



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

(Established in 1947)

A.B.N. 92 531 295 125

21st September 2026 Volume 67 No. 9
Annual Membership : **\$17 single, \$20 family**

Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow

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Treasurer : Lina Huang (and Sales Table)

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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

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

Next Meeting : Mon 21st September 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 class 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**

Meeting 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.

Culture Class – **There will be no culture class this month.** As the main subject of the night will be the members auction, the early part of the night is taken up by preparing the auction bookings and checking out what is available.

The Main meeting begins 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 as . This part of the meeting is where you get to socialise and admire all the benched orchids. Make The most of it - say hello to your fellow members, ask questions, and share your delight in the orchids and friends.

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 show off your skills, but shop bought stuff is also perfectly acceptable. **But in all cases,** please avoid things containing **nuts** due to potential allergies. **NOTE - Supper is not self-serve.** Volunteers are assigned to serve the food for hygienic reasons.

Supper volunteers this month are – Julie Iyengar and Melissa Lahood. Thank you for helping girls.

Guest Speaker – **there is no guest speaker as this is the month for our Members Auction.** Further details about the auction rules can be found on pages 2 and 3 but at the broadest level, each single membership is invited to bring 2 orchid 'lots' for auction, family memberships may bring 3 lots. A 'lot' may be a single orchid or a bundle of two or more orchids to be sold together as a 'lot'. See details pages 2,3.

Pterostylis curta benched by *Dora Law, Lina Huang, and Fred Gorginian*

I am so pleased to see more members taking an interest in these Australian terrestrial orchids. The bush areas around Sydney are full of wonderful orchids but they are mostly these highly seasonal ground dwellers that are dormant underground for nearly half the year but if you take a stroll along any local fire trail or walk you will see a constantly changing display of flowers and new things to find each walk.

At first they seem invisible but once you are shown where and how to look, you will find they are everywhere.

This one is *Pterostylis curta* and is one of the most common. It is a very elegant orchid that lives in generally dampish, more shaded areas and it usually occurs in colonies. After you see the first one you see them everywhere.

Spring is about to spring and our nature reserves will be full of flowers including orchids. A good time to go see what you can find.



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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please email at jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au)

Dennys' Feedback – Since President **Peter** and **Jane** could not be at the meeting, I chaired our August meeting which had 40 people in attendance, including 3 visitors. Surprisingly, the setup did not take too much time to happen despite many members being very tired after the weekend. That said, committed, but obviously tired people still benched some lovely plants along with contributions to our supper. It wasn't too cold outside but it was wet and we had 13 apologies. This understandable since our meeting is the first night back after the end of the great effort that members across the 4 societies put into making the St. Ives Orchid Fair (SIOF) happen yet again.

At our meeting, **Fred**, who is also President of NSOS, ran a very enjoyable culture class on mounting orchids. Members were well engaged and **Fred** also contributed 3 of the orchids he used in his demonstration to our nightly raffle which was well appreciated by all. Sometime ago, I had early success in growing miltoniopsis but that ability seems to have left me, so it was really good to have **Rod Nurthen** deliver his after-supper talk on **Growing Miltoniopsis**. I learnt a lot more from his talk, as many of our members did, as proven by the number of questions he answered during and after his talk.

We were a bit low on judging capacity for the meeting and I especially thank **Jean, Christine** and **Dora** for their sustained effort. I also thank **Jim** for offering to help in this regard. Supper is always a highlight and I thank **Liz, Ethan** and **Celeste**, for working so well to make it so. I also thank **Mary** for selling raffle tickets. We were out well before time so thank you to those who helped pack up in speedy fashion.

St. Ives Orchid Fair – The SOIF went well again. As a SIOF committee representative, **Kevin Croker** addressed our meeting and gave a heartfelt thanks to all our members who helped during the show. **Jenny** coordinated ALL volunteers at the show in her usual gracious style. It should be noted that this is **Kevin's** last year as a member and treasurer of the SIOF committee. Members present at our August meeting gave him a very loud applause. Our KOS display



came 3rd closely behind MWOS with NSOS in first place, but not by much.

Geoff Le Marne was awarded Reserve Show Champion and Class Champion for his *Cym. Regal Fury 'Saturn'*. **Adrian Zderic** was awarded Vandaceous/Phalaenopsis Class Champion for his *Phal. Allura Delight*. **Lina** led the display team and they did a fantastic display with great care given to placement of the plants supplied by members. A different design was used this year without bark and we received some good feedback from many of our senior members. We had an excellent supply of greenery provided by **Chris** and **Lina**. Our usual display team worked hard for many hours. This year our display team was joined by **Bod Taffel** who became a pot-socker aficionado in no time.



