



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

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**Next Meeting :** Mon 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 **Note – We are back to our West Lindfield hall**

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

**Infectious diseases like COVID and influenza** cause a problem. **If you are feeling unwell – please do not attend.**

**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 and descriptors are in place. Give the set up team time to get things organized.

The **sales table** will be operating for sale of members plants and for small quantities of pots and supplies etc. And of course, there will also be the usual generous **monthly raffle**.

Our **insurance requires that you SIGN the ATTENDANCE SHEETS at the front door on arrival. Please do it.**

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

**Supper Food – We do ask members to bring in a contribution of edibles for the supper table. Just a small plate.** If you are a cook, show off your skills with something special but if you are like me, shop bought stuff is perfectly acceptable. **BUT please avoid things containing nuts due to allergies. And bring your own mug or cup with you.**

**January supper volunteers are – Paul and Loretta Au.** Thank you for helping Paul and Loretta

**January Speakers -** January is our first month back for 2026, and as usual for January, there will be no separate 'culture class' before the meeting because our whole feature for the night will be orchid culture.

However, this year, instead of the "Plant Doctor" night that we have run for perhaps too many years, we are going to try something different. **We will have culture classes running in parallel on separate tables at opposite ends of the main seating area.**

Each will run two 20–25 minute sessions on their subject. We will ring a bell in between sessions to signal a chance for members to switch from one end of the hall to the other to hear the lesson on the other table for the second session.

- On table one, **Adrian Zderic will talk about culture of Oncidiinae orchids, including potting.**
- At the other table, **Christine Rethers and Lesley Bromley will tell you about growing and flowering Phally's.**

Your teachers for the night are very experienced and knowledgeable growers and should be able to answer questions as you go along **but time is limited** so please follow their lead and **if your question needs more 'one on one' advice we may have to arrange separate information for you offline.**

**A few party goers 2025 – more on page 3**



**Lesley and Garrie**

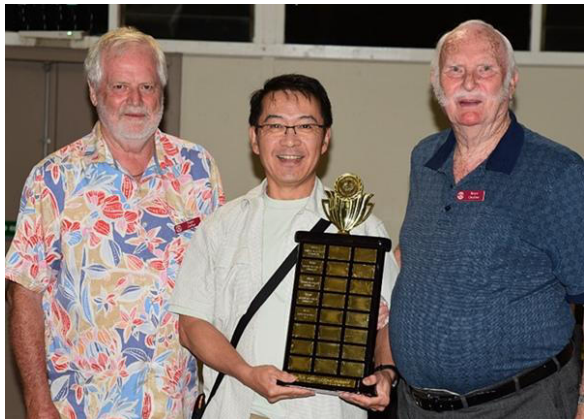


**Gloria and Allan**



**Ron and Nancy**

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**President Pete on the Party** – What a wonderful evening at the Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society Christmas Party. I had a great, relaxed time, and I think everyone else did too. Jane and I attended quite a few orchid society Christmas parties this year and the Ku-ring-gai event was one of the most enjoyable. This was all thanks to those who organised everything beforehand, those who ran everything on the night and you, the members, who came along to enjoy yourselves supporting and participating in the festivities.

It didn't matter that our venue for the party was cancelled by the Council just a few weeks beforehand. Jenny, our secretary, quickly organised a new venue and everyone was promptly informed and turned up without a problem. Many members arrived early to help set up the hall and thank you for sharing the load. All was good.

We had a wonderful turnout of member and visitors, and luckily we had just enough chairs and tables to go around. We were worried at the beginning of the night as the number of chairs available was a lot less than advised by Council. Again, all worked out.



Most of the food and drink was organised beforehand by the Committee and this was supplemented by members with some wonderful extra treats. Thank you everyone who organised the food and drinks and those who brought the extras. For a Society Christmas party, the food was wonderful with a diverse range to suit everyone. Arranging and serving the food is one of the most important, but time consuming, things for the night. The whole night revolves around this and according to everyone being served, everything went without a hitch with plenty of wonderful things to eat and great

service. Special thanks to Melissa, Janine, Jesse, Julie, Stephanie, Anthony, Lina and others who helped at various times in the kitchen and serving area. Thanks also to Herb and Chris for looking after the drinks and Ann for supplying the cutlery. We are all very thankful and enjoyed the night due to your effort.

