

September 2019

Volume 61 ... no. 9



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY

GREENHOOD

September is the month of the Tasmania Orchid Society Spring Show. Members are invited to present their orchids in a way that we are proud to show what we have done to produce our blooms. A presentation is the process of presenting our orchids to an audience ... the public, the judges, to friends, to fellow growers. It is typically a demonstration, introduction, which is meant to inform, persuade, inspire, motivate, or to build good will or to present new ideas or new plants.

*The next meeting on the 16th September, is all about “**benching for display**”... for members who haven’t done it before and for members who need a refresher.*

*September is competition night... will you “bench” by **7.15 pm** your “wow” **Orchids for Division 1 and Division 2.***

Competition Floral arrangement is practice of section I topics listed on page 13 of the August Greenhood.



Gastrodia sesamoides

Commonly known as cinnamon bells or common potato orchid in Australia and as the pot-bellied orchid or cinnamon sticks in New Zealand, is a leafless, terrestrial saprophytic orchid in the family Orchidaceae. It has a thin, fleshy brown flowering stem and up to twenty five drooping, brownish, self-pollinating flowers...

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Copy Deadline is the

9th October 2019

**OFFICE BEARERS for
2019/20**

PRESIDENT

Peter Willson ...62484375

Senior Vice President

*Vicki Cleaver ...
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Vicki Cleaver

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MEMBERS**

Noel Doyle

Peter Manchester

Shirley Jackson

Andrea Gerrard

Jim Smith

**TAS. ORCHID SOCIETY MAJOR other EVENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR...**

TOS Spring Show 26th Sept. to Sept. 29th, 2019

Sarcochilus & Masdevallias Show 9th November 2019

TOS Christmas meeting December 9th, 2019

Next Sunday Getogether, October 27th

GREENHOOD editor Peter S Manchester 0477432640 ...
milingandi@vision.net.au

WEB MANAGER Michael Jaschenko ... <http://tos.org.au/>

**TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETIES GENERAL MEETING
DATES**

September 16th – Preparation for the Spring Show

October 21st – Presentation night

November 18th – Gary Hill -Trip to China.

December 9th – TOS Christmas meeting

State Orchid Conference with Spring Show 2nd October 2020

Conference to be held on the Saturday 3rd October, Town Hall

...Chairperson Sally Johnston

Committee meetings for 2019/2020 are ... October 7th; November 4th;
December 2nd; January 7th; February 3rd; and March 3rd,

The GREENHOOD editor endeavours to assure the reliability of articles and dated information. The opinions and views are those of individual authors and not of the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. and disclaims all liability against any statements made.

From the Desk of the Vice- President Glenn Durkin .

Where is our esteemed leader you might say??? Swanning himself in Queensland!

Attending, along with our own native orchid expert Geoff Curry, the Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show at Strathpine. Let's hope he returns full of information to impart to us on this topic at a future meeting. A very trusting man leaving this report to me, my first contribution to our Greenhood.

Our major event of the year is fast approaching with only a few weeks till the Spring Show at the Hobart Town Hall. As Show Marshall I have received some entries at time of writing, so please don't leave it to the deadline of our September meeting to get your entry in. I am approaching this event somewhat nervously as this is my first show as Marshall, and only my second as an exhibitor.

This is always an event which arrives with trepidation for probably all growers wondering if they will have enough plants in show condition. If you are in doubt whether you have enough plants for your normal display, consider reducing the size of your display; remember you don't always need a lot of plants to make your display interesting. I encourage everyone to make the effort to contribute. As a whole a large number of smaller exhibits are equally as impressive as a few large ones. Let's endeavour to make this year's show one to remember. Consider combining with another member for a joint stand, if all else fails you can contribute by entering on the community stand.

Thanks to Blundstone (Boots) we have a prize for a lucky entrant this year and which is open to all exhibitors who enter any plant including any contribution to the community stand and Floral Art.

We can also use this show as a practice for next year's State Conference where we will be displaying our plants to a much wider audience than normal with exhibitors from the north and north-west attending.

Cheers Glenn

All members are invited to submit floral arrangements for judging on the following topics.



September 16th - "Practise for the Spring Show"

October 21st - "Mellow Yellow"

November 18th - "Straight from the Garden"

December 9th - "Jingle Bells"

A. Tasmanian Orchid Society Orchid Mix ...prepared by the Tasmanian Botanical Gardens staff for our members to purchase. **Bags are available now.** The T.O.S Orchid mix (40 litre bags), are available at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The keeper of the mix is our President Peter Willson. Please phone Peter on 62484375 who lives near Cambridge to make arrangements for PICKUP time and payment.

