



The Australasian Native Orchid Society The Warringah Group Inc.

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Mick Korzenowski

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CORRESPONDENCE: PO Box 421, Forestville NSW 2087
Monthly Meetings: 3rd Tuesday each month at 8:00 pm - Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville. NSW 2087

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

August 2025



Bulbophyllum blumei Erik Lielkajis



Robequetia wasellii Erik Lielkajis



Dendrobium Cosmic Gold David Hemmings

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 19th August
Peter Lockhart
Local Terrestrials

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES and AGM July 2025

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street Forestville on 15 July 2025.

The meeting was opened by Bill Dobson at 8pm

Committee members present

Bill Dobson (President)

Ella Kielich (Treasurer)

Judith Barry (Librarian)

Cary polis

Jane D'Oiler

Peter D'Oiler

Bryanna Whitaker

Bill Dobson handed meeting over to Mick Korzenowski to act as returning officer for AGM

Annual General Meeting ANOS Warringah group 2025

Mick Korzenowski as returning officer declared all committee positions vacant

The following nominations were elected:

Bill Dobson (President)

Trish Peterson (Vice President)

James Litten (Secretary)

Ella Kielich (Treasurer)

Judith Barry (Librarian)

Cary Polis

Jane D'Oiler

Peter D'Oiler

Bryanna Whitaker

Presidents report by Bill Dobson given.

Financial Report was tabled by Ella Kielich (Treasurer)

2024 AGM was earlier circulated and accepted at AGM.

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES July 2025

Bill Dobson opened the Members Meeting.

Mick Korzenowski

Blacktown tablelands slide and spoken presentation. In National Park 600m above the plain. 175 Km west of Rocky, 4wd a must. Emerald close by is the place to stay. Rainbow falls the only running water on tableland.

In My Bushhouse

Here we are, with the flowering season just around the corner, and everywhere I look, I see buds. How well the season translates into the plants on the benches will be seen, but at the moment, it looks like it will be a great year. Funnily enough, some plants have missed flowering altogether, and why that is I have no idea. Once again, Mother Nature is doing her own thing.

I have found some aphids in my bushhouse as well As this year I don't think we have been below 5 deg at night, probably because of the cloud cover. So I have a spray bottle with Pirimor® handy and ready to give a spray if needed. This is the most important thing at this time: look at your plants, keep an eye on them. Aphids in particular, give birth to live young, and the mother is a breeding machine.

Start planning what you will be doing now for after the show, when you should have plants back home, and look at potting on or dividing. Make sure that you have plenty of 'supplies' on hand. Pots, potting mix, stakes, wire, and, importantly, labels.

The rain could be a problem as flowers start to develop over the next month. I have been moving some that I think need protection up onto our deck. Be careful when doing this as sometimes it can have the reverse effect of what you want. You may cut down on sun and air movement. Usually, wait until just before the flowers open. I'm reminded of my own words when I picked a *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *pedunculatum* to photograph, I was so excited as it's taken a long time to bloom and had 4 spikes. Had being the operative word, as while putting it back, I barely touched the lead spike and it just broke off.

Keep cleaning up any dead leaves and spent flowers to keep the bushhouse tidy.

As a growing medium my *Dendrobium tetragonum* varieties are in pots, net pots man-made net pouches, water-well pots, and tree fern fibre. They are all growing well and are either in flower or will flower.

I know that this may sound crazy with the weather that we have been having lately, keep an eye on your plants and don't let them dry out. They are under stress, particularly if you bring them under cover. Producing all those flowers and canes may tend to shrivel a little. I noticed today that not long after the rain came, the paths and roads were dry with the wind blowing boisterously. A little fertilizer won't hurt either.

Currently in flower in the bushhouse is *Dendrobium cacaetua*, *Dendrobium capitisyork*, *Dockrillia teretifolia*, *Dockrillia racemosa*, *Dendrobium speciosum* var *capricornicum*, and *Sarcochilus falcatus*, and buds on everything else.

