



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



MARCH 2013

Edited by Tony Asquith    mail: [aaasquith@bigpond.com](mailto:aaasquith@bigpond.com).    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.

It was great having the Orchid Tray Company with their supplies and speaker on the night. A big thankyou to them.

Congratulations to Ross Morrison for Plant of the Night again, well done!

Kim Hines, a new member joined the club last month, a big welcome to you.

The speaker this month will be John Siemon who is the plant bank manager at the Botanic Gardens. This is something to look forward to.

The Auction this month, bring along excess orchids, orchid accessories or anything else (John wants wine). All proceeds to the club, so bring the gear along and don't forget your money.

Last month, there was some more of the growing competition plants so keep up the good work. There was still about 23 plants missing! Carol was quite pleased that her plant was bigger than Tony's.  
(Editors response: Are you sure she didn't switch labels?)

Wally.

=====

**The club now has Metarex Snail Bait – ring Margaret if you need some! See notes about Metarex, later in this bulletin.**

=====

Don't forget the Auction this month! Bring along an item or two to auction, not just orchids (and John loves Red wine)... this night helps keep the club to keep going!

=====

## MEETING HELD 21 March, 2013

1. Meeting Opened: 8pm, and the President Wal welcomed members.
2. Apologies: Terry Cooke, Chris Munson, Don Roberts
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Ross Morrison seconded by: Richard Hanman

4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil



Keep away from domestic pets as accidental poisoning may occur. If pets are poisoned, contact a veterinary surgeon.

Store your container in a dry, cool, well ventilated area, out of direct sunlight and out of the reach of children and animals.

Safety Directions

Harmful if swallowed. Harmful if inhaled. Do not inhale dust. Wash hands after use.

There is a suggestion that users should wear protective items during use.

First Aid. If poisoning occurs contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone 131126.

(Editor's note: All pesticides and poisons that one might use to eradicate or control pests of our chosen hobby, should be handled with proper care and protective apparel.)

.....

Coming events

17-19 May Orchids Out West Hawkesbury Racecourse, Racecourse Rd, Clarendon

**29-30 June Mingara Orchid Fair Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi**

9-11 August National Orchid Extravaganza Ellerman Park, Round Corner, Dural

**16-18 August St Ives Orchid Fair St Ives Showground**

4-6 October Southern Orchid Spectacular Caringbah High School, Cnr Willarong Rd & Taren Point Rd, Caringbah

=====

### **When Red becomes Yellow by Neville Roper (August 2009)**

Over recent years there has been increased interest in yellow *Sarcochilus* hybrids. This interest is probably the result of some exciting breakthroughs in producing yellow hybrids along with the fact the desire for full reds has been largely satisfied. It has recently dawned on me that the source of yellow in my new pure yellow 'breakthrough' hybrids is a little more complicated than originally thought. Recently I have been asking myself the question "are some of the yellow seedlings that have flowered over recent seasons really RED?"

*Sarcochilus hartmannii* 'Red Snow' was, to my recollection, the first Numinbah type (ie. Red centred as opposed to the Blue Knob type) *hartmannii* to be granted a quality award. It was, and still is, a lovely flower with its carmine centre and pristine white outer segments. I was fortunate to be given a couple of Red Snow flowers by Kevin Wilson (the only other holder of this clone at the time being Ken Russell) to use for breeding. Wanting to build upon its obvious strengths I used the pollen on my two best red centred hybrids namely a *S. Cherie* (to make Cherie Snow) and a *S. Cherie Snow* (to make *S. Snowhart*). Another gift of pollen in the following season enabled me apply Red Snow to *S. Fitzhart* and to *S. hartmannii* 'Vacy', my best at the time and the result of Ken Russell's combination of Red Snow with Blue Knob #1. Surprisingly all crosses produced some albinistic clones. The *S. Snowhart* and *Cherie Snow* crosses produced a large percentage of these 'poached egg' style flowers while the *S. Heidi* and *hartmannii* produced only an odd yellow centred clone. The desired outcome of large shapely white hybrids with intense red centres did not eventuate and, interestingly, the only clones from the *S. Cherie Snow* and *S. Snowhart* considered worthy of keeping were yellow centred.

