

SSOS May Bulletin

SSOS GENERAL MEETING Minutes – 13 April 2015

Frank Daniel, our President extended a welcome to our members and guest Stewart McPherson. He asked for our January meeting minutes which were distributed through the Bulletin, either by mail or email, be accepted as accurate. Motioned by Sandra Crosby. Carried.

There were no new members this month.

CORRESPONDENCE received:

- Newsletters from OSNSW, Bankstown, Eurobodalla & North Shore Orchid Societies
- A flyer on information on the pre and post tours being offered at the Orchid Conference in Mackay.
- Letter from Sutherland Uniting Church advising an increase in hall rental
- Flyer from Aranbeem Orchids in Qld re their May 2015 sale.

Guest Speaker: Stewart McPherson from the UK fascinated members with his talk on his expedition to the Guiana Highlands in Venezuela where he searched for an orchid that was thought to be carnivorous. Stewart owns a publishing company and offered members the opportunity of purchasing *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species* Volume 1 and 2 for £35 each volume. If members are interested in these books contact Stewart on stewart@mcpherson.net.

MAY meeting: Annual plant auction

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

JULY meeting: Orchid Tray Company to talk on their products

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Following the AGM, Pamela Middleton nominated to be Treasurer. The Society welcomes Pamela to the committee.
- Last meeting 32 members entered the seedling competition. There were 22 plants left and members were offered to opportunity to enter the competition at the meeting, by paying \$5. All but two plants were sold.
Australian Orchid Foundation has advised the Society that - their Essay Prize topic for 2015 is "How do you manage your orchid collection without relying on artificial heating and/or cooling." The closing date for entries is 30 June 2015. Three prizes are to be won, 1st
 - prize \$350, 2nd prize \$250 and 3rd prize \$150.Last year Jan Robinson entered the

Upcoming Events



May Meeting 8pm at the
Uniting Church Hall in
Sutherland 11 May 2015.

We will be having our
annual auction.

- SSOS Winter Show 2015
- Castle Hill Orchid Show
- Orchids Out West
- Mingara Orchid Show
- St Ives Orchid Show

competition and was awarded with second prize.

- They also are seeking financial donations to their Trust Fund which are tax deductible.
- They provided information on their Seed and Protocorm Bank where they facilitate the propagation and conservation of orchid species. They are interested in donations of orchid seeds.
- They also have Publications for sale. If members are interested, they are encouraged to speak to Rhonda or visit the AOF website at www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au.
- The Novice Group meeting at George Birss' house was a success. Jan Robinson spoke about staking plants; George advised what to do with overgrown plants in pots and Mike Hitchcock spoke about using additives. People brought some of their sick or troublesome plants for advice. Everyone had a great afternoon.
- The Winter Show will be held on Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 June, with set up on Wednesday 17th. Members should start getting their plants ready for the show and are asked to volunteer their time at the show. Bob Moar has been our Show Marshal for a number of years, but due to family commitments he can no longer give as much time to the position as he would like. Assistance with Show Marshall duties is now needed, especially for Wednesday night's judging. We need to fill the Show Secretary position for next year so if anyone is interested in this position, they can talk to Louise or shadow her at the show. Members to be reminded that plants need to be able to stand by themselves and any that do not, may not be accepted in the show due to the risk of damage to the plant.
- Jan Robinson entered 6 plants in the Royal Easter Show and was successful in being awarded Show Champion. Well done Jan.

- The committee is looking into ordering Society t-shirts. If anyone is interested in purchasing one, please let Pam know. They are black with orange trim.
- Next month, we have the auction night. If you are putting plants in the auction, simply place two tags in your plant's pot, one with your name on it and the other with the name of the plant. If you have a reserve price, write the word "Reserve" and the price on the tag. You will be given a coloured stick-on label, which you will need to stick on to your plants that have a reserve price. There is usually a limit of 6 plants each member can sell at the auction. You will be paid less the 15% commission on the next meeting night. Club vouchers for the sales table can be used as payment in the auction. Purchases will be CASH ONLY so bring plenty. Next month, there will be no sales table at the meeting.

