



Monthly Bulletin vol. 48 no. 4

April 2010

President
Murray Aldridge

Secretary
Louise Gannon
9524 9072

Treasurer
Jan Robinson
9520 6920

Editor
Daniel Coulton
dan_the_man351@hotmail.com
0419 466 986

Correspondence to: The Secretary, 36 Raglan Road, Miranda, NSW 2228.

Web Site: www.ssos.org.au

Venue: The Uniting Church Hall at the intersection of Flora and Merton Sts., Sutherland on the second Monday of each Month. All visitors are welcome.

SSOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8/03/2010

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2009 as presented in the 2009 April and May Bulletins be accepted as accurate on a motion by M. Errington. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Another year has come and rapidly passed by, but the reflection on the past year is a good one.

Once again your rather small committee has done the Society proud. Louise and Jan have continued to do a great job as Secretary and Treasurer, keeping everything under control but being innovative at the same time.

Bob, our Vice-President has acted as our Show Marshall this year. Both our shows were extremely well patronised, of high quality and should be a source of pride to everyone involved. As is the case every year it seems Bob was there for every moment of both shows; the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Dennis, along with Bob, runs the sales table at Meetings and Shows – keeps track of the stock and is always there to help out.

Russell runs the raffles and is a great helper at the shows and meetings.

George and Rob rounded out the team and whilst busy with their own orchid business, are there at the shows and work away behind the scenes.

Mike has been our Editor for the past year, an important task, which will be soon taken over by Daniel Coulton.

They really do deserve your thanks.

We all, of course, receive lots of support from our members. I will only mention three, Diane who has been our Show Secretary for 3 years, May who has hosted, very generously, two workshops at her home and Madge who looks after our suppers and does a great job.

Our big effort each year is the Southern Orchid Spectacular. From next year we will share 30% of the profit. As you have seen our share was over \$2000 last year. As well as a great financial result it is just a great orchid event, and great publicity for us. Last year our representatives on the Committee were myself, Jan, Neville, Bob, George and Mike. Ian, from our Society, is

on the Committee too, although as a representative of NSW. This year we will lose George and Mike due to their involvement with the Orchid Tray Company and also Neville as he moves later this year. Therefore we need 3 replacements. I know so many of you helped out but we do need to keep up our numbers on the Committee. Your help and your representatives on the Committee, and their dedicated work, are gratefully acknowledged.

Special mention must be made of our display at the Spectacular which took out the silverware. Congratulations go to all exhibitors, the team involved and the team leaders, Jan, Louise, Sandra and Bob.

This year looks to be a good one. We have a truly impressive line up of speakers organised and as you will have seen, great raffle prizes will be on offer.

Finally, if you can help out please consider doing so – you don't have to be a leading grower to get involved. Everyone's help and input is welcomed.

Motion that the President's Report be accepted, R. Nicol. Carried.

That the Treasurer's Report which was mailed/mailed to Members mid-February, 2010 be accepted as accurate, D. Coulton. Carried.

Nominate a member to act as Returning Officer, David Brooks.
Motion by M. Aldridge. Seconded by Jan Robinson.

In accordance with the Society rules all positions are declared vacant.
The following members are standing for election.

Auditor, no nominations therefore position is still vacant.

VICE PRESIDENT: R. Moar motion by J. Costa seconded John Hart

PRESIDENT: M. Aldridge motion by R. Ettrick seconded N. Roper

SECRETARY: L. Gannon motion by T. Thorburn seconded G. Dodd

TREASURER: J. Robinson motion by R. Moar seconded J. Costa

COMMITTEE: Dennis WOOD, Russell ETTRICK, George BIRSS, John MOSS, Frank DANIEL, Robert BISETTO
Motion by M. Errington seconded R. Moar

ANNUAL STATEMENT for the Financial Year ended 2009 as presented is hereby accepted for submission to the Department of Fair Trading, and that the Public Officer, Louise Gannon and the Treasurer, Jan Robinson be allowed to sign the Statement. Motion by T. Thorburn. Seconded by P. Godbolt.

SSOS MARCH GENERAL MEETING **8.3.10**

MINUTES of the last meeting as printed in the Bulletin were accurate. Motion by Bob Moar. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:
Flyer – Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon 21st-23 May.
ORCHIDS Australia Magazine
Sydney International Orchid Fair, Castle Hill Showground (not the Harvey Lowe Pavilion, where it's usually held) on the Fri. 26th and Sat. 27th March.

The President welcomed New Member Mr Michael Dimon (Richard's father).

TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin HIPKINS from Royale Orchid Nursery,

Peats Ridge, on the Topic 'New trends in cymbidium breeding'

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

The members who attended May Luk's Workshop last month enjoyed themselves.

Thankyou May for inviting us all.

Society bus trip to Mingara Orchid Show on the 26th June, calling into Royale Orchids on the return trip. Please see Louise if you are interested in going.

The Committee would like everyone to wear their name badges to assist all members to identify each other.

The Society will pay for badges for all members who do not have one, so please write your name down on the list circulating tonight. A bulk order will be done after the April Meeting. We will then re-introduce the 'Lucky Badge Draw'.

POSITIONS VACANT

1. **Auditor** – If you are an accountant with auditing qualifications or have a friend or relative that could help our Society, could you please speak to our Treasurer, Jan Robinson, Louise or Murray.
2. **Show Secretary**- still vacant!!
3. **Photographer** - to take the photo of the winning seedling of the night for the Annual Seedling Presentation in January.
- to take photos at G.M. & Shows for Website. (2 positions but may be able to be done by one person. Anyone who can take good digital photos could do it).
4. 3 members are needed for The **Sharkie's Committee** Meetings held at the Sharkie's Leagues Club on a Thursday Night. Total of 6 meetings to attend. It's important for our Society to keep our numbers up on this committee and to help out over the 4 days of the Show.

PLEASE SEE MURRAY OR LOUISE

April Meeting: Garrie Bromley. Topic: advance show preparation and his trip to Peru.

May Meeting: Auction Night. A good chance to pick- up some bargains. More on that next month.

August's Meeting: Guest Speaker, Pepe Portilla has been confirmed. A list of flask available, will be circulated before he arrives.

Members then enjoyed Supper Break prepared by Madge.

The President then introduced tonight's Guest Speaker, Kevin Hipkins. Kevin's talk was not on 'new trends in cymbidium breeding' as previously advertised but on Specimen orchid plants. His interesting presentation included photos of many exotic orchids and showed us how some orchids look spectacular grown into large plants.

Murray reminded us that if you would like to see Kevin's orchid nursery at Peats Ridge to come along on the Mingara Bus trip as we will be calling into the nursery, on the return trip.

The President thanked Kevin on behalf of members for his presentation and also, for bringing along plants for sale tonight.

Lucky Plants: D. Wood, S. Crosby & T. Costa, N. Roper

Raffle: L. & P. Tsathas, J. Costa, J. Edwards, J. Moss, D. Coulton (2), M. Aldridge

Murray then wished everyone a safe trip home.

Notes from the Editor

1. There are several people who receive the bulletin by both post and email could you please advise me of your preferred means of delivery to help efficiency of this process as well as to keep down costs.

2. Does anybody have any ideas on what they would like to see in the bulletin, your opinions are most welcome.

3. I know it appears earlier in this bulletin but this is my plea for a photographer for our shows and monthly meetings.

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : **March**

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE

SPECIES

Winner Dendrochilum clemensiae ST Ho

HYBRID

Winner Paph Woluwense ST Ho

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Miltonia Warne's Best B. Warren

INTERMEDIATE

Winner Dtps Lacy Jewel X Unknown D & M Hannah

CULTURAL CLASS

Winner

CLASS # 1

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Den. schneiderae D Wood
2nd Den toressae R Moar
3rd Den. bigibbum D. Wood
4th Liparis reflexa J&M Moss

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st victoria-regina ST Ho
2nd moquettianum ST Ho
3rd moquettianum ST Ho
4th sukhakuli ST Ho

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Woluwense ST Ho
2nd (Supersuk X Singapore) X California Rasin ST Ho
3rd Mod Maid X Pulsar ST Ho

CLASS #5 CATTLEYA 80 TO 110MM

1st Cattleya Minerva J&M Moss
2nd Sc Dal's Choice 'Castle Creek' HCC/OSCOV Crosby/Costa
3rd Lc Mini Purple 'Clare' J. Costa
4th Cattleya Gold Digger 'Orchidglade' T. Hyde

CLASS # 7 CATTLEYA INTERGENERIC [UP TO 70MM]

1st Ctna. Capri 'Lea' J. Hart

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st Lc Mini Purple 'Tamami' J. Costa
2nd Pot Dal's Emperor Crosby/Costa
3rd Lc Mini Purple 'Zoe' J&M Moss
4th C. Chocolate Drop X Little Susie Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID

1st Dock. Goosebump N. Roper
2nd Den. Aussie Victory X Hilda Poxon T Thorburn

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Dendrochilum clemensiae ST Ho
2nd Trichoglottis brachiata W&J Chapman
3rd Dendrochilum latifolium var macranthum R. Moar
4th Bulbo. Polystrictum G. Birss
5th Dendrochilum pangasinamense R. Moar

CLASS # 11 PHALAENOPSIS

1st Phal Hsinying Eva T Hyde

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Pot Fortune Teller X Lc Royal Emperor R. Ettrick

CLASS #13 ONCIDIUM

1st Onc edwallii X ausiasinorum D Wood
2nd Onc edwallii X ausiasinorum Costa/Crosby
3rd Onc Sweet Angel Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st Wils. Hilda Plumtree D Wood
2nd Colm. Wildcatt 'Bloodshot' J. Costa
3rd Colm. Wildcatt 'Bobcat' Costa/Crosby
4th Milt. Blunti X Odtna. Santos J&M Moss

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st Pharag. Longifolium X pearcei J&M Moss
2nd Phrag. Besseae X boisserianum Costa/Crosby
3rd V. Josephine Van Brero X Faye Bennett J&M Moss
4th Lyc. Guyra D Wood

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM

HYBRIDS

1st	Den. Carron Deb X tangerinum	T Thorburn
2nd	Den Andree Millar X Den polysema	Costa/Crosby

CLASS #18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA

1st	Neostylus Unknown	
------------	-------------------	--

CLASS # 21 Odontoglossum including Odontonia

1st	Odontonia Payageno 'Fiesta'	Costa/Crosby
------------	-----------------------------	--------------

CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES

1st	Cat. Intermedia var. Alba	J. Robinson
2nd	Cat. bowringiana	T Thorburn

CLASS # 22 MINITURE CYMBIDIUM UNDER 60mm

1st	Cym Zig Zag 'Kiwi'	E&A Marks
------------	--------------------	-----------

CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st	Prost. Radiata	D Wood
2nd	Lyc. Macrophylla	D Wood
3rd	Kerfostenia talimensis	R. Moar
4th	Miltonia spectabilis var. Moreliana	J. Robinson
5th	Warscewiczella candida	R Moar

CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES

1st	Pleuro. Luteola	G. Birss
2nd	Rest. Lansberghii	R Moar

CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID

1st	Sarco. Bobby Dazzler 'Pink Spots'	N Roper
2nd	Sarco. Melody X Velvet	G. Birss
3rd	Sarco. Velvet 'November'	N Roper
4th	Sarco. Nicky 'Cheer'	N Roper

CLASS # 25 NOVICE - Paphiopedilum

1st	Paph. Unknown	Diane Phillips
------------	---------------	----------------

CLASS # 28 NOVICE - CATTLEYA

1st	Slc. Tangerine Jewel	B. Warren
------------	----------------------	-----------

CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS

1st		
2nd	Miltonia Warne's Best Miltonia spectabilis X Yvedale Moir	B. Warren
		B. Warren

CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA

1st	Cat Unknown	M Luk
------------	-------------	-------

2nd	Cat Fitz Eugene	M Luk
------------	-----------------	-------

3rd	Cattleya Unknown	M Luk
------------	------------------	-------

4th	Cattleya intermedia X s. Jem	M Luk
------------	------------------------------	-------

CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS

1st	Dpts. Lacy Jewel X unknown	D & M Hannah
------------	----------------------------	--------------

2nd	Ascda Yip Sum Wah X V. Davachan	M Luk
------------	---------------------------------	-------

3rd	Milt Purple Dancer	C Nidigal
------------	--------------------	-----------

4th	Milt Unknown	C Nidigal
------------	--------------	-----------

CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES

1st	Cat. Intermedia var. Amethystoglossa	C Nidigal
------------	--------------------------------------	-----------

2nd	Phal pulchra	C Nidigal
------------	--------------	-----------

3rd	Den. flaviflorum	C Nidigal
------------	------------------	-----------

CLASS # 41 JUNIORS

1st	Liparis reflexa	R. Dimon
------------	-----------------	----------

Orchid Information – Society Websites

I decided to include this new section to try and direct people to new resources to aid in their orchid growing. Your feedback on whether or not this is a useful resource would be most welcome. Daniel.

Orchid society websites can be one of the most useful internet resources available to the home orchid grower. They are useful for three main reasons:

The first is for event information. Societies often provide details of their upcoming shows and meetings, these events can be one of the most useful ways of gaining information and in general provide what I call orchid experience which is basically all the stuff you need to know but that is not written in the books. Also by visiting events from other societies you find new and exciting plants and ideas which have not been seen or discussed in your home society. Lastly on this point is to be wary of the accuracy of dates and times given as they may be subject to change or out of date altogether.

