



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

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

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Next Meeting : Mon 18th May 2026

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

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.

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

The society sales table will also be open as usual with pots, sticks and fertiliser etc., and hopefully also 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.

There will also be the usual generous monthly raffle – drawn after the guest speaker.

The Culture Class for May begins at 7.30 pm. Dave Floyd is going to attack an old overgrown *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* from Jim and demonstrate where to cut and how to pot up a nice piece – or at least the nicest piece he can find anyway. There may even be some free samples for those who want them.

The Main meeting commences 8pm – with the formalities of the general meeting, presentation of reports and news, all while judging of the benched orchids takes place (*all over in about 30 mins – leading to the 'supper break'*).

The Supper Break generally starts around 8.30-45, after the judging. This part of the meeting is not only the chance to have a refreshing 'cuppa' and a bite to eat, it is the free zone time for members to admire the orchids close up and to meet other members. We should all make the very most of it.

For the supper itself, the club supplies the tea/coffee/milk, sugar etc **but we ask members to bring their own cup or mug AND to bring in a contribution of edibles for the supper table. Just a small plate.** If you are a cook why not show off your skills, but shop bought stuff is also perfectly acceptable. **However, in all cases please avoid things containing nuts** due to potential allergies. **AND don't forget - bring your own mug or cup with you**

NOTE - Supper is not self-serve. Volunteers are assigned to serve the food for hygienic reasons.

Our Guest Speaker for May will be **Garrie Bromley**, with a presentation on the **Awarded Orchids of the past 3 years**. These are the best of the best, always a wonderful display. Bring your notebooks so you know what to look for.

Our May supper volunteers are – **Helen Wong and Jessie Koh**. And thank you to everyone for making our suppers such a success, including food providers, helpers, and everyone who talks to everyone else.

The Culture Class subject – *Bifrenaria harrisoniae*



An unusual species from the Zygopetalum family, that comes from Brazil near Rio De Janeiro. Plants grow mostly on almost vertical, east facing rock cliffs at elevations around 200-800 m but in Sydney they seem to tolerate our winters easily.



In nature the plants grow exposed to strong winds and almost full sun with their roots buried in cracks in the rock face but that doesn't mean we have to try and reproduce that ridiculous extreme environment. Dave will tell you more.

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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)

Dennys' View – Since **Peter** and **Jane** were unable to attend, I chaired the April meeting and I will also chair the May meeting. We had 42 people at our last meeting which included 4 visitors. I hope those that were not able to come are managing ok. The benched plants were magnificent, especially the Cattleyas, all of which were stunning. One of our visitors was **Graeme Russell** who gave us a delightful insight into his methods for growing speciosum which included a demonstration on how to split a speciosum. It was pleasing to me to know that **Graeme** grew his orchids outside and only protected them during extreme heat periods and his growing tips clarified some of my mis-concepts.

Before the meeting, **Jean Fulcher** gave us a very helpful culture lesson on growing bulbophlyums. **Jean's** talk was complimented by the exciting donation of a mass of bulbophlyums by **Christine Rethers** that were offered to our novice members who had great fun separating the plants with **Jean** and taking a share. The judges had a tough task because the benching numbers and quality of flowers was magnificent. **David Floyd** had brought in 200+ softcane kikis, so during the extended judging deliberations, they were offered to members many of whom took advantage of his kind donation. I have to say, I have never seen so many kikis in one place before.

Herb and **Pearl** managed the sales table in good form. There were many member's plants for sale, some of which were at a good price. Supper was enjoyable and well managed by **Lisa** and **Nancy**. **Lynn** sold the raffle tickets and the quality of the raffle plants acquired by **Trevor** was excellent. Keeping with the speciosum theme, we were able to add two small speciosum plants to the raffle table from a previous KOS purchase. Graeme also donated to our raffle some of the speciosum bulbs he obtained from his demonstration.

I thank all those who helped setup and pull down, especially **Stuart** for his setup thoroughness. It was a very busy night and we were able to clear the hall before our booking finished which proves that many hands do make light work. Well done everyone.

