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The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group

"The Orchidophile" September 2016

www.anos.org.au/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.**

Visitors are welcome!

Next Meeting Friday 16th September 2016 .

Speaker: Jan Mohandas - Photographing orchids in the bush

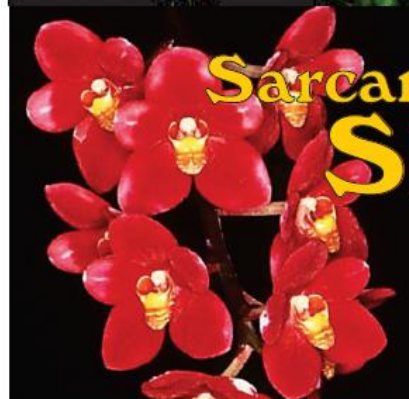
Australasian Native Orchid Society **SYDNEY GROUP**

Don't miss our ...



Spring Show

Saturday 17 September
9.30am ~ 4.30pm
Sunday 18 September
9.00am ~ 4.00pm
Eden Gardens
(Pandorea Room)
307 Lane Cove Road
Macquarie Park



Sarcanthinae Show

Saturday 15 October
9.30am ~ 4.00pm
West Pennant Hills
Community Church
41 - 43 Eaton Road
West Pennant Hills

Native Orchid Species & Hybrids also on Sale

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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.

ANOS Sydney Group Spring Show - 17-18 September

The Spring Show, our major event of the year, will soon be upon us. Members are asked to participate in whatever way possible. The show is for ALL members to exhibit and it goes without saying that if each member could bring along a few plants we could again present an outstanding display of both native species and hybrids.

This is a wonderful chance for all to participate in, to produce a show of the usual high standard and on completion to go away with a sense of satisfaction for a job well done.

The show, at [Eden Gardens, 301 - 307 Lane Cove Road, Ryde](#), is commended to everyone and we look forward to seeing you all on Saturday the 17 September.

- John Klepetko

Pennant Hills Market Place Display - Wrap up!

Our display at Pennant Hills Market Place on Saturday 27th August was again a great success. Thank you to Charlie, Andrew, Yin and Sau-wan and Graeme and the other members who supported the day with a small but quality display of plants, a very healthy sales table and the possibility of picking up some new members. Sales included many large speciosums, some Sarcs, Docks, and Den hybrids and there was no shortage of friendly locals and visitors willing to spend their cash. The total of \$262.20 was made for the group - which was the 15% sales commission on the plants sold. Only a handful



of large speciosums remained at the end of the day - though all but 3 were sold as they were being put into cars. Overall a fantastic chance to showcase our native plants and club. We will likely again put the event on in 2017. Hopefully more members will give their support, even for a couple of hours - and particularly by providing display plants, and sales plants to support the group.



It was most heartening to be able to speak with so many keen gardeners, walkers and people interested in talking, hearing and learning about our native orchids. There is clearly a need for information on our orchids and their culture to be made available to the wider community. A common theme in discussions was bush walking and aspects related to conservation, as well as enjoying and cultivating orchids in the garden. Hopefully we will be able to harness knowledge gained to eventually expand the group's activities to further cater for newer members, and members interested in activities other than those the group normally undertakes.

Special thanks to Charlie for his enthusiasm and encouraging more than 30 potential new members to sign up for our newsletter (and in doing so each received a free *Den. kingianum* from Charlie - a fantastic initiative). He stayed all day (had breakfast after midday) and didn't let anyone pass by the sales table without talking to them and promoting the group and native orchids. He also invited his extended family to pop by - they were lovely and provided plenty of enjoyable conversation and laughs. *(continued on next page)*

Pennant Hills Display (Cont.)

Another special thanks to Charlie and Graeme for bringing their tables for the event without which the day would not have been possible.

Look forward to having an even bigger and better event next year! - *John Klepetko (Display organiser)*



Our Guest Speaker for August – Jan Mohandas

Jan Mohandas, a member of ANOS Sydney Group, is well known for his passion for finding and photographing orchids in the bush. Rarely a week passes when Jan and wife Margaret are not out there searching. Jan spoke to our group in January 2015 where his exceptional photographic skills were vividly demonstrated. In 5 of the following 8 months, the Orchidophile featured pages of native orchid photographs showing their successful findings.

