



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

(Established in 1947)

A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

8th December 2025 - Volume 66 No. 12

Annual Membership : **\$17 single, \$20 family**

Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow

President : Peter D'Olier

Vice President : vacant

Secretary : Jenny R.

Treasurer : Lina Huang (and Sales Table)

Committee : Dennys Angove

Committee : Herb Schoch (Community outreach, Sales Table)

Committee : Jessie Koh (Membership Secretary / Social Events)

Committee : Adrian Zderic

Committee : Jane D'Olier

Committee and Editor: Jim Brydie

Society mail to - PO Box 1501 Lane Cove, NSW, 1595

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

Society email : kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

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

Next Meeting : Mon 8th December 2025

NEW Venue : West Pymble Community Hall, Lofberg Road, West Pymble 2073

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

HOLD THE PRESSES – CHANGE IN VENUE THIS MONTH

Hopefully you have all been notified already but due to a scheduled power outage at West Lindfield our usual meeting hall is unavailable to us. The December meeting and Christmas party will be held at the nearby West Pymble Community Hall at Lofburg Road, West Pymble. The entrance driveway to the hall carpark is approx opposite 35 Lofberg Rd We have held meetings at this hall previously and found it to perfectly suit our requirements so make sure you get to the right location and lets party.

BUT - Don't forget, this is Christmas party night, special arrangements apply : (more detail pages 2, 3)

1. The hall is open from 6pm - As it is party night, there will be **no sales table, no speaker, and no culture class.**

Please try and get there early to help set up tables and chairs. We have a layout plan so committee will direct helpers as to where the tables are to go, and we are planning on 8 chairs per table.

There is much to do for our Christmas party night. A few members regularly help in all this but more helpers are needed to make the job easier and quicker. **Your committee is asking you to get there early and help the set up.**

3. There is no formal benching and no pointscore competition but we would like a few classy orchids to admire on the night. If you have just one (or at most 2) stunners to show, please bring them in to display.

Displayed orchids must be in place by 7.30 – use a benching card just to let viewers know the name of the orchid.

2. The actual meeting commences early at 7.30pm. You all need to be sitting down by then.

3. The FOOD – The Party starts around 8pm. The Society will be providing **all food and drinks, including dessert.** ONLY appointed helpers will be allowed in the kitchen. Just this one night, we ask members to NOT bring food to share. Vegetarian options will be provided. Those with other dietary requirements may bring what they need.

Drinks – the society will supply drinks, but members may bring their own tittle if they wish. Please note it is a condition of our hall hire that **no glass bottles or drinking glasses** may be used on the Premises.

Cutlery and Plates - The society will have cutlery and plates available, but members are invited to bring their own for personal use if they wish, but please, NO GLASS or breakables like crockery & bring your own mugs.

3. The main entertainment for the night is our traditional Monster Christmas Raffle. The Society has prepared big Christmas hampers, and a few other prizes, **but members are all asked to donate one or two presents as raffle prizes.** Raffle tickets will be **\$5 for each strip, no other options.**

There are no rules about what you donate but please, no tricks prizes or previously unwanted gifts. Make it a raffle prize you would be really pleased to win yourself. Perhaps a value of around \$15 – \$20. Examples might be an orchid, chocolates or other sweets, etc. Bottles of wine are acceptable but must remain closed & kept in protective bags/wrapping, & again, please don't bring in duds (out of date, badly stored, or 'gone off' wine). If you are donating orchids but they are smaller or of lesser value, perhaps box a few items together. Please wrap gifts other than the orchids, it adds to the anticipation and spirit of Santa. For the orchids, even Santa needs names.

4. The Final Instruction - This is a party night where we all get the chance to share our interest in orchids in a friendly environment with partners and guests. Please come ready to enjoy. And be bold and say hello to others.

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

Remember - YOU MUST SIGN IN on the ATTENDANCE SHEETS in the front hall on arrival. (Insurance requires it)

Jim's Report – Last meeting was a very pleasant and lighthearted affair – I think I even got obliquely called bald at one stage – what a cheek. But I do like to see people enjoying the banter and participating. Keep it up.

Lina did her first ever spot as a 'presenter' and did a fine job at it as well. She managed to get a number of the members participating with questions, which is often not an easy task. Great job Lina, it won't be long before we have you doing full guest speaker spots to share your rapidly growing orchid knowledge.

