



## May, 2019 Bulletin

Next meeting: 13th May, 2019

### Placegetters at the April Meeting



Open Hybrid / Plant of the Night - Den. Jade Junior 'Sawadee' - Vic Petrovski



Open Species - Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana 'Flaxton' x 'Montville' - Jan Robinson



Intermediate PON - C. Hawaiian Polka Dot x Lc Bonanza - John Chan



Novice PON - C. Unknown - Oryit Crompton

### Whats Happening

Orchids Out West – 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May – Hawkesbury Race Club Carendon

Winter Show June 13, 14, and 15 (set up on June 12<sup>th</sup>)

Spring Show August 29, 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> (set up on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>)

St Ives Orchid Fair – 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August St Ives Showground St Ives

Southern Orchid Spectacular/Sharkies/Baskets October 11, 12, 13 (set up on Oct 10)

## April Monthly Meeting Minutes

Without a Secretary we have no Monthly Meeting Minutes for the April meeting

### Vacant Positions

All of those who were at our March, 2019 meeting will recall that we left that night with two important positions that remained unfilled. They are the position of Secretary to the society and one general committee member.

In an endeavour to hopefully elicit some interest in the positions I thought I would list some of the duties with a brief explanation of those duties.

None of the duties for either position requires the person to be an 'experienced' Orchid grower and in fact a Novice grower would in fact be in most instances perfect for the positions.

The two most important duties for both positions are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Being actively engaged in your society   | - Committee meetings are held once monthly and likewise the monthly society meeting on the second Monday |
| 2. Making decisions for your fellow members | - No physical work other than being involved   |

Other main duties are as follows:

#### Secretary

1. Take minutes at the meetings – This duty is perhaps the one that causes some reluctance and yet can be easily simplified. Notwithstanding that our Secretaries in the past have taken minutes that are quite expansive it is quite acceptable to take minutes 'bullet point' style, that is, one or two lines per topic covered
2. Receive and record correspondence – not an onerous task
3. Send Correspondence – an even less onerous task
4. A general involvement at meetings and shows along with the Society's executive, committee and many other members

#### Committee person

- Being actively engaged in your society
- Making decisions for your fellow members
- A general involvement at meetings and shows along with the Society's executive, committee and many other members

Neither of these positions requires more than a small time commitment and for those who are novices they provide a huge opportunity to learn a vast amount about Orchids.

If you feel as though you may be interested you should talk to Pres. Jan or former Secretary Rhonda on a no compulsion basis and they will provide answers to any questions

## To Confidor or not to Confidor? — Contributed by Mike Hitchcock

On the basis we have no minutes I have penned a short article somewhat on the contentious side and will enjoy feedback should any of you feel moved to provide such commentary.

I believe that the use of Confidor in conjunction with Neem Oil is the most effective pesticide management program for available for orchids, notwithstanding the recent decision by Bunnings, our

largest home supply retailer, to 'pull' Confidor from its shelves as mentioned at our Society's recent meeting

An article By Amber Schultz in the Sydney Morning Herald published January 13, 2018 here follows unedited by me with only some relevant parts in bold and underlined.

## Bunnings to pull pesticide allegedly linked to bee deaths

A controversial pesticide allegedly linked to bee deaths will be pulled from Bunnings' shelves by the end of this year, a spokesman has confirmed.

The canned product Yates Confidor is a class of pesticide which some studies suggest affects bees' navigation and immune systems, resulting in colony death.

Bunnings will pull a pesticide that has allegedly been linked to the deaths of bees. Bunnings made the decision in November last year to remove the product from its UK and Australian stores amid declining British bee populations, **however admitted their decision was based on precautions rather than scientific evidence.** **"There's a lot of conflicting science out there," a spokeswoman said, "we decided to err on the side of caution."**

The company received several calls from concerned customers requesting the product be removed, but have not released a statement on its decision.

Yates Confidor is a neonicotinoid, a class of pesticides which is absorbed by the plant rather than coating its surface. The chemicals spread to all parts of the plants, and are exposed to bees through pollen.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) scientists identified a number of risks to bees from neonicotinoids in 2013, however were unable to finalise risk assessment due to a data gaps.

**A spokesman for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) said neonicotinoids registered for use in Australia are safe and effective.**

"This class of pesticides has been used in Australia since the early 1990s and APVMA continue to monitor potential adverse experiences of the chemicals," the spokesman said.

Agriculture Victoria records show the total number of registered beehives in Victoria remains stable, with good breeding conditions for European honey bee colonies this season."

