

# Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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*Caladenia fuscata*



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Mar - Apr 2016

## Regular monthly meetings:

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the **first Wednesday** of each month (except January) at the **Seventh Day Adventist Church, corner Gould and Macleay St. Turner**. Meetings commence at 8:00pm with the library and sales table open from 7:30pm.

## Meeting Program

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Noushka Reiter – cultivation & conservation of native terrestrial orchids

**6<sup>th</sup> April:** Alan Stephenson – understanding & conserving native orchids

## Upcoming Events

**Canberra Horticultural Society Autumn Show:** 5-6 March, Wesley Centre, 20 National Circuit, Forrester, ACT

**Orchid Workshop:** hosted by the Sapphire Coast Orchid Club, 19-20 March, Merimbula RSL

**Manly Warringah Orchid Society Auction:** 20 March, 09:00 for 09:30 start, Cromer Community Centre, Fisher Road North, Cromer

**Castle Hill Orchid Fair:** 15-16 April, Fri 9am - 7pm, Sat 9am - 4pm, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill

**Orchids Out West:** 13-15 May, Fri/Sat 9am - 4pm, Sun 9am - 3pm, Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon



February Orchid of the Night: *Paphiopedilum dianthum*, grown by David Judge

## Committee Members

President:	<u>Bill Ferris</u>	6297 5635
Vice President:	<u>Karen Groeneveld</u>	6299 7080
Treasurer:	<u>Bob Forrester</u>	6231 0203
Secretary:	<u>Geoff Dyne</u>	6231 3681
Committee:	<u>Mark Clements</u>	0417 471 917
	<u>Zoe Groeneveld</u>	6299 7080
	<u>Peter Coyne</u>	6251 7660



Judges' Choice Specimen: *Vappodes lithocola*, grown by Jane Wright

## Disclaimer

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## President's Comments

January 2016

Presumably the hot weather will soon come to a close and coming up to ANZAC Day we will need to keep a watch for possible early cold snaps. For many orchids it only takes one cold Canberra night to end a plants life. I notice many native terrestrials are actively growing and so is their need for regular watering. It will also soon be time to reduce fertilizing and watering of the soft cane dendrobiums.

Our speakers for the next two months are actively involved in various aspects of conservation of native orchids. Noushka Reiter's work concentrates on the breeding and reintroduction of endangered species, while Alan Stephenson is involved in identifying the location of native orchids and measures to protect their environment. I am often reminded by orchid enthusiasts that the best way of conserving your special orchid is to give a bulb or two to another enthusiast – perhaps there could be greater scope for us orchid enthusiasts to grow rarer native species if obtainable.

As members would be aware we try to maintain a stock of various orchid growing supplies (other than chemicals). There are limits to the quantity and range of pots etc. that can be held while purchases are often picked up infrequently from the supplier's doors eliminating freight costs. If anyone anticipates requiring larger quantities or an ongoing need for less common pots/sizes etc. at any time could they please advise me well in advance and we may be able to assist. The end of April is the end of the Society's financial year and thus membership renewals will then be due. Details are in this Bulletin.

## Membership Renewals

An early reminder that our 2016-17 financial year starts on 1 May and the AGM is on 1 June. Membership fees for next year are the same as this year:

- Single membership - \$25,
- Joint membership - \$30
- Juniors and full-time students - \$5

Payments may be made by direct deposit to the society account:

Name: Orchid Society of Canberra Inc.

BSB: 062913

Number: 28036165

or at a meeting or by posting a cheque or postal note. If by direct deposit, please clearly identify your name. New members who joined early in 2016 are covered for 2016-17.

## Speaker for March – Noushka Reiter

Noushka Reiter is an ecologist managing an orchid conservation laboratory and nursery for the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, propagating federally endangered species, particularly terrestrial orchids, for conservation and re-introduction. Noushka has over 14 years' experience propagating and researching threatened Australian plant species, with particular experience in tissue culture, reintroductions and mycorrhizal associations of 'difficult' Australian species.

