



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GREENHOOD

Volume 63 No.6 June 2020

Big Al's Bits and Pieces.

Autumn is the time when the South African orchid *Stenoglottis longifolia* comes into its own and puts up a magnificent display of pink/purple blooms on tall inflorescences. They are native to the provinces of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.



People that have been to my house know that I have a small dome that is covered with 50% blue shade cloth. This is where I grow my *Stenoglottis longifolia*. They like filtered light and shade and must be kept out of full sun. (Continued on page 3)

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Barry Davidson's Pleionies
at 2019 Spring Show

NOTICE:

All members please note the post office box address has been changed.

Please address all written correspondence to:

**Mrs Bev Woodward, Secretary
Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc.
PO Box 51 South Hobart 7004**

From the Editor

Hello everyone and welcome to the June GREENHOOD. I hope you are all keeping well and hopefully I'll be seeing you at some kind of meeting in the not too distant future. Maybe when I publish July's newsletter next week (ha ha), we will have some idea when that might be. Thanks to those people who have contributed articles, photos and content. This makes for more interesting and varied reading. It appears that there are some members who have not received their newsletters due to typos in my email list if you know of anyone in this situation please get them to email me. If you are needing some more YouTube orchid entertainment here are a few more suggestions: **Orchid Hunters Australia** showing natives in situ featuring army fatigue wearing Julian Pitcher; South African David Scott's channel **Orchid's & Fynbos** (disa native habitat); and as suggested by Jan Dicker, **johnny A** by nurseries online featuring Clive Hall and Mt Beenak Orchids.

Happy reading and tube surfing
Cheers, Sandra Greatbatch, Editor

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Please address any items for the newsletter with the word GREENHOOD in the subject line.

Deadline for the newsletter Friday 10 days prior to the general meeting.

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

Being mainly terrestrial I grow them in a mix of 1 part good compost, 3 parts coarse sand and crushed rotting hawthorn leaves. This gives a well-draining mix which they like. The roots like to be damp, not wet, all the time. The exception is in winter where after flowering the plants die down and go into a dormant phase where water is withheld altogether until spring when the new shoots appear. New shoots are the signal to start watering again. They are greedy feeders so fertilise with your favourite fertiliser regularly.

Stenoglottis longifolia multiplies quickly by rootlets. When they are in their dormancy the fleshy roots detach from the central shoot and each rootlet grows its own shoot the next season. It doesn't take long to get a community pot full of flowering blooms that can last for 2 months.

When the inflorescence emerges in autumn it looks very weak and delicate but don't stake them as they will straighten up and become very sturdy as they mature.

Aphids are a pest and I reckon that snails would love them so take the necessary precautions. I've thrown snail bait all around my garden.

White blotches on the leaves indicate under watering or the mix has dried out and black tips indicate too much heat or direct sun.

These wonderful plants make an eye-catching display. Grow one in a community pot and you won't be disappointed.

Happy Growing

Alan Millward



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum. The tepal fringing and labellum become animated in the breeze and the short lived blooms have a slight wet sock smell. Photo S Greatbatch

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 **Peter Willson**. Please phone Peter on **62484375** who lives near Cambridge to decide for PICKUP time and payment.

Tasmanian Orchid Society payments and treasury matters

Members should be aware that the 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, the preferred method is by direct debit. **Direct Debit details are Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. BSB – 067000 CBA Acc. No. 28035122**. 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 PO Box 51 South Hobart 7004. Thank you for your past membership of the Society as we very much value your attendance and contribution to these dynamic and active Society of Orchid growers. As of the 1st January 2020 membership renewal dues are required. Dual & family renewal membership is \$25.00 p.a. and \$20.00 for individual's renewal. These can be paid by Direct Debit, cheque or by cash at any meeting. Direct Debit details are given above.



