



Volume 40 Number 2

March-April 2025

Bulletin

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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 Meetings

Wednesday 5 March- "All you need to know about deflasking orchids" by Scott Mann

Wednesday 2 April Various members will tell how to Prepare for Winter.

Upcoming Events

March 22-23 – Orchid Weekend Workshop hosted by the Eurobodalla Orchid Club. Tuross Head

April 12-13 – Collectors Plant Fair, Penrith (many orchid vendors)

May 23-25 - Orchids Out West-Hawkesbury Showground (many vendors!)

June 28-29 – Mingara Orchid Fair, Tumbi Umbi, NSW (more vendors!)

Sept 20-21 – South & West Region Orchid Show and Conference, hosted by the Orchid Society of Canberra

October 1-5 - AOC International Conference and Show, Woolgoolga, NSW

www.canberraorchids.org
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Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome and should be emailed to Krysia at secretary@canberraorchids.org.
Deadline for May-June edition is 20 April 2025.

From the President

I hope your orchids have been growing well – mine certainly have been putting on plenty of new growth.

Don't forget the Horticultural Society's Autumn Flower Show. It's a great opportunity to show your orchids to a wider audience and even sell some divisions through our society's plant stall.

Later in March is the Regional Orchid workshop weekend being hosted by the Eurobodalla Club. These are always great fun and we have rented a house for two nights nearby. We still have a few beds available – first in best dressed!

Your committee has been planning the South and West Region Orchid Show and Conference that we are hosting in September. We have a good lineup of speakers, and we expect to circulate the full package and registration form in March.

It is always a challenge to think of new topics for the monthly meetings, so please let a committee member know if there is something you'd like to hear about, or even a speaker you'd like to hear.

Jane Wright

New Members

We welcome Lyn Austen, Zuzana Plskova, Nate Zontanos, and Jamie and Amanda Marshall. We hope you'll enjoy your association with us.

Volunteers Needed

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work". We're looking for volunteers!

1. someone who regularly attends meetings to take photographs of the orchids on the bench each meeting and upload them to our Facebook page, and provide images of the winning orchids for the bulletin
2. Someone to take on the role of keeping the Facebook page up to date, for example, providing information of upcoming meetings

Assets

The Society owns a LOT of stuff which is being stored at various members' houses around Canberra. We have investigated a storage locker, but it far too expensive. So, we are hoping to reduce the amount of stuff and will have some good deals coming up on pots etc. We need to determine who has what precisely so we can do a proper cull and consolidation. If you are storing society goods, could you please let Scott Mann know at treasurer@canberraorchids.org

Horticultural Society Autumn Show 1-2 March 2025

The Horticultural Society (HSOC) Autumn show is on 1-2 March in the Cooyong Building at EPIC (not the Fitzroy Pavilion where it was last year). As usual there will be categories for orchid entries - see the HSOC website www.hsoc.org.au.

The Society will be mounting a sales table at this show and, in absence of a HSOC sales table, members are welcome to sell whatever plants they have, not just orchids. The usual Society terms and conditions will apply. So, get busy prepping plants for sale.

If you have not already done so, please advise Jane Wright (or email info@canberraorchids.org) if you will be selling plants, the approximate space you need and when you can help staff the sales table.

South and West Region Orchid Show and Conference 20-21 September 2025

We will again join with the Horticultural Society's Spring Bulb and Camellia Show and share the Fitzroy Pavilion at EPIC and run a lecture program for conference delegates in the nearby Mallee Pavilion, where the show was last year.

The theme for the displays is “Musicals” and the society’s display team is busy thinking about how to turn a crazy concept into reality (and of course, show the orchids to their best advantage). Should be fun to see what the other societies will do.

We hope that members will be able to attend the conference part of the weekend, so we’ll need to draft in as many significant others, family and friends to help at the show, especially for security.

