



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

(Established in 1947)

A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Volume 65 No. 1

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

*Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow*

**President :** Dennys Angove 043 88 77 689  
**Secretary :** Jenny Richardson (Culture Classes)  
**Treasurer :** Lina Huang (and Sales Table)  
**Vice President :** tba  
**Editor (Hon. volunteer) :** Jim Brydie  
**Society mail to -** PO box 1501 Lane Cove, NSW, 1595  
**Next Meeting :** Mon 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Committee :** Jessie Koh (Membership Secretary / Social Events)  
**Committee :** Herb Schoch (Community outreach, Sales Table)  
**Committee :** **New committee members required**  
**Committee :** **Please put your hand up to help**  
**web site (active link) :** <http://kuringaiorchidsociety.org.au>  
**Society email :** kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

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

**The prevalence of COVID has increased again, PLEASE stay home if you are not feeling well** and note that Attendees must be at least 2 x vaccinated for Covid and to tick off attendance list on arrival. Masks recommended.

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

**The Supper Break – Supper is not self-serve**, members are assigned to serve to minimise handling. **However**, we don't have nominated supper Volunteers for our **January** meeting so if you are willing to assist, please let us know when you arrive. The society supplies the tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc, **but - we ask all members to bring in a contribution of cake, slice, or biscuits, etc for the supper table. Please bring something to add.**

**AND - please everyone, bring your own mug for tea or coffee.**

January is our first month back. There will be no culture class, but the **sales table** is operating for sale of members plants and for small quantities of pots etc. There will also be the usual **monthly raffle**.

There will be **no guest speaker, but instead, we will hold one of our regular “Plant Doctor” nights** where we set up Plant Doctor panels at each end of the hall and rearrange the chairs. If you have an orchid you are worried about, perhaps one that just isn't growing well or one that is going backwards, and you are not sure what to do next, this is your chance to get some advice from our experienced growers. Bring it along to the meeting for the experts to assess.

It is always an amazing process in itself to watch what they look at in the plant being assessed. Their process reveals much about what you should look for in your plants, what various ‘symptoms’ mean, and why they mean it.

Let the experts show you what they are seeing and what they think it may imply. They can usually give you some practical suggestions for changes to your culture and/or some immediate action that needs to be taken. There are no limits on the number of plants you may bring in but if there are large numbers, the doctors reserve the right to prioritise which ‘patients’ they see on the night

**Best of the Evening Hybrid (Dec 2023) – Miltoniopsis Breathless ‘Brilliant’ - grown by Loretta and Paul Au**



(write up by JR) Welcome to the Open Category Loretta and Paul – and what an entry. This plant was certainly true to its name as it was absolutely breathtaking, as were the other Miltoniopsis’ benched by Loretta and Paul on the night.

With a reputation for being a little difficult to grow, it goes to show if you take the time to research their needs and give them what they want, the rewards are nothing short of stunning.

Miltoniopsis Breathless is a hybrid originated in 2005 by Okika, it is a cross between Mps. Pink Lady x Mps. Pearl Ono.

Loretta and Paul won the Novice BOE last month with Mps. Hawaiian Swizzle ‘Red Bull’ and with Mps. Breathless ‘Beauty’ back in February 2023. There have been various articles in our bulletin on growing Miltoniopsis so we won't

repeat any of that here. Perhaps the most comprehensive article was the one in Sept 2019 by Victorian nurseryman Craig Miles. If anyone is interested in articles from the earlier bulletins they can be requested via the KOS email.

Congratulations yet again Loretta and Paul. It is a delight to see your beautiful orchids every month.

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**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** – Thank you all for a great Christmas Party. I enjoyed myself immensely and there has been a lot of positive feedback. I am not sure how it will work out at our 2024 party but if we have happy folk, it will be fun again. I thank ALL those many people who made it work. Our **committee** were outstanding in their planning and on-the-night operations, as were **Janine, Di, Gloria** and **Chris** it was such a good thing to see how many pitched in to help. Thank you all for making it a happy party. Congratulations **Lesley** and **Garrie Bromley** for taking out the open benching competition and congratulations also to **Loretta** and **Paul Au** for winning the novice benching competition. Special congratulations go to **Jane D'Olier** for receiving the 2023 Oxley Achievement Award.



