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Next Meeting : Monday, 11th December, 2017

Venue : The Lindfield Community Centre, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.

Don't forget, this is Christmas party night, special arrangements apply :

** There is no Culture Class or guest speaker. **There is still a full benching of orchids, but benching doesn't start until 7pm** and there will be **only 30 minutes for benching - cards filled in properly and all.** We suggest that you might minimise the total numbers you bench you with the effort, and help us manage table space in the hall.

** The formal meeting commences early at 7.30pm so you must complete any benching before that time.

** **The FOOD – The Party** starts around 8pm and is buffet style, finger food,. The **Society provides all the savoury foods, and drinks**, including some beer and wine, but **we would appreciate members bringing something sweet, to share for desserts.** This is a light hearted night where we end the year in a social environment with our partners, friends, family, some of our guest speakers from the past year, and guests from our sister societies.

** **The main entertainment feature of the night is the traditional Monster Christmas Raffle.** The Society supplies two big Christmas hampers, and a few other prizes, but **members are all asked to also donate a present as a raffle prize.** There are no rules about what it is but please, **no trick gifts or booby prizes.** Make it something nice, something desirable, a prize you would be really pleased to win yourself. I suggest that a minimum value would be around \$10. Some examples might be an orchid, chocolates or other sweets, a bottle of wine, etc.

Best of Evening Hybrid – Paph Transvaal (or Vanguard or Caroline Hands ??) - grown by Jim Brydie



I don't have a huge collection of these multifloral Paphiopedilums but I have acquired a few really nice, easy to grow specimens over the years, and this one is probably my favourite. I explain the name *conumdrum* later in this bulletin.

This one has been a relatively quick grower for a multiflowered Paph. When I got it as a seedling I knew nothing about growing Paphs and even I managed to grow and flower it in half a dozen years or so. If you think that sounds a long time, let me assure you that many other multiflowered types can take even skilled growers 10 years or more to get from tube to flowering. Skill and correct growing conditions will always affect success but these are slow growers, much slower growers than other Paphs, which no doubt explains why flowering size divisions are very expensive whenever they can be found at all.

To complicated matters for inexperienced growers, some multifloral Paphs are rather intolerant of being subjected to winter cold and, I have found that 3 of the most attractive (*rothschildianum*, *sanderianum*, and *philippinense*) respond

badly to temperatures below about 5°C. I suspect that they would do best with a minimum of at least 10°C. Luckily however, some others are far less touchy. I grow all of the species *parishii*, *haynaldianum*, and *chamberlainianum*, and *glaucophyllum* quite happily in my roofed shadehouse in Hornsby (min 1°C?). The problem though is that to find out which will tolerate cold and which won't, you generally kill a few along the way, and even then you are not quite sure which of your poor conditions/practices did them in. Anyway, this is one that does thrive in my shadehouse.

At our meeting, head Judge Garrie noted that the spike on my plant was a little short for its type, and while that is true, the benched piece is a division from a huge plant I broke up in 2014 and it has taken a little while to get going again. As this is its first flowering since surgery, I think we need to be a bit forgiving. It should do better next year.

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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@bigpond.com

Recapping Arrangements for the Christmas meeting night :

- (a) This is our Christmas party night. We have moved it a week earlier than our normal meeting night (to Mon Dec 11th) to avoid the real Christmas. The formal meeting also commences early at 7.30pm. Don't be late.**
- (b) There is still a full benching of orchids as per any other month. BUT - benching can not start until 7pm so you only have half an hour to get your orchids on the tables and your cards filled out.**
- (c) We do love to see all those beautiful orchid flowers each month, even Christmas, but space is always just a trifle tight at Christmas so perhaps you might cut back the quantity just a fraction and limit your benching to your best.**
- (d) We don't want you all stressed out before the party. Please plan your arrival and leave yourself enough time. And PLEASE wear your **name badge**. You know why. We don't all know each other as well as we should and it is a great help with social contact. Put your name tag in the car right now so you don't forget, **and wear it when you get there.****
- (e) There is no Culture Class or speaker – the only “formal” part of the agenda is the announcing of the winners of the benching pointscore competition from throughout the year and the handing out of associated prizes.**
- (f) The Monster Christmas Raffle** is the main entertainment feature of the night. The Society supplies two big Christmas hampers, and a few other prizes, but **members are all asked to also donate a present** (a raffle prize). We suggest something worth at least \$10 or so. We want lots of prizes so there is a chance for nearly everyone to go home a winner. Donated prizes can be anything – for example an orchid, a book, chocolates, a plant, a bottle of wine. – **Please - no tricks, booby prizes or rubbish. Make it something you would be really pleased to win yourself.**
- (g) The Party food - The Society provides all the savoury foods, plenty of fruit punch and a limited range of soft-drinks, beer and wine. If anyone wishes to bring anything other food or drinks specific to meet their own needs, by all means go ahead but be aware that kitchen space and facilities are highly limited.**
- (h) For dessert, the society supplies a number of items, but traditionally** we also ask that if they can, we would appreciate members bringing a small plate of some other special sweet delight to share for desserts so that we have a wonderful array of variety. Even if we end up with left overs, we love to have that choice. It is Christmas.
- (i) The Society provides plastic plates, cups, and utensils etc, paper serviettes etc. ,**

