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Patron : Keith Irvine

web site (active link) : <http://kuringaiorchidsociety.org.au>

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Editor (Hon volunteer) Jim Brydie

Committee : Chris Wilson (Library and Reference Sources)

Society mail to - PO box 1501 Lane Cove, NSW, 1595

Committee : Lee Payne (Sponsorship)

Email – kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

Next Meeting : Monday, 18th March, 2019

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

The hall is open from 6.30pm. Please try and get there early to help set up tables, chairs and lighting.

Benching is available shortly after 7pm but please be patient and **wait until tables and dividers are in place.**

The **Culture Class** this month starts at 7.20pm and this month Sebastian Torrisi will talk about “Examination of the root system of a Cymbidium, and preparing your Cymbidium for flowering”. You have seen the magnificent orchids Seb brings to meetings. This a grower with a great wealth of knowledge and experience. Don’t miss the chance to gain from his knowledge. Get in early and get a front row seat.

The main meeting **commences at 8pm.** After the formalities of the general meeting, the judging, and the tea break, our main guest speaker will be Allan Cushway with a picture story of Gloria’s and his recent visit to the Toh Gardens and, Orchid Exhibition and Garden Show in Singapore. I have seen some of Allan’s pictures and this surely must have been a spectacular event. I am really looking forward to this one. They don’t do things by halves over there.

Our **supper volunteers** for **February** are **Janet Snodgrass** and **Mary Mathews.** Thank you for helping ladies.

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Vanda (syn Ascocenda) Marlyn Farwell - grown by G. & L. Bromley



Another of the Bromley’s Vandas that used to be something else, but in this case it used to be just a common old Ascocenda (ie a Vanda x Ascocentrum). The cross was made in 1991 by Robert Fuchs Orchids in Florida and the parents are V. Chengmai Blue x the famous Ascda Yip Sum Wah. The Ascocentrum parentage comes from A. curvifolium which has about 30 (2 to 2.5cm diameter) usually orange flowers but they can also be red, salmon, or yellow. Ascocentrum species are traditionally used to miniaturise Vanda flowers, and perhaps to increase flower count and compact the display. It certainly seems to have achieved all those goals perfectly in the case of Marlyn Farwell, even though curvifolium only makes up 25% of the gene pool.

On the Vanda side, parentage is a mix of 5 different Vanda species but is totally dominated by just two, V. sanderiana and V. coerulea, which make up nearly 65% of the gene pool. This is nothing unusual because these two species dominate nearly all classic Vanda breeding. Sanderiana has really large, nearly perfectly shaped flowers, heavily marked on the lower half giving it a two toned look. However, this is a genuinely tropical orchid from the Philippines, occurring from sea level to about 500m. It often occurs hanging over water, sometimes fully exposed. It is a HOT, moist grower and difficult to cultivate in locations like Sydney unless you have a warm glasshouse and skills. Vanda coerulea is that magnificent blue orchid that everyone falls instantly in love with. It comes from higher elevations so is easier to grow and more tolerant but to a purist its flower shape is flawed because the petals typically twist to display at 90 degrees to the sepals. Hybrids between the two, and their progeny, seek to gain the best of each parent.

Thus with Marlyn Farwell, we get lots of perfectly shaped, rich coloured smaller flowers. And, while it is an orchid that would need a little winter warmth, and humidity, it can be readily grown in a glasshouse with moderate care.

Clearly, this is a highly desirable and colourful orchid. Congratulations Garrie and Lesley. Beautifully grown.

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

1. From President Dennys Desk – (a) Mail - You might have noticed from our front page that the society now has a PO box for its formal postal address. Would all societies with whom we exchange newsletters and other material, please note that our address is now **PO Box 1501, Lane Cove, NSW, 1595**. Please now send all mail to this address.

(b) New Committee Member - It is a great pleasure to advise that Herb Schoch (Liaison) has accepted an offer to join the Society's Committee. Please congratulate Herb when you next see him. Herb is a succinct and skillful communicator and we welcome him to the committee. Herb will assist the Committee in liaising with other bodies outside the Society as needed and advise the Committee on business practice and planning.

