

ISSUE 659 Jan 2026

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**NEXT MEMBERS'
MEETING**
22nd Jan 2026 at the
Cromer Community
Centre @ 8pm
(benching from 7:30).

**NEXT COMMITTEE
MEETING**
5th Feb 2026. Contact
secretary for details.

Email address for
cultural advice OR to
submit a photo with
description for
The In-Betweeners:
[whatstheproblem.mwos
@gmail.com](mailto:whatstheproblem.mwos@gmail.com)

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www.orchidsociety.com.au



President's Report

I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year. We finished off the year with the December meeting which was a nice casual affair and the first month of the new annual point score. The year 2025 was a highly successful year for MWOS and there is no reason that we can't continue in the same vein in 2026. You should be thinking about the auction and what entries you might want to make. Once again, I would ask you to be sensible about your choices and any reserves that you might want to put on so that the auction can maintain its well-deserved reputation as being the best. This month's meeting will be devoted to culture and anything else that anyone might bring up that's orchid related. It will basically be an open forum so you can bring in any problem plants etc. See you at the meeting.

What's On This Month:

Super Supper Volunteers for 22nd January:

Sophia Kirk and Bryana Whitaker



ALL MEMBERS (yes, even you gentlemen) are encouraged to sign up for one date on the circulated **2026 Supper Roster** at this month's meeting. Store bought items are fine; they don't need to be home made. A huge thank-you to all who brought food, helped set, clean, and pack up the supper area in 2025. Your assistance was greatly appreciated. **Just as it takes a village to raise a child, we can say it takes a whole society to keep it flourishing!**

22nd Jan – Open Culture Session

Please bring your questions and plants
for which you'd like some advice.



DECEMBER 2025 BENCHING RESULTS

Total plants benched: 182

OPEN DIVISION

- 1. Sarcophilus Hybrid** 0 Plants
2. Australian Native Hybrid 0 Plants
3. Australasian Hybrid 3 Plants
1. *Den.* Nancy Fairfax Natalie AM/AOC A. Sulfaro
2. *Den.* Nancy Fairfax Natalie AM/AOC A. Sulfaro
3. *Den.* Gowan's Tangelo "Susan" AM/AOC R.G. Blaxland
4. Dockrillia Hybrid 0 Plants
5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm 0 Plants
6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm 2 Plants
1. *Blc.* *Capricorn Charm 'Aunty A'* A.Sulfaro
2. *Lc.* Pink Spice G & A. Cushway
7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelty) 1 Plant
1. *Laelia* Zip (*tenebrosa* x *milleri*) S. Kirk
7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type Hybrid) 1 Plant
1. *Rth.* Glenlee Fire R. G. Blaxland
8. Laeliinae Miniature 0 Plants
8A.Laeliinae Epidendrum 8 Plants
1. *Epi.* Pacific Canary x Pacific Sun 'Butter' S. Kirk
2. *Epi.* Wedding Valley 'Sakura' M. Asbury
3. *Epi.* Pacific 'Classic' x Pacific Primavera A. Sulfaro
9. Cymbidium Standard 0 Plants
10. Cymbidium Intermediate 0 Plants
11. Cymbidium Miniature 0 Plants
12.Dendrobium 2 Plants
1. *Den.* Mingles Saffire x *Den.* *glomeratum* A. Sulfaro
2. *Den.* Candidum x *Den.* *Bensoniae* R.G. Blaxland
13. Oncidiinae 30mm and less 2 Plant
1. *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Dancing Doll' G.& A. Cushway
2. *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' T. Riddell
14. Oncidiiae 30mm - 60mm 8 Plants
1. *Odontocidium* *Catatante 'Kiauea Karma'* R.G. Blaxland
2. *Wilsonaria* Pacific Passage 'Peach Cobbler' S. Kirk
3. *Wilsonaria* Bonne Nuit T. Riddell
15. Oncidiiae 60mm and above 4 Plants
1. *Miltoniopsis* Arthur Cobbledick 'Spring Time' I. Luke
2. *Miltoniopsis* Boulivot 'THX1138' G.& A. Cushway
3. *Zeglossoda* *Catico* Gen 'Green Valley' I. Luke
16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition 0 Plants
17A. Paphiopedilum Novelty 0 Plants
17. Cyripedioideae (Paphs and Prags) 4 Plants
1. *Phrag.* *Sedenii 'Candidum'* I. Luke
2. *Paph.* 'Rosy Dawn' P. Johnson
3. *Phrag.* Evening Blaze A. Sulfaro
18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition 2 Plants
1. *Phal.* unknown A. Sulfaro
2. *Phal.* unknown A. Sulfaro
19. Phalaenopsis Novelty 2 Plants
1. *Phal.* unknown T. Riddell
2. *Phal.* Dou Dii Rose x Ching Her John A. Sulfaro
19A. Phalaenopsis Miniature 6 Plants
1. *Phal.* unknown I. Luke
2. *Phal.* unknown A. Sulfaro
2. *Phal.* unknown A. Sulfaro
20. Vandaceous >51mm 3 Plants
1. *Vanda* Samsri Paragon S. Kirk
2. *Vanda* Fuchs Delight x *Vanda* Tokyo Blue R.G. Blaxland
3. *Vanda falcata* x *V. coerulea* M. Asbury
21.Vandaceous/Ascocendas 7 Plants
1. *Vandachostylis* Tropical Coelestis C. Polis
2. *Sartylis* Blueknob A. Sulfaro
3. *Vanda falcata* x *Ascocentrum* *ampullacea* C. Polis
22. Other Orchid Hybrid 3 Plants
1. *Lyc.* *sparroam* x Lady Hamilton A. Sulfaro
2. Bulbo. Memoria Richard Mizuta M. Asbury
3. *Thunia* *veitchiana* M. Asbury

