

Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

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Caladenia fuscata



Volume 33, Number 2

March–April 2018

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

- 7 March** ‘Odontoglossums’ with Brian Phelan
Brian is an excellent grower of these showy orchids. Learn the tips and tricks to growing these orchids.
- 4 April** ‘Updates and discoveries on Australian orchids’ with Mark Clements.
Mark is a research scientist specialising in systematic research and conservation of Australian native orchids.

Upcoming Events

- 3–4 March** Horticultural Society of Canberra Exhibition and Rose Show (includes 20 orchid classes incl. Novice)
- 17–18 March** Orchid Workshop, Tuross Head, hosted by the Eurobodalla Orchid Club
- 18–20 May** Orchids Out West (opposite Richmond RAAF Base)
- 18–22 July** AOC conference & show, Windsor NSW
- 10–11 August** National Orchid Extravaganza, Dural
- 17–19 August** St Ives Orchid Fair
- 22–23 September** Canberra Orchid Society Show

For further info, visit:

- <http://www.canberraorchids.org/>
- <http://www.hsoc.org.au>

Contributions to the Bulletin

All contributions to the bulletin are most welcome. Deadline for the May–Jun edition is Sunday 22 April 2018 to Peter Coyne (petaurus@gmail.com).



Orchid of the Night and Judges Choice Species in February, *Gastrochilus retrocallus* grown by Mark Clements [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Previously known as *Haraella retrocalla* (and still sold under this name), this miniature epiphyte from Taiwan can flower for most of the year. Flowers have bright flowers and a citrus scent. Plants can be grown on a slab or in pot and do well in low to medium light, but favour higher humidity. Some people grow this species in terrariums. Plants are sometimes available on eBay and several Australian orchid nurseries stock it.

Disclaimer

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Committee Members

President:	Jane Wright	6254 1119
Vice President:	Bill Ferris	6297 5635
Treasurer:	Scott Mann	0414793759
Secretary:	Karen Groeneveld	6299 7080
Committee:	Geoff Dyne	6231 3681
	Peter Coyne	6251 7660
	Mike Pieloor	0438071492

From the President

There are 3 important events in March in addition to our meeting featuring Brian Phelan on odontoglossums:

- First, there is the Horticultural Society of Canberra's Autumn Show on 3 and 4 March. This is our club's de-facto autumn show, and a great opportunity to show our orchids and entice possible new members. We have co-operated with the Horticultural Society for a great many years and they specifically put in a great raft of classes to accommodate what our members grow. Please look at your collection and make a point of entering your orchids.
- Saturday 10 March is the day to head to Queanbeyan to visit the growing setups of Karen Groeneveld and Bill Ferris. Both are excellent growers and you'll see that each has solved the problems of growing in our climate in different ways. More details elsewhere in the bulletin.
- The last event is the Regional Orchid Workshop being hosted by the Eurobodalla Club on 17, 18 March this year at Tuross Head. They have a couple of good speakers/vendors lined up and it's always a great time. Contact Robyn Noel (6262 3010 or robynnoel@bigpond.com) if you'd be interested in sharing accommodation and/or car-pooling.

After some members did some research on ways to take electronic payments that aren't as hideously expensive as the banks, the treasurer is looking into the issue again.

Internet orchid information resource

Albert Maas has created a database of information on orchids, including more than 13,000 photos and data of cultural value on nearly 4000 species and more than 1500 hybrids. The database can be searched by blooming period and season, fragrancy, greenhouse conditions, light conditions, origin, species or hybrid and altitude. For example searching for cool greenhouse and partial shade returns 420 names with photos. Access is free.

www.globalorchids.info/home/

New members

The Society is excited to welcome: Brian Dear, Monica DeFreitis and Nick Westerink as new members.



Judges' Choice - Hybrid in February, *Phalaenopsis unknown hybrid* grown by Rob Rough [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Jobs to do in March and April

Winter is will be here before we know it and so now is time to start getting prepared. My rule of thumb is to get all the plants into their winter arrangements by Anzac Day at the latest. So now is the time to check that your heaters and thermostats work. Remove the extra shading to allow in the weaker winter sun. I always like to buy an extra new oscillating fan while they are still available as insurance for the one that's guaranteed to die just after the stores stop stocking them in autumn.

Warm days and cool nights cause the initiation of flower spikes in *Phalaenopsis*. 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 you don't scorch the leaves or let them dry out under these different conditions.

Start to ease back on watering, especially for orchids that need a winter dry spell. On the other hand, you should be watering your Australian terrestrials from now on, keeping them slightly moist. Be careful when watering any orchid that you don't allow cold water to sit in the crown of a plant over a cold night. Bacterial soft rots can kill a plant in no time at all.