Bob indicated at our August meeting that on Thursday night he dreamt of black pots and their black socks all night. The pulldown went well and thanks are extended to **Herb** and to all those who helped to do so. It was also very good to see **Lewis Matthews** at the fair and more so when **Lewis** arrived at our August meeting. Welcome back **Lewis**.

Other Society News

1. **Feeling a bit unwell??** – For the sake of your fellow members, perhaps take a night off and stay home.

2. **AGM** – This is your formal notice that our October 19th meeting will also be our Annual General meeting, where we must elect a new committee to run the society. *We hereby call for nominations.* Many of our current committee will be standing for re-election but if any member would like to put themselves forward for election we would love to hear from you. Our Secretary will be sending member nomination forms and advising the simple procedures required. Give it some serious thought. A regular flow of members with fresh ideas in and out of the committee provides us with a sound experience base to grow our society into the future.

The AGM is held at The West Lindfield Community Hall, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield, as part of the regular meeting which commences at 8pm.

3. **Great practical Miltoniopsis talk** – Like Dennys, I greatly appreciated Rod Nurthens talk last month. It's hard to believe I could get such clear insights after failing so many times before. Thanks Rod. Excellently explained.

4. **September is also Members Orchid Auction night.**

Each single membership is invited to bring 2 'lots' for sale by auction, family memberships may bring 3 lots. A 'lot' may be a single orchid or a bundle of more than one to be sold together. You may place a reserve price on each lot you sell (not individuals in a lot) but whatever the lot sells for, the society takes 15% commission.

Plants need to be clean and pest and disease free. Better looking orchids obviously sell better and the better info you provide about the lot the better it sells also. If you can provide a picture of the flower, that is a great help.

The society reserves the right to reject plants it believed to be unstable, damaged, diseased or pest infested.

The Way the Auction Works (*Key steps highlighted in order – please do it right*)

(*and members, please remember, the sales table is also available to sell orchids and may be used on auction night*)

- A. **Auction in General** – Remember participants, you don't need to fill in a form to buy or sell. *For sellers, Lina* will be managing *the booking-in process (see below)*. She will set up an intro point somewhere in the entrance hallway or nearby and *you need to see her before you put your plants on the auction display tables*.
Buyers, when bidding, you just need to be bold and put your hand up to bid and make sure you are noticed. Speak if you aren't noticed. AND : if the lot is 'sold' to you, *you must pay cash on the night before you go home*.
- B. **Specifics for sellers**, (a). Go to Lina and *get a benching card for each sales lot*. Take the cards away and *fill in the plant name, your name, and reserve price* (if any).
(b) *Take the cards back to Lina where she will assign lot numbers to go on the cards*.
(c) Now place your auction plants on the auction bench with the card in front. *In the existing lot order on the hall tables*. The cards then will remain with the plant throughout the auction until it gets to the auctioneer.
(d) it can seriously help to sell if you provide a picture with a plant that is not in flower.
- C. **Reserve prices** - You may set a *reserve price* on any **LOT**. If you do, *in addition to it being written on the benching card we ask that you also clearly & visibly label the plant separately with the reserve price*. When the potential buyers are checking out the plants and deciding bids, it helps them be ready and decided before the sale.
- D. **Reserve Price Tags** - *In past years we have used yellow tags/price stickers to make the reserves obvious*. It doesn't matter what you use but please make sure bidders & auctioneers know what you are asking for the lot.
- E. **Presentation** – In real estate the mantra is location, location, location *but in selling plants it is 'appearance', 'appearance', and 'information'*. Clean up your plant and show it at its best. If it looks messy and poor, you will get half what it might be worth. And if it isn't in flower, *put a picture on it. Show the buyer what it is*.
- F. **Plants must be Clean and Free of Disease** - Lots are inspected when they are booked in. We reserve the right to reject plants suspected to be suffering from pests or diseases, or not well established, or not in good condition.
- G. **The Money** - The society takes a **15% commission** on the selling price on all sales.

PAYMENT - Buyers must pay with CASH before they go home. There is no credit card facility. Please bring cash in appropriate size notes. Don't expect the society to have change for large notes if you spend just \$10.

Sellers are paid the following month due to the workload on those running the paperwork during the auction.