The news comes as a petition urging Bunnings to pull the pesticide from its shelves reached 25,000 signatures in three days, in what senior campaigner Nick Haines called "highly successful". "I've never seen a petition take off so quickly," he said. The campaigners have decided to change their focus to Mitre 10 and Woolworths, who continue to stock neonicotinoid pesticides.

A Bunnings spokesperson said the company was aware of the petition, but reached its decision independently.

Bunnings chief operating officer Clive Duncan said the company has been working with suppliers and partners around the use of neonicotinoids.

"Bunnings ensures we keep abreast of the evolving science and issues impacting bee populations," he said.

The hardware giant also plans to remove the pesticide Yates Confidor from its stores in Ireland and New Zealand by the end of 2018, and will stock natural and organic pesticides as a replacement.

It is worthwhile reading at the Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) department of the Australian Government (<https://apvma.gov.au/node/28786>) their comments in relation to the safe use in Australia of neonicotinoid pesticides (including Confidor) and empirical evidence that despite the use in Agriculture and elsewhere that the Bee population in Australia is not in decline.

Bunnings admits that there is no scientific evidence for the removal of Confidor from the shelves and that their decision was a precautionary one and in my view a general marketing decision to pacify the vast number of ill informed and inaccurately informed activists who ignore reality. APVMA has reported that the available information for Australia and Victoria in particular, indicates that managed and wild honey bee populations are not in decline ([Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Vol. 36, No. 1, January 2017](#)).

I personally intend to continue using Confidor and other neonicotinoids on my orchid collection.

I have never seen a honey bee in either my shade house or glasshouse and I may well be incorrect but I believe the pollen packet structure of orchids precludes orchid pollen availability to honey bees.

***The comments and opinions in this article are those of the writer, Mike Hitchcock, and are not those of the SSOS Committee.***

### **Bunnings BBQ** - Written by Rhonda Jackson



The Society held a Bunnings BBQ at Kirrawee on 30 March 2019. Archie Mitsios was cook extraordinaire and cooked from 7:15am to 2:30pm. Mike Dimon then took over until close at 4pm. 90kg sausages and 20kg onions were cooked, 90 loaves of bread and 208 cans of drink sold. It was raining until about 9:30am and up until this time not many sausages were sold. Once the rain stopped the demand for sausages was continuous. The last sausage was sold at 3:45pm. We have our system down pat now so that people can be served very quickly. All volunteers did a wonderful job. A special thank you goes to George Birss for organising the BBQ and to Charlie Attard, our new member who donated the serviettes.

## SSOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO COL BRANDON



The Committee publically recognised the long and outstanding service to the Society by one of our members by nominating the awarding of Life Membership to Col Brandon His life membership nomination was unanimously accepted at the meeting by a show of hands.

Col joined the Society in 1967 and was a committee member for 20 years. He left the Society when his health declined and rejoined in 2012. Col is a valuable member of our society.

He has received 13 Australian Orchid Council awards over the years, the first in September 1979 and the most recent in August 2018, all for his superb native orchids. What this person doesn't know about Aussie native orchids isn't worth knowing. He willingly imparts his orchid knowledge and experience to members at our meetings including the grower's group meetings

and is happy to do anything the committee asks him to do. He assists at all our shows from set up to pull down and does any job that requires doing. He is a role model to many of our native orchid growers.

Col is a silent worker whose contribution is greatly appreciated. Congratulations Col.

The Society's other life members are:

Murray Aldridge (2012)  
Col Brandon (2019)  
Wal Chapman (1988)  
Madge Errington (2009)  
Audrey Marks (1988)  
Bob Moar (2015)  
Kevin Wilson (1975)



*Crying Room / New Growers' Group*  
**13<sup>th</sup> May monthly meeting, 7:30pm**  
Vic to talk on the basics of growing cymbidiums



## THE SSOS ROYAL EASTER ORCHID SHOW Submitted by Jan Robinson

Without your Society's little band of 5 participating members, the orchid section of this year's Easter Show competition would have been sadly lacking in plants. Embarrassingly lacking. More like "Deadsville" actually.

Gavin lead the charge into the first session of orchid judging with 16 gorgeous plants--heaps of Cattleyas, some oncid, a dendrobium or two and even a few species. Heath and Jenny added 12 of their mixed genera and George put in 9, mostly species orchids plus a couple of hybrids. I only had 8 plants to put in this year, none of which were my *Miltonia spectabilis* 'Big Ben' unfortunately, as that plant has done very well at the Easter Show over the years. Only 2 non-SSOS members exhibited orchids in the first session and one of those people lives here in the Shire-- and is an excellent orchid grower! (We are hoping to coerce him into joining our Society.) There were so many orchids in this first session that they had to be split up into two different rooms of the hall!

