



Volume 39 Number 2

Mar - Apr 2024

Bulletin

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Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day
Popular Vote	Audrey Rough
Coordinators	Jacque Bannerman
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Social Media	Mark Fraser
	Zoe Groeneveld
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	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

6 March Lewis Choy will talk about the Canberra Nature Map (NatureMapr)

3 April – to be confirmed

Note: Membership fees due 1 May

Upcoming Events

2-3 March Horticultural Society Autumn Show, Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC

9-10 March South and West Regional Orchid Workshop, hosted by the Shoalhaven Orchid Society, Nowra

17-19 May Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon

21-22 September Canberra Orchid Society Show Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC

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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 - Jun edition is 20 April.

From the President

What a summer we have had. The relatively mild and moist conditions have been enjoyed by the orchids, although a hot spell in March is not uncommon. It is great to see leaves of the native terrestrials emerge and strong growth on the dendrobiums and cymbidiums.

Hopefully members will have some orchids in bloom to enter in the Horticultural Society Autumn Show at EPIC on 2-3 March. The Society will also have a sales table at the show providing the opportunity to unload any surplus plants before winter. Please contact Jane Wright if you want to sell plants.

An interesting and informative presentation by Zoe Groeneveld on the work being done to preserve the orchid collection at the National Herbarium. The maintenance of specimens and genetic material is important in view of the loss of plants in the wild. Also important is knowledge of where orchids are in the wild. To this end projects such as NatureMapr can play a vital role. Lewis Choy will tell us about this at the March meeting.

Brian Dear, with contributions from Jane and Karen, has put together an informative article on plant labels which is included in this Bulletin. It is a good guide especially for those selling plants.

Our AGM is in June and the major item will be the election of committee for 2024-25. Under the terms of our constitution, a member can only serve in the same executive position (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) for a maximum of three consecutive years. This means the position of President and Secretary will become vacant. I encourage members to consider standing for a position on the committee, especially newer members who could bring a new perspective in committee deliberations.

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, 7 February 2024

Meeting commenced 7.40pm

Present: 50 members, Visitors: 4, Apologies: 7 members

Bill Ferris, President opened the meeting by welcoming members and visitors to the meeting.

Bill asked members to think about topics they would like to see covered at future meetings. Members could provide their feedback by either completing the questionnaire attached to the January 2024 bulletin or fill out the

form that Krysia was circulating at the night's meeting. Bill also called for volunteers who may be willing to present on a topic of interest at a future meeting noting the vast experience of orchid growers in the Society. Bill introduced Zoe Groeneveld to deliver her presentation on 'Orchids at the Australian National Herbarium'.

Presentation by Zoe Groeneveld - Orchids at the Australian National Herbarium.

Zoe delivered a very interesting presentation on her work as a curatorial technician and lab/field assistant with the Canberra Collections Accommodation Project at the Australian National Herbarium, CSIRO.

Zoe discussed the features of the four main collections:

Pressed specimens - approximately 1.2 million specimens of which approx 34,000 are orchids.

Fluid specimens - about 27,000 specimens mostly from Australian and PNG of which approximately 15,000 specimens are orchids.

Floral Cards - approx 13,000 specimens with this technique specifically designed for orchids providing DNA sampling.

Living specimens - cultivated in greenhouses with the Epiphytes at the Australian Botanic Gardens and terrestrials at CSIRO.

Zoe discussed the techniques, advantages and challenges of storing and maintaining each collection including the difficulties in transferring fluid specimens previously stored in formaldehyde to a safer alternative stored in distilled water.

The Australian National Herbarium, in collaboration with Picturae, has completed digitising the collections, with the intention of making the specimens and data freely available around the world for science, education and conservation purposes at a future date. Zoe noted that data is publicly available through the Atlas of Living Australia at <https://www.ala.org.au/>.

A copy of Zoe's presentation will be available on the Society's website soon. Thank you to Zoe for sharing her work with our Society.

Other matters

Tuber bank - Mike Pieloor advised that he had received the Society's order from the ANOS Vic's tuber bank although could they could not fill all the orders. Mike advised that there were several tubers left over and for members to see him if they were interested.

Horticultural Society of Canberra Show – 2 and 3 Mar 24. Jane discussed the upcoming show and requested members enter their orchids into the show. She mentioned that our Society will be having a sales table at the show where members can sell their plants (not restricted to orchids). Jane advised that members selling plants will be expected to be in attendance. Jane also noted that our Society Shirts were available to tonight's meeting to purchase.

Acceptance of minutes of General Meeting November 2023

Moved by Andrea Robold

Seconded by Mark Fraser

Christmas Party for 2024 - Bill advised that due to conflicting bookings with the AFC, the Society's Christmas party would be brought forward a week this year to Wednesday, 27 November 2024. He also noted that the Committee will be looking at more meal options.

