



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

(Established in 1947)

A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

18th Sept 2023 Volume 64 No. 9

Annual Membership : **\$15 single, \$18 family**

Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow

President : Dennys Angove (Culture Class) 043 88 77 689

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Treasurer : Lina Huang (and Sales Table)

Vice President : tba

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Committee Herb Schoch (Community outreach, Sales Table)

Committee : Chris Wilson (Library and Reference Sources)

Committee : Bill Saunderson (Sales Table)

Committee : Di Flinders

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

Society email : kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting : Mon 18th September 2023

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

*Attendees must be at least double vaccinated for Covid. Please tick your name off the attendance list on arrival & enter 'DV' for double vaccinated if your status has not already been recorded. Face Masks recommended.

The hall is open from 6.30pm to set up the hall (please help). Benching can begin from 7 pm but **PLEASE** no benching until all the class dividers and cards are in place. Give the set up team time to get everything organized.

Our Culture class for September will be run by **Preso Dennys** offering those getting into computer work some tips on making 'PowerPoint' presentations. – Remember, bring in a chair from the back of the main hall and take it back afterward.

The usual **monthly raffle**, and the **library** will be operating, and the **sales table** will be open for sale of member's spare plants and for small quantities of pots and other growing supplies. **PLEASE** though, if you are expecting to purchase larger volumes of any one item, you should contact Dennys in advance as previously explained.

The Supper Break – Our supper Volunteers for **September** are **Lisa Harris & Helen Wong**. Thank you for helping. The society supplies tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc, **but we ask all members to bring in a contribution of cake or biscuits, etc for the supper table. AND - please everyone, bring your own mug.** Note -- Supper is **not** self-serve. A member is assigned to serve to minimise handling. For those who forget to bring their own tea/coffee mug, we have a few disposable cups but why not put your supper mugs in your car in advance.

After supper, our 'Guest Speaker' will be David Floyd – speaking on 'Alternative culture methods of softcane Dendrobiums'. For those who aren't aware, David was President of our club for about 10 years straight some time back and there isn't much he doesn't know about growing.

Best of the Evening Novice – Epidendrum grown by **Garrie and Lesley Bromley**



In Nov last year, the Bromleys showed us their pink/purple version of stamfordianum and now they present this magnificently flowered, more standard coloured version, and what a beauty.

As I mentioned last year, this species is one of the Epi's where the plant itself looks something more like a Cattleya with tallish (20-30 cm), spindle shaped pseudobulbs growing along a rhizome. As opposed to the many Epi's that have long willowy reed like stems with leaves all along their length.

Stamfordianum is also unusual in that its inflorescence sprouts from the base of the last season's pseudobulb, instead of from the top of a pseudobulb like the rest of the Laeliinae family. It seems to perhaps be an inflorescence coming from an abortive new pseudobulb that is replaced by a normal new pseudobulb growth after the flowering finishes. Whatever the genetic mechanism, it certainly makes for a wonderful display of many lovely 4 cm flowers all showing off just below the leaf canopy of the orchid.

For more detail on growing requirements, refer to the Nov 2022 bulletin or the internet.



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Congratulations Garrie and Lesley. Yet another gorgeous specimen for us to wish was ours.

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

President Dennys' Desk – Well, what a month August was. It was so busy for many of our members and our 3 sister St. Ives Orchid Fair (SIOF) partners. The fair was opened by **Mayor Jeff Pettett** of the Ku-ring-gai Council which launched a record attendance of 3430 people, which was more than the previous record of 3420 people set back in 2013. The SIOF is our main sources of income, and it was so good to see that it was a success. I thank the **SIOF Committee** for their hard work and comradeship. I, like many others, was so tired by the end of the fair and to be honest, I was a bit wary of how successful our August monthly meeting would be the following Monday. We decided to make the night a bit easier by having an extended supper, which was excellent. We also had a well-received culture class on “slab culture” run by **David Floyd**.

After the stress of St Ives, the surprise is that we had 51 people attend the meeting with 3 visitors arising from the SIOF, which was fantastic. A total of 124 plants were benched by 23 of our members. I thank **Jean, John, Bob and Janine** for their assistance in preparing the excellent supper and I also thank **Cynthia** for selling raffle tickets. The 11 raffle plants were well appreciated. My thanks are extended to all those members who helped put the tables and chairs away.

