



Committee Members

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Web Master	Bill Ferris
Conservation Officer	Derek Corrigan
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New Member Coordinator	Jacque Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day
Popular Vote	Audrey Rough
Coordinators	Jacque Bannerman
	Jacqui Turner
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	Krysia Szkiela
	Jane Wright
Librarian	Andrea Robold
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Social Media	Jane Wright
Sales Table	Jane Wright
	Brenda Thompson

Society meetings

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

7.30pm on 1 March 2023, Ainslie Football Club. Our guest speaker Michael Coker will reveal how he grows a mixed orchid collection.

5 April – various members will tell what they do in **Preparing for Winter**.

Upcoming Events

4-5 March - **Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn flower show**, Fitzroy Building, EPIC

29-30 April - **South and West Region Orchid Workshop** - hosted by the Orchid Society of Canberra at the Ainslie Football Club

26-28 May – **Orchids Out West**, Hawkesbury Race Club

24-25 June – **Mingara Orchid Fair**, Mingara Recreation Club

www.canberraorchids.org
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Contributions to the next Bulletin

Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome and should be emailed to Geoff Dyne at gdyne@homemail.com.au.
Deadline for May - June edition is 22 April 2023

Reminder!

The Canberra Orchid Society is hosting the 2023 South and West Region Orchid Workshop

Date: 29th and 30th April 2023

Time: 10:30am – 5:30pm Saturday

10:00am – 1:00pm Sunday

Venue: Ainslie Football Club

52 Wakefield Avenue Ainslie ACT

Cost: \$70 (includes workshop meals).

Saturday optional dinner \$48.

The workshop will feature presentations and plant and product sale by Scott Barrie (Barrita Orchids) and Craig Miles (Orchids of Distinction) as well as a special presentation by Mark Clements on the classification of dendrobiums.

Further information and registration form is on the Society website page
(www.canberraorchids.org/workshop) (or email: workshop@canberraorchids.org)

Please Note: registrations close 14 April

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 Bob Forrester at meetings, or pay by direct transfer to our bank account:

Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.

BSB: 032719

Account Number: 620848

with your surname in the bank's 'reference' field and advise treasurer@canberraorchids.org.

From the President

Our first meeting of the year was well attended and featured an excellent presentation by Jane and Mark (with contributions from Anne and Roger) on their excursion to Ecuador last August. The orchids and bird-life were most interesting. An overview of their presentation is in this *Bulletin* and the slides of the presentation are on the Member page of the website.

Coming up on 4-5th March is the Horticultural Society Autumn Show. This is being held in the Fitzroy Stadium at EPIC. Members are encouraged to enter orchids in the Show. The Society will also have a sales table at the Show.

While still some time off, I ask readers of this *Bulletin* to consider registering for the South and West Regional Workshop we are hosting on 29/30 April. We have three interesting speakers, and the two nurseries will have a wide range of plants and products for sale. Further details are on our website.

A very early reminder that our financial year ends 30th April and membership renewals will be due then. Our annual general meeting will be on 7th June and at this stage we will have two vacant positions on the committee to fill. If you are interested in helping to organise society activities, please think about nominating. Committee membership involves meetings, often by Zoom or at a committee members home, about the middle of each month plus whatever tasks you would like to volunteer for. Talk to me or any current Committee members if you would like to know more about what is involved.

I notice there is now green shoots popping up in some of the terrestrial orchid pots and a few flowers. I hope mine are safer than those in Kings Park.

The theft of tubers of two rare terrestrial orchids from Kings Park in Perth has been reported in various news sources (eg Canberra Times 20th February 2023, '*Flower-driven "madness" behind rare orchid black market*', p14).

These orchids were being propagated to find ways to increase breeding and help conserve the species. Reportedly all the tubers were taken! As members would be aware native orchids are protected species and should not be taken from the wild (even more so a research facility) without appropriate authority. However, Mike Pieloor, in his presentation at our November meeting, indicated how hard it was to get the appropriate authority even when rare terrestrial orchids were endangered by the construction of a road. I suggest a more ready availability of terrestrial orchids from legitimate sources may reduce the temptation for wild collection (and theft) especially of rare species.

