

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: June 2020

www.ssos.org.au

NOTE: June meeting is still cancelled, we'll let you know about July

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome
95 photos submitted by 18 member ! Good job Team !



Laelia acne's 'Alba Green Throat'
(Peter & Paul)



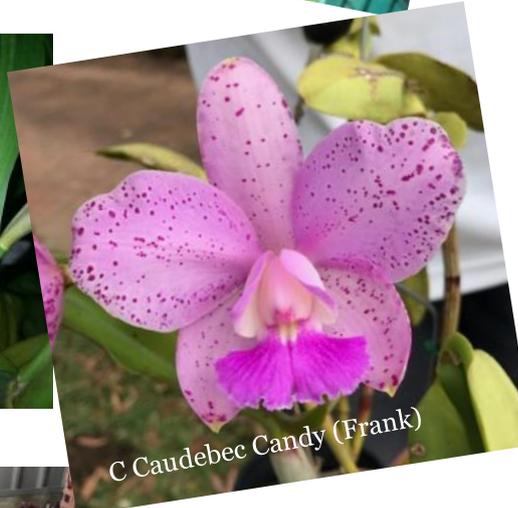
C. Mini Purple 'Tamami' (Jan)



Fdk. After Dark 'Choc Iced' (Heath)



Lyc. Rachel x deppei (Jenny)



C Caudebec Candy (Frank)



Dock Tweetas (Rhonda)



Bulbo.rothschildianum
'Janette' (Wal)



Laelia Ancepts
'Australian Frangipani'
(Gary Hodder)

PRESIDENT

Jan Robinson

VICE PRESIDENT

Frank Daniel

SECRETARY

David Hicks

davehicks

@optusnet.com.au

0431 799 230

TREASURER

John Costa

EDITOR

Melissa Karayannis

mjbk1@bigpond.com

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Cym. Death Wish 'Saratoga' x
Death Wish (Dimitrios)

Den Tosca
(Graeme)



Cymb. Unknown (Diane)



Cym. Sarah Jean (Frank)



C. Mark Jones 'Lance' x Slc. Jungle Elf
'Cheryl Lynn' (Christoff)



Cymb Jubilation Geronimo
(Gifford)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

Den Mary Poppins "Orchid World" (Gary Hodder)



Paph. spicerianum (Jan)



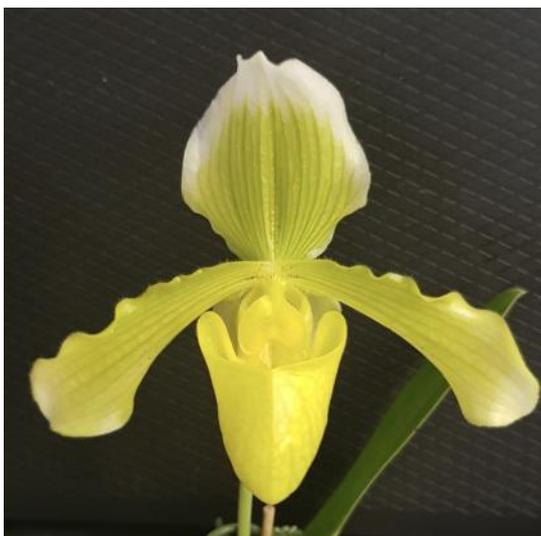
Bulbo Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry' (Dimitrios)



Den. Avril's Gold 'Ray' (Heath)



Dendrochilum cobbianum
(Rhonda)



Paph. crossianum alba (Jan)