Before settling plants in for winter, it's a good idea to check them all over very carefully for insects.

Personally, I like to do one comprehensive spray of all orchids to ensure that I don't have big problems during winter.

If you can't fit everything back into the space you have available, consider selling some spare divisions on the sales table. Put the price and your name on a separate tag and remember to allow for the society's 10% commission when you price the plants. Donations to the door prize table are also much appreciated.

Orchid lottery with a difference

The UK's Lesser Butterfly Orchids are among the threatened species to be helped by £4.6 million funding from the National Lottery. The money will support the Back from the Brink initiative to bring together leading charities and conservation bodies in the first nationwide coordinated effort to safeguard species from extinction and deliver conservation measures across England. The scheme aims to boost conservation efforts in 150 key habitats and landscapes, and recruit and teach more than 5,500 volunteers the skills they need to study, identify and look after threatened species.

Social media

We are expanding our social media - we already have a Facebook group and a page. We even have our first member who joined through Facebook.

We have two entries on Facebook:

1. Facebook page: Orchid Society of Canberra

This page provides information about the Society's activities and events. Posts include information about upcoming talks, photos of plants benched at our meetings, advice and other useful information about growing orchids.

Check it out here:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanberraOrchidSociety/>

2. Facebook group: Orchid Society of Canberra inc.

This group provides a forum to ask for help from other growers and share and discuss growing orchids. We already have more than 20 members and people have sought advice on pests and frost.

Please note: We are changing the name of this group to 'Growing orchids in a cool climate'. This will avoid confusion with our Facebook page and open up discussion to include people from around the world who grow orchids in a similar climate.

Do I need a Facebook account?

Not for the Page. It is just like a dynamic website. But, if you want to join the conversation in our Facebook group you will need to sign up for a Facebook account.

Is it safe?

Just like our website, only the society can post to our page. Anyone with a Facebook account can see the group, but only people who we have approved as members of the group can post information and ask

questions. We will monitor the group to make sure people treat each other with respect.

Who to ask for help

Mike Pieloor, Karen Groeneveld, Mark Fraser.



December and January Deflasking workshops

In December and January several members pitched in to deflask some *Thelychiton speciosus* seedlings that the society had had produced from seed pods set by Mark Clements on some high quality *Thelychiton speciosus* plants originally owned by John Ryan. Two workshops were run at the home of Bill Ferris, and with help of Bob Forrester, Krysia Szkiela, Brenda Thompson, Peter Quinn, Chris Szigetvari and Neil Carlyle, a great many plants were potted up. At Jane Wright's in January, Jacquie Bannerman, Derek Corrigan, Chris Szigetvari and his mother-in-law Bev did another pair of crosses. We expect a final lot of flasks in due course, so there'll be another opportunity to do some hands-on deflasking.



Deflasking in style – Derek, Bev, Chris and Jacqui relax after liberating the new seedlings. [photo: Jane wright]

Open greenhouses

The committee is arranging for various members to have their greenhouses open for inspection. This is an ideal opportunity, particularly for newer members, to see various growing arrangements from the simple to highly sophisticated and get valuable growing tips from the owners. We are co-ordinating openings by location.

The next openings will be in Queanbeyan/Karabar at the homes of Bill Ferris and Karen Groeneveld on 10 March between 2pm and 4pm. Afternoon teas will be provided. Address and contact details will be circulated by email.



Judges' Choice specimen in February, *Gomeza recurva*
grown by Bill Ferris [photo: Zoe Groeneveld]

Horticultural Society of Canberra AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 3 March 2018 12 noon to 5pm

Sunday 4 March 2018 11.30am to 3:15pm

Entries close with the Honorary Show Secretary at 8pm Thursday 1 March

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

Show Secretary, David Ross, 4 Henry Street, Cook, ACT. Phone 62512859 Email:

davidross28@bigpond.com

See <http://www.hsoc.org.au> for general rules.

Dyna-Gro Nutrients Solutions can now be sent to Australia

Dyna-Gro manufacture a range of products (fertilisers) used by orchid and plant grower's worldwide. Visit the Dyna-Gro website for more information:

<https://www.bioleaf.co.nz/dyna-gro/> or call +64 (09) 2780600 or +64 (027) 453 0023

Society Library

Our orchid library is one of our Society's most valuable assets, but remains under-used by members. We have a great range of cultivation and genera-specific books and leading periodicals such as the *Australian Orchid Review* and *Orchids Australia*. Seek out our Librarian: *Geoff Dyne*, or have a browse during the meeting and borrow a book. You may change the way you grow your plants.