The hosting of the night was a combined effort by Dennys and myself supported by Lina and I hope we were able to reduce the formalities and concentrate on encouraging a good time and allowing plenty of time for you to enjoy each other's company. If you enjoyed it, we will do the same again next year.

The prize giving for the annual point score was one of the most important parts of the night as it recognises the effort put in by members throughout the year in growing, preparing and benching their orchids. Our monthly benching is a real treat. A lot of effort went into selecting and allocating quality plants for the prizes and then looking after them beforehand. So, thank you Lina for this and our Patron, Trevor, for helping with distributing prizes.

A part of the prize-giving for the night was recognition with the Oxley Achievement Award, for the effort towards the Society by one of our members during the year. This year we wanted to recognise David Floyd for his culture classes and generosity, however, unfortunately David was unable to attend due to family commitments. Thank you, David for your contribution to the Society.

Another highlight of the night was the raffle which is always looked forward to at the end of the festivities. There were many wonderful prizes to be won and thanks Annie and Helen for selling tickets and everyone for contributing prizes and buying tickets. A good time was had by all especially the many winners.

I have tried to thank those who contributed to make the party a success, but if I have left someone out, please forgive me. The party was a wonderful end to the year which I, and I think everyone else thoroughly enjoyed.

Once again, thank you, and I hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year and looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Cheers, Peter



Orchid Poem by Sam Hamill

Just as I wonder - whether it's going to die, the orchid blossoms - and I can't explain why it moves my heart, why such pleasure comes from one small bud on a long spindly stem, one blood red gold flower - opening at mid-summer, tiny, perfect in its hour.

**2025 Christmas party**



**Jessie**



**Lina and Stephanie**



**Helen M.**



**Celeste, Ethan, and Liz**



**Melissa and Anthony**



**Jorunn and Sebastian**



**Shane, Janine, and Fred**



**Helen and Lisa**



**Dexter, Dora (top), and Cynthia**



**Penny and Jon**



Helen C.



three wise men ?



Herb



Pearl



Lynn



Peter and Julie

### Other Society News

1. **2025 Pointscore results** - Competition results and prizes were announced at the party but as many members like to see at least the top scorers published each year, here they are.

#### Pointscore Results table for 2025

Open Section	Score	Open (continued)	Score	Novice Section	Score
Au, Paul & Loretta	464	Cushway, A & G	211	Ruthven, Stuart	149
Law, Dora	351	Koh, Jessie	172	Dabbs, Lynn	32
Huang, Lina	329	Wong, Helen	148	Stewart, Robin	31
Zderic, Adrian	320	Onslow, T & P	143	Yao, Nancy	28
Bromley, G & L	288	Miller, Trevor	122	Pyne, Ethan	25
D'Olier, Peter & Jane	287	Mobbs, Anthony	120	Walker, Brenda	24

### 2. Novice Class Standings

(a) **How does it work?** From January 2026 we are going to begin a new system for managing the elevation of Novice growers to Open class.

Our old system was quite complex with the possibility for members to be Novices in some Benching Classes and in the Open in others. This was difficult for Novices to understand, and just as difficult for our committee and judges to administer.

**To simplify, it is suggested, like many other clubs, that as soon as a Novice wins the overall Novice pointscore for the year, OR wins Novice Champion at a show, that Novice goes into the Open for all classes.**

**In addition, in recognition that a Novice is just a new grower learning about orchids and how to present them for benching, there is an expectation that with some knowledge and support from the other members, a Novice should be able to move into the Open after benching in Novice for 5 years.**

**In recognition that some members may need more time to learn about growing and presentation of orchids when they reach the above thresholds, the Committee will consult with the Novice to agree whether that the member may be suitable to move into the Open.**

**A Novice may also elect to advance to the Open at any time.**

(b) **Who is in now still in Novice class?** Following the 2025 novice results, *Stuart Ruthven* has won his way to Open

class – Congratulations Stuart. You are growing really well.

