



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY

GREENHOOD

Volume 63 No.4 April 2020



Pterostylis parviflora (tiny greenhood) is a small, multi flowered Greenhood Orchid that grows along the east coast of Australia from Queensland to Southern Tasmania. In Tasmania it grows in open dry forest and once social distancing rules have been eased can be found growing in the foothills of Mt Wellington and Peter Murell Reserve at Kingston flowering from Mid-March to late May.

Pterostylis parviflora (tiny greenhood), Photography and notes by Geoff Curry

The winners of the March Judging Competition

Photos by Gary Hill

Division 1:

Division 2:



Stanhopea graveolens, J & B Smith



Grobya amherstiae, Matt Kemp

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From the Editor

First I wish to give a special thank you to Peter Manchester for all his hard work as the previous Greenhood Editor. I wish him well with his future research project. Thank you for entrusting me with the roll of editor for the Greenhood newsletter. As you can see I have changed the format a little bit. I will endeavour to create a newsletter that people enjoy and look forward to. I hope the members can support me in this roll by supplying me with articles, stories, photographs and information. I've not done this before so this will be a bit of a learning curve. I currently work as a cleaner and I have formerly worked in electronics and jewellery manufacture. My partner Paul is a guitar repairer/manufacturer and my 18 year old son Oscar will be helping to get me up to speed using Microsoft Word. Thanks should also go to Shirley Jackson and Mike White for giving me some inspiration and ideas for this newsletter.

In the current situation of social distancing and isolation I find a valuable resource for fuelling my orchid addiction is with info and entertainment found on YouTube. So that is the subject of my first article. Geoff Curry has contributed a great article on natives in Hobart surrounds and Bev has added cultural notes for the current season.

I hope you enjoy my first edition of the GREENHOOD

Sandra Greatbatch Editor.

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Please address any items for the newsletter with '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 are not of the Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. and disclaims all liability against any statements made.

Notice:

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

Please address all written correspondence to:

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Report from the President

With the postponement of our regular monthly meetings this is my first opportunity to introduce myself to members who may not know me. My background is as an educator and historian but am now retired from the workforce. I am married and have three beautiful grandchildren. If I look at all the things that I am interested in, they fall into three categories – history (military and Tasmania), gardening and travel.

I am very much a novice orchid grower but am learning rapidly from my involvement with the Tasmania Orchid Society. At the Annual General Meeting last year, I took on the role of Minute Secretary and so over the last 12 months have learnt much about how it operated. In the last couple of weeks though I have realised that I still have much to learn and big shoes to fill – thanks Peter W.

For the last 8 or so years I have chaired and administered The Headstone Project which is all about ensuring that our First World War veterans have their last resting place suitably marked. Through my involvement, I have come into contact with people from many walks of life and am happy to use some of those contacts as appropriate for the benefit of TOS. Several years ago, I took on the role of president of the Lenah Valley Garden Club, so you see I am well versed in chairing meetings etc.

You will no doubt realise by now that our general meetings are on hold until such time as the government feels that it is safe for us to meet once more. Let us hope that it doesn't take too long. So, having said that the auction night will be postponed until such time as we can meet. The Autumn Show is cancelled and any decision about the Spring Show will be made closer to the time as it is not until October.

The committee has taken the decision to not hold the state conference this year. We have taken this decision earlier as we have people coming from interstate as guest speakers and it would not be fair on them to be cancelling closer to the time. Also Sally Johnson and her committee have put a great deal of time and effort into the organisation so far and it would not be fair to ask them to continue doing so if there was any doubt about it going ahead.

The Greenhood newsletter will continue to come out on a regular basis and will be the main way we can all keep in touch. If you have any photographs you would like to share, any queries you think another member might be able to answer or some culture notes you would like to share I feel sure Sandra Greatbatch our new editor would love to have them.

To all please stay safe and stay well.

Andrea Gerrard OAM

President



Front, detail and back views of *Oncidium Ron's Rippling Delight*. Images and plant grown by S. Greatbatch.
This orchid is delightfully scented like cloves and vanilla.