Good growing Bill Dobson

ANOS Warringah Monthly Benching Results - January 2025

1. Dockrillia species

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

2. Dendrobium species

1st *Den. tetragonum* var Conway Range David Hemmings
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

3. Sarcanthinae species

1st *Robiquetia wassellii* Erik Lielkajis
2nd *Taeniophyllum lobatum* Erik Lielkajis
3rd *Taeniophyllum baumei* Erik Lielkajis

4. Bulbophyllum species

1st *Bulbophyllum blumei* Erik Lielkajis
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

5. Miscellaneous species

1st *Liparis nugentae* Erik Lielkajis
2nd *Oberonia* sp. Erik Lielkajis
3rd *Oberonia* sp. Erik Lielkajis

6. Dendrobium Hybrids

1st *Den. Cosmic Gold 'Shirley'* David Hemmings
2nd *Den. Warringah 'Purple Heaven'* Cary Polis
3rd *Den. Cosmic Gold* David Hemmings

7. Sarcanthinae Hybrids

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

8. Miscellaneous Hybrids

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

9. Australasian species

1st *Dendrobium alexandrae* Ela Kielich
2nd *Dendrobium bracteosum* Cary Polis
3rd *Mediocalcar decoratum* Judith Barry

10. Australasian Hybrids

1st *Doc. Amphion Axius 'Denistone'* David Hemmings
2nd *Den. macrophyllum x alexandra x shiraishii* Li Shan
3rd *Den. Australasia* Li Shanl

11. Novice & Junior

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

12. Pterostylis species

1st *Pterostylis concinna* Judith Barry
2nd *Pterostylis hispidula* R G Blaxland
3rd *Pterostylis repanda* R G Blaxland

13. Other terrestrials

1st Nil
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

14. Terrestrial hybrids

1st *Pterostylis* Nodding Grace R G Blaxland
2nd *Pterostylis* Nodding Grace R G Blaxland
3rd Nil

15. Best specimen

1st *Doc. Tweetas 'Neville' x Martin 'Gold'* David Hemmings
2nd Nil
3rd Nil

16. Best First Flowering seedling

1st *Doc. Tweetas 'Red Lip' (Grey Ghost x Hot Coals)* David Hemmings
2nd *Den. Bergan x Aussie Quest* David Hemmings
3rd Nil

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2025 Diary

August

14th ANOS Sydney Group - General Meeting
15th to 17th St Ives Orchid Fair St Ives Showground
Mona Vale Road, St Ives
19th Tuesday ANOS The Warringah Group meeting
24th to 25th ANOS Central Coast Group
Spring Show

September

6th Sat. & 7th Sun. ANOS Sydney Group - Spring Show -
North Rocks Shopping Centre

September

11th ANOS Sydney Group - General Meeting
ANOS The Warringah Group SPRING SHOW
12th Friday 2:30 to 7:00pm Set-up

13th Sat. & 14th Sun.

16th Tuesday ANOS The Warringah Group meeting
Members Spring Show

October

9th ANOS Sydney Group - General Meeting
11th ANOS Central Coast Group - Sarcochilus Show
17th to 19th Orchids Central - Condell Park
18th to 19th ANOS Sydney Group - Sarcochilus Show
North Rocks Shopping Centre
21st Tuesday ANOS The Warringah Group meeting
- Sarc Show

November

8th ANOS Sydney Group - Late Spring Show
(one day only) Venue to be announced.
13th ANOS Sydney Group - General Meeting
18th Tuesday ANOS The Warringah Group meeting

December

11th ANOS Sydney Group -
Christmas Meeting and presentation
16th Tuesday ANOS The Warringah Group
Christmas Meeting and presentation

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Taeniophyllum lobatum Erik Lielkajis

Gerry Walsh - The Rock Lily Man

<https://therocklilyman.com/dockrillia/the-dockrillia-teretifolia-complex/>

A BIT ABOUT . . . The *Dockrillia teretifolia* Complex

A BIT ABOUT . . . The *Dendrobium teretifolium* Complex

Which ever terminology you prefer . . .

This article was written when *Dendrobium* was the preferred terminology but you can adjust it to suit your own opinion, the comments are the same.

WHILE I've been attempting to discuss something of interest about selected native orchids, via my handle "A Bit About" I have side-stepped the *Dendrobium* genus quite deliberately. More than enough has been written about that section of the native orchid world, and unless I can think of something new that hasn't been tossed about in print before, I don't bother boring people with rehashed info.

Having covered various other genera, I capitulated and decided to consider good old *Dendrobium* again. Just in case something of interest did lurk within. When I started thinking about *D. teretifolium* it dawned on me just how complex this species really is. And the more trips I make into the wild country of this great land, the more confused I become. So perhaps it's time to return the "rat's tail/pencil/bridal veil" orchid to the courts for re-assessment.

