



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

(Established in 1947)
A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

15th June 2026 Volume 67 No. 6
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 15th June 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 begins at 7.30 pm. This month Lina Huang will talk about **her experiences with growing Phalaenopsis on mounts**. It's great to see more of our members sharing their insights. Thank you Lina

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. **In all cases though,** 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 will be **Matt Roberts** will be talking to us about **Stanhopea**. Matt will share some of the things he finds work for him with these enchanting orchids and will pass on what he has learned. It sounds fascinating.

Our June May supper volunteers are – Fred Gorginian and Anthony Mobbs. Thanks guys, and thank you to everyone supplying all the parts of our delightful tea-break suppers.

Oncidium flexuosum ??? -- I hope I didn't just get the wrong card for this one but last month the card beside the picture of the lovely Oncid at the left said *Oncidium flexuosum* and I have since come to doubt its identity.

Flexuosum is a spaced bulb, climbing kind of Oncid with clouds of distinctive shaped flowers. A lovely, easy to grow



species – but different as you can see in the right 3 pictures below.

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.

Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au)

President Peter – Are My Orchids Ready for Winter?

Jane and I have just returned from an overseas holiday so we missed the last meeting which, by all accounts, everyone enjoyed. Usually, the President's report is about the last meeting, but this may be difficult for me in this instance, so I am trying something else and hope it is OK.

We were away part of April and almost all of May, which is the time we usually get our orchids ready for winter. I am writing this about what happened at our place and possibly as a reminder for others about what to think about. It was too early to do what we needed before we left but luckily the temperatures were mild enough to await our return.

When we go away our youngest son waters our plants and this is always a lottery. This time when we returned the plants were not too dry and dying and the weeds were thriving, so something must have gone well.

So, after a long sleep-in on the day after returning, it was time to quickly get our plants ready for winter.

Winter is a time of short days and not very strong sunlight, so the first thing to do was remove one layer of shade cloth put there for summer, and to clean away any leaf litter on the roofs to increase light levels. If you are growing indoors, on balconies or under trees, think about shifting plants to brighter areas. This time of the year the sun is also much lower and at our place the afternoon sun pokes through the sides of our areas often burning leaves before we realise it. So, time to move plants or put up a small area of shade cloth as protection.

During summer we have an automatic fogging system and a small area with misting for wetter growing plants, and hand water 2 or sometimes 3 times per week depending on how hot and dry it is. Time now to reduce hand watering to once a week and reduce the start and finish times for the fogging and misting systems. The time to water is also important, so pick a warm day and allow plenty of time to dry out as any new or weaker growth can quickly rot particularly if water is held in the crown of the plants.

We usually fertilize once a week during the warmer months and occasionally use a weak root growth stimulant. Now that it is colder and the days are shorter, the orchids don't grow as much so feeding is not needed as much. We reduce the strength by about a third to a half and if feeling lazy, sometime miss a week of fertilizing.

Almost all of our collection is under a hard cover, so we don't have to worry about too much rain during cold periods, but we do have to remember to water. If your orchids are outside and it is too wet during cold periods, you may want to think about bringing them under cover. For those with a shade house, some growers have a clear plastic cover for part of the house for the more vulnerable plants, which they remove when the weather warms up. Usually rain is good for plants, but it is the combination of cold and wet that is the problem.

If you grow cool to intermediate orchids, then heating during the cold weather is not required. We have cool, intermediate and warm growing plants so the warm ones are in an enclosed heated growing area. We use an electric column heater with a separate thermostat. We don't set the temperature too high so warm growing plants are OK but hot growing can be a struggle. This is cheap to buy but don't look at the electricity bill. I sometimes think the orchids are warmer than I am inside. If you have warm/hot growing orchids without a heated area, then bring them inside.

Since we water less then we risk not looking at our orchids as often. So now is the time to go round between watering to look for bugs (which are always hiding), and any new growth to protect from too much water & cold. Getting used to looking and talking to your orchids now can only be good and should continue during the warmer months as well.

Such a lot. I have to ask myself am I mollycoddling them too much? Have they taken over my life?