Outreach activity – On the 6th May we were invited to go back to *The Landings* retirement village in North Turrumurra. **Lina**, **Brenda**, **Adrian** and **Dennys** helped setup and pulldown. **Jessie** and **Herb** came along to help and **Stuart** dropped in to see how things were going. We had two tables supplied by the village. One was setup as a display table and the other was used for plants sales. All the plants were supplied by **Adrian** and many people were pleased with their purchases. Over almost 4 hours, including sales, about 40 people from the village interacted with us for advice and/or chat about orchids. We were advised that the residents really appreciated the opportunity to engage with our helpers which is what outreach is all about. Many took a copy of the handout with the intention to access our website for culture information. Our website is being updated by **Adrian** and he has reported a marked increase in its local and international access which is good for our contributors and positive recognition for KOS.



Other Society News

1. **Unwell??** - As we repeat each month, infectious diseases are still about. **If you are unwell – don't attend.**
2. **Culture Classes** – members seem to have adapted well since we lost the use of our old back of hall culture classroom and we are getting large numbers gathered around the front desk to hear our orchid growing teachers. Jean Fulcher took the class last month, and did a great job talking about how growers might expand their horizons to take on some of the more resilient yet still beautiful and intriguing Bulbophyllums. This group include some of the most amazing and intricate flowers in the orchid kingdom. And thanks to the generosity of Christine Rethers, who donated a large Bulbophyllum ambrosia to use for the demo. Jean handed out dozens of free divisions given away at the end to please everyone. Thank you so much Jean and Christine. It was all much appreciated by everyone.
3. **We have a New Member** this month – Emily Fan - welcome to our club Emily. I hope you find new friends and lots of pleasure learning about growing orchids. You will be issued a member name badge shortly and we all try to make sure to wear them at meetings to help us get conversations started when we don't know each other so well.
4. **Graeme Russell** was our guest speaker last month and showed us from his own experience just how you could go about cultivating and handling Dendrobium speciosum, the most magnificent of our Australian native species.

No wonder I have never been as successful as I hoped in growing these beauties, I was far too soft on them.

Like all orchids they have an annual cycle with particular needs at different times. Graeme learnt his stuff from speciosum gurus like Bill Dobson and Gerry Walsh and others and showed us what he does when it needs to be done.

If I was a little younger I think I could follow his process and make them work for me this time.

Thank you Graeme. You explained it all simply, clearly, and logically – a wonderful talk.

Main Coming Events 2026

Fri-Sun 15,16,17 May - ORCHIDS OUT WEST - 9-4 Fri & Sat, - 9-2pm on Sun. Hawkesbury Racecourse

Sat-Sun 28,29 June - Mingara Annual Orchid Fair - Mingara Rec. Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi.

Fri-Sun 7,8,9 Aug - National Orchid Extravaganza incorporating the Paphiopedilum Society of NSW. The Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona

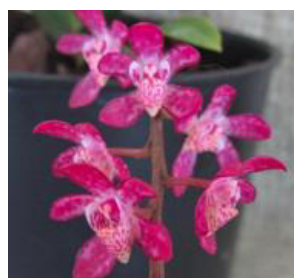
Fri-Sun 18,19,20 Sept. - ORCHIDS CENTRAL - Club Condell Park, 178 Eldridge Road, Bankstown,

Sat 10 Oct - Orchid Species Soc N.S.W - AUCTION & SHOW, W. Pennant Hills Community Church 41-43 Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills.

Fri-Sun 4,5,6 Dec. - Summer Orchid Festival, Georges Hall Comm. Centre Hall, 188 Birdwood Rd Georges Hall

JB - A lovely small piece by David Butler, borrowed from the April/2026 Berowra Orchid Society newsletter

Peristerchilus Cherub



Peristerchilus Cherub

The small-flowered Sarc have special appeal for many growers to the extent that Novelty Classes are now included in many Show Schedules. These Novelties are usually the result of crossing a normal Sarc flower with a small-flowered species or hybrid. In the case of *Prchs. Cherub*, the tiny-flowered species *Peristeranthus hillii* was crossed on to the purple hybrid *Sarcochilus Elise* (*S. ceciliae* x *S. Nicky*).



A differently coloured *Prchs. Cherub*

This pollination came about because I had been given a raceme of *Perths. Hillii* flowers and *S. Elise* happened to be in flower at the same time. From this chance crossing of *S. Elise* 'Plum' x *Perths. hillii* we now have *Peristerchilus Cherub*, a beautiful little novelty.

Despite its parent *Perths. hillii* being quite epiphytic, most growers find *Prchs. Cherub* amenable to pot culture. This and many similar hybrids can be grown happily in pots provided drainage and air circulation are adequate. The grower often chooses a relatively coarse bark to form the potting medium, and has the pot hanging freely, or suspended from the wall of the shade-house for unimpeded air circulation.

