

FIVE DOCK RSL ORCHID SOCIETY INC FEBRUARY 2024 BULLETIN

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday in the months of January to November.
at Concord Community Centre, 1A Gipps Street, Concord, NSW 2137

The Society was founded on 19th July 1967.



Society Emblem: *Dendrobium Fivedock Fire* 'Summertime'

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd February 2024 commencing at 7.40 pm.

Five Dock RSL Orchid Society is proudly supported by.

Club Five Dock RSL, Canada Bay Council and MarketPlace Leichhardt Shopping Centre

Visit our website www.fivedockorchids.com for photos of the winning orchids from our Monthly and Annual Shows, Plants of the Night, Class winners, Show Champions, and record of our Social Events.

PATRON: Robert Ridge

PRESIDENT: Kathy Koutsoukis **Mobile:** 0401 951 211
SECRETARY: Robert Moon **Mobile:** 0412 335 349
Postal Address: PO Box 4035, Bradbury NSW 2560
Email: fivedockrslos@yahoo.com.au
TREASURER: Margaret Reavell
VICE PRESIDENT: Fedora Pristov
COMMITTEE: Peter Booth Dorothy Booth Jane D'Olier
Peter D'Olier Merv Maher Jonathan Tran

Website Coordinator: Jane D'Olier

This Month is Growing Competition Judging

The Plant for judging is Rlc Dream Trader 'Wallacia' x Rlc Canyon Dusk 'Southern Cross' The correct name for this cross is *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Dr Alan Chong Yoong Hin*

Guest Speaker Gary Hodder on *Dendrobium Speciosum* and other Australian Native Orchids

President's Report

It was very pleasing to see 31 members attend our January 2024 meeting. We are off to a good start for the year.

Our Picnic is next Sunday 25th February 2024 at Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway weather shed which will be our first social event of 2024. We will be finalising numbers attending for catering purposes as we will supply food and drinks with the except alcohol. Traditionally something sweet to have with tea & Coffee have been contributed by the members. We will have disposable plates, but it is often a good idea to bring more solid plates & Cutlery from home.

Merv Maher will not be at our next meeting so I ask if members could come a little early to put out tables & chairs for the meeting.

The February meeting is the Growing Competition Plants So please bring your plant of **Rlc Dream Trader 'Wallacia' x Rlc Canyon Dusk 'Southern Cross'**, so we can see how they are progressing.

Gary Hodder will be the speaker this month on *Dendrobium speciosum* and other Australian natives.

Finally, I would like members to consider joining your committee at the AGM elections to be held at our 28th March 2024 meeting. As the old saying goes many hands make light work and we can always do with more committee members. The committee meeting is held right after the monthly meeting so there is very little inconvenience.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Kathy Koutsoukis

FIVE DOCK RSL ORCHID SOCIETY INC
Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting held on 25th January 2024,
at Concord Community Centre, 1A Gipps Street, Concord

Opening:

The Vice President declared the meeting open at 7.40pm and welcomed all members and our guest. Fedora then requested all those present to either turn their mobile phones off or to silent.

Apologies:

Apologies were as listed on the attendance sheet.

Minutes:

It was moved that Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2023 as circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of that night's proceedings.

Moved Angie Lyle Seconded Philip La Carried

Business arising:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence:

The Secretary summarised and tabled various Orchid Society Newsletters, News on upcoming Orchid Events, Open Gardens information from the Garden Clubs Australia and brochures promotions of various "Garden" & Orchid tours.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer tabled her monthly report and accounts for payment.

General Business:

The Vice President asked had everyone present signed the attendance register for insurance purposes, Covid 19 tracing, and the lucky badge draw.

Fedora mentioned the array of Raffle prizes and thanked those that had added to those prizes. Including jars of Honey supplied by Maria Grasso. Fees are now due, and Margaret would be accepting payment.

Fedora spoke on what a wonderful time was had at the Presentation Night and the Raffle Prizes and the hilarity at the Hawaiian shirt contest. Also point score prizes for those that did not attend as well as perpetual trophies.

A reminder that next month is our annual picnic day 25th February 2024 and numbers attending for catering purposes.