B. 2019 COMPETITION PLANTS every meeting.

Sartylis Bravehart'Sandy' AM/AOC the competition is well on its way. Seven to Eight members are bringing them in. Some are looking better than others. At supper time members can check out all the plants. After supper a couple of the plants would be selected and the owners would be asked to share their cultural tips. This would continue through to the close of this phase in December.

C. Tasmanian Orchid Society payments and treasury matters.

Members should be aware that the new Treasurer is Christine Doyle and can be contacted by email: noel.doyle3@bigpond.com by phone 62729820 or at all general meetings. Should payment be required preferred method is by direct debit.

Direct Debit details are ... Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. BSB – 067000 CBA Acc. No. 2803512

Please put your name/s in the description area and inform Christine by sending an email.

Cash / cheque can be paid directly to Treasurer Christine Doyle at a meeting or posted to GPO Box 467 Hobart 7001.

D. Purchasing of premium composted bark Aus-Gro after the Spring show

Orders for Ausgro Bark Nuggets 50 Litre bags can be ordered through the Secretary or at the September meeting. Different size chip is recommended for the following orchids -

Size Small 5 - 10mm - suitable for Cymbidiums, Zygopetalum, Paphiopedilum, Odontoglossum, Miltonia and Lycaste,

Size Medium 10 - 20mm - suitable for Dendrobium, Laelia, Vanda, Cattleya, Oncidiinae and allied genera. Also suitable for Cymbidium in large pots. Some people use a combination of nugget size when repotting,

Size Large 20 - 30mm - can be used for Dendrobium, Speciosum and also for Phalaenopsis.

These recommended rates are from DEBCO Orchid Media supplier.

Alan Millward will be managing the order and pick up will be from his home. Payment can be to Alan at time of ordering or at time of pick-up and can be contacted by MOB. 0422356269.

President Peter Willson is currently holding for our Orchid Society several bags of Ausgrow large and medium. Contact him now.





	WATER REQUIREMENTS	FERTILISER REQUIREMENTS	PEST CONTROL	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE DENDROBIUM	Water weekly.	Begin balanced fertiliser fortnightly during September.	Check for aphids, slugs and snails.	
CATTLEYA Alliance	Water fortnightly in August then weekly.	Balanced fertiliser fortnightly during September.		
ODONTOGLOSSUM	Water weekly.	Fortnightly with a balanced fertiliser.	Watch for aphids on new growths and flower spikes.	Repot those with new growths.
CYMBIDIUM COELOGYNE	Weekly to fortnightly in August, increasing through September.	Begin balanced fertiliser fortnightly during September.	Check for aphids and scale.	Repotting may begin in September.
DENDROBIUM Eugenanthe type (Soft cane)	Commence fortnightly watering in September.	Commence fertiliser fortnightly in September.	Check for aphids, slugs and snails.	Give as much sun as possible.
MASDEVALLIA	Water twice weekly.	Water twice weekly.	Watch for aphids on new growths or flower spikes.	Repot these from early spring.
ONCIDIUM	Water weekly, more often if mounted.	Water weekly, more often if mounted.	Watch for aphids on new growths or flower spikes.	Repot those with new growths.
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Water weekly increasing to twice weekly in September.	Water weekly increasing to twice weekly in September.	Watch for mealy bugs at centre of growths.	Repot early spring.
PLEIONE	Begin weekly watering as flower buds and new growths appear.	Fortnightly in September with a balanced fertiliser.		Keep cool.
GENERAL COMMENTS	Watch for late frosts and protect as necessary. Water early in the day taking the chill off the water. Open the glasshouse as much as possible to freshen the air and avoid fungus.			

The listings are BASIC cultural information for our HOBART area. It is stressed that the information contained in these charts is to be used as a brief, basic guide depending on your own particular environment. Growing conditions vary from grower to grower depending on many factors, eg type of housing, potting medium, local weather conditions and the area where you live. Should you require more detailed information on any particular cultural aspect, it is suggested you seek the advice of advanced orchid members of TOS or a specialist orchid nursery.



August Meeting Results of members who were successful.

Results were compiled by show steward Jim Smith and sent to the editor Peter Manchester. The qualified judges of TOS are Vic. Dawes, Marcus Smith, Ian Woodgate and Jim Smith. Trainee judges assisted in judging the entries.

No entries were received in the classes of Australian Sarcophilus & All. Sp./Hyb. Gomesa Species or Hybrid Australian Native Tuberosus and Australian Native Terrestrials Species or Hybrid.

