



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GREENHOOD

Volume 63 No. 8 August 2020



2020 23rd July Sunday Get Together

Wow oh Wow! What a lovely day we had at Sally and Michaels for our gathering. A very big thanks to both of you for hosting us with such perfection in your home. We had a very much needed orchid fix. The company was tops, food tops and the weather, as per usual, perfect.

Our next gathering will be at Matt Kemps. Matt does have limited space so there is a maximum of 18 people. As soon as you read this please let me (Shirley) know if you can definitely attend. I will give you the address then. It will be on the Sunday a week after our Sunday August 16th meeting and auction.

Above is a photo arranged by Gary Hill of our Merry Band.

If you are interested in our Sunday group, I do recommend that you add your name to our email list. sajackson555@gmail.com ph. 0429030355

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Maxillaria cucullata. The species epithet means hooded referring to the petals and dorsal sepal covering the column. It has been blooming for the past 6 months.

Photo S Greatbatch.

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

Welcome to the August GREENHOOD. The Sunday Get Together was a most enjoyable event and I hope you are all looking forward to meeting up again at this coming Sunday's Auction Day. This month's feature articles include Bev's notes on Dracula's with some great photos, Alan has featured intergeneric Sartylis orchids and Geoff has an interesting story about natives in Southern Tas. As always, some great photography of these little beauties, thanks Geoff. He has also forwarded a link to an informative video featuring Dr. Graeme Lorimer of Montrose Environmental Group clearly explaining how Pterostylis orchids are pollinated by fungus gnats. Check it out here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cR-gNVGYjFY>

Alan Millward is now taking orders for AUSGROW BARK - See the add on page 6. Just a reminder that if you have anything orchidacious you wish to advertise sell or swap please email me the details and I will endeavour to include it in the next GREENHOOD. Photos, articles, stories are always most appreciated.

Cheers Sandra Greatbatch Editor

Contact the Editor:

Mobile 0488741608

Email srgreatbatch@gmail.com

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.

Calendar of Events

August	<p>Auction Afternoon Sunday 16th Aug 2020. Arrive at noon for 1.30pm start at Legacy House. This is in place of Monday's General Meeting.</p> <p>Bring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Floral arrangement – “A Design Including an Accessory”.-Plants for Benching and Judging-Competition Dendrobium - <i>Den. Gilleston Jazz 'Lisa'</i>-A plate to share for afternoon tea-Items to Auction – Plants, books, preserves, pots etc.-Return any Library books you might have. <p>Sunday Get Together 23rd August 2020 2pm-4pm at Mathew Kemp's home in Kingston. See page 1 for details.</p>
September	<p>General meeting Monday 21st September 2020. Legacy House 6.30pm for 7.30pm start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Floral arrangement – “A Design of your Choosing”.-Guest Speaker Geoff Curry – Wild Orchid Man DVD <p>Plant Sale Saturday 26th September 2020 Clarence Senior and Citizens Centre 17 Alma Street Bellerive</p>
October	<p>General Meeting Monday 19th October 2020 Legacy House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Guest Speaker Bev Woodward - Preparing for the Spring Show and writing labels-Floral Arrangement – “Use an Unusual Container”.
November	<p>Spring Show Sunday 8th November 2020 Clarence Senior and Citizens Centre 17 Alma Street Bellerive</p> <p>General Meeting Monday 16th November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Guest speaker Warren Brooks
December	<p>General Meeting Monday 14th December 2020 Please bring supper</p>



Some Pleione goodness grown by Barry Davidson. Photo S Greatbatch

President's Report

Slowly but surely my cymbidiums are coming into flower. I now have a pot with a spike of lovely pink cymbidiums which I have brought inside to give a bit of colour to the house. For the first time my zygopetalum has flowered. The other also has a flower spike on it and I am looking forward to that coming out.

All those who attended the Sunday Get Together at Sally's had a lovely time. The weather was kind to us. Sally and her husband were gracious hosts opening their lovely home to us. There was lots of chatter as people caught up on news having not seen each other some several months.

The committee met on Monday evening to plan the upcoming Auction Afternoon to be held on 16th August at Legacy House, the Plant Sale which we are planning for 26th September at the Alma Street Activities Centre and for a very modified Spring Show on Sunday 8th November also at the Alma Street venue. This would normally be the date of the Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show but it has been decided that we will try and expand the general section in order to bring in more people to the show.

The Auction meeting to be held on Sunday 16th August should be a fun afternoon. Please bring along items to go into the auction. These can include jams, books, orchid related items as well as garden or house plants and not just orchids. Proceeds go to the club. Please bring along a plate of food for afternoon tea. If possible, please bring it on a disposable plate.

