



# The Australasian Native Orchid Society The Warringah Group Inc.

Patrons: Murray Corrigan

Mick Korzenowski

ABN: 84 245 695 380

**PRESIDENT:** Trish Peterson 8920 8690 [trishpet@hotmail.com](mailto:trishpet@hotmail.com)

**SECRETARY:** Bryan Spurrs 9943 0474

**TREASURER:** Robert Murch 9906 2658

**EDITOR:** Bill Dobson 9981 2525 [bdobson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bdobson@optusnet.com.au)

**COMMITTEE:** Judith Barry (Librarian), Lorraine Dobson, Ralph Lumby, Cary Polis, Garry & Harleen Williams, Mick Korzenowski

**Web Administrator:** James Litten [james@insydney.com.au](mailto:james@insydney.com.au)

**Website:** [www.anoswarringah.org.au](http://www.anoswarringah.org.au)

**CORRESPONDENCE:** PO Box 421, Forestville NSW 2087

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

## March 2016



*Dendrobium Red Ballerina* M. Korzenowski

*Dendrobium aphanochilum* I. Chambers →



*Dockrillia bayseana x nugentii* D. Hemmings

**Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday 15th March**

**Irene Bodell presents Ira Butler Awards**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting** held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street Forestville on Tuesday 16th February 2016

**Meeting opened** at 8:15 pm by Trish Peterson

**Guest speaker:** Jim Brydie

**Visitors** Maureen Hewson

**Apologies:** W. Jap, R. Rudkin, B. Westwood, M. Corrigan, E. Lielkajis, J. McAuley, G & J Duggin, J. Lumby, I. Bodell.

The minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Bulletin were accepted on the motion of B. Spurrs and seconded by R. Lumby.

**Correspondence:**

- Collectors Plant Fair 9-10 April
- Castle Hill International Orchid Fair 15-16 April
- Our Gardens Magazine - GCA
- Warringah Council cheque
- Orchadian for Library
- Ian Chalmers - OSNSW Metropolitan Region Judging Panel Orchid Appreciation / Judging Classes Course every 3rd Friday at Berala Community Centre for 2 years. Fee \$50 for whole course.

B. Spurrs moved it be accepted and seconded by E. Kielich.

**General Business:** Sapphire Coast Orchid Workshop at Merimbula on 19-20th March

Castle Hill Orchid Fair 15-16 April at Castle Hill Showground.

MWOS Auction on 20th March

A general discussion on future speakers and programme  
Several orders taken for Peter Adams book on 'Guide to Australian Dendrobiums' Cost of \$25 after Graeme Russell showed members a copy.

Mick Korzenowski was back to talk on Pathogens in the bushhouse. He described and circulated a mounted *Bulbophyllum macphersonii*, showing a black fungus which was prevalent in his bushhouse. He also

demonstrated the spread of staghorn spores with a small plant growing on the side of a mesh pot containing an orchid. The point made was to keep your bushhouse tidy & free from leaves/trash. He cleaned up the *Bulbo. macphersonii* with Physan, or you could use Hysan.

'Boil' on *Den. speciosum* was explained as water getting into the top of the new leaf axil and with warm conditions a pathogen 'soup' develops which rots out the new shoot. For collar rot use cinnamon.

**Judges report:** by Bill Dobson:

Plant of the evening *Dendrochillum longifolium* - B. Spurrs also *Bulbophyllum exiguum* - Mick Korzenowski

**After supper:** Jim Brydie gave a very descriptive and illustrated account of *Dendrobium kingianum* including its distribution, climate, regions where found, colour forms from alba to pinks, reds, and purples.

Jim also discussed type of media used, watering/fertilising, shade requirements and to repot after flowering, plus insecticides . A very comprehensive report.

**Raffle prizes:** Kerry, R. Schneidereit (2), N. Eakins, B. Bradley, J. Moore, J. Litten, G. Kazarian, G. Russell.

In closing the meeting, Trish thanked everyone for their participation and wished all a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 10:15 pm

-o-o-

***Spiranthes australis*** (R.Br.) Lindley  
(*Spiranthes australis*)

Other name—*Spiranthes sinensis* (Pers.) Ames 1908  
While the name ***Spiranthes australis*** is the name now used for this orchid it has not universally been agreed upon with many people still calling it *Spiranthes sinensis*. This orchid is a moisture lover and is one of our few terrestrials that favour heavy, clay soils. *Spiranthe australis* has a few elongated conical tubers attached directly to the three or more basal leaves. Its flowering spike 10cm to 30cm high is very distinctive with many small flowers set in a spiral arrangement around the top 5cm to 15cm of the spike. The individual flowers are small; slightly bigger than a match head- with frosted pink perianth

segments and a prominent slightly fringed labellum which is pure white. When examined closely they are most attractive flowers. Cultivation is relatively easy – "keep it moist" is the guiding principle. I use a potting medium of a mix of equal portions of sand, loam, and peat, and I usually leave some original clay attached to the plant. Give this orchid plenty of light (full sun is O.K.), and plenty of water throughout the year especially Summer. Plants will multiply slowly by vegetative means but propagation may be increased by dividing the tubers where they join, taking care to include a portion of the growth tip.