Growers who favour the classic style of *Sarcochilus* may find the cuteness of the novelties a welcome change and well worth a try.

David Butler 2020

A wonderful flowering of *Prchs. Cherub* by Clover Bradley



Sarcochilus Elise 'Plum'



Light
humour
to end the
page



"So, Mrs. Tyler, we're going to take a scan of your brain to see why you have such debilitating claustrophobia."

One day you'll find someone that's obsessed with you.

It's probably going to be a dog. But it is what it is.

Seven wheelchair athletes have been banned from the Paralympics after they tested positive for WD40.

Best of the evening Novice : Laelianthe Splendid Bow - grown by *Yvonne Szeto-Low*



Yvonne benched this one as “no id” but it was known to be a gifted piece of one of Garrie Bromley’s orchids, and I am quite certain it is the same cultivar benched by another grower, Stuart Ruthven, in April last year, when it was also awarded a BOE in Novice class.

Last year, Stuart had a name on his benching card but it turned out he had made an error writing the card so in the following bulletin we went to bit of depth to sort out the name, explain the group from which it derived, and explore some of the close relatives to give us an understanding of its growing conditions. We concluded it had to be Lealianthe Splendid Bow.

The full explanation and exploration is available in last year’s May bulletin on our website so I won’t repeat it all here, but in essence, the parents are Guarianthe bowringiana x Schomburgkia splendida. The incorrectly labelled parent was Schomburgkia superbiens so you can see how easily the

two Schomburgkias might get mixed up even though the two don’t look much alike.

Well done Yvonne. I think this was perhaps your first Best of the Evening after being in novice quite a while. Now you need to clean up this little beauty (don’t repot it now though), and make it look even better. Its obviously doing ok with wherever you have it. Just a bit more love and close attention and a talk to it each day, and you will be amazed at what a lovely orchid this one can be. Check out the pics from last year’s BOE – nice.



1 flower from Stuart’s BOE

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Den. Hot Lips ‘Lesley’ grown by *Garrie and Lesley Bromley*



Wow Garrie. That one is beautiful, and a perfect tribute to your wonderful wife Lesley. How do you keep producing these stunning classics? You even have a new generation of growers hooked on conquering the challenges of these hardcane Dendrobium types.

Hot Lips is a cross made by the old Coleman’s nursery in Queensland and was registered in 1994. The parents are Hot Flush and Grove Classic but those names probably mean nothing to today’s growers. I know Garrie has been growing this one for a long while because he also gained a Best of the Evening for it in 2007 but it has grown a lot since then. I think this years is the best I have ever seen of it – and just look at all the canes jammed in that little pot.

Colemans had always grown and specialised in breeding hardcane Dendrobies but when the very first chance petaloid mutation appeared around the 80’s or 90’s last century, they were also avid pioneers in stabilising the mutation through cross and backcross breeding so that hybrids of the lovely wide flat lip types would eventually become readily available to growers.

It is hard to believe now but the very first orchid that caught my eye and started me on the path to orchid growing, over 50years ago, was a gorgeous

deep purple hardcane that was part of a show in the original old Westfield shopping centre at Hornsby. I don’t even know which society ran the show but I am wondering if it might have been OSNSW – over 50 years ago.

Cynthia and I had just moved into our freshly build little project home in Hornsby and at that stage and I was just beginning to realise that there was a difference between grass, trees, flowers and weeds. When my dad first saw our new home his comment to me was – “you are sure going to need a lot of green concrete” - such was his confidence in my abilities as a gardener. I have never quite been sure whether I went on to learn all about plants and orchids because I was fascinated or whether it was just to stubbornly prove him wrong. Perhaps both.

Anyway, although I always thought hardcanes were magnificent, I steered away because I became convinced their needs were too difficult for me under my home conditions. I was a bit busy back in those days with my initial career in computers and learning how to be a dad, a husband, and house maintenance man.

Maybe I have had it wrong about hardcanes all this time? Trevor always told me they were easily manageable. Congratulations on your “Hot Lips” messrs Bromley. Magnificent

Dendrobium speciosum – an article from the Tauranga Orchid Society in NZ

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This popular orchid is native to Australia being found in New South Wales and Victoria, from the coastline to about 240km inland where it grows on rocks at the base of cliffs and in open forests with good air movement as a small to large-sized, cool to hot-growing lithophyte (grows on rocks) or epiphyte (grows in the branches and forks of trees). Known as the 'rock lily' or 'king orchid', *Dendrobium speciosum* blooms in later winter and spring with fragrant flowers on an erect or pendant long, many-flowered raceme.

