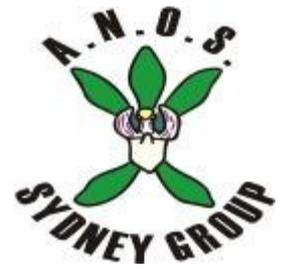


The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group

“The Orchidophile” February 2016

www.anos.org.au/groups/sydney
www.facebook.com/ANOSSydney



The Group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 8.00pm in the Baulkham Hills Community Centre, Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills

Next Meeting Friday 19th February 2016
Subject - “Media and Mounts”
by Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids

(February is a Growing Competition Month)



Plant of the Evening - Judges Choice
Dockrillia wassellii
Growers - Yin & Sau-wan Chan



Members' Popular Vote - No1
Den. Nancy Fairfax
Growers - Robert & William Bird

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President's Report

Welcome to another edition of The Orchidophile, I hope you and your family are well and your orchids are growing well.

I would like to thank Bill Dobson for his presentation of the Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular in 2015. The presentation was great as it whetted our appetites showing many of the orchids we are likely to see at the Conference this year. We're looking at putting on a table top display at the Conference so if you would like to be involved with setting up our display then please let myself or any other Committee member know. I also encourage members to support or assist with the running of the Conference if they are able.

This month we welcome Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids as our guest speaker. Ray is an amazing speaker with a wealth of knowledge. I encourage you all to come along to our February meeting to learn and benefit from Ray's presentation.

Finally I think we need to thank the contributions of our Committee and the extended Committee. In particular I want to thank John Klepetko and Graeme Russell for their efforts in getting our new Popular Vote competition up and running. This was created at very short notice with the generous support of Wayne Turville of the Australian Orchid Nursery and was successfully launched last month. Details of the Popular Vote workings are contained in this issue.

Finally I would like to thank John Klepetko for arranging our guest speakers, He already has a number of speakers lined up for the months ahead. Without having our meetings planned with a guest speaker I believe our society would not be doing as well as it is.

Happy growing and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Andrew Locke

President

Our Guest Speaker - Ray Clement Subject : Media and Mounts

Ray's presentation will cover the pros and cons of various media and mounts that can be used to grow orchids. It will include what media and mounts Ray has found works best, under particular conditions, and for various orchid species and genera.

Ray has been around orchids for quite a number of years (40 years - shhhh). He has a passion for orchids, in particular, Australian Native Orchids.

Ray & Lorraine began Tinonee Orchid Nursery in 1984. The Nursery specialises in the breeding and propagation of many genera of orchids, from Native Australian orchids to most of the popular genera from many other countries around the world.

Ray has been a member of the Australian Native Orchid Society for the last 25 odd years and has served as National Registrar of ANOS Judges for the last 3 years. He "reminds" his staff he will retire one day but they see the obsession continuing for a bit longer yet!!!

Ray will also bring down a range of seedlings (include recent releases), mounts, media, and other goodies for sale on the night. He is happy for members to contact him (on 6553 1012 or orchids@tinoneeorchids.com) if there is anything in particular you want him to bring down.

Members can also check out the Tinonee Orchids Website (<http://tinoneeorchids.com/>) which includes an online shop listing some of the orchids and accessories Ray grows and stocks.



TINONEE ORCHIDS

One of Australia's largest orchid nurseries is at Tinonee near Taree.

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also Bus/Groups by appointment.

Nursery Hours:
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www.tinoneeorchids.com

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Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – 15 January 2016

Meeting opened at 8:13pm by President Andrew Locke. Andrew Locke welcomed members and visitors.
Apologies: David Butler, Liliana Hurst.

New members: None.

Visitors: Han Shiong Siah, Rob Buckwell.

Correspondence in:

Newsletters from other societies.

Flyer from Elernmore / DUNO Orchids.

ANOS Conference information from ANOS Mid North Coast.

Correspondence out:

Guest speakers.

Treasurer's Report:

	November 2015	October 2015
Income:	\$264.70	\$312.67
Expenditure:	\$50	\$422.00
Balance:	\$214.70	\$109.33
Cash Assets:	\$5708.55	\$5668.82

Moved John Hurst, seconded Charlie Moraza that the report be accepted.

General Business:

The President:

- thanked Charlie and Joe for assisting in the kitchen and getting tea and coffee for members to have during the break;
- advised members to let the Committee know if they would like the Group to undertake any specific activities during the year;
- asked if members would be interested in purchasing a Group polo shirt; and
- advised members that Graeme will not be continuing as Editor after December. Members were asked to consider taking on the role and advise Andrew asap if they are interested so that Graeme has the opportunity to assist and train the new Editor.

