



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GREENHOOD

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Masdevallia Mary
Staal 'Laurie Jenine'
(right)

Masdevallia Mary
Rose
(left)



Images by **Glenn
Durkin**
Masdevallia ignea
'Lava Flow' x Flight
of Fancy 'Beenak'
(right)

Masdevallia Sugar
Baby
(left)



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From the Editor

I hope this second Edition of the Greenhood finds you all well and looking forward to the easing of restrictions and staying optimistic about being able to get together in the near future. Thank you for all your praise and feedback for my first Greenhood edition. Again most of that should go to my son Oscar who has been helping me out with these newsletters.

In this issue Geoff Curry once again has included an imaginative virtual native orchid tour of Tassie and Bev has included some useful cultural notes. If any of you have orchid photos, articles stories or even ideas for articles you are interested in please send them to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

If other Orchid Societies would like to reproduce articles from the GREENHOOD newsletter it would be appreciated if permission of the articles Author or Editor or Secretary be sought first.

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.

NOTICE:

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

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Orchid Hunting in Lockdown

Story and photographs by Geoff Curry



Omphalotus nidiformis to the naked eye.

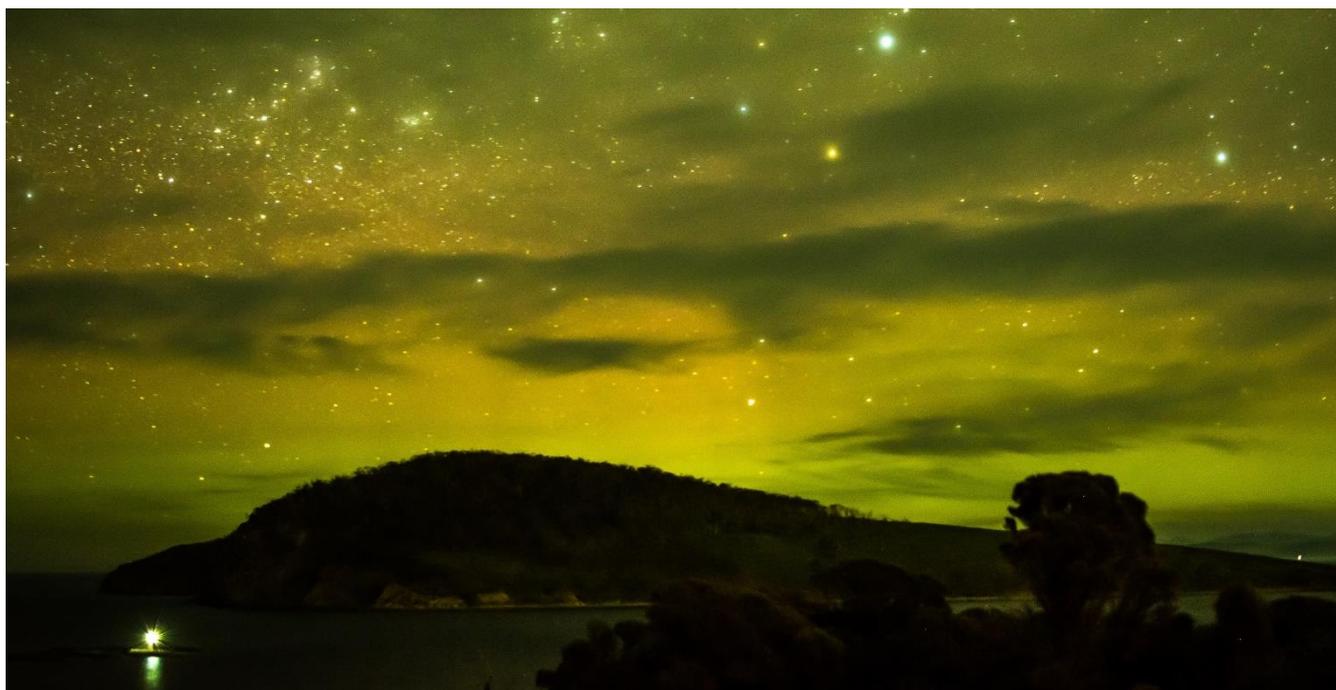


Omphalotus nidiformis (ghost fungus)
long camera exposure.

Since the lockdown began it's been a big month for nature photographers in Tasmania, we're having the best display of *Omphalotus nidiformis* the ghost fungi seen in 20 years.

Omphalotus nidiformis a luminous fungus that glows with a dull ghostly glow to the naked eye at night but bursts to life with a luminous green glow when photographed with a long exposure. For those who can't sleep, own a proper camera and like to wonder round in the dark, we've also had a couple of fabulous Aurora Australis events and I missed them all but was able to photograph the full moon in early April.

The native orchids are also booming without us, so in my mind I packed the car with an assortment of camera's and lenses, tripod, walking boots, sunscreen, backpack with first aid kit, PLB and the all-important roll of toilet paper and headed north along the East Coast.





The first stops were at Coles Bay to check on some known orchid sites and found *Acianthus pusillus* (small mosquito orchid) a small multi flowering orchid with up to a dozen small flowers on a single vertical raceme in flower. There were also a



Acianthus pusillus (small mosquito-orchid)

number of *Chiloglottis reflexa* (autumn bird-orchid) in flower and some *Corybas* sp. leaves with tiny immature buds showing.