Judges Vote 1st. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm	1st.	<i>Cym. Amy Winehouse</i>	N & C Doyle
	2nd.	<i>Cym. Karen</i>	N & C Doyle
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	1st.	<i>Cym. Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae'</i>	I Woodgate
	2nd.	<i>Cym. Susikze 'Autumn Nights'</i>	
		x Claude Pepper 'Tangerine Glow'	N & C Doyle
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	1st.	<i>C. browniae</i>	G & G Chequer
	2nd.	<i>C. Chian-Tzy 'Guiding'</i>	N & C Doyle
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Ohd. Cherry Fudge 'Camela'</i>	G & G Chequer
	2nd.	<i>Onc. ornithorhynchum x Twinkle</i>	M Smith
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./ Hyb.	1st.	<i>Masd. Unknown</i>	J & B Smith
	2nd.	<i>Masd. Falcon Sunrise 'Lava Flow'</i>	N & C Doyle
Other Orchid Species	1st.	<i>Max. porphyrostele</i>	I Woodgate
	2nd.	<i>Dinema polybulbon</i>	N & C Doyle
Other Orchid Hybrid	1st.	<i>Paph. Maudiae x D. Miller</i>	G Hagan
	2nd.	<i>Zga. Kiwi 'Twilight' x Z. John Banks</i>	M Smith
Australian Sarcophilus & All. Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Sarco. Wodonga</i>	I Woodgate
	2nd.	<i>Sarco. M & M</i>	N & C Doyle
Australian Native Other Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'</i>	J & B Smith
	2nd.	<i>Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'</i>	N & C Doyle
Best Species Orchid		<i>C. browniae</i>	G & G Chequer
Best Hybrid Orchid		<i>Paph. Maudiae x D Miller</i>	G Hagan
Best of Best		<i>C. browniae</i>	G & G Chequer

Judges Vote 2nd. Division

Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm.	1st.	<i>Cym. Southern King</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	1st.	<i>Cym. Unknown</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	<i>Cym. Sherbert 'Gigili'</i>	S Greatbatch
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	1st.	<i>Rlc. Owen Holmes 'Lavender Lady'</i>	I Crocker
	2nd.	<i>L. anceps var Chamberlainianum</i>	I Crocker
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Cyr.annulare</i>	I Crocker
	2nd.	<i>Onc. Twinkle 'Chian-Tzy'</i>	R Hentschel
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	1st	<i>Gom. crispa</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	No Entry	
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Masd. Unknown</i>	I Crocker
	2nd.	<i>Masd. Orinoco '#1'</i>	V Byers/G Durkin
Other Orchid Species	1st.	<i>Dendrochilum sp.</i>	G Curry
	2nd.	<i>Paph. boxallii</i>	D & V Cleaver
Other Orchid Hybrid	1st.	<i>Phal. Cassandra 'Tahoa Coral'</i>	G Allen
	2nd.	<i>Paph. Greenshank 'Goblet'</i>	D & V Cleaver
Australian Sarcochilus Sp./Hyb.	1st.	<i>Sarco. Bessie 'Creme Dude' x <i>fitzgeraldii</i> 'Pleasant Park'</i>	R Hentschel
	2nd.	No Entry	
Australian Native Tuberous	1st.	<i>Ptst. curta</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	<i>Ptst. pedunculata</i>	G Curry
Australian Native Other	1st.	<i>Den' Carrot Splash x Rusty Bucket</i>	E Mulder
	2nd.	<i>Den. Unknown</i>	P Willson
Best Species		<i>Dendrochilum sp.</i>	G Curry
Best Hybrid		<i>Cym. Southern King</i>	R Mulder
Best of Best		<i>Dendrochilum sp.</i>	G Curry
Orchid of the Month		<i>Gom. crispa</i>	E Mulder

1st.	Poinsettia	S Greatbatch	1st. "Design in Teacup"	A Gerrard
2nd.	Fern	R Hentschel	2nd. "Design in Teacup"	W Glidden

Popular Vote

First Division

1st	<i>Onc.</i> Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'	N & C Doyle
2nd	<i>C. browniae</i>	G & G Chequer
3rd.	<i>Ohd.</i> Cherry Fudge 'Camela	'G & G Chequer

Second Division

1st.	<i>Paph.</i> Greenshank 'Goblet'	D & V Cleaver
2nd.	<i>Ptst. curta</i>	E Mulder
3rd.	<i>Phal.</i> Unknown	S Greatbatch

House Plants

1st.	Poinsettia	S Greatbatch
2nd.	Fern	R Hertschel
3rd.	No Entry	

Floral Arrangement

1st.	"Design in Teacup"	S Greatbatch
2nd.	"Design in Teacup"	G Allen
3rd.	"Design in Teacup"	A Gerrard

The Garden Clubs of Australia Fair

Our society is a member of The Garden Clubs of Australia Southern Tasmanian Zone.