**Outreach Event** - On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, the KOS outreach event at Huon Park, North Turrumurra went well. We had **Trevor, Pauline, Lina** and **Adrian** supply flowers and many plants were sold. The people at the park gave us the balcony again and some tables and the day fined up well for us. The small display was lovely, and we had many admirers. We also donated some plants to their raffle (thank you **Trevor**). Some members from other societies dropped in to say hello as well as some members from KOS. It was also nice to catch up with **Bryan Spurrs** and **Chris** (thank you for

helping) and **Shirley Griffin**. Some more flowers would be nice next year, so we could have two display tables.

**Garden success** – **Mary Ahonen** lives down past Nowra and maintains her membership regularly. **Mary** sent us a lovely message and wished a Merry Christmas to all KOS members. **Mary** also sent us a nice photo of her successful attempt to replant her *Brassia verrucosa* from a pot bound situation into a rockery under a magnolia tree. Her photo shows how successful her project was with a wonderfully showy, 17-spike flowering. Happy New Year **Mary** and I hope all goes well for you.



**New Benching Cards** – We are trialing a new benching card. The society's name has been reduced to **KOS**. The card is the same physical size as the former and we are still only using one side since it is too time consuming for data entry if both sides of the card are

Class: 15	KOS	2
Genus: Colmanara		
Plant Name: Wildcat		
Bloodshot		
Member(s): J & D Angove		

used, especially if entering data for 120 to 150 plants each month. All fonts have been increased in size. The **Class** line has been reduced in size since it only requires the class number which is located on yellow class cards located on the benches at each meeting. The **Genus** line is the same size, and the **Plant Name** line has been increased to two lines to accommodate long names, such as those used with hybrids. The **Exhibitor's Name** heading has been replaced with **Member(s)** and is still one line. The **red square** is for use by judges when they allocate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. The example given is for a hybrid orchid that Janine and I have submitted previously which was awarded

2<sup>nd</sup> place for its class.

**Wearing masks** – COVID is still around, I will no longer be wearing a mask at our meetings. However, please feel free to continue to wear a mask at our meetings and hand disinfectants will be available.

**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.

### It Must Have Been Christmas

Yet again Cynthia and I both came down positive to Covid just before Christmas but we would probably have missed the party again for other reasons. Such is the luck of life, but Jane D'Olier did our society proud yet again with a wonderful selection of party and other pictures including fantastic shots of the Best of the Evening winners.

The selection below can't cover everyone but there were **many old friends and very happy faces** as usual.







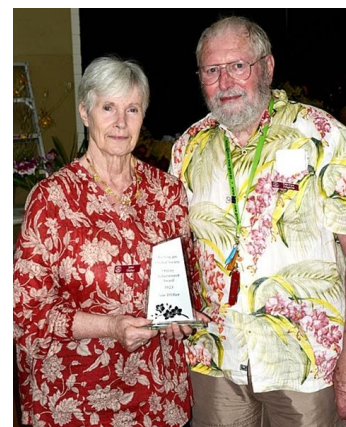
But, you already know that happy faces aren't all it takes. Behind the scenes there are all the workers buzzing around, setting things up, organizing. The same goes for every meeting and every event in which we are involved.

Congratulations to all involved in the party - it was a great success, and a big thank you from all the rest of us. And the same goes for all the other meetings and events. We might not say it all the time but we do appreciate your efforts. And finally, as I couldn't be there to comment on specifics, Jenny generously agreed to put together the following party night report. Thank you so much Jenny.

### **The Christmas spirit – by Jenny Richardson**

What a festive, social meeting we had! Our resident photographer Jane captured the mood perfectly with her happy snaps - a selection of which Jim has included above.