The Secretary advised members of the new 'Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition' (which is generously supported by Wayne Turville/AON) and how to participate in it.

The meeting broke for refreshments.

Presentation by Bill Dobson on last year's Speciosum Spectacular at Kempsey.

Plant of the evening: *Dockrillia wassellii* grown by Yin and Sau-wan Chan.

Popular vote: 1st: *Den.* Nancy Fairfax (Robert Bird), 2nd: *Dock. wassellii* (Y&S Chan), 3rd: *Den.* Hansen (Y&S Chan) / *Sarc. ceciliae* (Y&S Chan).

Lucky door & raffle prizes were drawn.

Meeting closed: 9:30pm.

Next meeting: 19 February. TBC.

RESULTS FOR JANUARY 2016

Dendrobium species (2 entries)

1. *Den. monophyllum* G. Steenbeeke
2. *Den. lichenastrum* B. Spurrs

Dendrobium hybrids (2 entries)

1. *Den. Hansen* Y. & S. Chan
2. *Den. Hilda Poxon* G. Steenbeeke

Dockrillia species (1 entry)

1. *Dock. wassellii* Y. & S. Chan

Dockrillia hybrids (3 entries)

1. *Dock. Limestone* C. Bradley
2. *Dock. (schoenina x calamiformis) x Aust. Purple Pepper* G. Steenbeeke
3. *Dock. Hot Coals* B. V. Williams

Sarcanthinae species (4 entries)

1. *Sarco. ceciliae* Y. & S. Chan
2. *Sarco. hirticalcar* C. Bradley
3. *Sarco. ceciliae* B. Spurrs

Sarc. & other epiphytic hybrids (9 entries)

1. *Sarco. George Colthup x Velvet* B. Spurrs
2. *Sarco. Velvet* G. Steenbeeke
3. *Sarco. Riverdene* Y. & S. Chan

Other epiphytic species (3 entries)

1. *Cestichis coelognoides* G. Steenbeeke
2. *Cestichis coelognoides* G. Steenbeeke
3. *Cestichis coelognoides* C. Shaw

Australasian species (1 entry)

1. *Den. bractiosum* R. & W. Bird

Australasian hybrids (2 entries)

1. *Den. Nancy Fairfax* R. & W. Bird
2. *Den. Aussie's Sweetness 'Polka Dots'* C. Bradley

Other terrestrial species (2 entries)

1. *Eriochiuls cucullatus* G. Steenbeeke
2. *Eriochiuls cucullatus 'albus'* G. Steenbeeke

First flowered seedlings (1 entry)

1. *Sarco. Janice* Y. & S. Chan

Plant of the evening

1. *Dockrillia wassellii* Y. & S. Chan



Den. Hansen



Sarco. ceciliae



Den. bractiosum



Calanthe triplicata

Thank you to
John Klepetko
for photographs on pages
1 (part) & 4

Plant of the evening – ANOS Sydney, January 2016

Dendrobium (Dockrillia) wassellii

It had two erect flowering spikes, each with 25-30 quite attractive crystalline white flowers, about 20 mm in size. The white petals and sepals were slender and widely spreading, in contrast with the pale yellow labella with pink spots/markings. The plant was mounted on a large piece of cork placed horizontally with the stiff, nearly terete dull green leaves growing vertically upward. The leaves characteristically have 5 longitudinally running furrows, hence, its common name of Furrowed Pencil Orchid.

Naturally *Den. wassellii* is only found in the Iron Range and McIlwraith Range on Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia. It occurs as an epiphyte and occasional lithophyte at elevations around 300 metres where it is a hot to warm grower that blooms in May-June period.

Despite its tropical origin, *Den. wassellii* can be grown quite well in the Sydney environment. We got the plant as a division 5 years ago. It has flowered nearly every year (except 2015) and the plant has tripled in size. It is hung high in the shade house with a north facing aspect during spring and summer months. In winter, the shade cloth is replaced by a transparent plastic and so the plant is protected from rain. We have found that growing the plant horizontally on cork helps to provide additional moisture and this is beneficial especially during the hot summer months. Flowering time has been variable but mainly in summer, Dec/Jan period.

Den. wassellii has not been used in breeding much as there are currently only two registered hybrids, one with the interesting name of *Den. Zucchini* (*Den. wassellii* x *Den. cucumerinum*) and the other *Den. Edric* (*Den. wassellii* x *Den. linguiforme*).