Note that the Society reserves the right to reject any plants for sale without giving a reason. Make sure you are not selling a sick or diseased plant or one that you have just repotted. Plants must also be free of pests. If you are not willing to buy a plant in a poor condition, then do not sell plants in a similar condition.

NAME BADGE DRAW – Sandra Crosby

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – Lee Buivids for Gongora pacadina

LUCKY PLANTS – Gary Hodder, R&J Ettrick, May Luk

RAFFLE - Russell Ettrick, Richard Dimon, Jennifer Sharpham, John Costa, Mike Hitchcock, Chris Nadigal.

Next meeting: 11 May 2015

WANT TO WIN A BUNNINGS VOUCHER?

Do you have something interesting happening in your greenhouse? Is one of your orchids so wonderful you would love to tell everyone about it? Why not write an article for our Bulletin? It doesn't have to be long and you could include a photo or two so we can appreciate what your beautiful plant looks like. It could be a story about an orchid show or event, or some other interesting topic.

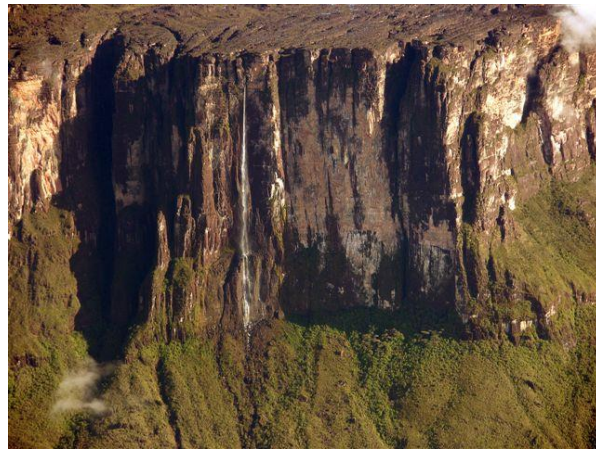
If your article is published in the bulletin, you will be in the running to win a Bunnings voucher at the end of the year.

So get your pens out or turn your computer on and get cracking. Articles should be sent to our editor, Dan Coulton at dan_the_man351@hotmail.com.au, Ph 0419466986.

The Lost Worlds of Arcemunia

At our April 2015 meeting, Stewart McPherson from the UK gave an extremely interesting talk on his expedition to the Guiana Highlands in Venezuela where he was searching for *Aracamunia liesneri*, the only orchid in the world that was thought to be carnivorous. This idea came from 3 plants found in 1989 that had been pressed and dried. The drawings of these plants appeared to have strange glandular appendages, very much like a sundew.

The Guiana Highlands are sandstone plateau that are encircled on all sides by vertical cliffs up to 1,000 metres above the surrounding rainforest and savannahs. The mountaintops of these unique mountains have remained isolated for millions of years, and so are home to unique plants, animals, and landscapes found nowhere else on earth. The landscapes are dominated by rocks and pinnacles shaped by the wind. There are about 100 plateaus in total in Venezuela and only 4 are accessible by foot.



The landscape they found

The plants found on the plateaus are pitcher plants, sundews and orchids as the area is nutrient poor and barren. Many orchids grow on bare rock. Stewart and his party took an 11 hour helicopter ride to the mountain top where the orchid grew. While clearing an area for a tent, one of their members severely injured his leg with a machete. As they left their satellite phone on the helicopter when alighting they could not make contact with the outside world. As they were unable to leave their incapacitated friend, their travels were restricted and as a result they were not able to find the orchid.



Pitcher Plant



A Sundew

Photos reproduced with permission of Stewart McPherson

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

I think I may give up growing Orchids and start growing water lilies or fungi. Don't get me wrong I appreciate the rain. It fills my water tanks, keeps things green and washes my car, but I'm a little over it now even though the plants are loving it. With the first down pour I received 300mm in two days, that's 1 foot in the old scale. Keeps you inside and away from the green house, while the nasties are enjoying your absence.

