

# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

**JULY 2013** 

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: 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) ext Meeting: THURSDAY, 15th August, 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,

A full committee was elected at our annual general meeting which continues with our stability and progress for the next year. When many clubs are struggling to form a committee, it's a very good result from our elections.

Congratulations for Greg Knight for Plant of the Night at our last meeting.

Schedules and hand out sheets will be available for the Spring Show at the August meeting.

**NOTE:** Dockrillia is now changed to Section Rhizobium.

Denis Wilson was to be our Guest Speaker at our August meeting but is now scheduled for next month. Peter Gibson agreed to give talk on Speciosum.. Thanks Peter!

Fees are now overdue... \$10 for single, \$12 per couple.

See you all at the meeting

Wally.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### The club now has Metarex Snail Bait. Ring Margaret if you need some!

\_\_\_\_\_

#### MEETING HELD 18 July, 2013

- **1. Meeting Opened:** 8pm, and the President Wal welcomed members.
- 2. Apologies: Chris Munson, Phil Griffiths, Kim Hines, Carol Asquith, Ross Morrison, Ian Lawson.
- **3.** Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Marj Yabsley Seconded by: Terry Cooke

- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil
- 5. Treasurer's Report:

Proposed by: Tony Asquith Seconded by: Terry Cooke.

- **6. Inward Correspondence**: Various Newsletters,
- 7. Outward Correspondence: Newsletters

### 8. **Delegate Report**: nil

**General Business:** Tony found an article in the Herald and Peter Dowling had a picture that went with the story. Tony expanded the talk to include some details about Campbelltown Orchid Society.

Meeting advised Fees Are Due and Elections will be held next meeting!

Wal spoke about approaching Camden Council regarding a grant that we could use to purchase a laptop, digital camera and screen. Tony to write a letter. Wal then spoke about the Constitution.

The raffle was drawn: Mary-Anne, Don, Colin & Allan

And the meeting closed.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## **Benching Results June 2013**

Dendrobium Species	Den rigidum	N. Bates	
	Den gracilicaule	J. English	
Dendrobium Hybrid	Den. Berry 'Oda'	J. English	
	Den. Hilda Poxin	G. Steenbeeke	
Sarcanthinae Species	Nil		
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Nil		
Bulbophyllum	B. Bowkettae	T. Cooke	
	B. shepherdii	W. & M. Southwell	
Aust. Species Other	Nil		
Aust. Hybrid Other	Nil		
Terrestrial Pterostylis	P. Concinna	G. Knight	
	P. grandiflorum	G. Knight	
Caladenia Species	Nil		
Terrestrial Evergreen	Nil		
Diuris Species	Nil		
Terrestrial Hybrid	P. Erecta x curta	T. Cooke	
	P. Nodding Prince	T. Cooke	
Terrestrial Other	Chiloglottis truncata	G. Steenbeeke	
	Corybas fimbriata	T. Cooke	
Australasian Species	Mediocalcar decoratum	G. Knight	
Australasian Hybrid	Den. Wamberal	W. & M. Southwell	
	Den. Australian Ginger	T. Cooke	
Novelty Class (50% or more)	Nil		
Seedling First Flowering	Den. Hilda Poxin	J. English	
Growing Competition 1	1st. N. Bates	2nd. R. Morrison	

**Plant of the night is** Mediocalcar decoratum grown by Greg knight. Congratulations

Coming events

### 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

\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Annual General Meeting. 2013.**

### **President's Report**

2012/2013 has been a good year for the club with continued growth throughout the year. The monthly table shows with more plants and variety of very good quality orchids, continues to grow. The committee

And members of the club always are more than ready to pitch in and help when needed and deserve A big than kyou for this. The future of the club is good, and gets stronger as time passes.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Apologies as per meeting. Previous Annual Report Minutes read and elected officers detailed.

There was no business arising

Moved A. Kneipp Seconded G. Knight (Carried)

Wally presented his report (above) and John English presented his Secretaries report and thanked Margaret Southwell for her outstanding support of our club. He also thanked Wal for his efforts on behalf of the club.

The Treasurers report was presented to the meeting by Tony Asquith on behalf of Carol Asquith, the Treasurer.

Moved Tony Asquith Seconder

Seconded Marj Yabsley (Carried)

Tony Asquith was declared to be the Returning Officer and All positions were declared vacant. Election of Officers Followed.

Election of Officers.

President	Wal Southwell	Moved	J. English	Seconded	P. Wise
Vice-President	Robert Moon	Moved	J. English	Seconded	R. Hanman
Secretary	John English	Moved	M. Southwell	Seconded	P. Wise
Treasurer	Carol Asquith	Moved	W. Southwell	Seconded	P. Gibson
Editor	Tony Asquith	Moved	W. Southwell	Seconded	J. English
Conservation	Richard Hanman	Moved	T. Cooke	Seconded	J. English
Show					
Marshalls	P. Gibson	Moved	M. Southwell	Seconded	A. Kneipp
	J. English	Moved	T. Cooke	Seconded	A. Kneipp
Librarian	J. English Vacant	Moved			• • •
Librarian Committee	•	Moved Moved			• • •
	Vacant		T. Cooke	Seconded	A. Kneipp
	Vacant Greg Steenbeeke	Moved	T. Cooke R. Hanman	Seconded Seconded	A. Kneipp P. Gibson

All officers declared elected and the meeting turned back to President Wal who closed the AGM and Returned to the general meeting.

Meeting closed about 9.40pm.

