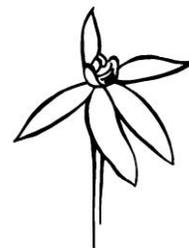


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.



GPO Box 612, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia
Volume 20, Number 2

Mar-Apr 2005

Regular monthly meetings

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first **Wednesday** of each month (except January) at the **Canberra Senior Citizens Club (10 Watson St., Turner)**. Meetings commence at 8:00pm with the library and trading table open from 7:30pm.

March 2005: There will be a discussion of "water wise" management of orchids. Which are the best pots and potting medium as well as watering techniques to conserve water. What are your experiences and ideas?
April 2005: **Jane Wright** on pests and diseases

Orchid Society of Canberra Events

Saturday and Sunday March 19-20. An Orchid Workshop at the Sundown Motel Resort in Narrabundah. Clive Halls and Wayne Turville will talk about orchid culture and will have orchids for sale. **Please register for this interesting event as soon as possible.**

Coffee Club: April 10 (Sunday) 3-5 PM at Robyn Noel's, 7 Newland St, Flynn. This time it will be a wine and cheese tasting at \$10 per head, with profits to the society to support publication of the book.

Upcoming Orchid Events

The Horticultural Society of Canberra
Autumn Show 5&6 March
Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre
Details on how to enter your plants inside

Sydney International Orchid Fair
15, 16 & 17 April, 2005
Castle Hill Showground, Sydney

Victorian International Orchid Fair
27, 28 & 29 May, 2005
St Sava Church Hall Greensborough

The 40th TQOC Conference & Show
10, 11 & 12 June
Mackay Entertainment Centre, Mackay

From the President

The Workshop on March 19-20 is an important event for our Orchid Society. It is an opportunity to learn from two very experienced growers the techniques involved in growing orchids that are suitable for a cool greenhouse. There will be ample time for one on one discussions and questions and answers. Another great benefit will be the ability to purchase many plants that they will be talking about. As stated later in this bulletin, if you wish to look at their web sites, you can send them an email and request specific plants that they can bring with them. I hope that many members who have not signed up for this workshop will do so at the next meeting.

Annual Subscriptions

\$25 single, \$30 joint, \$5 junior membership.

Committee Members

President- Robert Bush	6297 1427
Vice President- Jane Wright	6254 1119
Treasurer- Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Secretary- Barbara Corsini	6299 7257
Yvonne Day	6297 5162
David Judge	6278 4806
Gerlinde Lenz	6288 7413
Robert Rough	6241 2729
Ben Walcott	6161 2742

Committee meetings

On the WED in the week following the general meeting.
March 9: David Judge, 69 Macrossan Cres, Weetangera
April 13: Rob Rough, 25 Moruya Cir, Kaleen

Disclaimer

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New Members

We are very pleased to announce that David and Louise Bromhead are new members of the society. Please make them welcome at the meetings and social events.

OSC Email Group

The email group among members of the Orchid Society of Canberra appears to be going well, and I am happy to put more people on the list. Recently I was able to pass around the web site address for Easy Orchids. If you wish to join, see me at the next meeting or send me an email at david.judge@apsc.gov.au.

David Judge

Minutes of general meetings

Feb '05 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at 8.05 pm

Attendance: 46

Apologies: Theo and Jenny Shutz, Ray Palmer

Visitors: Margaret Bekerner, Kevin Cox, Mark Clements and Anne Mackenzie

New member: Dave Bromhead

Guest Speaker: Tonight's Guest speaker was David Banks from Westmead in Sydney, and tonight he was speaking on easy to grow, cool growing orchids. The weather had turned quite cold here in Canberra, but had become quite nasty in Sydney, so David was anxious to get back home and check his orchids and structures. Therefore he spoke at the beginning of the evening. Basically David's talk consisted of a list of the easy cool growing orchids, accompanied by slides and cultural notes. A lot of the orchids he talked about were the *Coelogynes*, with a few other genera. I've tried to list as much of the information given as possible:

Coelogyne cristata – many varieties to grow, this orchid originates from the highlands in the Himalayas, and likes shade. Don't break up this orchid excessively or it will sulk for at least a year. If small pieces are received, place in small pots with sphagnum. For larger plants David used a bark based mix with perlite. He didn't give proportions, but did mention that *Coelogynes* generally should be kept slightly moist, and the mix should accommodate this need.

