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The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group

"The Orchidophile" March 2018

www.anossydney.wixsite.com/orchidophile

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We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 8.00pm in the
[Baulkham Hills Community Centre, 15 Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills, NSW](#)

Next Meeting Friday 16 March 2018

Guest Speaker: Bill Dobson
Topic: 'Our Trip to Western Australia'



Dendrobium tetragonum

Photo by Greg Steenbeeke

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Our Club Bulletin Board

Our Guest Speaker:

Topic: " Western Australia Trip"

Bill Dobson needs no introduction to our members. Recipient of many orchid awards for his beautiful plants. The man who according to Jim Brydie (Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society), "can make leaves grow out of broom sticks!" Bill has been sharing with us very useful and practical advice on growing native orchids in his monthly articles of "In My Bush House" (published here in the Orchidophile).

He will be talking and showing us photos of his trip a few years ago to Western Australia with his wife Lorraine. He will take us around the corner of WA, from Cervantes and Jurien Bay in the north, down to Margaret River and Albany in the South.

For sure members will find his topic very informative and worthwhile. Come along and bring your friends too! Everyone is very welcome!



Photo credit: [Australian Orchid Nursery](#)

Vale Kevin 'Hippo' Hipkins 1950 – 2018



I am upset and sorry to have to tell the orchid world of our great loss. The legend and top orchid grower and breeder Kevin Hipkins (affectionally known as 'Hippo'), owner of Royale Orchids passed away on the 3rd of March 2018. There will never be a man so generous and helpful to all, especially those that became his friends. The 'last of the Mohicans'.

Kevin (back towards the camera) just before his passing having his normal jovial get together with his Royale Orchids top gun crew and helpers at 'smoko'.



This was one of Hippo's favourite native orchids a *Dendrobium*. Elegant Heart x Hastings. God be with you forever my friend.



- Mark Daniels

GREAT NEWS! THE SALES TABLE IS BACK!

We will be starting up a sales table at our monthly meetings from April as part of our plan to make our meetings more attractive for our members and hopefully to entice more orchid enthusiasts to join ANOS Sydney.

All the usual orchid gear will be available: pots, bark, fertilisers, etc.

If anyone has any ideas for what they would like to see available or things they have found difficult to source, please let us know or have a chat to Barry Moore at the next meeting.

Bulletin Board (Cont..)

Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – Friday 16 February 2018

Meeting opened: 8:20 pm by President, Andrew Locke welcomed members and visitors.

Apologies: Phyll Murn

New Members: Welcome Istvan Ficker!

Correspondence In/Out: Routine

Treasurer's report: presented for the January to February period.

General Business:

The President advised:

- Membership fees for 2017/2018 are due – see Joe if you are unsure if you are financial or not.
- Members are encouraged to nominate for the **Secretary** position. In addition a **Show Marshall** and **Publicity Officer** are needed on Committee. Please speak to Andrew if you are able to assist.
- Group name badges can be ordered from Andrew for \$9.
- Thanks to Charlie who has uploaded The Orchidophile on the website.
- Society polo-shirts are still available for sale from Charlie – speak to him at a meeting.
- Thanks to David Banks for donating copies of the latest Australian Orchid Review for the raffle.
- Thanks to Greg Steenbeeke for filling in at late notice to be our guest speaker after our planned speaker had to go to New Zealand to attend a funeral.

Meeting broke for refreshments.

Presentation by: Greg Steenbeeke 'Epiphytic orchids of NSW'.

Plant of the evening – *Dockrillia Numbat* – G. Russell.

Next meeting 16 March 2017. Presentation to be advised.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

February Meeting Photos:



Plant of the Evening: *Dockrillia Numbat* – G. Russell



Sarco. Bonanza – C. Bradley



Den. Hera x bigibbum – G. Lane



Bulbophyllum macphersonii – L. & B. Dobson

Photos by John Klepetko

In The Beginning ...The first formally recorded membership.

Nothing that exists today would do so had it not had an initiator. No, this is not a religious sermon – just a reflection on a basic fact. I recently had the opportunity to try to identify when a recently deceased ANOS- Sydney Group member joined our group. After a bit of rummaging I came across what looked like the first recorded membership. This was for the year 1985/1986. I initially wondered why formal membership recording started then – then I recalled that our group was incorporated on the 1st of June 1987. So formal management of the group (including financial management and the recording of committee and general meetings) had to have been in place before the incorporation application could be lodged. Hence the start of membership recording in 1985/1986 – well at least that's my theory.

