



The Australasian Native Orchid Society

The Warringah Group Inc.

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Web Administrator: Jane D'Olier **Website:** www.anoswarringah.org **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

December 2020



Dockrillia wassellii Ela Kielich



Bulbophyllum newportii Erik Lielkajis



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Dan Dan' L & B Dobson

Next meeting
Tuesday 15th December
End of Year Presentation

Dear Members

We will be holding our last meeting of 2020 on Tuesday 15th December.

This is when we usually invite our friends from other societies, our guest speakers and our judges to enjoy a Christmas celebration together. This year however will be a low key event .our kitchen remains closed and the Covid-19 restrictions remain in place.

We will however, be getting together to celebrate getting through this tough year .

- We will be having a benching with point scores to be recorded
- Prize-giving and trophy presentations will take place
- We will be having our usual Monster Raffle

We hope it will be a fun night and an opportunity to catch up with friends again.

We will not be having our Sales Table this month, but it will be returning next year.

We wish all our members a Very **Merry Christmas** and a much happier and less stressful New Year!

Again we remind you of the Covid-19 precautions:



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
- Members to use hand sanitiser on arrival/leaving
- George to record all attendees – contact details to be checked including phone numbers – Please sign in!
- 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 December 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 will be available for use by members.

Kind regards ..Trish Peterson

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ANOS WARRINGAH GROUP

Held on 16 November 2020

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville on 16 November 2020.

The Meeting was opened at 8.05pm by Bill Dobson (Immediate Past President)

Guest Speaker: There was no guest speaker as the Annual General Meeting was to be held.

Visitors: Nel and Robbie. Bill extended a warm welcome to both our visitors.

Committee Members Present:

Bill Dobson, Bruce Potter (Secretary), Ela Kielich (Treasurer), Judith Barry, Jane D'Olier, Peter D'Olier, Cary Polis, Ian Tanner

Apologies: Trish Peterson, Bryan Spurrs, Lorraine Dobson, Bill Westwood, Peter Dunstan.

Annual General Meeting:

The General Meeting was suspended at 8.15pm and the Annual General Meeting was commenced.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020:

The AGM was opened by Bill Dobson at 8.15pm.

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 16 July 2019 had previously been circulated and were moved without discussion.

The Financial Report was made available for perusal by members.

The President's Report (Trish Peterson) was read out by Bill who encouraged members to consider joining the Committee. The President's report is reprinted below.

President's Report 2020

2020 has been a horrible year which we will not soon forget.

We were just recovering from the drought, the horrendous bushfires and the smoke, when we were hit with the Covid-19 virus. The pandemic has affected us all in every aspect of our lives and we have all become familiar with terms such as "social distancing" 'hand sanitising' and 'lockdown'.

Despite the difficulties of holding regular meetings due to the pandemic restrictions, our members have managed to stay connected through our photo benching competition and monthly bulletins. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Patron, Mick Korzenowski who initiated the photo-benching program and our Editor, Bill Dobson for collating, resizing, and formatting the hundreds of photographs sent in by members which were included in our bulletins.

This has enabled members to share their orchids with others when it has not been possible to bring them to meetings ...and to maintain contact with our orchid friends. A very special thanks to Bill for all his hard work.

We have had some sad moments during the year ...we lost one of our favourite members, Garry Williams who died in June after a long illness. He and Harleen are very much missed at our meetings. Another of our Life Members, Lorraine Dobson has had to stand down from the Committee due to ill health – we send her our very best wishes; and our

long-standing and dedicated Secretary, Bryan Spurrs has also had to stand down from his position due to an 'orchid-related' accident, but Bryan intends to remain on the Committee once he has recovered.

As you are all aware, most of the orchid shows this year have been cancelled due to the pandemic. This has had a huge impact on all orchid societies but shows are now restarting with strict Covid precautions being enforced.

We have been fortunate in having access to this hall for our meetings which restarted in July after an enforced break of 4 months. The precautions required by the Council are eminently manageable, although we have had to forego our suppers due to the closure of the kitchen. Despite some members choosing not to attend meetings due to the risk of contracting the virus, we have had reasonable numbers at our meetings. Thanks to George for keeping our Contact Tracing Register which is another Covid-19 requirement. We have also welcomed several new members during the year.