Coelogyne flaccida – Originating from Northern India through to Thailand, though less occurrence in Thailand. A fragrant, pendulous orchid of which there are many different clones in regard to scent, colour and blooming period. Blooming anywhere in August, September or October.

Coelogyne Unchained Melody – This plant is a cross between *C. flaccida* and *C. cristata*. It is the plant often labeled as *Coelogyne Intermedia*.

Coelogyne tomentosa (syn *C. massangeana*) – The earlier and correct name for this plant David explained was *C. tomentosa*

Coelogyne mooreana – This plant from Vietnam is relatively new in cultivation in Australia (15 – 20 years) and therefore there are only 2 or 3 different clones, as not

many wild clones have yet been introduced. *C. mooreana* flowers many times in a year, so if it is crossed with another species, this trait is introduced. A nice example of this orchid is a tetraploid, known as *Coelogyne mooreana* 'Brockhurst'.

Coelogyne Linda Buckley - is a cross between *C. mooreana* and *C. cristata* which has the advantage of blooming more than once a year.

Coelogyne Jannine Banks – a cross between *C. flaccida* and *C. mooreana* blooming many times a year.

Coelogyne corymbosa – A true cool climate orchid that detests high temperatures and hates to ever be dry. Bark is not a good media for this orchid. These small orchids prefer to be in small pots with sphagnum with heavy shade. Grow these alongside your *Masdevallias*.

Coelogyne ochracea – This is the true *C. nitida*. The orchid that has been known as *C. nitida* is actually *C. punctulata*. Anyway, *C. ochracea/nitida* does best in sphagnum. I suppose though that unless you bought it from David, it would be hard to be sure what you actually had!!!

Coelogyne confusa – This orchid from the Philippines is often wrongly named *C. chloroptera*, the real *C. chloroptera* is actually quite rare.

Coelogyne fragrans – This *Coelogyne* comes from New Guinea. According to David, there was work needing to be done on splitting this species. The slides he showed us had huge variation in the flowers. Others differences were factors such as the time of flowering in relation to plant growth, differences in the fragrances and some not being fragrant at all.

Coelogyne barbata - From India, the bearded flowers hang/face down.

Coelogyne calcicola – A rare plant from Vietnam, it is related to *C. stricta* (syn. *C. elata*). A long vigorous plant that is best grown in long narrow pots.

Coelogyne prolifera – One of the smallest and cutest of the *coelogynes*. The little labellums and columns looked like little dolls wearing bonnets.

Coelogyne speciosa – Very easy to grow. Related to *C. celebensis*, an orchid with a flowering period of around 6 months.

Coelogyne ovalis – The easiest to grow, flowering reliably no matter what conditions are given. Plant in a wide shallow basket.

Coelogyne fimbriata – Ground hugging. A rare variety is 'alba'.

Dendrobium speciosum – Common name Rock Lily. Although Mark Clements was present (a researcher responsible for the many name changes in orchids known as *Dendrobium*) David used this name, stating that enough had been said in the evening regarding names. Lots of slides of the varieties/species of this very tough, easy to grow orchid, including some shots of plants growing and flowering beautifully on a rock face in full sun over the Hawkesbury River.

Liparis reflexa – this was mentioned as being in the same area growing on rocks about 1 metre above the high tide mark!

Sophronitis coccinea – This plant hates the heat. Grow in small pots with a small bark and gravel mix. They must have good drainage – they will hate the glug of broken down bark. They will enjoy growing in the same conditions as dendrochilums.

Euchile citrina – From Mexico. This plant experiences distinct wet and dry weather patterns. David's rule of thumb is to 'stop watering on Anzac day and begin again on Grand Final Day'. This is a pendulous plant. The same rule applied for species of *Encyclia* and *Laelia*.

Cebralia sp. – A terrestrial from Central/ South America that tolerates a cool winter and hot summer. It loves water, and enjoys to actually be sat in the water.