Cheers, Peter

Other Society News

1. Unwell?? – For the sake of your fellow members, if you are unwell – it is best you take a night at home.

2. Some Sad News – our friend and fellow member - **Ian Tanner** has recently passed away after a short stay in hospital. Ian was a longstanding, active member of KOS and a number of other societies. Our love and thoughts are with Ian's family at this difficult time.

The society has received the following regarding a memorial service, all are welcome.

Ian Hamilton Tanner, born 3 April 1943 – passed 1 June 2026. Brother to Howard and Celia. He loved his Church, his Community, the Bush, and his Orchids. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday 23rd June at 10 am at St Paul's Anglican Church, 1 View Street, Chatswood

3. Advance Warning – members would be aware that **October is our Annual General Meeting** when we elect a management committee for the coming year, but it has also become somewhat of a tradition that we combine AGM night with our **members Auction night**. However, this year we are moving our Members Auction night forward to September. So if you have an orchid or two in mind as your submissions for auction, make sure you groom them a little earlier and have them ready for our September meeting night. Further details later.

4. “OOW” is over - so now on to the **Mingara Orchid Fair** – I got out to Orchids Out West last month, the first time for a while, and it was a delight to see old orchid friends from all parts of Sydney enjoying the occasion. This was the first time I had been to OOW since they moved location away from the Hawkesbury race track. I was impressed by a great atmosphere in a very nice hall at the showground, virtually across the road from the old racecourse site. Some beautiful displays and great vendor stalls. Well done to the organisers.

So now on to **Mingara (Sat-Sun 28,29 June)**, another great orchid event, and just a short drive away. For those who may not have been before, go north out of Sydney up the M1 and take the “Wyong” Exit at Tuggerah. The exit ramp takes you onto Wyong Rd. where you turn hard right and cross back over the M1, past the big Westfields shopping centre at Tuggerah and keep going on Wyong Rd until you get to Tumby Umbi. You will see the huge Mingara Sports Club complex on your right just before Mingara Drive. Turn right, there are signs everywhere to the huge Mingara sports club where the fair is held. There is a massive free parking area at the club.

There are Orchid Society displays, a huge vendors hall with many interstate sellers and of course all the facilities of the big licensed club for lunch. Make a day of it, maybe take in the Tuggerah Westfields on your way home.

Main Coming Events 2026

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

Thurs to Sat 9-11 July – Eastwood OS, Eastwood shopping centre, 152-160 Rowe St Eastwood

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 14-16 August, St Ives Orchid Fair, St Ives Showground, St Ives – OUR BIG ONE

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

Best of the evening Novice : Den. Yaya Victoria - grown by *Lynn Dabbs*



Last month this excellent group of Phallies on the Novice bench really took my eye. Yaya Victoria is the two tone one at the top but I have to apologise to Lynn for not getting a separate close up this month but you can sure see the quality of our up and coming growers these days.

In the June bulletin last year I wrote another best of evening on this group of delightful miniature hardcane Dendrobiums. They are a relatively new group of hybrids based on our native Australian Den. bigibbum variety compactum, a ‘variety’ which has been proposed by many to be recognised a separate species as Dendrobium lithicola.

The hybrid Yaya Victoria is a mix of 8 Dendrobium species if you count Den phalaenopsis as a specie these days. But anyway, the complex mix complicates where various features might derive but like most of these hybrids it is clear that the dominant flower and plant form is bigibbum and although they still need to be grown in a pattern much the same as other bigibbums, the rather different habitat of ‘compactum’ makes these minis

a little tougher and more forgivable than some of the standard types.

To explain, the compactum form comes from a significantly different habitat zone to the other bigibbum varieties. It grows almost exclusively on rock surfaces at an altitude of about 250m in the coastal ranges south of Mossman Qld. (about half way between Cooktown and Cairns). Its habitat there gets a little more rain in winter than other areas, but there still is a comparatively drier period in winter and spring. And, of course it is quite compact in plant form. The pseudobulbs are distinctly short and squat compared to the other taller forms, giving rise to this new ‘miniature hardcane’ hybrid group. Instead of Dendrobium hardcanes with stems 40-50cm tall, these have canes more like 10-20 cm tall and the pseudobulbs are generally fat at the base, tapering to thinner at the top.