Competition plants are also to be brought along and will be staged in the ante room so as to leave as much space in the main hall as possible.

The September meeting will return to the usual Monday night and our guest speaker will be Geoff Curry and his DVD Wild Orchid Man which should be very interesting.

We are planning for a one-day orchid plant sale on Saturday 26th September at the Alma Street Centre. Society members who wish to sell plants can either have a stall on their own or combine with other growers. Twenty per cent of sales will go to the society as per normal. This is to replace the plant sale that we would normally have had as part of the Spring Show. The society will organise the publicity etc and cover the cost of hiring the venue. This is a way for us to advertise our existence and to get new members. We will also be putting on a small display! More in the next newsletter.

Andrea Gerrard OAM



Pterostylis nutans (Nodding Greenhood)
Photo Geoff Curry

Orchid Hunting in the Deep South.



During the week I was visiting the Deep South and walked along Kent Beach and the Dover foreshore to check on a very interesting orchid site shown to me a few years ago by local resident and TOS member Chris Bodger.

Starting at the picnic area on Kent Beach Rd it's a very pleasant walk along Kent Beach and then following a formed path through the bush area on the headland. This bush area is great orchid habitat and a slow careful walk will reveal several species of orchids growing on the edges of the path. The area is quite fragile so anyone visiting the area should keep to the path as all the species of orchids found in the area can easily be seen from the path.

Left. The first orchid I encountered on my walk was *Pterostylis nutans* (nodding greenhood) a

large single flowering orchid, they were found growing on both sides of the track.

Right. A little further on I found the first of many *Pterostylis melagramma* (blackstripe greenhood) a multi-flowering orchid with flowers shaped like a dolphin's head. There were several of these orchids growing along the track, many with only 2 or 3 flowers and one with well over a dozen flowers, some open and some still in bud. *Pterostylis melagramma* is one of 3 species



that grow in Tasmania and look very similar with the identifying feature being the colour of the labellum, *Pterostylis melagramma* (blackstripe greenhood) has a yellow labellum with a dark brown – black stripe up the centre of it, *Pterostylis stenochila* (greenlip

greenhood) is a Tasmanian endemic orchid that has a green labellum and *Pterostylis williamsonii* (brownlip greenhood) another Tasmanian endemic orchid has a solid brown labellum. All 3 of these orchids have 'Active Labella' meaning that in the Set position the labellum is down and clearly visible but when an insect lands on it (or an orchid photographer touches the plant) the labellum flicks up to lock the pollinator inside to fertilise the flower, it will reset after about 20 minutes.



Left. *Pterostylis pedunculata* (maroonhood) was the third species I found, it is a common colony forming species and there were several colonies seen along the walk.

Right. *Chiloglottis triceratops* (threehorned bird-orchid) is a Tasmanian endemic orchid, its leaves are often found in large colonies with very few flowers. Amongst the leaves seen along the walk I found 2 plants with open flowers and a couple of plants with small buds showing.

There were also some *Thelymitra* sp. (sun orchid) leaves scattered through the bush area so will plan to revisit the site later in the year to see what species these are.

Geoff Curry



Wild Orchid Man Presentation

Stig Dalström, the Wild Orchid Man, and filmmaker Darryl Saffer travelled to Tasmania to learn about the unique flora, especially the native orchids and fauna that inhabits the island. The island state is the Realm of the now endangered Tasmanian Devil.

The film features TOS members Gary Hill, Barry Davidson and Geoff Curry, the crew also visited Burnie Orchid Society Spring Show.

A brief taste of this movie can be found here --
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQd2nvj_Ndo

AUSGRO BARK

Ausgro Bark will be available in a week or so. Cost for a 50-litre bag will be \$30 and comes in small, medium and large sized bark. If you require some bags you will need to advise Alan Millward on Ph. 62722031 or Mob. 0422 356 269 to reserve your bags ASAP as ordering will be on a first in first served basis. Orders will need to be picked up from Alan promptly after they arrive.



Pterostylis melagramma
(blackstripe greenhood) Photo Geoff Curry

Big Al's Bits and Pieces

At last year's Sarcophilus and Masdevallia show I purchased a flask of Sarcophilus Thomas Kinsella from our sponsor John Whitney. On getting home I took the plants out of the flask and washed away the agar they had been growing in. The seedlings were then potted up into small pots of straight mini bark.

As the seedlings had been growing in the agar in the flask, they were in 100% humidity, so to stop the shock of coming out of the flask I got a clear plastic filing box with a lid. Into the box I put pebbles to about one third of the depth and filled with water to not quite cover the pebbles. The potted plants were placed on the pebbles and the lid put on the box.