Before the party was in full swing, there were some special awards presented. The tables were turned on Jane for a brief moment as Peter took over camera duties when Anne Byron presented Jane with the Oxley Achievement Award, congratulations Jane, so well deserved. Jane's beautiful photography both records & helps share the joy of the wonderful blooms members bring in each month and she also captures our special events at meetings. We all get to enjoy Jane's photos in the bulletin and the extended selection that go onto our Facebook page are available to anyone who visits our social media. It's easy to forget, or never even consider, what a time consuming, meticulous



process is required to get these photos published. A true sign of an expert, Jane makes it look effortless so we don't think of the skill required to capture her subjects so beautifully. It was lovely to see Jane's consistent, quiet effort for our society recognised & to have the camera point in the opposite direction, if only for a short time.

One of the special events Jane captures for posterity is the trophy presentation to the winners of our Open and Novice benching annual point score. Congratulation to Lesley & Garrie for once again taking out the Open Section. Your expertly grown plants bring pleasure to all. Clearly a recognition of your growing skills, but also a testament to the effort required every month to pack, transport, unpack (and repeat) all those wonderful plants. We are so grateful that you bring in such



a fantastic selection of your beauties to share with us each month, thank you & well done. How many years in a row is that now ..... apart from 'lots' I don't know, but the Bromley's have taken out the Open Section for as long as I've been at KOS.

This year, there was no surprise who our Novice winners were going to be, with their consistent benching of spectacular plants. It had to be Loretta and Paul Au. Now, I know the class breakdown is very different between our novice & open categories, but with an overall point score just 2 points less than the Bromley's, I suspect that it won't be long before Loretta and Paul are challenging to be holding up that Open trophy.



For this new season, they started their first month in Open with a bang taking out the Best of the Evening Hybrid. Their three breathtaking Miltoniopsis' provided a stunning backdrop for our party proceedings. The same can be said of all the wonderfully well grown plants you have benched this past year. I know you are already exchanging growing tips with some of our resident experts, may you continue to learn and in turn, teach (.... *please*) for many years to come. Congratulations to you both. Your enthusiasm & passion for your orchids is contagious, thanks so much for sharing with us.

All members who benched throughout the year were given a token award for bringing their plants into a meeting for all of us to appreciate. Benching is a significant part of our meetings. You don't have to win, you just have to participate. It makes it more enjoyable for everyone at the meeting to see the extensive range of gorgeous orchids grown by our membership. If you haven't benched before, why not bite the bullet and make 2024 the year you start.

But getting back to the party. Once our hall was 'decked' the mood was set. Everyone made an effort and we had some very seasonal special effects with reindeer ears, tinsel and other glittery stuff and even a necklace of blinking lights – what fun! Our monster raffle was a great success with all the member contributions, along with the two big hampers from KOS and our normal array of raffle plants. Having a sit-down meal seems to work well & saves trying to balance your food in your lap whilst finding somewhere for your drink. It also makes it easier to chat with your companions & hopefully get to know a few people a little better, which is what it's all about. Based on all the smiling, happy faces, laughter and the general level of chat going on I think all went home with a glow of Christmas cheer and good will to all and that will hopefully stay with us all throughout the coming year.

As with every month, our hall starts the evening as a barren canvas & we have a regular crew of helpers that transform it into a wonderland of orchids for all to enjoy. In December there is a lot of extra work to be done. We put a call out for extra help and it was wonderful how many members assisted. We had a core of helpers, with the food management coordinated by Janine who did a magnificent job of ensuring everyone was fed.

As with all we do it is a team effort, but Dennys & Janine did a lot of running around before the party to ensure we had all we needed so, a huge thank you to both of them for all that preparation work.