Another point worth adding, it is advisable when growing this orchid that the flowering head is removed before it goes to seed, otherwise every pot in your collection will have little *Spiranthes australis* growing in it.

Len Field





## *Sarcochilus dilatatus* F.Muell

*Sarcochilus dilatatus* is something of a mystery species to most native orchid growers. Everyone knows what it looks like and they can tell you how it influences the hybrids in which it is a parent. But not a whole lot of growers have seen *Sarco. dilatatus* in the wild and even less have much idea about the conditions it likes to hang out in. Most will also support the notion that *Sarco. dilatatus* is difficult to grow in captivity. There isn't a whole lot of specimens to be found around the bush houses in the village of Sydney, or in any other village really. These hazy ideas, held by the majority of growers, are quite natural and it is easy to understand just how the vagueness that surrounds *Sarco. dilatatus* has evolved.

The first plants of *Sarco. dilatatus* that I ever seen were seedlings which were distributed from flasks at a meeting of ANOS Sydney Group some time in 1983. I obtained four of these and promptly killed them before ever seeing any flowers. The next plants I experienced were shown to me in September 1987 by the late Ralph Crane, from Brisbane, and were growing in the Brisbane Forest State Park. I'll never forget the elation of that first glimpse of these wild growing plants. And I quickly understood just how I'd murdered those precious seedlings back in '83.

As is often the case, seeing those first wild plants of *Sarco. dilatatus* gave me all the understanding I needed to successfully grow this small Sarcanthinae species. Little did I realise that *Sarco. dilatatus* would prefer to grow on the thin twigs of shrubs in a small, dry, Lantana-choked gully, much more than on the thick moss-encrusted slab of hardwood where I had sentenced those seedlings to a slow death. There can be no disputing the value of studying the habitats of the various native orchid species we come across. Far too many growers go all dribbly at the mouth at the sight of a nice orchid growing in a tree, but fail to observe where the tree itself is growing.

I tend to think of *Sarco. dilatatus* as a sort of northern form of *Sarco. australis*. They both grow in almost identical situations with regards to position on the host, air movement, moisture and light. They even have a floral shape vaguely similar i.e. long and narrow with club like ends to the segments. It is quite possible that these two species have a common ancestry.

*Sarco. dilatatus* is very uncommon in NSW. I have never seen a plant growing in situ in the wilds of my own state. It certainly exists sparingly in dry scrubs away from the coast and to the west of about Grafton. I have no real knowledge of it occurring elsewhere in NSW.

North of the border, *Sarco. dilatatus* begins to appear with regularity. As mentioned above, the preferred habitat appears to be dry, scrubby rainforest and creek beds, noticeably at low to moderate altitudes and at some distance from the coast. By far the greatest number of plants I know of occur in plantation hoop pines in the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Hinterland. It frequently colonizes the lower limbs of the older plantings . . . as do a host of other native orchids.

I first observed this feature of plantation hoop pines back in November 1989. On a subsequent visit to these areas in January 1993 I set out to check out as much of this man made habitat as I could in one day. I finished the day having logged in 600 kms and with the view that *Sarco. dilatatus* is benefiting greatly from the activities of the forest industry in southern Queensland. I could never forget the sight of a dozen or so of the hugest specimen plants of this species that I have ever come across, sitting smugly about four metres above my head. Several of these were hanging off dead limbs.

One in particular supported seventeen leaves and over fifty old racemes. As well, there were eleven new racemes nearly ready to burst into bloom. The plant was on its last legs when collected and unfortunately it never recovered. I kept the dead trophy for years to show all the sceptics just how huge *Sarco. dilatatus* can get.

I was shocked when visiting the same locale in January 1995, to found about twenty hectares of ploughed up clay and not a stick of shade for hundreds of metres around. It resembled a bombing range. I agree with the need for a forest industry based on plantations but I don't know how to deal with the idea of letting thousands of orchids perish in the rubble piles after the inevitable harvesting takes place. It makes sense that any plants growing in such forest coups should be rescued before they are killed . . . regardless of how rare or how common a species they are.

A discussion on *Sarco. dilatatus* could not be concluded without mentioning the form that occurs up near Gladstone and at points further inland and up into the Calliope Range. This form of the species first came to my attention when I journeyed up there in September 1992. We found this little Sarc that had just finished flowering by a matter of days. For the life of us we could not decide what species it was. What would be flowering in the middle of winter?

