Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

November 2013

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: aaasquith@bigpond.com. Phone 4625 9874

Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

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

Mt. ANNAN.

President's Message

Hi to all,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Not much happening with orchids, but a great time of year to be of good cheer.

Christmas party on at this meeting, so bring a plate and enjoy the social get together. The very good Xmas Hamper raffle will be on so a good chance to win a great hamper.

There will be no table show this month. Congratulations to Tony and Carol Asquith for plant of the night at the last meeting, well done to you both.

Tuber night was very successful with good attendance even though there was not many tubers on the night. Terry Cooke came to the rescue with a very large donation of tubers on the night – a great big thankyou to Terry. Members will need a greater effort in the future years with tuber donations if they want the tuber night to continue, more on this later.

See you at the Christmas party.

Good Growing.....Wally.

MEETING HELD 21 November, 2013

1. **Meeting Opened: 8**pm**,** and the President Wal welcomed members.
2. **Apologies:** Chris Munson, Peter Dowling, Alan.
3. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

   Proposed by: Richard Hanman **seconded by**: Ian Lawson
4. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil
5. **Treasurer's Report:**

   Proposed by: Carol Asquith **Seconded by:** Terry Cooke

Inward Correspondence: Various Newsletters

Outward Correspondence: Newsletters

Delegate Report: nil

General Business: TUBER Night

Xmas Meeting, Please let Margaret know if you are **NOT** coming please!! We don't want left over food.onations for hamper needed...

Wal thanked Kim for arranging the invite to Mt. Annan.

No raffle due tuber night!
And the meeting closed.. about 9.oopm

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SUMMER SURVIVAL

Dear Orchid Friends:
Sydney summers...those long, languid, steamy days. Summer is an important time in maintaining the health of your orchids. Summer is usually a time of less flowering, so it's an ideal time to get your orchids into shape. High temperatures, humidity and an intense sun can make your orchids susceptible to problems or disease. Here are some tips so you may enjoy healthy orchids.

Summer is an excellent time to repot your orchids if needed. Check whether your plants need dividing. It may be that the plant has outgrown the pot or the medium has started to decompose. If the medium begins to decay, it retains more moisture and restricts airflow to the roots. A soggy medium invites pests as well. Repot after the plant finishes Flowering and when it shows signs of new root growth. Use the smallest pot that will accommodate approximately 1 1/2 – 2 years growth. Don't overpot in a pot that is too large. Remove and wash away the old potting medium. Examine the roots. Snip any rotten, decaying roots. Divide the plant if desired and place in a clean pot with fresh medium.

Insects are most active during the warm summer months. Get into the habit of looking at your plants. Inspect the undersides as well. As temperatures increase, good air movement is important to your orchid plants. Healthy orchids are more resistant to pests and diseases. Remove dried sheathing on Cattleyas to rid of hiding places for insects. You may find an occasional insect on one of your plants, but this is not cause for panic. Separate the plants from the others and treat it appropriately. Early inspection of your plants will locate those stray insects and allows you to throughout your entire collection. We live in Sydney...an occasional insect is not uncommon.

A large percentage of orchid problems are caused by either too much or too little water. Too much water can cause root rot and the excess moisture may allow a virus or bacteria to settle. A stressed plant also invites insects. Rinse off the leaves on your orchids to keep spider mites away. Orchids outside on porches or in your yard should be protected from excess rainfall. It may be necessary to apply a fungicide and insecticide on occasion if needed. An occasional application of fungicide is an extra protection in high humidity and helps to keep viruses at bay.

Other care tips: Keep your orchids out of the hot, midday sun to prevent sunburn. Use clean potting materials and disinfect your shears between plants. This helps prevent any spread of disease. Fertilise your orchids regularly. Growth achieved now will better support the flowers later. Brighter light, longer hours in the day, higher temperatures cause the orchid plants to consume more so fertilise regularly.

Summer is an excellent time to truly get to know your plants. Enjoy your orchids. Have fun with your orchids...hold them, inspect them. A little summer care now will reward you with beautiful flowers later.