First the bad news, with all this rain keep an eye out for rot if the water pools in the crutch of the leaves or your pots become water logged, through poor drainage. Scale also loves these conditions, I first note it on the broad, thin leaves of Lycaste and on Cymbids. Also Mealy bug also seems to thrive in these conditions. If we do get a few warmer days things will get worse, so be alert. On the good side, Dendrobium beetle looks to have gone.

Plants are certainly thriving and if you are lucky enough to have a heated grass house and have heat loving Dendrobs. Like bigibbum you should have a great display of brilliant purple flowers, they take up a bit of space and I often wonder if they are worth keeping but when they bloom, WOW. Something that every orchid lover should have are Laelia anceps which are coming into bloom with their three foot flower spikes way above the foliage, if you have too many tie one to a tree outside they also look spectacular as garden plants.

The Sarcophilus I re potted and divided a few months ago are all standing up and looking good. My soft cane dendrobiums are looking lush and thick, I'll have to get stuck into staking them as they are that fat that they are leaning over. I still have Dendrochilums in bloom, one wenzelii looking magnificent, only hope it holds on for showing.

Twinkle, red and gold and Ornithorhynchum are throwing spikes all over the place with some already in full flower, but when the rest open I should have a very colourful green house. Speaking of spikes I have a 15cm spike on my Baptisonia echinata. This for those who don't know it is a small Oncidinae orchid that when the flowers open looks like a swarm of yellow and black striped bumble bees. Very attractive and unusual. The flower spike takes about 4 months to flower, so I'm sure I'll mention this orchid again as it develops, and the spike can be 60cm long. Best grown in a hanging basket display the beauty of this miniature beauty.

How are your potting competition Zygopeatlums going? Mine are standing up straight and the pseudobulbs are fattening up nicely and loving these wet conditions.

With winter approaching think about what plants may need a warmer spot or one with a little more protection and out of the elements. Now is the time to cut down on watering, Ha, Ha, Ha as if we can stop the storms. Now is the time to stop watering, again with the stupid remark, and stop fertilizing Soft Canes, maybe put under cover if you can, they still need the light though.

Cymbidiums are spiking and some are already in bloom. As the spikes appear place a stake beside the spike so that early training of the spike can start, that way your flowers will be up the right way when in full bloom. Clean away old husks, carefully, this will stop mealy bug settling on your bulbs. If your Cymbidium is of the standard or medium type possibly use a "yo - yo" to pull the spike up.

You Grew It

Coelogyne ovalis 'Black Lip'



Coelogyne ovalis (Oval Coel. Refers to the shape of the lip).

One of the most popular and commonly grown coelogyne, maybe not for its spectacular flower but because it is a very reliable flowerer, it is tough and very forgiving. In saying that it also rewards the grower with a huge display of successive, fragrant flowers over several months. *Ovalis* has a high variety within its flowering of size and colour.

Coelogyne ovalis is found throughout Asian Countries growing on trees and rocks at elevations of 600 – 1800 m making this orchid a warm to cool grower. It will grow very easy in Southern Sydney in a green house. May Luk's plant is the variety "Black Lip" which has distinctive Very dark markings on the lip.

Plants usually grow well in a hanging basket to display its rambling growth habits with a free draining mix. Water regularly in summer (every 2 days) with a reduction in Winter. This Orchid will quickly grow into a "specimen" plant and when trimming can easily be divided. Keep 3 – 4 pseudobulbs at least for each cutting and plant cutting in Sphagnum moss until established.

Stenoglottis Fimbriata

A deciduous Species orchid from South Africa that is a terrestrial that grows from tubers. It is found growing in humus rich soil in rock crevices or on tree trunks or fallen logs. The roots are hairy which assists the plant to attach to rocks. As the new "glabrous" leaves (leaves that are hairless or having a smooth surface) appear they have maroon spots that are make a very attractive foliage plant before flowering. As the flower spikes appear the spotting on the leaves disappear.

