



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

(Established in 1947)

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16th June 2025 - Volume 66 No. 6

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

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facebook : www.facebook.com/p/Ku-Ring-Gai-Orchid-Society

Next Meeting : Mon 16th June 2025

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

COVID and even common old influenza remain a problem. **Please, if you are feeling unwell - do not attend.**

YOU MUST SIGN IN on the ATTENDANCE SHEETS at the front hall on arrival. – Insurance requires it. Please do it.

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 cards and dividers are in place. Give the set up team time to get everything organized.

Culture Class – Trevor Onslow is our culture speaker this month and his topic will be **“Different kinds of Pots”**. Trevor will talk about a range of different styles of pots, why its difference makes a difference and why you might choose one pot or another in different circumstances or for different plants.

Guest Speaker - This month, after the supper break, we have a special treat for members. Our speaker will be **Bailey Wong** who grows the most magnificent species Phalaenopsis I have ever seen but that is not her subject this time around. Bailey is just a great grower in general and her topic for us this month is **Growing and Rescuing Catts**. Come along and get an education.

The society sales table will also be open as usual with pots, sticks and fertiliser etc and hopefully also some spare divisions of members plants. Please respect the **“Sales Table Open / Sales Table Closed” signs** and give our sales table managers time to set up and get themselves ready before you start grabbing stock and offering money.

The Supper Break – Supper is not self-serve. Volunteers are assigned to serve the food for hygienic reasons. And remember, we still need volunteers on some months. Supplies are all organised in advance.

June volunteers are – Jessie Koh & Loretta Au, thank you ladies.

Supper Food – We do ask *all members* to bring in a contribution of edibles for the supper table. *Just a small plate to add to the spread.* If you are a cook, show off your skills with something special but if you are like me, shop bought stuff is perfectly acceptable. **And Remember – Please bring your own mug or cup with you.**

Best of the evening Species – *Bulbophyllum medusae* grown by *Jean Fulcher*



This one's spectacular flower has always attracted admirers. Technically, the flower arrangement is an umbel (multiple flowers radiating from a central point like umbrella ribs) but it is not easy to see that with such a dense head. But the name Medusae gives a clue.

In Greek fables Medusa was one of the Gorgon sisters - generally described as a woman with living snakes in place of hair; her appearance was so hideous that anyone who looked upon her was turned to stone. I assume that the fear of being turned to stone stopped anyone looking though so we can only wonder what was imagined. The picture at the right, done by Godfried Maes, in 1680 AD, gives us a clue.

Bulb medusae comes from lowland areas in (Peninsular Thailand, Malaysia, Borneo, Indonesian) so it is a warm grower. It is usually found in trees where it gets shade but reasonable light. 85% Relative humidity all year and temperatures 23 - 33°C.

Congratulations Jean, I always admire this one when you bring it in. It is lovely and so, so exotic.



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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)

Jim's view – Winter has certainly arrived. I don't know about the orchids but I sure feel the cold at night. If you haven't already covered your more sensitive orchids then do it now before it gets any colder.

Last meeting was another treat with David excelling (as usual) in the practical aspects of orchid growing and then an interstate speaker for the main course. Nette's talk on *Sarcochilus* was fascinating even if her computer hiccupped a couple of times. Who said AI is going to replace us all.

This month our speaker is also coming to Ku-Ring-gai for the first time, however she has been delivering talks around other clubs for some time. When I was attending the Species Society regularly I used to marvel at some of the fabulous and select cultivars of *Phalaenopsis* species Bailey was bringing along. She is great grower and her topic for this month – Growing and Rescuing *Cattleyas* – sounds very interesting to me.

This month we are also commencing the sell-off of the remainder of past member Bryan Spurrs's orchids. When his health was failing Bryan donated a batch of plants for us to eventually make available to members and Dennys has been working to remediate them to a point where they could be sold. While there are no rare orchids, there are some really nice ones among them and the committee has decided that over coming months we will sell them by small quick fire auctions during meetings to make sure all members get a chance. This coming meeting will be the first and all monies go to the club.