The January 2015 Orchidophile noted that Jan 'agreed at very short notice' to be our speaker of the month. We are extremely fortunate that Jan has again 'agreed at very short notice' to be our September 2016 speaker following

withdrawal of the scheduled speaker (Callyn Farrell of DUNO/Elernmore Orchids). He will show photos of a wide range of natives found in recent months. Two such examples - *Caladenia testacea* (*Stegostyla testacea*) and *Lyperanthus suaveolens* are shown here. Both were photographed at a suburban reserve in Turrumurra in the last week of August 2016.



Caladenia testacea (*Stegostyla testacea*)

Lyperanthus suaveolens

- Graeme Russell

Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting

Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – 19 August 2016

Meeting opened at 8:05pm by President Andrew Locke. Andrew welcomed members and visitors.

Apologies: Liliana Hurst.

New members: None.

Visitors: Warren Brooks

Presentation by **Wayne Turville on *Change, challenges and advances over the past 24 months: Where to from here?*** Wayne also presented ANOS Sydney Group with 3 gift certificates for the AON Popular Vote Competition to the total value of \$250.

The meeting broke for refreshments.

Minutes of previous meeting: Moved John Klepetko, seconded Clover Bradley that the minutes be accepted as circulated in the July 2016 Orchidophile.

Correspondence in:

- Newsletters from other societies.
- ANOS Inc Newsletter and correspondence.
- Guest speakers.

Correspondence out:

- Guest speakers.

Treasurer's Report:

	July 2016
Income:	\$99.25
Expenditure:	\$547.10
Balance:	\$447.85
Cash Assets:	\$4490.10

Moved John Hurst, seconded Bernadette Williams that the report be accepted.

General Business:

The President:

- presented Peter Dowling with an ANOS HCC award for his plant Sarco. Magic 'Scarloideach' FCC/ANOS 2015 (NSW)
- advised members of the Display and Sales Table at Pennant Hills Market Place on Saturday 27 August.
- advised members of upcoming shows and the 8th ANOS Conference and Show in Kempsey from 1-4 September.
- advised members the group needs a full Committee to function and to think about joining Committee in 2016/2017.
- thanked Joe and Charlie for preparing supper and the members who brought food to share.

Members:

- wished Trevor a very happy 80th birthday.
- discussed issues around ANOS Sydney's display that the Conference.
- discussed issues for raising at the post ANOS AGM meeting with group representatives. Dan Tomich raised the issue of awards and how difficult it was to obtain an ANOS award. It was decided this issue would be raised at Kempsey.
- discussed the meeting venue and options for change.
- discussed Group shirts that are being organised by Charlie.

Plant of the Evening (PoE): *Dendrobium* Bergen 'Splash' owned by J. Hurst.

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition: 1st: *Den.* Bergen 'Splash' (J. Hurst), 2nd: *Den.* Warreen 'Dwarf' (Y&S Chan), 2nd: *Den.* Gillian Leaney 'Blood Stone' (M. Daniels). 3rd: *Den.* Avril's Gold 'Dell' (Y&S Chan).

Lucky door & raffle prizes were drawn.

Meeting closed: 10:45pm.

Next meeting: 16 September. Jan Mohandas (replacing Callyn Farrell from DUNO/Elernmore Orchids)

August 2016 Benching Results and Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Winners

***Dendrobium* species (14 entries)**

1. *Den. aemulum* J. Portelli
2. *Den. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* 'White' x 'Cream' S. Holland
3. *Den. tetragonum* var. *cacatua* Y. & S. Chan

***Dendrobium* hybrids (23 entries)**

1. *Den. Bergen* 'Splash' J. Hurst
2. *Den. Barry Simpson* M. Daniels
3. *Den. Avril's Gold 'Dell'* Y. & S. Chan

***Dockrillia* species (3 entries)**

1. *Dock. teretifolia* G. Steenbeeke
2. *Dock. teretifolia* G. Steenbeeke
3. *Dock. teretifolia* 'DFB' x 'Kincumber' S. Holland