(c) Future Bark Ordering. - The committee unanimously decided that the society would no longer offer this service to members as the frequency of orders had greatly diminished and the process has become physically difficult for those involved. Bark is available at numerous shows, Garden City Plastics, Enfield Produce Pet & Garden Supplies stocks, Orchid Care Services and other suppliers. If some members are having difficulty acquiring bark then let the committee know, since it is likely we can put in you in contact with a member who will be visiting a supplier. Also, if you are about to visit a supplier and can help out other members, please let the meeting know.

(d) Home visit to Garrie and Lesley's - The Bromleys have very kindly made their home available for a 'home visit' by society members. The date is Sunday 5th of May and the visit is from 10am to 1pm. Garrie and Lesley have a magnificent collection of orchids and if you haven't been there before you will be amazed. Come along and see how two of our very best growers manage their vast array of orchids other plants. Morning tea will be available

(e) A message to Novices - We know that it is sometimes hard for novice orchid growers to get started benching their plants so we want to assure you that as long as you have been growing an orchid for at least 3 months, it is flowering, and not obviously diseased, it qualifies for benching. It doesn't have to have a label or plant name, we will help you find the right place to bench it. Bring it in and ask any of the committee members for help or advice. In fact most members will be glad to help. It is a very rewarding to receive a benching point let alone place points for your first orchid. It is a learning process and confidence builds with participation.

2. Membership Fees – Last chance. If you don't pay by or at the next meeting your name will come off the membership list. You can always rejoin of course, and we will welcome you back, but isn't it easier to just renew?

Fees are \$15 single, \$18 family. You can pay online by bank transfer to **Westpac Bank, St Ives branch, BSB No 032 188, account name, Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society and account number 103568**. If you use bank transfer, please put the words "**Membership fees**" and **include your name** in the payment description.

You can also pay in person at the next meeting, or mail a cheque. However, please note, **if you pay in person or by mail**, we want you to include a completed '**payment advice form**' to submit with the payment. It gives us a paper record & helps keep track of who has paid. Forms were sent with previous bulletins & will also be available at the front desk.

3. Chinese Dinner Outing Friday 12th April – Now isn't April going to be a busy month. First there is Collectors Plant Fair at Hawkesbury racecourse which is an event I just love every year. Our meeting night is Mon the 15th, **but just before that, we have a wonderful Chinese restaurant social dinner at the Paradise Restaurant, Terry Hills.**

The restaurant is part of the Golf Paradise driving range at 1A - 1B Myoora Rd, Terrey Hills. There is plenty of parking at the site.

The society is subsidising the cost once again, so for a price of \$20 per head for members and their partners, you will get a sumptuous Chinese dinner with dessert, and the company of a bunch of wonderful, fellow orchid growers to talk to and discuss the weather etc. Have you noticed that orchid growers are the most sociable, intelligent, easy to talk to people in the world? Of course you have, you are one of them aren't you?

The dinner will be banquet style as usual. That means that the society chooses a selection of different dishes to be served on platters and shared at the table. Our social organiser Jessie Koh has made the arrangements for us this year and she tells me that the food at Paradise is very good, especially the banana fritters and ice cream for dessert, although they also do lychees I believe. The society will arrange for a small quantity of soft drinks for each table to get the night started but after that, attendees will need to order and pay for drinks separately. The restaurant is licensed but BYO for wine is allowed. These nights are great value and really good fun. Why not come and join us

As usual, we need to know if you can join us so that we can work out the numbers and help the restaurant arrange tables etc. Please contact Jessie as soon as possible jessie_koh38@hotmail.com to let her know if you are coming.

4. Selling on the Sales Table – I am not sure whether all our members know exactly how the sales table at meetings functions, so I take this opportunity to run through the system.