The guest James Indsto was also fascinating and easy to listen to. He showed us some magnificent species of orchids but also reminded us that they don't have to be dinner plate size to be a delight. He showed us a really cute little



Australian native species – *Dendrobium licheastum*, that got champion at a recent show. The flowers can be as small as 2mm wide but are generally a little larger at 4 or 5 mm and can be up to 8 mm wide. The leaves are equally tiny. They can be flattish and oval or more fleshy and pencil shaped terete. In either case the leaves are also tiny at between 5 to 15 mm. This species comes from northern Qld from Mackay to just north of Cairns. They grow on trees and rocks in both open forests and dense rainforests from sea level to 600 m and grow in clustered mat like patterns that can densely cover small areas of a surface so it is best

grown on cork or some other flattish surface but grows quite readily. Not exactly *Cattleya* like but equally wonderful.

And then, shortly after the meeting, we participated in one of our usual outreach events at the Landings retirement village at North Turramurra. We set up a small display of flowering orchids, Adrian supplied some sales plants, and we all answered lots and lots of questions about how to grow orchids. The event was very popular and there were people buzzing around us all morning until around midday when the crowds dissipated. It surprised me that so many people there already had a few orchids and were interested in understanding them better. I haven't participated in these events in the past but I would have to say this was a success.



Just to be sure, let's, recap on Arrangements for the 2025 Christmas meeting night :

(a) Mon Dec 8th is a week earlier than our normal meeting night to avoid family Christmas arrangements.

* we are at a different hall for this one meeting – see page 1 for details

* If you intend to come to the meeting and party you need to book with our secretary by email at kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com & request an rsvp to confirm.

There is a maximum 80 people we can seat so make sure you aren't among the unlucky members beyond 80 who won't be able to come.

* The hall opens early at 6 pm, and we need help setting up the tables and chairs if you are physically able.

* The meeting also commences early at 7.30 pm. Display orchids to be set up between 7 pm and 7.30 pm

* Table seating is not prebooked. When you arrive find a place for yourself.

Please don't be late.

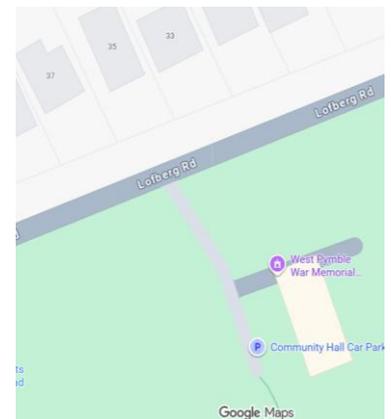
(b) Table space is reduced due to the party arrangements – SO I REPEAT, THERE WILL BE NO POINTSCORE COMPETITION BENCHING FOR THE MONTH.

However, if you think you have **JUST ONE, OR AT A STRETCH 2, REALLY SPECIAL ORCHIDS** that you think we would enjoy, bring them along but you must get them benched between 7 and 7.30, with a benching name card with the orchid name, and put them where directed. It is not a contest, just a display for pleasure.

(c) Prepare Early - We want everyone to have a relaxed and happy evening. Please plan your arrival early and leave yourself enough time. **And Please wear your name badge**, it makes it so much easier to approach people you don't know all that well. Names help people avoid the stress of introductions, and remember, non-member partners are of course welcome. If you anyone doesn't have a name tag we can provide a stick on tag for you to write a name on.

Put your society name tag in the car right now so you don't forget, and wear it when you get there.

(d) Meeting Formalities - There will be a brief "formal" part of the meeting from 7.30pm covering standard business as well as announcing the winners of this year's benching pointscore competition and the handing out of associated



prizes. We all know the party fare is beckoning and we will get through this part of our meeting as quickly as possible.