St. Ives Orchid Fair awards - There was an amazing number of flowers and I thank those members who gave us the display flowers we needed. Our KOS display was rewarded with second place, and I thank **Lina Huang** for her wonderful effort supported by some hard-working members. **Jenny's** co-ordination of fair volunteers was outstanding. We had two champion orchids, won by **Geoff Le Marne** and **Jon Hestelow**. **Geoff's** champion plant was also awarded an AM. Other successful members were **Dora Law, Loretta and Paul Au, Lina Huang and Trevor and Pauline Onslow**. In a truly wonderful tabletop solo effort, **Gowan Stewart** won Champion Vandaceous/Phalaenopsis Hybrid and an amazing 14 other placings.

Meeting Hall Scuttlebutt – We have been contacted by the Council and it appears that from next January the kindergarten will be catering for children with special needs, which is of course a wonderful thing to do. The Council has advised that because of this new activity the Annex will no longer be available to KOS since special-needs equipment will need to be stored in the Annex. This of course means that we will need to think about how we will run future culture classes. The Council has given us two other venue options to consider. One is the West Pymble Hall on the same night or the St Ives Community Centre on the following Tuesday night. We like our existing venue and we have been down this path before. Some of our committee will be looking at the alternatives again and will report back to our members. A decision needs to be made soon as the Council is starting the booking process for 2024 – so stay tuned.

The AGM – Our AGM will be occurring at the October meeting. If you are interested in nominating to be on the committee, please let me or **Jenny** know. I will be standing again for President.

Spring member's auction – After the AGM (October) we will hold one of our popular member's auctions. So, if you have some special plants to sell make sure they are nicely grown and free of disease. Sole memberships are limited to two sales lots and family memberships may submit up to three lots. This can be fun and some special, well-established plants are often moved on.

Sales Table – Please remember that the sales table does not open until 7.00 pm since it takes some real time to get stock organised. Please let the plants arrive at the table. If you are bringing plants in for sale, remember, the focus is on culture items which means table space is limited, so you may have to initially limit/manage your plant offerings accordingly and bring more in for sale from your vehicle as needed.

Expected Purchases – Please let us know by **EMAIL soon** if you need some bark or bulk culture items for the next GCP purchase. Bear in mind, last time we picked up the goods from GCP at Somersby, it worked out ok, but this means we **WILL** need volunteers to help when pickup time arrives.

Wearing masks – The wearing of masks in indoor spaces is still recommended by NSW Health. If you are unsure about this, please visit, <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/guidance-on-wearing-face-masks>. Please feel free to continue to wear a mask at our meetings.

Member's welfare – personal challenges occur all the time, so 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.

Other News Items

- 1. Visitors and New Members** – It was pleasing to see some new faces at our last meeting. We had several visitors checking us out after picking up our info sheets at the St Ives Fair. It's a slight pity we didn't have our usual guest speaker spot to impress them, but many of our members were worn out by their efforts at St Ives. Just the same, we did have lots of lovely flowers on the bench, a great culture class, and an extended supper break to encourage a little social contact. I hope our visitors saw enough to perhaps join up and come along more regularly. On behalf of all our members, we welcome you.
- 2. Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – This is your official notification that our AGM will be held at our October

meeting on 16th Oct. 2023. The meeting commences at 8pm at the West Lindfield Community Hall. One function of the AGM is to elect a committee to manage the society for the next year.

Many current committee members will nominate for re-election but I know that at least one has decided it is time to stand down and we are always ready for new faces to join the team. The current committee are a great group. Being a member of the committee does ask for your regular assistance here and there but it isn't an onerous imposition and it certainly provides the opportunity to make new friends and learn about orchids as you participate. Why not think about putting your hand up and nominating?

- 3. A special note of Appreciation** - Chris Wilson is the committee member standing down. He has been a stalwart worker for our club, both as a committee member and just as a member who pitches in when others weren't able to find the time. I have been a member of KOS for at least 40 years and I can't even recall a time when Chris wasn't there volunteering for something or other. He has run culture classes, worked alongside Bernie Britton when Bernie was librarian but needed help, and then took over as librarian when Bernie finally had to stand down. Chris has also been our leader and guide on many local bushwalks.

Thank you so much for all your efforts Chris. Your contributions were and are all noticed and appreciated.

- 4. Australian Native Orchid (ANO) Sales sheets** – and speaking of Chris's sterling work he has been managing our licensing arrangements for members to sell Australia's native orchids. This is serious stuff and we need those ANO sales sheets and unused tags returned. Our license to sell Australian native orchids is dependent on our complying with the rules and that means keeping proper records of what is sold and returning unused labels so they cannot be used to sell unauthorised plants.

