



Staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic

If you are feeling Covid or Christmas stressed, pause and enjoy these gorgeous plants from **John Chang** and let their elegant beauty calm you. Absolutely stunning presentation as always John!



*Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom* (*Vanda falcata* x *Ascocentrum ampullaceum* {orange form}) – **John Chang**



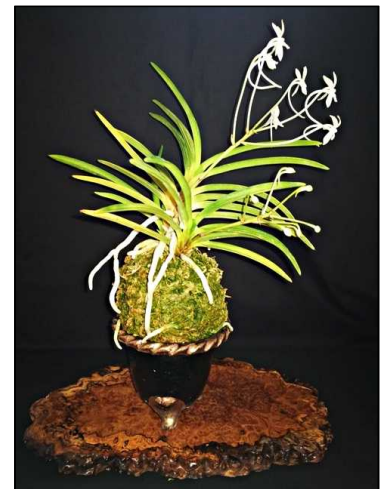
*Neofinetia falcata* Miyakobutane – **John Chang**



*Neofinetia falcata* Kokakuden  
**John Chang**



*Neofinetia falcata* Tenkei Fukurin  
**John Chang**



*Neofinetia falcate* Kounkaku  
**John Chang**



*Dendrobium* Unknown Hybrid - **Peter & Jane D'Olier**



*Sarcophilus ceciliae* – **P & J D'Olier**

*Cattleya purpurata* – this month sees a collection of these stunning orchids from a number of members.

To provide a little history on the name I have taken an excerpt from <http://botanyboy.org> talking about the species



*Cattleya purpurata* var. *carnea* – T&P

*Cattleya purpurata* - “It was described in 1852 by Lindley and placed into the Central American genus *Laelia* based on its 8 pollinia (masses of organized pollen grains) instead of the usual 4 found in *Cattleya*, a trait of all the large flowered Brazilian *Laelia* species. Because of their similarity to *Cattleya* (and dissimilarity to other *Laelia*) they became known as “Cattleyode” *Laelia* or the *Cattleya*-like Brazilian *Laelias*.”

“Recent DNA research has proven that they are in fact quite distinct from other *Laelia* in the Americas, and are in fact simply large flowered *Cattleya*. The first name change for this group happened in 2008 from *Laelia* to *Sophronitis* until that genus, lock stock and barrel, was transferred into *Cattleya* a year later. So, though this plant is still mostly known by growers as *Laelia*

*purpurata* (and some doggedly defend that position), it now is officially in the the genus *Cattleya*.”

Regardless of how they are labelled, with an alluring trumpet shaped lip of various vibrant colours, this is an impressive orchid producing 2 – 5 long lasting, 15 – 20 cm blooms per spike (occasionally flowers can reach up to 25 cm) with a gentle anise scent (i.e. like liquorice). With clavate pseudobulbs (club-shaped; thicker at the apex than the base) that can reach 30 cm, they have a single leaf (unifoliate). The flower sheath emerges once the new growth matures.

An epiphyte native to coastal regions of the Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo at altitudes usually below 180 m. The plants like bright light and cool to warm conditions with far less water during winter.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki> <http://www.orchidspecies.com> [OrchidWiz](http://www.orchidwiz.com)



*Cattleya purpurata* var. *carnea* ‘Hihimanu’ x ‘Maj’  
Jenny Richardson



Selection of *C. purpurata*s  
Lee Payne



*Cattleya purpurata* Alba  
Lee Payne



*Cat. purpurata* Violacea  
J Lam



*Cattleya purpurata*  
Lina Huang



*Cattleya purpurata* ‘Jody’s Keeper’  
Lee Payne



*Cym. Australian Midnight* - T&P  
(*Cymbidium canaliculatum* × *atropurpureum*)



*Cym. canaliculatum* - T&P  
One of our 3 native Aussie Cymbids.



*Dendrobium lindleyi* – T&P what a specimen!!