The flower spike can reach 45cm and carry up to 50 successively opening flowers that although only small are a very pretty pink colour with darker pink spots all over the flowers. This plant will be in flower for 2 -3 months.



I grow my plant in the shade house and it flowers every year without fail.

Dendrobium bigibbum var. *compactum* (Cooktown Orchid)



Upon researching this orchid I find that it is now **Dendrobium Lithocola**.

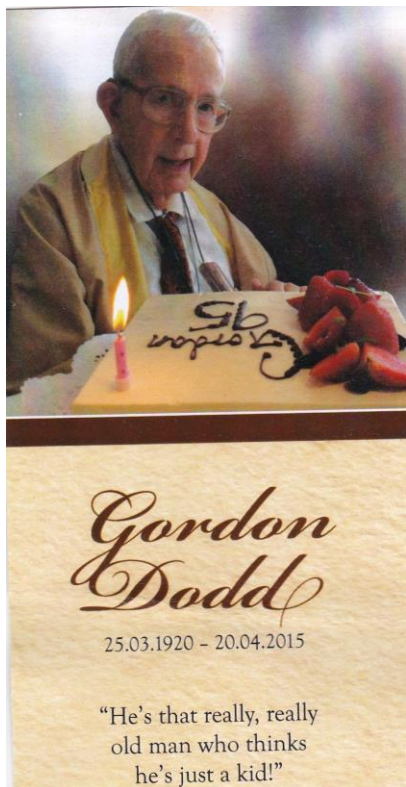
Dendrobium lithocola is listed as ENDANGERED. It is highly localised in its habitat, occurring in the coastal ranges between Laura (Daintree) and Cairns. *Dendrobium lithocola* grows in rainforest areas on rocks, boulders and cliff faces on ridges and slopes at altitudes from 300 – 800m. Plants are often exposed to the sun and can withstand long periods of hot dry conditions. Possibly due to the harsh conditions it has evolved into a compact form with pseudobulbs about 25cm in length. Each pseudobulb has 2 – 3 short green leaves. Racemes are 10 – 30cm in length and carry 1 – 9 flowers.

Flowers are usually lilac – purple or occasionally

white or bluish, there is no “white spot” on the labellum (lip).

Knowing that this orchid comes from northern Queensland and at reasonably low elevations this orchid would be a “hot” grower. I have not tried mine in the glass house, and maybe I would get better results BUT this year I have 14 very nice flowers on three flower spikes. I have mine growing high in my shade house, the section under plastic, where it gets good air movement but not heated. I am loath to move it as each year the flowering gets a little better.

Vale - Gordon Dodd



We are very sorry to announce that a front row seat at our monthly meetings will no longer be reserved for Gordon Dodd, as sadly he passed away on the 20th of April at 95 years of age. Gordon often joked about being the oldest Novice member in the Society, and he continued to bring plants for the monthly show bench until his eyesight got so poor he could no longer see his orchids or look after them. Last year he even won the President's Choice award for one of his plants!

Over the years Gordon had collected a few cymbidiums and native orchids from various places. Then he “inherited” about 100 small orchids from a friend and began to get a bit more serious about his hobby. He started a spreadsheet on his computer, logging in all of his orchids and including columns for their botanical name, common name, price, where he got them from, which country they came from if a species, the parents if the plant was a hybrid, description of the flower, date of each flower, and other pertinent information. He bought a small glasshouse and had it shipped from Western Australia--then had to figure out how to put it together! As well as his glasshouse, Gordon had several other areas in his back yard dedicated to his beloved orchids.

When he discovered that our Society meets within walking distance of his home, Gordon quickly joined and had been a member since April 2006. When asked about his experiences in the Society several years ago, Gordon had replied: “My thanks go to the committee members, to those who have patiently taken many of us through beginner groups, and to the ordinary members who have been so helpful and so friendly to someone who has been growing orchids for half a lifetime but is still very much a beginner.”

