



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Village Chief North 'Green Genius' – beautifully grown by **Jessie Koh**.



This cross between *Cattleya* Village Chief Cuba x *Rlc.* Mem. Helen Brown, was registered by Chih-Cheng Chen in 2007.

With its distribution of vibrant, contrasting colours this beauty is a real eye-catcher. The first time I ever saw this orchid was in a photo **John Chang** submitted in the very first virtual benching issue & shown again on the right. I had never seen the colour combination before & it just really grabbed my attention. It immediately went on my wish list!



This little charmer is the result of at least 8 generations of breeding involving crosses and backcrosses and 14 different species from the *Cattleya* family. If this colour combination was the aim, they certainly had to work hard to get it over more than 100 years. All the species ancestor photos shown below are from the [bluenanta](#) site. The percentage representation is also listed. An impressive collection of very showy species in their own right consisting of 97.66% *Cattleya*.

There are 53 species of *Cattleya* spread throughout tropical South America. Renowned for their large, extravagant, often fragrant flowers. There are some great growing tips for the *Cattleya* alliance orchids including *Cattleya*, *Laelia*, *Sophranitis* & their hybrids written by Jim Brydie on our KOS website. They are certainly worth trying & as you can see from the spectacular examples throughout this and previous virtual benching issues, there is no shortage of expert growers in our own club to give you all the guidance you need.



C. dowiana 27.72, *C. intermedia* 25.0, *C. granulosa* 12.5, *C. tenebrosa* 7.8, *C. mossiae* 6.25, *C. purpurata* 4.69, *C. warscewiczii* 3.9



C. bicolor 3.12, *Rl. digbyana* 2.34, *C. mendelii* 1.56, *C. gaskelliana* 1.56, *C. wallisii* 1.56, *C. xanthina* 1.17, *C. cinnabarina* 0.78

Miltoniopsis Lillian Nakamoto 'Tanto' a simply stunning orchid grown to perfection by **Lina Huang**.



Miltoniopsis are commonly known as the “Pansy Orchid” for obvious reasons. There are 5 to 6 species found in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Peru. *Miltoniopsis* can be differentiated from *Miltonia* as *Mps.* pseudobulbs produce a single leaf. Lillian Nakamoto is a cross between *Mps.* Lorene x Lynne Waihee & according to [orchids.com](#) the cultivar ‘Tanto’ is considered one of the best white *Miltoniopsis*.

A possible tetraploid, Tanto is a vigorous grower. A tetraploid is often denoted with 4N on the tag which means it has double the normal number of chromosomes than a standard plant of that species or hybrid – relevant for breeding purposes.

Tanto has pseudobulbs that produce several inflorescences with up to 8 striking, almost 10cm white flowers with a distinctly contrasting centre of rich dark plum with a spot of colour on the lateral sepals & a gentle blush of colour on the petals, simplistic elegance! The fragrance is described as powdery rose. **IOSPE**

Continuing the wonderful collection of blooms from [Lina Huang](#)



Cattleya Dendi's Double – beautifully grown by [Lina](#).

(*C. Penny Kuroda* (Caudebec Gp) (syn *C. Penny Kuroda* (Caudebec)) × *C. Batemaniana*).

Species ancestors: *C. intermedia* 31.5%,
C. coccinea 25%, *C. guttata* 25%,
C. loddigesii 12.51%, *C. mossiae* 5.46%,
C. warneri 0.78%

Three of the six species ancestors have speckling. I am no genetics expert so based purely on appearance, the most prominent spotting seems to come from *C. guttata* making this hybrid a real head turner with its distinctive patterning & vibrant colours.

Talk about pretty in pink!



Odontonia Pacific Paranoia
'Other Side of Cool'



Laelia gouldiana



Miltonia Hybrid



Oncidium flexuosum



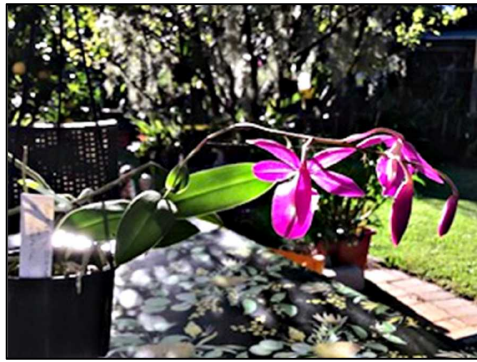
Bc. Island Charm 'Blumen Insel'
What a pastel delight!