My Last Day of Freedom.

By Geoff Curry

After an around the state tour I had 3 days planned break before starting another ten days tour so Day 1 of my break was taken up with the usual things, sleep in, do my washing, buy some groceries, ignore the lawn that needs mowing and admire how well my orchid collection thrives in my absence. Day 2 was filled with admiring my orchid collection again, mowing the lawn and a bit of overdue housework so on day 3 of my break I knew I needed a change from this routine so grabbed my cameras and headed out to have a look at the native orchids flowering around Hobart.

Stop one was the Cascade Track to check a known site for *Corunastylis nudiscapa* (bare midge orchid) a small terrestrial orchid with a scape only 35 to 80mm tall, ending in a dense flower spike of between 3 and 15 tiny flowers only 3.5 mm across. This orchid was named from material collected on the lower slopes of Mt Wellington in 1840 and 1852 but was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 2008. It was originally thought to be a species that also grows in Victoria and NSW but studies of the plants in 2012 confirmed it as a Tasmanian endemic orchid.



Corunastylis nudiscapa
(bare midge orchid)



Pterostylis parviflora
(tiny greenhood)

While walking to a known site I spotted a beautiful example growing in an open area beside the walking track, easily the best example of this species I have ever found so proceeded to photograph it and is often the case when you stop and get down to orchid level, spotted a colony of *Pterostylis parviflora* growing nearby.

Stop 2 was the upper area of Water Works Reserve to check another site for *Corunastylis nudiscapa* and found several plants in bud and one with a flower just opening. Walking through the reserve I found lots of *Pterostylis parviflora* (tiny greenhood) a small multi flowering greenhood orchid that grows to 250mm tall and has up to 6 small flowers that all look inwards towards the scape. It's usually easy to see as it's a very bright green colour.

There were also *Eriochilus cucullatus* (parson's bands or pale autumn orchid) scattered through the reserve. This unusual but common orchid is leafless at flowering time so it's just a brown scape with the distinctive pink flowers dancing in the wind. The large coloured sepals vary from rich dark pink to pale white.



Eriochilus cucullatus
(parson's bands or pale autumn orchid)



Corunastylis tasmanica
(Tasmanian midge-orchid)

My next stop was Peter Murrell Reserve at Kingston to check for *Corunastylis*

tasmanica (Tasmanian midge-orchid) another Tasmanian endemic orchid with a scape to 200mm tall and distinctive glands on the tips of the sepals, making identification easier. Growing in the same area are my favourite orchid *Chiloglottis reflexa* and a number of *Pterostylis parviflora*.

Chiloglottis reflexa (autumn bird-orchid) is small single flowered bird orchid with a scape to 100mm tall, easily recognised by its prominent labellum covered in dark

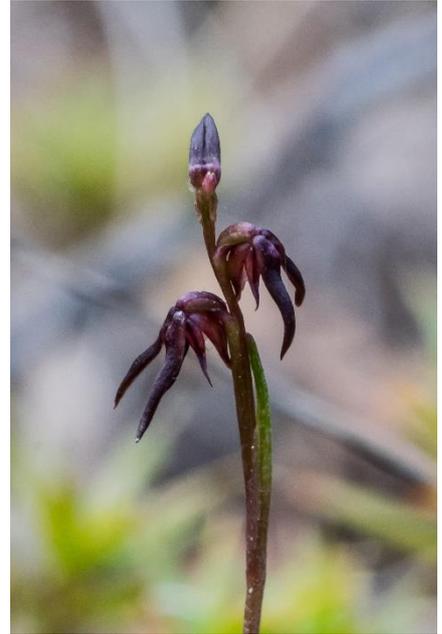


Chiloglottis reflexa
(autumn bird-orchid)

shiny calli and a large basal gland that mimics the back of a (flightless) female thynnine wasp, to attract its pollinator, a male thynnine wasp.

Having scored the 'Corunastylis Daily Double', I set off to the lower slopes of Mt Wellington behind Lenah Valley to try for the Trifecta with *Corunastylis despectans* that should also be starting to flower.

