

**SEPTEMBER 2021
BULLETIN
Issue 837**

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The NORTH
SHORE



ORCHID
BULLETIN

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Next meeting is on Wednesday 1st September commencing at 8pm, at the Forestville Memorial Hall, 3 Starkey St, Forestville. Members may enter and bench plants from 7.00pm. Members must sign in either using

the Clubhouse at the Forestville Memorial Hall. Members are preparing the drinks. Members must sign in either using the Clubhouse at the Forestville Memorial Hall. Members are preparing the drinks. Members must sign in either using the Clubhouse at the Forestville Memorial Hall. Members are preparing the drinks.

**Meetings cancelled
until further notice &
our Spring Show
is also cancelled**

As spring approaches our native orchids are budding up with some already in flower, below are a few that are already flowering in our bush-house. Please keep your photos coming so that they can go into the bulletin.



Prizes and Plant sales from the Winter Show at St Ives Shopping Village

Due to the cancellation of our next few meetings, the prize winners from the June show will receive their prize cards, sashes & prize money and also their plant sales money at our next meeting. If any members wish to receive either their prize money or sales now they can do so by electronic transfer. If you wish to get it this way please email the Treasurer with your name, BSB No. and your Account No. and state either prize money plant sales or both and he will transfer the money into your account.

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Exciting new find in Lamington National Park, Qld.

Fungi fossicker Meredith Philistin discovers 'highly significant' orchid species in Gold Coast hinterland

As reported in the [ABC Gold Coast](#) By Nicole Dyer, Caitlyn Sheehan and Tom Forbes

A fungi enthusiast has helped identify a new species of orchid during a hike in the Gold Coast hinterland.



A new orchid belonging to the greenhoods group has been found in Lamington National Park.

An expert says it could take between six months and a couple of years to formally name the orchid, and orchid enthusiast, Joanne Lau hopes it will be given an Indigenous name.

Meredith Philistin took a photo of the unusual plant and sent it to her friend, Joanne Lau, who is an orchid enthusiast. Ms Lau wasted no time in researching the plant.

"By the time Meredith had finished her 20-kilometre walk I had contacted taxonomist Dr Lachlan Copeland," Ms Lau said.

"He said it didn't look like any orchid you would traditionally find in Lamington National Park."

The next day Ms Lau walked 10 kilometres to the undisclosed area in the national park and searched for two hours to find the orchid. "It really was like trying to find a needle in a haystack," she said.

"The stem is only 180-millimetres high and the flower is no bigger than your smallest fingernail."

"Dr Copeland said it was definitely smaller than anything else that is up there."

Next, Ms Lau got permission from the Queensland Herbarium to collect orchid samples and instructions from Dr Copeland on how to do it. "We had to get a wet paper towel and a plastic ziplock bag which you blew into in order to provide high levels of carbon dioxide to preserve the orchid," Ms Lau said.

Dr Copeland examined the orchid's size, counted its flowers, and examined its fruits, stems and the location it was found in.

While further testing is needed, Dr Copeland confirmed the hinterland orchid is an undiscovered species.

"In my book as a botanist, it's every bit as significant as finding a new animal," he said.

"Small plants, like tiny little orchids, are hard to spot and less known, but it's highly significant."

It's quite a highly distinctive species, which is totally unknown to science until a few months ago.

The botanist, from Coffs Harbour, said only a few new orchid species were discovered in Australia each year.

It's a tiny little thing, Dr Copeland said.

"It's in a group of greenhoods (*Pterostylis*), which are quite small to start with, but it's possibly the smallest greenhood in that group. Ground orchids like that are long-lived perennials so it'll put up a shoot and flowers that are only visible for a short period of time."

Ms Lau planned to collect a full flower in March or April next year, which would be used for a full DNA analysis.

Fungus enthusiast, Ms Philistin, said she and Ms Lau met randomly 12 months ago while hiking and their friendship had blossomed.

"I taught Jo to look down and Jo taught me to look up," she said.

Dr Copeland said further research including a survey of the area would be conducted.

"It's quite a rigorous process to name it properly," he said.

"It involves collecting a good full specimen ... then writing a detailed scientific description."

The work will need to be published and possibly peer-reviewed by other botanists.



Joanne Lau painted a watercolour of the newly discovered orchid.

"It's quite a lengthy process that can take anywhere between six months and a couple of years," he said. Meredith Philistin and Joanne Lau did not know what the orchid would eventually be named but they would like it to recognise the local Indigenous community.

"I would love to see a native orchid having an Indigenous name in the Yugambah language," Ms Lau said.

"I would love to see a native orchid of Australia finally have an Indigenous name."



Meredith Philistin and Joanne Lau want to give the new orchid a local Indigenous name



Oncidium Twinkle ‘Oro’

This is a plant of *Onc. Twinkle* and is a primary hybrid, which means that both parents are species. This plant has taken after the yellow coloured flowers of the *Onc. cheirophorum* rather than the pink of the other parent *Onc. sotoanum*. Many of the *Onc. Twinkles* take after the *Onc. Sotoanum* and are lovely shades of pink and occasionally a deep red. These plants are very hardy and happy to be grown in a cold bush-house, ideal for the novice



Onc. cheirophorum



Onc. sotoanum

The Culture of *Cymbidium suave* by Growing from Flask

A method which worked for me

David Butler 2020



The natural pollination of these *Cym. suave* flowers produced attractive seed capsules which, when nearly mature, were laboratory sown by the 'green pod' method to give healthy seedlings in flask.



The seedlings were planted out from flask into pots containing the decayed *Eucalyptus* heartwood shown above left, where they remained until sufficiently established to be replanted into these three hollow logs.



