



The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group

"The Orchidophile" December 2016

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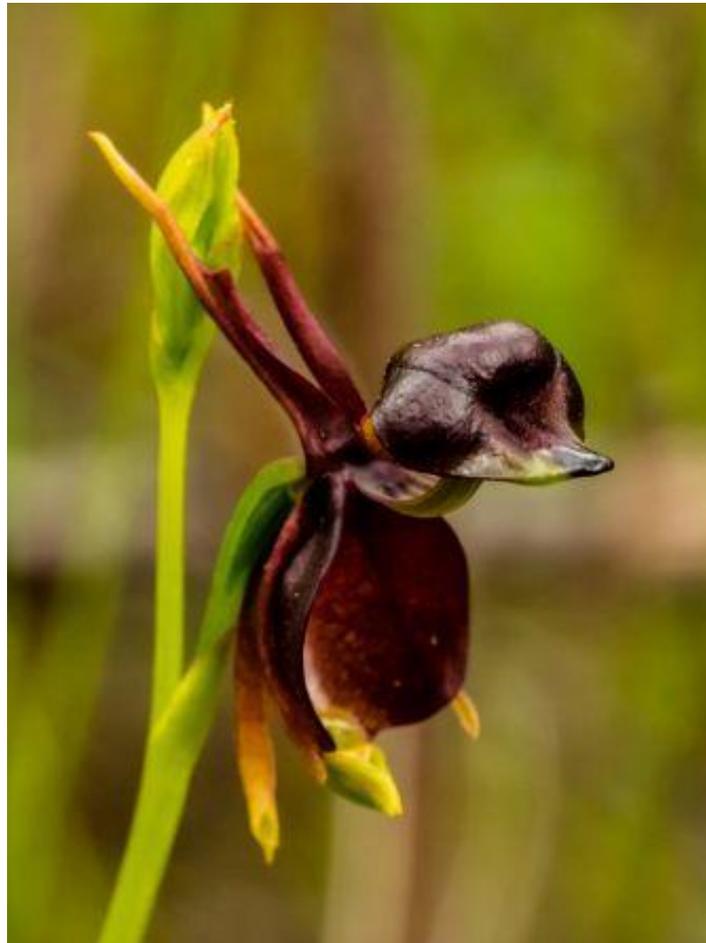
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The Group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 8.00pm in the Baulkham Hills Community Centre, Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills

Next Meeting Friday 16th December 2016.

***Come to our Christmas Party and celebrate
another fabulous year!***



Flying Duck Orchid *Caleana major*

Photo by Jan & Margaret Mohandas

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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

President's Report

Welcome to another edition of The Orchidophile! I would like to wish all members, their families and friends a safe and very merry Christmas and all the very best wishes for the coming year!

The rest of this report will be continued at our meeting as I will be announcing and giving out prizes to our Popular Vote winners.

Happy growing and I look forward to seeing you all enjoying yourselves at our Christmas Party!



Andrew Locke
President

Christmas Party 16 December 2016

Our December meeting is our Christmas Party and presentation night. All members, their partners, families (including children) and friends are welcome and invited to attend on this festive occasion.

Members are asked to bring a plate of salad or dessert (please include the serving utensils), and also a small wrapped gift for the raffle. The club will provide hot chicken, soft drinks and cutlery.

There will be the Annual Points Score and Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote presentations for those successful growers who helped our monthly benching achieve such a high standard throughout the year. **AON Popular Vote** prizes are seedling vouchers of \$150 (1st place), \$70 (2nd place) and \$30 (3rd place). **Annual Point Score** prizes are \$40 (1st place), \$30 (2nd place), \$20 (3rd place), \$10 (4th place), a seedling (5th to 10th place).

Members are invited to bring up to 3 plants to show what's in flower and for a general popular vote benching. There will be no separate classes but simply an open benching with members and guests to vote on their choice of the plant of the evening.