(e) The Monster Christmas Raffle is the main event of the night. **The Society supplies two big Christmas hampers**, expertly prepared as always, by Ann Byron, plus a few other prizes. **However, we depend on you to make up the majority of the donated raffle prizes. The more the merrier.**

Be generous, everyone likes to go home with an early Christmas present and it's the season to be kind to others and spread some joy. Make it a true Monster raffle, it's always fun to share the party spirit and watch as the gifts are distributed amongst those present. **We suggest something worth around \$15 - \$20 but its not mandatory.**

Orchids are an obvious choice but don't forget we also have partners and guests so prizes don't have to be orchids. It could be books, chocolates, exotic plants. If you want to donate plants or orchids but they are smaller or of lesser value, perhaps box a few together as one prize. **Please though - no tricks, no plastic plants, no booby prizes. Make it something you would be pleased to win yourself.**

To reduce the "selling" and "folding" tasks, there is to be only one option for buying tickets – That is 1 strip of tickets for \$5. You can buy as many \$5 strips as you like.

(f) The Party food - The Society provides all the foods, including dessert, and a limited range of soft-drinks, beer and wine. **To minimise cross handling of foods, we ask that YOU DO NOT bring food contributions.**

However if you have special dietary requirements and need to bring food or drink specific to meet your own needs, then by all means go ahead but please remember that the kitchen is off limits. There will be no facility for cooking or warming anything you bring. And please, NO REAL GLASS. Hall hire insists we use no actual glass.

(g) Plates, cups, and 'cutlery' - the society will supply cutlery and disposable plates. However, members may bring their own for their own use if they wish. As normal we ask that you do bring your own mugs/cups for coffee or tea. Whatever such items you bring with you, must also take home with you at the end of the night. Bring plastic bag to contain them.

Have fun, donate lots of raffle prizes, buy lots of raffle tickets, meet someone new, talk to friends, and go home happy

Other Society News

1. New members – we have another new member – Sharon Walker. Welcome to the club Sharon. I hope you enjoy the amazing flowers and make lots of friends. To everyone else, you guys and gals know the drill, make sure you find Sharon and say hello, and remember what it was like when you first joined and were finding your way. And after all next month IS OUR XMAS PARTY. Be generous. And my apologies Sharon, I hope I haven't embarrassed you but making friends in a new situation can be an issue and we try to do what we can to open the doors.

2. Membership Fees – If you haven't yet paid, please do it. November is the restart of our membership year so now is the time to make payment for the coming year's annual membership to Sydney's best value orchid club.

Fees are \$17 single, \$20 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 the direct transfer method, **please use your full name as the payment description** or, if your financial institution does not allow you to enter a name, use your **phone number**. If you wish, you can email kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com to confirm your payment. Alternatively, you can pay directly to membership secretary Jessie Koh at a meeting.

Coming events (see OSNSW website – under 'Shows')

Sat and Sun 13-14 Dec – OSNSW Summer Show, Ermington Main Hall - featuring Cattleya purpurata and multifloral Paphs. (there will be a members sales table but no commercial vendors). The last great event for the year and there should be a huge display of purpurata. Try and get along to see it. It will something special to see.

The Silent Treatment - A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM ." He left it where he knew she would find it. The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 AM . Wake up." (Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.)

Travelling in Wales - On a beautiful summer 's day, two Scottish tourists were driving through Wales.

At the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllyllantysiliogogoch (a real village name by the way) they stopped for lunch, and one of the tourists asked the waitress,

'Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?'

The girl leaned over and slowly said, 'Burr . gurr . king'

Best of the Evening Hybrid – V. Pachara Delight 'Blue' - grown by *Peter & Jane D'Olier*



Wow, now that is a really deep blue. Or is it purple? Or purple/blue, or whatever other name we silly humans argue over in regard to the names of colours.

One of my grandchildren presently has a thing about colours and is fascinated that a 'colour' is usually just a blend of other colours and he struggles with defining the name we will apply to each variation within a colour. I am afraid he doesn't know the half of the problem yet.

Well, I was at the meeting and looked at this stunner and my instant call was blue. It was just beautiful.

Vanda Pachara Delight is a cross registered in 1999. The parents were V Karulea and V Gordon Dillon, both great orchids from a long line of trying to create the best blue Vanda imaginable. We are never satisfied with brilliant, we always try for brilliant plus one. Whether we make 'plus one' is sometimes debatable but in

the process, we do usually manage to at least create 'new'.