A minute's silence was observed with due reverence for the late Brian Frugtniet. Judy Major spoke of their friendship through orchid growing and what a good man he was.

Lecture:

The judges' chose a few plants and asked the owner to explain how they grew them. The open plant of the night was a well flowered Gongora galeata.

Lucky Badge:

Was won by Graeme Cook

Raffle:

The Raffle prize winners were Philip La, Caterina Zappia, Gary Hodder, Peter Booth, Sandra Nacy, Iris Leong, Judy Major, Ingrid Allen, and Marianna Patchett.

Closure:

The President closed the meeting at 8.50 pm thanking members for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home.



Open Plant of the Night January 2024
Gongora galeata
Owned by Lisa Harris

Point Score January 2024			
Open			
Class 3 Laeliinae (Cattleya) Exhibition		Class 14 Monopodial/Vandaceous Hybrids	
<i>C. Hawaiian Wedding Song</i>	S&L Campagna	1. Unknown	S&L Campagna
<i>Rlc. Varut Greenworth</i>	Unknown	2. <i>Aer. Korat Koki</i>	P. La
<i>C. Mem. Midori Nakano</i>	P. La	Class 15 Coelogyninae Species	
Class 4 Laeliinae (Cattleya) 66-110mm		1. <i>Coel. amber</i>	S&L Campagna
1. <i>Ctt. Rudak</i>	G. Hodder	Class 22 Oncidiinae under 35mm	
2. <i>Lc. Interceps</i>	P. La	1. Unknown	L. Harris
3. <i>Rlc. Cadmium Light 'Green Elf'</i>	D&P Booth	Class 23 Oncidiinae 36-60mm	
Class 5 Laeliinae (Cattleya) Mini up to 65mm		1. Unknown	J. Tran
1. <i>Rly. Swan's Shy</i>	S&L Campagna	2. <i>Onc. Sunlight</i>	S&L Campagna
2. <i>Rth. Roy's Magic 'Janet'</i>	S&L Campagna	Class 24 Oncidiinae over 61mm	
3. Unknown	C. Zappia	1. <i>Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'</i>	P. La
Class 7b Laeliinae Speciesd other than Cattleya		2. <i>Brs. Edvah Loo</i>	S&L Campagna
1. <i>Psh. radiata</i>	J. Costa	Class 25 Species America	
2. <i>Psh. radiata</i>	P. La	1. <i>Gga. galeata</i>	L. Harris
3. <i>Psh. radiata</i>	P. La	Class 26 Species Asia	
Class 10 Cyripedioideae Species		<i>Cym. dayanum</i>	C. Zappia
1. <i>Paph. primulinum</i>	J. Tran	Class 28 Miscellaneous Hybrids not Listed	
Class 11 Dendrobium Hybrids (Not Australasian)		1. <i>Gptm. Arlene Armour 'Conching'</i>	L. Harris
1. Unknown	C. Zappia	2. <i>Psh. Green Hornet</i>	C. Zappia
Class 12 Dendrobium Species (Not Australasian)			
1. <i>Den. secundum</i>	L. Harris	Number of plants benched 32	
2. <i>Den. crystallinum</i>	G. Hodder		

Genus *Gongora*

The genus *Gongora* consists of 65 species known from Central America, Trinidad, and tropical South America, with most species found in Colombia. They grow across a wide geographical range, from wet forests at sea level, to mountainous regions in the Andes, found as high as 1,800 metres.

The Genus was described by **Hipólito Ruiz López** Born 8th August 1754 in Belorado, Burgos, Spain and died in 1816 in Madrid Spain and together with **José Antonio Pavón Jiménez** born 22 April 1754 in Casatejada, Cáceres, Spain and died in 1840 in Madrid Spain who were Spanish botanists known for researching the floras of Peru and Chile during an expedition under Carlos III from 1777 to 1788.