Over the years, but particularly of late, there have been more changes to the status of *D. teretifolium* than there has been post-war Italian governments. Well, not quite, but perhaps more than with nearly any other species of native orchid having a "complex" tag tattooed on it. In one form, or variety, or sub-species, or species, or even flavour I suppose, you can see *D. teretifolium* from about Narooma in southern NSW, then up north to virtually the tip of Cape York Peninsula. And nowhere is there a break without some form or other of this species over that vast range.

The one thing that all of this complex complex (repetition intended) has in common is the leaves. These are always cylindrical with no groove or seam anywhere around the surface. Other than this, it is pretty near impossible to claim another feature that is constant across the whole range. *D. teretifolium* leaves are not always long, they are not always green, they are not always thin, and they are not always pendulous (but nearly so).

It is tiresome to do so but I should go through, ever so briefly, the major forms of this species. Firstly we have var. *teretifolium*. Broadly speaking, this form is supposed to occur on Casuarina species, mainly *C. glauca*, from Narooma to around Morton Bay, or Brisbane if you prefer. Some authors report it as occurring as far north as Fraser Island. It is supposedly found only at or near sea level and is usually associated with estuarine environments.

This form is the real showoff of the complex and can have literally thousands of blooms on a large specimen. The other forms can only produce about 20 per cent, maximum, of the number of flowers that an equivalent size var. *teretifolium* can churn out. It is generally the first variety to flower in the bush house, starting in about late August here in Sydney.

The other commonly observed variety in NSW is the var. *fairfaxii* which is normally referred to as the rainforest form. This form has been given species status of late as *Den. fairfaxii*.

It is certainly not restricted to rainforests however and can be found from near sea level up to 1000 metres or so into the clouds. Neither is it restricted to trees – it frequently colonises rocks and occasional large colonies can be found on rock outcrops in open forest.

Var. *fairfaxii* is found from the Blue Mts (where it can be locally common) up to around the Clarence River just north of Dorriggo. It is easily distinguished by it's habit of only having two or three blooms to the raceme. These can be up to 9 cms across but frequently less. Whilst they are quite attractive with their snowy white blooms with red striations, the plants don't have the ability to cover themselves in the manner of var. *teretifolium*. There have been very rare exceptions to this statement however.

A clump of var. *fairfaxii* can grow to an enormous size and it is one of the joys of nature to stand under an old-man Fig Tree and feel dwarfed by the great chandeliers of bridal veil studding the gravity-defying limbs. Some such clumps would be quite able to fill up a Holden ute.

The longest (most pendulous) plant I know of grows only a stone's throw from the shores of Lake Burragorang in Water Board catchment, where I accidentally strayed four or five times in the late eighties and early nineties. By placing a stick, the same length as myself, in amongst the huge specimen, Dennis Johnson and myself (who had accidentally strayed with me on one occasion) were able to deduce that this bridal veil was around 4.5 metres from top to bottom. It is still hanging up on that rock and every year I think about straying back for a look during the flowering season. But it's a long, hard journey to that mountain creek and I haven't been lucky enough to get lost in the catchment areas for a good while now. And besides, it is an offence to approach stored up Water Board Dams inside a distance of three kms. So don't get lost like I have, a few times . . .

The other well known variety of *D. teretifolium* is the var. *aureum*. These days we call this form *D. dolicaphyllum*, a species in its own right. This form is rather similar to var. *fairfaxii* with the exception of its colour. As the name suggests, its flowers are 'aureum' or gold in colour. As well, the red striations in var. *aureum* seem to be wider and more intense. This combination is extremely appealing and a heavily flowered specimen (not a common sight unfortunately) is a joy to behold.

Var. *aureum* extends from the Richmond Ranges in northern NSW to at least as far as the Eungella district near Mackay. But it becomes difficult to recognise a singular form of var. *aureum* because every few hundred kms it seems to mutate with differing floral characteristics. The flower form around the State border is certainly much larger than the form from around Kroombit, or Gladstone, which in turn is different to the form at Eungella, or Mackay, where in fact there may be several forms. Between these distinct regions there are suitable areas where no var. *aureum* exists at all. So it all becomes quite confusing.

