
ISSUE 649 March 2025

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**NEXT MEMBER'S
MEETING**
27th March 2025 at the
Cromer Community
Centre @ 8pm
(benching from 7:30).

**NEXT COMMITTEE
MEETING – Thursday
3rd April 2025. Venue
to be confirmed.**

Email address for
problems and cultural
advice OR to submit a
photo/description for
The In-Betweeners:
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MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.orchidsociety.com.au

President's Report

Once again, our last meeting was well attended with plenty of nice plants benched. The discussion centred around a number of topics with plenty of interaction from the members. Guy also did some self-pollination of a rare *Vanda mariae* and I'm happy to say that this seems to have succeeded (see picture in Cary's Ramble). We have had a very strong response from members wanting to put plants in the auction. Most of you heeded my plea to make thoughtful selections and set sensible reserves. We had over 530 entries lodged and due to the high quality, we had a lot of trouble trying to get down to a manageable number. As it was, we still finished up with more than 450 lots. This month we are indeed fortunate to have David Hemmings as our guest speaker. David has a well-deserved reputation for his culture and is widely regarded as one of the best growers around. He will be talking about how he treats his collection, and you will clearly see why his plants are so good. It will certainly provide you with food for thought as to how you deal with your own plants. This presentation is not to be missed. See you there.

Coming This Month

Supper Volunteers for 27th March:

Nancy Macri and Bryanne Whitaker



We still need a volunteer for May, and July through Nov. Remember, you can bring something store bought or homemade, savory or sweet. The choices are endless! Please let Tinka know if interested.

27th March Guest Speaker:

David Hemming

On optimising growth for Australian native orchids in mesh posts and mounts.

This will include a cultural demonstration.