The Supreme Champion of the first session was a plant that the grower had actually bought at our SSOS auction two years ago from one of the other SSOS exhibitors. Aren't you glad you bid on that plant of Heath's, Gavin?! A spectacular *Cattleya Portia Cannizaro* won the honours, well done Gavin! Gavin also won Champion Laeliinae with that same plant of course. Heath took out Champion Other Hybrid with a huge *Coelogyne Jannine Banks* (those Waterwell pots work wonders for that genera) and George won Champion Australasian with his *Dendrobium lithocola*.

For the Easter Show competition, orchids are only in for 2 days per session and you have to take them into the show and pick them up again between the hours of 10:30 pm and 7:30am, a bit of a nuisance. When Heath, Jenny, George and I picked up our orchids at 11 ish after that first session, they were all ok. Unfortunately, when Gavin picked his up at 5 ish the next morning, his plants had suffered badly, whether from the wind or from triple handling by other exhibitors coming in after us or what, we're not sure, but flower spikes were broken and the plants were in disarray. What a bummer, especially for Gavin and for all of us, as that really put a damper on the competition.

Understandably, Gavin did not exhibit any orchids in the second session of judging, leaving it up to the rest of us to represent the orchid community. We did our best, but without Gavin's plants the benches looked pretty bare. The stand-out plant of that session was Heath's drop-dead gorgeous dark purple hard cane dendrobium, which won Champion Laeliinae and Supreme Champion. (Heath bought this plant as a seedling and it is one of those famous "unknown" ones, no name label, which goes to show you even "unknowns" can be winners!) George won Champion Species with a beautifully-flowered *Oncidium radicans*, heaps of tiny little flowers on a mount. The grower of the second session Supreme Champion gets a product prize sponsored by Yates as well as cash, so Heath had a moment of fame up on the stage of the Flower and Garden Pavilion collecting his booty. Well done to you SSOS members who continue to ensure that orchids remain a part of the biggest agricultural and flower show in the Southern Hemisphere!!! Look out next year, hopefully Big Ben will be back in 2020, bigger and bennier than ever.

### 2019 Royal Easter Show - SSOS

#### Champions & Supreme Champions!!



## MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Apr-19

### PLANT OF NIGHT

Winner Den. Jade Junior 'Sawadee' V. Petrovski

### OPEN CLASS HYBRID

Winner Den. Jade Junior 'Sawadee' V. Petrovski

### OPEN CLASS SPECIES

Winner Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana 'Flaxton' x 'Montville' J. Robinson

### INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner C. Hawaiian Polka Dot x Lc. Bonanza J. Chan

### NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Cattleya 'unknown' O. Crompton

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner Coel. Celebensis 'Birds in Flight' G. Birss

### CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Ptst. obtusa W. & J. Chapman

2nd Den. lithocola G. Birss

3rd Den. bigibbum I. & I. Chalmers

4th Bulb. shepherdii I. & I. Chalmers

### CLASS # 2 PAPHIOPEDILUMS SPECIES

1st Paph. charlesworthii J. Robinson

2nd Paph. charlesworthii J. Robinson

### CLASS # 3 LAELIINAE OVER 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st Sc. Dal's Choice 'Castle Creek' S.Crosby/T.Costa

