

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: May 2020

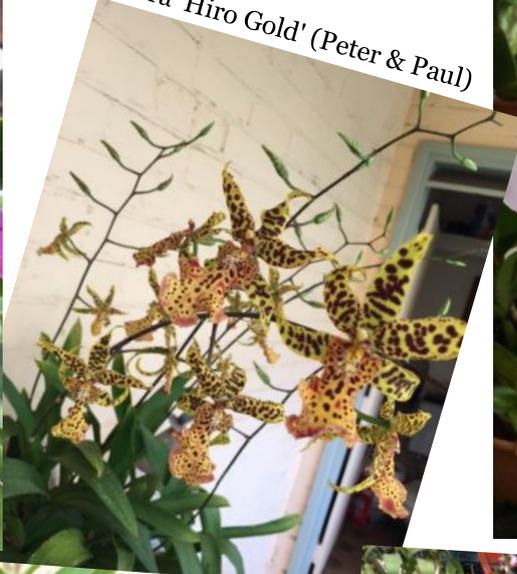
www.ssos.org.au

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome Page 1

Catt. Doug's Dream (Jan)



Alicera 'Hiro Gold' (Peter & Paul)



Catt labiata coerulea (Gavin)

Milt. Breathless 'Florence' (David H)



Dendrochilum Cobbianum 'Keiths' (Dimitri)

Pot Burana Angel "Hsinging" (Gary Hodder)



Catt Portia Cannizzaro (Robert)



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Catt bowringiana coreulea (Gavin)



Cat. Caudabec Candy x
SLC Jungle Gem (Dimitrios)



Paph Clubber Lang (Jan)



Colmanara D Massi "Splash"
(Gary Hodder)



Bic Hawaiian Passion "Kemie"
(Gary Hodder)



Plug Calurum (Paul & Peter)



Paph. Fairianum (Dimitrios)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome Page 3

Milt. Red Tide (David H)



Catt Unknown (John Hely)



Bull. Rothchildianum (Robert)



Pot Little Toshie (Jan)



Pot Burana Angel 'Hsinging' (Jan)



Ble Shelley Compton 'Touch of Class' (Robert)

President's Message...

Greetings Fellow SSOS Members-

I hope you are all well and coping with the current Covid-19 situation as best you can. Several months ago I was complaining about having too many orchids and thanking Mother Nature for helping me reduce my collection. Heading into the second month of lockdown, I am now very grateful to have so many orchids! There is plenty of orchid work still to be done at my place, even after almost four weeks of nonstop repotting. This will undoubtedly be the best flowering season ever, my cattleyas have never looked so good---but no monthly meetings or shows to take them to, bummer. I'm finding that social distancing and isolation isn't too bad when you have an all-encompassing hobby like ours, hopefully you are experiencing this as well.

Your committee is actively trying to keep you members in touch with each other through various ways, including our SSOS Face Book page (which has new posts almost daily—thank you to those participating!); the continuation of our monthly Bulletin (thanks to the Editor, Melissa, and thank you also to you members who have sent in photos of your orchids and written articles); updating our website, an ongoing project being spearheaded by our new Secretary, David Hicks (thank you, David, this is no small task!); our monthly “electronic raffle” of a high quality flowering-size orchid; and also a “reach out” program of committee members phoning, emailing, or Face Book chatting other members to say “hi” and see how you are faring.

If you have any ideas on other ways to keep us connected during lock down, let me or another committee member know. If you hear of any of our members who are unwell, please give me a call. If you want to chat about anything, orchid related or not, ring me. I'm on 0412 566 722 and would welcome a break from repotting.



All the best and stay well.



Welcome to Wal Chapman's
Guess The Genera!