**Nancy Yao** also benched some lovely orchids and won a second Novice class under our old rules. Combined with the fact Nancy has been benching in Novice for some time, we believe it is also now time for Nancy to transition to Open. Congratulations to you too Nancy. You have benched some beautiful orchids in recent times and I think you will give some of our Open growers some stiff competition.

**Others** - From now on we will be applying the new rules described above but until we advise a grower to the contrary personally, all other members who had been qualified to bench in Novice are still qualified as Novice and may bench orchids in all Novice classes.

### 3. Revisions to Annual Point Score –

For the **current** annual point score, in each Class, growers currently get 5 points for first, 3 points for second and 1 point to third and these plants must be owned by the grower for at least 6 months.

However, in addition, growers currently get 1 point for each plant benched up to 5 points in each class and for these additional points there are no requirements for the length of ownership for these points nor that they be suitable for judging (flowers in good condition and free of pests and weeds). Whilst this encourages benching of more plants, sometimes members get just as many or more points than placegetters by benching large numbers of plants in a class and even some not owned for long enough or of suitable quality.

Whilst still encouraging members to bench as many plants as they wish, for the annual point score it is proposed to change the benching guidelines for each class to:

- (a) ***Points toward the annual point score are allocated on the basis of 5 for first, 3 for second, 1 for third in each class at the monthly meetings. In addition to these place points, each plant will receive a point for being benched, up to a maximum of 1 point for each exhibitor in each class.***
- (b) ***To be eligible for point scoring and judging, plants must be owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months and fit for judging.***

***Growers are encouraged to bring any orchid in flower even if recently acquired. Those ineligible for judging and point scores should have “NOT FOR JUDGING” marked on the bench card.***

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## **Ku-Ring-Gai O.S. CHANGES TO BENCHING CLASSES FOR 2026**

### **Novice classes**

In essence, the only change in the Novice section is that all Cymbidium orchids including Cymbidium species must now be benched in class 36.

***To assist Novices in the change-over here are the new Novice classes in full. Changes shown in red.***

- 34 NOVICE AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES and HYBRIDS  
Mandatory for all Australian native species and hybrids.
- 35 NOVICE LAELIINAE (CATTLEYA) ALLIANCE – SPECIES AND HYBRIDS Mandatory for all Cattleya alliance hybrids.
- 36 NOVICE CYMBIDIUM – includes standard, intermediate and miniature types. Mandatory for all Cymbidium hybrids **and species**.
- 37 NOVICE Oncidiinae – All Oncidiinae Species and Hybrids are to be benched in this class and includes all **Oncidium family** intergenerics.
- 38 NOVICE all other SPECIES – For all species other than those qualified for **Classes 34, 35, 36 & 37**
- 39 NOVICE all other HYBRIDS – For all hybrids other than those qualified for **Classes 34, 35, 36 & 37**

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### **Open Classes**

It is also proposed to introduce the following changes to a few Open Benching Classes to reflect changes in members' interests and plants being benched. Assistance will be provided at meetings with these changes.

**Class 7 becomes Class 7A - AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TERRESTRIALS - SPECIES AND HYBRIDS**

A new class 7B is added - **Class 7B TERRESTRIAL species and hybrids other than from Australia**

**Class 18 VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE SPECIES AND HYBRIDS is changed to become : -**

**18A VANDACEOUS SPECIES**

**18B VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS FLOWER SIZE 50MM AND UNDER**

**18C VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS FLOWER SIZE OVER 50MM**

**Class 24 is modified as follows :**

## 24 MISCELLANEOUS SPECIES – **Species Not Elsewhere Specified**

That is, species other than those qualified for Classes: 3 to 7 (Australian), 12 (Paph), 17 (Oncidium), 19 (Dendrobium), 22 (Laeliinae), 23 (American), 30 (Pleurothallidinae), **18 (Vandaceous)**

**Class 26 is modified as follows**

## 26 MISCELLANEOUS HYBRIDS – **Hybrids Not Elsewhere Specified**

For All hybrids of **non American genera**, other than those which have a specific designated class. That is Australian, Oncidium group, Paph, Vandaceous, Dendrobium, Laeliinae, Cymbidium, Pleurothallidinae,

**A new and updated version of the Benching Guidelines, which specify the classes and benching rules will be published and distributed to every member before the February Meeting.**

**4. Annual membership fees** – Jessie will be at the meeting and can take your payment if you want to do it that way, but you can also pay by bank transfer. That is:

**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 a name. If you wish, you can email to the address below :

[kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com) to confirm your payment.

