

ISSUE 660 Feb 2026

PATRON
Ian Nelson

PRESIDENT
Cary Polis

VICE PRESIDENTS
1. Angie Sulfaro
2. Kathleen Nelson

SECRETARY
Olivia Zandstra

**Non-Bulletin related
correspondence to:**
SecretaryMWOS@gmail.com

TREASURER
Sophia Kirk

COMMITTEE
Mark Asbury
Guy Cantor
Tricia Hamilton
Ros Mathews
Matt Roberts

BULLETIN EDITOR
Anne Evans
AnneatMWOS@gmail.com

**NEXT MEMBERS'
MEETING**
26th Feb 2026 at the
Cromer Community
Centre @ 8pm
(benching from 7:30).

**NEXT COMMITTEE
MEETING**
5th Mar 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)

MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.orchidsociety.com.au

President's Report

The January meeting is traditionally a quieter evening than usual, due to the fact that not many plants are flowering at this time, but I have to say that we had a fantastic display and more plants than expected. After supper, we had a great plant description and culture session. Don't forget to start firming up your auction lists because time is starting to run a little short. This month I'm pleased to say that we have Dylan Morrissey as our guest speaker. The newer members might not know who he is. He is the grandson of our patron, Ian Nelson, and a former president of our society. I thought that he may have been our youngest ever president, but I've been informed that this honour goes to his uncle, Rod Nelson. It was a great loss to MWOS when Dylan moved to the South Coast a few years ago. He has a very important role at the Eurobodalla Botanic Garden, where among other things, he has over eighty volunteers under his direction. His presentation will be on the South Coast habitat of *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Sarcochilus*. I'm really looking forward to catching up with him and seeing his presentation.

See you all at the meeting.

What's On This Month:

Super Supper Volunteers for 26th February:

Matthew Roberts and Richard Blaxland



ALL MEMBERS (yes, even you gentlemen, just like **Matt and Richard**) 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 bring food, help set, clean, and pack up the supper area each week. Your help is greatly appreciated.

26th Feb – Guest Speaker

Dylan Morrissey

South Coast habitat of *Dendrobium speciosum*

and *Sarcochilus*.



JANUARY 2026 BENCHING RESULTS

Total plants benched: 84

OPEN DIVISION

- 1. Sarcophilus Hybrid** 0 Plants
2. Australian Native Hybrid 0 Plants
3. Australasian Hybrid 1 Plant
1. *Den.* Gowan's Tangelo R.G. Blaxland
4. Dockrillia Hybrid 1 Plant
1. *Doc.* Sultana x Tweetie x calciforme R. Mathews
5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm 1 Plant
1. *Bc.* Island Charm Yoshie AM/AOC G.& A. Cushway
6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm 2 Plants
1. *Pot.* Lisa Taylor Gallis 'Nora' G.& A. Cushway
2. *Bc.* Island Charm x *Sc.* Cherry Bee G.& A. Cushway
7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelty) 0 Plants
7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type Hybrid) 1 Plant
1. *L. crispata* 'Lisa' x *Tenebrosa* 'Rainforest' T. Riddell
8. Laeliinae Miniature 2 Plants
1. *Bc.* Island Charm x *Sc.* Cherry Bee G.& A. Cushway
2. *Cat.* Jillian Lee R. Mathews
8A. Laeliinae Epidendrum 1 Plant
1. *Enc.* Green Hornet 'Buttons' R. Blaxland
9. Cymbidium Standard 0 Plants
10. Cymbidium Intermediate 0 Plants
11. Cymbidium Miniature 0 Plants
12. Dendrobium 1 Plant
1. *Den.* *aberrans* x *Den.* Gemwood M. Asbury
13. Oncidiinae 30mm and less 1 Plant
1. *Odontocidium* *Catatante*. 'Sun King' R.G. Blaxland
14. Oncidiinae 30mm - 60mm 2 Plants
1. *Zeglossoda* *Calico* Gen 'Green Valley' I. Luke
2. *Odontocidium* *Parquet* 'Uptown Girl' R.G. Blaxland
15. Oncidiinae 60mm and above 1 Plant
1. *Maclellanara* *Yellow Star* 'Golden Gambol' R.G. Blaxland
16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition 0 Plants
17A. Paphiopedilum Novelty 0 Plants
17. Cyripedioideae (Paphs and Prags) 3 Plants
1. *Paph.* *Memoria* *Arnie* *Limsman* I. Luke
2. *Phrag.* *Pink Panther* M. Ashbury
3. *Phrag.* *Sedeaii* 'Candidum' I. Luke
18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition 0 Plants
19. Phalaenopsis Novelty 0 Plants
19A. Phalaenopsis Miniature 0 Plants
20. Vandaceous >51mm 3 Plants
1. *Vanda* *Tristar Gold* 'Adisak's Gold' AM/AOC C. Polis
2. *Vanda* *Susan Ong ah Mooi* N. Macri
3. *Ascda.* *Susan Ong Ah Mooi* 'Sweetheart' C. Polis
21. Vandaceous/Ascocendas 4 Plants
1. *Neostylis* *Lou Sneary* C. Polis
2. *Vandachostylis* *Tropical Coelestis* C. Polis
3. *Vanda* *Peaches* M. Asbury
22. Other Orchid Hybrid 2 Plants
1. *Coel.* *Mem William Micholitz* R.G. Blaxland
2. *Coel.* *Mem William Micholitz* T. Riddell

