



*Staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic*

Starting with some beautifully grown orchids from the home of **Fred Gorginian**



← *Dendrobium amethystoglossum* – what a glorious display of fragrant, cascading flowers. A medium to large sized lithophytic, cold to warm growing species found growing on mossy, limestone cliffs at 1400m in Luzon, Philippines. **IOSPE**

↘ *Cattleya Caudabec* x *Cattleya Tiny Titan* 'Red' plus a little sneak peak into Fred's growing area



2 x *Cattleya* Hybrid  
What magnificent colours!



*Tolumnia Willowbank Flash* 'Orange'  
x *Tolumnia Capalaba Gold* 'AJ'



2 x *Laelia purpurata* with a perfectly colour coordinated *Phaleonopsis* Unknown in the background – those of you at the meeting saw this beauty in the flesh - quite the stunner!



*Dendrobium Red Ballerina* 'Macquarie'





*Dendrobium hercoglossum*  
Fred Gorginian



*Prosthechea vespa*  
Fred Gorginian



*Dendrobium linguella*  
Fred Gorginian



*Ascofinetia* Cherry Blossom  
Fred Gorginian



*Bifrenaria harrisoniae*  
Fred Gorginian



*Tolumnia* Capalaba Sun x  
*Tolu. Capalaba Gold* – F Gorginian



*C. briegei* - Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Cym. Australian Midnight* - T & P



*Micropea rostrata* - Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Maxillaria tenuifolia* – commonly known as the ‘Coconut Orchid’ – and if you could smell the flowers, you would know this reference comes from the strong and delicious coconut scent – hmmm yummy. Close your eyes & inhale & let it transport you to some exotic beach, perhaps somewhere in Central America or perhaps the Caribbean where this orchid grows, or you could just allow your imagination to settle on a pristine, white, sandy beach wherever you fancy.



However, if you were looking for this little gem in it's natural habitat you would have to leave the ocean

& try searching in trees in open or dense forests at low elevations up to 1500meters (OrchidWiz reports 1000m as the upper elevation). The photo below to the left shows a plant *in situ* on a tree limb in Belize, photo taken from the [AOS site](#). The Photo to the right by [Ian Frazier and his Flickr Orchid Photo Website](#), shows an impressive plant thriving in its natural surrounds.

A medium sized, cool growing, solitary leaved epiphyte or occasional terrestrial.



Several 5cm long inflorescences can be produced from the base of the most recently matured pseudobulbs. Flowers, one per inflorescence, range from

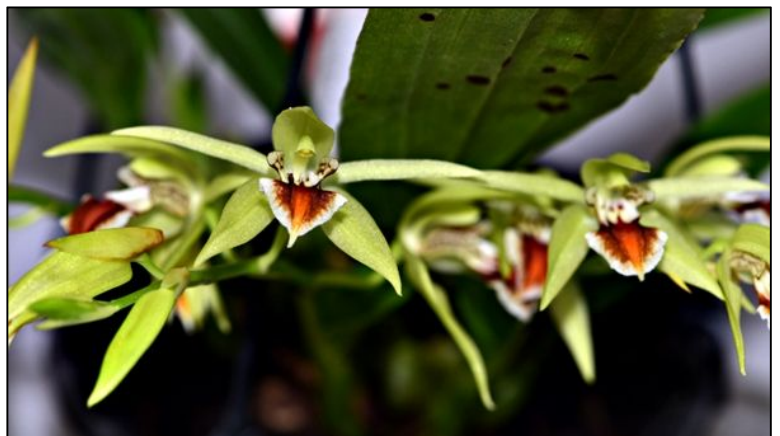


3.9 to 5cm & occur at mid leaf height producing bright pops of rich red amongst the narrow grass-like green leaves which can range from 12 to 50cm long. Both Fred's & Peter & Jane's plants have the characteristic flower colour but there is variation in the shade of red & there is also a yellow color form.

