



Reminders:

Membership Renewals Now Due

AGM Nominations

Upcoming Events:

SSOS February Monthly Meeting 13th Feb

SSOS March AGM Meeting 13th Mar

Castle Hill International Orchid Fair 31st Mar – 1st Apr

Collectors Plant Fair 8th - 9th Apr



President: Frank Daniel

Editor: Richard Dimon

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY FEBRUARY



SSOS January Species of the night – *Neofinetia falcata* grown by Jan Robinson

GROWING COMPETITION PLANTS FOR SALE

We are running another growing competition!

Plants can be purchased at the next meeting.

We have 30 plants of a well-advanced *Laelia* hybrid which can be purchased at the next meeting for \$10

First in with their money, get in on the competition. Only one plant per member. Plants will be in a lottery so it is fair to all.

Judging will be the same as last year, every three months over a two-year period. A point score will be kept with a possible gift for Open and Intermediate/Novice.

GROWERS GROUP MEETING

The next growers group will be at George's Place – 4 Collins Place Engadine Saturday 18th February

Open to all members and orchid friends. Meeting around 12.30pm for 1 am start. Bring along any problem plants you don't know what to do with it; re potting, dividing or sick

Guest speakers on Indian *Dendrobiums* & soft canes
Sneaker on *Promenaea* – re-notting, division & care.



SSOS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 9 JAN 2017

Frank Daniel extended a welcome to our members and guest, Florence Andrews. He asked for a member to motion that the January minutes which were printed in the Bulletin and distributed either by mail or email were accurate. Cheryl Matheson. motioned they were correct. Carried.

It was with regret that Frank informed members of the passing of John Field on 4 January 2017. His funeral will be held on Thursday 12 January at Woronora Cemetery at 2pm. Members stood for a minute's silence in memory of John.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Newsletters from Eastern Suburbs and North Shore Orchid societies

Tonight Richard Dimon presented the seedling competition. The winner of the Judges' choice was Paphiopedilum Blenhill x (Stardust Tree x Winston Churchill) and the popular choice was Paphiopedilum armeniacum. Ho grew both plants and was presented with a bottle of wine and a Bunnings voucher.

George Birss spoke about his orchidaceous adventure to far North Queensland with Mike Hitchcock. They visited many orchid nurseries and took the opportunity to increase their collections of plants.

FEBRUARY: Karen Sommerville from Royal Botanic Gardens will talk on her work in the pollination of Diuris arenaria and other Diuris

MARCH: AGM & George Birss will talk about orchid pots and their uses.

APRIL: Jane Wright from Canberra will talk on orchid pests and diseases.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The next growers group meeting will be held at George Birss' house on 18 February 2017 commencing at 1pm. George's address is 4 Collins Place Engadine.

Bunnings has advised the Society that our fund raising BBQ will be held on Saturday 25 February 2017 from 7.00am with selling sausages from 8.00am up until 4.00pm. Bunnings provides the BBQ, tent and table and we are to provide everything else and ensure we have enough food to last until 4 pm. We are calling on members to volunteer their time. We will have 2 hour, 4 hour time slots and will need 8 people at all times. Without your assistance we won't be able to manage it. We will need people on the BBQ, assembling the sandwiches, selling drinks and handling the money and assisting where required. If we run out of supplies we are required to obtain more to keep it going. If anyone has experience in a Bunnings BBQ, the committee would be interested in any suggestions you may have. This fund raising event hopefully will enable the society to make a reasonable profit which will go towards funding our shows.



Angraecum magdalene 'Royale' x 'Super' grown by Sandra Crosby

Frank mentioned that he has visited Club Central Menai with a view to booking it for our shows. A letter will be sent to the Club Central Board of Directors seeking sponsorship through a venue hire waiver for both shows.

There has been a change to the new Open class that was advised at the December meeting and noted in the bulletin. Instead of Dendrobium Species Asian it will be called Dendrobium Species Exotic.



Frank mentioned that the widow of John Field would like the Society to auction his plants. The auction may occur at the March meeting but is still being finalised. Frank doesn't know how many plants will be sold.

The winner of the subscription to the Orchids Australia magazine was Irene Chalmers.

