

WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au

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**March
2025**
(yes, I've
caught up!)

All correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, 77 Carrington Blvd, Thomastown, Vic. 3074

The next Committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd April
Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown.

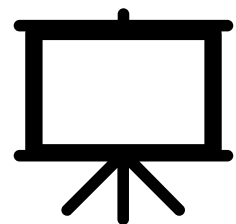
**The Warringal Orchid Society meets at the Watsonia Community Hall,
35 Lambourn Road Watsonia**

The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 19th March

The hall will be open from 7.00pm. You are welcome to bench plants for judging and to socialise with other members. A sales table operates with pots and other orchid accessories when available. Members are able to submit up to 6 orchid plants for sale (plants to be well established in their pots and in a clean condition). The society deducts a 10% commission on sales. Plants should be listed on a sales form available at sales table.

Please be seated on time for meeting to commence at 8.00pm.

This month: Our speaker this month is Helen, from Neutrog. Neutrog produces a wide range of biologically activated products for a range of needs, for both home gardeners and commercial growers. Helen may even have some freebies for members!



See www.neutrog.com.au for a sneak peek at their products. Come along with your questions.

CLUB NOTICES

New growers group –

New members wishing to develop their orchid-growing skills are welcome to join the New Growers Group conducted by Jason Khoo. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting.

Monthly meeting - Supper – at the new downstairs café!

Please bring a plate of supper to share at the end of our meeting. We all value this social time, so do not leave it to the same providers every month. Also, please help pack up chairs/tables etc prior to enjoying supper. **New supper workers wanted – see Chris!**

Monthly meeting – Setting up

Help is needed to set the hall up for our meeting. The hall is open from 6.00pm. Come early and get to know other members as you help set-up.

Committee

Any member interested in joining the committee should contact our President, Andrew Fernandez, for more information about what is involved.



Summer photo competition ... and the winner is?



Congratulations
Fran Walton on a great
win!

Rlc Peach Cobbler x C Penny Kuroda (Kurosawa) was first registered as a hybrid in 1991. It is also known as Rlc Waianae Leopard.

This lovely orchid is an intermediate grower, needing some extra warmth and less watering over winter.

It grows best in bright indirect light. Plant in medium bark and allow it to dry out between waterings.

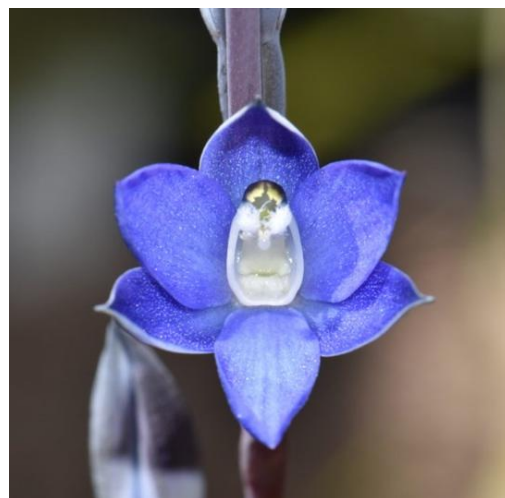


PROGRESSIVE SCORES – as of end February 2025

OPEN		ADVANCED NOVICE	
M. Coker	50	K Trueman	16
G & C. Dimech	11	J Kremer	9
A. Rogers	5	Z Giavris	6
J & L Karbownik	4	A & S La Rocca	5
A. Fernandez	4		
J. Khoo	4		
S. Pantelejenko	2		
INTERMEDIATE		NOVICE	
P. Kennedy	21		
M. Grzan	4		
S. Grinzic	2		
		K. Lee	4

Did you know that 23 species of rare Australian orchids were added to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List in 2022, listed as threatened species?** All but one of the 23 are terrestrial orchids.

In total, there are now 51 Australian orchids on the **Red List**. As Australia has about 1600 orchid species, and 90% are endemic (i.e. occur only in Australia), this potential loss in our biodiversity is concerning. One of those added to the list is the beautiful but critically endangered *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) pictured here.



Bulletin Postage

Due to increased cost of postage, members wishing for a paper copy of bulletin will incur a \$20.00 annual fee added to their membership. **Email copy of bulletin is free of charge.**

Warringal Orchid Society now has a QR Code.

This enables members to access our website quickly and easily. Simply scan the QR Code using your phone's camera, or a QR Reader app, to take you straight to our website for all the latest news, photos, newsletters and more.



