

BULLETIN

EASTERN SUBURBS ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

**NEXT MEETING: At 7.30pm on Monday 21 September 2020 at the Community Hall
cnr Arden & Varna St, Clovelly (held 3rd Monday of each month except January). Visitors welcome.**

President

Gavin Curtis

Joint Vice Presidents

Kylie Pellagreen
Ian Kaplin

Secretary

Ross Trethewy

Joint Show Marshalls

Ian Kaplin
Chao Ping Li

Treasurer

Chin Wong

Editor

John McAuley

Sales Manager

Warleiti Jap

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Single \$15 Family \$20

(Due 1 July each year)

*All correspondence and
membership enquiries to:
[http://www.esos.org.au/
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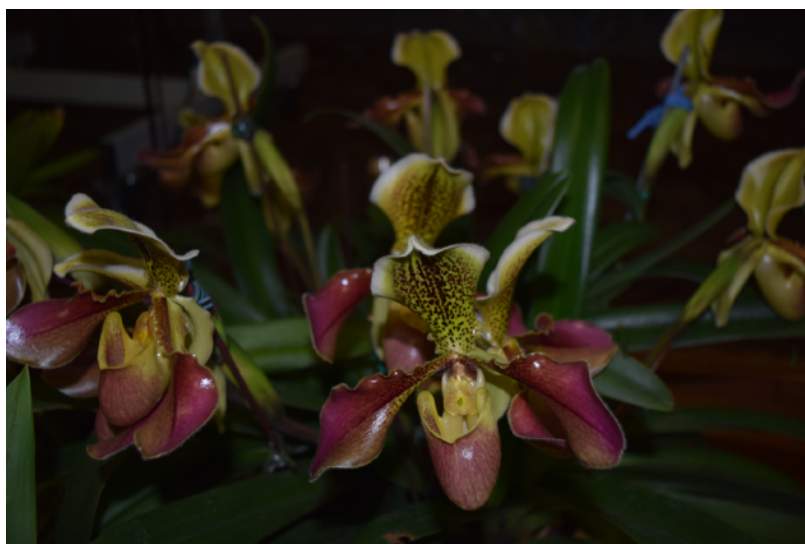
Website: www.esos.org.au

COVIDSAFETY IS PRACTISED

STOP PRESS: 2020 Southern Orchid Spectacular has been cancelled!

August Plant of the Month

The Plant of the Month was won jointly by David Bullock with a floriferous large pink *Cymbidium* Unknown and Poppy Kalogerakis with her *Paphiopedilum* Invincible (below). Congratulations to both.



JULY MEETING REPORT

ATTENDEES: Gavin welcomed members and thanked them for complying with Covid19 requirements. He congratulated members for benching a wonderful display of beautiful orchids.

Guests Gary Hodder and John Costa were warmly welcomed. They offered some high quality flowering *Paphiopedilums* and *Dendrobiums* for sale.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 20 July 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

ORCHID OLYMPICS: Members benched *Paphiopedilum* William Ambler plants for judging by Chin Wong. Next judging will be at 19 October meeting.

The meeting was then closed for the AGM.

AGM PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Gavin warmly welcomed members to the AGM. He reported that ESOS had a very successful year and again expanded the Society's greatest asset, the members. ESOS now has a strong and active Novice group who continue to improve and remain immensely keen and interested.

This year ESOS overcame the significant challenge of Covid19, which cancelled Orchid Shows and Society meetings across the country. Without hesitation, members demonstrated computer skills by using Zoom meetings to bench some lovely flowers in March-June.

Gavin thanked Chao Ping Li, Ross Trethewy and Herbert Chen for sharing some high quality blooms during that time. In July, ESOS introduced an effective Covidsafe Plan with the professional input of Ross Trethewy, which allowed meetings to return to the Hall.

The Society also conducted a successful Covidsafe Orchid Show at Flower Power Garden Centre, Mascot.

Gavin thanked all members of the Committee for their commitment and support during the year. He asked members to join him in thanking the entire Committee. In addition, he thanked Irene and Ian Chalmers for their wonderful, patient and informative judging all year.

He mentioned that the 2019 Southern Orchid Spectacular raised record funds for the Society and he hoped similar results would occur again in October. Members will face the added challenge of implementing a Covidsafe Plan, so more volunteers are needed for crowd management.

Finally, Gavin welcomed all new members and said he is confident the Society will continue to go from strength to strength in the years ahead. He congratulated the new faces on the Committee, who will shape the direction and future of the Society.

Congratulations to the New Committee!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019-20:

Members resolved:

- The 2019-20 ESOS Income and Expenditure Statement presented by the Treasurer was accepted as a true and accurate record.

- Membership Fees for 2020-21 would remain at the current rate of \$15 per single and \$20 per couple/family.

- The 2020 Christmas Party would also celebrate the 70th Anniversary, with a Dinner subsidised 50% by ESOS.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: All positions were declared vacant. David Bullock was appointed Returning Officer for election of the following Office Bearers:

President	Gavin Curtis
Joint Vice Presidents	Kylie Pellagreen, Ian Kaplin
Secretary	Ross Trethewy
Treasurer	Chin Wong
Assistant Treasurer	David Bullock
Editor	John McAuley
Plant Sales Manager	Warleiti Jap
Website editor	Herbert Chen
Joint Show Marshalls	Ian Kaplin, Chao Ping Li
Door Monitor	Cathy Starrett
Point Score Monitor	Helen Mason

The monthly meeting resumed with the announcement of Plant of the Month as a joint win by David Bullock and Poppy Kalogerakis. Congratulations to both.

ESOS SHOWS: Members resolved that the annual ESOS Show would be held in July 2021 at Flower Power Garden Centre, Mascot. The Committee resolved to investigate the opportunity for other Shows e.g at Shoppingtowns.

MEETINGS: ESOS Meetings will continue to be held on the third Monday of every month (except January) on the following dates in 2021: 15 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August (AGM) 20 September, 18 October, 15 November, with the Christmas Party to be held on 20 December.

RAFFLE PLANTS: Members resolved to purchase raffle plants from John Allen's collection, with a budget of \$600.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Any members wishing to order from Garden City Plastics should email their order to Gavin (email: gavininsydney@hotmail.com) by 31 August.

NEXT MEETING: On 21 September at 7.30pm at the Community Hall, cnr Arden & Varna Sts Clovelly.

SOS SHOW CANCELLED

The SOS Committee met on 31 August 2020 to discuss the on-going presence of Covid19 in Sydney. Concern was expressed by Orchid Societies about the risk to members, and border restrictions preclude interstate Vendors. It is unlikely that international Vendors will gain access for some years. After careful consideration, the SOS Committee unanimously resolved that **SOS will be cancelled until 8-10 October 2021.**

The Masked President....



President Gavin Curtis (above, wearing his sequin mask) won First in Class 15 with this *Paphiopedilum* Unknown (below).



This *Coelogyne* Unchained Melody won David Bullock first in Class 19.



Novice Kylie Pellagreen (above) won a First, Second and Third prize in Class 32, for the lovely *Phalaenopsis* Unknown she benched on the night.

This stunning array of *Dendrobium* spp. (left) were benched by Novices Ross Trethewy, Buda Ivanisevic and Chao Ping Li. They are clearly growing to a high standard.

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MONTHLY RESULTS: OPEN

No.	Class	Plant	Exhibitor
1	Australian Native Species	1 <i>Den. teretifolium</i>	W Jap
2	Australian Native Hybrids	1 <i>Den. Cobber</i> 'Yes Please' x <i>Den.</i> unknown 2 <i>Den. Belinger Valley</i> 3 <i>Den. Don't Forget</i> 'Pineapple Violet'	H Chen W Jap H Chen
4	Laeliinae Standard/Exhibition	1 <i>Blc. Orlades</i> Grand 'Tian Mu'	H Chen
5	Laeliinae Cluster/Novelty	1 <i>Cattlianthe</i> Unknown	W Jap
7	Cymbidium Standard	1 <i>Cym.</i> Unknown 2 <i>Cym. Kalahari Blaze</i>	D Bullock W Jap
8	Cymbidium Intermediate	1 <i>Cym. Kiwi</i> Midnight 2 <i>Cym. Memoria</i> Amelia Earhart 'Royale'	W Jap W Jap
10	Dendrobium Hybrids	1 <i>Den. Roongkamol</i> Vejvarut 2 <i>Den. Cassiope</i>	W Jap H Chen
11	First Flowering Seedlings (not mericlones)	1 <i>Den. Drifter</i>	H Chen
12	Miniature Species/Hybrids	1 <i>Ddc. niveum</i>	W Jap
13	Oncidinae Hybrids	1 <i>Onc.</i> Unknown 2 <i>Onc.</i> Unknown 3 <i>Onc. Sunlight</i> 'HiLo Honey'	G Curtis D Bullock H Chen
15	Cypripedioidae Hybrids	1 <i>Paph.</i> Unknown 2 <i>Paph.</i> Unknown	G Curtis G Curtis
19	Miscellaneous Hybrids	1 <i>Coel.</i> Unchained Melody	D Bullock
20	Pleurothallidinae: Species/Hybrids	1 <i>Masd.</i> unknown	H Chen
21	Species: The Americas	1 <i>Max. porphyrostele</i>	W Jap



Footnote: Many thanks to Ian Chalmers for correcting the names of some of the orchids benched, that are listed above. Please update your labels and records to reflect the current status of these names.

Members practising Covidsafe spacing (left)



Den. Australian Rhubarb Pie 'Double Cherry' x *Den. spec. ped.* 'Herberton' (right) grown by Herbert Chen.

MONTHLY RESULTS: NOVICE

No.	Class	Class	Exhibitor
24	Aust. Natives: Hybrids/ Species	1 <i>Den. gracilicaule</i> 2 <i>Den.</i> unknown 3 <i>Den.</i> unknown	R Trethewy B Ivanisevic R Trethewy
25	Laeliinae: Hybrids	1 <i>C.</i> unknown	K Pellagreen
27	Dendrobium: Hybrids/ Species	1 <i>Den.</i> unknown 2 <i>Den.</i> unknown 3 <i>Den.</i> Colonial Jem	C Ping Li M Kostic R Trethewy
28	Miniature: Hybrids/ Species	1 <i>Phloeophilia pleurothallopsis</i> 2. <i>Sarc.</i> Unknown	R Trethewy R Trethewy
29	Miscellaneous Hybrids	1 <i>Coel.</i> Unchained Melody 2 <i>Coel.</i> Unchained Melody	K Pellagreen H Mason
30	Oncidiinae: Species/Hybrids	1 <i>Onc.</i> unknown 2 <i>Onc.</i> Eye Candy 'Penny Candy' 3 <i>Rhyncostele</i> Masai Splash	C Ping Li B Ivanisevic H Mason
31	Paphiopedilum: Species/Hybrids	1 <i>Paph.</i> Invincible	K Kalogerakis
32	Vandaceous Hybrids & Species	1 <i>Phal.</i> unknown 2 <i>Phal.</i> unknown 3 <i>Phal.</i> unknown	K Pellagreen K Pellagreen K Pellagreen

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Cymbidiums grown by Warleiti...



Cym. Kiwi Midnight
(above)



Cym. Kalahari Blaze
(right)

Cym. Memoria Amelia Earhart 'Royale'
(right)



Ross' Favourite Orchids...

Novice member, Ross Trethewy is very keen to promote small and miniature orchids, which are ideal for people living in apartments. Many Australian terrestrial orchids have tiny but perfectly formed flowers, to delight and amaze. Consider growing one in your collection.



Phloeophilia pleurothallopsis (left) is found in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia in cloud forests at elevations of 200-1800m as a miniature sized, hot to cool growing epiphyte.

Sarcochilus sp. (Butterfly orchids) are an Australian native species that grow as epiphytes in the forests of the Great Dividing Range. A few species grow on rocks or in leaf litter. The species and hybrids provide an exquisite miniature floral display. **Be aware that all native orchids in the wild are protected plants.** If you steal them, you face huge fines/imprisonment. Nursery grown plants are much more likely to thrive in your collection at home.



Some pretty *Sarcochilus* sp. flowers.



Yup, some people can't handle the truth!



My Favorite Animal

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my dad what happened and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much.

I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office.

He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous military person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Colourful Restrepias (Many thanks to Jim Brydie for this contribution)

This lovely miniature orchid is a worthwhile addition to any orchid collection.

I have always fancied that a flowering *Restrepia* plant looks like it has little colourful beetles crawling all over the leaves. It is easy to imagine that the flower is imitating some insect to trick them into visiting it for pollination but in reality we still don't know for sure just what their natural pollinator is and how it happens. A few insects have been seen visiting but I don't think anyone has published a definitive study. Some say that moths might be the agent.

What we do know, is that the bulbous tips of the dorsal sepal and the petals are actually scent emitting osmophores. It seems likely therefore that these emit a pheromone that attracts the pollinator. If scent is the attractor however, one must wonder why all of the *Restrepias* happen to have such colourful flowers? They do mostly occur in fairly shady conditions, so perhaps the bright colours help direct the pollinator when action gets down to close quarters?



**Restrepia
jesupiana**

There are about 50 species of *Restrepia*. The distribution of the genus is centered on the Andes of Ecuador and Colombia, but they also occur north to Central America and south, east, and west into Venezuela, Bolivia, and Peru. They are in the Pleurothallid alliance but except perhaps for *Masdevallias*, are far more colourful than all their other relatives. They come in reds, yellows, orange, white, and pink. Some with just one solid colour, but mostly with stripes or spots of contrasting colours. For example, red stripes on yellow or orange. A few favourites are shown below:



R. schizosepala



R. cuprea



R. falkenbergii



R. seketii



R. chameleon

Restrepias are a lot easier to grow than their other colourful relatives, the *Masdevallia*. Nearly all are from at least medium altitudes so they grow relatively cold quite easily in Sydney. Most tolerate unheated shade house conditions, at least in the mildish coastal areas and not too close to the foot of the mountains. Frosty areas could be a problem.

In most orchids, the labellum is usually the showy part of the flower but this is not the case with Pleurothallids. If you will refer to the pictures above, the broad lower part of the flower (no doubt the landing platform for the pollinator) is formed by the fusing of the two lower sepals into what is called a synsepal. The spear like upper segment is the dorsal sepal, and the petals are tiny little horizontal antennae like parts in the middle. The distinct white or in some cases yellow dollop in the very centre is the column, and the lip is the short stubby spotted part sitting hard against the synsepal. Like most Pleurothallids, the flowers come from a node where the leaf joins the stem and the same leaf/stem node flowers again and again for years. The taxonomy of the genus *Restrepia* is still a little confused. Depending on your source, there are between about 40 and 100 species. The Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia on the internet says there are between 30-40 species. Carlyle Luer, who is regarded as one of the world's foremost experts in the Pleurothallidinae tribe, defines 48 species. In 1996, as part of his series *Icones Pleurothallidarum*, he published a book called "Systematics of *Restrepia*", as a thorough redefinition of all then known species. I obtained Luer's *Restrepia* book shortly after it was published and



have used it over and over to re-key most of my personal *Restrepia* collection of between 45 and 50 different plants. My collection represents about 25 species plus quite a few distinct colour forms of some. The genus is notoriously difficult to hand pollinate and the species appear to be sterile to their own pollen and therefore must at least be outcrossed to develop seed. At a practical level, this means that not all the *Restrepia* labels you will see are 100% reliable. As horticulturalists, we use the species names to help us differentiate one distinct plant type from another and with *Restrepias*, there is amazing variation in different colour forms and types even within a species. One of the loveliest of all *Restrepias* is *R. hemsleyana* (left). The synsepal is particularly wide and is a rich wine red with no stripes or spots. Luer says the name *R. hemsleyana* is a possible synonym for *R. sanguinea*.

(Note: Ian Chalmers noted that some hybridising was done by Neville Roper, and more recently by the Eric Young Foundation, Jersey. These hybrids help to further confuse the nomenclature).

The flowers of the species *R. sanguinea* are supposed to be what is termed "cymbiforme" in shape, which means it is slightly boat shaped. The species I know as *R. hemsleyana* is relatively flat. Furthermore, all other clones of *R. sanguinea* have rows of stripes or lines or spots forming lines. No other clone that I have ever seen, or can find in photo galleries on the web, looks anything like the species I know as *R. hemsleyana*.

Under the circumstances, I can't see an alternative at present, but to continue to use the name *R. hemsleyana* as a species to indicate its unique nature. However, just to make things even more confusing, there is another quite different clone of '*R. hemsleyana*' that you need to know about. It is an awarded clone called "Cow Hollow" which is a huge flower for a *Restrepia* and this one is an orange toned flower with reddish stripes. Personally, I feel it is most likely a select clone of *R. antennifera* variety gigantea.

You will see a lot of very different orchids benched as *R. antennifera*, or *R. elegans*, *R. guttulata*, and *R. sanguinea*. All photos in the row below are different forms of one species - *R. guttulata*.



Within the genus there are several separate groups based on physical characteristics that indicate subsets of closer genetic relations. For example, the little group below all flower on very short stems, hard against the back of the leaf. There is a group of significantly smaller flowered types, but there are also some that are significantly larger than the average flowers. However, the large flowered types are not so much a genetic group. *Restrepia antennifera* is one that has occasional so called "giant" forms. We are only talking of differences of a few cm. Among the most charming of all *Restrepias*, I would rate two of the smallest - *R. lansbergii* and *R. nittiorhyncha* as the best. My favourites also include the bright copper coloured *R. cuprea* and the many different colours and sizes of *R. guttulata* and *R. sanguinea*. You can find 30 or 40 *Restrepia* species in Australia, probably under about 50 or 60 different names.

*R. echo**R. muscifera**R. tabeae**R. medozae*

Culture: Once you acquire your *Restrepia*, don't be in too much of a hurry to repot it unless it looks sick. Even the most careful repotting damages some of the roots, and it may well be a recent division anyway. *Restrepias* are moist growers that will tolerate a wide range of light conditions. They will grow in quite low light but prefer reasonable light. Perhaps the shady end of the shade house. They have fine roots and don't like to ever dry right out. The mix needs to be moisture retentive but open. I prefer them in sphagnum moss, or in peat and perlite (1peat : 5 or 6 perlite) but they will acclimatise to most mixes. If you use bark, the finer grades are required but don't make it so fine that it stays wet and gluggy. The best mix for you will depend to some extent on your environment and your watering practices. Peat and perlite have the advantage of remaining stable over a long period of time. *Restrepias* can be divided up and easily re-established so long as you keep the divisions to a minimum of about 4 or 5 leaves, more if possible. They also have a wonderful little propagation characteristic that should ensure that no clone ever dies out in cultivation. That is, the node below the leaf that produces the flowers, may sometimes produce a keiki. Some species seem to do it as a matter of course, while in others it may be a sign that the roots are declining, which is similar to Softcane Dendrobiums. This keiki characteristic also means that *Restrepias* can be propagated by leaf cuttings. If you cut off the stem of a healthy leaf, about 3-5 cm below the leaf base, and stick it in clean sphagnum moss, you will usually get a baby plant to appear at the leaf base where the flowers normally appear. Depending on the time of year, it might only take a few months, but let it establish before you disturb it.

