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Next Meeting : Monday, 15th July, 2019

Venue : *The West Lindfield Community Hall, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

The hall is open from 6.30pm. Please try and get there early to help set up tables, chairs and lighting.

Benching is available shortly after 7pm but please be patient and **wait until tables and class dividers are in place.**

The Culture Class starts at 7.15pm and due to the building repairs class will be set up at the back of the main hall.

Gloria Cushway will be our teacher, and her subject : **Preparing your orchids for a show or benching.**

The main meeting **commences at 8pm.** After the formalities of the general meeting, and the tea break, our **Guest Speaker will be Bill Dobson** who will give a talk entitled “*Australian Dendrobiums other than speciosum*”. Bill has travelled widely in Australia and has been lucky enough to see many of our delightful native orchids in their natural habitats, many we rarely see at our meetings and shows. This sounds like a talk you can't miss.

Our **supper volunteers** this month are **Nancy Yao & Peng Toong.** Thank you for helping.

Best of the Evening Hybrid – RSC Dream Trader ‘Colossus’ - *grown by Gloria and Allan Cushway*

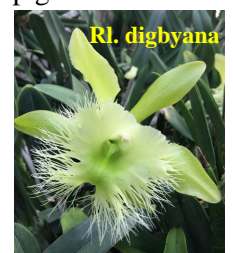
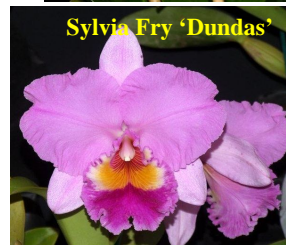
Crikey, with 19 cm diameter flowers it is no wonder it is called Colossus, and yet another clone called ‘Burbank’ is even bigger with flowers measuring 20.5cm across the petals. I have read accounts from way back (the late 1800’s) that talked of some *Cattleya* flowers being 30cm or more across but I can’t help wondering what kind of tape measure they were using back then. Dream Trader is as big as any I have ever seen in modern times.

Dream Trader was created by an Australian breeder from Rockhampton in Qld., and was registered by Aranbeem Orchids near Brisbane in 1990. The cross is RLC Sylvia Fry (1966) x *Cattleya* Horace (1938). Both are keystones in the breeding of this style of large, full flowered “*Cattleya*” hybrids. Both are big flowers as well. ‘Sylvia’, a highly awarded Cross is usually around 17cm but is a fuller shape. Horace is older and bigger (19cm) but a little more ‘species’ shaped. (see pictures at the right)

You can see that Dream Trader is very similar to Sylvia Fry in colour and shape but Horace has increased the size slightly and broadened the petals. Two Sylvia Fry clones have been awarded an FCC - ‘Dundas’ with 85.8 points, and ‘Wallacia’ with 86.4 points. These are obviously very classy orchids but Dream Trader is much younger and five different clones (including Colossus) already have an AM. The highest point score so far is 82.3. I wonder if we will eventually see an FCC for this newer stunner. With top growers like Gloria and Allan there must be a chance.

There are 8 *Cattleya* species in the background of Dream Trader, the largest contributor *Cattleya Trianae* at 34.4%. The only other species involved is *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* (previously *Brassavola digbyana*) which has large, usual lime green flowers, with an amazingly frilled or fringed lip. It has traditionally been used in *Cattleya* breeding to improve lip size and shape and it appears in nearly all *Cattleya* type hybrids to one extent or another.

Congratulations Gloria and Allan. Beautifully grown and presented.



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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@bigpond.com)

1. President Dennys' Desk – Our 'Pres' is currently away on leave. He expects to be back for our July meeting.

2. New Members – 3 new members signed up after visiting our last meeting so it gives me great pleasure to welcome Carol Blackwell, Malcolm Winn, and Grace Tang to our club. I hope you enjoy our meetings and can participate in our social events. Obviously orchids are our common interest. If you want to learn about them we will do our best to help you. Would our official club hosts please seek out these new members and show them around.