2025 Australian Orchid Council International Conference and Show 3-5 October 2025



The AOC Conferences and Shows occur every three years, with the last one in Logan, Queensland. This year the Woolgoolga District Orchid Society will be hosting. They have an interesting lineup of 4 international and 5 national speakers. They expect displays to be mounted by clubs from all over Australia (including ours!). There will be about 20 vendors of orchids and orchid-related products. All-in-all, a very exciting event.

Early bird registration for the conference and show is only \$220 before 1 July 2025.

See all the details at www.aoc2025.org.au

We are looking for expressions of interest from members who might like to attend and share accommodation. We generally can find a large house with multiple bedrooms and bathrooms so we can stay together. We are planning to do a display so we’ll need helpers to drive up with plants on the Monday so we can set up the display on Wednesday in preparation for judging on Thursday (which will take all day!).

If you are interested, please contact Jane Wright at info@canberraorchids.org.

2028 Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show

Your committee is currently investigating whether it is feasible for us to host the conference and show in 2028.

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. As the temperature falls over the next few months, stop watering in the evenings as this can lead to fungal and bacterial problems, especially on flowers. 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 yet as 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?

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 tips on orchid culture.

**Orchid Society of Canberra
Monthly Meeting: 5 February 2025**

Venue: Ainslie Football Club

Attendance: 41 Members, 7 Apologies, 4 Visitors

Meeting opened at 7.30 pm

President Jane Wright welcomed everybody to the meeting. Jane presented award Certificates from the OSNSW to David Judge and to Mike Pieloor for their plants that were awarded at the Spring Show.

Jane also presented the Society Popular Vote - Novice 2024 trophy to James Jonklaas who was unable to attend the Christmas party.

Jane introduced the night’s speakers Mike Pieloor and David Judge and their topic, “Growing Paphiopediliums”. The main points of their presentation were:

Distribution

Paphiopedilums (as part of the broader slipper orchid group) are found only in south- east Asia.

Growing conditions

In general, paphiopedilums need to be watered quite regularly as they do not contain storage structures. The roots do not divide. No direct sunlight but usually relatively bright light and if possible, around 50% humidity. In winter water every one or two weeks. In summer may need to water every second day, depending on Canberra heatwave conditions. When repotting take care with depth. Base of plant should be around half to one cm below the top of the tan bark. If too deep, the plant will rot, if too high then the roots will not grow properly.

Potting materials needs to retain moisture and not dry out yet must also be free draining. Materials used can include Kunama, perlite, scoria, bark and rock wool.

David and Mike talked on the growing requirements of five groups of paphs:

- Brachypetalum - in the wild some species grow on rocks in a salt air environment. They are among the hardest to grow in Canberra long term.
- Polyantha (multiflorals) - these are slow growing and can take up to 10 years to flower. They are easy to grow especially if one has a large plant rather than a small plant.
- Parvisepalum - in the wild might be covered in snow, though some species will not survive extremes. *Paphiopedilum micranthum* is easy to grow provided they get a cold period.
- Paphiopedilum (particularly *Paph. insigne*) - Easy to grow and ideal for Canberra. Grow it cool. It is a good specimen plant.
- Barbata e.g. Paph. Maudiae-type hybrids- these flower very quickly. They tolerate overwatering better than other groups.

	Brachypetalum	Polyantha	Parvisepalum
Mix and pH	Slightly alkaline	Neutral to alkaline	Neutral (slight acidic)
Temperature	Hot 16 -35 °C	Intermediate 15 - 35 °C	Cold and warm
Humidity	High	Medium 50% +	High
Light	Low to high	High	High
Water	Low to high	High	High
Fertiliser	Seasonal	Seasonal	Seasonal

	Paphiopedilum	Barbata
Mix and pH	Neutral to acid	Neutral to alkaline
Temperature	Cool to medium	Warm
Humidity	Medium	High
Light	High	High
Water	High	High
Fertiliser	Seasonal	Seasonal

Problems growing paphiopedilums

No flowers – plant might not be mature enough (some take up to ten years to flower), poor root system due to too much or too little water, insufficient light or seasonal/daily temperature variation (generally need 8-10°C diurnal range to initiate flowers). Hybrids between the different sections may take a long time to flower and may be distorted.

