



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

OCTOBER 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, 15th November, 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

A big thank you to our guest speaker from Amgrow at our last meeting.

Congratulations to Ross Morrison for plant of the night, and to Ian Lawson for popular choice.

October show champions and class winners are listed with all results at the rear of this newsletter.

Change of meeting night or venue has been forced on us by Camden Council, and it will be proposed at the meeting that we have the meeting night on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Carol is still accepting donations for our Xmas Hamper raffle.

Margaret will have the sales table at this meeting.

Tuber night has been postponed until next year and

Next month will be our Xmas Party.

Wally

General Meeting – 18th October 2018 7.55pm

Minutes of Meeting

The Chair – Wally welcomed everyone to the October meeting and highlighted his return to good health and how pleased he was to see Terry Cooke in attendance after also missing for a few months with ill health.

Apologies: Robert Moon, Kim Hines, Phil Griffiths.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Moved: Don Roberts Seconded: Mary-Anne Warner **Carried**

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Various income and expenditure was noted - Balance - \$3731.51

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Terry Cooke **Carried**

General Business

- Sales table monies from Spring Show was distributed
- Jim Cootes members badge was presented.
- Spring Show sashes were presented by the President to –

Ian Lawson	Champion First Flowering Seedling
Mary-Anne Warner	Champion Native Epiphytic Hybrid
	Reserve Champion of Show
Ross Morrison	Champion Native Epiphytic Species
	Champion Specimen Orchid
	Champion Terrestrial Orchid
	Grand Champion of Show

The awarding of Champion Speciosum to Kim Hines was held over in her absence

Guest Speaker

- AMGROW Presentation – Diane Gray, State Sales Manager. Diane highlighted the AMGROW range of products and their uses.
- Products examples were distributed to the following members – Col L, Gordon B, Ralph M, Carol A, Don R, Julia B, Terry C, Chris P, Greg S, Mike M, Marg Y.

Further General Business

- October Show information was distributed – Schedules, Sales Slips and Stickers – Setup commences at 7.00am with benching by 8.30am for judging at 9.00am.
- Numbers required for Xmas Dinner – please let Margaret know at next meeting.
- Xmas hamper donations required at next meeting.
- Tuber night has been deferred to February meeting 2019.
- **Motion:** Show judges be paid \$25 each to a maximum of \$150 per show.
Moved Graeme Morrison Seconded Tony Asquith **Carried**
- Revesby Workers Sarcophilus Show scheduled for 20 October has been cancelled due to poor flowering conditions.
- The MANOS Editor has been requested to ‘blind copy’ our Newsletter when emailed moving forward.
- The Secretary has been requested to email ‘The Orchadian’ and arrange a change of address.
- Greg Steenbeeke highlighted the principal purple donkey group on display and benched at tonight’s meeting.

Benching Results

OCTOBER 2018

Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	Dendrobium tetragonum complex	Ross Morrison
	2	Dendrobium monophyllum	Greg Steenbeeke
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Den. Victorian Blush	Margaret and Wally Southwell
	2	Den. Bardo Rose	Gordon Bush
Sarcophilae species	1	Plecto. tridentata	Greg Steenbeeke
	2	Sarc. falcatus	Ross Morrison
Sarcophilae hybrid	1	Sarc. Kulnura Dazzel	Greg Steenbeeke
	2	Plecto. Kilgra	Ross Morrison
Bulbophyllum	1	Bulbo. bracteatum	Ross Morrison
	2	Bulbo. schillerianum	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium species	1	Dock. stiolatum ‘Ruffles’	Margaret and Wally Southwell
	2	Dock. stiolatum	Colin Long
Rhizobium hybrid	1	Dock. Grumpy x fuliginosa	Colin Long
	2	Dock. Hot Coals	Greg Steenbeeke
Pterostylis species	1	Pte curta	Ross Morrison
Diuris species	1	Diuris sulphurea	Chris Paterson
	2	Diuris punctate	Ross Morrison
Terrestrial species other	1	Microtis parviflora	Ross Morrison
	2	Microtis angusii	Greg Steenbeeke
Seedling	1	Sarc. Bessie	Ian Lawson
	2	Plecto. Orkology Trimaran	Greg Steenbeeke
Novelty	1	Cym. Dorothy Stocksill	Ian Lawson
	2	Cym. Penny Serenade	Ian Lawson
Judge’s Choice		Dendrobium tetragonum complex	Ross Morrison
Popular Choice		Sarc. Bessie	Ian Lawson

Raffles Ian Lawson, Noel Bates, Ralph Martin, Mary-Anne Warner, Julia Bismare, Peter Brown, Margaret Southwell