They name the genera in honour of **Antonio Caballero y Góngora** also known as *Antonio Pascual de San Pedro de Alcántara Caballero y Góngora* who was born 24 May 1723 in Priego de Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain and Died 24 March 1796 in Córdoba who was a Spanish Roman Catholic prelate in the colonial Viceroyalty of New Granada, and from 1782 to 1789 the Viceroy of New Granada (present day Colombia and Ecuador), during the Ruiz and Pavón botanical expedition.

Gongora was one of the first orchids described by a European. Several new *Gongora* orchids were discovered in the 2000s-2010s, whilst many others have been re-grouped under different classifications. Yet there is still some confusion; Many species still lack "appropriate" descriptions. Some species, such as *Gongora portentosa* and *Gongora superflua*, are extremely isolated in population. It is hoped DNA fingerprinting will, in time, contribute to an exact taxonomy of this genus.

That out of the way now let's let rip with political intrigue.

Ruiz & Pavon are the persons noted as the discoverers of the Genus But there was politics at play. As **Joseph Dombey** born in Mâcon, France on 20 February 1742 and died in Montserrat, West Indies, 18 May 1794 who was a French botanist and medical physician.

During the last quarter of the 1700's the incentive to start the scientific exploration of the territories that belonged to Spain in South America in those days (Peru and large parts of what are now Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Ecuador) did not come from the Spaniards themselves, but from the French. It was A.R.J. Turgot, prime minister of Louis XVI, who, in 1775, decided to launch a scientific expedition to Peru to replace the lost collections of Joseph de Jussieu. De Jussieu himself recommended Joseph Dombey, a botanist and medical doctor who had been one of Joseph de Jussieu's brother, Bernard's students, as tentative expedition leader. However, Spain, at the time ruled by Charles III, uncle of Louis XVI, would only agree to the expedition on several special conditions. Dombey was to be accompanied by two Spanish scientists, and the overall command had to remain in Spanish hands. Dombey had to agree to turn all herbarium materials that were to be collected during the expedition to the botanical gardens in Madrid. Of each collected object, three herbarium specimens had to be made. Dombey was to receive one of them, but only after examination in Madrid. Furthermore, he had to agree to supplement those materials of which only one herbarium specimen could be made by botanical drawings and descriptions, which, of course, had to be deposited in Madrid.

The Spanish government chose two pharmacists, Ruiz and Pavon, neither of whom had any training in botany, and two artists to accompany Dombey. Ruiz, junior to Dombey by 12 years was appointed commander. Upon arrival in Peru, Dombey had to obtain and pay for all his equipment himself, whereas Ruiz and Pavon got the full support of the Spanish administration. Furthermore, as the Spanish artists refused to make any drawing for Dombey, he had no choice but to illustrate all his materials himself.

The expedition left Europe in October 1777 and reached Lima in April 1778. In the same year, Dombey sent a first, small collection to Europe, and in March 1779, a large collection followed. The ship transporting this large collection, however, was captured by the English who at the time were at war with France and Spain and the materials were auctioned off in Lisbon. Spanish representatives purchased the entire collection as well as several Dombey's personal belongings. Originally, the expedition was to last four years, but the continuing war made a scheduled return impossible. Finally, on 4th April 1784, Dombey left Peru by himself and, after a delay of several months in Rio de Janeiro, reached Cadiz on 22nd February 1785, with his part of the collections.

The materials that were to be turned over to the Spaniards remained in Lima and were shipped together with the collections of Ruiz and Pavon to Spain in 1785. The ship carrying these materials was lost off Portugal with all collections on board. The only materials from the expedition that were left, therefore, were what was brought home by Dombey him-self. That material was retained by the Spaniards. At the end, Dombey obtained only one third of "his" materials and had to agree to publish nothing, nor to describe any

plants before the return of Ruiz and Pavon. Of course, the Spaniards carefully copied all Dombey's notes and descriptions. At last, Dombey reached Paris with the poor remnants of his collection on 13th October 1785.