Other slides were shown of *Dendrochillum tinelum*, *Pterostylis sp.* and *Corybas sp.*

Apart from some very funny anecdotes (David is a really entertaining speaker), his parting comments were that bigger plants were much more forgiving in your treatment of them, and he rejected the advice to dry plants out given for lots of orchids, commenting that this was advice given for truly mild climates rather than climates where hot dry winds were common. His advice on fertilising was surprising also. He did not fertilise his orchids very often at all, and thought the main benefit derived from it was more likely the good weekly soaking.

David's talk was followed up with an advertisement for his open days – 27th Feb and 9th October, and a table full of orchids (the easy-to-grow kind) to sell. All snapped up quickly.

Thanks was given to Ann Osmand for organizing David's gift.

Announcements:

- The deadline for registering for the March Workshop is March 4th.
- A reminder was given for the coffee club at the Botanic Gardens for the coming Monday, and a request made that others in the society consider a coffee club at their own houses. It is always a simple affair with only the provision of coffee/tea and a few biscuits required.

November minutes – Were moved and seconded by Ben Wallace and Ben Walcott. All in favour.

Secretary's report:

A catalogue received from Woolf Orchid Culture – this will remain with the secretary (Barbara Corsini) if you would like to take a look.

Newsletters :

Eurobodalla – Dec '04

Albury-Wodonga – Dec '04, Jan '05

Wagga Wagga – Nov '04 Oct '04

Campbelltown and district – Nov '04, Oct'04

Orchid Society of NSW – Nov'04, Jan '05

ANOS Macarthur Group – Jan '05

ANOS /VIC Group – Feb '05

Gosford and Districts – Jan '05

Sapphire Coast – Jan '05

Publications:

Miriam Ann Orchids newsletter, mentions some orchid fairs – Jan '05

The Alpine Gardener – Dec '04

American Orchid Society ORCHIDS – Oct, Nov, Dec '04, Jan '05, Sept '04

Orchid Digest – Oct/Nov/Dec '04

Orchids Australia – Dec '04

The Orchadian – Dec '04

Australian Orchid Review – Dec '04/Jan '05

The Orchid Review – Nov/Dec '04

Other correspondence:

IN:

- Catalogue from the Orchid Emporium
- A request for orchid show dates from the Australian Orchid Review
- Membership dues for the South African Orchid Council, Alpine Gardener and the Australian Orchid Review
- Bank statements x 4 x 5
- Registration for workshop x 1 x 8
- Cheque book
- Griffin Centre tax invoice/statement

OUT:

- Thank you letter to Bill and Ann Osmand for hosting the orchid workshop
- Letter to St John's Church in Reid, making our booking in advance and in writing this year for the show.
- Letters and fliers sent to various orchid societies advertising the March Workshop.
- Thank you letters to show sponsors
- Letter to John Duncan requesting him to speak at a meeting

Moved Jane Wright, seconded Robyn Noel.

Treasurer's report:

The bottom line at \$7670.93 after buying fertilizer, pots, orchids, and tubers (from ANOS)

The report was moved by Nita Wheeler, seconded by Julianne Turner.

The book – The question was raised as to how the new book was progressing. It was reported that the book was nearly finished with only 3 more articles to be completed. It would be ready for the March Workshop, and would sell to members and those selling on 10 or more copies at \$15.00, and to non-members for \$20.00. The name would reflect that it covered cool climate growing of orchids, rather than being only for Canberra.

The March Workshop – A request for the usual slices etc for the kitchen please.

Raffle winners: Ross Anderson, Jane Wright, Rajani, Michael Knight, Margaret Bekemer, Jane Wright (again), Bob Evans, Ron Boyd, Ross Anderson (again) and Brian Phelan.

Lucky door prize: Ann Osmand

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm

Coffee Club on Feb 7:

There was a gathering at the ANBG to view the orchid greenhouses. Barbara Corsini was the host and guide showing us around all the houses most of which are closed to the public. It was a very interesting experience to see the extent of the collection and the diversity of plants that they were growing. About 15 people were able to attend and enjoyed the ability to wander about among all the different species. While many of the plants were not in flower, a number were and that added to morning. Many thanks to Barbara for organizing the tour.

