



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 at 8:00 pm - Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville

February 2020

Photos by Jane D'Olier



Den. Memoria Egret Gold P & J D'Olier



Plant of the Evening

Den. Johulatum I & I Chambers



Dendrobium discolor Cary Polis



Geodorium densiflorum
Cameron Lanceley

Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th February 2019

Guest Speaker

Bill Dobson

"Visit to a Cloud Forest" - Eungella and Cathu

Minutes of the monthly meeting

held at the Senior Citizens' Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville on Tuesday, 21st January 2020.

The meeting was opened by Trish Peterson at 8.10pm, who welcomed members and visitor Liam.

Our Speaker tonight will be Bill Dobson who will conduct a culture class.

Apologies: Ian Tanner, Lorraine Dobson, Bill Westwood, Harleen Williams, Warleiti Jap, Jan & Geoff Duggin

The minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Bulletin were accepted as a true record on the motion of Bryan Spurrs seconded by James Litten

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- o Term deposit Bendigo Bank
- o Commonwealth Bank balance statements
- o Orchadian December 2019

Moved for acceptance by Bryan Spurrs, seconded by Ela Kielich

Val: Society members stood for a minute's silence in memory of Barry Collins, former President of ANOS Warringah who died recently.

General Business:

- o Supper Roster Draw: Ian Chalmers and Cary Polis were selected for this evening's supper duty. (George Hardy to be exempt due to his other duties.)
- o Sales Table: Members were encouraged to bring items to sell on Cary's Sales Table which will re-start next month. A list of items you have for sale would be helpful.

In Your Bushhouse:

Mick talked on ways to manage NSW water restrictions. He has access to water from a bore on his property. Other members discussed their strategies – several members have rainwater tanks.

Judges Report: John McAuley

Plant of the evening:

Dendrobium Johulatum – Ian & Irene Chalmers

Other Plants of interest:

Dendrobium (Carron Deb x Kuranda Blue) x *Den. canaliculatum* = **Den. Kuranda Pixie** – Jane & Peter D'Olier

Geodorum densiflorum – Cameron Lanceley

Dendrobium (Cadetia) taylorii – Ian & Irene Chalmers

Trachoma speciosum – Erik Lielkajis

After supper: Bill gave a wide-ranging culture talk including the use of Pirimor for aphids, Neem and EcoOil. Cutting grooves on mounts for root growth (*Ralph Lumby introduced this method to our Group.*) Use of mesh pot for *Den. aemulum*; Cypress pine palings (insect resistant) available from Bunnings @ \$4 a piece

Lucky Door Prize: John McAuley, Irene Chalmers

Raffle Prizes: Ian Chalmers, Trish Peterson, David Morgan, Jim Hemmings, Reiner Schneidereit.

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

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

In my Bushhouse – February 2020

Well the rain has come all thru the Sydney Basin and welcome it is. We personally have had 3 'Rain Gauges' full in 3 days, see pic. This by no means indicates that the drought has broken and Sydney Water and Government will have to recognize that the Warragamba Dam and the desalination plant at Kurnell is not enough to cope with a rising population. Which is projected to increase by another 20% to 6M in this area within the next 10 years, a far cry from 2M in 1960.

To cope with this we have to resort to other methods to look after our plants. I have the room and many years ago installed a 9000 lt water tank and sprinkler system, However, for me this has meant a change from the sprinkler system to watering plants by hand individually and using Dramm® Fogg-it® nozzles which has cut my watering usage by 1/3 the bonus is I get to inspect all my plants. The downside is that it now takes me an extra 4-6 hours a week.

The problem with the dry spell was that for some reason some of my Plectorrhiza had small infestations mealy bug this despite spraying with EcoOil® and Azamax® So I will have to rethink how to tackle this pest with something else not so severe. I have Supracide® but have resisted using this for obvious reasons. I will probably inspect and treat each plant individually with a higher strength EcoOil® and keep an eye on them as you cannot let this pest get out of control.

With all the new growth you can expect the appearance of aphids.

If you have ever looked under the leaf of a flower or plant and found a cluster of tiny insects, you've most likely encountered aphids. Aphids are small sap-sucking bugs that feed on plants. They reproduce quickly, giving the scientific world plenty of opportunities to study them, and in turn providing us a lot of information on these creatures.

The sex life (or non-sex life) of the aphid is one of their most unusual features. Some aphids reproduce sexually, some reproduce asexually and some use both methods of reproduction depending on their environment. With asexual reproduction, females can either give birth to live clones or lay eggs, all without a male aphid.