[IOSPE](#) [OrchidWiz](#)



*Dockrillia Limestone* - Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Coelogyne salvanerianiana* - Peter & Jane D'Olier



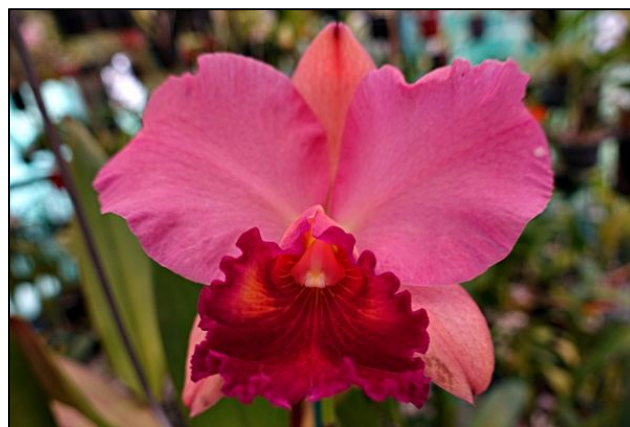


*Den. thrysiflorum* - WOW just WOW what a magnificent specimen of this showy Callista-type Dendrobium



← Orchid house envy anyone? Showcasing a lovely *Oncidium Crispum* in the foreground

↓ *C. Horace maxima* x *Pot. Little Toshie*



A beautiful specimen plant of *Onc. harrisonianum*



*Oncidium Splinter*





←  
*Dendrobium  
mutabile*  
T & P



→  
*Rsc. Lisa  
Taylor Gallis  
'Nicci'*  
T & P



*Onc. edwallii*  
T & P



*Cymbidium  
canaliculatum*  
T & P



*Oncidium Trilobium x Odcm. Pascatorei* – T & P



*Bifrenaria tyrianthina* - T & P



*Dendrobium Judith Nakayama*  
Geoff & Jean Fulcher



*Vanda denisoniana*  
Geoff & Jean Fulcher



*Paphiopedilum niveum f. alba*  
Geoff & Jean Fulcher



Wonderful orchids from the shade-house of [Peter & Jane D'Olier](#)

*Bifrenaria inodora* – The majority of images I could find of this species have differing shades of green petals & sepals but can have various colours in the lip.



However, I did not see any that came close to the colouring of this fantastic bloom from [Peter & Jane](#). What a striking flower with the deep olive green petals & sepals and that gorgeous velvety, purple, hairy lip, a spectacular contrast of rich, dark colours – what a bloom!!

There are about 20 species of *Bifrenaria* which belong to the Maxillaria tribe.

Theoretically it should be possible to

create hybrids with other genera in this tribe but not a lot of work has been done, with the only intergeneric hybrids being with *Lycaste* (*Lycastenaria*).

Found in Brazil in the southern states of Espirito Santo to Rio Grande do Sul in montane rainforests at elevations of 50 to 1000 meters. The photo to the right by [Jay Pfahl](#) from the [IOSPE](#) site shows a plant *in situ* in Boia Ceia Brazil at 50 meters elevation.

It is a medium sized, hot to cool growing epiphyte with the characteristic conical, four-angled 5-7cm pseudobulbs of the *Bifrenaria* species with a single, leathery, pleated leaf up to 30cm long. The 7.5cm inflorescence arises from the base of the previous year's pseudobulb & can carry up to 2 heavy, waxy, long lasting flowers. Unlike *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* which has a strong fragrance, *Bifrenaria inodora* usually has no fragrance – the name *inodora* means 'odourless'. *Inodora* can be differentiated from other *Bifrenaria* by the long midlobe which is twice as long as it is wide. [IOSPE](#) [AOS](#)



*Den. Kuranda Pixie x canaliculatum*  
Close up shot - middle at the top

*Dendrobium Unknown*  
Close up shot - middle at the bottom



*Angraecum elephantium* – commonly known as the ‘Gigantic Angraecum’ based on how large the flower is relative to the size of the plant. This warm to cool growing species is native to Madagascar and is described as a moderately small monopodial epiphyte. Monopodial orchids have one stem/pseudobulb or, technically speaking, one root system. All the leaves and flowers grow from its single pseudobulb, unless one of the nodes at the base sprouts a basal keiki. Pseudobulbs range from 10-25cm long with thick, leathery leaves up to 12cm long by 1.3cm wide. Producing a very short inflorescence 3 to 3.5cm long with 1 or occasionally 2 nocturnally fragrant 6.8 to 7.5cm flowers, the lip has an 11cm long spur at its base.



