



Volume 40 Number 3

May-June 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 7 May May: Geoff Dyne – “Orchids I have killed and the seven deadly sins of orchid growing”

Wednesday 4 June: The AGM plus:
Krysia Szkiela - “On the Road to Poland - Orchids seen in Singapore and Kew”
Mike Pieloor – “How to pollinate orchids”

Upcoming Events

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 librarian@canberraorchids.org.
Deadline for July-August edition is 20 June 2025.

From the President

Autumn is upon us, so it's time to prepare for winter. Make sure your heaters are working, cut back on watering and check out the orchid shows and fairs. The next big event is Orchids Out West on 23-25 May at the Hawkesbury Showground in Clarendon NSW. There's always a great show of plants there and lots of vendors. If you are planning to do a little travelling in NSW over the next few months, make sure to check the OSNSW website (www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au) for the list of upcoming shows.

I was able to attend the Manly-Warringah Orchid Auction and bid on plants for 13 members and got something for everyone. I also bought some good-quality plants for very good prices that I'll be presenting on the sales table over the next few months.

Also, the AGM is on in June, and we need a new secretary. Krysia has done a great job this year, but she has plans for next year that mean she'll miss a lot of meetings. The secretary's job basically involves taking minutes of the general meeting and committee meeting and writing to welcome new members. Being on committee means you'll have input to how the society is run, so people with ideas are most definitely welcome. Most of our committee meetings are by zoom these days.

Jane Wright

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined so far in 2025: Lyn Austen, Rhiannon Berry, David Boughey, Joel Cunningham, Sabrina Hains, Amanda and Jamie Marshall, Matthew Mullaney, Maura O'Connor, Zuzana Piscova, Bronwen Stead, Naten Zontanos.

Please let any of committee know if you need help with your orchids and we'll find an experienced grower to help you.

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

Your committee is busy with planning the regional show and conference which is replacing our normal spring show. We have our usual vendors lined up again. We will also have Brindabella Orchids, owned by our own Richard Mayoh, with its own stand of Australian native orchids.

The conference program is looking great too. We have 6 interesting talks lined up by our members that should entertain our own members and visitors alike. See the accompanying information and registration form.

We really want a HUGE turnout for the show this year. To that end, we need your help. We will have printed flyers available at the upcoming meetings for you to take and distribute to anyone you know who might like to attend. A jpg version is being sent with this bulletin so you can distribute it electronically.

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

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

We are looking for expressions of interest from members who might like to attend and share accommodation. **We have booked a large house with multiple bedrooms 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 has done enough work to decide that our society hosting this national event is a viable proposition. Next step is to get the Australian Orchid Council to agree to our proposal.

Cultural tips for May-June

As a general rule, less water is better in cooler conditions. Ease back watering on your Australian Dendrobiums as their growths mature. Some plants that require dormancy (like *Catasetinae* and *Pleione*) or require a dry period to initiate flowering (like softcane dendrobiums) should have their watering reduced or even withheld. By contrast, keep water up to your Australian terrestrials but be careful to ensure good airflow and prevent pots sitting in afternoon sun.

Ensure plants get adequate sunlight. With the sun lower in the sky overshadowing is more likely.

Reduce fertiliser. Your plants will generally slow down over winter, so will have less need for nutrients. Use a fertiliser that orchids can tolerate. Always follow the instructions.

Make sure your warmer growing plants have the right temperature conditions overnight. Move orchids at risk of frost damage to more sheltered locations or if in a greenhouse make sure heating is working. Also if possible, consider placing plants in a higher position in the greenhouse.

Check your cymbidiums to see if they have flower spikes. To get the best presentation from your plants, the spikes will need to be staked when roughly 10cm long and the plants can be rotated to give a more uniform flowering.

Monitor for pests that are active in the cooler months. Fungus gnats and mites are active now. You can grow sundews to help manage many pests.

Check out our book *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia* for more cultural tips, including instructions for staking spikes.

Propagating *Thunia marshalliana*

by Jan Robinson

How do you get your very own forest of thunias in 90 days or less? Easy peasy! Cut off last year's mature cane in late Spring (Octoberish), lay it on top of a tray of terrestrial mix (sand/small bark/bit of perlite), and stick your tray in a bright corner of your growing area. Make sure the potting media stays damp. As soon as you see sprouts forming from the nodes, sprinkle some blood and bone around the sprouts but not directly on the new roots. Keep the fertilizer going as your plants get bigger, the bigger the thunias, the more frequently they like to be fed. By Christmas, you should be able to separate the larger plantlets off the mother cane and pot them up individually. (They will need to sit in saucers of water during the summer once you have separated them from the mother cane.) Continue fertilizing until the plants start to go dormant in the fall. [Ed note: Jan has agreed to present a talk on thunias later this year.]