I would like to thank the members of our Committee, new Secretary Bruce, Bill, Ela, Judith, Cary, Peter, Jane, Ian and Bryan. Each of them is important to the smooth running of our Society and their contribution is very much appreciated.

Jane, our Web Coordinator has done an outstanding job in keeping up our profile on Facebook and posting photos on our website as well as taking the photographs of benched orchids each month.

Our Treasurer, Ela keeps accurate financial records of the Group, and Judith has the challenging task of deciphering our scrawled orchid names on the benching cards and recording our achievements. Bruce has taken over the Secretary's duties with great gusto and we thank him for his enthusiasm. Ian has had a reprieve from mounting banners this year, due to the cancellation of our shows.

Due to popular demand, the sales table has restarted, with social distancing being observed, and it appears to be going very well, thanks to Cary and Peter. Our lucky door and raffle prizes have also been reinstated.

There are so many people who make this Group special and my thanks to all of you. Thanks to our Judges whom we rely upon for their involvement and pronouncements each month; we very much appreciate their participation and expertise. And thanks also to all those members who help with setting up and pulling down each month and contribute in many ways to the successful running of the society.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement during the year. We hope that the coming year will prove less stressful and much happier and we trust that you will continue to support and enjoy belonging to our society.

I shall now hand over to Patron Mick who is Returning Officer for the election.

Trish Peterson

Election of Committee Members 2020

Patron Mick Korzenowski acted as Returning Officer and declared all Committee positions vacant. Mick thanked the Committee for their work in such a difficult year as well as the contributions and participation of the Group's members who together make the Group such a successful and friendly club. He noted the success of the photo benching initiative and thanked Trish, Jane and Bill for their efforts.

The current Committee members, with the exception of Lorraine Dobson, have declared themselves available for re-election in their current roles. Nomination forms had been duly completed and lodged with the Secretary. Mick called for nominations from the floor for each of the Committee office-bearer positions and for the ordinary members of the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, Mick declared the following members elected:

Office Bearers:

President: Trish Peterson

Secretary: Bruce Potter

Treasurer: Ela Kielich

Editor: Bill Dobson

Librarian & Recorder: Judith Barry

Web Coordinator: Jane D'Olier

Committee:

Peter D'Olier, Cary Polis, Bryan Spurrs, Ian Tanner

The AGM was closed by Bill Dobson at 8.30pm and the monthly General Meeting was then recommenced.

The Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on 20 October 2020 as published in the Bulletin were accepted as a true record on the motion of Ian Tanner seconded by Bruce Potter.

Matters Arising: Nil

Correspondence

Incoming:

Notice from Australian Orchid Foundation regarding the release of a new book "A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia" Third Edition by David L Jones.

Notices regarding various orchid shows and auctions.

Outgoing:

Various emails to members advising forthcoming orchid shows and auctions.

Correspondence moved for acceptance by Ela Kielich seconded by Ian Tanner.

General Business:

Sales Table: The sales table will operate again tonight. Access to the table will be regulated as it was last month. Limit of 2 plants per buyer. Cash only

Library acquisition. The Committee has agreed to purchase a copy of David Jones' new book for the Group's library.

Coming events. Royale Orchids, Peats Ridge. Laelia Purpurata Show & Auction on Saturday 5 December. The orchid collection of Garry Williams is to be auctioned by Manly-Warringah OS on a date to be arranged.

Popular vote. Bill encouraged members to record their vote for the most popular plant of the evening.

Bushhouse Chat: Patron Mick Korzenowski

Mick's talk this month concerned his observations in his bush house on unusual results of pollination. He illustrated his talk with a Dockrillia plant with numerous ferns growing on the side of the mesh pot and a bonsai plant with a self-sown Sarcochilus ceciliae growing with it. Bill thanked Mick for his informative talk.

Judges Report:

John McAuley and Erik Lielkajis presented the judges' report.

