

# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

January 2013

Edited by Tony Asquith

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Phone 4625 9874

**President** Mr. W. Southwell (ph. 46818589)

**Postal Address:-** 43 Strickland Cres.,

**Secretary:** Mr. J. English (Ph.96079809)

**ASHCROFT . 2168.**

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

**Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 21st February, 2013**

**Life Member:** Mr. J. Riley

**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,**

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

**Mt. ANNAN.**

President's Message.

Hi to all. The guest speaker at the February meeting will be Karen Somerville from Mt. Annan. Karen is doing wonderful research work in the propagation of terrestrial orchids, particularly diuris.

The sales table will be at this meeting including METAREX Snail and Slug Killer.

There is a new novelty section in the monthly table show, must have 50% or more, Australian or Australiana parentage.

There will be a new Perpetual Trophy this year which will be called the "OCTOBER SHOW TROPHY."

Good Growing....Wally

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**MEETING HELD 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**

1. **Meeting Opened: 8pm**, and the President welcomed members.
  2. **Apologies: Phil Griffith, Ross and Graeme Morrison, Chris Munson, Ian Lawson, and Peter Dowling,**
  3. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**
  4. **Proposed by: passed**                      **Seconded by:**
  5. **Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil**
  6. **Treasurer's Report: Presented by Carol,**  
**Proposed by: Carol Asquith**                      **Seconded by: Terry Cooke**
- **Inward Correspondence:**
  - **Outward Correspondence:**

**Delegate Report: Mary-Anne set up our website**

**General Business October Australasian Show Trophy discussed.**

**Show in October will be called "October Orchid Show Macarthur A.N.O.S.**

**Karen Somerville will be at the next meeting as guest speaker.**

**Don bought in some Metarex, Peter Wise demonstrated.**

The raffle was drawn, winners Alan Kneipp, Mary-Anne and Peter Brown and the meeting closed.

## Benching Results      January 2013

Dendrobium Species	nil	
Dendrobium Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxin	G. Steenbeeke
	Den. Bobby White x Den. Borana White	M. Warner
Sarcanthinae Species	Sarc. Hirticalcar	D. Roberts
	Sarc. Hirticalcar	D. Roberts
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Sarc. Hartmannii x S. Hirticalcar (Riverdene)	D. Roberts
Bulbophyllum	nil	
Aust. Species Other	Cymbidium madidum	W. & M. Southwell
Aust. Hybrid Other	Cymbidium Little Black Sambo	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Pterostylis	nil	
Caladenia Species	nil	
Terrestrial Evergreen	Calanthe trioplicata	W. & M. Southwell
Diuris Species	nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid	nil	
Terrestrial Other	nil	
Australasian Species nil		
Australasian Hybrid	nil	
Novelty Class (50% or more)	Sartylis Blue Knob	P. Gibson
Seedling First Flowering	nil	
Growing Competition 1.		W. & M. Southwell 2nd. J. English
Growing Competition 1.	nil	

See you at the meeting

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### ***Orchid Care Services***

*For All Types of Orchids - Hybrids and Species*

*Prop. Wemer and Rosalinda Deisel* 5 Rutland Place, OAKVILLE N.S.W. 2765

Phone: 9627 2238 Fax: 9627 4928 [www.orchidcare.com.au](http://www.orchidcare.com.au) ABN: 47 136 383 845

### **Orchid Care Services News**

**17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012**

Many orchid growers have heard the rumour that Werner Deisel of Orchid Care Services was going to retire in 2013 and the Orchid Care Brand of product was to disappear from supply.

One of the reasons for taking this decision was due to a lack of supply in Australia of bark suitable to produce the high quality product associated with the OCS brand. When suitable bark was able to be sourced within Australia however, the transport cost to get it to the factory in Vineyard made the finished cost of the product prohibitive to market. Considering these factors, I felt it was better to cease production rather than place in the marketplace a product which did not meet the high quality that my loyal users expected of OCS products or was too expensive to purchase.

However before a final decision was made, I was able to source suitable bark which meets the high quality expected of every product that carries the OCS brand. The result of this is that I have put on hold any decision to retire and to become a distributor of New Zealand Orchid brand bark by Besgrow. As a result of this decision, all the usual Orchid Care Products will still be available from the factory direct or from your favourite supplier with only a slight change to the grading size of single grade bark product.