5. Outreach Event: Lina, Adrian & Jenny ran another outreach event in July entitled 'Learn how to grow an Australian native orchid.' Dora very kindly brought in a display plant, a beautiful specimen of Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory which, true to its name, was blooming gloriously! Attendance was less than we had for our previous event as that had been advertised under the umbrella of Ku-ring-gai Council's Seniors Festival. However, we were able to take advantage of the smaller group to trial an interactive, hands-on format. Adrian led the session and started things off by dividing & repotting a specimen Kingianum, he provided culture tips and answered questions throughout. The attendees were then invited to repot a division of their own to take home. We hadn't advertised this aspect of the session and everyone was very enthusiastic to get stuck in and have a go.



The hands-on activity prompted many more questions and we were all kept busy. All materials for the hands-on session were provided by the society free of charge and our lovely demo specimen was selected from some of the plants very generously donated by an ex-KOS member Terence Donnelly earlier this year. Those of you who were members in the early 1990's may remember Terence. His-daughter contacted us in the hope of finding new homes for Terence's much-loved plants as he is no longer able to maintain his collection.

The participants all seemed very pleased with their new plants so I'm sure Terence's kind donation may have helped spark some new orchid enthusiasts and will continue to give pleasure to their new owners - thanks so much Terence.

We took the opportunity to advertise the St Ives Orchid Fair which some participants had not heard of before so hopefully they will visit the show. In line with our objectives to stimulate interest in orchids and our society, we are running another outreach event on 16th September in conjunction with Ku-ring-gai Council's 'Eco Festival'. We expect a larger group for this event as it will benefit from the advertising gained via linking with the council's festival. We are planning to do another hand-on session so were very pleased to have had the chance to try this format with a smaller group first. - Jenny

6. The St Ives Orchid Fair has come & gone for another year & what a show it was! We had glorious weather for our set up day & the first day of the fair which was a good thing for the long line of eager customers winding their

way down the path on Friday morning. There was a slight drizzle on & off during the weekend but nothing too bad & thankfully NO ferocious winds. The seasoned regulars who sell entry tickets know to multi-layer their thermals just in case & whilst one or two made use of the heated blankets so thoughtfully provided by the Bromley's, no one was reduced to the shivers this year.

The transformation of the display hall on set up day from a drab, grey, uninviting empty shell of a shed into a fragrant, wonderous explosion of colour & beauty was enchanting as always. Anthony's photo below shows our lovely display



Lina, our artistic Queen of the display, spun her magic again to produce a stunning creation from the plants so generously brought in by our members. Lina was very ably assisted by a team who helped manoeuvre the orchids under her expert guidance - with particular thanks to those who provided extra muscle power at the beginning for the heavy Cymbids. It's a team effort, from everyone who stores and brought in; equipment, finishing items, orchids, greenery, tillandsia, those who put our handmade 'pot socks' on every pot, those who wrote out our elegant plant labels and assisted with clarifying classes & stayed till close to assist the judges with any questions. A tremendous effort from all – THANK YOU! The KOS display came third, 5.35 points behind the winner & 1.41 points behind second place. The real winners were, as always, the visitors who get to enjoy all the gorgeous, painstakingly put together displays from all societies and individual exhibitors. Like everything to do with the show, each part together makes the whole & is key to the ongoing success of the fair. Special mention to Geoff Le Marne who was awarded Reserve Grand Champion, Champion standard Cym. & an FCC for his stunning Cym. Regal Fury 'Saturn' *photo on left*. Prizes were also awarded to Jon Hestelow, Lina Huang, Trevor & Pauline Onslow & Adrian Zderic. Congratulations to all winners including Gowen Stewart who won a number of prizes for plants in her beautifully artistic table top display. Below is a selection of Lina's photos of some of the awarded plants from the KOS & other displays.



Cym. Flaming Pepper 'Kirrawee'
J Hestelow 2nd



Cym. Marilyn Thomas x Gwen Thomas
G Le Marne 1st



Cym. Coraki Glowing 'Katlyn'
J Hestelow 2nd



Cym. Kimberley Valley 'Green Sensation'
G Le Marne 1st



Cym. parishii var. sanderai
A Zderic 2nd



Phal. Yaphron Pink Lady x Jigho's Pink Girl x mannii
A Zderic 2nd



Phal. OX Red Sesame
A Zderic 1st



Phal. Ox Sesame
A Zderic 2nd



Phal. Allura Delight
A Zderic Champion



Dendrochilum wenzelii
L Huang 1st



Dcd. tenellum
L Huang 2nd

Over 3090 visitors passed through the doors which was a couple of hundred shy of our best ever attendance. We don't have a record of the *exact* number of attendees as we were impacted by the global Mastercard outage on Saturday afternoon that was triggered by 'a routine, scheduled system update' *hmm how many times have we*