If you haven't yet returned what is needed, please see Chris at the next meeting and discuss what you have to do.

- 5. Bulk orders of pots and fertiliser etc** : As mentioned by Dennys in the desk, we will shortly be placing an order with some of our bulk suppliers – Garden City Plastics and the Orchid Pot Co. If you need larger volumes of the items we regularly sell on our sales table, it is possible for you to join our bulk order. If you wish to do this, contact President Dennys Angove and discuss asap.
- 6. Another Advance Notice** – Our Oct. meeting will also be a members orchid auction night. Full details will be provided in our Oct. bulletin but you might start thinking now about what you might sell and getting them ready.

Upcoming events

Thur 14 - Sat 16 Sept - NSOS Show, St Ives Shopping Village, Mona Vale Rd St Ives

Fri 15 – Sun 17 Sept - MWOS Spring Show, Belrose Super Centre

Sat 16, Sun 17 Sept – Plant Lovers Fair at Kariong Mountains High School, 10 Festival Drive, Kariong NSW 2250

Fri 13 - Sun 15 Oct - Orchids Central (5 clubs), Club Condell Park, 178 Eldridge Rd, Bankstown

Sat 21 Oct - SPECIES OS NSW, Annual Show & orchid Auction (start 10.15am), West Pennant Hills Community Church

Sun 12 Nov - MWOS public orchid auction, Cromer Community Centre, 150 Fisher Road, Cromer, starts 9.30am

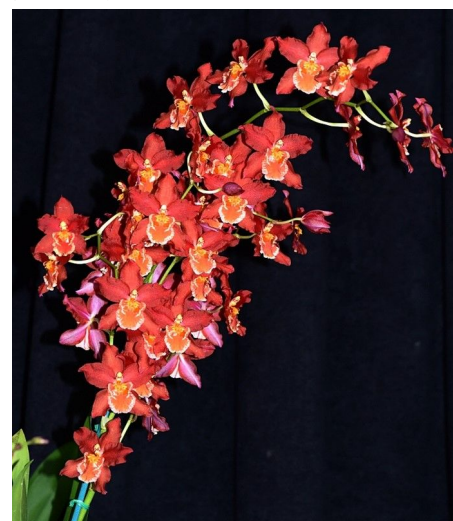
Best of the Evening Novice - Wilsonara Pacific Panache 'Dorothy Jean' grown by Loretta and Paul Au

Another beautifully presented orchid from our novices (but soon to be Open class) Loretta and Paul. This one also got BOE in August last year so there isn't much new I can say.

As I mentioned last year, the hybrid genus name Wilsonara is now redundant. A Wilsonara is a hybrid containing species from the natural genera Odontoglossum, Cochlioda, and Oncidium but since the Oncidiinae family has recently been reviewed, Cochlioda has been folded into Oncidium and the old genus odontoglossum has also been disbanded. Some of its species are now Oncidium, some have been moved to other genera.

The result is that Pacific Panache is now officially just an Oncidium although for me at least that still just doesn't seem right so for the time being I am leaving my Wilsonaras as just that. The name at least gives you some background as to what to expect so it does have purpose.

Anyway, congratulations again Loretta and Paul, and thank you for helping Ku-ring-gai with our set up at St Ives. It was much appreciated.



A climber fell off a cliff, and, as he tumbled down, he caught hold of a small branch. "Help! Is there anybody up there?" he shouted. -- A majestic voice boomed through the gorge: "I will help you, my son, but first you must have faith in me."

"Yes, yes, I trust you!", cried the man. --- "Then let go of the branch", boomed the voice.

There was a long pause, and the man shouted up again, "Is there anybody else up there?"

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Paph. Invincible grown by Annie Tao



This is a surprisingly ever popular old hybrid among orchid growers. It is a cross registered over a hundred years ago back in 1911 and involves a mix of just 3 species Paphs.

The cross is Paph. hirsutissimum x Paph. Monsieur de Curte, the latter being the 1893 primary cross between Paph boxallii and Paph insigne.

To provide some background to the genes, Paph boxallii comes from Myanmar and was for many years considered to be a distinct variety of Paph villosum. It differs from villosum by mostly having a heavily spotted dorsal sepal and much more strongly patterned petals. Paph insigne comes from an area not that much further to the west in the NE corner of India in the Khasia hills. Both insigne and boxallii come from elevations around 1000 m above sea level and grow as terrestrials with their roots in soil, rock, and mosses, however boxallii is usually on dolomite cliff faces and mostly near water seepages. Insigne grows mostly among grasses and low shrubby material on hillsides but also near to water.