As I went through the list I realised that had it not been for the efforts of the initial membership we would not have an ANOS- Sydney Group now. Hence my starting reflection. I also was moved by seeing that some of the names listed are actually still on the current membership list – after over 30 years! As I think we owe these members acknowledgement I decided to list them and thank them even though a lot are no longer in the group and some are deceased. Unfortunately I do not have the very original membership (pretty sure the group started well before 1985) but I am fairly sure that the majority of those would be among the following list.

Interesting to see the numbers back then. The membership could have been up to 142. I have some doubts in regards to the membership status of some in the following list. These I have marked with a question mark following their names - there are 13 of these. (The membership was initially handwritten on a hand-drawn table and it is not always clear which year a given member started at). If you factor out members with a question mark you're still left with 129 that I'm fairly sure were members in the 1986/87 year.

Go through the list and see if you're in it or you know of someone who is (Note. Names not always in alphabetical order). I found two persons who I knew before joining the society. Feedback, more information and corrections on the matter most welcome!

- Joe Portelli

A. Atkin	D. & J. Johnson	Pete Thomas
B. Allen	Harold Johnson	R. Thurley (?)
B & E Bushell	J. & D. Kavulak	M. Towers (?)
D & K Barnham	A. Kelly	M. & R. Uren
David Banks	S. Kum-Jew	R. Usher
J. Betts	R. Kerr	W. & J. Upton
I. Brown	Nance Kerr	P. Vandyke
K. Blackburn	M. Korzenowski	R. Vidoy
B & J Butler	R. Lowe	C. Van Raalte (?)
David Butler	P. Lister	J. & E. Walker
R. F. Baxter	J. Lykos	G. Wells
D. Binns	L. Lawler	N. & B. Weismantel
P. Bracs	E. Merritt	Gerry Walsh
W. Biggs	Dr. D. McAlpine	A. Wahlquist (?)
P. Branwhite	B. Munro	T. & P. Westwood
Jim Bailey	M. McTiernan	H. Wilson
R. Beard	L. Montuoro	D. Widenstrom
G. Black	F. & N. Martin	P. Wignell
G. Bosier	Gregory Miles	E. Webeck
Sid Batchelor	Barry Matthews	D. White
Leila Blackman	P & P McDougall (?)	K. Wright
Judith Brown	T. A. Murphy	M. Webb.
Norman Biffin	Ray Mitchell	
Syd Burton	Russel McCarthy (?)	
R. Calkin	Les Nesbitt	
P. Collin	Bill Olsen	
J. Chang	R. Opperer	
B. Clare	J. Pierce	
J. Carter	K & M Puhlmann	
T. Carter	R. Pitman	
R. Charnock	D. Peterson	
Dr. K. Cairncross	H. & J. Page	
D. de Silva (?)	Neil Padbury	
M. Dyer	Roger Phillips	
S. Deards	A. B. Porter	
S & B. Eustace	Bruce Potter (?)	
J. Elton	Dr. Rod Peakall	
P. Eygelshoven	J & L Picone	
T. Farmer (?)	Paul Phillips	
L.Farnham	Ron Potter	
David & P. Floyd	Andrew Paget (?)	
N. Finch	J. Roberts	
Bernie Fletcher	R. Rudkin	
D. Gagg (?)	Jennifer Roberts	
E. Grossman	D. Simmons	
A. Graham	N. & J. Shorrock	
M. & R. Harrison	K. Swanton	
John and L. Hurst	Fr. R. Stephens	
E. Husted	D. Stewart	
P. Hind	A. Strachan (?)	
K. Hill	D. Smedley	
Ron Howlett	K. Storey (?)	
J. Hocking	B. Swan	
H. G. Hansen	M. & N. Snelgrove	
R. & J. Hamel	T. Spinner	
P. Hardie	M. Shelley	
W. & P. Holland	Peter Taylor (?)	
Margaret Honore	Rob Toombs	
R. Johnstone	D. Titmus	
W. Jones	J. Tout	

Benching results for February 2018 (with Section Numbers)

Section 1 - *Dendrobium* species (3 entries)

1. *Den. toressae* M. Harrison
2. *Den. lichenastrum* M. Harrison
3. *Den. prenticei* L. & B. Dobson

