



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



JUNE 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 , 20th JULY, 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

Many thanks to Ray Clements for his talk at the last meeting and the plants he brought for sale which were very popular.

Congratulations to Margaret for plant of the night and Terry Cooke for popular choice.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

Gerry Walsh will be the speaker at our July meeting, always very interesting presentations and will have plants for sale.

Annual General Meeting this month, with election of committee.

Wally

Campbelltown Orchid Society will conduct their Winter Show from Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd July in Macarthur Square.. Why not drop by and have a look!!!!

Minutes of Meeting 16/6/2017

Meeting opened at 7.40pm.

Apologies John English, Don Roberts.

Minutes from previous meeting accepted

Moved G. Bush Second P.Griffiths

Correspondence; Newsletters from other Societies. WA ORCHID CONFERENCE

Treasurers Report treasurer's report presented Moved Carol A. Seconded Terry Cooke (Passed)

Delegates report

General Business

Elections next meeting as it's the AGM 20TH July

Tony received email regarding orchid sale at Macquarie Native Orchids (dates provided)—Nth Wilberforce.

Raffle plants for tonight noted as being good plants. Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids provided an interesting talk.

July's guest speaker is Gerry Walsh

Raffle not noted..

Meeting closed about 9.25pm.

2017 Australasian Native Orchid Society – Sydney Group Auction
Friday 21 July, 2017 @ Baulkham Hills Community Centre – 8:00 pm

Members of Cumberland Orchid Circle and other Orchid Societies/Groups and the public are invited to attend the A.N.O.S. Sydney Group's Annual Orchid Auction. The auction provides a fantastic opportunity to pick up a wide variety of beautiful Australian and Australasian native orchid species and hybrids at excellent prices.

This will be a unique auction – not to be missed. Nowhere else will you have the chance to bid on plants of this quality from these master growers in one venue!

Bill Dobson
David Butler
Mike Harrison
Ross Harvey
John Hurst

Henk van den Berg
Ray Clement
Gerry Walsh (The Rock Lily Man)
Mark Daniels
Dan Tomich

and many more great growers!

This will be held in the **Baulkham Hills Community Centre** at Sydney Group's July Meeting, plants can be inspected prior to the meeting starting at 8pm and during supper - prior to the auction commencing. Ample seating and parking is available. Attached are our Auction flyer (with a map on how to get there) and a list of plants to be auctioned (reserve price included). This is still a temporary list as we are still updating the list with additional plants from other growers. We hope to have the final list sent out by Wednesday 12th of July.

Kind Regards,
Graeme Russell

(Editor's note: I now have the final list of plants and will bring some copies of the list to our meeting)

All articles Are From Bribie Island Orchid Societies' Website – (I hope I haven't already printed it)

Be Water Wise By Colin Hamilton

Whether we like it or not, Australia is in dire straits with its water supplies. As a result of prolonged periods of drought, many water collection areas, including the underground aquifer, have not received sufficient run-off for replenishment. But we, as a nation, have kept using water with gay abandon. We are one of the highest users of water per capita of any nation. Now the rooster has come home to roost. We have to take action to conserve our dwindling resources.

I have given the matter some thought & asked some friends from around Australia for their ideas on how to save water in caring for their orchids, & looked at some of the web sites advising tips to help mend our wicked ways.

I guess the first & probably the most obvious, yet most ignored, is the dripping tap. Leaking taps, pipes & dishwasher hoses is an easy way to reduce water wastage. One leaking tap can waste more than 2000 litres per month. (Source: Sydney Water Board)

Installing water efficient taps or aerators is a great, inexpensive way to cut your water usage without you even noticing.

Mulch your garden beds to retain moisture & lessen evaporation. Turning to more orchid-specific matters, here are some tips collected from around Australia.

I found the use of sphagnum moss as a potting mix can help to increase the time required between watering orchids. Phalaenopsis especially love it. I found that they could be watered here at weekly

intervals except in the heat of summer. On warm days, I mist them in the morning. They do need repotting annually but their large thick roots make this easy as pie. I also found that small to medium size Vandas & Ascocendas do well with a layer of sphagnum moss in the bottom of the pot. Sphagnum is not recommended for orchids with fine roots as these are too easily damaged when repotting.

For conserving water, one possible way is to use water-absorbing crystals in the orchid mixture – I think they are called Absorber Crystals. They hold the water & then release it slowly as the mixture dries.

Use a wetting agent for all watering. This ensures that the water used ‘sticks’ to in the pot & onto the plant & root system thus saving a lot of water & also allowing greater periods between watering. • After the plants have been watered, plastic under the benches could collect the run off & run it into drums. Filter it & reuse it.

Obviously any rain water that falls on the roofs of your house, orchid houses, or any other sheds needs to be collected & stored in tanks. Remember the old days when every house had a tank? If so, your age is showing! A friend installed a 4500 litre water tank at the beginning of 2003 purely for watering his orchids.

Multiple small tanks of collected rain water can be connected together to maintain even levels in each tank. Add a small pressure pump to service foggers, air conditioners & for watering by hand. These small tanks can be hidden behind the garage, garden shed, orchid house, etc.

*I feel some growers will need to look at what orchids they purchase & their water requirements. Many growers have a tendency to water more frequently than is necessary. The time of day plants are watered is also a factor. Many orchids can do with less water than is currently applied, Australian native Dendrobiums & their hybrids included. Hot/cold hybrids with greater than 25% Den. Bigibbum influence do not need large amounts of water, as per the needs of the major parent. It may also be necessary to put pots in trays that contain water & leave the rest to capillary action.

