



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



July 2015

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 , 16th July, 2015**
Life Member: Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke.

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman *ANOS Macathur Group disclaims any responsibility*

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**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 thank you to Alan Stephenson for his wonderful presentation at the last meeting, always very interesting talks.

Congratulations to Peter Gibson for plant of the night and popular choice. Well done Peter and get well soon because we miss you when you are not there.

Annual General Meeting this month, election of the committee for the coming year.

One new member at the last month Neil Robertson, welcome to the club.

Show dates for this year are; Sat. 26th September, and Sat. 24th October – both at Narellan Town Centre, Opposite Coles.

Trip to Yass will be Wednesday 23rd September, talk to Wally if interested.. (date to be confirmed)

FEES ARE NOW DUE

Wally

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 18th JUNE, 2015.

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

1. Apologies: Don Roberts, Mary_Anne Warner, Noel Bates and Phil Griffiths.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Ian Lawson **seconded by:** Robert Moon

3. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

4. Treasurer's Report: Moved Carol Asquith Second: Ross Morrison

Inward & Outwards Correspondence: **Kalhari Newsletter**, Various Newsletters, sent & received..

Delegates Report nil

General Business

Alan Stephenson gave an informative lecture on his trips into the bush.

SHOW DATES 26th September, 24th October. Welcome new member Neil Robertson.

Trip to see Nita in Yass on Wednesday 23rd September.

AGM NEXT MONTHS MEETING

Raffle Results.. Greg Knight, Graeme, Robert and Kim.

Next Meeting Speaker to be announced

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

GOOD GROWING..

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GROWING ORCHIDS ON MOUNTS by Stephen Stebbing

This is a general discussion on the basics of growing orchids on mounts.

Why grow on mounts?

- How many plants do you see growing in pots in the natural environment?
- It is a more natural way of growing them.
- For some plants, the only way to grow them properly or to their best advantage is to simulate the natural environment.
- Mounted plants present themselves better.

Types of plants suitable for growing on mounts

Most common orchid are suitable for growing on mounts except perhaps *Cymbidiums*.

Types of mounts

There are many different types of materials which can be used, the main ones being:

- Cork
- Tree Fern (*Cyathea spp.*) - black and red
- Bark or tree branches - hard and long lasting
- Timber boards - cypress pine decking etc.
- Gutter guard mesh
- Baskets can be considered as mounts due to their extremely free draining qualities.

There are as many types of mounts suitable for different types of plants as there are individual growing styles.

Some of the different types of mounts are: vertical types, rafts, horizontal types (very good for room saving and creating micro climates), mesh style, gutter guard types and basket types (with or without potting material).

I like to prepare mounts ahead of time and have them weathered ready for use when required. This also enables a selection to be available when required as sometimes a plant needs to be attached to a specific mount due to its shape etc.

Hooks

It may be only a small thing, but to me the hooks are the most critical part of mounting orchids.

Think about it - these plants hang up high on a wall which you will have to reach for, so you need a firm hook that does not move when you are trying to handle them. The method I apply is to have a 2 holed hook system with the holes 12mm apart. The wire is cut to length and one end bent over a pair of pointy nose pliers which give a "U" approx 12mm apart This wire is then inserted into the 2 holes made on the mount with the long arm placed in the top hole, and the short arm placed in the bottom hole. It does not matter if the short wire pokes through the mount or not. If it does bend it down nice and tight against the mount. The top long wire is pulled tight and then bent up, hard against the mount. It is then trimmed to length and the top 20mm bent down forming the hook which then suspends the mount. This 2 holed system and the "U" bent wire will then hold the hook upright so that the hook will not swivel and is held tight to the mount. You can then hang a name tag on it without the risk of it falling off.

Methods of Fixing

This is a varied and often discussed area, much like which fertilizer is the best. These are my preferred methods and types which I use regularly.

I once spent a lot of time tying knots with fishing line and cord etc. I gave away that slow and tedious job in favour of a stapler for all fixings. I have gone back to fishing line as my preferred material but now also use crochet nylon, 8mm strips of shade-cloth cut down the weave, fly-mesh strips, paper-bark and staples. Different materials are used for different types of plants and root styles.

To cover the roots or not?