These ‘mini’ hardcanes are undeniably cute and very attractive. For growers with limited space or declining capability to handle large heavy orchids, I suspect they will be very popular.

Well done Lynn, you are showing quite a knack for these hardcanes. I’ll have to get some tips from you.

I think my wife has started to show the first signs of dementia. She says she can’t remember what she ever saw in me.

BOE Hybrid – BLC. California Girl ‘Orchid Library’ - grown by Gloria & Allan Cushway

For an oldie this one sure gets a few write ups. It’s obviously a really lovely orchid but I suspect that its continual prominence in our best of the evening section might have something to do with the great skills of our growers.

Last year Trevor and Pauline got Best of the Evening with this one, in 2024 it was Gloria and Allan, and they have done it again this year as well. It must be pretty high class.

California Girl is a cross registered way back in 1983 by Stewart Inc. in California. The parents are Cattleya Horace and RLC Nacouchee. I don’t know much about Nacouchee, but Horace is an outstandingly famous hybrid from even further back in 1938. It had huge 19 cm diameter flowers and is in the background parentage of a very large number of our big “Catts”.

The breeding of California Girl involves 9 different species and it has all been said before so I won’t try to analyse characteristics. I think it covers it all well enough to just say ‘perfect’.

Congratulations Gloria and Allan. Your stuff is always beautiful.



Best of The Evening Species : Paphiopedilum insigne grown by Dora Law



What a completely under-rated orchid this species is. Everybody grows a few pieces, but poor old insigne is often regard as sort of ho-hum because it grows and flowers so well, and you could hardly say it is rare.

But this lovely specimen pot of Dora’s shows just what growers should be aiming for. Not just a small pot with 2 or 3 flowers, this is a specie that always lends itself to being cultivated in a bigger pot with hopefully 20 or more flowers.

Paph insigne gets regularly written up by many writers over the years and in only June last year (2025) I republished a full analysis of its native habitats and various notable forms, so I can't in all conscience do it again now.

What I think would be useful is to get a great grower like Dora to write an article for us to give us a plan for producing a glowing specimen like this one, and how we would then keep it in good health. Like, what to pot it in, where to grow it, watering and fertilizing, how long before it has to be repotted.

How about it Dora? Your fellow growers would really appreciate it – I know I would. I could offer some editorial assistance if it would be of any use.

A question of taste

As the result of an horrific car crash, a young woman, who was 6 months pregnant with twins, ended up in hospital in a coma. Her husband was killed in the same accident. Four years later she awoke, still in hospital, and obviously confused. One of the doctors who had cared for her since the crash, was called to talk to her.

“You were involved in a terrible car crash 4 years ago.” he said, “I am sorry to have to tell you that your husband was killed in the same accident and you have been in a coma since then.”

“Oh no, she cried, “my husband, dead?” After a short period of tears, and with fear in her heart she said : “Wait, I remember that I was pregnant. What happened to my babies?”

The doctor took the woman’s hand and said: “Its all right, they are safe. We delivered the twins while you were still in a coma and they were taken by your brother as their foster parent.

“But who named them.” she asked.

“Well your brother of course,” replied the doctor.

“Oh no, not him”, said the woman, “I love my brother but he is hopeless with names.”

“Now calm down”, said the doctor, obviously worried at her getting agitated, “he seemed to handle it all quite ok.”

“Well what did he call them, she asked, fearing some horrible names based on footballers or something.

“Well he named the girl Denise.” said the doctor, trying to calm her down.

“Oh, ... that’s a nice name,” she said, starting to think she had been over reacting, “and what did he call the boy?”

