



The
TASMANIAN
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

GREENHOOD

Volume 63 No.7 July 2020



Dracula Black Magic 'Necromancer'
One of 5 flowers and buds. Plant and photograph Ian Crocker

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Den. Australian Black and Green 'Black Velvet' X Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall'
Photo Neil Mickleborough

NOTICE:

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

Please address all written correspondence to:

**Mrs Bev Woodward, Secretary
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PO Box 51 South Hobart 7004**

From the Editor

Welcome to this bumper edition of the July GREENHOOD. This month we have our first opportunity to meet at our Sunday Get Together on the 26th of July. Please take all precautions to keep safe if you choose to attend. Our next General Meeting will take place in August on Sunday 16th from 12 noon in place of usual Monday evening. Thanks again to those people who have contributed articles, photos and content. This month we have great articles from Bev, Alan and Shirley and a plethora of pretty pink pics to peruse. An interesting article appeared in the June Launceston Orchid News featuring our own Bev Woodward. A nice story. The LOS has also been holding a monthly virtual benching competition during lockdown. To check out this months' blooms here is the link <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DHNFxzrwdMrfCH49>. Steve Monkhouse Ochids in S.A has gained certification to ship mature plants to both Tasmania and W.A. here is a link to his page zygo1953@gmail.com.

If anyone has items for sale, just email details to me and I'll insert an add in the next GREENHOOD

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.

Presidents Report

I hope that this edition of the Greenhood finds you and your families safe and well.

The committee has now met three times since the Government started lifting restrictions. Normally around now we would be talking about the Spring Show. After much consideration and looking at different options the decision was taken on Monday night to cancel this year's show. The decision was not taken lightly, but it was felt that with all the restrictions on us regarding social distancing etc that a reduced or cut down version would be a lot of work for a small group of people.

Instead we are going to have a plant sale that weekend. The venue is still to be decided, but it will be run along similar lines to that of the Spring Show in that 20% of proceeds goes to the Tasmanian Orchid Society. Growers will have their own stalls/tables and sell their own plants. Members who are selling will have the opportunity to talk to the public when selling their plants which should be good for both. More information about this in coming newsletters. Your support of this event will be much appreciated as it will be our major fund-raising opportunity for 2020.

A decision is still to be made about the Sarc and Masda Show in November. At present we are waiting to hear when the Alma Street premises are available for hire again. Watch the newsletter for more information.

It is rather hard to plan too far ahead at present. The situation in Victoria has many people here quite worried. Certainly, we don't want an outbreak here to put all our new found freedom at risk. At the moment the plan is to celebrate our return with an auction afternoon to be held at Legacy House on Sunday 16th August. People should start arriving with their plants and other items from 12noon for a 1.30 start. The annual auction is always lots of fun with our auctioneer extraordinaire David Cleaver. This Sunday afternoon meeting is a trial to see how members feel about meeting at weekends during winter when it is not very pleasant to go out on dark, wet nights. There are no plans for any other afternoon meetings at this time, but is something the committee could consider for 2021.

NB. Don't forget to bring along your competition dendrobiums so we can see how they are progressing and for a chance to win a prize. Members who wish to bench plants in the club competition should also bring them along.

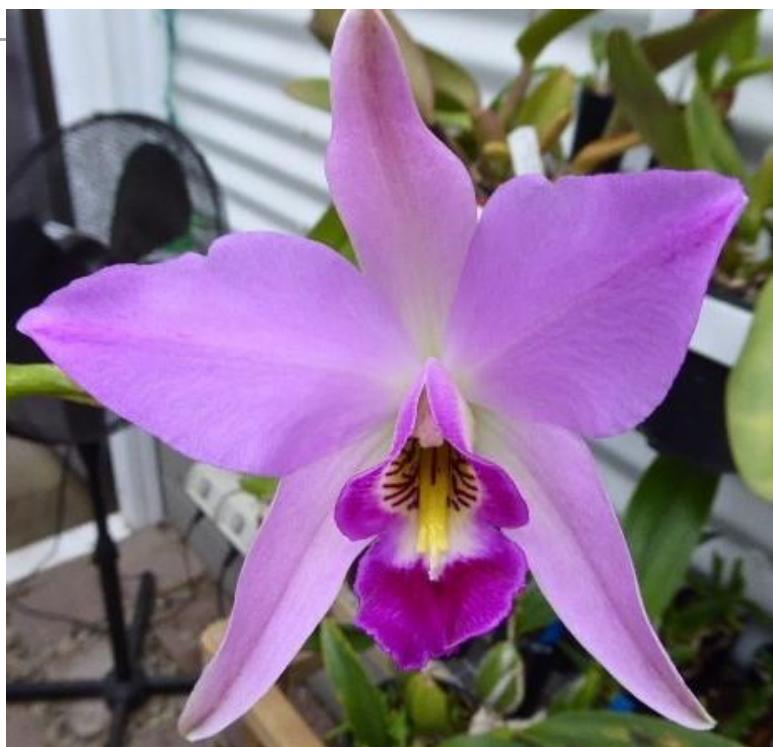
Normal meetings will recommence in September all being well. Normal place, time etc. Any suggestions for a topic, demonstration or guest speaker for this meeting would be appreciated. Geoff Curry is our guest speaker in October and Warren Brooks will be down for our November meeting. He will also be bringing plants for sale.