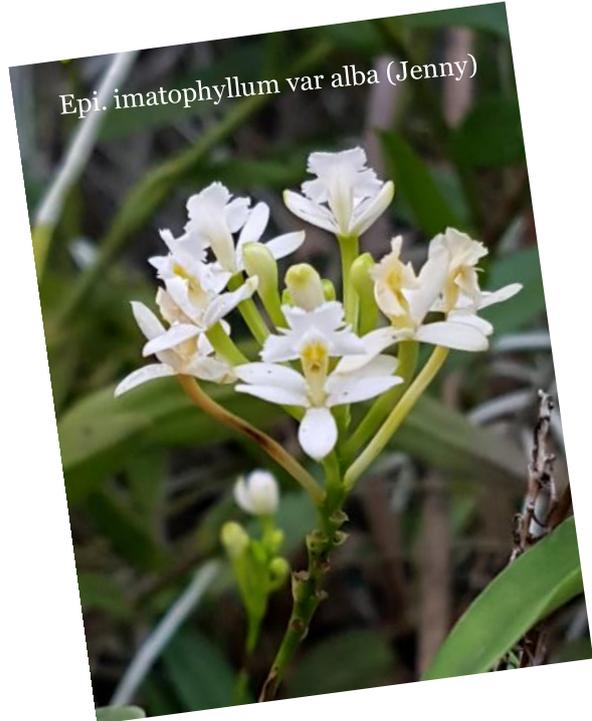
Cattleya BC Hawaii Stars 'Hsinying' (Peter & Paul)

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

Ddc wenzelii (Wal)



Epi. imatophyllum var alba (Jenny)



Cym. Kushuda Fantasy 'Opal' (Paul & Peter)



Blc. Momilani Rainbow
(John Hely)



Phrag. Sedenii (Heath)



Rth. Dals Emperor 'Lester Lai' (Dimitrios)

President's Message...

Hello Fellow Members—

With restrictions easing slightly, we are one step closer to returning to regular life. Hopefully there won't be a second wave of Covid-19 to send us back into lock down. Normally in early June we would be busily grooming our plants for the Society's Winter Show. But with no shows on, I'm taking the opportunity to try some experiments with my orchids. For the first time ever, all the shade cloth is off my polycarb house. It is pretty bright in there at midday; time will tell whether it's too much winter light. I've repotted a few plants that were in spike or in bud and the flowers still matured and



seem ok. The wood that some of my sarcs were mounted on was rotting and full of nasties, I've repotted those sarcs on different types of mounts using materials on hand. The Society's Face Book page has provided some good ideas on separating buds so the flowers don't overlap which both Melissa and I have been trying with good results. Some of the rest of you are also experimenting. Sonia sent me a photo (right) of a cattleya she recently acquired which she took out of the pot and mounted even though it is in bud, good on you Sonia! It's the perfect time for orchid innovation.



Even though we may be itching to get back out into the public and show off our plants as well as catch up with our orchid friends, the Society is strictly limited by what our "landlords" will allow as to group meetings and shows. Rest assured that as soon as either the church or the retirement village gives us the thumbs up on large enough gatherings for a Society function, we'll let you know straight away! The Committee reckons we can throw a one or two day show together quick smart when we get the go ahead on a venue. In the meantime, enjoy your orchids and maybe even share them via our Face Book page or the Bulletin. Try a few orchid experiments and let us know the results. Most importantly, stay well.

Cheers until next month,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan".



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

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



**The And
Winner
is...**

Dendrochilum wenzellii 'Janette' AM/ACM OS/NSW 2012 , Ascocentrum ampullaceum
Dendrochilum cobbianum, Masdevallia Margarite 'Geyserland Yellow'
Zygopetalum mackayii, Bulbophyllum rothschildianum 'Janette' AM/ACM OS/NSW 2019

ANSWERS (Left to Right)

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 or Dan Coulton 0419 466986 for assistance.



10 QUESTIONS (AND MORE) FOR ROBERT NICOL

1. When did you first start with orchids?

Oh #%^, somewhere in the 1990s.*

2. What hooked you in?

I started with Australian natives, then cymbidiums, then cattleyas. I used to go to the orchid shows at Swane's Nursery for years before a kind lady, Audrey Marks, encouraged me to join SSOS in 2006. I joined about the same time as Jan, George, Daniel, Tony & Sandra. Ho was giving novice classes around this time. The knowledge gained from SSOS enabled me to stop killing my orchids!

3. What's your favorite genera?

Stanhopea, dendrochilum, brassolaeliocattleya/cattleya.

4. What are your favourite few plants?

Stanhopeas, but their flowers don't last.

5. What do you grow now?

Coelogyne, laelia/cattleya/Blc etc, dendrochilum, stanhopea, bulbophyllum

6. What's your greatest orchid challenge?

To stop killing them!

7. Which genera have you tried and failed with?

Cymbidiums....I kept overwatering them and their roots rotted!