Plant of the evening: Two plants shared 1st place. They were:

Dendrobium canaliculatum -Bill Dobson and

Dockrillia wassellii - Ela Kielich

Other plants of interest:

Dendrobium Egret Gold - Irene & Ian Chalmers

Bulbophyllum grandiflorum - Irene & Ian Chalmers

Coelogyne asperata - Cary Polis

Saccolabiopsis armitii - David Hemmings

Culture Demonstration: Bill Dobson

Armed with a power saw, mini tomahawk and several secateurs, Bill demonstrated how he separates and repots Dendrobium speciosum. The "victim" was a well-established Den. speciosum var. curvicaule 'Crater' x 'Daylight Moon'. This plant had been repotted in 2008, 2015 and 2017. Bill emphasised the need to decide at the outset how big or how small you want your plant to be. He suggested divisions of not less than 3 canes. Bill uses cinnamon as an anti-fungal treatment on cuts and prefers to hang new divisions where they get good air movement. Light is important for flowering speciosum but avoid extremely hot days. Bill generously donated several divisions of his plant for raffle prizes. Thank you Bill for a very instructive demonstration.

Lucky Door Prizes: James Litten, Ian Chalmers

Raffle Prizes: Roslyn Matthews (2), Ian Chalmers (2), Ted Shaw, James Litten, Ian Tanner, Matthew Roberts, Peter D'Olier, Richard Blaxland.

In closing the meeting at 9.55pm Bill reminded members to bring something suitable as a prize in the raffle at next month's meeting. He thanked all for coming and hoped to see them at the next meeting on 14 December.

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Dockrillia wassellii Ela Kielich



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Dendrobium canaliculatum L & B Dobson



Dockrillia wassellii Ela Kielich



Peristeranthus hillii Erik Lielkajis



Peristeranthus hillii Erik Lielkajis



Cadetia taylori Trish Peterson



Dendrobium prenticei Trish Peterson



Gowan's Tangelo Trish Peterson



Dendrobium tetragonum (inter-variatal) Trish Peterson



Dendrobium monophyllum Trish Peterson



Sarcochilus ceciliae Trish Peterson



Liparis nugentii Trish Peterson



Dockrillia sulphurea x *hepatica* Trish Peterson



Sarcochilus hillii Trish Peterson



Sarcochilus fiery Twin Trish Peterson



Dendrobium prenticei Peter Dunstan



Sarcochilus ceciliae Peter Dunstan



Belenois Java - Caper White Butterfly
David Hemmings



Den. Alice's Rainbow Surprise David Hemmings →



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Den. Stoney Point 'Dennistone Firecracker'
David Hemmings



Den. Stoney Point 'Dennistone Firecracker'
David Hemmings



Sarcochilus dilatatus David Hemmings



Sarcochilus dilatatus David Hemmings



Doc. Tweetas x cucumerina David Hemmings



Doc. Tweetas x cucumerina David Hemmings



Doc. Goosebumps David Hemmings



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Dendrobium monophyllum David Hemmings



Dendrobium monophyllum David Hemmings



Dendrobium fleckeri David Hemmings



Sarcochilus hirticalcar Trish Peterson



Pholidota imbricata David Hemmings

Why do we lime *Dendrobium speciosum*?

Part 1. pH in natural habitats

Introduction

Dendrobium speciosum is a native orchid found along the east coast of Australia and is very popular with orchid growers. Currently liming is commonly practised for growing this orchid. Strangely, the exact reason for doing so is not entirely clear and different forms of liming materials namely, slaked lime ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$), agricultural lime (CaCO_3) and dolomite ($(\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2)$) have been used. Without a clear understanding of the reason for applying lime to this orchid, apart from wasting time and resources, it runs the risk of adverse effects of over-liming. So far, no scientific investigation has been carried out to verify the effect of liming on this orchid.

A study looking into the rationale for liming this orchid under cultivation commenced in 2014. The first step is to have some idea on the pH of the natural habitats of this orchid in the wild. At the same time, a pot trial was established to investigate the effect of lime application on *D. speciosum* compared to no lime control. This article reports on the results of the first part of this study.

Sampling and pH measurements

Substrates into which *Dendrobium speciosum* plants were found growing in their natural habitats were collected from different sites. At one or more locations within each site with representative population of *D. speciosum* in its natural habitat, substrate materials close to the root system of the plants were collected (Fig. 1). All the materials collected from each location were bulked and placed in a plastic bag. The substrate materials were found to be a mixture of soil and decomposing plant materials.



