The Paphiopedilum Society of NSW Bulletin

# PAPH. illustrated



**MAY 2025** 

# THE ART OF GROWING MULTIFLORALS

There is no doubt Gowan is an expert at cultivating magnificent multiflorals. Included in this issue are the highlights from her presentation last month.

A Focus on Species

## PAPH. FAIRRIEANUM

with Craig Scott-Harden

Craig takes us on a history tour of this incredible and unique paphiopedilum species, shedding light on its scandalous discovery.





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paphnsw

The Paphiopedilum Society Of NSW **Meetings** 

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Ermington Community Hall 6 River Road, Ermington NSW 2115

NEXT MEETING
May 21st at 7.30pm

ALL VISITORS WELCOME



GOWAN SHARES HER TIPS FOR MASTERING MULTIFLORALS



**APRIL CHAMPION HYBRID**Paph. wardii fma. album – R. Nurthen



**APRIL CHAMPION SPECIES**Paph. Angel Hair - Gowan Stewart

### <sub>РАРН.</sub> illustrated

The Paphiopedilum Orchid Society of NSW Bulletin

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FRONT COVER

Paph. fairrieanum; Photographer: Paphioman (Flickr)

# President's Report "May is shaping up to be an exciting month with our AGM & Members-Only Plant Auction...

Paph. wardii; Photographer: Paphioman (Flickr)

don't miss the opportunity to

add something special to your

collection!"

May is shaping up to be an exciting month!

We have two key events coming up:

#### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Join us for an update on the society's financial health and a recap of our achievements over the past 12 months. Nominations for Committee are still open.

#### **Members-Only Plant Auction**

Exclusively for members, with a sellers limit of 5 plants per membership - but we may consider selling more if space/time permits. Don't miss this opportunity to add something special to your collection!

#### Mingara Orchid Show Participation

We'll be putting on a table-top display at the Mingara Orchid Show (Sat 28 to 29 June 2025). If you'd like to exhibit your Slippers and need help with transportation, please let a committee member know in advance. Setup is Friday 27th June. We'll provide any new developments at our June meeting or by

Trevor Yee

# IN THIS ISSUE...

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL BENCHING RESULTS 4
See what was benched at last months meeting

FOCUS ON SPECIES

Paph. fairrieanum by Craig Scott-Harden

THE ART OF GROWING MULTIFLORALS **10** by Gowan Stewart

**SPONSORS** 

Last month I shared this orchid in bud. Here you can now see the result. I was very excited to see the beauty that this orchid had in store. It was a prize in the raffle last year. We really have the BEST raffle plants! Paph. S. Gratrix 'Red Circle' X adductum var anitum

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### **APRIL MINUTES**

The Paphiopedilum Society of NSW General Meeting. Wednesday 16th of April 2025 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.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Dated 19 March 2025 included in the April 2025 Newsletter. Moved by Trevor Yee that they be adopted. Seconded by S. Tay.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

MAY - AGM & Members Mini Auction

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

JULY - Mid-Year Social

#### **TONIGHTS PRESENTATION**

Gowan Stewart shared her vast knowledge on 'The Art of Growing Multi-floral Paphiopediums' after much trial and tribulations, she has perfected the culture of these magnificent Slippers. A detailed article has been included in this bulletin and the video recording is at https://youtu.be/KZYbAxGryrc

#### **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. May 2025 will be the next judging.

New comp of Paph. Lady Isobel (stonei x roth) for \$30. 10 plants were available in March with a few allocated. April will be your last chance to buy one. Limit of 1 plant per single or joint membership.

#### UPCOMING SHOWS THE CLUB WILL PARTICIPATE IN

Mingara June 28/29.

#### **PLANTS OF THE NIGHT**

**CHAMPION SPECIES** -: Paph. *wardii* fma. album - R. Nurthen **CHAMPION HYBRID** - Paph. Angel Hair – G. Stewart

#### **MONTHLY 5 MINUTE GROWING SEGMENT**

Review of members questions submitted in March. Thanks to Seong and members for their participation/contribution in the discussions where by everyone present benefited from.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

May 21: Members-Only Mini Auction

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**

D. Coulton

#### **APOLOGIES**

F. Pristov S. Lee-Joe

S. Ly

W. Jap

#### **JUDGES**

K. Siew

C. Scott-Harden

J. Fulcher

J. D'Olier

P. D'Olier

C. Rethers

Trainee judges were also invited to participate in the judging process.