2nd Blc. Hausermann's Jade W. McEvoy

3rd Blc. Deception Magic J.Costa

4th Blc. Oconee 'Mendenhall' W. McEvoy

### CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUMS

1st Paph. Silvara 'Anna' I. & I. Chalmers

2nd Paph. fairieanum I. & I. Chalmers

3rd Paph. Lady Light alba J. Robinson

4th Paph. Candy Apple S.Crosby/T.Costa

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

1st Thw. Dal's Girl 'Arcadia' S.Crosby/T.Costa

2nd C. Puppy Love 'True Beauty' S.Crosby/T.Costa

3rd Lc. Mona Pink 'Hiromi' W. McEvoy

4th Lc. Mari's Magic 'Purple Flades' P.Ng

### CLASS # 7 LAELIINAE (NON CLASSICAL SHAPE)

1st c. Australian Frangipani J. Costa

2nd C.Caudebec 'SC' x C. Chocolate Drop V. Petrovski

3rd Lc. Susan Holcombe P.Ng

4th Eplc. Mae Bly 'Ching Hua Splash' V. Petrovski

### CLASS # 7a CLUSTER LAELIINAE

1st C. TA 2 Dona V. Petrovski

2nd C.Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' P.Ng

3rd C.Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' L. Buivids

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

1st Rlc. Tokyo Angel H.Chen

2nd C. Lavender Lulu 'Merrigum' S.Crosby/T.Costa

3rd Rly. Swan's Shy S.Crosby/T.Costa

4th	Ctna. Dal's Strike 'Castle Creek'	S.Crosby/T.Costa
5th	Sc. Cherry Bee 'Kate'	L. Buivids
<b>CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS</b>		
1st	Den. Hilda Poxon x Issy's Delight	S.Crosby/T.Costa
<b>CLASS # 9A DENDROBIUM SPECIES EXOTIC</b>		
1st	Den. goldschmidtian	I. & I. Chalmers
<b>CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN (Elsewhere no Included)</b>		
1st	Bulb. annandalei	I. & I. Chalmers
2nd	Bulb. makoyanum	L. Buivids
3rd	Lapiris condylobulbon	M. Dimon
4th	Lapiris condylobulbon	M. Dimon
<b>CLASS # 10B ONCIDINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana 'Flaxton' x 'Montville'	J. Robinson
2nd	Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana 'Big Ben'	W. & J. Chapman
3rd	Gomesa recurva	L. Buivids
4th	Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana	S.Crosby/T.Costa
<b>CLASS # 11A COELGYNINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	Ddc. longifolia	I. & I. Chalmers
2nd	Coel. speciosa 'Occy'	J. Robinson
3rd	Ddc. magnum 'K'	M. Dimon
<b>CLASS # 12 SEEDLING</b>		
1st	Paph. helenae	H. Myers
<b>CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS 60MM AND UNDER</b>		
1st	Odcdm. Sunlight 'Pesky Panther'	S.Crosby/T.Costa
2nd	Onc. Papillion	P. Ng
3rd	Odcdm Everglades Elegance 'Nancy Lee'	G. Birss
4th	Pyp. Mendenhall	P. Sanaphay
<b>CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS OVER 60mm</b>		
1st	Milt. Buntii	S.Crosby/T.Costa
2nd	Wils. Ray's Tiger	S.Crosby/T.Costa
3rd	Alcra. Sweetheart Jonel 'Everglades'	H. Chen
<b>CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS</b>		
1st	Coel. Celebensis 'Birds in Flight'	G. Birss
2nd	Phrag. Gelalgry 'Silk Ribbons' ???	I. & I. Chalmers
3rd	Phrag. Sedenii	I. & I. Chalmers
4th	Catasetum Louise Clarke	I. & I. Chalmers
<b>CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS</b>		
1st	Den. Jade Junior 'Sawadee'	V. Petrovski
2nd	Den. 'unknown'	P. Ng
3rd	Den. Hibiki	I. & I. Chalmers
4th	Den. Wilkens Sergefield x Top Hat x Ray's Best 698 ??	J. Costa
<b>CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS</b>		
1st	Vasco. Memoria Clem Crosbie	M. Dimon
2nd	Vasco. Pine Rivers	V. Petrovski
3rd	Vasco. Viboon Velvel	L. Buivids
<b>CLASS # 21B LAELIINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	C. bowringiana	G. Birss
2nd	Encyclia cordigera	W. McEvoy
3rd	C. bicolor	I. & I. Chalmers
4th	C. intermedia var. alba	P. Davies
<b>CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER (NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED)</b>		

1st	Kefersteinia tolimensis	I. & I. Chalmers
2nd	Trichocidium odgetoniana ??	I. & I. Chalmers
3rd	Sngl. longifolia	W. & J. Chapman
4th	Z. mackayi	S.Crosby/T.Costa
<b>CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	Rstp. sp 'H'	S.Crosby/T.Costa
2nd	Platystele misera	I. & I. Chalmers
<b>CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE &amp; NATIVE HYBRIDS</b>		
1st	Sarco. Red Imp	N. Weatherby
<b>CLASS # 28 NOVICE - LAELIINAE</b>		
1st	Cattleya 'unknown'	O. Crompton
2nd	Pot. Rosella's Aussie Emperor	N. Weatherby
<b>CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
1st	Z. Artur Elle	O. Crompton
2nd	Milt. moreliana	O. Crompton
3rd	Brs. Orange Delight 'Hilo Sunrise'	O. Crompton
<b>CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES</b>		
1st	Coel. ovalis	J. Ng
<b>CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - LAELIINAE</b>		
1st	C. Hawaiian Polka Dot x Lc. Bonanza	J. Chan
<b>CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
1st	Adog. Summit 'French Town' ???	J. Chan
<b>CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES</b>		
1st	Milt. spectabilis var. moreliana 'Woc' x 'Drayton'	J. Chan
2nd	B. nodosa	R. Jackson



## Next Growers' Group



- To be held at George's place, 4 Collins Place, Engadine
- Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May
- 1:00pm – 4:00 pm
- Bring along any plants that you don't know what to do with, need advice on repotting, having difficulty growing, or you need some help on how to grow it.
- **YOUR PROBLEM MAY BE SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM**
- Open to all Sutherland Orchid Society members.

