

Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

AUGUST 2012

Edited by Tony Asquith

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President Mr. W. Southwell (ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 43 Strickland Cres.,

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.96079809)

ASHCROFT . 2168.

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 16th AUGUST, 2012

Life Member: Mr. J. Riley

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

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

FITZPATRICK ROAD,

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.45pm, meeting starts 8pm.

Mt. ANNAN.

Presidents Message. Hi to all,

Our Annual General Meeting was held last month. It's great to see a full committee at the club, when many clubs are struggling to maintain a full committee. The strong, motivated crowd at the Macarthur Club bodes well for the future.

New schedules, with minor changes only, will be used at the Spring Show and monthly table shows.

Ten tables at the show should be enough room to really display our native orchids at their best.

\Please be aware, membership fees are now overdue and should be paid promptly.

Both growing competition plants are now showing flower spikes (well some are!), so there should be a result soon, and a brand new competition will start.

Our sales table will be operating at the August meeting.

GOOD GROWING...Wally.

The Orchid Tray Company will be our guests at the August meeting bringing with them their products to sell to us...they do come quite a way...please support their efforts by purchasing Your supplies from them!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19 July, 2012

- 1. Meeting Opened:** 7:55pm, and the President welcomed members.
- 2. Apologies:** Allan Kneip, Ross Morrison and Chris Munson
- 3. Minutes from Previous Meeting:** As presented to the members in the monthly Newsletter were offered for acceptance.

Proposed by: Margaret Southwell **Seconded by:** Tony Asquith

- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil

- 5. Treasurer's Report:** was tabled for the month.

Proposed by: Carol Asquith **Seconded by:** Terry Cooke

- 6. Inward Correspondence:**

- Newsletters from various Societies

Outward Correspondence:

- Newsletters to members and kindred Societies.

General Business

Narellan town centre offered to allow 10 tables, Wal thinks we should offer a nice plant to the florist near to our display.

Discussion about Growing Competition..some plants beginning to flower.

Greg Steenbeeke spoke to Masters regarding a display and growing tips 1st September. (Saturday)

Editor requests items for newsletter.y

The raffle was drawn and the meeting closed at 9:00pm .

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I source articles from some of the Native Orchid groups around the country. One of these groups is the ANOS Group of Kabi in Queensland who put out their bulletin under the name of "The Kalhari", containing really well written articles of interest. They have website well worth a look... www.ourshopfront.com/kabi

I thought the following article might be of interest.. written by Ross McKinnon, Curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha and it was published in The Kalhari, September 2010..

Seasoning the Soil

By Ross McKinnon

Seaweed possesses almost magical properties for the garden - particularly many Queensland gardens which are struggling on fairly poor soils. All of the Earth's minerals are dissolved in seawater and the agitating action of waves and currents assures seaweed access to all of them.

Seaweed contains at least 60 different elements, including the best known and those needed by terrestrial plants (those growing above the sea): nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), boron, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, sulphur and zinc.

Except for the major elements of nitrogen and potassium, the amount of minor elements in seaweed is quite small but, then again, terrestrial plants need only small amounts of these minor elements.

The benefits of seaweed or the commercial liquid seaweed products go well beyond the supply of nutrients, because seaweed also carries with it bacteria, viruses and fungi. As a defence against these organisms, it is thought that seaweed synthesises an arsenal of chemical compounds, and these in turn can be use by garden plants.

Seaweed also suffers damage from storms and foraging marine animals, yet re-grows rapidly. In fact, some seaweeds are rich in compounds known as plant growth regulators.

Local authorities along the coast don't seem to have a policy on residents helping themselves to seaweed above the high-tide mark. I have friends on Bribie Island who regularly make the seaweed pilgrimage to their nearby beach and find that it is a wonderful additive to the pure sandy soils in which they try to garden.

Please check your own local authority before helping yourself to this wonderful natural resource for your own garden.

If you can't harvest the real stuff, try the liquid seaweed available in bottles. It was introduced to the nursery industry almost 50 years ago and remains a great favourite

My friends apply seaweed fresh from the seashore to their garden beds, usually incorporating lawn clippings, leaves and even shredded newspaper and other mulching substances such as peanut husks, pine bark chips or sawdust.

This mulching mixture can either be dug into the soil or just allowed to remain on the surface as a winter blanket for garden beds.

To answer the obvious question: No, salt will not build up in your garden soil. Indeed, it is absorbed and used because sea salt residue from the seaweed also contains many valuable minerals that are needed by your garden plants.

Seaweed from the beach can also be used to make liquid fertiliser by half-filling a large drum with seaweed and then filling with water.

Allow curing for several weeks during which time cow or horse manure can be added and the brew used as a fertiliser for things like hanging baskets and potted plants.

Liquid seaweed that you make yourself or buy in a bottle can be used to water newly sown seeds. Research shows that liquid seaweed speeds up germination and increases the percentage of seeds that germinate.

I have also found that it appears to have fungus-retarding properties that will suppress damping-off disease of seedlings. Seedlings, as they emerge, have access to valuable liquid seaweed foliage fertiliser with regular applications.

Ross McKinnon is curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha

From "The Kalhari" bulletin in September, 2010.