And finally, it is a pleasure to report that in the recent Chelsea Flower Show, Australian Professor Kingsley Dixon, a West Australian botanist, won a gold medal for his role in masterminding the feature of beautiful blue Australian Sun orchids as part of a display showcasing South-East Asia and the Pacific orchids as they would look in their natural habitats.



Various

species of Sun orchids (*Thelymitra* spp) grow in mostly coastal areas of Australia and mostly from the south-east to the south-west, flowering from Sept. to December. However, because of the opposite seasons of the north and south hemispheres, special arrangements had to be made.



It almost didn't happen. Kew's orchid team pitched the idea of bringing the rare flower to Chelsea eight months ago. "Yeah, but we need years," Professor Dixon said. Transporting the plant from Australia and getting it to flower was logistically impossible in that time frame, so the team called on a colleague in Germany for help. "I knew he had material that

he's been growing for about 40 years from seed. . . I begged him, and he agreed," said Prof. Kingsley. The Great Sun Orchid was planted in sandy soil amongst granite rocks and blackened sticks, taken from Professor Dixon's own Western Australian property after a recent bushfire. It was in stark contrast to the tropical displays around it, which was exactly what Professor Dixon intended.

Some of the *Thelymitras* displayed were hybrids but all have the startling 'true blue' colour. The Great Sun Orchid is *Thelymitra grandiflora* which is endemic to South Australia. It comes from the Mt Lofty and Flinders ranges and has also been recorded from the Yorke peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

There is a good report on the ABC website at <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-23/charles-and-camilla-view-aussie-orchid-at-chelsea-flower-show/105326104>

Some Coming events in the next few months of 2025

12-14th June – (shop hrs) - NSOS show, St Ives Village Shopping Centre

20-22nd June – Manly W. OS Winter Show, Super Centre, Belrose

28-29th June – 9-4 Sat, 9-3 Sun, - Mingara Annual Fair, Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi

10-12 July – Thur-Sat (shop hrs) - Eastwood OS, Eastwood shopping centre, Rowe St, Eastwood

31 July - 2 August – Cumberland OS show, Grove Square Shopping Centre, Baulkham Hills

1-3 August – (Fri-Sun) Manly W. OS 'Orchids by the Sea', Super Centre, Belrose

8-10th August – (9-4 Fri, 9-3 Sat) National Orchid Extravaganza, Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Rd, Yagoona

15-17th August – (9-4 Fri, Sat, 9-3 Sun) St Ives Orchid Fair – St Ives Showground, Mona Vale Rd, St Ives

More Society News

1. New members – Welcome to another new member – Erica Veltmeyer. As I say to all new members Erica, I hope you make many new friends at our club and enjoy our meetings, but be patient, it often takes a little while for new members to figure it all out. Don't forget we have all been where you are now so don't be afraid to ask questions.

2. Name Badges – Just a little reminder for members to please wear your name badges to meetings. No one

remembers everyone else's name and having their name in front of you is a big help is making us brave enough to talk to one another. Try to remember your early days as new members at each club – it wasn't easy, was it? Perhaps keep your name badge it in your car with YOUR COFFEE CUP, because you need that too.

Clubs become friendly places much sooner when people talk to one another. The name badges and the suppers help.

3. New arrangements for the upcoming St Ives Fair. – In mid-winter it always seems that the wonderful St Ives Fair is ages away but I need to tell you it is barely two months from our next meeting and there are administrative things that MUST be done in advance.

(a) **Volunteers** - We will be circulating the St Ives volunteer rosters at the June and July meetings and I ask for the help of all members to volunteer for at least one shift, more if you can. Just 4 clubs (Ku-Ring-Gai, North Shore, Manly Warringah, and ANOS Warringah) run the St Ives Fair and it is run by the work of the members. When those lists come around please put your name down to help. Older member know what is required, for new members we will talk about it at the meeting and send out information sheets separately.