Corunastylis despectans (sharp midge-orchid) is a small dark coloured multi flowered orchid with a scape only 35mm tall with dense inflorescence of up to 35 flowers. Even with a GPS waypoint at a known location it is still very hard to find and required several minutes on hands and knees searching to locate a few scapes, one with some open flowers.



Corunastylis despectans
(sharp midge-orchid)

My next booked tours were cancelled as the state was put into lockdown and we are now Social Distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19 so the orchids are left to flower on their own until the restrictions are lifted.

We are lucky to live in Tasmania with over 210 species of native orchids and especially in Hobart with a full altitude range from sea level to Alpine within 30 minute drive of the city centre and can find at least one species of orchid flowering every day of the year.

References:

Jones D, Wapstra H, Tonelli P and Harris S (1999) The Orchids of Tasmania.

<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Corunastylis-nudiscapa-listing-statement.pdf>

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 this 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.

March Meeting Results

Judges' Vote 1St. Division

Category	1 st	2 nd
Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm	No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	No Entry	
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	No Entry	
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	No Entry	
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	No Entry	
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./Hyb.	<i>Masd. Golden Krieks 'Crown Vista'</i> J & B Smith	<i>Masd. floribundum</i> J & B Smith
Other Orchid Species	<i>Max. parahybunensis</i> J & B Smith	<i>Stan. graveolens</i> J & B Smith
Other Orchid Hybrid	<i>Epi. Golden Valley 'Hildos'</i> I Woodgate	No Entry
Australian Sarcocylus & All. Sp./Hyb.	<i>Sarco. Marina Harriot 'Royal Plush'x Riverdene 'December Cream'</i> I Woodgate	No Entry
Australian Native Tuberos	No Entry	
Australian Native Other Sp./Hyb.	No Entry	
Best Species Orchid	<i>Max. parahybunensis</i> J & B Smith	
Best Hybrid Orchid	<i>Epi. Golden Valley 'Hildos'</i> I Woodgate	
Best of Best	<i>Max. parahybunensis</i> J & B Smith	
Orchid of the Month	<i>Stan. graveolens</i> J & B Smith	



Gom. Alosuka 'Claire'
D&V Cleaver



Drac. Sux 'Bigtime'
J&B Smith



Milt. Xenia
S. Greatbatch

Judges Vote 2nd. Division

Category	1 st	2 nd
Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm.	No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	No Entry	
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	<i>Rlc.</i> Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel' D&V Cleaver	<i>C.</i> Pink Favourite 'Hawaii' E Mulder
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	<i>Onc.</i> Catalante 'Kilaval Karma' I Crocker	<i>Onc.</i> Ron's Rippling Delight S Greatbatch
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	<i>Gom.</i> Alosuka 'Claire' D & V Cleaver	No Entry
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./Hyb	<i>Masd.</i> Tanya Pearce 'Woody' M Kemp	<i>Drac. vladtepes</i> G & S Hills
Other Orchid Species	<i>Grobya amherstiae</i> M Kemp	<i>Max. cucullata</i> S Johnson
Other Orchid Hybrid	<i>Milt.</i> Xenia S Greatbatch	<i>Npp.</i> Emerald City 'Apple Cake' I Crocker
Australian Sarcophilus Sp./Hyb.	No Entry	
Australian Native Tuberos	No Entry	
Australian Native Other	<i>Den.</i> Hilda Poxon S Johnson	No Entry
Best Species	<i>Grobya amherstiae</i> M Kemp	
Best Hybrid	<i>Rlc.</i> Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel' D&V Cleaver	
Best of Best	<i>Rlc.</i> Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel' D&V Cleaver	
Orchid of the Month	<i>Grobya amherstiae</i> M Kemp	