Ten members of the Society attended Gordon's funeral on Sunday, 26th of April, where we heard about all the many other facets of Gordon's full life. Up until 10 years ago, Gordon was making annual trips into the jungles of Burma on the back of an elephant to do missionary work! He was an amazing man and will be sorely missed.

Monthly Results April 2015

PLANT OF NIGHT

Winner *Miltonia moreliana* 'Big Ben' J. Robinson

OPEN CLASS HYBRID

Winner *Mps. Lillian Nakamoto* 'Tanto' W. McEvoy

OPEN CLASS SPECIES

Winner *Miltonia moreliana* 'Big Ben' J. Robinson

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Bulb. Elizabeth Ann

Winner 'Bucklebury' R. Nicol

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner *Ddc. cobbianum* C. Matheson

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Winner *Gongora Pardina* L. Buivids

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

- 1st *Den. bigibbum* G. Birss
- 2nd *Den. rigidum* C. Brandon
- 3rd *Ptst. parviflora* R. Dimon
- 4th *Ptst. laxa* R. Dimon

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS

- 1st *Paph. liemianum* S. T. Ho
- 2nd *Paph. charlesworthii* J. Robinson
- 3rd *Paph. spicerianum* S. T. Ho
- 4th *Paph. henryanum* S. T. Ho

CLASS # 3 LAELIINAE OVER 110MM (CLASSICAL SHAPE)

Blc. California Girl 'Orchid

- 1st Library' J. Hart
- 2nd *Pot. Ronald Pallister* 'Ron' J. Costa
- 3rd *Blc. Dream Trader* 'Manning' T. & J. Hyde
- 4th *Blc. Goldenzelle* 'Taida' J. Hart

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUMS

- 1st *Paph. Doll's Kobold* H. Myers
- 2nd *Paph. Clubber Lang* J. Robinson
- 3rd *Paph. Hsinying Cherry Fairy* J. Robinson
- 4th *Paph. Maud Read* S. T. Ho

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

- 1st *Lc. Mari's Love* 'Taka' L. Gannon
- 2nd *Pot. Dal's Emperor* 'Allen' J. Costa
- 3rd *Cft. Fitz Eugene Dixon* M. Luk
- 4th *Lc. Mari's Magic* 'Purple Flare' W. McEvoy

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

Ctna. Capri 'Lea' x Sc.

- 1st *Batemanniana* 'Bette' J. Hart
- 2nd *Lc. Bijou d'Or* L. Gannon
- 3rd *Ctna. Why Not* 'Select' J. Costa
- 4th *C. Chocolate Drop* G. Curtis

5th *Slc. Ollies' Folly* W. McEvoy

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRIDS

- 1st *Pterostylis x furcillata* R. Dimon
Doc. Australian Purple
- 2nd *Pepper* G. Birss
- 3rd *Den. Den. Grace Robson* L. Buivids
- 4th *Den. bigibbum* R. Dimon
- 5th *Den. Korawin* Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN (OTHER THAN COELGYNINAE)

- Den. subclausum* var
1st *pandanicola* C. Nidagal
- 2nd *Phal. aphrodite* Costa/Crosby
- 3rd *Den. calculimentium* Costa/Crosby
W. & J.
- 4th *Trgl. brachiata* Chapman

CLASS # 11 PHALAEENOPSIS

- 1st *Phal. 'unknown'* G. Curtis
- 2nd *Phal. 'unknown'* G. Curtis

CLASS # 11A COELGYNINAE SPECIES

- 1st *Ddc. magnum* R. Dimon
W. & J.
- 2nd *Ddc. cobbianum* Chapman
- 3rd *Coel. fuliginosa* R. & J. Ettrick
- 4th *Ddc. cobbianum* Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