*This is a light hearted night where we end the year in a social environment with our partners, friends, family, some of our guest speakers from the past year, and guests from our sister societies.
Lets have a good time.*

Other Member Information

The New Bark Order – this was completed at the last meeting. We will contact purchasers shortly to arrange pick up.

At The Welfare Office

A young man with his pants hanging half off, two gold front teeth, and a half inch thick gold chain around his neck; walked into the local welfare office to pick up his cheque. He went to the counter and said, “Hi. You know, I just hate drawing welfare. I'd really rather have a job... I don't like taking advantage of the system, getting something for nothing.”

The social worker behind the counter said “Your timing is excellent. We just got a job opening from a very wealthy old man who wants a chauffeur and bodyguard for his beautiful daughter. You'll have to drive around in his 2012 Mercedes-Benz CL, and he will supply all of your clothes. Because of the long hours, meals will be provided. You'll also be expected to escort the daughter on her overseas holiday trips, and, this is rather awkward to say, but you will also have the assignment to satisfy her sexual urges as the girl, in her mid-20's, has a rather strong sex drive.”

The guy, just plain wide-eyed, said, “You're kidding' me!”

The social worker said, “Yeah, well... You started it.”

How To Tell The Sex Of A Fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked. -- "Hunting Flies", he replied.

"Oh. ! Killing any?" She asked. -- "Yep", he said, "3 males, 2 females."

Intrigued, she asked. "How on earth can you tell them apart?"

"Its easy", he said. "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Best of the Evening Novice – Cattleya unknown hybrid grown by *Lisa Harris*

What a lovely orchid and what a shame the name has been lost.

I guess that not all growers feel the same way as I do about orchid names, but the names are important. Knowing the hybrid name or species name will give you strong clues about the condition the orchid might need, such as how much light they need, and what level of low temperature they might tolerate. In addition, my role as an orchid auctioneer has made it abundantly clear to me that a ‘no name’ orchid is much harder to sell, and sells for far less, than its named equivalents.

Please growers, when you get a new orchid, it is really worth the effort to slip a small second label down the inside of the pot with its name safely hidden away from the damaging effects of sunlight, or the possibility of someone pulling your main label to read it and either forgetting to put it back or accidentally putting it into the wrong pot. And if you won't do that, why not at least write the orchid name a second time in small print on the bottom half of the label, in case the top breaks off after sunlight damage.



So what can I tell you about your orchid Lisa. Well apart from the nicely balanced round shape, the obvious things are the darker tipped petals and the flat spathe like lip.

The darker tipped petals are called a “splash petal” characteristic and are deliberately bred into many hybrids from orchids that have a mutation where the petals take on many of the characteristics of the lip. This isn't all that strange a mutation really, because after all, the lip is already a petal that has been mutated by evolution to provide a landing platform and sexual direction guide for pollinating insects. The further step to mutate the other petals to match shouldn't be that big a job of genetic engineering to whatever force steers these things. One of the most common orchids to exhibit this mutation in nature is *Cattleya intermedia* from Brazil – the orchid I wrote up last week. However, the variety with naturally splashed petals is called “variety Aquinii”.

The second item I noted is that flat, open lip, a characteristic that often stems from breeding with the species *Cattleya walkeriana*. There are a few other species that might also be its source, but in this case I would guess *walkeriana*. Interestingly, there is a lovely hybrid that includes strong influences from both *walkeriana* and *intermedia* var *Aquinii*, that has some similarities with Lisa's orchid and may well have been part of its development, and that is *Cattleya Cherry Chip* (*Angelwalker* x *intermedia*). I have included some pictures below to show *Cherry Chip* and some of its complex progeny to show how some of these develop. I doubt Lisa's orchid is any one of these, but it is probably from the same breeding lines. *Cherry Bee* is a direct cross progeny of *Cherry Chip* but the other two, while still incorporating *Cherry Chip*, are later and more complex hybrids.