In north Queensland we find the variety *fasciculatum*. This is yet another one which now has its own species status as *Dendrobium calamiforme*. This is the thick leafed form that grows on many street trees in Cairns, on the Esplanade for example. These leaves can

grow to 10mm thick and large plants of var. *fasciculatum* have a great deal of bulk compared to all the other forms of *D. teretifolium*. It is readily distinguishable when in flower because it has long racemes of closely packed, small (about 12mm) white flowers (up to about 15), that do not open up very widely. Unfortunately, it is a difficult form to flower down here in Sydney. Despite having several very robust clones for many years I have never been able to flower them. They need at least an unheated glass house in this part of the world to trigger flowering.

I have often heard it said and read that the thick leafed plants are found only down on the lowlands and, as they ascend into the mountains, var. *fasciculatum* becomes thinner and thinner until it resembles a typical southern var. *fairfaxii* in vegetative form. I was sitting on a rock on a mountain up on the Atherton Tableland a few years back (contemplating the meaning of life no doubt). I was very surprised to discover a typical lowland plant with 9mm thick leaves, growing on the same short tree limb as three thin plants with only 4mm wide leaves. It was the only thick leafed plant I observed during that whole day. There were hundreds of the thin leafed types around the surrounding bush. None were flowering unfortunately so a comparison was not possible. I found this incident rather perplexing.

Note: Bailey described a form of *D. teretifolium* from the tropics as *D. baseyanum* back in the 1800s. No one has been certain exactly what constituted *D. baseyanum* and its name fell out of use. These days there is a line of thinking that suggests that the upland thin form of *D. teretifolium*, from the Atherton Tableland region, is no doubt what Bailey was describing. I am not a botanist: I have nothing to add to this information. However, the thin form is totally different from the lowland thick form that it would seem likely that Bailey was referring to this thin leafed form.

There is another form of *D. teretifolium* that is quite common in some areas, but which I can never decide what pigeon hole to stick this one into to. I refer to it as the rainforest form of variety *teretifolium*. However, it is certainly a far cry from most growers understanding of that variety.

This enigmatic rainforest form looks exactly like var. *fairfaxii* vegetatively speaking. It grows in rainforest situations and occasionally on rocks in or near rainforest. It can be observed at up to 1000 metre altitude, just like var. *fairfaxii*. When in flower however there is no resemblance whatsoever. This rainforest form produces racemes up to 15 cms long supporting up to 15 flowers, all spaced well apart. This is totally opposing the two flowers that is generally found on var. *fairfaxii*. Also, it is very different to var. *teretifolium* five to ten blooms on a much shorter raceme. Flowers are similar however but much more crowded together.

This rainforest form can be found from around the Macleay River, Kempsey NSW, up to Kroombit Tops near Gladstone in central Queensland. It is hap hazard in occurrence however. It is certainly common in such areas as the Clarence Valley, the Jimna Range and the Calliope Range near Kroombit. No doubt it is abundant in many other regions within this distribution.

The rainforest form grows on rocks quite commonly, as well as trees, and is a far cry from the appearance of the coastal form of var. *teretifolium*. I simply cannot believe that it has not been recognised by the botanical hierarchy of Australian science. I think it is a case of them simply having no knowledge of it at all.

There are other strange forms around the countryside including an interesting form that was thought to be restricted to the Penrith district near Sydney. It does extend down to the south coast of NSW however. It grows horizontal, outwards, and seems to be fighting against becoming pendulous like normal var. *teretifolium*.

It seems pretty well restricted to Casuarina species. It does grow right into the harsh dry country to the south of Sydney and Camden, at considerable distance from the coast. But does occur around the Jervis Bay and St Georges region in typical salt and brackish water courses as well. It covers itself thickly with enormous numbers of snowy white flowers. An old man specimen may only be a metre deep but also it can support itself while growing a metre horizontally out from the tree trunk. It looks fabulous! Unfortunately it is poorly understood by most growers.

I do not grow hybrids at all but I find it fascinating how easily all forms of *D. teretifolium* seem to readily hybridise with other members of its section ie: Section Rhizobium. Natural hybrids in which *D. teretifolium* has been matched with other species include: *D. striolatum*, *D. schoeninum*, *D. mortii* and *D. pugioniforme*. It has also been matched with *D. linguiforme* var. *nugentii* from around the Atherton Tableland. This natural hybrid was always uncommon but enough exist that it was given the name of *D. X grimesii*. (Capital X meaning that it is a naturally occurring hybrid). (A small x indicates the cross is a manmade hybrid).