***Dockrillia* hybrids (8 entries)**

1. *Dock. Tweetas* x *teretifolia* P. Murn
2. *Dock. Waverly Mist* Y. & S. Chan
3. *Dock. dolichophylla* x *Australian Lemon Pepper* S. Holland

***Sarc.* & other epiphytic hybrids (7 entries)**

1. *Sarco. Marcia Who* Y. & S. Chan
2. *Sarco. Galaxy 'Cutie'* x *hartmannii* 'Gold Spot' C. Bradley
3. *Sarco. Rumrill* x *australis* B. Spurrs

Other epiphytic species (1 entry)

1. *Bulbo. shepherdii* B. Spurrs

Australasian hybrids (2 entries)

1. *Den. Bucko 'Beckett'* Y. & S. Chan
2. *Den. Gowan's Tangelo* B. Spurrs

***Pterostylis* species (5 entries)**

1. *Pterostylis curta* J. Portelli
2. *Pterostylis curta* S. Holland
3. *Pterostylis baptistii* Y. & S. Chan

Other terrestrial species (2 entries)

1. *Microtis parviflora* G. Steenbeeke
2. *Chiloglottis trullata* G. Steenbeeke

First flowered seedlings (13 entries)

1. *Den. Bergen* x *Vivid* '#1' J. Hurst
2. *Den. Phil Deane* x *speciosum* J. Hurst
3. *Den. Bergen* x *Vivid* '#2' J. Hurst

***Sarcanthinae* species (0 entries)**

Australasian species (0 entries)

***Diuris* species (0 entries)**

***Caladenia* species (0 entries)**

Terrestrial hybrids (0 entries)

Plant of the Evening (PoE):

Den. Bergen 'Splash' J. Hurst

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition:



Wayne Turville – [Australian Orchid Nursery](#)
presenting Popular Vote prizes to Andrew Locke



PV 1st & PoE : *Den. Bergen* 'Splash' (J. Hurst)



PV 3rd: *Den. Avril's Gold* 'Dell' (Y&S Chan)

This Season's Flowering.....

by Gerry Walsh – [The Rock Lily Man](#)

rocklilyman@gmail.com

(Excerpts from his June 24 2016 Newsletter reprinted here with Gerry Walsh's permission)

When I returned to the salt mine after five weeks of travel overseas, my first point of call was the benches of the bush house, to find out if racemes were coming up. I was relieved to find many in the early stages. I assumed that more would come along in the weeks after. But I was wrong. Hardly any more surfaced after my return home. I now believe that this coming season will be at best average or slightly below. Still much better than last year however.

I noticed that many of the plants coming into raceme are pieces from specimen plants that I had chopped up. Re-potting can obviously cause a speciosum to "shock" into producing a burst of flowering after sitting around being lazy for a year or two. This can be interpreted as being a great event . . . flowering rock lilies all over! However there is a dark side to all this raceme production.



Desperate for a re-pot.

The newly potted up divisions usually don't have the root system, therefore the access to much needed nutrients, to produce top quality racemes. Flowers on newly re-potted plants suffer from being much smaller than they normally would be if not re-potted. Raceme length is often shorter as well. Really and truly, everything is affected I guess. Racemes don't seem to be able to hold their heads as upright as usual either.



Before cleanup.

The really noticeable thing of course is the **longevity of the blooms**. Instead of lasting 3 weeks say, they will start going off after only a week or ten days. They just don't have the 'oomph' to maintain the effort first promised. Until a new root system has run rampant through the new potting mix then the performance will most likely be sub-standard. This is a fact of life folks.

This previous point is understood by old time experienced speciosum growers. New growers need to learn it slowly. New growers are impatient to see the giant brilliant blooms and racemes they see at shows. They obtain divisions of the better plants. They pot them up and await the next flowering season with great impatience. Often the next spring flowering is a little disappointing as explained above.



Old roots removed & cleaned up.