NAME BADGE DRAW – Member was not present

LUCKY PLANTS - Pam Davies, Pamela Middleton and Heath Myers

PRESIDENT'S AWARD - Promenaea Bushfire Rage x Bushfire Glow grown by Vic Petrovski

RAFFLE - Judith Leong, John Chan, Josephine Mula, Mike Hitchcock, Randal Gittoes and Frank Davies.

Next meeting: 13 February 2017

YOU GREW IT

DENDROBIUM JOHNSONIAE exhibited by Vic Petrovski



Found in the lowlands of PNG at altitudes of 500 – 1500m growing as an epiphyte on the branches of casuarina trees along gullies and streams. Where it grows it naturally likes

humid, moist conditions with medium light and cooler temperatures.

A medium size plant can have 30cm inflorescences that will emerge from either the apex or near the apex in association with a leaf. The inflorescence can carry as many as 10 fragrant blooms. The flowers are a pristine white with a greenish tinge on the petals and sepals while the labellum or lip is also white with a greenish tinge towards the centre, with purple stripes towards the centre of the flower. A cane may flower for a number of years.

The plant likes medium light, to be kept moist and fertilised regularly in the growing period. During winter reduce water until the new growths appear. Less water and fertilizer is beneficial for a good flowering the next year. The plant will like a well drained mix and does not like to be divided as it may sulk.

BULBOPHYLLUM LOBBII exhibited by Wayne Mc Evoy



A hot / warm growing epiphyte from the lowland forests of Borneo, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines growing at elevations of 200 – 2000m.

This plant was named by John Lindley after Thomas Lobb in 1847.



Egged shape pseudobulbs that are well spaced with a single leaf are best mounted or grown in a pot with a freely draining mix. A single fragrant flower about 7 – 10cm across arises from each new pseudobulb. The flowers are usually a yellow colour but there are other colour variations. The flowers last about a month and have a distinctive hinged labellum or lip that nods up and down at the slightest breeze.

The plant requires shade, humidity and good air circulation and in Sydney a heated environment.

PROMENAEA GUTTATA 'GROUCHY' exhibited by Jan Robinson



A miniature species orchid from Brazil. It has clusters of densely, rounded pseudobulbs that generally have two light green, veined, soft, thin leaves that are prone to leaf spotting.

The inflorescence often carries two flowers that tend to hang down from the foliage and display nicely. The flowers are yellow with red / brown streaks or bars across the petals and sepals. The large movable lip is gold.

A beautiful small plant that grows to specimen size easily likes to be kept cool with year round high humidity and moderate light. The fine roots like to be kept moist but not soggy.

Propagation of Promenaea is by division. Unfortunately species Proms. Are hard to come by but there are a number of excellent hybrids around.

Jan's plant is named 'Grouchy', I presume it was named by Neville Roper after Kevin "grouchy" Wilson, both of these were especially great growers in our Society and Life Members.

There is an excellent article by Neville Roper on the growing of Proms. On the SSOS website.

NEOFINETIA FALCATA exhibited by Jan Robinson

One of three species of Neofinetia. This genera is vandacious and is found in Japan, Korea and the Ryukyn Islands (a chain of islands that stretches from Kyushu to Taiwan, a short geography lesson!).



Called the "Rich or Noble Orchids". Neofinetia were once so highly prized by people of high rank that they also had the nickname of "Samurai Orchid". They are grown and treasured as bonsai to decorate the home with their striking foliage which is usually green but can be variegated.

Growing as an epiphyte in the branches of deciduous trees which allow high levels of light during the winter and spring seasons which is an important factor in the number of blooms produced that season. The flowers of falcate are a brilliant



white, only small with a long spur and are fragrant particularly in the mornings and evenings. They have a mix smell like vanilla, honey suckle and orange blossom.

The plant only grows to about 10cm and has stiff leathery leaves. It likes to be mounted on tree fern or cork but grows equally well in pots with a free draining mix to allow air to circulate at the roots. This is how I have seen them growing but in saying that there is a article showing them in pots and mounded high on a sphagnum moss ball, this I would have thought to have kept the roots wet and with poor air circulation.

A truly wonderful little orchid that is worth chasing for your collection. Grows cold, takes up very little space and has a terrific display of spectacular flowers.

IN MY GREEN HOUSE



Gee it seems I've started the past three newsletter articles the same, talking about the weather.

Again a scorcher, but it is summer and with the heat and by taking extra care to keep up the water and humidity things are jumping out of the pots. Too bad they won't jump into pots with new potting mix to re pot themselves. With temperatures up around the 30's continually it's hard to schedule potting, not only is this not good for your plants, but not good for you, even if you have a few cold ones beside you.