Noushka has successfully propagated over 30 federally endangered species for reintroduction and, together with colleagues, seen over 20 species successfully reintroduced to the wild.

Noushka will be talking about orchid re-introductions and the importance of ecology and community involvement.

## Speaker for April – Alan Stephenson

Alan Stephenson has been Conservation Director for the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) since 2002 and has a passion for his work. He has many achievements in this area, including: writing submissions to have five orchid species listed as endangered; discovered *Prasophyllum affine* at Vincentia which saw the planned shopping centre relocated; the re-discovery of *Calochilus pulchellus*, and the identification of the first plant of *Rhizanthella slateri* to be found south of the Blue Mountains.

Alan currently collects orchid specimens for the Australian National Botanic Gardens and recently sent a series of photos to New Zealand for detailed work on *Orthoceras strictum*. He works closely with local national parks and the Shoalhaven City Council environment section, assists the Botanic Gardens at Mt Annan regarding their seed collection of endangered orchids and works with the Office of Environment and Heritage at Wollongong with locations and surveys of threatened species in the Save Our Species program. Alan has also appeared before the Joint Regional Planning Panel, the NSW Planning Assessment Commission and the Land and Environment Court following submissions pertinent to developments. Alan has assisted the Office of Environment and Heritage at Queanbeyan with the monitoring of three endangered species. He prepares a conservation report in the AOC annual reports. His talk will canvas these activities.

## General Meeting Minutes

3 February 2016

Members: 32

Visitors: 3

Apologies: 7

President Bill opened the meeting, commenting on the recent favourable weather for growing orchids. He then welcomed three visitors and noted the apologies, including the secretary and treasurer. Bill introduced the speaker, member Ben Wallace.

### Speaker

Ben regularly conducts tours of China and delivered a fascinating talk on western Yunnan Province. The province has common boundaries with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. The talk began in Kunming, the provincial capital, a city of five million people. This city has changed profoundly since Ben first went there, now being a thoroughly modern city. Ben showed us a hand-cut tunnel carved by a priest from the rock of a cliff to some cliff shrines. He also showed us the Golden Temple, built in the early 1600s, containing 250 tonnes of bronze. In a courtyard was a crepe myrtle which has been growing there since 1634. Kunming hosted Expo 99, a permanent horticultural expo which cost two billion US dollars to establish. We were impressed by a photo of intricately carved granodiorite pillars which reflected a mind-boggling amount of effort. Also in Kunming was a Dove or Handkerchief Tree, *Davidia involucrata*, which is endemic to western Yunnan and nearby Myanmar.

The virtual tour then moved to Dali, an ancient walled city which was visited by both Marco Polo and Genghis Khan. The wall is now being restored. The lake here is the last place in China where cormorant fishing continues. A cable car provided access to an area more than 3800m high in a nearby range. The vegetation featured rhododendrons and Blue-Cone Firs. A sub-alpine lake formed by a dam of glacial moraine was surrounded by a scrubland of rhododendrons. Species which featured in Ben's photos included *Rhododendron decorum*, *R. neriiflorum*, *R. crassum* and *R. yunnanense*. Orchids included *Pleione albiflora* (probably), *P. bulbocrodioides* and *P. auritas*, as well as *Coelogyne nitida*.

Hui village in the Mekong valley has a Muslim community who engage in intensive cropping. The tour then progressed to Liuku, a city of 500,000 people on the Salween River at the southern (downstream) end of the Salween Gorge. Near there was the remarkable Moon Mountain in the Fugong Range. Moon Mountain features a massive "window" right through the range, apparently man-made in the distant past. In this area *Dendrobium officinale* is eaten as a tonic. We also saw *Froscula (Dendrobium) longicornu* with flowers 7cm

across, a species of *Phaius* (probably *P. wallichii*) and *Goodyera procera*.

After a quick look at Wuli village in the Salween Gorge, an interesting place, the tour progressed to Bingzhongluo, which is also in the Salween Gorge and is close to the Gaoligong Mountains. Here were a *Goodyera* species and at least twelve species of *Cymbidium* including *C. traceyanum* and *C. lowianum*. These mountains are a world-wide attraction for ornithologists.