3. Tinonee Open Weekend – just google Tinonee Orchids, all the info is there. The Speakers Day is Saturday the 13th July from 10am to 3pm with a great lineup of knowledgeable orchid growers doing lectures. Open day at the nursery is Sunday. Many visitors come up for the weekend and use Saturday night to wine and dine and socialise in Taree. A great weekend and only a few hours drive up the freeway from Sydney. Ray Clements, Tinonee's owner is a great supporter of Sydney suburban orchid societies.

4. St Ives Orchid Fair 2019 – orchid displays, floral art, painting and photography. Orchid vendors from everywhere.



We are one of the clubs that run this fair and we also put on one of the displays 'The Big One' in the display hall. – This is your show – We need your Support and your Help

Get your plants ready, get entered, and make sure you get there. Display set up day Thurs. 15th (see below)

Public show hours – Fri. 16th August, 9-4pm, - Sat. 17th August, 9-4pm, - Sun. 18th August, 9-3pm

location - ST IVES SHOWGROUND, MONA VALE ROAD, ST IVES

5. Show Details for participants - Members please read carefully.

(a) **Pre show set up help** : we need some extra workers to set up the halls on Wed 14th, from 10.30am (before the actual set up day for Displays). **Bring a sandwich for lunch, there will be tea and coffee available. If you can help, just show up at the halls at the grounds on Wed 14th around 10.15am. We are always short on helpers, please come.**

(b) **St Ives Volunteers Roster** – at the July meeting we will again pass around rosters asking for helpers to man the Fair. Please, every member should put their name down for at least one 3½ hour shift. We need people to do security in both halls, people to help on the sales table, and people to help at the front doors. The roster managers will allocate you to where they need you, but, if for example, you have a problem standing up for that long, let them know and we will accommodate your needs.

And of course, if you do a shift, you get to wander the show (in both halls) free of charge for the rest of the day.

(c) **Plants for our display** - We know that many of our members also belong to other societies. Many traditionally support the 'other' society in their displays, **but can we ask even those to find a couple of plants for us as well?** Members providing orchids and foliage for our display is entirely voluntary of course, but the number of members currently contributing is alarmingly small compared to the number of members who bench every month at meetings. Come on people, we are all in this together, let's have a go.

Set up day is Thursday and we need both flowers and foliage. They need to be there by 9am Thursday 15th Aug.

If you can't get your plants to the show, we have some limited capacity to transport them for you but if you can get them there yourself we would appreciate it. **If you do need help to get your plants there, please phone Trevor Onslow on 9477 3516, or Dennys Angove on 043 88 77 689, to see what arrangements can be made.**

(d) **If you are displaying orchids, no matter how they are getting there, we need you to fill in a "nomination form"** (which will be sent with the bulletin). It is a simple sheet to record your name and the names of your orchids, to ensure we know who owns which plants when they are judged. If you happen to win a prize, it also makes sure we know who to give the money to, and/or the prize cards or ribbons.

(e) **You also need to mark each pot clearly with your name or initials** so that it comes back to you. Most of us use white removable stick on labels but painters masking tape is also good. Put it on the back, away from where the flowers face, and write your name or initials boldly and clearly. The pull down process on Sunday can be a mad-house, so labelled pots are a must to help us quickly sort which plants belong to whom.

(f) **Grooming your plants** - Finally, to show off your plants to their best, please use sterile cutters to trim off dead or badly damaged leaves or roots. Stake the flowers so that they stand up properly and face the viewer as best you can.

(g) **Societies Sales Table** - If you want to sell plants, each must be clean, disease free, and well established. It must also have a yellow removeable sales tag marked with - selling price, your name or initials, & 'KOS' to identify your society. Take your sales plants to the combined societies sales table Friday or later. 15% commission applies

6. Please remember there are new laws applicable to the sale of Australian native orchids. The laws apply to both species and hybrids wherever they are sold to the public We will go over how we apply those requirements at the July meeting and this will apply to sales by members at both the St Ives Fair and our Westfield show. Sellers will need to fill in a special form and the society will supply specifically written up authorised labels for the sales plants.