Interestingly, I have a plant from the Sussex Inlet region, 200 kms south of Sydney, that is a natural hybrid of *D. teretifolium* var. *teretifolium* X *D. linguiforme* var. *linguiforme*. It is the only one that has ever been found so far as I know. Is this specimen to be known as *D. X grimesii*? The two parents are not the same taxa as the two parents of the *D. grimesii* plants from the Atherton Tableland. 3500 kms separates these plants. I am not sure what to call it . . . but I am really glad I have it!!

In cultivation you would think that all the variation in the *D. teretifolium* complex would present some issues. That is not the case however. It seems to not matter where it comes from in this great nation; they all respond to the same cultivation techniques. The main thing to remember is that this is a species that will grow quickly and with very little in the way of problems. It is as tough as old boot leather and when it gets going it will grow large in quick time.

Choice of a host is not a problem when mounting *D. teretifolium*. I like to use natural lumps of Portuguese virgin cork if possible. This material is expensive so for a cheaper alternative you could try nearly anything you find laying around. I think you could use an empty beer bottle and you would still have success with *D. teretifolium*. Long lengths of old hardwood are good. So too are long pieces of hard treefern fibre.

You can tie the plant to a new host without the addition of moisture retentive moss or similar. But a little sphagnum draped loosely over the root system may be a bit of an encourager for quicker root production naturally. But if you do not then do not panic about it. Things will still go well. Use a long lasting host however because this species does not like to be disturbed once it settles in for a while.

Another interesting way that works very well is this. Grab a 200 mm squat pot and cut a hole in the base just wide enough to feed all the roots of your *D. teretifolium* plant into the centre of the pot, through the hole you created. Attach three wires to the edge so you can hang it up high. Fill the pot with chunky orchid bark and thats all you need to do. This is a good way to handle large specimen plants that may not have too many roots. Such plants can drop half their long cylindrical leaves in quick time if they lose too many roots. The new roots run wild through the bark and over the outside of the pot like crazy.

While *D. teretifolium* is generally as tough as nails it pays well to be quite cautious when handling a large specimen plant. A two-metre-long bridal veil specimen may have several kilos of weight hanging off just three or four thin wiry stems originating from the root mass. Too much twisting and they can snap off very easily. The loss of one of these main stems can remove a lot of the mass of your big plant with one wrong move. You have been warned people.

So if you wander around the bush looking for fallen limbs etc. in the hope of finding salvage plants that need to be nursed, then be exceedingly careful with your technique. Take your time and take note of exactly where each leaf is attached. Many a plant is destroyed when a grower with buck fever starts to grunt and groan and pulls the wrong limb or stem in their haste. The more roots you save the better for the plants well being . . . and yours!

And finding plants on fallen trees and limbs you surely will do. *D. teretifolium* is a species that can proliferate itself dramatically. I have seen some rainforest and bushy areas where there must be thousands of seedlings to the acre and growing on bark and rock alike. After many trips to the Kroombit Tops region I have seen fire ravaged seedlings of *D. teretifolium* sprout out and come to life in double quick time. A really hot fire will kill them off of course. But a normal kind of slow moving fire only singes them in the main.

Seed pods of wild plants are extremely abundant. Quite literally there will commonly be dozens of seed pods on even small plants of *D. teretifolium*. I suspect that there are many different insects attracted to the honey like perfume of this species. Pollination is astonishingly frequent. The resulting establishment of thousands of seedlings can easily be understood. *D. teretifolium* is an extremely resilient survivor.

Like all other orchids in this world, a fast growing, large bulky orchid like *D. teretifolium* requires plenty of tucker or they will not grow to full advantage. So feed them up often. But even if you forget to feed they will still seem to go OK and flower each year. Flowering performance and floriferousness will be greatly enhanced if you grow your plant in strong light. They can take it. Once they are established then they could even do well in all but the hottest summer full sun. What a species is the Bridal Veil Orchid!



Dockrillia teretifolia 'YatteYattah' Trish Peterson

The cost of a good *Dendrobium speciosum*

I was recently asked why a 'good' speciosum was so expensive, so I sat down to have a think about it and have come up with the following. I may change these views over time as I usually mull over something before I put it in print but here it is.