This is the umbrella garden club which over the last two years has been very active in bringing together the entire garden clubs together. Their president Heather Pryor has worked very hard to co ordinate this.

This club benefits our society in a lot of ways. Primarily it enables us to get information about TOS to other interested plant lovers. For an example leaflets advertising our show went out to around 13 different clubs. Representing a very large pool of prospective visitors to our spring show.

Below is information about a giant plant fair they will be holding which you may be interested in. I will be putting in an orchid display for our society. If anyone would like to give me a hand it would be greatly appreciated. Shirley Jackson 62734300 or sajackson555@gmail.com

Saturday and Sunday 5–6 October from 10.00–4.00pm 'Woodbank', 2040 Huon Road, Longley. \$10 entry. Free parking. Free tea/coffee.



PLANT FAIR

Saturday and Sunday 5 – 6 October
For those who love gardens and gardening

**Want to find interesting plants
all in one easy location?**

The Southern Tasmania Zone of the **Garden Clubs of Australia** is organising this one-off event. There will be about 20 stalls selling plants and/or garden-related products and offering gardening advice; and also a Sausage Sizzle.

Relax and stroll around 4 acres that feature three lakes, sweeping lawns, sculptured garden beds and rare and endangered plants. The flora was collected over 50 years by Ken Gillanders OAM from countries once part of the ancient continent of Gondwanaland.



Visit the many stalls and discover a garden treasure. Ask for cultural advice or how to solve a gardening problem from the many keen gardeners on site.



Where: 'Woodbank', 2040 Huon Road, Longley
When: Saturday and Sunday 5 and 6 October 2019
10.00am – 4.00pm

Entry: Adults \$10 each (includes tea/coffee).
Children free. Free parking on site.

Note: Cash sales only. No eftpos avail.

For more information, contact:
Heather Pryor on 03 6231 8493 or
email: irishaven@hotmail.com



More than 25 gardening-related stalls to visit as well as touring the four hectares of Gondwana landscaped gardens and lakes. Sausage sizzle, French crepes and specialist coffee available.



At the conclusion of the judging at the 2018 Spring Show at the Town Hall I was very interested if there were any comments made by the senior judge. I approached one of or trainee judges and asked if any comments were made about the displays. I noted what was said and now I would like to share some of those comments.

Thoughts about members displays at the 2018 Spring Show at the Town Hall.From Editor Peter S Manchester

As we get towards the end of the winter break ,some of our members might be thinking about how we may display out orchids for the 2019 September Spring Show... yes it is not too far away.

We tend to concentrate on our orchids (the spike, the efflorescence, the leaves to name a few) but how much time do members spend working on the design and placement of the orchids, the eye movement due to colour placement, layering, small orchids versus large orchids positioning).

Last year I gave a talk to the society on the display of orchids, giving many examples especially from overseas. I am fairly confident that after 8 /9 months all has been forgotten or dismissed.

During the 2018 Show, as a steward I “ became a fly on the wall” by listening to what some of the judges were saying and what members of the public were commenting on.

Below are few comments I heard

- *Today the modern way to go is that the “display should tell a story”... This was seen in the 2018 Melbourne Orchid show, also the TV program Better Homes and Gardens where exhibitors put a big emphasis on this aspect.*
- *Look at the ends of a display ... extra orchids crowded in is not good. The ends are just as important as the centre.*
- *Some small orchids are too far back and cannot be seen from the front. Two or three members made this mistake.*
- *Hiding small orchids behind larger orchids or in foliage. You may like it but the judges don't*
- *A display of just orchids is Just “old fashioned”. Add a “point of interest” like a small water fountain or a sculpture but make it pertain to the “story” of the display.*
- *Don't display all your orchids on one level. “very old fashioned”*

- *If you are going to put in a point of interest like a tree make it relevant. Better to leave it out than cram it in the display.*
- *Then on the other hand one's display can be too "ordered and scientific". Orchids live in a natural environment and if possible, set it up as this ... but don't put in weeds!!!*
- *Several members had displays that were too cluttered. If it is too crowded, leave some of the orchids at home. It should not be about winning... but I know that this is the ultimate desire of some members !*
- *I believe the Society should have a session on how to display small orchids. We are not good at this.*
- *A comment was made that there are too many whites and yellows... work other colours into your display. Don't put similar colours together.*

We have been often told that our Spring show is about presenting the society to the public, not as an ego booster for the member. We must remember this.