South and West Region Orchid Workshop, Nowra 9/10 Mar. Jane advised that further information and registration details are in the Jan/Feb *Bulletin*. She encourages people to attend noting there will be good speakers and great plants for sale. Jane advised that at this time there would be unlikely to be enough Canberra members going to warrant booking a house for the group therefore you will need to book your own accommodation.

2024 Society Show - Bill advised that plans were firming up for this year's show which will be held at the Fitzroy Pavilion, EPIC. We will potentially have a much larger attendance and our Society will be the only group running a raffle. There will be no stamps for entry and we will need new security arrangements in place. We will also need new roadside signs. Jane noted that we will have the back half of the Fitzroy Pavilion, the same vendors and we

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will need more support from our members. If members wear their shirts, they will be easily identifiable. Jane also mentioned that there will be much more room for plants sales.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Meeting closed 9.10 pm

Horticultural Society of Canberra Show and Plant Stall 2-3 March at EPIC.

The Show includes classes for orchids and this is a good opportunity to show your flowering plants.

We will have a sales table at this show. If you are interested in selling plants and haven't already done so, please advise Jane Wright (janewright1@iinet.net.au or phone 0406 379 054) of your table space requirement and times you will attend to assist in plant sales. Note that plants need not be exclusively orchids, although please limit non-orchid plants as a courtesy to Horticultural Society members.

Plants need to be delivered on Friday evening (before 9pm) or before 9am on Saturday. You will need to pick up any unsold plants at 3pm on Sunday afternoon, or make arrangements for them to be picked up.

Iris, Rhododendron & Azalea Show October 2023

Class	Description		Plant	Owner
54	One Vandaceous alliance (including Phalaenopsis)	1	<i>Vanda</i> Ken Kone 'Chao Praya Spots'	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Vanda</i> Peggy Foo 'Angelina'	Jane Wright
55	One Oncidium Alliance	1	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Firewater "Red Butterfly"	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Chemin des Mielles	Jane Wright
56	One Native Orchid	1	<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	Laurie Woods
57	One Pleurothallid	1	<i>Masdevallia</i> Stripe King 'St Ives'	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Masdevallia</i> Veitch's Candy Cane	Jane Wright
60	One any other orchid	1	<i>Bletilla striata</i>	Krysia Szkiela
Champion Orchid			<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	Laurie Woods

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.

Pay Treasurer Bob Forrester at meetings, or 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.

Popular Vote Results February 2024

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Diplodium coccinum</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium suavissimum</i>	Ben Wallace
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
5	Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng Vanilla x Hung Sheng Dream	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown	Brian Shelvey
	<i>Others Benched : Schoenorchis juncifolia; Phal. Dendi's Prince; Phal. cornu-cervi ; Vanda falcata; Vandachostylis Colmarie; Renanthera vietnamensis</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Brasidostele</i> Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Miltoniopsis Pink Cadillac; Mps. Maui Mist; Miltonia clowesii; Mps. Lilian Nakamoto; Oncidium Bonne Nuit (1995)</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia pumila x floribunda</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Nil.</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Sayeria stenoptera</i>	Mark Clements
		<i>Epigeneium nakaharaei</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Coelandria victoriae-reginae</i>		
10	Coelogyne	<i>Coelogyne parishii</i>	Geoff Dyne
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum treschii</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Bulb. Jersey; Bulb. fritillariiflorum ; Bulb. orthoglossum</i>		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria triloris</i>	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Maxillaria cucullata</i>		
NOVICE			
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Brasidostele</i> Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	James Jonklaas
	<i>Others Benched : Dendrobium Mingle's Sapphire</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng Vanilla x Hung Sheng Dream	Mike Pieloor
		<i>Oncidium</i> Unknown	Brian Shelvey
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Brasidostele</i> Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	James Jonklaas
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Schoenorchis juncifolia</i>	Bill Ferris
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Vandachostylis</i> Colmarie	Jane Wright
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Vanda falcata</i>	Bill Ferris

Senior Research Scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Dr Noushka Reiter, has won the prestigious 2023 Eureka Prize for Excellence in Botanical Science.

Dr Reiter has done extensive research into orchids and orchid conservation and been a visitor to our meetings

For further information, visit the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria website www.rbg.vic.gov.au/news-and-stories



People's Choice Open (Equal)

Paph. Hung Sheng Vanilla x Hung Sheng Dream

Grower Mike Pieloor



People's Choice Open (Equal)

Oncidium Unknown

Grown by Brian Shelvey

I bought the No ID *Oncidium* from Mogo Orchids on the NSW South Coast. From the photo I took at the time it looks like I bought it around the 8th of April 2022.