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm

ANOS MACARTHUR and DISTRICTS Inc.
2018 ANNUAL OCTOBER SHOW & EXHIBITION
SATURDAY 27 October 2018

RESULTS

SECTION	Pos	Plant	Grower
1. <i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	1 st	Roberta x Red Snow	Don Roberts
	2 nd	Sylvan Sun	Clover Bradley
2. <i>Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii</i>	1 st	(no clonal name)	Clover Bradley
3. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Other Species	1 st	<i>Sarcochilus olivaceus</i>	Ross Morrison
	2 nd	<i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	Trish Peterson
4. <i>Sarcanthinae</i> Other Species		NIL ENTRIES	
5. <i>Sarcanthinae</i> Hybrid	1 st	<i>Plectochilus</i> Richard Jost	Trish Peterson
	2 nd	<i>Plectochilus</i> Richard Jost	Greg Steenbeeke
6. <i>Sarcanthinae</i> First Flowering Seedling	1 st	<i>Plectochilus</i> Orkology Trimaran	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	<i>Plectochilus</i> Orkology Trimaran	Greg Steenbeeke
7. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Species - First Flowering Seedling	1 st	<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i> - Red Snow	Ross Morrison
8. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – Pink or Similar	1 st	Kulnura Absolute	Don Roberts
	2 nd	(no clonal name)	Tony and Carol Asquith
9. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – Red or Similar	1 st	Ignia	Ian Lawson
	2 nd	Kulnura Berry x Same	Chris Patterson
10. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – Pink / Red Based mottled, striped, spotted, barred	1 st	Sanctuary	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	Rosella x Roberta	Tony and Carol Asquith
11. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – White/Ivory Based mottled, striped, spotted, barred	1 st	Absolute	Clover Bradley
	2 nd	Fizzy Dove ‘Speckled Pink’	Clover Bradley
12. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – White / Ivory with red centre	1 st	Fitzhart ‘Rusty Bucket’	Clover Bradley
	2 nd	Duno Judilly ‘Purity’	Don Roberts
13. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – White / Ivory with yellow centre	1 st	Gerroa	Ian Lawson
	2 nd	Gerroa	Ian Lawson
14. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – Any Other Colour	1 st	Weinhart x Yvette ‘Wazzy’	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	Kulnura Kaliedescope	Chris Patterson
14a. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid – Yellow or similar	1 st	Mystys Twin	Marg and Wal Southwell
	2 nd	Gerroa	Clover Bradley
15. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid First Flowering Seedling - Red	1 st	Dove ‘Good’ x Edith ‘Measles’	Noel Bates
	2 nd	Zoe ‘Crimson’ x Fizzy Dove ‘Kookaburra’	Noel Bates
16. <i>Sarcochilus</i> Hybrid First Flowering Seedling - White / Pink	1 st	Geordi	Noel Bates
	2 nd	Bessie	Ian Lawson
17. <i>D. Sacrochilus</i> Hybrid First Flowering Seedling – Any Other Colour	1 st	Western Surprise	Clover Bradley
	2 nd	Miola	Ian Lawson
18. <i>Dendrobium</i> Species – excluding	1 st	<i>Dendrobium monophyllum</i>	Greg Steenbeeke

<i>Dockrillia</i>		Rutherford Starburst 'Orange'	Southwell
	2 nd	Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks' x <i>tetragonum</i> 'Regal Red Lip'	Marg and Wal Southwell
20. Dockrillia Species	1 st	<i>Dockrillia caludiformis</i> (PNG)	Trish Peterson
	2 nd	<i>Dockrillia hepatica</i> (PNG)	Marg and Wal Southwell
21. Dockrillia Hybrid	1 st	<i>Dendrobium</i> Oliver Jack (Jiggi 'best blue' x <i>striolatum</i> 'Neville')	Ian Lawson
22. Australian Species Other		NIL ENTRIES	
23. Australian Hybrid Other	1 st	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda	Ian Lawson
24. Evergreen Terrestrial		NIL ENTRIES	
25. Other Terrestrial Species or Hybrid	1 st	<i>Diuris parvipetala</i>	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 nd	<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Chris Patterson
26. Australasian Species	1 st	<i>Phaius flavus</i>	Ross Morrison
27. Australasian Hybrid – excluding Dockrillia		NIL ENTRIES	
28. Junior Exhibit		NIL ENTRIES	
29. Novelty – Australasian Parentage	1 st	<i>Cymbidium</i> Dorothy Stockstill	Ian Lawson
	2 nd	<i>Cymbidium</i> Koala 'Bear'1	Ian Lawson