← (OK so take a guess then read the up-side-down answers)



Phalaenopsis, Dorsitis, Dorsitis
Laelia, Miltonia, Stenoglotis,

SSOS MEMBER WINS BIG!!! By Jan Robinson



Most of us know how stressful it can be getting our orchids ready for a show: Watching the buds form and hoping like crazy they open up in time; keeping the bugs from chewing the buds and the flowers; praying rain doesn't mark any flowers; and a whole host of other things that can go wrong. Then there are the transport issues: packing your plants carefully so they don't fall over or rub against each other in the car; getting them into the car without a gust of wind coming up and shutting the door on your tray of plants; driving like an old granny so that you don't have to slam on the breaks and send your plants cascading into a heap on the floor in the back seat; then carefully unloading your orchids once you get to the show venue and meticulously placing them on the show bench. What a relief when you return home, knowing you have done everything possible to make your plant look its best for the judges.

You come back the next day and lo and behold! All those efforts have paid off, your orchid has won a prize! As a result, now your winning plant has to sit in the blasting air conditioning or next to a window where the afternoon sun streams in on it for the duration of the show, away from the safe and humid environment that it loves. As if this stress isn't bad enough for your plant, there is the added potential damage of heaps of people wanting to take photos of your show winner---touching it, turning it to a different angle, smelling it, and pulling the tag out of the pot. After several days of this torture, the whole transport issues are revisited as you try your best to get your plant safely back home in the best possible condition. Is it any wonder some members choose not to even put their plants in a show, as it is so stressful to both the grower as well as the plant!!

Now multiply all this grower and plant stress by three-fold. Picture this: Your good plant not only wins GRAND CHAMPION at the Paphiopedilum Society of NSW show held in conjunction with the Cymbidium Extravaganza at Dural in early August, but is also awarded the highest quality award it can get, an FCC (First Class Certificate). Less than two weeks later, your same plant fronts up again and is deemed GRAND CHAMPION as well as CHAMPION PAPH HYBRID at the St. Ives Orchid Show, still looking in supreme condition, obviously! But it is not finished yet. This same plant makes an appearance SIX WEEKS LATER at the Southern Orchid Spectacular---still looking so good there is talk that it is plastic!--and wins GRAND CHAMPION HYBRID and CHAMPION CYPRIPEDOIDAE!!! Talk about a tri-fecta!



It is only right that this same plant goes on to win one of the highest plant accolades in the nation, AUSTRALIAN HYBRID ORCHID OF THE YEAR! Who is the grower of this amazing plant, you may well be asking? One of our very own members, **Mr. S. T. Ho**, that's who. The next time you see him at one of our monthly meetings (whenever that might be!), after you congratulate him, ask him how he managed to "de stress" his plant between shows. You might also be wondering the name of his plant: Paph Hsinying Malone 'Yeowie' FCC/AOC. If you didn't see it at one of those shows, you missed something special, as it was an absolute stunner. Well done, Ho!! It takes more than a fantastic plant to win so many shows in a row, it takes a lot of TLC by the grower as well.

Orchid photos for the June Bulletin??

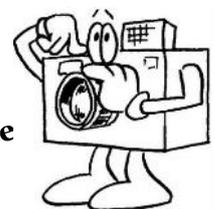
Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa (Editor)

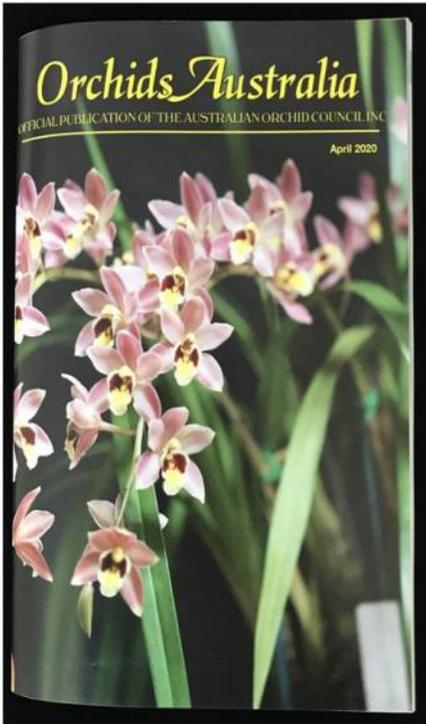
at mjbk1@bigpond.com

Problems, questions, article topics??