From Five Dock Orchid Society's Website. (Both Articles)

## WHAT FERTILISER SHOULD I USE? by Brian Milligan

New growers are quick to believe that success in cultivating orchids depends primarily on the type and amount of fertiliser used. Not so, in my opinion! In comparison with many plants, most orchids require little fertiliser and success in growing them depends more on providing

them with optimal amounts of light, water, warmth and fresh air than with large amounts of fertiliser

Fertilisers can be divided into several different types. Liquid fertilisers (which are usually solids!) are so called because they are dissolved in water before application. Their nutrients immediately become available to the plant via the roots, and in some cases also via the leaves. Slow release is the term generally used to describe fertiliser granules or droplets with polymeric coatings, which are essentially small plastic capsules of soluble fertiliser. These slow -release fertilisers should be incorporated in the potting mix. Their nutrients are slowly released during watering, especially in warm weather.

Other fertilisers, such as Magamp®, Hoof-and-Horn® and Blood-and-Bone, also release their nutrients over a long period as they dissolve or are degraded by bacteria present in the potting mix. Liquid Fertilisers contain major amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) in their chemical make-up. Smaller amounts of magnesium, calcium, sulphur and other elements needed for plant growth are also present. Magnesium is important because it is a constituent of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the green colour of plants. Chlorophyll catalyses photosynthesis, the primary step in the manufacture of cellulose, the structural material of plant tissue. Fertilisers containing a high proportion of nitrogen stimulate plants to produce leaf growth at the expense of flowers, whereas those containing relatively high proportions of phosphorus and especially potassium promote flowering.

Thus fertilisers with different proportions of these elements (usually referred to as the NPK ratio) will have differing effects on plant growth and flowering. An alternative is to use a 'balanced' fertiliser in which the ratio of nutrients is such as to provide optimal orchid growth during the whole year. Other liquid fertilisers used successfully with orchids include Aquasol®, Thrive®, and Maxicrop®.

Orchid growers with large collections usually fertilise nearly every time they water by using a proportioning pump which adds a concentrated fertiliser solution to the water feeding the sprinkler system. A system sold for home use dilutes concentrated fertiliser solution approximately 20 - fold with tap-water as it is applied by the garden hose. If applying fertiliser regularly in this way, the final concentration should be only 10% of the manufacturer's recommendation. However, when applying liquid fertilisers at weekly or fortnightly intervals, concentrations up to 50% of the manufacturer's recommendation can be used.

Slow Release Fertilisers are valued by the lazy grower and I use them extensively on my cymbidiums and zygopetalums! Osmocote®, Osmocote-Plus® and Nutricote® are three of the best known brands. I apply one or two tablespoons of Osmocote-Plus® to my 8-inch pots in October, together with smaller amounts of Magamp® and Hoof-and-Horn®. Often I add a little more in January. Slow-release fertilisers function by allowing their nutrients to diffuse slowly through their polymeric coating. Little fertiliser is released in cold weather, but the rate of release increases as the pot temperature reaches 20°C, coinciding with rapid plant growth.

Some growers have excellent success using pelletised animal manures such as Dynamic Lifter®, which is essentially pelletised fowl manure. Some use it as a mulch on the top of the potting mix but others believe that it accelerates the breakdown of pine bark. The above discussion applies primarily to fertilising cymbidiums and zygopetalums, which are regarded as 'heavy feeders'. I suggest caution when using slow -release fertilisers or animal manures on other orchids. It is safer to use liquid fertilisers at low concentrations and to apply them only to plants in active growth.

\_\_\_\_\_

Clay pots are good if you grow your orchids in high humidity or if you tend to over water because the surface of the pot is porous and the moisture will pass through it. They are more expensive and heavier than plastic pots. Most commercial growers use plastic pots because they are cheaper and much lighter than clay. At the current cost of shipping, every ounce of weight is significant.

Many orchids (Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Oncidiums just to name a few) grow better mounted on tree bark, pressed tree fern, or cork bark with a little sphagnum moss around the roots. Mounted orchids need to be watered more frequently than potted orchids. What kind of media should I use? Now that is a harder question to answer than the pot question. There are many types of media available that can be used for your orchids. Cork nuggets, wine corks, bark (small, medium, and large, rock wool, New Zealand Sphagnum moss, tree fern, lava rock, and, I know you won't believe this, but I heard about a man that swears by horse manure!

You may purchase all of the above from various sources. Or, you can make your own mix like I do. I use equal portions of small size fir bark, small charcoal chips, and perlite. This mix is best for orchids with tiny or fine roots. I make a similar mix using medium size fir bark, medium size charcoal chips, and a larger grade of perlite for my large-root type plants like my Cattleyas. I have also had good luck with a peat-based mix for my Phalaenopsis and Miltonias. My Phaphiopedilums are potted in either the fine bark mixture or N.Z.sphagnum moss.

PEANUTS! Those little peanuts you find in all your packages are just the thing for lining the bottom of your pots (they create a large air space to collect and drain any excess water). You can use broken pieces of clay pots or rocks, but these materials are heavy.

What size pot should I use? Never over pot (using a pot larger than necessary)! If the orchid has good root growth (a lot of healthy roots -- white with green tips), the next size larger pot would be just right. IF you have lost a lot of the roots (due to trimming brown and mushy roots -- see below) a one size smaller pot may be what you need.

How do you re - pot? Always trim away most of the dead roots before potting. I soak my media in a pail of water and use it wet when I pot. Another thing to remember is there is no way you are going to keep all the roots inside the pot! It is ok to let the roots grow out of the pot. I always like to tell people that orchids are in the pots for your benefit, not theirs. I am sure many of the potted orchids would be happier clinging to a large tree high above the jungle floor. If I have divided an orchid, I always dust the places I cut with sulphur. The sulphur helps avoid rot

**GOOD GROWING**