Leaves rot and fall off - water left in the leaf axil.

Tips die back or have wet spots - a water problem.

Spots all over the leaves – insufficient light.

Not getting new growth - not enough light.

Mealybug and other pests - use a systemic chemical such as “Bug Killa” by Richgro.

Fungal and related problems - David uses Hi-Chlor Pool Alginox. More information on this can be found in the Orchid Society *Bulletin* May-June 2014.

Growing Indoors

Grow your slipper orchids at a south facing window or near a north facing window away from direct sunlight. Take care with watering and use a fan to create an air stream. Maudiae types will give the best results for indoor growth.

In discussion, Mark Clements commented that slipper orchids generally are a very old line and that over time each genus within the group has evolved and adapted to different environments, so that they are distinct enough that natural hybridization with another group doesn't occur.

Other announcements by Jane

The Orchid Society will hold a plant stall at the Horticultural Society Autumn show on 1-2 March at EPIC. Jane asked members to contact her if they would have plants to sell, indicating if they were orchids, or other plants and how much table space is required. Sellers would be expected to assist in the selling of plants.

Eurobodalla Orchid workshop is on 22-23 March at Tuross Heads. Contact Robyn Noel if you need accommodation.

Canberra will host the South and West Region Show and Conference in September.

At next month's meeting Scott Mann will talk on deflasking.

Meeting closed 9:20pm

Examples of Paphiopedilums by Group

Brachypetalum



Paphiopedilum wenshanense

Polyantha (multiflorals)



Paphiopedilum kolopakingii

Parvisepalum



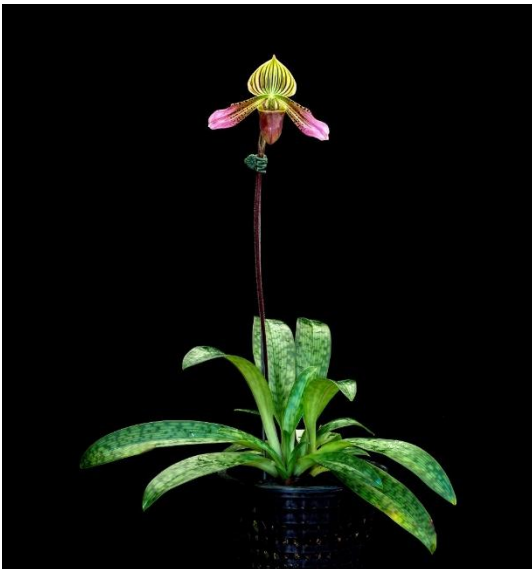
Paphiopedilum delenatii

Paphiopedilum



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum

Barbata



Paphiopedilum urbanianum

Complex



Paphiopedilum Jocelyn

Images courtesy David Judge

Popular Vote Results February 2025

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Diplodium coccinum</i>	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Procatavola</i> Golden Peacock	Brian Shelvey
	<i>Others Benched: Cattleya harrisoniana; Cattleya Dal's Halo</i>		
5	Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Transvaal	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Paph. liemianum</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandeeae	<i>Phalaenopsis pulcherrima</i> 'Superpom'	Karen Groeneveld
		<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched : Phalaenopsis speciosa; Phal. pulcherrima; Schoenorchis juncifolia; Phal. unknown x4</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Brassidium</i> Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Miltoniopsis Jersey 'Wylde Summer'; Miltoniopsis vexillaria; Miltoniopsis Rouge x Red Knight, Gomesa recurva</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia</i> Kimball's Sun	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: Pleurothallis prolifera; Stelis porschiana</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium hekouense</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Coelandria cyanocentra</i>		
10	Coelogyne	<i>Coelogyne brachyptera</i>	Ben Wallace
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum monanthum</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Bulbophyllum amplibracteatum; Bulb. fritillariiflorum 'Eric'</i>		
12	Maxillariinae & Stanhopeinae	<i>Stanhopea graveolens</i>	Jacqui and Claire Turner
	<i>Others Benched: Maxillaria triloris</i>		
13	Exotic Terrestrials	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Ceratostylis retisquama</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
NOVICE			
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Perseus 'Highclare'	James Jonklaas
	<i>Others Benched: Gongora galeata</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night			
		<i>Stanhopea graveolens</i>	Jacqui & Claire Turner
NOVICE Orchid of the Night			
		<i>Phragmipedium</i> Perseus 'Highclare'	James Jonklaas
Judges' Choice - Species			
		<i>Dendrobium hekouense</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Hybrid			
		<i>Procatavola</i> Golden Peacock	Brian Shelvey
Judges' Choice - Specimen			
		<i>Diplodium coccinum</i>	Mike Pieloor

