



The  
**TASMANIAN**  
ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

## GREENHOOD

Volume 63 No.9 September 2020



*Sarcochilus* First Light 'Dawn' The fragrance is a soapy lemon meringue.  
Flower measures 22mm at its widest point. Photo and plant S. Greatbatch.

## Contents

- Presidents Report p3  
Calendar of Events p4  
Big Al's Articles p4-6  
Bev's Notes p7  
Orchid Mix and Treasurer p8  
AOF Invitation p9  
Shirley's Article p10-12  
Sunday Get Together p13  
Photographs p14  
Judging Results p15-17  
Office Bearers p18



A first flowering of *Sarcochilus* Melba 'Rex' X *Sarco.* Lyn 'Johnson' P221. A plant was given to each member in December 2019 from Jim Smith. It has a clove like fragrance.  
Plant and photo S. Greatbatch

## From the Editor

This month's GREENHOOD issue is bursting at the seams with some great articles from Bev, Al and Shirley as well as some super photos of orchids benched at our August Auction Day taken by Gary Hill. Our website has been undergoing a bit of a spruce up thanks to Bev's son James Woodward. Here is the link <https://www.tos.org.au> so check it out if you haven't been there recently. If you find any typo's or errors or if there is anything you feel should be included that isn't already please contact Bev with the details. For the next GREENHOOD I would like to do a feature on the *Sarcochilus* pictured this page **left**. If you have this in bloom could you please send me photos of the overall plant and if you can, a close up of a single bloom. I have a small feature article on how I display my orchids at home on page 13.

**\*STOP THE PRESSES\***

Just in on the 13<sup>th</sup>. An article about *Rhizanthella speciosa* a rare underground orchid. ABC news website

<https://apple.news/A8kqUQq9XTi-BWYje0pSUgg>

Cheers Sandra Greatbatch Editor

## Contact the 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.

## President's Report

It's great to see the trees bursting into flower and the bees returning to the garden. I love going out each day to see what the dendrobiums are doing, and which ones are either in spike or are now in flower.

A big thank you to all who attended the August auction afternoon. We raised over \$900 for the society which was a very good result. My thanks to Dave, Glenn and their helpers for conducting the auction and making it a bit of fun as we start back again meeting on a regular basis. September's meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night per usual.

The committee met last night and after some discussion took the decision to cancel the plant sale to be held later this month due to circumstances beyond our control. Sufficient to say that stringent health and safety requirements when hiring venues such as the Alma Street Activity Centre played their part in this decision along with other issues. While I realise that this is disappointing for some there will be other opportunities such as at the Sarcochilus and Masdevallia Show in November. I would encourage anyone with excess plants for sale to bring them along to the monthly meetings, they are usually snapped up quite quickly.

Over the last couple of years, the number of new members has grown, but this is not being reflected in the competition benches. I would encourage all our newer members to consider participating. If you have a plant in flower, then bring it along. If you are unsure about how to bench your plant or plants, then there are several members around who would be willing to help you.

Looking ahead, our February BBQ will be held at the Waterworks. More about this later.

Andrea Gerrard OAM

President



*Potinara Dal's Paradise X Slc. Rosella Jewel* Photo Gary Hill

## Calendar of Events

September	<p>General Meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Legacy House 6.30pm for 7.30pm start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Guest Speaker Geoff Curry – Wild orchid man DVD and Jim Smith Sarco &amp; Masd. show prep</li><li>- Floral arrangement – “A Design of your Choosing”.</li></ul> <p>Plant Sale Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 <a href="#">Clarence Senior and Citizens Centre</a> 17 Alma Street Bellerive <b>CANCELLED</b></p>
October	<p><b>General Meeting</b> Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Legacy House 6.30pm for 7.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Guest speaker <b>Bev Woodward</b> - Preparing for the Spring Show and writing labels</li><li>-Floral Arrangement – “Use an Unusual Container”.</li></ul>
November	<p><b>Sarchochilus and Masdevallia Show</b> Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Benching 8am-9.30am, Judging 9.30-11.30am Open 11.30am -4pm Presentations after 4pm <a href="#">Clarence Senior and Citizens Centre</a> 17 Alma Street Bellerive</p> <p><b>General Meeting</b> Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Legacy House 6.30pm for 7.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Guest speaker <b>Warren Brooks</b></li></ul>
December	<p><b>General Meeting</b> Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Legacy House 6.30pm for 7.30pm</p> <p>Please bring supper for our Christmas meeting</p>
2021	
February	<p><b>BBQ</b> Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 Site 9 Waterworks Reserve 11am - 3pm</p>