All orchids collected by the expedition were first published in the 1794 Prodrumus (precursor) and later (1798) in Ruiz and Pavon's Systema Vegetabilium Florae Peruviana et Chilensis. There were no orchids included in the later version. The fact that most of this publication is based on the collections, descriptions, and notes of Dombey and not on any material that can be definitely attributed as originating from Ruiz and Pavon is often overlooked and neglected. Dombey did not even get credit on the title page. Parts of the herbarium containing the collections of the expedition to Peru and Chile were obtained by Lambert. They are now in the collections of the British Museum of Natural History in London. Another part, containing the type material of *G. quinquenervis*, remained in Madrid. The three herbarium specimens related to that species that are now in Madrid contain only vegetative parts of the plants, and inflorescences with seed capsules, but no flowers. The drawing of *G. quinquenervis*, published by Ruiz and Pavon in their Systema Vegetabilium, however, is detailed enough to allow for a clear classification of the taxon.

But to *Gongora galeata*, when in 1830, a plant originating from Mexico came into flower in the collection of Conrad Loddiges of England. The plant was described as *Maxillaria galeata* by John Lindley in 1831. In 1833, Lindley created the genus *Acropera* and redescribed his *Maxillaria galeata* in honour of Loddiges as *Acropera loddigesii*. In 1858, the genus *Acropera* was included in Ruiz and Pavon's genus *Gongora* by the younger Reichenbach, who renamed the species as *Gongora galeata* (Lindl.) Reichb.f. The name "Acropera" has been retained as a subgenus of *Gongora*, comprising six species, all originating from Central America. Of this subgenus, *G. galeata* is the type species, and at the same time the species most common in cultivation. It is a true "beginner's plant." There is no citation on where the "galeata" is from.

Dates for the Diary

22nd February 2024	Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging
25th February 2024	Barbeque at Kokoda Memorial Walkway Park Shed
12th March 2024	Friendship Night at Club Five Dock RSL
22nd March 2024	Sydney Royal Easter Show to 2nd April 2024
28th March 2024	Monthly Meeting & AGM
14th April 2024	Manly Warringah Orchid Society Orchid Auction Cromer
20th April 2024	Anzac Tribute at Club Five Dock RSL Foyer TBC
25th April 2024	Monthly Meeting
08th May 2024	Autumn Show Marketplace Leichhardt TBC
17th May 2024	Orchids Out West
23rd May 2024	Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging
11th June 2024	Friendship Night at Club Five Dock RSL
27th June 2024	Monthly Meeting
29th June 2024	Mingara Orchid Fair & Show
25th July 2024	Monthly Meeting
9th August 2024	National Orchid Extravaganza Arena Sports Club Yagoona
16th August 2024	St Ives Orchid Fair TBC
18th August 2024	Ferragosto Great North Rd Five Dock
22nd August 2024	Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging
11th September 2024	Spring Show Marketplace Leichhardt TBC
26th September 2024	Monthly Meeting
04th October 2024	Orchids Central at Club Condell Park, Bankstown
08th October 2024	Friendship Night at Club Five Dock RSL
24th October 2024	Monthly Meeting
10th November 2024	Manly Warringah Orchid Society Orchid Auction Cromer
28th November 2024	Monthly Meeting / Growing Competition Judging
07th December 2024	Presentation Night / Christmas Party, Club Five Dock RSL

GENERAL NOTICES

Pursuant to **Clauses 11 and 12 of the Five Dock RSL Orchid Society Inc Constitution**, notice is hereby given, that on Thursday 28th March 2024, the Annual General Meeting of the Five Dock RSL Orchid Society, will be held for the purpose of Tabling the Annual Reports of the President & Treasurer and to Vote for the Election of Office Bearers for 2024-2025 and if applicable, any Special Resolutions received.

Please note that voting at the AGM will be in accordance with **Clause 14 of our Constitution**, which is in person voting only.

There were no Special Resolution requests received in writing by the Secretary, no later than 5pm Friday 16th February 2024, under **Division 3 Clause 39 (1) (a) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009** No 7.

Nominations forms for all committee positions are available from our website and are subject to **Clause 5 (c) of our Constitution**. The signed form must be in the hands of the Secretary, no later than 5pm Thursday 15th March 2024 for inclusion in the March 2024 Bulletin

Membership Fees are now Due! Single \$15 Family \$20

Please see our Treasurer at our February 2024 Meeting