Paph hirsutissimum also comes from NE India and Myanmar but also into northern Thailand, Laos and Vietnam as well as SW China. It grows at altitudes of 700 - 1800 m in leaf litter in tree forks, or at the base of trees or on steep limestone cliff faces in narrow crevasses.



Paph boxallii



Paph villosum



Paph hirsutissimum



Paph insigne

Please understand that the pictures above are just representative samples for those species. Every species has many variants in relative shape, markings and colour so I tried to pick samples that might be considered typical and not samples considered outstanding or the most desirable. From these samples however you can see how closely related to one another all 4 species are. And, their appearance also raises the question – how on earth could mixing these 4 species make a hybrid that has remained popular for over 100 years?

As a result of its continued popularity, I imagine that over those years it has been remade many times using different cultivars of the parents but if that is so, you might expect that there would be cultivars of Invincible that would vary distinctly between themselves. The Award register in Orchidwiz, which covers most of the larger national orchid authorities, does list 4 different awarded Invincible cultivars but if you go looking for images you find that that they all seem to look pretty much the same. Maybe that is part of its popularity? If you like it, you don't need to search for a particular cultivar, you just need "Invincible" and any division or baby seedling Invincible will do.

So what is it then that makes it appeal to so many? Well if you look at the picture of Annie Tao's plant at the top, you can see that it makes up into a lovely tight compact plant. That is certainly more appealing than the often more floppy looking Paph insigne. The flowers also stand nicely just above the foliage cluster. In Annie's plant the flowers are staked tightly upright and perhaps a little too tightly. But Invincible does seem to look better with its flowers straight and upright. The best way to achieve this however is to start your staking early to train the stems vertical and the flowers facing ahead. If you do it as the inflorescence and the flowers are developing it will be set and open just as you want it.

In my opinion, it is Invincible's bold look that is a big part of its appeal. The flowers look you right in the eye and say "I am me and I don't care what you think about it." They are not the fanciest. They don't fit the defined big round award shape, but the colour is a good mix of red, green, and white, and the spotting in the dorsal is pleasing. And finally, like its species parent insigne, it grows easily into a decent size plant with multiple simultaneous flowers.

I have never seen it available as baby seedling plants at a nursery although it wouldn't surprise me if it were purchasable that way. So the best way to get a piece is to buy a division at a society auction session or to cuddle up to a known grower and try to do a trade of some kind at their next repot.

Congratulations Annie. A beautifully grown plant with its leaves standing up like healthy soldiers. I never could grow Paphs that well, you seem to really have the knack. I hope my words above about the staking don't offend, it still looked fabulous.

About St Ives 2023

I have been working with orchid societies at annual show days and fairs for a very long time so I am used to the hustle and bustle of too many people filling too small an area building displays. It usually goes fairly amicably, despite workers tripping over one another, knocking over prize plants, going on the scrounge to borrow props and parts from their neighbours, etc. But I wonder if the average member of the public or a new grower has any idea of the efforts and tumult involved?

I thought that this year I might try and do a story in pictures that opens that window.

The St Ives Orchid Fair is open to the public for 3 days – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but for the workers behind the scenes it starts full on from Thursday. That is the day that 8 separate teams from different orchid societies build the big displays, while at the same time a number of growers with more elite collections build smaller tabletop displays to show off some of the high class, or harder to come by orchids.

At St. Ives, our venue involves two separate and smallish ‘halls’. Perhaps not the perfect situation but the fact that these facilities are located in a huge semi-rural environment offers a huge area for on-site parking and space outside the halls to accommodate fast food and coffee vans. It also seems to be very popular with the public and each year orchid growers, and other lovers of beautiful plants, all flock there to ooh and ahh through the display hall and then rush around the stalls in the vendor’s hall looking for something similar to what they have just seen. Each year our Fair committee invites professional orchid vendors from all over Australia and they always bring an amazing array of flowering orchids as well as divisions and seedlings of an unimaginable variety. Over the 3 days they invariably sell a high proportion of what they bring with them.

Even before Thursday there is much work in arranging the whole thing and making it happen but today’s story is just about the regular members of each of the participating societies and how they get all those orchids, props and decorations in there at the same time, and turn hundreds of orchids into works of art. It sounds so simple but in reality it is anything but simple.