In 2006 a 15-year Australian study concluded that *Den speciosum* is a single species with nine distinct varieties:

Var. speciosum

Var. hillii

Var. grandiflorum

Var. capricornicum

Var. blackdownense

Var. carnarvonense

Var. curvicaule

Var. boreale

Var. pendunculatum.

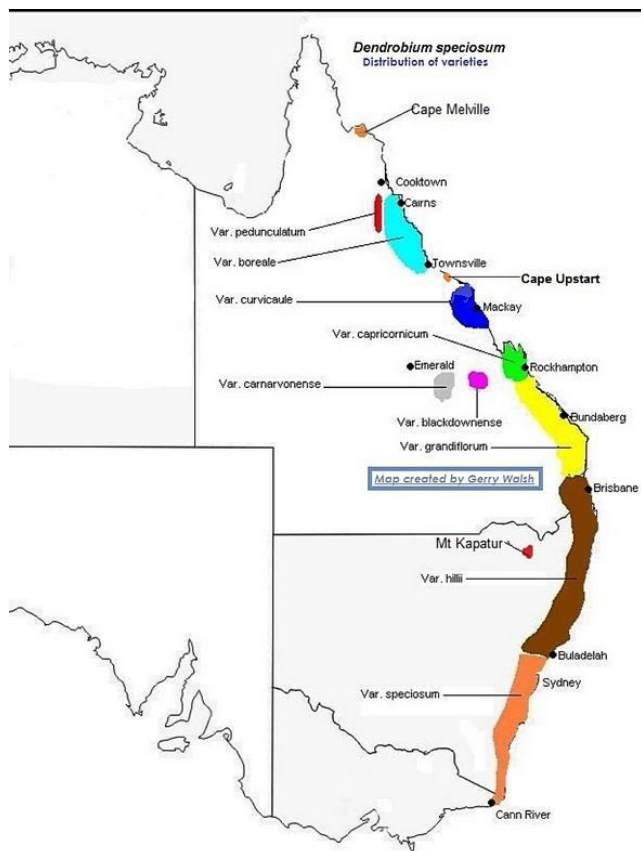


Den. speciosum growing in the wild.

Photo: Gail Hampshire, via Wikimedia Commons

Some grow at altitude, some grow in drier areas and one at least, var. *curvicaule*, grows from sea level to altitude.

A map (below) showing the distribution of Den speciosum. Image: Courtesy of Gerry Walsh



Hybridiser Ted Walmsley in Kempsey, northern NSW, and his wife have organised a [Dendrobium Speciosum Spectacular](#) show for a number of years, alongside a native orchid show. Sadly, 2020 will be the last 'spectacular'. Ted has some growing advice for *Den speciosum*:

I believe the best procedure is to water one day and fertilise the next. I never fertilise into a dry potting mix because, while the plants must never be waterlogged, I feel that if the mix and roots are damp and active they will be more able to make use of the fertiliser. However, it is always better to be on the dry side with your plants rather than having them too wet.

Every 2 months during the growing season I apply a solution of Condyl's crystals (potassium permanganate) and Epsom Salts (magnesium sulphate heptahydrate) – 0.5g of Condyl's crystals and 5g of Epsom Salts per 16 litres of water.

In addition, every 6 months I like to top dress the plants with [something like] Blood and Bone at the rate of 1 teaspoon for a 100mm (4") pot and half a handful for a 200mm (8") pot. I also use a soluble fertiliser two to three times a year during the growing season at the manufacturer's recommended concentration.

I am a firm believer in liming your plants, and have the philosophy that TOO MUCH LIME IS NOT ENOUGH. I use

hydrated lime or Brickies' lime (calcium hydroxide). I lime my plants as often as they need it, even up to six to eight times a year depending on the weather. I put the lime on as thick as it is needed to give good coverage on the plant.

These cultural notes refer to my conditions and I do not recommend that you selectively use aspects without thinking through the consequences. For example, some fertiliser solutions form insoluble precipitates with lime, in which case the regular application of limewater between fertilising may be more appropriate. Be prepared to experiment to get things right for your conditions and draw on all sources of knowledge.