Accidentally omitted from our last Bulletin was George's regular "In my Greenhouse" and since it covered an interesting topic I have included it in this month's issue. Apologies to George.

## IN MY GREEN HOUSE - APRIL 2019 – Contributed by George Birss

With the cooler weather and the great rain we have had over the last month haven't things started to grow. Not



only the orchids but the weeds, OMG I spend a few hours a week sitting and inspecting pots and removing weeds and also ferns, don't know where they come from but the spore float in and next thing you have baby ferns popping up. Dead set I should give up growing orchids and grow ferns, they seem much easier to grow, birds nest, maiden hair and heaps I don't know. As for weeds, the two problem ones are 'flick weed', if you miss pulling out one small plant, it 'flicks' its seed and hey presto, flick weed in several pots. The other is

**Psenderanthemum variable** – the 'Love Flower' or 'Pastel Flower' an Australian native related to the

African Violet found from Bega to Northern Queensland and into New Guinea. It's natural habitat is the floor of rainforests. This attractive, broad, flat green leafed weed has a branching inflorescence with many white and sometimes purplish flowers. That's where the nice bit finishes. It invades orchid pots and will grow in just about any media. It has a large rhizome root system that grows deep and makes it almost impossible to pull out by hand. When you hand pull it, if it breaks, even the smallest piece of root will grow back. Generally re potting is the only way to remove or paint with glyphosate or round up.

From gloom to bloom, with the slightly cooler weather and rain, ideal conditions for orchids. I have a beautiful *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *buyssoniana* in flower, unlike the one on last month's bench mine is various shades of red, brightens up the glass house. Something a little strange and in spike for the first time is *Kingidium deliciosum*, and looking it up is now *Phalaenopsis deliciosa*. Well it looks nothing like a *phalaenopsis*. This plant is a miniature from SE Asia and has thin silvery, olive green, crinkled leaves, growing in a 50mm tube, the plant is only 5cm across and has two spikes. We'll just have to wait and see. Why does officialdom (or is that officialDUMB) want to keep changing the names??????

Have you checked your *Laelia anceps* in the last few weeks, I have about 12 to 15 in spike, they have nice big spikes and I have started adding "extenders" to my hangers so the spike doesn't hit the roof and get damaged. Some of my *Cattleyas* have flower sheafs with buds developing nicely inside. I noticed a *C. Bowringiana* with a nice big showy head of pink blooms. Also in flower is "Louise's white", proper name *Cattleya Lady Veitch*, which is a cross between *C. lueddemanniana* and *C. warneri*. Member Louise Gannon had about 40 of these plants, a very old Catt. From her father's collection and she was giving them away to any member who would like one as *C. Unknown*, then one of the senior judges recalled the plant and it's name but to me it's still 'Louise's white'.



A few years ago I had an infestation of snails get into my *Sarcochilus*, I think the snail eggs came in on a plant I had purchased and didn't repot straight away, so when they hatched the young chewed the plants to almost throw – away. I persevered and they now look pretty good, the plants not the snails. Many are in spike and one that is in flower is *S. velvet sparkle* X *velvet fairy*, an early flowerer. I have started to grow *Paphiopedilum* (slipper orchids) and *Phragmipedium* and over the years I have sent a few, maybe more than a few, to 'Orchid Heaven'. I have been giving them and their growing conditions a closer look for about 2 years and think I am slowly getting the hang of it, things take time and not all are successes but some are progressing nicely and I am happy to report I have a few in spike, I won't boast too much just yet. My *Phrags.* are looking great with many new growths, now just got to get spikes.

Relaxing among my plants and trying to check out each I

found a little gem, well not little but mini miniature, the whole plant is about the size of a 10 cent piece. It flowered for me last year and is in spike again, *Bulbophyllum macphersonii*. You have to hold the plant on it's

side and look across it to see the spike which is only about 5cm high and a ¼ cm thick, real magnifying glass stuff. The flower is less than a match head across. One of those orchids you have to know roughly when it flowers to keep an eye on it or you miss the flowering completely. With the recent weather I suggest everyone should keep an eye out for snails, little green caterpillars and note the great conditions for scale and mealy bug.

Col Brandon gave me a visit this week with a plant he calls CHUNKY  
So I guess this should be in:

## COL'S GREEN HOUSE

Col was given this plant some time ago by Robert Bisetto.