Yin and Sau-wan Chan



Editor's Note

Members have often commented on the regular Plant of the Evening articles written by Yin and Sau-wan over the last two years. These articles have added that welcome and more technical element to the Orchidophile. Unfortunately we will not be seeing them so often at our regular meetings which is a big disappointment to them and I am sure all members. However, they now have the much better 'pastime' every Friday evening of babysitting their new young grandchild.

Their skill at growing natives will be missed at our meetings and sadly the overall quality of benched plants will drop a little. The field is again wide open to other members chasing the title of Annual Point Score Champion!!!! However, members should not be too complacent as they will hopefully be benching at our Spring and Sarc shows. As Editor, I have certainly appreciated their contribution with their regular articles.

ANOS SYDNEY 2015 Sarcanthinae Show - Awarded Plants

Following the announcement in the November issue of the Orchidophile, the December 2015 edition of The Orchadian confirms that ANOS quality awards were granted to the following four plants exhibited at our Sarcanthinae show on 17 October 2015:

Award # 223 *Dendrobium affin. malbrownii* 'Bella' AM/ANOS 80.3 pts. Owner Michael Harrison.

Award # 224 *Sarcochilus falcatus* 'Big White #1' AM/ANOS 80.6 pts. Owner David Butler.

Award # 225 *Sarcochilus* Serenade 'Lots of White' HCC/ANOS 78.8 pts. Owner David Butler.

Award # 226 *Sarcochilus hartmanii* 'Baby Blue BS' AM/ANOS 80.6 pts. Owner David Butler.

Congratulation to Mike and David!

Thanks to Bill Dobson for taking the award photos (of exceptional quality - like the plants)! (see photos below and on p292 of The Orchadian).



Dendrobium affin. malbrownii 'Bella'
AM/ANOS



Sarcochilus hartmanii 'Baby Blue BS'
AM/ANOS



Sarcochilus Serenade 'Lots of White'
HCC/ANOS



Sarcochilus falcatus 'Big White #1'
AM/ANOS

Warning this may be a health hazard to ANOS Devotees

Ken Siew is a respected and well credentialed OSNSW Judge. He is also certainly one of the best speakers on the orchid circuit. He was the guest speaker at the August meeting of the Fivedock RSL Orchid Society last year. Robert Moon, who is well known to many in ANOS circles, is Fivedock's Secretary. Robert took notes of Ken's talk and these are reproduced below. (The article appeared in Fivedock's September 2015 newsletter). While the article may be a 'health hazard' to some ANOS people because it is about many of those weird and strange exotic orchids, it is reproduced here as virtually all of the cultural advice applies equally to Australian and Australasian natives. Note - The article is reproduced precisely as it appeared. Caution—A picture of a non Australian Native cymbidium appears on the following page!!!

How to Improve Your Collection

Lecture:

Kathy introduced Ken Siew a senior judge of OSNSW and reminded everyone that Five Dock was Ken's first society to belong to. Ken's presentation was entitled How to improve your collection.

Ken observed his was messy as he grew for genetics but this will change in the lead up to the 2018 AOC conference at Penrith. As he wanted to win prizes and the need to move to the cutting edge of growing better. Ken then reminded members how in the relatively short space of 15 years the changes to Cymbidiums shape & colour and plant sizes with multiple racemes. He then explained how the species *Lealia anceps* had changed with fuller flowers and more flowers per plant displayed making it more mature and close to optimal flowering, that is leaves to flower ratio. *Odontioda Alliance* now had greater flower volume as the volume of the plant displayed increased. He further explained that single flowers were no longer the norm as growers tended not to breakup plants and allow them to bulk up. He further explained that a well flowered species with small but numerous flowers could win over showy single blooms.

Ken explained that growers had a choice grow for the Judging criteria or for your own satisfaction. If you grow for your own satisfaction then tend towards the unusual with the perfumed *Zygopetelums* with their green flowers. In limited space fill but grow to perfection. He reminded members that Hot/ Cold hybrids tend to be drab and dull until they reach mature size after 2-6 years as a small plant with small flower and were not great till the became a bigger plant.

Ken's next point was quick results *Den kingianums* a mere 2 years from flask flower but have few flowers and take a long time to bulk up and form an eye catching display. Further to this point *Cattleyas* with single flowers vs mature plant with dozens of flowers which do you think would win? Ken the advised how overseas this was the norm and we in Australia tend to grow our plants to sub optimal conditions by not allowing them to bulk up and have a truly massive display. Compare the single raceme *Cymbidium* to a plant with 10-12 racemes which is optimal growing. But with anything there is a price to be paid and you need to watch that the centre of the plant does not die off and leave a great whole on the centre. Ken reminded us that we need to change our growing conditions and change to the overseas model. That is fewer plants but better quality and more space for growing.