(b) **Plant Sales** - For members who like to sell off a few spare plants on the societies sales table at the fair, please pay special attention as there are new rules you must follow to get plants on the table. **A letter from Sales Table Manager - Richard Blaxland, sets out the requirements below.**



St Ives Orchid Fair
'The Big One'

ST IVES SHOWGROUND, Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Friday 15th August 2025 9 am to 4 pm
Saturday 16th August 2025 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday 17th August 2025 9 am to 3 pm

ADMISSION \$10

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Alice's Orchids, Barita Orchids, Dark Star Orchids, Ezi-Gro Orchids, Fong Ping Orchids, Hills District Orchids, Kings Orchid Nursery, Macquarie Native Orchids, Nicky's Slippers Orchid Care Services, Orchid Species Plus, Orchids of Distinction, Orchids on Newbold, Robertson Orchids, Rosella Orchids, The Orchid Mart / Serhan's Orchids, Tinonee Orchids, Woolf Orchidculture

For more Information: Show Marshal: Garrie Bromley Ph: 0425 336 049
<http://www.stivesorchidfair.com/>

In partnership with
Ku-ring-gai Council

Selling your Orchids at the St Ives Orchid Fair (by Richard Blaxland, Sales Manager)

St Ives Orchid Fair will be held from 15th to 17th August this year and members of the 4 Orchid Clubs which own the Fair (North Shore, Ku-Ring-Gai, Manly-Warringah, and ANOS Warringah) are able to sell their surplus orchids at the Fair. There are a few changes to the selling procedures this year and so I am writing this article to bring everyone up to date.

In recent years, we have built up an excellent team of volunteers who work on the Societies' Sales Table and I hope that all those volunteers make themselves available again this year. A schedule will be circulated at the June and July meetings of the 4 Clubs, asking for Members to volunteer to help with all the voluntary work needed to make the Fair a success.

Last year we had about 40 members who sold about 600 orchids. In the past, we handled the sales transaction manually but this year we will be using a small computer program and so we have made a few changes to make processing easier.

- Members who want to sell at the Fair will need to fill in a Registration Form at the June or July meeting of their Club. It is a very simple form asking for:
 - o Seller's name
 - o Seller's Identification Code (3 Capital letters)
 - o Seller's society
 - o Seller's bank BSB and Account number
 - o Seller's email address

We need these details prior to the Fair, so that we can set up our computer system. The code is simply a 3-letter combination to make data entry easier. I'll use RGB which are my initials. You'll need to remember your code so that you can write it in Capitals on your plant sales tag next to the price. For "society", for those of us who belong to more than one of the 4 Societies, just choose one society and only fill out one form.

From 30th June 2028, Banks will stop processing cheques so from this year we will offer sellers the option of receiving a cheque or having direct credit to their bank account.

From 2026 onwards, we will only be offering direct bank deposits. If you would prefer a cheque this year, leave bank details blank on the form. For privacy reasons, we will delete bank details from our records when payments have been made.

- In the past, we have had a mishmash of sales tags used by various sellers and this has caused processing problems. From now on, we will only accept plants for sale which have a standard yellow sales tag on them. These tags are available from each of the 4 Clubs. On one side of the tag write your code and sales price. Nothing else please. No random numbers, no plant name, no plant description, nothing else. On the other side of the sales tag, you may write your name as some buyers like to see who is selling a plant. This is optional. Don't write on the "curl" and don't write sideways.

Many of you are very skilled at preparing plants for sale but there are always "newbies" out there so I will write a bit about sale plants. Firstly, plants must be free of pests and diseases. Any "suspect" plants will not be accepted for sale. The plants must be "secure in the pot" and to achieve this, plants need to be potted up months before sale. Buyers are not happy if the plant falls out of the pot on the way home. Australian Native Plants need a special tag in the pot which is available from your Club and a Natives Form needs to be completed and handed to me. The easiest way to sell a plant is to have it in flower. If that isn't possible, attach a photo of the flower to the plant. Don't overprice your plant if you want to sell it. Last year we had a lot of unsold stock but most of it was over-priced or very small divisions or both. Second- and third-rate Cymbidiums do not sell at all unless they are very cheap. There is a lot of competition at the Fair. Prepare your plant properly for sale – stake up untidy racemes and growths and cut off chewed leaves.