Reminder Membership Fees

If you have overlooked renewing your membership for 2016/2017 please take this opportunity to pay the annual membership fee (\$20) by the end of the year and thus avoid discontinuation of your membership.

Fees can be paid by:

1. Direct deposit into the group's bank account. The details for this are as follows:
Account name: Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group
BSB: 032289
Account Number: 130506
(Please enter your name in the relevant field when making online payments)
2. Cash directly to our **Membership Secretary Joe Portelli** at our meetings.
3. Posting the renewal form (attached) with a cheque or money order payable to ANOS Sydney Group, to:

The Membership Secretary
ANOS Sydney Group
9 Alicia St Glenwood
NSW 2768.

The cost of renewal is \$20 for Single or Joint Family Membership.

If you have any queries please contact the Membership Secretary at anossydney@gmail.com.

WA Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show 2017 **Rendezvous Hotel Perth, Scarborough, Western Australia** **5th & 6th August 2017**

Registration is now open for the WA Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show 2017 held by the Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation.

Further information including on registration, orchid tours, and other aspects of the conference are at:

http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/WAOS_2017.htm



Review of General Meeting Benching Classes

Sydney Group Committee is intending to review (ideally before the end of the year) the plant benching classes used at General Meetings. The review's aim is to ensure benched plants are appropriately and fairly rewarded, to encourage as much as possible members to bring in their flowering orchids each month, and to showcase and promote our Australian and Australasian native orchids.

What about an 'exotics' class for closely related exotic orchids or orchids that contain some exotic species in their parentage? - see attached photo of Barry Moore with his plant of *Gastrophaius* Lady Romona Harris 'Looking@You' taken at the November meeting. *Gastrophaius* Lady Romona Harris is a hybrid with both exotic and Australasian orchid parentage. It is made up of *Phaius Gravesiae* (*Phaius tankervilleae* x *Phaius wallichii*) x *Gastrorchis pulchra* var. *perrieri*].



Ideas and feedback are invited from members. Members can either talk directly to a Committee Member or email their suggestions to anosydney@gmail.com.

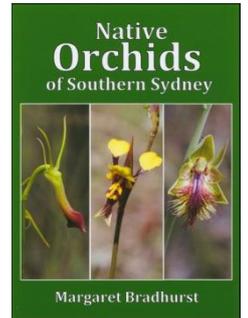
Library Donation

Bernadette Williams has kindly donated to the Group's Library a copy of the proceedings of the **1st Australian Native Orchid Conference and Show**, which was held on 28-30 September 1990 at The University of Wollongong. The proceeding contains many detailed, informative and still relevant articles written by notable and eminent orchid experts.



Native Orchids of Southern Sydney – An Identification Guide by Margaret Bradhurst

At the November general meeting Jan Mohandas made members aware of a new book on the native orchids of southern Sydney.



The information on the book website states the book describes 120 different native orchid species found in the southern Sydney area. Features of the Book include:

- Notes about each genus
- The derivation of the genus name
- 185 coloured photographs make it easy to identify the plants
- Botanical and common names
- The key features and flowering times of each species
- An introductory section that is designed to help those unfamiliar with native orchids to find and identify them
- Information on terrestrial, epiphytic and lithophytic orchids
- Details on the structure of orchid flowers
- A glossary of all the botanical terms used in the book

Further information and copies can be ordered (cost: \$20 + \$5 packaging & postage) at the book website at: <http://bradhurstorchids.weebly.com/>

ANOS Sydney Group Polo Shirts

For those who didn't get a chance to order our club polo shirt, don't worry. You haven't missed out. We still have a few club polo shirts available. For anyone interested in getting one, please get in touch with:

Charlie Moraza
Tel: 0413440677
Email:
cmoraza@gmail.com

Hurry while stocks last!