Figure 1.
Collection of substrate materials close to the root system of *D. speciosum* growing on rocks in the Watagans, NSW.

These substrate materials were brought back and pH of water extracts from them were measured using a digital glass electrode which has been calibrated with a standard pH buffer.

Substrates samples were collected from five sites along the east coast of Australia (Table 1).

Table 1. pH of growth substrates in natural habitats from five different sites

Sites	No .of samples	pH range	pH mean	Variety of <i>D. speciosum</i>
Watagans, NSW	4	4.5-5.3	4.9	<i>speciosum</i>
Krombit Tops, Qld	21	4.4-6.1	5.1	<i>grandiflora</i>
Herberton, Qld	3	5.7-6.2	5.9	<i>pedunculatum</i>
Lake Tinaroo	1	5.1	5.1	<i>boreale</i>
Eungella	1	5.2	5.2	<i>curvicaule</i>
Mean and range			5.4 (4.9-5.9)	

Results: pH of natural habitats

All the substrate samples had acidic pH (<7.0) with an overall mean of 5.4 and a range of 4.9-5.9 (Table 1) across all five sites which stretch from NSW to Queensland. All the sites have different varieties of *D. speciosum* but with the limited number of sampling, it is not possible to discern any difference amongst the varieties in terms of their pH environment.

Implications of pH results: why do we lime our *D. speciosum*

From the results we have obtained so far, *Dendrobium speciosum* orchids are naturally growing in an acidic pH environment. This finding therefore questions the reason for applying lime when growing this orchid. pH of some of the liming materials have far higher pH, e.g. agriculture lime has a pH of 8.5 and slaked lime is caustic with pH of 12.3. In agriculture, liming is a common practice to address the problem of acidification which is the lowering in pH of soils as a result of producing crops, due to practices such as fertiliser applications, biomass removal and leaching. So, we have to find out if this problem of acidification also occurs under current culture of this orchid amongst growers. Does pH decline of the growth media to undesirably low level occur under existing cultural practice? At this stage we don't have such information. On the other hand, there is also the possibility of liming having other effects on this orchid which are not related to pH and acidity. At the moment, different kinds of liming materials are being used on *D. speciosum* and they can have other effects because of their different chemical composition. For example, slaked lime is used to treat plant diseases, e.g. clubroot disease in cabbage and as an ingredient of fungicide/bactericide Bordeaux Mix and dolomite is used as a source of nutrients, Ca and Mg to plants as well as an acid soil ameliorant. Therefore, there is a need to understand the reason for the beneficial effects of liming, if any, on growing *D. speciosum*. Such information is important for the development of proper recommendations for using lime, in terms of the type of liming materials to be used and the application rate. Next, we will report on the findings of a pot trial on the effects of lime application on *D. speciosum* which ran for 5 years (2014-2019).

Acknowledgement

We thank Gerry Walsh for collecting the growth substrate samples from Krombit Tops, Herberton, Lake Tinaroo and Eungella. He has been very supportive of this study from the beginning.

Yin and Sau-wan Chan

Why do we lime *Dendrobium speciosum*?

Part 2. Pot experiment

Introduction

While it is a common practice amongst growers to apply lime as part of the management practices growing this popular native orchid, it is not certain what kind of benefit(s) can be derived from such practice and indeed, if lime is really necessary for growing this orchid. No scientific study has been carried out on this subject matter.

The pot experiment

In December 2014, a simple replicated pot experiment comparing the effect of liming *Den. speciosum* with control (no lime) was established. Ten two-year old seedlings were divided into 2 equal groups each of five plants. The *Den. speciosum* plants used were an inter-varietal *Den. speciosum* ((v. *capricornicum* 'Big Boy' x v. *speciosum* 'Windermere') x v. *speciosum* ('George' x 'JL' AM)) bred by Gerry Walsh. Lime in the form of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), commonly known as agricultural lime was applied to one group of plants whereas the other group was not limed and treated as the control. Calcium carbonate is the form of lime used in agriculture in control of soil acidity problems. At each liming, fine agricultural lime was added to cover the surface of the pot and then watered in with water. All the plants were kept in the shade house and treated in exactly the same way in terms of other management practices, namely, fertiliser, watering and repotting. Repotting was carried out as appropriate as the plants grew bigger using a bark substrate (Orchiata[®]). The fertiliser used was Peter[®] Excel high Ca/Mg Grower at 1g/L rate weekly during the growing season (October – March) and Peter[®] Professional Blossom Bloomer at the same rate during the flowering season (April–September). Liming was carried out about twice a year around spring and autumn and pH of the substrate (as leachate from individual pot) was measured at regular intervals using a glass electrode usually a few weeks after lime application. During the course of the experiment, visual inspection of the growth and development of the plants was observed and recorded. Number of pseudobulbs in each pot was also counted.