## 5. What a wonderful Party

Our forced switch to the alternate hall was a bit of a last minute trick thrown at us but how lucky we are to have two such polished MC's and organisers as Dennys and Peter, and our Secretary Jenny, and all the rest of the amazingly willing member helpers.

There were a large number of members and guests at the party and it ran like clockwork. One group got into the storeroom and extracted the chairs and tables and set them up, a second lot had the food and drinks prepared and began organizing the serving area. It all happened so quickly and there seemed to be members milling around everywhere looking for ways to help.

It is impossible to list all the names of helpers but after working on the tables and chairs I was left to just sit back in wonder and watch the rest unfold. Thank you so much to all those who pitched in and make it work. You all did it so very well. The food array was wonderful. If anyone managed to put a sample of each different food on their plate, they couldn't possibly have eaten it all.

Well done all of you and I hope you have even more fun growing orchids and making friends next year.

Best wishes to everyone from all your committee.

MY FRIEND WENT BALD  
YEARS AGO BUT STILL  
CARRIES AROUND AN  
OLD COMB WITH HIM  
UnkNOWN PUNster ©2019  
HE JUST CAN'T PART  
WITH IT

I ASKED MY FRIEND  
TO SPELL WONTON  
BACKWARDS  
UnkNOWN PUNster ©2018  
HE SAID NOT NOW

A SLICE OF APPLE PIE  
IN JAMAICA IS  
\$2.00. IT IS \$2.50 IN  
THE BAHAMAS. THESE  
ARE THE PIE RATES  
OF THE CARIBBEAN

## Housework for Men

One evening, Sue arrived home from work to find the children bathed, one load of clothes in the washer and another in the dryer, dinner on the stove, and the table set. She was astonished -- something's up.

It turns out that Bob had read an article that said wives who worked full-time and had to do their own housework were too tired for romantic involvements and that the man should do more.

The night went well and the next day, she told her friends at work all about it. "We had a great dinner. Bob even cleaned up. He helped the kids do their homework, folded all the laundry and put everything away. I really enjoyed the evening."

"But what about afterward?" asked her friends.

"Oh, that was perfect too. Bob was too tired and went to bed early ..."

## The Christmas Orchid (*Calanthe triplicata*) - Jim Brydie



Many Australian growers consider this lovely and easy to grow orchid an endemic Australian orchid but that is not so. It does grow here and can be found along the East coast from the Iron Range near the top of Cape York, all the way down to the Illawarra south of Sydney in NSW, BUT it is really an Oceania species that can be found from the islands off the coast of Africa, through Asia and the Pacific islands as well as Australia.

*Calanthe triplicata* is a terrestrial orchid that grows in clumps with crowded above ground pseudobulbs, large dark green corrugated leaves, and a tall inflorescence with up to forty white flowers. The flower head opens from the bottom upwards but most of the flowers are open at the same time.

In Australia they generally flower from around late December through January, which explains the local common name of Christmas Orchid although in other locations such as China its flowering season can be April.



It's habit is usually near creeks or water sources so that it is rarely dry and it thrives in humus and nutrient rich soils in deep shade. Its massive broad leaves offer the clue to its requirement for plenty of moisture, shade and no sun.

As you can see from the picture at the right, *Calanthe* plants have some physical resemblance to the genus *Phaius* even if the flowers are rather different. There is good reason for that as both are from the taxonomic tribe Collabieae, and SUBTRIBE Collabiinae so they are more or less cousins.

The genus *Calanthe* includes some very attractive orchids but as they occur from a very wide range of habitat zones in different latitudes, some require rather tropical conditions, some come from more northerly zones with much colder winters making them nearly deciduous. Others again, like *triplicata*, are much more tolerant of variable climates.



There is also one more very curious aspect to *Calanthe* in that there are two very distinct sections within the genus and the plants from each section are very different to one another. Section *Preptanthe* is the section which has very different looking deciduous pseudobulbs. These *Calanthe* flower in Autumn after the bulbs drop their leaves. The picture at the left shows the odd shaped pseudobulbs of *Calanthe rubens* from Sect. *Preptanthe*.