The next action to be practiced is simple. Settle in for another year or two of establishment. New roots will come soon. You need to feed them regularly during this time. If you do, the root system often runs wild in new potting bark. And new bulbs coming from the older pseudobulbs will be pumped up and much stronger than those of the first season you potted up the new divisions. You are now in the position to expect some good flowering events.



New bark.

The third year will herald the start of big flowering performances at last. Provided you keep the tucker up to the plants and you kept them in bright light, then you will see the fruits of your efforts come springtime. If you didn't attend to the necessities of your speciosums, then you are going to be disappointed yet again maybe.



All done!

The pieces that I keep of all the re-pots I perform are no different to the ones that I make available to other growers. Mine go backwards for a year or two as well. Be assured of that. They start coming good eventually, but there is no doubt whatsoever... that YOU are going to be the conduit that provides success quickly or not quite so quickly.

- All photos with permission from Gerry Walsh

Dendrobium Beetles

By Jim Brydie

For the newer members who haven't heard all this before, you may be wondering what is decimating your Australian native Dendrobiums, so this is to tell you all about the 'dreaded beetle'.



The damage done by the adult beetle is the first thing you will see. Apart from chewed flowers and buds, they generally strip sections of the lamina from developing leaves in a very distinctive way, leaving the woody inner layer of veins intact like a skin.

Life Cycle: The beetle is quite distinctive. It is about 12mm long, orange in colour with 4 or 5 black spots on their wing covers that may sometimes appear to be 2 horizontal black stripes. The adult beetle feeds on leaves, flowers, buds, and seed capsules of the orchid. Not just Dendrobiums, but they do seem to favour nice fresh leaves or growths of *Dendrobium*. They will however eat flowers of just about any orchid – especially Cymbidiums, and they will eat new growths of many others as well. They are especially efficient at destroying all the forming flower buds if not controlled.

After feeding on whatever they have selected, the adult beetle lays its eggs on nearby new growths, buds, and flowers. The eggs are very tiny, elongated and greenish cream in colour. After about 10 days the beetle larvae emerges (see at right) and tunnels into the new shoots, turning them into a soggy mush and to die. While within the cane, the larvae will grow to a length of about 10-12 mm, by which time they will have eaten out the fleshy inside of the cane.

Control : One method of controlling this pest is to ensure that your orchid house is sealed, preventing the beetle from getting in, but this is much easier said than done. Adults are also easily controlled with most insect sprays, but the larvae is more difficult to control. Most poisons that are effective on the larvae are pretty toxic and still will not control the larvae well. It has been said that the systemic insecticide Confidor will work but I can't confirm this. Many growers use a regular application of the insecticide **Carbaryl**. This is a contact spray and so can only kill what it actually hits, but the residual smell of Carbaryl on the plant is reported to act as a deterrent to the adult beetles for some weeks unless it rains. - No beetles on your plants, no eggs get laid either, and you really only need to spray the fresh new growths until they mature and harden up



The adult beetles also have a very interesting defence mechanism that makes them rather easy to catch. If you put your hand (or a finger) near them they ALWAYS fold up their legs and let themselves drop. Their intent is to become lost in the detritus on the ground around the plant, but the trick is to cup one hand under them and then poke them with the other.

When they drop into your cupped hand you can set them onto a hard surface and gleefully squash the little so and so's. Squashing/Stomping is a wonderful, non-toxic, very satisfying control method but if you just don't have my blood lust, you can always just get them to drop into a cup of water with some oil in it. Oh, and please also note that adult beetles nearly always travel in pairs. If you find one, don't stop until you find the second one.

If you catch them or spray them before they lay eggs, you don't have to worry about the larvae, but if you are too late, then beware that the larvae do also strip leaves. Perhaps this is before they go into the phase of burrowing into the stems, I am not sure. I once had a plant of *Den. delicatum* being massacred on 20 or 30 leaves simultaneously. At first I thought it was adult beetles that I just couldn't find. The larvae were so tiny that I didn't even see them until the second or third day. There must have been dozens of them and they made a frightful mess before I figured out what was going on.



Once mature, the larvae makes its way down to the base of the pseudobulb and makes a pupa case of white waxy material similar to toothpaste or styrene spaghetti.