Thunia marshalliana flower



Thunia marshalliana cuttings striking

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

Venue: Ainslie Football Club

Attendance: 44 Members, 12 Apologies, 2 Visitors

Meeting opened at 7.35 pm

President Jane Wright welcomed everybody and introduced the evening topic.

Deflasking demonstration by Scott Mann



Scott presented on his experiences deflasking orchids including some tips and tricks he has picked up along the way. Here is a run-down on the key elements of what flasks are, why people buy them and how to deflask with success.

What are Flasks?

Because orchid seeds contain no significant energy to start off their life, orchids are usually germinated in a nutrient-balanced gel held together by agar. Without going through the specifics (which is another talk entirely), seeds are germinated and grown in containers ranging from true glass 'flasks' to jam jars, whisky bottles, and plastic takeaway containers. The important thing to note is that internally, the flask is sterile with nothing else growing other than the orchid. This leads us to the Why?

Why use and buy flasks?

Flasks allow growers to grow large numbers of plants in a way that provides improved levels of success and volume to sell but also transport around the world. Because flasks are sterile internally, it is possible to import them into Australia without too much hassle. While there is paperwork to complete when having flasks mailed to you, it is easier to hand carry a small number into Australia, as long as you declare them. Quarantine officers will inspect the flasks to ensure there is no contamination (fungus, or bacteria etc. growing in the agar), before they let you bring them into the country. Given the number of plants in a flask can range from 1 to hundreds, flasks also provide growers the opportunity to get a number of plants to either share, sell or see the variety of flowers if they choose (and are able) to get multiple plants go grow to maturity.

How to deflask.

Over the years, I have found simple is best, and, as long as your growing conditions are stable and suited to the plants, there is no need for fungicides or other chemicals when deflasking. First step is preparing the environment for once you have started, the process it is very difficult to stop half-way and delays can impact success. Plants coming out of a flask are small and very sensitive to temperature and moisture changes. The process should ideally be conducted in the same environmental conditions (humidity and temperature most importantly) that they will be growing in. Once plants are removed from the flask, either by breaking the glass jar or simply opening the container, I remove much of the agar from around the roots using running water that is around 25 degrees C. This process can be time consuming, but it is essential to take care at this stage. Depending on the orchid type, you may not be able to untangle all the individual plants and so planting a small number together into '*community pots*' is a common practice. Plants in community pots can be divided once they have grown, established more stronger roots and are more likely to survive a separation process.

Potting up plants into community pots is dependent on the required growing conditions of the individual orchid. As a rule, aim to provide a more protected environment. The potting medium should be water retaining to the point it retains moisture, but it should dry out over a few days based on your conditions. This promotes movement of water through the medium, roots and up to the leaves and means your plants are not sitting in stagnant water that could grow nasty stuff (now that the environment is no longer sterile). Misting is often a good idea and even covering plants for the first few days or weeks will assist keeping the plants protected. The aim is, however, that over the first few months after deflasking that you bring your seedlings into the environment they will ultimately be growing in. Ideally this will be after they have put on at least one new leaf (and roots), that will show they are growing and getting used to their new environment.

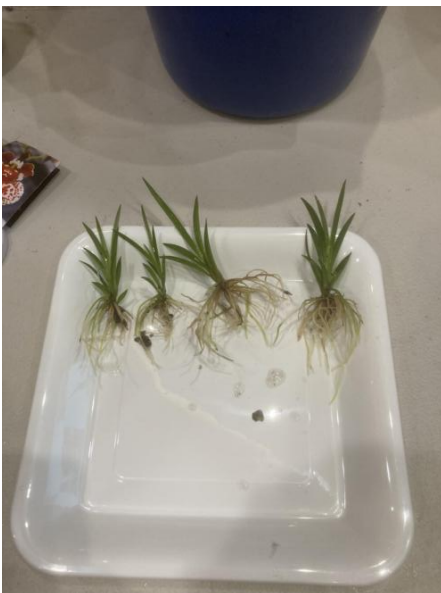


The location of where you grow your newly deflasked plants is again dependent on your conditions and plants you are growing. If you are growing plants indoors it is important to ensure appropriate cover and humidity as well as lighting that isn't too harsh. Balancing moisture and air-movement is a challenge and why I recommend deflasking in spring or the beginning of your plant's traditional growing period to give it the best chance to establish. Deflasking something in winter, or the beginning of its traditional rest period is going to be challenging.