SPECIES

- 38. Sarcophilus Species** 2 Plants
1. *Sarc.* *setosus* L.& B. Dobson
2. *Sarc.* *setosus* L.& B. Dobson
39. Australian Epiphyte Species 5 Plants
1. *Phal.* *rosenstromii* C. Polis
2. *Cadetia* *taylorii* L.& B. Dobson
3. *Den.* *bigibbum* var. *compactum* C. Polis
40. Australasian Epiphyte Species 2 Plants
1. *Den.* *musciferum* M. Roberts
2. *Den.* *glomeratum* R. G. Blaxland
41. Dockrillia 0 Plants
42. Australasian Terrestrial 0 Plants

- 43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)** 3 Plants
1. *Cat.* *tigrina* C. Polis
2. *Cat.* *dowiana* P. McDonough
3. *Cat.* *harrisoniae* T. Riddell
44. Laeliinae Alliancexima 6 Plants
1. *Encyclia* *brassavolae* C. Polis
2. *Encyclia* *alata* P. McDonough
3. *Encyclia* *prismatocarpa* ' ' C. Polis
45. Oncidiinae Alliance Species 3 Plants
1. *Miltonia* *candida* C. Polis
2. *Onc.* *papilio* G.& A. Cushway
3. *Aspasia* *lunata* M. Asbury
46. Maxillaria Species 2 Plants
1. *Max.* *perryae* P. McDonough
2. *Max.* *parkeri* T. Riddell
47. Other Species 'The Americas' Species Rest of the World 7 Plants
1. *Stanhopea* *ruckeri* M. Roberts
2. *Stanhopea* *inodora* S. Toressi
3. *Lycaste* *macrophylla* v. *alba* P. McDonough
48. Dendrobium Species 3 Plants
1. *Den.* *guibertii* R.G. Blaxland
2. *Den.* *henryii* R.G. Blaxland
3. *Den.* *henryii* R.G. Blaxland
49. Cyripedioideae (Paph and Prag)Species 0 Plants
50. Phalaenopsis species 1 Plant
1. *Phal.* *sanderiana* C. Polis
51. Vandaceous Species 6 Plants
1. *Vanda* *tricolor* 'Rainbow' R. G. Blaxland
2. *Vanda* *falcata* P. McDonough
3. *Vanda* *insignis* C. Polis
52. Dendrochilum Species 1 Plant
1. *Ddc.* *filiforme* P. McDonough
53. Coelogyne Species 0 Plants
54. Other Species 'Asia & the Rest of World 1 Plant
1. *Cym* *atropurpureum* P. McDonough
55. Miniature-maximum height (excluding raceme)of 150mm (6 inches) 2 Plants
1. *Max.* *parahybunensis* C. Polis
2. *Max.* *parahybunensis* C. Polis
56. First Flowering Seedling Species 0 Plants
57. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid 0 Plants
NOVICE
23. Australasian Species 0 Plants
24. Laeliinae 4 Plants
1. *Enc.* *radiata* S. Thompson
2. *Enc.* *tampenses* S. Thompson
3. *Brasanodosa* *grandifolia* S. Thompson
25. Oncidiinae 0 Plants
26. Any other Species of Americas 2 Plants
1. *Stanhopea* *oculata* O. & J. Zandstra
2. *Stanhopea* *nigroviolacea* A.& T. Evans
27. Species Rest of the World 0 Plants
28. Australasian Hybrids 0 Plants
29. Cymbidium Standard 1 Plant
1. *Grammato* *cymb.* *Lovely Melody* Sweet Mericlone T. Hamilton
30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature 0 Plants
31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid 0 Plants
32. Dendrobium Hybrid 0 Plants
33. Laeliinae Hybrid 1 Plant
1. *Procatovola* *Keylime Stars* S. Thompson
34. Oncidiinae Allied Intergenerics Hybrid 0 Plants
35. Hybrid of Americas All Other 0 Plants
36. Other Orchid Hybrid 6 Plants
1. *Phal* *Mituo Sun Queen #3* S. Thompson
2. *Phal* *unknown* P. Ridzuan
3. *V.* *Lou Sneary* S. Thompson