After pupation (where the larvae morphs into a beetle) the adult emerges to repeat the Cycle all over again.



(This article appeared in the March 2016 Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society newsletter and is reproduced here with permission from Jim Brydie'. – Editor)

Out And About (Tall Tales but Very True)

Rare and Beautiful Orchids

By Mark Daniels – Stronggrow Orchids

I was out and about again, in The Central Lakes District, bit further south. I decided to do a bit of canoeing, bushwalking, camping, have a needed break and look at an estuary gully river I had seen on a recent boat trip to Bunwall. First mistake, I thought there was no need for my camera because of the water. Paddling some 10 kilometres still feeling sore from last week's adventure I camped out on a raised island, landed in a swampy estuary with large plants of *Dendrobium teretifolium* growing around me on swamp oak trees.



Photo 1: *Den. teretifolium*

After setting up camp it got dark. I was not alone I had company, dozens of orange glowing eyes were watching me from above, there must have been hundreds of starving possums living there! They were restricted from leaving the island by the water. The little buggers got into everything while I was watching across from the camp fire. It was time to retire to the tent for forty winks. I was woken up by what sounded like a burp. The little buggers were trying to chew my toes and feet! I got up, and in desperation for a good night's sleep, threw a half empty can of coke at them from 20 feet away to scare them off. I could not believe it. The can hit one fair and square on its noggin! I felt real bad, but it was an accident after all. I thought about mouth to mouth to revive it, but I was not that intoxicated.

Up the next morning, I was expecting a huge walk, but I was surprised, when about only 2 km. up the creek, growing on Bush Myrtle trees a large population of *Denrobium tetragonum* not in flower. They looked different.

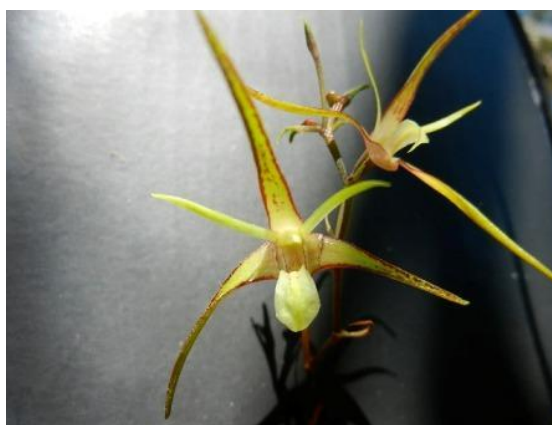


Photo 2: *Den. tetragonum* var. *myalspadei*

I then realised they all had lots of aerial growths, I grabbed half a dozen aerial growths for identification leaving all the plants intact undisturbed and explored the rest of the creek.

The only orchids there were *Den. tetragonum*, *Den. speciosum* var. *hillii* and small *Sarc. australius* growing on Water Gums. Let's hope the State Forest logging operations keep away.

Venturing back home I got caught in a storm. There was lots of lightning - pretty scary. I was thinking, "I'm getting to old for this bush bashing, but I will be back next spring." which I was and since then I have now found three communities of *tetragonums* even well back in the hinterland. The keikis have grown well in the coarse Stronggrow Bush Orchid Mix and flowered this year. The question is what variety are they (Photos 2 - 4)?



Photo 3: *Den. tetragonum* var. *mylespadei*



Photo 4: *Den. tetragonum* var. *mylespadei*

I believe it to be a new variety and given it the name *Dendrobium tetragomum myalspadei*. Of the other four varieties I believe there to be, none of them that have the same characteristics as *myalspadei*, namely the white elongated spade lip. On showing Ken Russell a well respected and legend of native orchids, he had to agree with me, it was very different to other *tetragonums* and thought the same. (continued on page 8)

Out and About.....(continued)

Look at Photos 5 and 6. I will value all of the member's conclusions, I have given you a photo of the very large variety type *Denrobium tetragonum* var *tetragonum* (Photo 5) which begins to occur from Mooney Mooney on the Hawkesbury river, through the Wattagans and Cessnock region, except for Ourimbah State Forrest where it reverts back to the small southern type variety (Photo 6) compare them to Photo 2, 3 and 4.