FEBRUARY 2025 BENCHING POINT SCORE

Total plants benched:130

OPEN DIVISION

1. Sarcophilus Hybrid	0 Plants	
2. Australian Native Hybrid	0 Plants	
3. Australasian	1 Plant	
1. <i>Den.</i> Post Printing x <i>Den.</i> Gerald McCraith	R.G. Blaxland	
4. Dockrillia Hybrid	2 Plants	
1. <i>D.</i> Anthonedon Magic	R.G. Blaxland	
2. <i>Den./Doc.</i> Unknown	R.G. Blaxland	
5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm	1 Plant	
1. Rlc. California Girl 'Orchid Library' x Burdekin Delight 'Dreamtime'	G&A Cushway	
6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm	3 Plants	
1. <i>Bc.</i> Island Charm 'Carmela'	G&A Cushway	
2. <i>C. fitz</i> 'Eugene Dixon'	G&A Cushway	
3. <i>Rlc.</i> Hsingying Aloka 'C.H. Super'	G&A Cushway	
7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelty)	3 Plants	
1. <i>C.</i> Chocolate Drop x ?	F.&M. Lee	
2. <i>C. fitz</i> 'Eugene Dixon'	G&A Cushway	
3. <i>Pcv.</i> Golden Peacock	F.&M. Lee	
7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type Hybrid)	5 Plants	
1. <i>Pot.</i> Lisa Taylor Gallis 'nora'	G&A Cushway	
2. <i>C.</i> Man's Love 'Taka'	C. Polis	
3. <i>C.</i> amethystagota x schrodea	F.&M. Lee	
8. Laeliinae Miniature	2 Plants	
1. <i>Blc.</i> Island Charm x Sc Cherry Bee	G&A Cushway	
2. <i>Rlc.</i> California Queen 'Red Angel'	R.G. Blaxland	
8A. Laeliinae Epidendrum	3 Plants	
1. <i>Epi.</i> Pacific Queen	C. Polis	
2. <i>Epi.</i> (Eagle Valley x Sun Valley)	C. Polis	
3. <i>Enc.</i> Green Hornet 'Buttons'	R.G. Blaxland	
9. Cymbidium Standard	0 Plants	
10. Cymbidium Intermediate	0 Plants	
11. Cymbidium Miniature	0 Plants	
12. Dendrobium	1 Plant	
1. <i>D.</i> Mackeyii x <i>D.</i> Victoria Reginae	R.G. Blaxland	
13. Oncidiinae 30mm and less	0 Plants	
14. Oncidiiae 30mm - 60mm	1 Plant	
1. <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Up Country Puna 'Keaau Star' AOM/AOS	G&A Cushway	
15. Oncidiiae 60mm and above	3 Plants	
1. <i>Brassia</i> Rex	R. Matthews	
2. <i>Milt.</i> Honolulu	N. Macri	
3. <i>Onc.</i> Unknown	T. Riddell	
16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition	0 Plants	
17A. Paphiopedilum Novelty	0 Plants	
17. Cyripedioideae (Paphs and Prags)	3 Plants	
1. <i>Paph</i> Fumi's Delight x Delenatii	I. Luke	
2. Phragmipedium 'pink panther'	M. Asbury	
3. Phrag. Hanne Popow	I. Luke	
18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition	2 Plants	
1. <i>Phal.</i> unknown	C. Polis	
2. <i>Phal.</i> unknown	N. Macri	
19. Phalaenopsis Novelty	1 Plant	
1. <i>Phal.</i> unknown	R. Matthews	
19A. Phalaenopsis Miniature	2 Plants	
1. <i>Phal.</i> Spica	C. Polis	
2. <i>Phal.</i> Eiderstedt	C. Polis	
20. Vandaceous >51mm	0 Plants	
21. Vandaceous/Ascocendas	5 Plants	
1. <i>Vandachostylis</i> Tropic Coelestis	C. Polis	
2. <i>Vandachostylis</i> Tropic Coelestis	C. Polis	
3. <i>Neostylis</i> Lou Sneary 'Tokyo'	I. Luke	
22. Other Orchid Hybrid	4 Plants	
1. <i>Coel.</i> Bird in Flight	C. Polis	
2. <i>Coel.</i> Jannine Banks 'Lynwood'	R.G. Blaxland	
3. <i>Coel.</i> Bird in Flight	C. Polis	
SPECIES		
38. Sarcophilus Species	1 Plant	
1. <i>Sarc.</i> <i>eriochilus</i>	G. Cantor	
39. Australasian Epiphyte Species	7 Plants	
1. <i>Phal.</i> <i>rosenstromii</i>	C. Polis	
2. <i>Bulb.</i> <i>exiguum</i>	M. Asbury	
3. <i>Den.</i> <i>bigibum</i> 'Samantha'		<i>C. Polis</i>
40. Australasian Epiphyte Species	6 Plants	
1. <i>Den.</i> <i>bracteosum</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
2. <i>Den.</i> <i>bracteosum</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