Congratulations to all the January winners!

Photos by B. Dobson and A. Evans



Specimen of the Night



Miltonia candida
Grown by Cary Polis

Hybrid of the Night



Vanda Tristar Gold 'Adisak's Gold'
Grown by Cary Polis

Novice of the Night



Stanhopea oculata
Grown by Olivia and Josh Zandstra

Species of the Night



Stanhopea ruckeri
Grown by Matt Roberts

The In-Betweeners

This space will feature plants that didn't make it to the monthly benchings for various reasons. Send your photo, with your and your orchid's name to: Whatstheproblem.mwos@gmail.com.

Mary Drummond shares some of what's been blooming this past month in her collection.



Blc. Blanche Aisaka 'Yuki'



Dendrochillum magnum

How are Benching Points allocated at MWOS Meetings?

Benching Points

At each monthly meeting, **1 point** is allocated and recorded for each entry exhibited under its class card (numbered 1-57), to a **maximum of 2 points** per class. Note- you can exhibit more than 2 to increase your odds at receiving class winnings (see below), but you will get no more than 2 points for that class' benching points.

Plants benched must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months. Those which are not, can still be shown, but must be clearly marked as "For display only".

Class Winners Points

In addition to the above Benching Points, an exhibitor may also receive additional class winning points by that night's MWOS judging panel. Note- more than 2 entries in a single class by the same exhibitor can receive up to the total Class Winners Points. Where quality is inadequate, the judges may, at their own discretion; decline to award 1st, 2nd or 3rd place and such entries shall be eligible for benching points only.

Winning points allocations are:

- 1st in any Class - 4 point
- 2nd in any Class - 3 points
- 3rd in any Class - 2 points

Therefore, the maximum number of points received on one night for any one exhibitor **per class** is 11. That is: 2 Benching points + 4 pts for a 1st place+ 3 pts for 2nd place + 2 pts for a 3rd place.

These points are all recorded and totalled in each class to determine the overall end of the year overall winners in Open and Novice Sections. A special prize is also given for the most benched specimen quality orchids. At the end of the year, these prize winners are announced and acknowledged with trophies and all other benching members acknowledged for their efforts with a gift from the Society.



Summer is Stanhopea Time!

Read below about this month's stunning Species of the Night and more about these mesmerising "upside down" orchids!

