



### Committee Members

<b>President:</b>	Bill Ferris	0428 639 778
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Jane Wright	0406 379 054
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bob Forrester	0402 353 773
	treasurer@canberraorchids.org	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jenny Cooke	0419 497 078
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<b>Committee:</b>	Krysia Szkiela	0421 636 324
	Brenda Thomson	0414 979 764
	Karen Groeneveld	0418 414 632

### Other Roles

Public Officer	Peter Coyne
Bulletin Editor	Geoff Dyne
Web Master	Bill Ferris
Conservation Officer	Derek Corrigan
Scientific Advisor	Mark Clements
Photography & Art	Zoe Groeneveld
New Member Coordinator	Jacque Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day
Popular Vote	Audrey Rough
Coordinators	Jacqui Bannerman
Benching Officer	Jacqui Turner
Judges Choice	Mark Fraser
	Robyn Noel
	Krysia Szkiela
	Jane Wright
Librarian	Krysia Szkiela
	librarian@canberraorchids.org
Social Media	Jane Wright
Sales Table	Jane Wright
	Brenda Thompson

### Society meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Visitors are welcome.

### Next Meetings

**7<sup>th</sup> February** - Zoe Groeneveld will give a presentation entitled *Orchids at the Herbarium*, in which she will explore their large collection of preserved and living orchid specimens.

**6<sup>th</sup> March** – Lewis Choy will bring us up-to-date on the Canberra Nature Map

**3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Preparing your orchids for winter

### Upcoming Events

**2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn Show (see article in this *Bulletin*)

**9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> March:** The Shoalhaven Orchid Society is hosting the South and West Region Orchid Workshop in Nowra.

**17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> May:** Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon

**29<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> June:** Mingara Orchid Club Fair and Show, Tumbi Umbi.

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#### Disclaimer

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#### Contributions to the next Bulletin

Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome and should be emailed to Geoff Dyne at [geoffdyne@outlook.com](mailto:geoffdyne@outlook.com)  
**Deadline** for March - April edition is 22 March 2024

## From the President

I hope the new year finds you well and that 2024 is a floriferous one for you. The recent wet and cool weather seems to have given the orchids a great start to the year (along with the beans, zucchini and pumpkin).

The workshops in November (at my home) and January (thanks Karen) were well attended especially by newer members. I hope they found they found the workshops useful and will boost the number of plants on the benching table in the future.

The South and West Regional Workshop, to be hosted by the Shoalhaven Orchid Society at Nowra on 9-10<sup>th</sup> March, will be another excellent opportunity to further expand your knowledge of orchids (details are in this Bulletin and on our website). If you plan to attend, please register by 23 February.

The Christmas party was well attended, Mike and Jane provided entertaining quizzes and the club facilities were great as usual. A report is later in this Bulletin.

Members are encouraged to enter orchids in the Horticultural Society Autumn Show on 2-3 March in the Fitzroy Pavilion at Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC). In addition, we will again have a sales table at this show which last year was very popular. Details are in this Bulletin.

And we will be back at EPIC on 20-22 September when we combine with the Horticultural Society for our spring shows. This promises to be a floral spectacular. The Fitzroy Pavilion will give us a lot more space for exhibition and sales and being on ground level is easily accessible. I encourage all members to give all the support they can to this substantial undertaking.

*Bill Ferris*

## Cultural tips for January-February

- It has been an unusually cool and wet Summer, but many orchid-related activities still apply.
- Provide extra shade to avoid sun damage and black pots heating up.
- Water regularly to ensure sufficient moisture for your growing conditions. Watering in the evening gives your plants time to absorb the water before the heat of the following day.
- Repot Australian terrestrials while they are dormant if you haven't done so already. A good quality, well-draining seed-raising mix provides a suitable medium for most terrestrial orchids. Avoid repotting the 'fungus-dependent' terrestrials, such as *Caladenia* sp. These do best when left undisturbed.
- Water Australian terrestrials sparingly (and lightly) until the new shoots emerge.
- Keep pots cool. Fertilise your plants to strengthen new growth. Use a fertiliser that orchids can tolerate - some of the generic versions can be too strong. Always follow the instructions.
- Monitor for pests. Mites and mealy bugs are still active and aphids and munching pests can quickly take hold. Scale multiplies rapidly at this time of year. Check your plants at night with a torch to do some on-the-spot extermination. Slug and snail control may require separate baits.
- Repot plants in active growth that have outgrown their current pot, or if the bark has started to rot down.
- Check out our Society's book *Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia* for more cultural tips.

## Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Venue: Ainslie Football Club.

Attendance: 44 members; Apologies: 2; Visitors: 9.

Meeting commenced 7.45pm.

The President, Bill Ferris, opened the meeting by welcoming members and visitors to the meeting.

Bill advised that following the night's presentation, Jane Wright would talk about the range of plants on the sales table, the upcoming Christmas Party and workshops.

Bill introduced Mike Pieloor to host the presentation on Growing Orchids without a Greenhouse.

### **Presentation**

Mike introduced the night's presentation advising that he was to be supported by other Society members including Jane Wright, Bill Ferris, Mark Clements, Robyn Noel and Andrea Robold. He also advised that he wished the session to be interactive with other members contributing to the discussion. Mike advised that they would be discussing various methods of growing orchids without a greenhouse including: outside in the garden, outside with protection, inside and under lights.

Key considerations include:

- Temperature
- Light
- Water
- Humidity
- Airflow

**Canberra - Outside no protection.** Types of orchids to grow in these conditions include *Bletilla striata*, some Australian terrestrials (*Diuris* and *Thelymitra*), and European and African terrestrials (*Serapias*, *Spiranthes* and *Satyrium*). Mike advised that research has shown that some terrestrials can exist in conditions down to -5 to -6 degrees.

**Canberra - Outside under cover.** Jane advised that orchids could be grown under plants that provided a lot of shelter such as under eucalyptus trees. Mark Clements provided examples of where cymbidiums and thelychitons do well, including under *Callistemon* trees. Australian natives such as dockrillias and *Sarcochilus* may also be grown on trees. Other members including David Judge and Robyn Noel spoke of successes growing cymbidiums and terrestrials outside their back door/deck/pergola and next to the protection of wall/eaves. Bill Ferris showed his shelving system on castors which he could move around his yard as needed including putting under cover in colder weather. He also discussed how he positions orchids that require more light/sun up higher or native Cymbidiums at the back for warmth to suit their unique requirements. Bill also added that he places plastic sheeting on the ends of his pergola to stop hot winds in summer and cold in winter. Ben Wallace provided a valuable tip, i.e., to keep orchids higher off the ground to lessen cold air.

**Canberra - Growing inside.** Jane Wright discussed her experiences growing phalaenopsis orchids in a sunny position on her windowsill. When positioned close to glass in winter, they received quite a drop in temperature which spiked the growth of flowers although the spikes grew to the light. Andrea advised that prior to her renovations she grew her oncidiums, cattleyas and hybrids on/near her windowsills (i.e. orchids not requiring a lot of humidity). Note: windows are double-glazed, and the west-facing window is protected with a double layer of tissue paper during summer and plants are watered regularly. When questioned on growing phalaenopsis orchids in a bathroom for humidity, noted that while the bathroom gets humid from showers etc, this usually dissipates quickly. Jane recommended growing cymbidiums outside to receive morning sun and then bringing them inside during winter and placing them inside (she used a shelf placed across a bath/laundry tub). Orchids suited to growing indoors include *Paphiopedilum*, jewel orchids, *Phalaenopsis*, *Oncidinae* and *Tolumnia*.

**Canberra - Growing under lights.** Mike discussed his experiences with growing orchids under lights and the various setups that he has experimented with including LEDs and others. He has installed ceiling fans running 24/7 and adjusts the watering to accommodate conditions. For watering, he sits the orchids in trays but not sitting in water. Mike has set up his shelving/Wardian cases both inside and outside and noted the importance of spacing of plants to lights to ensure they're not too close to burn. For semi-hydroponic growing, he advised that it relies on a water reservoir at the bottom of pot, which water wicks up, requires no saucer and he waters weekly (may dunk in plant). Mike advised that you can grow any orchid in this environment, however you must adapt i.e. light, humidity, air, water etc.

Members can view the presentation on the Members' page of our website.

### **Other matters**

#### *Sales table*

Jane advised that she had bought a number of orchids for the Society at very reasonable prices. Available for sale were:

- Slipper orchids, which are great in the house, require a fair bit of light and tolerate cooler temperatures.
- Tolumnias, which are small plants with bright coloured flowers, require a reasonable amount of sun and don't mind being dry.
- Jewel orchids, which do well in terrariums if you keep the humidity up. Glass jars are available to establish a terrarium.
- *Dendrobium Yaya Victoria*, which is good for indoors in a bright position, but keep dry in winter.