Email to George at gbirss@bigpond.net.au

Both before May 24th please





Another SSOS Member to be Congratulated !

Dimitrios Mitsios's

Cymbidium Bunyip 'Precious Memories' HCC/AOC-NSW made it to the cover of *Orchids Australia* magazine!

Dimitrios's cymbie also won Champion Cymbidium at the 2019 Southern Orchid Spectacular and was also awarded an HCC at that show.

FRONT COVER

Cym. Bunyip 'Precious Memories'
HCC/AOC-NSW
Owner: D Mitsosis

Good on you Dimitrios !



SSOS "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 ***Laelia anceps* 'Gloriosa Bathurst 2' HCC?AOC (species)** (below left)

You don't need to buy any raffle tickets to be in the draw!

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 **24th May**.

All names of members who send this email will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn on the 24th. One entry per participating 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!

**APRIL'S LUCKY WINNER:
FRANK DANIEL !**





The Australian Orchid Foundation

Australian Orchid Foundation Annual Essay Competition

The AOF are currently running their Annual Essay Competition, and are also requesting orchid seed.

A number of SSOS members have won essay prizes in the past, and we are pleased to advise that the AOF, and these articles, can now be accessed directly from our Website 's (www.ssos.org.au) 'Links' page.

Looking forward to seeing another Essay winner from SSOS in the future!

We encourage all members to also visit the AOF site to gain a better understanding of their role, aims and achievements especially in the fields of preservation and promotion of orchid research:

Www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au

Keeping in touch via Our Facebook Group: "Sutherland Orchid Society"

Our Facebook group is growing! More fertilizer (posting) would be welcomed. Join in and see what people have been up to!

Why don't you 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.!

For those not already in the group you can type:

'Sutherland Shire Orchid Society'

in the Facebook search bar at the top of the page, then click on the link and click the 'Join Group' button. If you are having any problems, please contact Jan Robinson jadrob@bigpond.com or Dan Coulton 0419 466986 for assistance.

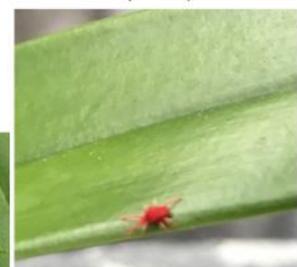
While this is a hard time for all of us in many ways it just gives us more time to admire our orchids and share our passion, even if its over the internet and not in person.



**For example...you could have learnt
about these in our FaceBook pages**



Red Velvet Mites
(good photos from Internet,
blurry photo of Jan's plant)



Captive Grower by George Birss

Change of pace with everybody trapped in their house. I have asked members to send me pictures of their orchids that have come into flower while we are going through this isolation period and won't get the chance to bench them and show them off at our monthly meetings. So this will for the time being, replace the "You Grew It" section of the newsletter.



Peter Fink and Paul Martin. The top left plant is *Cymbidium dayanum* variegated form.

The top right is also a *Cymbidium dayanum* 'Red'

Cattleya Bowringiana 'Black Prince' – Rob Nicol

Cat. Dolosa 'Gorgeous' – Rob Nicol



Baptistonia X oncidium

Owner Melissa Karayannis

David Woolf cross named after his wife 'Possum Woolf'





Paphiopedilum Spicerianum – Cheryl Matherson

I think this is one of the BEST Paphs. and it's a species.

Cool grower although Cheryl grows hers indoors. With beautiful colouring and distinct features. Well worth having a few in your collection.



Stenaglottis longifolia - Wal Chapman

Beautiful pink flowers with darker pink markings.

Be careful as this plant is deciduous, and is sometimes discarded as dead before re growth.