After the party Janine mentioned how extremely grateful she was when Annie, Nancy & Di shooed her away and shut her out of the kitchen whilst they took care of ALL the washing up – thank you so much ladies! We had lots of lovely comments about the food, the yummy ham - that was down to Jessie's cooking expertise & the wonderful Inari and Vietnamese rice paper rolls were Lina's marvelous creations – no left overs there! The chicken, salads & bread went down a treat. Gloria 'dressed' the pavlova cases to perfection followed by Allan's deft dissection & plating of pavs & lemon (*and don't forget the lime*) tarts. With huge thanks to; the serving team Di, Jessie, Lina, Janine, Lee and Anthony. Our bar keepers Chris & Herb who kept the drinks cool & everyone hydrated, to our hamper queen Ann together with Norm who provided & collected all the utensils. Bronwyn for selling tickets for our Monster raffle. Our regulars, Stuart, Graeme & Chris for set up assistance with Ming, Annie, Ann, & Nancy on decorations.



There are too many names to mention you all, *please, please forgive me* if I've not listed you individually but heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped stack a chair, set up tables, took the rubbish out to the bins, brought in a gift for the raffle - it's all part of the night & none of it would happen without everyone pitching in.

### How to Tell the Sex of a Fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around the room with a fly swatter.

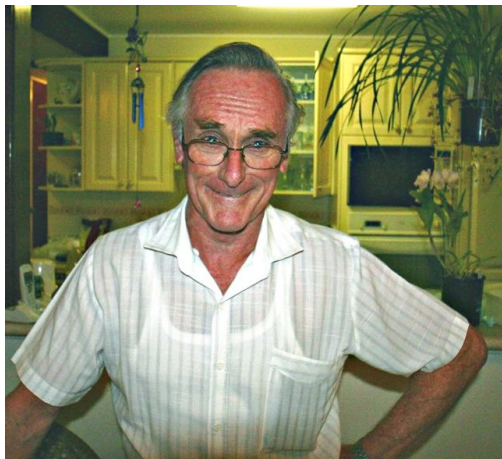
"What are you doing?" She asked. -- "Hunting Flies", He responded.

"Oh. ! Did you manage to kill any?" She asked. -- "Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replied.

"That's ridiculous," she said, "How can you tell them apart?"

"Easy," he responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

## Vale Bernie Britton - (passed away Nov 2023)



Bernie was a long-time popular member of both the North Shore and Ku-ring-gai Orchid Societies and was instrumental in the formation of the St Ives Orchid Fair. He was an active member on the committees of both North Shore and Ku-Ring-Gai and was Chairman of the St Ives Fair committee from its foundation until 2019 when ill health led him to resign.

He was a quiet, calm man with a huge heart, and was loved by all who knew him. Whenever a special job needed to be done, Bernie was the man to put his hand up and volunteer and when teams were needed you could be sure he was on the ground pitching in with the rest. He trained as an orchid judge and despite the significant travel involved, volunteered to be one of the assigned judges to help Berowra OS judge at their meetings.

I was also a member of the Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society committee when Bernie served there and he was a popular friend to all. As well as being an

orchid lover Bernie was an accomplished gardener and had a special thing for Peonies, and if you don't know what those special darlings are you should look them up. He tempted many on our committee to try and master their culture but while some have succeeded, to our shame Cynthia and I failed time after time even with Bernie's directions. You can't win them all.

Bernie was a constant influence for calm and common sense at our committee meetings and even better, was a delight to talk to about anything and everything over coffee and cake at the end of the committee meetings. I also have a special memory about Bernie and his wife Marie's participation at a series of society social dinners Cynthia and I hosted at our home about 15 years back. They were open to all society members and it just worked out that our home and large backyard made an ideal venue for an orchid houses and garden visit followed by an informal dinner, followed by a kind of pub quiz or similar to finish it off. Many members contributed to the catering for these dinners but one staple every time



was Bernie and Marie volunteering to make all the desserts in the form of freshly baked waffles, served with ice cream and caramel sauce. The following is the report for the bulletin by an attendee one year: ".... Although we all ate far too much, we all seemed to have enough space for



Bernie and Marie's famous waffles! ... Waffles with ice cream and caramel sauce disappeared as fast as they were made."

I am not sure Bernie would choose to be remembered as "the famous waffle maker" but I am sure he would have had a good laugh about it.