The talk ended at Jiaozi Snowy Mountain where a cable-car goes up to an altitude of 3800m and the start of a climb to an alpine tarn at 4000m. Here were *Rhododendron rubiginosum*, *R. delavayi* and *R. lacteum* as well as *Primula sonchifolia*.



Judges' Choice Hybrid: *Promenaea* Samsu 'Plum' x Norman Gaunt, grown by Karen Groeneveld

The meeting adjourned for the tea break, after which Bill presided over the normal business of the meeting. On behalf of the Treasurer he reported that the bank balance was just over \$28 thousand, acceptance of the report being moved by Mark Fraser and seconded by Ben Walcott. The minutes of the last two meetings were approved - moved by Jim Wheeler and seconded by Mark Fraser.

Mark Clements briefly discussed orchids he had seen on a recent trip to northern NSW, depicted in the last bulletin. These included: *Taeniophyllum muelleri*, a minute leafless orchid (about 2cm across with flowers about 1mm long) which grows on Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), and a population of *Dipodium hamiltonianum*, a terrestrial species that is yellow in colour, rather than the pink species we are more familiar with. A closely-related but larger *Taeniophyllum*, *T. norfolkianum*, grows on Norfolk Island Pine, (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

The popular vote and judges' choices were presented.

Bill asked members to advise him by email in advance if they intend to sell plants, especially large ones, at a meeting or otherwise, so he could circulate the

information in advance. He suggested an alternative approach to sales instead of first-come, first-served at meetings. The suggestion, for comment by members, was that details of plants be circulated by email, a week or so ahead, to allow for expressions of interest. Bill also asked members to advise him of any change to email addresses. He reminded members about the Orchid Workshop at Merimbula 19-20 March, which might still be open for registration. He noted the passing of Marilyn Condon.

Jane Wright noted that Orchiata bark had been “magic” for Paphiopedilums, stimulating fantastic root growth. Mark Fraser added that he had found similar benefits in Cattleyas. Nita Wheeler described how Jane had given her some *Epipactus gigantea*, subsequently Jane’s had died, and Nita had been able to give some back to Jane. Nita suggested sharing plants in this way is a useful way of protecting against loss.

Peter Coyne commented on the society’s acquisition of tubers of native terrestrial orchids from the Australian Native Orchid Society Victoria Tuber Bank. Orders are submitted annually in mid-December and the tubers are mailed out about mid-January. This is an excellent opportunity for members to buy tubers of a diversity of native orchid species although orders are not usually completely filled due to shortage of material. This year fewer than half the species we ordered were supplied. Tubers are usually provided as a packet of three tubers of a species at a cost of \$1 per tuber plus postage. Similar packets of three tubers of some native orchid species can be bought on the internet for about \$15 plus postage.

David Judge discussed Snow Mould, a fungal growth in potting mix which is characterised by a dense growth of small, white nodules. It can make the mix difficult to wet and is very hard to eradicate. He had found Algatrol or other swimming pool algacides, which also kill algae and moss, to be effective in treating Snow Mould. Suitable algacides all include the active ingredient *Benzalkonium chloride*; but make sure that Copper is not included as an ingredient, as it is toxic to plants. Information on this treatment was provided in the Bulletin of May-Jun 2014. [Soon after the meeting Bill circulated relevant information by email.]

Speaker at the March meeting will be Noushka Reiter, an ecologist managing an orchid conservation laboratory and nursery for the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation.

Jane Wright will give a talk at the April meeting.

Raffle: Nita Wheeler, Yvonne Day, Jane Wright, Jacquie Bannerman, Tony Tritschler and Ben Walcott.  
Door prize: Trudy Friederich



Judges' Choice Species: *Ornithochilus difformis*, grown by Mark Clements

**Horticultural Society of Canberra**  
**Autumn Flower Show**

Saturday 5 March - 12 noon to 5pm & Sunday 6 March - 11.30am to 3:45pm

Entries close with the Honorary Show Secretary at 8pm Thursday 3 March.