There are four species of Angraecum that are all quite similar *Angcm.*: *elephanthinum*, *didieri*, *rutenbergianum* & *peyrotii* but each one differs mostly in the leaves and/or in the lip. [OrchidWeb](#) [IOSPE](#) [OrchidWiz](#)

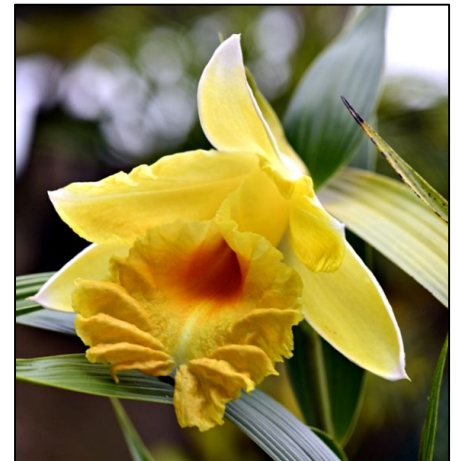
*Dendrobium mutabile* → What a beautifully delicate bloom. It looks a little like it could serve as the angel

atop your Christmas tree. I imagine the crystalline white petals & sepals would really glisten in the sunlight however, its habitat suggests direct sunlight should be avoided. Found in India, the Ryukyu Islands, Sumatra and Java at elevations up to 700 meters according to [IOSPE](#), whereas [OrchidWiz](#) reports elevations ranging from just below 1000m on Mt Halimum and between 500 to 1800m in Java.

It is a small sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte or sometimes it grows as a lithophyte on rocks in lava-streams on Mt. Guntur. Reportedly the 2.8 to 3.1cm flowers which can vary in colour, only last about 2 weeks however, that is balanced by often blooming more than once a year. [IOSPE](#) [OrchidWiz](#)



← *Maxillaria parahybunensis*  
This cute little Maxillaria is found in Brazil in cool shady montane forests at moderate elevations. The short inflorescence produces a single 1cm flower and as can be seen in this lovey specimen, the flowers are close the the pseudobulb.



→ *Sobralia veitchii* x *xantholeuca*



*Cattleya longipes*



*L. purpurata* v. *carnea delicata* x *roxo* v. *deta* ‘Arand’





2 x *Paphiopedilum phillippinense*  
 Peter & Jane D'Olier  
 What a magnificent display produced by this multiflowered Paph. The striking, contrasting colours are complemented by the gently twisting petals.



*Epidendrum prismatocarpum* 'Galaxy'  
 Geoff & Jean Fulcher



*Epc. Envy* 'Green Wit' x *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*  
 var. *fimbripetala* - Jenny Richardson



*Dendrobium friedericksianum*  
 Jenny Richardson



*Pot. Little Magician* 'Gold & Red'  
 Jenny Richardson





3 x *Phalaenopsis* Unknown - **Kitt & Tony Reyes**. What a gorgeous selection of beautifully coloured Phals. I particularly like the first one with its contrasting red & yellow & the attractive splashes outlining the edges of the petals & sepals – very pretty!

*Oncidium sphacelatum* This beautifully grown specimen plant from **Gloria & Allan Cushway** produces a very artistic display. Found in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The **Baker's** tell us that in Mexico, this orchid is found on low hills, usually below 1000m, bordering the Gulf of Mexico from San Luis Potosí and Veracruz southward. With plants being common throughout Belize where they grow on trees and rocks in thickets or forests up to 800m. In Guatemala, plants grow on both the Gulf and Pacific slopes.



The multi-branched inflorescence arises from the base of a recently matured pseudobulb and can reach 182cm long. The lightly fragrant blooms are about 3cm across.

**OrchidWiz** reports the average flowers per spike on awarded plants as a massive 104.6 (bags not being the one to count)!



The photo to the right is from the **Orchids.org** site taken by Roberto Lizama in Guatemala and shows what this plant can achieve in its natural habitat. **OrchidWiz**

It's a great plant to try in Sydney. Depending on where you live, it will be happy in the backyard under a tree.



Both of the above photos from **Gloria & Allan Cushway** show what the expert growers can achieve with lovely specimen pots of these two orchid types. If you were at the Dec. meeting you would have been lucky enough to see the beautiful pots of Laileas 'in the flesh'. Allan mentioned they had been in bloom since November.





2x *Lockhartia oerstedii* - Lee Payne. What a cute little flower.  
Looks like it has its arms outstretched creating a tunnel for the pollinator.