Due to the workshop during March, there will be no coffee club that month. The **April** coffee club will be held at Robyn Noel's on Sunday the 10th from 3-5 PM, but this time as a wine and cheese tasting at \$10 a head. Profits to the society.

We would greatly appreciate members to volunteer to hold coffee clubs either during the week or on the weekend.

Orchid Workshop March 19/20 2005

For any of you who may have missed it, we will be hosting an Orchid Weekend Workshop in Canberra over the weekend of 19/20 March 2005 at the Sundown Motel Resort in Narrabundah.

Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids and Wayne Turville of The Australian Orchid Nursery will be our guest presenters. Clive Halls sells an enormous range of cool-growing orchids, and Wayne specialises in Australian natives. In addition to speaking on the trends in hybridising and on orchid culture, Clive and Wayne will have many beautiful orchids for sale. **If you are interested in any special plants or want a preview of what they might bring**, we suggest that you log onto their respective websites which are as follows:

Wayne Turville:

<http://www.australianorchids.com.au/>
<http://www.cymbidium.com.au/>

Clive Halls:

<http://www.nurseriesonline.com.au/MtBeenakOrchids/Orchids.html>

If you see something that you particularly want, you can email them and ask them to bring up the orchid when they come and you can pay for it at the meeting. This will save postage and time.

The format will be morning and afternoon presentations on Saturday, starting about 10 am, and a morning session on Sunday, and closing with lunch on Sunday. Teas and lunches are included in the registration fee of \$50. Dinner on Saturday evening at the Sundown Motel Bistro will be at the expense (\$22) of participants. For those registrants who are Canberra residents, please inform a member of the committee at the next meeting or by phoning if you are **not** planning to attend the dinner. We need to tell the Bistro the number of people to expect for the dinner.

Registration leaflets will be available at the next meeting as well as off the website.

What is a "Novice" grower?

A number of people have asked what is the definition of a novice grower and what does it mean.

Monthly meetings: A novice grower is one who has never won a popular vote in any category of orchids at a monthly meeting. The Committee has decided to re-introduce a special part of the bench allotted to novice growers to encourage people who have had their first blooms to bring them in. This will be a separate category which will be judged on its own. Growers must identify themselves as novice and either tell the bench organiser (Rob Rough) or place their plant (any type of orchid) in the area identified for novices. Once a novice has won a popular vote, they are no longer a novice and in future their plants will be judged with the others.

The yearly show: Novice growers can be entered in displays (Section A) or as individual plants (Section C). "Section C is open only to financial members of the Orchid Society of Canberra, residing within 50 km of the ACT. In Section C, 'Novice' shall mean any exhibitor until they have won in an aggregate of first prizes in any 3 sub-sections at any Orchid Show or Shows, but they shall cease to be a novice in respect to each sub-section in which they win a first prize. The exhibitor shall remain a novice until the end of the calendar year in which they win their third first prize, but shall cease to be a novice in respect of a particular sub section in which they have won their first prize.

In all cases, the bench organizer or show marshal(s) must be aware that a submitted orchid is from a novice grower.

Sales Table

Some changes to announce. David Judge has agreed to take over the storage and ordering of the society's inventory of orchid-growing products. Thank you David! So now, when you need to buy supplies between meetings, please contact David on 6278 4806 to arrange a suitable time to go around to his home at 69 Macrossan Cres, Weetangera.

We're a little low on a few products, but we'll be able to stock up again for you in April, when we'll arrange to pick up supplies from several vendors at the Sydney International Orchid Fair.

Orchid jobs to do in March and April

By Jane Wright

After the hot weather we've had, it's a relief to have some cooler temperatures. But don't forget that winter will be on us soon. My rule of thumb is to get all the plants into their winter arrangements by Anzac Day at the latest. So it's not too early to start to reline the glasshouse and make sure the heater and thermostats work.

With the warm days and cool nights, we get the initiation of Phalaenopsis spikes. If your conditions are very stable with little difference between day and night, it may be worthwhile to give your plants a holiday outside for a week or two. Just make sure that you don't scorch the leaves or let them dry out too much under these different conditions!