Burragera Brazilian Sun



Vanda Soroa Cherry Bomb (Dr Anek x Madame Rattana) – **Jessie Koh**



Barkeria scandens
Syn. *Barkeria cyclotella* - **Jessie Koh**



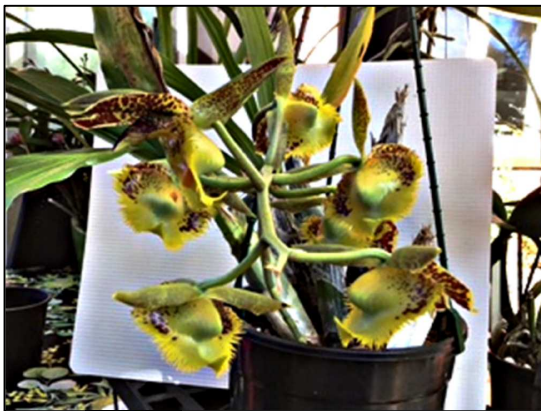
Miltonia spectabilis
Jessie Koh



← *Dendrobium Cassiope*
Jessie Koh. A primary hybrid (*Den. moniliforme* x *nobile*). What a gorgeous specimen plant!



→
Epicatanthe Volcano Trick 'Orange Fire'
Lina Huang



← *Catasetum*
Marge Soule
Jessie Koh



→
Vanda hybrid?
Jessie Koh



Welcoming **Ann Dimond** to her first VB with these two delightful blooms



← *Cattleya Unknown*
Ann says she has had this plant for a very long time. The plant has faded a number of times over the years but it looks like **Ann** has definitely found it's happy place now!

→ *Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise*. **Ann** has this hanging from a tree & says it's easy to grow, the leaves occasionally cop a bit of sunburn & apparently her naughty chickens have caused a bit of leaf damage too!



Amazing blooms from the home of T&P. The photos on this page also provide a little insight into the impressive growing set up - you can understand why T&P consistently grow such superb plants.



Howeara Lava Burst 'Puanani' (*Hwra. Mini-Primi* x *Rdza. secunda*) Clearly it's been a very good year for this magnificent specimen. *Howeara* is an intergeneric hybrid between the three genera *Leochilus*, *Oncidium* & *Rodriguezia*. This stunner has 35 racemes and over 350 flowers, it creates quite the impression – gorgeous!



Catasetum pileatum 'Pierr Couret' x *pileatum album*



Dendrochilum magnum



←
Den. Mousmee

→
Blc. Mem. Henry Rudolph
'Miyas Visit'



Continuing with more superbly grown, remarkable flowers & photography from T&P



←
Blc. Williette
Wong
'Best Clone'
The whorl of
colour on the
lip is
beautiful



→
Rlc. Saigon
Sunrise



Laeliocattleya Angelheart 'Showgirl'



Cattleya Chocolate Drop



Sophrocattleya Dal's Choice (= Horace x Lana Coryell)



Laeliocattleya Love Fantasy 'H&R'



Aerangis appendiculata



Oncidium barbatum



Oncidium onusta



Zygo. Artur Elle 'Dark' – T&P



Ddc. magnum - Lisa Harris



Milt. spatabilis Var. *moreliana* – T&P

Zelenkoa onusta (syn. *Oncidium onustum*) - John Chang – elegant presentation as always. The genus *Zelenkoa* was



introduced in 2001 by MW Chase, NH Williams *et.al.* The genus is named after Harry Zelenko a painter, illustrator, designer, writer, photographer & self-professed 'orchid nut'. The genus contains only one known species *Zelenkoa onusta*.