3. <i>Den.</i> <i>subclausum</i> v. <i>Alpina</i>		G. Cantor
41. Dockrillia	0 Plants	
42. Australasian Terrestrial	0 Plants	
43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)	1 Plant	
1. <i>Cat.</i> <i>bowringiana</i> <i>coerulea</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
44. Laeliinae Alliancecexima	6 Plants	
1. <i>Enc.</i> <i>brassavolae</i>		G. Cantor
2. <i>Prosechea</i> <i>cochleate</i> 'Tinonee' x <i>cochleate</i> <i>alba</i>		
3. <i>Enc.</i> <i>radiata</i>		I. Tanner
45. Oncidiiae Alliance Species	5 Plants	
1. <i>Onc.</i> <i>lanceanum</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
2. <i>Miltonia</i> <i>candida</i> 'Big Choc'		<i>C. Polis</i>
3. <i>Miltonia</i> <i>candida</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
46. Maxillaria Species	3 Plants	
1. <i>Max.</i> <i>luteograndiflora</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
2. <i>Max.</i> <i>parkeri</i>		M. Roberts
3. <i>Max.</i> <i>schunkeana</i> 'Kingston'		T. Riddell
47. Other Species 'The Americas'	3 Plants	
1. <i>Stan.</i> <i>oculata</i>		M. Roberts
2. <i>Lycaste</i> <i>measuresiana</i>		P. McDonough
3. <i>Stan.</i> <i>graveolens</i>		I. Tanner
Species Rest of the World		
48. Dendrobium Species	3 Plants	
1. <i>Den.</i> <i>lowii</i>		R.G. Blaxland
2. <i>Den.</i> <i>arcuatuum</i>		G. Cantor
3. <i>Den.</i> <i>ellipsophyllum</i>		G. Cantor
49. Cyripedioideae (Paph and Prag) Species	0 Plants	
50. Phalaenopsis species	5 Plants	
1. <i>Phal.</i> <i>hieroglyphica</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
2. <i>Phal.</i> <i>celebensis</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
3. <i>Phal.</i> <i>cornu-cervi</i> 'Red'		<i>C. Polis</i>
51. Vandaceous Species	1 Plant	
1. <i>Vanda</i> <i>mariae</i> 'aurea'		<i>C. Polis</i>
52. Dendrochilum Species	8 Plants	
1. <i>Ddc.</i> <i>uncatum</i> v. <i>longispicatum</i>		P. McDonough
2. <i>Ddc.</i> <i>uncatum</i>		P. McDonough
3. <i>Ddc.</i> <i>latifolium</i> v. <i>macranthum</i>		G. Cantor
53. Coelogyne Species	4 Plants	
1. <i>Coel.</i> <i>ovalis</i>		M. Roberts
2. <i>Coel.</i> <i>speciosa</i>		R.G. Blaxland
3. <i>Coel.</i> <i>speciosa</i>		R.G. Blaxland
54. Other Species 'Asia & the Rest of World	6 Plants	
1. <i>Bulb.</i> <i>masterianum</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
2. <i>Bulb.</i> <i>makoyanum</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
3. <i>Neobenthamia</i> <i>gracilis</i>		R.G. Blaxland
55. Miniature-maximum height (excluding raceme) of 150mm (6 inches)	5 Plants	
1. <i>Den.</i> <i>hekouense</i>		M. Asbury
2. <i>Ornithophora</i> <i>radicans</i>		R. Matthews
3. <i>Bulbo.</i> <i>macphersonii</i>		L.&B. Dobson
56. First Flowering Seedling Species	1 Plant	
1. <i>Catt.</i> <i>lueddemanniana</i> <i>alba</i> 'Hsinying' x <i>self</i>		<i>C. Polis</i>
57. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid	0 Plants	
NOVICE		
23. Australasian Species	0 Plants	
24. Laeliinae	0 Plants	
25. Oncidiiae	1 Plant	
1. <i>Encyc.</i> <i>radiata</i>		E. Henwood
26. Any other Species of Americas	2 Plants	
1. <i>Stanhopea</i> <i>oculata</i>		K. Nelson
2. <i>Max.</i> <i>caespitifera</i>		G. Wasserman
27. Species Rest of the World	1 Plant	
1. <i>Prosthechea</i> <i>cochleata</i>		S. Kirk
28. Australasian Hybrids	1 Plant	
1. <i>Den.</i> <i>hibiki</i>		S. Kirk
29. Cymbidium Standard	0 Plants	
30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature	0 Plants	
31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid	0 Plants	
32. Dendrobium Hybrid	0 Plants	