7. The Library (from Chris) – New to library- the June- July edition of Australian Orchid Review. It features images

of cymbidiums on both front and back covers. It has three articles devoted to cymbidiums and for the native orchid enthusiasts, articles about newly classified native terrestrial species and *Bulbophyllum weinthalii*.

Advance Diary Dates 2019

13th – 14th July : special open weekend event at Tinonee Orchids at Tinonee near Taree. Guest speakers, show, plant sales. Details online at Tinonee Orchids - <https://www.tinoneeorchids.com/shop/shop.html>

28 Jul, Sun 9-4pm Hills District Orchids, Winter Open Day, 183 Windsor Rd, Northmead

3rd Aug Sat ANOS Sydney Group - public Auction, Federation Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground view from 9am, auction 10am to 1pm

2nd – 4th Aug : MWOS's Orchids by the Sea at Montgomery Hall, Veterans Parade , Collaroy Plateau

9th – 11th Aug : National Orchids Extravaganza, The Centre, 1 Pellitt Lane Dural. (Paph Society & Cymbid Club of Aust)

16th -18th August: St. Ives Orchid Fair Show at St. Ives Showground.

26th - 27th September: Combined Berowra OS/ Ku-Ring-Gai OS - Hornsby Westfield Orchid Show, Hornsby.

Best of the Evening Novice – *Dendrobium Bucko* 'Beckett' grown by *John Chang*

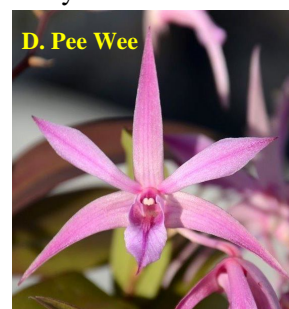


This is an unusual hybrid where the breeders have reached back to the past to retry an historic hybrid as a parent.

Den. Bucko was registered in 2008 by Down Under Native Orchids as the cross between Den. Pee Wee and Den. tangerinum. As tangerinum is a species, I guess you have figured out by now that the historic hybrid I referred to is Den. Pee Wee, which was named after a species of bird common in Australia).

Den. Pee Wee was registered in 1979 by the Cannons nursery in Queensland and is famous because it was one of the first hybrids between the gorgeous but warm growing Den. bigibbum, and one of the cool growing species in Section Dendrocoryne. The cross was beaten to the punch as 'very first' by the cross called Esme Poulton (bigibbum x kingianum) which was registered the year before in 1978.

Perhaps the reason Pee Wee is better known is that Esme Poulton took after the kingianum parent and looks like a much improved kingianum whereas Pee Wee (bigibbum x tetragonum) looks like a slightly spidery bigibbum and has absorbed some of tetragonum's cooler growing characteristics. It doesn't quite make Pee Wee a cool grower, but more accurately what has come to be known as a 'Tropicoool', an expression coined and trademarked by Down Under Native Orchids, but which has been adopted by growers as part of the vernacular. As an indication of their relative breeding popularity, Esme Poulton has been registered as a parent only 3 times since it was created. Pee Wee has been registered as a direct parent 47 times and is in the background of 368 hybrids in total.



But enough of the history. The other parent of Bucko is Den. tangerinum, a popular species from the lowlands of Papua New Guinea, usually as an epiphyte in the crowns of trees at elevations around 250m but is sometimes also found at higher elevations and as a lithophyte growing on rocks. It is a member

of Section Spatulata (the Antelope orchids) and has the typical spiral twist to its petals. The upright cane like stems are up to 60cm tall. The usually yellow orange flowers are 4 to 5cm across and the 40cm arching inflorescence carries up to 20 flowers and there can be multiple simultaneous inflorescences. Other colour varieties are also known. It has been very popular as a parent in breeding because it is slightly smaller and more compact than many of its fellow Spatulatas but still carries a good flower count. It isn't hard to see the twisty petal influence of tangerinum in Bucko,



and I would expect it would increase the flower count on each spike as well, but there would be a downside.