heard that as the cause of something that creates widescale mayhem. Special thanks must go to all the volunteers who were manning the EFT machines when this outage hit for their (outwardly) calm response, for the polite and friendly manner in which they managed customers & also to the couple of non-scheduled KOS members who happened to be in the vicinity when it became evident we needed a little extra help, who chipped in to take customers to alternate machines to try to process payments. Also, to the SIOF committee members who hit the phones to try to find out what was going on & made the various decisions to allow things to continue as smoothly as possible. That's what it's all about, everyone pitching in without question when something unexpected happens so it can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Thank the heavens it was only for a couple of hours in the late afternoon when things were slowing down naturally I shudder to think of the chaos that would have ensued if it had happened on Friday morning, it does not bear thinking about!

Another special mention goes to all those who worked on the raffle desk. I don't know the stats, but I think we were fairly close to the overall record takings after just the first day & the high sales continued throughout – well done all! As always, huge thanks go to those who stayed till the bitter end to ensure everything on site was packed up – a mammoth effort when everyone's energy levels have dipped well into the red.

Heartfelt thanks go to each and every person who contributed in any way to the success of the show from KOS & our three sister societies who manage the show; those who helped with our display, sold plants, those who fed the judges & made sure the kitchen remained fully stocked throughout the weekend, all who volunteered particularly those who were amenable if assigned roles had to be changed, those not on the lists who helped anyway when needed, the SIOF committee who fill gaps when folk are late or don't turn up (life happens) & plan throughout the year to ensure everything runs smoothly, the wonderful vendors & the judges who have the difficult task of selecting all the winners. To Lesley, maker of the fruit cakes, happy tummy thanks from all the volunteers and particularly from the Vendors who are always so very grateful for the slices of yumminess throughout the entire fair, but particularly on Fri & Sat morning when they are run off their feet & can't leave their stalls – a much-required sugar hit that keeps everyone in a happy mood.

SIOF truly is a collaborative effort from all four societies & all individuals involved in any capacity, the show would most certainly not be the success it is without all the moving parts working together, so THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone. It was another wonderful, fun show.

Like anyone who has been bitten by the orchid bug I have no space for any more plants who am I kidding, there is ALWAYS room to be found. I brought home ## new orchid babies who are currently acclimatising before settling into their new living quarters, somewhere amongst their many, many friends, all are welcome. I always find a way & I'm very, happy with my beautiful purchases. Hopefully you all are too, the joy of growing our orchids to produce their beautiful blooms is what hooks us.

For those of you who didn't make it to the show, I hope you can make it next year but, in the meantime, click on the link below & enjoy a virtual tour of the amazing 2026 display hall. The video opens on our KOS display with the super cute, smiley face pot with the elegant Dendrochillum hair-do – what a friendly way to welcome visitors into the display & set the mood <https://youtu.be/mzImKs1Wp9U>

6. A new Bulletin Editor? – We still have no volunteers to take over. Jim must stop after November but is ready to hand over as soon as we have a replacement. Any support you may need is available to back you up, work with you, and provide the tools. Jim has offered to supply articles from time to time if wanted.

7. Sad News – only older members will know her but this week I heard that Edith Price passed away after a short illness. Edith was still producing the local society newsletter to the end. Our thoughts are with her son and daughter.

8. Show Season– Lots of single society orchid shows all over Sydney at this time of year but the next big combined show is **Orchids Central** as advertised below. Great opportunities to fill your greenhouses with new treasures.

Further information on Cym Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts' and the Regal Fury's



In last month's bulletin I wrote about there possibly being two different "Queen of Hearts". I was wrong.

Geoff LeMarne has provided more background and explanation. A huge thank you to Geoff who tells us :

"Jim Brydie wrote a section in

the August newsletter about Cym. Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts' and Regal Fury 'Jupiter'.

In answer to the question is there were 2 different varieties of Queen of Hearts the answer is no. I gave divisions of

the original plant to both David Wain and Colin Gillespie in Victoria, and both did well. The reason the flowers look so different is purely due to climatic conditions. My Queen of Hearts varies in depth of colour and shape from year to year. Generally the colder the winter the slower the maturation of the inflorescence and the better the shape. Also the colder the year the deeper the red (anthocyanin) in the flowers. Obviously Melbourne is a bitterly cold place Interestingly I read on FB a reputable Dendrobium speciosum grower who finds increasing his shade in winter helps slow the inflorescence development and gives better quality flowers on them too.

