



The Australasian Native Orchid Society

The Warringah Group Inc.

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Facebook: [ANOS - The Warringah Group Inc](https://www.facebook.com/ANOS-The-Warringah-Group-Inc)

CORRESPONDENCE: PO Box 421, Forestville NSW 2087

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 pm - Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville

August 2020



Den. Autumn x Hilda Poxon David Hemmings



Dendrobium speciosum var. *speciosum* 'Bevan'
x var. *capricornicum* 'Big Boy' G & S Russell



Mobilabium hamatum Erik Lielkajis

Next meeting
Tuesday 18th August
Guest Speaker

Erik Lielkajis

Dear Members

Our July meeting was well attended and the Members' Auction was very successful. There was a good selection of orchids for sale and all were sold with most members participating. Thanks to our auctioneer, Bill Dobson and to those members who brought in plants for sale.

It was really good to see all our friends again after such a long time. We thank all members for observing the Covid-19 precautions, to those who set up the hall and to George for making sure that all attendees signed the Contact-Tracing Register.

A big thanks to photographer Jane, recorder Judith and our judges – we all appreciate your professionalism and commitment.

- Our guest speaker at the August meeting will be **Erik Lielkajis** whose talk is titled: **“When the Dust Settles - Cape York 2019”**.

Please bring your plants for benching and.....in response to popular requests we will be continuing our photo-benching for the time being.

We are hoping that our August meeting will go ahead, although with the virus still active in Sydney, there is a chance that we may have to cancel at short notice.

We request that all attendees observe the Covid-19 precautions which are again listed below:

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

There are a number of precautions which must be observed by all attendees at our meetings:

DO NOT COME IF YOU ARE UNWELL or have had recent contact with anyone who has symptoms of cold or flu or from a recognised ‘hotspot’.

- The kitchen is closed – there will be no supper
- There will be no sales table or raffle
- Members to use hand sanitiser on arrival/leaving
- George to record all attendees – contact details to be checked including phone numbers
- Social distancing to be observed at all times
- Please avoid congregating at check-in, benching tables etc.
- Please do not touch plants belonging to other members
- Tables/chairs and other touch points to be wiped down before and after the meeting
- Chairs to be placed at a ‘social distance’ – 1 person/4sq.metres

We would like to see you at our August meeting however we are aware of the risks of Covid-19 and understand that you may not wish to attend. Be assured that we will be taking all appropriate precautions to keep everyone safe and ask for your co-operation in managing the situation. Hand sanitiser, antiseptic wipes, Glen 20, and gloves and some masks will be available for use by members.

Trish Peterson

MONTHLY MEETING OF ANOS WARRINGAH GROUP

21 JULY 2020

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville on Tuesday, 21st July 2020.

The meeting was opened at 8.10pm by Trish Peterson

Guest Speaker: No guest speaker as Members' Auction to be held

Visitors: Lexie, Ros

Apologies: Bryan Spurrs, Richard Blaxland, Barry Moore, Lynne Lane, Mick Korzenowski, Lorraine Dobson, Bill Westwood, John McAuley, Bill & Clover Bradley, Reiner & Judy Schneidereit, Peter Dunstan

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th February 2020, as published in the Bulletin, were accepted as a true record on the motion of Trish seconded by Ela.

Matters arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

Incoming:

- The Orchadian March and June issues.
- Bendigo Bank -Term Deposits-statements and certificate
- Australian Orchid Foundation-various printed notices re membership, seed bank, publications for sale, 2020 essay comp, memorial orchid garden
- Invoice from WIX.com for 2 year subscription for website - \$A304.80.
- Receipt & letter from AOC for donation of \$100 for Murray Corrigan tribute on Memorial Register
- Invoice for affiliation with Orchid Society of NSW - \$62

Moved for acceptance by Bruce seconded by Ela

General Business:

1. Bryan Spurrs has resigned as Secretary for health reasons. Trish commended Bryan for his contribution to the Group in the role of Secretary. Bruce Potter has been appointed to fill the casual vacancy of Secretary.
2. Garry Williams. Trish asked those present to stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of Garry who passed away in June after a long illness. Garry and his wife Harleen were active and valued members of the Group and were both awarded life membership in 2010. The June Bulletin contains a tribute to Garry.
3. Trish noted the Committee's decisions that had been taken, and communicated to members, in the period since the last general meeting in February i.e. suspend general meetings; defer the AGM; cancel members' annual subscriptions for 20/21; cancel the Spring Fair; conduct a photo benching competition; suspend the sales table for the time being and recommence meetings on 21 July with a members' auction and under strict Covid 19 protocols.
4. St Ives Orchid Fair for 2020 has been cancelled.
5. The photo benching competition is to continue for the time being. Trish thanked Bill Dobson and Jane D'Olier for their efforts in managing the photos and asked

members to keep the photos coming.

6. Eric Lielkajis has agreed to be guest speaker at the August meeting.
7. Ian Chalmers, NSW AOC Registrar, spoke about some issues currently being addressed by the Nomenclature Committee about the re-naming of some orchids.
8. Trish asked for expressions of interest from members to mount a display at the Southern Orchid Spectacular planned to be held in October.

Judges' Report: Eric Lielkajis

Plant of the Evening: *Dockrillia* Fiona Louise x *teretifolia* - David Hemmings

Other Plants of Interest:

Dendrobium Cosmic Gold 'Shirley'- David Hemmings

Dendrobium Autumn x *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon- David Hemmings

Members' Auction:

As the kitchen was closed there was no supper.

After an interval Bill Dobson conducted a very successful auction of members' plants.

In closing the meeting Trish thanked Bill and his assistants for their efforts with the auction and wished everyone a safe trip home.

-o0o-



Den. Brimbank Dream David Hemmings



Dendrobium speciosum

As the *Dendrobium speciosum* season starts in earnest I am reminded of meeting a man synonymous with 'Rock Lilies' Ted Gregory.

I first met Ted at an ANOS Central Coast meeting when he came up to me and said, as he shook my hand, "G'day, I'm Ted Gregory and I grow speciosums" I have met him on and off over the years and shortly after he had sold his collection to Cedarvale Orchids I purchased some of his plants.

So here is an article he wrote way back in June 1980 and printed in the Orchadian.

It's always good to go back review and reflect and I have Ted's permission to reprint and distribute the book that he wrote in 1992. If you are interested in a copy then drop me a line.



Ted Gregory

Ted Gregory's Guide to GROWING NATIVE ORCHIDS

Some Thoughts on

Dendrobium speciosum J.E. Smith

by Ted Gregory

One of the first things I discovered on moving to Queensland was that, if I mentioned "speciosum", people would just look at me as if I was showing off my Latin; but say "King Orchid" and everyone gets the message immediately. Many nicknames are rather inappropriate, but if ever an orchid was suited by such a name, surely it must be *Dendrobium speciosum*, for nobody who has seen a cliff face covered by this plant when in full flower would say that it was anything but a king among plants.

For the sheer effect these massed displays on rocks take some beating, but I remember one Cordaroy beech that was host to over seventy adult *D. speciosum*, and countless *D. gracilicaule*, *X gracillimum* and *Sarcochilus falcatus*. This superb tree stood for centuries in the head of a gully only to fall to the chainsaw when the beef boom was at its peak. Now this glorious rainforest is replaced by a tangle of tobacco bush and lantana.

Dendrobium speciosum must be just about the most widespread of any of our Australian native orchids; being found almost the full length of the Great Dividing Range, from well down in Victoria to far northern Queensland. Growing anywhere from the seashore to the top of this range, and in some cases creeping across the top into the inland.



Dendrobium speciosum var *capricornicum* 'Tall Boy' L & B Dobson

At various stages *D. speciosum* was divided into many sub-varieties which have now come to be regarded as just localised forms of the same orchid except for the following: *D. speciosum*, *D. speciosum* var. *hillii*, and the form "compactum" from the Atherton Tableland. I will deal briefly with each form in the order in which I mentioned them.

The standard form of *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* is a very robust plant that will grow into huge masses over the years. I remember years ago in the New South Wales, Illawarra region, seeing whole rock-faces just carpeted with these plants. It is a very slow orchid to mature, I have had seedlings take up to twelve years and more to become adult and flower. On this the type form the canes are very heavily built and normally from twelve to eighteen inches in length, with some over three inches thick at the base, tapering fairly quickly to the top. This form is mainly a rock dweller, although it is not uncommon on trees. Some of the rock-dwelling forms have very curved canes, whereas the epiphytes seem to grow much straighter.

The leaves of this form are very heavy and in a good season they are often over three-eighths of an inch thick when they mature. They are rich green in colour, even in full sun, and have quite a waxy sheen to them. They are normally from six to eight inches long and about half this in width. There are usually four or five of these leaves at the top of each cane, but this can vary from two to eight, depending on the health of the plant.

The flower spikes are produced from eyes at the head of the canes, there usually being an eye between each pair of leaves and two at the apex of each cane. It is one of the marvels of this plant that the same eyes will produce spikes for years. The spikes are normally about a foot long but on some clones will be nearly as long again, and will carry from twenty to sixty flowers. These flowers are heavy textured, starry and generally about an inch and a quarter to an inch and a half wide, though an odd superb clone will nearly double this.

The flowers are normally a rich, creamy yellow with a very potent musky scent. In some areas of the Illawarra and Hawkesbury escarpments this scent could be overpowering on a warm spring evening. Also the Hawkesbury form at times was quite buff-coloured with a very big flower.

This *D. speciosum* is the form that extends from Victoria to about Alum Mountain near Bulahdelah in New South Wales, where this type reaches its full glory. It was never as dense here as further south, but the individual clones were magnificent, with a lot of them having a beautiful deep golden coloured flower.

***D. speciosum* Sm. var. *hillii* (Hook.f.)F.M. Bail.** From here northward *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* appears to take over and completely replace straight *speciosum* for the rest of the length of Australia. var. *hillii* is generally a more lanky grower, with canes that will

grow to well over a metre in length, with leaves that are more slender; in fact the plants are more slender all over. Even though the plant is quite different, I find that the biggest difference is in the flowers themselves. The racemes are up to two feet in length at times with just a mass of flowers on them, up to almost two hundred at times. These flowers are quite often not much more than half the size of straight *speciosum*.

Colour-wise, there appears to be more variation in var. *hillii* too, with a range from pure white to light cream and a deep gold thrown in. Pure whites were fairly rare in straight *speciosum* but are quite common in var. *hillii*.

I guess it is just nature at work and the different terrain, for as we move north we go out of the sandstone country into more of a rainforest environment. Hence we find our "rocklily" growing more on the trees and less on the rocks. Another feature of var. *hillii* is its habit of throwing up masses of roots vertically into the air. I guess this has to do with the more humid environment in which var. *hillii* normally grows. Straight *speciosum* may do this in the wild, but I have not been fortunate enough to see it to any great extent, although it will do it at times in the bushhouse, particularly if the plant happens to be in a compost that is a bit on the wet side.