In the past, we have jammed as many plants onto our sales tables as we could fit there. It has been hard for buyers to see what is on offer. This time we will have them spaced out a bit. When I am stocking the tables, plants in flower get first preference for a space. Where there are multiples of a plant from a grower, I will normally have one plant on the bench and the reserves either under the bench or in one of the storerooms. There is simply not enough room to have everything on the bench together. I try to be fair to everybody.

When you get to the Societies Sales Table with plants to sell, don't try to find a place for your plants on the table. Look for me and ask where I would like you to put your plants. I will look after them from there.

I'll look forward to receiving some great plants for sale. If you have a query, please ring me on 0420 934 385.

Richard Blaxland - Sales Manager

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Phragmipedium Memoria Mariza Rolando - grown by *Gloria & Allan Cushway*

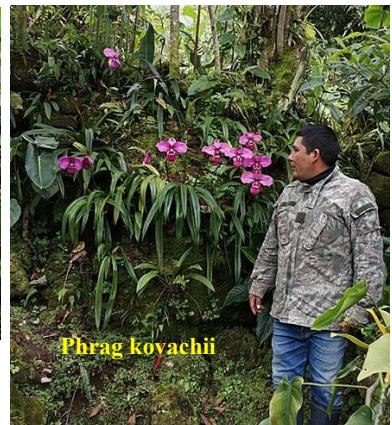
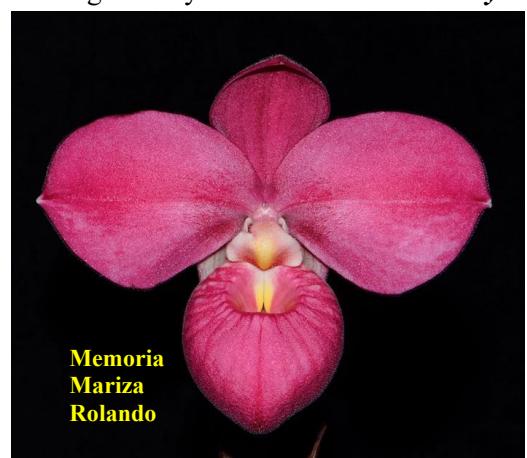
Phragmipediums are the South American version of the Asian Paphiopedilums. Both genera devolved from the same source family, the Cypripedioideae but they evolved independently in vastly separated territories and I don't believe they have ever crossed paths.

There are about 138 species in Paphiopedilum, occurring through all parts of Asia, eastward from India to the Coral Sea and north south from SE China to Indonesia and PNG and a few of the pacific islands.

The number of Phragmipediums is a moot point. Jay Pfahl's Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia says 29, others say 22 one says only 14. I guess it all comes down to what you call a species and what you call a variety of another species. There is even one species that has now been split off into its own single species genus - Mexipedium xerophyticum.

The Phragmipediums occur from Mexico at their northern extreme down to Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru in South America. They are generally terrestrial in shallow compost rich soils and often where the lower level remains constantly moist from a drainage channel or a soak. Most of the Phragmipediums are tallish multiflowered orchids somewhat reminiscent of the multiflowered Paphs but also very different. They tend to have flowers that droop forward and down and an inflorescence that is at least slightly sequential from the bottom up. The leaves of 'Phrags' are narrower and more upright than Paphiopedilums and they grow in more light than their Asian relatives and most with lower pH.

Surprisingly, there have been two major new discoveries in the species ranks in recent years. The most spectacular and brightest coloured of all (discovered in only 1981 by an orchid tourist in Peru) almost beggars belief. The area had for many years been searched for orchids but this one must not have been in flower at those times because its brilliant orange red flowers are startlingly. It is named after the lady who found it and is known as Mrs Bessae's Phrag – Phragmipedium besseae. I mention it is some detail here because it is part of the parentage of the Cushway's hybrid, as is also a species discovered even more recently in 2001 (Phrag. Kovachii).



Phrag kovachii has huge (20 cm across) pink flowers and it was discovered on a farm in the Andean cloud forests of northern Peru. Some reports give its discovery date as up to 10 years earlier but I am sure time will eventually give us the truth.

