



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

FEBRUARY 2017

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: 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 , 16th MARCH, 2017

Life Members: Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke, J. English, and W. & M. Southwell.

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 7.30pm, meeting starts 7.30pm

Hi to All

A big thank you to Greg for his very good presentation on miniature orchids, well done.

Congratulations to Wal & Marg for plant of the night, and Terry for popular choice at the last meeting.

Sales table will be at the meeting this month, so good opportunity to stock up on any supplies needed.

All venues and dates for shows have now been confirmed.

Rosemeadow 13th May

Rosemeadow 23rd September

Oran Park 28th October

Plantbank Open Day at Mt Annan is on the 19th March and the 9th April from 10am to 2pm at the Plant Bank area.

Wally

Minutes of Meeting 16/2/2017

Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

Apologies John English

Minutes from previous meeting accepted

Moved Graeme Morrison

Second Greg Steenbeeke

Correspondence; Newsletters from other Societies. Secretary of ANOS—request for Shows dates

Treasurers Report treasurer's report presented Moved Carol A. Seconded Terry C. Passed

Delegates report

General Business

Autumn Show Possibly 13th May (Now Confirmed see Wal's message)

Moved that if Rosemeadow unavailable, executive to find alternate venue quickly..

Moved G. Steenbeeke Seconded T. Cooke Passed

Mt. Annan Botanical Gardens...Open Days 10am to 2pm, 19 March and 9 April (Both Sundays)

Plant Sales Available...Seed Bank area...members requested to support both days.

We had an auction of some plants and raffle plants discussed..

Raffle Mike Morris, Wally Southwell, Carol Asquith and Colin Long.

Meeting closed about 9pm.

Some events coming up...

Manly Warringah Orchid Society are holding an orchid auction on Sunday 19th March. If you are Interested, call or email me and I'll get a copy of the catalogue to you. 446 plants are being offered for sale. This is an annual event.

Secondly, **ROYALE ORCHIDS announced their Summer Open Weekend will be held on the 24th-26th MARCH.** Plenty of specimen plants, cattleyas and of course those magnificent Japanese lycastes that are winning all over the place. Free lunchtime BBQ plus refreshments. Plenty of free parking. 70 Brieses Road, Peats Ridge.

Castle Hill Show at the showground hall 31March/1April..

Canberra Orchid Workshop 18/19 March.. see their internet site for info if interested.

.....

Both of the following articles are from Bribie Island Orchid Societies' website...I hope you enjoy.

Watering Orchids

The following are rules for water control, which may help to guide you towards better orchid culture:

Water your orchids when growth is active and vigorous, and water copiously. Then wait until they need water before watering again.

If growth slows up or stops when it should be vigorous, look for root trouble instead of going into an overwatering programme.

Water mostly on bright, sunny days. If it is dark and cloudy, postpone watering.

Don't use water with a high mineral content, as the plant can't tolerate large quantities of dissolved material in water.

It is easy to overwater when the humidity is high.

Ventilation is important to promote evaporation and cooling at the leaf surfaces.

Most orchids require a rest period after blooming. Withhold water until the plant gives you the signal to start watering again by starting new root growth, and then don't water until there are enough roots to use the water.

If honey appears on your plant, take it as a sign that things are well.

Keep your plants clean. Dirt and dust clog the pores through which water evaporates.

It is possible to starve your plant by watering it too sparingly, although most orchids are lost through over watering rather than underwatering. When your plant shows the need for water by growing new roots, water it but – be careful.

Remember, the humidity is always higher at night than in the daytime, so don't water in the evening.

Wrinkled pseudobulbs may indicate either over or under watering.

When you have your orchid doing well on a regular watering schedule – don't change it.

Orchids like regular habits.

Study your green house, especially with regard to ventilation. It may have in it a great range of conditions which affect watering and other factors. Find for each orchid its own spot in the house and leave it there.

Provide ample water when flowers are forming.

Protect your plants against extremes of temperature by controlling water and humidity.

Don't expect your plants to change their habits to suit your convenience. They have already made the rules for the game. You must be governed by them and fit your programme to their requirements.

This item was found in a very old paper issued by Red Comb House in Brisbane (no date but I think it was in the 1940's) but the information is still relevant.

.....

Virus Control

The control of virus disease is essential in orchid growing. To achieve this it is necessary that the grower becomes aware of the seriousness of the disease, is aware of its modes of spread and adopts handling techniques that limit the possibility of its transfer.

Virus infection in Orchids is virtually always due to one of two viruses: Cymbidium Mosaic Virus and/ or Odontoglossum Ring Spot Virus. These viruses affect all genera with the signs of infection being more obvious in some and at certain stages in the growing cycle. Almost invariably virus affected plants result from the purchase of an infected plant, the division of a virus affected plant or the careless use of cutting instruments where infected sap is introduced to a previously clean plant.

