



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

SEPTEMBER 2018

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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, 18th October, 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 Kim Hines for plant of the night and Tony and Carol Asquith for popular choice.

Our last show for the year will be held on 27th October next, again at Oran Park Podium Shopping Centre..

As we get closer to Christmas, please be reminded that we ask for donations for our Christmas Hamper Raffle.. Please feel free to begin donating at our two next meetings....

At the October meeting, there will be discussions regarding the Tuber night!!

Finally, all things being equal – Margaret will conduct the sales table at our November meeting..

Signed Anonymous...

General Meeting – 20 September 2018 7.55pm

Minutes of Meeting

The acting Chair – Greg Steenbeeke welcomed everyone to the September meeting and highlighted that Wally had recently undergone an operation on his legs that prohibited him from attending the meeting and would most likely make him unavailable for the Spring Show.

Apologies: Margaret and Wally Southwell, Marge Yabsley, Terry Cooke, Phil Griffiths.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Moved: Don Roberts Seconded: Ian Lawson **Carried**

Business Arising: Jim Cootes name was misspelt in the August newsletter.

Correspondence: Revesby Workers Sarcophilus Show – 20 October

Treasurer's Report: Monthly Expenditure - \$46 I Monthly Income - \$257 I Balance - \$3656.41

Two accounts for payment.

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Ian Lawson **Carried**

General Business

- Chair welcomed Jim Cootes as a new member to the Club.
- Secretary highlighted that the Club had received its five year licence and plant sales could go ahead at the Spring Show. Show schedules and procedures were discussed including:
 1. Show plants needing to be benched by 8.45am
 2. Show plants to labelled with growers number (growers list was available).
 3. Sales plants to be listed on Seller Sheet (no prices to be included).
 4. Sales plants to have MANOS sticker applied.
 5. Spring Schedules, Seller Sheets and MANOS Stickers were available for members.
 6. Show set up to begin at 7.00am – volunteers needed.
- Concern was expressed by Ian Lawson that the Revesby Workers licence had different seller requirements than the MANOS licence. Licencing discussions identified different OEH offices had issued the differing licences.
- Dendrobium Growing Competition saw Tony Asquith's plant awarded first place ahead of Carol Asquith's plant – Tony celebrated!!! The differing flower colours of these two plants led to discussion on Orchid

evolution, genetics and variation. Orchids have a large genome pool when considering the plant kingdom and produce enormous amounts of seeds which are predominantly windblown.

Guest Speaker

Don Roberts lead a 15 minute discussion on pot media for epiphytes – 4 bark: 1 Cowra White Gravel: 1 Coco mulch (8-13mm): 0.5 Charcoal: 0.5 Jumbo Perlite – plus the use of fertilisers at potting time. The discussions were well received and variations highlighted by many of the clubs exemplar growers.

Benching Results

Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	Dendrobium speciosum 'Compact Gold'	Kim Hines
	2	Dendrobium aemulum	Ross Morrison
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Den. Elegant Heart	Tony and Carol Asquith
	2	Den. Australian Rose Beauty x Den. Speciosum var Windmere	Colin Long
Sarcanthinae species	1	Plecto. tridentata	Ross Morrison
	2	Sarc. falcatus	Greg Steenbeeke
Sarcanthinae hybrid	1	Sarc. Karsons Softly x Sunshine Special	Ross Morrison
	2	Sarc. Bessie	Ross Morrison
Bulbophyllum	1	Bulbo. shepherdii	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium species	1	Den. nugentae	Greg Steenbeeke
	2	Den. stiolata	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium hybrid	1	Dock. lingiforme x teretifolia	Ross Morrison
	2	Dock teretifolia x stiolata 'Victoria'	Colin Long
Pterostylis species	1	Pte pedunculata	Ross Morrison
Diuris species	1	Diuris pardina	Greg Steenbeeke
Terrestrial species other	1	Microtis parviflora	Greg Steenbeeke
	2	Microtis parviflora	Ross Morrison
Seedling	1	Den. Unknown	Kim Hines
	2	Den. Angelene x (Kathking 'splash' x Desert Rose)	Kim Hines
Growing Comp - Dendrobium	1		Tony Asquith
	2		Carol Asquith
Judge's Choice		Dendrobium speciosum 'Compact Gold'	Kim Hines
Popular Choice		Den. Elegant Heart	Tony and Carol Asquith

Raffles

Peter Brown, Graeme Morrison, Mary-Anne Warner, Ian Lawson

Meeting Closed at 9.10pm

2018 Show Dates

October Show

27 October 2018

ANOS MACARTHUR SPRING SHOW
Saturday 22nd September, 2018 ORAN PARK.

