



# THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

(Established in 1947)  
A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

May 2021 Volume 62 No. 5  
Annual Membership : **\$15 single, \$18 family**

**President :** Dennys Angove 043 88 77 689  
**Secretary :** Jenny Richardson (Culture Classes)  
**Treasurer :** Lina Huang  
**Senior Vice President :** tba  
**Junior Vice President :** tba  
**Editor (Hon volunteer)** Jim Brydie  
**Society mail to -** PO box 1501 Lane Cove, NSW, 1595  
**Email –** kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

**Committee** Jessie Koh (Membership Secretary / Social Events)  
**Committee** Herb Schoch (Liaison)  
**Committee :** Pauline Onslow (thank you)  
**Committee :** Trevor Onslow (thank you)  
**Committee :** Chris Wilson (Library and Reference Sources)  
**Committee :** Lee Payne (Sponsorship)

**web site (active link) :** <http://kuringgaiorchidsociety.org.au>

**Next Meeting :** Our next meeting back will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, commencing at 8pm.

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

*The hall is open from 6.30pm, the meeting commences at 8pm.* Please try and get there early to help set up tables, chairs and other facilities, and if you are benching, give yourself time to get plants in place.

There will be no culture classes while meeting space needs to be managed.

This month we will hold our previously deferred **Annual General meeting**, including election of officers. See page 2.

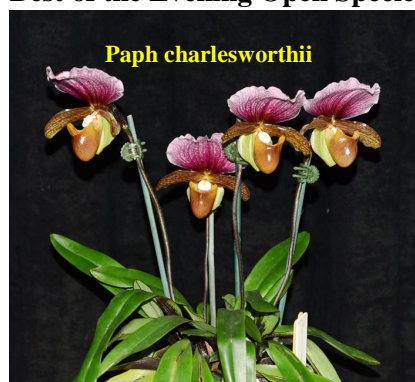
**Members Auction -** *The main event for the night is a member's orchid auction.* Each single membership is invited to bring 2 lots for auction, family memberships may bring 3. A 'lot' may be a bundle of more than plant.

**Sellers please note:** *Plant grooming and appearance do make a difference.* Clean and stake your orchids before you bring them in, and, try to select orchids to sell that you think will be of interest to buyers. It is an unfortunate fact that more common orchids can be difficult to sell. **Refer to the conditions and procedure set out on page 3.**

**Special Covid 19 Meeting Conditions** *There is more detail on this on page 2 but please note these key issues :*

- (a) Numbers attending are limited. If you wish to attend you must register your request in advance. Detail on page 2.
- (b) There will be hot water urns for tea and coffee at the mid meeting break but you must bring your own mug, milk, stirrers, and tea or coffee makings for whatever you wish to make. You may also bring a nibble for yourself.
- (c) Please bring your own pen or pencil to write tags and benching cards. No sharing please.
- (d) Please don't handle any plant other than your own. There will be assisting marshals wearing gloves to assist when things need to be moved. **ASK FOR HELP.**
- (e) Numbers of plants that may be benched are still limited but the number **per membership** has been increased from 3 to 4. Please don't bring more plants than that limit. **The limit is not per person.** It is still 4 even for a family.

**Best of the Evening Open Species and Hybrid** *bench by Allan and Gloria Cushway*



What a pleasure it is to be back at meetings and see beautifully grown orchids 'in the flesh' so to speak.

One of the advantages of coming to club meetings like ours and many others is that you get to see what those plants that are secretly stashed in your shade house are really supposed to look like, and to perhaps even seek the advice of growers who have obviously solved the puzzle of

the proper balance of factors. But of course each type of orchid is different and requires a slightly different balance of 'the factors', and each grower is different and just happens to like different types of orchids. I am not sure whether we are managing the plants or the plants are managing us here, but we do happen to have growers in our club who are pretty good at a very wide range of different kinds of orchids.

Gloria really likes her Cattleyas, and as you can see with Tanya T'nt above, Gloria has taught herself to be pretty damn good at it. Allan on the other hand likes Paphiopedilums these days and I haven't seen a better charlesworthii than this one in a long while. He used to specialise in the intergeneric Oncidium group and is very, very good at growing those too, but people change and move on. Congratulations Gloria and Allan. Thank you for sharing.