Catt. Cherry Chip



Catt. Cherry Bee



Catt. Dal's Princess



Catt. Elusive Heartbeat

However, whatever it is, you grew it very well Lisa and it deserved its BOE. Congratulations yet again.

Last Wishes

Mary Clancy goes up to Father O'Grady after his Sunday morning service, and she's in tears.

He says, "So what's bothering you, Mary, my dear?"

She says, "Oh, Father, I've got terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me Mary, did he have any last requests?"

She says, "That he did, Father."

The priest says, "What did he ask, Mary?"

She says, "He said, 'Please Mary, put down that damn gun.' "

The First Computer - Did you know this dates right back to Adam and Eve. The apple. There was just one bite, and then everything crashed.

Best of the Evening Species – *Oncidium edwallii* - grown by *Trevor and Pauline Onslow*



Well at least you have to say the Onslows are consistent. This makes 5 out of the last 6 years that this lovely specimen has won Best Species at our November meeting, and it has grown a little bigger and better each time. This is no simple orchid to maintain and they are doing just beautifully with it.

Onc. edwallii is an epiphyte from the Atlantic coast of Brazil, roughly 1000km north and south of Rio De Janeiro. In Australia, the equivalent latitudes would be about Taree to Townsville on our east coast, but as Australia doesn't have the equivalent of the mountainous coastal forests that Brazil has in those areas, it is not quite a direct equivalent.

Edwallii is one of a group of about 6 species from Brazil where the plants are generally low growing plants that form flat clusters of foliage and bulbs. Only a few species are grown ornamentally. The flower stems are relatively short,

but most species do have a branched inflorescence, and a well grown plant can make a very impressive display of multiple flowering stems and large numbers of flowers. Plants in this group look somewhat related to the mule ear group of *Oncidium*s but are much smaller, the leaves are nowhere near as stiff, and the small bulbs are more conspicuous (the pseudobulbs of true 'mule ears' are nearly invisible at the base of massive upright stiff leaves). The most commonly grown species that we see from this group is *O. harrisonianum* which is similar to *edwallii* but its flowers are a little larger and it appears to be a little easier to grow.

Edwallii is thought to be found in a variety of habitats. It predominantly comes from the hot humid marshy areas nearer to the coast, but its range is also reported to extend right up into the cooler mountain areas which make a rather unusually wide range of desired habitat, and makes me a little cautious about assessing its winter cold tolerance. Personally, I grow its sister species *Onc. harrisoniae* quite happily in my roofed shadehouse, but I managed to kill *edwallii* within two years trying to grow it alongside its sister. Trevor and Pauline live only a short distance from my home but I am a little further down the hill to Galston Gorge and winters at my place can be 3 or 4°C colder. Also, the Onslows growing area is annexed to the rear of their home, giving it some protection. I might be clutching at excuses, but I suspect *edwallii* is a slightly warmer grower than *harrisoniae*.

But of course that is me and not Trevor and Pauline. I have been a friend of theirs for years but I am continually amazed at how well they can grow things I have given up on. Gee, that must be a fabulous habitat at their house.

Congratulations on yet another Best of the Evening guys. Amazing.

Is this Paph Transvaal or Vanguard or Caroline Hands, or even Paph Andronicus ??

We are talking here about the multi-flowered Paph that was awarded Best of the Evening at our last meeting. There is a curious contention over which of the 4 different registered names should apply to this orchid and my view of which is correct has changed a few times over the years.

But before I go into the debate about the correct name, let me give you some history about my particular plant.

As my wife Cynthia's family were based in South Australia, and we were living in Sydney, Cynthia, the kids, and myself used to fairly regularly travel back to South Australia for holidays. Her mum and dad lived on a farm out in the country near the SA/Victorian border but each time we travelled down that way, we would often travel further down into the city of Adelaide for various reasons. I was only just beginning my interest in orchids in those days, but whenever we went that far, I would make sure that I visited Adelaide Orchids, as that was one of the most famous and important orchid nurseries in Australia at the time and was, I think, owned and run by Stephen Monkhouse. Stephen made and registered many orchid hybrids but was also a master grower, and every time I visited his nursery I saw things I had never seen before, and found many unusual orchids available for sale (well unusual to me anyway). After every such visit I was sure to come away with a few new treasures to foster when I got home and on one visit in 1983, I bought a seedling which became the orchid featured here. The label when I bought it read : *Paph. moquettianum* x *rothschildinaum* 'Tenys'.



