



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

SEPTEMBER 2018

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



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

Postal Address:- 20 Colo Street,

Secretary: Mr. R. Morrison

COURIDJAH. 2171

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY, 20th September, 2018

Life Members: Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke, and W. & M. Southwell, A. & C. Asquith. (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,

Congratulations to Noel Bates for plant of the night and Mary-Anne for popular choice.

Ross Morrison won the growing competition with a very nice specimen and Tony will probably win the other growing competition this month (probably with a lot of help from Carol).

Last months meeting included a talk on the effect of frost on our orchids and some of the preventive measures we could use.

At this meeting there will be paperwork available for the selling of native orchids.

The sellers licence application is still proceeding and hopefully will arrive before our next show at Oran Park.

Wally

General Meeting – 16 August 2018 **7.55pm**

Minutes of Meeting

Apologies: Terry Cooke, Phil Griffiths.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Moved: Tony Asquith Seconded: Mike Morris **Carried**

Business Arising: Gordon Bush failed to be included as an apology in July minutes and visitors Freda and Jim Wright were not recorded.

Correspondence: Various newsletters and change of address for Newcastle ANOS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report presented to the meeting

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Don Roberts **Carried**

General Business

- President welcomed Jim Coote – visitor to the meeting and acknowledged a new member – Graeme Krake, from Brogo. Graeme is hoping to speak at one of our meetings in the near future.
- President awarded Tony and Carol Asquith their Life Membership badges.
- President highlighted he had successfully given an orchid repotting demonstration to Fairfield Garden Club.
- Licensing Update – the application for a licence is still pending and some concern it will not be available before the Spring Show. Some members expressed concern confusion still exist across NSW about the processes however the President was adamant native orchid sales at our Shows could seriously place the club and its members at risk. It was resolved that:
 1. The Secretary write to NPWS seeking clarification as to where the application process is at, and
 2. The Club investigates temporary membership to allow selling of native plants at the Show's.
- Show Schedule Changes – a variety of minor changes were indicated and revised Schedules will be distributed at the September meeting.
- Tony Asquith – read a poem by a farmer's wife from Wee Wah and sent to PM Malcolm Turnbull, cynical of the government's support of Australian Farmers during the current drought.

- Growing Competition
 1. Dockrillia Competition completed with Ross Morrison's plant flowering
 2. Dendrobium Competition nearing completion with Tony Asquith's plant with three advanced spikes

A new competition will be started soon.

Guest Speaker

Wally presented talk on ways of keeping orchids warm during the cold nights – both through chemical support and manipulation of housing conditions.

Raffles Graeme Morrison, Peter Brown, Ian Lawson

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

2018 Show Dates

Spring Show **22 September 2018**
October Show **27 October 2018**

This information appeared in Bankstown Orchid Society's latest Bulletin

Licence to sell Australian Native Orchids

Members are aware that new regulations are in place regarding the sale of Australian Native Orchids.

The regulation applies to Australian **species orchids**, and comes about because of unscrupulous people finding and taking our native plants from their natural habitat to a point where many of our species are now 'threatened' We have been successful in obtaining a growers license which allows our members to sell Australian native species and Hybrid orchids at our shows, with some associated conditions.

One of these conditions is that we maintain proper **records of the NSW native plants** that we sell. The other, is that each plant must be **properly tagged**.

Record Sheet for the sale of Australian Native Orchids

If you wish to sell any NSW native species or hybrid orchids at our shows, you need to complete the sheet on page 4, listing the plants that you are selling (which are NSW native species or hybrid orchids). For NSW native hybrids, the species parents need also to be listed. For example, for Dendrobium Bardo Rose, you would show this hybrid name with "(Den falcorostrum x Den kingianum)" on your sheet. Put a tick in the appropriate box for either species or hybrid for each plant on your list and write the sales **price** for each plant on your list. Bring this completed sheet with you to the Sales Bench area of our Show.

(Other non-NSW native species or hybrids DO NOT need to be included on this sheet.)

The second condition relates to appropriate labeling of Australian Native Orchids which are sold under the License of Bankstown Orchid Society Inc Appropriate tags must be in the pot of each NSW native species or hybrid plant which are sold at our shows. Each plant tag must say **Bankstown Orchid Society Inc**, and **Plantation Grown plant**.

The two words 'Plantation Grown' are critical to fulfilling the conditions of our license. Hybrid orchid plants for sale will also need to note the species parents on the tag.