Photo 5: *Den. tetragonum* var. *tetragonum*



Photo 6: *Den. tetragonum* var. *tetragonum*

You can contact me on 02 4949 6228, or my email address stronggrow.orchids@gmail.com. I really need a coffee now. Great flowering season coming up!

Plant of the evening - *Dendrobium* Bergen 'Splash'

By Yin and Sau-wan Chan

It is a very well grown orchid with 5 well-presented flowering spikes. All the flowers are in peak conditions, all of which appearing above the foliage. 4 spikes had fully open predominantly pristine cream colour flowers, all with good texture and substance. Each flower had a distinct mauve labellum as well as a spray of mauve coloration at the tip of its sepals.

It is a very complex hybrid made of a cross between *Dendrobium* Awesome and *Dendrobium* Candice, registered in 2004 by Down Under Native Orchids. Its

parentage includes *Dendrobium speciosum* (44%), *Den. kingianum* (28%), *Den. tetragonum* (16%), *Den. fleckeri* (6%) and *Den. bigibbum* (6%). With only a small percentage of *Den. bigibbum* in its parentage, it is a cool-growing orchid which should grow well in Sydney without heating. There is no recorded descendent from this orchid yet.



Dendrobium Bergen 'Splash'
- whole plant and a flowering spike
(Photos by Sau-wan Chan)

What have you photographed?

Photos of native orchids taken by our members and friends

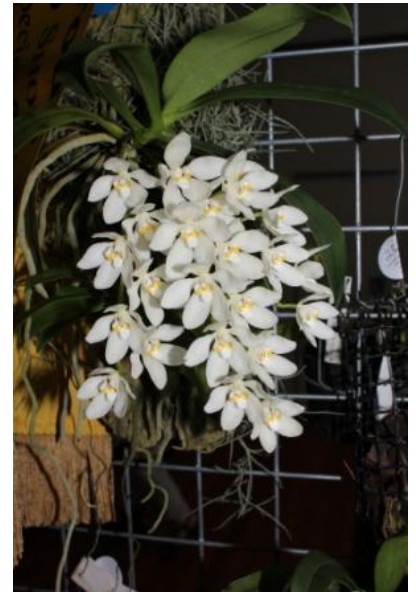
Gerry Walsh ([The Rock Lily Man](#)):

Gerry shares two photos of *Dendrobium speciosum* Albino 97 where he shows us “the grandeur of before re-potting and the ratbag flowers at the first flowering after re-potting”!



Sarcochilus

These photos were from the **ANOS Sydney Group Sarcochilus Show** last year. A genus of about 12 species usually found on the great dividing range of South Eastern and Eastern Australia. The name Sarcochilus means ‘Fleshy lip’ in Greek (from Australian Orchid Nursery - <http://www.australianorchids.com.au/collections/sarcochilus>).



Photos from our August 2016 Meeting



Peter Dowling Presentation for Sarc. Magic 'Scarloideach' - HCC ANOS 2015



Pterostylis curta - Joe Portelli



Den. Aemulum – A. Locke



Den. Jonathans Glory - Dark Joy – P. Murn



Den. speciosum var. capricornicum – S. Holland

Dates to Remember...	
1 - 4 September 2016	8th ANOS Conference and Show – Kempsey
10 – 11 September 2016	ANOS Warringah Group Spring Show - Forestville Memorial Hall Starkey Street, Forestville
10 - 11 September 2016	Wyong Spring Time Orchid Show – Wyong Race Course Co-Hosted by The ANOS Central Coast Group & Gosford & District Orchid Society and Mingara Orchid Club.
16 September 2016	ANOS Sydney Group – Jan Mohandas Photographing orchids in the bush Baulkham Hills Community Centre, Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills
17 - 18 September 2016	ANOS Sydney Spring Show Eden Gardens Nursery, Lane Cove Rd, North Ryde
15 October 2016	ANOS Sydney Sarcanthinae Show, West Pennant Hills Community Church 41 - 43 Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills

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