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 Scott Mann at meetings, or direct deposit 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

OPEN Orchid of the Night

Stanhopea graveolens

Grower Jacqui and Claire Turner.



I purchased this orchid from Dark Star Orchids in 2021. Last year I entered it in the horticultural society show when it was only in bud as it didn't want to open in time. It opened the day after! Typical, right? It's a rare event they make it to a benching due to the months stanhopeas flower in comparison to many other species.

I grow it in 6mm bark with some perlite and Sphagnum moss for moisture retention. It likes to be continually damp. During winter I keep it in an unheated north facing courtyard which has a frost

blind. In summer it is moved out beneath a very large crabapple tree which gives it good air circulation and ample shade so it doesn't dry out. It is fed using slow-release pellets in spring, and with liquid fertiliser every second week. Prior to blooming several handfuls of blood and bone really help push it along to perform. I find in winter I only need to water once a week in the morning, so it doesn't freeze, but in summer it is very thirsty, so I water both morning and night on hot days.

It puts on a beautiful bloom but unfortunately it is not one of the nicer smelling stanhopeas you might come across. Unlike the hot chocolate smell of *Stanhopea nigroviolecea*, *Stanhopea graveolens* has a smell more akin to naphthalene—not something many would consider lovely, but it certainly is unique.

NOVICE Orchid of the Night

Phragmipedium Perseus 'Highclare'

Grower James Jonklaas

I have had this orchid for a couple of years, and this is its first flowering. I find it and the other phragmipediums in my collection like to spend some time in the bush house when the temps get into double digits. I give it brighter light than paphs and use a bit of dynamic lifter when actively growing.



Judges' Choice - Species

Dendrobium hekouense

Grower Mark Clements

Dendrobium hekouense Z.J.Liu & L.J.Chen, is a delightful small endemic species restricted to a mountainous area in the southern Yunnan Province in south-west China, close to the border with Vietnam. Plants are reported inconspicuous as they grow in amongst mosses and lichens mainly on the underside of the branches and trunks of rough-barked deciduous trees. This in part accounts for this species being overlooked for such a long time before discovery and formal description in 2011.

I obtained my plant from RoLin Orchids and grow it in my glasshouse amongst other tropical species.



Judges' Choice - Hybrid

Procatavola Golden Peacock

Grower Brian Shelvey

I acquired the *Pcv.* Golden Peacock as a small plant from a Shoalhaven Club member about 4 years ago while visiting their collection. Each year it grows new bulbs and each year it flowers. It's just getting bigger and bigger with more and more flowers! I keep it now in my laundry in my tropical set up under LED lights with a Humidifier and fans. It's very warm in there. Since the meeting, it has put out another new spike! This orchid is growing in bark only and I use a spray gun on an almost daily basis to water the exposed roots; occasionally it gets some fertiliser but not often.



Judges' Choice - Specimen

Diplodinium coccinum

Grower Mike Pieloor

Notes taken from *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia* 3rd Edition by David L. Jones.

'This dainty orchid also known as the Scarlet Greenhood, is found around the New England area, the ACT and NE Victoria. Though widespread, it is localised *and* found on sheltered slopes protected by bracken, grass and shrubs in tall moist forests and grass meadows in montane forests in freely draining to moisture retentive loam. It flowers from January through to April, being a robust summer through to autumn flowering plant.'