#### *Workshops*

18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Repotting workshop to be held at Bill Ferris' house (details emailed to members). Repotted and mounted plants can be purchased for a nominal fee of \$5 to cover costs of pots and potting mix. Members can bring their own plants. Please RSVP to Bill by 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> - Terrestrial workshop at Karen Groeneveld's house (details to follow).

#### *Tuber bank*

The December edition of the ANOS Vic's newsletter will have details of the tubers available through their tuber bank. Bill to send an email once the Newsletter is available and Mike Pieloor will coordinate orders from Society members. Delivery is expected mid-late Jan 24.

#### *Acceptance of Minutes of General Meetings*

Sept 23	Moved by Scott Mann	Seconded by Andrea Robold
Oct 23	Moved by Andrea Robold	Seconded by Brian Dear

#### *Christmas Party - Wednesday, 6 December 2023*

People wishing to attend the Christmas Party should pay the \$40 subsidised price tonight or direct deposit to the Society's account. Please provide details of any special dietary requirements to the Treasurer. Plants will be able to be benched but there will be no sales on the night. The Christmas Party will have the usual quizzes and prizes for attendance at all meetings and most successful exhibitors for the year.

Meeting closed: 9.30pm.

Next meeting - Wednesday, 6 December 2023.

## Popular Vote Results November 2023

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
<b>OPEN</b>			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Kulnura Secure x Kulnura Max	Brian Dear
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Sarco.</i> Kulnura Secure x Kulnura Pass, <i>Sarco.</i> Kulnura Ballerina		
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	Bob Forrester
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Cym.</i> Silicon Chip		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya</i> Royal Beau 'Dendi'	Rob Rough
		<i>Cattleya</i> Canhamiana	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Jackfowlieara</i> Appleblossom 'HR', <i>Cattleya</i> Spring Drumb, <i>Rlc.</i> Tzeng-Wen Dragon, <i>Leptotes bicolor</i> ,		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hanoi Fairy	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Paph. delenatii</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Vanda</i> Ken Kone 'Chao Praya Spots'	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Nil</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Breathless 'Good Woman'	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched:</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia</i> Stripe King 'St. Ives'	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Masd.</i> Veitch's Candy Cane, <i>Masd. deceptrix</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium unicum</i>	Tony Tritschler
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Den. fimbriatum</i> , <i>Den. nobile var virginale</i> , <i>Den.</i> unknown		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>nil</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	Tony Tritschler
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>		
<b>NOVICE</b>			
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium illiberale</i> 'Virginia'	James Jonklaas
	<i>Others Benched:</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Bletilla striata</i>	James Jonklaas
	<i>Others Benched:</i> <i>Den. moniliforme</i> , <i>Den. moniliforme f. variegata</i> , <i>Den. pierardii</i>		
<b>OPEN Orchid of the Night</b>			
		<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	Bob Forrester
<b>NOVICE Orchid of the Night</b>			
		<i>Cymbidium illiberale</i> 'Virginia'	James Jonklaas
Judges' Choice - Species			
		<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	Bob Forrester
Judges' Choice - Hybrid			
		<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hanoi Fairy	Mike Pieloor
Judges' Choice - Specimen			
		<i>Sarcochilus</i> Kulnura Secure x Kulnura Max	Brian Dear

**November Open Orchid of the Night and Judges Choice – Species**

*Cymbidium canaliculatum*, grown by Bob Forrester



This little gem grows outside in semi shade under a tree in the garden, in summer. In winter it retreats to an unheated glasshouse with shade and frost cloth protection. It sits high in the glasshouse, hanging high from a roof support. *Bob Forrester*



**November Judges' Choice – Specimen**

*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Secure x Kulnura Max, grown by Brian Dear

This hybrid plant of *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Secure 'Pink tips' x Kulnura Max 'Cup Fimbri' was purchased as a seedling and grown in an unheated polycarbonate greenhouse that ranges in temperature from a low of 1°C in winter to a maximum of 37°C in summer. The plant grows on the bottom shelf in low light and receives a weak fertiliser once per week. It is grown in a bark-perlite mix and watered fortnightly in winter and twice weekly in summer. The parents Kulnura Secure and Kulnura Max were first registered as hybrids by Barrita Orchids in 2016.

*Brian Dear*



**November Judges' Choice – Hybrid**

*Paphiopedilum* Hanoi Fairy, grown by Mike Pieloor

This charming little primary hybrid is a cross between *Paphiopedilum fairrieatum* and the recently (2014) discovered *P. rungsuriyanum*. The latter is only known from northern Laos.