The opinions and recommendations published in this bulletin are those of the authors of the various items. The Ku-Ring-Gai Orchid Society Inc disclaims responsibility for any losses or damages that may be attributed to the use or misuse of any material or any opinion published in this bulletin. The bulletin and its content are protected by copyright and no part of them may be reproduced or re-used without the permission of the author.

**Society News** (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at [jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au) )

**President Dennys' Desk** – Our re-start meeting seemed to go well. I thank all those members who attended for being patient and respectful. I enjoyed myself and it was so good to see member's faces again.

Members logged in using the manual sign-on as well as the QR code supplied by the Council. Of the 40 people registered we had 37 people attend. The chair spacing can still be tuned and we have determined we can have 48 people attend from now on until the restrictions are lifted. However, we still must be vigilant with respect to the restrictions in case they are re-tightened.

The committee has approved utilising the annex space for the sales table for the time being, so until the complete lifting of all restrictions, culture classes will not resume separately. I thank all those members who contributed to the setup and pull down no matter how minor. Every bit of effort helped.

**Benching of plants** – The April tables looked a little bare so we are lifting the benching allowance to 4 plants per membership for May. Benching cards can be obtained from Chris Wilson on the night. Please bring your own pen.

**AGM** – By now most members will be aware that the May meeting will be the delayed AGM from last October. ***This will not replace the October 2021 AGM.*** Up until now we have been in caretaker mode under the committee elected in 2019. Pauline and Trevor Onslow have now stood down from committee duties after many years of service and some new folks are needed to be involved. It is good fun so please nominate. Your nomination can be made from the floor on the night if you are undecided. Garrie Bromley has kindly agreed to manage the committee changeover transition period as he has done so well in the past.

**Plant auction** – After the AGM we will conduct a member's plant auction. It will be like the last one and more details are covered elsewhere in this bulletin.

**Sales table** – If you have a large requirement, please forward an order by email or a phone call. It is easy to bring your order ready-to-go to the meeting, as has been done before. We will be sending out a price list soon, hopefully, with this bulletin. The last Garden City Plastics order went well so if you need bark or bulk fertiliser in the future let us know and we will put in an order to GPC. However, we need to approach an order total of \$1000 to proceed.

**Member's plant sales** – Since table space is limited there will be **NO** member's plant sales at the May meeting. It is likely we will restart member's plant sales at the June meeting.

**Meeting format and procedures** – We will need folk there from 6.30 pm and certainly by 7.00 pm to help setup. We will not be running supper but will have the urns running so please bring your own hot beverage mugs as well as tea/coffee/sugar/milk makings for tea/coffee and a nibble for yourself. The sales table will be running but without a member's plant sales service this time. The raffle will also be run. A list of COVID plan procedures that we will need to follow will be provided in company with this bulletin.

\*Generally, there will be a need to record your attendance. A QR code entry requirement will be available in the foyer. If you are unsure of how to do this some help will be available. As a backup, we will also have a book to record those present. We will have sanitiser on hand.

\*We will still have to commit to pandemic restrictions and the seating will need to be spaced accordingly. To accommodate this requirement, we will need to limit the benching tables along the street wall, but we should be able to use the entry foyer space to buffer our efforts. Please be patient.

\*Please only bring a maximum of 4 plants per membership for benching. We will be catering for a maximum of 48 members as attendees. If we go over 48, we will put you on the waiting list. If you have already indicated that you are coming and are no longer able to do so, please let me know so we can move down the waiting list. If you would like to come, please advise me as soon as possible, how many in your party via the KOS email address or SMS me on 0438877689 with "KOS 17th yes and your name". If you are not sure about using SMS then ring me on 0438877689.

**Westfield show update** – KOS will not be participating in a show at Westfield this year.

**St. Ives Orchid Show** – At this time we expect to participate in some form at the SIOS if it goes ahead. We are still not sure if it will go ahead, and the show committee is in communication with the Council. So please keep your options open to assist. Hopefully, operational procedures can be rationalised to allow it to proceed.

**Member's welfare** – please remember, if you need to speak to someone immediately then you are most welcome to contact me at any time, 24/7 on 043 88 77 689.