Ken advised here in Australia we tend to pack ever centimeter of bench space with plants and grow the sub optimally by continually breaking them up before they become mature plants. The overseas growers tend to have fewer plants grow to the optimal standards were here we have thousands of sub optimal plants.

There is a perceived need to trade up, but an old stalwart like *Paph insigne* with multiple flowers can holds its own. There is always a tradeoff number of flowers verses size of flowers to size of the plant.

If you really do need to upgrade your collection be far more discerning and don't go for quantity over quality. Chose simple to grow that are for the time the best quality available and given time these can produce champions for you even the novice grower.

The current breeding lines with *Catt logesii* have 4N and have larger fuller flowers with the line bred plants moving away from their poor original parents. So in a choice between "wild" vs select, go for the selective line breeding as they are producing superior plants and flowers. Ken mentioned *Catt walkeriana* is the next big improver (one of the members in a "sotto voce" that some judges had dismissed quality line bred *walkeriana*'s as hybrids, when they were still species under the subscribed definition).

Ken then mentioned the conditions you are attempting to grow under and advised member to invest in conditions that make growing worthwhile and commit to this culture. The next item was what are you growing for i.e. Show bench or hybridising you need to commit to a group and don't try to mix and match, it won't work. Try to stage your plants in your growing area to give them the best chance.

We need to look at the Americans for how they grow. A usual American hobby grow will have about 50 plants but these will be the best plants they can afford and tend to be larger plants and better floral display. Here in Australia the trend is to have 2000 plants of questionable quality and smaller frequently broken up plants with sub optimal flower count. We need to reduce this to about 400 with increased quality and increase the time between plant divisions.

If you are growing for the show bench you need to groom your plants. Starting with elevating the plant in the growing area, extra light will produce a better plant with flowers all-round. Of course there will be season variations but try to minimise the bad impacts. The theme of your collection should be what you like. Before purchasing plants research what's available. Once you stage your orchid except to take to a show don't move it. Line breeding plants produce predictable results were good genes have been reinforced. An example of a hybrid that appears like the species with natural elegance is Cym Ken Siew (*Cymbidium tracyanum* and *erythraeum*) see picture below



Ken finished his presentation with a few tips. Lycastes are making a comeback, the breeding of Fred Alcorn has been kept alive and starting to make an impact on the show bench again. Steve Monkhouse has returned and is producing exceptional quality Zygopetelums, with David Wolf's Oncidium Intergenerics making an impact. The old standard Onc Twinkle was registered in 1953 by Golda Moir. So there is hope for us all.

Robert Moon

How many points resonated with you? How about a couple (paraphrased) such as:-

- *grow fewer and better quality plants - quality not quantity*
- *more space between plants—eg reduce from say 2000 plants to a few hundred or less*
- *allow plants to grow into larger size plants*
- *don't overcrowd plants and then be forced to divide them too soon*
- *overseas (and local good) growers tend to have fewer plant and grow them to optimal standards*
- *choose selective line bred plants with the aim to producing superior plants and flowers*
- *line breeding of plants produces predictable results where good genes have been reinforced*
- *commit to a group. Don't try to 'mix and match' - especially if growing for the show bench or hybridising*
- *invest in conditions that make growing worthwhile and commit to this culture*

Hopefully our many ANOS devotees have survived this article.

What have you photographed?



Cryptostylis erecta - North Epping
Taken by John Klepetko on 16/1/2016



Dipodium punctatum - North Epping
Taken by John Klepetko on 16/1/2016



Microtis sp - Rigney's Creek, Guy Fawkes NP
Taken by Peter Dowling on 23/11/2015



Diruis dendrobioides - Rigney's Creek, Guy Fawkes NP
Taken by Peter Dowling on 23/11/2015



POPULAR VOTE COMPETITION

Sponsored by Wayne Turville of Australian Orchid Nursery

Wayne Turville of the Australian Orchid Nursery (AON) is kindly sponsoring a Popular Vote Competition which commenced at our January meeting. It will run each month until November at our monthly meetings. The sponsorship provided by (AON) to support the competition is a very generous \$250 worth of seedling vouchers. The competition is a great initiative to encourage people to bring plants to meetings throughout the year and for members and visitors to be further involved at meeting. Page 11 has full details.

This initiative was announced in an email to members sent on 14th January. As members had limited time to absorb the voting system, there was discussion on the procedure proposed at our January meeting a few days later. John Klepetko clarified a few matters and the members cast their vote for first, second and third placings. John then analysed the voting slips submitted and announced the placings for January.