Hobby orchid growers would be keen to play a larger role in the propagation and conservation of native orchids. Our members have shown considerable interest in growing and propagating the terrestrial tubers we obtain legally through the ANOS Victoria tuber bank.

The theft of rare orchids, especially from a research body, cannot be condoned.

Bill Ferris

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* 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 heater (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 Society's book *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia* for more cultural tips.

Minutes of General Meeting, 1st February 2022

Present: 54 (including one new member); Apologies: 8; Visitors: 1.

Meeting held at the Ainslie Football Club.

Meeting opened 7:30pm.

Bill welcomed everyone to the new orchid society year and thanked Anne and Mark, and Karen and Zoe for hosting workshops which were well attended. Then he handed over to Jane Wright and Mark Clements for their presentation on a trip to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador. Jane and Mark thanked Roger and Anne for the beautiful photos they contributed to the presentation they were about to show.

Presentation: Orchids and other Adventures in Ecuador

Santa Cruz muddy orchid Hunters



Mark Clements, Roger Williams, Anne Mackenzie, Helen Richards

After a change of planes in Santiago, Chile, they went to Ecuador, a country that shows climatic diversity. There is a clear difference in climate in the Amazon, the spine of the Andes, the Guayaquil lowlands and Galapagos.

They started in the Guayaquil lowland where they saw their first orchids and iguanas. In the mangroves, there were spoonbills, and a native terrestrial orchid, *Oeceoclades maculata*.

They next visited some of the Galapagos islands, starting in San Cristobal where they encountered a giant tortoise and wet volcanic ash.

They continued on their boat tour to Espanola/Gardner bay where some people went snorkelling, seeing rays, turtles, and a variety of

fish. On land, there was a Galapagos sea lion who was rather territorial as well as mockingbirds.

The next stop on Espanola was Suarez point where they saw an American oystercatcher (the bird, not a seaman), Nazca booby, red marine iguana, brown pelican, frigatebird, Sally light foot crabs and a wave albatross.

Next it was back on the boat to Floreana where the bird life continued to be spectacular: a striated heron, white faced pintail, Galapagos flamingo, Darwin's finch, warblers, swallow tailed hill (the only nocturnal species known to date), Galapagos owl and blue-footed booby were on the list of observed birds.

Vanilla



[photo: Roger Williams]

get down the Napo River for a couple of hours in a speedboat and the last part in a canoe. On or next to the river, there was a lot of wildlife: long nosed bat, black caiman, giant river otters, hoatzin (hurray for Jane who always wanted to see one), red howler monkey, southern tamandua, blue macaw and golden mantled tamarin.

The group stayed at the Napo Wildlife Centre Ecolodge. The consensus was that it was just fantastic! In particular, the highly knowledgeable indigenous guides made this an absolute highlight, and they assured us they wouldn't have seen the number of animals and plants if it were not for those guides. Pygmy owls and capuchin monkeys were there and very tall Ceibo trees with many, many different epiphytic species, including stanhopea type orchids, maxillarias, epidendrum and *Laelia gloriosa* or *splendida*, the latter of which grew in full sun. *Cochleanthes flabelliformis* was another highly interesting orchid species that was identified. They went back on the Napo River to Tena which is on the edge of the Amazon. They saw various species of orchid, including *Stelis*, *Vanilla* and a variety of pleurothallids with very interesting characteristics.

Once in the Andes, at Cabanas San Isidro, there was a different complement of plants, including species of *Cyrtorchilum* (with very long inflorescences), *Lepanthes* and *Maxillaria*.

On the next stop, Santiago and Bartolome, solidified lava flow was visible with lava cactus, carpetweed, and grasshoppers as the first life forms to establish on this very young island. The Galapagos penguin that occurs there is the only penguin species that lives north of the equator.