I find it best for plants with fine roots to have the root system covered with bush moss. I prefer this to sphagnum moss as it is far easier to re-wet than sphagnum. I also use paper-bark on selected plants.

Method of mounting

Before starting to mount your orchid, you should make sure you have everything you will need, more so if

doing quite a few in one hit. You will need a supply of mounts. I always bring in 3 crates, full of mounts so that I have a choice as to size and shape of mount that I require. You will also need fishing line and other tying materials, scissors, stapler and staples, pre-cut wires, bush moss, trays, name tags, hole punch. Oh, and yes, the plants to mount. Everything is dependant on what you will be mounting. In general, you will be picking up a plant, having a look at it and determining which way the plant grows and what type of mount you will need for the plant type. Once you have that worked out, select a suitable mount that suits your plant and its growth habit. The mount size and shape will also depend on the root growth of the particular plant and also on the position of your plant on the mount.

Once you have determined these, place your plant on the mount and cover (in this case) with a thin covering of bush moss over the root system. Put it over the roots not under the roots, as you want the roots up against the mount so that they can attach themselves to the mount. Once you have the plant and moss in place, hold it in one hand and turn over and staple the fishing line to the mount, making sure to firmly hold the line to the back of the mount. Once firm, start wrapping around the plant and the moss firmly (try not to tie the leaves or bulbs) to hold the plant nice and securely in place. When sufficiently tied staple the line to the back of the mount again and cut off. If doing a group of plants place in an area until all are finished.

Name tags

They are the most critical accessory for any orchid plant. Write and stick the tags onto the mount. I prefer to hole punch my tags and hang them from the hook so the tag does not fall off in transit. Sometimes I also staple the tags to the mount.

First 3-6 months

Once mounted, I then lay all the mounts in a tray horizontally for the first 3-6 months. This is to enable them to establish properly. By doing this it allows the plants to acclimatize better and get their root system growing quicker. I have observed that mounts lying flat do not dry out as quickly as if you hang them up straight away. I also give them regular watering with plant starter and fertilizer for the first 3 months.

Normal treatment

Once your plants are established and growing well, you can then hang them up. With regular watering and fertilizing they will soon reward you by flowering. Remember that mounts tend to dry out a bit quicker than plants in pots - jammed up on benches, so remember to water properly and regularly and also to mist your mounts occasionally. If they get too dry, pull them down and dunk in a bucket of water for an hour or two to re-moisten.

Summary

Now that you are armed with knowledge about how to establish and grow your orchids on mounts you will have much success. Remember it is the treatment in the first 3-6 months that will produce success with the mounting of your orchids.

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The above article was printed in ANOS Sydney's Bulletin this month and was reproduced there with permission of the Australian Orchid Foundation and Stephen. It was presented at a workshop held May 2010. Stephen advises "the overall concept is still relevant".

Benching Results JUNE Meeting 18/6/2015.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Dendrobium Species | Den. Prenticeii | R. Morrison |
| | Den. tetragonum | W. & M. Southwell |
| Dendrobium Hybrid | D. Avril's Gold 'Ray' | P. Gibson |
| | D. Rosella x Aussie Quest | K. Hines |
| Sarcanthinae Species | nil | |
| Sarcanthinae Hybrid | nil | |
| Bulbophyllum | B. sladeanum | G. Steenbeeke |
| | B. shepherii | G. Steenbeeke |
| Aust. Species Other | nil | |
| Aust. Hybrid Other | nil | |
| Terrestrial Pterostylis | P. ophioglossa | T. Cooke |
| | P. longifolia | R. Morrison |
| Dockrillia | nil | |
| Terrestrial Hybrid | Pt Toveyana | W. & M. Southwell |
| Terrestrial Other | Corybas fimbriata | T. Cooke |
| Acianthus collinus | | T. Cooke |
| Caladenia Species | nil | |
| Australasian Species | nil | |
| Australasian Hybrid | D. Australian Ginger | T. Cooke |
| | D. schoernum x cherdiforme | K. Hines |
| Seedling | | |
| Seedling First Flowering | Den. Goldberg | J. English |
| Growing Competition 1. | C. Asquith 2nd. R. Morrison | |
| Growing Competition 2. | nil | |

Plant of the night and the Popular Choice was Den. Avril's Gold 'Ray' grown by Peter Gibson.. Congratulations

GOOD GROWING..