With this heat, water in the mornings and late evenings. Mist and have containers of water under benches. Keeps things

cool and keeps humidity up. Try to avoid wetting foliage in the hotter parts of the day. The droplets of water will magnify the sun and burn the leaves, leaving burn marks. The sun or bright light will burn foliage, especially leaves that are thin / soft and broad, like *stanhopea*, *lycaste* and in the garden *clivia*. On the topic of *stanhopea* I still have some in bud and spike, way later than usual. I had a *Lycaste bradeorum* that around Christmas had about 25 – 30 flower buds and was looking forward to a great showing but the heat finished that burning off the majority of the buds, bummer.

Watering the orchids and plants that I have around my BBQ area, that is although reasonably protected from most elements is not shade clothed and open to fly in crawlies. Watering this morning flushed out two big grass hoppers, you know the ones with the big leaf munching front nippers. Very quickly caught and de headed and fed to my nepenthes (picture plants – a good companion plant for orchids). These crawlies tend to be very good at hiding, behind pots, among foliage and on the under side of leaves, when they feed they seem to find the most lush foliage, newest shoots and best spikes.

Around the greenhouse *Coelogyne* are all throwing up nice new grows. My *Dendrobium canaliculatum* are looking great and new bulbs are sprouting nice new leaves. I have been collecting species *Phalaenopsis* and am now seeing spikes on a number of plants. I have two *P. violacea* in flower at present and the vibrant purple / magenta flowers stunning against the lime green foliage. Only small plants but beautiful 30cm flowers that are progressive along the inflorescence so keep flowering for a long time (I hope).

In a pot just outside my green house is a pot of *Schomburgkia* (I think it is *S. Sawyer*). These plants grow into a fairly large plant so it's getting ready to be planted in the garden. It now has 4 flower spikes. The spikes will keep growing towards light, last time I flowered it I didn't notice the spike and it was touching the shade house roof, eight foot tall. I moved it outside and the flower head opened. When I put it in the garden it will have some light. I have seen these in gardens with fifty flower heads, truly magnificent.

Keep up the water to your plants, watch for nasties and when it cools a little get into the re potting and fertilizing.



MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Jan-17

PLANT OF NIGHT

Winner Paph. Saint Swithin S.T. Ho

OPEN CLASS HYBRID

Winner Paph. Saint Swithin S.T. Ho

OPEN CLASS SPECIES

Winner Neofinetia falcata J. Robinson

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Brassia Rex 'Sakata' P. Ng

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Green World ???? J. Chan

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner Prom. Golden Leopard V. Petrovski

CLASS # 2 PAPHIOPEDILUMS SPECIES

1st Paph. liemianum S.T. Ho

2nd Paph. callosum S.T. Ho

CLASS # 3 LAELIINAE OVER 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st Lc. Prophecy x C. walkeriana T. Hyde
Sc. Dal's Choice 'Castle' S.Crosby/T .Costa

2nd Creek' .Costa

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUMS

1st Paph. Saint Swithin S.T. Ho

2nd Paph. Honey V. Petrovski
Rose/How se

3rd Paph. Dellaina se

CLASS # 5 LAELIINAE OVER 80MM UP TO & INCLUDING 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st Sc. Dal's Cherry S.Crosby/T .Costa

2nd Blc. Jungle Gem L. Buivids

3rd C. Rosella's Mari Jewel V. Petrovski

CLASS # 7 LAELIINAE (NON CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st Encyclia Gail Nakagaki W. McEvoy

2nd C. Mareeba Tiger V. Petrovski

3rd Encyclia Cindy W. McEvoy

4th S. Grandiflora ?????? G. Birss

CLASS # 8 LAELIINAE UP TO & INCLUDING 80MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st Sc. Dal's Good One 'Janelle' S.Crosby/T .Costa

CLASS # 9A DENDROBIUM SPECIES - EXOTIC

V. Petrovski

1st Den. johnsoniae

2nd Den. spathilingue G. Birss

3rd Den. glomeratum L. Buivids

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN (Elsewhere not Included)