Farewell Bernie. You will be remembered as a kind, generous man who wasn't afraid to put in the hard work. And you and Marie made world champion waffles.

## Other Society News

**1. Membership Fees** – unless you have already paid, or you have been personally informed that your 2024 membership is covered, membership fees are now due. If you are not sure if you have paid or not, please ask via the KOS email before paying again. Current fees are \$15 single, \$18 family.

You can pay by bank transfer to **Westpac Bank, BSB No 032 188, account name - Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society Inc. and account number 103568**. If you use this method, **please** use **your full name as the payment description** or **your phone number** if your financial institution does not allow you to enter your name. If you wish, you can email [kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com) to confirm your payment.

You can also pay Jessie Koh, our membership secretary, in person at a meeting by cash or a cheque made out to **Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society Inc** or alternately you can also post a cheque to KOS, PO Box 1501, Lane Cove, 1595.

**2. Benching Competition Results** – At our Christmas meeting, the point-score competition winners are announced and prizes handed out. We do not publish the complete results of the point-score, or the results in specific classes (i.e. the placings upon which prizes are based). There are 40 benching classes in total and the total results of over one hundred members benching in 40 classes is rather unwieldy to say the least. However, the results are not secret and if any member is interested in obtaining a copy, please send a request to [kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com), (the KOS email address) and we will send it to you.

What we do publish each year in our January bulletin (see below), is a summary table of the overall total points (across all classes) for about the top 20 or so point scorers in the Open division, and perhaps 5 to 10 in the Novice section. Placings in these tables are not the basis upon which prizemoney is earned or number of classes won. We



publish this table just because many members like to see where they stand competitively amongst all others.

Please, please, don't take this competition too seriously and don't get over-competitive. Let's just enjoy seeing lots of lovely orchids every month. Bring your plants in to show us your skill and to share your pride in your orchids. It's a chance to share your pleasure, your knowledge and discoveries, to see how others are doing and to ask questions.

**First, our Novice benching results** - For 2022/3 the top few in the overall scores in the Novice section (in order) were Paul and Loretta Au, Mary Mathews, Ming Chin, and Di Flinders, but not far behind were several others so our up-and-comers are a very healthy group.

However, as you should all know by now, our novice benching classes are designed to be a temporary haven for new growers and there is a mechanism for new growers to elevate from 'novice' to 'open' as their orchid culture improves and they eventually win the annual score in a number of novice classes. The process is that as you win any one class (over the full 12 months) the grower can no longer bench in that class and must bench those kinds of orchids in the equivalent Open classes. Once a novice wins 3 annual novice classes, they are no longer 'novice' and must bench all their orchids in open. (apologies for the regular repetition of these rules but there are new members every year and it takes a while for every newcomer to get to terms with all this complicated stuff).

Anyway, as a result of the 2022/3 novice competition results, the only NEW elevation from novice to open was Loretta and Paul Au who are now open in all classes.

If you have been benching Novice for some time and have lost track of your novice/open status, you can request a status update at <http://kuringaiorchidsociety.org.au>

### Now, Finally, Our Open class benching results.

The top 21 benchers in Open class (tallied across all classes) were :

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bromley, Garrie & Lesley	448	8 <sup>th</sup>	Onslow, Trevor & Pauline	207	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ng, Betty	88
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D'Olier, Peter & Jane	340	9 <sup>th</sup>	Fulcher, Jean	197	16 <sup>th</sup>	Payne, Lee	64
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Huang, Lina	302	10 <sup>th</sup>	Miller, Trevor	179	17 <sup>th</sup>	Wilson, Chris	55
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cushway, Allan & Gloria	276	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tanner, Ian	163	18 <sup>th</sup>	Floyd, Dave	49
5 <sup>th</sup>	Zderic, Adrian	259	12 <sup>th</sup>	Rethers, Christine	152	19 <sup>th</sup>	Gorginian, Fred	48
6 <sup>th</sup>	Koh, Jessie	221	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wong, Helen	150	20 <sup>th</sup>	Tao, Annie	46
7 <sup>th</sup>	Law, Dora	213	14 <sup>th</sup>	Chang, John	130	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mobbs, Anthony	44

### Best of the Evening Species – *Onc. harrisonianum* (syn *Grandiphyllum auricula*) - *grown by T and P Onslow*



(write up by JR) With quite the array of synonyms this one originates from Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais states of Brazil. It often grows on moss covered tree trunks as an epiphyte or sometimes as a lithophyte in forests near streams in areas that have hot dry days and cool nights with frequent dews. It grows at elevation of around 1000 meters.