SPECIES

- 38. Sarcophilus Species** 0 Plants

39. Australian Epiphyte Species

1. *Phal. rosenstromii*
2. *Cadetia taylorii*
3. *Liparis fleckeri*

40. Australasian Epiphyte Species

1. *Den. sulawestense* (syn. *glomeratum*)
2. *Den. atroviolaceum*
3. *Den. musciferum*

41. Dockrillia

1. *Dock. racemosa*

42. Australasian Terrestrial

1. *Calanthe triplicate*

43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)

1. *Cat. leopoldii*
2. *Cat. forbesii*
3. *L. tenebrosa*

43A Laelia Purpurata

1. *Laelia purpurata* Tribute
2. *Laelia purpurata sanguine* x *mentzii*
3. *Laelia purpurata var striata* Roxy

44. Laeliinae Alliancecexima

1. *Encyclia prismatocarpa*
2. *Encyclia nemorale*
3. *Encyclia prostechea 'trulla'*

45. Oncidiiae Alliance Species

1. *Miltonia spectabilis*
2. *Onc. wentworthianum*
3. *Onc. reinchenheirii*

46. Maxillaria Species

1. *Max. tenuifolia*
2. *Max. notylioglossa*
3. *Max. marginata*

47. Other Species 'The Americas'

Species Rest of the World

1. *Anguloa dubia*
2. *Lycaste aromatica*
3. *Lycaste macrobulbon alba*

48. Dendrobium Species

1. *Den. officinale*
2. *Den. henryii*
3. *Den. crystallinum*

49. Cyripedioideae (Paph and Prag)Species

1. *Paph. lowii*

50. Phalaenopsis species

1. *Phal. sanderiana*
2. *Phal pantherina*
3. *Doritis regnarianum*

51. Vandaeous Species

1. *Ang. magdalenae*
2. *Rhynchostylis retusa*
3. *Aerides houlettiana*

52. Dendrochilum Species

1. *Ddc. pangasinanense*

53. Coelogyne Species

1. *Coel. marmorata*
2. *Coel. marmorata*
3. *Coel. marmorata*

54. Other Species 'Asia & the Rest of World

1. *Bulb. Echinolabium 'Royale'*
2. *Eria hyacinthoides*
3. *Bulb. mastersianum*

55. Miniature-maximum height

(excluding raceme)of 150mm (6 inches)