The enclosed product sheet shows the grading's available and gives detailed information about Orchid Care bark product. Regards,

Werner Deisel    Managing Partner.

## New Orchid Growing Bark Now Available

Orchid Care Services is pleased to announce that they are now the suppliers of the Orchiata brand bark, the very best orchid growing bark coming from New Zealand. Orchiata orchid bark is a sustainable orchid growing *substrate produced from the finest quality, 100% pure New Zealand Pinus radiata bark which has been sourced from renewable, non-native forests ensuring its availability into the future.*

New Zealand *Pinus radiata* is a hard and stable bark compared to other pine species; however, it needs to be processed from its raw state to be used for orchid culture. Through Orchiata's unique natural process an orchid bark is created that is of a high quality, stable, long lasting, & is toxin free. This processing allows Orchiata brand bark by Besgrow to hold water and nutrients on the outside layer of each chip, as well as creating a slightly rough surface for roots to anchor to. Pathogens do not survive the processing, however beneficial micro-organisms remain. As a result of this process a consistent growing substrate is produced, that is available in different sizes to meet your specific growing needs.

Orchiata brand bark retains the best attributes of *Pinus radiata*, and combines them with longevity, ability to rewet quickly and long term stability. Growers' that have been using this bark for some time report that excessive re-potting is not necessary, as potted plants have been known to remain in excellent condition in excess of 10 years.

Available in 4 grades, **Classic** 6-9mm, Power 9-12mm, Power+ 12-18mm, Super 18-25mm, all in 40 litre bags, means there is a bark size to suit every size and type of Orchid plant.

This bark can be purchased directly from Orchid Care Services in single bags or pallet loads of single grades or mixed grades.

As well as this bark Orchid Care Services is still supplying, Cymbidium Growing Compost, Miscellaneous Orchid Mix, (OCS unique orchid mix ready to use for all epiphytic orchids), as well as Space Age Mix for terrestrial orchids and general plant potting. Orchid Societies can order mixed pallet loads of bark, cymbidium compost, miscellaneous orchid mix and Space Age mix.

There is no longer a need for you to refine your orchid potting media OCS has have done all of the work for you!

For further detail and prices or all these orchid growing products contact Werner on (02) 9627 2238 or [werner@orchidcare.com.au](mailto:werner@orchidcare.com.au).

Editor's note: I went on line to have a look at the Besgrow site in New Zealand and found a lot of info on orchid growing..it's worth a look. (NZ has a LOT of radiata pine...) Type Orchiata Bark in Search Box

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**The following articles have been re-produced from the Cumberland Orchid Circle, Orchid News, July 2012 and taken from Central Coast Newsletter, November 2012**

### **Fertilizer and Light:**

#### **How do you tell if you're giving too much?**

It's a fact: more orchids perish in the hands of new growers by over-watering and over-fertilizing than by any other means. Because they are such slow growers compared to tropical foliage houseplants, when orchids show any sign of "negative" change—a dropped leaf, a shrivelling pseudobulb — most new growers feel that they have to \*do\* something to compensate and "fix" the matter, and what they typically do is reach for the watering can and the fertilizer mix. They water; they fertilize; and now, secure in the belief that they've done something "positive" for their plant, new growers get perplexed when the orchid doesn't immediately respond, or responds "poorly:" more dropped leaves, more shrivelled pseudobulbs. The new grower responds with—more water! More fertilizer! All too soon, the orchid's roots are dead and

rotting, and its leaves are fertilizer-burned when, actually, a few dropped leaves or a moderately shriveled pseudobulb are part of an orchid's natural and normal growth process!