#### **RAFFLE PLANTS**

- . Paph. *mastersianum* (Orchid Inn)
- 2. Paph. argus (OI)
- 3. Paph. *moquettianum* (OI)
- 4. Paph. rothschildianum (OI)
- 5. Paph. venustum var. padhanii (OI)
- 6. Paph. Angel Hair (OI)
- 7. Paph. St Swithin x anitum
- 8. Paph. Vanguard (OI)
- 9. Paph. Hsinging Lake x *anitum*
- 10. maudiae type seedling

## **APRIL MONTHLY**

## **BENCHING RESULTS**

SPECIES OF THE EVENING Paph. wardii fma. album -Grown by R. Nurthen

42
PAPHS BENCHED
THIS MONTH

Paph. Angel Hair Grown by G. Stewart

CLASS 1 - MULTIFLORAL SPECIES - SECTION PARDATOPETA	LUM		CLAS	S 16 - MULTIFLORAL HYBRIDS		
1st	2011			Paph. Edna Ratcliffe	B&A Wunderlin	[12]
2nd			2nd	ap zana nateme	zar manaci iii	[]
3rd			3rd			
CLASS 2 - MULTIFLORAL SPECIES - SECTION CORYPETALUM	1			SS 17 - BRACHYPETALUM HYBRIDS		
1st	•		1st	ST SIGNETT ETTESHTT SIGNS		
2nd			2nd			
3rd			3rd			
CLASS 3 - SEQUENTIAL SPECIES			CLAS	S 18 - PARVISEPALUM HYBRIDS		
1st Paph. moquettianum	B&A Wunderlin	[1]	1st	Paph. Latoya	R. Nurthen	[13]
2nd Paph. primulinum	C. Rethers	[2]	2nd	Paph. Magic Lantern	J&S Atwal	[14]
3rd	c. Rethers	[4]	3rd	, ,		
CLASS 4 - BRACHYPETALUM SPECIES			CLAS	S 19 - PARVISEPALUM x BRACHYPETALUM HYBRIDS		
1st			1st			
2nd			2nd			
3rd			3rd			
CLASS 5 - PARVISEPALUM SPECIES			CLAS	S 20 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - COLORATUM		
1st			1st	Paph. Maudiae	B&A Wunderlin	[15]
2nd			2nd	Paph. Doya Atian Mirage x Red Shift	J Chan	[16]
3rd			3rd			
CLASS 6 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - PAPHIOPEDILUM			CLAS	S 21 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - ALBANISTIC		
1st Paph. henryanum	J&S Atwal	[3]	1st	Paph. Hsinying Dragon Emma	S. Tay	[17]
2nd Paph. spicerianum	J&S Atwal	[4]	2nd	Paph. Lime Fresh 'Zulu'	R. Nurthen	[18]
3rd Paph. henryanum	J. Chang	[5]	3rd	Paph. Lime Fresh 'Lockerbie Giant'	R. Nurthen	[19]
CLASS 7 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - SIGMATOPETALUM			CLAS	S 22 - MAUDIAE TYPE HYBRIDS - VINICOLOR		
1st Paph. wardii fma. album	R. Nurthen	[6]	1st			
2nd Paph. purpuratum	S. Tay	[7]	2nd			
3rd Paph. sukhakulii	C. Rethers	[8]	3rd			
CLASS 8 - PAPHIOPEDILUM SPECIES - MINIATURE			CLAS	S 23 - NOVELTY HYBRIDS - SINGLE FLOWER		
1st Paph. helenae	H. Meyers	[9]	1st	Paph. Katrina	S. Tay	[20]
2nd			2nd	Paph.Goya	D. Webb	[21]
3rd			3rd	Paph. Katrina	T. Yee	[22]
CLASS 9 - OTHER CYPRIPEDIOIDEAE SPECIES			CLAS	S 24 - NOVELTY HYBRIDS - MULTI FLOWER OR BUD		
1st			1st	Paph. Dollgoldi	S. Tay	[23]
2nd				Paph. Honey	J&S Atwal	[24]
3rd				Paph. Primvaal x concolor	D. Webb	[25]
CLASS 10 - SPECIES SEEDLING				S 25 - HERITAGE HYBRIDS		r1
1st				Paph. Aladin	T. Yee	[26]
2nd			2nd			
3rd			3rd	CC 2C OTHER CYRRIDERIONEAE HYRRIDS		
CLASS 11 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS RED				S 26 - OTHER CYPRIPEDIOIDEAE HYBRIDS	101 Chalmara	[27]
1st				Phrag. Eric Young Phrag. Juan Alberto Arias	I&I Chalmers	[27]
2nd				Phrag. Perseus 'Highclare'	H. Meyers J&S Atwal	[28] [29]
3rd				S 27 - HYBRID SEEDLING	J&S Atwat	[23]
CLASS 12 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS YELLOW/GREEN				Paph. Angel Hair	G. Stewart	[30]
1st				Paph. Vanguard	G. Stewart	[31]
2nd			3rd	rapii. Valiguaru	G. Stewart	[31]
3rd				SS 28 - SPECIMEN		
CLASS 13 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS PASTEL, WHITE/PINK/CREA		[10]	1st	3 20 - 31 ECIMEN		
1st Paph. Dimity 'Chalice'	B&A Wunderlin	[10]	2nd			
2nd 3rd			3rd			
				S 29 - NOVICE SPECIES		
CLASS 14 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS SPOTTED	I&I Chalmers	[11]	1st			
1st Paph. Unknown 2nd	ion chamilers	[±±]	2nd			
3rd			3rd			
CLASS 15 - COMPLEX HYBRIDS ANY OTHER COLOUR				S 30 - NOVICE HYBRIDS		
1st			1st			
2nd			2nd			























