeting for 2022 held via Zoom.

Members were advised at the outset that the meeting was being video recorded.

## March-April 2022

Bill advised that:

- Craig Miles (Orchids of Distinction) would present at the March meeting at the Ainslie Football Club, COVID-dependent. Further information to follow.
- No South and West Regional Clubs' workshop to be held this year.
- New arrangements to be trialled at the March meeting for viewing orchids that aren't in flower or too difficult to transport; information to be provided in the *Bulletin*.

### **Presentation by Derek Corrigan - Orchid Conservation in the ACT**

Derek provided a comprehensive presentation on the history of the Conservation Group and its activities including:

- the recognised need for a special interest group to be focused on the protection and conservation of native orchids.
- ACT Government Grant to survey the orchid recovery following the Namadgi fires in January 2020 as its first project.
- the challenges faced i.e. poor access to data records and a large area to cover although with special access to the closed Namadgi Park and with new contacts, friends and members.
- Some of the important listed species found and other species of special interest
- a summary of the Project outcomes; and
- current, ongoing and future projects including a baseline orchid survey of Gorooyaroo and development of Field Identification Guides.

The Conservation Group welcomes your interest in, or future involvement with its conservation activities. For further details, please contact Derek (derek.corrigan@bigpond.com.)

A video of Derek's full presentation and PowerPoint slides can be viewed on the members' page of the website.

### **Other matters**

Bill presented the popular vote results for the virtual benching. He noted that orchid names are often a problem – there are often arguments about the names accepted by KEW.

### **Next Meeting**

2 March at the Ainslie Football Club if there was no worsening of the COVID situation.

Meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

#### **Tag Tips**

Have any used tags with labels but the labels are no longer appropriate? These can be cleaned up and re-used:

- If the label is in texta, try using nail cleaner, acetone or Aeroguard©
- If the label is in pencil, use a pencil eraser.

March-April 2022

Popular Vote Results: February 2022

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
<b>OPEN</b>			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Gherkin	Lynne and Brian Phelan
	<i>Others Benched: Dock (fuliginosa x Goosebumps) x hepatica, Den Yondi Star</i>		
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Spiranthes australis</i>	Bob Forrester
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Rosella's Lovely Angel	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: Enc guatemalensis x Enc Prolific, C purpurata var carnea 'Brazil', C purpurata var semi-alba x var Rosea, C purpurata h.f. striata, Laeliocattleya Wakayama 'White Wedding Song', Brassocattleya Yellow Bird, Prosthechea Green Hornet 'Buttons'</i>		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng Eagle	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Paph Vanda M Pearman, Paph Gary Romagna</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Vanda coerulea</i> , <i>Vanda</i> Miss Joaquim	Andrea Robold Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Angraecum scottianum, Phal violacea var coerulea</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Herr Alexandre	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Aliceara Marfitch 'Howards Dream', Trichocentrum pumilum</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia caesia</i> 'Kingston'	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched nil</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Den chryseum</i> ,	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: Coelandria victoriae-reginae</i>		
10	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne usitania</i>	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum appendiculatum</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Bulbophyllum Wilmar Galaxy Star</i>		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Ben & Xiaomei Wallace
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Thunia bensoniae</i>	Tony Tritschler
	<i>Others Benched: Stenoglottis woodii</i>		
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Stanhopea spindleriana</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Stanhopea tigrina</i>		
<b>NOVICE</b>			
17	Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i> x <i>Cattleya purpurata</i>	Richard Mayoh
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
18	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown <i>Phalaenopsis</i> 'Sogo Sunshine'	Yvonne Day Jacqui & Claire Turner
	<i>Others Benched: Phalaenopsis Unknown</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Stanhopea hernandezii</i>	Jacqui & Claire Turner
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng Eagle	Mike Pieloor
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown <i>Stanhopea hernandezii</i>	Nick Westerink Jacqui & Claire Turner
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Angraecum scottianum</i>	Bill Ferris
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Rosella's Lovely Angel	Andrea Robold
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Trichocentrum pumilum</i>	Bill Ferris



February Popular Vote – novice orchid of the night:  
*Stanhopea hernandezii*

### Advancement from Novice to Open

Congratulation to 3 members who progressed from Novice to Open in specific groups of orchids after their success in winning a first prize at last year's show. Richard Mayoh is now Novice except for Australian Natives, Julia Hu is Novice except for Cymbidium, and Nick Westerink is Novice except for Any Other Orchid.

The complete list of members and their benching sections is now available in the members' section of the website.

## Comments from Growers of Winning Plants at the February Virtual Benching

### Popular Vote Orchid of the Night - Open

*Paphiopedilum* Hung Sheng Eagle  
Grower Mike Pieloor



*Nursing a sick orchid*

I purchased a three-year-old seedling of *Paphiopedilum* Hung Sheng Eagle for a king's ransom in January 2019. One week after arriving, the plant got very sick (see photo showing rot and possible bacterial infection). Panicked, I cut back leaves and treated with everything I could.

It happened again a week later and so I cut back a second time. It was a slow road to recovery, but after 12 months, the plant finally took off. It flowered for the first time this year at just over 6 years old. You certainly need to have patience for the multifloral *paphiopedilums*



Finally, success!