Orchid Society General meeting 7 February 2018

Members Present: 38; Apologies: 8; Visitors: 5

The President, Jane Wright, opened the meeting at 8:05pm

Before introducing tonight's talk, Jane presented awards for 2017 Popular Vote (won by Karen Groeneveld) and 2017 Novice Popular Vote (won by Dora Chapman).

Presentation by Jane Wright and Robyn Noel on the 22nd World Orchid Conference, held in Ecuador in November 2017.

In November 2017, Jane Wright and Robyn Noel travelled to South America, where they had the honour of judging orchids at the 22nd World Orchid Conference, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. As well as attending the Conference and judging plants at the Conference show, both Robyn and Jane participated in orchid walks and visits to orchid nurseries, held as an adjunct to the Conference program. Jane presented a stack of beautiful photos and interesting videos on their experiences.

The World Orchid Conference (WOC) is held every three years, and is aimed at "improving the science, art and practice of orchid growing throughout the world and the increase of study and knowledge of orchids." The WOC is held in a different location each time, and like the Olympic Games, there is strong competition to host the event. The 2020 WOC will be held in Taiwan, and Perth, Australia, has won the bid to host the 24th WOC in 2023. In addition to a conference with speakers, there is always a large show of orchids and orchid displays, with many nations and often orchid

sellers represented; as well as a ‘sales area’ that hosts many vendors.



Telipogon hausmannianus displayed at the World Orchid Conference [photo: Jane Wright]

Jane noted that the Canberra Society often participates in regional shows and competitions, and that the WOC provided an opportunity for us to learn about designing successful orchid displays – what works and what doesn’t. The large number of displays varied enormously in their themes and construction, and in the plants used. For example:

- Displays that focused on the use of South-American orchids, including the Equafloor display which was conically-shaped to represent a volcano. Whilst impressive (and made accessible to the judges), it proved difficult for members of the public to get a good look at many of the flowers.
- Asian-style displays with ‘waterfalls’ of Phalaenopsis. Jane noted that Singapore imported their show plants into Ecuador six months before the WOC, so the plants could be grown on and flower in time for display.
- The Barbados display was made entirely from cut flowers to avoid the need for quarantine. The flowers survived the 5-6 days of the show without looking too shabby. This technique will likely prove to be important for the 24th WOC to be held in Perth, thanks to Australia’s (and WA’s) strict quarantine laws.
- Some displays focused on presenting orchids as they may be found in nature – such as a backdrop with trees, ferns etc that the orchids were attached to, to demonstrate where they lived in the forest. Jane considered the very naturalistic display by Thailand to be the best – with a base that allowed pots to be seamlessly embedded in large swathes of moss so that the plants seemed to sprout naturally from the surface; with wonderful displays of tolumnias and paphiopedilums. Other naturalistic displays focused on conservation.

- Ecuagenera (a large orchid propagation and sales company) won the champion display, which included a huge area taken up by Wardian cases, which allowed the display of tiny plants and flowers – protecting them in a humid environment and bringing them up to viewer-level. Each case was done to a theme and included species from around the world. One case included the Champion of the show – *Dendrobium parvulum*, a small plant from the mist forests of PNG, with small, pale blue flowers. Around the cases, the Ecuagenera display included vertical dividing walls, stacked tightly with phragmipediums, bromeliads and other orchids.



Thailand Orchid Society display at the World Orchid Conference [photo: Jane Wright]

Jane and Robyn also visited the large Ecuagenera nursery in Gualaceo. With 32 large greenhouses, this is one of the South America's most important orchid nurseries, specialising in South American species and hybrids. Members were gobsmacked by Jane’s photos of huge areas of rare and unusual plants in propagation – both species and hybrids – including *Lepanthes*, *Telipogon*, *Phragmipedium*, *Masdevallia* and *Miltoniopsis*. Cattleyas and other species are grown at the smaller Ecuagenera nursery at Pangui. Ecuagenera is helping to conserve species and reintroduce them to the wild.

Finally, Jane introduced us to some of the orchids they found growing in the wild during guided walks. While November (the dry season) is not the best time of year to find orchids flowering in the wild in Ecuador, they did find some gems, including:

- A tree festooned with *Fernandizia subbilifera* twig orchids, with bright red flowers;
- *Telipogon tessellatus* growing in an open, grassy space that was not at all wet, but was near to a creek – plants favoured the side of the tree facing the creek, where the atmosphere was probably more humid; and

- *Pleurothallis truncata*, *Pleurothallis adalae* and *Masdevallia hirtzii* growing in wet mist-forest that clothed another small creek.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of November meeting accepted: Mike Pieloor moved; Zoe Groeneveld seconded. (No minutes for the December meeting as this was the Christmas party.)