## **Future Events**

- 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June - North Shore O.S. Autumn Show at the St Ives Shopping Village. (set-up on Wed evening 9<sup>th</sup>, pull-down on Saturday afternoon 12<sup>th</sup>).
- 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June - Mingara Orchid Fair held at the Mingara Recreation Club at Tumbi Umbi. This will be the first Orchid fair to be held this year. Free entry and plenty of free parking.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July - North Shore's Winter Show at the Gordon Shopping Centre. (set-up Wed evening pull-down Sat afternoon 17<sup>th</sup> July).
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August, St Ives Orchid Fair. At this stage we are still planning for the St Ives Orchid Fair with the hope that it will go ahead. We will keep all advised as we get closer to the date.

**Auction Procedures** – As per our last auction, you don't need to fill in a form. *Lina* will be managing *the booking-in process, issuing auction benching cards, and assigning auction 'lot numbers'*. She will be located at a table inside the hall where the sales table used to be.

**If you are selling.** 1. Go to Lina and get a benching card for each sales lot. Take the cards away and fill in the plant name, your name, and reserve price. Much the same as for benching an orchid. 2. Take the cards back to Lina where she will assign lot numbers to go on the cards. 3. Now place your auction plants on the auction bench with the card in front of each lot. These cards then will remain with the plant throughout the auction until it gets to the auctioneer.

**Setting a price** - If you want to set a *reserve price, in addition to it being written on the benching card* it would help the potential buyers when they are checking out which plants to buy, and help the auctioneers, if you *ALSO clearly and visibly label the plant with the reserve price. In past years we have used yellow tags, and/or yellow stickers.* It doesn't really matter what you use but make sure bidders and auctioneers know what you are asking for it.

**Presentation** – you know that in real estate they say the 3 key factors are location, location, and location. Well in selling plants it is appearance, appearance, and information. Clean your plant up and show it at its best. If it looks daggy, you will get half what it might be worth. If you know your plant, put a picture on it. Show the buyer what it is.

**Clean and Free of Disease** - The society will inspect plants when they are booked in and reserves the right to reject plants that it believes are suffering from pests or diseases, are not well established or otherwise not in good condition.

**The Money** - The society takes a 10% commission on all sales.

**Buyers must pay with cash before they go home.** Please bring your own supply of cash in appropriate note currency. **Sellers** are paid the following month due to the workload on those running the paperwork during the auction.

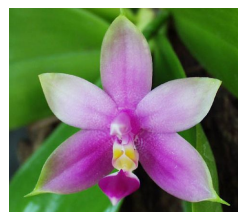
**Best of the Evening Novice – Phalaenopsis bellina** *benched by Fred Gorginian*

This lovely orchid of Fred's has finally forced me to confront my own confusion over exactly what it is that separates Phal bellina and Phal violacea. I have several plants of each of these and love them all, but to me they look like one species with lots of different colour forms. The name bellina stems from a plant sent to famous botanist Reichenbach for recognition in 1882 and subsequently published in The Gardeners Chronicle in 1884 as Phal violacea variety Bellina. They were separated on physiological characteristics, mostly regarding colour and leaf size and shape. Eventually bellina came to be known horticulturally as the Borneo form of violacea as opposed to other forms being regarded as the Malay form, even though some were also found in Indonesia.



I am afraid that after a bunch of reading this past week I am still unsatisfied about the validity of every basis of separation that I have read. They are so similar it seems clear that they at least stem from a common ancestor but whether their current stage of development allows valid separation as species is for those more specialised in the field to determine. I suspect it will need DNA analysis to see how far apart they are.

For the time being however, the separator based on colour given by Taxonomist Eric Christenson says : The flowers of Phalaenopsis violacea are "usually rose-pink but may be white ... or bluish." The colour of Phalaenopsis bellina is described as "white, greenish white, or yellow . . . tepals with an intense deep-purple blotch on the inner halves of the lateral sepals. In some colour forms of P. bellina there are either purple spots or purple flushes on the proximal portions (JB: that is, the centre of the flower part) of the petals and lateral sepals. The perianth (JB: that is the outer part of the flower comprising the sepals and petals) of bellina however is never uniformly pigmented as in P. violacea."