The ongoing water situation eventually will prove to be too much if we don’t act now. I visualize some growers giving up because of the cost & unavailability of water. Reuse of water will need to be investigated but this is something difficult on a small grower-to-grower scale. Orchid growers, & particularly the professionals, will need to put their case to the relevant governments to initiate an investigation into reuse of grey water & also reclaimed sewage water.

Another friend has installed 3 rain water tanks to collect water from the roof. For Adelaide’s poor water quality, he finds it important to have rain water for the Phalaenopsis, etc. Also he has his misters on a timer to try to conserve water & to apply it only when necessary.

I think that if you choose a potting medium with the materials like moss, peat, vermiculite & perlite, these hold more water in the mix & you don’t have to water as often.

No magic tricks for a friend in Sydney. What he has done over the last few seasons is simply reduce watering to harden his plants by watering less & less often, hand water using a watering can where necessary.

So there are a few views to get you thinking. For more information on water saving ideas in the home & garden, I recommend you go the Queensland Government Website <http://www.water.qld.gov.au/water/index.shtm> or for interstate information try local websites such as Sydney Water Board’s website <http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/>

Common names are: black orchid, channel leaf orchid.

Habitat: Cymbidium canaliculatum is found in the warmer areas of Australia from the Kimberleys in W.A. across the north then down to the Hunter River in N.S.W., but not in south-west Queensland. On a trip to Longreach at the beginning of October 2000 we saw some Cymbidium canaliculatum in flower growing on trees beside the railway line.

Description: This orchid is classed as an epiphyte but differs from Dendrobiums etc. in that its root system invades the heart of trees where there is rotting wood. This rotting wood retains moisture in prolonged dry periods. Cymbidium canaliculatum is recognised by its ovoid pseudobulbs which grow to about 3cms across and up to 15cms long.

Cultivation: Although it is possible to grow this orchid in pots, care must be taken with watering, particularly in the cooler months. Potting media including sand, hardwood chips, peanut shells, and pine bark have been used with success. Bright light is essential to achieve good growth and successful flowering. Fertilisers include Dynamic Lifter, cow manure and other general orchid fertilisers. This orchid grows best when placed high, 2 metres or more from the ground. Good air movement is needed for successful cultivation. **This is an orchid which resents its roots being disturbed.**

Flowering: Cymbidium canaliculatum inflorescences are erect to arching with some pendulous. The racemes grow to 40cms long and carry up to 60 flowers per raceme. The flowers can be up to 5cms across. Colours vary from the rare albino apple-green segments with a white labellum, to green with red-brown spots, yellow-green, reddish brown, bright magenta to the red-brown variety of sparkesii.

Hybridizing: Hybrids registered using Cymbidium canaliculatum include Cymbidium Little Black Sambo using Cymbidium madidum and Cymbidium James Webeck using Cymbidium suave. A number of other hybrids have been made with exotic cymbidiums including the almost black Cymbidium Australian Midnight and the attractive Cymbidium Burma Star.

Cymbidium Madidum by Ron Powell

Cymbidium – from the Greek Kymbe a small boat, because of the shape of the labellum.

Described by John Lindley 1790 – 1863

Flowers – Spring to Summer – green – brown flowers on 60cm racemes.

On Bribie Island, this species has survived in the National Park and is found growing in stumps and fallen logs. No known specimens on the southern end of the island due to land clearing and loss of suitable host trees eg. mature eucalyptus with hollows.

Seeds germinate in the broken down timber from the centre of trees and hollow stumps etc.

This orchid can be seen growing in trees on the mainland.

“Cymbidium Madidum” grows in rainforest situations also littoral rainforest and this orchid is probably reliant on native bees for pollination.

Traditional aboriginal use – the pseudobulbs were used as food and to treat dysentery.

A photo of this orchid can be found in “Wild Flowers of Bribie Island” on page 77. The orchid is growing in a fallen log.

In April 1997, there was a report of a very large specimen growing in the Gallagher’s’ Gutter area, north of the White Patch. Let’s hope there are more Cymbidiums growing in the remote areas of the island. Growing areas range from Northern New South Wales to North Queensland.

Benching Results APRIL Meeting 2017.

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dendrobium Species | Den. Tetragonum | W. & M. Southwell |
| | Den. Tetragonum | P. Griffiths |
| Dendrobium Hybrid | Den. Hilda Poxon | G. Steenbeeke |
| | Den. Gilleston Lustre | P. Wise |
| Sarcanthinae Species | nil | |
| Sarcanthinae Hybrid | nil | |
| Bulbophyllum | nil | |
| Rhizobium | nil | |
| Aust. Species Other | cestichis reflexa | ???? |
| Aust. Hybrid Other | Nil | |
| Terrestrial Pterostylis | Pt. Ophioglossa | G. Steenbeeke |
| | Pt. Ophioglossa | W. & M. Southwell |
| Terrestrial Evergreen | nil | |
| Dockrillia | nil | |
| Terrestrial Hybrid | nil | |
| Terrestrial Other | Corybas fimbriatus | T. Cooke |
| | Acianthus fornicates | T. Cooke |
| Caladenia Species | nil | |
| Australasian Species | Mediocalcar decoratum | R. Morrison |
| | Pt.Repondum ? | T. Cooke |
| Australasian Hybrid | Den. Womberal | W. & M. Southwell |
| | Den. Elenor Charm ? | N. Bates |
| Seedling First Flowering | Den. Starsheen? X Tetragonum Royal | |
| | ?? | W. & M. Southwell |
| | Growing Competition 1 | Carol Asquith N. Bates |
| | Growing Competition 2 | Tony Asquith Noel Bates |

Plant of the night was **Den. Wamberal** grown by **Wal and Margaret Southwell** and the **Popular Choice** was **Corybas fimbriatum** grown by **Terry Cooke**.

Congratulations

See you at the meeting!!!!