Before settling the plants for winter, it's a good idea to go over them all very carefully, checking for any insects. I like to do one spray of all the orchids before winter, just to make sure that I don't have big problems during winter.

If it turns out that you can't fit everything back into the space you have available, consider selling some spare divisions on the sales table. Remember to put the price on a separate tag, and remember to allow for the society's 10% commission when you price the plants.

CROSSWORD No 14 SOLUTION

By Dennis Drobe

N		P	S	E	U	D	O	B	U	L	B	S
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COLD-TOLERANT ORCHIDS OF THE CATTLEYA ALLIANCE (Edited to fit)

by Ross Pascoe

(from Orchids in Victoria 2001)

During June, 1998 the northern Victorian town of Kerang, where I live, suffered a succession of severe frosts, which resulted in the loss of most cymbidium flower spikes and the death of many small plants. Those orchids that appear to be unharmed by the frosts are listed below as a guide to other growers whose orchid houses are also prone to occasional severe frosts.

Sophranitis coccinea, a cool-growing Brazilian species with shapely red flowers.

Cattleya loddigesii, a bifoliate cattleya species with light lavender flowers.

Cattleya intermedia. Four cultivars, namely 'Arnehyстина', 'Irrorata', 'Alba' and var. *flamea*. *Laelia gouldiana*, a Mexican species with lavender flowers. *Laelia anceps*, another Mexican species with pink or white flowers.

Laelia pumila, a Brazilian species with small pink or mauve flowers.

Laelia milleri, another Brazilian species with small, brilliant red flowers.

Laelia purpurata, also from Brazil, with large, spectacular purple and white flowers.

Laelia xanthina, a rock-growing Brazilian miniature species with small cream or yellow flowers.

Many other species survived the frosts but showed various degrees of leaf burn. Those cattleya hybrids that survived unscathed are listed below; many have the cold-tolerant *Sophranitis coccinea* as a parent.

Sophranocattleya (Sic.) Dixie Jewels 'Suzuki', a red-flowering miniature cattleya.

Sic. Wendy's Valentine 'June'.

Sic. Hazel Boyd, several cultivars of this popular, easily flowered grex.

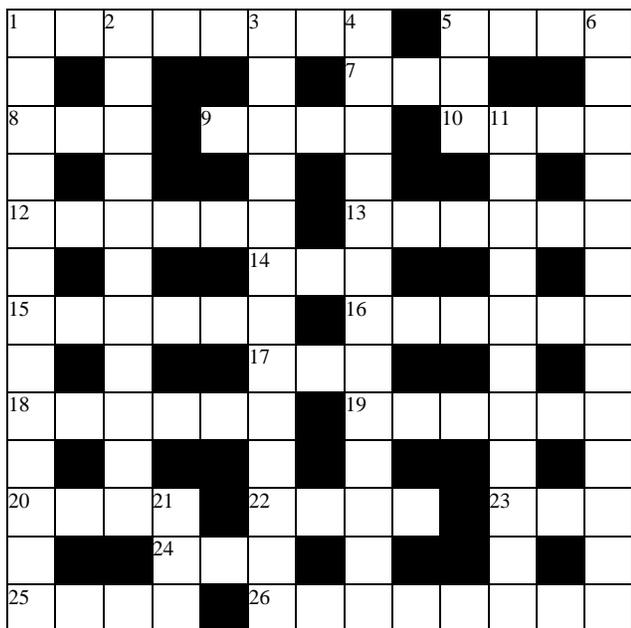
Sophranocattleya (Sc.) Batemaniana 'Hawaii', a splash-petal hybrid between two cold-tolerant species, namely, *Sophranitis coccinea* and *Cattleya intermedia*.

Sophranocattleya (Sf.) Orpetti x *Laelia flava*. *Sf.* Orpetti is a hybrid between the cold-tolerant species *Sophranitis coccinea* and *Laelia pumila*, while *Laeliaflava* is also cold-tolerant.

Laeliocattleya (Lc.) Mini Purple 'Tamami' (*L. pumila* x *C. walkeriana*); the latter species needs a little warmth.