**full colour violacea** And how many are really man made mixes of the two anyway.

Just the same, they are both beautiful orchids. The inflorescences can have several flowers (perhaps up to 5) but they bloom sequentially so there is usually only one open at a time. The leaves can attain quite large size for a plant with small flowers. For violacea they can get to 30 cm long and over 10 cm wide, for bellina perhaps a little shorter. Both are lowland, humid, tropical plants and I grow mine in the glasshouse, but I find they do much better hung from roof wires up nearer the glass. I assume they prefer a little more light than those on the bench but also there is better air movement up higher and they dry more quickly. --- Congratulations Fred, A lovely colour form and very well grown.

**Retirement Romance** - A lady in seniors retirement community in Florida, was sitting on a bench, near another bench on which an attractive gentleman was sitting. She asked him if he was new to the community but he said "no, I have owned a condo here for 20 years". She then said "I have been here for 15 years and I haven't seen you around!" He then said "No, you wouldn't have, I have been in prison for the last 17 years!"

She was stunned and finally asked him what he had done. He said that he had murdered his first wife! She was stunned again, ... and after a long pause she said. .... *So you're SINGLE???*



## The BIG *Angraecums* (abbrev. Angcm)

Jim Brydie

At our April meeting, Lee Payne benched this beautiful specimen of one of the large growing *Angraecums* from Madagascar and nearby areas. What a spectacular flower. That long dangling bit you can see below each flower is a 'nectary'. In the case of *Angraecum* the nectary is an elongation of the back of the lip but in other genera similar nectaries can be formed from special extensions of the sepals or the petals.

Lee's plant was a gift from a friend that came unlabelled but another orchid grower told her he thought it was Angcm *Veitchii* and that is what it was benched as. I didn't think that name was correct and had already written most of this article before more info from the original owner confirmed it's correct name, so for the moment let's pretend that I am trying to figure out the identity of an 'unknown'.

*Angraecums* are relatives of the *Vandas* which means they don't have pseudobulbs. Instead their growth stems continually get longer making new leaves each side, alternately, as it grows. There are about 220 *Angraecum* species and 140 of these are found only in Madagascar and nearby islands. Most of the rest come from a band of territories across tropical Africa. Lee's lovely orchid is one of small group within the genus that I call the 'Big *Angraecums*' simply because they generally attain a quite large plant size. For example, over 60 cm leaf spread and over 60 cm tall. Most of this type also make multiple side growths to form a cluster of vandaceous stems that all flower simultaneously. These are not plants for a small glasshouse or for indoor culture.

The main *Angraecums* we see benched from this 'big' group are the species *sesquipedale* and *eburneum*, and the hybrid between them – Angcm *Veitchii*. However, there are other closely related species from the same group that we do also see, just less often. The latest taxonomic reviews now regard 3 of the group as synonyms of *A. eburneum*, but in most collections these would likely still be labelled with the earlier species name so I will list them separately here. The main group would be : *sesquipedale*, *eburneum*, *giryamae*, *longicalcar*, *superbum*, *comorensis*, and perhaps *sororium*. (the 3 that are synonyms for *eburneum* are - *comorensis*, *giryamae*, and *superbum*)

Then of course, there are also the hybrids between these same species. Surprisingly, in the latest 2021 hybrid register there are about a dozen hybrids just involving various combinations the species named above, but because of the mixed DNA of species, I only found one that looked anything much like Lee's orchid.

So, pretending I still don't know exactly what it is. Let's start ruling out what it can't be.

There are a couple of distinct physical features that separate some *Angraecums* from others. One is ***whether the lip aims up or down***. The majority of species have the lip bottom centre, like the vast majority of all orchids, but there are also a significant number where the lip aims to the sky. The technical expression for lip upper is 'non resupinate'. Of the parents in *Angraecum*

*Veitchii*, *sesquipedale* is lip down (resupinate), *eburneum* is lip up (non resupinate). In the cross between the two (*Veitchii*) the hybrid takes after *sesquipedale*, and the lip aims down. I have never seen even a picture of a *Veitchii* with lip upward. It might be a possibility but you would have to say it is at best a rare occurrence.