### **So how much fertilizer is too much, and what are some of the signs of overfeeding?**

Consider: in the wild, where orchids live perched on the branches of trees or the sides of cliffs, the only fertilizer available to them is whatever nutrients happen to be dissolved in the rainwater that hits their roots: nutrients derived from water washing over dead insects, the occasional bird dropping, or dead bark. It's not a whole lot of nutrition. Orchids have evolved to not only tolerate but to flourish in scarcity. They store water and nutrients in thick pseudobulbs, or fleshy leaves and roots. Not only do they have no use for overabundance, they will actually suffer under its weight. Too much fertilizer will burn an orchid plant, at the roots (which will turn black) and at the leaves (where the tips will turn brown and begin to die back.) If the leaf tips of your orchid are all turning brown, and you have a crusty white build up of fertilizer salts on your growing medium or around the drainage holes of your orchid's pot, you are definitely over-fertilizing and need to feed less.

The burn resulting from too much light looks quite different. Dark brown, sometimes raised blotches will appear randomly along the leaves, not just at the tips. Too much light may also bleach the colour from your orchid's leaves or, in some cases, turn the leaves' colour a deep, almost purplish red.

**The key is this:** the more light and warmth your orchid requires, depending on genus, the more fertilizer you can expect it will use. It follows, then, that during the late spring and summer months when the sun is strongest and the days long, your orchid will tolerate (and thrive with) more fertilizer. In the autumn and winter, cut the fertilizer back.

Use a balanced fertilizer mix developed for ornamental plants and flowers (the brand isn't as important as the balance: 16-5-14. High nitrogen fertilizers (24-3-10) will make your orchid look green and lush, but you can bet that its flowers, if it even does flower, will be small and disappointing. Mix the fertilizer at 1/4 to 1/3 the strength recommended by the manufacturer on the box, and pour that solution over your plant once a week, in the morning, so that your plant's leaves will have a chance to dry off before nightfall. Four days later, water your plant with just plain water, no fertilizer. The water will flush out any fertilizer salts that may have built up around your orchid's roots and keep them from burning. (This watering / fertilizing schedule applies to orchids potted in bark or some type of bark mix. Orchids potted in sphagnum moss or some other medium that retains a lot of water should be watered and fertilized less frequently. The medium should never remain soggy for days and days on end.) If you miss a fertilizing session or two, (or three...) don't double the fertilizer strength next time to make up for it! Just resume the proper schedule and dilution rate. Your orchid will be absolutely fine.

### **What about Light?**

Most orchids need bright, diffuse light to thrive and re-bloom. If your orchid's leaves are bleaching out, turning a dark red, or are hot to the touch, it is getting too much light. Move it back from the window or cover the window with sheer curtains to diffuse the light and reduce the light's intensity. On the other hand, if your plant is not getting enough light, its leaves will turn a dark, dark green, new growth will be smaller than the old growths, and blooming will rarely occur. Further, if the leaves are a dark, dark green and the plant is looking leggy, straggly, and "weak," it is getting too little light, and too much fertilizer! Increase the light, and cut back on the food!

***Orchid-growing is an exercise in patience and balance.*** Once you've learned the balance required by your plants under your growing conditions, your orchids will thrive and bloom for you again and again.

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER OF COMING SHOWS.**

5-6 April CASTLE HILL ORCHID SHOW          Castle Hill Showgrounds. (22 Vendors) 9am – 4pm.

17 – 19 May    Orchids Out West                  Hawkesbury Racecourse

Start of new season....          GOOD GROWING.

A little extra for the emailers.

## AUSTRALIAN NATIVE CYMBIDIUMS

### Cultural Tips.

I found the following tips on growing the Australian native cymbidiums in the Berowra and District Orchid Society Newsletter. It was written as a result of a talk given to the Society by Ken Russell of Dungog who many members will know.

*Cymbidium suave*: likes a ph reading of between 4.0 & 4.6 and DOES NOT LIKE LIME. When repotting use only untreated pine bark and water thoroughly with a bucket of water containing 1 teaspoon of vinegar.

*Cymbidium canaliculatum*: likes a ph reading between 7.0 & 10.0, & likes lime. This plant should be grown under protection in winter and MUST NOT BE OVERWATERED IN WINTER.

*Cymbidium madidum*: likes a ph of 6.5 the same as sarcochilus who also like a ph of 6.5. To raise the ph level of a medium use 5g of hydrated lime to 1 litre of water and to lower the level use 2g of iron sulphate to 1 litre of water. Always water heavily after use to remove excess salts.

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