

# February Bulletin 2015

## SSOS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 12 JANUARY 2015

Frank extended a welcome to our members and guests, Gladys Robinson (Jan's mother from Colorado USA) and Irene Bodell and wished everyone a happy new year. He asked a member to motion that our December meeting minutes which were distributed through the Bulletin, either by mail or email, be accepted as accurate. Motioned by John Costa. Carried.

There were no new members to welcome this month into the Society.

Daniel Coulton conducted the Seedling Competition of the best seedling from each meeting throughout the year. Members were asked to vote on their favourite bloom. The winning plant, by a clear majority, was *Physochopsis mendenhall* grown by S.T. Ho.

FEBRUARY meeting: Steve Falcioni from Eco Products

MARCH meeting: AGM and Bob Bishop from Kiwi Bark

APRIL meeting: Mike Hitchcock with talk about his trip to the South Africa

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Members were reminded that those who pay their membership by the close of the meeting are in the ballot to win the subscription to the Orchids Australia magazine. The ballot will be drawn at the February meeting.
- Ivan Ivescovi from Ivans Orchids emailed the Society offering flasks at the Australian Orchid Conference in September 2015. His email was published in the January bulletin. If you want to see the types of plants available, contact Rhonda and she will forward Ivan's email to you.
- Jan's term as Treasurer expires in February 2015 after 3 years. We are looking for someone to take on this role and replace her on the committee. Would members please consider nominating for this position at the AGM in March? Members are most welcome to nominate for the other positions on the committee such as President, Vice President, Secretary, and general committee members. Under the rules of the constitution, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary hold their positions for 3 years only. We ask members to consider coming onto the committee to assist in running the Society. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month in the church hall at Loftus at 7:30 pm. Meetings usually last for 1 - 1½ hours.
- At our March meeting, Bob Bishop from Kiwi Bark will be presenting to us. He has offered to sell bark, perlite and charcoal to members at the meeting. If members want to purchase these items from him, would you let Rhonda know at the next meeting if you want to order these products? She will have more details about prices at the meeting.
- May Luk is inviting members to a Chinese New Year celebration at her house in Sylvania on Saturday 21 February. If you would like to attend, please let May know.

## Events

- **February Meeting** will be presented by Steve Falcioni from Eco Products on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February.
- **Winter show** 18 – 21 June 2015



President: Frank Daniel

Secretary: Rhonda Jackson

Treasurer: Jan Robinson

Editor: Dan Coulton

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NAME BADGE DRAW – Pam Davies

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – Stanhopea inadora grown by Jan Robinson

LUCKY PLANTS – May Luk, Michael Dimon and Lee Buivids

RAFFLE - Pam Davies, Jenny Sharpham, Heath Myers, Rhonda Jackson, Cheryl Matheson.



Next meeting: 9 February 2015

## CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> time that May Luk is hosting a lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the goat.

Everyone is invited but a special invite to committee members and volunteers.

In addition if you have a sick orchid that needs repotting then bring it along. The pots & potting mix will be provided by the Society.

If you would like to bring a plate or bottle of wine that is appreciated.

Date: Saturday 21 February 2015

Time: 11.30am for those with sick orchids  
12.30pm for everyone else

RSVP – May Luk  
Phone: 9522 6914  
Address: 17 Craigholm St, Sylvania

## Shadehouse for Offer

I'm not a member of the SSOS but have attended some of the society's shows at Swansea. I have a wooden shade house that I no longer need which may be useful to a SSOS member. It is 3.5m long, 1.7m wide and 2.2m high.

I'm not sure of its value but would accept a negotiable modest amount. My first preference would be for it to go to a current or past committee member seeing they're the ones who put in the time and effort to the society's activities, but I'll leave that to you.

If you or another member would be interested let me know. I'm in Illawong. After dismantling I think it would have to be loaded onto a small truck as from memory the 3.5 m sides are each one piece. The site has easy access.



## In My Green House

WOW hasn't January been strange, super-hot, cold, humid and wet, just great for growing. Temperatures in the high 30's, so you have to keep water up to your orchids, but when????

Early in the morning and late in the afternoon is preferable, but not in the heat of the day, when water on leaves will burn and leave spots. In the middle of the day hose or through buckets of water under the benches or on floors, this will maintain humidity and help relieve stress for your plants.

Then on Australia Day the heavens opened, I had 120mm over the two days, which was great for those who have water tanks.

Now with all these changing conditions is the time to go to work. No not the Monday to Friday nose to the grindstone type but the relaxing, enjoyable stuff, in the green house.

Green grubs are still causing havoc in my green house and the little devils are getting fatter. They just love those new leaves and new flower spikes. Isn't it strange how they can crawl over plants just to feast on the best and newest growths, must have great senses. Any way I'll just keep pumping Confidor at them and try to find them and then introduce them to the sole of my shoe.