Editors note: Don't forget the sterilise your old pots if recycling them from earlier plantings. I use 'Domestos' or similar product and clean the pots well prior to reusing them. I also soak my shears in 'Tricleanium' available from Bunnings.

This article is from Five Dock RSL Orchid Society Website, January 2009 Bulleten

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Orchids On Ebay

In the last two to three years the number of orchids available on eBay has boomed and as has the number of people buying plants on this website. However with this has come a few problems on both sides and this article aims to look at those issues and provide a few hints in order to aid the novice eBayer.

Quality: One of the main issues with eBay is with the huge variety in the quality of plants that are available. Some plants come from reputable nurseries and growers and so represent healthy, disease free solid plants - others however are just novice growers or resellers out to make a quick buck who either have no idea about plant health or do not care. It is the latter who you need to protect yourself from in this case. There are a few ways of doing this.

The first is to look at the sellers 'profile' and 'feedback' if they have a track record of selling orchids and consistently high feedback scores then it is likely that they are a quality grower . However, having said that I would not rely on this information as at the moment the value of a high feedback is diminished as giving negative feedback is seen as vindictive and so many do not do it where possibly it is necessary.

The second tip is to only buy of sellers you actually know, many nurseries who come to the shows and the bigger known growers sell on ebay, it is these people you want to buy off chiefly because they have a reputation to protect which is not limited to just eBay.

Identity : Knowing what you are buying is important, after all you want to get what you payed for. However, as in the above section, a lack of knowledge on both sides of the transaction means that on occasion plants are sold under the wrong name or indeed, plants that don't exist (someone has tried to pass off bright blue phalaenopsis on eBay). Again I suggest that you only buy from reputable growers to prevent this and as the saying goes "if it's too good to be true, it probably is". An area of particular concern is people claiming plants are named/awarded clones when in fact they are seedlings or garden variety plants , again you should do a little digging and find out if that particular clone is even in Australia before bidding.

Price: This is, in my opinion, the biggest issue on eBay and is where you find most of the winners and losers. Some people get auction fever while others hunt for bargains. I make two points here, just because everyone is bidding on something does not mean it is any good - and conversely just because something gets no bids does not mean it is worthless. Be very wary of tags like 'rare' or 'hardly ever seen in Australia' these are largely market tools used by sellers. Look at what the same or similar plants are going for at nurseries before you go spending many hundreds of dollars on a plant that you do not know well and which you won't ever see until its delivered.

Thus the best option if you are looking to buy a few things on eBay is to look and watch, do not bid on the first thing that catches your eye. See what's what and who's who and maybe after you understand all that's going on you can grab a few prized orchids.

Editor's note: a timely reminder from Sutherland Orchid Society Bulletin of March, 2013.

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The following was re-produced from Cumberland Orchid Circle News (November 2013) and appeared in the Central Coast ANOS Group Bulletin December, 2013.)

Micronutrients in Fertilizers

Iron: necessary for many enzyme functions and as a catalyst for the synthesis of chlorophyll. It is essential for the young growing parts of plants. Deficiencies are pale leaf colour of young leaves followed by yellowing of leaves and large veins. Iron is lost by leaching and is held in the lower portions of the growing medium. Under conditions of high pH (alkaline) iron is rendered unavailable to plants. When growing medium is alkaline, iron may be abundant but unavailable. Applications of an acid nutrient formula containing iron chelates, held in soluble form, should correct the problem.

Manganese: involved in enzyme activity for photosynthesis, respiration, and nitrogen metabolism. Deficiency in young leaves may show a network of green veins on a light green background similar to an iron deficiency. In the advanced stages the light green parts become white, and leaves are shed. Brownish, black, or greyish spots may appear next to the veins. In neutral or alkaline mediums plants often show deficiency symptoms. In highly acid mediums, manganese may be available to the extent that it results in toxicity.

Boron: necessary for cell wall formation, membrane integrity, and calcium uptake and may aid in the translocation of sugars. Boron affects at least 16 functions in plants. These functions include flowering, pollen germination, fruiting, cell division, water relationships and the movement of hormones. Boron must be available throughout the life of the plant. It is not translocated and is easily leached from growing mediums. Deficiencies kill terminal buds leaving a rosette effect on the plant. Leaves are thick, curled and brittle.