“Well,” replied the doctor rather sheepishly, “Denephew”

Samples from our May Benching



RLC Pamela Heatherington 'Coronation'
G&A Cushway



Catt (flamboyant unknown)
Anthony Mobbs



Rlc Warne's Legacy
G & L Bromley



Den Burana Stripe x Chao Praya
A&G Cushway



Den Topaz Dream
G & L Bromley



Cattleya anceps x anceps
Helen Wong



Den Aridang Green
Dora Law



Rhynchonopsis Leong Pak-lin
G & L Bromley



Phal. Venus
G & L Bromley



Phal unknown
Lina Huang



**Phal Tzu-chiang senrima
x pulcherrima - G&L Bromley**



**A delightful patch from our
Vandaceous hybrid bench**



Vandachostylis Pine Rivers 'Blue'
G & L Bromley



Cattleya Jeannie Woolf 'Zoe'
G & L Bromley



Aliceara Citron Gold ?
Helen Wong



Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Pinkie'
L & P Au



Oncostele Wildcat 'Golden Red Star'
Lynn Dabbs



Haraella retrocalla
G & L Bromley

Notes on the pictures

Garrie and Lesley's gorgeous little orange/red Catt "*Jeannie Woolf*" (*prev page*), is a wonderful illustration of how taxonomy changes affect our orchid names. Although the hybrid is correctly classified as fully *Cattleya* these days, it would have been deemed a *sophrocattleya* (or SC) just a few short years ago. Using the old names, the startling red colour and the mini, compact plant form, comes from both *Sophronitis coccinea* and *Sophronitis brevipedunculata*, but the other parent in the mix is *Cattleya luteola* which is a slightly larger plant with slightly larger yellow/green flowers. In the pictures below you can see that the general flower shape is dominated by the *Sophronitis* but the influence of the tubular lip of *luteola* can also be seen in *Jeannie Woolf*. *Luteola*'s slightly larger 5cm flowers have likely also had a positive effect. *Coccinea* and *brevipedunculata* are generally only about 3.8 cm diameter although



Catt. coccinea



Catt.
brevipedunculata



Catt. luteola

some cultivars can be considerably larger. The only awarded cultivar of *Jeannie Woolf* was 'Queen Bee' which was measured at 5.4 cm across. But however it got there, 'Zoe' is gorgeous.

2. And how about the flamboyant examples of *Oncidiinae* intergenerics we see these days? I am not 100% on a couple of the names above though. I am pretty sure the *Oncostele* is Wildcat "Golden Red Star" although Lynn left out the Golden bit on her card. And *Wilsonara Eye Candy* looks right and is just so well named – very easy on the eye. But I can't find the hybrid name Citron Gold anywhere. It could be a recent name not registered in my systems as yet, or maybe I got the name wrong by misreading, or photographed the wrong benching card or something. But whatever it is one of those really exotic modern *Brassia* influenced *Oncidiinae*. Not award shaped but delicious.

3. I also ran into name problems with a couple of the *Phallies*. The *Rhychonopsis* Leong Pak-lin is a strange one. It is the primary hybrid between the old *Doritis pulcherrima* and what used to be *Aerides retusa* (now *Rhynchostylis retusa*). The gallery provided in *Orchidwiz* suggests that the initial (?) cross was made using the *Doritis champorensis* variety that I discussed in a recent bulletin. All 4 available hybrid pictures show the influence of that type of *Doritis* (now *Phal.*). Garrie and Lesley's white and mauve hybrid doesn't seem consistent with that parentage so perhaps I again got the wrong tag or it is a later cross using a different variety. Can you give us any background Garrie?

Similarly, *Phal Tzu-chiang Senrima* x *pulcherrima* raised a question in my mind. The hybrid *Tzu-chiang Senrima* has one parent as *Phal pulcherrima* and most of the pictures indicate that, once again, the *pulcherrima* parent was the *champorensis* (petaloid) form. The benching card indicates that the Bromley plant is a back cross of T. C. *Senrima* to another *pulcherrima*. The resulting hybrid looks rather like a super selected *Champorensis* with its flower shape and winged petals. But as I can find no info on the 'backcross' I can't tell which is what. Garrie grows these *Doritis* types so well they always look enviable on the bench. Once more I ask, Garrie can you give us any further information?