SPECIAL AWARDS

AWARD	Plant	Grower
Grand Champion of Show	Sanctuary	Greg Steenbeeke
Reserve Champion of Show	<i>Diuris parvipetala</i>	Greg Steenbeeke
Champion Sarcanthaenae Species	Roberta x Red Snow	Don Roberts
Champion Sarcanthaenae Hybrid	Sanctuary	Greg Steenbeeke
Champion Sarcanthaenae Seedling	Dove 'Good' x Edith 'Measles'	Noel Bates
Champion Specimen Orchid	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Magic	Clover Bradley
Champion Orchid Other	<i>Diuris parvipetala</i>	Greg Steenbeeke

GROWING SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS IN THE MELBOURNE AREA

by Ted Elgood

Introduction. *Sarcochilus* species and hybrids provide an exquisite floral display, from the miniature flowers of *Sarcochilus hillii* to the very much larger flowers of hybrids such as *S. Melba* and *S. Judith*. The colour range, greatly extended in the last five years, now includes white, pastel pink to full red, yellow and orange, as well as flowers with beautifully patterned spots, splashes and bands. Shapes vary from the round, filled-in flowers of *S. hartmannii* to the round, open shape of *S. fitzgeraldii* flowers, the elongated flowers of *S. olivaceous* and *S. spathulatus*, and the starry or spider-shaped flowers of *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora* and its hybrids with *Sarcochilus*, adding to the beauty of this alliance. The primary purpose of this paper is to discuss the cultural conditions necessary to grow these orchids to their full glory.

Climatic Conditions in the Melbourne Area. The climatic conditions in the Melbourne area and particularly the Yarra Valley to the north of the city (where I live) can be summarised as follows :

January, February and March – hot days and warm nights; the days are long and bright, and the humidity generally low, particularly on days with strong northeasterly winds.

April and May – temperatures moderating, days becoming shorter, light intensity decreasing, humidity increasing.

June and July – cold days and night, occasional frosts, some mornings below freezing, humidity generally high, short days, dull light.

August and September – days warm, nights cool to cold, days longer, humidity generally high.

October, November and December – increasing day and night temperatures, increasing day length and light intensity; usually the wettest season.

My Main Orchid Growing Area is 15m long, 7m wide and 2.5-3m high. The long side faces east, while a work shed forms a large part of the western wall. The house is built using water pipe and fibre-glass for the walls and roof. This type of construction provides protection from rains and frost in winter and from the dry northeast winds in summer. No shade cloth is used between early May and early October, when maximum light is required. Doors in the north and south walls are kept open during the day to provide natural air movement. Fans, which run continuously, assist air circulation.

In the warmer months (October until May) sandstone shade cloth (70% shade factor) is used to moderate the light and heat entering the house. The southern wall is also removed then to improve airflow and to allow heat to escape. The floor of the house, which is covered with scoria, is kept wet to increase humidity and assist cooling. To maintain good airflow around the orchids, they are grown on wire mesh benches at a height of 0.9m above the floor.

Optimising Conditions for Growing *Sarcochilus*. Having established the basic housing for *sarcochilus* orchids, we can now look at some of the factors that influence their growth and flowering.

Light. Various *sarcochilus* species and hybrids have differing light requirements and this must be taken into account for successful culture. In my shade house there are four zones with significantly different light levels. Zone 1 – Plants at bench height near the eastern wall, where they receive bright light, particularly during the morning. This zone is most suitable for *Sarcochilus ceciliae* and many of its hybrids.

Zone 2 – Plants at bench height in the middle of the shade house, well protected from the western sun in the afternoon. This zone provides dappled light and is suitable for *S. hartmannii* and many of its hybrids.

Zone 3 – Plants hung below benches facing north, well protected from strong sunlight throughout the day. This zone provides plants with high humidity and low light levels and is suitable for *S. falcatus*, *S. fitzgeraldii*, *S. olivaceous*, *S. serrulatus*, *S. spathulatus*, *S. weinthalii*, *Plectorrhiza tridentata*, *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora* and selected hybrids.

Zone 4 – Plants hung below benches facing south. Plants receive only indirect light. This zone provides high humidity and lowest light levels. *Sarcochilus hillii*, young *sarcochilus* seedlings and plants showing stress are grown here.

S. dilatatus and *S. hirticalcar* are grown in a heated glasshouse maintained at temperatures above 9°C and at

Sarcochilus species are placed in the various zones on the basis of conditions in their natural environment, although some trial and error has been necessary to determine optimal conditions of growth and flowering for some. As might be expected, hybrids are more tolerant of their growing conditions and may do equally well in two zones. In some cases, however, one parent may dominate and thus influence the choice of the most suitable zone. For example, hybrids bred from *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora* grow much better in the lower light levels of zone 3 than they do in zones 1 or 2. A certain amount of trial and error is needed to determine the best zone for some hybrids.