JUDGING RESULTS - February 2025 meeting

OPEN

Aust. Native Species

1st Den. toressae A Rogers

Aust. Native Hybrid

1st Den. Sarfield 'Annie' J Khoo

2nd Den. Anthedon Gem A Fernandez

Cattleya

1st C. Aloha Case 'Ching Hua' M Coker

Novelty Cattleya

1st Ctt. Netrasiri Waxy M Coker

2nd C. Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah'
G&C Dimech

3rd C. Dendi's Jungle M Coker

Dendrobium

1st Den. Kuriko M Coker

2nd Den. Mousmee M Coker

3rd Den. Love Memory 'Fizz' M Coker

Maudiae Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. Maudiae Hsinying Dragon
M Coker

Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. stonei x Johanna Burkhardt
M Coker

2nd Paph. niveum x papilio-laoticus
M Coker

3rd Paph. Saint Swithin G&C Dimech

Species Paphiopedilum

1st Paph. charlesworthii M Coker

2nd Paph. villosum M Coker

3rd Paph. hermannii x sibling G&C Dimech

Oncidium

1st Onc. Unguiculatum x tigrinum
M Coker

Miltonia

1st Milt. Zorro 'Wylde's Gold' M Coker

Lycaste

1st Lyc. Muromachi M Coker

Any Other Hybrid

1st Phrag. Inca Rose M Coker

2nd Zygo. Artur Elle 'Essendon' J&L Karbownik

Species - Any Genera

1st Bifrenaria tetragona M Coker

2nd Stanhopea graveolens G&C Dimech

3rd Lycaste guatemalensis S Pantelejenko

Seedling Flowering First Time

1st Paph. Macabre x rothschildianum
M Coker



Best in Section – Open

This orchid also won the Judges vote.

Paphiopedilum charlesworthii

Grown by Michael Coker



Paph. Charlesworthii comes from the cool, shaded peaks (1200-2000 m elevation) of Assam in India, as well as Myanmar, Thailand and south-western China. It grows in leaf mould on limestone rocks, and its long-lasting flowers appear in late summer.

INTERMEDIATE

Oncidium

1 st Odont. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Bay'	P Kennedy
2 nd Onc. Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy'	P Kennedy
3 rd Colmenara Wildcat 'Bob'	S Grzinic

Lycaste

1 st Lyc. Caroline 'Dragon Lady'	P Kennedy
2 nd Lyc. Chita Melody 'Green Stars' x Sud. Locusta	P Kennedy

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Zygo. Unknown	M. Grzan
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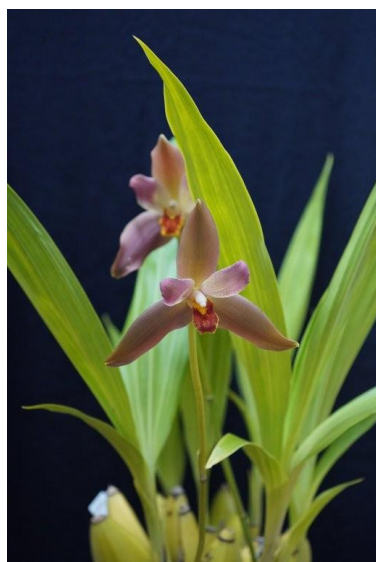
Species - Any Genera

1 st Onc. Flexuosum	P Kennedy
2 nd Polystachya vulcanian 'Wylde'	P Kennedy

Best in Section – Intermediate

Lycaste Caroline 'Dragon Lady'

Grown by Pam Kennedy



ADVANCED NOVICE

Oncidium

1 st Onc. Unknown	K Trueman
2 nd Onc. Kilauea	A&S La Rocca
3 rd Bras. Gilded Urchin 'Ontario	A&S La Rocca

Novelty Cattleya

1 st Cat. Mini Purple 'Tamanii'	K Trueman
2 nd Cat. Soph Coccinea x Slc. Hawaiian Chic 'Buttercup'	K Trueman
3 rd Cat. Unknown	Z Giavris

Vanda

1 st Van. Papilionanda Jokenny	J Kremer
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Any Other Hybrid

1 st Zygo. Artur Elle 'Essendon'	Z Giavris
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Species - Any Genera

1 st Cat. Pygmaea	J Kremer
2 nd Masd. medelita	K Trueman
3 rd Stelis porschiana	K Trueman

Best in Section – Advanced Novice

Cattleya Pygmaea (also known as Soprhinitis Pygmaea)

Grown by James Kremer



This orchid is found in the Esperito Santo state of Brazil, at elevations of around 1000m. It grows in medium light, high humidity and likes temperatures between 7 and 29 degrees C. It should not be left to completely dry out.

NOVICE

Any Other Hybrid

1 st Phal. Unknown	K Lee
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Best in Section – Novice

Phal. Unknown

Grow by Karen Lee

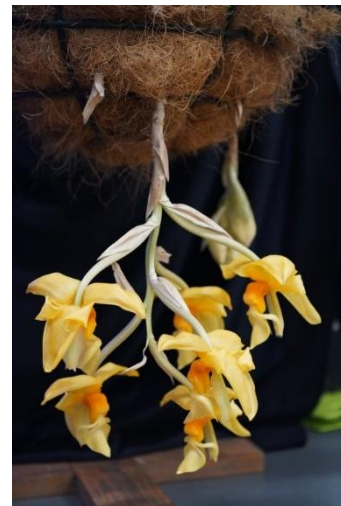


President's Choice for February

Stanhopea graveolens

Grown by George and Chris Dimech

Stanhopea graveolens was on orchid species identified by Klotzsch in 1840. It is a cool growing epiphyte or lithophyte from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, growing in forests up to 2700m. It has large, showy, fragrant and waxy but short-lived flowers.