- 1st *Milt. moreliana* J. Robinson
- 2nd *Paph. Hsinying Lime* S. T. Ho
- 3rd *Oncidesa Possum Woolf* S. T. Ho
Vasco Blue Fairy x
- 4th *Neofalcata* Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS 60MM AND UNDER

- 1st *Onc. 'unknown'* G. Curtis
- 2nd *Onc. Sharry Baby* G. Curtis
- 3rd *Onc. Wildcat* 'Ocelot' D. Phillips
- 4th *Trichocentrum Josephine* Costa/Crosby

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM HYBRIDS OVER 60mm

- Onc. Easy Gold* x *Onc. Glowing Gold* 'Blotches'
- 1st *Onc. Kalihi* J. Costa
- 2nd *Onc. Kalihi* H. Myers
- 3rd *Onc. 'unknown'* M. Luk
- 4th *Mtssa. Aztec* 'Tony' M. Chappell

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

- 1st *Mps. Lillian Nakamoto* 'Tanto' W. McEvoy
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann
- 2nd 'Bucklebury' L. Gannon
- 3rd *Lyc. Tropic fire* C. Nidagal
- 4th *Z. Patricia Eisenbeiss* J. W. Moss

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

1st	Den. Enobi Purple	G. Birss	2nd	Rstp. pelyx	G. Birss
2nd	Den. Jairak Gem 'Blue'	Costa/Crosby	3rd	Pths. luteola	G. Birss
3rd	Den. Genting Lipstick Den. Mingles Sapphire 'Plesant Park' x Ming.	Costa/Crosby	4th	Rstp. 'sp h'	Costa/Crosby
4th	Sapp.'Corbett	G. Birss	CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRIDS		
CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS			1st	Den. foressae	C. Castle
1st	V. Hilo Rose xSomjit 'Blue' Sartylis Jannine Banks	M. Luk	CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS		
2nd	'Tinonee'	Costa/Crosby	1st	Odcdm. Wildcat 'Ocelot'	S. & L. Black M.
3rd	Ryh. Kauhana	J. W. Moss	2nd	Oncidium 'unknown' Z. Artur Elle x Redvale 'Choc mint'	Montgomery
CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES			3rd		C. Matheson M.
1st	Masd. scobina	Costa/Crosby	4th	Unknown'	Montgomery
CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS			CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES		
1st	Masd. Hot Shot 'Cool Dude' Masd. Ada's Delight x Funky	Costa/Crosby	1st	Ddc. cobbianum	C. Matheson
2nd	Leopard 'Bold Spots'	Costa/Crosby	2nd	Coel. ovalis	S. & L. Black
CLASS # 21B LAELIINAE SPECIES			3rd	Encyclia fragrans	C. Matheson
1st	C. Ioddigesii var 'Martinique'	L. Buivids	4th	Bulb. rothschildianum	C. Matheson
2nd	Epi. neolehmannia 'porpax' L. perrinii 'Royal' x Peats	J. Costa	CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - LAELIINAE		
3rd	Ridge	G. Birss	1st	C. Leopoldii 'SVO Dark Beauty' x L. Millen 'Dr Koopowitz'	P. Middleton
4th	Epidendrum porpax	G. Birss	2nd	Blc. Little Mermaid 'Janet' Pot. Edwin Hauserman x Blc. Meditation	M. Dimon
CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUMS			3rd		T. Haney
1st	Miltonia moreliana 'Big Ben'	J. Robinson	4th	Pot. Burana Beauty 'Bunara'	R. Nicol
2nd	Rossioglossum grande	Costa/Crosby	CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS		
3rd	Max. meleagris	H. Myers	1st	Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Bucklebury'	R. Nicol
4th	Warczewiczella wailesiana	L. Buivids	2nd	Incdm. Popcorn 'Haruri' Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	P. Middleton
5th	Onc. splendidum	Costa/Crosby	3rd		P. Middleton
CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES			4th	Mtssa. Sadie Loo x Milt. Christmas Eve	P. Middleton
1st	Rstp. antennifera	Costa/Crosby			