(below) *Den speciosum* 'Doncaster x Ludlow's Giant'. Photo: Sandra Simpson



Den speciosum is easy to grow in Tauranga's climate and although glasshouse cultivation is not necessary, the plant should be kept out of frosts. Application of liquid fertiliser during the growing season (spring-summer) will promote healthy growth.

Gerry Walsh, The Rock Lily Man, offers some growing advice on his website (Australian conditions) and offers a regular email newsletter for those who sign up. [See more here.](#)

Like other cane dendrobiums, watering should be kept to a minimum during winter but when buds are sighted bring watering and feeding levels back up again. The key to flowering is good light. In New Zealand *Den speciosum* tends to flower biennially (every 2 years), using the 'off year' to gather enough light (strength) to flower the following year. Flowers, depending on the

variety, range in colour from white through cream to yellow.

Callyn Farrell gave a talk on hybridisation work using *Den speciosum* at the 2019 NZ Orchid Expo in Palmerston North – he and his grandfather Grahame Young founded Elmore Orchids in NSW in 2012 and 3 years later took over [Down Under Native Orchids](#) (DUNO). Callyn says that

while hybrids occur in the wild, by far the vast majority of hybrids have been man-made. As of 2019, 222 hybrids had been

(below) A smaller *Den. speciosum* growing in Tauranga Photo: Sandra Simpson



registered, with the first being in 1960. [Read his talk here](#) (don't mind all the typos!).

Roslyn Capell has compiled a list of *Den. speciosum* cultivars, quite a task. [See the 2017 plant list here.](#)



(Above) *Den. Golden Arches* was exhibited at the 2019 National Orchid Expo in Palmerston North. It's a cross between *Den. Lynette Banks*, itself a *speciosum* cross, and *Den. speciosum* 'Yellow Moon'. Photo: Sandra Simpson

Den speciosum 'Windermere' is considered by many Australians to be perhaps the best-breeding *speciosum*, as it lets colour from the other parent come through in the offspring. It's also a great flower producer, with inflorescences that can carry 60 or more light yellow flowers per inflorescence.



Den Bronson [left pic] (*Den Rutherford Starburst* x *Den speciosum*) was registered by DUNO in 2004, while the orchid pic on its right was registered in 2019 as *Den Graceful*. **Image: Callyn Farrell's Expo talk.**

Some hybrids with *Den speciosum* in their background include: **Den Hilda Poxon** (*Den tetragonum* x *Den speciosum*) created by Noel Grundon and registered in 1977; **Den Elegant Heart** (*Den Peewee* x *Den speciosum*) registered by Walter Upton in 1986; **Den Lisa Turner** (pic below) (*Den Zip* x *Den speciosum*), registered by John Purvis in 1995; **Den Avril's Gold** (*Den Aussie Child* x *Den speciosum*) created by Ray Hill and registered in 1998; **Den Australian Chocolate Starfish** (*Den Lynette Banks* (a *speciosum* cross) x *Den tetragonum*), registered in 2007; **Den Greta Snow** (*Den Jayden* x *Den speciosum*), created by Don Cruickshanks and registered in 2010; **Den**

Jesmond Star (Den Jesmond Treasure x Den speciosum), registered by John Purvis in 2010; **Den Samford**

Moondream (pic at right) (Den Topaz Dream x Den speciosum), originated by Cedarvale Orchids and registered in 2017; **Den Hunter Crash** (Den Gillieston Jazz x Den speciosum), registered by Callyn Farrell in 2018.

Image: Callyn Farrell's Expo talk.

Dendrobium Lisa Turner is a Den Zip x Den speciosum cross.

Photo: Sandra Simpson



This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) and tagged [Callyn Farrell](#), [Den speciosum culture](#), [Dendrobium speciosum](#), [Down Under Native Orchids](#), [Gerry Walsh](#), [how to grow Den speciosum](#), [Den speciosum varieties](#), [Ted Walmsley](#), [the rock lily man](#) by [sandra](#).