Section 2 - *Dendrobium* hybrids (2 entries)

1. *Den. Hera* x *bigibbum* G. Lane
2. *Den. Coffs Bonza* Y. & S. Chan

Section 3 - *Dockrillia* species (1 entry)

1. *Dock. brevicauda* M. Harrison

Section 4 - *Dockrillia* hybrids (2 entries)

1. *Dock. Numbat* G. & S. Russell
2. *Dock. Limestone* L. & B. Dobson

Section 6 - *Sarcochilus* species – novelty (8 entries)

1. *Sarco. ceciliae* Y. & S. Chan
2. *Sarco. sp. aff. ceciliae* M. Harrison
3. *Sarco. hirticalcar* C. Bradley

Section 8 - *Sarcanthinae* hybrids (7 entries)

1. *Sarco. Bonanza* C. Bradley
2. *Sarco. Riverdene* Y. & S. Chan
3. *Sarco. Lustrous* C. Bradley

Section 9 - Other epiphytic species (5 entries)

1. *Bulbo. macphersonii* L. & B. Dobson
2. *Liparis nugentiae* M. Harrison
3. *Liparis nugentiae* M. Harrison

Section 18 - First flowered seedlings (3 entries)

1. *Sarco. hirticalcar* C. Bradley
2. *Sarco. hirticalcar* C. Bradley
3. *Sarco. hirticalcar* C. Bradley

Section 5 - *Sarcochilus* species – classic shape (0 entries)

Section 7 - Other *Sarcanthinae* species – non *Sarcochilus* (0 entries)

Section 10 - Other epiphytic hybrids (0 entries)

Section 11 - Australasian species (0 entries)

Section 12 - Australasian hybrids (0 entries)

Section 13 - *Pterostylis* species (0 entries)

Section 14 - *Diuris* species (0 entries)

Section 15 - *Caladenia* species (0 entries)

Section 16 - Other terrestrial species (0 entries)

Section 17 - Terrestrial hybrids (0 entries)

Plant of the evening: *Dock. Numbat* G. & S. Russell



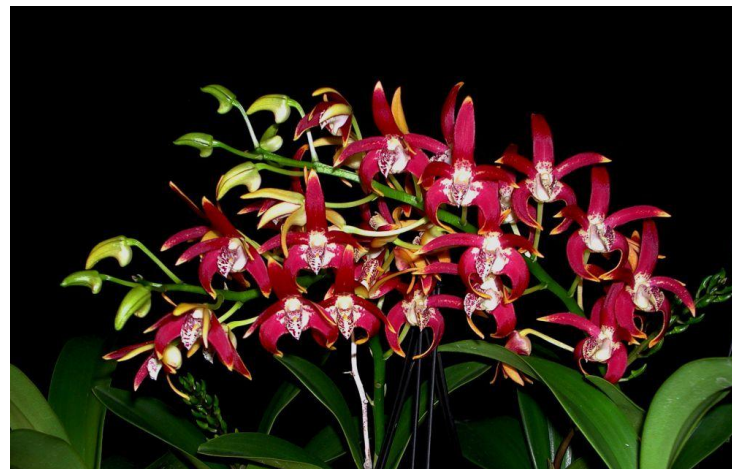
Dockrillia Numbat
Photo by Sau-wan Chan

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Now is the best time to visit or buy!



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58 Mornington Tyabb Road, Tyabb Victoria 3913

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Den. Angus 2016
[Australian Orchid Nursery](http://AustralianOrchidNursery.com.au)

Sitting down to write this I reflect on the past year and I looked back on an article I wrote about this time last year, and I can't believe that history is repeating itself. I have not only had an operation on my foot again, but again plagued by a rat and grasshoppers. What, I ask you, is the value of a bush house when the bloody pests get trapped inside? Anyway enough of my rantings. The first time in my bush house for 2 week after having my feet up, and despite all the plants are looking good.

My thanks to my daughter Barbara for misting the plants each evening when required. We had a big dump of rain, hope you did, and the plants have responded. There is nothing like fresh rain for your plants. They all look pretty well apart from a few new weeds forming. I dislike weeds in pots but find it quite therapeutic pulling them out, although I am not pedantic about this.