Some of the stock on the sales table, ie the pots, stakes, fertiliser etc., is purchased by the society in bulk and sold on to members at a small margin to cover the overheads of making these items available. We must all especially thank Anne Byron for the amazing work she does in breaking down bulk packs of fertiliser to the manageable size packs we sell. Without her efforts we wouldn't do it.

BUT – as you know, members may also sell their own items on the sales table. To do so, there are a few rules.

- orchids are the only PLANT you can sell (no ferns, exotics, trees or others).

- whatever you sell, in addition to any name, label, or identifier on the plant or item, **YOU MUST ATTACH A SEPARATE YELLOW PRICE TAG WITH THE SALES PRICE** on one side **AND YOUR NAME** on the other. Stocks of these tags are sold on the sales table.
- If your item sells, the society deducts 10% commission and gives you the remainder. We don't use sales sheets. When the item sells we remove the tag as we take the money and use the tag to pay the seller. If you don't put a tag on the item you won't get paid. Equally, would buyers please note - **DON'T** walk away from the table with a sales plant while you think about it, or take a plant away after paying if it still has its sales tag on it.
- Plants being sold must be in good condition, have been potted at least 3 months before, and not exhibit pest or disease symptoms. Otherwise your plant may be rejected by the sales team.
- all these same conditions apply at the sales tables at shows and fairs (but those may have additional conditions).

5. Supper at our Meetings – thank you to all those who contribute to our meeting suppers. Contributions do fall away at times, so please remember to bring along a plate to share as it adds greatly to the social value of each meeting.

Just to make sure everyone knows the process, the society supplies the hot water, cups, tea, coffee, and milk. We depend on members to supply the food. We ask all members to contribute a small plate of cake, biscuits, or savories or the like, to share on the supper table each meeting. Obviously we don't need every member to contribute every month, and we don't need you to bring enough to feed the hall. However, we also don't wish to roster the process.

If you could bring something along at least once every few meetings we will all enjoy our suppers. Please help when you can to make the social side of our meetings the success it has always been in the past.

Advance Diary Dates 2019

6 & 7 April (Sat/Sun) Collectors Plant Fair – held at Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd (see internet)

Fri 12 April – Society Chinese dinner at Paradise Restaurant, 1A- 1B Myoora Rd, Terrey Hills. 6.30 for 7pm.

Sun 14 April - Manly Warringah OS, public orchid auction - Community Centre Fisher Rd North, Cromer

Sun 5 May – Home visit to Garrie and Lesley Bromley's. 43 Ferguson Street Forestville. Strictly 10am to 1pm.

Fri 17 to Sun 19 May – Orchids Out West Orchid Fair – displays and sales, Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd

Dipodium punctatum (now Dipodium squamatum) - Jim Brydie

Late last year an excited Angie Lyle asked some experienced growers about this lovely orchid she came across during a trail walk in northern Sydney bushland. She has provided some great pictures so that we could tell other members more about it.

The species, which would still be identified in most reference books as *Dipodium punctatum*, has now been renamed as *D. squamatum*. It occurs widely in NSW and Qld and is also found in Victoria and South Australia. It occurs in a variety of different habitats at elevations between just about sea level and 1100 metres but in my own experience in the Sydney area, it seems to prefer the dryer ridge country around Sydney's rim, at perhaps a few hundred metres. It is mostly found in lightly tree'd Eucalypt-dominated open woodland.

In the bush near my home at Hornsby Heights, it is most prolific in relatively flat, brightly lit areas, under scattered *Angophora* trees, several different species of *Eucalyptus*, and lower, more scrubby cover. These areas are often quite near the edge of a sharp drop away to a deep valley on one side and I would assume that the advantages of this particular habitat are the stable collection of leaf litter for surface compost, and the good airflow generated by the air rising up the side of the valley. However, it is an adaptable species and I am sure it is found in other habitats as well.

Angie's picture at the right shows that the habitat where she found *Dipodium* is a little more heavily wooded than that in which I usually find it at Hornsby, yet still shows remarkable similarities. Deep leaf litter on a relatively flat surface with a steep valley to one side.