It turned out to be a relatively good grower, as far as any Paph can be called a good grower, and when it finally flowered I was as pleased as punch. I thought it was about the most beautiful orchid I had ever grown, although I might concede now that I may have been a trifle biased at the time. Anyway, as all of us tend to do, I wondered if it had been registered as a hybrid, and if so, what its name might be. But, when you do this and look deeper, a conundrum arises from the depths.

The parent Paph. rothschildianum has never been a subject of debate . It has always been regarded as one of the most beautiful and stately of all Paphs. I don't have picture of the particular clone 'Tenys' but it was given an Award of Distinction in 1975 so I assume it is one of the superior forms. Its award description says the flowers were 25cm wide x 12.3cm tall which is quite a size, and generally has 4 or 5 flowers.



rothschildianum

It is the other parent (moquettianum) where some questions arise, but unfortunately, it depends on where you look and whose opinion you prefer, as to what is the answer. I no longer have my old hard copy Sanders Guide, which was the published record of every registered orchid hybrid, but the current online database tells us that moquettianum x rothschildianum was not registered until 2004, so I know that in 1990 I would not have found it recorded.

The problem is that moquettianum is one of a group of 3 or more species that has been the subject of much debate as to which are valid species, which are just forms of one of the other named species, and which names should correctly be used even once you have decided which populations are species and which are just varieties of other species. Are you following me here? I hope so because I am not really sure what it means myself. I am no taxonomist but in my opinion, the three most closely similar related but species or varieties for consideration here are P. chamberlainianum, P. glaucophyllum, and P. moquettianum. There are 'sample' pictures below, but remember, species do vary.



chamberlainianum (makes Transvaal)



moquettianum (makes Caroline Hands)



glaucophyllum (makes Vanguard)

"Phil's Orchid World" gives this very nice summary of the standing of Paph. moquettianum :

"Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum was originally found by the village of Turen, south east of Mount Serneru in east Java. In 1905, on the south coast of Java, some 700 kilometres away, some similar plants were collected. As these differed slightly from P. glaucophyllum, J.J. Smith named them P. glaucophyllum var. moquetteanum in 1906. For a long time it (ie moquettianum) was lost, until rediscovered by J.B. Comber. Fowlie, in 1980, raised it to full species rank, although as with the other species of this subgenus, its correct designation is still questioned."

Thus, back around 1990 when I was looking up my hybrid seedling, 'moquettianum' was generally accepted as just a variety of Paph. glaucophyllum. For the purposes of registration of a hybrid, a variety of a species is regarded as the same as the species. The cross Paph glaucophyllum x rothschildianum was registered in 1921 as Paph Vanguard, and for quite a long time, this was what I decided to call my orchid.

The other of the 3 very closely related species is Paph chamberlainianum. Again, "Phil's Orchid World" provides a nice potted history although it does contains a serious date typo that I mention : *"In 1982 (typo, should be 1892), in the same advertisement in The Gardeners Chronicle, Frederick Sander described two (separate but very similar) plants Cyripedium victoria-regina and C. chamberlainianum. The first plant was fully described, but the later was only briefly discussed. It was therefore considered that the description of C. chamberlainianum was inadequate for valid description and that the epithet "victoria-regina" should take precedence over chamberlainianum because of its more detailed description, and Phillip Cribb now believes P. victoria-regina should be the correct name for this species. Cribb states that the description of C. victoria-regina given by Sander fits exactly the species widely known and grown today as P. chamberlainianum. He has retained the name by which it is widely known and grown, but notes you should be aware that this nomenclature is not strictly correct. Koopowitz agrees this should be considered a synonym for victoria-regina, although Braem, Bakler and Baker do not agree."*

Further on this front, and I am not sure whether this is the very latest thinking, but an article I have previously used for reference stated that - : *"The Handbook of Orchid Nomenclature and Registration notes that in their opinion Paphiopedilum victoria-regina is the correct name, with the following (6) given as synonyms for that species. Those marked * have been accepted for hybrid registrations. * Paphiopedilum chamberlainianum, * P. glaucophyllum, P. liemianum, P. moquettianum, * P. primulinum, P. victoria-mariae."*