Stop 2 for the trip is a site I found north of Bicheno where *Pterostylis grandiflora* (superb greenhood) grows beside an abandoned logging track, this orchid is rare and only has leaves on sterile (non-flowering) plants so can be difficult to locate while in bud. Once in flower it is easier to locate as the single flower is midsize and the plant has leaves known as Bracts along the scape. There were a number of plants in bud so will need to revisit the site in a couple of weeks' time to capture them in flower.



Pterostylis grandiflora (superb greenhood)



Corybas fimbriatus
(fringed helmet orchid)

Stop 3 was Holwell Gorge between Beaconsfield and Frankford. From the carpark I walked down towards the falls and found a colony of *Acianthus pusillus* and close by were a number of the tiny *Corybas aconitiflorus* (spurred helmet-orchid) growing beside the walking track. Further down the track were the first couple of *Pterostylis grandiflora* flowers open and more buds coming on.

Stop 4 was Henry Summerset Reserve outside Latrobe to photograph *Corybas fimbriatus* (fringed helmet orchid) that has just started to flower. There are *Acianthus pusillus*, *Corybas aconitiflorus* and *Chiloglottis reflexa* flowering if you know where to look in the reserve, making it a worthwhile stop.



Corybas aconitiflorus

Back at home I spend my days in isolation, plotting where I will go and explore as soon as the lockdown is lifted. I have noted that virtual orchid hunting uses less energy than the real thing, costs less in fuel and leaches, snakes and Jack Jumpers pose much less of a threat.

Geoff Curry

Cultural notes from my perspective for May

Here are a few tips 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, as well as house your plants, compared to the way I do it, so please do not hesitate to call me, or anyone you can trust in your area, if you have any queries.

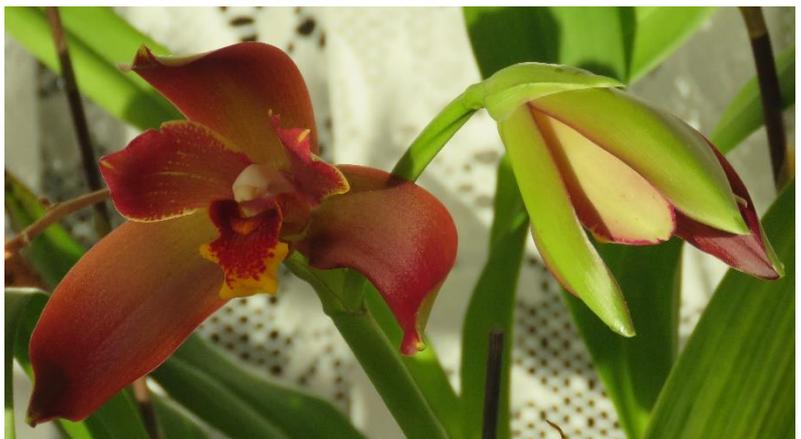
Cymbidiums

Similar tips to last month but you should be easing up on your watering especially if you are growing under trees or shade-cloth. We have been blessed with some rain recently so if growing in a covered house where you need to water, use “the finger test”. Put your finger in the potting mix. If it comes out dirty, PUT the hose DOWN. If it comes back clean and dry, water sympathetically. That is not too much, but enough to wet the mix. Clean up any old brown leaves that are lying around as well as any weeds and put them in your compost bin.

Lycastes



*Lyc.*Caroline ‘Melon Balls’ x *Lmc.*
Starfire ‘Spun Gold’



Lycaste longiscapa x *Lycaste* Wyld Romance

Photography and flowers by S Greatbatch. These currently flowering large blooms have interesting fragrances. The left one is fruity and the other smells just like Irish Moss cough medicine. (Ed.)

These orchids are still maturing their new bulbs, so water sensibly. Early in mornings is the safest, but ensure that the water in your hose has had a chance to warm up by getting rid of the icy cold water that has been laying in the hose overnight. Our nights are getting chilly, though I have not experienced a frost, yet. Remember to apply good housekeeping by collecting all the old leaves that will be dropping like flies at this time of the year and put them in your Compost bin

Zygopetalums

These orchids hate having cold water laying on their leaves over winter. They will get black spots on their leaves which makes them appear unsightly and detracts from the beauty of their flowers. So try and just water the pots from now on to leave the foliage dry. They are still pushing out their new growths and those will be your flowering bulbs, on maturity.

Draculas

Draculas will flower when they are happy. That is when you do the right thing. Keep moist, not wet. Generally, they flower out of the bottom or sides of their pots, so net or slatted pots are the best to use. This will cause the sphagnum moss, the best growing media, to dry out quickly. Be very careful to be mean with your fertilizer programme though, as too much fertilizer will make the moss go slimy and sour. If you do fertilize too regularly, you may need to repot with fresh moss every 6 months or so.

Disa



Disa blooms photos S Greatbatch

Disa grow along stream and river-banks in South Africa, so have a regular water supply available. Try to emulate that at home and you should have great success growing these beauties. Be careful not to drown them though. If you have the ability to collect fresh rain water all the better.

Cheers and good growing

Bev Woodward 0413 136 413



Cattleya Netrasiri Starbright
 This one has a subtle orange scent in bright light. Photo S Greatbatch.



Den. Starsheen Terracotta x Den. Aussie Parade Darkside
 Photo and plant Neil Mickleborough



Dryadella hirtzii
 This little thing has been blooming it's head off for months! Photo and plant S Greatbatch



Degarmoara Olympia 'Jacqui Louise' HCC/AOC
 Photo S Greatbatch



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