Two of the potted seedlings, once acclimatised and showing new root activity, were planted into the straight logs which had been filled with more of the decayed heartwood and set in an east facing rockery.



The bent log was set up on a bench in the bush house, extra openings having been created, and filled with decayed heartwood while standing on top of a large pot filled with the same decayed matter. The seedlings planted in the top and side openings grew well but attracted scale and so the log was relocated outside. To help contain the rampant root growth it was positioned over a hole filled with decayed wood.

Members' flowers that should have been benched last month



Masd. Bay of Fires 'Crown Vista' Owner Susie Butler



Masd. veitchii 'Gigi'
Owner Susie Butler



Masd. Henrica Jansen
Owner Susie Butler



Masd. Rein Sun 'Merlot'
Owner Susie Butler



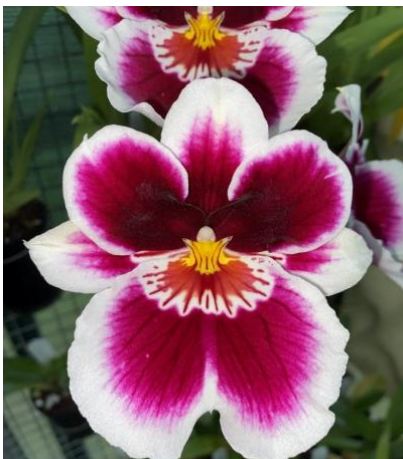
Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'
Owner Elizabeth Blackwell



Paph. British Concorde 'Supreme'
Owner Rod Nurthen



Den. Gowan's Tangelo
Owner Ela Kielich



Dinema polybulbon
Owner Ela Kielich



Maxillaria sp. Owner Ian & Irene Chalmers



Den. Topaz Dream x Dal's Rager Owner Ela Kielich

A collection of flowering cymbidium orchids from George Serhan



Cym. Kirby Dream



Cym. Ice on Fire 'Nikietta'



Cym. Serhan's Passion x Khan Fury



Cym. Strathdon 'Cooksbridge Fantasy'



Cym. Summer Clouds x Jessie Blakiston



Cym. Serhan's Splendour



Cym. Coraki Gold



Cym. Red Pepper 'Janice'



Cym. Pure Sarah 'Starburst'

A special thank you to the members who sent photos for this bulletin. More photos are always welcome, just email them to this address.

glbromley@optusnet.com.au

Lesley



Cym. Jacinta's Pride 'Jemima'

In last month's newsletter was an article about *D. cuthbertsonii*. I would like to add to this article with some hard cold facts about this species.

I have imported many plants of this species and they have now gone to God, sad for me but I am a lot wiser for their passing.

I have lived for short stays in several environments where this delightful gem grows and have observed the many types of situations that this species does thrive. One would think it is an easy species to grow as in the wild you can find plants growing beside the road, on tree-ferns hanging by a single root in mist forests and well exposed boughs of large Beech and other trees that have a suitable bark often growing into large clumps the largest was about 35 cm across and this plant was growing on a charred tree-fern.

The most common colours are red and then the colour forms in progression of rarity to the rarest one last, the bi-coloured forms, red and yellow then orange red followed by violet and violet and white with the odd plant violet and yellow. There are albinisms forms, yellow and also white, but the rarest form is the pure colour form of white with the red labellum.

In the wild today this species is fast becoming lost due to many reasons as you can imagine but an invasive insect commonly called the Midge is laying its eggs into the seed pods at a very early stage and then the juvenile midges eat the interior of the capsule leaving just enough to hold the pod until they emerge.

On my last trip I observed around 85 pods that had set on many plants and only one had seed the rest were festered with the Midge. The Editor of the German Roland Schetter was with me at that time and between us he published an article about this midge.

I have visited many people growing this species and they have set up special areas to grow this species then they boast how easy this species is to grow. Then a few years later they have lost the lot.

Well why? I have never seen published "why". The truth of the matter is you have to understand these gems leaves. These leaves are very special and if you look at the photos you will see all the little warts on the leaves under microscope magnification they are corral and are extremely fleshy.

These wart-like parts are the light absorbing parts of the leaf and if a leaf gets buried they can capture what light penetrates the moss. Keeping in mind these plants in the wild grow mostly buried in the moss and you can only find them when in flower.

Seedlings in the wild flower on the first growth but when plants are growing in a flask they do the normal progression that other species and hybrids do.

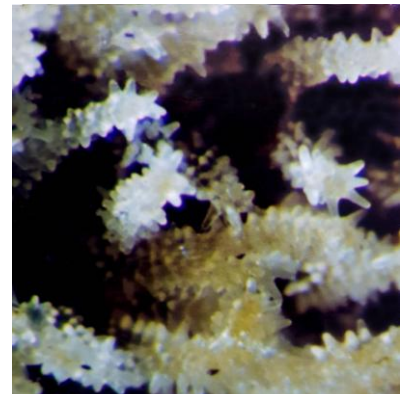
In culture collections the owners tell you the leaves went red brown, and then the plant was dead.

What has happened; Spider Mites predominantly get in under these warts and suck out all the juices from the leaves and plant. The main mite is *Phytonemus pallidus* (Cyclamen Mite)

I try not to give chemicals as there are liabilities involved. But I use 2 different ones, each one twice and each particular Miticide only once a year as these minute critters quickly become immune to the same Miticide. A good one, and it has been on the market for a long time is Omite.

With *D. Cuthbertsonii* NEVER use any oils as this covers the leaves and can kill the plant.

I have put photos of a few plants and close up of leaves for you to see what I am talking about.



leaf and plant *Den. cuthbertsonii* magnified



Cyclamen Mite and the underside of leaf showing damage



Best white I have flowered



Den. cuthbertsonii being saved from an hostile environment