I noticed a few little chews and when watering managed to kill a couple of small grasshoppers that I disturbed. When I am fully up and around I will resume fertilising. Good that I use a slow release and Blood and Bone so they are getting a little feed. With the return to warm weather and occasional rain there are plenty of new growths still appearing, so you need to move them along and harden off the plump pseudobulbs? If plants need repotting or mounting do it now while it's not too hot and the roots are moving. They will relish this in new potting mix or mount.

Still some flowers appearing with *Sarcochilus dilatatus*, *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *Dendrobium prenticei* and. *Cadetia taylori*. There is also the beautiful *Dockrillia bowmanii* with its beautiful lime green petals and sepals and that pure white contrasting lip. It also has a hybrid *Dockrillia Limestone* (*D. bowmanii* x *D. cucumerina*) which retains and enhances these features by adding more flowers per raceme. I would advise you to get a couple of these as they are very easy and rewarding to grow.

Not too late to add some slow release to your orchids if you haven't done so yet. While on this I suggest that you have a look at Wayne Turville's website and his blog on fertilising: <https://www.australianorchids.com.au/blogs/blog/fertilizing-orchids-waynes-tips-after-40-years-growing-under-sth-east-australian-conditions-mediterranean-dry-temperate>

Funnily we have been on the same page for many years over this. While we are at it I also used to use the Hyponex to add fertiliser, however this is really hit and miss and never exact. I never went the Dosatron® way even though, or with a chemical dosing pump even though I worked for a company that is commercially involved in water treatment and sells the best dosing pumps in the world.

For me the best way, and in the long run, could be the cheapest, is a pump and tank. Measure the fertiliser into the water tank in the correct concentration and pump it out. You have the exact dosage every time, no mistakes. If you need help with this contact me.

***Dendrobium* (*Dockrillia*) Numbat**

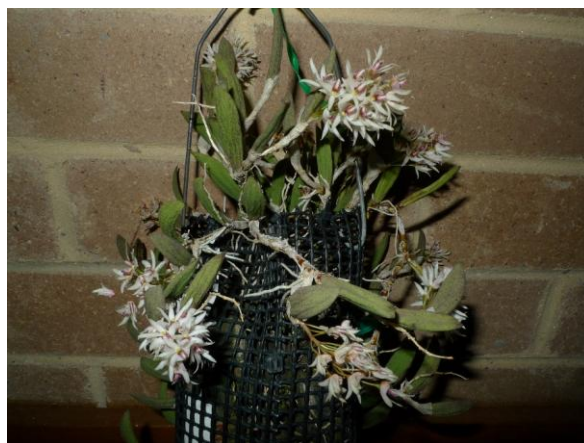
The plant of evening was a floriferous compact *Dockrillia* hybrid, *Dendrobium* Numbat. It had 10 inflorescences each with around 10 white flowers, nearly all open.

The hybrid was bred and registered by Darryl Smedley, an active ANOS Sydney member in the 90's.

It is a primary hybrid between *Dendrobium linguiforme* and *Dendrobium rigidum* and its flowers clearly reflect its parentage. The tepals are white with size in between its parents. While still maintaining the spidery/starry shape of *Dendrobium linguiforme*, the flowers are more open and have better substance and therefore last longer, reflection of *Dendrobium rigidum*. Clearly the red markings of the labella were inherited from the latter. Flowering time of *Dendrobium* Numbat can range between February and August, in contrast to *Dendrobium linguiforme* which normally flowers between June and September.

A desirable feature of the hybrid is its floriferousness, an attribute derived from *Dendrobium linguiforme*. Another specimen of this same hybrid which was awarded an ACC (Award of Cultural Commendation) by ANOS in 2014 had over 30 inflorescences.

The plant grows on a gutter guard mesh mount. According to Graeme Russell, it is grown under 50% shade cloth with clear plastic covering and managed in the same way as his other *Dockrillia* plants. Graeme has been away for a month and found his *Dendrobium* Numbat in full bloom on his return. It is truly a dream orchid for everybody, one that can thrive and flower in the middle of Sydney summer, allow the owner to go on holidays and win the honour of "Plant of the Evening".



Den. Numbat whole plant & single flower
Photos by Sau-wan Chan

Non-geophytic Orchids in New South Wales

By Greg Steenbeeke

Part One – The Different Habitats.

Generally speaking non-geophytic orchids refer to orchids that don't grow in the ground (terrestrials). These include mostly the epiphytes (on the tree), but they're not all epiphytes. There are some that grow on rocks (lithophytes). Some, like native cymbidiums, grow inside the tree but are still classed as epiphytes.

