

ANOS Sydney Directory

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The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group "The Orchidophile" April 2017

www.anossydney.wixsite.com/orchidophile www.facebook.com/ANOSSydney

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 21st April 2017

Presenter: Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids.

Scott will be talking about growing Sarcochilus at Barrita, his breeding program and the new generation of Sarcochillus hybrids being produced at Barrita.

Scott will also bring to the meeting a range of Barrita's latest seedlings for sale (\$10 each), including new popular orange and yellow crosses.

Sydney Group recommends members take advantage of this rare opportunity to pick up plants bred by Barrita, as they are not available elsewhere.



Sarcochilus dilatatus 'Lily' FCC-ACC/ANOS 2017 (provisional)

Grown and photographed by ANOS Sydney member Bill Dobson

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All correspondence to The Orchidophile should be addressed to the Editor. The opinions expressed by the contributors to the newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Editor, committee or ANOS Sydney Group.

Our Club Bulletin Board

Our Guest Speaker: Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids

Back recently from a two week speaking tour in California, Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids is the guest speaker at our April General Meeting. Members may know Scott and have visited his nursery at Kulnura to see the incredible



spectacle of *Sarcochilus* on display at the Barrita Sarcochlius open day.

In his presentation Scott will talk about some of the history of *Sarcochilus* breeding at Barrita, the results of current breeding lines, and future directions. Scott will also talk about the commercial scale growing of orchids and the nursery operation.

Some history and general information - Scott and Barrita:

Scott co-owns and manages Barrita Orchids, a family business, originally established in Newcastle in 1963, and now located at Kulnura on the Central Coast.

Barrita Orchids is a commercial operation that supplies orchids to K-Mart stores throughout NSW and cut flowers and plants to markets and florists Australia wide. Of interest with respect to promoting the growing and appreciation of Australian native orchids, Barrita has made significant advancements in the commercialisation of *Sarcochilus*. Barrita's breeding programs have produced many fine highly coloured and awarded plants.



Scott is an AOC Judge and travels extensively presenting and promoting Barrita's operation and the culture and appreciation of orchids.

More information on Scott and Barrita can be found at:

The Barrita Orchids Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/BarritaOrchidsKulnura

The Barrita Orchids webpage: http://www.barritaorchids.com/

President's Report

Last month's meeting was a very special occasion, not only because of the quality of David Banks' presentation on *Sarcochilus*, but fittingly, due to the quality of one plant in particular benched on the night, which also happened to be a *Sarcochilus*. At our meeting, for the first time in ANOS Inc's history, an Australian native orchid species was judged to be worthy of a First Class Certificate (FCC). The plant awarded was Bill and Lorraine Dobson's stunning *Sarcochilus dilatatus* 'Lily'. In addition to 'Lily' being awarded an FCC, Bill and Lorraine were also given an Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC) for the excellent culture of the plant. ANOS Sydney Group thanks Bill and Lorraine for bringing the plant to the meeting, and congratulates them on this fully deserved and wonderful achievement.

Note: An FCC is an ANOS quality award given to plants that score on average 85 or more points out of 100. The only other plant to be awarded an FCC by ANOS is *Dendrobium* Yondi Tina 'Goliath' FCC/ANOS 1999. This plant was owned by Bernie Fletcher.

Bill has kindly provided ANOS Sydney the following information regarding 'Lily':

"I obtained this plant from west of Gladstone Queensland in 2009 where its family grows in vine thickets which get heaps of rain in the summer months and is a lot drier in the winter months when the temperature can drop down to single figures at night.

I grow this plant hanging about 2.0 metres above the ground in my bush-house under 2 layers of 50% woven green shade-cloth. It gets fertilised with Peters Excel Finisher at 1.5 grams per litre every week as all my plants do. I have been watering my small epiphytes and Den. tetragonums nightly, except when it has rained, and this year it started flowering early February. Since then, more inflorescences pushed out and flowers opened to now have 27 fully opened flowers that were pretty much all even in size, there are still another 25 buds to come. What a little surprise packet considering the whole plant is only 70mm high and 90mm wide.

