



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

FEBRUARY 2018

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Postal Address:- 20 Colo Street

Secretary: Mr. R. Morrison

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY ,15th MARCH, 2018

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

Conservation Officer: *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

Should you wish to pay into our account for your fees

FITZPATRICK ROAD

BSB 062517 A/C 00909929

Mt. ANNAN.

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm

Hi to All

A big thank you to Greg Steenbeeke for his very good presentation at the last meeting.

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

A sad time, John English's family put his orchid collection up for sale. There are some of John's orchids in my shadehouse now which will be a reminder to me of the friendship that we had.

The club obtained some plants from the John English sale and will be used as raffle plants this year.

Wally

Minutes of Meeting FEBRUARY 15/2/2018

Apologies D. Roberts, M. Yabsley
minutes from January meeting noted

Moved R. Hanman Seconded T. Cooke

Correspondence; various newsletters, Letter from Goulburn Rose Committee and Orchids in the Foothills.

Treasurers Report treasurer's report presented

Moved Carol Asquith Seconded I. Lawson

Delegates report nil

General Business

1. 25/2/2018 John English plants auction, 10am, Orchid sales, 30 minute inspection followed by auction.
2. October Show Schedule
Moved G. Morrison Seconded P. Griffiths Carried.
3. Autumn Show 12th May
4. ANOS Judge notified

Raffle was drawn Winners.....Ross Morrison, Chris Patterson, P. Griffith

Meeting Closed about 9.15pm.

VALE KEVIN HIPKINS

I am sad to report a giant of orchid growers, Kevin Hipkins of Orchids Royale, has passed away on 3/3/2018 in hospital, of a heart attack. I first met Kevin in the Woy Woy area in his family's nursery. Even then, it was the place go for terrific orchids. He later moved to his current nursery in Peats Ridge. He was one of our premier orchid growers and the hobby will be the poorer for his passing.

Report from Richard Hanman....he was pleased to report that the remainder of John English plants were mostly sold yesterday (Saturday 10th) and thanked all who assisted in the disposal of John's collection.

Growing Diuris in South Eastern Australia

Richard Thomson - February 2018

For pot culture of Diuris, basic terrestrial potting mix is usually used. Some growers add a little extra leaf mould or soil, then adjust their watering regime.

The plants will flower and grow well in 6"/15 cm pots; however, they generally grow better in 7"/18 cm and 8"/20 cm and even 9"/23 cm pots. For the larger pots, this usually means less water is required or the lower portion of the potting mix may remain too wet.

Repotting each year seems to reduce flowering rates for some species, thus Diuris are repotted about every four years. Plant the tuber – top, eye up - and about 2 ½ to 3 cm deep. The plant will then develop roots - usually 2 – above the tuber and a set of roots below the tuber. These 'below tuber' roots are very likely to rot if the potting mix becomes too wet. This results in less flowers, less seed set and a smaller new tuber.

Some growers replace the top 1½ to 2 cm of potting mix each year, adding slow release fertilizer to the new mix.

Most growers use fertilizer - e.g. 6-month slow release – in the top 1 to 2 cm of potting mix or liquid fertilizer at each watering – about 1/5 to 1/10 strength depending on how often you use it, or occasional sprinkles of a little powder fertilizer.

Start watering in February, or into March in the hotter inland. Dampen the potting mix gradually rather than making it sodden. Summer heat can cause rotting of the tubers if they are wet.

Plant leaves emerge from mid-January to late March, later inland - into early May. For early emerged plants keep the potting mix just damp - as for summer watering - never wet.

Seed spread around parent plants can produce seedlings – do not repot for about 2 years after adding seed. Seed is usually added at leaf emergence, with seedlings appearing around July. The seed may be sprinkled around the plant or about 1 cm of mix removed, the seed added, and the mix replaced.

Some very fine sand mixed with the seed can help you spread it. Heavy watering washes the seed away.



Large *D. fragrantissima* tuber, photo Zoe Smith

For cultivation purposes, Diuris currently in cultivation, fall roughly into 5 groups:

- *D. chryseopsis*, *D. abbreviata*, *D. pardina*, *D. maculata*, *D. palustris*, *D. laxiflora*.

Once the tubers are large the plants flower most years. These species, will slowly increase their tuber numbers. To further increase plant numbers, in about August, the new tuber can be removed from larger plants.

- *D. punctata*, *D. daltonii*, *D. alba*, *D. tricolor*, *D. fragrantissima*.