House Plants

1st. Stapelia S Johnson
2nd. Begonia A Gerrard

Floral Arrangement

1st. "Redback on Toilet Seat" S Jackson
2nd. "My Garden of Love" A Gerrard

Popular Vote

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
First Division	<i>Drac. Sux</i> 'Bigtime' J & B Smith	<i>Epi.</i> Golden Valley 'Hildos' I Woodgate	<i>Masd.</i> Golden Krieks 'CV' J & B Smith
Second Division	<i>Gom.</i> Alosuka 'Claire' D & V Cleaver	<i>Milt.</i> Xenia S Greatbatch	<i>Rlc.</i> Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel' D & V Cleaver
House Plants	Lewisia Elise S Greatbatch	Strapelia S Johnson	Begonia A Gerrard
Floral Arrangement	"Redback on Toilet Seat" S Jackson	"My Garden of Love" A Gerrard	"Yellow Road of Texas" G Allen

Cultural notes from my perspective

With all of us being confined to our homes at the moment, we have more time to look at our Orchids and prepare them for winter and then spring.

Here are a few tip from me, remembering everyone grows their orchids under different conditions and climates than I do. There are many factors that will change the way you water and house your plants compared to the way I do it, so please don't hesitate to call me or anyone you can trust in your area if you have any queries.

Cymbidiums

Keep an eye out for scale and mealy bug. With less watering because of the cool nights, those bugs thrive. Check under the leaves for scale and in the leaf axis for the mealy bugs. Treat with white oil or Eco oil, ensuring that you get under the leaves for the scale.

If the plant needs attention for re-potting, now you can do it before winter sets in by just potting on without disturbing the root system too much into a bigger pot, or if you **MUST** divide, do so, but be extremely careful of any signs of flower spikes emerging at this time of the season. They are very tender and will damage easily if knocked.

Always a good time to place a bamboo stake beside the new spikes to remind you to get the racemes trained ready for the Spring Show should it actually happen. We live in hope.

Pleiones

I've noticed that they are starting to lose their leaves with the cooler nights. Get the pots under cover so the rain is not drenching them. Very carefully remove the brown leaves so the air can circulate around the bulbs. Be aware that the bulblets may still be attached to their brown leaves, so gently remove the leaf and put the bulblet back in the pot, protected by the mature bulbs.

Once all the leaves have dropped, check for any sign of mealy bugs and spray with Eco oil if needed.

In June or July you can repot bulbs into good quality general potting mix with some small grade pine bark added to assist with drainage. I usually have a layer of mix in the bottom of the tray or pot, then add a light sprinkling of Strike Back or Dynamic Lifter add more mix, then place the mature bulbs with enough space for them to be able to produce their new growths after flowering.

Do not over water them over winter. Just wave the wand over them to give humidity. Start normal watering once the flowers are about to burst open in spring.

Cattleyas and Laelias

Ease off the watering at this time of the year, but if their canes haven't matured yet, they may need a bit more until the canes have reached their expected length. Remember that most of them grow within the Tropics so wet summers and dry winters is the rule of thumb. They do have juice canes for a reason.

Lycastes and Coelogynes

Mine are still sending out their new growths, so continue to fertilize (weakly) and water until those growths bulb up.

Oncidiums

I have many with flower spikes and flowers but still throwing out new growths. Pick the days you decide to water so that water is not sitting in the leaf axis on cold nights. Better to be cold and dry, than cold and wet. Just put your feet in some wet shoes and see how you like it on a cold night.

Any Orchids on Mounts

Use your common sense when watering orchids on mounts. If they have new growths forming, they will appreciate a touch of fertiliser with some water early, on suitable days before cold nights hit them.

I'll try and deal with some other genera next month.

Cheers and good growing

Bev Woodward 0413 136 413

A World of Orchids in my Lounge Room

By S. Greatbatch

Ever since 2018 Spring Orchid Show, (where I had won a beautiful gold Cym,) my interest in orchids has skyrocketed to addiction status and along with that a thirst for knowledge and knowhow. Joining the Society was a huge boon for that (thanks to you all) but I soon discovered a whole world of orchidaceous goodness was available to me right in my living room on the Telly (and Laptop).