In previous years it has produced 3 or 4 inflorescences, but this year with a very hot (not by Queensland standards though) summer, followed by what seems like weeks of rain, something changed.

With the rain we have had in Sydney I almost cancelled going to ANOS Sydney Group's meeting but wanted other members to see it, and I couldn't pass up a presentation on Sarcochilus from David Banks which was one of the most informative and entertaining evenings I have had in the last 30 years. The icing on the cake was to have the plant awarded, so Lorraine and I are pleased to say the least." - Bill Dobson

Bulletin Board (Cont..)

Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – Friday 17th March 2017

Meeting opened: 8:15 pm by President, Andrew Locke welcomed members and visitors.

Apologies: Bill Olsen, Graeme Russell, John Davis

Visitors: David Banks.

Correspondence:

In:

- a. Garden Club of Australia Inc 2017 Biennial
 Convention to be held from 5-10th November 2017,
 Ulladulla.
- b. Leura Gardens Festival 2017 from September 30-October 8th. Pre-festival tours available for \$30.00 Bookings essential.

Out: Nil.

Minutes of previous (February) meeting: Moved that the minutes be accepted as printed in the March's Orchidophile.

Treasurer's Report: presented at meeting for the period of 15th February to 14th March.

Moved Joe Portelli, seconded John Klepetko that the report be accepted.

General Business:

The President indicated that:

- Parramatta Garden Club Inc has requested a member speak at their monthly meeting about native orchids.
 Please advise a committee member if you are interested.
- 2. Members are invited to participate in the Hills District Relay for Life in support of the Cancer Council of Australia. The event is held at Castle Hills showground on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May 2017. Early-bird registration is \$15 and registration after early-bird cutoff is \$20. The society is eligible to run a stall if we enter a team in the event. Please send expressions of interest to Charlie via email.
- 3. Two batches of growing competition seedlings are available for purchase. Details are in the Orchidophile.
- 4. The Castle Hill International Orchid Fair will be held at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground on 31 March and 1 April from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- The Western Australia Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show will be held at Scarborough on the 5th & 6th August 2017. Details have been emailed to members.
- 6. The March edition of The Orchidophile is now on the Group's website.

- 7. Orders have been placed for name badges which should be ready at the next meeting.
- 8. ANOS Sydney Shirts are still available for sale from Charlie.
- 9. Michael Harrison generously offered members wooden growing trays for orchids.
- 10. Supper volunteers are needed to assist Joe and Charlie.

Meeting broke for refreshments.

Presentation by: David Banks: "The species that make up Sarcochilus, and the current thinking on the genus."

Plant of the evening: *Sarcochilus dilatatus* 'Lily' grown by Bill & Lorraine Dobson.

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition: 1st: *Sarco. dilatatus* 'Lily' (L&B Dobson), 2nd: *Den. bigibbum* (P Murn).

Lucky door & raffle prizes were drawn.

Meeting closed: 10:55 pm.

Next meeting: March 21st 2017.

Speaker: Scott Barrie from Barrita Orchids - growing Sarcochilus at Barrita, their breeding program and the new generation of Sarco hybrids being produced at Barrita.

Two New Growing Competitions for 2017!

The committee has decided to commence two new growing competitions in 2017.

Plants for the competitions have been selected due to their show bench potential and relative ease of growth. The plants will not require any special growing conditions.

The plants that have been selected have been supplied by Wayne Turville (Australian Orchid Nursery) and Ross and Rhonda Harvey (Cedarvale Orchids) and are:

- **50mm tubes** of *Dendrobium* Black and Green* x tetragonum 'Purple Lip' (from AON)
- **125mm pots** of *Dendrobium speciosum v. grandiflorum* 'Will's Gold' x 'Ted's Gold (from Cedarvale)

Plants of the *D*. Black and Green cross (50mm tubes) were made available to members at the March meeting and will also be available at the April meeting. Cost is \$7 per plant.

Plants of the *D. speciosum* (125mm pots) will be available at the April 2016 meeting and will be sold for \$15.00 each. Note that only 15 plants will be available for this growing competition.

Please see our Growing Competition Rules on page 11.