Stanhopea ruckeri

January's Species of the Night, the *Stanhopea ruckeri*, also known as Rucker's Stanhopea [English Orchid Enthusiast 1800's], and *Stanhopea inodora*, is naturally found in southern Mexico and parts of Central America, growing in wet mountain forests. "Inodora", meaning non-fragrant, is somewhat misleading since Matt's and others of the alba and white coloured forms, do have a slight fragrance, however, much fainter than other *Stanhopea*. It's a medium-sized, orchid that lives on trees (an epiphyte), with oval shaped ribbed dark green pseudobulbs, each with a single pleated leaf. In summer, the new egg-like pseudobulbs produce a hanging flower spike, opening with 4–7 large, flowers.

www.orchidspecies.com

Although it's often described as a *hot to warm* grower, that isn't quite accurate in Matt's experience. He states, in Australia, most plants grow well in conditions ranging from warm to cool. Some, including this one of Matt's, have thrived outdoors under trees for over 15 years.

The following are various *Stanhopea* tidbits from an internet search about this amazing orchid. Please use the given links below to find more about them. Also, there is a great little book by the Northern Beaches local, Barney Greer, called "The Astonishing Stanhopeas: The Upside-Down Orchids", which provided much of the historical info.

The *Stanhopea* pendant or downward hanging inflorescences, or flower stalks, flower out of the side, bottom, or dangle over the top of their baskets, growing in loose culture that has enough open space for the pointed end of the flower stalk to push through. Although *Stanhopea* flowers are known for their complex structures and perfume, you need to be quick with your admiration, since the fleeting blooms last only about 3 days. Because of their limited availability, the open flowers must attract its pollinator, the male *euglossine* bee, very quickly. † There are over 60 unique *Stanhopea* species and also some naturally occurring hybrids.

The history of the naming of the *Stanhopea* genus (species grouping), according to the research of Dr David Keeling, goes something like this:

In 1570, King Philip of Spain sent Francisco Hernandez, the king's personal physician (as many scientists were in the day), to check out the contents of their colony of New Spain, present day Mexico. This resulted 5 years later in 16 volumes describing many never seen before flora, fauna and minerals. Not until the middle of the 1650's was Hernandez' "*De Rerum Medicarum Novae Hispaniae Thesaurus*" published with the first description and illustration of a *Stanhopea* under its Aztec name *Coatzonte Coxochitl*. The book's illustrator, believing that plants should flower upwards, drew it upside down! It was more than a century later until European orchid enthusiasts caught on and commissioned their own collectors. The first to flower in England in 1824 was taken from the Caribbean island of Trinidad, 3 years before. The genus *Stanhopea* was established by Sir William Hooker in 1829 and is named for the Rt Hon. Philip Henry Stanhope, Earl of Stanhope, President of the Medico-Botanical Society of London 1829-1837.

Be sure not to miss our own Matt Roberts as our guest speaker on Stanhopeas in March!

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-amazing-Stanhopea-orchids.pdf>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanhopea>

https://stanhopea.autrevie.com/Stanhopea_TheGenus.html

Feature Article

AOC
ABM
CCF

What are those letters after some orchid names and how did they get there?

ACM
AM
HCC

There are seven Regional Judging Panels (based on states and territories) which administer the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) judging system. The MWOS is administered by the NSW Regional Judging Panel. This panel of at least five fully accredited judges make their regional awards and then passes the application, photos etc on to the Australian Orchid Council's Registrar General.

Judges consider orchid flowers based on quality according to the current standards and benchmarks. Plants are awarded First Class Certificates for the very best plants, and Awards of Merit and Highly Commended Certificates for superior plants. Species orchids that are new to cultivation and where no benchmark yet exists may be awarded Certificates of Botanical Merit. Orchids with new or distinctive features such as colour are awarded Awards of Distinction. Exceptionally well-grown plants which meet reasonable flower quality standards may be given Awards of Cultural Certificates.

Awards are acknowledged by their category (see below), followed by the awarding body, Australian Orchid Council (AOC), followed by the year given. Example: FCC/AOC (2025). You often will see these abbreviations after the names of benched orchids at our monthly meetings and listed in our Bulletin. Can you find the 2 previous awardees in this month's Bulletin benching results?