*P. rungsuriyanum* is a small grower, with a relatively large flower. It imparts these characteristics to this hybrid.

I grow this orchid cross warm with consistent moisture.

Mike Pieloor

**November Novice Orchid of the Night**

*Cymbidium illiberale* 'Virginia', grown by James Jonklaas

An amazing little plant which always puts on a great show. I have it growing under cover in a bush house to give it frost protection. The accepted name is actually *Cymbidium floribundum*, a species widespread in southern China, Tibet, Taiwan and Vietnam. Different flower variants across regions have in the past been identified as separate species (e.g. *Cym. pumilum* is also now regarded as a *floribundum* variant).

James Jonklaas



**Christmas Party, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Venue: Ainslie Football Club; Attendance: 56 members and guests

The President, Bill Ferris, welcomed members and guests in attendance to a night of food, fun and prizes.

Bill opened proceedings by presenting ribbons/awards to our members who had recently won prizes/championships at the recently held South and West Regional Orchids Show in Cobargo. Congratulations to all!

Bill advised of some major changes planned for our Orchid Show in 2024. Following a proposal received from the Horticultural Society of Canberra, our Society has agreed to hold the annual show in conjunction with the HSOC Spring show, in the Fitzroy Pavilion at EPIC on 21-22 September 2024. Bill noted that, while the Ainslie Football Club has been a great venue for our last six shows, there are various benefits to moving the show to the Pavilion – i.e. a lot of extra space, ground floor location, good lighting, and the potential for a much larger attendance. It would also provide a good trial run for what the Society does in 2025 when hosting the South and West Regional Show and Conference. Bill noted that there is still some planning to do to sort logistics and the Committee would keep members informed.

Thanks go to everyone who made the night an enjoyable evening for all, in particular, Jane, Mike and Simon who put together and judged the fun quizzes and other entertainment. Thanks also go to Jane for organising a great selection of plants for prizes and to Richard Mayoh for donating plants.

Prizes for the those who attended every meeting in 2023 went to Megan Philips, Joshua Philips, Andrea Robold, David McGuiness, Na Khanprasant and Tony Tritschler. The award for the most successful in the popular vote throughout the year went to Karen and Zoe Groeneveld, and for the Novice section, to James Jonklaas.

### **Horticultural Society Autumn Show 2-3 March 2023**

Please consider entering your orchids in the autumn show. There are plenty of classes for orchids and a chance to show the public there are orchids in flower all year. See the schedule at [Activities and Events - HSOC](#). Remember that entries close at 8pm on Thursday 29 February.

### **Horticultural Society Autumn Show – plant stall**

We have been invited again to have a plant stall the Horticultural Society's Autumn Show. This is a great opportunity to sell divisions of your orchids so you don't have to keep them through winter. In addition to orchids, we are welcome to sell indoor and outdoor plants. Set up will be Friday evening. Please contact Jane Wright (0406 379 054) or [info@canberraorchids.org](mailto:info@canberraorchids.org) if you plan to sell plants and how much space you will need. As usual, the society will retain 10% commission. All sellers are expected to spend some time over the weekend assisting with the plant sales. Please bring cardboard boxes suitable for packing plants.



The SHOALHAVEN ORCHID SOCIETY INC. invites you to the South and West Region ORCHID WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY 9th & 10th MARCH, 2024**

**VENUE: NOWRA GOLF CLUB, 86 Fairway Drive, North Nowra**

Program and Registration Form available from  
[www.shoalhavenorchidsociety.org.au](http://www.shoalhavenorchidsociety.org.au) or our website

This workshop promises to be excellent, with 5 great speakers lined up. Steve Dunstan from the Central Coast will speak on Australian Native Cymbidium Orchid species and hybrids including my culture for success and Den. Section Latouria species and some outstanding hybrids. Craig Miles will speak on Growing Paphiopedilum and Growing Miltoniopsis. David Brooks' two topics are Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus. Brian Phelan will speak on Growing *Cattleya (Sophronitis) coccinea* in sphagnum. Martin Montebello will speak on growing Phalaenopsis. Details are on the registration form.