The reason that 'good' speciosums are expensive is that they are indeed rare. All plants in the wild are seedlings and no two are alike, so when one finds a good seedling then it is indeed prized and all the 'keen' speciosum growers would like a piece of it. The trouble is while speciosums can be divided into single pseudobulbs and go on to make many plants doing it this way is a minimum of 10 years to get back to a divisible flowering plant. However, if the plant is large enough then with a MINIMUM of 3 forward canes the plant repotted can, and usually does, flower the following season. Also by having a minimum of 3 mature, or near mature canes, The next growths are usually the same or near to the same size as previous. So the plant advances at a good rate and in 3 good years can be divided and potted on again into 2 new plants and on it goes. That is how there are so many pieces of *Den. speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Windermere', and *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Daylight Moon' about. By my reckoning if the plant is well grown and divided every 4 years then from the original plant (1989-90) the original plant could be now 512 plants. Now that seems like a lot but I'm sure that there are even more people out there that would like a piece of *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Daylight Moon' and indeed if you have one why should you not have 2? This always assumes that you divide every 4 years and some growers do not do that or indeed pot on for maybe double that so at best guess I would say that there are probably about 60 growers who have a piece or pieces of this plant. Now in the world of diehard *speciosum* growers this is still not many and when a piece of this plant can go for \$2000 it is not hard to see why it is prized. Apart from this it IS a fine flowering plant.

Now the REAL reason for the cost, so far no one has cloned or been able to clone a *Den. speciosum* and I don't know why as many other *Dendrobium* species have been done. If, no when, it happens the cost will still be up for a time

but then will drop, except for those clones that have not been reproduced by meristematic tissue culture. When *Den. Yondi* Tina 'Goliath' FCC/ANOS -AOC was cloned, 80 mm plants sold for between \$100 and \$125 each and I will bet that only a few of these will or have survived.

People always want the best, it's human nature. I have many people approach me that admired my plants but when they won awards then people I don't even know asked for a piece. I have admired and purchased many plants and seedlings and divisions over the last 30 odd years that I have been growing speciosums and I think that I only ever actually asked once for a plant. I have known some very generous people that grow orchids and been blessed to have been given some fine clones over the years and have freely given back some plants as well.

Back to the cost of plants again, and the reason my back yard is filled with plants. While it is good to chase clones it is good to grow seedlings and if you have the room purchase as many of a cross that you can, that you believe in. I would suggest at least 4-6. I remember buying probably up to 25 plants of *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Daylight Moon' x 'Blew Moon' (DUNO #609) cross to get many fine plants but resulted in only one outstanding seedling, the awarded clone 'Kathryn'. Speaking of seedlings Tony Blewitt Successfully selfed 'Daylight Moon' and one of these seedlings produced 'Clair de Lune' which itself received an FCC from both ANOS and AOC. Also out of this pod came 'New Moon'

With seedlings comes waiting, anticipation, and hope as to when it will flower and then what the flowers will be like. Still a lottery ticket, as you only have to go into the bush in a flowering season and see thousands of plants in the wild and may still NOT see a good plant. It may not be there but then again it may be but not be flowering. You may be standing next to it but it's not it's time yet. That's the joy, and let down, of seedlings. However the chance of getting a better quality plant from the nursery as distinct from the will is exponentially better as you cross, and self, better quality plants.

Now there are some people that will cross everything without thinking about the background and some that do but still

proceed regardless and we have seedlings that sadly are never going to be any 'good' or show bench quality anyway.

Seedlings within their own variety should be propagated, (line breeding) to improve the line. However when it comes to inter-varietal the door is open and many people seem to cross plants with gay abandon. The best inter-varietal, in my opinion, draw from the best of both parents and end up better than both. A tough call.