## Big Al's Bits and Pieces

At the last meeting before the shutdown due to COVID19 someone asked who uses charcoal in their orchid mix. A few hands went up including mine. I use it to keep the mix 'sweet'

I've got a couple of bags of Brunnings Horticultural Charcoal that I use. It's OK when sieved but there is a lot of dust and it's not really cheap. I decided to make my own using the twigs and pruning's from my fruit trees.

Here is a series of photos to explain the process.

Pic 1. Get yourself some tins.



Pic 2. Punch some holes in the bottom.



Pic 3. Pack the tin with the pruning's you are using.



Pic 4. Get a fire going in your burner pot and put your tin in.



Pic 5. Keep the fire nice and hot for a while and then let it burn out.

pic 6. Remove tin when cool and inside you now have charcoal.



Pic 7. Shows the good quality of the charcoal. It's artist grade and I can break it into the size I want.

If you want to make your own, use hard wood and not soft pine wood. I am even using rose prunings.

Alan Millward

Well it's cymbidium time and I hope everyone has spikes. Some years are better than others and this year is a poor one. I have a lot of plants with low flower count but there are some beauties among them.

*Cym.* Valley Splash 'Awesome' has two inflorescences with good flower count. The size, shape and colour of the blooms are brilliant. See photo **Right**.



Another showing good features is *Cym.* Hell's Gate 'Temptation'. **Left**. I have had this cym for 6 or 7 years and this is the first time I have flowered it. Looking at its parents one of them is cym Red Beauty which appears to be a shy flowerer.

**Right**. I also have *Cym.* Kelly's Winter x Red Beauty which is also shy to flower.



Some of my early flowering Cyms are Valley Knight x Peter Pan. Here is a photo. **Left**.

**Right**. The usual early cym is *Cym.* Sue which has Showgirl x Peter Pan as parents. Breeders use Peter Pan as an early parent to get Cyms to bloom for Mother's Day.



I'm hoping that the later blooming cyms that are just showing spikes will have better flower count.

Lots of spikes Alan Millward

## **CULTURAL NOTES FROM MY PERSPECTIVE September 2020**

As I write these notes, there is snow on the mountain and it is bitterly cold out. Spring though, is just around the corner, so don't despair. Once the weather improves, we can get outside and check your orchids for those pesky aphids and slugs that will have been welcoming the new growths, flower spikes as well as the sun's warmer rays.

If you are growing your Cymbidiums under shade cloth, watch out for birds using your plants for nests for their eggs then chicks. The mothers make a mess as do the chicks when they are ready to practice their flying.

Watering your orchids at this time of the year must be done with much due care and diligence. Remember to check the weather maps and forecasts and pick your days when there are milder nights and sunny and breezy days in the mornings so the plants can absorb the moisture before night falls.

Nearly all your orchids will now be showing signs of their new Spring growths. This is the time to use your high Nitrogen fertilizer to boost those growths to be your strong flowering bulbs or canes for next season.

New Dendrobium, Lycaste, Oncidium and Zygopetalum growths are breakfast, lunch and dinner for aphids and supper for the slugs and snails, so regular spraying of white oil solution for aphids and scatter Baysol pellets for the crawlies when bugs are present.

Springtime is the best time of the year to do any re-potting or just potting on to a bigger pot size. Let the plants tell you the best time for that though. Look at the new growths and if they are obviously sending out their new roots, then that is the optimum time to get them into new mix. The plants will establish themselves really well and become firm in their new pots when there are active new roots.