RESULTS

SECTION	Position	Plant	Grower
1. <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	1 st	(no clonal name)	Kim Hines
	2 nd	'Nifty'	Ian Lawson
2. <i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	1 st	(no clonal name)	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	(no clonal name)	Terry Cooke
3. <i>Dendrobium falcorostrum</i>	1 st	(no clonal name)	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	(no clonal name)	Terry Cooke
4. <i>Dendrobium gracilicaule</i>	1 st	'Lam'	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	(no clonal name)	Ross Morrison
5. <i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	1 st	<i>D. t. var. tetragonum</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>D. t. var. giganteum</i>	Tony & Carol Asquith
6. <i>Dendrobium</i> Other Species	1 st	<i>Dendrobium aemulum</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>	Noel Bates
7. <i>Den.</i> section <i>Rhizobium</i> Species	1 st	<i>Den. schoeninum</i> 'English'	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i>	Noel Bates
7. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Species	1 st	<i>Sarcochilus aequalis</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	Noel Bates
8. <i>Sarcantinae</i> Species	1 st	<i>Plectorrhiza tridentata</i>	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	<i>Plectorrhiza tridentata</i>	Ross Morrison
9. <i>Bulbophyllum</i> Species		NIL ENTRIES	
10. Other Aust. Epiphytic Species		NIL ENTRIES	
11. <i>Dendrobium</i> Primary Hybrid	1 st	<i>Den. x delicatum</i> 'Snow'	Mary-Anne Warner
	2 nd	<i>Den.</i> Bardo Rose 'Berouh'	Tony & Carol Asquith
12. <i>Dendrocoryne</i>-style Hybrid Reds / Pinks	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Zip 'Imperial' x Bardo Rose 'Lisa'	Terry Cooke
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> 'Speckles' x Zip 'Jack'	Tony & Carol Asquith
13. <i>Dendrocoryne</i>-style Hybrid Yellows/Oranges	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Henk van den Berg	Peter Brown
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Robbie McInnes	Tony & Carol Asquith
14. <i>Dendrocoryne</i>-style Hybrid Whites/Creams	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Starlight	Mary-Anne Warner
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Bigfoot x <i>kingianum</i> 'Freckles'	Tony & Carol Asquith
15. <i>Dend.</i> Hybrid - Intersectional	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Elegant Heart	Tony & Carol Asquith
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Elegant Heart	Tony & Carol Asquith
16. <i>Dend.</i> section <i>Rhizobium</i> Hybrid	1 st	<i>Dendrobium x grimesii</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Oliver Jack (Jiggi 'best blue' x <i>striolatum</i> 'Neville')	Ian Lawson
17. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid	1 st	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Ozzydil	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Ozzydil	Noel Bates
18. <i>Sarcantinae</i> Hybrid	1 st	<i>Plectochilus</i> Kilgra	Ross Morrison
19. <i>Caladenia</i> and Related Species	1 st	<i>Caladenia catenata</i>	Peter Brown
20. <i>Pterostylis</i> and Related Species	1 st	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	Ross Morrison
21. <i>Diuris</i> and Related Species	1 st	<i>Diuris alba</i>	Terry Cooke
	2 nd	<i>Diuris pardina</i>	Greg Steenbeeke
22. Evergreen Terrestrial		NIL ENTRIES	
23. Other Aust. Terrestrial Species	1 st	<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	Greg Steenbeeke