Lc. Angel Heart x *Se.* Batemaniana. Several cultivars of the first-named parent shed their leaves as the result of the frost.

CROSSWORD No 15 by Dennis Drobe



ACROSS

- 1&26 Miltonia is a member (8,8)
- 5 A fairy within the perimeter (4)
- 8 Pulp (3)
- 9 The Collins that won a Grammy in 1990 (4)
- 10 Is to Canada as RAAF is to Australia (4)
- 12 More is chosen for an Austrian screenwriter (6)
- 13 Volcano in El Salvador (6)
- 14 “ ... Cassius has a lean and hungry look” - Shakespeare (3)
- 15 A United Nations agency (6)
- 16 “To travel hopefully is a better thing than to” - R.L. Stevenson (6)
- 17 A drunkard (3)
- 18 The fox sparrow, *Passerella* (6)
- 19 Relating to the Inca (6)
- 20 Initially I saw many sites of schools (4)
- 22 The wife of a Rajah (4)
- 23 A charged particle (3)
- 24 A black bird (3)
- 25 A pseudobulb is a fleshy one (4)
- 26 See 1

DOWN

- 1 An Old Person has a drink at the place of higher learning with equal scores for favourable junctures (13)
- 2 The lady’s slipper is one (11)
- 3 Order of some extinct fish-like mammals (13)
- 4 Worldwide (13)
- 5 Each (3)
- 6 Science for Len is a flowering (13)
- 11 Four at 23, lead by a sect, brings improvement of the mind (11)
- 21 Snead, Wanamaker, Neill, etc (3)

Horticultural Society Autumn Show

Lancaster Hall at Wesley Uniting Church, Fitzroy Street between National and Dominion Circuits, Griffith. The shows are open to the public on Saturday from noon-5pm and on Sunday from 12:30-4pm.

Quite a few years ago now, we teamed up with the Horticultural Society to present an autumn show. We wanted to have an occasion in autumn to show our orchids, but we realised that we just don’t have enough flowers at that time of year to mount a show on our own. With the help of the late Lila Rose, we came to a terrific arrangement with the Horticultural Society. They now put quite a few orchid classes into each of their shows, but a really complete schedule in the Autumn Show, to cater for us. As a result, we have put on some pretty terrific displays over the years.

This year, we have novice classes as well, for those growers that still qualify as novices for our shows (see “What is a Novice” above).

I would encourage all members to enter their flowering plants in the show. It’s a great boost to the visibility of our club. It’s a very simple process – just follow the direction below.

1. By 8pm on the Thursday preceeding the show, phone Mrs. Linn Doyle (02) 6231 7755, and tell her how many plants of each category you plan to enter. Note that you must have owned and been in possession of the orchids for at least 6 months.
2. Bring your plants to Lancaster Hall for staging on Friday (6-10pm) or Saturday (7:30-10am). There is a 10 cent charge for each entry.
3. If you win any prizes, your winnings (1st \$1, 2nd 50c) must be collected before the show closes. Uncollected money will revert to the Horticultural Society.
4. Collect your plants immediately after the show closes at 4pm on Sunday. The speed at which this Society can pull down a show is awesome!

The Autumn Show 6-7 March 2004

The orchid classes are:

Section A: Open Cattleya Alliance

- 154 Cattleya species
- 155 Hybrid – standard
- 156 Hybrid- intermediate
- Best specimen from classes 154-156

Paphiopedilum

- 157 Species
- 158 Hybrid
- Best specimen from classes 157,158

Vandaceous Alliance

- 159 Species

- 160 Phalaenopsis hybrids
 161 Vanda and Ascocenda hybrids
 Best specimen from classes 159-161

Oncidium Alliance

- 162 *Oncidium* species
 163 *Oncidium* hybrid
 164 *Odontoglossum* alliance species
 165 *Odontoglossum* alliance hybrid
 166 Other *Oncidium* alliance species

Best specimen from classes 162-166

Pleurothallid Alliance

- 167 Masdevallia species
 168 Other pleurothallid species
 169 Hybrid including *Masd. veitchiana*
 170 Hybrid not including *Masd. veitchiana*

Best specimen from classes 167-170

Orchid not otherwise specified

- 171 Species
 172 Hybrid

Best specimen from classes 171, 172

Section B: Novice Classes

- 173 Cattleya Alliance
 174 Paphiopedilum
 175 Vandaceous Alliance
 176 *Oncidium* Alliance
 177 Pleurothallid Alliance
 178 Orchid not otherwise specified

Best specimen from classes 173-178

Major Prizes for Orchids

All entries in the orchid section will be considered for the major prizes.