[01] Paph. moquettianum

[02] Paph. primulinum

[03] Paph. henryanum

[04] Paph. spicerianum

[05] Paph. henryanum

[06] Paph. wardii fma. album

[07] Paph. purpuratum

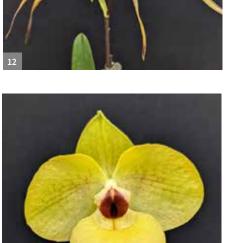
[08] Paph. sukhakulii

[09] Paph. helenae

[10] Paph. Dimity 'Chalice'

[11] Paph. Unknown























[12] Paph. Edna Ratcliffe

[13] Paph. Latoya

[14] Paph. Magic Lantern

[15] Paph. Maudiae

[16] Paph. Doya Atian Mirage x Red Shift

[17] Paph. Hsinying Dragon Emma

[18] Paph. Lime Fresh 'Zulu'

[19] Paph. Lime Fresh 'Lockerbie Giant'

[20] Paph. Katrina

[21] Paph.Goya

[22] Paph. Katrina



















[23] Paph. Dollgoldi

[24] Paph. Honey

[25] Paph. Primvaal x concolor

[26] Paph. Aladin

[27] Phrag. Eric Young

[28] Phrag. Juan Alberto Arias

[29] Phrag. Perseus 'Highclare'

[30] Paph. Angel Hair

[31] Paph. Vanguard



Paph. fairrieanum; Photographer: Paphioman (Flickr)

# Craig's suggestions for successful slipper species

The flowers of this species have in a fanciful fashion always reminded me of a Fleur De Lis, in fact this heraldic French symbol is actually a representation of another bloom being either a Lily or Iris. The history of this charming slipper is no less fanciful and yet all too true, it reads like a fictitious novel that could only ever be found in the non-fiction section of a library. Deception, Lying, Greed, Cheating, Stealing, Corruption maybe even Murder surrounds this plants torrid history.

Plants first made their way to England in 1857, apparently obtained in a sale of mixed East Indian Orchids, a collection sent from Assam. Later this year plants begun flowering in different collections and Nurseries, one being in the glass houses of Mr Fairrie of Liverpool. October and the plant was exhibited in the Willis' Rooms at the London Horticultural Society. John Lindley took an immediate interest in the plant and described it Cypripedium fairrieanum to dedicated to Mr Fairrie.

As was a common occurrence at the time the exact location of these plants was covered in intrigue and mystery with Assam being named as where the first shipment came from. In a series of events that followed over the next 50 years, the plants certainly created a deep interest and desire amongst the orchid fraternity, and yet as this desire increased so the plants started dwindling. The misconception in those days was that coming from tropical areas these plants required warmth, this came in the form of strove houses, heated glass houses that had almost

no humidity. So these and other plants lived in these hot dry enclosures. This combined with what was probably a regiment of overwatering because of this heat didn't fare too well with these delicate slippers. By 1905 Sir Trevor Lawrence had the only surviving plant left in England. Enter Sanders Nursery, apparently at this time they were in some financial trouble and they needed something to bring the patrons back. The man known as the "Orchid King" Frederick Sander made an offer of £1000 Pounds to whoever could rediscover this now enigmatic orchid and bring back the plants to him, allowing him to be the only person with knowledge of their location. The Orchid collectors came out of the woodwork with the exception of his own collector in the area Micholitz. The man was totally unimpressed with Sanders scheme, writing back he responded that he "deeply deplored the whole fairrieanum affair" stating that once found, the plants would be over collected, and in the process "would cause the price to fall into oblivion" He was also totally convinced that he would never honour his promise of £1000, again stating that he was "fully convinced you are no more intending to pay than to jump from London Bridge". These word would turn out to be quite prophetic. And sure enough only some three months later new localities were found in Bhutan by one G.C. Searight. At the time the authenticity of these was questioned, these plants went to Kew, finally flowering doubt of them being genuine was allayed only then were they slowly accepted by the orchid fraternity.