Zinc: a component of enzymes or a functional co-factor of a large number of enzymes including auxins (plant growth hormones). It is essential to carbohydrate metabolism; protein synthesis and intermodal elongation (stem growth). Deficient plants have mottled leaves with irregular chlorotic areas. Zinc deficiency leads to iron deficiency causing similar symptoms. Deficiency occurs at a pH range of 5.5 - 7.0. Lowering the pH can render zinc more available to the point of toxicity.

Copper: concentrated in roots of plants and plays a part in nitrogen metabolism. It is a component of several enzymes and may be part of the enzyme systems that use carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiencies cause die back of the shoot tips, and terminal leaves develop brown spots. Copper is bound tightly in organic matter and is not readily lost from growing medium's, l but may often be unavailable. Too much copper can cause toxicity.

Molybdenum: a structural component of the enzyme that reduces nitrates to ammonia. Without it, the synthesis of proteins is blocked and plant growth ceases. Root nodule (nitrogen fixing) bacteria also require it. Seeds may not form completely, and nitrogen deficiency may occur if plants are lacking molybdenum. Deficiency signs are pale green leaves with rolled or cupped margins.

Chlorine: involved in osmosis (movement of water or solutes in cells), the ionic balance necessary for plants to take up mineral elements and in photosynthesis. Deficiency symptoms include wilting, stubby roots, chlorosis (yellowing) and bronzing. Odours in some plants may be decreased. Chloride, the ionic form of chlorine used by plants, is usually found in soluble forms and is lost by leaching. Some plants may show signs of toxicity if levels are too high.

Nickel: required for the enzyme release to break down urea to liberate the nitrogen into a usable form for plants. Nickel is required for iron absorption. Seeds need nickel in order to germinate. Plants grown without adequate nickel will gradually reach a deficient level at about the time they mature and begin reproductive growth. If nickel is deficient plants may fail to produce viable seeds.

Cobalt: required for nitrogen fixation. The demand for cobalt is much higher for nitrogen fixation than for ammonium nutrition. Deficient levels could result in nitrogen deficiency symptoms.

Silicon: found as a component of cell walls. Plants with supplies of soluble silicon produce stronger,tougher cell walls making them a mechanical barrier to piercing and sucking insects. This significantly enhances plant heat and drought tolerance. Foliar sprays of silicon have also shown benefits reducing populations of aphids on field crops. Tests have also found that silicon can be deposited by the plants at the site of infection by fungus to combat the penetration of the cell walls by the attacking fungus. Improved leaf erectness, stem strength and prevention or depression of iron and manganese toxicity

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Benching Results November Meeting 21/11/2013.

Dendrobium Species	Den monophyllum	R. Morrison
	Den discolour	A. & C. Asquith
Dendrobium Hybrid	nil	
Sarcanthinae Species	Plectorhiza tridentate	G. Steenbeeke
	S. hirticalcar	D. Roberts
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	S. Elise x S. Velvet	D. Ro
Aust. Species Other	Cym. canaliculatum	W. &
	Cym. Canaliculatum sparkesii	W. & M. Southwell
Aust. Hybrid Other	nil	
Terrestrial Pterostylis	nil	
Caladenia Species	nil	
Terrestrial Evergreen	Cryptostylis subulata	R. Morrison
Diuris Species	Diuris drummondii	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Hybrid	nil	
Terrestrial Other	Microtis sp	R. Morrison
Australasian Species	Bulbophyllum arfackianum	A. & C. Asquith
	Coelogyne fragrans	A. & C. Asquith
Australasian Hybrid	nil	
Novelty Class (50% or more)	Cym. Australian Midnight	T. Cooke
Seedling First Flowering	nil	
Growing Competition	1st	N. Bates
	2nd.	R. Morrison

trim cells

Plant of the night is Bulbophyllum arfackianum grown by Tony and Carol Asquith

Congratulations

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And another year draws to a close!
May you all enjoy a happy family Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2014.

It's getting harder and harder to find articles to print and keep everybody interested! So, if you see an article that we might all be interested in, please pass it to me.

GOOD GROWING