**Note:** If you are entering by email it is your responsibility to ensure that your entries have been received.

Sheila Phone: 02 6254 8017  
Hodgson Email: 2hodgson@tpg.com.au  
Brian Phone: 0414223872  
Hodgson

**ORCHIDS**  
**SECTION A: OPEN**

**Cattleya Alliance**

- 130. Species
  - 131. Hybrid (Standard)
  - 132. Hybrid (Intermediate)
  - 133. Hybrid (Miniature)
- Best specimen plant from classes 130 –133

**Paphiopedilum Alliance**

- 134. Species
  - 135. Hybrid
- Best specimen plant from classes 134 –135

**Vandaceous Alliance**

- 136. Vandaceous alliance species
  - 137. Phalaenopsis hybrids
  - 138. Vanda and Ascocenda hybrids
  - 139. Other vandaceous hybrids
- Best specimen plant from classes 136 –139

### Oncidium Alliance

- 140. Oncidium species
  - 141. Oncidium hybrids
  - 142. Odontoglossum alliance species
  - 143. Odontoglossum alliance hybrids
  - 144. Other Oncidium alliance species
- Best specimen plant from classes 140 –144

### Pleurothallid Alliance

- 145. Masdevallia species
  - 146. Other Pleurothallid species
  - 147. Hybrid - 30mm or greater
  - 148. Hybrid - less than 30mm
- Best specimen plant from classes 145 –148

### Orchid not otherwise specified

- 149. Coelogyne alliance species
  - 150. Dendrobium alliance species
  - 151. Dendrobium alliance hybrid
  - 152. Any other orchid hybrid
  - 153. Any other orchid species
- Best specimen plant from classes 149 –153

### SECTION B: NOVICE

- 154. Cattleya alliance.
  - 155. Paphiopedilum alliance.
  - 156. Vandaceous alliance.
  - 157. Oncidium alliance.
  - 158. Pleurothallid alliance.
  - 159. Orchid not otherwise specified.
- Best specimen plant from classes 154 –159

The Hall will be open for the staging of exhibits on: Friday 6.00pm to 10.00pm & Saturday 7.30am to 10.00am. Other times by arrangement. All other exhibits should be staged by 10.00am on the first day of the Show and from that time the Hall will be under the control of the judges and officials. Exhibits must not be removed from the Hall until 3.45pm on the Sunday and all exhibitors are responsible for the removal of their exhibits at that time. Hall Clearance will commence at 4pm sharp.

For further information: [www.hsoc.org.au](http://www.hsoc.org.au)

### Popular Vote - February 2016

Category	Plant	Owner
Pleurothallidinae	<i>Lepanthes telipogoniflorum</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
Vandaceous Species	<i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>	David Judge
Vandaceous Hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> (name unknown)	Ben Walcott
Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium aduncum</i>	Mark Clements
Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Jersey	Sandra Corbett & Mark Fraser
	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Wayne Oyama	Jane Wright
	<i>Bulbophyllum yoksunense</i>	Jane Wright
Any Other Orchid	<i>Promenaea</i> Samsu 'Plum' x Norman Gaunt	Karen Groeneveld
Exotic Terrestrial	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Australian species	<i>Vappodes lithocola</i>	Jane Wright
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Promenaea</i> Samsu 'Plum' x Norman Gaunt	Karen Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Ornithochilus difformis</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Vappodes lithocola</i>	Jane Wright

### Contributions to the Bulletin

Editor: Zoe Groeneveld

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

- In person:** At meetings, or if I am not there to another member of the Committee
- By mail:** 112 Tharwa Road, Karabar NSW, 2620 - **NOT** the Orchid Society PO Box.
- By phone:** (02) 6299 7080 (h)
- By email:** [zoe.groeneveld@internode.on.net](mailto:zoe.groeneveld@internode.on.net)

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