Over the next few seasons a number of *S. hartmannii* crosses were made looking to improve the flower size and shape while maintaining the Numinbah style red centres. This pursuit often

involved the pairing of clones that had Red Snow somewhere in both of their backgrounds. In all crosses a small percentage displayed albinism, having yellow centres, and a total absence of red colouring. It became evident that the more infusions of Red Snow embedded in the parents the greater the likelihood of producing yellow centred seedlings. I am convinced that Red Snow is the source of the yellow centred (albinistic) genes that have been expressed to varying degrees in subsequent generations.

As interest in yellow centred sarco.s grew I found more people requesting seedlings that would have flowers that looked like 'poached eggs' and to this end I crossed S. Snowhart '#2' with S. Cherie Snow 'Yellow Centre', both being albinos. The resulting seedlings displayed varying amounts, but generally more than their parents, of yellow colouration. They resembled scrambled eggs more closely than poached eggs. This grex which I have registered as S. Roberta has gone a long way to convince me that that this line of breeding has produced a series of albino clones having flowers where the usual red markings have been replaced by yellow. In effect they are the result of red becoming yellow. As I write it dawns on me that an albino clone from another cross, S. Molly (S. Dove X Jeanne) provides another piece of the puzzle in that its colour bleeds into the tip flowers, just like S. fitzgeraldii, but with yellow instead of red.

A bit convoluted? Isn't it the case that yellow is yellow regardless?..... Well Maybe but there is another line of yellow breeding that complicates the issue. This line derives its yellow genes from species such as *hirticalcar*, *spathulatus*, *weinthalii*, maybe *olivaceous* and *Rhinerrhizza divitiflora*. These hybrids such as S. Velvet, S Topaz and S. First Light typically produce flowers with both yellow and red colouration and are therefore not albinos unlike those discussed previously. Perhaps these could be regarded as 'true' yellows while the albino types are, somehow, imposters.

Where to from here? To further test my theory I have several crosses underway that have an albino type yellow mated to a 'true' type yellow. My guess is that these will produce an array of colours from full red to yellow and I would be surprised if any turned out to be albinos. What I am hoping is that the best of the yellows that do eventuate will become foundation parents for a dynasty of true yellow Sarco.s. If this occurs the task of turning red into yellow will have indeed been accomplished.

This article from Sutherland Orchid Society website.

=====

## What Else Do I Grow With Our Orchids?

Like most growers of plants, we have plants in our glasshouses and greenhouses that have been collected from many sources over the years. In a bulletin from ANOS Victoria Group of July, 2012, an article prompted me to write a local response, and I have used some of the information contained in the article, written by Helen Wild .

Most growers end up with ferns in the growing area, particularly under the bench. They do assist with encouraging humidity, but try and ensure that any ferns that begin growing in your pots are removed, because the fern will eventually "take over" the whole pot. My glasshouse has quite a few different types including a couple of birds nest ferns.

Do you have any "Spanish moss" ? Believe it or not, this is a bromeliad *Tillandsia usneoides*, That is native to the south east of USA, where it grows epiphytically on large trees. There are fine and coarse forms, and these plants are usually hung on a hook or slung over a wire, and left to their own devices. *T. usneoides* propagates both by seed and vegetatively by fragments that are blown around by the wind. Although birds pilfer bits of it, any bits dropped on pots will NOT take root in the pots.

We keep quite a few bromeliads under benches in both greenhouse and glasshouses. Again, good for keeping up the humidity. We usually buy a new plant at orchid shows from the bromeliad man.

We have quite a few *Hoya* or Waxplants that seem to be very easy to grow, as well as propagate from cuttings. Quite often, both Bunnings and Big W, have both species and hybrids for sale at very reasonable prices, including occasional rarer species. I once heard Don Burke describe hoyas as being “easiest to grow” plants. We propagate in both sphagnum and potting mix from cuttings and they grow into good size plants quickly. There are a couple of books available on hoyas that allows identification of the plant, although one book is better than the other. We now place the larger size plants in hanging pots that have a small water well in the middle of the pot. (available from Orchid Tray Company).

We also have some *zygocactus*, and *nepenthes* (fly catcher plants) and some bulbs to add to the mix.

Tony Asquith

GOOD GROWING