Treasurer's report

Current balance: \$27,449.51.

Orchid Wiz renewal has been paid and disks have arrived.

Treasurer's Report accepted: Karen Groeneveld moved & Robyn Noel seconded.

Secretary's report:

Welcome emails sent to new members at the end of October.

Received this month:

- For the Treasurer: Correspondence from the CBA, return of documents by the Chartered Accountants and magazine renewal notices
- For the Society Library:
 - Orchid Review magazine
 - Orchids Australia (note subscription expires 28 Feb 2018)
 - Australian Cymbidium Scene (Summer Edition) from Royale Orchids.
 - Australian Orchid Review (note subscription expires 28 Feb 2018)
 - Orchid Digest
 - Canberra Horticultural Society Bulletin
 - Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria "Gardener's Gazette"

Secretary's Report accepted: Peter Coyne moved & Geoff Dyne seconded.

Other Business

- Aluminet*: Jane demonstrated Aluminet shade cloth that is being used successfully by a number of members. It is now available to purchase in Australia from Grow Fresh Nurseries in Victoria. It is sold by the metre in a width of 4.3m and is available in either 50% shade (\$35/m) or 70% shade (\$45/m).
- Tuross Heads Workshop in March*: Jane reminded members of the upcoming orchid workshop to be held in Tuross Heads on the weekend of 17-18 March, 2018. The Registration form is on our

Society's website. Speakers include Kevin Hippkins from Royale Orchids and Clive Halls from Mt Beenak Orchids. Robyn Noel will be organising a house rental to assist with accommodation, so please talk to Robyn if you are attending and are interested in sharing a house.

- Interesting plants on the bench tonight*: Mark Clements highlighted some of the interesting plants on the bench tonight including:
 - Bulbophyllum* is a large, diverse genus which currently has more than 2000 species. Mark has been examining the DNA of species within *Bulbophyllum* to improve our understanding of relationships and natural groupings. We now know that the most primitive bulbophyllums are Australian species, so like dendrobiums, the genus originated in Australia before spreading to Asia. Bulbophyllums are all pollinated by flies.
 - Gastrochilus*, which is a *Sarcochilus*-like genus not naturally represented in Australia. Again, an improved understanding of species relationships based on DNA analysis has resulted in recent name changes within the group. As with many orchid groups, evolution of pollination relationships has led to increased diversity of species. Mark noted that most vandaceous-alliance orchids do not offer a nectar reward to pollinators, with *Angraecum* being a notable exception, with a nectar-filled spur to attract moths.
 - A number of miniature-flowered orchids on the bench tonight, including *Cestychis* and *Appendicula*.

Next meeting, 7 March –Lynne and Brian Phelan will talk about *Odontoglossum* (a genus now included in a broader concept of *Oncidium*). Jane noted that Clive Halls will have odontoglossums for sale at the Tuross Heads workshop later in March. Bill Ferris will run the March meeting and Jane will be back in the chair for the April meeting.

Meeting closed: 10:05 pm

Popular Vote February 2018

Category	Plant	Owner
NOVICE		
Any orchid	<i>Oncidium papilio</i>	Andrea Robold
OPEN		
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> species	<i>Paphiopedilum dianthus,i</i>	David Judge
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> hybrid	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> unknown	David Judge
Laeliinae species & hybrid	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Eva Luang	Rob Rough
Vandaceous Alliance species	<i>Gastrochilus retrocallus</i>	Mark Clements
Vandaceous Alliance hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown	Rob Rough
Pleurothallid Alliance species	<i>Stelis</i> sp. aff. <i>gracilis</i>	Karen Groeneveld
<i>Maxillaria</i>	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
<i>Oncidium</i> Alliance	<i>Brassidium</i> Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	David Judge
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Alliance	<i>Cirrhopetalum hirundinis</i>	Mark Clements
<i>Dendrobium</i> Alliance	<i>Dendrobium</i> Samarai x Samarai	Jane Wright
Terrestrial	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	Karen Groeneveld
Any Other Orchid	<i>Lycaste bradeorum</i>	Geoff Dyne
Orchid of the Night		
Orchid of the Night	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Hybrid	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown	Rob Rough
Judges' Choice - Species	<i>Gastrochilus retrocallus</i>	Mark Clements
Judges' Choice - Specimen	<i>Gomesa recurva</i>	Bill Ferris

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