4. All in all there were some beautiful plants benched. Congratulations to all the growers. You are lifting the standards year by year and showing us all what can be done. For the last 2 months I have been doing the photography work on benched orchids with my trusty old iphone – not up to Jane's standard's but hopefully adequate. And I will be so, so pleased to see Jane back on duty this coming month. I am afraid I have demonstrated just how much better Jane is at photography.

Orchid seedling from a whisky bottle (from the NE Melb Orchid Society bulletin)

Republished with the permission of the NE Melb OS. Articles may not be copied or reproduced without the authors permission

At a recent meeting of the NE Melbourne Orchid Society, Michael Coker, Gianni Montalto & Alan Rogers combined to run a practical session on “De-flasking and potting or mounting an orchid” – In this case the orchid was *Tolumnia Jairak Flyer ‘Leopard’*, which had been purchased to supply members for a growing competition orchid.

Firstly, Michael demonstrated how he de-flasks orchids, and the first step was getting the plantlets out of the flask. There are many different types of flasks which all serve to provide a sterile, humid environment for the agar growing medium and the orchid seedlings. The most difficult to open are the glass ‘whisky bottle’ type that these *Tolumnia* plantlets came in. (JB: whiskey bottles are a common container used for flasking, especially from the Asian supply area.)



This tip from Gordon Young works for whisky bottles. - Lay the bottle on its side and hold the bottle down with hand protection. Poke a long screwdriver or similar through the neck of the bottle so that the end is in contact with the base of the bottle, and then gently tapping the other end will crack the base away from the bottle.

Michael then slid the agar & plantlets out into a bowl of lukewarm water, (some people like to use a solution of ‘Plant Starter™’ from ‘Multicrop’) and carefully separated out the plantlets and placed them size order on a damp towel.



▶ Gianni took some of these plantlets and demonstrated how to pot them up into a 50mm tube using a 3 parts 6-9mm bark, 1 part LECA (clay balls) mix, by placing the plantlet in the middle of the pot and then filling and covering the roots with the mix, before members then potted up their own plantlets.



Caution! To get the plantlets out of the glass bottle, it has to be broken, which can result in a trip to A&E if you are not careful.



Broken glass is sharp. There may well be chips or shards among the debris where the end breaks away.

Separate the plants with care

At the same time, Alan demonstrated how to attach the plantlet onto a cork mount by first placing it with its roots spread out in the middle of the mount, with a thin covering of bush moss over the roots. These mounts had been pre-prepared with a length of fishing line tied at one end to the wire hanger. The fishing line was then wound around the mount and over the moss covering the roots of the plantlet to secure the plantlet to the cork mount. Just enough tension was applied to the





fishing line to hold everything down firmly without cutting into the roots.

Cork mounts were then distributed to the members so that they could attach their own Tolumnia plantlets. There was a “hive of activity” for the next few minutes as everybody applied themselves to the task. A common question was:

‘How much moss to use?’ - As only enough to just cover the roots is required, “Less is more” is the answer. Excess moss will smother the roots and they will remain wet for too long.

An Interesting article - In the June bulletin of the Cairns Orchid Society, their editor Peter Seimens mentions a fascinating article accessible on the BBC called *“Inside the secretive and lucrative world of orchid breeding”*

As Peter tells us – “.. it discusses new genetic screening techniques being used to select plants for mass production. This new technology speeds up the process of producing new orchid varieties by analysing the genetics of young plants. This way they can select genetically superior plants without having to wait several years for the plants to bloom. The other great part about this article is finding out a little bit about how far plants might travel in their lifetime and before they hit the supermarket shelves.” [Click here to read](#)

St Ives Orchid Fair

‘The Big One’



Ku-ring-gai Council

In partnership with
Ku-ring-gai Council



ST IVES SHOWGROUND
Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Friday 14th August 2026	9 am to 4 pm
Saturday 15th August 2026	9 am to 4 pm
Sunday 16th August 2026	9 am to 3 pm

Bus Routes 196/197: Gordon Station - St Ives Village - Terrey Hills - Mona Vale
ADMISSION \$10 Children under 18 free

Bus groups welcome
Unlimited Free Parking, Wheel chair access

Orchid displays, and advice from experts

MAJOR SPONSORS
Rosella Orchids
Garden City Plastics

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

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