



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

OCTOBER 2017

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



President: Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 20 Colo Street,

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.86262934)

COURIDJAH. 2171

Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)

Next Meeting: THURSDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 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

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Venue: **BIRRAWA HALL**

FITZPATRICK ROAD

Mt. ANNAN.

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.30pm, meeting starts 7.30pm

Hi to all

What a great show!, over 200 entries and our best plant sales ever. The quality of the orchids on display was absolutely outstanding and congratulations to all the exhibitors on the day.

Winners were:

Champion Sarcanthinae species	Don Roberts
Champion Sarcanthinae hybrid	Don Roberts
Champion Any Other Orchid	Clover Bradley
Champion Specimen Orchid	Clover Bradley
Reserve Champion of Show	Clover Bradley
Grand Champion of Show	Don Roberts

The Judges commented on the day that this show just seems to get better every year and talked about the improvement in the last five years.

November is the tuber sale night, donations of tubers will be needed to keep this the success that it has been over the years. Sales table will be available.

Donations for the Xmas Hamper are still being sought, so bring along all goods to the November meeting.

Xmas party in December, Margaret will be needing approx. numbers for those attending to assist in ensuring the catering is right for the night.

Wally

Minutes of Meeting 19/10/2017

Meeting opened at 7.35pm.

Apologies John English, Diane McDougall

Minutes from previous meeting accepted

Moved Don Roberts

Seconded Terry Cooke

Correspondence; Newsletters from other Societies.

Treasurers Report treasurer's lengthy report presented

Moved Carol Asquith

Seconded Julia Bismire

Delegates report nil

General Business

Money passed out for plant sales at show and sashes distributed for Spring Show

Magazines for distribution – donated by Margaret

Sarc sales - from Ian Lawson – RWOC and also he highlighted the success of the Spring Show

October Show – ORAN PARK...7am set-up. Judging begins 9am with five judges.

Bunnings Exhibition did well and a good day.

Question of Judging Sheets and publication of results..Tony will include in newsletter.

A really good presentation by Don Roberts.

TUBER NIGHT Next Meeting

Members reminded regarding donations for Christmas hamper

SPRING SHOW RESULTS from Oran Park Podium.....28th October,2017

Grand Champion of Show	Sarc. 'Speckles' x Bunyip 'Forest Fruit'	Don Roberts
Reserve Champion of Show	Cym. Canaliculatum x sib var. Clover	Clover Bradley
Champion Sarcanthanae Species	Sarc. Hartmannii Red Snow x Roberta	Don Roberts
Champion Sarcanthanae Hybrid	Sarc. Sweetheart x Bunyip	Don Roberts
Champion Other Orchid	Cymbidium Canaliculatum	Clover Bradley
Champion Specimen Orchid	Cymbidium Canaliculatum	Clover Bradley

Congratulations to all who participated in our show and special congratulations to Don and Clover for capturing all of the champions between them.