Scale is starting to appear and needs urgent attention as it will spread quickly if left unchecked. Peel back sheath on Cymbids. and Catts. and spray with "Anti Scale" and "Neem Oil" and don't forget under the leaves and rotate your plant to get the side you can't see.

With everything growing so well, so are the weeds. One that I have a problem with is "flick weed" or that's what I call it. If it wasn't a problem, I'd find it an attractive little green weed with little white 'seeds' that when you try to pull it out it fires off its seed to spread around to other pots and can fire metres. Pulling it out by hand is not that hard if only a few weeds and you catch it before it seeds and is only millimetres high. One way I have found is to spray with "Äeroguard", not too close and not on small fragile orchids.

Now on to the good stuff. With all the new grow comes buds and flowers – unfortunately the green grubs enjoyed my Masdevallia spikes, but my Oncidiums are still throwing spikes, have to watch they don't hit the roof of the shade house. I've even noticed some Cattleya's with flower sheaths and buds and I've even had a dockrillia in flower for over a month, unfortunately no Society meeting to show it off.

Called around to Michael's place (another SSOS member) and he has been busy re potting his Coelogyne and Dendrochilum plants into "water well" pots and they are growing madly. But haven't we always been told orchids don't like too much water???? Well Michael's plants are thriving being able to wick up the moisture they need from the bottom of the pot.

I am growing Oncidiums in water well pots and so far they are going well. BUT don't change your growing by this, have a look how others grow and MAY BE try one or two yourself.

Happy growing and watch for green grubs and scale.

## TREASURER'S TIRADE

My least favourite task as Treasurer is chasing up annual membership dues. Our Society runs on a calendar year and dues are payable by no later than February to remain a financial member (which means you can vote at the March AGM and also continue to receive the monthly Bulletins.) Many of you belong to more than one orchid Society, and I know it is easy to lose track of who you have paid and who you haven't. As a "gentle reminder," here is the list of members who HAVE NOT PAID for 2015: Anthony, R; Armstrong, J; Black, S&L; Bremner, C; Calnan, J; Dodd, G; Fraser, C; Gray, P; Hart, J; Houley, V; Hyde, T&J; Kalamiotis, A; Lei Qin, P; Lui, J; Middleton, P; Mitchell, G&K; Mitsios, A; Moar, B; Muller, K; Nidagal, C; Pearson, G; Rickard, T; Riley, J; Roberts, H; Rose, J; Skinner, K; Vasiliou, A; Whitley, E.

Annual dues are only \$8 for a single pensioner or \$12 for a non-pensioner; \$10 for a pensioner couple or \$15 for a non-pensioner couple. If you can't make it to the February meeting and wish to continue your membership, please mail a cheque payable to "Sutherland Shire Orchid Society" to 31 Kingswood Road, Engadine 2233.

Thanks!

## You Grew It

### **Rhynchostylis retusa** displayed by Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa

Note: This orchid was given an orchid award by the NSW Orchid Society judges at the January meeting, congratulations.

This Orchid is also referred to as the "Foxtail Orchid" as the picture will show with the shape of the inflorescence.

This species is found throughout the southern Asian countries from China to the Himalayas to India and down to the Philippines at elevations from sea level to 1200m making this epiphyte a warm to hot grower. The pendant shaped racemose (an inflorescence that has flowers that are set in a zig zag pattern) can be up to 60cm in length with a dense, many flowered, around 100 along the cylindrical inflorescence. This orchid requires even fertilizer and water throughout the year. It may die if the leaves are wet frequently. They prefer indirect lighting as in nature they are found growing in large trees where only



filtered light penetrates, good air movement around the roots is essential.

In cultivation they are best grown in hanging baskets where their roots can ramble and are watered frequently but dry out quickly. Grow in a well grained media.

The flowers look great as a mass of flowers along the inflorescence but individually the white to pale pink flowers with darker pink to violet spots with the colour carrying through to the lip are spectacular.

### **Oncidium Onustum** (Common name The Luxurious Oncidium)

Excellent mini species that only grows a few inches tall, with its long arching spikes carrying numerous, brilliant yellow flowers.

This species is found from through Panama, Columbia, Equador and Peru where they grow in humid coastal lowlands in areas with little rainfall. They grow in cactus and trees in dry forests usually at sea level but can also be found as high as 1200m making it a warm grower. The areas that they grow have a long dry winter period.

They have small clustered pseudobulbs of about 25mm, spaced close together on a grey / green rhizome that in nature shrivel during the dry season.

They will take as much light as possible but watch for sunburn. Strong air movement is essential, with high humidity. Fertilising weekly at ¼ strength.

Plants are best grown mounted but regular misting to maintain humidity is recommended.