I grow it in a clear pot which sits inside a dark pot so I can keep an eye on how dry the media is.

It's always been inside my house on a well lit shelf close to a window. It usually only gets watered once a week like most of my orchids in pots but once I noticed a flower spike I tried to water and fertilise a little more often.

Brian Shelvey



Novice of the night

Bracidostele Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'

Grown by James Jonklaas

This orchid is one I purchased from Bunnings as a seedling a bit over a year ago. It lives with the rest of my *oncidium* orchids in a minimum 10 degree glass house. I think it is a great grower and pretty robust.

James Jonklaas



Judges Choice - Hybrid of the Night

Vandachostylis Colmarie

Grown by Jane Wright

I bought this orchid last year from the society from a lot of plants that were donated to the society. I didn't know anything about the hybrid, but it looked a nice plant and I grow vandas so I thought I'd give it go. This is its first flowering for me and I'm thrilled. I grow it hung up in my bright light hot greenhouse.

It is an interesting hybrid – 75% *Rhyncostylis gigantea* and 25% *Vanda tessellata*. The most striking thing is the solid purple colour. The hybrid was bred in Thailand (Kultana Orchids) and registered in 1994, so it's been around for quite a while. Nevertheless, it continues to get quality awards (38 to date) mostly in the USA and

Australia, the most recent being in Australia in 2022. All of the images I've seen have been similar – solid dark purple flowers.

Jane Wright



Judges Choice - Species of the Night

Schoenorchis juncifolia

Grown by Bill Ferris

A vandaceous orchid, originally named by Blume (1825). Occurs naturally in montane forests in Borneo, Java and Sumatra. It is the type species for the genus.

I grow it in a greenhouse with aluminet covering and keep it well watered and humid in the summer. It seems to tolerate a winter minimum down to almost frost point. It is growing on a slab of tree fern although the roots are happy to be aerial with ample watering. Given its growth habit, I hang it high in the greenhouse.

There are two species of *Schoenorchis* (*micrantha* and *sarcophylla*) that are non-endemic to North-East Queensland.

Bill Ferris



Judges Choice -Specimen of the Night

Vanda falcata

Grown by Bill Ferris

This lovely plant has had many generic names including *Neofinetia* and *Angraecum* (not hard to see why given the spur on the flower). It was first classified as *Vanda* (its now accepted name) by Johann Georg Beer, an Austrian botanist, in 1854 although is still often sold as *Neofinetia*.

It is a native of Japan and other countries of north east Asia usually growing in deciduous forests as an epiphyte. Likes cooler conditions, sun in the

winter and shade in hotter months.

I grow in a bubblewrap lined greenhouse without heating. It gets watered every day in summer, less frequently in winter. The greenhouse is covered in 50% shadecloth in the hotter months. It is a small plant, very compact with fragrant flowers. The plant is growing in a small plastic pot, although in typical vanda style many roots are now airborne.

I was told the species has white flowers only. Any other coloured flowers suggest hybridising or other genetic manipulation.

It is highly valued in Japan. I understand it is often grown kokedama style – the second photo shows my attempt at this using insect netting to make the dome.



Bill Ferris

Horticultural Society Spring Exhibition and Rose Show November 2023

Class	Description		Plant	Owner
65	One Cymbidium	1	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown	David Judge
		2	<i>Cymbidium</i> Can Can	Bill Ferris
66	One Cattleya Alliance species	1	<i>Leptotes bicolor</i>	Bill Ferris
69	One Paphiopedilum alliance	1	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Isobel	David Judge
		2	<i>Paphiopedilum ciliolare</i>	David Judge
68	One Vandaceous alliance (including Phalaenopsis)	1	<i>Trichoglottis dawsoniana</i>	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Lianher Happy Song 'Orchis 01'	David Judge
69	One Oncidium alliance	1	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Rubenesque 'Karismatic Kay'	Jane Wright
		2	<i>Trichopilia tortilis</i>	Jane Wright
72	One Exotic Dendrobium	1	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i> var. <i>virginale</i>	Bill Ferris
74	One, any other Orchid species	1	<i>Coelogyne mooreana</i>	Bill Ferris
		2	<i>Pleione</i> sp.	Krysiya Szkiela
	Champion Orchid of the Show		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Isobel	David Judge

Options for labelling your orchids

Brian Dear, Jane Wright, Karen Groeneveld

Labelling your orchids provides valuable information such as the genus, species and varietal name of the plant. You may also want to include information such as where and when the plant was purchased, the date of repotting and if relevant, when it was deflasked. In the case of native terrestrials, it's important to record the location or 'provenance' from whence they derived (usually included on the envelope when purchasing tubers from ANOS).