Tangerinum is definitely a tropical lowlands orchid and would need to be grown like the warmer growing varieties of bigibbum itself. I don't know how John grows this one and he is certainly growing it very well, but if I was asked for advice I would say that you would just about get away with growing it without heat in Sydney provided that it was under cover, and that in winter you grew it VERY dry and very high. The brightest conditions possible.

Congratulations on your Best of the Evening John. I envy your skills at growing it so well.

Supermarket Supplies

As she heads off to the supermarket, the wife asks her husband : "Is there anything I can get you?"

Husband answers: "yes, I want a sense of meaning and purpose in my life ...I seek fulfilment and completeness within my soul ... I want to connect to god and discover the spiritual side of me..."

Wife replies : " Be more specific, beer or vodka."

Telephone Landlines – Yes, I admit it, I still have a landline, or, as I prefer to call it, a cell phone finder.

Best of the Evening Species – *Epidendrum Hugomedinae* ‘Christina’ grown by Garrie and Lesley Bromley



This really is a pretty little orchid isn't it. It is relatively new to horticulture being only first described in 2004. In Australia it is even newer. I think Garrie is one of the very first to get a plant here and it took him several attempts to nurse one through quarantine.

Like every new found orchid this one is under great demand, and even nursery raised seedlings from flasks sell before they hit the bench and go for exorbitant prices. Hopefully demand pressures will ease in years to come as stock production increases and the growers around the world who must have one of the first, eventually satiate their desires.

Little habitat information is publicly available. In the original taxonomic description defining the species all it tells us is that it known only from southeastern Ecuador, at around 1600m altitude and that flowering is in March.” With mankind's record of gross abuse of anything new or of value found in the wild, perhaps it is best we don't all know anyway.

What I can tell you though is that the plant is ‘caespitose’ (i.e. it grows in close set clumps) and the stems are ‘short’ (whatever that implies). Garrie and Lesley's plant is about 30 cm tall, but in an award write up in the USA it described a plant with one stem 14 cm tall, the other 20 cm so perhaps it can be smaller as well. Inflorescences can have up to 28 snow white flowers with a little lilac in the lip. They also have a lovely perfume about mid-day. Flowers are only small at about 14 mm, but the close set cluster is obviously very attractive.

The inflorescence is ‘pluri-racemose’ (which means it is a simple non branched flowering structure which can flower multiple times from the same growing point over several seasons). This makes it one of those unusual orchids where you shouldn't cut off the flower spike when the flowers fall, because it flowers again off the same stalk for several years. Or at least that is what I understand it does.

The pictures on the right come from the website of Ecuagenera, who have a great reputation for orchid culture. For this species in particular they tell us that: “It likes a lot of light and good air circulation, the plants is compact, we grow it in fine bark with 20 % of sphagnum.”

I only know this species from the Bromley's little treasure, from stories Garrie has told me, and from



what I have been able to read, but from my scant knowledge, it would seem that Garrie has acquired a relatively superior plant. If you compare the flowers on Garrie's plant to those in the close up from Ecuagenera, you will see that in the latter the lip edges curl up a little and the petals and sepals are nowhere near as well shaped. There are also other internet pictures that show flowers slightly less well shaped.

Congratulations on another Best of the Evening Garrie and Lesley.

