

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: August 2020

[www.ssos.org.au](http://www.ssos.org.au)

NOTE: The August meeting is cancelled.

## SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome:



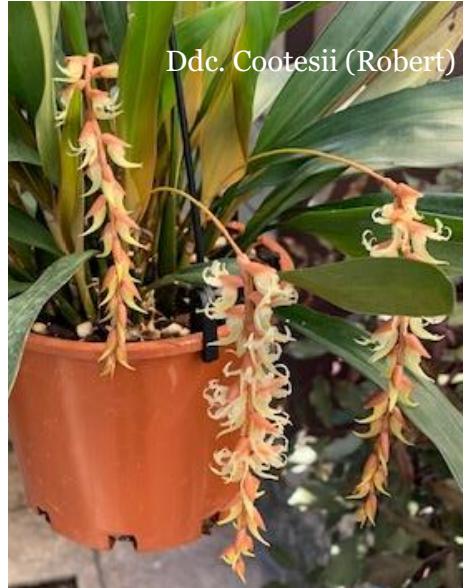
Paph. Nitens (Heath)



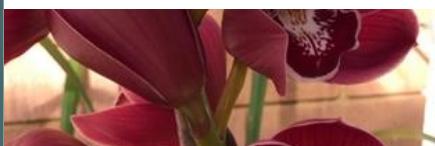
Bulb. weberi (Wal)



Dock Den x Grimesii (Rhonda)



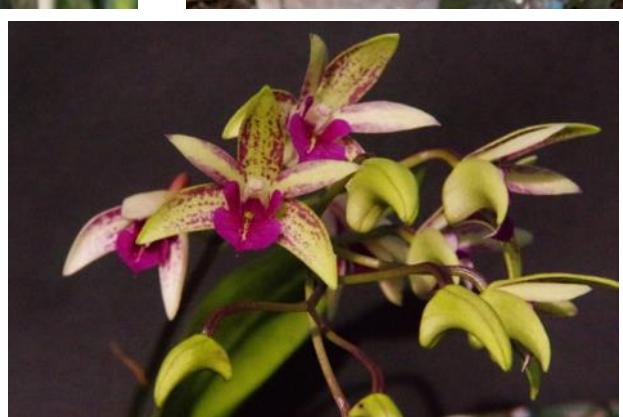
Ddc. Cootesii (Robert)



Cym. Flaming Vulcan (Jan)



Den. Brinawa Sussat, 'Amuneta',  
x Australian Rose-Beauty  
'Pink Delight' (Garry Hodder)



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# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

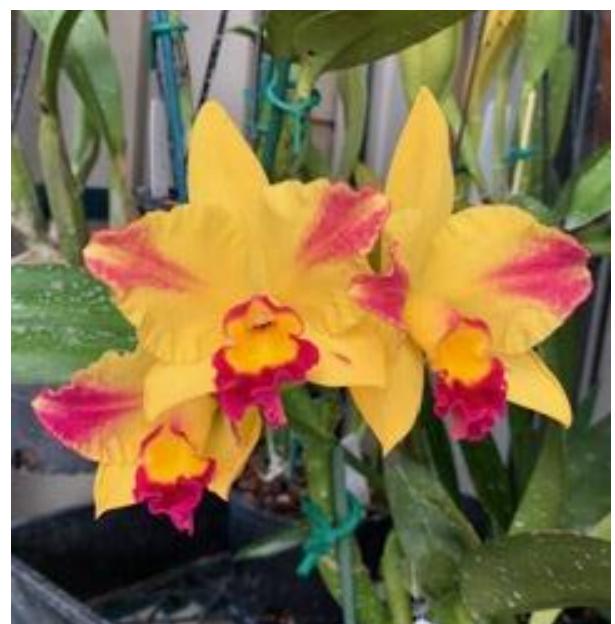
Cym. Sleepy Sarah "Snow Blind" ( Diane)



Colm. Massai 'Red' (David Hicks)



Rlc.Hsinying Sunbeam 'Auranti-Gem' (Melissa)