Native to Panama, Colombia, Ecuador & Peru from regions having long dry winters, growing at elevations of 25 to 1200 meters. In nature it is often found growing on cacti. It is a miniature sized hot to cool growing epiphyte with



small 2.5cm ovoid, longitudinally ribbed pseudobulbs. The 2cm flowers are pure yellow. After blooming they require a definite rest period with no water or fertilizer until new growth appears, mimicking climatic conditions in their natural habitat. AOS IOSPE



Jessie Koh



Gomesa Crispa – Lina Huang

Gomesa Crispa – 7 spikes in full glory – reportedly a clean citrus scent so this one must be lovely in the house



Coelogyne speciosa – Jenny Richardson



Coelogyne pallens – Jenny Richardson



← *Miltassia*
Aztec
Jenny
Richardson
(ex. Chris
Wilson)

→
Milt. Belle
Glade x *Milt.*
Reynella
Jenny
Richardson



Paph. charlesworthii
Lee Payne



Oncidium Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'
Lisa Harris



Paph. charlesworthii
G&A Cushway



A breathtaking display from Gloria & Allan Cushway – what a glorious sight on the deck

Back row C. Porcia 'Cannizaro' **Next row** Bc. Brunswick Gem Coral **Next row middle** Bc. Donna Kimura Paradise
Tami **On right** Lc. Angel Heart Sumi **Next row** 3x Rsc. Adelaide Queen, white is Bc. Burdekin Heights, dark red is Lc.
Pirate King Port Wine **Last row** 2x Bc. California Girl 'Orchidlibrary' & white with red throat Lc. Persepolis Splendor

A couple of amazing specimen plants from two of our expert growers

Epidendrum peperomia – grown into a beautiful specimen by **T&P**. This dwarf/minature, reed-stem epiphytic



species originates from Colombia & Venezuela growing in pine & oak forests at altitudes of 600 – 2700 meters. Also found from Southern Mexico to Panama at varying elevations & extending to Peru where they can be found at 3000m, with those found at higher elevations growing as terrestrials.

Due to the extended distribution & large range in elevation, these plants adapt to a wide variety of growing conditions ranging from warm to cold. Plants should not be exposed to direct midday sun & benefit from good air circulation at all times.

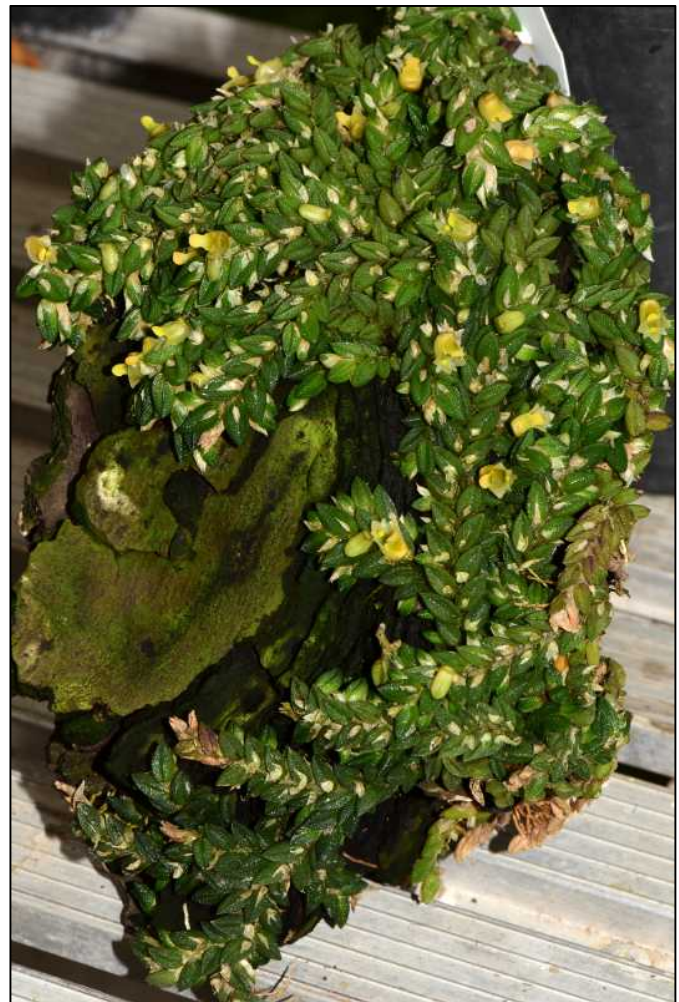
Humidity should be maintained at 85-90% but can be dropped to 64-70% for a couple of months during the dry winter. In their natural habitat rainfall is low for a couple of months in winter but there is still moisture available from heavy dew & late-night mists.

