



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



September 2015

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: [aaasquith@bigpond.com](mailto: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 , 17th September, 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 thank you to Bob Bishop for his very interesting talk on the orchid bark at our last meeting.

Congratulations to Noel Bates for plant of the night and to Don Roberts for popular choice.

Spring Show 26th September, at the usual place, opposite Coles at Narellan Town Centre. Set up from 7.00am, benching by 8.30am, judging to start at 9.00am. Bring along plenty of sale plants. The car parking area near Coles night entrance and the basement car park are open.

**Sales table at the next meeting so you can stock up on supplies for the show season.**

Wally

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20 th August, 2015.**

**Meeting Opened:** About 7.30pm, and President Wal welcomed 19 members and a visitor.

1. Apologies: Neil Robertson, Robert Moon, Phil Griffiths, Peter Gibson, Graeme Morrison, Ian Lawson, Peter Dowling. (must have been the AGM meeting!).
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:  
Proposed by: Richard Hanman seconded by: Don Roberts
3. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil
4. Treasurer's Report: Moved Carol Asquith Second: Ross Morrison

**Inward & Outwards Correspondence:** Newsletters magazine from Our Gardens group.

**Delegates Report nil**

### **General Business**

Wal prepared the Annual Incorporation Accounts.

Spring Show 26<sup>th</sup> September....Narellan Centre.

Don Showed a Sarco.....

Raffle Results.. Richard Dimon, Richard Hanman, Don Roberts, John English.

Next Meeting Speaker to be announced

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

**GOOD GROWING..**

.....

**In view of Neville Roper's health issues, I print the following article as a tribute to a grower and breeder of Australian Native Orchids who has produced outstanding quality orchids that most of us have sought and sweated over. As a personal opinion, I believe that Neville's contribution to our hobby, represents a level that most of us can only dream about.**

## **The Five (or So) Best Sarcophilus Crosses by Neville Roper**

I was talking orchids, more specifically Sarcophilus with Kevin 'Grouchy' Wilson over dinner one night when I posed the question "What do you reckon are the five best Sarco. crosses ever made?" Pretty simple question and you would think that the answer would be simple too considering that they are a relatively small group of orchids with only a short period of cultivation and hybridisation. Ultimately we couldn't reach a consensus`.

There was a temptation to promote the very recent crosses that have been producing exciting results but these crosses have not stood the test of time nor would they be familiar to most orchid folk. For what it is worth here goes with my thoughts on the best five Sarco. crosses that have stood the test of time – their virtues and their vices.

### **Sarco Fitzhart (hartmannii X fitzgeraldii)**

#### **Virtues**

A primary hybrid so it has great growth vigour

Prolific flower production

Second generation (such as a sibling cross or an outcross between two unrelated Fitzharts) have a high percentage of highly coloured clones. Some have improved flower shape

A reasonably fertile parent which has produced some great crosses – Heidi, Jeanne, Fizzy Dove, Sweetheart, Burgundy On Ice

A very bright future as a grandparent with credits such as Orange Glow, Hot Ice and Kirra Lea

#### **Vices**

As an older cross that was made with the best parents available at the time but which would now be considered to be inferior. Clones from these early crosses are mostly lacking in flower quality.

Generally the more intensely coloured clones from the newer sibling crosses tend to be smaller than expected.

### **Sarco. Weinhart (hartmannii X weinthalii)**

#### **Virtues**

Much easier to cultivate than weinthalii

Flowers are as cute as 'all get out'

Great variety of colour forms – yellow, cream or almost white with brown to purple flushing and spots.

There are some pure yellow forms

Some clones clump and form specimens rapidly

Very generous flower production and this usually starts in a 50mm tube

Generally have a good shaped flower, some clones are very round and filled-in.

Great parent that produces a range of colourful, often spotted flowers on smallish plants – Jeanne, Jewell, Billie, Pixie Pearls which will often flower at different times of the year.

#### **Vices**

While easier to cultivate than weinthalii some clones are very tardy

If size matters then the flowers could be a little on the small side

### **Sarco. Melba (Hartmannii X falcatus)**

#### **Virtues**

Crystalline white flowers with wonderfully contrasting red spots in the centre

Large flowers (sometimes very!)

Excellent shaped, filled-in flowers

Long, elegant racemes of flowers

Grows vigorously and will flower off small plants, especially if falcatus is the pod parent.

Can flower at different times of the year and several times during the year

Great parent producing George Colthup, Judith, Melody

Proven grandparent with Dove, Burgundy On Ice, Fizzy Dove, Lyn etc to its credit

**Vices**

Some clones are progressive flowerers especially when they flower out of season ( not in spring)

Some clones, especially the monster flowers are distorted with ridge type tissue along the edges of the sepals

In instances where falcatus has been used as the pod parent there is a tendency towards shorter racemes and less filled-in flowers.

**Sarco. Jeanne (Fitzhart X Weinhart)****Virtues**

Although not as widely available as the above nominations this cross deserves credit for a kaleidoscope of colours from dirty red-browns, vibrant reds, spots, whites, yellows, combinations of the above and even albas.