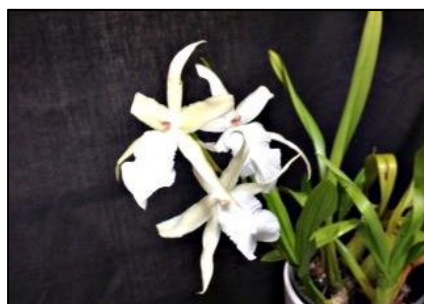
*Laelia tenebrosa*  
Lee Payne

*Odontocidium Catatante*  
Kitt & Tony Reyes

The only published record of an insect visitor to flowers of *Lockhartia oerstedii* is that of the euglossine bee *Eulaema meriana* ([van der Pijl and Dodson, 1966](#)). However, this is likely to be erroneous ([C.H. Dodson, pers. comm., 2002](#)), since identification of the bee, which was not collected, was based on a brief observation of the event from several metres away. [Annals of Botany](#)



*Brassia verrucosa* - DL



*Miltonia flavescens* - DL



*Oncidium sphacelatum* - DL



*Epi. Pacific Sparkler 'Satuma' x  
Epi. Peacock 'Plum Pretty'* - DL



*Maxillaria meleagris*  
DL



*Wilsonara Pacific Panache  
'Dorothy Jean'* - Jenny Richardson



2 x *Brassia verrucosa* – Jenny Richardson



*Eria rhyncostyloides* - Jenny Richardson  
Flowers 9mm wide, 13mm long







← *Pleurothallis* sp possibly *linearifolia*

**Margaret Barrett**

Marg can certainly grow an impressive specimen plant! What an absolute beauty this is with blooms a plenty.

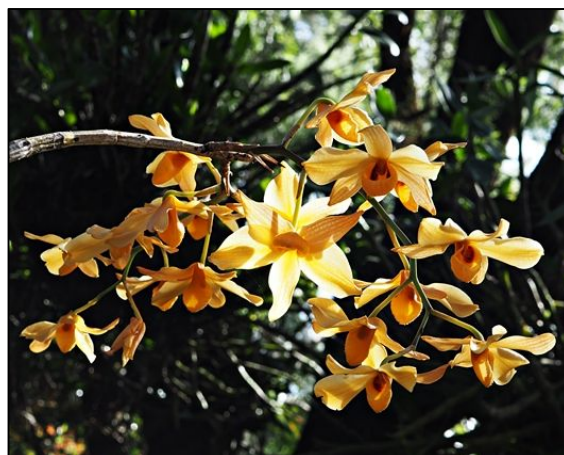
↓ *Stelis* sp. - **Margaret Barrett** – an intriguing hairy little bloom – very cute



2 x *Sobralia macrantha* – **Margaret Barrett**. This is a large, cool to warm growing terrestrial plant from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Guatemala. The plant is growing in a large citrus tub under shade cloth but not in the bush house and because of the size will never make it to a meeting – **MB** Very pretty droplet effect is from a rain shower



↓ *Dendrobium moschatum*  
**Jenny Richardson**



*Dendrobium thysiflorum* - **Dennys & Janine Angove**

What a magnificent display! Dennys said it was their best showing with 7 spikes this year.



From the home of **Jenny Richardson** ..... & one emailed in from the North Pole – **Santa** must have a glass house!



*Odontonia Futuresque 'Gloria'*



*Zygo var. jingle bells - Santa*



*Coelogyne Unknown*



*Oncidium Heaven Scent 'Redolence'*



*Phalaenopsis Unknown*

At the end of 2020 we thought 2021 would be better .... as it happened – not so much! It's been quite the arduous slog navigating through covid. However, with high vaccination rates & booster shots now approved, let's hope as things continue to open up we can live with covid without the devastating effects seen initially. Feeling a sense of déjà vu ..... dare I say it, we will be closing the virtual benching (again) with this issue.

To everyone who sent in photos whether it be one or many, thank you so much, the VB would not have been possible without your contributions. I know it takes time to do the photography & sort out the names etc. but based on the kind feedback throughout, people have appreciated perusing the document. I have been grateful for your support, especially the regular contributors & your patience with queries.

Very special thanks to Jim for mentoring me throughout the process, freely sharing his orchid expertise and also for the many online & telephone computer tutorials - I have learnt a lot.

For the stats freaks among us, since we began in April 2020 there have been 19 issues

217 pages containing 1947 photos sent in by 40 members.

Christmas & New Year wishes have never seemed more relevant. For anyone who has been unwell or had loved ones unwell, I hope all have recovered or feeling much better. We remember those most dear to us we've lost, who will remain with us forever in our hearts & thoughts. I hope you are all able to be with your loved ones over the festive season & may we all have a happy, healthy New Year. I'm sure there are many aspects of our lives that will remain forever changed - hopefully including a conscious appreciation for the people & things that matter most & not taking what we have for granted. Kindest wishes to each of you & all your loved ones - take care of yourselves & each other.

Jenny 🤗

*Itchy feet  
can travel  
once again  
Yeah!*