With regard to the Regal Fury cross, it was the second cross I made with Regal Flames 'Queen of Hearts' and I shared the pod/flasks with Gordon Giles/Keith Wallace Pty Ltd. this cross produced Regal Fury 'Venus' a plum red even darker than Queen of Hearts which subsequently won seedling of the year at the Cymbidium Club of Australia. I subsequently remade the cross and from the remake have flowered 'Jupiter' which received an Award of Merit in 2026, and 'Saturn' which received a First Class Certificate in 2026.

Geoff Le Marne

Coming Events 2026

Th, Fri, Sat 10-12 Sept - North Shore Orchid Society Spring Show, St Ives Shopping Centre

Th, Fri, Sat 10-12 Sept - Eastwood & District Orchid Society show, Eastwood Shopping Centre 152-160 Rowe St Eastwood

Fri-Sun 18,19,20 Sept - MWOS, Spring Show Dee Why Grand Shopping Centre – **Note new venue**

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



Sat, Sun 19,20 Sept – Plant Lovers Fair – Kariong High School, 10 Festival Drive, Kariong, Central Coast NSW - <https://www.plantloversfair.com.au/>

Sat 10 Oct - Orchid Species Soc N.S.W - AUCTION & SHOW, W. Pennant Hills Community Church 41-43 Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills – from 9.30 am.

Sun 8 Nov – MWOS Spring Auction, Cromer Community Centre

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

Best of the Evening Novice : Paph. Gigi Magic Mood - grown by *Ethan Payne*

Well done Ethan. Your orchid looked healthy and happy and presented itself perfectly.

Paph Gigi is an older hybrid, registered in 1958 by its breeder Hugo Freed in California in the USA. Hugo was mainly famous for developing Phalaenopsis hybrids but also did experimental breeding among Paphs, Cattas, Vanda, and several other genera.

Among Phally's he did a lot of work developing the huge whites and whites with red lips which are the core of many of the champions we see today.

Paph Gigi is a complex mix of at least 8 species, probably dominated by Paph's - villosum, boxallii, spicerianum, and insigne plus 4 other species in smaller proportions. The curious factor is that 25% of its genetic background is listed as 'unknown'. Apparently when registration was in its early stages, some breeders got away with registering a new hybrid as some or both parents. For example, in Gigi's older background parentage there is a hybrid called Bronzino from 1912 which is registered as unknown x unknown. There are no pictures although it is noted as one of the forebearers of the shorter, more dwarf plants but still with large flowers. No-one now can know what it actually looked like to work out its likely parentage, but remember that in these early days they hadn't yet invented sterile flask culture and seed was often sown at the base of the mother plant to raise just a few seedlings. My guess is that quite a few early breeders used popular but un-named parent plants in their own attempts at breeding and many of the parents would not be even be known by registered names.



So for example, if one of your seedlings happens to be something rather special for your time and you still want to register a name, you end up with parentage of unknown by unknown. Well that's my guess anyway.

Gen.	Genus	Name	Nds	Share	Awds	Offs.	Flwrs.	N.Spr.
5	Paph	villosum	8	21.1%	141	97	1.0	10.2
5	Paph	boxallii	5	14.1%	141	148	1.0	10.2
5	Paph	spicerianum	6	13.3%	123	213	1.1	7.5
5	Paph	insigne	6	10.9%	79	321	1.0	9.0
5	Paph	bellatulum	1	3.1%	253	378	1.2	7.2
5	Paph	charlesworthii	1	3.1%	174	319	1.1	7.6
5	Paph	druryi	1	3.1%	22	100	1.0	6.0
5	Paph	exul	1	3.1%	5	56	1.2	6.0
5	Paph	fairieanum	1	3.1%	216	411	1.1	6.2

But getting back to Gigi, the 9 known species in its background are listed in the Orchidwiz genealogy table at the left. The tenth line not shown here is the "25% unknown parentage", but even without the unknowns, the mixture of these 9 is enormous in different forms and colour.

If we just look at the top 4 species contributors above, they are all quite similar in many ways.



villosum



boxallii



spicerianum



insigne

What used to be called boxallii is now regarded as a varietal synonym of villosum. Sort of a villosum where the dark splash up the dorsal, and sometimes even the petals, has become broken up into spotting instead of a solid splash. But, the colour variation within other villosums also displays breaking up of colour into spotting. I would assume that is why they eventually decided boxallii is not sufficiently different to a separate species.