The Display hall plants begin to arrive before 8 am. Each of the 8 orchid societies has over 100 members with perhaps 20 - 40 in each society providing the plants that make up the displays. Most societies organise some form of cooperative pick up and transport but I estimate that perhaps 70% of all the orchids in all the displays are carried there individually by their owner and grower and that means that between 8 am and 9 am on Thursday there must be well over 100 growers milling in and out of the display hall, carrying in hundreds of orchids, looking for empty floor space in which to stash their load while they go back to the car for more. All display teams go through periods of panic in this time as they don’t know what material they will have to work with until perhaps 80% of their promised plants are on the floor. In the meantime, they build backdrops and benches, accept grower lists, and start creating show class nomination lists.

As the orchids arrive, team workers start fitting premade cloth socks over each pot in their supply chain. The socks are used to cover the natural colour of the orchid pot so that it virtually disappears into the display background.

By a little after 8 am, more of the teams are here, and by 8.30 the crush is starting. Cymbidiums standing in clusters, boxes of smaller plants



accumulate and always standing separately on the floor to take up more than the team allocated space. Benchtop tables are temporarily staging space.

Ku-ring-gai OS’s display is the first on the right as you come in the from the front door, and North Shore OS, who usually win the display competition, is first on the left. Luckily for us, the Paph. Society who create a wonderful tabletop on the wall bedside us don’t usually start until a little later so we temporarily adopt their bench as a setting up space.

This was about the time that I arrived this year, late as usual, but I had the socks so a few of us started immediately socking pots. Dennys and Janine were managing the paperwork and making the classy labels so that visitors

can identify the most eye catching display plants.

I had intended to take a series of pictures showing the speed of the amazing build-up of people and plants in those first 2 hours but I missed my chance while socking pots and advising on genera and lists. However these next few pictures will at least give an idea of the turmoil and the civilised way in which the teams worked around one another.



By 9am it is getting much busier. Space around each display ebbs and flows as plants come in and are worked into displays. Work spaces are infringed and 'politely' pushed back and displays start to take form. The entrance to the hall is the busiest place with the two larger societies side by side and just a narrow pathway between them that is used by all and sundry to get in and out. Big Boss Garrie goes from society to society reminding those at the back of the hall to use the side doors but every new arrival still come in through the front. It's very crowded and very messy.



It's lucky that many growers are members of multiple societies and we all know each other quite well. We borrow bits and pieces off each other during the set-up, pots to stand plants on, stakes, chocks.

What one has left at home the other is sure to have two of. We even lend physical support when someone needs to lean over, deep into a display. As I watch with wonder at all this going on, it occurs to me that maybe there is hope that mankind in general may eventually find a more cooperative way to work together – but perhaps that is a stretch too far.

But eventually, late in the afternoon, the displays are done.



This was Ku-ring-gai society's display. The big paper Phally flower decorations on our side wall was a clever idea by our display manager to reduce the harshness of the mandatory black side wall that separates us from the visitors bag store that hides behind it. Unfortunately, someone who perhaps didn't realise they were placed deliberately, removed them on Thursday night before the show opened. Very sad.

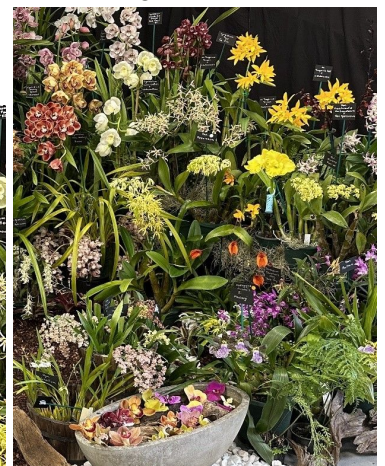
Photographers will sympathise with me when I groan that it is very hard to show detail in full display pictures like this. The image file here was perfect for a full page reproduction but for a publication that needs to be distributed to a large number, the file was too big and loses definition if resized too low. As a result, I have

also included a couple of closer up shots focussing on particular sections. The far

right picture shows some of the wonderful orchids presented in the left wing of our display, and the other picture, some of the lovely Cymbidiums and others in the lower centre section.

Our team send its heartfelt thanks to all of you who gave us their flowers to create the display. We know

how much work you put into preparing, grooming, and transporting, to even just get them to us.