1. Best Sarcophilus hartmannii	Hartmannii Red Snow Roberta	Don Roberts
	Hartmannii Roberta x Red Snow	Don Roberts
2. Best Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii	Fitzgerald Loraine x self	Clover Bradley
	Fitzgerald	Greg Steenbeeke
3. Best Sarcophilus species other	Olivaceous	Wal & Margaret Southwell
	Falcatus	Greg Steenbeeke
4. Best other Sarcanthinae species	Plectoriza Tridentata	Terry Cooke
5. Sarc. Hybrid (Pink)	S. Sweetheart Speckles x Bunyip etc	Don Roberts
	S. Bunyip x Sweetheart	Clover Bradley
6. Sarc.Hybrid (Reds)	Orange Glow 'Longspike' x Yvette etc	Clover Bradley
	Zoe x Elegance	Clover Bradley
7. Sarc.Hybrid (white/red centre)	Sweetheart	Clover Bradley
	George Colthup Cool Arod x ha	rtmannii
	'Baby BS'	Clover Bradley
8. Sarc. Hybrid (white/yellow centre)	Fizzy Dove 'Peachy' x Cliona 'yellow'	Don Roberts
	Madge 'Sunnyside up' x Roberta Nuggets	Clover Bradley
9. Sarc. Hybrid Any Other Colour	Galaxy 'Twinkle' (Misty x hartmannii)	Don Roberts
	DUNO Nicks Twin 'VooDoo' x Or	ange
	Glow 'Flames'	Don Roberts
10. Sarc. First Flowering	Ignia	Ian Lawson
	Serenade	Ian Lawson
11. Sarc. Species Seedling	Hartmannii 'Alba' x 'Dolans Bay'	Clover Bradley
12. Sarc. Hybrid	Rumbil x Australis	Clover Bradley
	Elise 'Plum' x Prch's Cherub	Clover Bradley
13. Sarc. Seedling (1st flowering)	Plec. Kilga	Clover Bradley
	Plect. Orkology Trimaran	Greg Steenbeeke
14. Dendrobium Species (not dockrillia)	Lichenastrum	Ross Morrison
	Lichenastrum var. Prenticei	Terry Cooke
15. Dendrobium Hybrid (not dockrillia)	Den. Pintery	Ross Morrison
	Den. Wasly	Greg Steenbeeke
16. Dockrillia Species	nil	
17. Dockrillia Hybrid	Wavealy x Racemosa	Ross Morrison
18. Australian Species Other	Cym. Canaliculatum x sib. Var Clover	Clover Bradley
	Cym. Maddidum	Wal & Margaret Southwell
19. Australian Hybrid Other	nil	
20. Evergreen Terrestrial	Phaius Australis	Terry Cooke
	Phaius Australis	Ross Morrison
21. Other Terrestrial (Species/Hybrid)	Microtis Parviflora	Wal & Margaret Southwell
	Diuris Punctata	Wal & Margaret Southwell

22. Australasian Species	Phaius Flavus	Ross Morrison
23. Australasian Hybrids	nil	
24. Junior Exhibit	nil	
25. Novelty Orchid	Cym. Pee Wee	Don Roberts Ian Lawson
	Cym. Pee Wee 'Lime Creek'	

Benching Results OCTOBER Meeting 2017

Dendrobium Species	Den. Lichenastrum	R. Morrison
	Den. Prenticei	R. Morrison
Dendrobium Hybrid	Den. Victorian Blush	W. & M. Southwell
	Den. Kingianum x Ruppiosum	W. & M. Southwell
Sarcanthinae Species	Rhinerrhiza churfilbra	G. Steenbeeke
	Sarc Hartmannii	I. Lawson
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Sarc. Melba 'Snowflake'	N. Bates
	Sarc. Magic Meteor	D. Roberts
Bulbophyllum	nil	
Rhizobium (Species)	D. schoeninum	W. & M. Southwell
Rhyzobium (Hybrid)	nil	
Aust. Species Other	Cym. Maddidum	W. & M. Southwell
	Cym. Canaliculatum	W. & M. Southwell
Aust. Hybrid Other	Sarconopsis	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Pterostylis Species	nil	
Caladenia Species	nil	
Diurus species	Diuris dendrobioides	W. & M. Southwell
	Diuris abbreviata	G. Steenbeeke
Evergreen Terrestrial spp	Phaius tankervillea/australis	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Other spp.	Microtis parviflora	W. & M. Southwell
	Microtis medion	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Hybrid	nil	
Australasian Species	nil	
Dockrillia	nil	
Australasian Hybrid	nil	
Seedling First Flowering	Sarc. DUNO Nicky's Twin x Elegance	A. & C. Asquith
	Sarc. Magenta x Dove	N. Bates
Growing Competition 1.	C. Asquith M. Weibel	
Growing Competition 2.	C. Asquith	

**Plant of the night and Popular choice was Sarconopsis Lavinia grown by
Wal and Margaret Southwell.**

Congratulations

Maintaining Your Collection (2017 Update)

By Bill Dobson (ANOS Sydney & Warringah Group)

Repotting Time

Repotting should be done as required however, late September or early October in Sydney is the time that you should be doing the majority of your potting as most of the spring flowers have finished and all the young plants are starting to put on new growths, or will be soon. It's time to look at a maintenance program for your plants to build them up and provide the basis for next year's flowers.