In Lee's orchid the lip aims UP. That therefore rules out *sesquipedale* and *Veitchii* as possibles for Lee's orchid.

***The length of the nectary spur*** is the other obvious feature to look at. Most nectaries are short to moderate, a few are very long. For example, *sesquipedale* is one with a particularly long nectary. I am sure most of you already know the Darwin story but I am going to tell you again anyway because I think it is just so amazing.

Back in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, when orchids were being discovered and studied, Charles Darwin published his famous "On the Origin of Species" in 1859. 3 years later (1862), in a box of orchids sent by Mr Bateman, Darwin saw *Angraecum sesquipedale* and on seeing the amazingly long 30cm nectary, Darwin postulated that it must have evolved alongside moths with a tongue long enough to access the nectar. He wrote to a friend saying "in Madagascar there must be moths with probosces (sic) capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches [25.4–27.9cm]". The actual pollinator of *sesquipedale* wasn't discovered until 1903 when the predicted pollinator was finally discovered, a hawk moth they then named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (pictured at the right with *sesquipedale*).

Anyway, getting back to the point, we have ruled out *sesquipedale* and *Veitchii* because the lip is the wrong way up. So what about *eburneum*? Well *eburneum* does have lip uppermost but generally has quite a short nectary (as per the



picture above).

The Baker's description for eburneum in Orchidwiz says the nectary spur can be "up to 10 cm long". The situation is slightly confused by the recent aggregation of other species into a larger defined eburneum but even though some flowers are shown with longer nectaries than 10 cm, none have the huge length shown in Lee's picture (between 20 and 30 cm). The only 'upside down lip' 'big' species with a specifically defined extra long nectary is *Angraecum longicalcar* which remains a separately defined species. Extracts from the Baker's description for longicalcar tell us "old well grown plants can grow to 1.2 metres tall, ... leaves up to 60 cm long and 8 cm wide. .... The spur at the base of the lip is very stout, measuring 35-40 cm long by 0.5 cm wide for most of its length, but tapering to a fairly sharp point at the tip." I think Lee's orchid is longicalcar.



**Culture** - When you grow *Angraecums*, the requirements vary depending on whether they are lowland plants (perhaps below 500 m elevation) or highland (above 1000 m and away from the coast).

*Angraecum sesquipedale* and *eburneum* are good examples of lowland species. Wikipedia tells us that *sesquipedale* 'is often found in lowlands in Madagascar at altitudes below 400–500 feet (120–150 m), near the east coast of the island, and on trees that are at the edge of forests. Usually it is attached to trees with fewer leaves and to areas of the branch or trunk that are driest. This allows the plant to obtain a great deal of light and air movement. Larger plants are usually found growing within 12–20 ft from the ground, whereas smaller plants are often found higher up in the canopy. Rarely, *A. sesquipedale* is also found growing as a lithophyte (ie on rocks) and sometimes even as a semi-terrestrial. The orchid lives in an environment with heavy rainfall, up to 150 in (380 cm) per year. There is no dry season so the growing season is continuous.'

*A. eburneum* is reported in [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com) as 'Found in Madagascar, the Mascarenes and Reunion (JB: also the Seychelles) as a large to giant sized, erect, hot to warm growing, monopodial epiphyte at elevations of sea level to 750 meters, with stout, branched stems carrying 10 to 15, rigid, coriaceous, ligulate, unequally apically bilobed leaves that blooms in the early winter in the northern hemisphere, on an axillary, ascending or horizontal, to 120 cm long, densely many flowered inflorescence with long-lived, inverted or non-resupinate, fragrant ... waxy flowers ...'

Obviously, these are both examples of the "lowlands" types that are WARM growers and need a big glasshouse.

*Angraecum longicalcar* is an example of a highland type. In Orchidwiz, in describing its habitat, the Bakers say ... 'found on the western slopes of the central highlands of Madagascar in the vicinity of Analavory and Lake Itasy. Plants grow semi-terrestrially among rocks, often in almost full sun, at 1000-1200 m.'

Any orchid that is growing in inland mountains at 1000 – 2000 m elevation, is going to grow much cooler than lowland coastal plants.