	2 nd	<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	Ross Morrison
24. Australian Terrestrial Hybrid	1 st	<i>Diuris</i> Earwig	Terry Cooke
25. Australasian Species		NIL ENTRIES	
26. Australasian Hybrid		NIL ENTRIES	
27. Seedling – Species	1 st	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> ‘Nifty’	Ian Lawson
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	Tony & Carol Asquith
28. Seedling – Hybrid	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> (Victorian Flare x Lawrose) x <i>kingianum</i> ‘Electric Fluoro’	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Tyabb	Ian Lawson
29. Novelty – Australasian Parentage	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Aree Big Pink Stripe	Mary-Anne Warner
	2 nd	<i>Dendrobium</i> Caesar ‘Striped Lip’	Mary-Anne Warner

SPECIAL AWARDS

AWARD	Plant	Grower
<u>Grand Champion of Show</u>	<i>Den. schoeninum</i> ‘English’	Ross Morrison
<u>Reserve Champion of Show</u>	<i>Dendrobium x delicatum</i> ‘Snow’	Mary-Anne Warner
<u>Champion Native Epiphytic Species</u>	<i>Den. schoeninum</i> ‘English’	Ross Morrison
<u>Champion Native Epiphytic Hybrid</u>	<i>Dendrobium x delicatum</i> ‘Snow’	Mary-Anne Warner
<u>Champion Australasian Orchid</u>	<u>NIL WORTHY</u>	
<u>Champion First Flowering Seedling</u>	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> ‘Nifty’	Ian Lawson
<u>Champion Specimen Orchid</u>	<i>Dendrobium gracilicaule</i>	Ross Morrison
<u>Champion Terrestrial Orchid</u>	<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	Ross Morrison
<u>Aub Bruniges Trophy – Champion Speciosum</u>	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	Kim Hines

Buying Sarcochilus

A paper prepared in November 2009 for the Australian Orchid Foundation workshop 2010

There are several choices to be made when buying any orchids. Generally it is recommended that you buy mature (already flowered) plants only if you are a rank beginner, if the plant is in flower and you like what you see or if you are purchasing a division or clone of a plant that you know to be superior. Purchasing seedlings not only provides the opportunity to enjoy the excitement of seeing a plant flower for the first time but could enable you to own a future show champion for a modest financial outlay providing that you have the patience to grow the plants until they reach maturity.

If you decide to purchase seedlings then you still have a few questions to answer

- What size - tubes, community pots or flasks?
- Which cross to choose?
- Which individual plants to pick out of the batch?

Where to buy them?

The following thoughts may be of some consideration in answering these questions.

What Size To Buy?

Most orchids are available from nurseries as 50 mm tubestock at relatively low cost per plant. These plants are usually somewhere between a few months and one year old. Some individuals will flower in these tubes at less than one year old depending on parentage (Sarco. spathulatus, Sarco. Falcatus and Plectorhizza tridentata are able to produce precocious hybrids with small plants) but most will take another 2 to 4 years before they will flower. The advantage of going for tubes is the relatively low cost per plant, seedlings should be from recent crosses and the nurseryman will have got the babies off to a good start.

Occasionally nurseries will have community pots (compots) available. These are typically a 100mm pot with several seedlings from the same cross growing together. These plants are usually cheaper per plant than tubes but may be smaller (not so attractive to the impatient!) and there may be weaker individuals among the more vigorous ones. Compots have the advantages of being deflasked by the nursery and the larger number of seedlings gives a wider selection of flowers further down the track.

Flasks are the cheapest per plant option but the deflasking process can be anything but 'basic'. In your early years deflasking is best left to those more experienced although eventually everyone should try at least one flask. As most commercial flasks have upwards of 20 seedlings there is an often expressed opinion that "I don't want a whole lot of plants that will all be the same". I find this statement to be very ill-informed and likely to irritate me.

Occasionally 'advanced' seedlings which are usually described as near flowering size are offered for sale. While there is nothing inherently wrong with these plants they would be most attractive to those with little patience but one should consider why they did not sell as tubes and whether they represent the latest breeding trends.

Which Crosses To Choose?