This month's article: New orchid "like a cupcake"

This month's article comes from the CSIRO. It was written by Andrea Wild and published 8 Jan 2025. See <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/Articles/2025/January/new-norfolk-island-orchid>

Imagine discovering a tiny orchid perched on a tree branch in a forest. It resembles an orchid you've seen before, but something is subtly different. Could it be a new species that hasn't yet been named or described by science?

How would you find out?

Step 1: Take it home

Can you take home a rare plant? Yes, if you're a botanist with a collecting permit and home is a herbarium.

Dr Heidi Zimmer is an orchid researcher at the Australian National Herbarium (ANH) in Canberra.

While visiting Norfolk Island National Park with botanist Dr Mark Clements, local knowledge and expertise of the Norfolk Island National Park team including Joel Christian, Mel Wilson and Allie Andersen helped the scientists locate an area thought to be home to a tiny and little-known orchid. In the late afternoon light, Mark spotted it growing on a small tree branch.



Something about the orchid looked a little different, so Heidi collected a sample to take home to ANH.

Flowers of the tiny orchid growing on a tree branch in Norfolk Island National Park.

Image: Heidi Zimmer

Step 2: Form a team

The orchid from Norfolk Island was obviously a species of *Adelopetalum* – at least that was obvious to experts like Heidi and Mark. But while Norfolk locals would be familiar with the tiny plant, scientists were keen to determine if it was a known species or a new one.

Heidi and Mark were joined by a team of scientists, including lead researcher David Jones, a retired botanist who formerly worked at ANH.

“This was a wonderfully collaborative project with folks from Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island, and Australian botanists and taxonomists all working together,” Heidi said.

Step 3: Search it up

When a botanist suspects a species is new to science, it’s the start of a long journey to find out.

The team began a search to compare the orchid from Norfolk Island with:

- orchid species described in scientific journals
- orchid specimens held in the Australian National Herbarium (there are approximately 75,000!)
- orchids specimens held in other herbaria in Australia and overseas. In the past, botanists had to travel to other herbaria or request specimens be loaned by mail. Today, many herbaria are digitising their collections and making the photos available online.

The research revealed that the orchid species known as *Adelopetalum argyropus* wasn’t one species that lived across Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and continental Australia. It was three distinct species.

“Firstly, we recognised that the Norfolk Island species was different because the flower did not have a yellow labellum – no giant bright yellow tongue,” Heidi said.

“We looked at living plants, dissected flowers mounted on cards and herbarium specimens. The difference was pretty clear, even for a taxonomist in training like me.”

Step 4: Name it!

The three orchid species shared the name *Adelopetalum argyropus*. So which species would get to keep the name?

Whichever was first.

“Yep, that’s a rule in taxonomy, not just for who gets the front seat in road trips,” Heidi said.

Adelopetalum argyropus was first described from Norfolk Island in 1833 (as *Thelychiton argyropus*, but that’s another story because it was later moved into a different genus). As a result, the orchid from Norfolk Island kept the species name.

The team named the other two orchids *A. howense* and *A. continentale*. (You can tell from the names which is which!)

“That there are three separate species on Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island and continental Australia makes sense because they clearly cannot readily interbreed,” Heidi said.

“That said, the orchids spread to those islands somehow. It was probably that marvellous dust-like orchid seed, which is so fine and dusty it can be carried on the wind to far away places.”

Step 5: Describe it

Naming a species is only a small part of the scientific process of describing a new species.

Researchers must also publish a scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal. The paper describes the botanical features of new species and may include photos, microscopy images, scientific drawings and DNA results.



To give you a glimpse of the species description for the orchid on Norfolk Island, the paper notes it has:
"Pseudobulbs broadly oblong to obconical or turbinate (similar to a cupcake, "poculum crustulam simile"), 5.0–10.0 × 4.0–6.0 mm, margins with 4–5 weakly angular ribs, surface shallowly grooved, scurfy from remnants of fugacious bracts, apex truncate with shallow to deep depressions."

The tiny cupcake-like bulb of the orchid from Norfolk Island is about the size of a person's thumbnail. Image: Heidi Zimmer

Step 6: Assess it

Orchids are one of the plant families most at risk of extinctions. Many species grow in single locations or have very small populations.

"The purpose of naming and describing new orchid species is to build a checklist of Australian orchids so people can conserve them," Heidi said.

"We think there are risks for these three new species. This is because the species on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands are both confined to small islands and the one on continental Australia was badly impacted by the 2019–2020 bushfires."

The team's research paper 'Characterisation of Adelopetalum argyropus (Orchidaceae; Malaxideae) with the description of two related new species and two new combinations' was published in the journal Phylotaxa, with lead author David Jones.

This research was partly funded by the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, with support from the Plant Conservation Team at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and the Australian Orchid Foundation.

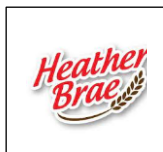
The Australian National Herbarium is part of Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, a joint venture between Parks Australia and CSIRO.

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