I'm trying to flower a couple of phragmipediums.

8. What's on your orchid wishlist?

I recently bought a Coelogyne pandurata. I've been waiting a long time to find one. I believe its flowers are green; I'll wait and see!

9. What's the oldest orchid in your collection?

A couple of Cattleya bowringiana, 'Harwood' variety and 'Black Prince', also Cattleya Portia 'Cannizaro' is quite old.

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

I'm not buying anymore orchids!



Robert's Growing Spaces:

Robert has a lovely Maple tree at the bottom of his back step. Here he displays all his beautiful orchids that are currently in bloom. He especially loves to come out from the house, passed this display tree, when the stanhopeas are in bloom and fragrant. (cont next page)



He has a 'tree' of stanhopea (right) where they receive natural, dappled light.

To the left of his pool (below, left) there is a more sheltered spot full of cattleya, coelogyne & stanhopea.



To the right of his pool there is an area of more cattleya, epidendrum & bulbophyllum. This area receives a lot of natural air circulation and is protected by shade cloth at the front, held down by fishing weights. Robert also has a novel way of hanging pots, especially big bulbo trays, on a fishing swivel. That way he can check the whole plant out by rotating the suspended pot on its swivel!



When I visited Robert, he generously gave me a few orchids including a Schomburgkia superbiens. Robert had been growing a few pots of schombies under cover of a porch, in full sun. My gifted schomburgkia was in spike at the time (January). The flower stem continued to grow to over metre in length and its blooms finally opened last week. It has been a wonder to behold, a fascinating orchid journey...thankyou Robert!



By Melissa Karayannis

SSOS JUNE Virtual Raffle

During the Covid (No Meetings) months, the Society will be “raffling” off the plants we got recently from John Allen. The next plant on offer is not currently in flower nor does it have any visible spikes--- but this is what it COULD look like for the lucky winner if they grow it well!! (The flower photos are off the AOC award site; the plant photo is the actual raffle plant as it was when we got it.) “Lmc” stands for *Lycamerlycaste*, in the *lycaste* family. Our raffle plant is a division of John Allen’s plant that received both an Award of Merit as well as an Award of Distinction and it is most definitely flowering size.

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 saying “please put my name in the raffle draw for May.”

The deadline for participating entries is

28th June 2020

All the names of participating members will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn on the 29th June. 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 orchid, send your email now!

Lmc. Mark ‘Neve’ AM/AD AOC



So after Frank (Our Vice President) won the May Virtual Raffle draw we heard a few grumblings that the raffle might be rigged! So Wal Chapman offered to be a witness this month and to actually draw the raffle winner himself. 34 names were ‘put in a hat’and Wal drew out MY NAME ! Very funny at the time (that he drew out another Committee member.....!). Here’s the proof! (Ed)



May Winner: Melissa Karayannis



What Native Orchids Are Flowering Now?

By Jan Robinson

With the travel restrictions relaxed a bit, Rhonda and I took the opportunity to have an excursion out of the Sutherland Shire with our hubbies (we were in separate cars of course!) for a bush walk and hopefully a few orchid sightings. We didn't travel far, just to a reserve in Oatley.



What a native orchid extravaganza it turned out to be! We had barely started our walk when we found the lovely little white Painted Fingers Orchid (*Caladenia picta*) sticking its head up out of the leaf litter. It's pretty easy to find as the white colour really draws your eye. A bit further along we found a small colony of greenhood orchids (*Pterostylis*).

Then we started to see heaps of The Dead Horse Orchid, *Acianthus fornicatus*,

also known as the Pixie Caps Orchid. The

flowers are so tiny they are hard to see, so we took a photo of one stem with Rhonda's hand behind it to show the size. Supposedly these smell really bad--hence the name--but how you

can smell any scent at all is beyond me, the flowers are so small! Many of these were right on the track where they could easily get stepped on by people who are not looking for tiny orchids.



Rhonda's hubby miraculously spotted the only helmet orchid we found, it wasn't fully open and even looking through our magnifying glass we had trouble getting a good look. We think it

was The Fringed Helmet Orchid, *Corybas fimbriatus*. Rhonda was on the lookout for dendrobiums and was rewarded by finding a huge boulder covered in *Dendrobium linguiforme*, the distinctive Tongue Orchid. It was not in flower but was still amazing to see such a massive specimen happily growing there in the suburbs.