C. Mark Jones 'Lancee' x Siccii  
Cathryn Clarkson (Christoff)



Cym. Little Sarah 'Fairyland'  
(Jenny)  
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Yellow Cascades'  
(John Hey)



# SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Bonatea speciosa (Heath)



C. Unknown (Sonia)



Den Hilda Poxon (Rhonda)



L. anceps 'Veitchiana Blue'x  
L. anceps Dawsonii  
(Robert)



C. Doug's Dream (Jan)



Blc Pamela Hetherington  
'Coronation' (Wal)

# **SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome**

Blc. Momilans 'Rainbow' (John Hely)



Masd. Veitchs Candy Cane 'Super Striper' (Rhonda)



Onc. Oporto Burgundy Bliss  
(Sonia)



Onc. Tsiku var "Marguerite" (Gary Hodder)



Osmoglossum pulchellum (Wal)



Paph. spicerianum (Thailand form) ( Heath)



# President's Message...

Greetings Fellow Members—

Happy August, hopefully only one more month until the weather starts to warm up and we can get stuck into Spring repotting! I hope you all are well and avoiding any Covid19 hot spots.

As some orchid societies are resuming monthly meetings, the Committee did a mock “set up” in the church hall to see if it is viable for us to do the same. Melissa brought some 2 metre garden stakes which made it easy to set up chairs in the 4m<sup>2</sup> required configuration. The church had advised us that the hall could accommodate 58 people---but we found out that this includes 14 people sitting up on the stage. Who wants to sit up there during the meetings? Maybe the 9 Committee members? Hmm.....



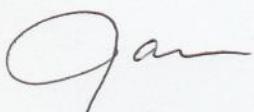
After setting up a block of chairs, we then took out a few tables to simulate benching of members' orchids. It's not rocket science to work out that our “old” way of setting up the tables is a thing of the past thanks to Covid19. The best we could do was to set up a line of 13 tables along the back wall, starting where the sales tables were previously, then along past the Crying Room (leaving access to entrance/exit doors of course) and up along the wall where the piano sits. This would allow for social distancing while placing orchids on the tables, for admiring the orchids benched, and for removing the orchids at the end of the meeting, assuming we all maintained space of at least 1.5 meters between us while doing all these things. Hmm.....

Reducing the benching tables to only 13 would mean redoing the schedule of classes (combining some and maybe deleting others?) as well as severely limiting the number of plants each member can bring to a meeting. The current annual points score competition would need to be either scrapped or reworked somehow. Hmm..... Maybe hire the other hall (where we have our Christmas party and use that for benching our orchids? Hmm....

We've all heard that indoor activities are the greatest risk to spreading Covid19. Mingling is not advised. Do we all want to sit on our chairs and not talk to each other? Hmm... No suppers..... sanitizing all the chairs and tables BOTH before and after the meetings.....no sales table..... Hmm.....

After a lot of Hmm.....ing, the Committee remained convinced that we cannot resume our monthly meetings until the social distancing requirements are reduced. Other orchid societies that meet in much bigger venues have more scope than we do to spread out. Your health and wellbeing continue to be our #1 concern. Let's all stay home and enjoy our orchids where we are safe.

Cheers until next month and stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan".

$$1+1=3$$

## SSOS August Virtual Raffle

During the Covid (No Meetings) months, the Society has been “raffling” off various plants. We are now out of “awarded” plants for our monthly raffle, but still have some good ones left! This month’s prize is a bit unusual, *Barkeria whartoniana*, which is a species plant native to only two known locations in Mexico according to OrchidWiz. It needs bright light in the summer as well as heaps of water and air movement. In the winter, it needs to at least be covered (as in a cold glass house or other protected area.) It has been flowering for several weeks in late July and looks like it is sending up another flower spike now, fingers crossed! Get your name in now for a chance to win this one-of-a-kind raffle prize!



**Congratulations to the  
July Winner:  
Jan Riley !**



**You don't need to buy any raffle tickets to be in the draw! It's FREE !**

All you need to do is to send an email to Rhonda at [info@ssos.org.au](mailto:info@ssos.org.au) saying “please put my name in the raffle draw for July”.