A New Kind of *Dendrobium* Hybrid by Jim Brydie (use of pictures marked ** below, authorised by the owner)

At the recent Orchids Out West (OOW) show at Hawkesbury, an interesting *Dendrobium* was awarded Champion Other Orchid. I was particularly pleased because I just love the brilliant colours of the type of the *Dendrobiums* behind this champion, and have long hoped that public popularity would eventually lead our commercial hybridists down these paths to produce a new era of brightly coloured easily grown and widely available hybrids.

The OOW Champion to which I refer was *Dendrobium* Hsinying Chrysopense ‘Royale’ pictured here. Now how is that for colour?

The breeding is still primitive, being a primary hybrid between *D. glomeratum* and *D. chrysopense* (syn *obtusisepalum*). Both species are members of “Section Calyptrichilus” within *Dendrobium*. Or at least they are at present anyway.

My original plan for writing this was to base it solely on breeding between species in *Calyptrichilus*, and perhaps a few second generation crosses along those same lines. But, I ran into a problem. The taxonomic status of this part of *Dendrobium* seems to be in a state of flux and not all experts agree with which species are in which Sections.

The genus *Dendrobium* is very large, with about 1200 species. It is the second largest of all orchid genera, behind only *Bulbophyllum* which has about 1500 species.

Because it is so large, you shouldn't be surprised to hear that there are also many clearly identifiable, more closely related sub groups that taxonomists define as “Sections”. *Dendrobium* presently has about 40 “Sections”, with



Calyptrochilus being one, but the reality is that Calyptrochilus has two other closely related Sections (Pedilonum, and Oxyglossum), and in the sequence of evolution that created all these related species, there are species in at least two other Sections that DNA studies show are also very close.

In Jay Pfahl's wonderful website : **"The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia"**, which is a free tool available to everyone, he seems to have taken an approach that combines many members of Pedilonum and Oxyglossum into Calyptrochilus. I am not a taxonomist but this seems to be in line with Mark Clements DNA study report in 2003/4 and the acceptance of that view by at least some prestigious experts. The content on this website is a joint effort with contributions from many Orchid experts, expert photographers, and expert and experienced growers.

The Equally valuable licensed tool (Orchidwiz) for which I have great respect, takes a different view and lists species in Sections according to older opinions. Who knows where all this will go in the next 20 years but for this article I choose to follow The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia.

So, considering the definition of Calyptrochilus as I accept it, what species does it actually contain? I don't want to list them all but I think even experienced growers will be surprised at some of the names on the following 'sample' list.

Sample Calyptrochilus Species : *lawsii*, *chrysopterum* (syn *obtusisepalum*), *pseudoglomeratum*, *mohlianum*, *melinanthum*, *subclausum*, *glomeratum*, *bracteosum*, *cuthbertsoniae*, *laevifolium*, *helwigianum*, *vexillarius* and even our Australian native 'Ironbark Orchid' – *Den. aemulum* (which I had always thought was Sect. *Dendrocoryne* along with *kingianum* and *speciosum* etc).

For less experienced readers, if you want a little more info, I wrote an introductory article on Calyptrochilus in our Oct 2010 bulletin, showing some species we often see in collections, and one of the first hybrids which became very popular (D. Gowan's Tangelo). I will ask our web manager to put the article up on the website.

But of course things have now come a long way and there are many more new hybrids that we can

look at to see the extent of variety that is becoming available. Lets begin with other hybrids from the parents of our OOW Champion - first with the lovely yellow & orange flowered species, *chrysopterum* (previously known as *D. obtusisepalum*). This species is shown at the far right, and examples of 3 of its delightful hybrids are shown beside it.



The other parent of the OOW Champion orchid was *Den. glomeratum*. It has to have about the most showy flowers in the whole section. Brilliant, glowing, sort of light purple flowers with a contrasting orange lip. Again it has dense clusters of flowers in groups all along the cane but it also has the downside of generally long (2 metres) stems, and they are usually pendent. Shorter and more upright *glomeratum* clones do exist and I would presume that these would be sought out by any hybridist. Because *glomeratum* featured in last month's bulletin, I won't include a picture of the species here but below I have shown you two very nice examples of other *glomeratum* Section hybrids.