1st Neofinetia falcata J. Robinson

2nd Bulb. lobbii W. McEvoy

3rd Phal. violacea var. sumatrana G. Birss

4th Bulb. carunculatum R. Dimon

CLASS # 10B ONCIDINAE SPECIES

1st Onc. harrisonianum S.Crosby/T .Costa

2nd Psychopsis papilio var. alba W. McEvoy

3rd Onc. longipes P. Davies

CLASS # 11 PHALAENOPSIS OVER 75MM

1st Phal. 'unknown' M. Luk

CLASS # 11A COELGYNINAE SPECIES

1st Coel. rumphii G. Birss

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Paph. Hsinying Lime S.T. Ho
Prom. Glowworm x Drayton Rose/How se

2nd Tiger ??? Prom. Limelight 'Willow' S.Crosby/T .Costa

3rd Pond' x Chameleon .Costa

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS 60MM AND UNDER

Onc. Tropic Breeze S.Crosby/T .Costa

1st 'Everglades' S.Crosby/T .Costa

2nd Onc. Ruth's Rainbow 'Dark' .Costa

3rd Onc. wentworthianum x Onc. Sydney S.Crosby/T .Costa

4th Onc. Alosuka 'Claire' .Costa

CLASS # 14 PHALAENOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st Phal. 'unknown' M. Luk