2014 Speciosum Competition Results

By John Zietsch

It was pleasing to see an increase in the number of entries for the second speciosum competition conducted by ANOS Mid North Coast Group and it is hoped that the number of entries for the 2015 competition will be even greater.

This year's winner was *Dendrobium speciosum* var *curvicaule* "Daylight Moon" owned by Henk van den Berg. The plant was Grand Champion at ANOS Warringah Group 2014 Spring Show and was awarded an AM by the ANOS judging panel. The plant produced an eye catching display and showed the excellent cultural skills of a great grower and supporter of native orchids. Congratulations Henk.

The runner up was *Dendrobium speciosum* var *speciosum* 'Colo Ridge' owned by Gerry Walsh. This is a plant that few will have seen unless they were fortunate enough to have ventured out to Gerry's open day last year. It has never been exhibited at a show, but is sure to turn heads when it makes an appearance in full bloom. Rumour has it that there may be some of its genes in glass jars.

Congratulations to the winners and appreciation to all those who took the time and made the effort to participate in 2014. CDs of photos of all the entries will be forwarded to the participants shortly.

For those planning a trip to Kempsey this year for the Speciosum Spectacular and Native Orchid Show over the first weekend in September 2015, a presentation to the winning grower will be made at Saturday night's dinner.

The aim of the speciosum competition is to give growers the opportunity to show off their plants when it may not be possible to get them to a show or group/club meeting because the plants are either too large or not in flower and at their best. The competition for plants flowering during 2015 is open to all growers and entries will close on 31st December.

To encourage more entries in the 2015 Speciosum Competition it has been decided that entries will be free and if desired photos may be emailed rather than sent on CD or memory stick although these options will still be possible.

Entry forms for 2015 will be available on the ANOS web site or by email from anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com

Readers may also be interested in an auction of some high quality speciosums and hybrids at the Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular this year. Plants have been promised by some top native growers and funds raised will be put towards the staging of the 8th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show to be held in Kempsey from 1st – 4th September 2016.

John Zietsch
Secretary
ANOS Mid North Coast Group Inc
Ph 02 6554 9733

2015 Dendrobium Speciosum Competition Entry Form

Entries Close 1st January 2016

Conditions of Entry:

- The competition is open to anyone and is for plants that flowered and were photographed during the 2015 calendar year.
- Entries are free
- Your entry must include photos showing the following
 - Photo A - The whole plant
 - Photo B - A complete raceme taken from side on. This photo should show some flowers in side view
 - Photo C - A single flower from the front.
- Photos can be submitted on CD or DVD or by email and must be clearly labelled as photo A, B or C together with the plant name.
- Judging is expected to be by ANOS judges. The winner will be announced following judging. Presentations to winner will be made at 8th ANOS Conference and Show.

Declaration:

I declare that the photos submitted were taken of the above plant during the 2015 calendar year and that the photos reflect a true recording of the colour and size of the flowers and that colours have not been digitally enhanced or altered.

Signed

Please advise if you do not agree to the organisers using your photographs and any of the details on this form in producing a DVD of the entries for circulation to participants.

For further information phone 02 6554 9733 or

e-mail : anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com

Post Entries to:
The Secretary, ANOS Mid North Coast Group,
69 The Lakes Way, Forster. 2428

Please complete one entry form for each plant entered.

Name of Owner/Exhibitor:

Address:
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e-mail

Plant Name:

This should include the varietal name and clonal or cultivar name. For inter-varietal crosses, please include details of the parents and any clonal/cultivar names used.

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Breeder: (if known)

Show Details: (optional)

If you have entered this plant in any shows during 2013 you may include details of the show/s entered and the results obtained.

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Plant Details:

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of flowering size growths | |
| Number of racemes | |
| Average number of flowers per raceme | |
| Average length of racemes | cm |
| Height of first flower on raceme in photo B | mm |
| Width of first flower on raceme in photo B | mm |
| Height of end flower on raceme in photo B | mm |
| Width of end flower on raceme in photo B | mm |

Photographs:

Date taken: Photographer.....