Photos are another resource useful to orchid growers. Often they are of a random mixture of plants from shows and meetings, however this wide range means that photos that you can't find in some of the other orchid databases or nursery websites. While quality does vary generally due to the digital age the images are of a good standard.

Last and probably the most important to some is the articles. These articles are in my opinion, some of the most useful sources of orchid growing information going around. They are useful for several reasons. The first is that often they are based on local knowledge and so as long as you search from societies within your area or from areas with a similar climate, for example Sydney growers may look into some Californian societies for advice. The next is that these articles vary vastly in scope from the one page overview for the absolute beginner to the in depth highly specific piece valuable to an experienced grower looking at a new plant or genus. Last is that they can often contain the tips and tid bits which don't make it into the larger print texts these are always valuable. Oh lastly lastly I forgot, there are many different authors and this allows for a great variety of opinions on a single topic and allows for a degree of analysis on the topic area and differing culture techniques.

Some sites to begin with

www.ssos.org.au (our very own site)

www.oscov.asn.au/ (*orchid societies' council of Victoria which contains many good articles as well as links to other sites*)

www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/ (*our parent body which contains a great deal of*

show and society information as well as many links to other societies)

www.orchidsaustralia.com/ (*National body with many articles and links to society websites around Australia*)

How to do a real experiment in orchids

(The following is taken from an orchid blog called the Slipper Orchid Blog <http://slipperorchidblog.com/> written by the owner of Paphiness Orchids and is one of the most insightful, well written and informative websites I've seen)

One of the most enjoyable things about growing orchids is the learning process. It's also one of the most frustrating things as well. The pressure is even greater because we're dealing with beautiful, treasured, (and oftentimes expensive) things that might live — or die — because of our choices.

I guess that's why growing orchids is so addictive: it's like gambling.

And in gambling, many "systems" abound. It's the same with orchids.

So how do you figure out what works for you and what doesn't? Answer: experiment.

While most of us know what an experiment is, not all of us know how to do a proper one **that enables you to draw a strong conclusion.**

Many well-meaning growers will rave about how switching to a new media/fertilizer/light source/etc revived a long-dormant plant, resulting in a blooming that caused AOS judges to swoon and give the plant an FCC. We've all heard (or told) stories just like this.

But the question is: how do you know this didn't just happen by chance? The world is a very complicated thing, especially

when it comes to biology. Weird, unexpected stuff happens **all the time** in experiments. And experiments performed on one single plant can always be attacked on the grounds that the observed result was due to chance, or some other unexplained phenomenon. The revival of the long-dormant plant could absolutely have been due to whatever change you subjected the plant to, but how do you *prove* causality?

That's when you need a well-designed experiment. **A well-designed experiment helps you to conclude that the results obtained were not due to chance.**

Here are key steps to doing a solid experiment.

0) You **need** a control group and an experimental group. The control group is the one that is treated normally. No new media or fertilizer or anything. The experimental group is the one that gets the change in conditions that you're trying to assess.

1) You need a "useful" number of plants to compare. A result from testing one plant is not enough from which to draw a strong conclusion. Ideally, you'd want something like 15 - 30 plants in **each** group (which is what professional plant researchers try to do). Of course, we don't all have the space or resources to do an experiment on that many plants. For the typical grower, I suggest around six plants in each group. That means six plants in your control, and six plants in your experimental group. (I know, I know...this requirement is NOT easy for most home growers.)

2) The plants should be preferably from the same cross. For example, if you're testing a new media for growing *rothschildianums*, ideally you should use siblings from just one cross, such as 'Rex' x 'Mont Millais'. But if you don't have six from one cross, at least try to get six similarly-sized roths.

3) Focus on only one variable at a time. This is a hard one, and requires some self-discipline! If you're testing a new fertilizer, don't change the media as well. Vary only one variable in the experiment. Otherwise, your results will always be haunted by the specter of uncertainty of whether that one variable really caused, by itself, the result you observed.

4) Measure, measure, measure (and compare your control group to your experimental group). How many new root tips? How many new leaves grew? How much did leaves elongate? How much did the plants weigh? Measuring is objective, and banishes, or at least pushes back, subjectivity from the analysis. Yes, I know this is a pain, but the more of this stuff you do, the stronger and less assailable your conclusions.

Anyone who has read about orchids on the internet knows that advice and opinions abound. Doing proper, well-controlled experiments lets you cut through the crap and determine **for you and your growing conditions** what is likely to work best.