



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



JULY 2016

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President: Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 8A Boundary Road,

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.86262934)

PARRAMATTA. 2150

Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 21st JULYU, 2016

Life Member: Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke.

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

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Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

FITZPATRICK ROAD

Mt. ANNAN.

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.30pm, meeting starts 7.30pm

Hi to All

A big Thank You to Lloyd from Earth to Joy for his great talk and presentation at our last meeting, very well received. There was great interest in the sales plants that Lloyd had on the night.

Congratulations to Terry Cooke for plant of the night and popular choice, well done.

Annual General Meeting is on this month with elections of office bearers. Membership fees are now due.

Wally

To all Members...please remember that our AGM will be held at our July Meeting...

MINUTES OF Meeting 16th JUNE, 2016

Meeting opened at 7.50pm. We noted the attendance of former member, Ralph Martin.

Apologies nil

Minutes from previous meeting as published in the newsletter.

Moved Peter Gibson Second Terry Cooke

Correspondence; Newsletters from other Societies.

Treasurers Report Presented to meeting

Moved Carol Asquith seconded Richard Hanman

General Business AGM Next Month

Greg and Mrs. Steenbeeke made beautiful Table Covers for Show.

Motion moved by Graeme and Terry, to go ahead and get covers.....carried

Smoky Hill has benches for sale.

Sutherland show at Kareela Golf Club.

Raffle. Don, Peter, Neil, Greg and Colin

Next Meeting: 21st July..

Meeting closed about 9.30pm.

OUT AND ABOUT by Mark Daniels

(Printed in Sydney ANOS GROUP “:Orchidophile” July 2016)

Hi all ANOS members and native orchid growers. With great respect and admiration to the older orchid growers, toilers and their innovations, which I am also one of, in recent years we have gained in our midst some very talented commercial growers who unlike a lot of people, need to use their wits to earn a living.

One of these guys is Dan Tomich - a long time commercial Cymbidium Grower, a good mate of mine. Over the last 6 years he has gone from some natives to a very impressive collection and already winning cultural awards. I have been observing his methods, they are very simple, right filtered white light, 900mm high benches for correct humidity and fertilising his orchids every time he waters with an inline feeder at the correct conductivity of 300 parts per million. Dan averages three sets of growths on speciosums a year and they flower their heads off. Next year they will be so big, he

will need me as a friend to help him get them out of the bush house. We will need a logger's cross cut saw to cut them up!

So why am I telling you all this? I have a modified Hudson spray applicator model 2204, I am now getting the same results, you will see the difference in your plants after just 6 weeks. Also you can regulate the unit to spray at the right strength, there have been many before it, but alas are just not reliable. Believe it or not I was surprised to find that the nozzle adjustments were perfect for watering orchids. This means you only need this unit to water your plants, get them saturated or mist them, then turn the adjustment knob and away you go - fertilise your orchids and garden in minutes.

The unit is well made, of good quality and should give good service for many years. I have 4 of them. I bought mine from Masters for \$28.00. The sprayer needs 4 extra installed components to make it work reliably plus labour it will be about \$30.00 more. This a bit more than I expected when speaking at the meeting, but for what it does, there is nothing on the market as cheap as this. Quick easy and no mess, easy to clean and maintain. If it does clog (only when using coarse ingredients over 1.5mm), just reverse flush with the hose and away you go again.

The Sprayer does not have the problems of some in line feeder tanks where the fertiliser sinks to the bottom all the time and cannot be agitated for consistency.

Keep it in mind and let me know. I will bring some to the meeting if you want one (Mark can be contacted by email at: strongrow.orchids@gmail.com or by phone on: (02) 4996 4288 - Ed).

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Editors Comments

Along with everybody, I have always sought an easy way to fertilise my orchids. In the early days, for a long time I used a Hozon Brass siphon mixer called a Hyponex, using a Neeta oblong spray nozzle which relied on the back pressure of the nozzle to cause siphoning of the fertiliser to the hose and your plants, and was very effective. I believe that when Neeta stopped producing the Nozzle in Australia and passed it to China, the internal design changed and no back pressure was produced by the nozzle. Hozon is still available from USA.