All in all, Gigi and the 4 above are quite similar in form, even if overall it looks more like the villosum above.

Anyway, there are at least 8 generations of hybrids behind Gigi so it is probably just best to say that it is an attractive, well growing orchid. And furthermore, it is going to look really nice when Ethan gets it up to have a few more flowers in the pot. Keep it up Ethan - well done. I look forward to seeing more benchings from you as you go along.

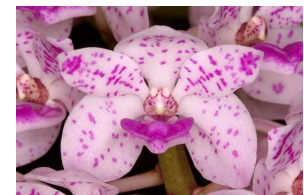
Best of The Evening Species : *Dendrochilum Rhynchostylis gigantea* - grown by **Dora Law**



I greatly admire this species. It is a big, thick thing, hardly dainty or elegant, but the dense flower heads are very impressive.

It is a tropical epiphyte from wide areas of SE Asia including Myanmar, Thailand, Malaya, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Borneo, and Indonesia. IOSPE tells us it occurs in semi-deciduous and deciduous dry lowland forests and savanna-like woodlands at elevations from 0–700m.

The original species were nearly all white flowers with speckled amethyst to magenta spots and blotches something like the inset picture at the right. But where there is white and red there must also have been the occasional full red and full white individuals as well and these have been found. However, as is the way of mankind, we have focused on what we see as desirable, such as the pure, deep magenta forms like Dora's, and 'improved' on it through selective breeding. The



magenta, and the dark magenta and white forms are now quite readily available in nurseries.

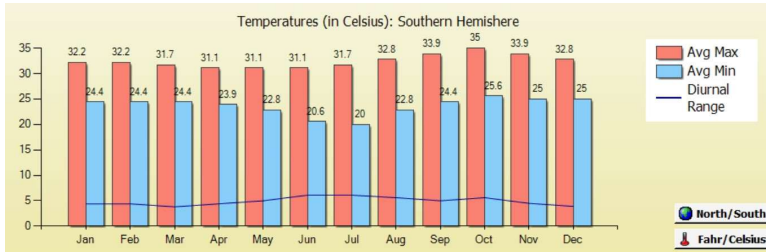
Rhynchostylis gigantea are quite large plants. Being of the *Vanda* family they are monopodial so grow upward from a single stem and can get to 60cm x 60cm bearing huge, thick, fleshy, leathery leaves from 5 to 7cm wide. Mature single growth plants may produce 3 or 4 flower stems, each with 50 or more flowers, each flower 3 – 4 cm diameter.

Older plants eventually produce side offsets near the base creating a very large multiple stem plants. Orchidwiz describes a large such specimen in Bangkok reported to carry 30 flower spikes.

All parts of the plant are thick and fleshy, including the roots suggesting that these come from a relative dryish environment and this is supported by the information from IOSPE and Orchidwiz.

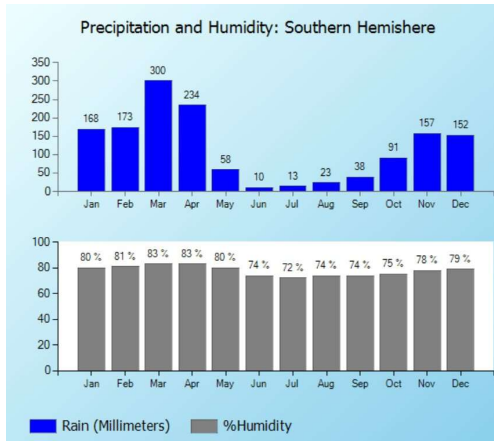
I am not a grower of this species so can-not offer personal experience information on its culture, but just as an

exercise, I will give an analysis from the data in Orchidwiz which may provide a suggested cultivation routine.



For starters, Orchidwiz provides the following **annual temperature chart** generally applicable to *gigantea*'s climate. This shows daily temperatures between 31 and 35°C, and minimums of 20 - 25°C. I interpret this to say that this is not an orchid to test in your Sydney backyard over winter. It is a warm grower.

Next, the second chart below shows average humidity and rainfall across the annual seasonal cycle for these areas. You may have noticed that on both charts it says 'Southern Hemisphere'. That is not because *Rhynchostylis gigantea* grows in the southern hemisphere but because in Orchidwiz I selected for the chart to be displayed in terms of southern hemisphere seasonal cycles see - north/south 'button' on the chart.



Obviously, when it is winter in New York (northern hemisphere), it is summer in Sydney (southern hemisphere) so when I want to understand the seasonal environmental statistics for a northern hemisphere orchid, I prefer to see seasonal changes displayed in terms relevant to my own home base seasons.