Benching Results for March 2017

Dendrobium species (2 entries)

1. Den. bigibbum P. Murn

2. Den. bigibbum 'Ronander' x 'Sunset' Y. & S. Chan

Dendrobium hybrids (2 entries)

1. Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' S. Holland

2. Den. Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' P. Murn

Dockrillia species (2 entries)

1. Dock. bowmanii M. Harrison

2. Dock. bowmanii T. Miller

Dockrillia hybrids (4 entries)

1. Dock. fuliginosa x bowmanii M. Harrison

2. Dock. Hot Coals J. & Y. Villien

3. Dock. Hot Coals G. Steenbeeke

Sarcochilus species – novelty (2 entries)

1. Sarco. dilatatus L. & B. Dobson

2. Sarco. ceciliae Y. & S. Chan

Sarcanthinae hybrids (19 entries)

1. Sarco. Velvet J. & Y. Villien

2. Sarco. Misty 'Spangles' x Snowhart 'Yellow 2001' L. & B. Dobson

3. Sarco. Lustrous Y. & S. Chan

Australasian species (1 entry)

1. *Liparis reflexa* C. Bradley

Australasian hybrids (1 entry)

1. Den. Alice's Rainbow Y. & S. Chan

First flowered seedlings (16 entries)

1. Sarco. Kellie 'Autumn Leaves' x Velvet 'Cool Dude' B. V. Williams

2. Sarco Belmont Rose J. & Y. Villen

3. Sarco. Velvet J. & Y. Villen

Sarcochilus species - classic shape (0 entries)

Other Sarcanthinae species – non Sarcochilus (0 entries)

Other epiphytic species (0 entries)

Other epiphytic hybrids (0 entries)

Pterostylis species (0 entries)

Diuris species (0 entries)

Caladenia species (0 entries)

Other terrestrial species (0 entries)

Terrestrial hybrids (0 entries)

Plant of the evening

Sarco. dilatatus 'Lily' L. & B. Dobson



Photo by Bill Dobson



info@australianorchids.com.au www.australianorchids.com.au



Den. Flinders Gray Lady
Australian Orchid Nursery

March 2017 Plant of the Evening - Sarcochilus dilatatus

By Yin and Sau-wan Chan

This was an exceptional specimen of *Sarco. dilatatus* rarely seen in monthly benching and shows. The plant was a single growth with 9 leaves mounted on a small tree branch and carried 9 inflorescences with a total of 25 flowers and 20 buds. The flowers are vertical, well presented, averaged 17.5 mm long, widely open and in excellent conditions. The spoon-shaped tepals were green in the centre but becoming a very attractive cerise/ochre at the ends. This coloration indicates that the specimen is a northern form of *Sarco. dilatatus*, found around Gladstone area of Queensland.

The species is found between south-eastern Queensland and the upper north-east of New South Wales, between the Kroombit Tops (Calliope Range - inland from Gladstone) Queensland and the Richmond River, New South Wales. It is rare in NSW. The preferred habitat appears to be dry, scrubby rainforest and creek beds, noticeably at low to moderate altitudes, up to 400 m altitude and at some distance from the coast. Hoop pines are preferred host of this orchid.

The orchid is a sequential bloomer and in the wild is usually seen with a couple of fully open flowers at a time but the flowering season can last for a couple of months. The floriferousness of the benched plant is exceptional even under culture. According to Bill Dobson, the plant was placed in the shade house together with his *Dendrobium tetragonum* and due to the unusually hot summer, he had increased the irrigation frequency of the area much more than usual. We are not sure if it was the unusual hot season combined with the irrigation practice which has contributed to the floriferousness.

Sarco. dilatatus has been used in breeding to introduce new colour as well as extend flowering time of Sarcochilus hybrids. It is the parent of two primary hybrids, Sarco. Aussie Dawn (with Sarco. hartmannii) and Sarco. Ozzydil (with Sarco. australis). A few of the well-known and much awarded hybrids include Sarco. First Light, Sarco. Daybreak and Sarco. Galaxy.

The judges were impressed with the plant which was then put up for award judging, both for quality as well as culture awards.