Lee tells me she didn't have the space in her shade house so she moved it into brighter, more open conditions outside and feels it has done much better there. She lives relatively near to the coast in Sydney and tells me that winter temperature don't get too low, perhaps 7°C, so I am guessing that if hers is longicalcar that would be almost ideal conditions. She says this year's flowering is great but one small problem she has is that once the buds start to fill out she has had to take the orchid to her neighbours for them to grow on their verandah, out of the weather, to protect the flowers as they open. However, seeing that the flowers last for about two months once open, this arrangement seems to work well for both parties as they get to enjoy a beautiful orchid.

Congratulations Lee, well done. Now, did you check out the slightly more mature plant in the picture above? In another 10 years that is what yours will look like. (PS: the previous owner confirmed to Lee that it was longicalcar.)

**Miltonia Anne Warne and co.** – At the last meeting I commented on two *Miltonias* benched near to each other that looked identical but had different labels. One was labelled M. Anne Warne, the other Milt. Tropical Heat Wave.



Trevor mentioned that he had a plant of Tropical Heatwave and his was different to the benched Tropical Heatwave. It turns out that Tropical Heat Wave is not a straight *Miltonia* but an *Oncidiinae* intergeneric involving what used to



be *Odontoglossums* (now just *Oncidiums* but there are moves to reinstate the genus). One ancestor parent has unknown genesis but as it was registered as *Odontoglossum* Dusky Monarch so it's a fair bet that it was a hybrid involving the old *Odontoglossum* genus. So, that would make Tropical Heatwave a cross between the purple *Miltonia* *moreliana* and a bunch of various *odontoglossums* that are now *Oncidiums*. Thus it is a *Miltonidium*. In Trevor's picture, the lip patterning toward the column is typical of what you would expect for this intergeneric. The patterning is absent in the benched 'Tropical Heat Wave' so that name is almost certainly not correct.

If you look at the two close ups of the benched plants they are very close to identical and I suspect they are in fact the same hybrid. But is it Anne Warne? It may well be but compare it to the picture of *Bluntii* at the end of the row.

*Bluntii* is the primary hybrid between *spectabilis* and *clowesii* that occurs naturally in the wild but has been man made many times. In the purple versions of *Bluntii*, the *spectabilis* is almost certainly variety *moreliana* (now the species *Milt. moreliana*). Anne Warne is the backcross of *Bluntii* to *moreliana*. *Bluntii*'s have two distinct purple lines in the lip up near the column, Anne Warne, with an extra dose of *moreliana* usually has a dark purple patch or 4 or more purple lines. It not enough to say for sure, but I think both plants may be excellent clones of *Bluntii*.

### Trish's Hairy Bulbophyllum

The spark for this article was Trish Petersons *Bulbophyllum* in this month's VB. Trish told us that this was a plant that she bought at one of our society auctions and that although the label said *Bulb. facinator*, she thought it was the hybrid *Bulb. Fascination*. Now I ask you, what hybrid registration official in their right mind would allow the name 'Fascination' when there is a species 'facinator'. Especially when one is the parent of the other. Madness.

In any event, they did, and despite the two names being constantly mixed up, and although the species and the hybrid have some similarities, they are different.

So, is Trish's *Bulbophyllum* *facinator* or *Fascination*? And how can we tell?

The parents of the hybrid *Fascination* are *longissimum*, and of course *facinator*. All species vary a bit from plant to plant but the pictures below give a reasonable representation of what you might expect for an average specimen of each species.

*B. facinator* has single flowers, occasionally two, is covered with weird hairs, has big fangs each side of the top of column, and it pokes out its dark red tongue (lip) at you.



**B. facinator**



**B. longissimum**



When crossed with *longissimum*, which has hugely long dangly flowers and 5 or more per inflorescence, you would expect the hybrid to have inflorescences of 2 or 3 flowers (instead of 1 with *facinator*), longer flowers than *facinator* but less dangly than *longissimum*, and somewhat less 'in your face' with its hairs and various projections.

Still, if I was Miss *longissimum*'s mother I wouldn't let her go out with that ugly Monsieur *facinator*. No matter how fascinating he might think he is. I think his father must have been a Dracula. And look at that blotchy skin. Yuck.

So what do hybrid *Bulb. Fascinations* look like in real life? These three pictures give a fair idea of how close most come to the predicted format.