Laelia perrinii (Royale X Peats Ridge)
George Birss



Pot. Burdekin Imp Southern Cross
X Blc. Burdekin Sunset 'Fire Dancer'

What to do? By George Birss

This is a new adventure where 'In My Green House' is mixed in with finding a solution to any problems or tricky questions that you may have over the isolation period where you can't get out and ask somebody. Solutions will come from me and others with more knowledge than me!

Frank Daniel sent me this leaf with the caption "**Is it bad?**"

Well don't feel bad Jan and Diane have both asked about the same problem.

After consulting with two other growers we came up with a starting solution.

Firstly not virus. Secondly looks fungal or bacterial.



REMEDY: Cut off affected leaf and dispose of in plastic bag and then bin it. If only part leaf, cut at full green section towards leaf axis. If small section in the middle of the leaf cut out this section leaving green leaf all around and treat the cut edge.

Spray plants with fungicide. Hydrogen peroxide can be used with a follow up of Colloidal Silver as a long term remedy.

Isolate the plant and spray any suss plants. Follow with general hygiene – space between plants, air circulation and clear any dead leaves.

Additional Information: There has been a product around for a long time that incorporates both Hydrogen Peroxide and Colloidal Silver – Trade name **HYSAN** from a Queensland manufacturer. As the Orchid Tray Company we made the same product and sold it as **OHM, Orchid hygiene & maintenance**. The Hydrogen Peroxide is the quick kill and the Colloidal Silver is the long term remedy.

Hydrogen Peroxide is a simple cheap anti bacterial and anti fungal agent. Be careful, 3% is probably full strength and should be diluted. It kills bacterial and fungal spores. After the prolonged damp weather we have had spraying would help to prevent rot. Pour into the top of Phalies to stop crown rot.

Colloidal Silver is used a ratio of 10mls to a litre but can be used up to 30 – 50mls/ litre.

This disease is Anthracnose. It is a fungal infection caused by *Collectotrichum* and *Glomella* spores. This I had to look up from an expert with the following advice. Sanitise plant, remove all damaged tissue to remove the fungus and it's spores to prevent spreading and apply fungicide to prevent reoccurrence.

Leaf rot is very common and so are other plant problems. We had a very dry period for many months and then extended periods of wet and damp conditions which does not give plants and mix a chance to dry out properly and get back into their usual growth habits.

Spraying with a copper based spray will help also.

If Frank, Jan & Diane had this problem I would have a guess and say a few more may have the same problem so I hope this has helped.

My problem and what I had to do.

For those who have been to my place have seen my cymbidium I planted in an old toilet about 6 years ago. Silly me planted directly into the toilet and not into a pot then placing in the toilet. I did put a piece of chicken wire in the bottom to assist with drainage.



First step, a bush saw to cut the plant off at the top of the toilet. Step two, dig out the root ball and get all the old roots out of the lip of the toilet. Two and a half hours later I am ready to attack the plant for re potting. There was no media left in the pot (toilet) just a big tangle of roots. Step three clean up the plant, cut away old medium and old damaged roots. Soak plant in Auxinome while finding a suitable pot to fit inside the toilet. I wanted to re pot into the toilet as my grand kids had given it to me with other plants in it for a Father's Day, sentimental reasons to re use the toilet. Step four, pot up in a 300mm port pot (maybe a bit shallow but we will see) and place in to the toilet. Step five, there is enough cymbidium left over to fill a 200mm tall pot. Step six, three hours later, water and relax. This cymbidium is an old type, nothing special, just big yellow flowers on a spike over a metre long.

How many have had trouble with **FLICK WEED**.

A few years ago Garrie Bromley gave a talk about pesticides and scared the living daylights out of me. Consequentially I don't use nasty chemicals. One trick he used that has stuck is the use of Aeroguard™ to kill some weeds. This can only be done on plants that are solid or thick stemmed, not the small and fragile orchids unless a shield is used between orchid and weed. Spray the weed and within a day or two it will be dead. This is ideal for the fine leaf and fine stemmed Flick weed, as the following photos show after one day.