Sarcochilus dilatatus (Photos by Sau-wan Chan)

Out and About (Tall Tales but Very True)

By Mark Daniels (strongrow.orchids@gmail.com)

Bush-Basher's New Orchid Mineral Growing Powder Bio' Super Treat and Fert'' – Strongrow Propagation, Research, Development and New Innovations

Our *Bio'* Super Treat and Fert' powder provides the tool needed to grow your orchids for much longer in your growing medium, without having to repot due to the potting mix going sour or problems due to: high acidity or alkalinity, broken down mixes, reverse osmosis due to fertilising dry plants, fungal gnats, or fungal infections like mycelium bark rot. The story of Strongrow *Bio'* Super Treat and Fert' orchid mineral growing powder for orchids is as follows...

Many years ago at Strongrow I got sick of repotting plants that were going backward due to being in contaminated old or aged bark. Consequently over a period of more than 6 years we tested and trialled various formulas and mixes to a produce an orchid mineral growing powder to add to bark that results in vastly improved culture of our orchids.

Following this long period of testing and trial and error I believed that I had developed a top quality and low toxicity mineral powder mix, more suitable to the long term sustainable growth of orchids than any other product on the market. To test the growing powder further I then arranged some informal field trials with 6 growers with it to be used on various plants in their collections. All 6 growers that are using it are still excited about the results they have been seeing using this basic fundamental mineral treatment for their orchid bark mix. The orchid mineral growing powder I developed I've named Strongrow's Bio' Super Treat and Fert'.



Strongrow's orchid mineral growing powder (1.3 Kgs.) ready to go with instructions on the bag.

I've now been using *Bio' Super Treat and Fert'* consistently for more than 5 years on most of our orchids. Not only can it be used for orchid mixes, I also use it to unclog and break up our septic tank residues and to accelerate aerobic bacteria growth — it takes only around two weeks, and saves the cost of a pump out. Talk about versatile.

I use *Bio' Super Treat and Fert'* straight after flowering and again in March to maintain a healthy growing medium. If there is a pathogen spreading in a pot we can easily restore the mix back to normal and healthy by dipping the plant roots with all old growing medium in a bucket of the brew mixed in water, with the additional of a wetting agent spreader (such as a citrus based dish-washing detergent like Shine or Earths Choice) and a very low toxicity hospital grade disinfectant (such as NU Cenz, or benzalkonium chloride (1.5%) from Coles or Woolies). Pool algaecide at a low concentration can also be used as a potting mix disinfectant. In Strongrow's *Bio' Super Treat and Fert'* there are 24 mineral compounds and vitamin (Vit') B complex supplements and other goodies that plants require and benefit from.



All the tools, container, products you need to treat and dip your plants.

The development of Strongrow's *Bio' Super Treat and Fert'* could not have happened without the assistance of Bob Russell, who has been following my ideas and collaborating with me for many years now. Bob has tested my many formulas extensively, as well as tried the many other ideas that we have come up with to improve orchid culture. The fruits of our efforts are clear. Bob's results with *Cym' canaliculatum* are amazing, with this also due to his determination to find better orchid media.

Strongrow's efforts will, in turn, help with the conservation of our beautiful native orchids. If we know exactly what plants like best, we can then grow them better and faster, which results in the spread of plants from orchid growers to the general public, and all to enjoy and appreciate.

(Continued next page)

Out and About (Cont.)

Note: the bark we use at Strongrow is the freshest green high quality bark we can get, which lasts two times as long as aged bark, and even longer when you treat with Strongrow's *Bio'* Super Treat and Fert'.

Where to find and buy Strongrow's Bio' Super Treat and Fert'? Until I get more equipment to scale my production up and reduce the labour involved, the cost of Strongrow's Bio' Super Treat and Fert' will be \$20 a bag. Each bag weighs 1.3 kilograms. For every bag sold at a Sydney Group meeting, \$2 will go to the Group.

Why not give my Strongrow *Bio' Super Treat and Fert'* a go and see for yourself the benefits to your orchids!

Please contact me at strongrow.orchids@gmail.com if you want more information.