Another observation is that in my experience all forms of *D. speciosum* will send up a tremendous amount of new growth one season and then flower rather poorly the following; yet the next season will be exactly the opposite, with only a few growths and a million flowers. In my years with orchid shows in the Manning/Hastings area this has been really noticeable: that they absolutely dominate the show one-year and then become quite scarce the following year. I hope other Orchadians will come forward and comment on things like this, as no one in one lifetime has much chance of covering any orchid completely; especially one with the range of *D. speciosum*.

***D. speciosum*, "compactum" form.** And last but not least of the forms I mentioned in the beginning is the variety "compactum" from the Atherton Tableland area of Queensland. This type is extremely interesting, both in habit of growth and form of flower. Some clones of this form have canes up to one foot long, which is more or less standard *speciosum* size, but the canes are slightly different in shape, being more bottle-shaped than var. *speciosum* or var. *hillii* which seem to taper fairly evenly from base to leaf.

At the other end of the scale are clones that have canes of no more than three inches in length, looking rather like patches of potatoes with leaves on, or, if you are lucky, flowers as well.

The leaves of this form are also different, being more or less oval, with the size in keeping with the rest of the plant.

However, it is the flower of “compactum” that interests me more than any other aspect of this type. The racemes on some forms are very long, up to two feet, which looks incredible on a plant that is so compact in every other regard. Whereas other forms of *D. speciosum* carry flowers on the full length of the spike, this type only has flowers on the outer half of the spike. Also the flowers are much rounder in the segments than the average straight speciosum of my experience, and these flowers also seem to open much flatter. The size is considerably smaller than the flower of the southern speciosum, running at a little over an inch on the plants that I grow.

The colour range is more or less average for *speciosum* from deep cream to the purest white, in fact I have one clone that is absolutely white, or “concolor”, as they say in the cymbidium world.

Breeding and the “red factor”. We have started to do a bit of breeding with these “compactums” in the hope of finding that fabled red factor that we hear of now and again but have never been able to pin-point. My biggest problem was in acquiring enough clones to make comparisons worthwhile as one cannot make comparisons on one or two clones. However, we now have about twenty different clones going and hope to learn a lot from them over the next few years.

I have quite a few crosses of these “compactums” going just out of curiosity; just with *D. kingianum*, seeing if we can trace the strength of the red factor. One of the strangest things to show so far in the seedlings is the fact that seedlings of the pure white, which I mentioned above, were a striking red colour before they even left the bottles. Whether this means anything or not I guess we must wait and see, but the colour in those seedlings surely is interesting. The seedlings of a cream “compactum” used with the same *D. kingianum* show virtually no colour at all in the plants themselves. If one of these clones does carry a red factor, perhaps one of these days we will see that pure *D. X delicatum* that has eluded me for quite some time now.

D. speciosum is such a huge grower and free flowerer that I think we must see great advances in hybridising with it over the rest of this century. The great pity is that it seems to impart its initial slowness of growth to most its progeny. But it also imparts vigour, and once its crosses approach maturity, they really move.

Personally, I think that in these hybrids will be our commercial flower, except of course for the *D. bigibbum* hybrids which have been famous for years. Perhaps one of these days someone will cross *D. speciosum* and *D. bigibbum*, and just imagine the result! The vigour of speciosum and the flowers of *D. bigibbum*! Enough make any orchid grower's mind boggle. But this is not as far fetched as it may seem to anyone who has seen the results of *D. speciosum* x *D. Hastings* or *D. speciosum* x *D. fleckeri*, to mention a couple that come to mind as I write this.

Vandalism. One of the tragedies of orchids in this country is the fact that the big and showy ones have been more or less wiped out by vandals in certain areas of our best bushland. I know of areas where *D. kingianum* and “rocklillies” grew together in profusion when I was a youngster, and as a result *D. X delicatum* was not uncommon. But people have wiped out the *D. speciosum* in some of these areas, so there goes all chance of ever finding *D. X delicatum* in those parts again. Hopefully one of these days we will be able to restore the *D. speciosum* in these areas and be able to sit back and let nature do her own thing once again. Even though we can never replace the rainforests and big scrubs, I can see no reason why we cannot set aside areas of escarpment country and restock it to its former glory. Just imagine a gorge of the Hawkesbury in the glory it had fifty years ago! Perhaps one day we will have human beings without itchy fingers.

Culture. I must take my hat off to *D. speciosum*, as it must surely be one of the toughest orchids known to mankind to kill, as I have seen it survive where no other plant would have a chance. To grow it in captivity and do it justice requires a bit of common sense, just as any other plant does. The main thing is the same as with all Australian dendrobiums, and that is perfect drainage. Any mixture that will give this and not break down quickly will do well. *D. speciosum* is so tough that it will grow in almost anything, but I still like that terracotta pot, if possible. If sandstone is obtainable, lumps of this in a container will suffice; in fact I saw a show won by a plant that had just been jammed into an empty terracotta pot. In case the judges' ears pricked, it had been jammed in two years before!

D. speciosum will also grow extremely well strapped to a tree or stump or just set on rocks in the backyard. In fact it will often do best in these situations as it loves strong light, and in full sun it seldom has the fungus problems that it can have when grown in a shadehouse.

But I do wish that the people who grow them on trees or in their yards would make some effort to control the dendrobium beetle on them. I do think that these people are one of the reasons why the beetle has got to be such a problem at the moment. Talking of the beetle reminds me of Lansdowne Press's superb reproduction of R.D. FitzGerald's works: When my young son was looking through them he thought the illustration of *D. speciosum* with the beetle on it was fabulous. And, just quietly, so did his dad! I am a bit of a romancer, and just to touch these volumes, and to see and smell them, is to step back into a golden age. Makes me wonder just how much are we missing in this modern age when pride of workmanship is a dirty word and we are all controlled by the square box. This may sound a bit of a rash statement but it will be interesting to see how the human race is doing at the end of this century, as well as our orchids.

Another thought that comes to mind concerning *D. speciosum* is the huge amount of seedpods that I have seen on it in some seasons and then one will go for years

and hardly see a pod in the wild. Is this due to a shortage of pollinators or does it need an optimum season before *D. speciosum* will carry pods to maturity?

We all know that the dendrobium beetle plays havoc with the pods of all cool dendrobiums, so I guess this little beastie may also be a pollinator as well. Mother Nature has used this system before as one of her ways of making sure that any one type of plant does not become too dominant and choke out some of its weaker relatives.

Natural and Man-made Hybrids. *D. speciosum* has had quite an influence on our native orchid scene: firstly in the wild with its two beautiful natural hybrids, *D. X gracillimum* and *D. X delicatum*. Both of these were not uncommon in areas where both parents were reasonably common.

To my knowledge, *D. X delicatum* was naturally made with both *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* and *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* as one parent, and this is fairly easily seen in the cane length and shape of most clones. This is also borne out in the manmade crosses of this type.

With *D. X gracillimum* however, to my knowledge only var. *hillii* has been a natural parent, and this is easily seen in the natural crosses that I have seen when they are compared with the man-made hybrids using *D. speciosum*. The “man-mades” are much stouter in the canes, and the leaves are also thicker and waxier.

I guess the aim in using *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* in the manmade cross was to obtain a larger flower on a more compact plant. This worked on the plant side, but not so well on the flower end of the business, with most of the “manmades” being inferior in flower size and spike habit as well. Quite a few growers now have *D. X gracillimum* with var. *hillii* as one parent and it would be interesting to see how they turn out, and it should make the difference between the parents more clearly known. To make matters more complicated, we have a batch of seedlings here of the “selfing” of a natural *D. X gracillimum* that seems contented to stay like a baby *speciosum*, staying very short and fat just like pure *speciosums*. Perhaps they will make up their minds one-day, but it will be worth watching just to see what happens to them.

As a final thought, these selfings should help to prove one of my old arguments as to whether this cross has selfed quite frequently in the wild, as these *D. X gracillimums* were once common in some areas, with some areas having types that were very much alike.

D. speciosum has had a big influence on our hybridising as is commonly known these days; to the extent that I will not dwell on this at the moment, but will close with the hope that more and different crosses will be made in the future with this King of our cool growing *Dendrobiums*.

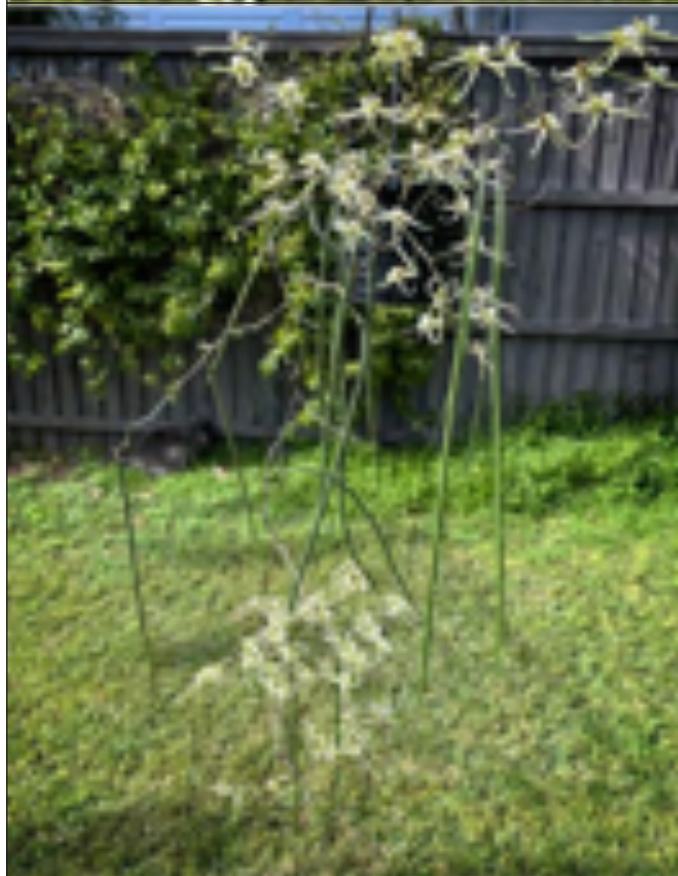




Sarcophilus falcatus L & B Dobson



Sarcophilus falcatus L & B Dobson



Dockrillia teretifolia L & B Dobson



Den. Australian Botanic Sparkler 'Little Kim'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Botanic Sparkler 'Little Kim'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Botanic Sparkler 'Little Kim'
David Hemmings



Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Cream'
David Hemmings



Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Lemonade'
David Hemmings



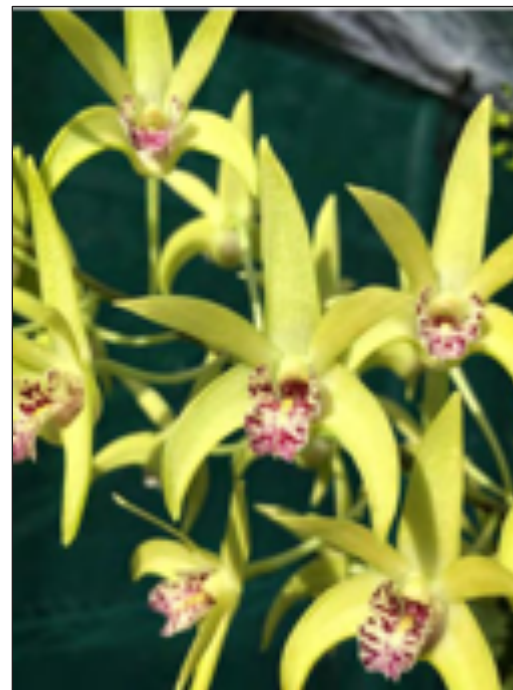
Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Lemonade'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Botanic Sparkler 'Little Kim'
David Hemmings



Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Cream'
David Hemmings



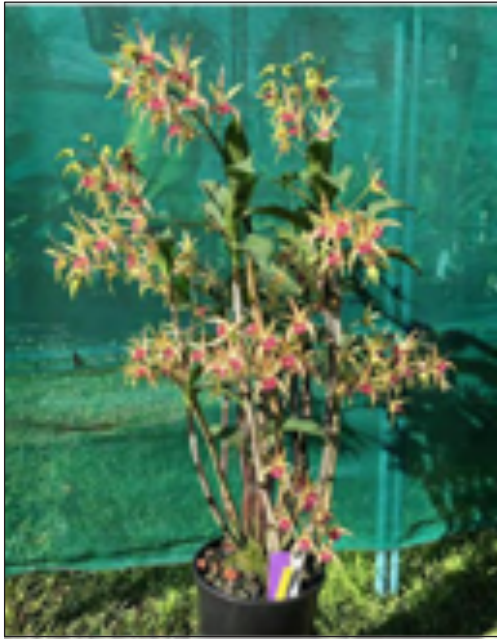
Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Lemonade'
David Hemmings



Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Lemonade'
David Hemmings



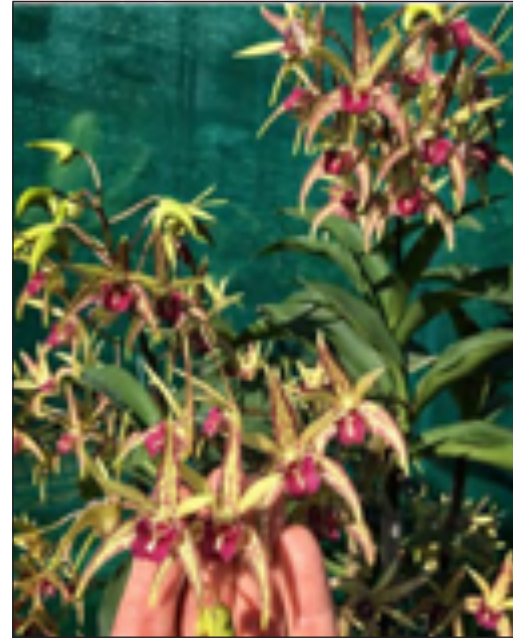
Den. Balnaring 'Strawberry's' & 'Lemonade'
David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'
David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'
David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'
David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Freckles David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'
David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen 'Botanic Fireworks'
David Hemmings



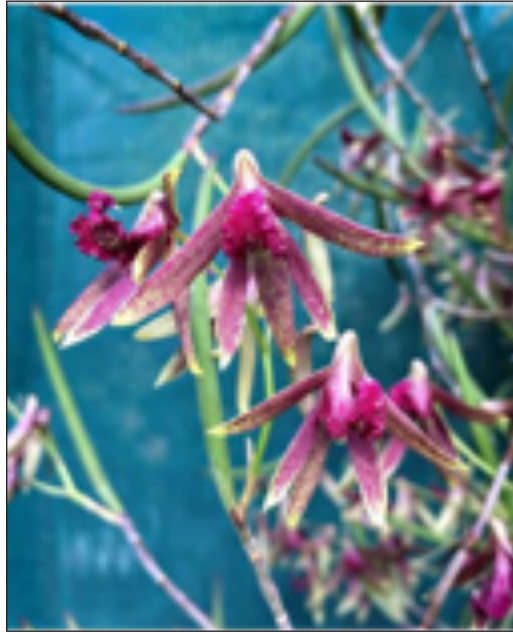
Doc. Australian Freckles David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Freckles David Hemmings



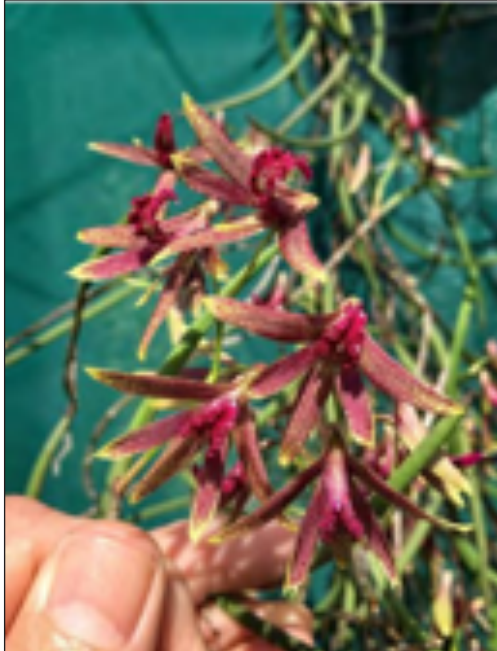
Doc. Australian Ginger x (Tweetas x Fiona Louise)
David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Ginger x (Tweetas x Fiona Louise)
David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Ginger x (Tweetas x Fiona Louise) David Hemmings



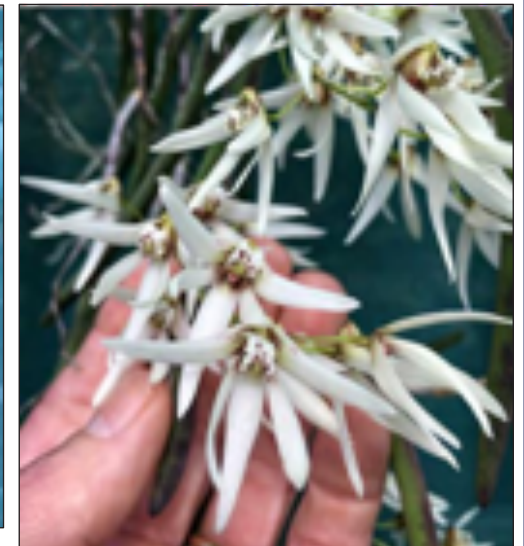
Doc. Australian Freckles David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Freckles David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Ginger x (Tweetas x Fiona Louise)
David Hemmings



Doc. Goosebumps David Hemmings

Sarcochilus falcatus

Gerry Walsh has written in depth about this species in his inimitable style below I won't go on at length here, just saying that I agree with him when he says that *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Sarcochilus falcatus* are my two Aussie favourites.

To see them in the wild flowering on the Tablelands in North Qld in mid to Late July is such a special treat then moving down the East coast of Australia until the flowering ceases in late October. Editor.

"Each one of us has our favourite native orchid. Of the 58 or so epiphytic species that grow in the NSW bush, 55 of them are among my favourites. Of these, two of them must rank as equal favourites on my overall list. One is *Dendrobium speciosum* and the other is *Sarcochilus falcatus*. Common name: The Orange Blossom Orchid.

You wouldn't have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out after a walk through my bush house, for these two species dominate all the others combined. They are the only two that I make annual pilgrimages into the wilds with the sole purpose of seeing them in bloom. But mostly it's just for the sheer tonic of being out with them when they are at their best.

Can it be mere coincidence that these two species share almost identical distributions in eastern Australia? They have the widest distributions in their respective genera. That distribution extends from the Mt Windsor Tableland near Cooktown (north Qld) all the way down to extreme north eastern Victoria. In the case of *S. falcatus*, it only just scrapes over the NSW border into Victoria by less than ten kilometres. And just for the record, *D. speciosum* only manages to sneak another 40 kms or so south anyway. Over that whole range, they each can be found from sea level to over 1100 metres above the sea.

This- huge range of latitude and altitude points to a good deal of variation within these two species. And variability equates, to me at least, as "interesting". *D. speciosum* has at least nine recognised forms and *S. falcatus* has at least three recognised forms, maybe even more for many of us hard-core observers. Once again, north Qld seems to support a couple of suspicious forms, most notably one that seems to prefer a harsher climate to the mainstream. It often grows on rocks and *Casuarina* species. It is a small form and doesn't often have more than three flowers that tend to be quite thin in the segments and claw shaped.

Over the range of *S. falcatus* there are tremendous differences in flower colour, size, and shape, number of flowers and flowering period, as well as at least three distinct perfume types. As I sit here I am trying to think of another species that is so variable. In virtually all the major categories, and apart from *D. kingianum* and *D. tetragonum*, I can't come up with one other that is equally as flexible in form.

S. falcatus can be found in many environments but always there will be a good deal of moisture/humidity in the locale. It is not an orchid that strays far away from the protection of shade and humidity, and high air movement is something that can make or break this species. Rainforest, deep in gullies or high on ridge tops, is its favourite



Sarcochilus falcatus

haunt. *S. falcatus* doesn't often stray more than a few metres from the rainforest edge. Rainforest takes many forms of course, and I use that term loosely to indicate any area having 'brush' or 'scrub' type trees. Such species as Sassafras, Coachwood, Lilly Pilly, Black Wattle, Myrtle, Fig, Cedar, Antarctic Beech, Stinging Tree. The list is nearly endless. These species are often found lining even small gullies and sometimes only a few of them in a clump is enough to induce *S. falcatus* to move in and set up home sweet home. I have also seen it growing happily on ancient old Monterey Pines, alias to us as Radiata Pine, the most planted introduced pine timber species in Australia.

With a species having the extreme distribution of *S. falcatus* there are always going to be exceptions to rules. There are some areas, particularly in NSW, where *S. falcatus* commonly occurs on River Oaks lining creeks and rivers. The best example of this I know of is around the foothills of the Barrington Tops of central NSW. Also, you will have no trouble finding plenty of specimens in the highest Antarctic Beech forests, well over 1000 metres up. And you can find it nearly anywhere in between.