Member Price: \$20.00
Non-member Price: \$25.00



CK model John Klepetko with our new club shirt! :D

Jan and Margaret's 2017 Orchid Calendar

Jan and Margaret Mohandas have produced a wonderful 2017 Orchid Calendar which is illustrated with Jan's magnificent photos of native orchids in the bush. The Calendar was circulated at the November General Meeting. Jan and Margaret have kindly agreed to get further copies printed for any members who would also like a copy of the calendar - at cost price (around \$20).

Any member who would like to purchase one or more copies of the calendar please let the Sydney Group/John Klepetko know (by emailing anossydney@gmail.com) by Friday 9 December. The calendars will be available for pick up at the January meeting.

Note that due to the delivery and associated costs, a minimum of 10 calendars need to be ordered by the Group to make getting the extra calendars worthwhile (and within a reasonable cost).



November *Canaliculatum* Carnival

Sydney Group's November meeting is fast becoming a native cymbidium showcase. This year was notable by the benching of an outstanding array of high quality *canaliculatum*s ('*canics*') care of Bill & Clover, Graeme and Dan (photos provided). Clover & Bill even benched a first flowering *canaliculatum* (see photo), the first seen in the seedling class in many years. Well done Clover and Bill!



Cymbidium canaliculatum
(Bill & Clover Bradley)

November *Canaliculatum* Carnival (Cont.)

Special credit should also go to Dan for bringing down as big and well flowered a *canaliculatum* as you will see anywhere (see photo). For members who were not present, the culture of this plant of Dan's was just outstanding. The bulbs filled the 300mm pot all fully leaved. Around 30 long racemes circled around the pot and draped over the foliage, each loaded with fresh glistening honey yellow flowers with deep red-brown markings.

How Dan managed to transport it all the way down from the the Central Coast and keep it in mint condition remains a mystery.



Cym. canaliculatum (Dan Tomich)

The flowers on the plants exhibited had open to flat shapes, lovely regular arrangement and presentation, a wide range of colours including deep colours, and striking marking combinations on the non-var. *sparkseii* type (the non solid deep red-brown to magenta flowered plants) (see photos).

To Bill & Clover, Graeme and Dan... thanks for putting on the 'November *Canaliculatum* Carnival'!

We are all looking forward to an even bigger '*canic*' night with more members benching native cymbidiums at our November meeting next year. Put it down in your calendar - 17 November 2017!



Cym. canaliculatum 'var. *sparkseii*'
(Graeme Russell)

**Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting
Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – 18 November 2016**

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

Apologies: Michael Harrison, George Oehm, Laurie Treanor, Ron Formby.

New members: Nil.

Visitors: Margaret Mohandas.

Minutes of previous (October) meeting: Move that the minutes be accepted as printed in the November Orchidophile.

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters – Other groups and societies. (Orchadian).
- Guest Speakers.
- Request for updated Sydney Group details (ANOS Inc)..
- Guest speakers.

Correspondence Out:

- Re Guest Speakers.
- Sydney Group details to ANOS Inc.

Treasurer's Report: Moved Joe Portelli, seconded Bernadette Williams that the report be accepted.

	October 2016
Income:	\$571.40
Expenditure:	\$798.15
Balance:	-\$226.75
Cash Assets:	\$4,876.54

General Business:

The President indicated that:

- Jan Mohandras has agreed to take on the Field Trips Officer and Conservation Officer role.
- Peter Dowling has agreed to continue as show marshal for both of ANOS Sydney's shows.
- Kathleen Buckwell has stood down as Public Officer. A new representative will be found by the committee.
- Jan Mohandas brought in a new field guide "Native Orchid of Southern Sydney", by Margaret Bradhurst. Details about the book and a book order will be printed in the December issue of The Orchidophile.
- Jan Mohandras shared a calendar made from photographs of terrestrial orchids from his excursions and walking trips. Details will also be provided in the December Orchidophile.
- The society is planning to order name badges from West Ryde Trophies. Details will be in the December Orchidophile.
- Bernadette Williams has generously donated the Proceedings of the 1st ANOS conference to the library.
- There has been no further news about hall hire fees for 2017. Andrew will follow this up with Baulkham Hills Council.