During the next stop, Santa Cruz, *Scalesia* forests were visible from the lodge. This is a rather wet forest, with a lot of mist and rain (careful not to fall! You might not be able to get up because it is too slippery). It is an older island with higher altitude than some of the ones they visited earlier. This was reflected in the diversity: there was a wide variety of plants growing on the trees, for example, various *Epidendrum* species, *Ionopsis utricularioides*, *Pescottia* species, *Cranichis* species, but also club mosses etc.

The vegetation was different in *Miconia* forests where they spotted a Galapagos tortoise.

Next up was a visit to the Yasuni National Park in the Amazon Basin in the northeast of Ecuador where rivers were highways. This area is not accessible by car, and all items needed for building etc. must be transported into the area either on foot or by boat. To get to this area, they first had to

Hoatzin



[photo: Roger Williams]

Caucaea Species



[photo: Roger Williams]

At an altitude of about 3200m, the Termas de Papillacta had hot spring pools. The area is well known for its cut-flower rose production. The team visited the rose plantings and the massive sorting hall in which the cut-flowers are graded and packaged. Reed stem epidendrums and *stelis* species were seen in this area. *Epidendrum coryophorum* was one species that was identified.

The next step on the trip was a visit to the Hacienda Zuleta (alt approximately 2000m). This place used to be a ranch, but the owners had given up cattle running completely and devoted this area to conservation. Andean condors and eucalyptus with bromeliads could be seen. A variety of native terrestrial orchids grew there, including *Cyclopogon* and *Aa denticulata*.

They travelled back down to Otavalo where they paid the colourful markets a visit.

At the Laguna Cuicocha they again observed a variety of orchids.

Finally, they arrived at Quito where they visited the botanical garden. Mark was very excited to see a *Cranichis* species, an orchid belonging to the tribe Cranichidae. This genus is the closest relative to *Pterostylis*!

Other Business

Bill invited those who had not been able to come to the Christmas Party to take first pick at the give-away table. There were lots of blueberries for sale from Anne, also various items on the Society table.

After the tea break, Bill informed members that the committee is looking to change supplies operations to reduce the amount of stock we hold. Members were informed that we will be circulating a supply list, then order what members want, and bring the supplies in once they arrive.

Jane mentioned she is able to buy from the Garden City Plastics website. However, the minimum order is \$500. If you need a lot of pots, notify Jane and she'll organise an order.

Bill also called for support for updating or enhancing the website. If you'd like to learn how he keeps the website up and running and to assist, please speak to him.

The Horticultural Society Show is on the 1st weekend in March at the Fitzroy pavilion at EPIC where Jane will be organising a stall for society members. Members were reminded to put their flowering orchids into the show.

Bill reminded people of the repotting workshop on Saturday at his place as we had been given large orchids, mainly coelogynes, cymbidiums and dendrobiums. These needed dividing and repotting.

Bill talked about our Society hosting the regional workshop in April and referred to the details in the bulletin. The program and registration form were available on our website.

He also mentioned that the Society will put a display in the regional orchid show in Cobargo on the weekend of 30 September - 1 October this year.

Meeting closed 9.00pm.

New Member

Welcome to Oliver Sear, who has joined as a junior member. Also welcome to Simon Barry who has renewed his membership after several years break