As the plant matures it can form large mats producing a single 2.5cm flower on a terminal inflorescence. [OrchidWiz](#) says in a well-grown plant many growths will flower simultaneously – as can be seen in **T&P's** plant. This species has no pseudobulbs, instead it produces alternate, succulent, fleshy leaves from its 8cm long cane-like stem. Leaves can become infused with purple if given bright light. [IOSPE](#) [OrchidWiz](#)

Dendrobium toressae – **Peter & Jane D'Olier**. What a superb little orb of orchid this is! Commonly referred to as The Sparkle Orchid or The Mica Orchid. This little cutie is native to tropical Northern Queensland as a hot to cool growing miniature epiphyte or lithophyte at elevations of 50 to 1220 meters. Often found in exposed areas on trees or rocks.

It has rhizomes with the remnants of a small basal & now inactive pseudobulb. The highly branched stems are covered in tightly packed, succulent, alternate leaves 6-8mm long. Each leaf is only 3-4mm wide and glistens in the light. They can also develop a red hue if grown in high light conditions. As the plant matures it forms a dense mat that can completely cover their mounts as can be seen in **Peter & Jane's** impressive specimen. What a sight it must be to see that in nature.

Single flowers ~6mm long bloom on a very short inflorescence. Flowers can vary from cream coloured to pale pink & occur sporadically throughout the year. [ISOPE](#) [Wikipedia](#)



What a resplendent explosion of colour from these magnificently grown blooms of **Peter & Jane D'Olier**
and as always, fantastic photography



← *Vandachostylis* Pine Rivers 'Blue'
The hybrid is (*Vanda* Peggy Foo × *Rhynchostylis coelestis*).
Wow – just wow!! The metallic sheen on this stunner makes the flowers look not quite real - they are fantastic. There is a 'Pink' variety as well. I don't understand the propensity with genera like this to refer to the colour as blue. You couldn't get a more magnificent purple – let it be proudly purple – the colour is amazing!

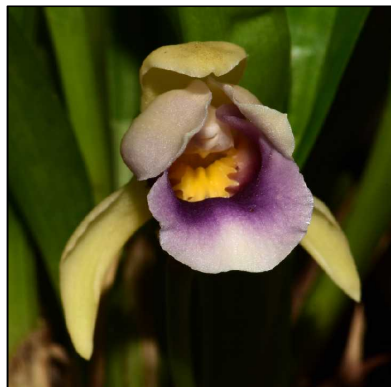


← *Barkeria*
scandens

→
Phalaenopsis
Unknown



I am going to miss the stunning photos as well as the wonderful orchids from **Jane & Peter D'Olier**, more beauties!



Warczewiczella marginata
but some query this



Rlc. California Girl 'Orchidlibrary'



Phal. amboinensis var. flavida



Paphiopedilum micranthum



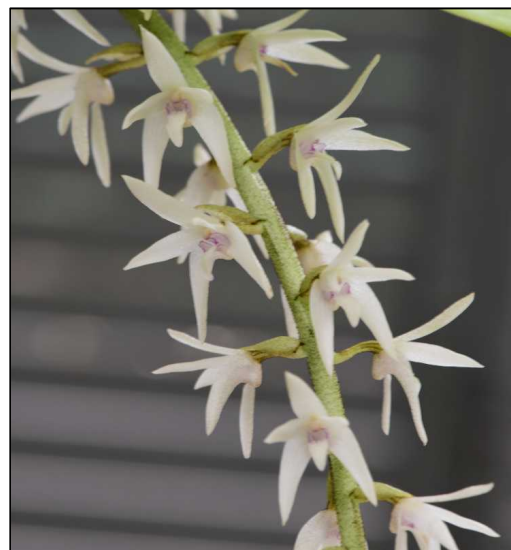
Cattleya elongata



Cattleya fournieri



Oncidium sotoanum *FS to 2cm



Eria javanica

*FS = Flower size based on IOSPE



Dendrobium tongii – Peter & Jane D'Olier



Dendrobium klabatense – Peter & Jane D'Olier



← *Sophronitis brevipedunculata*
Peter & Jane D'Olier
What a vibrant colour - but aren't you glad you don't have to say the name out loud