*Dendrochilum pangasinanense* - T&P



*Eria hyacinthoides* - T&P



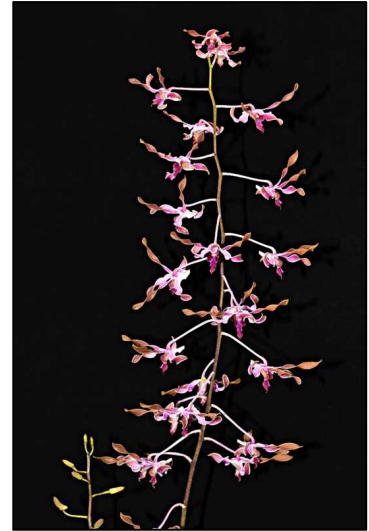
*Oncidium crispum* - T&P



*Oncidium edwallii* - T&P



*Oncidium Splinter (Oncidium sphacelatum x leucochilum) - T&P*



↑ *Vascostylis Pine Rivers - T&P* ↓

*Cym. madidum - T&P*

↑ *Dendrobium Kuranda Pixie x canaliculatum - Peter & Jane D'Olier* ↓

*Vasco.* = cross between a *Vanda* & a *Rhyncostylis*



*Dendrobium uniflorum - P&J D'Olier*

*Cattleya longipes - P&J D'Olier*

*Barkeria lindleyana - P&J D'Olier*

*Dendrobium moschatum* was described by Olof Swartz in 1805, it is native to the Himalayas – (northern & eastern India, northern Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, Yunnan), & Indochina (Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia).



*Dendrobium moschatum*  
Peter & Jane D'Olier

Found at elevations from around 300 to 900 meters as a hot to warm growing epiphyte. A large plant with canes reaching 180 cm long that range from erect to pendulous &

turn dark brown with age, the leaves are 10 to 15 cm long.

The axillary, pendulous inflorescence can be up to 20cm long & produces 5 to 10 flowers



*Dendrobium moschatum*  
Lina Huang

(axillary - arising from the leaf base). The flowers are a muted yellow, ochreous colour but relatively short lived for an orchid, lasting only a week or so. The lip forms a lovely, golden, very hairy pouch with a deep splash of maroon on either side of the column at the base of the lip. The flowers are reported to have a lovely musky fragrance (alas mine does not seem to have a perfume – perhaps because it lives under the trees without any other protection & would possibly prefer a bit more warmth, but I still get to

enjoy the beautiful flowers).

Preferring average daily summer temperatures of 30-32°C & 22°C at night, & in winter a daily average of 28-31°C, & 11-13°C at night. During summer to autumn it likes 80-85% humidity dropping to 60-70% from winter to spring. The higher the temperature the higher the humidity should be and appropriately increased airflow to reduce the risk of disease, otherwise the growth of the plant will be inhibited. Like most orchids it is best to grow in the smallest pot to accommodate the roots & only repot when really necessary, optimum time is immediately after flowering when new roots are forming. Water well into autumn then reduce

water in winter. They should be allowed to dry a bit but not for too long, they will do best if the humidity is maintained during the dry period with occasional watering. Recommence regular watering & fertilising in spring with the onset of new growth. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki> <https://travaldo.blogspot.com> <http://www.orchidspecies.com>



Jenny Richardson

*Den. moschatum*



Jenny Richardson



Lina Huang



*Dendrobium chrysotoxum* x 3



*Oncidium* (Splinter x *sphacelatum*) x Sydney – Chris Wilson. Flowers are 30 to 40 mm across and my largest division is planted in a 20cm standard sized pot with some extra holes drilled in the side. Mix is - gravel then coarse bark and charcoal finishing with orchid bark plus the odd piece of charcoal and gravel. Over winter the pot is brought inside at night and when the day has warmed up the plant goes outside into the sunshine in a box placed on a chair. Over winter it is kept rather dry and is watered every 2nd or 3rd week when the bulbs just start to show signs of shrivelling. CW



*Miltoniopsis* Bert Field 'Leash' - Lina Huang



*Miltoniopsis* Pink Momma - Lina Huang



*Miltoniopsis* Bert Field 'Eileen'  
Jessie Koh



*Miltoniopsis* Woody Carlson 'Enduring Arder' – KC  
Purchased from Orchid Species Plus at the 2019 St Ives Fair.