August 2019 Sunday Get Together

Our August gathering was very special. Rosie Hentschel and her family, Anna, Ollie and sister Nell, made us very welcome at their home in Sandford. Our main aim was to see the native orchids which are growing on their property. And we were not disappointed. Fortunately Gary Hill arrived back from his overseas trip and was able to name them for us. Geoff Curry had also been there previously and identified some.

Rosie also showed us her growing collection of orchids. Her father is hoping to grow vegetables in her grow house as well. He will learn.



We were so impressed with the variety of natives, and the easy access to them, that it was decided



to revisit in November when more will be out. We also celebrated the completion of 6 years of our Sunday Get Together. This will also be our Christmas gathering. The plan is to meet and have a meal at a venue as of yet to be determined. Then proceed to Rosie's after which we will visit Peter and Kathy's home on the way back. The restaurant Eating on



the Edge was suggested for our meal but my info says it's closed. Please make suggestions as to where we can go as a reservation should be made ASAP. There will be no gathering for September due to our show. Sharn Davies has kindly offered her home for our October gathering. Details of which will be in the October news letter. Shirley Jackson



One of the highest honours the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. can bestow is to offer Life Membership as an acknowledgement and recognition of outstanding and distinctive contribution of eminent persons to the field of orchid growing in Tasmania..

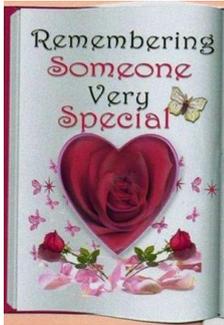
NAME	ADDRESS	ELECTED
BARNETT	<i>Marianne 73/142 Davey Street HOBART</i>	<i>(1992-1993)</i>
	<i>Gordon 73/142 Davey Street HOBART</i>	<i>(1992-1993)</i>
DICKER	<i>Jan 5/1 Piper Road GEILSTON BAY</i>	
LONGDON	<i>John 64 Kellatie Road ROSNY</i>	
MANSFIELD	<i>Ronda 39 Wilmot Road HUONVILLE</i>	
MITCHELL	<i>Mavis</i>	<i>(1988-1989)</i>
NANSCAROW J		
NICHOLAS	<i>Phyl † Chris † † Deceased</i>	
REID B		
SHIRLEY	<i>Don 23 Topham Street ROSE BAY</i>	
SMITH	<i>Jim 11 Warren Court HOWRAH</i>	<i>(2000-2001)</i>
WHITE	<i>Mike 6/319 Macquarie Street SOUTH HOBART</i>	
WILSON	<i>Barry 77 Balook Street LAUDERDALE</i>	

Any further details about these life members would be appreciated by the membership officer and the editor of Greenhood.



2018 Past trophy awards.

*Do you have a trophy at home that was awarded to you at the last Spring show !!!! The TOS committee would love to have them back especially Secretary Bev Woodward ... next meeting or before **please***



Vale Phyl. Nicholas

17 July 1921 - 5 August 2009

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bill, Wendy, Adrian, Kim and families on the passing of their mother and grandmother.

She can rightly be regarded as the matriach of orchid growers and societies in Tasmania.

Phyl. was born on 17 July 1923 and grew up on a rural property at Kempton where she learned to shoot a gun, her father insisted that she could only shoot rabbits if she hit them in the eye to ensure the skin was not damaged.

She attended secretarial school in Hobart and worked at a local radio station and the Strand Theatre (now Odeon). Phyl. met and married Chris. in 1948, they operated a service station for a number of years and spent time rally driving assisting with the establishment of Baskerville race track, manning check points for Targa Tasmania and generally enjoying life in the fast lane, Phyl. was renowned for her 'lead foot', she was the second woman in Tasmania to obtain a CAMS license.

Her interest in orchids came about when she took Chris. to and orchid show and bought him an orchid for his birthday. As Chris. became a grower she joined him in a hobby that became a life long interest. Phyl. won many prizes and awards with her flowers, she set a standard of growing and presentation which became the bench mark for which we can only aspire to reach.

She established the Tasmanian Orchid Society newsletter, served as president over a number of years and as state registrar of judging, along with Chris. she conducted judging classes for 40 years from 1963. She was a life member of TOS. Recipient of Award of Honour from the Australian Orchid Foundation.

She also assisted in the establishment of the orchid societies in northern Tasmania and was the initial chairperson of Orchids Tasmania (representative body of AOC in Tasmania)

Phyl. and Chris. were partners in life and orchid growing, her great loves were Chris, family and orchids. Following Chris' death in 2014 her interest in orchids and the TOS did not wane, she was always interested to know what was happening and provide me with cultural advice.