The much larger section, Section *Eu-Calanthe* is the one to which *Calanthe triplicata* and over 100 others belong. These flower in summer as the new seasons growth matures. *Triplicata* is a rather

large orchid and well worth growing. Keep an eye out at orchid fairs and society auctions.

**Orchids flowering in December - Jim**

As is usual at our Christmas parties there were a delightful selection of orchids mounted on the stage behind the main table, but this year, the lighting didn't show them off so well and many party goers may have missed them. Neither did we get usable pictures, but as Adrian supplied a whole bunch of them I asked if he could supply us with pictures of some of his currently flowering stock and what a wonderful bag full he sent in. Some were even there on party night. Thank you to Adrian, Paul, and others, who supplied wonderful contributions on party night.

From Adrian's later pictures, how is this as a Paph selection all from a single cross? **Paph Doya Impulse x Impulse**



And how about these Phallys. Colours these days are improving all the time. The yellow is one of Adrian's own crosses.



**Yellow Spring x Sogo Pride**

**Fusheng Sweet Paradise x Joy Auckland**

**Ox Red Sesame (?)**

**Ox Spot Queen**



**Phal Sapphire's Galah**



**Mixed Phally collection**

Hows that for delicious! I think had better hurry up and organise a visit to Adrian's place.

## **A Chat about Orchids** – by Frederick Boyle (and Jim Brydie)

While searching for material for this bulletin, I found this article I wrote for the bulletin back in 2014. It is about Frederick Boyle's 1893 publication - "About Orchids - A Chat By Frederick Boyle With Coloured Illustrations".

Boyle's book provides an amazing insight into the conceptual problems grappled with by every new orchid grower, even today. But also gives us a wonderful window into the beginnings of orchid growing as a hobby. Boyles book can still be accessed online today if you would like to see more.

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Obviously, much of what they did to cultivate orchids back then is very different to the more modern methods we employ today, but even so, many of Mr Boyles observations really struck a chord with me. See what you think of the following extracts from 130 years ago.

*"Everything that relates to orchids has a charm for me, and I have learned to hold it as an article of faith that pursuits which interest one member of the cultured public will interest all, if displayed clearly and pleasantly, in a form to catch attention at the outset."*

*"These essays profess to be no more than chat of a literary man about orchids. They contain a multitude of facts, told in some detail where such attention seems necessary, which can only be found elsewhere in baldest outline if found at all." ... "Savants and professionals have kept the delights of orchidology to themselves as yet. They smother them in scientific treatises, or commit them to dry earth burial in gardening books. Very few outsiders suspect that any amusement could be found therein. Orchids are environed by mystery." .... "It is high time such noxious superstitions were dispersed. Surely, I think, this volume will do the good work, if the public will read it."*

Some of Fredericks musings give us a fascinating insight into orchid growing all those years ago, and surprisingly, offer some conceptual basics that are as true today as they were when he wrote them. His book runs for 100 odd pages so I can only give you a taste of its contents here but if you are of a mind, I recommend that you download a free copy and have a read. I hope you enjoy this little intro of snippets. The headings are my own contrivance. (JB)

### **Buying an orchid**

*"..... I shared the popular notion—which seems so very absurd now—that they (orchids) are costly both to purchase and to keep: shared it so ingenuously that I never thought to ask myself how or why they could be more expensive, after the first outlay, than azaleas or gardenias. And meanwhile I was laboriously and impatiently gathering some comprehension of the ordinary plants.*

*It was accident which broke the spell of ignorance. Visiting Stevens' Auction Rooms one day to buy bulbs, I saw a *Cattleya Mossiæ*, in bloom, which had not found a purchaser at the last orchid sale. A lucky impulse tempted me to ask the price. "Four shillings," said the invaluable Charles. I could not believe it—there must be a mistake: as if Charles ever made a mistake in his life! When he repeated the price, however, I seized that precious *Cattleya*, slapped down the money, and fled with it along King Street, fearing pursuit. Since no one followed, and Messrs. Stevens did not write within the next few days reclaiming my treasure, I pondered the incident calmly. Perhaps they had been selling bankrupt stock, and perhaps they often do so.*