Results

pH variations

Figure 1 shows the pH of the growth media throughout the duration of the experiment. Without lime, pH of growth media remained at around 4.5 to 5.5, which is within the pH range of that of the natural habitats (see part 1). However, with liming, pH was raised to around 6.5–7.0, which was maintained throughout the experiment by the regular liming. No observable difference in growth of the plants was observed in the first 18 months. At 20 months, visual and growth differences started to become noticeable on the plants between the lime and control treatments. The limed plants

- were stunted, with shorter pseudobulbs and smaller leaves (Figure 2);
- had lower number of pseudobulbs (Figure 3);
- were stressed with pseudobulbs often shrivelled and leaves turning brown;
- had less developed root systems (Figure 3).

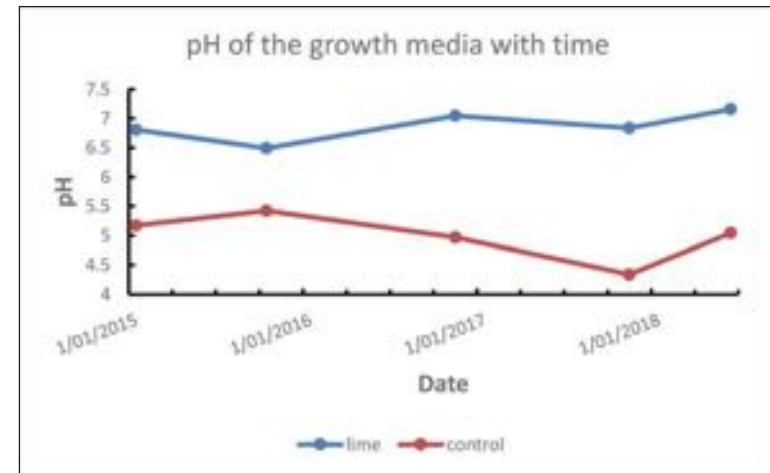


Figure 1. Changes in pH of lime and control treatment during the experiment
Differences in plant growth and development due to liming

These differences persisted throughout the rest of the course of the experiment. Flowering of some of the plants commenced in 2018 and continued in 2019 season in both the lime and control treatments, with one plant from each treatment flowering in each year. With the smaller sized plant, the size of the inflorescence was also smaller in the lime plants compared to the control.



(a) Beginning of experiment



(b) At 52 months

Figure 2. *Den. speciosum* plants in the beginning and at 52 months of the experiment. (In both Figures (2a) and (2b), top row: lime, bottom row: control)

These growth and development differences are more evident as paired comparison at 52 months of the experiment as in Figure 3. It was estimated biomass of the lime plant was about half of that of the control.