Sydney Group meeting attendees note: Mark will bring down bags of his orchid mineral growing powder Strongrow's Bio' Super Treat and Fert' to sell at the meetings he attends.



The "Bush Basher" amongst the healthy plants in the "Orchid Mobeal" all treated with the brew.



Bob's great results with Strongrow Bio' Super Treat and Fert'

Some Flowering Native Orchids

By Jan and Margaret Mohandas

This month, our **Field Trips and Conservation Officer Jan Mohandas** and his wife **Margaret** have provided us beautiful photos of native orchids that were found in NSW, VIC & SA.



Prasophyllum species - Mt. Hotham, VIC



Eriochilus cucullatus - Tanunda, SA



Chiloglottis species - Thirlmere lakes NP, NSW



Dipodium roseum – Mt. Kosciusko NP



Eriochilus cucullatus - Mt. Kosciusko NP

Orchids from our March 2017 Meeting

Photos by John Klepetko and Bill Dobson (Sarco. dilatatus)



Plant of the Evening & AON 1st Popular Vote Sarcochilus dilatatus – L. & B. Dobson



Dendrobium bowmanii - M. Harrison



Sarco. ceciliae - Y. & S. Chan



AON 2nd Popular Vote

Dendrobium bigibbum – P. Murn



Dock. fuliginosa x bowmanii - M. Harrison



Sarco. Kellie 'Autumn Leaves' x Velvet 'Cool Dude' B. Williams



Sarco. Misty Spangles x Snowhart L. & B. Dobson

Member Snapshot - David Butler

Our Member Snapshot for this month is David Butler. David has won many awards for his excellence in growing orchids including the Ira Butler Trophy in 2015. This month he kindly shares with us his story on growing native orchids and being a member of A.N.O.S. Sydney.



Three Champions at the Sarc Show!

Q: How did you come to be an orchid enthusiast?

David: I have always liked gardening and became interested in orchid-growing in my early teens. It was a much cleaner hobby than normal gardening and much more of a challenge.

Q: Which are your favourite native orchids and why?

David: Over the years I have had many favourites, both exotic and native, but I think the really enduring favourites are the Australian *Sarcanthinae* which are constantly improving and play a big part in my hybridising program.

Q: Approximately how many "pots" in your collection?

David: I breed the *Sarcs* and in order to maintain a breeding collection it is necessary to grow on a lot of seedlings, usually from flask. A quick count indicates 260 flowering size, 1200 seedlings, and 30 flasks waiting to come out when the weather cools.



David's Nursery

Q: How often do you water your orchids?

David: As a general rule I water when the potting medium is almost dry, unless hot weather is forecast and then I will water the plants well the morning before.

This way they are damp but not wet on the hot days to follow. My *Sarcs* seldom appear 'wet' (even the seedlings), but when necessary a moist humid environment is maintained by wetting the floor and fogging the shadecloth and plants. Fogging is designed to cool the plants, not to make them 'wet' to the extent that water remains in their leaf axils.

Q: Do you fertilize your orchids?

David: Yes, frequently, using mainly Peters XL Hi-K Finisher alternating with other types of chemical fertilisers and occasionally seaweed extract (Acadian). I make a concentrate solution which passes through a Hozon Syphon Mixer into the normal hose and watering wand. Fertilising the whole collection, including hanging plants and mounts, is quick and easy this way.

Q: What are the common pests that attack your orchids and how do you control them?

David: I have good air movement so by spacing the plants on wire benches I have little need for fungicides and insecticides. My bush house is virtually bug-proof which helps control crickets, grubs, beetles and other nasties. A solid acrylic roof helps control watering and the associated fungal problems.

Q: What was the most memorable orchid collection you've visited?

David: I've visited many great collections over the years but my current favourite is my own in spring. I call it fairyland (says he modestly).



Fairyland

Q: Which is your favourite nursery to purchase orchids from? **David:** There are several good orchid nurseries. All are worth a browse.

Q: What was the worst mistake you ever made growing your orchids?

David: I grew up in Camden where temperatures get a bit extreme. At about age 14 years I built a small glass house to house my first lot of orchids. This cooked them in summer and froze them in winter. Experience is a good teacher.