Left *Dendrobium* Green Apple This one has a slight pleasant deli meat smell. The spikes took a very long time to develop and **Right** *Dendrobium* Cassiope a primary cross between *Den.nobile* and *Den.moniliform* a prolific bloomer with a sweet honey fragrance. Photos S. Greatbatch

Cultural Notes from My Perspective

Watering and other tricks through winter.

I have just a few tips to help you through the winter watering of your orchids. Firstly, make the weather forecast for the next few days be one of your best friends. If you have a smart phone, install the App for the Bureau of Meteorology. If not, then watch the ABC Weather at the end of the News or read the weather section in the Mercury Newspaper. The first thing you need to take special notice of is the expected overnight temperatures together with the direction and strength of the wind. If there is no wind associated with low temperatures, you can generally expect that frosts will occur. Frosts can be devastating especially against new growths and flower spikes. This damage is huge if you had watered late afternoon or during the evening prior. Water will stay in the leaf axis and in the spike sheaths and your tears will flow in the morning when you check on your plants.

Morning watering is the preferred time as the leaves of your plants have a chance to dry out during the day. The other thing about morning watering is that the water laying in the hose on the ground will be icy to the touch. Use it on other parts of your garden or just fill up a bucket so you don't waste it and use that for the ground under your benches to keep the humidity up when the sun shines during the day.

Air movement during winter is important. Cold, still nights will give you frosts. You will never get a frost when it's windy. Fans that can circulate the air above your orchids is a great way to keep things under control.

One big mistake some newer growers make when winter arrives is to take their plants indoors where you have either a fire going, under-floor heating or a heat pump keeping you and the family cosy. Plants don't get up and move to a warmer climate over winter.

Cymbidiums and Dendrobiums generally are a cool growing orchid, so they thrive with the annual temperature changes. They need that variation in Summer to initiate flowering. If you are growing Phalaenopsis, you wouldn't dream of growing them outside with your Cymbidiums. They would lay their heads down and die if you did but the Cymbidiums will thrive nonetheless.

The general rule of thumb when trying to work out what conditions work with whichever genera orchid you have purchased, is to check which Country they are the native flora to, the latitude and the height above sea level. Cymbidiums and most Coelogynes may grow within the Tropics, but because of their altitude above sea level, they are generally cool growers. There is always an exception to the rule. So please ask around your fellow Society members for their feedback on how they grow that specific orchid that you covet.

Remember when you are looking at your plants, especially when you are picking them up, you always put them back down in exactly the same position. This enables your plants to flower and grow to perfection. If you don't follow that rule, you will have new growths curling around in the pot following the sun and the flowers twisting around the flower spike.

I go back to the previous statement I made. In the wild, plants don't get up and walk when the climate changes. In the Northern hemisphere, you would place your plants facing South to get the best of the sun, but here in the Southern hemisphere, you should have the leading bulb or

growth facing North. My easy trick for this is to always have its name tag at the front of the pot for ease of reading and to show how that pot should be placed on the bench.

If growing on mounts, in hanging baskets or in pots in wire hangars, similar rules apply, but the watering differs. The orchids on mounts will need more regular attention than those in pots or hanging baskets. They will dry out more quickly than plants on benches that are surrounded with similar sized pots. Do not have small pots mixed with larger ones if you are placing them in trays. Plants in wire or large lattice plastic trays will dry out more quickly than plants in small lattice plastic or a plastic tray with irregular holes in them. Similarly, plants on the edges of benches will dry out more quickly than those in the middle of your benches. Therefore, you will need to give them more attention when watering.

Automatic watering systems are great to have, but it is very important that you take time to do some hand watering so that you can keep an eye on what is happening throughout your collection. This is always a chance to deal with any weeds before they start seeding and hence spreading throughout the pots. It is preferred that your benches have wire tops as against wooden slat or paling tops for better air circulation and better drainage after watering.