Regions having volcanic origins are particularly attractive to *S. falcatus*. The great red soil regions such as parts of the Illawarra, Barrington Tops, Comboyne, Dorrigo, etc in NSW, and up to the Sunshine coast Hinterland in Qld are real strongholds for *S. falcatus*. But you are likely to come across plants on nearly any type of geological foundation – with the exception of sandstone. In this regard I particularly refer to the vast Hawkesbury sandstone regions that surround Sydney.

There is a lot of very suitable territory in the sandstone regions but very little *S.*

falcatus unless you are on one of the volcanic outcrops such as The Mount Wilson Range in the Blue Mts and some of the high peaks in the Wattagans near Wyong. In the Blue Mts there are some spots where large tracts of Coachwood can be found in gullies away from the volcanic outcrops and some of these have good numbers of *S. falcatus* in them. These are exceptions I stress.

I have never personally observed *S. falcatus* in the Royal National Park south of Sydney. There is some very likely looking country in 'The Park' where you'd nearly bet your house on finding a plant or two. But this area is virtually all sandstone in origin and the lack of a volcanic connection is definitely the reason there is none, or very few plants, to be found. There is a big variation in habitats in the Park, and I would certainly not be surprised to learn it was present – especially around spots that boast some large specimens of Red Cedar. A bit further south there are fairly good numbers of *S. falcatus* to be seen in the almost identical habitat of the Minnamurra region. The big difference with Minnamurra is the volcanic connection with the Robertson Plateau up above where the Minnamurra River is born.

North of the Hunter River, the big sandstone areas disappear and the occurrence of *S. falcatus* increases. In the far north of its range, around the Atherton Tableland in north Qld, *S. falcatus* is confined to the highest peaks of the Great Divide. During a visit in June 1994, I found only small specimens here and there. I was initially disappointed at not finding my favourite species. Finally, at a spot beside a minor arterial road, I was relieved to see some very large clumps in a grove of huge spreading trees – species unknown. Its buds were just starting to split open in June and from a horticultural point of view they were superb forms of *S. falcatus*, having well filled-in, large and shapely blooms with up to a ten on some of the longer racemes.

I have seen *S. falcatus* climb down from the trees and walk upright on land ... well, I've seen it abandon its arboreal lifestyle and colonise rock face at least. This is not a common thing for *S. falcatus* to do but small colonies of stone dwellers exist in Kangaroo Valley, at Pincher Mountain (near Dungog), Kroombit Tops (near Gladstone) and the Atherton Tableland as mentioned previously. These are examples of small colonies but lone plants occasionally turn up on rock anywhere *S. falcatus* occurs.

On my way to Ken Russell's Open Day at Dungog one time, I got my wires crossed and told my dear wife the wrong date – unintentionally of course. I ended up leaving home three days early so spent the extra time out in the bush. In granite country near Tamworth, at an altitude of 1197 metres, and on the western side of the Great Divide in occasional snow fall territory, I decided to pull over for a break. I was stunned to find a single plant of *S. falcatus* growing in thick moss on a small cliff. It even had a seed pod on it. One hour of searching failed to turn up a single plant of any other epiphytic orchid. Talk about a harsh environment for *S. falcatus*.

One place where you won't see *S. falcatus* grow is on tire outer twigs of host trees, which is exactly where most other Sarcanthinae epiphytes seem to make a bee-line for. I have rarely seen it grow on branches thinner than about garden hose thickness, but even this dimension is rare. There is no doubt that *S. falcatus* will choose limbs of arm thickness or thicker nearly all the time. It really does prefer the major limbs and the main trunk of its host.

One thing that you can't avoid doing when bashing out all article on *S. falcatus* is taking up a lot more space than you would with other less variable species. What can I leave out? Nothing! It has to all go in. So I'm just going to skip through with a few guidelines on what you can expect as normal and what is exceptional, but possible, with this species.

- * Average plants have between four and eight leaves. Exceptional plants can have 20 or more.

- * Average plants are about eight to fourteen cms across. I have seen a single lead plant that was just on 30 cms (a foot) across.

- * Some plants will send out side growths (keiki) with age and form clumps with several leading growths and many smaller ones. I have seen one-plant clumps that would not fit in a bucket.

- * Average flower count per raceme is about five to eight blooms. I have seen up to thirteen flowers on a raceme but if you can grow your plant with ten or more you're doing really well.

- * Most average size, single lead plants will have two or three racemes. A plant I took to the Adelaide Conference in 1996 displayed thirteen racemes on the single lead.

- * Average flower size is quite variable but up to an inch is fairly typical. I have seen rare plants with 50 mm wide blooms. Some poor forms have stunted blooms of only 12-13 mms.

No discussion on *S. falcatus* would be complete without mentioning the three main forms of the species. The first is what I refer to as the normal or type form which can be found from near Cooktown to Victoria, and from sea level to over 1100 metres. This is the form that most growers are completely familiar with, and which is found in 99% of the bush houses of Australia. It needs no further introduction.

There is another form that has a much narrower distribution and only occurs at altitudes above 600 metres. That is what growers refer to as the purple-chin form of *S. falcatus*. A glance at the accompanying photos will reveal this form far more clearly than words. This form frequently has an intense perfume identical to vanilla essence. But the normal form can have the same perfume so this is not 100 per cent reliable.

It has heavily pigmented purple striations on the mid-lobe of the labellum. These striations can appear as solid colouring on some plants. Also, the side lobes are often all intense mustard yellow, far stronger than the light yellow of the normal type form. It should be remembered that this heavy purple striations on the labellum is far more dominating than the little bit of purple colouring that is not uncommon on the normal type form.

This intense purple and mustard combination is absolutely striking, especially for people viewing it for the first time. I used to think that this form was pretty well known by all growers because I frequently ran into it in my travels. But this is not the case and I'm constantly mystified when others express such surprise at seeing it for the first time. The purple chin form is, in my experience at least, only found in NSW, and only from the Barrington Tops north to the Dorrigo Plateau. I have been told it occurs in the Washpool Rainforest just north of Dorrigo. I've never been to the Washpool area myself . . . and that's a situation I won't tolerate! Sounds like a trip coming up!

That brings us to that other well-known form of *S. falcatus* that most enthusiasts simply refer to as the 'big white form'. Once again, a glance at the accompanying photos will explain this form easily, and I won't grow calluses on my fingertips by flogging this keyboard all night. It is very different to other forms and I am constantly amazed that it hasn't been given species status as yet. It is so different in nearly every respect.

Flowers on average are much larger and they have their own distinctive colour scheme of basically just white and pale yellow. The only purple present is a faint blush on the keel of the mid-ridge on the reverse of the segments. Its perfume is not even vaguely similar to the type form and can best be described as similar to a fresh cut potato, only much stronger. Plants are very often larger than the type variety and generally have much more sickle, or falcate, shaped leaves.

On mature plants the racemes are often much longer than in the type form. The flowers open up at least a month or six weeks later, despite the fact that it often grows in the same habitat as the type form. I have a photo taken in tire Barrington Tops in November 1993. It shows a big white form plant with just opening blooms, and only 50 cms away from a type form plant just finishing. They are both on the same limb. I am convinced that this is conclusive evidence of the two being different species and not merely forms of the same species. Across the extensive area of this quiet large colony, the type form plants were nearly all finished flowering. But the numerous big whites interspersed among them were only just starting to open up. Yet they all shared identical habitat and environmental conditions. If that doesn't demonstrate two separate species, probably attracting different pollinators because of their distinct perfumes, then I'm the uncle of a monkey.

The big white form is distributed from Mt Wilson (Hawkesbury River) and the Wattagans (Wyong) north to vicinity of the town of Crows Nest, just north of Toowoomba, Qld. I suspect that it may be found in other districts of southern Qld. Rainforest country at mid altitudes is certainly its preferred habitat. In the Barrington Tops it also grows on the limbs of giant River Oaks, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*.

Way back in the 1880s, Fitzgerald came up with varietal status for one form of *S. falcatus* which he published as variety *montanus*. That handle fell out of favour for some reason or other. For a long time, most growers have been confused over just what form of *S. falcatus* var. *montanus* actually represents. Several enthusiasts, including myself, have always thought that it was the big white form. Believe it or not, none of the standard text books of the past 50 years have indicated just what var. *montanus* looks like. The main authors, notably Rupp, Dockrill and Jones, were probably as hazy as the rest of us.

In Australian Orchid Research, 1989, Mark Clements was unable to locate a herbarium specimen of var. *montanus* and so designated Fitzgerald's painting of it as the lectotype. I don't own one of the rare volumes of Fitzgerald's work because they're worth a trillion dollars. But it clearly shows that var. *montanus* is actually representative of the purple chin form and not the big white one.

His brief description states that var. *montanus* was known from Mt Wilson and Mt Tomah (Blue Mts} north to Mt Banda Banda and the head of the Bellinger River (Dorrigo). I



Sarcochilus niveus

have great difficulty accepting that the true purple chin form has ever been found in the Blue Mts. The normal type form of *S. falcatus* occasionally shows some slight purple striation on the labellum chin and I suspect that this is what Fitzgerald was referring to at Mts Wilson and Tomah.

Finally, a word about unusual colour forms of *S. falcatus*. Over the years, very rare plants have turned up that have a light, shell pink colour where they would normally be white. I doubt this is genetically fixed in most instances because some of these pinks have reverted to white in following years. Perhaps this is the reason why we occasionally hear of someone in Timbuktu finding a pink. But then something always happens to them . . . we never seem to hear about these clones again.

I believe I've broken this vanishing act with a specimen I collected up at Kroombit Tops in Sept 1992. I had picked up a hoop pine branch having a large clump of *Plectorrhiza tridentata* with one small seedling of *S. falcatus* tangled up in it. I took this home with me and I must confess that I was interested in the *Plectorrhiza*, not the *S. falcatus*. So I mounted up the bundle without separating them.

I could scarcely believe it when that little orange blossom orchid flowered for the first time, a month later, as a light pink. And it did so every year until it died some decade later. The only discernible difference with the plant itself is that there is a considerable amount of claret coloured speckling on the underside of each new leaf. This speckling fades away as the leaf matures. I have heard reports of apricot coloured *S. falcatus* as well but have not seen them myself. Perhaps someone will be gracious enough to fill us all in on this colour.

Because of it being a very common orchid in Australian bush houses, you will hear of more techniques for growing *S. falcatus* than you'll hear excuses for not taking on committee positions in orchid societies. I've been growing this species for over forty years now and I've changed my ideas on its cultivation several times. Some of those changes have been complete about-turns.