Described as a miniature to small sized, cool to warm growing plant. The inflorescences are erect to arching if left un-staked and range from 12.5 to 30cm in length with up to 40 blooms per spike. As can be seen from the Onslow's plant they produce a spectacular, colorful specimen when grown well and Trevor and Pauline grow *Oncidium*s superbly well - another gorgeous plant.

Congratulations Trevor and Pauline. A superb specimen.

### A Mathematical analysis of Success

Ever wonder about those people who say they are already giving 100%? Or been at a meeting where a manager says he wants you to give more than 100%. But how can anyone measure that? What makes up 100% in life?

Well here is a mathematical formula that might help with these questions.

First, let the letters : *A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z*, be represented as the values :  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

That means : *H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K* .....  $8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$ ,

and *K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E* .....  $11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But , *A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E* .....  $1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

And, *B-U-L-L-S-H-\*.T* .....  $2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%$ , and look how far 'ass kissing' will take you.

*A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G* .....  $1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will just get you there, it is the Bullsh\*t and Ass Kissing that will really put you over the top.

Which clearly explains why some public figures are where they are today!



## Best of the Evening Novice – *Oncidium sphacelatum* grown by Carol Blackwell



This is one of Sydney's favourite orchids but it is a big one and can't be kept small. It has pseudobulbs up to 15 cm tall and leaves up to 60 cm long. The roots are narrow but the plant mass produces them in clusters. The average person buys their first one as a 2 or 3 bulb division and may think it will be able to be managed as a smaller plant, but *sphacelatum* doesn't play by the orchid grower rules.

The species *Onc. sphacelatum* is mainly from Central America in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica but is also found as far south as Venezuela and it is in danger of becoming naturalised in Florida in the USA from cultivated plants.

The picture below (snips from a Brads Greenhouse youtube video) is of an old plant growing on what seems to be a palm tree trunk in Mexico. It seems to be a quite old plant and you can see the nature of the close clusters of pseudobulbs forming almost a globe of growth. The second picture shows the close set nature of the large pseudobulbs.

As a virtually tropical orchid that is rarely found above 1000 m you would expect that it is a warm grower but although its habitat zones are warm, some of its habitat locations are reported to sometimes get relatively cold. Report from growers in a number of our zones, including our Sydney growers, tell



us that it doesn't seem to object to quite low degrees Celsius in Winter. What is more is that this is quite a tough orchid. Like all orchids it greatly appreciates water when it needs it and a little regular fertiliser, but this isn't one of those touchy types that turns up its toes if it doesn't always get it.

The multi branched *sphacelatum* spike can be close to 2 metres tall and all are covered in flowers. It makes an impressive display. We used to recommend staking the spikes upright, probably thinking that it was more impressive and manageable as a benched plant, but these days most growers allow it to arch out and weep down naturally.

Which brings me to the point that this is an orchid that naturally grows into a very big plant. It can be nice to grow and bring to show off at meetings for a few years but it is nearly impossible to keep doing it like that. This is a species much better suited to growing as a backyard landscape specimen in the same way we use our native *Dendrobium speciosum*. It adapts well to growing in a tree fork or even on the trunk. Here are some examples of *sphacelatum* specimens used in that way.



Now just imagine something like that flowering in your backyard every year.

As I said earlier, most grower's introduction to *sphacelatum* is a small division off the sales table or at a society auction. My first experience with *sphacelatum* was exactly that and a very similar experience to this report from an internet site called Ricardo's Blog : "The plant in the photo (at the right) started as a two pseudobulb division on top of a terracotta pot. Eventually it totally engulfed the pot with its root mass and grew over, around and under it."