- ANOS T-shirts are available for sale from Charlie Moraza at monthly meetings. Shirts are available in various sizes and cost \$20.00 ea.
- Mark Daniels brought in some of his orchids seedlings and flasks for sale. Mark has two of his modified sprayers available for sale and if there is demand for more sprayers, will try to source the material to produce additional sprayers.
- It is the last night for the popular vote. Prizes will be awarded at the Christmas party.

The meeting broke for refreshments.

Presentation by: Greg Steenbeeke: "Miniature orchids and their influence in breeding"

Plant of the evening: *Sarco. hillii* grown by Bill and Clover Bradley.

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition: 1st: *Sarco. hillii* grown (B. & C. Bradley), 2nd: *Cym.canaliculatum* (D Tomich), 3rd (equal): *Cym. canaliculatum* (B. & C. Bradley) and *Den. Gowan's Tangelo* (C. Nidagal).

Lucky door & raffle prizes were drawn.

Meeting closed: 9:40pm.

Next meeting: 16 December 2016. X-mas Party.

Plant of the Evening



AON 1st Popular Vote & PoE: *Sarco. hillii* – B. & C. Bradley

Plant of the Evening – *Sarcochilus hillii*

By Yin and Sau-wan Chan

This was a rarely seen specimen sized *Sarcochilus hillii*. The plant is mounted on cork, with 7-8 inflorescences; all carrying two or more fully open fragrant flowers (about 10 mm across in size). The tepals are glittering, crystalline white and widely spreading.



Photo: Sau-wan Chan



Photo: John Klepetko

This orchid is naturally found in Australia and New Caledonia. In Australia, it is found from near the Shoalhaven River in south-eastern New South Wales to about the Fitzroy River in east-central Queensland, from sea level to about 760 m. It seems to grow best in dry but humid scrub areas or in stunted, drier rainforest on trees from the trunk to the outermost twigs. The roots are often exposed and easily seen as they travel a fair distance from the plant. One circumstance is apparent in all habitats: the plants dry out quickly and their position in the trees ensures good air movement around the plants.

This orchid is generally regarded as a difficult orchid to grow and maintain in good condition in culture as it is resentful of excess moisture. According to Clover, their plant is grown in one of their *Sarcochilus* houses – the hottest one where she mainly keeps the mature plants. It is hung on the end wall about shoulder to head high. The greenhouse faces north, so it gets the western sun on the side of it in the summer. It gets the same watering as other *Sarcochilus*, but because of its position may be a little drier.

Sarco. hillii has never been awarded in Australia and was only awarded once, a CBR (Certificate of Botanical Recognition) by the American Orchid Society in 2010. According to the record, the plant had only three flowers and five buds on six inflorescences!!

Sarco. hillii has not been used much in hybridisation and so far its progenies consist of 3 primary hybrids (*Sarco. Minuet* with *Sarco. hartmannii*, *Sarco. Confetti* with *Sarco. ceciliae* and *Sarco. Julie-Anne* with *Sarco. hirticalcar*) and one other.

November 2016 Benching Results and

The Australian Orchid Nursery Popular Vote Competition

***Dendrobium* species (4 entries)**

1. *Den. lichenastrum* B. Spurrs
2. *Den. prenticeii* B. Spurrs
3. *Den. monophyllum* C. Nidagal

***Dendrobium* hybrids (1 entry)**

1. *Den.* Class 'WOC' P. Murn

***Sarcanthinae* species (18 entries)**

1. *Sarco. hillii* C. Bradley
2. *Plect. tridentata* G. Steenbeeke
3. *Sarco. ceciliae* B. Spurrs

***Sarco.* & other epiphytic hybrids (21 entries)**

1. *Sarco.* Bessie Y. & S. Chan
2. *Sarco.* Canary 'FF' C. Bradley
3. *Sarco.* Kulnura Dragonfly B. Spurrs