With all the displays finally done and Thursday coming to an end, the floors are swept and prepared for the judging on



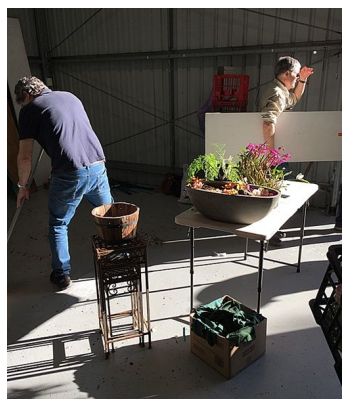
Thursday night. Firsts and Seconds need to be selected in the many, many classes based on orchid genetic groups, colour, and geography, and then the various Champions are decided. Judges travel from all over Sydney to be formed up into panels so they can get the whole job done in a few hours. It is no small task but they are well organised and pitch in to make it happen. By late in the evening it is over and the halls are locked up ready for the official opening.

On Friday, we were honoured to have the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, **Mr Jeff Pettett** (left)

carry out the official opening and immediately after, some of our senior officials gave Jeff a personal tour of the display hall and the vendors hall, along with a personal introduction to the amazingly varied world of orchids. I wonder if they also gave him flyers for their various societies, hoping for a new member? He is welcome anytime.

Over the 3 days of the fair we had thousands of people visit and many orchid club members do rolling shifts to man the ticket stall, the society sales stall and security duty. Visitors were all smiles carrying around boxes and bags of purchases and loading up their cars. The coffee stall was doing a roaring trade, and in the display hall I talked to many people who had no idea there were so many kinds of orchids. It was a pleasure to find so many delighted by discovery.

But all too soon it was Sunday afternoon and mid-afternoon they shut the display hall doors for the Champions to be announced and ribbons handed out. At the end of those ceremonies the figurative 'starters horn' goes off and societies and growers start to tear down all the displays, remove pot socks and stash orchids in their own boxes. Growers that



had arrived just a few at a time on Thursday are all there en-masse on Sunday and the display dismantle and plant removal is staggeringly fast. Within half an hour all that is left are a few Cymbidiums against the walls and some stacks of planks that made up props. The floor is a mess of leaves, discarded Spanish moss, and scattered bark or other materials that formed display bases. My attempts to take pictures of this

chaos were useless but I assure you this is what it looks like just 30 minutes after the starters gun. I didn't even look in the vendors hall but a fellow member told me that many vendors had pretty much sold out by lunch time and had been packing their trucks early. There is a lot more table and plastic infrastructure to pack in the vendor's hall but I imagine that even there it would be just about down to floor sweeping time by 4pm.

What a day, what a weekend, and the Ku-ring-gai OS meeting was to be the following night on the Monday. There must have been some tired bones there that night.

Marriage Humour

**Nobody told me
that when you
get a husband
the ears are sold
separately.**



A bit more Godly Humour

An engineer dies and reports to the pearly gates. St. Peter checks his dossier and says, "Ah, I see you're an engineer — you're assigned to hell."

So the engineer reports to the gates of hell and is let in. Pretty soon, the engineer gets dissatisfied with the level of accommodations and starts designing and building improvements. After a while, they've got air-conditioning and flush toilets, escalators, elevators and so on ... and the engineer is a pretty popular guy. One day, God calls Satan on the telephone.

"So, how's it going down there in hell?" God says.

"Hey, things are going great. We've got air-conditioning and flush toilets and escalators. There's no telling what our engineer is going to come up with next!" Satan says.

"What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake — he should have never gotten down there. Send him back immediately!" God says.

"No way! I like having an engineer on the staff — I'm keeping him!" Satan says.

"Send him back up here or I'll sue!" God says.

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And just where are you going to get a lawyer?"

More on Engineers

A man is flying in a hot-air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces height and spots a man below so he lowers the balloon farther and shouts, "Excuse me! Can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says: "Yes, you're in a hot-air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am," replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but it's no use to anyone."

The man below says, "You must be in management." -- "I am," replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," says the man, "you don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

Curiosities of the human kind.

A 3rd grade biology teacher speaking to her class told them that human beings are the only creatures on Earth that can stutter but a little girl in the class raised her hand and said "I once had a kitty cat that stuttered".

The teacher, being a little cautious and knowing that such stories can be a bit precious sometimes, asked her to describe the incident.

The little girl said "I was playing with my kitty in the backyard when the rottweiler from next door took a run up at the fence and before we knew it he jumped into our backyard.

"Goodness", said the teacher, "that must have been scary".

"It sure was", said the little girl, "my kitty raised its back and it's hair stood up and it said ssss ssss ssss but before it could finish the word it was going to say the Rottweiler ate it."