Well Robert moved to Queensland about 5 years ago and Col has nurtured this plant along and when it flowered for the first time wanted all to see as it probably won't last till our Monday night meeting. He bought the plant around and asked if I could take a photo, so why not a photo and a write up in our magazine. The Plant is a hybrid. The cross is Dendrobium (Aussie Ira X Rutherford Stardust) X (Dockrillia fuliginosa 'Black Pam' X Dendrobium Fire Glow). Try writing all that out on a tag, that's why Col calls it 'CHUNKY'.

The question Col and I asked each other is "WHY" would somebody go to all that trouble to cross so many varieties? The answer is probably colour and maybe shape. Some of the parents have Tetragonum which is large and starry. The Dendrobium gives the chunkiness to the petals and sepals and the fuliginosa brings the red colouring. The plant is upright like dendrobiums but the leaf has the structure of Dockrillias. What

next? Maybe re-cross with Speciosum to get the bigger flower count and shape along with the red colour. I'm sure somebody has or is trying that experiment.

Col and I pondered on this plants origin. As it was from Robert Bisetto we think the cross may be a Phil Spence concoction as he has played around a lot with fuliginosa, Tetragonum and we think Aussie Ira is one of Phil's. Anyway Col gets to show the members his plant, which looks better than the pictures and I've had a bit of fun researching and writing the article.

**NOTE:** The comments in this article although researched from various sources and from growing experience are those of the writer George Birss and not those of the SSOS committee.



## IN MY GREEN HOUSE - MAY 2019

The Royal Easter Show has come and gone and without President Jan's pushing there would not have been an orchid exhibition at the



show. There were four entrants from Sutherland Orchid Society and two others. I'm sure Jan will expand more in this bulletin

In my experience I have found that no matter how diligent you are there is always something that you think you have under control and then out of the blue or in this case out of the green comes a problem. A while ago I had a problem with a lot of small snails munching on plants, I think the eggs must have come in in a plant I recently acquired, I should practice what I preach, always re pot new acquisitions into your own mix. Anyway I thought I had eradicated my problem. Not so. A nice plant of Sarc. Magic had it's centre chewed out. Out came the Meterex (snail pellets) and exit one large snail, plant recovering nicely but with two chewed leaves, newer ones OK.

The Winter Show is drawing near and hopefully I'll have a bit to put in this year. Things are progressing nicely, now all I have to do is get them open at the right time. The Orchid grower's dilemma!

My *Laelia anceps* have spikes racing to the shade house roof, some with 3 extenders on the hangers with spikes almost a metre.

*Dendrochilums* are spiking nicely, I have had a few early flowers on the bench already. One small *wenzellii* is brightening things up with vibrant red flowers, but I have probably 8 or 10 others with many, many spikes, could be a good year for *Dendrochilums*.

My *Epidendrum porpax* are opening with red fingernail shaped flowers and more buds all over a saucer full of plant. Another saucer full is *Encyclia polybulbon* which is just covered in buds, small at the moment, but on the way. The flower if this orchid is about the size of a 20 cent piece is brown / yellow in colour with a big white lip. In the past I have never had much luck with *Paphiopedilum* orchids (slipper orchids) but I think I am starting to get on top of them, or at least getting better at not killing them, although some just seem to want to die in my care. But I now have some in flower or spike, as many as seven or eight. My all time favourite is *Paph. Spicerianum*. A bright green pouch, with green / brown petals, and a stunning white dorsal, with a maroon stripe. I have a couple, the one that is open at present is a small flower and I'll probably cut it off for the betterment of the plant. I also have three plants of *insigne* with spikes and one of *gratrixianum* with three spikes. Maybe I am learning how to grow this genus, I hope so.

*Coelogyne* are now in flower or spike, I had a couple in the Royal Easter Show that did all right. Those coming on now are *Coel tomentosa*, a long hanging spike of creams and browns. *Coel assimica*, a stubbier spike that displays well and the absolute 'best of the best', *Coel mooreana* 'Brockhurst' with its pure white petals and sepals and a vibrant gold /yellow hairy lip. This year I have two spikes open and another two on the way.

I have now moved my *Catasetums* up high under a solid roof so they don't get any water till new shoots start in the spring. This shouldn't be a problem as I am now starting to reduce my watering. I was away for 2 weeks so it was a good time to start. I have been reducing my watering a little less each winter for about three years and find less rot through wet roots with just enough to keep things plump. I have shade cloth over about half my green house so plants that tolerate dampness get moved there and those that require a drier winter go under the hard roof.