David Butler (Cont..)



It doesn't get any better!

Q: What would you advise novices thinking of or just starting out growing orchids?

David: Grow orchids which suit your conditions and leave the challenging ones till you are more experienced. Learn by listening and observing and remember that there may be more than one way to do something but that, with orchids, there are underlying rules such as thinking twice before watering, and not overdoing the TLC.

Q: What do you like about our club ANOS Sydney Group and what activity do you enjoy the most?

David: The Club brings together like-minded people who are happy to share their experience and friendship with a bit of friendly competition thrown in. I joined over thirty-six years ago and have seen many changes but it has always been most enjoyable.

Q: What is on your orchid wish list?

David: Always trying to breed the perfect Sarc, whatever that is!

Q: Is there anything else you may want to add?

David: I am unable to attend as regularly as previously but will always cherish my life membership.



Thanks for watching!

ANOS Sydney Group 2017 Growing Competition Rules (Continued from page 3)

Plants are allocated in a number draw system. All plants are numbered and each participating member will pay for a plant, then draw a number out of the bag. The plant number and the member drawing it will be recorded for competition recording purposes. Only plants selected, drawn and registered in this manner will be eligible for the competition.

If any members will not be at the April meetings, but would like a plant in either competition, please let Andrew Locke know and a number/plant (from one or both competitions) will be reserved for them.

Any plants not allocated by the May meeting will be available to members to purchase, or added to the Group's raffle plants.

The plants will be judged four times a year - at the February, May, August and November meetings (the same as the other current growing competitions).

The growing competitions will last for approximately three years. The first judging will be at the May 2017 meeting, and the final judging will be at the May 2020 meeting. At the end of the competition, the member with the best grown plant, that is, the plant with the highest point score at the end of the competition is declared the winner. The prize is to be confirmed.

Your plant may flower during this time but will not be registered as flowering, but may also be entered in the seedling section.

No points other than benching (1 point) will be awarded for the first two years.

After the first two years the following points will be awarded on growing competition nights as follows:-

- 1st 4 points
- 2nd 3 points
- 3rd 2 points
- Unplaced plants 1 point

To be eligible for the best grown prize, a plant must have been benched at least twice in any 4 benching periods in a year.

NOTE: It is important that the original name tag and number remain



Den. speciosum v grandiflorum 'Will's Gold' Photo by Bill Dobson

with the plant during the competition for judging identification purposes.

Dates to Remember	
21 April 2017	A.N.O.S. Sydney Group — Monthly Meeting 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm Baulkham Hills Community Centre, 15 Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills Guest Speaker: Scott Barrie - growing Sarcochilus at Barrita, his breeding program and the new generation of Sarco. hybrids being produced at Barrita.
6 – 7 May 2017	Down Under Native Orchids (DUNO) Winter Open Day 44 Croudace Rd. Elermore Vale NSW 2287
26 – 28 May 2017	Orchids Out West Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon
15 – 17 June 2017	Manly Warringah Orchid Society Winter Show Dee Why Grand Shopping Centre, Dee Why (Shopping Centre Hours)
23 – 26 June 2017	Royale Orchids Briers Rd, Peat's Ridge 8 am – 4 pm
24 – 25 June 2017	15th Mingara Orchid Fair and Show Club Mingara that is located at Mingara Dr., Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261.
8 – 9 July 2017	<u>Tinonee Workshop, Open Day & Show</u> <u>Tinonee, NSW</u>
20 – 22 July 2017	Cumberland Orchid Circle Winter Show Kellyville Shopping Village, 92A Wrights Rd, Kellyville NSW 2155
30 July 2017	Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day 183 Windsor Rd Northmead NSW (Please park in Mary St. or Windermere Ave.) Vendors include: Tinonee Orchid Nursery & Macquarie Native Orchids
5 – 6 August 2017	WA Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show 2017 Rendezvous Hotel Perth, Scarborough, Western Australia
11 – 13 August 2017	National Orchid Extravaganza (Cymbidium Club of Australia) The Centre, 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural Friday & Saturday 9am-4pm Sunday 12 noon - 4pm