Novices continued...

33. Laeliinae Hybrid

- 1. *Cat. Monte elegance* x *C. Caudebec* 'Carmela'
- 2. *Rhy. Stan's Golden Car*
- 3. *Epi. Coolangatta Gold*

3 Plants

- S. Kirk
- K. Nelson
- K. Nelson

34. Oncidiinae Allied Intergenerics Hybrid

- 1. *Miltoniopsis* Lilliar Nakamoto 'Tanto'
- 2. *Milt. Goodale Mior* x *Golden Wonder*
- 3. *Miltassia* Lavender Kiss 'Lavender Taffy'

11 Plants

- S. Kirk
- O.&J.Zandstra
- O.&J.Zandstra

35. Hybrid of Americas All Other

0 Plants

36. Other Orchid Hybrid

- 1. *Zygo.* 'Jumping Jack'
- 2. *Zygo.* unknown
- 3. *Zygo* unknown

4 Plants

- S. Kirk
- S. Kirk
- S. Kirk

Congratulations to all of the award winners for February 2025!

Photos by Bill Dobson, unless noted

Orchid info from Orchid.org, unless noted

Hybrid of the Evening:



***Brassocattleya*. Island Charm 'Carmela'**
grown (and photographed)
by Gloria and Allan Cushway

This hybrid originated by Orchid Center in 1987. It is a cross of *Rlc. Donna Kimura* x *C. intermedia*.

Novice of the Evening:



***Cat. Monte Elegance* x *C. Caudebec* 'Carmela'**
grown by Sophia Kirk

Sophia says she acquired this beauty from a friend who needed to downsize her own collection. Don't we all wish to have friends like that!?

Species of the Evening:



Maxillaria luteograndiflora
grown by Cary Polis

An orchid species identified by Dombrain in 1871, is naturally found in Colombia to NW. Venezuela, and NE. Brazil.

Specimen of the Evening:



***Miltonia* Warne's Best 'Honolulu'**
grown by Tinka Riddell

A warm growing Miltonia hybrid, registered in 1971. Sometimes having a sweet fragrance of black liquorice (inherited from the *milt. spectabalis* background). Large plants have been seen with up to 30+ spikes. This whooper of Tinka's is pretty close!



DIARY DATES 2025

- 27th March Members' Meeting
- 13th April AUCTION
- 24th April Members' Meeting
- 22nd May Members' Meeting
- 20-22 June- Winter Show
- 26th June Members' Meeting

Cary's Ramble

You may remember that Guy self-pollinated my plant of *Vanda mariae* var. *aurea* at the last meeting. Well, I'm happy to say that it has taken. The photo #1 on the right was taken a week after the pollination and it clearly demonstrates how quickly the ovary starts to swell if fertilisation is successful. Hopefully the pod will develop to fruition with no mishaps on the way. Time will tell.



Photo 1:
Vanda mariae var. *aurea*'s swollen ovary shows fertilisation.

Everyone has plants in their collection which urgently need attention but are deemed, either rightly or wrongly, to be a nightmare to deal with. These are the plants that are in the "too hard basket". Of course, the longer you put it off, the harder the task becomes, and there is a likelihood that it will be harder to get a satisfactory result. Well, my bugbear is a plant of *Sobralia macrantha* 'David Sanders'. This a very rare plant and also quite large. When I first got it a few years ago, I divided it and gave Guy a piece and I'm happy to say that his plant is flourishing. My piece went well for a while, but unfortunately it started to go backwards once stubborn weeds became infested in the pot. Anyway, I bit the bullet and got it out of the pot. The pot was a mass of thick roots which were so densely packed that they could not be unravelled. So I cut away a fair bit of material (with a pruning saw) and repotted it. *Sobralias* are notorious for not taking too kindly to being disturbed, so let's see if it survives or not. I'll keep you posted. (See photos 2-4 below)



Photos 2-4: *Sobralia macrantha* 'David Sanders', from weedy & root bound to newly potted pleasure!

The other plant that I've been dreading to do is a beautiful large specimen of *Coelogyne marmorata*. Not so much because it might be difficult, but more because it will turn into a lot of plants and bench space is always a problem. Unlike the *Sobralia*, this was relatively easy to do, the roots being relatively easy to unravel and the plant being easy to divide. The only potential issue might be a little bit of pseudo bulb shrinkage, as the plant draws on this resource after being cut. There will be no long-term deleterious effects from this. The photos 5-8 below demonstrate the stages of the operation. Enjoy your plants.



