



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

November 2014

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: aaasquith@bigpond.com. Phone 4625 9874



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 , 18th December, 2015

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

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

ANOS Macathur Group disclaims any responsibility for any losses which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any materials published in this newsletter

Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

FITZPATRICK ROAD

Mt. ANNAN. ,

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.45pm, meeting starts 8pm

President's Message. Hi to all.

A big thankyou to Nita for travelling from Yass to give the terrestrial and potting demonstration , which was very well received by the members.....well done.

Congratulations also to Nita for Plant of the Night and Popular Choice with a really well presented plant.

Our next meeting is the Christmas function, no orchids please, just a fun party night and everyone is invited to contribute to our Christmas dinner. There is a monster hamper raffle on the night and it is still not too late to donate to the hamper.

The tuber night was a great success again this year and there will be another tuber night in January.

Very warm Christmas Greetings to all and a wonderful, happy and healthy new year.

WALLY.

.....

Minutes of MEETING HELD 20th November, 2014.

Meeting Opened: About 7.30pm, and President Wal welcomed members.

1. Apologies: P.Dowling, J. & T. Madison, J. English, A. Kneipp, C. Munson, N. Bates.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Peter Gibson

seconded by: R. Morrison

3. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

4. Treasurer's Report: Moved Carol Asquith Second: Greg Knight

Inward & Outwards Correspondence: Various Newsletters, sent & received..

Delegates Report: Next Month (November) donations for Hamper desired for Christmas Hamper.

General Business

Presentation of Show Ribbons.

Spring Show Grand Champion, Native Epiphytic Hybrid to Peter Gibson.

Sarc Show Prizes....Grand Champion, Sarc. Species and Trophy to Don Roberts.

Champion Sarc. Hybrid and Champion Specimen to Peter Dowling.

Champion Any Other Orchid Nita Wheeler

Reserve Champion to Greg Steenbeeke.

Money for sales from the show was handed out to members.

Nita Wheeler gave a very interesting talk on growing and potting terrestrials. Nita and friends came a long way and we thank her for taking the time.

General rules from Nita's talk..

2 inches from top of pot with mix. Sprinkle a small amount of blood and bone over the top and add another 1 inch of mix. Sprinkle tubers into pot, add more mix to the top of pot. Put a sprinkling of pine needles over the top. DO NOT OVERWATER.

Phil Griffiths spoke about plants from South Coast he is looking for. Flasks from same source...perhaps For growing competition.

A vote of thanks for the member who organised our new shirts.

Talk about the spring show followed and Greg Steenbeeke to look into comments.

Next meeting (December) is Christmas night....PLEASE BRING A PLATE (with something on it!!!)

Raffle : I did not record raffle results..sorry

.... And the meeting closed.. about 9.30pm

.....

Back Cutting Orchids

We back cut our plants so as not to waste the older part of the plant, as dormant eyes on the old canes or pseudobulbs do not generally grow unless the leading growths are cut off. The optimum time to do this is when one of the eyes on the leading growth just starts to grow its next season's pseudobulbs. That is generally the only time of the year a dormant eye on a back growth will grow on that plant.

- Sterilise cutters to prevent spread of disease such as bacteria, fungus, or worst of the lot, virus.**
- Cut the rhizome generally between the third & fourth growths.**
- Check the cut is a creamy green colour. (Any black or brown mark could be disease & should be cut out now.)**
- Seal the cut faces with a thick paste of Mangozeb or similar material.**
- Place a small piece of brightly coloured label in the cut. Always return cutters to the sterilizing solution.**
- Put the plant in a shady spot where you won't water it until it is bone dry. (About a week in summer, 2 or 3 weeks in winter.) This will seal up the cuts & prevent infection.**
- Do not water the plant for this drying out time. Watering will wash off the fungicide & leave the plant open to infection by fungus & bacteria.**
- Plants are generally not repotted at this time, unless they are making new roots.**
- If the leading growths are making new roots as well as new growths, then the leading 3 or 4 growths can be cut off & repotted now.**

The back cut is then treated as follows:

Remove from the old pot & cut into groups of 3 or 4 pseudobulbs. Take a cut off the back of the rhizome to check for disease. If the face of the cut is a clean creamy green colour, it is OK. If there is a brown or black mark in it, keep on cutting to eliminate. Cut all the old roots off & soak in a Mangozeb solution for 10 minutes.

After soaking, seal all cuts with a thick paste of Mangozeb, label the cuts. (tie labels low near the base of the plant.) Then stand upright in an empty terra cotta pot & place it in a fairly shady spot on the bench. The pot will absorb moisture & will create a moist micro-climate inside the pot. Soon a new growth will start from dormant eyes, & when new roots appear pot

as described in the next section on repotting.
An article from the Sunshine Orchid Nursery.

Be Water Wise

By Colin Hamilton.

Whether we like it or not, Australia is in dire straits with its water supplies. As a result of prolonged periods of drought, many water collection areas, including the underground aquifer, have not received sufficient run-off for replenishment. But we, as a nation, have kept using water with gay abandon. We are one of the highest users of water per capita of any nation. Now the rooster has come home to roost. We have to take action to conserve our dwindling resources.