*Miltoniopsis Bert Field 'Eileen'*  
Jessie Koh



*Odontonia Futuresque*  
Lina Huang



*Miltonia* cross using *alba* forms of *regnellii* & *spectabilis*. Flower is 65 mm across. Plant is a cold grower but soon climbs out of its pot – Chris Wilson.



← *Brassia verrucosa* – Jenny Richardson (ex. Val Houley)  
Generically referred to as the spider orchid, this one is also known as the warty Brassia due to the characteristic green 'warts' on the lip that can be used to help identify this species. A useful distinguishing feature, if not a very complementary description for such a pretty flower. ↓



←  
*Brassia spp*  
(*verrucosa*?)  
J Lam



→  
*Brassia verrucosa*  
Chris Wilson



*E. Green Hornet 'Buttons'* - L Huang



*Onc. Golden shower* J Lam



*Onc. Mieke von Holm* - Jessie Koh



*Ascocenda Somsri Nugget 'Canary Yellow'* - Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Zygotoria* - Lina Huang



*Psychopsis Kalihi*  
Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Laeliocattleya Mozart*  
Lina Huang



*Laelia pumila x Brassavola nodosa*  
Lina Huang



*Encyclia cordigera*  
Lina Huang



*Oncidioda*  
Lina Huang



*Miltonidium Bartley Schwartz*  
Lina Huang



*Encyclia Bees Knees* - Lina Huang  
what a great name for a cute flower



*Promenaea Burgundy Fire* (*Promenaea Colmaniana* × *stapelioides*) registered by J.Woolf in 2003

*Promenaea* - Native to central & southern Brazil in moist forests, at an altitude of around 1700 m, primarily as epiphytes but occasionally as lithophytes. These orchids need an intermediate to warm environment & should not be allowed to completely dry out. In their native mountain habitats *Promenaea* are always exposed to high humidity, good air movement and semi-shade. Their leaves should be grey-green but become grey if exposed to too much light.

As of Feb20 the Word Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP) recognized 16 species and 2 varieties. Established by John Lindley in 1843 the genus *Promenaea* belongs to the Tribe Maxillarieae and forms part of the *Zygopetalum* Alliance. Intergeneric hybrids have been created with *Zygopetalum*, *Colax*, *Cochleanthes*, *Chondrorhyncha* and other similar types.

<https://travaldo.blogspot.com> <https://oscov.asn.au/>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki> <https://www.aos.org/orchid>



*Promenaea Burgundy Fire*  
Peter & Jane D'Olier



*Dendrobium chrysotoxum*  
Peter & Jane D'Olier



Pot. Little Magician 'Gold & Red'  
Jenny Richardson



*Dendrobium fimbriatum* var.  
*oculatum* - Lisa Harris



*Oncidium Unknown*  
J Lam



*Beallara Tahoma Gracier Green*  
J Lam



*Oncidium incurvum* - J Lam  
(or perhaps one of its hybrids)