This is largely a matter of personal preference based on the desired flower colour, shape and size of the anticipated outcome. Nursery catalogues usually provide a fairly optimistic speculation as to the likely results from a cross or at least an outline of the virtues of the parents. Regardless of one's level of experience, these prognostications are at best educated guesses as it is impossible to be certain what the result of a cross will be. The best you can do is to increase the 'educated' element and decrease the 'guess' part, after more than 20 years of breeding Sarco.s. I have some idea of what traits some parents are likely to produce in their offspring but for the rest I have very little idea. Sarco. hybridising is still very much in its developmental stage many plants considered good enough to be put to stud this year are already superseded by next season and so there is often no accumulated record of parental performance on which to base decisions. The best advice I can offer is to study the species, especially hartmannii, fitzgeraldii, falcatus, weinthalii, hirticalcar and ceciliae and learn what attributes they are likely to contribute to their offspring.

As growers gain in experience they may find a little research into the parents and then forming their own prediction for a cross to be a rewarding exercise. Regardless of experience or expertise the choice of seedlings will always be a game of chance with the inevitable highs and lows. How you manipulate the odds in this game is up to you - perhaps you

have a greater chance of getting that 'special one' by getting a lot of seedlings from one cross or are the odds better when you buy a few seedlings from several crosses?

The tricky part for the novice is that you often have to make decisions rather quickly. When plants are listed in a nursery catalogue there may be some time for research and contemplation but if you come across some seedlings for sale at an orchid event then competition with other potential purchasers may expedite your decision. It is best to have done your research previously and have some idea of what you are looking for.

Sarcochilus are, in my experience, extremely infertile. Some never seem to produce seed, others may occasionally produce seed while others may produce seeds in very small numbers. This means that it is often not possible to buy seedlings from a particular parent so there may need to be a compromise in favour of a similar type of parent as the best you can do. One of my most successful plants is Duno Nicky's Twin 'Voo Doo' and obviously is a plant that is very desirable as a parent yet it is extremely reluctant to be a mother or father. For well over 10 seasons I have pollinated some of its flowers and used every grain of pollen on other flowers to achieve only 1 seed pod with only small numbers of seeds. So far every one of the resulting seedlings has been outstanding - 4 awarded as first flowering seedlings and the cross, Sarco. Magic being recognised with an ASR - well worth the effort. I and many others would like to see more crosses using Voo Doo to produce more offspring but don't hold your breath! This is mentioned to illustrate the persistence needed when hybridising and why there is often a relative scarcity of quality Sarco. seedlings available. In short, with Sarcos. it is more a case of what you can get rather than what you would like to get.

Selecting Plants

When you buy plants by mail order you are making the nursery staff your agents to choose for you. Generally they will select the largest plants from those available hence the rush to place an order when a new catalogue is issued. This arrangement seems to keep most people happy but occasionally customers complain about the small size of seedlings they receive in the post, these nurseries soon learn through complaints or diminishing patronage. If you are shopping personally at a nursery or orchid event, you get to pick out the plants that you buy ...but which ones???

I wish that I knew the answer. You may care to consider the following in regard to this situation, they are different criteria that growers have stated as their reasons for choosing particular plants.

- Pick the largest (less chance of fatality, flower quicker)
- Pick the smallest (plants with heavier cell tissue, and therefore better flowers, grow more slowly)
- Pick seedlings that exhibit colour staining on leaves/roots/stems (an indicator of being able to produce pigment)
- Pick the ones with the thickest roots or leaves (a combination of the first two reasons)
- Pick ones that have a growth habit resembling the most desirable of its two parents (the flower might too)
- Pick plants with rounded leaf tips (in the hope that flower segments will have rounded tips too)

If you are buying several plants from one cross you could perhaps buy plants that exhibit different characteristics.

Regardless of the above always choose healthy plants that have established root systems (firm in the tubes) and have a new leaf appearing at their apex to indicate that they are in active growth. Avoid plants without name tags, spotty leaves, loose, weedy or bug eaten plants at all cost.