**Popular Vote Results: December 2023**

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
<b>OPEN</b>			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Dockrillia wassellii</i>	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Calanthe triplicata</i>	Mike Pieloor
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium Silicon Chip</i>	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya Canhamiana</i>	Rob Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Cattleya tenebrosa h.f. aurea, C. purpurata h.f. alba, C. Dal's Magic</i>		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum William Ambler 'Karub'</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Paph. Rodney Wilcox Jones, Paph. rothschildianum x2, Paph. praestans, Paph. haynaldianum Paph ciliolare</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Angraecum elephanticum</i>	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: Angraecum didieri, Micropera rostrata, Vanda aurantiaca, Vanda Lucknow, Vanda falcata</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Oncidium Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'</i>	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: Aliceara Tahoma Glacier, Brassia verrucosa, Brascidostele Gilded Tower, Lockhartia oerstedii, Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobbledick, Mps. Bert Field, Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant', Mps. Ellen Godfrey, Mps. Pink Momma, Mps. Prelapsarian x2, Mps. Rene Komoda, Mps. Rubinesque x2, Mps. Truffle, Oncidium unknown.</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Specklinia tribuloides</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Masdevallia Chaparana, Masd. deceptrix, Masd. pumila x floribunda, Masd. Thea</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium glomeratum</i>	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum lindleyanum</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
		<i>Megaclinium falcatum</i>	Mark Clements
	<i>Others Benched: Bulbophyllum ebulbum,</i>		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: Lycaste Caroline, Lycamerlycaste Mark, Maxillaria cucullata,</i>		
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Promenaea guttata 'Grouchy'</i>	Jan Robinson
	<i>Others Benched: Promenaea Drayton Gold,</i>		
<b>NOVICE</b>			
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium Rothesay 'Butterfly'</i>	James Jonklaas
	<i>Others Benched: nil</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Dendrobium thyrsoiflorum</i>	Claire & Jacqui Turner
	<i>Others Benched: Oncidium Jungle Monarch</i>		
<b>OPEN Orchid of the Night</b>		<i>Cattleya Canhamiana</i>	Rob Rough
<b>NOVICE Orchid of the Night</b>		<i>Dendrobium thyrsoiflorum</i>	Claire & Jacqui Turner
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Paphiopedilum ciliolare</i>	David Judge
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Miltoniopsis Breathless 'Brilliant'</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Specklinia tribuloides</i>	Karen & Zoe Groeneveld



**December Open Orchid of the night**  
*Cattleya Canhamiana*, grown by Rob Rough

This is a primary Hybrid between *Cattleya mossiae* and *Cattleya purpurata* created by Veitch in 1885. It is very easy to grow and does not require extra treatment as it grows with the other cattleyas in the glasshouse. It has been in my possession for a long time. It grows in low light in the middle section (knee high) of the glasshouse which is covered with shade cloth in winter due to the deciduous tree nearby shedding its protective leave. The shade cloth is removed once the tree grows a sufficient canopy to offer protection from the sun. *Rob Rough*

**December Judges' Choice – Hybrid**

*Miltoniopsis* Breathless 'Brilliant', grown by Karen and Zoe Groeneveld

A *Miltoniopsis* hybrid, I grow this in my cool greenhouse (10-28°C), where it enjoys high humidity, plenty of water and plenty of air movement with medium light.

I reduce water a bit over winter. It gets fertilised regularly, but lightly, with Magamp in the watering system. I grow it in a medium bark/perlite mix.

*Karen Groeneveld*



**Jane Wright's Display of *Miltoniopsis* at the December Christmas Party**



### Selling Plants Through the Society

The Member section of our website has provision for members to advertise plants or other items for sale.

If you have plants you wish to sell, email Bill Ferris (at [info@canberraorchids.com](mailto:info@canberraorchids.com)) a suitable picture together with relevant information and he will list them in the Members' area on the website. This will save having to take large plants home if unsold at meetings.

Also don't forget (as noted above) we will have a plant sales table at the Horticultural Society Show on 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> March.



### December Judges' Choice – Specimen

*Specklinia tribuloides*, grown by Karen and Zoe Groeneveld

*Specklinia tribuloides* is a miniature orchid from Central America where it grows as an epiphyte in dense, wet, evergreen or deciduous forest from 300-1300m. Grows cool to hot. I grow it cool (min. 8°C – max. 27°C) with high humidity and plenty of water. Prefers a shady position. I grow it in pots with a mini bark/small pearlite/vermiculite mix; and fertilise regularly but lightly, with Magamp.