Those who have a controlled environment will still likely benefit from controlling the conditions around their recently deflasked plants. This could be by simply protecting them from the direct blast of a fan, or ensuring they are given a more sheltered space to allow them time to recover from the deflasking process and commence growing.

Finally, it is even possible to deflask in Canberra where you only grow plants outside. I have deflasked cymbidiums in spring where their protection is ensured initially but gradually removed so that after one year they are growing with their peers (maybe they came into the laundry for winter just to be sure...)

After the presentation members were given the opportunity to mount plants onto cork for a donation of \$10 to the club.



Rhodrumnia Olivia Johnson X Willowbank Frecklesready to be mounted and hanging in the shower.

Other matters

Vice President Bill Ferris indicated there were pieces of *Paulownia* or Empress Tree available for mounts. (It is a very strong tropical tree used in furniture making.)

David Judge had fertilizer for sale. Use it at the rate of 1 tsp per 9 litre bucket.

Jane reported that the Horticultural Society's Autumn Show was not as popular as last year as only 700 came through the door. The Orchid Society plant stall sold \$4765 of members plants, 4 books and over \$100 worth of society orchids. "Thank you" was extended to the volunteers.

Mike Pieloor made a request for assistance with social media. He asked specifically for somebody to take photos of plants exhibited each month for Facebook.

Next month's meeting is titled "Getting Ready for Winter."

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Popular Vote Results: March 2025

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> hybrid <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Mike Pieloor
4	Laeliinae	<i>Epidendrum porpax</i> <i>Others Benched: Cattleya Bob Betts x C. Okami x C. intermedia; C. Mini Jewel; C. intermedia</i> hybrid; <i>Brassocattleya</i> Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying'	Karen Groeneveld
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i> var. <i>roezlii</i> <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Megan and Josh Philips
6	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Vanda</i> Blue Fairy <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Bill Ferris
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltonia clowesii</i> <i>Others Benched: Gomesa radicans; Miltonia spectabilis</i> var. <i>moreliana</i>	Ben Wallace
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Restrepia brachypus</i> <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Jane Wright
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria triloris</i> <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Geoff Dyne
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i> <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Karen Groeneveld
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Jumpin Jack <i>Others Benched: Catasetum</i> Melana Davison x <i>Dentigrianum</i> ; <i>Clowesetum</i> JEM's Speckled Russ	Megan and Josh Philips
OPEN Orchid of the Night			
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Epidendrum porpax</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Brassocattleya</i> Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying'	Brian Shelvey
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Gomesa radicans</i>	Bill Ferris

Open Orchid of the Night

Judges Choice - Species

Epidendrum porpax

Grown by Karen Groenveld



Epidendrum porpax is native to Colombia and Venezuela, growing in pine forests, usually on the sides of the trees in dense clumps or mats with 75mm long stems covered in alternating, thick oblong leaves that are olive green but will have purple/red colouration when grown in higher light. The flowers appear like bees or flies. These plants can become very nice specimens over time and will flower twice per year, with the flowers lasting for a couple of months or more. Mist when the mount on which it is growing is just dry. (from Red Fox Orchids)

Judges Choice - Hybrid

Brassocattleya Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying'

Grown by Brian Shelvey

Brassocattleya Hawaii Stars is an orchid hybrid originated by Hawaii Hybrids in 2006. It is a cross of *Brassavola* Little Star x *Cattleya Memoria Robert Strait*



Judges Choice - Specimen

Gomesa radicans

Grown by Bill Ferris



Native to Brazil, it has charming miniature blooms with a sweet honey fragrance on flowers that last 4 weeks or more. Seemingly overnight, the flower buds erupt in an impressive display of 0.25-inch, white and green dove-shaped flowers. This plant can flower twice per year, usually in spring or fall. Within a few years, it will grow into a specimen-sized clump that blooms with a dazzling array of flowers.

Orchid Society of Canberra
Monthly Meeting: 2nd April 2025

Venue: Ainslie Football Club

Attendance: 56 Members, 3 Apologies, 6 Visitors

Meeting opened at 7.35 pm

President Jane Wright welcomed the large number in attendance and introduced tonight's topic and speaker.

Getting Ready for Winter

Bill Ferris (Vice President.)

People have different microclimates in their place of residence. It is important to be aware of the need of the orchid you are trying to nurture and grow. For success, your infrastructure needs to suit the orchid.

Things to consider:

1. Sunlight.

Be aware of the movement of the sun and its position in the sky over the winter month. The angle of sunlight changes and some plants may end up in shadow. Adjust any summer protective shading or move orchids to suit their requirements.