Where To Buy Sarcos

There are a few Australian orchid nurseries that regularly carry Sarcos in their stock. You can locate them through the internet or through their ads in the orchid magazines. It is common for these nurseries to buy in their seedling flasks or seed pods from hobbyists like myself largely because of the previously stated fertility issues that prevent them getting a reliable supply of seeds.

Neville Roper
11 Feb 2010

Where did the colour go?

When one considers pollinating a flower to create a new hybrid or even when selecting seedlings off a nursery catalogue there forms, mirage-like in the back of the mind, a vision. For me this vision usually takes the most desirable features of the two prospective parents and combines them to give an idealised image of the best possible outcome. When you buy a lottery ticket you plan to win not lose! I am sure that I am not alone in this because I have read nursery catalogues which advertise each cross with "These should be .".

The question that all of this raises is: "how realistic are these visions"? The answer probably lies in two areas:- plain straight out good luck, we all can fluke it sometimes, and understanding the genetic battle that occurs after a successful session with the toothpick or, probably more precisely, understanding the genetic contributions most likely to be made by each parent.

Take two cornerstone native crosses that have not generally lived up to the hybridist's vision splendid, *Sarcochilus Fitzhart* and *Dendrobium Delicatum*.

Case One - *Dendrobium Delicatum*

This cross could create several visions

".dark red speciosum sized flowers with the kingianum shape on mammoth racemes produced by compact plants .", or ".large golden kingianum type flowers on long racemes produced by plants that grow like weeds ."

or what about

".speciosum sized flowers shaped like a kingianum that are pure white with a solid purple labellum (I am not sure if I can use 'silcockii' any more) , one hundred of them on an erect raceme."

In reality what you are most likely to get is twenty-odd smallish white flowers with varying degrees of pink blush mostly hidden on the back of the flowers. Even when the darkest red *Den. kingianum* available is used and put to a yellow or cream rock lily there is still a preponderance of these typical dellie flowers. Forget flower size and the flower count what I really wonder about is where did the colour go? Not only don't you get red or pink dellies but you don't get yellow ones either.

Unbelievably it seems to go like this:

Den. kingianum x *Den. speciosum* = *Den. Delicatum*

Pink x White = White with a pink blush

Red x White = White with a pink blush

Pink x Yellow = White with a pink blush

Red x Yellow = White with a pink blush

At first it doesn't seem to make sense. Has anyone made a dellie using a white *D. kingianum* - if so did they still produce flowers with a pink blush?

Case Two - *Sarcochilus Fitzhart*

The vision that I am locked into here is obviously one of crimson red flowers shaped like an award quality *S. hartmannii* on robust, easy growing plants. Lets face it as a hybridist you don't look towards *S. fitzgeraldii* for its flower shape or robust growth. What most breeders have been chasing are offspring that display their red genes - the more the merrier!

Once again the reality falls short of the vision splendid. Most *S. Fitzharts* tend to be whites with varying degrees of red in the centre of the flowers which rarely, if ever, extends to the tips of the flower segments - of all flowers on a raceme not just the odd one. Even the majority of *S. Fitzharts* bred from the *Numinbah* (red centred) style *S. hartmannii* and full red *S. fitzgeraldii*, such as 'Lorraine' have comparatively little red colouration on display. Perhaps the greatest improvements in more recent *S. Fitzhart* crosses has been in the shape of the flowers. Ken Russell's 769 and 776 crosses using-

- 769: *S. hartmannii* 'Reefer' (*Numinbah* type) and *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine'(full red)
- 776: *S. hartmannii* 'Red Circles' (*Numinbah* type) and *S. fitzgeraldii* 'Red Vic'(two-thirds red)

are evidence of this. Even these don't advertise their colour inheritance but instead proudly declare their their improved "fuller shape" so treasured by orchid judges. This outcome further reinforces my curiosity at where did the colour go?