Orchid growers from around the world have posted videos on YouTube(YT) showcasing their orchid plants and flowers, growing them on window sills, in growrooms, hot/cold houses, basements, backyards and nurseries from tropical to sub-(ant)arctic regions of the world. They are out on field trips to local habitats and trips to overseas orchid localities. I'm sure a lot of you are already hooked like me and have your favourite channels. I thought I might make a few suggestions for those new to orchid video binge watching especially as we are all cooped up at home at the moment.

First here in Tassie, our own Warren Brooks' channel, **Orchids by Warren** showcases his beautiful Mazzies, Disas, and Cyms with useful info and advice and featuring potting media advice with Nurseryman John Dudley. Thanks Warren, love the Aussie accent on YT. From the big island there is **Orchie Dee** a surgeon growing in and around her home in Brisbane Qld. Over in Perth in W.A. is **Lynn Brooks Orchids**, member of the Western Australian Orchid Society, growing at her home. Back in Qld. is **Marcy***** who speaks Russian



Orchid Alien says, "You are under my power!"

and shows her amazing Cattleyas and (wallabies) growing in her garden. This channel I found on #GVOS2020.

In response to lockdowns and cancellation of all orchid shows and meetings worldwide, William Green of YT channel **My Green Pets** organised the **Global Virtual Orchid Show** abbreviated to #GVOS2020 under which heading growers and viewers can share images and videos of orchids in bloom on YouTube or other social networking sites e.g. Facebook etc. Many hours can be spent checking this lot out.

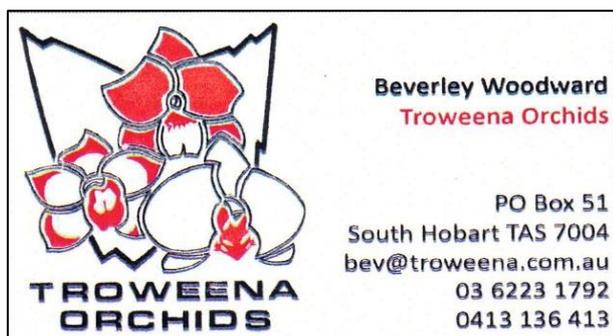
There are a plethora of growers in Florida U.S, who mostly grow outdoors mounting plants on trees etc. Including **Just One More Orchid** grower Natalia who creates wonderful pottery items to mount plants onto, tours orchid shows, videos plants at her society meetings, and visits nurseries. Other grower channels are **My Orchid Adventures** with Maria Young, **Todd's Tropicals**, **TD Moore Orchids** and **Orchid Diva** just to name a few. Over in Texas is **Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis** an American Orchid Society Judge specialising in Catasetums and Cattleyas. In Canada is **Brad's Green House** who grows not only orchids but pitcher plants, Hoyas, and houseplants. South America has **Ecuagenera** a nursery in Ecuador who grow and ship plants to the Americas, Europe, and Asia and yes it's all in Spanish but you can get the gist of what their talking about.

Japan has **Botany Boy** showing his garden orchids and natives growing in the nearby hills and field trips to China. His videos of public garden displays of roses, cherry blossoms, iris, and peony roses are a site to behold. Of course there is Danny, **Miss Orchid Girl** from Cyprus who makes a living out of her YT channel. My favourite must see channel is Roger Frampton's **Rogers Orchids**, a member of Bournemouth Orchid Society in Southern England

Some channels that are more garden and plant orientated are **Gardening at Douentza** in county Cork in Ireland (orchids included) and **Crime Pays but Botany Doesn't** featuring Tony Santoro a train driving self-taught botanist from Chicago with ADHD living in California who travels to amazing places in North and South America (e.g. Atacama desert in Chile) who's made recent visits to Western Australia featuring many native orchids of that region and also New Caledonia with all of its botanical treasures as well as orchids (I must give a language warning here for these ones). **Summer Rayne-Oakes** is worth checking out for visits to botanical garden collections in U.S., S.E. Asia and Europe. Of course most of these channels have a back catalogue of videos that you can look up as well.

Anyway that's enough for now. That could keep you occupied for months! So if you haven't tried it give it a go.... Now I wonder if Roger's put up a new video yet...?

Advertisements



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 Autumn 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.

Office Bearers for 2020/21

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