*.... Presently, I returned and asked if I could often get an established plant of *Cattleya Mossiæ* in flower for 4s.? – he replied 'Give me the order, and I'll supply as many as you are likely to want within a month.'*

*That was a revelation; and I tell the little story because I know it will be a revelation to many others. People hear of great sums paid for orchids, and they fancy that such represent only the extreme limits of an average. In fact, they have no relation whatsoever to the ordinary price.*

*That *Cattleya Mossiæ*, was my first orchid, bought in 1884. It dwindled away, and many another followed it to limbo; but I knew enough, as has been said, to feel neither surprised nor angry. First of all, it is necessary to understand the general conditions, and to secure them. Books give little help in this stage of education; they all lack detail in the preliminaries. I had not the good fortune to come across a friend or a gardener who grasped what was wrong until I found out for myself."*

**Comment from Jim :** Wow, that description about his first plants dwindling away and dying sure hit a nerve. How about you? I wonder what enormous proportion of growers could tell that same tale with their first attempts – but he seems an exceptionally pragmatic and sensible fellow doesn't he? I bet he succeeds.

### **Discovering a basics of orchid culture**

*"I do not give detailed instructions for culture. No one could be more firmly convinced that a treatise on that subject is needed, for no one assuredly has learned, by more varied and disastrous experience, to see the omissions of the text-books. They are written for the initiated, though designed for the amateur. Naturally it is so. A man who has been brought up to business can hardly resume the utter ignorance of the*

neophyte. Unconsciously he will take a certain degree of knowledge for granted, and he will neglect to enforce those elementary principles which are most important of all. Nor is the writer of a gardening book accustomed, as a rule, to marshal his facts in due order, to keep proportion, to assure himself that his directions will be exactly understood by those who know nothing.

*In the days of my apprenticeship I put up a big greenhouse: unable to manage plants in the open-air, I expected to succeed with them under unnatural conditions! .... What that greenhouse cost, "chilled remembrance shudders" to recall; briefly, six times the amount, at least, which I should find ample now.*

*And it was all wrong when done; not a trace of the original arrangement remains at this time, but there are inherent defects. Nothing throve, of course - except the insects. ... I consulted the local authority who was responsible for the well-being of a dozen gardens in the neighbourhood—an expert with a character to lose, from whom I bought largely. Said he, after a thorough inspection: "This concrete floor holds the water; you must have it swept carefully night and morning." That worthy man had a large business. His advice was sought by scores of neighbours like myself. And I tell the story as a warning; for he represents no small section of his class. My plants wanted not less but a great deal more water on that villainous concrete floor.*

*.... It is not easy to find a material trim and clean which can be laid over concrete, but unless one can discover such, it is useless to grow orchids. I have no doubt that ninety-nine cases of failure in a hundred among amateurs are due to an unsuitable flooring. Glazed tiles, so common, are infinitely worst of all. May my experience profit others in like case!*

*Looking over the trade list of a man who manufactures orchid-pots one day, I observed, "Sea-sand for Garden Walks," and the preoccupation of years was dissipated. Sea-sand will hold water, yet will keep a firm, clean surface; it needs no rolling, does not show footprints nor muddy a visitor's boots. By next evening the floors were covered therewith six inches deep, and forthwith my orchids began to flourish, - not only to live. Long since, of course, I had provided a supply of water from the main to each house for "damping down." All round them now a leaden pipe was fixed, with pin-holes twelve inches apart, and a length of india rubber hose at the end to fix upon the "stand-pipe." Attaching this, I turn the cock, and from each tiny hole spurts forth a jet, which in ten minutes will lay the whole floor under water, and convert the house into a shallow pond; but five minutes afterwards not a sign of the deluge is visible.*

*Then I felt the joys of orchid culture."*

### **Orchids don't need to be grown to perfection**

Note from Jim : The section between the two "JB" markers below is such an amazing thing to find in writings from England in 1893. As true today as it was back then, and something we should put on every orchid growers wall. Please take it to heart.