Other epiphytic species (13 entries)

1. *Cym. canaliculatum* C. Bradley
2. *Cym. canaliculatum* C. Bradley
3. *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *Sparkseii* G. & S. Russell

Australasian species (3 entries)

1. *Coelogyne fragrans* '#2' Y. & S. Chan
2. *Den. subclausan* var. *pandanicola* C. Nidagal
3. *Coelogyne fragrans* B. Spurrs

Australasian hybrids (3 entries)

1. *Den.* Gowan's Tangelo C. Nidagal
2. *Den.* Alice's Rainbow Y. & S. Chan
3. *Den.* Peter Nash Y. & S. Chan

First flowered seedlings (9 entries)

1. *Sarco.* Sun Spot x *hartmannii* C. Bradley
2. *Sarco.* Maria C. Bradley
3. *Sarco.* Diva x Cenedra C. Bradley

***Dockrillia* species (0 entries)**

***Dockrillia* 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. hillii B&C. Bradley



3rd (equal) Popular Vote: *Den.* Gowan's Tangelo (C. Nidagal).



2nd Popular Vote: *Cym. canaliculatum* (D Tomich)



3rd (equal) Popular Vote: *Cym. canaliculatum* (B & C Bradley)

Out And About (Tall Tales but Very True)

By Mark Daniels – Strongrow Orchids

A special event at Ken Russell's Orchid Glen Nursery:

This spring was a very special event for me and a good old friend which you all know, that lives about half hour away from my place. I will hold you in suspense for a moment. At the age of 14 I became a member of the Berowra Orchid Society. I turned up at the Thursday night meeting, with a couple of flasks of *Den.* Andrew Pearson that I had just bought of Wal Upton. I was hoping to get some advice on de-flasking but no one was very forthcoming. Then our president Lorry Swenson said, "You will not have much luck with them son, go and see Ken Russell at Dungog. He has them already growing and some ready to flower". I thought to myself, "Who was Ken Russell?" Being only a first year apprentice cabinet maker, my boss thought that I would not be able to concentrate on my work until I got what I wanted; so he offered to take me up the following weekend. Making the most of it, I said to him, "While we are up there, have you ever been to the Allyn River?" It was a magic place. We made a big day of it, left Sydney at 4 am got to Kenny's at 9 am, (over the years hundreds of Sydney and Melbourne growers have made the same trip). Well bugger the *Den.* Andrew Pearson. There were so many beautiful orchids that I had no idea about. I was in paradise! That was my introduction to Kenny. There were many more trips up in later years.

On a particular warm spring day at Ken's Orchid Glen Nursery, I was invited to the inner sanctum (only for honest customers and if he likes you). In those days it was a double layered plastic enclosure to stop the cold and burn, with a fan running. Ken has a famous phrase especially when you think you can out gun him with a beautiful orchid you have grown and taken to show him. He will say, "That's not bad but just have a look down here." He always has something up his sleeve to blow your mind away.

Well this particular day was special, I saw a ***Dendrobium* Sunglow 'Sunrise'** flowering with 3 or 4 huge inflorescences. They had 20 to 30 large flat flowers on each with the colour of burnt orange. What a site and the perfume was superb! He gave me two selfings of it; they were only for his best customers.

Unfortunately, Ken lent this plant to a breeder for cloning or hybridizing and never got it back! It died or was pinched (the story was not clear) and he was very upset about it.

Sixteen years have gone by since then. I could not flower the plants after 15 years of nurturing them, and gave the two plants to Dan Tomich and George Oehm to work their magic and try to get them to flower.

Dan got the bigger plant to flower its head off! So this year was the return of Sunglow 'Sunrise' sibling – flowering like its mum did. So the plan was made to surprise Ken at his place and get some photos of his reaction. This time he did not say, "That's not bad but just look over here". Our Ken was a bit stuck for words and was very quick to take the pollen off some of the flowers (knowing the true value and potential of the orchid, to use on something special no doubt).