The southern Queensland form of *Sarco. dilatatus* blooms from November through to January i.e. summer. So although these new plants looked like *Sarco. dilatatus*, we discounted the idea because of this six month discrepancy in the flowering time. After all, it is only four hours car drive to the north of the type range.

Of course, it is now well known that this ponderous species is indeed *Sarco. dilatatus*, but with a very different habit and appearance. The flowers are much dumper or stout, being only about one cm high compared to southern flowers which can reach 2.5 cms deep. The colour is the other outstanding feature of these Gladstone plants. The club-like ends of the segments are strongly cerise/ochre brown in nearly all the specimens I've seen in flower, while the southern colour varies from yellow through to coffee brown and as dark as treacle brown. A large specimen in full bloom is absolutely stunning.

*Sarco. dilatatus* can get up to a dozen buds on each raceme. But this doesn't mean that there will be a dozen open flowers at any given time. It is the habit of *Sarco. dilatatus* to open progressively, but certainly not regularly. While two flowers may be open today, these might wilt away after a few days. It could be up to ten days or so before the next one or

two buds open. This irregularity means that a specimen plant can have flowers on board for a long period of time. If the weather is not too hot or changeable, each flower can last up to two weeks.

For its size *Sarco. dilatatus* usually has an above average number of racemes. A plant with only 3 leaves often has two or three racemes. All this irregularity means that hybrids made with *Sarco. dilatatus* usually have the same unpredictable flowering habit and blooms can open up over an extended period compared to other Sarcanthinae hybrids.

If you want to grow *Sarco. dilatatus* successfully you must consider where it grows in nature and transfer that knowledge across to the bush house. The big choice you must make is what host to tie your plants on to. My favourite host at the moment is two cm thick branches, about forty cms long, of that very common *Leptospermum* species that has to be nearly the most common tree on the dry ridge tops of the Hawkesbury Sandstone regions. As you can probably gather, I don't remember what species it is. But it's the one with the wide and thin flaky bark that peels away in masses when pulled even slightly. This bark is usually a grey colour with just a hint of purple. Do you know the one I mean?

The roots get under this bark and it is very hard to overwater them. This saves many a plant of *Sarco. dilatatus* and the other quick-die species such as *Sarco. australis*. In fact I've got several specimens of *Sarco. australis* still growing happily on this *Leptospermum* host after more than five years. I attribute this success solely to the dryness that the roots find under the copious layers of this ti-tree bark. You virtually can't wet them unless you set out to do so. Of course it helps to hang them up in some corner where you don't water them anyway. *Sarco. dilatatus* is one of those species best hung up and forgotten.

Speaking of roots, those of *Sarco. dilatatus* are perhaps the most active of all the *Sarcochilus* species. They are constantly growing - I doubt there is a time in the year when they don't have long green tips probing their way along through the fissures and layers of bark. I've seen wild plants of fairly small size with just a few roots but a couple of them can be pushing a metre in length without any doubt.

Wild plants often carry a great number of seed pods. More than once I've observed plants with 6 or 8 pods from last season still not split despite this year's blooms just opening. To me these pods are just as interesting as the flowers themselves. They represent vigour and fertility that is often absent from some other species of native orchids. For the novice grower, specimen plants of *Sarco. dilatatus* are just not available. Hopefully it will be available more frequently in flasks in the future. It sure deserves to be.