However, when you cross two species, it should theoretically be possible to produce a range of seedlings varying from looking almost like one parent to looking almost like the other, with the vast majority as variants sharing characteristics of the two, somewhere near the middle. In reality, the extremes rarely occur and are more than likely discarded when they do.

In checking to see how this worked out for *Fascination*, I checked the Orchidwiz picture database which generally only has pictures



contributed from official and reliable sources. Unfortunately, as well as the expected looking pictures there are also pictures of Fascination by three separate contributors that look nothing like the plants shown above.

Pictures from one contributor seem to be of a single plant and the flowers look absolutely nothing like either parent. They look like one of the standard *Cirrhopetalum* types with an almost circular umbel of short purple flowers that look something more like more like *Bulb mastersianum*. I find it hard to believe it is anything other than a mistake.

The pictures from the other two contributors are possible but look almost dead ringers for the species *B. fascinator*. So, could they be extreme variants of the hybrid Fascination? Well yes. But in my opinion, if those administrators hadn't allowed such a silly similar name for the hybrid, creating such confusion, these pictures would be regarded as the species *fascinator*.

So Trish, you now have this part of my opinion. If the choice is just *fascinator* or *Fascination*, I think it is *fascinator*. ..... Ah, but if only things were that simple.

The *Bulbophyllum* group to which *fascinator* and *Fascination* belong is called Section *Cirrhopetaloides* and there are roughly 20 species in the group, including *B. longissimum*, the other parent of *Fascination*. Very few look anything much like *fascinator* but there are a couple that could easily be mixed up. And there are other species such as *B. rothschildianum* that have similar general appearance as well. Have a look at these for comparison.



**appendiculatum**



**wendlandii**



**rothschildianum**



**putidum**

'other' species to *fascinator*, which is *putidum* (another member of sect *Cirrhopetaloides*), has also been used to create a dozen different registered hybrids. So that makes another species and even more hybrids with which to be confused.

I love to find the simple answer but I fear there isn't one here. If you now go back and look at Trish's picture at the top, there are 3 flowers on the inflorescence and the flowers have shortish sepals forming the folded skirt below the lip. Both *fascinator* and *Fascination* have much longer sepals (skirts).

It has 'fangs' on the column, but not as big as *fascinator* and they are red instead of white. The flower has strong reflections of the species *B. rothschildianum* (see right).

I am sorry Trish, as it turns out I have no idea what your orchid is. I don't think it is *Fascination*, but I am not inclined to think it is *fascinator* either. I suspect it is a hybrid, maybe including at least a bit of *rothschildianum*, but that is just a guess. Sherlock Holmes has failed. Curses, foiled again.

**B. rothschildianum**



### Postscript

To those who might like to try a *Bulbophyllum* or to learn more about them, by far the more attractive types are from the group that used to have its own genus name (*Cirrhopetalum*), but are now just section *Cirrhopetalum* within *Bulbophyllum*. These have a more or less circular flower arrangement (an umbel) as in the picture of *rothschildianum* above. Most are warmish high humidity growers and do best in a glasshouse but a few like *rothschildianum* are a little tougher and there are some nice hybrids of 'roths' that are worth seeking as well. *Bulb. Elizabeth Ann* and its clone *Buckleberry* is one we see frequently at meetings and shows. Among the species, there are many smaller, more compact examples and many gorgeous colours. For example *Bulb. mastersianum* (see below).

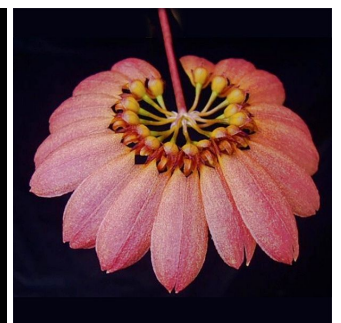
Most of these *Cirrhopetalums* are a bit scrambling with substantial rhizome gaps between the single leaf pseudobulbs. They prefer to be grown in very shallow containers (for example a 25cm diameter terracotta or plastic saucer with holes drilled in the bottom). They may initially march across the pot and over the side but are easily trained to grow back across the saucer and eventually create a dense thatch of bulbs and produce multiple flower heads.