The thing that has come out of all this backtracking is that most of the variables I have tested seem to have been successful to some degree. *S. falcatus* is a fairly hardy orchid and it will withstand a goodly amount of inappropriate treatment. But it should be remembered that it is a *Sarcochilus* species, and as such, it could decide to toss it in at any stage due to SSDS. This stands for *Sudden Sarc Death Syndrome* and it's a condition that very few members of the Sarcanthinae are immune to.

One day it's alive and well and by the next it's playing a harp in heaven. Even so – I still think of it as the longest living species within its genus. I reckon I've come up with the best possible practices to suit the conditions I have been dealt with regards to my bush house. Your own conditions might be different to mine.

I grow *S. falcatus* on cork these days. Either virgin Portuguese or that Second-Cut Portuguese. Use a piece around 400 mm long minimum but no wider than about 75mm. Nothing looks as awkward as an *S. falcatus* plant on a small square mount . . . correction: there is one thing . . . and that's a *S. falcatus* imprisoned in a pot. I don't care whether it grows all right or not – it looks ridiculous and ugly – on a par with Volkswagens painted 'burnt orange' or lime green business shirts.

Also very good are Ironbark totems like the ones you buy at the nursery for your indoor plants. These will break down in seven or eight years which is not a bad life span I suppose. I've gone off strips of hardwood timber and old fence palings. They eventually rot or get the usual borer in them. But they are cheap and readily available. I have seen *S. falcatus* grow really well when tied to a sock of plastic 'Gutterguard' filled up with coconut fibre. It just doesn't look natural to my eyes but good results are certainly to be had.

The next thing' you have to decide is whether to moss or not to moss. I don't mean sphagnum moss, but I refer to that long green epiphytic moss that grows in damp gullies and ridge tops where you'll often find *S. falcatus* growing naturally. This aspect

of *S. falcatus* culture is the one I've changed my mind about more times than anything else. I used it extensively and thickly years ago. It certainly aids in the establishment of roots and ensures humidity during long hot summers.

If used too thickly it breaks down and attracts unwanted grubs, springtails and even slaters after a while. A few years ago I decided to go without any moss whatsoever. And still the *S. falcatus* grew reasonably well, but not to my entire satisfaction. These days I've settled for something in between feast and famine. I put just a few strands of this moss behind the oldest leaf and wrap it around the rhizome a couple of times and leave any excess hang. It is not tied on at all.

This frugal application of moss seems to suit my watering and bush house practices pretty well and I recommend it. Young roots will appreciate that little bit of pampering in the very early stages. If you live where you can't get a supply of this moss (scientific name unknown) I guess you'll need to try some other sort of moss or a whole different system of cultivation.

Watering is something that I've experimented with frequently with *S. falcatus*. For many years I tried growing them slightly dry with the hope of keeping the dreaded crown rot at bay. Then I learnt that crown rot seemed to effect a percentage of my plants regardless of how I watered. These days I give them what I call an average amount of water and am now of the opinion that it would be difficult to over water this species. Certainly in hot weather I tend to give them more water than most other species. Alternatively, in winter, hand watering is almost dispensed with because natural rainfall reaches the plants.

S. falcatus will accept a fair amount of shade and still put in a big flowering effort. But I suggest that if you don't get frosts in your area then you should give them at least 50%. Because I get heaps of frost here in western Sydney, with temperatures down to -4 C occasionally, and lesser minuses being common place, my plants have to live under 70%.

Humidity is important with *S. falcatus* but it can be hard to provide. My bush house floor is covered with crushed gravel to a depth of 150 mms on average and this never dries out. Because there is 52 tonne of this wet gravel on the ground my humidity level is always satisfactory. On really hot days in Summer I have been known to hang a few of my pet plants up in full shade and only inches above this humid flooring. It must help these plants tolerate the heat and certainly makes me feel better knowing I've done all I can to help them. There really isn't much else I can do short of giving them each a can of beer.

There is no doubt in my mind that *S. falcatus* likes a good feed of fertiliser – and on a regular basis. Sure, your plants will look OK to you and they'll flower every year even if you don't fertilise. But you should be aiming to get the very best out of them. *S. falcatus* is a species that can look staggeringly more attractive if one plant has longer racemes and bigger flowers than the also-rans beside it at the spring show. With some species it doesn't seem to matter whether you fertilise or not . . . they don't really look any different for all the feeding. But definitely not *S. falcatus* – it is within your power to make a difference.

Besides SSDS and/or crown rot, which seems to affect the odd plant whatever you

do, *S. falcatus* isn't particularly pre-disposed to any other specific problem. However, sometimes a plant that's been growing along great guns for years will suddenly stop growing roots. Gradually the older roots lose their grip and the plant will hang on to the mount with less and less conviction as each root fails, eventually falling to the ground. It doesn't seem to matter what you do ... the condition persists. The plant will still keep flowering all this time.

I don't know what causes this loss of vigour. I have resurrected the odd worthwhile plant by removing it before it gets too close to the cemetery gates and soaking it in a sugar and hormone solution for a few days. Then I've put them in a small pot of loose sphagnum moss, which is then put in a plastic bag for a few weeks. Eventually, some new root may start anew. After a few months it will be ready for planting out again – but this doesn't always work.

Right at the end of this spoof it has occurred to me that I haven't said a word about the common name for *S. falcatus*. Every one of you would know that its common name is "Orange Blossom Orchid". And what an apt name this is. The flower colour is that same stylish white as the citrus flowers. As well, the heavy perfume of *S. falcatus* creates an association with orange trees in bloom, even if it isn't exactly the same scent.

I suppose I could keep bringing up little snippets about *S. falcatus* until the cows come home – because, as I said at the beginning, this is species exhibiting great variation over a huge range of latitude and elevation. But I think you must be in the picture by now. So I'll put away the quill with a final recommendation that you look more closely at this beautiful native orchid. Try a little harder to feed it regularly and if your plants look a bit down on their luck, don't be afraid of experimenting with them.

As I've pointed out . . . *S. falcatus* is about as user friendly as a *Sarcochilus* can get. If they aren't growing the way you'd like them too, then remember – it's probably your fault."

<https://therocklilyman.com/other-species/sarcochilus/sarcochilus-falcatus/>

Gerry Walsh



Dockrillia teretifolia 'Smiths Lake' David Hemmings



Doc. Fiona Louise x teretifolia David Hemmings



Doc. Fiona Louise x teretifolia David Hemmings



Dockrillia teretifolia 'Smiths Lake' David Hemmings



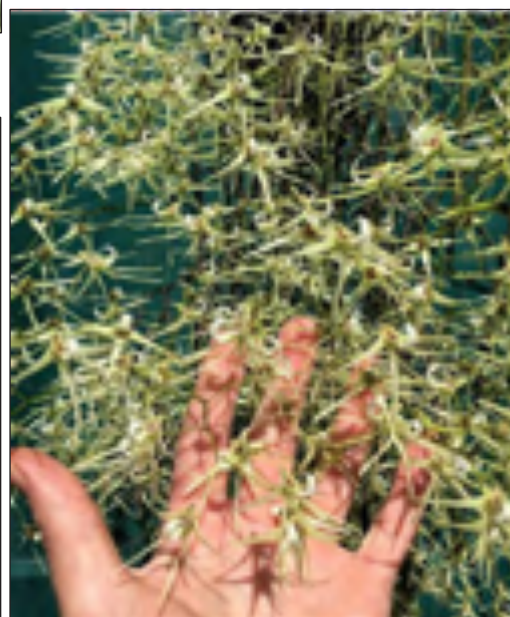
Dockrillia teretifolia 'Denistone Cloud'
David Hemmings



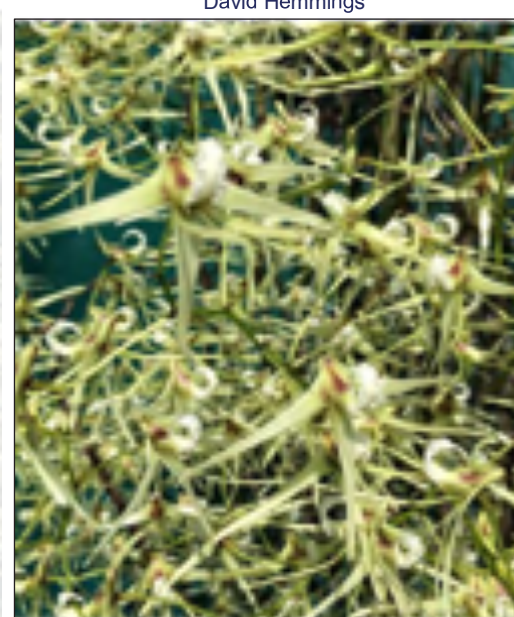
Den. Australian McBride x Lawrose
David Hemmings



Den. Australian McBride x Lawrose
David Hemmings



Dockrillia teretifolia 'Denistone Cloud'
David Hemmings



Dockrillia teretifolia 'Denistone Cloud'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Colourfest x Regal Hilda
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Colourfest x Regal Hilda
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Colourfest x Regal Hilda
David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Uluru David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Dream David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Sandstorm David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Sandstorm David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Ginger L & B Dobson