Fertilising

To start with let us look at a fertilising program. It's not what you use, but a balanced program that will regularly nourish and build your plants without a stop start. Plants cannot get by without food just as we cannot. They must, and do get nutrients from somewhere. However, depending on the potting media they are in, or on, and the type of plant they are, could determine the best type of food suitable for them to obtain optimal growth. Optimal growth is what we strive for to get a good healthy root system that will generate the biggest pseudobulbs so the plant can have strong fat healthy inflorescences loaded with beautiful flowers. The bottom line is look after the root system and the plant will look after itself. All fertilisers are designed to give plants a boost in one direction either growth, or fruit so they can grow and reproduce through their flowers. Flowers and lots of them is what we are aiming for.

On fertiliser labels you should see the words **N:P:K**. Do you know what they stand for and what they do for your plants?

Nitrogen (N) Gives leaf, pseudobulb, stem and fruit growth. It promotes dark green colours to foliage, and improves the quality of the leaf. It can produce rapid growth and increases protein content of plants.

Phosphorous (P) Stimulates early root formation and hastens maturity and gives a rapid and vigorous start to plants. Also stimulates blooming and aids fruit formation.

Potassium (K) Gives increased vigour and decisive resistance to plants, improves seed quality and is essential to formation and transfer of starches, sugar and oils in the plant system.

As well as these you might see calcium (**Ca**), which influences absorption of plant nutrients, neutralises acid condition in soil or compost, it promotes early root growth and formation and neutralises toxic compounds produced in the plant.

Chemical Fertilisers

Peters, Phostragen, Campbells, Aquasol, HSO

All of these are basically the same, chemical salts, which are prepared in quantities by the manufacturer according to the plants to be fed and the potting mix used. All these must be mixed with water and sprayed or watered over the plants, using a flow proportioner and hose or a watering can.

These are easily mixed with water and are completely soluble. They are easily dispensed over a plant and absorbed by the root system and foliage.

So what do we use? Peters Hi-K now called Peters Cal Mag Grower 15+2+12+5Ca+TE or Peters Cal Mag Finisher 13+2+17+5Ca+TE..

Natural or Organic Fertilisers

Seasol, Maxicrop, Chicken Pellets, Cow or Horse manure, Blood 'N' Bone. All organic based can be used dry as a dressing or soaked in water as a concentrate and mixed in a watering can.

Slow Release Fertilisers

Osmocote, Nutracote, Basacote. Handy to use see notes later on this.

When to Fertilise

Morning, Evening? Depends on the time of year. I have had many discussions on this subject and I won't go into the technical reasons here except to say that I water and fertilise very early in the morning when the plants are more receptive to take in nutrients through their root system and the leaves. I will continue on hot days to spray the leaves at dusk or early evening on hot summer days to cool the plants and water under the benches for added humidity.

Media & Mounts

Bark, Bark and Styrene Foam, Sphagnum Moss, Stones, Absorba Stone, Sand, Coconut fibre. Mounts of hardwood, Australian treefern, and cork, charcoal.

Media that contains a large amount of bark is constantly becoming due to microbial activity and is accelerated by watering and fertilising, this causes a reduction of soluble nitrogen in the mix, called 'Nitrogen Drawdown'. To combat

this some people advocate a higher nitrogen content in the fertiliser. Whatever you use, that is suitable for your area, it is better if all your collection is in the same type of mix and pots.

Be careful of the mix that you use if other than bark. Coconut fibre and Peat and perlite mixes should only be used when growing under a solid roof. As when it rains often (and it does and will), the mix could be soaked for months on end. People who sell these won't tell you that.

I use and have for the better part of 20 years a combination of pine bark and styrene beads. 2 parts medium bark, 2 parts large bark, and 1 part styrene beads. Works for me where I grow and with my micro climate. I adjust this for different plants and change pots from shallow to deep and standard pots to net pots as required.