Orchidwiz has 48 saved pictures of V. Pachara Blue. At least 16 different cultivars have been awarded. The great majority are blue but there are also a number of pinks and at least one red. But the big thing for me is that the appearance of pictures involving (especially) the colour blue, depends greatly on the light in which the photo was taken. Some look darker, some lighter, in some the tessellations are less prominent but for me, but I am with my grandson - they are blue.

Congratulations Peter and Jane. It's no small task to grow these tall humidity loving monsters as well as that.

Best of the Evening Novice – Paph delenatii forma album - grown by *Nancy Yao*



Paph delenatii is such pretty orchid. It has had a few write ups in recent years but it is worth the occasional repeat so forgive me the repetition.

Paph delenatii comes from Vietnam. This species was first described in 1924, from plants brought back by returning French soldiers but was believed to be extinct. It was only 'rediscovered' in 1993. It comes from SE Vietnam at elevations around 800-1300 meters and plants are generally found in granite pebbles or on mossy tree trunks, usually near water in a shady area.

The most usual form is a white flower with a lovely pink balloon shaped lip (see picture below) and is the first of what we nowadays call the Chinese Paphs or more correctly 'Subgenus Parvisepalum'. These are the ones with that typical balloon shape lip and the group includes Paphs: armeniacum, emersonii, jackii, malipoense, micranthum, vietnamense, and perhaps others.

Because it has none of the pink colours, this pure white one of Nancy's is given the additional descriptor of *forma album*. However, in orchids, we see a mixture of the expressions 'alba' and 'album' and the designators 'variety' and 'forma' and similar terms so I thought a little explanation was warranted.

In the American Orchid Society (AOS) website they have a section called the Glossary which can be very helpful. Here are their explanations for a suite of related terms that I thought might help but if you can figure out which is correct to use in any given case you are better than Rudyard Kiplings Gunga Din. It seems to me it is a matter of individual taxonomist preference for one term or the other as to which gets used in official descriptions



Extracts from AOS Glossary

alba or album, albus - White; often used to describe a white or pale phase of a species or hybrid whose flowers normally are colored (*JB – so used interchangeably*)

albescens - Whitish; becoming white.

albidus, -a, -um - Whitish.

albino - A plant with a marked deficiency in pigmentation.

albostratus, -a, -um - Striped with white.

semi-alba - A term applied to a white flower that has a colored lip.

forma - A taxonomic designation referring to randomly occurring infrequent variants such as albinos.

variety - A subset of the population having minor characteristics which distinguish it from the type of the species

From that glossary, at least the difference between form and variety is clear. To offer an example in last month's discussion between *Paph. hirsutissimum* and *Paph. esquirolei*, the short hairs on the stems and flowers of *esquirolei* appear to be a geographic variation between one population of *Paph. hirsutissimum* and another population. All members of a whole local population will be one way or the other although there will be more subtle variations.

The opposite situation is the random pop up of an albino individual of a species within a population that is 99% non albino. That makes it a form and is described as "forma" album or alba and it is the gender of the latin name of the species that decides alba vs album.

In the English language we don't generally assign gender to words for things other than where there is a direct sexual relationship such as man/woman. But in languages, particularly Latin, French and Spanish nouns are all male or female gender. For example in French 'the book' is le livre indicating the french word for book is masculine, as opposed to la pomme – for the apple, indicating 'apple' is feminine.

As a result many orchid names have an assigned sex that may have no relation to actual sex.

In addition, despite the words alba or album meaning white in latin, Botany has adopted a slight variation on that and the terms are used to mean a plant or flower lacking the usual red pigments. And as red is a fundamental component of other colours like purple and brown, it means the alba plant can't have those tones either.

But that doesn't necessarily mean it is a white flower. Album or alba flowers are white or green, or combinations of the two and may also contain yellow features. They just lack red in both the flowers and the leaves. If the species usually has purple at the back of the leaves, it will be green in an alba/album.

But, getting back to Nancy's orchid, Congratulations again on a lovely orchid Nancy. You are doing really well.

Best of the Evening Species – *Trichocentrum stramineum* grown by Trevor Onslow



This is a lovely species we rarely see at meetings because it isn't the most forgiving of growers. Trevor seems to have it thriving and has for many years, but many of us struggle.

In nature it is only found in a limited area of the central part of the state of Veracruz in Mexico, in the coastal area of the gulf of Mexico. The RHS Kew website provides the map below with distribution marked green.

They grow as epiphytes in tropical semideciduous forest and warm oak forest, often along streams and ravines, from 600-1000 m elevation. Much of the original habitat has been destroyed by clearing for agriculture.

Stramineum is one the group that used to be colloquially called mule-



ear *Oncidium*s due to their prominent, upright broad stiff leaves. However, like all common names, while 'mule ear' sits perfectly for many, there are always exceptions. For example, while all have fairly stiff leaves, some had smaller and much less fleshy leaves and *stramineum* is one of those. The plant only grows to about 20 cm with leaves around 16 cm x 4 cm. The flowers are about 15 mm wide x a bit taller, and in a straw yellow.

It was recognised long ago that this group were easily separable from *Oncidium*, but it took a long time begin to rearrange things. It wasn't until the mid 1980's that they were first shifted out of *Oncidium* to a new genus *Lophiaris*, but they weren't there long and in 2001 the group were moved again to an already existing genus *Trichocentrum*.

If you have a mind to try and grow one of these stunners, be aware they have some strict cultural requirements and that some species are better grown with heated conditions. I used to grow one of the easier mule ears but it always flowered in late Autumn/ early Winter and just when I thought I would get a great display, an excessively cold night would cripple the inflorescence and buds. Research whichever you fancy and make sure you can meet its needs.

Unless of course, you are like Trevor who looks at a plant and innately understands what it wants.

Congratulations Trevor. A beautiful orchid that it is a pleasure to see when you bring it in.



Delicious Dendrobiums benched last month



Den Magenta's Pixican (L&G. Bromley)



Den secundum (P&J D'Olier)



Den Pixie Princess (L&G. Bromley)



Den thyrsoflorum (Jessie Koh)



softcane Den (unknown) (H Wong)



Den tangerinum (P&J D'Olier)

Some Observations of Epiphytic Orchids - by Fred Clarke

Reprinted with permission of the author – Mr Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids Inc., California. Pictures and layout copied from the newsletter of the St. Augustine Orchid Society, Florida, with their permission.

All contents are copyright of the authors and all rights reserved. No part of this document or the related photos may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means without the prior permission of the authors.

There are many kinds of orchids, but epiphytic orchids are my favorites and Cattleyas top the list. An epiphyte is a plant that grows on another plant. In nature, epiphytic orchids mostly grow on the sides of trees. Many epiphytic orchids have been growing this way for 15 or so million years. To put this into perspective, *Homo sapiens* (that's us) appeared around 300,000 years ago, and the most modern human evolution state is now the *Orchid hobbyist* which appeared about 125 years ago.



Cattleya mossiae growing in Venezuela, Photo credit to Greg Allikas.

Thus, epiphytic orchids have been here for over 14 million years before the first humans even appeared on the planet! Humbling to say the least. Due to their millions of years growing on the sides of trees, orchids have evolved to grow well in these conditions. Even with climatic changes and seasonal weather variances, they continue to prosper and thrive on the sides of trees.

Understanding why orchids grow the way they do will help us make better decisions about how to care for them and allow us to be more successful in our passion, our orchids! Every orchid species has a set of environmental conditions it grows in. Learning about their environmental habitats, including the seasonal rain fall, temperature, and light, and then applying a similar practice in the cultivation of your own plants will help you achieve good plant growth and the better flowering you desire.

For example, I have observed the following about orchids growing on trees:

- Epiphytic orchids live on the sides of trees
- The sides of trees are well drained
- Orchids roots are well drained
- Orchid roots evolved in the presence of organic matter
- The leaves and roots of the orchid plants get a lot of air circulation
- The tree surface dries out quickly, as do the leaves and roots of the orchids
- There is not a lot of nutrients on the side of a tree: it's a low nutrient location
- Orchid roots have become good at capturing moisture and nutrients.



Cattleya mossiae growing in Venezuela, Photo credit to Greg Allikas.

These observations about life on a tree, coupled with acknowledging their long and successful lifespan on this planet, have inspired me to try and implement this same environment for my own plants' root systems to the greatest extent possible.

That is why for epiphytic orchids using organic potting media is a good approach, in my case a bark and Perlite mix. A freely draining bark mix can simulate the well-drained nature of the sides of trees. The potting media must allow for air movement around the roots, so the roots dry out quickly. The roots need to dry out like they do on the

sides of trees.