Christine and Noel Doyle's wonderful display at the 2019 Spring Show
at the Town Hall Hobart Photo S Greatbatch

Do watch out for the dreaded slug and snail invaders over winter. Baysol pellets are my preferred antidote to those pests. Also, watch out for mealy bugs and treat infestations with EcoOil. That will also deal with any cases of scale if they happen to occur. If in doubt that your orchids need watering, go back to the tried and true method of calculation. Put your finger into the potting media. If it comes out dirty, then your plant doesn't need water, but if

it comes out clean, then go ahead and water on the best, suitable day. Better they be dry and cold, than wet and cold.

There is one other method of checking. Pick up your plant and it feels heavy, then generally it will be fine, but if it flies over your shoulder, quickly catch it and give it a good soaking. Time to ensure that your Cymbidium flowering spikes are marked with the placement of new bamboo stakes or sturdy wire ones. As the spike grows, gently attach the spike to the stake with either clips or tie-wires. Once all the buds are out of their sheath, then you can gently remove those sheaths and adjust the ties or clips. This is best done in the mornings when the sun is shining and the air is warmer. Cymbidium spikes are very brittle on cold winter mornings. Just ask any Cymbidium orchid grower and they will confirm their horrors of training flower spikes on cold days. I remember shedding tears when accidents like this happened to a special one I wanted to exhibit at the Spring Show. They just do not mend with glue or sticky tape, my son once suggested.

Bev Woodward

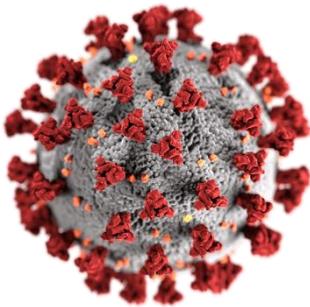
Subject: Fwd: **A LITTLE INCENTIVE TO DO THE RIGHT THING**
from Peter Willson

I cannot vouch for the veracity of the content so treat it how you will....

The paragraphs below were written by a nurse who works with ventilators:

Here you go folks... for those people who don't understand what it means to be on a ventilator but want to take the chance of going back to work....

For starters, it's NOT an oxygen mask put over the mouth while the patient is comfortably lying down and reading magazines. Ventilation for Covid-19 is a painful intubation that goes down your throat and stays there until you live or you die.



It is done under anaesthesia for 2 to 3 weeks without moving, often upside down, with a tube inserted from the mouth up to the trachea and allows you to breathe to the rhythm of the lung machine. The patient can't talk or eat, or do anything naturally - the machine keeps you alive.

Add a tube into your stomach, either through your nose or skin for liquid food, a sticky bag around your butt to collect the diarrhea, a foley catheter to collect urine, an IV for fluids and meds, an A-line to monitor your BP that is completely dependent

upon finely calculated med doses, teams of nurses, assistants to reposition your limbs every two hours and lying on a mat that circulates ice cold fluid to help bring down your 104 degree temp. The discomfort and pain they feel from this means medical experts have to administer sedatives and painkillers to ensure tube tolerance for as long as the machine is needed. It's like being in an artificial coma.

After 20 days from this treatment, a young patient loses 40% muscle mass, and gets mouth or vocal cords trauma, as well as possible pulmonary or heart complications.

It is for this reason that old or already weak people can't withstand the treatment and die. Many of us are in this boat ... so stay safe unless you want to take the chance of ending up here. This is NOT the flu.



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FLIGHT CENTRE

22nd Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show

1 - 5 September 2021



Planning Committee Update May 2020

Welcome to our latest planning update for the 2021 AOC Conference & Show.

What a difficult and unique situation we are all negotiating presently with COVID-19. The Planning Committee, as with the rest of Australia, is now only able to meet electronically, so members are holding regular Skype meetings. We are forging ahead with plans for a spectacular AOCC Conference and Show with the expectation that by early next year, all will be clear for September 2021. Things are definitely looking more promising than they were a month ago, but because there is still uncertainty around what the conference could look like, or if indeed it may need to be postponed due to government restrictions, we are **EXTENDING THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT to 31 March 2021.**

But planning continues for 1 to 5 September 2021!