Photos 5-8:

**From one crowded
*Coelogyne marmorata***



**to 5 happy spacious ones,
ready for admiring or for
selling on!**



Got 1 hour to 1 day free on Sun. 13 April?
 Help is needed at the MWOS Auction from
 7:30am to late afternoon.
 Bring snacks or a lunch to keep the energy up!

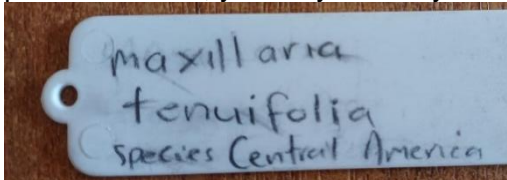
**NOTE: All plants for sale are to be set up by
 their growers on the designated tables NO
 later than 9am!**

Benching Basics by A Evans

You've finally gotten your new orchid to bloom and want to bench it (after having it at least 6 mths). You are unsure where to place it on the benching tables. Hopefully this article will help.

Part 1 focuses on what you need to prepare **BEFORE** leaving your house.

- 1) Be sure each pot has a tag in it with the plant's full name.
- 2) Determine if your orchid is a species (like a 'purebred', for you animal lovers) or a hybrid (cross between at least 2 species). (See red arrow in the photo on right, taken from Orchids.org) Hint: if the orchid's name has an "X" between 2 names, it's a hybrid. Some hybrids however may not have an "X" in its name and rather go by a common name, for example *Oncidium Sharry Baby*.
- 3) If you have received your orchid from a kind previous owner, you may be lucky that its tag may state its origin (ie native habitat). You can also find



this online. (See red circled area in photo above.) Although time (or the lack of) has a way of not always allowing the above to be done before leaving home, you can use the free wifi at the meeting to do so. Putting this info on your plant's tag or in a kept notebook, means you won't need to do all this prelim work before its future benchings! (See photo on left.)

Orchid Species: *Maxillaria tenuifolia*

(This name is currently accepted by Kew.)

Maxillaria tenuifolia is an orchid species identified by Lindl. in 1837.

Genus	Maxillaria (Max.)
Grex	tenuifolia (name currently accepted by Kew)
Parents	Species
Author	Lindl.
Year	1837

Add To My Plants
List for Sale or Trade
Write an Article

ORIGIN: Occurs in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica as a medium sized, cool to hot growing, solitary leaved epiphyte or occasional terrestrial with an ascending growth habit found on trees in open or dense forests at low elevations up to 1500 meters.

DESCRIPTION: The Coconut Orchid, named for it's scent, is a medium sized, cool to hot growing, solitary leaved epiphyte or occasional terrestrial with an ascending growth habit, with a rhizome that is completely enveloped by scarious, imbricating, nonfoliaceous bracts with oblong-elliptic to oblong-obovate, compressed pseudobulb with a single apical, linear, attenuate leaf that blooms on a 2 [5cm] long, single flowered inflorescence arising on a mature pseudobulb with scarious, basal bracts with the flower held at mid leaf height and occurs in spring and summer and then needs a semi-dry rest through the winter months, best mounted on tree fern.

FLOWER SIZE: 1 1/2 to 2 inches [3.9 to 5 cm] – Information provided by Jay Pfahl, author of the Internet Orchid Species Encyclopedia (IOSPE).

Now that your plant is properly tagged and you understand its name and origin, Part 2 is to help you determine on which table to place it. Generally, the tables on the right side of the hall are for hybrids, and those along the left wall are for species. The hybrid and species tables are an "Open" Division, anyone can enter, if they wish, regardless of how long they have been in the society. The tables in the back (closest to the supper goodies) are for the "novice" growers. This last section is to assist new growers to bench in a less competitive environment (based on usually a smaller number of plants brought, not a lower quality of plant) and to get familiar with interpreting plant names and class divisions.