The following are the AOC Award categories:

- FCC: First Class Certificate – 85 points or more of possible 100
- AM: Award of Merit – 80 to 85 points
- HCC: Highly Commended Certificate – 75 to 80 points
- AD: Award of Distinction – awarded for distinctive attributes e.g. colour
- CBM: Certificate of Botanical Merit
- ACE: Award of Cultural Excellence – 85 points or more of possible 100
- ACM: Award of Cultural Merit – 80 to 85 points
- ACC: Award of Cultural Commendation – 75 to 80 points
- ASR: Award of Special Recognition

Each year, the various state panels nominate their choice for the AOC Awards of the Year in four categories from those orchids awarded in the previous calendar year. The categories are:

- AOC Orchid Hybrid of the Year
- AOC Species Orchid of the Year
- AOC Award of Distinction of the Year
- AOC Culture Award of the Year

<https://orchidsocietynsw.com.au/judging/>

<https://www.orchidsaustralia.com.au/orchidsaustralia.com.au/index.php/judging-awards2>



congratulations

If you read the previous article, you can appreciate the great care and attention it takes to win one of the honours awarded by the Australian Orchid Council. We are proud to share the recent news of an award granted by the New South Wales Regional Judging Panel to Cary Polis, our Society's President. This now makes it in the running for the respective national AOC award.

Congrats Cary and best of luck in the upcoming nationals!



Vanda Tilda Ljunggren
'Midnight Special'
AM/AOC

The NSWOS
Award of Distinction (AD)
of the Year

And other things to consider...



Time's Running Out!

Be sure your 2026 membership is paid and submit your MWOS April '26 Auction List **BEFORE Mon, 2 Mar**. This can be done at the next meeting on 26/2 or sent to our treasurer at Sophia.seeto-kirk@bigpond.com.



Please be mindful to arrive early to the monthly meetings to visit our library or sales table. They open usually around 7:30 and will now promptly **close at the supper break**.

UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

Please check with your orchid-growing mates that they've received this Bulletin, and all other correspondence such as auction lists and catalogues. If not, they may need to update their email details with the Society's secretary at SecretaryMWOS@gmail.com

2026 DIARY DATES

- 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
- 15-17 May Orchids Out West
Hawksbury Showground, Clarendon
- 28 May Members' Meeting
- 19-21 June MWOS Winter Show
- 25 June Members' Meeting
- 27-28 June Mingara Fair



Cary's Ramble

Working on your plants in February is normally pretty tough with the heat and humidity, so I haven't done a lot outside lately apart from watering and other essential tasks. However, today (February 13) has been quite cool, and apart from having to attend a meeting this morning, I managed to get and do some repotting and other things. Mark Asbury came over for a couple of hours, and he was a great help. With all the feeding that I'm doing, the weeds are relentless and dealing with them is never-ending. I have mentioned before that sometimes I'll bring a whole bunch of plants inside and weed and groom them in front of the television at night. This is one of the great advantages of having a polished concrete floor. A Bunnings worktable and a tub at my feet is all I need. The cleanup is a cinch. Jill comes back tomorrow night after two weeks with family in Tasmania, so some of tomorrow will be devoted to making the house presentable again. Most plants are in very active growth right now, so this is a great time to do some "redirecting" of wayward new leads. This particularly applies to things like *Laeliinae*, and it makes a significant difference when you have nice upright canes making the plant much more attractive but also much more manageable. It is basically impossible to correct a mature cane without heavy tying, but very easy to work with an immature, malleable, developing cane. How often you see plants on the bench that have been staked at the last minute only to find that the flowers look all wrong with their orientation? It's a huge distraction and is never looked upon kindly by the judges. So, my very strong advice is to keep a close eye out for things like this and a great time to spot something like this is when you are doing your daily walkpast. That's basically it for now. I'm going to have dinner and then get stuck into these plants (see below).