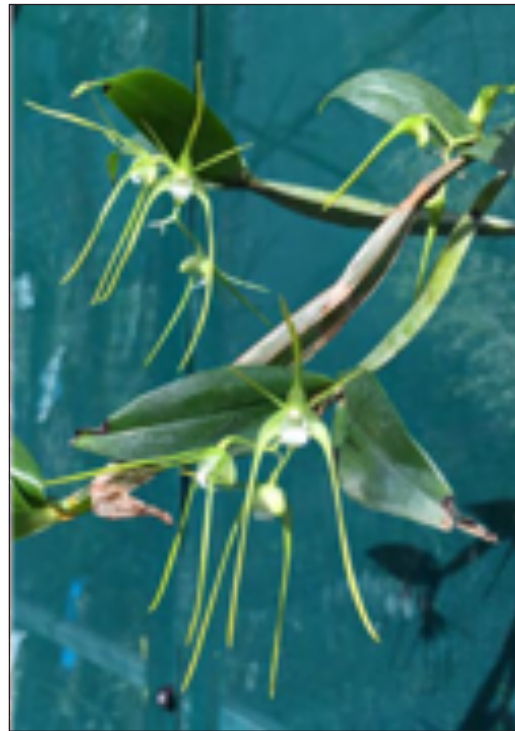
Den. Brimbank Sandstorm David Hemmings



Doc. Australian Ginger L & B Dobson



Dendrobium aemulum L & B Dobson



Dendrobium cacatua David Hemmings



Dendrobium cacatua David Hemmings



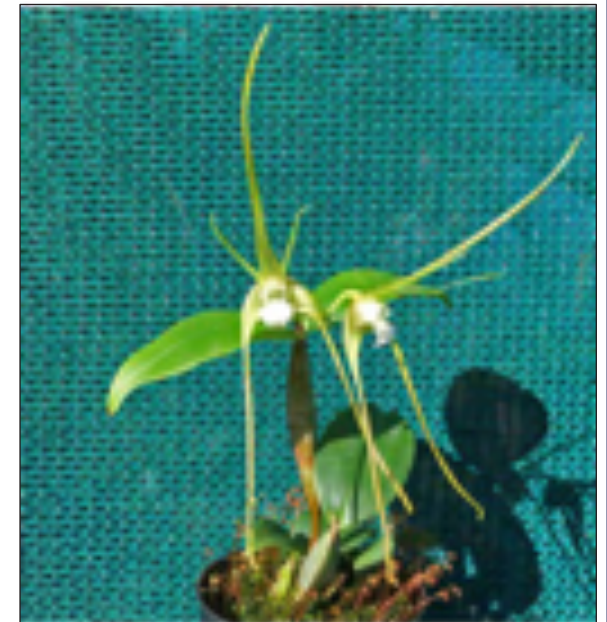
Dendrobium cacatua David Hemmings

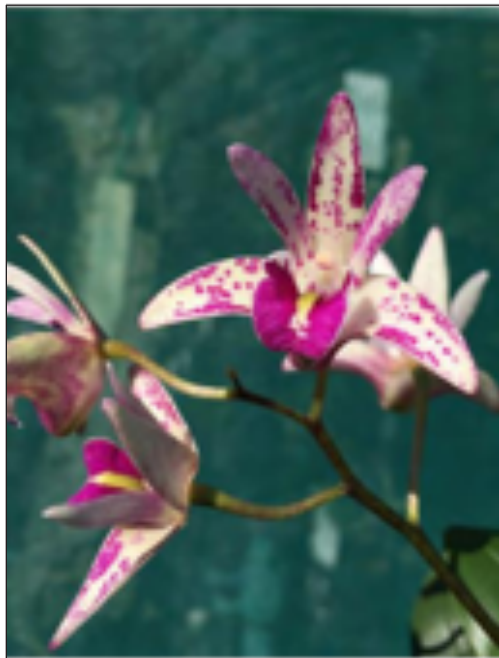


Dendrobium cacatua David Hemmings



Dendrobium cacatua David Hemmings





Dendrobium Tyabb Treasure
x Australian Rhubarb Pie David Hemmings



Dendrobium Glenstar Robbie
x Rutherford Starburst David Hemmings



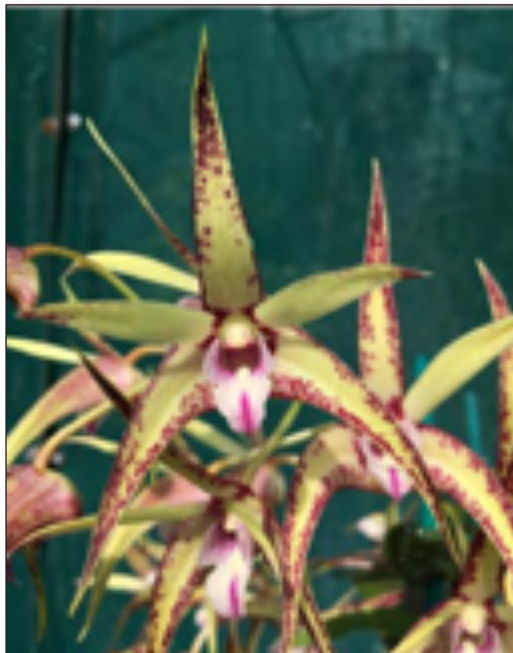
Dendrobium Long Than x Cosmic Gold
David Hemmings



Dendrobium tetragonum David Hemmings



Dendrobium Glenstar Robbie
x Rutherford Starburst David Hemmings



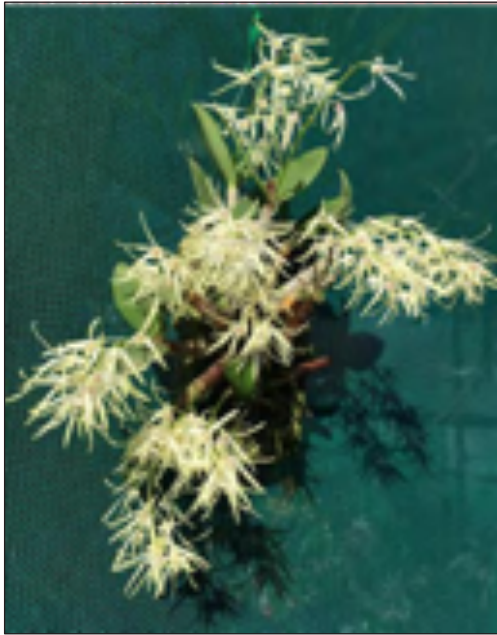
Dendrobium Glenstar Robbie
x Rutherford Starburst David Hemmings



Dendrobium Long Than x Cosmic Gold
David Hemmings



Dendrobium Tyabb Treasure
x Australian Rhubarb Pie David Hemmings



Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings



Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings



Dendrobium Australian Rhubarb Pie x Jazz
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Chocolate Starfish David Hemmings



Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings



Dendrobium Australian Rhubarb Pie x Jazz
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Chocolate Starfish David Hemmings



Den. Australian Sheenamere David Hemmings



Den. Starsheen Botanic Fireworks Ela Kielich

Den. Australian Artist Ela Kielich



Doc. Australian Ginger x
(*Tweetas x Louise*)
David Hemmings



Den. Awesome David Hemmings



Den. Balnaring Ela Kielich



Den. Hawaiian Spectacular Ela Kielich



Den. Regal Gillieston 'One for All' Ela



Den. Regal Gillieston 'One for All' Ela Kielich



Den. Gowan's Tangelo Ela Kielich



Den. Hawaiian Spectacular Ela Kielich



Den. Gowan's Tangelo Ela Kielich



Den. Stephen Bachelor Ela Kielich



Den. Nora Tokunaga x aberrans Ela Kielich



Doc. Saboteur x (Virginia Jupp x racemosa)
Ela Kielich



Doc. Australian Sunblessed Ela Kielich



Den. Australian Black and Green Peter Dunstan



Doc. Yum Yum Ela Kielich



Pterostylis curta Peter Dunstan



Den. Star Imp Peter Dunstan

In My Bushhouse

Well with spring just around the corner there are racemes all over the place, and for the first time in 20 years no St Ives Orchid Fair, but wait for the first time in 44 years no ANOS Warringah Group Spring Show.

Interesting that orchids that bloom early in far North Queensland still keep their dates down here in the southern states. *Dendrobium cacatua* have been out and dazzling all with their lime green petals and sepals and contrasting pure white labellum. I love looking at these each year and they don't disappoint. The rest of the *Dendrobium tetragonum* complex are not far behind as we have fat buds on *Den. capitisyork*, *Den. melaleucaphilum*, and *Den. tetragonum*.

Dendrobium aemulum growing in net pots have proved to be a boon as the canes and the flowers are bolt upright and look forward to their displays in the coming weeks. *Dendrobium gracilicaule* are in various stages of bud with some the flowers ready to crack and others still with more growing to do. Most people seem to think there is not much variability in this species but if you look closely they are short and long cane forms and quite a bit of variation in the flowers from pale to intense yellow and no spotting to heavily spotted. *Dendrobium adae* is another that has quite a bit of variation in flowers and this year all mine are budding up well that looks like a great flowering of this far North Queensland highland species colours range from pale cream, green, and some peach (hopefully).

Sarcochilus falcatus is one of my favorites and this doesn't look like disappointing with its white crystalline flowers with those distinctive vibrant yellow and purple splashed side lobes of the labellum. Again the far North Queensland form flowers early from July and at the moment the flowers have opened and are on my deck to keep out of the rain. I love these little gems and they are at least 2-3 months ahead of plants in NSW.

Dockrillia teretifolia has opened up and looks a treat. To see this in full flight in the bush is a real treat and is worth a bush walk or two to check it out.

Rain rain go away, never thought I would say that. Bloody Hell, we have had 3 deluges since the Coronavirus hit and my rain gauge (wheelbarrow) looks like filling up again. I see that the current water supply in Sydney is 96.0% I have watered once in the last 3 months. I probably should have a cover over the bushhouse but all the plants are performing well so thankful for the water at the moment.

With the early flowering and no shows it will mean that I can do some early repotting as I have started on a couple already and will continue to do so. Keep a lookout for pests. Honestly that bl***y little grey and black codling moth that I thought I had eradicated with spraying EcoOil and Neem Oil, and Confidor® and I have not seen many BUT.

The only plants they attacked were both my plants of *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* 'Katrina'. Couldn't you just spit chips, I did I have to confess. Anyway as the racemes were all affected I cut them off and put them in the bin then split and re-potted both plants and now I have 4. I will have to look after them next year.

I look forward to seeing your flowering plants on line.

That's all for now. Good Growing

Bill Dobson



Dendrobium aemulum L & B Dobson



Sarcochilus falcatus L & B Dobson



Rain Gauge - honestly I feel like I should be selling water back to Sydney Water, we have had so much rain in 2020.

ANOS Warringah Monthly Benching Results - July 2020

1. Dockrillia species

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Dockrillia dolichophylla</i> | Cary Polis |
| 2 nd | <i>Dockrillia rigida</i> | Cary Polis |
| 3 rd | <i>Dockrillia teretifolia</i> | I & I Chalmers |

2. Dendrobium species

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> var. <i>speciosum</i> 'Bevan' | |
| | x var. <i>capricornicum</i> 'Big Boy' | G & S Russell |
| 2 nd | <i>Dendrobium cacaetia</i> | Cary Polis |
| 3 rd | <i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i> 'Somerton' x 'Kings Park' | Trish Peterson |

3. Sarcanthinae species

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Mobilabium hamatum</i> | Erik Lielkajis |
| 2 nd | <i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i> | Cary Polis |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

4. Bulbophyllum species

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Bulbophyllum shepherdii</i> | I & I Chalmers |
| 2 nd | Nil | |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

5. Miscellaneous species

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Oberonia rimachila</i> | Erik Lielkajis |
| 2 nd | <i>Oberonia flavescens</i> | Erik Lielkajis |
| 3 rd | <i>Cadetia taylori</i> | I & I Chalmers |

6. Dendrobium Hybrids

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Den.</i> Autumn x Hilda Poxon | David Hemmings |
| 2 nd | <i>Den.</i> Autumn x Hilda Poxon | David Hemmings |
| 3 rd | <i>Den.</i> Robbies Sparkling River 'Denistone' | David Hemmings |

7. Sarcanthinae Hybrids

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------|
| 1 st | <i>Sarco.</i> George Colthup 'Globe' x same | Ela Kielich |
| 2 nd | Nil | |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