For the aphids that do involve a male, it gets a little more complicated, but also more interesting. After laying eggs or creating clones, the new females are able to produce copies of themselves as well. When the weather heats up, some of the eggs hatch into males. When the males are sexually mature, they can mate with the female aphid, who then produces eggs that will survive over the winter and hatch into more aphids.

Since some aphids use asexual reproduction and others use sexual, while still others use both, there are a few

different paths their life cycle may take. The cycle is also affected by environmental factors. The average life-span of an aphid is one month. I use Pirimor® but these are other defenses for these bugs. Just get onto them soon as they will reproduce rapidly.

A few plants in flower *Cadetia taylori*, *Bulbophyllum johnsonii*, and a few others in bud. I was having a great time in the bushhouse then had to come back inside as it's pouring rain again. One thing I did notice is that the plants are looking good and promises to be a good year.
Good growing Bill Dobson



'Rain Gauge' Bill Dobson

Below is an article from my archives by a former President of Manly Warringah Orchid Society and as good a grower of species as I have seen.

Growing Epiphytes as Lithophytes

by
Rod Nelson

Over the past two years we have had more rain than I can remember. I believe this has had a very detrimental effect on the pine bark being used as a potting medium. A few rumors are going round such as, that there is a fungus, which in the conditions is breaking down the bark quickly. However, commonsense tells you that any wood type product will decay at an accelerated rate under very constant wet and humid conditions we have had to endure.

From spring two years ago I realised my plants were experiencing abnormal problems from the bark. Very few which were repotted had adequate root systems because of the damage from their sodden bark potting mix. My initial response was to repot them into coarser bark, which had initial better results than the fine to medium grades I had been using. However, after six months or less the root systems quickly deteriorated again.

I came to the conclusion that it might be worthwhile trying a radically different medium to bark. I remembered that during the 70's there had been some experimentation with scoria, which is a red volcanic rock available from landscape suppliers. I had also through want of something to pot with planted a *Dendrobium falcorostrum* in pebbles (about 15mm) some five years previous. This plant in that time, without repotting, had grown into a magnificent specimen from just 3 canes. The pot was only 4" or 100mm in size. In fact I repotted this year for the first time in seven years to find a mass of healthy roots which you could not see the pebbles through. It was very impressive. So last March I began experimenting with *Odontoglossums* and *Masdevallias*. Half the plants were repotted in scoria, the other in pebbles about 15mm size. I was quickly delighted with their progress. The scoria is excellent for growing *Masdevallia*, *Dracula* etc., and I have a slight favour for the pebbles in regard to the *Odontoglossums* and *Oncidiums*. Saying that, plants in either have grown fantastic root systems and you can lift any plant by a leaf without fear of it falling out of its pot. Think of that with the added weight of scoria or pebbles over bark.

In fact the weight is probably the only disadvantage but not much of a problem for small plants.

In September last year I repotted nearly all my miscellaneous species and hybrids and nearly all my natives into scoria or pebble. I also for large pots or plants that would grow large used a new product called Absorbastone. Absorbastone weighs in at 18kg for a 50 litre bag (less weight than bark), and about the same price as bark. The progress on these plants in 99% of cases has been great. Having always been keen to grow plants to an absolute premium I am extremely pleased with the results to date.

In summing up, I believe I am still in an experimental stage with the growing mediums but they appear to be an excellent alternative for most epiphytic orchids. Ask this question; what natural orchid normally lives on radiata pine bark? I expect very few if any. Many orchids that are epiphytic however also live as lithophytes. I remember an impressive slide shown by A. B. Porter many years ago showing all sorts of species growing happily on a rock wall.

Rock and pebble type mediums have these properties

Advantages

- Low cost
- Very long lasting
- Excellent drainage
- Harmonious to the growth of most orchid root systems
- Less need to repot regularly (however some plants are growing so fast this might not be true).
- Should be easier to grow as specimens as less need to disturb root systems and roots should grow better and more efficiently anyway.
- Pots rarely fall over in the wind.

Disadvantages

- Pots may be a fair bit heavier to carry.
- It would be more difficult to split plants when they become large.

I hope this small article gives you another idea, which may help, in growing your orchids. I think you will find in the case of most plants it worth giving a try. Happy orchid growing.