I hold her responsible for the establishment and popularity of masdevallia orchids in Tasmania when she started importing them from South America along with Peter and Helen Jackson.

On a number of occasions, when she was not feeling the best, she told me she had reached the pearly gates and had complained to Chris. they would not let her in. She is now united with Chris. in orchid heaven.

Phyl. was a lady with an indomitable, never give up you can always do better.

Farewell to a great friend.

Jim SmithTasmanian Orchid Society Inc.



The executive asks members to consider donating \$10.00 towards the prizes at the show. The prize is in the catalogue and acknowledged well. See Secretary Bev. Woodward.



Most members would know that life member Jan Dicker makes corsages to sell to the public at the Spring Show. She does an excellent presentation but she does need donations of single orchids, diasmas, jasmine and greenery like asparagus fronds. Can you help? She would welcome you if you could provide.



As much as we'd like them to, orchid blooms can't last

forever. There will come a day when your orchid's blooms will wilt and fall. If you're a new orchid owner, then you'll be delighted to learn this doesn't mean your orchid is dead. Rather, it is entering a resting period.

With the proper care, your orchid will likely bloom again. Let's discuss how you should care for orchid spikes to encourage reblooming.

1. Give Your Spikes a Check-Up

Make it a priority to keep a close eye on your spikes. Healthy spikes are green, thick and firm to the touch. A brown or yellow spike will not produce any new buds. Weak, short or thin spikes are signs of inadequate light, too much light or a mineral deficiency.



If you suspect a virus, isolate your plant to keep the sickness from spreading. For weak spikes, place your plant in an east-facing window, with a curtain to diffuse the direct sunlight. For short spikes, less light is key, so move the orchid away from the window. And for thin spikes, beef up your plant's mineral levels with a phosphorous-rich fertilizer, and move it to closer to the light.

2. Keep Your Spikes Trim and Neat

In a way, your orchid's spikes are like your hair. If you let them grow for too long without a trim, they can become a wild and out-of-control mess! After your last blooms drop, if your spikes are brown, cut them off at the base. If your spikes are green, cut them 2 cms above a node. "Tidying up" your spikes will conserve your plant's energy for upcoming growth.

3. Sterilize Your Tools

Speaking of trimming your spikes, keep in mind that your spikes will only be as clean as the tools you use to cut them. To clean your tools, follow these steps:

Rinse your tools under hot water. Scrub with soap, and rinse again. Dry away all traces of moisture with a clean paper towel. Light an alcohol lamp or gas stove, and run the blades of your tool in the direct flame for a few seconds. (Note: This should only be done for non-coated tools, as heat may cause damage to coatings.) Place your tools on a paper towel and let them cool.

Once cooled, your tools are OK to use to trim spikes. After you've finished cutting your spikes, clean your tools once more before storing them. For alternative methods for cleaning orchid tools, [click here](#).



4. Stimulate your Spikes with Cold Air

In nature, orchids develop a bloom spike in the late spring when temperatures drop. The spike grows during the winter, with blooms appearing in late winter or early spring. In our homes, however, we keep our temperatures much the same. Because of this, the orchid may forget when it's time for blooming to start.



So what's an easy way to encourage your orchid to spike? Give it a little cool air! Place your orchid in a cooler part of your home for about a week, avoiding cold blasts of air from fans or air conditioners. An optimal nighttime temperature is between 16 and 22 degrees centigrade.

Remember, your orchid is still living even after the blooms have fallen. Keep a watchful eye on your spikes, and you'll likely have more beautiful blooms in your future!

Three Australian greenhood orchids for the windowsill: *Pterostylis curta*, *nutans*, and Nodding Grace

Australia is home to a bewildering variety of terrestrial orchids, however perhaps no other group is more commonly recognized than the greenhood orchids, genus *Pterostylis*. This article focuses on three members – *P. curta*, *P. nutans*, and their artificial hybrid, *P. Nodding Grace*. All can be grown easily on a cold windowsill provided some basic cultural requirements are met.