The deadline for participating entries is Saturday **22nd August 2020**

All the names of participating members will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn on the 22/8 . One entry per member. The plant will then be delivered to the lucky winner on a day and time agreed by that person and a Committee member. Don’t miss out on a chance to win a fantastic flowering size or-

**Keep in touch via our Facebook Group:**

**“Sutherland Orchid Society”**

Post your growing tips, recent mail order purchases, questions or just what’s in flower at your place..... we’d all love to hear about it!.

If you are having any problems, please contact Jan Robinson [jadrob@bigpond.com](mailto:jadrob@bigpond.com) or Dan Coulton 0419 466986 for assistance.



# *Chiloglottis*: Wasp or Ant orchids.

by Lloyd Hedges



It started when one of our members spotted a tiny ground orchid flower beneath the bracken. An examination of the closed flower and we were still unable to determine the genus let alone the species. Took some photos and sent them to Margaret Bradhurst and she replied it was a *Chiloglottis*. Her booklet Native orchids of Southern Sydney introduced us to the genus – the Wasp or Ant orchids and their weird and wonderful reproductive techniques. Google provided additional information.

*Chiloglottis* orchids have hijacked Thynnine wasps' reproductive cycle to complete their own. The orchid has developed an imitation of the wasp female on its labellum. Not only that but it also produces the pheromone the female exudes to lure the males. So when the

male wasp following the scent trail arrives and grasps the model female to saw into the wild blue yonder on her nuptial, and only, flight he finds she is fastened to the labellum and the labellum is fastened to the rest of the orchid and he is banged against the overhead pollen sacks. No doubt he then heads off confused, frustrated and dusty to find a less attached female and possibly completing the orchid's reproductive cycle but doing nothing for his own species.

There are some weird things going on in the city but the bush does weird better.

Armed with this knowledge we headed off back to the bush and eventually found an open orchid in fact a colony of them. They were *Chiloglottis seminuda*.

But one photo, in particular, raised more questions.

If you find a pair of opposite leaves looking a bit exotic flat on the ground they may well be *Chiloglottis* so check first.

*Chiloglottis seminuda* flower - Lloyd Hedges



*Chiloglottis seminuda*  
- Lloyd Hedges

This article was originally published in the *The Bushcare Bulletin*, July 2020. Thankyou Lloyd Hedges and Sutherland Council Bushcare Unit for permission to reproduce it here.,



## A Chat With Wal Chapman

### When did you start with orchids?

*God knows! Somewhere in the early 1970's, when I was in my mid 20's. We used to visit Ralph Hancock's Nursery in Sylvania before it became Swaine's. If we went there on the right Sunday afternoon, the nursery was used as a depot for owners to pick up their orchids after they'd been in a show. I got talking to orchid growers on these days and eventually then joined SSOS.*

### What hooked you in?

*Cymbies and paphs: I grew these first. At my first show as a Novice, I won three different classes all at once! Then I won nothing for months afterward! I grew cymbies and paphs for a long while, then I added dendrochilum and then species, the more unusual ones.*

### What are your favourite genera?

*Species in general at the moment: paphs, dendrobiums, dendrochilum. I like the weird and wonderful, the not so common orchids.*

*Dendrochilums and bulbos are my main two favourites at present. But I have a bit of everything because I like to have something flowering all year round. If you stay in one genus you have one flush of flowering, then nothing.*



### What are your favourite few plants?

*Dendrochilum wenzellii 'Janette' (named for my wife): I was awarded an AM/ACM for this in 2012 at a Species meeting. My Bulbophyllum rothschildianum was also awarded an AM/ACM in 2019 at a judge's meeting in Newcastle. I also got an earlier award an HCC for Lycaste Jonapp 'Janette' (above)in 1994 at an SSOS meeting .*