Jan has sent in a couple of queries. Maybe they are her problems or she just wants me to research articles for the newsletter. Either way, they are problems that members may come across, so we will try to answer.

After contacting a friend, Lenny the Stanhopea man and discussing the reason we can only suggest that after the long dry period we had earlier in the year the plant has sent UP roots to draw moisture from the air. This also allows the plant to collect debris from falling leaves and other pieces from trees above to again give moisture and protection to the plant as a number of plants do particularly some Speciosums. Lenny has a number of his Stanhopea doing the same thing which he has not had before. Both Lenny and I remarked that we had had a very poor flowering season this year but the new growth on the plants is exceptional.

Why do some stanhopeas have roots that grow UP??
(*Stanhopea nigroviolacea*)

Jan, it is NOT because it is confused with the roots growing up and the flowers growing down, and in the Northern Hemisphere is this reversed with the flowers growing up. Then again that may explain your next problem.





Jan did you bring this back from a recent trip to the USA (Northern hemisphere)?????????

My thinking is that it has been in this solid pot for a year or two and you have left it in the solid pot as you didn't think it was ready for a basket or Stanhopea pot as it only has a couple of pseudobulbs and only one set of leaves, logical thinking.

Stanhopea orchids don't have to be big plants to flower and some are only small growers in size.

I would say that you were lucky your plant has somehow had it's spike near the surface and has popped over the side of the pot.

After you have enjoyed this flowering, re-pot into a basket type pot. You may even find that there is more spikes hidden below the medium. I have had this problem before on a plant I thought was too small for a basket and when re-potted, found three flower spikes aborted under the medium.

Question #3 from Jan – What are the best mounts for Sarcophilus?

Wayne Turville, from Australian Native Orchids, mounts Sarcs on Tree fern with great success. Dixonia Antarctica is the type he uses, it is the hard black one. He ties them on with fishing line with some bush moss around the roots and then hangs them under below his other orchids. This gives them shade and plenty of moisture while they establish.

HINT : Soak tree fern for a couple of days then rub bush moss over tree fern to embed particles of bush moss into tree fern surface then attach Sarc. This can be done with fishing line, old nylon stockings, staples, twist ties or cable ties, anything to hold the plant in place and still while the new roots attach to the slab. Lay flat and keep moist, this will allow Sarc to attach and for the bush moss to grow over the tree fern slab giving more humidity. Keep up water as mounted plants dry out quicker.

Question #4 from Jan – What is the best way to grow Sarcophilus Ceciliae ?

They are lithophytes, grow on rocks with their roots finding grooves in the rocks and get covered by leaf litter and soil from run off. They have very fine short roots.

Best grown in shallow terracotta pots, bowls or saucers but can be grown in shallow plastic pots. They like a quick draining open medium, big bark, charcoal, perlite or pebble mix but best is red scoria. They prefer dry growing conditions, water once a week in summer and maybe every 3 to 4 weeks in winter. Protect from rain, maybe against the house under the eaves so they only get rain spray. Fertilizing is even scarcer, very weak maybe monthly in summer.



Now that the hot sun has gone it is time to bring your **Sarcophilus** out from under the bench and give them bright light, not direct sun, to enhance flowering. Time is right to check when you last re-potted, for me it is 2 and 3 years so again great time to re-pot, check for dead roots and put into fresh mix. Give a good soak and then watering with Auxinome™ for encouraging new root growth and spray with Neem Oil to deter scale and mealy bug.