1. *Cyrtorios praetelmissa*
2. *Diplocentrum recurvum*
3. *Cadetia taylori*

56. First Flowering Seedling Species

1. *Ang. magdalenae*

57. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid

NOVICE

23. Australasian Species

24. Laeliinae

1. *Cat. purpurata v. carnea*
2. *Enc. lancifolia*

25. Oncidiiae

3 Plants

- C. Polis
L. & B. Dobson
G. Cantor

6 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
A. Sulfaro
M. Roberts

1 Plant

- L.&B. Dobson

1 Plant

- L.&B. Dobson

8 Plants

- C. Polis
G.& A. Cushway
A. Sulfaro

8 Plants

- C. Polis
L. & B. Dobson
R. Mathews

9 Plants

- C. Polis
C. Polis
A. Sulfaro

8 Plants

- C. Polis
P. McDonough
P. McDonough

7 Plants

- N. Macri
T. Riddell
P. McDonough

9 Plants

- G. Cantor
R.G. Blaxland
G. Cantor

8 Plants

- R.G. Blaxland
R.G. Blaxland
G. Cantor

1 Plant

- P. McDonough

4 Plants

- C. Polis
C. Polis
C. Polis

10 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
C. Polis
C. Polis

1 Plant

- R. Mathews

12 Plants

- T. Riddell
L. & B. Dobson
L. & B. Dobson

3 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
C. Polis
C. Polis

4 Plants

- G. Cantor
G. Cantor
L. & B. Dobson

1 Plant

- A. Sulfaro

0 Plants

0 Plants

2 Plants

- A. & T. Evans
S. Thompson

0 Plants

26. Any other Species of Americas

- 1. *Brassia verrucosa*
- 2. *Max. tenuifolia*
- 3. *Onc. flexuosum*

3 Plants

- T. Hamilton
- K. Nelson
- T. Hamilton

27. Species Rest of the World

28. Australasian Hybrids

29. Cymbidium Standard

30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature

31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid

32. Dendrobium Hybrid

33. Laeliinae Hybrid

- 1. *Catcycilia* Burdeleini Honey 'Shona'

0 Plants

0 Plants

0 Plants

0 Plants

0 Plants

0 Plants

4 Plants

- K. Nelson

- 2. *Enc.* Gail Nakagaki

- 3. *Lc.* Ida Elizabeth 'Enchanting'

34. Oncidiinae Allied Intergenerics Hybrid

- 1. *Onc.* Sharry Baby

- 2. *Zelglossida* Calico Gen 'Green Valley'

- 3. *Onc.* Sharry Baby

35. Hybrid of Americas All Other

36. Other Orchid Hybrid

- 1. *Phal* I-Hsin Sesame

- 2. *Phal* Little Gem 'Stripey'

- 3. *Phal* unknown

- S. Thompson

- S. Thompson

5 Plants

- K. Nelson

- S. Thompson

- T. Hamilton

0 Plants

6 Plants

- S. Thompson

- S. Thompson

- A. & T. Evans



Congratulations to all the December winners!

Photos by B. Dobson Notes by A. Evans



Hybrid of the Night



**Den. Nancy Fairfax 'Natalie' AM/AOC
Grown by Angie Sulfaro**

The Jan '25 MWOS Bulletin told us about this orchid. Today we learn about its namesake and Angie's AM/AOC, the Award of Merit (for 80-85 points out of 100) from the Australian Orchid Council.

A 2010 SMH article about Phil Spence's initial cultivation of this primary hybrid (i.e. a cross between two species) states it was named after the late Lady Nancy Fairfax (on right), a long-term supporter of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the mother of John B. Fairfax, of Fairfax Media.



The Botanic Gardens, which had more than 20 new hybrid orchids in cultivation, gave naming rights to people and organisations that contributed more than \$1 million towards its 2016 bicentenary campaign.

In 2022, Angie's hard work and care were awarded with 82.00 points for its 10 inflorescences of 250mm with 94 flowers! She named this cultivar, 'Natalie', in honour of her granddaughter. We're glad it keeps coming back annually to gain even more fans. Well done Angie!

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/orchid-species-named-after-botanic-gardens-benefactor-20101213-18vbx.html> and personal communication with Angie

Novice of the Night



**Phal. I-Hsin Sesame
Grown by Stephanie Thompson**

This hybrid was originated by W.T. Chien in 2000. It is a cross of the two hybrids *Phal.* Ching Her Buddha and *Phal.* Leopard Prince, which are themselves crosses formed from no less than a dozen different species, whose contributions ranged from 0.15% to 19.18% of the final product.

This presentation shows why Stephanie was the 2025 third place winner of Novice of the Year! We hope this is her first of many Novice of the Night wins in 2026. Congrats Stephanie!

<https://www.orchids.org/grexes/phalaenopsis-i-hsin-sesame>
<https://orchidregistry.com/id/phalaenopsis-i-hsin-sesame/>

Species of the Night



When researching the origin of this species' name, many disagreements were found. Nine different classifications included every permutation of the first words of *Dendrobium* / *Chromatotriccum* / or *Pedilonum* with the second words of *sulawesiense* / *glomeratum*/ or *crepidiferum*. Some breeders/authors preferred to use traditional classification methods, assessing the bloom's characteristics, pollination, and growing habitat, whereas others now include DNA analyses in their determinations. The name *Den. sulawesiense* acknowledges its origin to where it was originally collected by Rolfe in 1894, from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi with the Latin suffix of *ense*, meaning "origin". Some feel this same species is found on the eastern Indonesian archipelago called the Moluccas, in low mountain forests. Whereas others' name variations are said to differ from the *sulawesiense*, due to being found in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, where it grows at low altitudes along swampy rivers.