This species is one of the 'leafless orchids'. It tends to occur in reasonably large colonies of plants but with individuals often spread a metre or two apart. In its flowering season it is quite a sight when you come across a little grove of a dozen or more in fairly close proximity.

Dipodium squamatum flowers in the summer months on upright 40 to 90cm green to dark red stems

with many attractive 2.5cm spotted pink flowers, on about the upper 30% of the stem. Flower colour and intensity of the spotting varies considerably but the basic pattern is a pink background and darker pink/mauve spots or blotches.



Habitat area where Angie found *Dipodium* growing

Obviously, as a leafless orchid there are no leaves. This orchid does not live by photosynthesis. It grows by and in association with a fungus which lives off decaying organic material in or on the soil. It requires the fungi to attack the decaying material and gains from the nutrients released by the fungi through that decay process. The name for this system of orchid growth is mycoheterotrophic.

paler flower form

Unfortunately for all of us orchid growers who admire it, the growth cycle of this lovely but unusual orchid depends entirely on the presence of a specific fungi (there are millions of them) and this dependent relationship makes it impossible for us to cultivate the species in a pot or even in a suitable garden environment. You may think your bush backyard looks just right, or that you might transplant the fungi with the orchid but please believe me, the chances of the right fungi being there, or the right conditions for it to survive, being available just where you want it, is nil. Don't be tempted to dig it up. Just enjoy it where you find it.

You know the old saying - "take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints".

Best of Evening Species – Epidendrum paniculatum grown by *Jim Brydie*

Chris Nidagal benched this species in 2017 and it was awarded best species on the evening. Chris's orchid is also green and white and quite similar to mine but there are also small differences. In the best of the evening write up back then I discussed some of the unusual variability within the species but I have since learned a little more and would like to share it with you.

The species name refers to the nature of its inflorescence. The word inflorescence means all of the flower stem, its branches, and the flowers, and 'panicle' means "a much branched compound inflorescence, often of pyramidal shape". Beyond that simple characteristic however, this species seems to be a potential conundrum.

It was first discovered in Peru but subsequently, 'it' (or others from which it seems we can't easily taxonomically distinguish it), were also found in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil. To further complicate matters, 'it' is found at a huge range of elevations from the hot humid lowlands up to a quite high 2700 m. Such a wide variation is very unusual because it implies that the species can tolerate (thrive?) in a range of hugely different habitat and climate conditions.

The species also varies in physical characteristic such as physical size and flower colour and shape. These variations are so wide that you can't help but ask yourself are they really all the same species. As a result of its variability, it is hardly surprising that the species has been newly "discovered" many times over the years and each time it was considered to be a new species and given a new name. Names which are now considered to be synonyms for *Epidendrum paniculatum* include *Epidendrum floribundum*, *ornatum*, *reflexa*, *syringiflorum*, *brachythyrsum*, and *longicrurum*.

When growing strongly, my plant has canes about 45-50cm tall, with panicles of lovely apple green flowers with a pure white lip, about 2cm wide x 3cm tall. By contrast, the standard species description for *Epi. paniculatum* says it has growths "up to nearly a metre tall" and its 2.5cm flowers can be green, white, yellow, or even pale rose. The lip also often has red spots or other markings. While most present the flower shape in a flat plane (like mine), they can also present quite differently as you can see from the picture examples below. Can these really be all one species?



tear drop

flared lip

helicopter

dangling

yellow

fawn

purple spots

Expert *Epidendrum* taxonomist Eric Hagsater recently reviewed the group and says that they are actually 6 different but closely related species, but until these kinds of review are discussed further and everyone agrees where the lines of distinction between each species are drawn, all I can say is if I was looking to buy another *Epi. paniculatum* right now, I would want to know what the plant and the flowers look like.

In describing its habitat, it is similarly hard to be specific. The species most recently determined by Hagsater to be *E. paniculatum*, is found in wet tropical forests in Peru at elevations between 1700 and 2800 metres. However, the picture he uses to illustrate this species (see Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia) shows slightly different looking flowers to mine. The inflorescence is upright, the flowers are elongated and have a bit of colour in the lip.

So what is Jim's green and white one you may ask? Well I can't tell you. I have nothing else to call it but *paniculatum*.

I would never dismiss Eric Hagsater's revisions, but when new information creates confusion like this, I have found that sometimes it is just because we don't yet know the full story. At some future point, with more input, questions, and discussion, a new clearer view may arise, or I hope it will. I will wait until then to change any labels.

I grow my paniculatum in my roofed shadehouse. I grow it as an epiphyte in a plastic pot sitting on the bench amongst other epiphytes, and have successfully used both peat and perlite, and bark mixes. It tolerates the winter cold without any problems but it is certainly protected from frosts. It flowers at the end of summer and finishes its growing cycle in the autumn. I think it is more or less dormant in winter which probably helps it tolerate the colder conditions here that wherever it came from.

It is a nuisance that there is unavoidable confusion over the name though. Perhaps I could call mine 'forma green and white'? That sound pretty official doesn't it?

Pink Paphs by Jim Brydie

When I first started growing orchids I didn't think much of Paphs. Some growers seemed to really love them but I thought they were ugly looking things. Just look at a nice Cattleya alongside a Paph – no contest. One is beautiful, the other ugly. Dendrobiums are beautiful too but it is a different beauty to Cattleyas. The beauty is often in the display made by multiple flowers together, as for example, a lovely Dendrobium thyrsoflorum or densiflorum. Paphs? Not even in the competition.

Well that is where I started anyway.

Back in those days (now put your calculators away, I'm not that old), Paph flowers were basically a mix of white, brown, green, and dull red. Well in fact, most still are. Most of the species we saw were quite distinct from one another but the colours in nearly all of them were the same.

There were a few that were very different, such as the lovely white Paph bellatulum. An amazingly round white flower on a very short stem that grows in limestone country in Thailand and surrounding countries. There were also the multiflowered types that were quite stately and rather stunning, but I hardly ever saw them. The bellatulum types and the multiflowered types were more difficult to grow, and very expensive, so they were not for the likes of a newbie like me. I ignored them and decided Paphs weren't going to be my thing.

Its funny how time changes perspectives. Today, some of my most prized orchids are Paphs, and I don't think they are ugly anymore. Go figure. How does that happen?

Anyway, enough intro. Last meeting there were two delightfully pastel pink coloured Paphs on the bench and as there was no Novice best of the evening, I thought it would be interesting to explore the 'pinks' background.

"Pink" is a rather unusual colour in Paphs. In the early days there were a few experimental hybrids that you would probably call pink, but they were more a white background with finely scattered tiny red dots. Nice try but not really. The new breed of pinks is something else. These have real pastel colours.

In looking at the breeding behind pink Paphs, there seem to be two distinct paths. The most obvious one stems back to Paph delenatii from Vietnam. This species was first described in 1924, from plants brought back by returning French soldiers but was believed to be extinct. It was only 'rediscovered' in 1993. It comes from SE Vietnam at elevations around 800-1300 meters and plants are generally found in granite pebbles or on mossy tree trunks, usually near water in a shady area. It is a white flower with a lovely pink balloon shaped lip and is the first of what we nowadays call the Chinese paphs. These are the ones with that typical balloon lip and includes emersonii, malipoense, micranthum, vietnamense, and others. Many have been found since delenatii.

Some of the notable hybrids that fit the delenatii pink line are shown below.



Paph delenatii



Pink Fred



Ho Chi Minh



Delrosi (with rothschildianum)



Magic Lantern



Carolyn Butcher

The second line of pink breeding is based around Paph niveum which is one of a small group of closely related Paphs called the Brachypetalums. Other well known group species are bellatulum, godefroyae, leucochilum, and concolor.

Niveum is a smallish species found at very low elevations (to 100m), mostly on small limestone based islands around the Malay/Thai border area. They are usually found in moss or humus-filled cracks on limestone rocks or cliffs, or on moss-covered tree roots. Like its sister species in this group, the flowers are dominated by the two broad lateral petals, the equally large dorsal sepal, and the lip, making it look like the flower only has 4 parts. Some cultivars have pure white flowers but most seem to be white with some fine red spotting toward the centre. The flowers are about 8cm across.



niveum

bellatulum

Early pink hybrids explored this fine spotting pink effect by crossing to other *Brachypetalum* species, and then to all sorts of others types, especially those with albinistic characteristics. ie the green and white types with little or no red pigment genes. Some very nice flowers have resulted but please take note, the flowers I show you here have been selected to show the pink types. There are many others from those crosses that look nothing like this.

One of the first crosses of this type was a very long time ago, back in 1893 when *niveum* was crossed with *bellatulum* to make Paph *Psyche*. However, the trouble with discussing this kind of cross is that you don't know which cultivars of each species was used in the breeding. As described above, *niveum* can be variable in colour but it is quite stable by comparison to *bellatulum*. The latter can be pure white right through the full range from light spotting to very dark purple spotting and blotching like the picture above.



Most pictures of *Psyche* I have seen are quite pale with fine spotting, but some like the one shown at the right are sort of what you would call pink. Other examples of pink *niveum* hybrids are shown below. *In-Charm Grace* and *Greyi* are spotty types, but the others show that not all breeding was aiming for this pattern.



In-Charm Grace

Paph Eos

Winnifred Hollington

Sirita Magray

Pink Enchantress

Greyi

Eos is *niveum* x *charlesworthii*, *Sirita Magray* is [*godefroyae* x *niveum*] x *fairrieanum*, and *Pink Enchantress* is an equal mix of 4 species (*niveum*, *lawrenceanum*, *tonsum*, and *callosum*).

Crossing the lines? Perhaps some of the more true pastel pinks will come from the crossing the breeding lines of both *delenatii* and *niveum*. We already have some nice examples as you can see at the right. *Vanda M Pearman* is not exactly the direct 2 line cross but it is close, being *bellatulum* x *delenatii*, but the second one, *Deception II*, is *niveum* x *delenatii*. It is surprising that the two are not more alike, but *Deception II* shows much more of the *delenatii* shape. The third, *Snow Squall*, is a really lovely looking thing. Its breeding is *delenatii* x *Greyi* (and *Greyii* is *bellatulum* x *godefroyae*).



Vanda M Pearman

Deception II

Snow Squall

Now, to finish our brief view into pink Paphs, there was one more pink Paph benched at our meeting last month and that doesn't seem to fit any pattern I can explain. As you can see, it is a delightful small flowered, pink multifloral Paph. The orchid was mine and the label says it is Paph *Honey* x *Vanguard* and to expand on that, *Honey* = *philippinense* x *primulinum*, and *Vanguard* = *glaucophyllum* x *rothschildianum*. The cross is not yet registered. I bought the plant as a seedling from a Paph specialist at a fair at his assurance this one was something really good. Well I am not disappointed, in fact I really like it, but I am blown if I can see where it supposed to have got its pink genes.



Jim's pink

Primulinum is a curious species. The description by the Bakers on Orchidwiz says it is found in Northern Sumatra in the vicinity of Mt. Leuser. Plants are found at 400-500 m, growing in humus on the floor of dwarf forest on top of limestone hills. It is closely related to *glaucophyllum* and *chamberlainianum* but is smaller than those species and although some cultivars have a bit of pink in their colouring, many seem to be albinistic with their flowers coloured in greens and either gold or white.

Those characteristics must be significant because although its progeny "Honey" is variable, the flowers of many cultivars are in gold and light brown tones which is probably where the name Honey came from. *Primulinum* is a multiflowered type, but one of those that flowers sequentially with only two or



primulinum

three flowers open at any one time. The inflorescence continues to lengthen as it develops and may eventually get to over a metre. As the inflorescence lengthens however, the flowers also get smaller and smaller.



The other parent of my little pink charmer is Paph Vanguard. I have been growing a lovely clone of Vanguard for a very long time and it is one of my all time favourites. A very stately, large flowered orchid which is also a sequential flowerer from its glaucophyllum side but other half is rothschildianum which gives it large imposing flowers. I have never seen an albino rothschildianum even though they probably do exist. All I have seen have big, red striped dorsals, a red lip, and dark spotty rigid petals. Nor have I ever seen or found pictures of any kind of green or pastel flowered Vanguards. I am blown if I can see how a Vanguard could produce my pink Paph but who knows. If it ever gets registered and pictures of other cultivars become available, I will eagerly check them out.

So that's it. No conclusion, no murder solved, but perhaps if you previously thought all Paphs were green, red, brown and ugly, you might gradually change your mind. It happened to me.

For the Humour Addicts

Marriage and motorbikes - One evening, not long after their honeymoon, Tom was working on his Harley motorcycle in the garage. His new wife was standing there by the bench watching him and after a long period of silence she finally said, : "Honey, I've just been thinking. Now that we are married, maybe it's time you quit spending so much of your time out here in your garage. Also, you have so much 'stuff' out here, it would be a good idea if you sold your Harley, the welding equipment, your gun collection, the boat, your fishing gear, and all those stupid model airplanes. And, maybe it's also time you got rid of that vintage hot rod sports car and your home brewing equipment."

Tom got such a horrified look on his face his wife was a bit shocked. She asked, "Darling, what's wrong?"

He replied, "Crikey, it just made me stop and think. I thought you were starting to sound like my ex-wife".

"Ex-wife!?" she said, shocked, "you never told me you were married before!" -- Tom replied, "I wasn't."

Gun Control - When I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon I went over to the local gun shop to get a 9mm handgun for home and personal protection. When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, - "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the National Rifle Association about the gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she had been referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader! ---- As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered very often, but it did take me a little while to get my pants back on. I've now been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

Well it surely wasn't my fault, they need to make their instructions clearer. Still, ... I don't think I looked that bad! I'll just make sure to wear underwear in future.

Free WiFi Password - I was doing an overnight stopover at a hotel away from home, so I took my computer down to the bar to do some data entry. I sat down at the bar and I asked the bartender 'What's the wifi password?'

He said "You need to buy a drink first". I thought that was bit tough seeing as how they advertise free wifi as part of the package but I thought I probably would have bought a beer or a coffee anyway so I said "Okay, I'll have a beer".

He said they had VB on tap so I said I would have a schooner of VB. I asked how much it was and was told \$6. When the drink was served and I paid I said so what is the password?

He said "youneedtobuyadrinkfirst", no spaces and all lowercase.

Getting Trumped – You're playing in the golf club championship tournament finals and the match is square at the end of 17 holes. You hit first and hit your ball a modest two hundred fifty yards to the middle of the fairway, leaving a simple six iron to the pin. Your opponent then hits his ball, lofting it deep into the woods to the right of the fairway.

Being the golfing gentleman that you are, you help your opponent look for his ball. Just before the permitted five minute search period ends, before he has to declare it lost and take a penalty, your opponent says: "Go ahead and hit your second shot and if I don't find my ball in time, I'll concede the match."

You go back to the fairway and hit your ball, landing it on the green and stopping about ten feet from the pin. Just as your ball is coming to rest, you hear your opponent exclaim from deep in the woods: "**I found it!**".

The second sound you hear is a click, the sound of a club striking a ball. A ball comes sailing out of the woods and lands on the green, stopping no more than six inches from the hole.

Now here is your **ethical dilemma**: Do you pull the cheating so-and-so's ball out of your pocket and confront him with it or do you keep your mouth shut?

Irish Logic - An American tourist asks an Irishman: "Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?" To which the Irishman replies: "Well that pretty dumb, if they fell forwards, they'd still be in the bloody boat."