So where do they occur? Here is a photo of a batch of small *Dendrobium speciosum* growing on the side of this cliff.



Capertee valley cliff line (near Clandulla) with *Dendrobium speciosum* on the Great Dividing Range

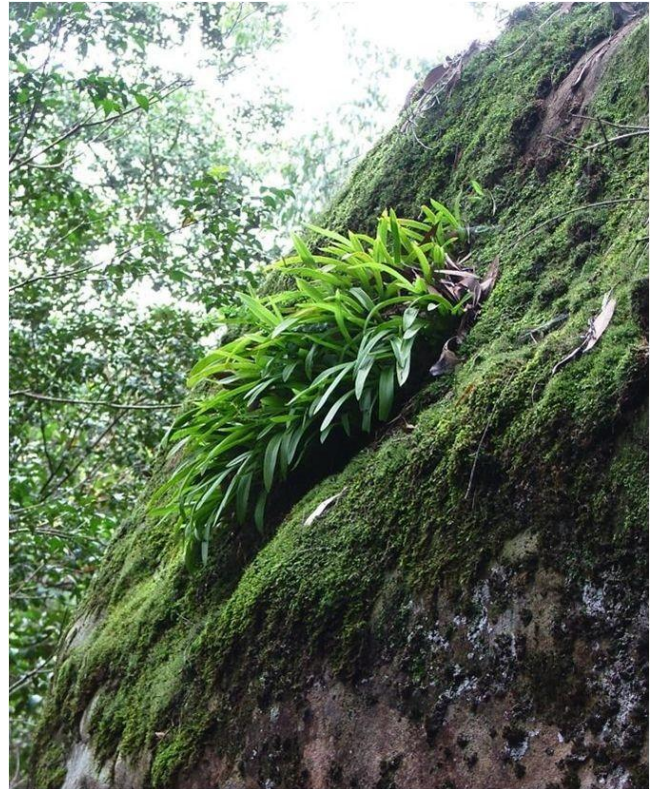
Elsewhere on the same rocky outcrop we find *Dendrobium striolatum* growing on moss pits which is typical of where it grows.



Dendrobium striolatum on a Blue Mountains cliff line

Going to more damp habitats we find *Cestichis* growing on rocks near streams or sheltered rock slopes sometimes quite high up away from streams.

We can also find them growing on branches hanging over streams like *Sarcochilus australis* found in Wedderburn, southwest Sydney (near Campbelltown).



Cestichis reflexa



Sarcochilus australis

The main thing these plants want is humidity. If they don't have humidity, the plants are not going to be there.

Non-geophytic Orchids in New South Wales (Cont.)

This is *Cymbidium suave* growing in a tree in the Blue Mountains. It's very happy, but then again the plant is lifting itself up to reach the light. It's getting enough moisture in the air, as well as moisture inside the tree to keep it alive.



Cymbidium suave

This dry gully in the Watagan Mountains near Newcastle (photo below) doesn't look like much of a habitat, but there are actually six different species of native orchids living in there! *Sarcophilus hillii*, *Plectorhiza tridentate*, *Dendrobium striolatum*, *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Bulbophyllum shepherdii*, *Bulbophyllum exiguum* are all found here. They prefer these gullies found everywhere in the Blue Mountains very close to Sydney.



Another rock shelf a little bit further north. A seasonally-damp gully near Dungog in the lower Barrington Range. *Sarcophilus olivaceus* is growing here on a rock. *Sarcophilus hillii* also growing on the rocks but also on those trees.

We look at this habitat to tell us what these orchids want. In this case, we have a fairly deep narrow gully keeping the moisture in the air.



Seasonally-damp gully lower Barrington Range

Getting to something of a more classic rainforest type, this is a moist version of the dry rain forest:



As you can see if we have hanging mosses, a lot of growth on the ground. It's not so dark yet so the grasses, herbs and other ground cover are not blocked out.

However when the rainforest growth start to get a bit thicker, the ground cover of grasses are replaced by ferns. There's actually a small waterfall here that keeps the air around quite moist. This spot, *Dendrobium fairfaxii*, *striolatum* and *speciosum*.



Non-geophytic Orchids in New South Wales (Cont.)

Sarcochilus hillii, *Plectorrhiza tridentata*. They're all there growing together in these humid pockets.

Getting up further north towards the rainforests growing in higher altitudes you get *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* growing here and other more northerly epiphytes as well.