*Promenaea Crawshayana* (*Prom.*  
*stapelioides* × *xanthina*) - Jessie Koh



*Laeliocattleya Interceps*  
Jenny Richardson



*Den. Aussie Parade 'Perfection'* x  
*Hilda Poxon 'Measles'* - Jessie Koh



*C. Mrs. Myra Peeters* - Lee Payne



*Cattleya Unknown* - Lisa Harris



*Brassavola hybrid?* - Lisa Harris



*Dendrobium densiflorum* - Lisa Harris



*Aeridovanda Mundyi* - Lisa Harris



*Den. Cream Cascade* - Lisa Harris



*Laeliocattleya 'Chit Chat'*  
Lisa Harris



*Epc. Rene Marques 'Flame Thrower'*  
x *Epc. veroseriptum* - Lisa Harris



*Cattleya Julia 'Orange Diamond'*  
Lisa Harris



*Cymbidium Australian Midnight* - Lisa Harris



*Rhynchosstele glauca*  
Lisa Harris



*Oncostele (Wilsonara) Eye Candy*  
Lisa Harris



*Cymbidium aloifolium*  
Lisa Harris



*Maxillaria tenuifolia* - Lee Payne



*Lycaste Spun Gold* - Lee Payne



*My first time growing an Encyclia, very happy and long lasting flowers - LP*



*C. tenebrosa* - Lee Payne



*C. Chocolate Drop* - Lee Payne



*C. purpurata* var. *Flamea* - Lee Payne

*Dendrobium smillieae* – what an intriguing looking flower, commonly known as the bottlebrush orchid – for obvious reasons. *Dendrobium smillieae* was first formally described in 1867 by Ferdinand von Mueller from a specimen collected near Rockingham Bay by John Dallachy. It was named in honour of Mrs E.J. Smillie.



It can be found in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Aru Islands on some Torres Strait Islands & on Cape York Peninsula reaching as far south as Townsville. This orchid does well in intermediate to warm conditions. Growing mainly on trees exposed to sunlight around the perimeter of forests & rainforest & occasionally on rocks.

The swamp turpentine or swamp box (*Lophostmon suaveolens*) which has loose papery bark is a frequent host. You wouldn't think this would work due to the risk of becoming detached when the bark sheds. To prevent such demise the orchid's roots penetrate below the bark forming large mats which remain well protected beneath the bark. Similar to soft canes, the pseudobulbs have leaves (often twisted) in their first year but flower on leafless mature canes.

The flowers produce nectar and are pollinated by the yellow honeyeater (*Stomiopera flava*). The bird hovers in front of the flowers while feeding on the nectar – what a sight that would be! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

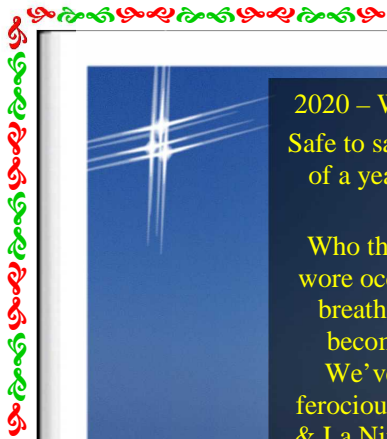


*Phalaenopsis* Unk. - J Richardson    *Stanhopea* Merry x Christmas – Santa Clause    *Phalaenopsis* Unk. - J Richardson



*Blc.* Glenlee Fire ‘No 1’ - Jenny Richardson

*Oncidium sphacelatum* - Jenny Richardson



2020 – What a year it’s been!  
 Safe to say we’ve all been part of a year history will never forget.

Who thought the masks we wore occasionally to prevent breathing fire dust would become common place.

We’ve seen fire, floods, ferocious storms, a pandemic & La Niña has hit our shores.

We’ve also seen the Aussie spirit in full flight. Volunteers scrambling to rescue our precious native animals & the specialist firefighters who saved our Wollemi Pines.

Fire Fight Australia saw both Aussie & International artists give their time to raise money to help those affected.

A few months later, wasn’t it fantastic to see Warragamba dam overflow!



**Merry Christmas**

Our politicians worked together to get us through the initial phase of the pandemic & there has been global cooperation focused on developing vaccines – unprecedented collaboration!

All our amazing health care heroes from those who clean, to those working in the isolation units, our teachers, supermarket workers, the list goes on. There are always exceptions, but adversity usually brings out the best in people & I’m sure many of you have been responsible for, or aware of, acts of kindness & helping those in need.

Some of our members, or others in their families, have been unwell since we all last met. Hoping everyone has recovered or is well on the way. Some have lost loved ones, our thoughts are with you.

Hope all of you can be with those you love over the Christmas period.

With the very warmest wishes to each of you & all your loved ones, for a happy Christmas & a healthy, safe, peaceful & less eventful year in 2021.

Take care of yourselves & each other

**Happy New Year**