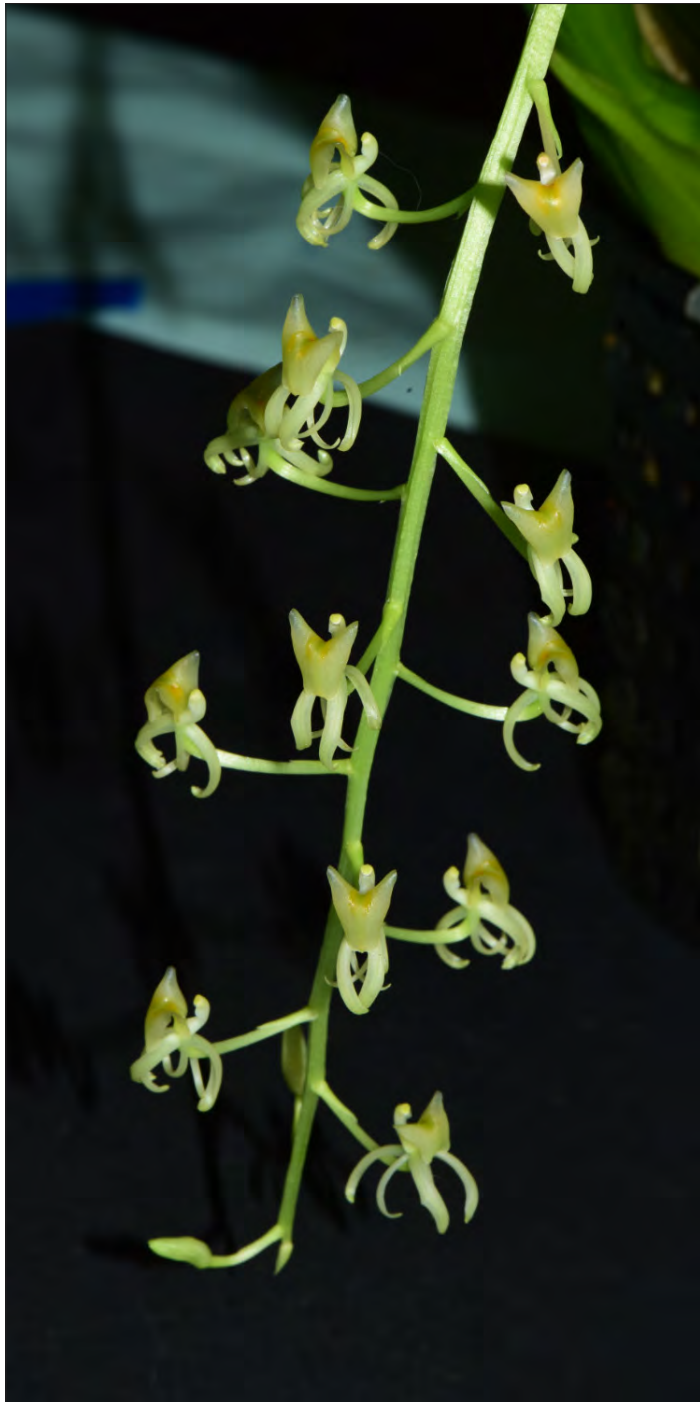
So here is my list of plants that should be done, looking at show bench awardable plants.

1. *Den. speciosum* var. *speciosum* x *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* (var. *speciosum* has size and shape, while var. *curvicaule* has habit of arrangement and number of flowers and excellent shape and width of segments)
2. *Den. speciosum* var. *speciosum* x *Den. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* (var. *grandiflorum* has size, shape and colour, var. *curvicaule* has habit of arrangement and number of flowers and excellent shape and width of segments)
3. *Den. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* x *Den. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum*, as above.

Also when doing the above crosses the reverse of each should be done, pod parent is usually first.

Why have I left out the other varieties? Well for a quality show bench speciosum, even an inter-varietal, I don't think they bring anything to the table. I have only seen one 'hybrid' using var. *pedunculatum* that the flowers size, shape and segment width looked great but when it flowered it always had only 30 flowers per spike so for a start it would suffer to get an award as for floriferousness then as a *speciosum* it would only get approximately 30% for this. These are my opinions and observations over the last 30+ years and if others have different opinions then I am willing to debate them.

William B. Dobson



Liparis nugentae Erik Lielkajis



Oberonia sp. Erik Lielkajis



Mediocallcar decoratum Judith Barry



Dendrobium bracteosum Cary Polis



Dendrobium alexandrae Ela Kielich



Dendrobium Cosmic Gold David Hemmings



Dendrobium Cosmic Gold 'Shirley' David Hemmings



Pterostylis hispidula R. G. Blaxland



Pterostylis coccinea Judith Barry



Pterostylis repanda R. G. Blaxland



Pterostylis Nodding Grace R. G. Blaxland



Dendrobium Bergan x Aussie Quest David Hemmings



Doc. Tweetas x Martin Gold David Hemmings



Doc. Tweetas x (Grey Ghost x Hot Coals) David Hemmings



Doc. Legend Royal David Hemmings