Sub-tropical rainforest somewhere near Dorrigo, NSW

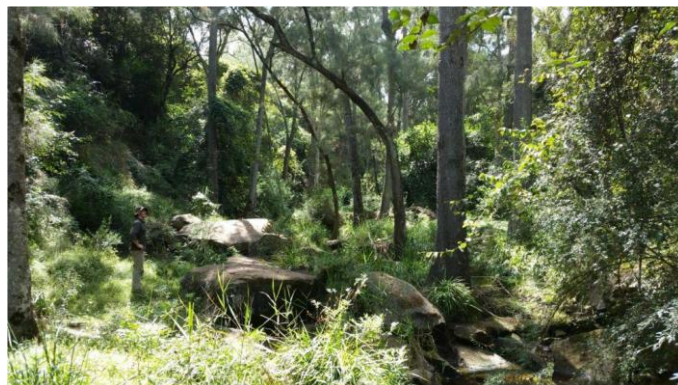
Then you come back down towards the coast and you get *Dendrobium teretifolium*, *D. tetragonum*, *Oberonia complanata*, *Peristeranthus hillii*, all growing fairly close to sea level.



Swamp Sclerophyll Forest

And then you come to other habitats. The next photo is a dry rainforest in Western Sydney. It's not your typical Western Sydney dry rainforest because it's on sandstone, but it's sheltered by river oaks. We got *Dendrobium cucumerinum* on those oaks, *Dendrobium linguiforme* growing on the rocks around, *Sarcochilus hillii*, and you have *Plectorrhiza tridentata* also growing here. As you can see there's a fair bit of moisture in the air. Plenty of grass and herb cover. There's also a stream flowing through along the rainforest.

These are the habitats you're looking for when you're trying to find these plants.



Riparian river oak forest near Sydney

Then again you go west of the range you'll find some particularly interesting habitat.



Box Gum grassy woodland near Inverell in Northern NSW

Cymbidium canaliculatum is an inhabitant of these grassy woodlands west of the range. Your classic grazing country type habitats. Trees are widely spaced, air is quite dry and the sun tends to be hot most of the year. It's not what you call classic epiphyte habitats, but they do well there.

One thing I have noticed in my travels, in these open habitats they're not recruiting. They're all old plants. I don't see any seedlings. It is likely that the plants started when the forest was more continuous, with closer trees and canopies – so there is a more humid environment in which the plants can establish and start to grow. Now, since clearing, they are producing seed, but no seedlings.

The plant here is probably 150 years old and the tree probably 300 – 400 years. Those trees only last for a thousand years at most and without recruitment to keep the woodlands going those plants are doomed in these areas. In areas where there is more tree cover though, there is recruitment. So these plants in these open ranges are pretty much sitting there as 'museum specimens'.

**Non-geophytic Orchids in New South Wales
Part 2 – 'Dendrobium section Dendrocoryne' will
continue in the April 2018 Orchidophile - Editor**

Dates to Remember...	
16 March 2018	<u>ANOS Sydney Group – Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm</u> Baulkham Hills Community Centre, 15 Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills Guest Speaker: Bill Dobson “Trip to Western Australia”
7 – 8 April 2018	<u>Collectors Plant Fair</u> Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon SAT: 8:00am – 4:00pm, SUN: 9:00am – 4:00pm
20 April 2018	<u>ANOS Sydney Group – Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm</u> Baulkham Hills Community Centre, 15 Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills Guest Speaker: TBA
18 - 20 May 2018	<u>Orchids Out West</u> Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon FRI & SAT: 9:00am – 4:00pm, SUN: 9:00am – 3:00pm
20 July 2018	<u>Annual ANOS Sydney Group Auction</u> Baulkham Hills Community Centre, 15 Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills 8:00pm to 10:00pm
29 July 2018	<u>Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day</u> <i>(last Sunday in July)</i> <u>183 Windsor Rd Northmead NSW</u> (Please park in Mary St. or Windermere Ave.) Vendors include: Tinonee Orchid Nursery & Macquarie Native Orchids
25 August 2018	<u>ANOS Sydney Group Castle Hill Market Place display and sale</u> Castle Hill Showground. 8:00am – 1:00pm
15-16 September 2018	Annual ANOS (Sydney group) Spring Show Eden Gardens at Macquarie Park <u>307 Lane Cove Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113</u>



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