As you might expect, these two new species have been the centre of a whole new surge in hybrid breeding in *Phragmipedium*. The parents of *Memoria Mariza Rolando* are *Phrag kovachii* and *Phrag Hanne Popow* which is itself *besseae* x *schlimii*. Before the discovery of *besseae* and *kovachii* the sweetheart parent in *Phrag* hybrid breeding was *schlimii*, which comes in shades of pink and white and looks like a South American *Phrag* version of *Paph delenatii*. So its not hard to imagine why these three all ended up mixed together in a hybrid. *Kovachii* for flower size and colour, *besseae* for red if it gets there, and *schlimii* for elegance.

So what do you think? Did it work? I think I would bid if it came up at auction.

Congratulations Gloria and Allan. It's wonderful to see the exotic and wonderfully grown orchids you bring in.

Interesting Orchids from our May Meeting - *Cymbidium iridifolium* and *Cym. tracyanum*



?? *Cym. iridioides* (Tony Agrela)



?? *Cym. tracyanum* (Adrian Zderic)

Back at the beginning of orchid hybridisation, the big showy *Cymbidiums* were one of the first targets, and some of the first species for experimentation were *Cymbidium lowianum* (also known way back as *l'ansonii*), *Cym hookerianum*, *Cym. tracyanum*, *Cym. eburneum*, *Cym. iridioides* (also known as *giganteum*), and *Cym. insigne*.

As you can see from the alternate species names declared above, the variation within each species and the similarities between them have disrupted naming. It took a long time to sort out boundaries and decide which was which.

Which brings me to the subject of this discussion and I approach this rather cautiously because although I have looked into it a bit over a long time, I am by no means an expert on this subject.

We rarely see the species *Cymbidium iridioides* benched these days which is a pity because it is an elegant orchid. It is a species but for some reason or another, it visually always makes me think it is a different kind of *tracyanum* or a hybrid from the species *tracyanum*. So, with the two lovely examples above as a starting point I went looking for a way to explain which is which and I found an excellent article on the *Cymbidium Society of Victoria* website called *A Case of Mistaken Identity* by Joshua White. This excellent article goes somewhat beyond my simple requirement for a comparison of *iridioides* and *tracyanum* but it deals with the confusion encountered by nearly every orchid grower who develops an interest in species *Cymbidiums*. So, with the authors consent I have reproduced his article below.

The link to the original article is

<https://www.cosv.com.au/identification-and-classification/a-case-of-mistaken-identity>

A Case of Mistaken Identity - by Joshua White

(an article from the website of the *Cymbidium Society of Victoria*, republished with permission of the author)

Like any Orchid genus, *Cymbidiums* suffer their share of mislabelling. Sometimes this is just a slight misspelling, or a mix-up between the grex and varietal names. Occasionally the label doesn't match anything in the RHS register at all.

However, there are a couple of species and primary hybrids that are often confused. Once you know what to look for, they are easy to distinguish between. This short article looks at some of the most commonly mislabelled primary hybrids in Victoria. It is my hope that the reader will then be able to correctly identify these hybrids and the related species in their own collection.

Cym. Lowio-Grandiflorum

This primary hybrid is the cross of *Cym. lowianum* and *Cym. hookerianum* (also known as *Cym. grandiflorum*) and unfortunately it is often mislabelled as *Cym. lowianum*.



Cym. lowianum



Cym. hookerianum

Above are examples of the two parent species. As you can see, *Cym. lowianum* tends to have a wide, rectangular shape with thin tepals. Its standout feature is the blood-red “v” on the lip. *Cym. hookerianum*, on the other hand, has a more regular shape with a finely-spotted lip, which includes a green-yellow picotee and a ruffled edge. The hybrid of the two differs from both parents in a few recognisable ways:

- The shade of green is typically apple green, much like *hookerianum*. The bronze or russet overlay that sometimes appears in *lowianum* is gone, courtesy of *hookerianum*’s tendency to reduce or block the anthocyanin layer that exhibits the spots and stripes. *Cym. lowianum*, on the other hand, picks up spots and stripes quite well. This effect can be most obviously seen in the two hybrids with *Cym. tracyanum* — *Gattonense* (*lowianum x tracyanum*) is heavily spotted/striped, whereas *Rosefieldense* (*hookerianum x tracyanum*) only has a small amount of fine spotting.
- The lip usually exhibits a ruffled edge, although it is not as pronounced as that of *Cym. hookerianum*. *Cym. lowianum* has a very clean, flat edge to its lip.
- *Cym. lowianum* has clean sidelobes with a pale green picotee, a trait which is visible in *Lowio-grandiflorum* rather than the fine spots of *hookerianum*.
- The “v” on the lip is partially spotted. The *lowianum* lip tends to dominate, but there are always some spots due to *hookerianum*’s influence.



Cym. Lowio-grandiflorum



Cym. Lowio-grandiflorum

Two different examples of *Cym. Lowio-grandiflorum* are shown above. They show the variation possible in the hybrid; in the case of the left photo, the wider tepals of *hookerianum* have been inherited, whilst the right photo exhibits a strong *lowianum* shape. Note that both are the cleaner green of *hookerianum*, feature spotting around the “v” marking and have a ruffled edge to the lip.

Cym. Doris

There is a joke that any unknown hybrid must be *Cym. Doris*, so pervasive the hybrid was! *Doris* is the cross of *insigne* and *tracyanum*. Unfortunately, it frequently gets mixed up with *Cym. tracyanum*. The most obvious way to identify the difference is the colour — *tracyanum* cannot be pink. Other visible differences include a reduction in the hairs on the labellum and callus ridges, as well as the shape of the lip. *Doris* also tends to flower slightly later than *tracyanum* due to the influence of *insigne*.



Cym. tracyanum



Cym. Doris

Cym. Bennett-Poei and Toni Benton

These last two hybrids are both hybrids of *Cym. iridioides* and unfortunately are often confused with this parent. *Cym. Bennett-Poei* (*tracyanum* x *iridioides*) is more commonly seen and has even been mislabelled as *iridioides* in OrchidWiz. *Toni Benton* (*erythraeum* x *iridioides*) is less often seen. It has been made with both forms of *erythraeum*, although to my knowledge, only the version made with *erythraeum* var. *erythraeum* has been confused with *iridioides*.

Cym. iridioides features a yellow labellum overlaid with medium to large red spots (notably larger and richer than those of *tracyanum*). The lip is narrower than that of *tracyanum* and is typically tapered like *lowianum*. The tepals do not curve downwards and feature red-brown stripes as opposed to spots.

Bennett-Poei consistently has a near-white labellum (with only a pale yellow/cream cast) and often the broader, rounded shape of *tracyanum*. The downwards curve of the tepals may or may not be inherited, whilst the spotting of *Bennett-Poei* is greater than that of *iridioides*.

Toni Benton (made with *erythraeum* var. *erythraeum*) will tend to look like a smaller *iridioides* except that its lip is also typically a dirty white and features far less spotting than *iridioides*.



Cym. iridioides (note: identity of this plant has been questioned)



Cym. Toni Benton (made with *Cym. erythraeum* var. *erythraeum*)



Cym. Bennett-Poei (photo courtesy of Andy Easton)



Cym. Royale Green Mist (*Cym. erythraeum* var. *flavum* 'Paradise' X *Cym. erythraeum* var. *erythraeum* 'Lois')

Back to JB : Now getting back to my original question about the delightful Cym iridioides benched last meeting. I am convinced it is actually a darkish coloured form of tracyanum. When asking Joshua White for permission to use his article I also asked him for his opinion on the benched iridioides. He is also certain it is tracyanum.