Small free-flowering plants

Good shaped flowers with crystalline surfaces

The early signs are that it will be a good parent – Orange Glow, Molly

**Vices**

Smallish flowers

Not widely available as it is not an easy cross to get seed from – a reluctant parent

Some clones can be touchier to grow than either parent.

**Sarco. Judith (Melba X Fitzhart)****Virtues**

One of the first hybrids not to have a species as a parent and so has a wide diversity of genes.

Robust grower which will flower from small plants but will readily form large clumped specimens.

Produces long racemes in abundance

Typically has crystalline white flowers with varying amounts of red towards the centre although pink clones are not uncommon

Generally produce large flowers of considerable substance. Good clones have well filled-in flowers.

A reasonably willing parent of quality hybrids such as Burgundy On Ice, Yvonne, Jedda, Norma and Duno

Judilly

**Vices**

There are no obvious weaknesses although many of the early Burgundy On Ice clones were shy to flower and when they did the buds on each raceme often opened erratically over several months. Newer crosses seem to have eliminated this fault.

**Sarco Velvet (Nicky X Riverdene)****Virtues**

Can be in a range of colours from full red to brown or yellow with varying amounts of red at the centre.

Multiple flowerings during the year with a more reliable period towards November has lengthened the flowering season towards Christmas

Produces large reasonably filled-in flowers of tremendous substance.

Showing early signs of being an excellent parent with Bessie (X George Colthup) and Jill ( X Fairy) already achieving wins on the show bench.

**Vices**

A slow but steady grower.

Progressive flowerer with most clones starting out with about six fully open flowers which dwindles over time to one or two flowers on the tip of a very long raceme

**Sarco Cherie (Fitzhart X fitzgeraldii)****Virtues**

A much easier proposition to grow than fitzgeraldii.

Probably the first hybrid to approach the much awaited ‘full red sarco.’ status, something that some clones approached but few actually achieved. They were dark pink at best but, for their time, very colourful.

A major breeding breakthrough as Cherie seemed to be more generous in passing colour genes to its offspring than either of its parents.

Some surprisingly rare remakes have produced much more intensely coloured clones with much better flower form – largely due to improvement in the Fitzhart parents.

An outstanding parent with offspring such as Redstone, Cherie Snow, Yvette and Yvonne.

**Vices**

Early crosses produced smallish flowers with a dominant fitzgeraldii influence featuring ping -pong bat shaped segments.

An old cross that has largely been superseded by newer, better hybrids most of which are descendents but never the less deserves a place in this hall of fame.

### Conclusion

Quite simply, as I explained to Grouchy after several beverages, it's easy to identify the **five** best Sarcochilus crosses made so far.

Neville Roper

### ***Benching Results JULY Meeting 16/7/2015***

<i>Dendrobium Special</i>	Den. aemuleum	P. Brown
	Den. tetragonum	W. & M. Southwell
<i>Dendrobium Hybrid</i>	D. Johnathan's Glory 'Dark Toy'	D. Roberts
	D. Unknown	M. Warner
<i>Sarcanthinae Species</i>	Plectrohiza tridentata	R. Morrison
	Plectrohiza tridentate	P. Brown
<i>Sarcanthinae Hybrid</i>	S. ceciliae x S. Australia	R. Morrison
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	B. schilleranum	R. Morrison
<i>Aust. Species Other</i>	Den. Teretifolium	N. Bates
	Den. Teretifolium	N. Bates
<i>Aust. Hybrid Other</i>	Nil	
<i>Terrestrial Pterostylis</i>	P. curta	R. Morrison
	P. curta	R. Dimon
<i>CaladeniaSpecies</i>	Glossodia major	R. Morrison
	Caladenia caterata	T. Cooke
<i>Diuris Species</i>	D. maculata	R. Morrison
	D. maculate	W. & M. Southwell
<i>Dockrillia</i>	Nil	
<i>Terrestrial Hybrid</i>	Pt erecta x curta	C. Long
	Pt. Dusky Duke	W. & M. Southwell
<i>Terrestrial Other</i>	Chiloglottis inineata	W. & M. Southwell
	Corybas dilatatus	T. Cooke
<i>CaAustralasian Species</i>	Nil	
<i>Australasian Hybrid</i>	D. Australian Ginger	R. Morrison
	D. Australian Freckles	C. Long
<i>Seedling</i>	Nil	
<i>Seedling First Flowering</i>	Den. Teretifolium	G. Steenbeeke
<i>Growing Competition 1.</i>		R. Morrison
<i>Growing Competition 2.</i>	Nil	
<i>Novelty Class</i>	cc	

***Plant of the night was  
Popular vote***

***Den. Teretifolium  
Johnathans Glory***

***grown by Noel Bates and  
grown by Don Roberts.***

***Congratulations Don***

*The computer swallowed Grandma, yes, honestly it's true!  
She pressed 'control and 'enter' and disappeared from view.  
It devoured her completely, the thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus, or been eaten by a worm.  
I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet, but nothing did I find.  
In desperation, I asked Mr. Google my searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found 'online.'  
So, if inside your 'Inbox,' my Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her, and send her back to me.*

*Just to finish with a little poetry!!!! GOOD GROWING*