If you are not sure of the parentage, leave that part blank and ask for help when you get to the show with your plants. Please report to one of the committee when you arrive because your native plants **MUST** be checked in before they are allowed on the sales table. There are severe consequences (and very large fines) for those who do not co operate with the legislation, so let's do our best to comply with the 'rules'

If in doubt! – ASK for assistance

Slow Release - Fast Relief? written by "Friendii".

Introduction by Jim Brydie : The following article is republished with the permission of the author and by courtesy of the Rockhampton Orchid Society, in whose monthly newsletter it was first published.

This author is a man who really knows his stuff. I have been exchanging communications with him for some time and he is the one who gave me some tips on insecticides that I have found particularly effective and still use today.

He discusses here some of the basic principles that apply to feeding orchids, and more specifically, usage factors you need to understand in the use of slow release fertilisers.

How often have we heard the following? :- ***'I don't have time to fertilize my orchids' -- 'Orchids need to be fertilized "weekly, weakly" -- . 'It is best to alternate fertilizers' -- . 'Use "Bloom Boosters" (high potassium, high phosphorus) on flowering sized plants and high nitrogen fertilizers on seedlings' -- . 'Slow release fertilizers are no good for orchids because they burn the roots' -- . 'My orchids grow alright without any fertilizer'***

If we accepted each of these statements at face value we could be excused for believing that fertilizing orchids is quite complex. While there is an element of truth in each of these comments, overall there is also about as much myth as fact. For those who value simplicity, the following may assist with your fertilizing program.

The Basics

Orchids cannot grow and flower unless they are supplied with all of the major and minor (trace) elements (TE). The major elements (ie. those required in the greatest amounts) are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sulphur (S) and iron (Fe) are required in lesser amounts. The elements that are required in trace amounts only are boron (Bo), copper (Cu), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo) and zinc (Zn). Orchids grown in organic media, such as bark or sphagnum, can obtain some of their nutrients from the medium itself. However, inorganic media, such as diatomite, granite ('pink rock') or Quinkan do not supply any nutrients. All nutrients must be supplied from external sources. For dedicated souls, there is no cultural reason why these nutrients should not be supplied by regular foliar applications of a highly soluble complete fertilizer (ie. one containing all nutrients in the correct proportions). There is however a simpler way to fertilize and still obtain equivalent results. For those who are time poor, lazy or who want to use their time more efficiently, a simple and highly effective solution to your fertilizing problems is to use an appropriate slow release fertilizer.

There is a bewildering array of slow release fertilizers at most garden outlets. Which one is best for orchids? Should I use a 3,6,9 or 12 month type? The choice is simplified if we understand that '3month' means that at an ambient temperature of 21degrees Centigrade and in the presence of moisture, the granules will release a steady stream of nutrients over about 3months. However, for every 10 degree rise in ambient temperature, the active life of the granules is halved. Thus, at 31degrees, a 3month fertilizer will remain active for about 6 weeks and at 41degrees it will remain active for only 3 weeks!!! At these higher temperatures, the release of nutrients is so rapid that the roots may burn and the supply of nutrients is soon exhausted. Basically, in our region (ie Rockhampton), slow release fertilizers last for between 50-60% of their stated time. For that reason, it is recommended that 9month forms are used. They have a much greater margin of error and minimise the number of yearly applications required. An application of 8-9month in Spring will provide a steady supply of nutrients for about the next 5 months. Another application in Autumn, when watering frequency and temperatures are both decreasing, will provide nutrients for about 6-7 months. Spring and Autumn applications are required for those orchids that are in continuous growth or that flush at least twice/year. The Cattleya and Oncidium alliances, hardcane Dens and the Vandaceous group are examples of this type of orchid. For orchids that have a winter dormancy, such as softcane Dens and Catasetums, the dose should be restricted to a single application in Spring only.

Not all slow release fertilizers contain all of the required elements. Since we are trying to simplify the system, the first step is to choose a slow release fertilizer that specifies NPK +Mg+TE (**TE means Trace elements). The only nutrient that is lacking is calcium (Ca). Under most circumstances, Rockhampton town water contains sufficient Ca for optimum growth and flowering of most orchids. However, there is no Ca in tank water. Symptoms of calcium deficiency (progressive blackening of the tips of new growths generally with a yellow halo preceding the blackening) can occur where tank water is used exclusively. However, even when town water is used, calcium deficiency can occur, particularly in some Cattleya alliance clones, when high amounts of NPK are used to promote rapid growth. Depending on the potting medium used, top dressing the medium with powdered dolomite (Ca + Mg) or a 50/50 mix of dolomite and gypsum (Calcium sulphate) may correct the deficiency. The addition of excess dolomite or lime can however alter the pH of the medium and thus affect the uptake of other essential elements. Hence, the surest way to avoid or correct calcium deficiency is to apply calcium nitrate as a foliar spray on a weekly basis during periods when the plants are in an active growth phase.