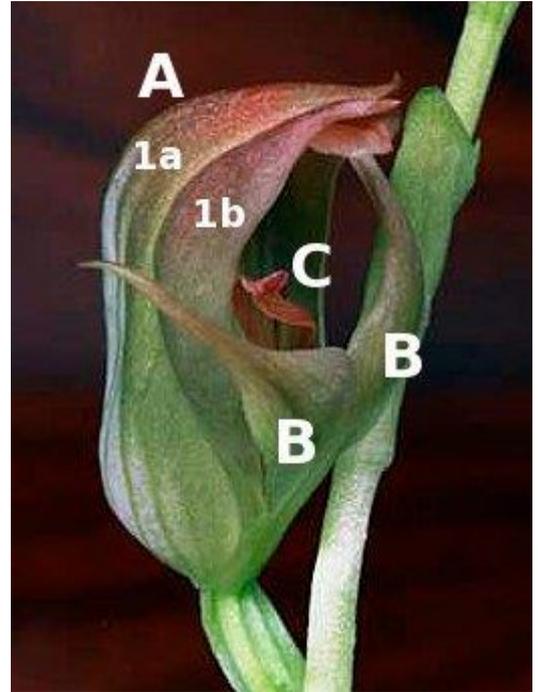


At one time all greenhoods were placed in the genus *Pterostylis*. Recently though, a split was made – those that generally flower in the autumn without a basal rosette of leaves, are now in the genus *Diplodium*, while the winter/spring flowering species that retain their leaves when in bloom remain in *Pterostylis*. **The plants discussed in this article are from the latter group.**

***Pterostylis nutans* flowers**

Pterostylis nutans has a unique turned down flower with a hood that is nearly completely closed.

Pterostylis curta (the blunt greenhood) and *Pterostylis nutans* (the nodding greenhood) have overlapping ranges in Australia being found in woodlands from coastal southeast Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, southeast South Australia, Tasmania, and Lord Howe Island. They prefer moist habitats in the wild, but the range of forest types they're found in is broad, from grassy woodlands to riparian forests to subtropical rain forest, and even in exotic pine plantations. In habitat these are colony forming plants, increasing rapidly by tuber offsets. Remarkably, it appears no record of the two ever hybridizing with each other in the wild.



Pterostylis Nodding Grace is an artificially produced hybrid that was registered by R.C. Nash in 1984. The exact cross is *P. curta* (seed parent) and *P. nutans* (pollen parent). I find it hard to believe that these two species haven't crossed naturally somewhere in their vast distribution. Perhaps one hasn't found a record of its occurrence, or maybe one has yet to be discovered and recorded. It is possible they have different pollinators and so are sexually isolated in the wild (a strong possibility given the differences in their flower morphology).

***Pterostylis* flower structure :** A. hood (1a dorsal sepal, 1b lateral petals. B. lower sepals. C. lip or labellum

The common name, greenhood, speaks to the flower's shape – something like a horned animal with a hood over its head. The general morphology of a *Pterostylis* flower is a hood-like structure composed of the dorsal sepal fused to the lateral petals, two lower sepals pointing outward from the flower (often upward, but not always), a tongue-like lip within the hood, and just behind the lip a winged column (the sex organ containing both male and female parts). For orientation, see the photo on the left of *P. curta*.

The long and short of it is that a pollinator (always a type of fly for this genus) lands on the lip having been attracted to the colour of the flower or in some cases the odour (both colour and odour or resemble carrion, but they don't smell bad to humans). The lip, being hinged at its base, springs backward toward the column, thus pinning the poor fly down. The trap then slowly releases

and the fly escapes with no prize (Pterostylis produce no nectar), but with luck the pollen of the flower attaches to its back. The fly visits another flower and the process is repeated, this time depositing the attached pollen onto the next flower.

Pterostylis Nodding Grace

This pot full of Pterostylis Nodding Grace was grown from just two bulbs over four years.

While P. curta has an upright facing flower with the opening of the hood in an outward position and the horn-like sepals pointing upward, in P. nutans the hood is almost fully closed and the sepals point laterally or even downward. P. Nodding Grace, not surprisingly has an intermediate shape. All are green in colour, but both P. curta and P. Nodding Grace have a red-orange pigmentation in the the hood, sepals, and lip areas. Only the very tip of the hood in P. nutans has red-orange colour. In all three the hood is translucent, with P. nutans being the most (presumably to tell the fly which way is out when it is released).



Plants grow from small bulbs, not more than a large bean in size. These are produced at the ends of branch less stolons that grow from the previous year's bulb. Typically, these dive downward, but also seen running along the surface of the growing medium. Regardless, bulbs are always produced underground since the stolon eventually finds its way into the substrate. To avoid this one suggests planting new bulbs at least 5 centimeters deep, and even deeper is fine too. Plants are fully dormant from late spring through early autumn.

Pterostylis nutans bulbs

The dormant bulbs of Pterostylis nutans are small, not bigger than a large bean. Here you can see new shoots forming – these need to be planted soon.

Sometime in September or October the plants commence growth. Before Christmas time they will be nearly fully grown, bearing relatively small rosettes of bright green leaves. These can be up to 10 centimeters across in vigorous plants, and little as half that size to flower well. Since these plants increase rapidly via offsets it is important to make sure they don't crowd the pot too much.