Rod Nelson

Rod later capped this off by growing some superb specimen orchids using Blue Metal as the prime potting medium. So experiment or not ... Ed

ANOS Warringah Monthly Benching Results - January 2020

1. Dockrillia species		3 rd <i>Den. tapiniense</i> x <i>convolutum</i> = <i>Den. Mystic Bee</i> I & I Chalmers
1 st <i>Dendrobium prenticei</i>	Bryan Spurrs	
2 nd Nil		11. Novice & Junior
3 rd Nil		1 st Nil
2. Dendrobium species		2 nd Nil
1 st <i>Dendrobium discolor</i>	Cary Polis	3 rd Nil
2 nd <i>Dendrobium affine (dicuphum)</i>	Cameron Lanceley	12. Pterostylis species
3 rd <i>Dendrobium malbrowni</i>	Erik Lielkajis	1 st Nil
3. Sarcanthinae species		2 nd Nil
1 st <i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>	L & B Dobson	3 rd Nil
2 nd <i>Tracoma speciosum</i>	Erik Lielkajis	13. Other terrestrials
3 rd <i>Sarcochilus hirticalcar</i>	Bryan Spurrs	1 st <i>Geodorum densiflorum</i> Cameron Lanceley
4. Bulbophyllum species		2 nd Nil
1 st <i>Bulbophyllum radicans</i>	Erik Lielkajis	3 rd Nil
2 nd <i>Bulbophyllum lageniforme</i>	Erik Lielkajis	14. Terrestrial hybrids
3 rd <i>Bulbophyllum whitei</i>	Erik Lielkajis	1 st Nil
5. Miscellaneous species		2 nd Nil
1 st <i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	I & I Chambers	3 rd Nil
2 nd <i>Rhynchophreatia sp.</i>	Erik Lielkajis	15. Best specimen
3 rd <i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	Erik Lielkajis	1 st Nil
6. Dendrobium Hybrids		2 nd Nil
1 st <i>Den. Johulatum</i>	I & I Chambers	3 rd Nil
2 nd <i>Den. Sorento Star</i>	David Hemmings	16. Best First Flowering seedling
3 rd <i>Den. Regal Gilliston x Hilda Poxon</i>	David Hemmings	1 st Nil
		2 nd Nil
7. Sarcanthinae Hybrids		3 rd Nil
1 st <i>Sarco. Belmont Rose</i>	Clover Bradley	-o0o-
2 nd <i>Sarco. Cherie x Velvet</i>	Clover Bradley	
3 rd <i>Sarco. Earth Song</i>	Clover Bradley	
8. Miscellaneous Hybrids		<u>Coming Events</u>
1 st Nil		March : Mystery Auction
2 nd Nil		April: Hall not available
3 rd Nil		May: Gerry Walsh - topic to be decided
9. Australasian species		June: David Banks The Genus <i>Sarcochilus</i> ...
1 st <i>Dendrobium tangerinum</i>	I & I Chambers	This is one NOT to be missed. All David's presentations are great and this is no exception.
2 nd <i>Dendrobium leporinum</i>	John McAuley	
3 rd <i>Dendrobium antennatum</i>	P & J D'Olier	
10. Australasian Hybrids		
1 st <i>Den. (Caron Deb x Kurranda) x canaliculatum</i>	P & J D'Olier	
2 nd <i>Den. Memoria Stephen x tangerinum</i>	P & J D'Olier	

Dendrobium aemulum

Dendrobium aemulum is one of our orchids that comes in two more or less completely different forms: the stocky and compact one that grows on the ironbark trees in the open forests and the more lanky form that adorns the permanent bark sections of the Brush Box trees on the periphery of the rain forest. Both forms are covered with white to pinkish starry little flowers rather like *Dendrobium falcostrostrum* on a smaller scale.

There used to be a deep pink form growing on the Red Mountain Oaks or casuarinas in the Dingo Tops National Park, almost a *Dendrobium kingianum* pink. These also seemed to have flowers with better lasting qualities than the forms I mentioned earlier.

I have found *Dendrobium aemulum* more or less impossible to grow in pots but quite easy on any slab that the plant approves. The Brush Box form will grow on almost anything but the ironbark form seems to be only happy on a piece of the bark of the original host.

The compact form likes strong light whereas the Brush Box form seems happier in heavier shade.

Ted Gregory

The above article from Ted Gregory's Book

There is another very short compact form from Crediton QLD that the mature canes measure 8cm Max in height and only grow on Iron Bark.

I have tried growing these over many years and whilst I have had some success growing on mounts. I have had greatest success growing all types in net pots. I put this down to the fact that they are growing in a media and pot that allows some moisture retention while providing the open air that they require. They are easy to show on a bench and can be started with 80mm pots and then potted on to 140mm and finally 200mm net pots.

Bill Dobson