→
Ceratostylis rubra
Peter & Jane D'Olier



←
Coelogyne usitana
Peter & Jane D'Olier



→
Renanthera philippinensis
Peter & Jane D'Olier



Zygopetalum Unknown - Jenny Richardson



Vanda coerulea 'Dr Grove' - Lisa Harris unusual bud shape



Welcoming **Trish Peterson** to her first VB with a selection of delightful blooms



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'
Trish Peterson



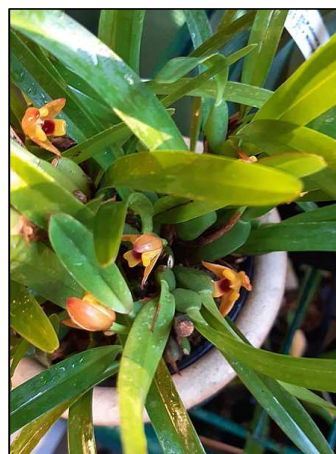
Bulbophyllum rothschildianum
Trish Peterson



Bulbophyllum fascinator?
Trish Peterson



Gastrochilus obliquus - **Trish Peterson**



Maxillaria variabilis x2 - **Trish Peterson** *FS 1 to 1.5cm



Onc. sotoanum - **Lisa Harris**



Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'
Lee Payne



Angraecum eburneum
(or *Angcm. longicalcar?*) - **Lee Payne**

↑ A cautionary note from Jay Pfahl on IOSPE “*This orchid for most of the last 200 years has been known as *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* which with recent studies has been found to describe a yellow flowered species from Andean South America known commonly as *Oncidium pyramidale*. A new name was needed for the pink, highly fragrant flowers that occur in Central America hence this new name *Oncidium sotoanum*”.* *FS to 2cm



Coelogyne ovalis x2
Lee Payne



Cym. Devon Elf 4N
'April Orange' - Lisa Harris



Liparis swenssonii
Trish Peterson *FS 1cm



Onc. sotoanum - DL



Miltonia moreliana - DL



Ctt. Little Susie 'Joy' - DL



Stenoglottis longifolia x2 - DL



Paphiopedilum purpuratum - DL



Miltonia Ann Warne - DL



Miltonia clowesii - DL



Dendrochilum magnum - DL



Dendrochilum wenzelii - DL *FS 1cm



Coelogyne fimbriata - DL



Stanhopea wardii - DL



Ctt. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
Lisa Harris



Sophrolaeliocattleya Yellow Bird
Jenny Richardson



Wilsonara Pacific Perspective
'Pacific Heat' - Lisa Harris



Zygopetalum Artur Elle 'Essendon' x Kiwi Choice 'Eileen' x2 - Jenny Richardson



Ornithophora radicans (Syn. *Gomesa radicans*, *Sigmatostalix radicans*) – Lee Payne. Found in Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul states of Brazil near the coast at elevations around 400 meters.



A miniature, warm to hot growing epiphyte. The entire plant only reaches about 23cm tall & produces a slender 18cm inflorescence with several 0.5cm to 1cm flowers.

With a clump type growth habit & it's grassy like leaves it produces an impressive specimen orchid when grown well as Lee has done.

The photo to the right is taken from [Orchidsforum](#) & shows a close up of the flower – looking like a tiny little bird with its head bowed & wings outstretched. The flowers last 4 – 6 weeks and

reportedly have a sweet honey fragrance. It has the potential to bloom twice a year in summer & autumn – bonus!