A freelance collector Perreira, who Sander employed on occasion, a cunning operator found the porters Searight had used, he convinced them to part with a number of plants. Of these plant a few hundred were offered to Sander, who gladly accepted them at only about halve the figure of the reward that was offered, stating he was not given full priority. Of the plants that went to auction, the prices these fetched being far less than Sander had expected. With the private sale of the selected plants to his rich clientele it did save the Nursery, but at what real cost. For example, the nurseryman Chatterjii of Calcutta who housed the plants Searight discovered before they were sent to England, he hired a collector, a Mr Longook to go to the location in Bhutan an area called the Ammochu Valley.



#### **DESCRIPTION**

Now common in cultivation but is much reduced in numbers in its habitat in Bhutan and the Indian states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. It grows in tall grass and in oak forests on limestone outcrops at altitudes of 1400-2200 m). The straplike leaves, up to 25cm long and 2-3cm wide, are darker green above than underneath. The single flower is about 8cm long. Flowering in late winter and spring.

#### **ETYMOLOGY**

Named for R. Fairrie, who first exhibited the plant before the RHS in 1857.

#### **VARIETIES & FORMS**

Paph. fairrieanum fma. bohlmannianum (albino form)

#### **DISTRIBUTION**



Here the plants grew in the cool environment of elevations between 1400m & 2400m on gravel ledges above rivers & streams, on rocks in oak forests and sheltered limestone slopes covered in grassy mats. Mr Longook was instructed be Chatterjii to collect as many plants as could be carried, and what couldn't be carried was to be pulled up and thrown in the river. Luckily Mr Longook had more sense and did not follow these instructions. So, as things came to pass Micholitz's predictions on Sanders Scheme where pretty close to the mark. So is this really the story of the discovery of a beautiful Orchid Species or the sorry tale of the greed of man. You be the judge.

Craig Scott-Harden



The sensational Gowan Stewart shares her secrets to success with multifloral paphs.

## THE ART OF GROWING **MULTIFLORAL PAPHIOPEDILUMS**

If you want success with multiflorals, you first have to start with the best quality flasks you can source!

Gowan Stewart has well and truly established herself as one of our societies more successful exhibitors of multifloral paphiopedilums. In recent years, Gowans results at Sydney's biggest orchid shows are testament to her ability to cultivate magnificent multiflorals. At last month's society meeting Gowan shared her secrets to success with all of us.

#### STARTING WITH FLASKS

If your aim is to grow quality paphiopedilums for the show bench, worthy of an award, then the only starting point is with the best quality flasks you can get your hands on, Gowan tells us. It really is a no brainer, that growers and nurseries are generally going to keep the best quality flowers for themselves unless you are incredibly fortunate to get a division of their prized plant.

For a number of years, Gowan has been sourcing flasks from various different suppliers and growing these seedlings up to flowering size. It is time consuming but well worth the wait. She shared with us that sometimes, flasks arrive in less than desirable conditions where the seedlings resemble something like a 'miniature tree'. These plants are elongated and 'leggy'. Gowan takes these seedlings and plants them deep in her preferred growing substrate. Keeping a close eye on these plants, removing the lower leaves and replanting deeper as the tops start to produce stronger more 'normal' structured foliage and roots.

From time-to-time, seedlings in flasks may have little or poor root development. Gowan has a system for kick-starting root growth, by placing these plants into propagation dome on a bed of live sphagnum moss.

Examples of these can be seen pictured on the right or by rewatching her presentation via the Youtube Link - https://youtu.be/ KZYbAxGryrc

#### THE GREENHOUSE

Now that you have established seedlings, it's time to make sure they have the best growing environment as you begin the length journey to flowering maturity. Gowan shared with us her greenhouse setup, that she has constructed for cultivating a wide range of orchids and aroids. The base of the setup are a series of commercial size Sproutwell Greenhouses. These are readily available and delivered in flat-pack form. The wall panels are 10mm fluted polycarbonate. However, it is the retrofitted 'extra's' that makes Gowan's greenhouse the ideal place for growing multifloral Paphiopedilums. Complete with two layers of shade cloth, one on the outside and a curtain style on the internal roof that can be drawn closed or opened as required. Added to this is an intricate heating and humidification systems and fans for adequate airflow.