The distinguishing features pointed to by Joshua were :

"it (the provided picture of iridioides) has all the hallmarks of tracyanum, particularly the sickle-shaped petals and a white labellum with heavy pubescence that is wider than iridioides (the classic "Tracy's toothbrush" - long hairs on the callus ridges - is clearly visible). If it isn't pure tracyanum then the only other option would be a (Cym.) Bennett-Poei that strongly favours tracyanum, such as Nado Lenkic's Bennett-Poei 'Galleria' (which I grow). Even that has less hair on the callus ridges than tracyanum, so I am pretty certain that the mislabelled plant is just a tracyanum."

Apologies for disputing the label Tony but even if it's not iridioides, you have wonderfully dark form of tracyanum. I wish mine were that good. And Adrian, despite the "???" at the picture at the top, I can confirm yours is tracyanum.

Many thanks to Joshua for permission to republish his article and for his opinion on identity of Tony's orchid.

Best of the Evening Novice – Dendrobium unknown grown by Nancy Yao

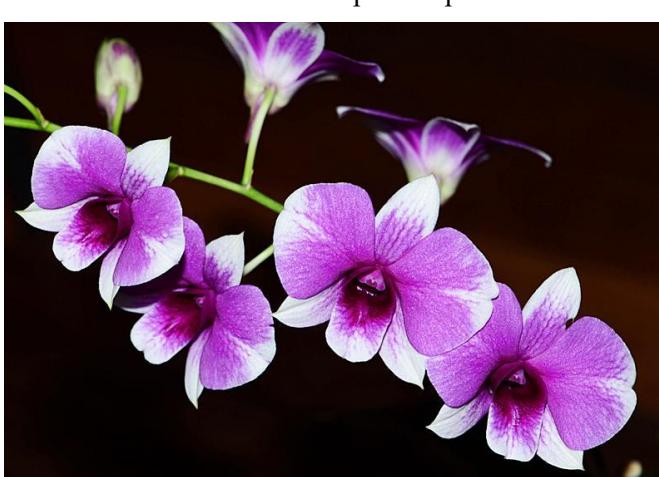


I used to steer away from encouraging less experienced growers to try these bigibbum type 'hardcane Dendrobiums' but it seems the hybridists are improving their viability all the time. The inclusion of bigibbum variety compactum seems to have provided hybrids with more tolerance of a range of cultural conditions.

And aren't they just beautiful? I didn't notice this one at the meeting but stems on this type are usually around the 30-40cm these days and spikes can carry a dozen or more flowers.

These orchids are not my thing so after seeking help from an expert I was advised that this one could be Dendrobium Yaya. But when I looked up that registration in Orchidwiz, the only Yaya I found was Yaya Victoria and after a suss around on google I became a little confused. There are pictures labelled Yaya Compactum, Mini Yaya, and others that look the same and different, and others that look closer to Nancy's orchid - named Tri Angel, Triangel, Tri Angel x Seree [and then with the Seree as Siri and other spellings], and Thai Angel. I was coming to the conclusion that there may be a variety of 'marketing names' being used. Like the old Oncidiinae hybrid 'Midnight Miracles' which turned out to be a European business man's name for a set of superior mutations that probably occurred during conversion of a hybrid to tetraploid, and high volume clonal reproduction. Midnight Miracles is still around today, and very popular, and I suspect it was a forerunner for many more sales oriented mass produced orchids with pseudonym names for selling. People will buy pretty flowers with no names but they also react positively to catchy names as well.

The following photos give some idea of the varieties available. Some with registered cultivar names some not. You may notice that pictures two and 3 are identical but given different names by suppliers. And, you can see that in picture 4 a parent name is given as tri angel which is not registered but although there is a registered Triangel. I suspect in fact that the name in that cross should be Thai Angel. Unfortunately the only picture I could find of Thai Angel was the one shown below and in that I suspect its photo colour is more bluish than reality. Still, it serves its place in the discussion.



Nancy's unknown



Yaya Victoria 2004 (Shawn Chen)



Yaya compactum (also as Mini Yaya)



Den (seree x tri angel?)