Part 3 of this guide focuses on the different classes in the Novice Division. The Novice classes are divided three ways: 1) species vs hybrids, 2) the plant's origin and 3) the orchid type.

If a novice grower's plant is a species (see Part 1 above), it should be placed in a class # 23-27, according to its origin and plant type. If the plant is a hybrid, it belongs in a class #28 -36. See the table on the next page which provides some (but not all) of the orchid names found in each class. A laminated version of this guide is usually available on the Novice table to assist you. If you still are unsure where to put your plant after consulting this guide, PLEASE ask for assistance.

The last part is to fill out the orchid's class number and the plant's full name on a benching card, obtainable near the sales table on the right hand side. Don't forget your name on the back so that all your hard work can be rewarded with those well deserved benching points!

Novice Tables Benching Guide

SPECIES

ORIGIN	CLASS #	ORCHID TYPE	EXAMPLES (many others exist)
Australasian (Australian/NZ/So. Pacific Is)	23	various	<i>Den. kingianum</i> , <i>Den. speciosum</i> , <i>Cym madidim</i>
Americas (North, South & Central) <i>Tolumnia</i>	24 25	Laeliinae Oncidiiae	<i>Cattleya</i> , <i>Laelia</i> , <i>Epidendrum</i> , <i>Encyclia</i> , <i>Prostheche</i> <i>Oncidium</i> , <i>Brassia</i> , <i>Miltonia</i> , <i>Miltoniopsis</i> , <i>Odontoglossum</i>
	26	NOT #24 nor #25	<i>Maxillaria</i> , <i>Stanhopea</i> , <i>Lycaste</i> , <i>Pleurothallis</i>
Other Parts of the World	27	NOT #23-#26	<i>Cym.</i> , <i>Coelogyne</i> , <i>Den. Dendrochilum</i> , <i>Paph.</i> , <i>Bulbo.</i> , <i>Vanda</i> , <i>Phal.</i>

HYBRIDS

ORIGIN	CLASS #	ORCHID TYPE	EXAMPLES (many others exist)
Australasian Hybrids	28	hybrids of #23 above	<i>Den. Hibiki</i> (<i>Den. bracteosum</i> x <i>Den. laevifolium</i>)
(the following hybrids are common, so given their own number)			
<i>Cymbidium Hybrids-Standard</i>	29	<i>Larger Cym. cross>90mm</i>	<i>Cym. Toni Benton</i> (<i>Cym. erythraeum</i> x <i>Cym. iridioides</i>)
<i>Cymbidium Hybrids</i> (Intermediate&Miniature)	30	<i>Smaller Cym.cross<90mm</i>	<i>Cym. Kuranda</i> (<i>Cym. canaliculatum</i> x <i>Cym. madidum</i>) ,
<i>Paphiopedilum Hybrids</i>	31	<i>exhibition & novelty crosses</i>	<i>Paph. Funi's Delight</i> x <i>Paph. Delenatii</i>
Non-Australasian <i>Dendrobium Hybrids</i>	32	<i>other Den crosses not in #28</i>	<i>Den. Mackeyii</i> x <i>Den. Victoria Reginae</i>
Common Hybrids of the Americas			
<i>Laeliinea</i>	33	<i>all hybrid types of #24 above</i>	<i>Encyclia Green Hornet</i> 'Buttons'
<i>Oncidiiae Allied Genera</i> <i>Intergeneric Hybrids</i>	34	<i>all hybrid types of #25 above</i>	<i>Oncidium Sharry Baby</i>
<i>All Other American Hybrids</i>	35	<i>American hybrids except #33 & #34</i>	<i>Stanhopea Midas Touch</i>
All Other Orchid Hybrids	36	<i>hybrids of above classes #28- #35</i>	<i>Zygo.</i> 'Jumping Jack'