In regard to humidity, for *Rhynchostylis gigantea* there is practically no seasonal change at all. They experience between 72% and 83% RH all year round. For an orchid grower that is not too difficult to maintain in a closed environment like a glasshouse or even enclosed shade house but outdoor natural humidity in Sydney is way too dry much of the time.

However, **the rainfall charts** provided by the Bakers in Orchidwiz show a very significant seasonal pattern.

They show an annual cycle of 6 strong wet months Nov. through April, with rainfall of 150 - 300mm and half that in a 'shoulder' month either side, and then quite 4 dry months of only 20 - 40mm rain (Sydney's winter). In nature these orchids would still have high humidity during this period, an perhaps mist or dew, but the reality would be that the species would likely experience a strong dryish rest.

To offer **a couple of comparisons** - **Singapore** experiences a minimum monthly rainfall of 150 - 180 mm for 9 months, but even more rain in the other 3. Here in **Sydney** we experience something like 100 -130 mm rain for 7 months Jan through July, and only a little less (70 to 80) the other 5 months.

Interpreting all that, for most of the year (8 months) *Rhy. gigantea* would be getting regular and quite heavy rain but would experience a sharp and genuine dry spell for the other 4 months.

To grow it in Sydney, it needs warmth all year. During its expected wet season from around maybe our mid-October through April (expressed in Australian seasons) it wants regular water and fertiliser. But the water and fertiliser need to be eased off sharply as autumn wanes. It should be kept in a holding water pattern until flowering again late winter early spring at the beginning of the next growth cycle.

Congratulations Dora. The colour on your *gigantea* was stunning. I took the benching pictures this month with my little iPhone and it was hard to capture colour, especially magenta. My apologies if I didn't get it right.



Ever wondered about the future of those wonky wheels ones



wildlife learns fast

Flowers from August (from our meeting, except one) but one from a tabletop display at St Ives



Ctt. The Glenridge Gardeners
L. Dabbs



RLC Golf Green Hair Pig
H. Wong



Rth Roy's Magic 'Nicole'
F. Gorginian



Den. Mondrook (H. Wong)
(Tie-Dye genesis x speciosum 'Daylight Moon')



Jackfowliara Kingfisher Blossom
L. Dabbs



Coel. Jannine Banks
H. Wong



Paph Magic ORO 'Grant'
T. Miller



Den. Rubbie Heart x atroviolaceum
Dora Law



Zygo. Titanic'
H. Wong



Coel. Linda Buckley
Fred Gorginian



Phal. Fuller's Cheese
A. Zderic



Phal equestris
Christine Rethers



Dendrochilum wenzellii
Lina Huang



Paph Fanaticum
delicious JR pic from St Ives

BOE Hybrid – Cattleya Trick or Treat - grown by *Fred Gorginian*



This cross was first made and registered in 1973 but I am sure it has been remade many times since because it has been a very popular orchid. There are at least 28 different cultivars that have been awarded.

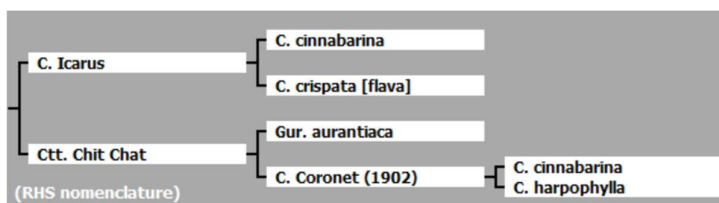
The first cross was made by Fred Stewarts Orchids in California and was a hit as soon as it flowered. It is not your classic big round Cattleya type but the big clusters of bright orange flowers attract everyone who sees them.

The parentage is quite simple, involving 3 species from what used to be called the rupicolous Laelias.

Rupicolous meaning lives or growing on or among rocks. But that group have now been reclassified as Cattleyas. The 3 species from that group were Catt. flava (now known as Catt. crispata), Catt. cinnabarina, and Catt. harpophylla.



The only 'non rupicolous' species involved, as you can see from the breeding background chart below from Orchidwiz, is Guarianthe aurantiaca which was previously known as Cattleya aurantiaca until about 2003. It is aurantiaca that gives Trick or Treat the potential for high flower counts and a slightly less exaggerated lip tip.



Pictures of each of the 4 species are shown below.



Catt cinnabarina



Catt. harpophylla



Catt. crispata (syn L. flava)



Guar. aurantiaca

Congratulations on another BOE Fred. You are bringing in delightful orchids these days. Thanks for sharing with us and thank you also for a great culture class last month.