JB 1: After reading the excellent article above, I went looking for something describing the general physical characteristics of the 9 varieties of speciosum. Google AI offers a useful addition as follows :

“A 2006 study concluded that *Dendrobium speciosum* (the King Orchid or Rock Lily) is a single species complex containing nine distinct varieties based on habitat, flowering times, and morphology. [1, 2]

Here are the nine recognized varieties of *Dendrobium speciosum* according to data from: [1, 2, 3]

1. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *speciosum*:** Found from the NSW-Vic border to Buladelah, NSW. Known for robust growth and white to creamy flowers.
2. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii*:** Found from Buladelah, NSW, to Mt Mee, Qld. Known for tall, straight pseudobulbs (often over 1m) and smaller, white flowers.
3. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum*:** Distributed from the Conondale Range (Qld) to Mt Morgan (near Rockhampton). It is known for large, deep yellow to yellow-orange flowers and wide petals.
4. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *curvicaule*:** Found in the Mackay region (Qld), from sea level to high altitude. It is a lithophyte or epiphyte with curved pseudobulbs and high variability.
5. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *capricornicum*:** Located on volcanic plugs around Rockhampton and the Byfield region in Central Queensland.
6. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *blackdownense*:** Localized to the Blackdown Tableland in Queensland.
7. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *carnarvonense*:** Found specifically in the Carnarvon Gorge area of Queensland.
8. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *boreale*:** Occurs at high altitudes between Townsville and Cairns (North Queensland).
9. ***Dendrobium speciosum* var. *pedunculatum*:** Found in the dry west-facing slopes of the Atherton Tableland in North Queensland. It is a dwarf variety, adapting to harsh conditions with long peduncles. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]”

“**Note on Taxonomy:** While the above nine are frequently cited based on the 2006 review of the complex, some authorities also consider *Dendrobium tarberi* a synonym for var. *hillii* and note that some forms (such as *nitidum* and *bancroftianum*) are considered natural hybrids, like *Dendrobium* x *gracillimum*. [1, 2, 3]”

JB 2: However, in searching further I found an excellent downloadable article by Adams, Burke, and Lawson titled “Dendrobium speciosum Sm., The Great Dendrobium, is a single-species complex.” Which provides even more detail for those who would like to specialise.

The link for download is <https://zenodo.org/records/16522046/files/bhlpart362950.pdf?download=1>

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa. 'The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago..

Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water.

However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten it, or will eat it.

Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

-- After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, 'Wedding Cake.'

Best of The Evening Species : *Gongora grossa* grown by Lisa Harris



We don't see plants of the genus *Gongora* as often as we should. The most common species and most easily grown is *Gongora galeata* but for a species aficionado it is also the least desirable because it has quite short flower spikes that don't show off the spectacular structure of other *Gongora* species like *grossa*. Grown as a decent size specimen, *Gongora* produces long dangling inflorescences all around the sides of the pot as in the picture at the left.

G. grossa isn't one of the most attractive but as you can see in the close up picture the flowers have intricate patterns and shapes that are best appreciated up close.

G. grossa comes from the top part of South America in the moist tropical rainforests of Venezuela, southern Colombia, and western Ecuador. It is generally a lowland orchid but does occur up to 1300m elevation. It is a medium size plant with ribbed pseudobulbs and broad pleated leaves. The flowers are about 35 mm across but with narrow segments, and arranged sort of spirally down the inflorescence so that they end up in three rows down the stem. Quite attractive.



I have never grown *G. grossa* so I can't say how adaptable it is but from the elevations at which it is found suggest to me that it might be best with some warm protection in Winter but Lisa is certainly growing it beautifully. Well done Lisa, it was a lovely specimen and must have been very tricky to transport. I am glad you did.

Other attractive *Gongoras* include :



Gongora galeata



G. truncata



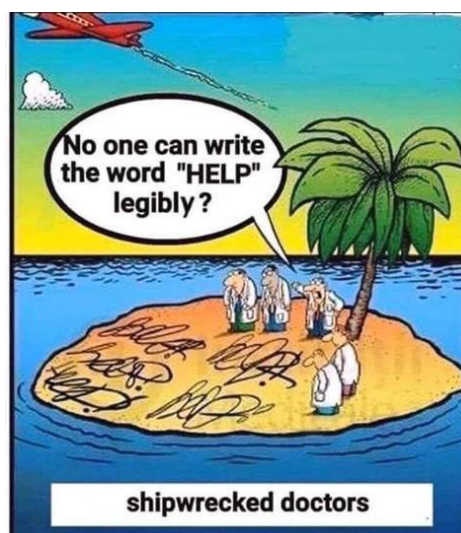
G. pardina



G. rufescens

All the *Gongora* species are interesting and worth growing. Just makes sure you try one of the many that can grow ok in Sydney's winter without a glasshouse.