**Bulbophyllum growing in shallow saucer**



**mastersianum (Lan Long Cahn)**



**mastersianum (Red Fox Orchids)**



## Orchids from the Virtual Benching and the Meeting -- Jim Brydie

**My favourite this month - *Cattleya Dendi's Double* - benched by Lina Huang** – I doubt this one would win any



awards with the judges, as the shape isn't exactly classic award material. But what fantastic colour, and great contrast with the white column.

Dendi's Double is a *Cattleya Penny Kuroda* cross (for those who know what Penny Kuroda is) but essentially it means it is a *Cattleya guttata* cross designed for big heads of flowers and lots of spots. Well I am guessing that's what the original Penny Kuroda breeder had in mind anyway, but of course, who knows what happens when some new breeder see the end result and has a different idea in mind.



**C. guttata**

Dendi's Double is sort of like that. You can see the *guttata* spots in the sepals, but mixed with the pink tones of another parent the spots are toned down, less in your face.

There are lots of variations of Dendi's Double and it seems it was bred using a petaloid strain of *Cattleya* (where the lateral petals have some mutation similar to the lip). There are three pictures available in Orchidwiz and each of those exhibits petaloid characteristics even if Lina's lovely orchid doesn't. I think Lina's is the best of those 4 by far.

Congratulations Lina. A beautiful thing and I am sure you will get lots of pleasure from it for many years.

## **Howeara Lava Burst Puanani** benched by Trevor and Pauline Onslow

Never mind the stunning red flowers, just look at how healthy and lush that 'bush' of semi succulent leaves is. Disgusting!

I have never figured out how Trevor does this. I have tried to grow Howearas several times and failed every time. I know its possible. Garrie Bromley grows them, and Trevor's old Mate Frank Hofbauer grew them nearly as well as Trevor before he passed away a couple of years back.

I am so mad that I cant work out a successful way in my own array of environments. But, don't let me put you off. If you like miniature orchids and bright red and orange flowers, you can still buy these things from time to time.



A Howeara is a weird little experimental mix of *Gomesa* (used to be *Oncidium*), *Rodriguez*, and *Leochilus*. Howeara Lava Burst is a hybrid between *Rodricidium Primi* (now *Gomguezia Primi* since some *Oncidium* were moved to *Gomesa*) and *Leochilus oncidoides*. Even those who know what a *Rodriguezia* is might be wondering what the heck is a *Leochilus* and why would anyone use that in hybridizing? In WWG Moirs 1982 book *Creating Oncidiinae intergenerics*, he says of *Leochilus* "These species have tiny flowers and are of little value in breeding, but people are curious and have used them."

But from the 1960's, when WWG Moir was experimenting with equitant *Oncidium*s (now *Tolumnia*) and creating a whole new genre of hybrid orchids, it also was apparent that he and a few other breeders were also looking at quite a number of other miniature *Oncidiinae* genera to see might what come from these lines. The *Rodriguezia* in *Mini primi* is *R. lanceolata* which is a very attractive species with many racemes of small deep pink flowers. The hybrid register shows that Moir registered 8 crosses with *lanceolata* between 1957 and 1968, and other breeders such as Ruben In Orchids in the USA were also working with it.

One parent of *Mini Primi* is "*Rodricidium Primi*" (*Gomesa sarcodes* x *R lanceolata*) made by Ruben In in 1970, and that was crossed with *Leochilus oncidoides* to create *Mini Primi*, which was then backcrossed to *Rodriguezia lanceolata* to create *Lava Burst* in 1993.

*Lava Flow* seems a more prolific flowerer than *Mini Primi* and thus a step forward. Progress may be slow in generating new combinations of these intergenrics but I suspect that combinations with slightly easier to grow species will gradually see an increase in variation with new colours and growth styles and sometime in the future these miniature *Oncidiinae* intergenerics will become the big thing.

Congratulations Trevor. Magnificent as usual.

**The 2019 pre Covid Eye Test** - A man goes to the Optician for his annual eye test. The Optician puts a contraption over his face and asks him what he can see. .... "I see empty airports and empty football grounds," he says, "and I see closed theatres, closed pubs, and closed restaurants"

"That's perfect," says the Optician, "you have 2020 vision."