Orchids in nature live in a low nutrient environment. The few nutrients that are available are brought to the root system by each rain event. Because of this scarcity and the necessity of water and nutrients to survive, orchid roots have become excellent at absorbing both. Thus, using just a small amount of fertilizer, equivalent to ½ tsp fertilizer per gallon water at every watering will duplicate what happens in nature.

There is something else about orchids and trees. Although the orchid plants themselves are stationary, their roots can extend many feet from the plant in their quest to acquire resources like water and nutrients. The job of the roots is to absorb water and nutrients for the plant. Since the plant is stationary, the roots must find what they need where they are growing, and they have gotten exceptionally good at doing so. I have noticed that roots favor the environment and location they formed in. You may have observed this phenomenon for yourself. Have you taken a plant with healthy air-roots and potted them? How well did those air-roots survive the change? What about transitioning a well-rooted potted orchid plant to a mount? How did those roots that formed in the growing media do when tied to a mount and exposed to the air? Did they thrive? Or decline? Likely, they declined, because an orchid plant has evolved for its roots to stay in the environment they formed in (they don't move from the location they are in). For the roots to do well in a new location (being re-potted), the orchid plant must form a new set of roots in the new conditions (new pot and media).

But what does all this mean? It boils down to the main goal of all of us orchid lovers – raising healthy plants that produce beautiful blooms. Here are some important guidelines based on how plants grow in nature that you can use for when to re-pot your epiphytes. Remember, when you re-pot, you are changing the root zone environment, and we have established that the roots do not like the change. Therefore, we need to find a time when the plant is best able to adapt to re-potting. That time is when new roots are starting to emerge from the rhizome. This is not to be confused with new pseudobulb growth. While some orchids form new roots as the new pseudobulb develops, many orchids grow their new roots after the most recent growth has matured. **This requires that you look for new roots rather than new growths.** As soon as you see new roots developing from the rhizome, this is the time to re-pot. The newly developing roots will re-establish the plant in the new potting media, enabling it to adapt and taking over from the roots that developed in the previous potting media.

Understanding the timing of when your plants make new roots is important information, it allows you to make good decisions on when is the right time to re-pot.

*A valuable tip: on the pot tag, write the date when new roots start to emerge. After a while you will have a list of dates on the tag indicating when is the best time to re-pot.



The ideal time to repot orchids is a week before they form new roots. The months when cattleya species root are summarized here. <https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/CattleyaBloomingandRootingbyNameRogerson.pdf>

After you start this practice of “when roots emerge awareness” it becomes indispensable, and you will soon realize it enables you to predict and make informed decisions on when new or unknown plants will most likely root so they can have the best opportunity to thrive under your care.

A healthy root system is a key component of abundant growth and flowering. Epiphytic orchids are survivors. They can tolerate many harsh conditions, and they are surprisingly adaptable, yet they will fare better and reward you more with their beauty if they are not subjected to a “survivalist challenge.” The stability of root zone environment is important to your orchid’s health, and you support its health by only repotting with the onset of new roots. When choosing a potting media, be sure that the media has an organic component, has a stable pH over

the life of the potting cycle, is well drained, and dries out quickly. As much as possible it should mirror the orchid’s favored environment.

It has only taken me 30 years to develop this understanding of why epiphyte orchids grow the way they do. I believe sharing this natural process can only result in making you a better grower.

This article appeared in Sunset Valley Orchids September, 2025 newsletter, sign up to get on the mailing list.

Good growing!, Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez, Sunset Valley Orchids Inc.- svorchids@outlook.com



A selection of other beauties benched at the November Meeting



Lycaste (H. Wong)



Rlc. Lisa Taylor Gallis 'Nora' - (G&A Cushway)



Miltoniopsis Breathless (L&G. Bromley)



Phal. G.W. Gren World 'Snakeskin' - G. Bromley



Phal. Unknown (L.Huang)



Catt. Lyn Spencer (G&A Cushway)



Phal. Harlequin 'Beauty' - (T. Miller)



Phal. unknown (D. Law)



Vanda tricolor var suavis (D. Law)



Cym. unknown (L. Huang)



Phal. unknown (L. Huang)