*"Much remained to learn—much still remains. We have some five thousand species in cultivation, of which an alarming number demand some difference of treatment if one would grow them to perfection. The amateur does not easily collect nor remember all this, and he is apt to be daunted if he inquire too deeply before "letting himself go." Such in especial I would encourage. Perfection is always a noble aim; but orchids do not exact it—far from that! The dear creatures will struggle to fulfil your hopes, to correct your errors, with pathetic patience. **JB\*1** Give them but a chance, and they will await the progress of your education. That chance lies, as has been said, in the general conditions—the degree of moisture you can keep in the air, the ventilation, and the light. These secured, you may turn up the books, consult the authorities, and gradually accumulate the knowledge which will enable you to satisfy the preferences of each class. **JB\*2** So, in good time, you may enjoy such a thrill of pleasure as I felt the other day when a great pundit was good enough to pay me a call. He entered my tiny Odontoglossum house, looked round, looked round again, and turned to me. "Sir," he said, "we don't call this an amateur's collection!"*

### **Rescuing the wounded**

*The parts of the orchid are annually reproduced in a great many instances, and there is really no reason they should not live forever unless, .... they be killed by errors in cultivation.*

*The epiphytal orchid, to speak generally, ...is one body with several limbs, crowned by one head. Its circulation pulsates through the whole, less and less vigorously, of course, in the parts that have flowered, as the growing head leaves them behind. At some age, no doubt, circulation fails altogether in those old limbs, but experience does not tell me distinctly as yet in how a long time the worn-out bulbs of an Oncidium or a Cattleya, for example, would perish by natural death. One may cut them off when apparently lifeless, even beginning to rot, and under proper conditions—it may be a twelvemonth after—a tiny green*

shoot will push from some “eye,” withered and invisible, that has slept for years, and begin existence on its own account. Thus, I am not old enough as an orchidacean to judge through how many seasons these plants will maintain a limb apparently superfluous.

Their charming disposition is characterized above all things by caution and foresight. They keep as many strings to their bow, as many shots in their locker, as may be, and they keep them as long as possible. The tender young head may be nipped off by a thousand chances, but such mishaps only rouse the indomitable thing to replace it with two, or even more. Beings designed for immortality are hard to kill.

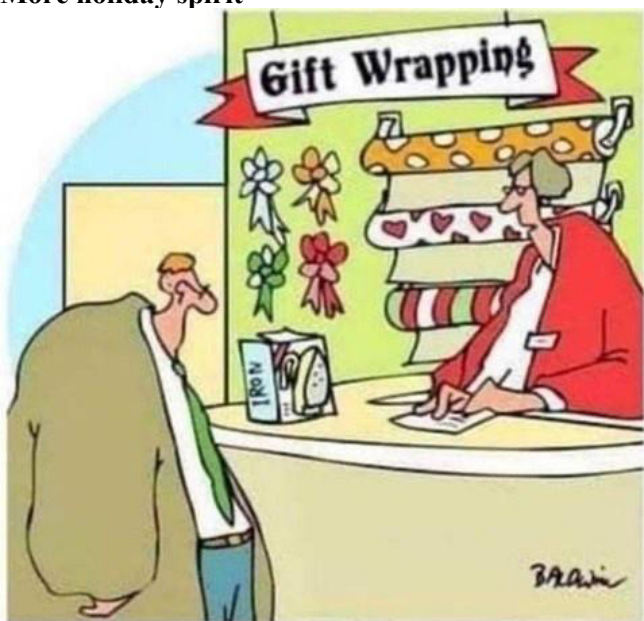
Here is a *Cattleya* which I purchased last autumn, suspecting it to be rare and valuable, though nameless; I paid rather less than one shilling. The poor thing tells me that some cruel person bought it five years ago—an imported piece, with two pseudo-bulbs. They still remain, towering like columns of old-world glory above an area of shapeless ruin. To speak in mere prose—though really the conceit is not extravagant—these fine bulbs, grown in their native land, of course, measure eight inches high by three-quarters of an inch diameter. **In the first season, that malheureux reduced their progeny to a stature of three and a half inches by the foot-rule; next season, to two inches; the third, to an inch and a half.** By this time the patient creature had convinced itself that there was something radically wrong in the circumstances attending its normal head, and tried a fresh departure from the stock—a “back growth,” as we call it. In the third year then, there were two heads. In the fourth year, the chief of them had dwindled to less than one inch and the thickness of a straw, while the second struggled into growth with pain and difficulty, reached the size of a grain of wheat, and gave it up. Needless to say that the wicked and unfortunate proprietor had not seen trace of a bloom. Then at length, after five years' torment, he set it free, and I took charge of the wretched sufferer. Forthwith he began to show his gratitude, and at this moment—the summer but half through—his leading head has regained all the strength lost in three years, while the back growth, which seemed dead, out-tops the best bulb my predecessor could produce.