When very well grown these plants will slowly tuber increase. Well grown tubers may have 3 or 4 'fingers' up to 6 cm long and 2 cm diameter.

The plant usually has 2 horizontal roots above the tuber and up to four 'water' roots below each tuber point, each up to 8 cm long, which are very brittle and will rot if too wet – resulting in small tubers, few flowers and low seed set.

To increase plant numbers new tubers can be removed in about August.

D sulphurea.

Some tubers are ovate, and some are oblong, the oblong often give leaf shoots from both ends.

Tuber removal is not used.

Larger tubers flower with more flowers and often larger flowers. Bush flowering is enhanced by summer fires.

The plants appear to benefit from Banana Skin Treatment with better flowering.

□ *D orientis, D. corymbosa, D magnifica, D. brumalis, D. conspiculata, D. amplissima.*

These species have long spaghetti like tubers up to 20 cm long, which increase in numbers each year.

When repotting, it is usual to plant the tubers horizontal – often the tubers grow from both tuber ends.

Over a couple of years, they multiply up into small clumps with one set of leaves- which will then flower.

When repotting, if you can keep clumps of tubers together they should flower more quickly.

Single tubers are unlikely to flower.

In the wild they flower better after summer wild fire. Banana skin treatment seems to enhance pot flowering - colour and the numbers of flowers.

Tuber removal is not used.

□ *D. drummondii*

This species flowers later, into December, with plants continuing to grow up to about the end of January.

Naturally, this species grows in swampy areas. The potting mix must be kept well damp while the plants are growing. The tubers will still rot if given too much water.

Natural flowering responds to summer fires, thus banana skin treatment may be helpful, although

D. drummondii flowers well in pot culture.

Tuber removal is not used.

Problems

The usual orchid pests eat *Diuris*. A serious pest is mealy bug. They get into the lower leaf sheath as well as on the stem. But they go further and live on the 'below ground' stem and even the tuber. They will live on the tuber over summer while the plant is dormant or leave eggs ready to hatch and eat the new shoot.

Thus, systemic control is usually required.

Tuber removal

Tuber removal is used late in the growing period to increase tuber numbers.

It is important to understand that the new tuber is removed from the plant without breaking off the old tuber. The plant then usually grows an extra new tuber.

The plant should be carefully removed from the pot. The plant and its old tuber are held in 2 fingers and a thumb. The new tuber is held by two fingers and the thumb of the other hand. Gently twist the new tuber back and forward, applying very slight pulling pressure. The new tuber will come free. Repot the plant. Also pot the 'free' tuber, treating it as a dormant tuber.

Banana skin treatment

Banana skins are used to enhance flowering for some species. The skin [also the banana] releases gases which promote flowering. They are put with the tubers during dormancy.

The banana skin can be placed beside the pot, with both pot and skin inside a plastic bag, for a period during dormancy. I change the skin weekly for about 3 weeks.

If repotting the pot, the banana skin and tubers can be placed together in a plastic bag, but never touching each other. The skins can release moisture and promote the rotting of the tuber.

The article printed about Diuris above, was reprinted from ANOS Geelong Group Bulletin, March 2018. It also had two extra photo's with page 2 of the article which I had difficulty in printing.

Benching Results FEBRUARY Meeting 2018

Dendrobium Species	Den. Cucumerinum Toressae	T. Cooke
Dendrobium Hybrid	Den. Monophyllum	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Species	Den. Pintery	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Sarc. Hirticalcar	R. Morrison
Bulbophyllum	Nil	
Rhizobium (Species)	Nil	
Rhyzobium (Hybrid)	Nil	
Aust. Species Other	Nil	
Aust. Hybrid Other	Nil	
Terrestrial Pterostylis Species	Nil	
Caladenia Species	Nil	
Diurus species	Nil	
Evergreen Terrestrial spp	Spir. Australis	W. & M. Southwell
	Spir. Australis	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Other spp.	Nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid		
Australasian Species	Nil	
Dockrillia	Nil	
Australasian Hybrid	D. Anne Rogge	N. Bates
Seedling First Flowering	Nil	
Growing Competition 1	Carol Asquith	N. Bates
Growing Competition 2	T. Asquith	T. Cooke

Plant of the night and Popular choice was Spiranthes Australis grown by Wal and Margaret Southwell. Congratulations....

Good Growing To All!!!

Note....This was sent to all mail recipients.. email had article including photos sent as attachment....AAA