Popular Vote Results: February 2023

#	Class Name		Plant	Owner
OPEN				
2	Australian Terrestrial		<i>Spiranthes australis</i>	Bob Forrester
		<i>Others Benched: Caladenia fuscata</i>		
4	Laeliinae		<i>Prosthechea</i> Green Hornet 'Buttons'	Andrea Robold
		<i>Others Benched: Encyclia guatamalensis</i> x <i>E.Prolific</i> ; <i>Epidendrum</i> Tomorrow Valley 'Tropical Yellow'		
5	Paphiopedilum		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Susan Booth 'Paracombe'	David Judge
		<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae		<i>Schoenorchis juncifolia</i>	Bill Ferris
		<i>Others Benched: Phalaenopsis</i> OX Shoe of Queen; <i>Phalaenopsis</i> Sunlands Wonderful Fireworks; <i>Phal. pulchra</i> ; <i>Vandachostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Vanda falcata</i> ; <i>Vanda</i> . Sansai Blue; <i>Phal.</i> Hybrid Unknown		
7	Oncidiinae		<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Robert Jackson 'Wild Thing'	Jane Wright
		<i>Others Benched: Miltoniopsis</i> Rubenesque 'Brockton'		
8	Pleurothallidinae		<i>Dracula sodiroi</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
		<i>Others Benched: Pleurothallis</i> sp; <i>Restrepia</i> sp.; <i>Octomeria grandiflora</i> .		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae		<i>Durabaculum busuangense</i>	Mark Clements
		<i>Others Benched: . Coelandria victoriae-reginae; Epigeneium nakaharaei.</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae		<i>Bulbophyllum levyae</i>	Mark Clements
		<i>Others Benched: Bulbophyllum</i> Wilmar Galaxy Star		
12	Maxillariinae		<i>Maxillaria cucullata</i>	Bill Ferris
		<i>Others Benched: Maxillaria</i> sp		
14	Any Other Orchid		<i>Gongora galeata</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
		<i>Others Benched: Stanhopea nigroviolacea; Oberonia myosurus; Promenaea Samsu</i>		
<i>No Novice orchids benched</i>				
OPEN Orchid of the Night			<i>Vanda</i> Sansai Blue	Jane Wright
			<i>Bulbophyllum levyae</i>	Mark Clements
			<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Susan Booth 'Paracombe'	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Species			<i>Bulbophyllum levyae</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Hybrid			<i>Vandachostylis</i> Blue Fairy x <i>Vanda falcata</i>	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Specimen			<i>Schoenorchis juncifolia</i>	Bill Ferris



February Orchid of the night (equal first)
Vanda Sansai Blue, grown by Jane Wright

This is an old *Vanda* hybrid, having been registered in 1985. It is basically composed of *Vanda sanderiana* and *Vanda coerulea*, with a tiny portion of *Vanda tricolor* 5 generations back at the beginning. It has the colour and net veins of *Vanda coerulea*. The petals are flat rather than twisted due to *Vanda sanderiana*.

I have had this orchid for at least 15 years – details are lost in the mists of time. I grow it in my bright hot house, hung up high and it flowers reliably. It should have more flowers on the raceme, and I need to find a way to fertilise it better to achieve that.

Jane Wright



February Orchid of the night (equal first)
Paphiopedilum Susan Booth 'Paracombe',
grown by David Judge

P. Susan Booth is a primary hybrid between *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* and *P. glanduliferum*. There are many named varieties and numerous awards associated with them. This plant of the variety 'Paracombe', grown by David, was awarded an FCC by the Australian Orchid Council in 2018.

Geoff Dyne



An attractive miniature orchid, common in Borneo, Java and Sumatra. It grows hanging down from tree branches. The climate where it grows is reportedly warm and humid through most of the year.

It seems content in my greenhouse protected from frost and mostly shaded with humidity above 50% most of the time. Hot weather is not a problem with adequate humidity.

It has been fairly slow-growing – it has been on the tree fern slab for about a decade but flowers each year.

Bill Ferris

February Judges' Choice – Specimen
Schoenorchis juncifolia, grown by Bill Ferris



February Orchid of the night (equal first)
Bulbophyllum levyae, grown by Mark Clements

Bulbophyllum levyae is found in New Guinea at elevations around 800 metres. It was named in 1995 after Joan Levy (1926-2012), an American orchid enthusiast who collected and photographed orchids in New Guinea, Indonesia and South America, and introduced new species into cultivation, including this *Bulbophyllum*.

Geoff Dyne



February Judges' Choice – Hybrid
Vandachostylis Blue Fairy x *Vanda falcata*,
grown by Rob Rough



February Laeliinae popular vote
Prosthechea Green Hornet 'Buttons', grown by
Andrea Robold