I mentioned last month having purchased a plant in a 50mm tube of *Kingidium deliciosum*, now I believe is *Phalaenopsis deliciosa*. Last month it developed two spikes, well it is still in spike but the buds are forming with a white colour. I am unsure how long it will take to open; hopefully the wait will be worth it. You know the old saying "patience is a virtue". The meaning of virtue is moral excellence, merit, good quality – I hope there is a deeper meaning to this as I am not a very patient man.

On the bright note, my front garden recently had a nice showing of *Schomburgkia*. They are planted out as they grow too big for the shade house and the flowers, although they give a good show tend to grow in different directions, some facing up, others down, some right, some left. So an ideal plant for the garden. In saying that I have one in a pot, on the BBQ furniture in full sun with a nice spike, this one I have not seen flower, maybe another plant for the front garden, who knows?

I mentioned earlier I had a slight snail problem, hope I'm on top of that but keep an eye out for scale and mealy bugs, still humid enough for them.

I have a question for members – has anybody ever let off one of those house hold bug / cockroach, etc BOMBS in their green house? and if so what was the reaction to bugs and plants? It would be great for eradicating grass hoppers and caterpillars. On the bomb they suggest not to have household plants nearby. I have used them inside with no effect to indoor plants including African Violets – please let me know of your experiences, these maybe an alternative pesticide

## **YOU GREW IT** — A few plants exhibited at the April meeting

### **Liparis condylobulbon** – exhibited by Michael Dimon



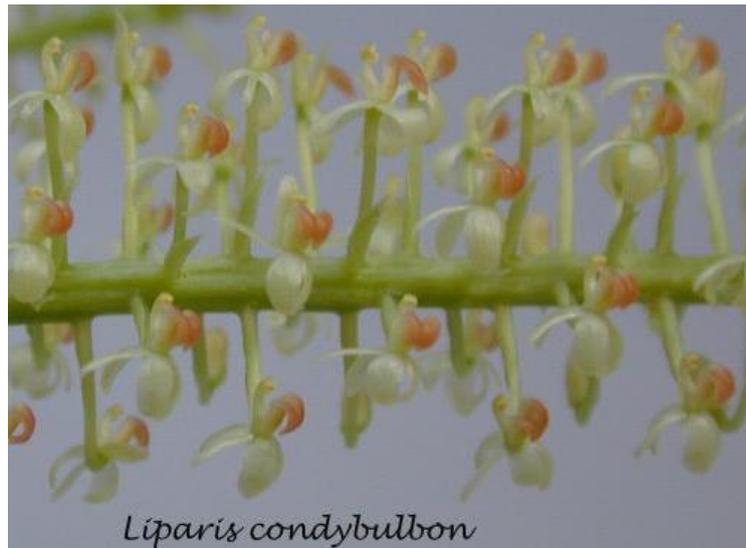
Pronounced: LIP-par-ris

This Species has narrow glossy green pseudobulbs that have 1 to 2 thin strappy leaves. This plant can flower at any time of the year over long periods. With an arching racemose with up to 50 miniature, densely packed flowers that are a clear cream colour with an orange lip. This orchid ranges from Myanmar through to the Philippines, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and into Queensland.

It is found on low tree branches over beaches and lagoons from sea level to 1600 metres as a warm to cool growing epiphyte, sometimes lithophytes.

They require high humidity, good ventilation and dappled sunlight. Best grown in an open mix to allow the roots to dry out quickly.

Right: Photo courtesy of Jay Pfahl



*Liparis condylobulbon*



/ green dot at the base.

### **Brassavola Flagellaris** – Exhibited by Lee Buivids

Common name: Whip leaf Brassavola.

This largish creeping epiphytic or lithophytic orchid originates from Eastern Brazil.

It is found growing on branches or rocks at around 800 metres so would require warm growing conditions.

This orchid has cylindrical pseudobulbs that can be 20cm in length and 0.5cm in diameter. Each pseudobulb carries a single long, slender, tubular, rigid leaf.

The inflorescence will arise from the crease at the base of the leaf and have between 2 and 20 long lasting flowers that are fragrant in the evenings.

The petals and sepals are very narrow and are pale yellow to cream in colour. The lip is large and spade shaped and a vibrant white with a yellow

A plant that requires Intermediate to warm conditions or at least a well protected area with good light, high humidity and good air movement. Watering should be spaced to allow the roots to dry out completely. Rain water is preferred. Can be grown in a pot or basket with chunky mix but is ideally suited to being mounted on a piece of cork and hung up high, this allows the spray of flowers to be well displayed.

## **Cattleya bowringiana – Exhibited by George Birss**

First discovered by James Veitch in 1885 and called *C. Autumnalis* and later renamed *C. Bowringiana* in honour of John Bowring an orchid hobbyist.