If you get a chance, take a look in one of the many bush reserves around Sydney. You never know what you might find!



Our thanks to Gary Hart for allowing us to reprint this excellent article. It was first published in *Orchids Australia*, December 2001. It can also be viewed on our SSOS website.



Paph. Sunny Tears x *Paph. Winston Churchill*.



Paph. Picture Rock 'Delma'.

Successful paphiopedilum growing

PAPHIOPEDILUMS are a relatively trouble free orchid genus to grow as long as you establish an environment that they appreciate and management practices that suit their needs.

I grow all types of paphiopedilums from the large exhibition type to the smallest of species and find basically that their culture requirements are similar. Paphiopedilums are also a genus that does



Paph. Picture Rock 'Sandstone'.

Gary Hart has been growing paphiopedilums for more than 25 years. In this article, he passes on his Top TenTips for success.

not seem to suffer from the insect attacks and diseases of many other genera, especially if they are grown well.

How do you grow them well? Here are 10 helpful tips that I find work for me.

ENVIRONMENT: Start off with a good environment. So often we are caught up with acquiring plants, plants and more plants but how sad it is when plants hastily purchased are lost because our housing was not suitable. Overcrowding, inadequate cover from the weather and incorrect shading have killed many a paphiopedilum. Construct a glasshouse with 70 per cent shade cloth that is at least twice as big as you think you will need and you are well on your way.

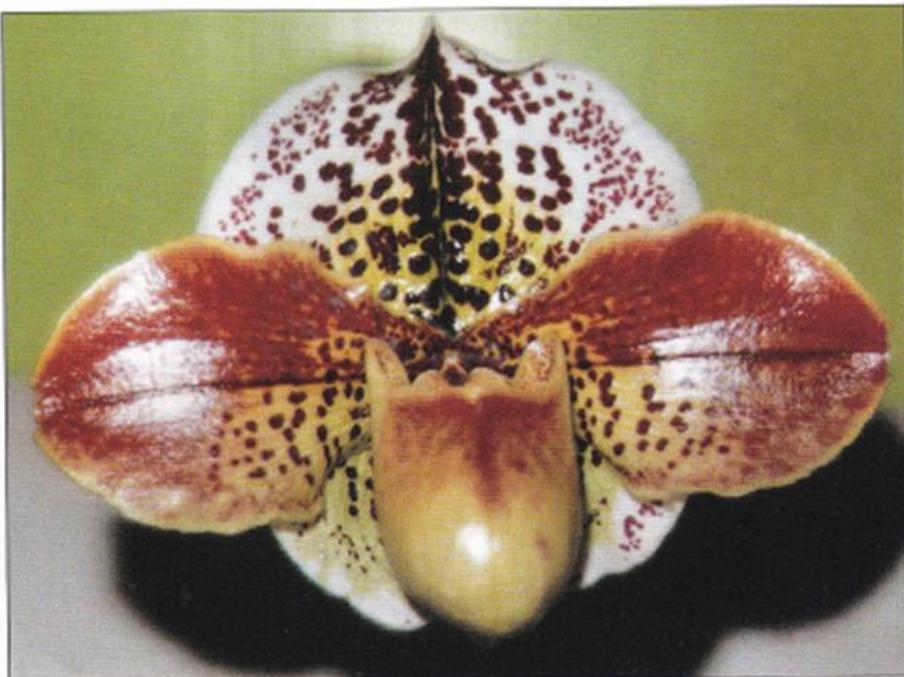
ACQUIRING STOCK: Always start with healthy, well-rooted plants that appear to be growing well. Look for evidence of new growth

and try to establish that the plant is firm in the pot. If the top growth looks healthy and shiny, usually the roots are OK. Purchase seedlings and mature plants so you have some excitement with plants flowering and the expectation of growing seedlings on to first flowering.

REPOT REGULARLY:

This is the single most important hint for success. Use good quality mix and new pots. It is a false economy to reuse some of the old mix and leave plants until they look like they need repotting. This is often too late! I repot seedlings every year and mature plants every two years. It is sometimes hard to do this when they look to be growing so well. However, you will be rewarded with even better growth.