Oh what a complicated world in which we orchid growers live. If the name for all of them should be victoria-regina, then the name for my hybrid should be Paph Andronicus. It seems though, that at least in 2004, the register of orchid

hybrids did accept *Paph moquettianum* as a valid name for registration because they accepted the hybrid name *P. Caroline Hands* for the cross *moquettianum* x *rothschildianum*. This hardly seems fair to me because I am sure they must have rejected the same request back in about the 1970's to 90's, and I can only guess of course that they would have told any applicants that *moquettianum* is invalid and just a variety of *glaucophyllum*.

However, let us consider just for a moment, that we accept that *moquettianum* is not a species, and also that we are not going to lump all of these multiple "species" under the catch all name *Paph victoria-regina*, then what are the differences between *Paphs glaucophyllum* and *chamberlainianum*? The pictures above seem to show some distinct differences but you must remember that flower colours can not be regarded as stable, and are therefore are not valid as differentiators of one species from another. As to the differences on other, more valid fronts, the name *glaucophyllum* itself comes from a distinct grayish, bluish, or whitish waxy coating on the upper surface of its leaves, even though that coating is easily rubbed off. Other than that, they both have sequentially opening flowers of about the same size but *glaucophyllum* has a shorter inflorescence (30cm versus 60cm) and fewer flowers (20 versus 30). Probably the greatest distinction is that they are found in different places, indicating evolution by separation.

Glaucophyllum grows on east Java in bright light in exposed locations on steep to mostly vertical, soft and crumbly limestone cliffs. Its roots grow into mosses and leafy humus, in water seepage zones. Its habitat lies at an elevation over 300m.

Chamberlainianum is found on the island of Sumatra, in the south-central region at about 800-1600m elevation. It usually grows in bright shade on limestone boulders and cliff faces in either water seepages or deep pads of humus but plants are sometimes also found growing epiphytically on tree roots in leafy humus.

So in summary, different but adjacent islands of Indonesia, probably more than 1000km apart. Significantly different elevations, but otherwise much the same kind of places and conditions (higher means cooler). There may be other more flower related specific taxonomic differences such as pollinator related ridges etc that I am ignoring, but it seems clear to me clear that these two are so closely related that one is likely a geologically isolated evolutionary variant of the other, or at least of some common forebear.

To wrap it all up – eenie meenie miney mo, the answer is a big toe – you can just about justify any of the 4 registered names you choose to apply. I probably should call it *Paph Caroline Hands* seeing that is the name attached specifically to *moquettianum* x *rothschildianum*, but I am a bit cranky about that name being a 'Johnny Come Lately', and anyway, I tend to favour the theory that all these 3 "species" should be regarded as *chamberlainianum* and that even though some might say that all *chamberlainianums* are really *victoria-reginas*, the use of a separation of those two names has been accepted for about 130 or more years so I say keep them separated. "Transvaal" is the name for *Chamberlainianum* x *rothschildianum*, and it sound nice and exotic, so I will go with that.

Does that sound entirely logical, like the analytical thinker I am? You know what, I don't care. If the taxonomists can't get it any clearer than that, I say my way is as good as any. You should make up your own mind.

The Wedding

Daddy, I am coming home to get married soon, so get your cheque book out. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. As you know, I am in Australia, and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whatsapp, He proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of relationship through Viber. -- My beloved and favourite Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding."

Lots of love and thanks, your favourite daughter, Lilly

Dad: My Dear Lilly, -- Like Wow! Really? Cool! Whatever....., I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through Paypal. And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on eBay.

The Monk

A man wanted to become a monk so he went to the monastery and talked to the Abbot (the head monk). The Abbot said, "You must take a vow of silence and can only say two words every three years." The man agreed.

After the first 3 years, the Abbot came to him and said, "What are your two words?" "Food cold!" the man replied. The Abbot made sure the meals are not cold.

Three more years went by and the Abbot came to him and said, "What are your two words?". "Robe dirty!" the man exclaimed. The Abbot ordered his robe be washed.

Three more years went by and the Abbot came to him and said, "What are your two words?" "Bed hard!". The Abbot made sure the mattress got re-stuffed.

Three more years went by and the Abbot came to him and said, "What are your two words?"

"I quit!" said the man.

Well," the Abbot replied, "I'm not surprised, you've done nothing but complain since you got here!"