When purchasing a plant it is essential that you view it carefully having familiarised yourself with the diagnostic signs of virus infection. Deal with reputable traders and if you see a suspicious mark, ask their advice. Beware of backbulbs especially if these do not have substantial leads, as the signs will not be obvious. The older the plant the more likely it is to be virus affected because it has been handled before. To the new grower, the offer of a backbulb or division from an untrained orchid grower is a common source for the introduction of infection.

Constantly view your collection critically and occasionally invite a fellow grower to look over your plants. They may see something that you miss. Be aware when signs are likely to be most obvious eg. with the new growth in cymbidiums and during flowering with Cattleyas. When a new plant is brought into the collection it may be prudent to quarantine it, although with virus disease this may involve a period of up to a year. If a virus affected plant is found it should be destroyed unless there is a very good reason for retaining it, as the disease is incurable. Only with a valuable breeding plant or valuable unique clone is an attempt to rid the infection by meristem culture justified. Do not give it to another grower whoever they are as this only perpetuates the problem.

Since spread is almost always by direct contact, and usually via cutting instruments, a safe technique for handling plants must be developed. The two most effective agents against viruses are alkaline solutions and heat. Mentholated spirits, hypochlorite, formalin may be used. However the best agent is trisodium orthophosphate marketed as Triclenium. This is readily obtainable from hardware stores, is inexpensive and relatively safe to use. Potassium hydroxide (caustic potash) and sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) are more effective but too dangerous and never forget that you are more valuable than your orchid. Triclenium is used as a 10% or saturated solution and the cutting instruments should be heated to blue heat.

A satisfactory approach to control any spread via cutting instruments involvesUse only long bladed knives not secateurs. Knives can be used to cut any part of the plant and can be readily flamed whereas secateurs cannot. Two carving knives will suffice so that one can be soaking while the other is being used. **After use**.....Pass the knife through a container of detergent to remove vegetable matter and compost, which denatures the Triclenium, paying particular attention to the junction of handle and blade, as this is the difficult area to flame. When clean, transfer it to the Triclenium and shake the solution up into the handle, and leave for 20 minutes if possible.

Prior to use, flame the blade to blue heat. This has a direct sterilizing effect. Also in drying the blade, the Triclenium becomes more concentrated.

Other potential vehicles for the spread of virus include.... **Your hands.** Hot soapy water provides the most feasible approach and regular washing while repotting is desirable.... **The potting area.** Here, a regular wash down with Triclenium should be given, especially at the end of the day or when there is any suspicion that an infected plant may have been handled. **Pots and potting compost.** If these are reused care should be taken. The potting compost would be difficult to sterilize, however pots and should be first washed in detergent and then soaked in Triclenium... Insects whilst not proven to transfer infection should be eradicated at the first sign.

Virus infection can and must be controlled. Become aware of its diagnostic signs, keep a constant vigil and practice techniques that minimize its spread. You can control it in your collection and therefore orchid growers can be encouraged to adopt such an approach and we can take it a step towards its eventual eradication.

Benching Results January Meeting 2017.

Dendrobium Species	Den. cummerina	T. Cooke
	Den. Lichenastrum	R. Morrison
Dendrobium Hybrid	nil	
Sarcanthinae Species	Sarc. Hirticalcar	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	nil	
Bulbophyllum	nil	
Aust. Species Other	Cymb. Maddidum	W. & M. Southwell
Australian Hybrid Other	Cymb. Little Black Sambo	W. & M. Southwell
Aust. Rhizobium	Cestrichis Coelogynoides	G. Steenbeeke
Terrestrial Pterostylis	nil	
Terrestrial Evergreen	Spiranthe australis	W. & M. Southwell
	Spiranthe Australis	W. & M. Southwell
Dockrillia	nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid	nil	
Terrestrial Other	(can't read)	G. Steenbeeke
Caladenia Species	nil	
Diuris Species	nil	
Australasian Species	nil	
Australasian Hybrid	nil	
Novelty Class	nil	
Seedling First Flowering	nil	
Growing Competition 1.	Den. Grumpy George	
	Carol Asquith	2nd R. Morrison
Growing Competition 2.	Cymbid. Noel Bates	2nd R. Morrison

Plant of the night was Spiranthes Auistralia grown by Wal and Margaret Southwell and the Popular Choice was Dendrobium Cucumerinum grown by Terry Cooke. Congratulations

Hi all, see you at the meeting next Thursday...

GOOD GROWING

For those who have access to the internet.while searching for articles to print, I came across a recommendations from the Kabi Group for an author of orchid articles by the name of Sue Bottom.

You will find lots of articles under "St. Augustine Orchid Society" -- Growing orchids in North Florida." One of the Authors found there is Sue Bottom who has written many exceptional articles that are present on the website.

Have a look under "Orchid Culture – Repotting and Potting Mixes" and under "Orchid Potting Mixes" see "The Mystery of Sphagnum Moss". It runs to 8 pages and is really well written and accompanied by high quality photography.

It really is a website well worth a look!!

Regards
Tony