Gerry Walsh

The Rock Lily Man  
<http://www.therocklilyman.com>

## ANOS Warringah Monthly Benching Results - February 2016

<b>1. Dockrillia species</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Dockrillia Hot Coals
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Dockrillia cucumerina</i>	D. Hemmings		<b>11. Novice &amp; Junior</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Dockrillia prenticei</i>	L. & B. Dobson		1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil			2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>
<b>2. Dendrobium species</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> var. <i>superbum</i>	C. Polis		<b>12. Pterostylis species</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil			1 <sup>st</sup> Nil
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil			2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil
<b>3. Sarcanthinae species</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>	D. Hemmings		<b>13. Other terrestrials</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Sarcochilus dilatatus</i>	L. & B. Dobson		1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Chiloglottis seminuda</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Sarcochilus hirticalcar</i>	R. Murch		2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil
<b>4. Bulbophyllum species</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum exiguum</i>	M. Korzenowski		<b>14. Terrestrial hybrids</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum schillerianum</i>	R. Schneidereit		1 <sup>st</sup> Nil
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum schillerianum</i>	L. & B. Dobson		2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil
<b>5. Miscellaneous species</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Liparis reflexa</i>	R. Schneidereit		<b>15. Best specimen</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Cadetia taylori</i>	G. & H. Williams		1 <sup>st</sup> Nil
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Liparis reflexa</i>	R. Schneidereit		2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil
<b>6. Dendrobium Hybrids</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Den.</i> Red Ballerina	M. Korzenowski		<b>16. Best First Flowering seedling</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Den.</i> Red River	I. Tanner		1 <sup>st</sup> Nil
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Den.</i> Regal Gilleston x Rutherford Starburst	D. Hemmings		2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil
<b>7. Sarcanthinae Hybrids</b>			3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Sarco.</i> Melody x Riverdene	D. Hemmings		
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Sarco.</i> Gold Drop x Velvet 'Cool Dude'	G. & H. Williams		
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Sarco.</i> Velvet 'Bonanza'	D. Hemmings		
<b>8. Miscellaneous Hybrids</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Doc. bayseana</i> x <i>nugentii</i>	D. Hemmings		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nil			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nil			
<b>9. Australasian species</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Dendrochilum longifolium</i>	B. Spurrs		
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Dendrobium aphanochilum</i>	I. Chambers		
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Dockrillia hepatica</i>	D. Hemmings		
<b>10. Australasian Hybrids</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Den.</i> Stephen Batchelor	E. Kielich		
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Den.</i> December Delight x <i>alexanderae</i>	L. & B. Dobson		

### In My Bushhouse

It's 10:10pm and I have just come back in from another 'grasshopper patrol' in my bushhouse with the score at Bill 8, grasshoppers 0. So if I add this to the ones that I have caught over the past 7 days that makes 32-34 approx. Now if I add this total to the last 7 weeks since Christmas I have caught, conservatively, about 160-170 of these little beasts. I am STILL resisting the urge to spray, and for the moment there is something hugely satisfying about crushing them between my fingers.

The nightly patrols will continue. However, the only unfortunate thing is that the whole family is on a healthy challenge until the end of March with no alcohol! I am missing a glass of red, to toast the success of the nightly patrols. Ah well, we are eating well at least better than the grasshoppers.

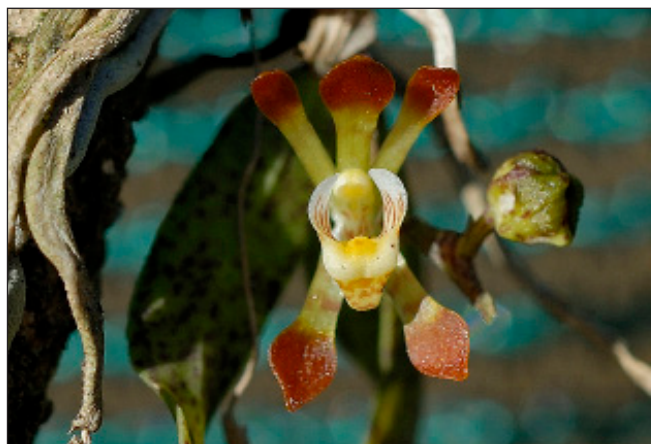
Plants are all growing well and I am still potting on. All the *Sarcochilus* have been potted on and now I'm on to the *Dendrobium kingianum*. What survivors, as some of these I'm ashamed to admit have not been repotted since 2006 that's 10 years!! Anyway I am working my way through them and I must say I'm impressed with their growth as each 200mm pot has been jammed full but I have been taking only the best new growths and the rest in the bin. Even so on some plants I have 3 or 4 plants in 125-150mm pots. Not exactly what I had in mind to reduce my collection, but some will end up on the sales bench.

I am watering between 2 and 3 times a week but we have not had much rain this February, and it looks like we will be having a hot to very hot spell by the end of the week. I will give the repotting a rest until the temperatures fall below 30° C again.

One thing as a native orchid grower I like to keep things in my bushhouse as natural as the bush to develop a micro-climate that the plants like and help their growing. I had let a couple of plants grow with some *Pyrrosia rupestris*, this I have discovered is a BAD mistake as having any fern in a bushhouse. If not kept in check the spores develop and start up in all your pots. Worse is if left unchecked they will develop into a thick mat that will suffocate your plant.

Good growing ..... Bill Dobson

-o0o-



*Sarcochilus dilatatus*





*Bulbophyllum exiguum* M. Korzenowski



*Doc. bayseana x nugentii* D. Hemmings



*Dendrobium aphanochilum* I. Chambers



*Dendrobium Red Ballerina* M. Korzenowski

Photos  
by  
Ela Kielich





*Sarcophilus dilatatus* L. & B. Dobson



*Cadetia taylori* G. & H. Williams

Photos  
by  
Ela Kielich



*Dendrochilum longifolium* B. Spurrs



Den. Stephen Batchelor E. Kielich