Sun lovers Full or bright sun all year	Winter sun Summer shade	Shade lovers	Impartial
Native <i>Cymbidiums</i> Most native <i>Thelychito</i> sp <i>Stanhopea</i> Soft cane <i>Dendrobiums</i>	Many exotic <i>Dendrobium</i> Some native <i>Sarcochilus</i>	Jewel orchids <i>Pleurothalids</i> Many <i>Paphopedilium</i>	<i>Bletilla</i>

2. Watering and Humidity

Generally water on the dry side.

Dry winter lovers	Wet winter lovers
Soft cane <i>Dendrobium</i> <i>Stenoglottis</i> <i>Plieione</i>	Swamp orchids <i>Phaius</i>

Hint: Water in the morning to allow moisture on leaves to dry during the day. The use of fans assist in reducing the risk of fungal infection.

N.B. CAM orchids need humidity at night if heating is used. E.g. native *Thelychiton*, *Dockrilla* and *Sarcochillus falcatus*.

3. Air Movement.

Many orchids grow on outer branches of tree in their natural environment. They are accustomed to breezes, important in drying them out and avoiding fungal problems. Stationary fans, oscillating fans, air sacs and ducts, are all useful to circulate air.

4. Temperature

Tolerance/needs vary across species. The need for supplementary heating depends on two things

- the species
- what you the grower can provide.

In Canberra, cold tolerant species not requiring a greenhouse include *Bletilla* which dies down in winter and many native terrestrials.

If a greenhouse is used, ensure the structure is thermally efficient. Materials that can be used include twin wall polycarbonate or you can line the walls with bubble wrap. If you do not have a greenhouse, bring cold sensitive plants indoors.

Heating your glasshouse

A variety of things are available including heat mats, oil filled heaters, heat tubes and heat pumps.

Jane (President) joined Bill

Jane reintroduced some of the information she presented in a previous talk, and which is on the Orchid Club website.

Tube heater - Sproutwell 95cm -\$85 IP44 - should deal with water splash (available at the South Pacific Hydroponic Shop, Fyshwick)

Sproutwell 2kw heater \$119 IP24 - copes with damp and wet. Has 3 settings.

Fans - not rated well for humid environments

Pests and diseases.

Creatures love the warmth. Fungal diseases are more likely to occur in warm moist environments.

Meeting was open to the floor for members to make comments.

Mike Pieloor

"Make sure you research your orchid and know the best growing conditions."

"Warm air retains moisture whereas cold drops moisture."

Karen Groenveld

Was/ Is having problems with rats so has obtained *mouse and snake mesh* to keep the critters out.

"Shade cloth placed under the alsynite can help with frost protection."

Mark Fraser

"Be aware that it is normal for the leaves and pseudobulbs of some orchids to change colour."

Mark Clements

"You can grow anything if you are able to duplicate the original growing conditions."

Ben Wallace

"If you bring orchids into the house and place them next to the window allow a space as glass conducts the cold."

"Make sure that you have air movement, and this also keeps the fungal spores moving."

Awards

Jane gave Mike Pieloor his AOC certificates for his plants that were awarded at last year's Spring Show.

- Award of Cultural Merit to *Chiloglottis x pescottiana* 'Mandragora'
- Award of Cultural merit to *Caladenia* Harlequin 'Mandragora'

Congratulations Mike

Jane announced she was attending the Orchid Auction in Sydney. Members were sent a copy of the catalogue and can contact Jane if they would like her to bid for plants for them.

Rob Rough has a 12 foot X 8 foot greenhouse structure and most panels available for \$100. Karen Groeneveld and Derek Corrigan have some spare glass panels.