Gowan shares some top tips that she feels are crucial to her success.

- **1. Find the ideal spot.** Each she spaces carefully observes the different parts of her greenhouse to find the ideal spot for cultivating paphiopedilums amongst the other genera. Some parts of the greenhouse will naturally be warmer or brighter and place plants accordingly.
- 2. Let the plant settle in the pot. Pick a mix and pot appropriate to the size of the plant. Don't over pot, but give the plant enough to grow, undisturbed for a little while. Gowan prefers to let her plants grow into large, multi-growth plants and wouldn't usually divide a plant until it amassed 10 or more growths. Repot only when the plants become too big for the pot, with as little disturbance to the roots as possible.
- 3. Good air flow and a clean growing **space.** Gowan always makes sure that the plants are spaced appropriately to ensure good air flow. Similarly, she regularly removes any blemished leaves and keeps the greenhouse clean and tidy. As a result, there is very rarely ever an issue with fungus. Gowan ask stakes fans as they grow to ensure that leaves don't bend or
- 4. As much light in winter as possible and plenty of shade in summer.



ABOVE: Young plant from flask, starting to produce new growth, ready to be replanted deeper in tube.



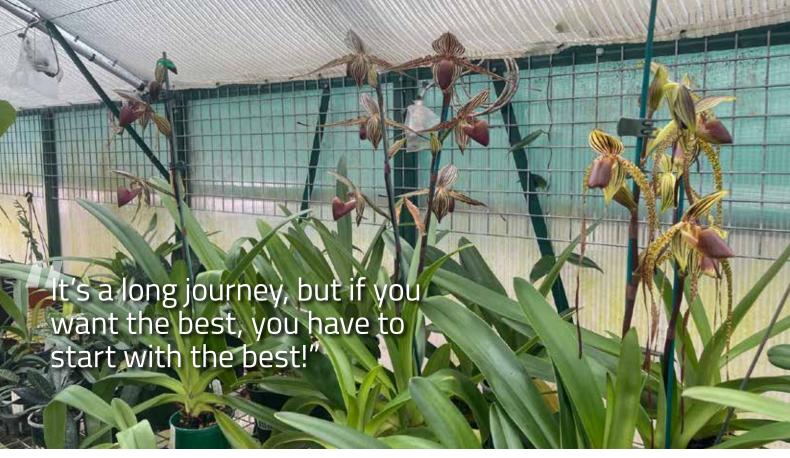
ABOVE: A tray of seedlings, establishing well.



ABOVE: Seedlings with little or poor root systems developing in a propagation egg on live sphag



ABOVE: Propagation dome.



#### **EXHIBITING**

Gowan loves plants. It's a passion bordering on obsession. Her greenhouses are bursting with rare and highly sought after plants of which paphiopedilums hold pride of place. As a result of this love for plants and floral design, Gowan regularly enters table top display entries at various shows across Sydney. You can pick her displays as soon as you enter the room. They always have spectacular paphiopedilums surrounded by beautiful aroids, bromeliads, ferns and mosses. It's not just a display of plants, but a work of art, the breathtaking result of a very talented and passional orchid enthusiast.

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- ABOVE: A cross section of Gowan's greenhouse. You can see the polycarbonate walls of the structure as well as the internal shade cloth curtain that can be opened or closed as required.
- BELOW: Gowan's winning table top display entry at the

#### Daniel Webb



# GOWAN'S ORCHID MIX RECIPE

3 parts bark

1 part charcoal

1 part perlite

1 part polystyrene (optional)

Sizes of bark, charcoal and perlite can be altered according to the size of the plant in question.

Fertliser can be added if desired.

Remember not to overpot your plants. The larger the plant the larger the medium ingredients





Orchid Displays and Sales

23 - 25 May 2025

9am-4pm Friday and Saturday 9am-2pm Sunday

Philip Charley Pavilion Hawkesbury Showground

Hawkesbury Valley Way, Clarendon (Opposite Richmond RAAF Base)



Adults: \$10.00 | Buses: \$8.00 Children under 15 yrs free

- Plenty of free parking
- · Close to Clarendon Railway Station
- Free growing advice
- Sausage sizzle and light refreshments



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https://orchidsocietynsw.com.au/orchids-out-west-2025/

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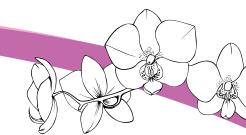




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