But, after the parents of Hsinying Chrysopense where do we look next?

Hybridisation within this group, and even with its close relatives, is a new field but many exciting hybrids have already been made, especially with some of the species that are smaller in stature and could produce genuine miniatures with reasonable sized colourful flowers.

How about these next few Calyptrochilus primary hybrid appetisers.



When I started to write this article it was my intention to avoid mentioning *Den. cuthbertsonii*, and its fellow high altitude, moss forest, PNG cousins, like *Den. vexillarius*, *pentapterum*, and the like. While these are nearly all amazingly beautiful and desirable orchids, nearly all of them have evolved to such a specific environmental habitat that they are very difficult to grow. At least they are in Sydney anyway. They are very unforgiving when we get those really hot dry spells which are more or less common in Sydney's summer.

However, I found that I couldn't ignore the fact that hybridists **are** focussing on some of these species, the beautiful *cuthbertsonii* in particular. After talking to a few experienced growers at the Mingara Orchid Fair at the end of June, I found that many are having some good success growing these hybrids, and it reminded me of one of the hoped for principles of all hybridists. That is, that a hybrid between two species will very often be much easier to grow than either of the parent species. Some of the very narrow environmental adaptations that created the species are weakened, or softened by combining the genes of different species. It is known as Hybrid Vigour.

I decided that I must include these gems, but with a caution to those who will take them on. Hybrid vigour doesn't mean that you can suddenly grow all of these hanging from a backyard fence. The first stage with the hybrids is that it may at least make culture realistically possible. A big improvement considering what you need to do to grow some of the species involved. Be prepared to provide cool moist growing conditions and do some research on how you will go about it. Ask others for advice.

Still, when you look at such gems as Den. Mountain Magic, Den. Illusion, and Den. Nagomi pictured above, how could you resist at least trying?

But, if you wanted to try something decidedly easier to grow but still amazingly beautiful, I think that *D. bracteosum* and its hybrids have a lot going for them.

A few years ago I bought a flowering size plant of Den. Hibiki (the picture at the top of the page is not my plant, mine is a paler pink) and it has grown prolifically and flowered wonderfully every year since. I grew it in my covered shadehouse right through one season, including winter, and it didn't seem to mind the cold of winter. What I think it did lack in the shadehouse, was humidity. *Bracteosum* is a warm moist grower. Hibiki's other parent is *laevifolium* which seems to be the one that is imparting winter cool tolerance. The problem is that both *laevifolium* and *bracteosum* require constant moisture and no drying out. I put Hibiki back into the glasshouse because it's closed up, warmer environment provides that higher humidity and it does look a bit better there.

Reference- picture marked ** is used with the kind permission of the owner Peter Lin, and may not be reproduced without his permission. See some of his wonderful pictures at <https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/minicatt/sets/72157603362538503/>

Sphagnum Moss Wafers - something new by Lesley Bromley (reproduced with the author's permission)



At Orchids out West last month I came across a new product that is being used by some orchid enthusiasts when deflasking. I have now used some of these wafers and been very happy with how easy they are to use, just waiting to see the results. I feel they are a bit expensive if you do a lot of deflasking but for hobby growers the fact that you can buy small quantities is a big plus. All you do is take two of the wafers and put them either side of the seedling (pic2), then place them into a thumb pot (3) and either water well, or do as I do, and immerse them in a small dish of water. Unlike Sphagnum Moss, which when dry is difficult to rewet, these wafers absorb water like a sponge (4) and in less than 1 minute the seedling is firmly potted (5, 6).

I purchased these wafers from Orchids of Distinction who will be at all the orchid fairs in and around Sydney this year. The packet contains approx. 40 wafers, enough for 20 seedlings. Maybe this will help you when deflasking your next seedlings.