Champion Orchid of the Show

The Lawrence Woods Perpetual Trophy, \$20 plus ribbon

Reserve Champion of the Show

The Lila Rose Memorial Perpetual Trophy, \$15 plus ribbon.

Champion Specimen Orchid

\$10 plus ribbon.

“Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia”

Mark Fraser, Bill Ferris, Ben Wallace and I have been having a very interesting time finalising the book, because we’ve been doing all kinds of research to make sure that what we put in is up-to-date and correct! We’ve had an epic time trying to make sense of the current state of orchid taxonomy – the most polite thing you can say is that, “it’s a work in progress”. Nevertheless, we think that it will be helpful to everyone to have both the new and old names throughout, so that you can look up information using both names.

One thing we’ve done is to change the title to be more general, because we think that we are likely to sell more copies when people realise that it has appeal outside of

just Canberra. That’s important because we’re taking the plunge to publish it in full colour and print 1500 copies. This means a higher cash outlay to start with, but a much higher quality book that we can sell for a higher price.

New articles, besides the tax-nomy, cover coelogynes, sarcochilus, species cymbidiums, vandae, pleurothallids, and disas, to mention a few. Many articles have been substantially revised and updated. In addition, we’ve a new series of general articles that cover growing structures, pots, media, mounts, repotting and deflasking. We’ve also got an article on CAM orchids and what that means for orchid culture.

On behalf of the editorial team, I’d like to thank everyone who has written articles, reviewed material, and given us images to use. It’s been quite a team effort.

We hope you enjoy the fruits of our labours.

Jane Wright

A Preview from the book Rupicolous Sophronitis Lynne Phelan

An interesting group of orchids grows in gravel substrates in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. Formerly they were included in the genus *Laelia* and were referred to as rupicolous (meaning ‘rock dwelling’) laelias. These species are now considered to be in the genus *Sophronitis*. These colourful, compact plants are highly recommended for growers who have limited space and who don’t have hothouse conditions. The species covers a rainbow of brilliant clear colours as well as pretty pastels. Some of my favourites include the scarlet *Sophronitis milleri*, bright yellow *S. briegeri*, glowing orange *S. cinnabarina* or lovely lilac *S. mantiqueirae*. Others you may be able to find in nurseries in Australia include *Sophronitis blumenscheinii*, *crispata* (syn. *flava*, *gardneri*), *endfeldzi*, *fournieri* (*longipes* var. *fournieri*), *harpophylla*, *lundii*, *reginae*, and *sincorana*.

Although they come from the tropics, the rupicolous sophronitis actually require a temperate climate because most are found at high altitude. Most of these species are found in south-eastern Brazil growing at an altitude of between 500 and 1500 metres.

Rupicolous sophronitis are xerophytic, that is, they can withstand seasonally dry conditions. They grow in a climate with a cool dry ‘winter’ when growth stops and the plants are virtually dormant. The only moisture for many months in some areas comes from evening fogs. With the onset of spring rains and warmer weather new growth starts and this matures over the warm, wet summer. Maturity is reached before autumn dryness and cooler temperatures again stop growth. Within this general pattern conditions can be extreme with temperatures ranging from freezing to 40°C or more in some areas.

Large diurnal (day/night) temperature variations are normal.

So how do rupicolous sophronitis cope with the climate and environment? The leaves are fleshy allowing plants to store food and moisture and they have a thick cutin layer to prevent water loss. In very bright conditions such as exist on the lava plateau in Minas Gerais (Brazil), the leaves develop a bright red pigmentation that protects the sensitive photosynthetic cells. Leaves also have a V-shaped leaf section to support the heavy leaf tissue. This shape also decreases the area exposed to the environment and serves to channel any available water down to the roots.