When writing labels, remember:

- the genus and species names are in italics or underlined. For example, *Cymbidium canaliculatum* or Cymbidium canaliculatum;
- hybrid names are in normal font, e.g. *Cymbidium* Black Stump;
- if the plant is a particular clone, that name comes at the end in normal font and within single quotes. For example, *Sarcochilus hartmannii* 'White Bull' or *Cymbidium* Black Stump 'Howzat';
- if the plant has been given a quality award, that can come after the clonal name, e.g. *Cymbidium* Black Stump 'Howzat' FCC/AOC.

The full rundown on writing orchid names is in our book, *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia*.

There are several ways to write your labels so the information is not lost.

Handwriting on plastic labels

This is probably the easiest way when you don't need to write multiple copies of each label and you have legible handwriting. They can be written in pencil using a soft pencil (3B or 4B) or fine point permanent marker pen. Pencil lasts well but does not work on some shiny labels (often, one side of hard plastic labels will be shiny and the other side rough). Permanent marker pens work on most labels but unfortunately they do fade over time.

Thermal printers

There are many different brands of thermal printers that print onto heat-sensitive tape that you then attach to a normal plastic label (it's a good idea to stick tape onto the shiny side of plastic labels, where it adheres better; reserving the rough side for writing things like the repotting date). These printers don't require ink but have drop-in cartridges containing the tape. The tapes come in various sizes and colours and are self-adhesive. The print definition ranges from 150 to 300 dpi. It's important to choose a printer that takes tapes the size that fits the width of your plastic labels. They typically range in price from \$100 to \$400. Labels cost between 10 and 25 cents each to print (tape cartridges can often be purchased in multi-packs, providing better value for money). The labels are very durable and long lasting. The printers allow you to print multiple copies of the same label which is convenient when deflasking or subdividing plants and you need a number of the same label. If you save the label file to your computer, you will have it for future use, when the label needs to be replaced or replicated (or modified in the case of a name change!).





Dedicated plant tag printers

These printers print directly onto the label and are particularly suited to printing large numbers of the same label (as needed for plant sales, or when deflasking). The printers are more expensive to purchase (\$550+ depending on the capacity and bells and whistles), but the individual labels are very low cost (coming in rolls of 2000 at about \$85 per roll + the ink roll that need replacing after 8000 labels), have a professional appearance and are highly durable. If you propagate plants for sale, this can be a great investment. In fact, you can purchase an impressive array of labels for most of these printers (push-in plant tags – in multiple colours, wrap-around tags, adhesive labels, etc).



Keep in mind

No plastic tag is immune to deterioration and snapping off or crumbling away, nor is the printing guaranteed to last, especially outdoors. Therefore, it is worthwhile replacing your tags every few years when you repot. Of course, we don't always do that so putting the name or an identifying code towards the bottom of the tag where it will be protected within the pot, means that even if you lose the top part of the tag, you can find the info on the broken bit in the pot. An alternative is to make two labels and drop the second the label into the side of the pot when repotting, so that it is completely enclosed in the mix, and can be recovered if the original label is lost.

Library News

Orchid Digest; Vol, 87-4; Oct., Nov., Dec., 2023 has arrived from California where it is published. This issue is focused on *Dendrobiums*. (More specifically *Dendrobium Sect. Dendrobium S.L*)

Topics include:

An overview,

Morphology of <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Andre Schulteman
Ecology of <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Andre Schulteman
Phylogeny of <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Andre Schulteman
Distribution of <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Andre Schulteman
Cultivation of <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Andre Schulteman
Cultivation of <i>Dendrobiums</i> ... a European Perspective.....	Roland Schletter
Cultivation of <i>Dendrobiums</i> ... an Australian Perspective ...	Peter Adams
Soft Cane <i>Dendrobium</i> Hybrids.....	Peter Adams
Cultivation of Soft-Cane Hybrids.....	Peter Adams
<i>Dendrobiums</i> in Traditional Chinese Medicine	Peter Adams

This edition only covers *Dendrobiums* native to Asia, New Guinea and one in Australia. It does not cover other Australian natives. However, information covered is extensive. It even has a picture of one of my favourites owned by Mark Clements, *Dendrobium polyanthum*.

Orchid Digest is published quarterly. It is a high quality publication with glossy pages and many coloured pictures. We have 45 copies in our Canberra Orchid Society Library dating back to May 2010.

They are stored in yearly bundles and members can borrow a year or two at a time.

Krycia Szkiela

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