We commenced using the Power Feed fertiliser unit putting fertiliser and then using it to fertilise our plants. The unit described below is similar in appearance. If you are interested in this unit, go into the internet and type

“Hudson Spray Applicator Model 2204. I am uncertain of the modifications required in the article below and I commend the article above. It is from ANOS Sydney's latest newsletter and is well worth the information being offered. Look it up on the Internet.

I intend to buy one of these units from Mark and will report on it then.

Dates to Remember...

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| 9 - 10 July 2016 | Tinonee Orchids Open Day and Show - 768 Tinonee Rd, Tinonee |
| 15 July 2016 | ANOS Sydney Group - Auction (All welcome to bring plants to sell!) |
| 12 -14 August 2016 | National Orchid Extravaganza - Round Corner, Dural |
| 11 – 14 August 2016 | Campbelltown Orchid Society – Narellan Town Centre |
| 19 - 21 August 2016 | St Ives Orchid Fair - St Ives Showground |
| 1 – 4 September 2016 | 8th ANOS Conference and Show – Kempsey |
| 7 – 9 October 2016 | Southern Orchid Spectacular Caringbah High School 85 Willaroy Rd. Caringbah. |
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Australian Native Orchid Cultivation

GENERAL

Australia has more than 600 species of native orchids which can be classified into more than 70 genera. The plants have a large and varied distribution being found in some form or other in all Australian states. Orchids can be divided into two major groups as follows:

Epiphytic orchids

These are found growing on the trunk and limbs of trees or on moss and humus covered rocks. These orchids are not parasites as they use the tree or rock merely as a host on which to grow. Any crevices and fissures on the surface of the host serve as channels to direct rainfall and humus to the roots

of the plant where water and its mineral contents are absorbed into the plant. This group of orchids depends on its root system to extract moisture from the air and is usually confined to the eastern coastal ranges and areas of relatively high rainfall and high humidity.

Terrestrial orchids

As the name suggests terrestrial orchids grow in the ground from either a tuber or rhizome and usually have an annual growth cycle. These orchids live in association with fungi called mycorrhizal fungi which act as nutrient gatherers for the plant. This group has an active growing season in which new tubers and flowers are produced which in the majority of cases commences in autumn and extends through to spring. After flowering the plant goes into dormancy during the hot summer months and is reduced to a live but dormant tuber underground with all other parts of the plant drying out and dying back. During the next growing season the dormant tubers shoot and the cycle begins again. This group occurs mainly in the southern and more temperate areas of Australia with largest numbers occurring in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.

CULTIVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS

As mentioned above our native orchids can be grouped into two basic groups, the cultures of which are entirely different. A brief description of the type of cultures applicable to each of the groups follows below.

Cultivation of Epiphytic Species

The majority of our epiphytic species can be easily grown in cultivation if the correct cultural requirements are provided. Some species are best suited to pot culture whereas others are best mounted on strips of cork or on pieces of native timber (ie. paperbark, etc). Various mixtures have been adopted over the years for pot culture of epiphytic orchids. Most of these comprise differing proportions of well aged bark chips, sieved decomposed granite (5mm-10mm in size) and charcoal. Many growers now use, as the major component in their mixture, one of the processed barks which are available in a range of grades to suit the size and culture of the plants being grown.

To the mixture, a small amount of dolomite, blood and bone, and superphosphate may be added to promote plant growth. It is essential that the mixture remain properly drained and even though most epiphytes require a continuous moisture supply, one of the best ways to kill plants is to grow them in a wet ill-drained mushy mixture!