For flowering-sized plants of most orchid genera, optimum growth and flowering is promoted by using fertilizer that has an NPK ratio of about 10:5:15. However, N ratios up to 15 are quite satisfactory for both flowering-sized plants and for seedlings and help reduce complexity in that one fertilizer fits all. A top dressing of 8-9month 15:5:15+Mg+TE at re-potting will help the plant to establish and maintain vigorous growth. A note of caution....Addition of slow release fertilizer to organic media will accelerate the rate of breakdown of those media. There are therefore distinct advantages in using inorganic media particularly if heavy applications of fertilizer are used. Heavy applications of slow release also seem to deter cockroaches from taking up residence in orchids potted in diatomite. The definitive studies have not been done but it is my experience that the heavier the application of slow release, the fewer the cockroach problems. This observation is confined to diatomite, certainly not to bark and charcoal, which 'cockies' just adore. Perhaps someone should do some further investigating!

Application Rates

These depend on your particular set of growing conditions eg watering frequency and type of medium, but for most orchids growing in 7-15mm diatomite in 100mm pots, I apply a level teaspoon of 8-9mth 15:5:15+Mg+TE at each application in Spring or Autumn. For a 200mm pot containing mainly 15-25mm diatomite I increase the dose to a heaped tablespoon. For plants growing on slabs, I put the required amount of slow release in a piece of stocking and tie it to the top of the slab so that each watering provides a steady flow of nutrients to the roots below. For those who want maximum performance from their orchids, there is no cultural reason why appropriate concentrations of foliar fertilizers should not be used in conjunction with the slow release fertilizer.

The availability of a huge range of slow release fertilizers allows the selection and use of the type best suited to your conditions. Appropriate types have effectively eliminated the need for the time-consuming task of fertilizing 'weekly, weakly'. The results speak for themselves. Next time you re-pot or plan your fertilizer schedule, maybe you should try an appropriate slow release fertilizer. You might be surprised at the results!!!

Editors note.....reprinted with thanks from Rockhampton Orchid Society

BENCHING RESULTS August Meeting

Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	Dendrobium Speciosum	Marg & Wal Southwell
	2	Dendrobium aemulum	Ross Morrison
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Den Caesar ‘Striped Lips’	Mary-Anne Warner
	2	Den Unknown	Marg & Wal Southwell
Sarcanthinae species	1	Plecto. Tridentata	Ross Morrison
	2	Sarc. hirticalcar	Ross Morrison
Bulbophyllum	1	Bulbo shepherdii	Greg Steenbeeke
Rhizobium species	1	Den teretifolium	Noel Bates
	2	Den teretifolium	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium Hybrid	1	Dock striolata x fuliginosa	Ross Morrison
	2	Dock teretifolium x cucumerina	Tony & Carol Asquith
Caladenia Species	1	Glossodia major	Ross Morrison
	2	Caladenia catenata	Ross Morrison
Australian species other		Nil	
Pterostylis species	1	Pte curta	Ross Morrison
	2	Pte ophioglossa	Terry Cooke
Terrestrial species other	1	Corybas dilatalus	Terry Cooke
	2	Microtis parviflora	Mike Morris
Terrestrial hybrid	1	Pte Nodding Grace	Ross Morrison
	2	Pte Nodding Grace	Ross Morrison
Australasian hybrid	1	Den Stafanie Sun	Noel Bates
Seedling	1	Den Starsheen x tetragonum	Marg & Wal Southwell
	2	Den Starsheen x tetragonum	Ross Morrison
Diuris Species	1	Diuris maculata	Ross Morrison
	2	Diuris pardina	Ross Morrison
Growing Comp - Dockrillia	1		Ross Morrison
	2		Carol Asquith
Growing Comp - Dendrobium	1		Tony Asquith
	2		Carol Asquith
Judges Choice	1	Den teretifolium	Noel Bates
Popular Choice	2	Den Caesar “Striped Lips”	MaryAnne Warner

GOOD GROWING