[IOSPE](#)



Orpha. radicans Orchidsforum



Cattleya Aloha Case Ching Hua
Lee Payne



Cattleya jenmanii var. *coerullea*
Lee Payne



Cattleya perinnii
Lee Payne



Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash' - T & P



Cym. Enzan Shining 'Royal Flame' - Jenny Richardson



Ctt. Ploenpit Fantasy x Golden Pin
Lee Payne



Miltonia Tropical Heatwave
Jenny Richardson



Blc. Erin Kobayashi 'Lahaina Gold'
Lee Payne



←
Bulbophyllum
Unknown
Lee Payne



→
Ctt. Blue Boy
'Gainsborough'
Lee Payne



Doritaenopsis Queen Beer 'Red Sky' - Lisa Harris



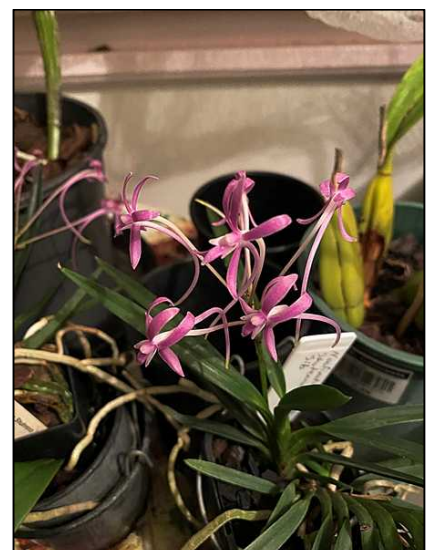
Cattleya Porcia 'Cannizaro' - Lisa Harris



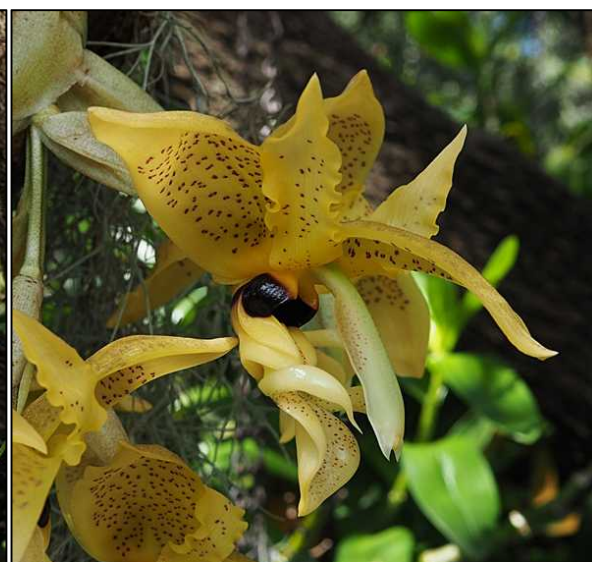
Cattleya Portiata - Lisa Harris



Holc. kimballianum – Lisa Harris



Neofinetia falcata - Lee Payne



Stanhopea wardii – or hybrid? – Jenny Richardson



← Rth. →

Chunfong
Smile
'Cluster'
Jenny
Richardson

Showing that
even a cultivar
name does not
always
guarantee an
exact flower
match.



Hi everyone - our meetings have restarted & although we may be running reduced benching for a while we have decided to close the Virtual Benching with this issue. I hope it served its purpose of providing some connection during a most bizarre time.

With sincere thanks to everyone who sent in photos, one or many – especially the regular contributors, it's been a joy to open your emails & discover the treasures within. I appreciate your patience with my follow up emails checking names etc. & your kind understanding when I made mistakes that made it to the final copy. With extra special mention to Lina, Jessie and T&P who (if you ignore my omissions) contributed to every issue – your constant support was very much appreciated!

My heartfelt thanks to Jim for his expert review, guidance & encouragement throughout, his ever patient & informative responses to my many questions & his enlightening technical advice. I hate to think what it would have been like to do this every month the way I produced the first couple of issues!

Thanks to Garrie, Trevor, Jean & Geoff & Peter & Jane for their help with some of the identifications & plant doctor services.

Over the 13 issues, 149 pages were published including 1333 photos from 38 contributors. A few unlabelled or mislabelled plants were identified, virus was identified in three plants (not seen in VB). We had the opportunity to see a few plants that were either too big, don't flower for long enough to make it to a meeting & from members who don't routinely attend meetings.

I appreciated your lovely feedback throughout. I learnt a lot & had the pleasure of virtually meeting members who no longer attend meetings – my Covid silver lining. Jenny 🤔

My cute little baby dragon friend is a later instar of *Charaxes sempronius* - caterpillar of the tailed emperor butterfly