Flower spikes will begin to form around Christmas and into mid-February. At first growth is slow, particularly in the coldest weather, but as the temperatures rise to 10 C or more daily they will progress much faster. Flowering usually commences from late February to mid-March, but can extend into early April. P. nutans typically never has more than one flower per stem and flower stalks are fairly short, not more than 15-25 centimeters tall. P. curta and P. Nodding Grace can both produce up to at least two flowers per stalk, though one is more common. They also are a bit taller, perhaps up to 30 centimeters in vigorous plants.

Pterostylis curta stolons

New bulbs are formed from stolons that typically dive down into the pot, but sometimes trail along the surface. This can be largely avoided by planting the bulbs at least 5 cm deep.

Of the three, P. curta has the largest flowers, followed by P. Nodding Grace, and finally P. nutans. Regardless, the size difference is not that much with P. curta having flowers up to 3.5 centimeters long and P. nutans around 2.0 centimeters. Usually they flower nearly synchronously, so a large potful can be quite a spectacle. If you decide to bring them into a warmer area during flowering, realize that temperatures above 15 C or so will shorten the flower's life. The flowers first darken to an orange-red as they are fading and then slowly shrivel.



A few cultural tips. First, you grow these in a very loose mix that has at least some organic matter. Experimenting with a number of composts most growers have settled on one that seems to work nicely: **2 parts fine perlite, one part potting soil, and one part silica sand**. Be sure that the pot is completely free draining or you may rot the plants out. Fertilizer should be applied every few weeks during the growth cycle. Use organic and inorganic types.

Pterostylis nutans flower stalk

The flower stalk starts growth from late December to mid-February, growing slowly at first.

Though these are vigorous plants, be careful when fertilizing. Suggest a low N-P-K ratio and at a very dilute rate, somewhere between 1/8 to 1/4 that recommended on the bottle. Natural liquid fertilizers like sea weed extracts and fish emulsion should work well too. Given the small size of the plants, avoid any pelleted products (even slow release) since you will likely burn them.

Second, never allow the plants to dry out during their growth cycle.

While these are tolerant plants, they cannot take any drying while in growth. Even a couple days of drying will likely kill them outright.

Humidity need not be that high, somewhere around 40-50% should be adequate. In late spring they will begin to go dormant. At this time stop watering them completely. If you continue to water, they will remain green into the summer and the newly formed bulbs will even begin to grow.



If plants remain green into June, simply withdraw watering and that will force them into dormancy. In the autumn when they begin growth, carefully keep them slightly moist, but don't over water since they are growing new roots and you don't want to disturb them. Once in full growth you can water as needed to keep them evenly moist. While rainwater is best.

Pterostylis flowers side view

From left to right: P. nutans, P. Nodding Grace, P. curta

Third, repot, repot, repot!!! I

recommend removing the plants from their pots every summer and inspecting the new bulbs. If your plants are happy, they should be increasing in number from season to season. You can store them in a sealed plastic bag in a warm place provided the bulbs are completely dry to the touch and replant in early September, or you can



repot them immediately into new containers and keep these dry. Word of warning – while they can take dry conditions during dormancy, do not allow them to be baked dry. I recommend putting them in a shady place outside that gets no rainfall. To ensure they aren't desiccated during this time, very occasionally, sprinkle a little water on the pots. Refrain from actually watering the pots however. If you store them in bags over summer, you'll see them initiate growth even in the soil less state. You must pot them soon after, before the roots begin to grow. Temperatures during dormancy should be high, between 20-30 C. Don't put them in the refrigerator. Plant them deep, between 5-10 centimeters down, with the pointier side up.

Fourth, grow them in a bright, shady place. In nature they can live in partial sun, but this is not necessary to grow them. If you live in a climate where there is essentially no frost, or warmer, you can grow them outside.. An unheated, frost-free greenhouse is perfect for growing these, but any cool windowsill that is not too dry will do just fine.

Finally, enjoy these neat little plants! Once you get the hang of growing them, you'll find they are very easy compared to most terrestrial orchids. Unfortunately, the hard part will be finding any for sale or even trade.

Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. Library Report - 1st September 2019

The librarian Sally Johnson reports that after an audit there are 23 orchid related books/catalogues/ papers that cannot be accounted for. They are not listed in the borrowing book .

Please look in your library to see if you have anyof the TOS numbered books etc.

Sally does have a few names but they may no longer be members. Your help in this matter would be appreciated. Sally Johnson Library Monitor 1st Sept. 2019