Additives

Trace Elements (a good balanced fertiliser will have these), Lime for pH correction, Calcium see above, KDL (Liquid Potassium), root starters (hormones e.g. 'Formula 20', Auxinone®). These are used to revive plants and/or stimulate root activity.

Water

We must have it! Life will not exist without it. Rainwater for preference, from the sky or from a drum collected from rain. If this is not available then I can tell you that Sydney water is some of the best in the world for your plants and you. The crunch is this; no one can tell you how often to water your plants. This will depend on the microclimate in your back yard. How much sunshine you get during the day and how much wind your plants receive.

The quicker your plants dry out the more water your plants can and should have. You may even have to change your mix to suit your conditions. If the mix stays too wet in your environment then use a more open mix. The most important thing is to make sure that your plants roots can breathe. They must not remain wet and saturated or like you they will stress and eventually expire.

Use of a Wetter

If you want to get more out of your fertiliser and have more of it taken up by the plant, as well as paying for less water, I recommend the use of a good wetter. WA100 is one, Chemspray have one and others are available. You don't use much, but could cut your water bill by as much as 25%.

Our program for 2017-2018

Every Month from October to January: Starting the first weekend I will give all our plants and orchids a good solid watering with a solution of 'Seasol' at a weak ratio of 1.5 ml per litre. To this I will add some Auxinone to get the root activity started. Then follow this up every weekend (rain or shine) for the rest of the month with Peters Cal Mag Finisher.

February to April: Cut off the Seasol and Auxinone. Every weekend (rain or shine) for each month use Peters Cal Mag Finisher

April: 2nd weekend, Lime the plants with Hydrated Lime at the rate of 1.5 gms per litre. This month is a time to re-pot plants

that need it and some will. Don't leave plants in the same mix for more than 4 years, a maximum of 3 is best. One other thing when we re-pot, we sprinkle a small amount of Osmocote Pro Low Phosphorus OSNATIVE89 16+1.3+9.1+TE on top of the pot and tap it in. This is a 8-9 months slow release which has a good N:P:K.

Osmocote® consist of fine NPK granules, trace elements and added magnesium. All these elements are essential for plant growth. Every granule is covered with an organic, semipermeable coating (a kind of membrane) of biodegradable resin made of vegetable oils. After application of Osmocote®, water penetrates through the semi-permeable coating and starts to dissolve the nutrients present in the granule. The release of nutrients starts once they have been partially dissolved. A pump-like action is initiated due to differences in osmotic pressure. The plant is able to take up the released nutrients. In general, the start-up phase lasts approximately 1 to 2 weeks, depending on the longevity.

There's no effect on the release by other factors. Salt level, pH, microbial activity, water quality or rainfall has no influence on the release of nutrients. Only the temperature is important, making Osmocote® very reliable in its use. Once all the nutrients have been released, the membrane starts to degrade. How long this takes is dependent on the composition of the soil or substrate and on microbial activity.

So, Osmocote® releases on temperature alone! **No amount of rain or irrigation will lead to excessive leaching.**

Bugs and Fungus

In November, hopefully you will have finished potting, you should spray for bugs with Carbaryl or similar. I use Bugmaster® at rate of 2ml/litre and add EcoOil® at 5ml per litre. Do it on a windless day. One thing I have learned about

Dendrobium Beetles is that you only have to spray the NEW growths. Leave it for 2 weeks and spray with Mancozeb to protect new growths for diseases. Follow up the bug spray every 3 weeks. Keep Cinnamon and Fongarid® handy for rots.

Lastly a mix that I have been using for some years now from information I learned when talking with Phil Spence over some orchid re-potting. I have been using AusGrow bark for 20 years and the process I go through is this, my OCD, shake the bark through a garden sieve, remove any wood or gravel pieces. Wet the bark and sprinkle a little 'pinch' of the mix below over it then mix the bark around thoroughly till all is covered. The roots love it.

This originally came from a book by the University of California titled "The U.C. System for producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants" edited by Kenneth F. Baker 1957.