I have given the matter some thought & asked some friends from around Australia for their ideas on how to save water in caring for their orchids, & looked at some of the web sites advising tips to help mend our wicked ways.

- I guess the first & probably the most obvious, yet most ignored, is the dripping tap. Leaking taps, pipes & dishwasher hoses is an easy way to reduce water wastage. One leaking tap can waste more than 2000 litres per month. (Source: Sydney Water Board)
- Installing water efficient taps or aerators is a great, inexpensive way to cut your water usage without you even noticing.
- Mulch your garden beds to retain moisture & lessen evaporation.

Turning to more orchid-specific matters, here are some tips collected from around Australia.

- I found the use of sphagnum moss as a potting mix can help to increase the time required between watering orchids. Phalaenopsis especially love it. I found that they could be watered here at weekly intervals except in the heat of summer. On warm days, I mist them in the morning. They do need repotting annually but their large thick roots make this easy as pie. I also found that small to medium size Vandas & Ascocendas do well with a layer of sphagnum moss in the bottom of the pot. Sphagnum is not recommended for orchids with fine roots as these are too easily damaged when repotting.
- For conserving water, one possible way is to use water-absorbing crystals in the orchid mixture – I think they are called Absorber Crystals. They hold the water & then release it slowly as the mixture dries.
- Use a wetting agent for all watering. This ensures that the water used ‘sticks’ to in the pot & onto the plant & root system thus saving a lot of water & also allowing greater periods between watering.
- After the plants have been watered, plastic under the benches could collect the run off & run it into drums. Filter it & reuse it.
- Obviously any rain water that falls on the roofs of your house, orchid houses, or any other sheds needs to be collected & stored in tanks. Remember the old days, when every house had a tank? If so, your age is showing! A friend installed a 4500 litre water tank at the beginning of 2003 purely for watering his orchids.
- Multiple small tanks of collected rain water can be connected together to maintain even levels in each tank. Add a small pressure pump to service foggers, air conditioners & for watering by hand. These small tanks can be hidden behind the garage, garden shed, orchid house, etc.
- I feel some growers will need to look at what orchids they purchase & their water requirements. Many growers have a tendency to water more frequently than is necessary. The time of day plants are watered is also a factor. Many orchids can do with less water than is currently applied, Australian native Dendrobiums & their hybrids included. Hot/cold hybrids with greater than 25% Den. Bigibbum influence do not need large amounts of water, as per the needs of the major parent. It may also be necessary to put pots in trays that contain water & leave the rest to capillary action.
- The ongoing water situation eventually will prove to be too much if we don’t act now. I visualize some growers giving up because of the cost & unavailability of water. Reuse of water will need to be investigated but this is something difficult on a small grower-to-grower scale. Orchid growers, and particularly the professionals, will need to put their case to the relevant governments to initiate an investigation into reuse of grey water & also reclaimed sewage water.
- Another friend has installed 3 rain water tanks to collect water from the roof. For Adelaide’s poor water quality, he finds it important to have rain water for the Phalaenopsis, etc. Also he has his misters on a timer to try to conserve water & to apply it only when necessary.
- I think that if you choose a potting medium with the materials like moss, peat, vermiculite & perlite, these hold more water in the mix & you don’t have to water as often.
- No magic tricks for a friend in Sydney. What he has done over the last few seasons is simply reduce

watering to harden his plants by watering less & less often, hand water using a watering can where necessary.

So there are a few views to get you thinking. For more information on water saving ideas in the home & garden, I recommend you go the Queensland Government Website :

<http://www.water.qld.gov.au/water/index.shtm>

or for interstate information try local websites such as Sydney Water Board's website:

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/>

BOTH ARTICLES --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. (From Bribie Island Orchid Society website in Queensland. Have a look at it!)

Benching Results October Meeting 16/10/2014.

Dendrobium Species	Den. Prenticeii	R. Morrison
	Den. Lichenastrum	R. Morrison
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Waianae Profusion x canaliculatum 'Magenta's Charm'	M. Warner
	D. Gracillum x Yondi	M. & W. Southwell
Sarcanthinae Species	Plect. Tridentata	D. Roberts
	S. falcatus	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Sarc. Kulnura Dragonfly 'Sarah'	P. Gibson
	S. Marina Harriot	G. Steenbeeke
Bulbophyllum	sledeaniana	G. Steenbeeke
	Schillerianum	R. Morrison
Aust. Species Other	Cymbid. Suave	C. Long
Aust. Hybrid Other	Little Black Sambo	W. & M. Southwell
	Dockrillia linguiforme	N. Wheeler
Australasian Hybrid	Fulgitas x ligniformis x Rasemosa	R. Morrison
Seedling	Sarc. Fitzhart 'bobbie' x fitzgeraldii ??	T. Cooke
Sarc Bridgette	G. Steenbeeke	
Novelty Class (50% or more)	Cymbid Cricket	P. Gibson
	Sartylis Toowoomba	K. Hines
Growing Competition 2.	R. Morrison	

Plant of the night is lingiforma grown by Nita Wheeler and the Popular Choice was also Nita's Plant, Congratulations

GOOD GROWING

See you all at the Christmas Party...Have a terrific Christmas and may 2015 be happy and Healthy!!!