Each day for the first week I would open the lid for about 15 minutes. This was gradually increased to half an hour and then an hour over the next month or so. This was done to keep the seedlings in a high humidity and gradually expose them to the air.

I started with 12 plants and I still have 12 plants growing happily with roots everywhere.

In the same growing area, a fish-tank on its side with the bottom covered with damp cocoa fibre for humidity I have my Sartylis Braveheart 'Sandy', our competition plant.

Looking for information I went to the RHS site and found that there have only been five Sartylis registered with them.

Sartylis is a manmade genus using Australian Sarcophilus and the SE Asian Rhynchostylis.



Left. The first registered Sartylis was **Srts. Blue Knob**, using *Sarc. hartmanii* and *Rhy. retusa*, by Cannons in 1973 when they were operating out of Port Macquarie, NSW.

Below Right. *Rhy. retusa* one parent of **Srts. Fairy Bells** which is *Sarc. cecilliae* x *Rhy. Retusa*. It was registered in 1979.

Below. There was a break of twenty years before **Srts. Toowoomba Sparkle**, *Sarc. Fitzhart* x *Rhy. retusa*, was registered in 1997 by Florafest Orchids in Queensland.





Left. In 1998 Simpson Orchids in Queensland crossed *Sarc. hartmanii* with *Rhy. gigantea* to produce **Srts. Jannine Banks**, a particularly nice Sartylis. This was the first time that gigantea had been used in breeding.



Right. In 2000 Srts. Braveheart was registered. The crossing is *Sarc. Fitzhart* x *Rhy. gigantea*.

There are photos of each crossing and if you are lucky enough to still have your Srts. Braveheart 'Sandy' you will see what you may get remembering that it is a seedling. I can't wait for mine to flower.

Cheers and keep warm
Alan Millward

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.

Cultural Notes from My Perspective



Dracula Black Magic 'Necromancer'

Dracula woolwardiae 'Strobel'

Dracula is part of the Pleurothallidinae subtribe and in total there are some 100+ different species and still counting. They grow at high elevations (1500m to 2500m) from southern Mexico, through the forested slopes of north western Ecuador to Colombia. Dracula literally means 'little dragon' and also alludes to Count Dracula, the vampire from Transylvania as written by 19th century author Bram Stoker. The dragon-like shape of the flower, its fear of sunlight and a dark and misty home, make this name most appropriate. Also note-worthy, are the monkey faces in the centre of their blooms, which I find most endearing.

HOW I GROW DRACULAS

CONDITIONS: Draculas usually grow epiphytically in rich mossy humus in well drained, shaded places in moist forests where the humidity stays high and the night temperatures become chilly. The spikes of most species descend and emerge from the loose substrate to produce flowers some distance from the plant. Most species produce flowers successively throughout the year, so don't remove the spikes until you are sure the plant really has finished flowering from that stem. Some Draculas like *sodiroidi* have erect spikes and grow terrestrially.

POTTING MIX: As Draculas flower through their potting medium, net pots are the best to use or hanging baskets. Sphagnum moss is the preferred medium to grow them in as this keeps the moisture around the plant and the spikes can push their way through easily without harm.

PROPAGATION: Divisions of your plants should be done after flowering when the new growths are forming their root system. Draculas do well in large clumps. Don't be too aggressive, divide no smaller than 3 to 4 growths. It is best that you hang your Draculas so they can flower successfully. Keep them lower to the ground or give them extra shade 70%+, to keep the heat from stressing them. Good air circulation is important and can be helped by setting up a small fan in the grow house to keep the air moving.

WATERING: Watering is the same as for Masdevallias so it is critical that you keep the water up in summer and keep the plants just moist through winter. If they totally dry out, you will need to soak the plant. Net pots and hanging baskets will cause the moss to dry out much faster than plants in regular pots. It will be trial and error on how often to water as everyone's growing conditions are different.

FERTILIZING: As Draculas do best grown in sphagnum moss, use quarter to half strength with a low nitrogen (a bloom booster fertilizer would be ideal) once a month during spring to end of summer.

FLOWERING: Most species will flower successively throughout the year on one stem, but some species, usually those that produce one flower on the stem, produce flowers in profusion only during one time of the year. Flowers will wilt if the temperature reaches above 30C. They will however, recover when it cools down and you water the plants.



Dracula diabolus



*Dracula Black
Magic 'Royale'*



Dracula. berthae

PROBLEMS: There are few problems with Draculas with pests and diseases. Aphids, slugs and snails will rear their ugly heads no matter what, and the only time scale will cause problems is when the plant becomes dehydrated and the leaves become withered. Use a cotton bud dipped in White Oil mix and wipe the scale away gently.

Bev Woodward

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