I use more inorganic material for my paphs than most growers. My mix includes scoria, expanded clay balls, perlite and only about 20% Orchiata bark. However, I water more heavily too.

I grew this one bright and warm. The flowers lasted about 8 weeks but have now finished. I hope it produces a new growth soon, so I can mature it and get another flower again in two to three years. Did I mention patience?

### Judges Choice Specimen of the Night

*Trichocentrum pumilum*

Grower Bill Ferris



I have found this to be an 'easy' to grow and delightful miniature orchid. The flowers are small, less than 5mm, but produced in abundance and when grown well the flowers cover the plant. Flowers last 2-3 weeks with little perfume. The plant is growing in bark in an 80mm pot.

Described as *Oncidium pumilum* by Lindley in 1875, the currently accepted genus name is *Trichocentrum* (2001, Chase and Williams).

The literature indicates that it is native to

Brazil and possibly Uruguay and Argentina. In the wild it is reported as growing in deep shade, cool to warm with strong seasonal variation in rainfall.

My experience is a little different. Mine grows in an unheated greenhouse (lined with bubble wrap) and covered with 50% shade cloth in summer. Can be hung high in the greenhouse although leaves may then take on a bronze tinge. I tend to over-water in summer and reduce watering in the cooler weather.

### Conservation Group

Derek Corrigan

The Conservation Group keenly look forward to a lifting of recent COVID restrictions and a return to a more normal activity planning future. This late summer/autumn flowering has proved very rewarding for finding many orchid species with two rare species we had not been able to locate following the fires, now located in recent weeks. Both *Corunastylis turfosa* and *Diplodium fischii* populations have now been recorded. Other species of interest also found included *Diplodium coccinum* and *Diplodium atrans*.

The Conservation Group recently made a submission in support of maintaining and protecting the orchid diverse remnant bush at the current edge of the Molonglo Urban Development called Bluett's Block.

## March-April 2022

Members may also be interested to read our submission to the ACT Government report into volunteering and its value in the ACT at 'Treasure hunting for the jewels of the bush'

<https://actenvirovolunteers.com.au/on-ground/treasure-hunting-for-the-jewels-of-the-bush/>

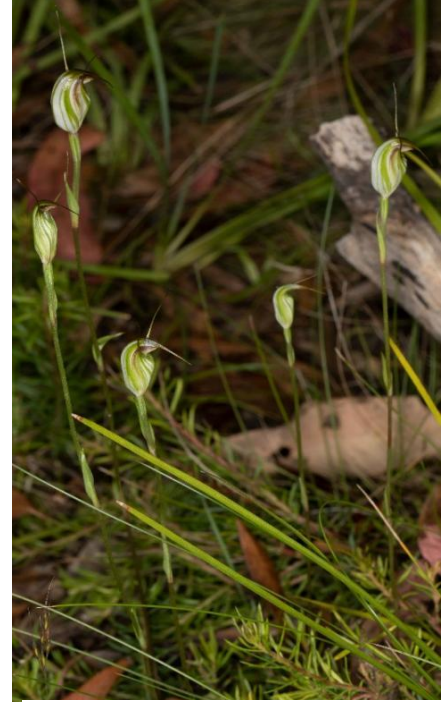
and you may wish to explore this report further as well as contributions by other volunteer groups.



*Corunastylis turfosa*



*Diplodidium fischii*



*Diplodidium fischii* group



*Diplodidium atrans*



*Diplodidium coccinum*



*Diplodidium coccinum* group

### Benching Trial

It is unfortunate that some very interesting orchids are not brought to meetings for benching. These are typically plants that are difficult to transport such as large specimens, orchids that have pendulous flowers and orchids that have a short flower life (the one-day wonders) or are not in flower on the meeting date. If any member has a



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plant like this and is prepared to have an open greenhouse they are welcome to let us know ([info@canberraorchids.org](mailto:info@canberraorchids.org)) and an invite can be sent to all members by email. Images and articles are also always welcome for the *Bulletin*.

This does not, however, solve the issue that such plants are not benched and considered in the popular vote. While the recent use of a virtual bench has worked satisfactorily, there would be practical difficulties combining virtual images on people's devices (if they have one) and live plants at meetings for doing the popular vote. The committee has concluded that accepting printed digital or photographic images of the plants on the bench may be the best approach.

The proposed arrangements are:

1. *The images/photos are taken in the period since the last benching.*
2. *The images should include at least:*
  - *One image of the flower or raceme as appropriate.*
  - *One image of the whole plant, preferably with a measuring instrument or comparable object to determine size.*
3. *Each image is to be printed in colour and all images to be mounted on the same sheet of cardboard or solid substance no larger than A3 size.*
4. *Each entry is to be placed vertically in the appropriate section to be judged together with the usual identification slip.*

These arrangements will be trialled at the March meeting, COVID permitting.

### **New Treasurer needed!**

Though our AGM is not due to the middle of the year, some four or so months away, Jane will have served three consecutive terms at the end of this financial year. According to the articles of the Constitution, that is the maximum period for anyone to occupy that position in succession. So, good people, we need you to start pondering whether you might help the club by taking on this position.

Have a think about it.



And see you at the AGM!