I have five plants of this orchid, four mounted and a small one in a pot with a quick draining mix. Of the mounted ones, two are in the glass house and two in the bush house, under plastic and hanging high, so they can be grown in a green house if given cover and in a warm position. I have lost a number of these orchids and I would suggest by having them in pots and getting too much water without being able to dry out. Now mounted, so the roots dry out, hanging high, for light and air movement I am having more success and they are growing well. This orchid has very fine roots suggesting that they like to dry out between watering and prefer mounting.

This Orchid when grown into a nice clump with many arching pendulous, inflorescence carrying many bright yellow flowers looks spectacular and a real eye catcher.



## **Stanhopea Inadora** exhibited by Jan Robinson

The genus Stanhopea grow as epiphytes, lithophytes and sometimes terrestrial and are found throughout Southern Mexico to Peru and Brazil.

These orchids have densely clustered stout, egg shaped, ribbed pseudobulbs, ranging from small to quite large, each with a solitary large, semi – rigid, dark green leaf.

The inflorescence of this orchid generally pushes through the bottom of the basket or if coming from the top will hang below the plant starting in a rather large globular flower bud that opens into what some would refer to as a grotesque deformed flower that is variable in colour and floral shape even within a single species. The large waxy flowers open simultaneously and are short lived, about three to five days. They can carry from two to twelve flowers per inflorescence depending on Species. These bizarre colourful blooms have an amazing lip structure and heavy distinctive perfume.

This genus should be grown in baskets to accommodate their pendulous spikes habits that spear through the medium and burst into colour. Use paperbark as a basket liner, this allows the spike to penetrate the bottom, don't use coir, shade cloth or heavy liner as your flower spike will stay enclosed. Cymbidium mix, spag moss fine grade bark or a combination of these materials is best and once established the root ball will hold enough medium even when the paper bark lining has long disappeared. Stanhopeas prefer to be left and only re potted after many years, they will grow out through the basket. Hang them under a tree, not in direct sun as leaf burning may occur, and be surprised, you will probably smell them before you see them in bloom BUT because of the smell you won't miss them. Water evenly throughout the year.

Stanhopea Inadora grows at elevations of 800 – 1500m making it a warm to cool grower. Inadora flowers are usually lime green to white sepals and petals with a white lip. There is a spotted form that has fine red



spots on the sepals and petals. They carry up to ten, 12cm flowers per inflorescence.

This species is sometimes referred to as “the odourless Stanhopea” but this is wrong as it does have a perfume.

Inadora prefers a drier, warmer Winter and a lot of water in the growing season.

If you don't have a Stanhopea in your collection, you don't know what you are missing. They are easier to grow than African Violets and take very little care.

## Coelogyne pandurata

This species is found growing in Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines from sea level up to 300m making it a warm to hot grower. It is usually found growing along creeks and streams so requires very humid growing conditions with low light and draughty air movement. Water all year round and bright conditions to improve flowering.

With upright sympodial pseudobulbs up to 12cm high on a creeping rhizome . (sympodial meaning growing from a new lead forming a new pseudobulb with each new spurt of growth). Two leaves about 40 – 50 cm long arise from the top of the pseudobulb. The inflorescence emerges from the centre of the new growth and will carry from 5 – 10 flowers (up to 15 if well grown) that open sequentially. As each bloom lasts about one week all blooms may not open at the same time.

The striking green flowers have a labellum with black markings that are very distinctive. The blooms are highly fragrant with a “honey” aroma. The midlobe of the labellum is “pendurate”- fiddle shaped and has two conspicuous lamellae (raised ridges on the lip) with numerous warty papillae (glands or nodes).

This species grows well in baskets as it spreads out rapidly using spagnum moss and wood chips as medium and re pot when new leads emerge. They can be mounted on a large piece of soft tree fern laid horizontally so the plant can ramble to it's hearts content. Pandurate resents being re potted and can sulk for a few months after being disturbed.



## Monthly Results January

### PLANT OF NIGHT

Winner *Rhynchostylis retusa* Costa/Crosby

### OPEN CLASS HYBRID

Winner Paph. Shin-Yi Princess S.T. Ho

### OPEN CLASS SPECIES

Winner *Rhynchostylis retusa* Costa/Crosby

### INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner *Laelia 'unknown'*

### NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Lc. Mini Purple 'OC' x Lc. Mood Indigo C. Matheson

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner *Stanhopea inadora* J. Robinson

### CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st	Den. discolor	Costa/Crosby	2nd	Angcm. Longiscott	Costa/Crosby
<b>CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS</b>			3rd	Prom. ovatiloba x rollissonii	G. Birss
1st	Paph. moquetteanum	S.T. Ho	4th	Aerth. Grandalena	M. Luk
2nd	Paph. liemianum	S.T. Ho	<b>CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS</b>		
<b>CLASS # 3 LAELIINAE OVER 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)</b>			1st	Den. Jewelite x Blue Twinkle x Kuranda Blue	Costa/Crosby
1st	Sc. Dal's Choice 'Castle Creek'	Costa/Crosby	2nd	Mingle's Sapphire 'Pleasant Park' x Mingles Sap.'Corbett'	G. Birss
<b>CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUMS</b>			3rd	Den. Impact x Autumn Show	Costa/Crosby
1st	Paph. Somers Phil	S.T. Ho	4th	Den. Samarai	Costa/Crosby
2nd	Paph. Saint Swithin	S.T. Ho	<b>CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA &amp; DRACULA SPECIES</b>		
3rd	Paph. Carolyn Butcher	S.T. Ho	1st	Drac. astuta 'Kent'	Costa/Crosby
4th	Paph. Saint Swithin	S.T. Ho	<b>CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS</b>		
<b>CLASS # 5 LAELIINAE OVER 80MM UP TO &amp; INCLUDING 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)</b>			1st	Masd. maculata x coriacea	G. Birss
1st	Lc. Mini Purple 'Vanessa'	L. Buivids	2nd	Masd. Hot Shot 'Cool Dude'	Costa/Crosby
2nd	C. Olief Peggy May	L. Buivids	3rd	Masd. Clarendon Glory	Costa/Crosby
<b>CLASS # 6 PAPHIOPEDILUM</b>			<b>CLASS # 21B LAELIINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	Paph. In-Charm Grace	S.T. Ho	1st	C. leopoldi	Costa/Crosby
<b>CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN (OTHER THAN COELGYNINAE)</b>			2nd	Psh. radiata	J. Costa
1st	Rhynchostylis retusa	Costa/Crosby	3rd	C. guttata var. Leopoldi	L. Buivids
2nd	Phal. tetraspis	G. Birss	4th	Psh. radiata	M. Luk
3rd	Neofinetia falcata	J. Robinson	<b>CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUMS</b>		
4th	Den. moschatum	L. Buivids	1st	Onc. onustum	Costa/Crosby
5th	Phal. pulchra	L. Buivids	2nd	Stanhopea inadora	J. Robinson
<b>CLASS # 11 PHALAENOPSIS</b>			3rd	Stenoglottis woodii	G. Birss
1st	Phal. Sogo Firework	M. Luk	4th	????? 'Dichaea glauco'	L. Buivids
2nd	Phal. 'unknown'	M. Luk	5th	Prom. guttata 'Grouchy'	J. Robinson
<b>CLASS # 11A COELGYNINAE SPECIES</b>			<b>CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES</b>		
1st	Coel. pandurata	Costa/Crosby	1st	Rstp. striolata	G. Birss
2nd	Coel. tomentosa	M. Luk	<b>CLASS # 28 NOVICE - LAELIINAE</b>		
<b>CLASS # 12 SEEDLING</b>			1st	Lc. Mini Purple 'OC' x Lc. Mood Indigo	C. Matheson
1st	Paph. Shin-Yi Princess	S.T. Ho	<b>CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
2nd	Paph. In-Charm Grace	S.T. Ho	1st	Lyc. Christopher	J. Sharpham
3rd	Paph. William Trelease	S.T. Ho	<b>CLASS # 30 NOVICE - SPECIES</b>		
4th	Prom. Bushfire Rage x Cachaca	G. Birss	1st	Epi. ciliare	C. Matheson
<b>CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS 60MM AND UNDER</b>			<b>CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - LAELIINAE</b>		
1st	Onc. Tropic Breeze 'Everglades'	Costa/Crosby	1st	Laelia 'unknown'	R. Nicol
2nd	Onc. Sharry Baby x Dancing Doll	Costa/Crosby	2nd	Unknown'	T. Haney
3rd	Onc. Moon Shadow 'Tiger Tail'	J. Costa	3rd	Laelia 'unknown'	T. Haney
4th	Onc. Wildcat 'Leopard'	Costa/Crosby	<b>CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
<b>CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS OVER 60mm</b>			1st	Psychopsis Kalihi	R. Nicol
1st	Onc. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'	J. Robinson	2nd	Mtssa. Kauai's Choice 'Tropical Fragrance'	P. Middleton
2nd	Onc. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'	Costa/Crosby	3rd	Psychopsis Kalihi	R. Nicol
3rd	Onc. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'	W. & J. Chapman	<b>CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES</b>		
4th	Odtna. Kamono 'Jem'	D. Phillips	1st	Stanhopea	T. Haney
<b>CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS</b>			2nd	Maxillaria tenuifolia	P. Middleton
1st	Prom. Catarina	J. Robinson			