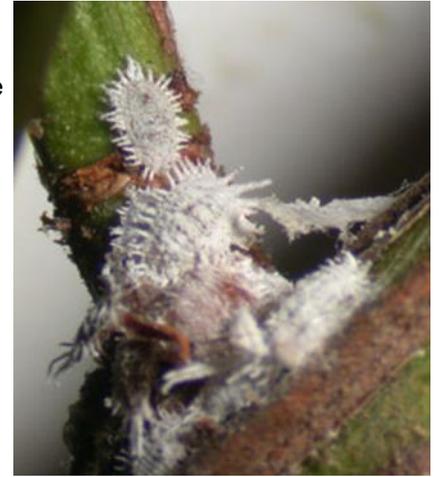
After the long dry period we went through and just recently some great rain what we needed was a bit of good heat and sun. Well although we got great days they haven't been quite hot enough so with the damp warm conditions, which are great for growing orchids it is also great for weeds and fungus and root rot and perfect for scale and mealy bug.

MEALY BUG are small white sap sucking insects that leave a sticky residue as they move about.

Ants can transport mealy bug so they can feed of the honey dew residue that the bug produces.

Mealy bugs have a couple of natural predators which include lady beetles and green and brown lace wings, unfortunately these are rarely in a green house.

A natural remedy is dish washing liquid mixed with water. This can be sprayed on the mealy bug and the soap kills the bugs. You need to rinse off a few hours later. Neem Oil can be added to make this mix more efficient. Neem Oil can be applied by in a diluted form and it kills, smothers, all stages of mealy bug from eggs to adult insects. Small infestations on one or two plants can be treated by dabbing rubbing alcohol or Methylated Spirits on the bug and wiping away. Methylated Spirits can be dabbed on ants that invade flower buds as they excrete sugars.



Well I have finished re-potting my Sarcs. While the weather is just perfect for re-potting and I'm doing the right thing and trying to stay isolated (with the exception of a trip up town most days for a take away coffee fix) re-potting is still top of the list of jobs to do. With the weather still warm I thought I would tackle my **Paphiopedilums**. This is one genus that in the past I have had little success with and have killed plenty. Well I am happy to say that perseverance is paying off and although some seem to just want to go to the compost bin, most are willing to stay alive and actually stay green and grow.

I have made up my mix and gathered my paphs. for new mix and upsizing of pots.

I quickly discovered that looking at the tags and I write on the back the date I last re potted or whatever many of my plants had not been touched for over a year and in some cases 2 or 3 years. New mix will be appreciated I'm sure.

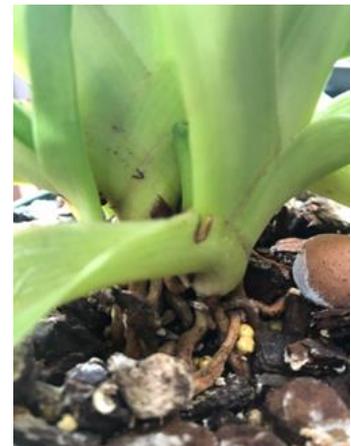
Also I discovered that although the plants looked great they have grown above the mix and the new roots are hanging in air.



Healthy plant ,roots above mix



Roots above mix



Roots above mix

I have to date done about ½ my paphs. and when I send this article to the editor, will continue with the other half. Slightly bigger pots, fresh mix, a combination of 6 -9 bark for the smaller stuff and 9 – 12 for the bigger ones, jumbo perlite, charcoal with sprinklings of Calgrit in each pot. Plants soaked in Auxinone and plants re potted to correct depth I think a job well done.

Around the Green House Lealia anceps are stretching for the light with spikes up over one metre in height, should have some nice pictures for next month's bulletin. Also in next month's pics. at least two cute Bulbophylums, B.frostii which looks like little red / maroon slippers and B.tingabarinum (which is a Cirrhopetalum type) which is vibrant orange and has 10 to 15 flowers dangling in a circular pattern.

Check out your Dendrochilums. I have a few in flower and spike but one I feel is outstanding is Dendrochilum javieri which have an inflorescence similar to wenzelii but D. javieri is a vibrant yellow.

By for now, stay safe and enjoy your isolation.