Angie kindly gives us 2 of the more common names.

<https://yonggee.name/articles/chromatotriccum-sulawesiense/> ,
<https://travaldo.blogspot.com/2018/01/dendrobium-glomeratum-care-and-culture.html>

[culture.html](https://travaldo.blogspot.com/2018/01/dendrobium-glomeratum-care-and-culture.html)

***Den. sulawesiense* (syn. *glomeratum*)**
Grown by Angie Sulfaro

Specimen of the Night



***Miltoniopsis* Arthur 'Spring Time'** Grown by Iona Luke

Originating in several South American countries, the *Miltoniopsis* is often better known as the Pansy Orchid, due to its big, round, flat blooms and markings similar to those of the common garden pansy (see below). This hybrid was bred by B. Cobble Dick in 1997 of the species *Mps. Vexillaria* and the hybrid *Mps. Meadowdale*. This morning to early afternoon citrus fragrant cross has won multiple awards for its long list of cultivars.

Way to go Iona! We're sure to see many more of her winners in the new year ahead!

<https://www.orchids.org/grexes/miltonia-arthur-cobble Dick>, <https://www.orchidweb.com/orchids/miltoniopsis-miltonia/hybrids/miltoniopsis-arthur-cobble Dick-springtime-hcc-aos-vexillaria-x-meadowdale>



Cary's Ramble

In between Christmas and New Year's parties, it has been hard to keep up with my orchid care, but I feel like I've been giving it a good go. It's been hard enough just keeping up with the watering, with the extreme temperatures and strong hot winds. At least I have been able to keep up with feeding (only because Jill hasn't put any pressure on me even though we are going camping on the 8th).

January is a terrible time to be away from my plants but thankfully Paul McDonough is going to help me with watering. I will be away for 3 weeks, but I will be able to sneak back for a day or 2 to pick up the Tasmanian granddaughters from the airport, so at least I can check on things.



You have heard me talk about the walk past many times and how valuable it can be. Alas, nothing is foolproof and today I discovered that one of my more precious plants has been pretty badly sunburned. It's a beautiful specimen plant of *Maxillaria sophronitis* hanging up and growing in a water well pot. (above left) When looking up at it, it looks fantastic. For some reason today, I took it down to have a closer look and found that the top of the plant is burnt. (above right) It spoils the whole look of the plant. It's a pretty rare plant and I only have it because Guy Cantor gave it to me some years back, so I'm embarrassed, as well as sad.



Nevertheless, I do have some exciting things happening such as a *Vanda roeblingiana* flowering for the first time (left) and a *Laelia superbiens* var. *alba* in spike which I have rarely flowered, despite being an easy grower. Also, I'm flowering 3 siblings of *Vandachostylis Tropic Coelestis* (*Vanda luzonica* x *Rhynchostylis coelestis*). Two of them are more like the *Vanda* and the third one is more like the *Rhynchostylis*. (photo on next page) So, it pays to buy more than one seedling in a cross if you think that there is good potential. If you were at the December meeting you may recall that I had a couple there and brought them up for discussion.

Continued on the next page

(Ramble continued)

As far as pests go, I have noticed some escalating mealy bug activity in the hothouse especially on the *Phalaenopsis*, so I'm on full alert and treating it when I see it. Outdoors, I'm picking up a few *Dendrobium* beetles on the *Epidendrums*, but hardly any in the bush house. I always check when I walk past the *Epidendrums* and it's almost got to the point that I'm disappointed when I don't find any. (Weird eh?). So, as you can see, I have tried to put in as much time with my plants as possible, but nothing will make up for being away for 3 weeks at such a critical time of year.



And other things to consider...



Time to Tidy and Tag!

Please take heed of today's President's Report and get your "sellable" orchid plants sorted, tidied, labelled and readied for inclusion in the MWOS April '26 Auction List, which will be available come the end of January!



2026 DIARY DATES

22 Jan	Members' Meeting
26 Feb	Members' Meeting
26 Mar	Members' Meeting
2-13 Apr	Sydney Easter Show
12 Apr	MWOS Auction
29 Apr	Members' Meeting
	A WED, not Thur, due to hall unavailability

HELPFUL HINT: Safe time and angst setting up your benched plants at the monthly meetings by taking home a supply of benching cards. These can be prepared with their correct plant (and owner's) names and class categories after a little pre-meeting research done at home.