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

We are putting together a truly impressive line-up of presenters for registrants to learn from. **Olaf Gruss** and **Fred Clarke** are the latest of our international speakers to be confirmed. Information about speakers and their topics is being added to our website regularly, so visit aocc2021.org/speakers to get the latest on the speakers in the scientific program.

There are probably many of you who have attended a presentation by **Fred Clarke** from Sunset Valley Orchids, just north of San Diego in California, on one of his previous visits to Australia. I'm sure you were impressed with his passion for orchids, which he has been growing for over 40 years, and hybridizing for 38 of them. He's an extremely interesting and engaging speaker, and even if you have seen him before, you will not regret adding at least one of his talks to your 'to do' list.

Fred's new presentation on *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes* and *Catasetum* will feature a review of the important species, historic and recent hybridizing trends, fascinating pollination strategy and fundamentals for the best cultural practices to grow these plants successfully. His other talk, **Becoming an 80th Percentile Grower**, will promote a new perspective on growing orchids: imagining our orchids as a living art collection with ourselves as curators. It certainly has me intrigued, and I'm looking forward to being there.

WEBSITE

Our website is active, and hopefully can provide you with all the information you require. The domain name is www.aocc2021.org and the email address info@aocc2021.org. It is also accessible through the AOC's website orchidsaustralia.com.au/index.php/events-shows.

FACEBOOK

To join our Facebook group, click on the **f** in the footer of any page of the website, or go to www.facebook.com/groups/AOCC2021. This is a private group so you will need to answer a couple of easy questions to be invited.

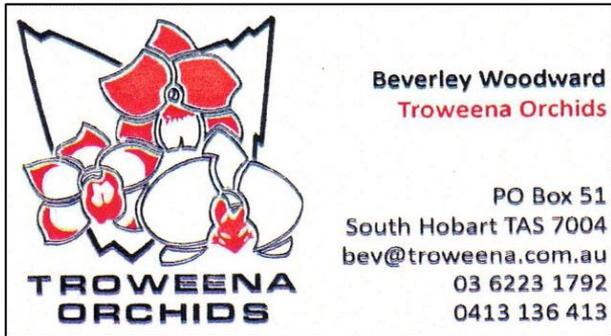
As always, if you have a question or concern, or simply want more information, send us an email or give us a call. We're here to provide you with the best possible experience at next year's conference and show, and welcome your feedback.

Robyn Brown

AOCC2021 Planning Committee Member

robynbrown8@bigpond.com





Hi there, Tasmanian Orchid Society Members. With the disruption of our Meetings until further notice, I'm inviting those who need pots, labels, pens, stakes, or even advice, to get their Winter re-potting up to date while practicing their self-isolation as ordered by our Governments. Maybe there is a specific orchid plant you have on your 'want' list too. I am available by appointment only, so if you need anything, please call me on 0413 136 413 (best number) or 6223 1792 (if desperate) and I will give you directions to my home. Please keep well and obey all instructions for your best health outcomes. Cheers, Bev.

ZYGOPETALUMS

STEPHEN MONKHOUSE ORCHIDS

WINTER PLANT & FLASK LISTING 2020

“IMPORTANT NOTICE ALL ORCHID GROWERS IN TASMANIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA, CAN NOW PLACE ORDERS FOR SINGLE PLANTS – I HAVE CERTIFICATION.”

Anyone wanting the above listing can contact either Bev or Sandra for a pdf

Got some orchid related items you wish to buy, sell, trade or swap? Extra plants, Whole collections, books etc. Something on your wish list? Why not advertise it in the GREENHOOD?

Email details to the Editor



Left. TOS members enjoying a wonderful Sunday get together at Anna and Rosie's property near South Arm organised by Shirley Jackson November 2019.

Above. *Caleana major* (Flying Duck Orchid).

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Sarc. Fitzhart 'Gold on Red'
X *Sarc.* Fitzhart 'Red Blush'
Photo S Greatbatch