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS OVER 60mm

1st Psychopsis Kalihi W. McEvoy S.Crosby/T .Costa

2nd Colm. Wildcat 'Ocelot' S.Crosby/T .Costa

3rd Aliceara Pacific Nova 'Okika' .Costa

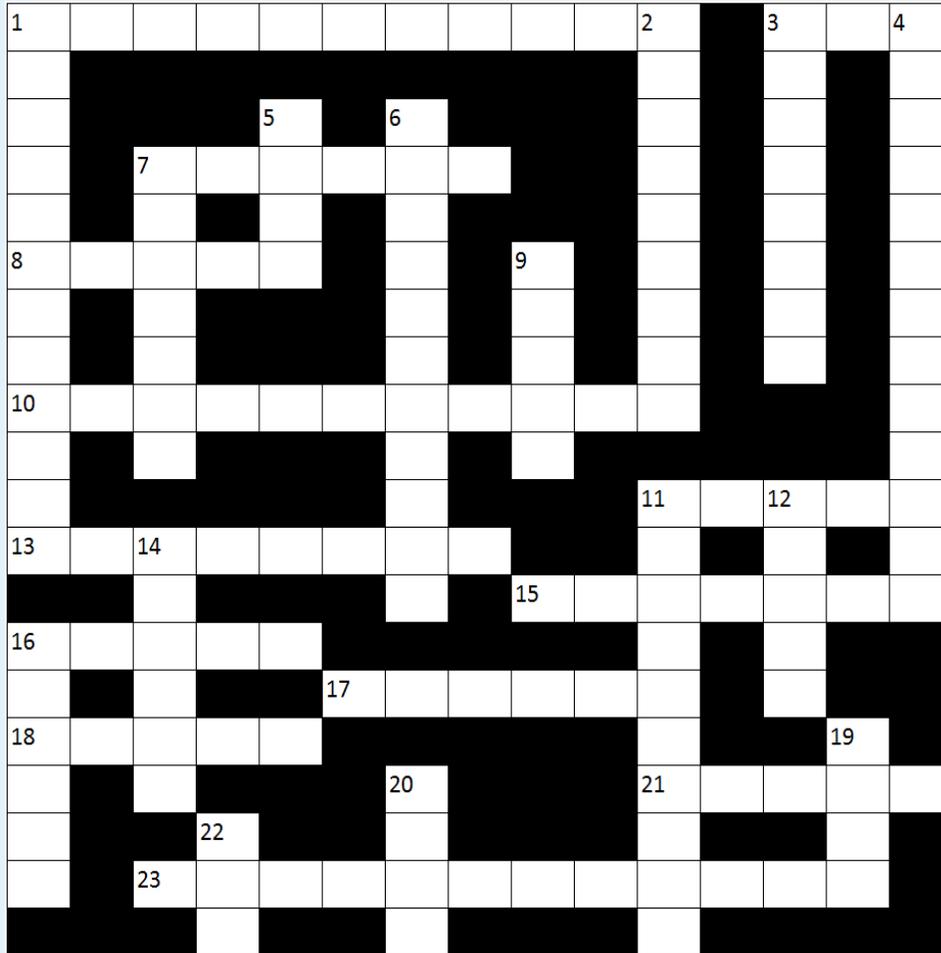


4th Colm. Wildcat 'Blood Ruby'	V. Petrovski	3rd Angcm. magdalanae	G. Birss
CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS		Angcm. magdalanae 'Royal' x	S.Crosby/T
1st Prom. Golden Leopard	V. Petrovski	4th magdalanae 'Super'	.Costa
2nd Prom. Catarina	J. Robinson	CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES	
3rd Prom. Samsu	S.Crosby/T	1st Pths. tribuloides	G. Birss
	.Costa	2nd Rstp. Wageneri	G. Birss
4th Prom. Michael Wilson	J. Robinson	3rd Pths. prolifera	G. Birss
CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS		CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRIDS	
1st Den. Genting Lipstick	S.Crosby/T	1st Sarco. Velvet 'Denis'	C. Brandon
Den. Rhizobium Phil's	.Costa	CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRIDS	
2nd Delight x Hepatica	C. Brandon	Sarco. Velvet 'Chocolate' x	
3rd Den. Violet Yamaji	S.Crosby/T	1st Yannie's 'Ruby' ??	C. Castle
	.Costa	2nd Den. toressae	C. Castle
CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS		CLASS # 28 NOVICE - LAELIINAE	
1st Ascda. Yip Sum Wah 'Gold'	S.Crosby/T	1st Green World ????	J. Chan
V. Star Sapphire x Fuch's	.Costa	CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES	
2nd Fortune	M. Luk	1st Bulb. affine	F. Daniel
3rd Vasco. Pine Rivers	V. Petrovski	CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - LAELIINAE	
Vasco. Five Friendships x		1st Bl. Mary Pitman ?????	P. Ng
4th Ascda. Varut Fuchsia	M. Dimon	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song	P.
CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES		2nd 'Virgin'	Middleton
1st Masd. menatoi	S.Crosby/T	Blc. Varuth Green World	
	.Costa	3rd ?????	P. Ng
CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS			C.
1st Masd. Shannon Butler	S.Crosby/T	4th C. Blue Velvet 'Surprise'	Matheson
	.Costa	CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS	
2nd Masd. Ada's Leopard	S.Crosby/T	1st Brassia Rex 'Sakata'	P. Ng
	.Costa	2nd Colm. Wildcat 'Hidden Gold'	P.
CLASS # 21B LAELIINAE SPECIES		3rd Brassia Rex 'Sakata'	Middleton
1st Laelia tenebrosa	L. Buivids	4th Ionocidium Popcorn 'Haruri'	P.
	J. Robinson	CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES	Sanaphay
2nd C. maxima var. alba	M. Luk	1st Psychopsis papilio var. alba	R. Nicol
3rd Prosthechea radiata	L. Buivids		C.
4th C. forbesii		2nd Aerides multiflora	Matheson
CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER (NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED)		Stanhopea tigrina var.	P.
1st Phrag. longifolium	G. Birss	3rd nigroviolacea	Sanaphay
2nd Anguloa virginalis	L. Buivids	4th Epidendrum ciliare	P. Ng



SSOS ORCHID CROSSWORD

Can you answer all of the questions in this orchid crossword? There is quite a variety of questions ranging from easy to difficult. All answers to the crossword will be published in next month's bulletin. Good Luck!



ACROSS

1. Neville Roper grew this genera very well
3. Labellum
7. Only one species in this genus from Equador, _____ *amberstiae*
8. The first word in any scientific biological name.
10. Grows in the ground.
11. A part of the corolla, orchids have three.
13. Retains many times its own weight in water, a growing medium.
15. As found in nature.
16. Plants without colour.
17. Found on all continents except Antarctica.
18. An aerial growth along a pseudobulb.
21. A flower.
23. Largest genus of the orchid world

DOWN

1. A terrestrial from southern Africa, small pink or white flowers with a wedge-shaped lip.
2. Growing from a new lead forming a new pseudobulb.
3. A modified petal often brightly coloured and shaped to attract pollinators.
4. From Ct. America. Solitary leaves that grow in clusters. Flowers borne from the leaf axis.
5. Containers for growing plants.
6. Genus of plant used in our last growing competition.
7. Pendulous orchid with fascinating lip, looks like a string of birds.
9. Small sap sucking insect, often wingless and translucent.
11. A swollen part of most orchids that hold the leaves.
12. A taxonomic rank used to designate a group of closely related genera.
14. A plant that is the product of a cross between two different strains, subspecies or species.
16. Chemical compound which combine with acids to form salts.
19. Swollen stem, usually underground and used for storage.
20. Organ to store water and nutrients as well as anchorage.
21. Shoot on a plant for leaf, or flower.