A species orchid from Belize and Guatemala, growing at elevations of 200 to 900 metres as a hot to warm lithophytic plant grows on rocky cliffs near streams in a humid atmosphere.

Clubbed shaped pseudobulbs that have 2 or 3 thickish, dark green leathery leaves, that can be 40 to 50 cm in length.

Blooms on an erect, long stalked inflorescence, carrying up to 25 flowers, that are not long lasting, maybe 3 weeks. The clusters of flowers are well spaced and give a good display. The colour range is varied from cerise to rose/ lavender to, coerulea, usually the lip is a darker shade of the flower but can be very dark.

These plants like lots of sun or bright light, with good air movement and when in growth plenty of water. They like to be 'under potted' so they can be watered more often and still not have a soggy mix. They like a rest period after flowering from water and fertilizer.

This is a GREAT BEGINNERS orchid, it is a vigorous grower and seems indestructible. Gives a great bouquet of flowers on a single plant and when the plant comes away in a number of directions and you get several flower

heads and the display brightens the shade house. It is a medium to large orchid, mature from 30 to 60cm in height but well worth giving it the space. Even though this is classed as a warm grower I grow mine in a green house, under a plastic roof, in an area that is slightly protected from cold draughts.

## **Kefersteinia tolimensis – Exhibited by I & I Chalmers**

Pronounced: Kef-er-STINE-ee-a. From the *tribe* Maxillaria, Named in honour of Herr Keferstein a prominent German orchid grower in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A miniature species from Tolima Columbia (A department in Colombia hence the common name 'Tolima Kaferstenia'), Ecuador and Venezuela. It grows at altitudes of 1300 to 2100 metres as a cool growing epiphyte in dense cloud forests low down on tree trunks.



Small clumping, fan shaped plants the have no pseudobulbs. The inflorescence emerges from between the leaf sheaths and carries a single flower. The colouring is mostly cream / green with maroon spots that are heavier on the lip. The sepals and petals are similar, the lip is flexibly attached to the column. The lip is broad and flat with a frilly / hairy edge.

Where this plant grows gives the ideal conditions it requires, "*dense cloud forests low down on tree trunks*", so low light, high humidity and the roots never being allowed to dry out.

Plants grow in pots with a well drained but moisture retaining medium, similar growing to phalaenopsis.

## **Paphiopedilum helenae – Exhibited by Heath Myers**

A species Paphiopedilum or "Slipper Orchid" from Northern Vietnam and the very bottom edge of southern China in a very restricted distribution.

One of the smallest of the genus it grows on steep limestone cliffs facing north and on mossy trees at elevations of 100 to 900 metres meaning it is a warm to hot grower. The areas it grows receive heavy rain in the summer and thick fog in the winter.



A small growing plant, with three to five fleshy rigid pale green leaves, that have a few purple spots on the underside near the base. The single flowering inflorescence is 4 to 8 cm high and is dark purple. The flower has a large yellow dorsal with slight brown veins at the base. The dorsal can be solid yellow or yellow with white edging. The petals are arching downwards with the yellow brown colouring. The pouch is shiny and varies in colour from shades of dark cream to orange to brown.

Pot in a well drained mix of bark and perlite, give bright light and intermediate to warm growing area, water ever 4 to 6 days. To induce blooming, lower the temperature and reduce watering over winter.

## **Coelogyne celebenense ‘Bird in Flight’ – Exhibited by George Birss**

Presidents Choice “Plant of the night”



A Coelogyne species from the Sulawesi area of Indonesia formally known as the Celebes.

Found in roadside forests as a hot to warm growing epiphyte at elevations of 0 to 1000 metres.

Clumps of close pseudobulbs that carry 1 or 2 broad, spear like leaves that grow to about 30 to 50cm in length. The 30 to 40cm inflorescence comes from the base of the leaf and carries a single flower at a time that produces another three or twelve progressive opening flowers after each flower drops. The flowers bob around at the end of the long inflorescence just like “birds in flight”.

The large cream dorsal curves over the flower and the sepals are cream and broad. The petals are narrower and also cream. The big lip is an intense chocolate with hairs over it giving it a velvet look. Although these plants are classed as hot to warm growers I grow mine in a green house under 50% shade. Only downside is you have to hang high to be able to look up into the flower to see its intense colouring.

**NOTE:** The comments in this article although researched from various sources and from growing experience are those of the writer, George Birss and not those of SSOS committee.

**Also NOTE:** The comments and opinions expressed in this Bulletin are those of the SSOS Bulletin Editor , Mike Hitchcock, and not those of SSOS committee.