At the 1997 A.N.O.S. Port Hacking Group *sarcanthinae* show a possible answer became apparent. In the class ' Best

Sarcanthinae Seedling' (seedling classes are always the most interesting) were several small plants of S. Fitzhart from

a sibling cross. These plants had flowers with more than the usual degree of red colouring, some were very close to being full reds. More seedlings from this cross appeared in the same section in 1998 and, if anything, they were better having more red in the flowers, a more intense colour displayed in crisp well-defined markings. One was the elusive 'full red'. These were bred by Ken Russell and were the result of a cross between two siblings from his earlier '769' cross. These interesting little plants have led me to think that the colour was there all along - it was just hidden by some more dominant white genes and they only got to express themselves in the next generation when both parents contributed a similar set of red genes.

'Nowhere' seems to be the answer to my earlier question of "Where did the colour go?". The colour genes were there but they were just sort of out-muscled by some more dominant white genes which had forced them into the background- at least in the case of S. Fitzhart.

This may well provide some insight into the S. Fitzhart situation but could it also offer an explanation for the Den. Delicatum situation ? In the absence of a true D. Delicatum sibling cross there is only one Dellie outcross that I can refer to for comparison. It was a collaboration between Kevin Wilson and Ken Russell who provided cultivars 'Michael' and 'Dungog' respectively to create Ken's 105 cross. The resulting seedlings produced better than average flowers but they did not boast an inheritance of D. kingianum colour genes. Some hinted at it with varying amounts of pink on the backs of the flowers but there were no true solid D. kingianum type pinks or reds despite the use of a dark red kingie to make at least one of the original delicatums.

Not being a geneticist I cannot offer an authoritative opinion as to the causes of the variation in the colour outcomes between these two hybrids. At any rate the limited number of plants that I have seen and the small number of sibling crosses available would render any conclusions unreliable however I offer the following as a possibility.

The answer as to why a S. Fitzhart sibling cross is able to express increased colour while a D. Delicatum outcross isn't able to do the same may be locked up in the genetic makeup of the original parent species. In the case of S. Fitzhart both parent species (S. hartmannii and S. fitzgeraldii) carry some red colouration in their flowers. Admittedly this may be very a small amount in some forms of S. hartmannii but it does evidence the ability of both parents to display red colouration and also the potential to contribute red genes to S. Fitzhart. These genes may be hidden to some extent in a straight S. Fitzhart but become more visible in the sibling cross.

Unlike S. hartmannii, S. fitzgeraldii and D. kingianum most D. speciosums have no red colour on their flower segments apart from the labellum (implicit here is my lack of experience with the so-called red factor speciosums and the hybrids bred from them). This would mean that dellies, unlike S. Fitzhart, get their red/pink colour genes from only one parent. A possible further complication to this could be an inherited inability to express the colour genes contributed by D. kingianum. The absence of D. kingianum colour intensity in the vast majority of dellies, even those from an outcross, may be the result of this 'colour inhibition' on the part of D. speciosum. The colour genes from one parent are there but they have been denied greater exposure by some more-insistent white or cream ones originating from the other parent. Once again 'nowhere seems to be the answer to my opening question as to 'where did the colour go?'

The next time you are contemplating creating a new Sarc. Hybrid or you are perusing the latest catalogue with a view to parting with some of your hard earned I suggest that you include S. Fitzhart somewhere in your plans. That is, of course, if you wish to reduce the likelihood of having to ask "where did the colour go?" It seems to me that S. Fitzhart is a better parenting proposition than either of its parents when looking for good strong colours without sacrificing too much in the shape department. If there are any lingering doubts about the potential of S. Fitzhart then check out some its established offspring when they appear on the showbench next season. The following S. Fitzhart hybrids will not fail to impress; Sarc. Jeanne (x Weinhart), Heidi (x hartmannii), Burgundy On Ice (x Judith), Cherie (x fitzgeraldii), Charlotte (x Marion), Judith (x Melba), Pippy (x Peach Spots), Tigress (x spathulatus), Tigersun (x Tigress).

So what of the role of Den. Delicatum in creating new hybrids? To be honest I am not so optimistic about its ability to transmit its parents' colour. At this stage I have no plans for it in my breeding program simply because I don't own a Dellie good enough to breed with but this could all change with just one visit to the 'Native Seedling' section at the next show.

Neville Roper
24 October 2006

Both articles by the late Neville Roper, were sourced from Sutherland Orchid Society's Website

Good Growing!!