GROWING LIVE SPHAGNUM BOGS FOR YOUR ORCHID SEEDLINGS

By Richard Dimon

Sphagnum moss or peat moss is the common name given to the group of mosses found within the Genus *Sphagnum*. Both living and dead specimens of sphagnum moss can easily hold over 15 times as much water compared to their dry weight. The phenolic compounds found within the cell walls of sphagnum moss can act as a natural fungicide, helping to prevent rapid decay of the plants. With these considerations, sphagnum moss has been commonly used throughout orchid cultivation as a widely successful orchid growing medium.

My success in growing orchid seedlings in sphagnum moss has greatly increased with live cultures of the moss instead of using dead specimens. This has particularly been the case with my very small seedlings or 'runts' that I get whenever I deflask a large group of orchids. I have never been successful in getting those very small and 'weak' orchids to survive for more than 2 weeks using small bark mixes. However, by putting these small orchids in a tray of live sphagnum moss, I have been able to get wonderful new growth and establishment of these orchids, with almost 100% survival rate of the plants I deflask. With the constant increase in the amount of sphagnum I was using, I knew it was time for me to expand my sphagnum cultures from a couple of trays to much larger 'sphagnum bogs'.

At first I started a relatively small sphagnum bog in one of my old fish tanks. I placed a 10cm layer of decomposed peat moss purchased from Bunnings at the base of the glass tank, with a 5cm layer of sphagnum moss on top (also obtained from Bunnings in the large dried compressed blocks that they sell). Slowly moistening the sphagnum and teasing the large clumps apart allows the blocks to increase in size dramatically, and with enough moisture applied constantly to the moss, you can start to see the sphagnum turn a greenish colour, becoming alive again over a couple of months. To speed up this process I also put live sphagnum in the tank which I had already been growing in some trays. I also got some red and blue grow lights used typically used for hydroponic culture of plants.



When the sphagnum started to turn green I decided to plant a few small seedlings that were going backwards in growth and needed a lot of TLC (essentially needed resurrecting!). I placed a few *Dracula vampira* seedling in the tank, as well as half a flask of small *Paphiopedilum* hybrid's. After a few weeks, the *Dracula*'s were all showing new growths and the *Paph*'s were broadening their leaves.





After this trial, I decided to convert another smaller tank into a sphagnum bog, which has also showed good signs of growth.



It wasn't until we were thinking of what to put in the lower bench space of our greenhouse that I decided to convert the floor of one side of the house into a massive sphagnum bog. So after a lot of shoveling I was able to place 2 large water trays at the base of the sphagnum bog. I then purchased a 4 cubic ft. bag of Lithuanian peat moss from Enfield Produce, which was able to make a thick layer as my foundation for the large area that will be occupied by the sphag.



Buying a few extra blocks of the compressed moss from Bunnings, I could cover the whole section in sphagnum. Now after 3 weeks and constant monitoring that the bog is always moist, I can finally see signs of the moss starting to 'green up'.



I will be planning on putting many small orchid seedlings in the bog whenever the time is needed, being hopeful I don't run out of sphagnum moss again!



SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE

Members at the March Annual General Meeting will elect the Society's President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee. If you wish to nominate for a position, please fill in the form below, and return to The Secretary, Sutherland Shire Orchid Society, 5 Tiber Place, Heathcote. 2233

I,.....(insert full name) wish to nominate for the position of:

(Please tick in circle)

President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Committee

Signed:.....

Seconded By:.....

TO NOMINATE, YOU MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

SSOS Members – Fees for 2017 are now due. If you pay by the January meeting, your name will automatically go into our draw for a free annual subscription to the magazine Orchids Australia (prize value of \$55!!)

Articles for the Bulletin

If you are interested in providing articles for our monthly bulletin, please email Richard Dimon at dimon.richard@gmail.com

The articles can be on anything you like related to orchids. Pictures to go with articles are also encouraged.

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. Pictures provided by Pamela Davies, Cheryl Matheson and Richard Dimon and may not be used without the expressed permission of the photographer.