A Tale of flowering my Phalaenopsis

Jim Brydie

Is it true that to flower a Phalaenopsis you need to expose it to a drop in temperature? The answer is absolutely yes and I would love to tell you of a recent experience that supports the principle.

It is no secret that I have been growing Phallies as indoor plants for a little while now. Both to protect them from all the crawlers and chompers in the glasshouse but also because having them on the old household dining room table puts them right in my face and makes me pay more attention. This way they get fed and watered more appropriately and they get the benefit of our use of the air-conditioning to protect them for winter cold.



However, apart from the fact they barely get the needed light to grow well, another practical negative they face is that with my air con going to suit me, unless I force it on them deliberately, they don't experience the required drop in overnight temperature to trigger flowering. Some of my indoor phallies did still flower but I would have to admit I wasn't getting the flowers I should have been getting.

So, this year in autumn, as the day temperatures began to drop, I moved every phalaenopsis off the dining room table and put them on a big family table out in a screened off summer room attached to, but outside the house. That room has a metal roof with a couple of polycarbonate skylight panels to make it relatively bright, and all the walls are flyscreen mesh between aluminium framework rails.

In the house Phallies are managed on large 40cm trays with about 4 plants on each, so it wasn't too hard to ferry them from one place to another. Anyway, once moved they were subjected to normal outside day/night temperatures during

their stay out there. The screened room was slightly less bright than their previous spot in front of the window but day temperatures were mid 20's (C), nights more usually around 14-15C.

I left the Phallies out there for around 10 days. I had planned on a full two weeks and I can't remember why I retrieved them early. I think it was linked to some other lifestyle obligation we had, but whatever it was, that was all I could spare.

And was it enough? After they went back on the dining room table I watched carefully to see if any flower spikes began to emerge and within a couple more weeks I saw first one, then another and another until I had 9 Phallies beginning to develop flower spikes and on one special plant, my old specimen of *Phalaenopsis philippinense* I counted 6 separate spikes. My experiment had worked, and with renewed enthusiasm I took on repotting and cleaning up the few that had been a little too weak to flower.

So there is your answer. Although the expert books tell you that they need exposure to a day night drop of 5-8 C for 2 to 3 weeks to trigger spike initiation, you can probably succeed with even less provided the orchid is healthy and otherwise doing ok when you give it the trigger. If they fail to flower it is probably worth tipping it out of the pot to inspect the health of the root system and medium.



And what happened to that 6 spiked Phal philippinense?



It probably isn't really up to top grower standard but it is the best I have ever flowered it. The spikes branch freely and the biggest had 4 flowering branches but one rear spike had none. Some branches haven't yet flowered but the plant carried 40+ 5cm flowers on meeting night.

Orchidwiz tells me that the spikes can be 600 to 1200 mm long and carry up to 30 blooms and although mine wasn't quite that impressive, I was sure impressed.

Phal philippinense obviously comes from the Philippine islands and the Baker's tell me it occurs in shady rainforests on Luzon, up to 1200 m elevation, usually near streams.

The rear of the flower segments on my plant have a cute pink tinge but you can't see it face on as in this picture. I believe that in some cultivars the pink is more dominant and the whole flower can appear pale pink but the most common forms are just white. I look forward to seeing if I can do even better next year.

Apologies to all of Irish extraction

Paddy O'Toole the strongest man in Ireland was making his way home from the pub. As he passed the peat bog he heard a voice: "Help! Please Help!"

On investigation he finds a man stuck in the peat with just his head and shoulders sticking out.

"No problem lad", says Paddy, "I'm Paddy O'Toole the strongest man in Ireland and I will pull you out!"

So Paddy gets hold and starts pulling but despite his concerted efforts the man remains stuck. "I'll try again," says Paddy. But after a couple more minutes of heaving and pulling he gives up.

"It's no use! he say. I'm the strongest man in Ireland, and If I can't get you out alone nobody can. I will just have to nip back to the village and get a team to help."

As Paddy turns to leave the man shouts to him. "Paddy! Just before you go, when you were pulling I could feel some movement right down at my feet. Do you think it would help if I took my feet out of the stirrups?"

Paddy finds a sandwich with two wires stickin out of it. He phones the police and says "Bejasus I've just found a sandwich dat looks like a bomb."

The operator asks, "Is it tickin? Paddy says "No, oi tink it's beef"

A coach load of paddies on a mystery tour decided to run a sweepstake to guess where they were going
The driver won £52!