### What are some of your early SSOS memories ?

*I've been a life member of SSOS since 1988. I was on the committee for about 35 years. I used to learn more from being a committee member than from the meetings. We used to have massive displays back then: in Roselands, Sydney Botanic Gardens, Hurstville, etc. SSOS had as members, the best growers at the time and used to win every show. In fact, we used to put on a second display of our rejects at shows! SSOS used to be big enough to hold its own judging classes. This enabled you to judge only at SSOS meetings but it also made it easier to get into the NSW judging course and that's what I did in the 1980's or 90's. I have great memories and lots of stories about bush trips into NSW Forestry Areas around Dungog, especially with Kevin Wilson and sometimes Col Brandon. Kevin Wilson used to be the bulletin Editor. My wife, Janette used to type the Bulletin up and we then used to hand print it with a stencil!*



### What's your greatest orchid challenge?

*Not killing them! Grasshoppers, grubs and dendrobium beetles. Getting my orchids to flower at the time of a show. You have to lie to your orchids: tell them they need to flower, say, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, then they flower on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the show is on the 7<sup>th</sup>!*

(Cont. next page)

## Which genera have you tried and failed with?

All of the above! Miltonia, odontoglossums. I wish I'd managed to keep all the orchids that I've loved over the years but I wouldn't have room for them all anyway.



## What's on your orchid wishlist?

I would like more species, probably bulbos. Space is always an issue. You pamper the good ones, then the others get neglected and go downhill. My bush house needs to have new shade cloth too, but it's a big job.



## What's the oldest orchid in your collection?

A Paph. insigne and a Vanda Wirat. The vanda I bought at a Bankstown orchid auction 40 years ago. My son, Chris, was proudly carrying it for Dad, by its stem, from the auction when the pot and all its mix fell off! Poor Chris, you should have seen his face! It didn't matter anyway, I wanted to repot it!



## What are your future orchid plans or are you happy with your lot?

I'm pretty happy as is. If something appeals, I buy it. It doesn't have to be something I think will make Grand Champion. I just want to get what I like and have good conditions for growing.



Wal is a very neat and tidy gardener. He has two main growing areas:

a hot house with mainly species, paphs, bulbos, vanda, phallies

and a bushhouse with pterostylis, soft canes, cymbies, coelogynes, oncidiums, masdevallia and laelias.



His pterostylis love him so much, they're growing in his general garden bed!



# Why Grow Species Orchids

Text and photos by Gary Hart



*Dendrobium thyrsiflum* is a widespread species, distributed from northern India to southern China. It blooms in late spring and takes a wide temperature range.

Species orchids are those plants that have evolved in the wild over the centuries. There are estimated to be in excess of 30,000 species worldwide, making them the largest of the flowering plant families. They are found across the world in environments from the tropics to semi-deserts and come in an enormous variety of colours, shapes and forms.

So why should orchid growers keep at least some species orchids in their collections?

Species orchids were first on the scene, with all the registered hybrids (over 100,000) descended from them. If you are a grower who loves a certain genus, there are species available for you. Therefore *Cattleya* growers can also keep some of the original species the modern day hybrids were produced from.

As the biodiversity of the world shrinks and as forests are cleared and plants are lost forever, orchid growers can be instrumental in keeping a plant alive that has taken thousands of years to evolve. If all orchid growers worldwide, kept some species orchids an enormous and irreplaceable gene pool would exist.



*Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* is from Taiwan and was formerly well known in cultivation under its old name of *Dendrobium miyakei*.



*Dendrobium striolatum* is an Australian species and one of the few frost-tolerant rock or tree orchids. This pencil orchid was formerly known as *Dendrobium striolatum*.



*Pleione formosana* is a cool growing Asian terrestrial species that is leafless during its winter dormancy.



*Coelogyne cristata* is an excellent species orchid for beginners; a cool to cold winter is needed to produce an impressive flowering.

*Epidendrum ilense* is a good example of a plant that was down to the last plant until it was propagated and distributed around the world.