8. Miscellaneous Hybrids

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Doc.</i> Tweetie x <i>teretifolia</i> | Trish Peterson |
| 2 nd | <i>Doc.</i> Tweetas 'Pixie' x Australian Sunblessed 'RL' | P & J D'Olier |
| 3 rd | <i>Doc.</i> Athendon Splendor | P & J D'Olier |

9. Australasian species

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Dendrobium alexandrae</i> | Ela Kielich |
| 2 nd | <i>Dendrobium</i> sp. PNG | I & I Chalmers |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

10. Australasian Hybrids

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Doc.</i> Saboteur | David Hemmings |
| 2 nd | <i>Doc.</i> Tweetas 'Neville' | David Hemmings |
| 3 rd | <i>Den.</i> normanbyense x Gerald McCraith | Ela Kielich |

11. Novice & Junior

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st | <i>Den.</i> Regal Hilda 'Nova' | |
| | x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall' | Bruce Potter |
| 2 nd | <i>Den.</i> Balnarring | Bruce Potter |
| 3 rd | <i>Dockrillia teretifolia</i> | Bruce Potter |

12. Pterostylis species

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Pterostylis concinna</i> | Ian Tanner |
| 2 nd | <i>Pterostylis curta</i> | Trish Peterson |
| 3 rd | <i>Pterostylis curta</i> | Judith Barry |

13. Other terrestrials

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1 st | Nil |
| 2 nd | Nil |
| 3 rd | Nil |

14. Terrestrial hybrids

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st | <i>Pterostylis</i> Dusty Duke | Judith Barry |
| 2 nd | Nil | |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

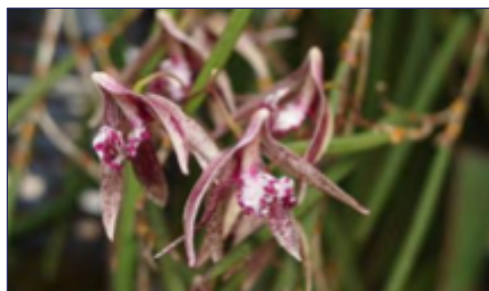
15. Best specimen

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Doc.</i> Fiona Louise x <i>teretifolia</i> | David Hemmings |
| 2 nd | <i>Den.</i> Esme Poulton 'Tinonee' | David Hemmings |
| 3 rd | Nil | |

16. Best First Flowering seedling

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1 st | <i>Den.</i> Cosmic Gold 'Shirley' | David Hemmings |
| 2 nd | <i>Den.</i> Robbies Sparkling River | David Hemmings |
| 3 rd | <i>Doc.</i> Australian Ginger x Tweetas x Fiona Louise | Trish Peterson |

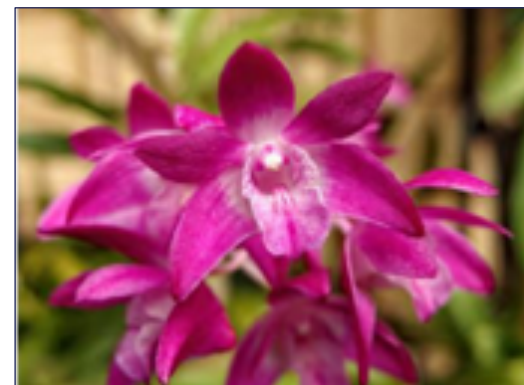
-o0o-



Doc. Australian Freckles Ela Kielich



Den. Starsheen x *fleckeri* Ela Kielich



Den. Johnathons' Glory Ela Kielich

In My Bushhouse

Hi everyone, good to chat to you again.

AT LAST! Do you remember our chat a while back about my 10 year old SEEDLING of Dendrobium Henk Vandenberg?

Well you would not believe that it is going to flower this year. There are 7 racemes on the plant. Nice upright and strong.

Looks good. I had to take a photo to show you. Let's all pray and wait in anticipation. I hope the flowers are half decent.

This cross, Den Ivory x Yondi Tina 'Goliath', was registered in 2009 by the Australian Orchid Nursery. (Wayne Turville) as Dendrobium Henk Vandenberg.

A couple of months ago I chatted about my secret ways of making a plant flower. Well! I must confess I did not use my 90% or 110% Methods. I used a more humiliating and lessor known method. I pleaded and talked to it, a few tantrums and promises also.

It worked, now all I have to do is keep a 24hr guard on it. I have forbidden my grandchildren and neighbours children entry to the front yard and no ball games.

LOOK OUT SNAILS and GRASSHOPPERS I'M COMING for YOU.

IT may have to share our bedroom.

I must not be so paranoid. Please excuse the ravings of an old Orchidaphile, I should know better. One of the great pleasures of orchid growing is the anticipation of flowering a seedling. I am addicted.

Till our next chat keep safe and well. Regards Mick.





Dockrillia nugentii L & B Dobson

The North Queensland form of the tongue orchid, *Dockrillia linguiformis*, which is plentiful around Sydney harbour. You will notice the petals and sepals have more rounded ends and are wider and flatter than their southern cousins.



Dockrillia teretifolia L & B Dobson



Bulbophyllum shepherdii L & B Dobson



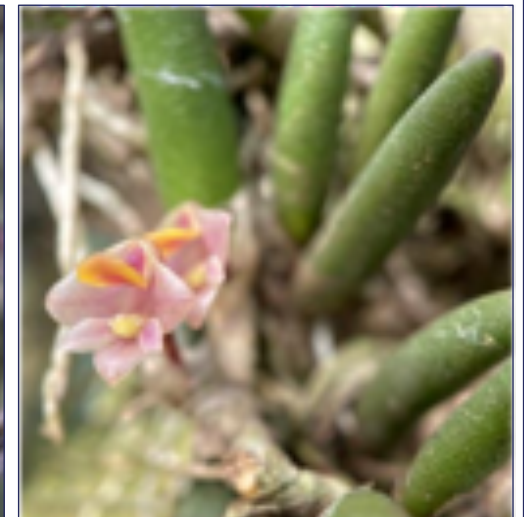
Bulbophyllum shepherdii L & B Dobson



Dockrillia teretifolia 'Maddison' AM x 'Hexham Gold' L & B Dobson



Dockrillia rigida L & B Dobson



Dendrobium prenticei L & B Dobson



Den. Sundaani Special 'Denistone Blush'
David Hemmings



Den. Sundaani Special 'Denistone Blush'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian McBride x Cobber 'L&L'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian McBride x Cobber 'L&L'
David Hemmings



Den. Izzy' Gem
David Hemmings



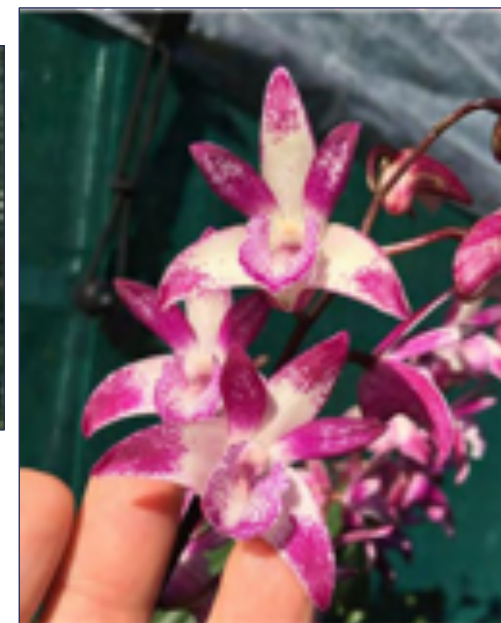
Den. Sundaani Special 'Denistone Blush'
David Hemmings



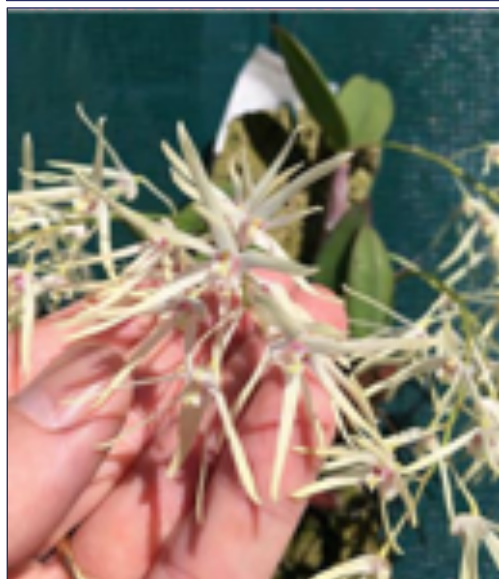
Den. Australian Treasure x Australian Rhubarb Pie
Plant #2
David Hemmings



Den. Tyabb Treasure x Australian Rhubarb Pie
David Hemmings



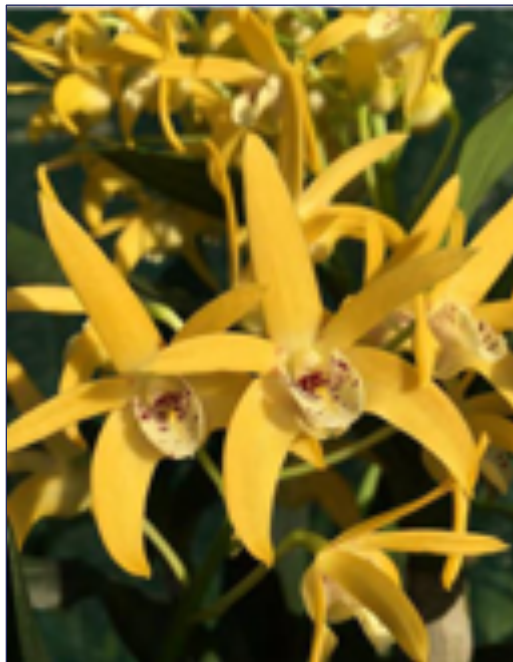
Den. Australian McBride x Cobber 'L&L'
David Hemmings



Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings



Den. Awesome x falcorostrum
David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Dream 'Kim's Gold'
David Hemmings