The results were:-

First	<i>Den. Nancy Fairfax</i>	Robert & William Bird
Second	<i>Dock. wassellii</i>	Y&S Chan
Equal Third	<i>Den. Hansen</i>	Y&S Chan
	<i>Sarc. ceciliae</i>	Y&S Chan.

New tips and information available on the AON website

Wayne Turville is writing a near daily web log (blog) on what is happening at the Australian Orchid Nursery. The blog is informative and includes numerous photos and tips on a range of subjects and issues. Recent topics include the very useful:

[Boisduval scale - possibly the world's worst orchid pest.](#)

[Two spotted spider mite are off and away. Time to Spray and spray and spray again!](#)

All of Wayne's blogs can be viewed at: <http://www.australianorchids.com.au/blogs/blog>

News Flash - Wayne has kindly accepted our invitation to present at our August meeting. Put it in your diary and pass the word for what will be an evening not to be missed.

Growing Competition

The competition provides an opportunity to see how different cultural techniques and conditions can affect plant growth.

Competition plants benched also provide a talking point and an opportunity for members to learn from other growers. Please don't forget to bring in your plants - regardless of how they are growing.

The plants involved are

- *Dendrobium fleckerii* and *Dendrobium Warragul* 'Magenta' x *Flinders* 'World's Best'.

Benching months are **February, May, August and November** each year with final judging at the November 2017 meeting. See September 2014 *Orchidophile* for full details.

A New ANOS Sydney Competition for 2016: The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition

This year ANOS Sydney Group is running a popular vote competition, generously supported by Wayne Turville and The Australian Orchid Nursery (AON) to the value of \$250. In recognition of AON's support, the competition's name is "The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition".

The popular vote competition aims to bring attention to the plants Members in general consider their favourite at each meeting, rather than the plants placed by the judges on the evening. Consequently the popular vote competition is additional and separate to the annual point score competition that is also conducted each meeting (where benched plants are given additional points based on their placing as determined by the Judges present at the meeting).

The popular vote competition aims are to also:

- promote the exhibition of plants at monthly meetings;
- encourage further appreciation of the plants benched; and
- encourage and challenge Members to evaluate plants benched at each meeting.

Details of the popular vote competition are provided below. They have been slightly modified to those circulated prior to the January meeting.

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition – Rules

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition will be run at ANOS Sydney monthly meetings from January to November 2016. Plants eligible for the popular vote competition must have been owned and in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months.

During the tea break of each meeting, Members and Visitors will be invited to complete a popular vote slip to indicate their favourite three plants, in order from first to third – in the spaces indicated on the voting slip.

[Note: the idea behind ranking 3 plants, rather than just voting for one plant, is that it further challenges Members and Visitors in making their choice, and also encourages members to further appreciate the plants benched].

Completed popular vote slips should be placed in the popular vote container (or equivalent) by the end of the tea break. Points, from each Members' slips, will be given for voted plants as follows:

- first place - 3 points;
- second place - 2 points; and
- third place - 1 point.

Points will then be tallied up for each plant at, or following, each meeting.

The exhibitor/s of the plant/s with the most points at each meeting

- will score 3 points;
- second highest total will score 2 points; and
- third highest total will score 1 point.

At the end of the year the total cumulative scores gained by the exhibitors who scored points at any meeting will be arranged in numeric order. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, and the prizes presented at the Christmas Party.

The prizes will consist of:

- 1st place - an AON seedling voucher for \$150;
- 2nd place - an AON seedling voucher for \$70; and
- 3rd place - an AON seedling voucher for \$30

Dates to Remember...

- 19 February 2016 - ANOS Sydney Group - 'Media and Mounts' by Ray Clements of Tinonee Orchid Nursery
- 15 - 16 April 2016 - Castle Hill Orchid Fair - Castle Hill Showground
- 13 - 15 May 2016 - Orchids Out West - Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon (opposite RAAF Base)
- 9 - 10 July 2016 - Tinonee Orchids Open Day and Show - 768 Tinonee Rd, Tinonee
- 19 - 21 August 2016 - St Ives Orchid Fair - St Ives Showground
- 1 - 4 September 2016 - 8th ANOS Conference and Show - Kempsey
- 17 - 18 September 2016 - ANOS Sydney Spring Show - Eden Gardens Nursery, Lane Cove Rd, North Ryde
- 15 October 2016 - ANOS Sydney Sarcanthinae Show, 41 - 43 Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills

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Den. Flinders 'Grey Lady'



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