Air Movement. Good air movement is vital to the successful growth of all orchids and every opportunity should be taken to use the natural airflow within the shade house. Fresh air is needed to maintain photosynthesis at maximum levels and to keep the root systems healthy. Good air movement also reduces problems caused by scale infestations and fungal infections. The most desirable level of airflow should result in gentle movement of the leaves, rather than violent disturbance.

Potting Mixes and Mounts. Those sarcochilus species that grow naturally as epiphytes are best grown on slabs. Under my conditions I find that tree-fern blocks or lengths of cork oak limbs (80-100 mm in diameter) give best results. These substrates retain some moisture over the course of a day and are preferable to hardwood panels and cork bark, which tend to dry out too rapidly on hot days. Some hybrids with vigorous root development also benefit from slab culture. For example hybrids bred from *Plectorrhiza tridentata* and *Sarcochilus hillii* have such massive roots that they are difficult to contain in pots.

For the lithophytes, such as *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, *S. fitzgeraldii*, *S. ceciliae* and most of their hybrids, pot culture is the best option. The potting medium must be open, allowing air circulation around the roots and providing excellent drainage. The medium should retain some moisture and not break down too rapidly.

Experiments using 100% treated pine bark, 100% stones or pebbles, and various mixtures of the two have been performed. All mixes provided satisfactory results, provided the watering conditions were adjusted to suit each type of medium. However, best results overall were obtained with 50:50 blends of bark and stone.

The following table indicates the optimal combination of pot size and potting mix:

Pot Size Composition of Mix

50mm tubes up to 100mm squat pots equal parts of treated pine bark and pebbles (5-10 mm)

125-200mm squat pots equal parts of bark (12-15 mm) and pebbles of similar size

250mm pots and above 40 parts of bark and 60 parts of pebbles (both 20 mm)

A range of stones and pebbles has been tried over a number of years. These included scoria, heat-expanded basalt, expanded clay nodules, Versa Rock® and (recently) Absorba-Ston®. Versa Rock®, expanded clay nodules and Absorba-Stone® are all low-density, porous materials that absorb moisture. They all tend to keep the mix moist and provide a suitable environment for healthy root growth.

The scoria tended to decompose, eventually forming a mud-like sludge in the bottom of the pot, and its use was therefore discontinued. Heat-expanded basalt is a low-density material consisting of spherical balls. It absorbs water, keeping the mix moist but not wet. The results were excellent but unfortunately it became unavailable.

Versa Rock® has been used for three years with excellent results; its only disadvantage is that lumps larger than 5-10 mm are unavailable. Trials using Versa Rock® as the sole medium for growing *Sarcochilus ceciliae* have given excellent results. Root development has been very good, with little or no root loss, a problem often encountered in mixes containing bark.

Expanded clay nodules (a product used in hydroponics) have been tested for a year; they provide excellent root development and top growth.

Absorba-Stone® has been introduced to the trial only recently. It is available in five grades, ranging from fine (suitable for seedlings) up to 25 mm lumps (suitable for large specimen plants). Initial results are promising but prolonged trials are needed to see if there are adverse effects from long-term use of any or all of these

The main season of growth for *Sarcochilus* is autumn, although growth also continues through winter into spring. Growth perceptibly slows during summer. The best time to repot is in autumn and through the cooler months.

Watering And Feeding. Watering is a critical part of *sarcochilus* culture. As the plants do not have pseudobulbs to store water, it is necessary to water throughout the year. The aim should be to keep the plants moist at all times, but not wet. Under my conditions I water early in the morning three or four times each week in summer, once or twice a week in autumn and spring and once a fortnight or even less frequently in winter. Keeping the humidity high during summer by misting under the benches is important to reduce plant stress.

Feeding orchids is always a good topic for lively discussion. I believe that regular feeding is important to grow and flower *sarcochilus* orchids to their full potential. I use Peters Excel Hi K® at the rate of 300 ppm at each watering throughout the year. The pots are flushed with water every fifth watering to reduce the build-up of salts in the potting media. When I repot I sprinkle a small quantity of Zest® (treated chicken manure) just below the surface of the mix to encourage new growth.

Summary. *Sarcochilus* species and hybrids are fascinating orchids to grow. They produce masses of flowers in a range of shapes and colours. I hope that this article stimulates growers to investigate ways of optimising their growing conditions.

This article is from Orchid Societies of Victoria Website....Sometimes it is worth looking from a different viewpoint!!!!

Good growing