Andrea Gerrard OAM President

Laelia anceps 'Purple Globe'
Plant and Photo Ian Crocker.

Month	Event, Date and Notes
July	No General Meeting this month Sunday Get Together 26 th July 2020 12 noon at Sally Johnston's Kingston See article for details.
August	Auction Afternoon Sunday 16 th Aug Arrive at noon for 1.30pm start at Legacy House this is in place of General Meeting. Floral arrangement – A Design Including an Accessory. Bring -Plants for Benching and Judging -Competition Dendrobiums -A plate to share for afternoon tea -Items to Auction – Plants, books, preserves, pots etc. Return any Library books you might have. Sunday Get Together 23 rd August 2020 at Mathew Kemps home in Kingston
September	Spring Show Cancelled General meeting Monday 21 st September 2020. Floral arrangement - A Design of your Choosing. Plant Sale Saturday 26 th and Sunday 27 th September 2020 Clarence Senior and Citizens Centre 17 Alma Street Bellerive
October	General Meeting Monday 19 th October 2020 Guest Speaker Geoff Curry Legacy House Floral Arrangement – Use an Unusual Container
November	General Meeting Monday 16 th November 2020 Guest speaker Warren Brooks Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show To be advised
December	General Meeting Monday 14 th December 2020 Please bring supper

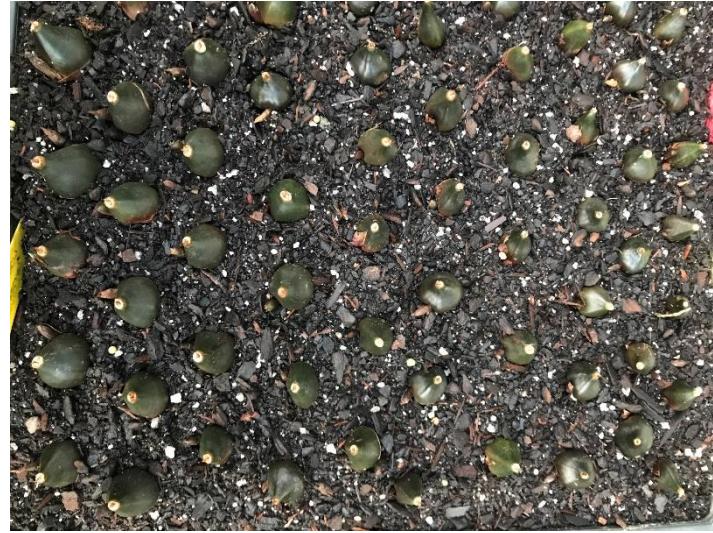


Laelia anceps 'Chamberlainianum' Photo Ian Crocker

Cultural Notes from My Perspective

Winter has been colder this year compared to previous winters. We all MUST be careful with our watering as explained last month. The frosts have been regular lately, and shade-cloth alone will not protect your plants from damage. So lay newspaper sheets over your plants that are out in the weather to protect them from that icy bite. They will not blow away as frosts only come on still nights, but in the morning while the sun is shining, take that paper off the plants so they can have the benefit of daily sunshine.

You should have repotted your Pleione bulbs by now, but wait until the flowers and leaves have started to show themselves before you start regular watering when the weather is finer. I hadn't repotted my trays of Pleione's for 3 years and those 3 trays turned into 10 by the time I'd finished the job. Now I have a greater problem of limiting space



Above Left. Pleione bulbs after replanting in late June. **Above Right.** Pleione Stromboli 'Milgrove' bulbs. **Below.** This is what the same bulbs will look like when the flowers open in late September. Photos Bev Woodward.



Don't forget to spray any orchids on mounts that may need moisture, especially those that are high up in your grow area. Fans will keep the air moving and frost damage is far less if the air is not still.

Take good care of all new growths as they are always very tender and susceptible to rot if moisture remains in the leaf axis particularly on frosty nights.

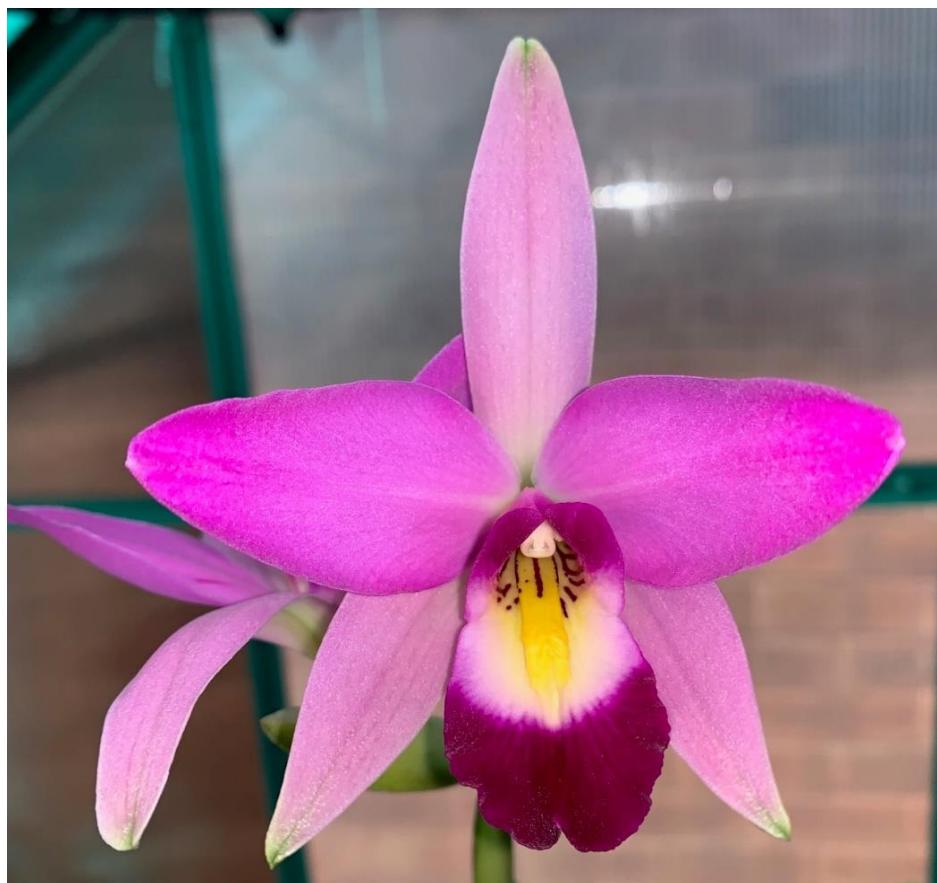
It is far better to be cold and dry than cold and wet. Just remember it is better to have warm dry socks in boots than wet ones.

Lastly, a tip for flowering your Cymbidiums. Pastel Cymbidium buds & flowers prefer less light to stop the “kissing” pinks that will happen on whites and the fading to lighter green, or yellow even, with your normally bold greens.

Red Cymbidiums on the other hand, need lots of light to get the depth of colour while in the bud stage, but when the blooms have opened, then shade them to keep the sunlight from bleaching out that colour.

I have seen an example of a beautiful yellow Cymbidium being on display on the counter at Troweena Orchids, but the second raceme a couple of weeks later flowering as a wonderful deep green. It was amazing to see the stark difference resulting from the change in position of that plant.

Bev Woodward



Laelia anceps ‘Troweena’ This is a “line bred” species using 2 particularly “special” varieties of *Laelia anceps*. Photo Neil Mickleborough

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

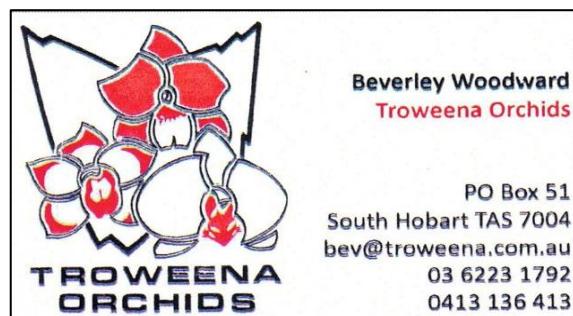
Members should be aware that the Treasurer is **Christine Doyle** and can be contacted:

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



Miltassia Phoenix Rising 'White Light'
The lip on each of the blooms is uppermost and hugs the stem. To me it smells like vanilla/chocolate but Paul smells balloon rubber. Photo S Greatbatch



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.

Big Al's Bits and Pieces

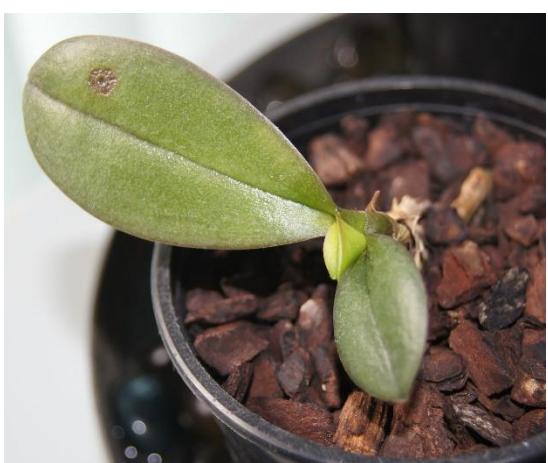
About six months ago I went into Bunnings for some stuff and ended up in the garden section. On a shelf they had the plants that had finished flowering and were looking very sad and way past their best.



Amongst them were some Phalaenopsis orchids going out at greatly reduced prices. When I inspected them, I found that they were in white ceramic containers with no drainage holes. Someone had watered them and they were actually sitting in a couple of inches of water. All the plants I looked at had rotten roots except for three of the small flowering ones hidden at the back. They had been removed from the ceramic pots and left as they were.

They looked very forlorn and on inspection they were dehydrated to the extent that their leaves were hanging down like a hound's ears. They were in these little, soft plastic pots with sphagnum moss that was very dry. The roots looked in good condition so I purchased them.

When I got home, I put them in my sunroom and added an egg cup full of water to each plant. About an hour later I found that the sphagnum moss had absorbed the water so I added more.



Top Phalaenopsis recovery on the humidity tray. **Above** Runt of the litter with new leaf.

When I had the moss completely hydrated the colour of the roots changed to a nice green and I knew they were taking up moisture.

The plants were then left until the next day where I was pleased to see that the leaves had rehydrated and were standing up. I left them for a week before I took them out of the soft plastic pots and removed all the sphagnum moss.

The plants were then repotted into good draining pots from The Orchid Pot Company in NSW. The mix I used is straight mini sized orchid bark. The plants were then put back in the sunroom where they get good light and a bit of warmth.

It took a week or two for the orchids to start putting up new leaves. Two of the plants putting on four leaves and the smallest runt putting on two small leaves.

When the overnight temperatures started to drop the plants were put in the window of the dining room. To know why I will digress a little.

Some years ago, one of our members, Marg Thiesen won Show Champion with a large pink Phalaenopsis that had huge leaves. Mike White went to Marg's house and put a temperature recorder next to the plant which was in her front room. This showed that the overnight

temperature dropped to 13°C. I put a max/min thermometer in our house and found that it went down to 11°C overnight when we go to bed and the heater is off. This is a good temperature for Phalaenopsis and this is why I have moved the plants inside.

I currently water once a week with a dash of fertiliser (very weak) by flooding the pots and allowing them to drain completely on the draining board. Watering once a week is because of the dry heat from the heat pump.



A nice green root tip

To give a bit more humidity around the plants you can mist them during the day or put them on a pebble tray with a dribble of water in it.

Two of the plants are putting out new roots and the runt is putting on a new leaf after discarding the original leaf that was dehydrated. The other two plants have also dropped their old leaves. It is normal for this to happen.

I will post some photos of the plants when I get them to flower. It will be exciting as I don't know what colour they are.

Happy Growing

Alan Millward

Sunday Get Together the 26th of July 2020

We have a change of venue. I think you all will be biting at the bit to have a gathering and more so with the July General Meeting being cancelled. Matthew Kemp can only cater for a limited number so I have decided to swap Matthew for Sally. Sally is fine with this; she has a lot of space which we all can move around in. If it's ok with Mathew we will go to his place in August.

The plan now is for us to have a lunch time BBQ at Sally's. We can have a mini orchid show. Bring along your orchids, we will bench them and have a competition. There will be prizes (of a modest variety) and a general fun time. If you have plants for sale bring them along as well.

Starting time is 12pm, bring a salad or dessert to share plus \$6 per person for the meat, plus drinks if you wish.

Please let us know if you are attending at least two days beforehand so we can do the catering.

Sally's Address is 26 Kelp Street Kingston. Her phone number is 0418121694 if you want more info. My phone number is 0429030355

Keep well and happy, Shirley



Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'
HCC/AOC an early and first flowering.
Photo S Greatbatch



Dendrobium Australian Rhubarb Pie
'Double Cherry' X *Den. speciosum*
'Windermere'. These blooms are
from November 2019. The plant is
already back in spike.
Photo S Greatbatch



Cattleya Creation 'Sakura Candy' Plant and Photo by Ian Crocker

In the not so ‘Old Days’ by Shirley Jackson

Collecting materials (mainly dry man fern fronds) was an important part of our society. The materials were collected and added to composted pine bark to enhance the nutrient content of our orchid mix. This practice was only stopped about six years ago due to the availability of other mediums, good quality fertilizers and people being heavy handed with the watering hose causing the mix to break down too quickly. The rules for gathering materials from Govt. Parks were frowned upon. Our backs were not getting any younger as well.

It was also a great social event, usually organised by Jim Smith. We would all gather at Geeveston on a delightful crisp morning, i.e. freezing cold with either frost or fog, and head down to Paradise in a caravan of cars not built for gravel roads, utes and jeeps with trailers attached, carrying our trusty mulchers.

Jim would suss out just the right spot and we were off and running. Wayne Dawes was usually our head mulching person. We would take off in all directions and disappear into the bush. Not long after walking, mountains of dry fronds would appear, being carried by a



person half the size of the frond mountains. Secretly I think there was a bit of an unspoken competition of who could collect the most. The mulchers would start up, not always instantly as Wayne would have to jiggle a few bits (of the mulcher) and say a few choice words before they kicked into gear.

The air would be full of distant chatter coming from the bush like, ‘bugger I didn’t see that hole’ or ‘who is nearby I can’t see anyone’, reply being ‘I am lost too’, a bit like a nature program of the Amazon

jungle but with humans talking and not monkeys. By then the mulches were churning away with the sweet smell of petrol fumes in the air. Perfect.

When the mulchers had a backlog of work to do Jim would call Smoke O. No one smoked but out came our thermos and we would tuck into our lunch. We would work until Jim thought we had gathered enough, and then some. All in all it was a great day to be remembered.

About a month later we would gather and mix our bush materials with a humongous truck of composted pine bark and bag it for sale. Another story is there.



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The Tasmanian Orchid Society was formed in 1947 and is the oldest OS in Tasmania. It is a member of the Orchids Tasmania and affiliated to The Australian Orchid Council. We are also member of Garden Clubs of Australia. Members usually meet on the third Monday of the month at Legacy House 159 Macquarie Street Hobart. Meetings commence at 7.30pm but it is best to turn up at least a half hour earlier. Activities include orchid benching (showing), floral arrangements, and houseplant Judging, demonstrations, lucky door prize and raffles, guest speakers plant sales as well as coffee and chat time. A well-stocked Library is available. We have two members currently training as judges Gary Hill and Vicki Cleaver and Shirley Jackson who has recently become a fully qualified judge. Congratulations! There is also The Sunday Get Together which is held on the Sunday after the general meeting held at a member's home. Major events during the year are The Hobart Spring Orchid Show held September at Hobart Town Hall, The Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show in November at Alma St Bellerive, Auctions and summer BBQ.

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