Another factor that allows these sophronitis to thrive in their environment is that they rely on CAM metabolism (see article by Ben Wallace). To cater for the CAM function, provide moderate night temperatures (mine go down to 5°C) and maintain high humidity levels at night to allow respiration and the intake of CO₂. Provide

relatively high daytime light levels (similar to that required by cattleyas) to drive photosynthesis in the succulent chlorophyll-bearing tissue. Make sure there is a fairly strong diurnal (day-night) temperature fluctuation to ensure the completion of the process. Be sure to provide adequate air movement. Along with this, aim to replicate the seasonal climate with a dry winter rest followed by an active growing period through spring and summer. These hardy little plants are not prone to pests and diseases but the tightly clustered pseudobulbs can harbour scale or mealybugs which should be treated quickly because they can be difficult to eradicate if they get among the roots and growing medium. These plants need to be allowed to dry out between waterings as rot will set in if the plants are kept wet. To replicate their growing in gravel, use a free-draining potting mix, eg bark and gravel, and repot only when necessary as they do not like to be disturbed. I feed my plants fortnightly in the growing season with a very weak fertiliser solution.

Popular Vote February 2005

Laeliinae hybrid – miniature	Sc. Joanne	Bob Rough
Laeliinae hybrid - intermediate	<i>C. Walkerinter</i> (= <i>walkeriana</i> var <i>alba</i> x <i>C. intermedia</i> var <i>aquinii</i>)	Bob Rough
Laeliinae hybrid – standard	<i>C. Bob Betts</i> x <i>C. Okami</i> x <i>C. intermedia</i> var <i>alba</i>	Bob Rough
Laeliinae species	<i>Sophronitis coccinea</i> ('Helen' x 'Monty')	Brian and Lynne Phelan
Paphiopedilum species	<i>Paphiopedilum lowii</i> var <i>Celebes</i>	David Judge
Paphiopedilum hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Susan Booth 'Paracombe'	David Judge
Coelogyne species	<i>Coelogyne tomentosa</i>	Don Chesher
Pleurothallid alliance species	<i>Dryadella simula</i>	Jane Wright
Oncidium alliance species	<i>Miltonia schroederiana</i>	Brian Phelan
Australian Dendrobium species	<i>X Vappaculum superbiens</i> (syn. <i>Den. x superbiens</i>)	Bob Evans
Australian Dendrobium hybrids	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon	Brian Leedham
Australian terrestrial	<i>Cryptostylis erecta</i>	Nita Wheeler
Exotic Dendrobium species	<i>Dendrobium christyanum</i>	Ben Wallace
Vandaceous hybrid	<i>Phal.</i> Errol 'Bold Stripes'	Don Chesher
Any other hybrid	<i>Lycaste Sulphurea</i> (= <i>Lyc. cruenta</i> x <i>deppei</i>)	Nita Wheeler
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Susan Booth 'Paracombe'	David Judge
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Odontoglossum harryanum</i>	Brian Phelan
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Susan Booth 'Paracombe'	David Judge

Contributions to the Bulletin

You can get material to the editor by the following means:

In person: At meetings, or if I am not there to either Robyn Noel or Barbara Corsini.

By mail: 10 Wickham Cres, Red Hill, ACT 2603 **not** the Orchid Soc PO Box

By phone: (02) 6161 2742 (h)

By email: bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

Hand written, typed and computer generated material all welcome and will be included as soon as possible subject to space. Contributions preferably by 14th of Jan, Feb, April, June, August, October.

Computer files: This bulletin is prepared with Word for Windows 2000 on a PC. I can handle .doc, .rtf and .txt text formats and digital still and video images in most popular formats including .avi, .jpg, .tif and .bmp. Please keep formatting to a minimum, especially if it includes graphics. I can also scan drawings, text, slides and photographic prints. Contributors using a Mac please format files to a PC readable format before sending them to me. Please keep a backup copy of your own of anything you send me as accidents can happen! I can handle IBM formatted floppy disks and CDs. Please put your name on disks so that I can return them to you. Any questions, please see, ring or email me.

The Editor, Ben Walcott