Bulbophyllum Culture

Bill Thoms

-- Bulbophyllum Culture ©1994-2008 Bill Thoms (dukesthoms@verizon.net 1-813-684-4101)

Bulbophyllums: pronounced bulb-oh-fill-um and called b's in this pamphlet to save space

WATER Most b's take water in very slowly, so it must be available for a longer time. It should be as fresh as possible. Water thoroughly when you water. You can cool the plants by fogging briefly but good air circulation must be maintained. A SHALLOW tray can be used to add water to the plants, either a shallow aluminum tray or a piece of plastic with the edges held up to hold the water.

AIR Good fresh air circulation is the key to providing the best growing area possible. It cools the plants, helps dry off plant surfaces, provides best oxygen/carbon dioxide levels. Fresh air at night is most important.

FOOD Most any food is better than no food, HOWEVER, smaller doses of fresh nitrogen, potassium and trace minerals are better. See Bills Best. Give plants every 7 (seven) days with a mild solution = WEAKLY WEEKLY. Water first to avoid wasting food on ground and use half strength since plants only take a little at a time. Feeding late in the day allows plants to take in a lot more food.

LIGHT Most b's can take fairly high light, providing they don't get hot. See Air and Water. Shady conditions will help the plant absorb water longer, but will reduce flowering. A hand with fingers spread apart moved over the plant about a foot high will show the light level. No shadow; too little light, fuzzy shadow; adequate light, fingers obvious; good light.

HOUSE (WHAT THEY ARE PLANTED IN): I like to use Long-fiber sphagnum moss since it holds a lot of water and won't fall out of the pot if it tips over. If I use another mix, I use a blend of equal parts: Medium Fir Bark, Medium Charcoal, Coarse Spongerok (Perlite) and Medium tree fern/redwood. I rinse and blend the first 3 ingredients and then add the last dry and blend one last time for an even mix. The fir bark is for organic food, the charcoal filters out impurities while holding moisture, the Spongerok holds water and keeps the mix open and the tree fern can keep the mix open and give extra food if it isn't allowed to clump up. I mostly use Styrofoam drainage for large pots and baskets. Otherwise, I use large pieces of fir bark or charcoal. Rocks of many kinds can be added to the mix as well.

POTS Should be shallow because most b's don't have long roots. The Lepidorhiza group can be grown in deeper pots since they are generally much bigger plants. If clay, it's better to use a container for the plastic pot and make sure the salts don't accumulate. If plastic, make sure it drains well.

MOUNTS Tree fern and cypress planks with the bark still on seems to work best overall in Florida, but eventually accumulates salts. Also, many areas have locally available growing platforms of various materials. Any mount place horizontally is better than vertically because it holes water longer. Attach with string, plastic coated wire, pantyhose strips or wire bent to form staples. The important thing is NOT to break the rhizome. Drill holes at the comers to attach 4-way hangers used for vandas.

SICKNESS They get their share, but slugs and snails are bad with higher water amounts. Fix - with Slug Baits (which you can *buy* at the store or make your one with equal parts; molasses, honey, and liquid Seven, which can be pasted on a piece of bark in the pot with the slug) I use Neem Oil for insects. The secret is to mix with the water HOT and to use Palmolive for the soap. For most other insect problems, I always spray when it is "Cool to Spray Chemicals" (when it is COOL). Bacteria (which are wet) can be fixed with cinnamon or Hydrogen Peroxide straight on the plant full strength. Rubbing alcohol is very good for insects if you spray when it won't evap[orate] quickly. For other problems, please refer to the "AOS Book of PESTS and DISEASES."

DISCLAIMER

There are exceptions to everything . If you follow any of these suggestions and don't get the best results,, well, you **must** be the exception. Don't feel bad, think yourself as SPECIAL!!

Benching Results July 2012

Dendrobium Species	nil	
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Avrils Gold 'Ray'	P. Gibson
	Den. Barry 'Oda'	J. English
Sarcanthinae Species	nil	
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	nil	
Bulbophyllum	B. Shepherdii	R. Morrison
	B. schilleriana	R. Morrison
Aust. Species (Other)	nil	
Aust. Hybrid (Other)	Nil	
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Ptst. grandiflorum	G. Knight
	Ptst. Schilleriana	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Evergreen	nil	
Caladenia Species	nil	
Diuris Species	nil	
Terrestrial Hybrid	Ptst. Ruckmann x baptisii 'Janey'	W. & M. Southwell
	Ptst. Nodding Grace	C. Long
Terrestrial Other	Chiloglottis truncate	W. & M. Southwell
	Corybas incurvus	J. English
Australasian Hybrid	nil	
Seedling First Flowering	D. (Vivid x Autumn) x Jazz	G. Steenbeeke
Growing Competition 1 (Dendrobium)	Colin Long	W. & M. Southwell
Growing Competition 2 (Sarcochilus)	M. Warner	I. Lawson

Plant of the night...Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Ray' grown by Peter Gibson.

Editor's Note: I was beginning to have a lot of problems with "Text Boxes" in producing the newsletter..

I hope This layout meets with acceptance..I hope I haven't printed the articles previously!

See you at the meeting....GOOD GROWING