Deep Thoughts



If you identify a UFO as a UFO, then it has to become just an FO.

Unless of course it lands somewhere, in which case it must just then be an "O"

Wonderful orchids from our April Benching



Vanda Samsri Glory
L & P Au



RLC Mikki Nagata
G&A Cushway



RLC Adelaide queen
G&A Cushway



Vanda unknown
Lina Huang



RLC Adelaide Queen
A&G Cushway



RC Donna Kimura
A&G Cushway



Catt Portia Cannizaro
A&G Cushway



RLC California Girl
A&G Cushway



Comarettia speciosa
G & L Bromley



Tolumnia W Thurston x Jainak Firm
L & P Au



Howeara Lava Burst
T&P Onslow



Onc. Tailor Bar Carol
Adrian Zderic



Miltassia Charles M Fitch
P & J D'Olier



Onc. Mem. Val Houley
L & P Au



Brassosteles Tarantula
Adrian Zderic



Bratonia Sadie Loo x Christmas Eve
L & P Au



Bratonia Sadie Loo x Christmas Eve
L & P Au



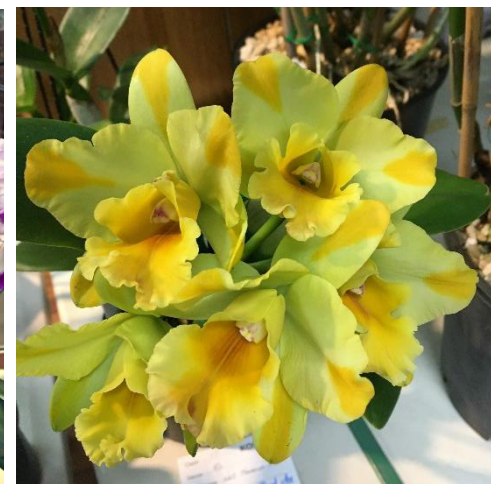
Miltonia moreliana (syn spectabilis var moreliana)
Dora Law



Miltonia Anne Warne



Catt Porcia coerulea no. 1



Rhyncattleyanthe Nell Hammer

Notes on the pictures - Its interesting to see the impact of the genus *Brassia* on the intergeneric hybrids of the *Oncidium* family. The most easily grown *Brassia* is *verrucosa* and it is a popular parent as well but there are many other parent species in *Brassia*. Three hybrid examples above are *Miltassia* Charles M Fitch (one of the very first), *Bratonia* Sadie Loo x *Christmas Eve*, and *Brassostele* Tarantula. There were also others on the night but I can't show them all. The typical influence of *Brassia* is to induce long spidery flower parts but also sometimes negative aspects like disorganised flower arrangements and criss-crossed flowers but these seem to be solvable in ongoing generations. Most growers seem to really like the *Brassia* hybrids and they are certainly hardy, and they grow and flower well.

And in the same Family Tree, how about that magnificent purple colour that stems from what we call today "*Miltonia moreliana*". This was for most of its life considered to be just a variety of the more common *Miltonia spectabilis*. I don't understand the background to why it was thought to be a 'spectabilis' because it doesn't look much like the other forms and colours of *spectabilis*. It was certainly rarer from what I can recall. It was very hard to come by but hard sought for the rich purple 'var. *moreliana*' colours. All the individuals I saw in my early days had a common growth form with pseudobulbs spaced an inch or two apart along a creeping rhizome which was hard to cope with.

But mankind has now solved that one negative through selective crosses and the chemical creation of tetraploid forms where we interfere with cell wall formulation during the cell duplication process. Clever devils aren't we. But somehow it all seems so artificial - not quite gene splicing, but a long step from what I knew as horticulture. Still, the world turns and we can't and shouldn't try to stop it. Modern purchasable *Miltonia moreliana* plants are far superior to the original ones and they are certainly more beautiful.

And how about the stunning *Cattleyas* on the bench last month. Surprisingly some were quite old crosses but they are still the best, and speaking of the best, boy do we have some 'best' growers here too. Well done growers.

Finally, I hope you noticed the amazing oranges yellows and red from the pictures in the third row. Wow, that *Compactetia* of Garries was droolable. I have tried to grow it several times and just kept it growing for years but Garrie succeeds so well. He has a real feel for orchids and senses their needs. At least we can enjoy them at meetings.