Plants should be grown in a well drained mixture frequently watered and fertilised regularly with one of the commercial fertilisers at half strength (Aquasol, Nitrosol, Field Pack, etc) and placed in a position where they get light and air circulation. Plants best suited to this type of culture include *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium gracillimum*, *Sarcophilus hartmannii* and numerous man made hybrids (Dendrobium Ellen, Bardo Rose, Hilda Poxon, etc). Plants best suited to being mounted include those with pendulous habit such as *Dendrobium teretifolium*, *temiessimum*, *pugioniforme*, those with a creeping type growth such as *Dendrobium cucumerinum lichenastrum*, *linguifonne*, most *Bulbophyllum* species and those which resent having their root system covered such as most *Sarcophilus* and allied species.

Cultivation of Terrestrial orchids

Terrestrial orchids grow in a variety of situations and in general require a well drained mix as a heavy mixture causes rotting of the tubers. A basic mix developed contains the following.

2 parts coarse sand; 1 part scrub soil; 1 part wood chips; 1 part leaf mould. A small amount of blood and bone approx. one dessertspoon per 10 litre bucket should be added to the mix. This mixture may require some variation to suit different species. Plants should be watered regularly to maintain a constant moisture deposit during the growing period but during the dormant period the mix must be allowed to dry out as warm wet soils lead to the rotting of tubers. At this time watering must be reduced to no more than once a week to prevent desiccation of the tubers.

Garden Culture

For those orchid enthusiasts who don't have access to a bush house or who don't wish to be bothered with the more complex needs of some orchid genera, there are a large number of 'low maintenance' native orchid species and hybrids available. These will grow and flower quite well in the outside garden environment provided some thought is given to the basic growing requirements of the plants ie. light, watering and fertilising. Many species (ie. *Dendrobium speciosum*, *gracilicaule*, *tetragonum*, *teretifolium*, *Sarc. falcatus*. etc) will grow well if attached to suitable host trees which do not shed their bark. Other species and hybrids can be grown in pots placed in an outdoor rockery environment in dappled shade areas (ie. not full sun or full shade). Further details of plants which can be adapted to this type of culture can be obtained from your local Native Orchid Society or orchid nursery.

Thanks to the Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba

These notes have been used at our Cultural and New Grower's Meetings. They are from various sources and we thank the authors. All articles are supplied in good faith and the Bribie Island Orchid Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Obviously these notes are taken from Bribie Island Orchid Society's website...an excellent site with really good information...have a look!!!

Benching Results JUNE Meeting 2016.

Dendrobium Species	Den. tetragonum	W. & M. Southwell
	Den. Monophyllum	R. Morrison
Dendrobium Hybrid	Den. Avrils Gold	A. & C. Asquith
	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise	G. Steenbeeke
Sarcanthinae Species	Sarc. Hirticalcar	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	nil	
Bulbophyllum	Bulb. Schilleraium	T. Cooke
	Bulb. Schilleraium	R. Morrison
Aust. Species Other	cestichis reflexa	T. Cooke
Aust. Rhizobium		D. Hot Coals
	D. Waverlyx racemosum	G. Steenbeeke
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Dip. Robusta	T. Cooke
Terrestrial Evergreen	nil	
Dockrillia	nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid	nil	
Terrestrial Other	Aci. fornicatus	T. Cooke
	Gyrostylis Robusta	T. Cooke
Caladenia Species	nil	
Australasian Species	Pte. Tenuic auden	W. & M. Southwell
	Mediocalcar decorum	R. Morrison
Australasian Hybrid	D. Lemon Pepper x hepaticum	W. & M Southwell
Seedling		
Seedling First Flowering	nil	
Growing Competition 1.	A. & C. Asquith	W. & M. Southwell
Growing Competition 2.	R. Hanman	W. & M. Southwell

Plant of the night and the Popular Choice was Acianthis Fornicatus grown by Terry Cooke And Popular Vote was the same. Congratulations

GOOD GROWING

(How good were the judges at the Campbelltown Orchid Society Winter Show

EXCELLENT Judging!!!!

See you at the meeting!!!!!!