WATERING: Never over water, especially in cool to cold weather. If you have any doubts about watering ... don't! Leave it for another day or two



Paph. Orchilla x Paph. Landing Party.

then water early in the morning on a sunny day.

INSPECT YOUR PLANTS: It is important that you regularly inspect your plants. If you visit your growing area regularly you become very skilled at spotting problems before they escalate. Like most things successful orchid growing is proportional to the amount of effort you put in. I try to look over my plants every day, even if it is after work under lights!

FERTILISE: This is a key factor in successfully growing paphiopedilums. I have found that paphiopedilums like a weak, regular and varied fertiliser program. I fertilise every time I water with a very weak solution, rotating organic and chemical fertilisers from week to week. Although my plants slow down their growth in winter, I still fertilise as there is some growth and they are building up reserves for the main spring/summer growing season, and later winter flowering season. I fertilise over the leaves, as I am convinced paphiopedilums like this foliage feeding.



Paph. Danella 'Chilton'.

GROWING MEDIUM:

I use a basic bark mix and nothing else! I have tried everything in just about every combination but am convinced that the medium you grow in is not that important. What is vital is that it is fresh, well drained and regularly replaced. Use a finer bark for seedlings and medium grade for mature plants. It always amazes me that some growers will spend big dollars for a plant, yet not want to spend a few cents on regular repotting as the bark/pot will cost too much!

UNIFORM GROWING:

Repot all new purchases into your potting medium. In this way when you come to water/fertilise there is uniformity in drainage and nutrient acquisition. So many people just bring home a new plant put it on the bench, often ending up with several different media (sphagnum moss to bark/rock mix) next to one another. They then try to water and fertilise them in the same way. It doesn't work.

DIVIDING PLANTS: I always repot and divide the bulk of plants in October/November as they have usually finished flowering and are in active growth. Make sure you divide big plants into



Paph. Winston Churchill x Paph. Sparsholt.

two or three growths. Don't be mean and separate into a lot of single growths. Often the shock results in growths that sit for years and never make new growth. Repot your divisions (in fact all paph plants) according to the root mass size, not the size of the top growth. You have to discipline yourself to do this, but it is vital to successful paphiopedilum growing.

READ/ASK/LEARN: Read as much as you can about paphiopedilum growing and find out what works in your conditions. When you find a successful formula do not change, maintain it. Always be a good listener, you may not agree, but it all adds to the cumulative knowledge that may be invaluable at some stage. Ask successful growers about their success; most are only too pleased to share their knowledge.

Successful paphiopedilum growing is proportional to establishing a good environment, regularly inspecting your plants and having good ongoing management skills.

Gary Hart
Caringbah NSW



Paph. Feldspar.

All photos taken by author.

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.

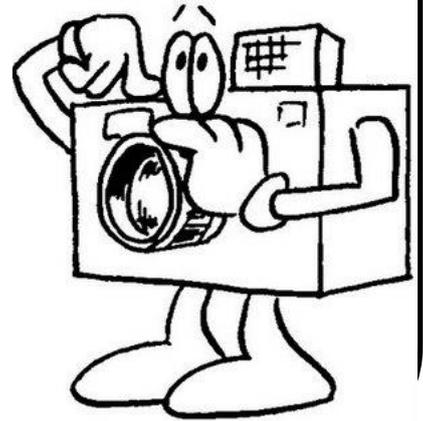
Orchid photos for the July Bulletin??

Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa (Editor) at mjbk1@bigpond.com

Problems, questions, article topics??

Email to George at gbirss@bigpond.net.au

Both before June 28th please !



Has your phone number , home address or email address changed since you first joined the society?

Please email any changes to Rhonda at info@ssos.org.au so that we can keep our records up-to-date.

AUTUMN AND WINTER SHOWS 2020.....

It's been sad, this year, to miss our winter and autumn shows . Here are some reminders of last year's winter show (check out our SSOS website for more photos)



John Costa won Grand Champion with his *Prosthecea cochleata*



Sonia Troupoulos won Reserve Champion (even though she was in Novice class!) with her magnificent white Cattleya