Figure 3. Differences between the lime and control plants

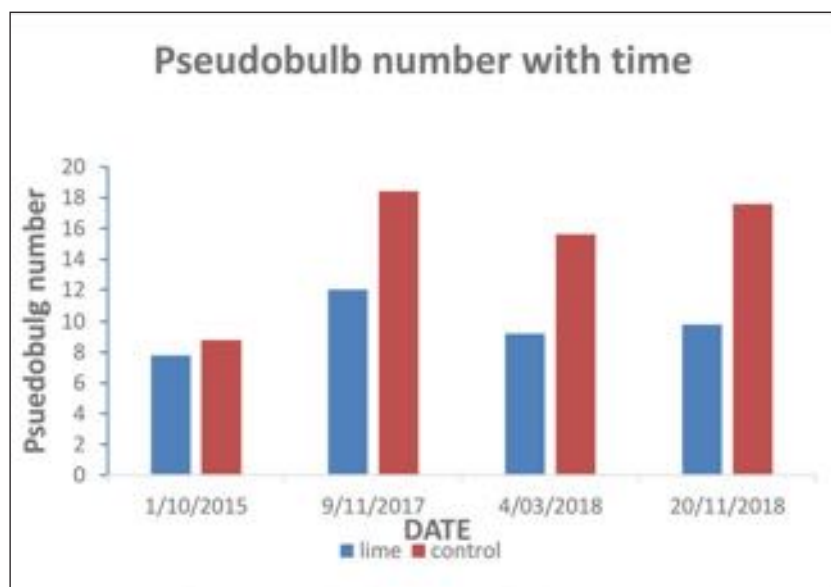


Figure 4. Changes in pseudobulb number with time of the lime and control plants

What have we learnt from this pot experiment?

It is worthwhile to point out that in this investigation only one type of liming materials at one application rate on one inter-varietal *Den. speciosum* was investigated. Results of this experiment did not support the common belief that liming is beneficial to growth and performance of this native orchid. On the contrary, our results clearly demonstrate application of lime (CaCO_3) can have an adverse effect on this orchid, resulting in stunted and less healthy plants. Is that a case of over liming i.e. too much lime had been used in this experiment? In the absence of additional measurements, e.g. plant tissue analyses and growth substrate analyses, we cannot find out the causes of the reported adverse effects of lime on the plants. However, an equally interesting observation is that the control plants (no lime) had healthy growth and development. The pH of control treatment remained around 5.0, within the range that has been recorded in the natural habitats of this orchid, with no significant decline in pH during the course of the experiment. Therefore, under the management practices of the present investigation, no acidification of the growth media has occurred.

Acknowledgement

We thank Gerry Walsh for his support of this investigation.

The seedlings used in the pot experiment were generously supplied by Gerry.

Yin and Sau-wan Chan

ANOS Warringah Monthly Benching Results - November 2020

1. Dockrillia species

- 1st *Dendrobium wassellii* Ela Kielich
 2nd *Dendrobium wassellii* I & I Chalmers
 3rd *Dendrobium wassellii* I & I Chalmers

2. Dendrobium species

- 1st *Dendrobium canaliculatum* L & B Dobson
 2nd *Dendrobium fleckeri* David Hemmings
 3rd *Dendrobium fleckeri* David Hemmings

3. Sarcanthinae species

- 1st *Peristeranthus hillii* Erik Lielkajis
 2nd *Plectorrhiza tridentata* David Hemmings
 3rd *Sarcochilus dilatatus* David Hemmings

4. Bulbophyllum species

- 1st *Bulbophyllum minutissimum* Erik Lielkajis
 2nd *Bulbophyllum newportii* Erik Lielkajis
 3rd *Bulbophyllum newportii* David Hemmings

5. Miscellaneous species

- 1st *Cymbidium canaliculatum* 'Dan Dan' L & B Dobson
 2nd *Cymbidium madidum* I & I Chalmers
 3rd *Cadetia taylori* I & I Chalmers

6. Dendrobium Hybrids

- 1st Nil
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

7. Sarcanthinae Hybrids

- 1st *Sarco. NOID* Ian Tanner
 2nd *Sarco. Bunyip x Kulnura Vibrance* Ian Tanner
 3rd Nil

8. Miscellaneous Hybrids

- 1st *Dockrillia bowmanii x brevicauda* David Hemmings
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

9. Australasian species

- 1st *Dockrillia hepatica* David Hemmings
 2nd *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum* I & I Chambers
 3rd Nil

10. Australasian Hybrids

- 1st *Dockrillia bowmanii x fuliginosa* David Hemmings
 2nd *Den. Egret Gold* I & I Chalmers
 3rd *Den. Microchip* David Hemmings

11. Novice & Junior

- 1st *Den. normanbyense* 'Petite' x (*polysema* x *eximum*)
 Bruce Potter

- 2nd *Den. normanbyense* 'Petite' x Gerald McGraith
 Bruce Potter

12. Pterostylis species

- 1st Nil
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

13. Other terrestrials

- 1st Nil
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

14. Terrestrial hybrids

- 1st Nil
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

15. Best specimen

- 1st *Coelogyne asperata* Cary Polis
 2nd *Coelogyne fragrans* Cary Polis
 3rd Nil