Next month's talk "Orchids I have Killed" - Geoff Dyne

Meeting closed 9.20pm

Orchids on the Bench-April meeting

Popular Vote Results: April 2025

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> <i>Others Benched: Dendrobium bigibbum var. compactum; Dendrobium Hilda Poxon 'Martina Mauve'</i>	Mike Pieloor
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Diplodium laxum</i> <i>Others Benched: Diplodium truncatum; Pterostylis laxa;</i>	Bob Forrester
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium Golden Elf 'Stardust'</i> <i>Others Benched: Nil</i>	Tony Tritschler
4	Laeliinae	<i>Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'</i> <i>Others Benched: Brassocattleya Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying'; Cattleya perrinii; Procatavola Golden Peacock x2; Brassocattleya Little Mermaid 'Janet'; Brassovola perrinii; C. Dendi's Perfection 'Tanya'; Cattleya Caudabec Candy 'Burgundy Me'; Cattleya aclandiae.</i>	Tony Tristchler
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum Rowena 'Robyn'</i> <i>Others Benched: Paph. henryanum; Paph. spicerianum; Paph. helenae;</i>	James Jonklaas
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Pelatantheria insectifera</i> <i>Others Benched: Phalaenopsis hybrid unknown</i>	Jane Wright
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltonia moreliana</i> <i>Others Benched: Gombrassiltonia Hilo Ablaze; Gomenkoa Honey Bee; Gomesa crispa; Aliceara Tropic Lily 'Ice Palace'; Arthurara Sea Snake 'Unforgettable'; Miltonia clowesii; Miltonia regnellii</i>	Jan Robinson
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia Dazzler 'Beenak'</i> <i>Others Benched: Masdevallia Gold Purse</i>	Mike Pieloor
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium alexandrae</i> <i>Others Benched: Dendrobium Yaya Victoria; Conostalix ellipsophylla; Ceraia lobata.</i>	Jane Wright
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i> <i>Others Benched: Stenoglottis longifolia; Stenoglottis Venus</i>	Bob Forrester
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Cestichis reflexa</i> <i>Others Benched: nil</i>	Mark Clements
NOVICE			
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium Golden Elf</i> <i>Others Benched: nil</i>	Yi Yu
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Miltonia moreliana</i>	Jan Robinson
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Cymbidium Golden Elf</i>	Yi Yu
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Pelatantheria insectifera</i>	Jane Wright
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'</i>	Tony Tritschler
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Miltonia moreliana</i>	Jan Robinson

**OPEN Orchid of the night
Judges Choice - Specimen**

Miltonia moreliana

Grown by Jan Robinson



This is currently the biggest of my 3 plants of *Miltonia moreliana* and was given to me in 2014 by Neville Roper (a fabulous grower who some of you knew) labelled as "*Miltonia moreliana* var. *atrorubens*". I have never been able to find out anything about this particular variety, but it looks very similar to my awarded clone, Big Ben. Because of its relatively thin, short roots and rambling growth habit, it seems to like Sydney life in a flying saucer: a shallow round dish that dangles high up in my north-facing bush house. During the winter, I cover my bush house with heavy plastic to protect the inhabitants from cold rain and low temperatures; water sparingly; and stop fertilizing between June and early August. If happy, *moreliana* will throw two or even three new growths each spring from each of last year's mature pseudobulbs, so it can grow into a specimen plant

quite quickly. It is a very reliable flowerer as long as it gets plenty of light — it grows amongst my cattleyas. The more light short of burning the leaves, the better! My morelianas did particularly well this summer with the monsoonal rains we had in Sydney. Everyone should have at least one of these fabulous orchids in their collections, the flowers last for weeks if kept under cover.

NOVICE Orchid of the Night

Cymbidium Golden Elf

Grower by Yi Yu

I obtained this orchid as a swap in late 2022. After adapting to its new home, it flowered in autumn 2024 and this is its second blooming. It sits under a tree fern all year round. During summer, it has two layers of cover, as there is a huge box maple tree on top of the tree fern. In winter, it has only one layer of protection, as the maple tree is bare. I water it only when there is insufficient rain. I apply the slow-release fertilizer bought from the Society twice a year and liquid fertiliser once in a while.



Judges' Choice - Species

Pelatantheria insectifera

Grown by Jane Wright



This species is an epiphyte from northeast India and southeast Asia. I purchased this orchid from Alice's Orchids in 2018 as a large plant. I grow it in a warm greenhouse (min 15°C in winter). It gets misted most days in summer and a couple of times a week in winter. It flowers regularly and is very rewarding.

Judges' Choice - Hybrid

Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'

Grown by Tony Tritschler

Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' (originally *Cattleya*) is a hybrid of *Cattleya guttata* and *Cattleya aurantiaca*. I obtained my plant in 2016 at the June meeting of the Canberra Orchid Society, and it has grown and flourished since. A few years back I split the original plant into two and the plant I kept has continued to grow and flower well.

I grow it in my heated greenhouse with a minimum winter temperature of 8 to 10°C. In summer, despite my efforts, it gets quite hot, up to 35°C or more at times. I have it on a central bench at the north end of the greenhouse, a bright position, but no direct sunlight, good air movement and quite close to a humidifier.



A few years back there was a *Cattleya* presentation at the Society and one of the issues discussed was the flowering of cattleyas. Some cattleyas produce only one new stem per year which (with luck) produces a flower spike with one or more flowers. The advice was given that by cutting the plant into two in the pot you could effectively make it into two plants with the potential to produce 2 flower spikes. In 2023 I tried this, and this year got my 2 flowering spikes, one with 18 flowers and the other with 11 flowers, as shown at the April meeting. I must try it again with some other cattleyas.

Membership subscriptions are due

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