*Karen Groeneveld*



**December Judges' Choice – Species**

*Paphiopedilum ciliolare*, grown by David Judge



**December Novice Orchid of the Night**

*Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, grown by Claire and Jacqui Turner



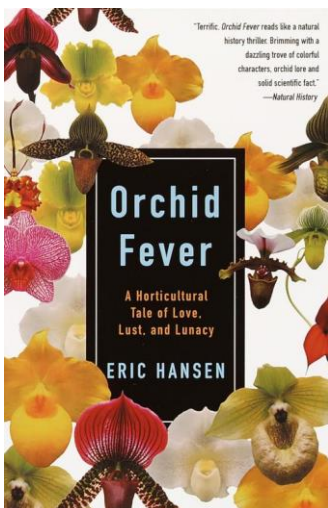
**Library News**

The books are on the shelves at my place and the list of available books has been updated. There were a large number of duplicates, and these were removed and will be made available to members on the freebie table in the coming months.

An updated list of available library books and periodicals is now in the Members' section of the Orchid Society's website. If you would like to borrow a book you can either email me on: [librarian@canberraorchids.com](mailto:librarian@canberraorchids.com) and I will bring the required book to the next meeting or you can visit the library personally in Farrer.

**Book Review**

"Orchid Fever" by Eric Hansen



As a journalist, Hansen is able to introduce us to many aspects of orchid growing and selling throughout the world. He gently scrapes through the many layers of politically inspired rules and regulations developed to protect orchids:

*"The orchid is used for everything from medicine for elephants to an aphrodisiac ice cream. A Malaysian species can grow to weigh half a ton while a South American species fires miniature pollen darts at nectar-sucking bees. But the orchid is also the center of an illicit international business: one grower in Santa Barbara tends his plants while toting an Uzi, and a former collector has been in hiding for seven years after serving a jail sentence for smuggling thirty dollars worth of orchids into Britain. Deftly written and captivantly researched, Orchid Fever is an endlessly enchanting and entertaining tour of an exotic world."*

<https://www.amazon.com/Orchid-Fever-Horticultural-Tale-Lunacy/dp/0679771832>

We have two copies, the original hardback copy as well as a paperback, both published in 2000.

Krysia Szkiela

## Terrestrial Repotting Workshop Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The terrestrial orchid repotting workshop was well attended, with members learning how to repot dormant terrestrial tubers. Because of the cooler weather, some tubers were already shooting and members also learned how to handle tubers in this state.

People went home with new species to try and pots ready for the growing season. Thanks to Karen Groeneveld for hosting a fun and successful workshop.

If you are on Facebook and would like more information about growing Australian terrestrial orchids (including how-to guides and tips), consider joining this Facebook group, managed by Mike Pieloor: *Australian Terrestrial Orchids – Cultivation and Propagation Research*.



*Karen demonstrating her style.*



*Members filling their own pots.*

### **Congratulations to members progressing from Novice\***

Following successes on the Show benches last year, the following are changes to exhibitor status:

- Yi Yu and Ciaran Ernst-Russell move to Open Australian Native, but remain Novice for all other classes.
- Brian Shelvey moves to Open Laeliinae and Any Other, but remains Novice for all other classes.

The full list of members and their benching status is available in the Members' area of the website.

\* Any exhibitor remains a Novice until they have won first prize in any 3 groups at any Orchid Show or Shows, but they shall cease to be a novice in respect to each group in which they win a first prize. The exhibitor shall cease to be a Novice at the end of the calendar year in which they won a first prize in their third group of orchids.

## Topics for meetings - Survey

Over the next month or so we will conduct a survey to ask people to nominate topics and presentations which they would like covered at our monthly Orchid Meetings.

We will hand out paper forms to fill in at the February meeting, but if you can't make it, could you please read the following survey form and send any thoughts to [librarian@canberraorchids.org](mailto:librarian@canberraorchids.org). Thanks!

### Orchid Society of Canberra

#### Monthly Meeting Presentation Topics

We would love your input/suggestions for meeting presentations. Tick any that interest you below and write new topics in the space provided:

- Topics appropriate for the season
- What's happening in my glasshouse
- How to prepare my plant to bench/for a show
- Common pests and how to deal with them
- How to grow orchids in an apartment
- Photograph that orchid
- What bug is that?
- Latest Research
- Native terrestrial orchids and their symbiotic relationships with Pollinators
- Out in the field
- How to prepare for winter
- Potting mix- size, and mixture
- How do Orchids Photosynthesise
- CAMS
- Cross pollination /self-pollination
- Organic v non-organic fertilizers - what and when.
- How to build a glasshouse
- How to stack orchids in my glasshouse
- Nomenclature - How to correctly label my orchid. Checking and replacing old labels. Pens

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the back for more suggestions.

Do you have experience/expertise in an area related to orchids you are willing to present at a meeting?

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Any other suggestions for society activities or how we run the meetings or society in general?

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