2270 gms Blood meal or Hoof and horn.

115 gms Potassium sulphate.

1135 gms Single super phosphate.

3400 gms Dolomite lime.

1135 gms Calcium carbonate lime.

Good luck with the new season and watch those plants grow. Hope to see them on the bench next year.

Bill Dobson.

My thanks to Bill Dobson allowing me to reprint this excellent article.

This article was recently published in ANOS Sydney Group's October Newsletter.

The Orchid Doctor

Orchid ailments

LEAVES

Yellowing Leaves: This is a normal aging process if only old leaves on backbulbs are involved. If newer leaves yellow and soften, look for:

1. too much light
2. low temperature
3. lack of nitrogen (especially in bark) - loss of roots

Blackened Areas on Leaves: The sudden appearance of brown then black areas on exposed surface of leaves on a bright, hot day, may be sunburn. Check shading; if blackened areas increase in size, it might be bacterial or fungal disease. Cut off diseased area, treat with fungicide, isolate plant, and dry it off.

Shriveled Pseudobulbs: A sign that the plant is losing water content, can be caused by

1. Low humidity
2. Under watering, dry medium
3. Loss of roots

Blackened Tips or Ends of Leaves: This could be caused by:

1. Overfeeding, especially in cymbidiums -- cease fertilizing and flush plant thoroughly with plain water
2. Excessive soluble minerals in water -- have water analysed
3. Leaf dieback, a fungal infection – cut off blackened areas and treat with fungicide.

Brown or Black Streaking or Mottling of Leaves: This could be a virus infection. Send a leaf to your nearest agricultural experiment station. (see note at end of article...Ed.)

Small Spots on Leaves, Reddish Brown Turning Black: Probably a fungus infection favoured by warmth, high humidity and poor light. Reduce humidity or dry off affected plants and treat them with fungicide.

FLOWERS

Deformed Flowers: If deformed flowers are produced each year by a plant, it is probably inherent. Destroy the plant. An occasional deformed flower can be caused by:

1. High temperature and low humidity when buds were developing
2. Mechanical or chemical injury to bud
3. Nonrecurring and unexplained anomaly in bud development
4. Virus infection. Isolate plant.

Rapid Wilting of Flower: If dorsal sepal wilts or dries early, or entire flower "goes to sleep" shortly after opening, it could be caused by:

1. Air polluted by ethylene or other gas
2. Too sudden a change in climate
3. Pollination by an unknown pollinator.

Spotting of Flowers: Light brown or pinkish dots and spots on flower after opening usually indicate fungus, Botrytis, or sooty mould. Reduce humidity, increase ventilation or air movement, remove spotted and old flowers from green- house.

Punctures in Flowers: Denotes presence of aphids, soft-bodied sucking insects or thrips, small chewing insects.

Bruises on Flowers: Either mechanical damage or red spider mites.

Chewed or Eroded Flowers, Buds or Roots:

Shows presence of slugs or snails -- use dust or bait; or cockroaches

Colour mottling of Flowers: This could be a colour-breaking virus. Isolate plant and get an experienced opinion; destroy the plant if virus infection is confirmed.

ROOTS

Loss of Roots: Numerous causes, difficult to diagnose:

1. Overwatering;
2. Black rot, an infection of Pythium. Soak in natriphene solution
3. Slugs or snails. Dust with metaldehyde
4. Excessive salt content of water
5. Potting medium old and broken down.

Entire Plant White cottony mass or gray, brown, blackish crust on underside of leaves, on flower stem, in axils of leaves, etc. mealy bug or one of the many scale insects. Scrub with soft toothbrush dipped in Methylated Spirits.

Editors note:: the article came from **Central Coast Group newsletter** and is printed here with thanks.

**Orchid Virus testing is available from
New Town Research Laboratories, 13 St. John's Avenue, New Town, Tasmania. 7008.**

Editors Note

I printed both articles in Campbelltown's Bulletin this month...I thought both articles were well written and quite informative and I print them here

See you at the meeting – please keep in mind regarding donations to our Christmas hampers.