16. Best First Flowering seedling

- 1st *Doc. Hepatica* x Fiona Louise David Hemmings
 2nd Nil
 3rd Nil

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Plant of the Evening

Jointly held by

- Dendrobium wassellii* Ela Kielich
Cymbidium canaliculatum 'Dan Dan' L & B Dobson

Popular Vote

- 1st *Dendrobium wassellii* Ela Kielich
 2nd *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum* I & I Chambers
 3rd *Coelogyne asperata* Cary Polis

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Dockrillia calamiformis L & B Dobson



Sacolabiopsis armitii David Hemmings

In my bushhouse – December 2020

The winds continue to blow and have been drying out my orchids so between 5-6pm I mist to keep the moisture around the plants for longer. My tank is just under full, so I have plenty water. However, with the heat in the bushhouse the temp was 45° C so the misting every 2 hours helped lower the top temp by 4-5° C. However the drying winds may prove a problem. Sadly, there were 3 *Sarcochilus falcatus* that I had left out under only 50% shade while all the others were OK, these will probably not recover. Not so outside where some plants suffered burns but once again that was my fault as when I had moved plants around leaves that were protecting other plants those were now exposed had not been acclimatized. Overall these plants are tough, they have to be growing up in Australia.

The *Sarcochilus* are continuing to flower particularly *Sarcochilus hillii*, *Sarcochilus setosus*, and *Sarcochilus ceciliae*. While all quite different they are in that group with stiff thin leaves that probably appreciate dryer conditions. Also if you are growing these they do prefer a winter rest, as wet and cold in winter they do not like. The *S. ceciliae* and *S. setosus* have many upright racemes of pretty and delicate pink flowers that can last up to 2 months. This time of year they can take as much water as they want but during winter some protection is a good idea. Mine are going great in basket pots and have no problem growing into nice sized specimen plants.

Other plants are *Dendrobium prenticei*, *Dockrillia striolata*, *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, and *Dockrillia* X duffy, all these have sent out spot flowers. I have a plant of *Den. Jonesii* var. *magnificum* which has decided to throw a spike very late.

I only pot up where necessary and will leave any that can now wait until the weather cools in the autumn. At the moment I am experiencing great growth in most of my species with *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule*, var. *speciosum*, var. *pedunculatum* and var. *capricornicum* all have multiple growths and pushing on strongly.

I have taken the opportunity to pot up my *Den. falcorostrum*, *Den. adae* and *Den. jonesii* var. *magnificum* into Water Wise® pots 150mm and 200mm depending on the size of the plant. All these are what I would call high altitude plants growing above 1000m. Interestingly I have had a good look at *Den. jonesii* and the morphology of the plant and the way the rhizome moves as the plant grows. Here is a plant that is adaptable to anything in nature. We have observed it growing as both epiphyte and lithophyte, and also in dirt and detritus on the banks beside the road. Unlike *Den. speciosum* a big plant can grow in a relatively small area (pot).

As a side note some of the plants *Den. falcorostrum* and *Den. Jonesii* var. *magnificum* that were potted in the Water Wise® pots and hung high under only 50% shadecloth didn't appear to suffer any effects from the heat. As these plants are normally growing at

elevations above 1000m, it would appear that the water holding ability and transference of humidity to plants is a good reason to try them.

I spray this week with Eco-Oil®, Azamax® (Neem) oil as there are aphids about. I usually knock them on the head with Pirimor® then use the Eco-oil® and Azamax® to keep them from coming back.

As I pot on or divide I am dropping in a ¼ or ½ Confidor® tablet, depending on pot size. Also to this I add some 9 month Ozmocote® slow release fertilizer and some Slug-Out®

I have been checking on maintenance issues with the bushhouse as it was first put up in 1991 so some work always has to be done with sewing up shadecloth, replacing screws/bolts, and those plastic clips on the misting water tube. I regularly check and clean-up leaves and weeds to keep the floor of the house clean. I also intend this month to add a few more misters to different areas of the bushhouse for humidity and cooling over the summer months.

Anyway, that is enough for now I'll put my feet up and have a red wine☺.

Merry Christmas to you all and good growing.

Bill Dobson







Sacolabiopsis armitii David Hemmings



Pholidota imbricata David Hemmings