Den. Australian Rhubarb Pie x Cobber 'L & L'
David Hemmings

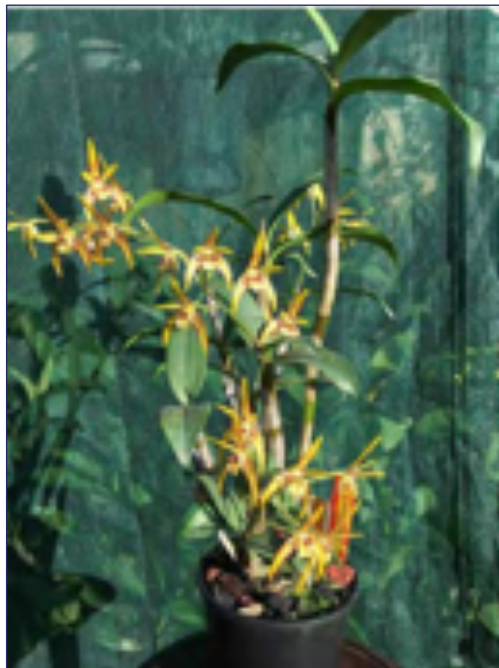


Den. Australian Rhubarb Pie x Cobber 'L & L' David Hemmings



Den. Australian Rhubarb Pie x Cobber 'L & L' David Hemmings





Den. Brimbank Uluru 'Sun Gold'
David Hemmings



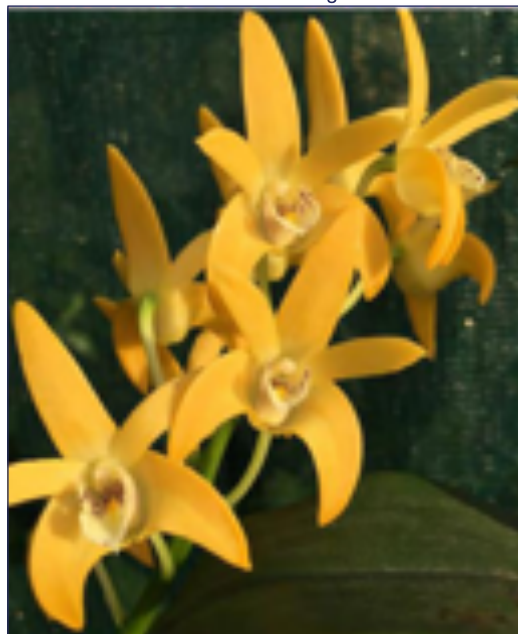
Den. Brimbank Uluru 'Sun Gold'
David Hemmings



Den. Dingadee Gold FFF
David Hemmings



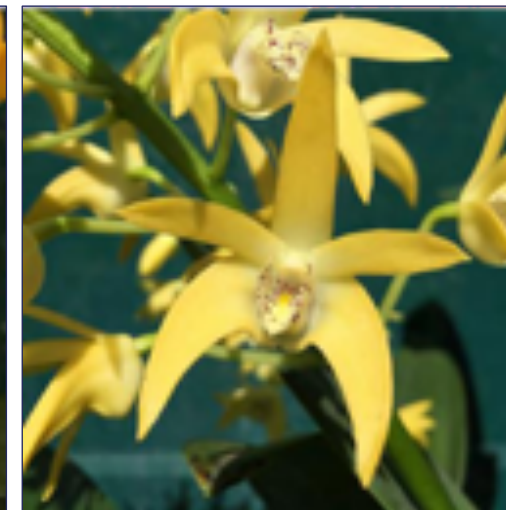
Den. Brimbank Uluru 'Sun Gold'
David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Gold 'Henry'
David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Gold 'Henry'
David Hemmings



Den. Dingadee Gold FFF
David Hemmings



*Den. Starsheen 'Terra Cotta' x
Australian Rhubarb Pie* David Hemmings



Den. Brimbank Dream 'Limocello'
David Hemmings



Den. Fiona Louise x Australian Ginger 'Dennistone Embers'
David Hemmings



Den. Fiona Louise x Australian Ginger 'Dennistone Embers'
David Hemmings



Doc. cucumerina x fuliginosa x striolata David Hemmings



Doc. cucumerina x fuliginosa x striolata David Hemmings



Dendrobium teretifolia 'Dorrigo' David Hemmings



Dendrobium teretifolia 'Tassie Shane'
David Hemmings



Dendrobium teretifolia 'Tassie Shane'
David Hemmings



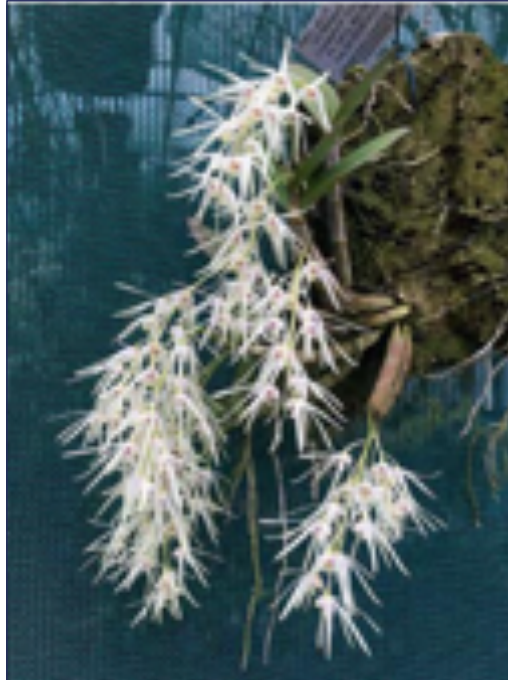
Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings



Dendrobium teretifolia 'Dorrigo' David Hemmings



Dendrobium teretifolia 'Dorrigo' David Hemmings



Dendrobium aemulum David Hemmings

Popular Vote - July

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Australian Orchid Nursery

<https://www.australianorchids.com.au/>

- 1st. David Hemmings
Dendrobium Cosmic Gold
- 2nd Trish Peterson
Dockrillia Tweetas 'Neville'



Den. Avril's Gold 'Dell'
Graeme Russell



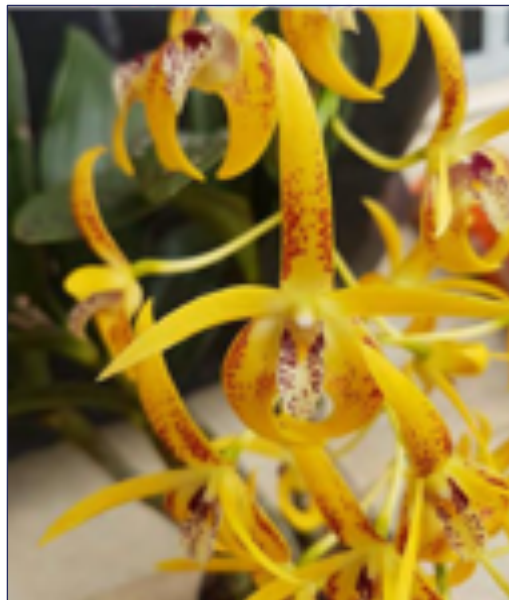
Den. Avril's Gold 'Don's Hope'
Graeme Russell



Dendrobium speciosum 'Moonlight' Graeme Russell



Den. Avril's Gold 'Dell'
Graeme Russell



Den. Avril's Gold 'Don's Hope'
Graeme Russell



Dendrobium speciosum 'Nifty' Graeme Russell



Dendrobium speciosum 'Moonlight' Graeme Russell



Den. Avril's Gold Barry Moore



Den. Den Eclipse 'Pukka' Barry Moore



Den. Intice x Dunokayla 'WAP' Barry Moore



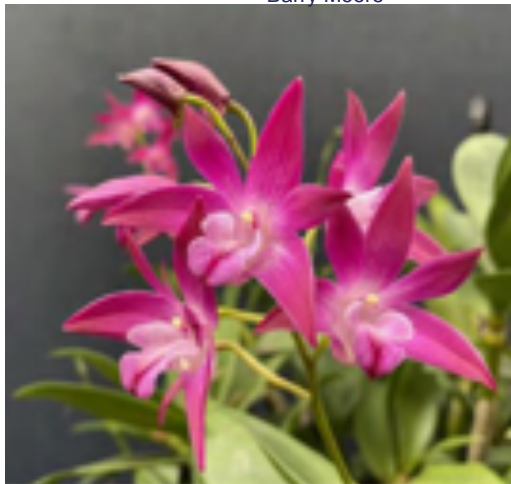
Den. Dunokayla x Inquest Barry Moore



Den. Burgundy Bride x spec. Goldmoon
Barry Moore



Den. Class 'Windsor Downs' x Ray's Spot 'Superb'
Barry Moore



Den. Cheryl's Glory
Barry Moore



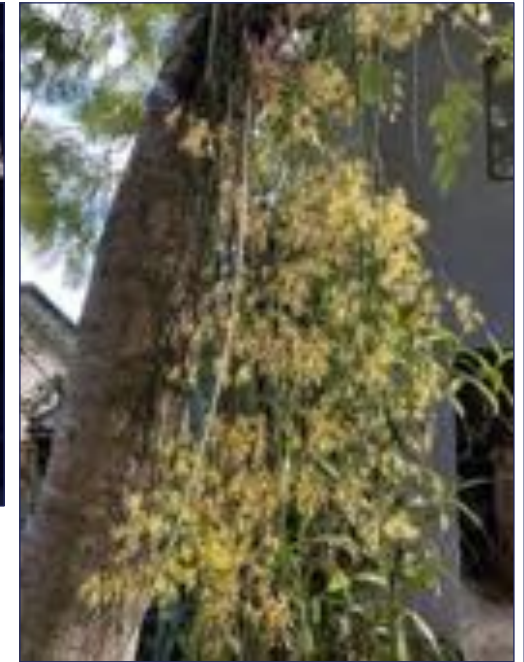
Den. Greta Snow 'Prince' Barry Moore



Den. Aussie Child x Dunokayla Barry Moore



Den. Aussie Victory x spec. 'Tall Lips' Barry Moore



Doc. Australian Sunblessed Barry Moore



Den. Jayden Barry Moore



Den. Jazz 'Red Lip' x spec. 'Windermere'
Barry Moore



Den. Noel's Star Barry Moore



Den. Stunning Barry Moore



Den. Hamilton x Dunokayla Barry Moore



Den. Esme Poulton Trish Peterson



Den. Australian Rose Beauty
x Tyabb 'Rosy Cheeks' Trish Peterson



Doc. Grey Ghost 'Tumbi'
x fairfaxii aureum Trish Peterson



Doc. Australian Ginger x (Tweetas x Fiona Louise)
Trish Peterson



Doc. Australian Freckles Trish Peterson



Dockrillia teretifolia Trish Peterson



Doc. Tweetie x teretifolia Trish Peterson



Den. aemulum Trish Peterson



Doc. Australian Freckles Trish Peterson



Sarcochilus falcatus 'Atherton' Trish Peterson



Ptst. curta 'Twins' Trish Peterson



Doc. pugioniformis George Hardy



Ptst. pedunculata Trish Peterson



Den. aemulum Ciaran Nagle



Den. Class x Ray's Spot Reiner & Judy



Den. Class 'Windsor Downs' Reiner & Judy



Den. NOID Reiner & Judy



Doc. Ida Mary Reiner & Judy



Doc. Australian Freckles Reiner & Judy