Species orchids are fascinating in their colour, shape and habit. All these features are the result of generations of evolution and adaptation to both an environment and in many cases a specific pollinator. A *Stanhopea* flower is the shape it is for a reason, not some random weird fluke of nature. Investigating why species orchids are the way they are is a fascinating edu-

cational experience. As growers we really should spend more time looking at our plants, I mean really looking at the details of the plant and in particular the flowers we treasure so greatly. They really are fascinating, not just attractive!

Often species orchids provide a greater challenge to grow than hybrids, which have the increased benefit of that boost called "hybrid vigour". You have to adapt your conditions to reproduce and maintain an artificial environment similar to their homeland. Species orchids in cultivation

are often faced with the dilemma of "adapt or die!" This is a challenge for both plant and grower, but so rewarding when you see them thrive. When species orchids flower for you it is fascinating to imagine the plant growing and appearing in the wild.

There are countless specialist clubs, Internet sites, and literature available on species orchids. This ranges from the most technical to the marvellous coffee table picture books so inviting to the dedicated species lover. There are orchid stamps



*Coelogyne mooreana* is from Vietnam and one of the most impressive species in the genus.



*Dendrochilum wenzelii* is an easily grown Philippine species, related to *Coelogyne* that also comes in yellow, brown and orange forms.



*Pescatoria klabochiorum* is from Colombia and needs to be kept fairly shaded and enjoys warm, moist conditions with plenty of air circulation.



*Arpophyllum giganteum* is from Central America and is frequently confused with the less robust *Arpophyllum spicatum*. Likes a lot of light, and takes a wide range of temperatures.

Welcome to Wal Chapman's  
**Guess The Genera!**

Take a guess then read the up-side-down answers



The  
And  
Winner  
is...  
•••

(Left to Right) *Oncidium Sharry Baby*, *Sweet Fragrance*, *Bulbophyllum weberi*, *Ascoecium Fralur*, *Kultana*, *Dendrochilum bicallousm Var Major*, *Medioctatum decortatum*, *Blc Pamela Hetherington Coronation*, *Oncidium sotaeum*

### Silent Auction

The Society has received a donation of Paphiopedilum and Phrag plants from Chris Gray, a prospective member to our Society. These will be sold through a Silent Auction. If you wish to bid for them, please send your bid to Rhonda at [info@ssos.org.au](mailto:info@ssos.org.au) with the amount you wish to pay by sat.

**22nd August.** The highest bid will be able to purchase the plants. The plants are:

2 x Paph Lady Isabe x Vietnamese - 50ml pot

2 x Paph Transdoll = liemianum x roth) – 50ml pot

Paph malipoense 'ma' x Hung – 50ml pot. This has flowered.

Paph Wardii var aurium – 60ml pot

Phrag Pearcei – 80ml pot

Phrag Carole Kanzer 60ml pot.





### S.O.S. Update:

The Society received an invitation to participate in SOS 2020 by providing a display as well as volunteers. After consideration of the issues involved, including concern for our members' safety from Covid19 exposure, the Committee declined this invitation.

Individuals may do their own displays as some of our members have done in the past. For more info on this option, contact Helen Mason on 0448 535 528 or [helenrobmason@gmail.com.au](mailto:helenrobmason@gmail.com.au).

### Orchid photos for the September Bulletin??

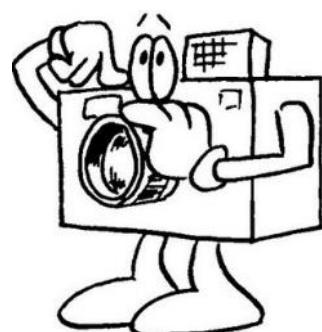
Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa (Editor)

at [mjbk1@bigpond.com](mailto:mjbk1@bigpond.com)

Want to write an article for the bulletin??

Email to [mjbk1@bigpond.com](mailto:mjbk1@bigpond.com)

***Both before Saturday Aug 22nd please !***



Disclaimer: The growing guides are provided only as a starting basis to cultivation. Local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. SSOS will not be responsible for the results of your cultivation practices. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the author and not those of SSOS, SSOS in no way endorses or supports any claims or opinions of said authors.