I wasn't at the meeting to see Carol's orchid but the picture looks terrific. Keep it going Carol but also start thinking about a beautiful garden feature for the future.



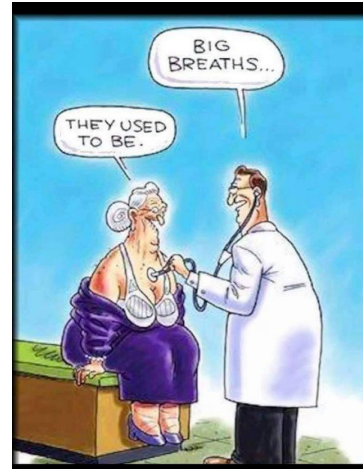
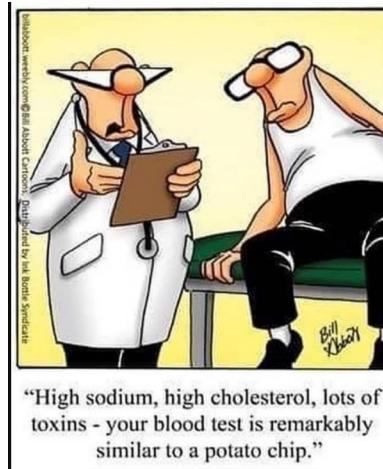


## Back Page Humour

I have had a few comments from readers lately, lamenting the reduction of scattered humour in the bulletin but I have to disclose that it's all a question of available space. Sometimes I write too much orchid stuff and the jokes miss out and that is all it is.

So this month I am in a quandary. The material didn't lend itself to being spread further so should I stop at 7 pages? Or give you an extra page of fillers to even up the double side print page count? (I voted yes)

## Doctor, Doctor,



## Our Christmas Holidays

Yesterday I bought a world map and put it on the wall in the kitchen.

I gave my wife a dart, and said throw this, and wherever it lands I will take you for a holiday.

.... Who would have guessed? We are taking our next three weeks behind the fridge.

## It was a Dark and Stormy Night

An elderly couple were on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the big boat watching the storm, when a wave came up and washed the old man overboard.

They searched for days and couldn't find him, so the captain sent the wife back to shore with the promise that he would notify her as soon as they found something.

The weeks went by, and finally the old lady got a fax from the boat. It read: 'Ma'am, sorry to inform you, we have finally found your husband. He was dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled him up to the deck and attached to his behind was an oyster, and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000. Please advise what you want us to do.'

The wife faxed back: 'Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap.'

## My Son Trains Dolphins.

An elderly man rear-ended a guy driving an expensive sports car. Enraged, the guy hops out and confronts the old man. "Look what you did to my car" he yells. "You're going to give me \$10,000 right now or I'm going to beat you to a pulp!"

"Oh my" says the old man, "I don't have that kind of money. Let me call my son, he trains dolphins and he will know what to do."

"Dolphins" the other driver huffs, while rolling his eyes.

The old man pulls out his phone, dials his son and just as his son answered, the irate man snatches the phone away from the old man. "So, YOU'RE a dolphin trainer, huh? Well, Your old man here just rear-ended my car and I need 10 grand right now or I'm going to beat you AND your old man to a pulp."

"I'll be there in 10 minutes," says the voice calmly on the other end. Exactly 10 minutes later a Jeep pulls up and a guy hops out, talks to the bully who picks a fight, and the son proceeds to pulverize the arrogant bully, leaving him in a heap on the side of the road.

When he finished, he walked over to his father and said.... "For the last time dad, I train Seals, Navy Seals..... NOT ruddy dolphins!"

## Pre-Christmas Dieting

My goal for 2023 was to lose just 10 kilograms. By December I only had 15 kgs to go.

But I ate salad for dinner last night! Mostly croutons & tomatoes, ..... well really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce. .... and some cheese, ..... and olives, ..... alright, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza.