

The Paphiopedilum Society of NSW Bulletin

# PAPH. *illustrated*



MARCH 2025

## GROWING BRACHYPETALUMS IN SYDNEY

with **Seong Tay**

Seong calls up his vast wealth of knowledge to share what he knows about growing Brachypetalums, successfully, in Sydney.

A Focus on Species

## PAPH. BELLATULUM

with **Craig Scott-Harden**

Craig give a helpful insight into a spectacular species Paphiopedilum we have recently seen benched at Society meetings.



[www.paphsocnsw.org](http://www.paphsocnsw.org)



**paphnsw**

The Paphiopedilum Society  
Of NSW

## Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Ermington Community Hall  
6 River Road, Ermington  
NSW 2115

**NEXT MEETING**

March 19th at 7.30pm

**ALL VISITORS WELCOME**



**SEONG'S TIPS FOR GROWING  
BRACHY TYPE PAPHIOPEDILUMS**



**FEBRUARY CHAMPION HYBRID**  
Paph. Dollgoldi - S. Tay



**FEBRUARY CHAMPION SPECIES**  
Paph. concolor - S. Tay

# PAPH. illustrated

The Paphiopedilum Orchid Society of NSW Bulletin

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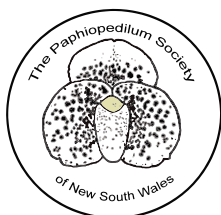
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FRONT COVER

Paph. Dollgoldi; Grown by: Seong Tay;  
Photographer: Daniel Webb

# President's Report

"If you have any growing issues you'd like some expert help with, bring your plant along so that we can all learn about it and how best to remediate it."



Paph. niveum; Photographer: Paphioman (Flickr)

Our March meeting topic will be a presentation by Ian Chalmers where he will share with us many beautiful photos of Slipper orchids he has seen at various shows. Perhaps he will also give us an insight of Paphs exhibited at the recent Taiwan International Orchid Show (TIOS)/APOC. It's good to see the trends in breeding across the decades that are now being exhibited.

There are about 10 growing comp plants still available to those that could not make

it to our February meeting. Cost is \$30 each per membership.

Finally - if you have any growing issues you'd like some expert help with, bring your plant along so that we can all learn about it and how best to remediate it.

*Trevor Yee*

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Paph. goya, in the Editors greenhouse, recently won in the last members Auction decided to throw up an additional flower spike this month after the initial blooms finished. Possibly caused by a steep change in growing temperatures?

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# FEBRUARY MINUTES

The Paphiopedilum Society of NSW General Meeting. Wednesday 19th of February 2024 at the Ermington Community Hall, 6 River Road, Ermington, NSW.

President Trevor Yee declared the general meeting open at 8.00pm and everyone was welcomed. Trevor wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year of the Snake!

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Dated 18 January 2024 included in the February 2025 Newsletter. Moved by Trevor Yee that they be adopted. Seconded by S. Tay.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Renewals are due for 2025. Please pay by bank transfer or cash to our Treasurer. \$20 single or \$30 couple.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MARCH** - Paphs at various shows - Ian Chalmers

**APRIL** - Growing Multi-florals - Gowan Stewart

**MAY** - AGM & Members Mini Auction

**JUNE** - Preparing your greenhouse for winter - Daniel Webb

**JULY** - Mid-Year Social

## TONIGHTS PRESENTATION

'Growing Brachy types' – Seong Tay

The full presentation is available on YouTube at this location: <https://youtu.be/8XMcnqR3fnI>

## GROWING COMPETITION

Paph. Winston Churchill x Laketta and Paph. Neridah x Mem. Teck Ying 'Yowie'. Please see the benching schedule in the monthly bulletin for reminders. February 2025 will be the next judging.

## PLANTS OF THE NIGHT

**CHAMPION SPECIES** - Paph. *concolor* - S. Tay

**CHAMPION HYBRID** - Paph. Dollgoldi – S.Tay

## MONTHLY 5 MINUTE GROWING SEGMENT

Seong had previously advised he used a long tube to blow any excess water collected in the crown. However, Trevor then introduced to members a better alternative being an 'air duster'. Costs around \$50 online and very portable and rechargeable.

## NEXT MEETING

March 19: Paphs at various shows – Ian Chalmers

All members were asked to return their chair to the back of the hall and tables into storage before the raffles were drawn.

## RAFFLE

The raffle was drawn and Seong was thanked for the wonderful plants provided for tonight's raffle.

## MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 10.00pm



## NEW MEMBERS

J. Sim

W. Wang

## APOLOGIES

B. Ng

J&M Bartlett

G&L Bromley

K. Koutsoukis

F. Priestov

J. McAuley

S. Lee-Joe

## JUDGES

K. Siew

C. Scott-Harden

## RAFFLE PLANTS

1. Paph. Shun-Fa Golden (Hung Sheng)
2. Paph. *argus* (HS)
3. Paph. *javanicum* (Orchid Inn)
4. Paph. Joyce Hasegawa x *hangianum* (HS)
5. Paph. Yang Ji Hawk x (Ichiro Suzuki x *bellatulum*) (OI)
6. Paph. *stonei* (OI)
7. Paph. Gary Romagna (OI)
8. Paph. *haynaldianum* (OI)
9. Paph. *platyphyllum* (OI)
10. Paph. *rothschildianum* (OI)

# FEBRUARY MONTHLY BENCHING RESULTS

**SPECIES OF THE EVENING**  
Paph. *concolor* - Grown by S. Tay

**HYBRID OF THE EVENING**  
Paph. Dollgoldi  
Grown by S. Tay



**23**  
PAPHS BENCHED  
THIS MONTH

## CLASS 1 - MULTIFLORAL SPECIES - SECTION PARDATOPETALUM

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 2 - MULTIFLORAL SPECIES - SECTION CORYPETALUM

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 3 - SEQUENTIAL SPECIES

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 4 - BRACHYPETALUM SPECIES

**1st** Paph. *concolor* S. Tay [01]

**2nd** Paph. *leucochilum* J. Clark [02]

**3rd**

## CLASS 5 - PARVISEPALUM SPECIES

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 6 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - PAPHIOPEDILUM

**1st** Paph. *tigrinum* T. Yee [03]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 7 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - SIGMATOPETALUM

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 8 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - MINIATURE

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 9 - OTHER CYPRIPEIDIOIDEAE SPECIES

**1st** Phrag. *pearcei* C. Scott-Harden [04]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 10 - SPECIES SEEDLING

**1st** Paph. *purpuratum* M. Hui [05]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 11 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS RED

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 12 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS YELLOW/GREEN

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 13 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS PASTEL, WHITE/PINK/CREAM

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 14 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS SPOTTED

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 15 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS ANY OTHER COLOUR

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 16 - MULTIFLORAL HYBRIDS

**1st** Paph. Vanguard J&S Atwal [06]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 17 - BRACHYPETALUM HYBRIDS

**1st** Paph. Wenshanense J. Chan [07]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 18 - PARVISEPALUM HYBRIDS

**1st** Paph. Magic Lantern J&S Atwal [08]

**2nd** Paph. Joyce Hasegawa x hangianum T. Yee [09]

**3rd**

## CLASS 19 - PARVISEPALUM x BRACHYPETALUM HYBRIDS

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 20 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - COLORATUM

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 21 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - ALBANISTIC

**1st** Paph. Lime Fresh 'Mammoth' R. Nurthen [10]

**2nd** Paph. Hilo Citron J&S Atwal [11]

**3rd**

## CLASS 22 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - VINICOLOR

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 23 - NOVELTY HYBRIDS - SINGLE FLOWER

**1st** Paph. *delenatii* x Gold Dollar 'Tetradold' C. Rethers [12]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 24 - NOVELTY HYBRIDS - MULTI FLOWER OR BUD

**1st** Paph. Dollgoldi S. Tay [13]

**2nd** Paph. Transvaal B&A Wunderlin [14]

**3rd** Paph. Envy Green J&S Atwal [15]

## CLASS 25 - HERITAGE HYBRIDS

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 26 - OTHER CYPRIPEIDIOIDEAE HYBRIDS

**1st** Phrag. Pink Panther Q L Ly [16]

**2nd** Phrag. Living Fire Q L Ly [17]

**3rd** Phrag. Perseus 'Highclare' J&S Atwal [18]

## CLASS 27 - HYBRID SEEDLING

**1st** Paph. Vanguard T. Yee [19]

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 28 - SPECIMEN

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 29 - NOVICE SPECIES

**1st**

**2nd**

**3rd**

## CLASS 30 - NOVICE HYBRIDS

**1st**

**2nd**



02



03



04



05



06



07

- [01] Paph. concolor
- [02] Paph. leucochilum
- [03] Paph. tigrinum
- [04] Phrag. pearcei
- [05] Paph. purpuratum
- [06] Paph. Vanguard
- [07] Paph. Wenshanense



01



- [08] Paph. Magic Lantern
- [09] Paph. Joyce Hasegawa x hangianum
- [10] Paph. Lime Fresh 'Mammoth'
- [11] Paph. Hilo Citron
- [12] Paph. delenatii x Gold Dollar 'Tetradold'
- [13] Paph. Dollgoldi
- [14] Paph. Transvaal
- [15] Paph. Envy Green



- [16] Phrag. Pink Panther
- [17] Phrag. Living Fire
- [18] Phrag. Perseus 'Highclare'
- [19] Paph. Vanguard





*Paph. bellatulum*; Photographed by; Paphioman (Flickr).

## Craig's suggestions for successful slipper species

Working our way through the dense Burmese jungle, the sound of gongs keeping camouflaged tigers, leopards and bears at bay. We stumble across what at first appears to be large limestone blocks, only realising upon inspection it being an overgrown toppled pagoda. The jungle, moss and ferns taking back what had once been a place of Buddhist worship. In amongst this green shrine the white and dark spotted porcelain like flowers of *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* have now taken the terraced place of worship to be their own, their roots delving into the cracks of the limestone infrastructure, searching out the moisture that gathers there in amongst the detritus and humus accumulated over time.

This is a bit of Poetic Licence on my part recounting and article written by one Mrs Meta Held in the *Orchid Digest* dated 1978, an account of the second recorded collection of *Paph bellatulum*, from Burma, what is now Myanmar. At the time Mr R. Moore, the British Commander at Fort Stedman on the shores of Lake Inle, Myanmar, sent plants and flowers

to Messrs H. Low & Co Nursery, Reichenbach described these as *Cypripedium bellatulum* in 1888, and Stein moved it to the new genus *Paphiopedilum* in 1892.

Reading between the lines the hints are there for the successful cultivation of a species that can be notoriously difficult to grow, and as is usual for pretty well all the Paphs not over watering is of major importance. The limestone and collected humus where the plant grow on and in is very porous, with any water draining away rapidly after rain & storms. When looking at pictures of plants in situ, one common factor is the leaves most always seem to angle down over their rocky host, so any collected moisture cannot gather in the apex of the leaves. I'm pretty sure that anyone that has tried to grow this species would attest to them being subject to fungal infections like Anthracnose, spotting on the leaves or even worst crown rot. So in situ the plants have adapted so the water runs off the leaves alleviating the problem. That along with constant airflow and high humidity keeps these plants happy in their natural surroundings. *Paph bellatulum* is I think the King of the Brachypetalums, and it is with good reason we picked this as our society emblem, simply because it is a spectacular species. We should all try to grow this wonderful eye catching species. Give one a go today.

Till next time, Craig

*Craig Scott-Harden*

### FOCUS ON SPECIES

## Paph. *bellatulum*

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| ADVANCED                                                                            | BRACHYPETALUM                                                                       | RARE                                                                                |
| <b>DIFFICULTY</b>                                                                   | <b>SUBGENUS</b>                                                                     | <b>OCCURRENCE</b>                                                                   |
|  |  |  |
| LIGHT-MODERATE                                                                      | COOL 16-25 °C                                                                       | W 40- S 70%                                                                         |
| <b>LIGHT</b>                                                                        | <b>MEAN TEMP</b>                                                                    | <b>HUMIDITY</b>                                                                     |

### ETYMOLOGY

Derived from the Latin 'bellus', meaning beautiful.

### DESCRIPTION

The spotted flowers of this species look spectacular against the limestone rocks and cliff faces of its habitat in Myanmar, northwest Thailand, and southwest China. It may be found growing under light shade at low to moderate altitudes. The leaves, up to 14cm long and 5cm across, are strongly mottled on the upper surface and purple-spotted underneath. The short, upright or pendulous inflorescence bears one or, rarely two flowers about 5-8cm across. Flowering occurs mostly during spring and early summer. In cultivation this species flowers well if provided with cool conditions, particularly during the night.

### DISTRIBUTION



### OTHER VARIETIES & FORMS

*Paph. bellatulum fma. album*

# Growing Brachypetalums in Sydney

*Our resident Paphiopedilum guru, Dr. Seong Tay, draws upon his vast wealth of knowledge to share what he knows about growing Brachypetalums, successfully, in Sydney.*

Some members of the Paph Society of NSW have mentioned to me that they cannot grow Brachypetalums in Sydney. Even experienced Paph growers like Ken Siew and Craig Scott-Harden have expressed difficulty growing Brachypetalums like Paph. bellatulum and Paph. leucochilum.

James Sim, a member of our society who comes from Indonesia tells me that he has no difficulty growing Brachys in Indonesia.

Is it because of the difference in climate and/or the environment, or the way we grow them?

My Brachys are grown in heated glasshouses with a minimum of 12 degrees C in winter. Previously, they struggled to stay alive for more than a couple of years. By watching them very carefully and noting what they like and dislike, I now grow them reasonably successfully by taking some extra precautions especially in winter.

I grow mainly Brachy species and some Brachy hybrids. Brachy-Brachy hybrids have similar cultural requirements as the species while hybrids with other Paphiopedilum subgenera may be influenced by their other parents and are easier to grow.

My article describes how I grow my Brachys in north-west Sydney. Cultural requirements may be different elsewhere, so growers must decide what methods are suitable for them under their own growing conditions.

## The Species.

There are 8 recognised Brachypetalum species:

**1. Paph. niveum** Paph. niveum from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaya, Borneo growing in lowlands at 10m-60m altitude in leaf litter on limestone outcrops and requiring warm temperatures.



**2. Paph. thaianum** Paph. thaianum from Thailand at 350-450m in limestone ridges and requiring warm-intermediate conditions.



**3. Paph. bellatulum** Paph. bellatulum from Myanmar, Thailand and SW China at 900m-1500m in leaf litter on limestone outcrops under warm-intermediate conditions.



**4. Paph. godefroyae** Paph. godefroyae from Thailand at sea level to about 100m in leaf litter on limestone regions. Requires warmth.



**5. Paph. leucochilum** Paph. leucochilum is recognised as a separate species from Paph. godefroyae because of its white pouch and is also known as Paph. godefroyae var. leucochilum. Grows at sea level to 100m elevation in leaf litter in limestone crevices. Requires warmth.



**6. Paph. wenshanense** Paph. wenshanense is believed to be a natural hybrid between Paph. concolor and Paph. bellatulum in the wild and is now recognised as a species in its own right. The man-made hybrid between Paph. bellatulum and Paph. concolor is called Paph. Conco-bellatulum. Paph. wenshanense grows in south-west China at 1000m – 1200m on limestone cliffs.



**7. Paph. concolor** Paph. concolor has a wide distribution in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China at 10m – 600m on limestone cliffs and is the easiest Brachy species to grow under warm to intermediate conditions.



**8. Paph. myanmaricum** Paph. Paph. myanmaricum from Myanmar at 200m-400m requires warm conditions.



## The Hybrids.

Brachy x Brachy hybrids require similar culture conditions as the species. Examples of Brachy x Brachy hybrids are:



**Paph. Psyche** (bellatulum x niveum)



**Paph. Greyu** (niveum x godefroyae)



**Paph. Greyu** (niveum x godefroyae)

Growing conditions of Brachypetalums hybrids with other members of Paphiopedilum subgenera may be influenced by the other parent.

For example, Brachy x Parvisepalum hybrids like Paph. Vanda M. Pearman (bellatulum x delenatii) will tolerate the cold down to 3 degrees C in my cold glasshouse in winter.

Brachy hybrids with the multiflora Paphs generally require heating during winter in Sydney.

## Factors affecting the culture of Brachypetalums:

1. These are tropical and subtropical plants and will require warm to temperate growing conditions.
2. Brachys grow in leaf debris on sloping surfaces or vertical limestone cliffs and crevices which provide good drainage.
3. Leaves of Brachypetalums tend to lie horizontally and very close to the ground which may prevent good movement of air at the bases of the plants.



4. Brachys do not produce many roots that grow long and curl around the interior of the pot.



## How I grow Brachys in north-west Sydney

1. Warmth – a minimum of 12 degrees Centigrade in winter. Summer temperature may go as high as 45 degrees without much problem.
2. Light – about 60% shade.
3. Pots – shallow clear pots that allows the root system and condition of the potting medium to be observed. Brachys do not have a vigorous root system, so do not overpot.
4. Potting medium – good quality bark like Orchita, limestone chips and perlite. Size of bark depends on the size of the plant and the pot used.
5. Watering and fertilising. Half-strength Peters Excel HiMagCal solution every 5 to 7 days in summer and 10 to 14 days in winter, subject to how warm and/or dry the days are.
6. Humidity does not appear to be very important factor unless it is very low or very high.

## Problems:

1. Brachys are relatively pest-free.
2. Fungal infection is not a major problem.
3. Bacterial infections are the main cause of Brachys dying. Because the leaves of Brachypetalums lie horizontally and close to the ground, there is little air movement around the bases of the plant making the bases prone to bacterial rot, and this is especially so if there is overcrowding by several growths growing close together.



Water level has dropped.



Unsightly brown spots on leaves.

4. Roots will rot if the potting medium is constantly wet.

My belief as to why Brachypetalums are difficult to grow in Sydney is because they are susceptible to bacterial rot due to their succulent leaves lying very close to the ground depriving them of good aeration. Most of the mortality that happens occurs in winter when the weather is cold.

## My solution

After experimenting various ways to keep my Brachys alive, I find that the best method is to water and fertilise them at the same time by soaking the whole pot in a container (takeaway containers or yogurt containers do nicely) filled with half-strength Peters Excel HiCalMag solution to a level about 1 centimeter from the top of the potting medium for about 4-6 hours. By doing so, all the roots and potting medium are in direct contact with the fertiliser solution allowing them to become fully saturated. After about 4-6 hours, remove from the fertiliser solution and allow to drain completely. The plants do not have to be watered/fertilised again until the potting medium is about three-quarters dry, most times about 5-7 days in summer and 10-14 days in winter.

By watering Brachypetalums from the bottom, the crowns and bottom leaves remain dry and therefore not susceptible to bacterial rot.

Avoiding any water on the leaves, especially in winter, otherwise there will be unsightly brown spots due to rot on the leaves.

Periodically remove any dead leaves from the base of the plants. When there is overcrowding, remove some of the older leaves.

My Brachys are now growing nicely.....



You will be amazed how much water is taken up by the plant and potting medium. The picture below shows how much the water level has dropped after a few hours of soaking. Bigger plants take up more water than smaller plants. Notice how succulent and turgid the leaves are after a good soaking.

*Seong Tay*



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*Seong Tay*



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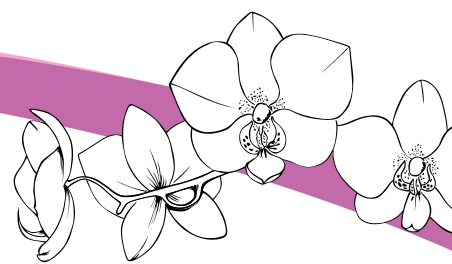
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