Den Burana Racha x Thai Angel



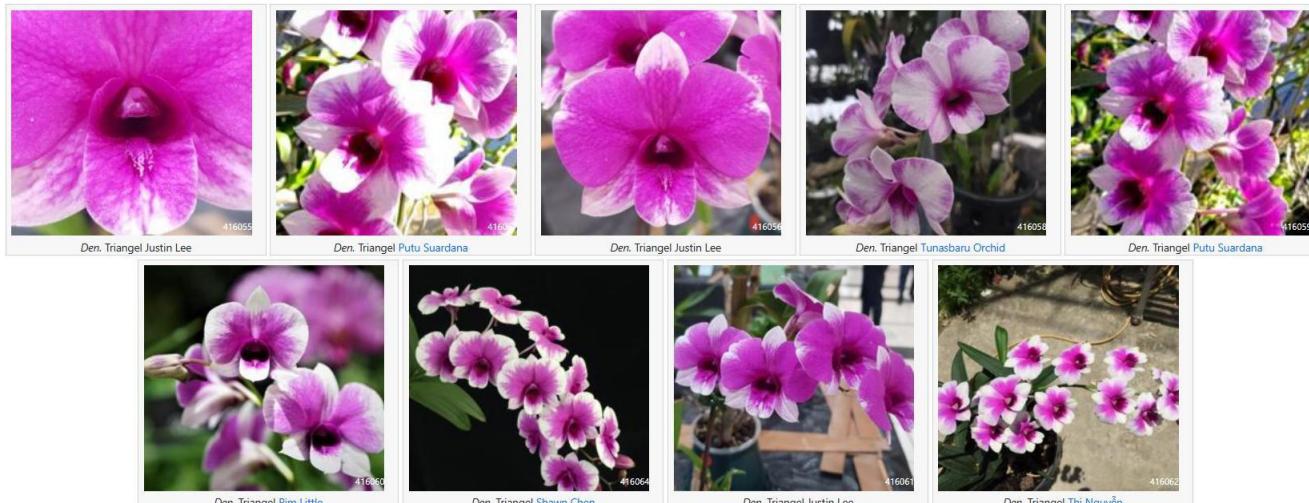
Thai angel (reg 1992)

And finally, as a last illustration of the problems we growers face in identification, I offer you this excellent extract and screen shot from the very informative website “Orchid Roots” to illustrate some the scope of variation we frequently see in different cultivars within a ‘cross’ (a cross is more correctly called a ‘grex’).

“*Dendrobium Triangel, S.Worawongwasu 2005 (RHS)*”

“The orchid *Dendrobium Triangel* is a hybrid in the *Dendrobium* genus. registered with the Royal Horticultural Society by S. Worawongwasu in 2005.” (below is a screenshot of different pictures of Triangel provided by growers)

ary Photos Compare Lineage ▾



What variability - the second last looks a bit more like Nancy’s orchid than others but who can tell. It may be another cross altogether. The second in the bottom row is exactly the same picture as provided on the internet under multiple different Yaya names. It seems some sellers might be telling ‘porkies’ about plant names.

Unless your plant comes with a proper registered cross name and a registered cultivar name, it could be anything. Congratulations Nancy. Your orchid looks beautiful and I hope it keeps growing on well for you. Let’s see it again.

Some other lovelies from May



Cattleyanthe Portia forma Coerulea
Loretta and Paul Au



Vandaenopsis Prapin
Jean Fulcher



Vanda unknown
Dora Law



Gombrassilitonia Dancing Lady
Loretta and Paul Au



Pleurothallis semiscabra
Jessie Koh



Onc. Taylor Barfield
Loretta and Paul Au



Masdevallia decumana
Christine Rethers



Paph. Hsinying Love x charlesworthii
Loretta and Paul Au



Paph. primulinum
Christine Rethers

Humour to End the Day

Surprise

A woman who doesn't usually do all the technology stuff, signs up for a new phone plan, buys a new Sim Card, and puts it in her phone. To show him her initiative she decides to surprise her husband who is seated on the couch in the living room. She goes to the kitchen, and calls him with the new number: - "Hello Darling....."

The husband responds in a low tone: "Can't talk – call you back, my wife is in the kitchen".

Wife to mother in law

Dear Mary, "Don't teach me how to handle my children, I'm living with one of yours & he needs a lot of improvement."