If you are wanting to transfer plants from pots to a mount, then once again, Spring is the usual time to get them established before the Summer heat hits them. You can mount Cattleya, Dendrobium, Gomesa, Oncidium, Coelogyne, Laelia and many other epiphyte type orchids on a host. I have seen orchids on cork bark, radiata pine bark, old paling fence wood, terracotta pipes, and hanging baskets. Just about anything will do that will not rot away as you will lose the orchid along with its host. When attaching your plant to a host, a small amount of sphagnum moss needs to

be placed under the roots of the orchid to be mounted. Then securely tie the plant to the host with fishing line or string. I use green tie wire lengths stapled across the orchid base to the host and secured that way. When the plant has a well-attached root system, you can then remove the staple and the tie wire. Don't forget to water mounted plants more regularly when summer arrives in full force. Especially when we have hot, dry winds.

Good growing Bev Woodward



*Cattleya* Chian-Tzy Guiding 'CT Red Top' grown by Noel and Chrissy Doyle  
Photograph by Gary Hill

### **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](mailto: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.



**Invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of**

**The Australian Orchid Foundation**

**to hear the guest speaker**

**Gary Yong Gee**

**How do you condense Gary's story into just a few lines?**

**Gary is an amateur photographer, grower of species orchids and a judge. He has travelled the world photographing orchids for over 30 years. His knowledge of orchid species of the world cannot be matched. He is an avid conservationist, promoting conservation of orchids world-wide. For this AGM he is focusing on our own orchids.**

***His topic: Australian Epiphytic Orchids***

Most of Australia's orchids are terrestrial, however, approximately 15% are found growing on trees and rocks around the northern and eastern habitats of the country. Gary's presentation will cover a range of epiphytic species, with an emphasis on those which are not very often seen in cultivation.

**Venue: Wherever you happen to be as this will be a**

**ZOOM MEETING**

**Date: Saturday, 24th October, 2020**

**Time: 2pm for AGM**

**followed by Gary's presentation**

**Unfortunately, for this meeting afternoon tea is BYO!**

**PLEASE EMAIL:**

**[AOF@AUSTRALIANORCHIDFOUNDATION.ORG.AU](mailto:AOF@AUSTRALIANORCHIDFOUNDATION.ORG.AU)**

**FOR THE LINK TO THE MEETING**



*Pleonie Tongariro 'Theolia'* Photo by S. Greatbatch

## **POTTING MEDIUMS USED BY THE TASMANIAN ORCHID SOCIETY OVER THE YEARS.**

Below is a list of all of the potting mediums that I can remember. This is meant to be factual without bias to any product. I have done this simply to give newcomers to orchid growing an idea of what mediums are or were available. I did make this list available to the Sunday Group and have included their suggestions.

**BioGro Orchid Bark:** This is tried and true.



1. It comes in two main and useful sizes
2. It doesn't easily break down, and is very consistent in its makeup
3. The main problems are the price and it is only available from the society once a year
4. It does not affect the ph. of the medium
5. It is often the preferred medium because of its reliability

**Sphagnum Moss:**



1. Growers have had a lot of success with this
2. It can be particularly useful for smaller plants and sick plants. It is said to have natural anti-bacterial properties
3. Some growers grow all of their plants in it
4. Growers often find Spag to hold too much water
5. When fertilized it breaks down and has a slimy consistency
6. Spag is also difficult to obtain and the product quality unreliable. Ideally it is long and clean but often comes short, full of weeds, has long roots from other plants and is dirty

**Pre 2017 Society Bark:** The main stay of potting bark for the society and also a big fund raiser. Elements for this were collected by the society on a fun day in the National Park at Paradise. We all set out for the day, usually late autumn, with trailers, mulchers and other collecting necessities. Gathering dry man-fern fronds were the main objective. We all had a great day. This was brought back to a gathering point; Mike White's home was the last venue. Several weeks later we would all gather and hand mix it together with an almighty big truck of composted bark, it was then bagged.

1. This was the main medium available to the society for a very long time
2. Members worked well with it. Originally clay pots were being used by the society
3. Larger and hardier genera, e.g. cymms and dens, were the dominate orchid grown
4. With plastic pots it began to get soggy very quickly and hold too much water
5. Unless the growers were proficient in using this it would rot roots and turned to mud in a few years
6. More efficient mediums became available
7. Our members were not getting any younger
8. It is illegal to gather these materials from a national park

**Horse Manure:** Its use developed by a group of growers from around Scottsdale.



1. The orchid roots were definitively huge and flowering was good
2. Easily obtainable
3. Debate over fresh or dried. This author has been assured that collected steaming was the best
4. Some members believed that it needed to be consistently watered but this is in doubt
5. Maybe worth exploring more

**Coconut Coir:** Small cubes of coconut fibre.



1. Mainly purchased from Bunnings, but one specifically developed for orchids, was available from Orchids and More.
2. The Bunnings one had to be soaked for a day or two to remove salts, when that was done the process was repeated once or twice.
3. Relatively inexpensive.
4. Easily available.
5. Came in two sizes.
6. Held a lot of water, and rotted roots over winter.
7. Some growers did have success with it.

**Clay Balls: expanded backed clay balls used in hydroponics.**



1. Allowed air to circulate around the roots
2. Did not break down, when sterilized could be used continuously.
3. Very expensive.
4. Similar to scoria used in the warmer climates.
5. Dried out very quickly.
6. Plants didn't thrive in this.

### **Perlite:**



1. Larger diameter product was used.
2. Relatively inexpensive
3. Easily obtainable.
4. Moderate success.
5. Held a lot of water, good for summer but cold in winter.
6. The fine dust, which came with it, was extremely dangerous if breathed in.

### **Fernmania:**



1. Inexpensive
2. Easily obtainable
3. Usually consistent in texture but occasionally has been too fine.
4. Members very divided in its use. Some members swear by it and others dislike it.
5. Holds water over winter resulting in rotten roots
6. Results varied, even within genera.
7. Worth a try but don't over pot.

**Society Bark:** Composted bark purchased by bulk by the society and bagged.



1. Usually easily available.
2. Inexpensive.
3. Very useful for larger rooted genera, mainly cymms and larger dens.
4. Fund raiser for the society.
5. Relatively good results.
6. Doesn't break down too quickly.
7. Takes on fertilizers without changing the composition of the food available to the orchid. E.g. it isn't known to turn the mix sour.

### **Commercially produced product:**



1. Easily available
2. Results are often reported as poor
3. More information is required to give a fair assessment
4. Expensive

**I am sure that I have missed some out so please let me know. My next project is to compile a list of different mixes. This is where I would like input from anyone who uses a combination of the above. Please let me know your preferred potting mix so that I can work on this.**

**Shirley Jackson.**

Another great YouTube video to check out by William Green of My Green Pets is: 'how to have Cattleya species blooming all year round' with Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis. Just copy the title and paste the title into google search or YouTube and enjoy. Sandra

## August 2020 Sunday Get Together

Our August gathering was hosted by Matt Kemp and his wife Sue. I have always maintained that every new person who comes through our doors for a meeting should be treated as if they are potentially our future leaders in orchid growing. This is definitely the case for Matt. Matt has only been growing orchids for 18 months and he is already putting some of us to shame. He is a dedicated grower of the plant world and is now putting that knowledge into the growing of his orchids.

Our day was perfect, even the heavy rain held off for most of the meet. Sue and Matt were very generous and welcoming to our band of merry orchid growers. Many thanks go out to the both of them.

We were not going to have a September gathering because of our proposed orchid sales day. Now that that has been cancelled, we could hold one if anyone would like to host it. An alternative could be to have a trip to The John Turnbull Park to see the natives and also possibly have lunch somewhere in the area. Please give me your ideas, would you attend if taken up by my second thought.

If you would like to be updated on our Sunday Group you can send me your email and I will add you to our email contact list. This is good to let you know what we are doing and also if any cancelations happen. My email address is sa.jackson555@gmail .com

Cheers Shirley Jackson.

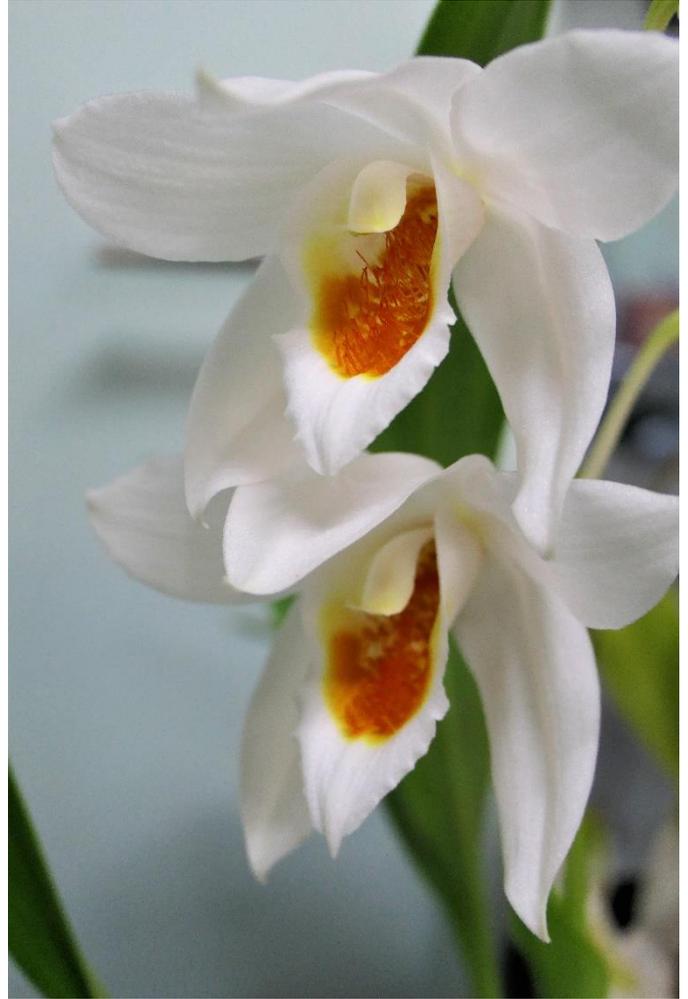
### How I display my Plants



**Above.** A basket of Sarcocilus with an *Angraecum sesquipedale* seedling thrown in.



A few pics of how I display some of my orchids and houseplants at home. **Left.** There are about 30 plants on this little table. Included are Phals. Sarcos. a Paph. Stellis, a Pleurothallis, a jewel orchid and a Den. Some Fittonia, Ferns, an African Violet, Selaginella, Haworthia and a pitcher plant. The *Phal.* Pinlong Cheris, **Right,** is on a shelf at eye level. The leaves feature silver mottling inherited from *P. schilleriana* and it has a wonderful floral perfume that comes forth when most of the flowers have opened. Sandra Greatbatch.



A selection of TOS members blooms benched at the August General meeting. **Top Left** *Laelia anceps* by G&S Hill, **Above** *Coelogeny mooreana* by R Hentschel, **Below** *Cattleya* Chief Berry and **Left** *Masdevallia* Dark Angel 'Crown Vista' by I Woodgate.  
All Photographs this page by Gary Hill.



## August Meeting Results

### Judges Vote 1<sup>st</sup> Division

<b>Category</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm	No Entry	
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	No Entry	
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	<i>C. Chian-Tzy Guiding 'CT Red Top'</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>	<i>C. Ruby Royale</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	<i>Onc. Tiger Glow 'Bright Eyes'</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>	No Entry
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	<i>Gom. longipes</i> <b>J &amp; B Smith</b>	<i>Gom. Unknown</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./ Hyb.	<i>Masd. ignea 'Plush'</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>	<i>Masd. Bay of Fires 'Crown Vista'</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>
Other Orchid Species	<i>Cu. pulchella 'Kindred'</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>	<i>Ddc. javieri</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>
Other Orchid Hybrid	<i>Paph. Duo de Citron</i> <b>G Hagan</b>	<i>Den. chordiforme x hepatica</i> <b>J &amp; B Smith</b>
Australian Sarcochilus & All. Sp./Hyb.	<i>Sarco. M &amp; M</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>	No Entry
Australian Native Tuberous	<i>Ptst. concinna</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>	No Entry
Australian Native Other Sp./Hyb.	<i>Den. Wayne's Valencia x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall'</i> <b>N &amp; C Doyle</b>	<i>Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy'</i> <b>J &amp; B Smith</b>
Best Species Orchid	<i>Cu. pulchella 'Kindred'</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>	
Best Hybrid Orchid	<i>Paph. Duo de Citron</i> <b>G Hagan</b>	
Best of Best	<i>Paph. Duo de Citron</i> <b>G Hagan</b>	
Orchid of the Month	<i>Ddc. javieri</i> <b>I Woodgate</b>	

## Judges Vote 2nd. Division

Category	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cymbidium Hybrid over 90mm	<i>Cym. Coral Reef</i> <b>E Mulder</b>	<i>Cym. Unknown</i> <b>E Mulder</b>
Cymbidium Hybrid 90mm and Under	No Entry	
Laeliinae Species and Hybrid	<i>L. anceps</i> <b>G &amp; S Hills</b>	<i>Ctt. Aussie Sunset 'New Era'</i> x <i>Rth. Dal's Emperor</i> <b>I Crocker</b>
Oncidium and Allied Sp./Hyb.	<i>Oncsa. Living Fire 'Blazing Embers'</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	<i>Brsdm. Golden Gamine 'White Knight'</i> <b>I Crocker</b>
Gomesa Species or Hybrid	No Entry	
Masdevallia and Dracula Sp./ Hyb.	<i>Masd. Copper Angel</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	<i>Masd. Lightning Stripes 'Bott Stripes'</i> <b>A Gerrard</b>
Other Orchid Species	<i>Coel. mooreana</i> <b>R Hentschel</b>	<i>Coel mooreana</i> <b>R Hentschel</b>
Other Orchid Hybrid	<i>Phal. Pinlong Cheris</i> <b>S Greatbatch</b>	<i>Den. Konan x Snowflake</i> <b>D &amp; V Cleaver</b>
Australian Sarcochilus & All. Sp./Hyb.	<i>Sarco. First Light 'Dawn'</i> <b>S Greatbatch</b>	No Entry
Australian Native Tuberos	<i>Ptst. nutans</i> <b>R Hentschel</b>	No Entry
Australian Native Other Sp./Hyb.	<i>Den. Brimbank Gold</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	<i>Den. kingianum</i> <b>S Greatbatch</b>
Best Species Orchid	<i>Coel. mooreana</i> <b>R Hentschel</b>	
Best Hybrid Orchid	<i>Den. Brimbank Gold</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	
Best of Best	<i>Den. Brimbank Gold</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	
Orchid of the Month	<i>Den. Brimbank Gold</i> <b>I Crocker</b>	

### House Plants

### Floral Arrangements

<b>1st</b>	Lithops <b>R Hentschel</b>	<b>1st</b>	"Design with Accessory" <b>A Gerrard</b>
<b>2nd</b>	Bromeliad <b>S Greatbatch</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>No entry</b>

## Popular Vote

Division	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>First Division</b>	<i>Onc.</i> Tiger Glow 'Bright Eyes' <b>I Woodgate</b>	<i>Paph.</i> Invincible <b>G Hagan</b>	<i>Masd. ova-avis</i> <b>G Hagan</b>
<b>Second Division</b>	<i>Den.</i> Konan x Snowflake <b>D&amp;V Cleaver</b>	<i>Phal.</i> Pinlong Cheris <b>S Greatbatch</b>	Z. Titanic 'May Day' <b>P Willson</b>
<b>House Plants</b>	Lithops <b>R Hentschel</b>	Bromeliad <b>S Greatbatch</b>	No Entry
<b>Floral Arrangement</b>	"Design with Accessory" <b>A Gerrard</b>	No Entry	No Entry



*Cymbidium* Unknown grown by  
Elaine Mulder



*Cymbidium* Coral Reef by  
Elaine Mulder



*Potinara* Netrasiri  
Starbright



*Brassocatanthe* Little  
Mermaid 'Janet'

**Right.** *Wilsonara* Tiger Glow  
'Bright Eyes' grown by  
Ian Woodgate

All photographs on this page are  
by Gary Hill



*Cymbidium* Tananora



**Office Bearers for 2020/21**  
**With phone numbers & email**

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**NOTICE:**

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

Please address all written correspondence to:

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