If there be a placid joy in life superior to mine, as I stroll through my houses of a morning, much experience of the world in many lands and many circumstances has not revealed it to me.

**A final comment from Jim: Now isn't that totally charming? What amazing insight and perception. I bet he would be a top notch grower today with our superior infrastructure and facilities.**

**If you would like to read more, just google the title on the internet. It can be accessed in a variety of forms, hardcopy or digital, and either to purchase or to access to read.**

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**More holiday spirit**



"Nice iron. Your wife will love it. While I wrap it, you might want to go over to sporting goods and pick out a helmet."

**Bad Christmas gift decision**



**Bad new years resolution**

And a classic Aussie poem to begin the year and remind us of the straightforward Aussie spirit. It's good to laugh at ourselves and the things that make us each different and yet all the same.

Tumba Bloody Rumba attributed to a pen name "John O'Brien"

I was down the Riverina, knockin' 'round the towns a bit,  
And occasionally resting, with a schooner in me mitt,  
And on one of these occasions, when the bar was pretty full  
And the local blokes were arguin', assorted kind of bull,  
I heard a conversation, most peculiar in its way.  
It's only in Australia you would hear a joker say:

"Howya bloody been, ya drongo, haven't seen ya fer a week,  
And yer mate was lookin' for ya when ya come in from the creek.  
'E was lookin' up at Ryan's, and around at bloody Joe's,  
And even at the Royal, where 'e bloody NEVER goes".

And the other bloke says "Seen 'im? Owed 'im half a bloody quid.  
Forgot to give it back to him, but now I bloody did -  
Could've used the thing me bloody self. Been off the bloody booze,  
Up at Tumba-bloody-rumba shootin' kanga-bloody-roos.

Now the bar was pretty quiet, and everybody heard  
The peculiar integration of this adjectival word,  
But no-one there was laughing, and me - I wasn't game,  
So I just sits back and lets them think I spoke the bloody same.

Then someone else was interested to know just what he got,  
How many kanga-bloody-roos he went and bloody shot,  
And the shooting bloke says "Things are crook -  
the drought's too bloody tough.  
I got forty-two by seven, and that's good e-bloody-nough."

And, as this polite rejoinder seemed to satisfy the mob,  
Everyone stopped listening and got on with the job,  
Which was drinkin' beer, and arguin', and talkin' of the heat,  
Of boggin' in the bitumen in the middle of the street,  
But as for me, I'm here to say the interesting piece of news  
Was Tumba-bloody-rumba shootin' kanga bloody-roos.

NB: *(there is dispute over who owned the pen name John O'Brien. Some say it was Patrick Joseph Hartigan born on Oct 13, 1878 in Yass, New South Wales, others say it was written more recent by the author Nino Culota - born 9 Oct 1907, Sydney. Nino also wrote books like: They're a Weird Mob)*

**Humour - A good girls night out** - The other night I was invited out for a night with "the girls." I told my husband that I would be home by midnight. Well, the hours passed and the margaritas went down WAY too easy. Around 3 in the morning and a bit loaded, I headed for home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed 3 times.

Quickly realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution in order to escape a possible conflict with him. (Even when totally smashed)....3 cuckoos plus 9 cuckoos totals 12 cuckoos = midnight.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in and I told him "midnight!" He didn't seem mad at all. Got away with that one!

Then he said, "I think we need a new cuckoo clock." When I asked him why?, he said, "Well, last night our clock cuckooed 3 times, then said, "Oh crap", Cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another 3 times, giggled and then tripped over the coffee table and swore.

**Help with the washing** - my housework-challenged husband decided unexpetedly to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?"

"It depends," I replied. "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "University of Oklahoma."

..... And they say blondes are dumb...