While I was there, Ken gave me the grand tour like he does with everybody and Noelene (his partner in orchid bliss) got the coffee ready. God love them.



Look at the big smile on
Kenny's face!



Dendrobium Sunglow 'Sunrise'

Member Snapshot – Shoo Peng Siah

Our new club secretary Shoo has been a member of the club for a few years now and her photos of native orchids have been featured several times in past issues of our newsletter. This month, she kindly shares with us her story on her interest with Australian native orchids.

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

Shoo: I've always liked flowers – first it was roses, then kangaroo paws, then Cymbidiums. My interest in terrestrial orchids came about by chance when I discovered some very unusual but pretty looking flowers while out walking. Turns out they were native orchids. I also found that I liked delicate native orchids.

Q: Do you mainly take photos of native orchids or do you also grow some?

Shoo: Both. I enjoy the thrill of discovering a beautiful terrestrial that I've only ever seen on the pages of a book or on a website. I also have a very small collection of orchids acquired from generous friends (including John Hurst – thank you) and some vendors at Orchid shows.



Common Spider Orchid *Caladenia vulgate* - Boyup Brook WA

Q: Which are your favourite native orchids and why?

Shoo: I have so many favourites, not just one - Spider or Forest Mantis, *Diurus*, Sun orchids, Bearded orchids. I would love to see a Flying duck (*Caleana*) or Small flying duck (*Paracaleana*) in its natural environment – they look quite comical and yet life-like.

Q: How often do you do your photo safaris and mainly what areas do you visit?

Shoo: I am lucky to be living adjacent to a Lane Cove National Park so will look out for them whenever I go for a walk, perhaps once or twice a month. Right now, I'm waiting on some *Dipodiums* and *Cryptostylis* to bloom.

This year, I was lucky enough to go on a wildflower (orchid) driving trip with my sister to WA / SA. I am hooked and hope to visit both spots again in the near future.

Q: What was the most memorable photo shoot you've experienced?

Shoo: That would be my WA/SA trip this year. I joke that I now have a favourite church and golf club in all of Australia (because of all the terrestrials that we found in both locations, in the same township too!). Somewhere by the roadside, of Adelaide hills, we also saw quite a variety of terrestrials. I'm also excited that my sister now knows how to recognise some terrestrials.



Kalbarri Cowslip orchid *Caladenia flava* subsp. *maculate* - Boyup Brook WA

Q: What was the worst mistake you ever made taking photos of native orchids?

Shoo: Not having the batteries of my camera charged – it meant that I had to use my phone camera to take some blurry photos.

Q: What would you advise novices thinking of or just starting out doing bush walks and taking photos of native plants in general?

Shoo: Safety first – watch out for snakes. If you're unfamiliar with a walking track, go with a friend. Carry a mobile phone with good reception. Bring water, especially if you're going for several hours.

As for tips on taking photos of native plants – know your camera well or you'll take plenty of blurry photos like me. I probably take 10 blurry photos (or more) for every good one.



Forest Mantis Orchid *Caladenia attingens* - Ravensthorpe WA

Shoo Peng Siah (Cont.....)

Q: What do you like about our club ANOS Sydney Group and what activity do you enjoy (or look forward to doing) the most?

Shoo: I feel very welcomed at our club meetings and was lucky to participate in the recent October bushwalk. I look forward to more!

I also love looking, smelling and learning about all the different orchids from our enthusiastic members.

Q: What is on your photo shoot wish list?

Shoo: My photo shoot wish list - definitely seeing the Flying duck and small flying duck in their natural environment.

In the walking track adjacent to my home, I remember seeing white *caladenia* and sun orchids in two different spots. Several years ago, I noted that there were a number of holes where the white *caladenias* were. I no longer see white *caladenias* there. This year, I was eagerly awaiting the sun orchids to bloom in the second spot. One week when I returned to take photos, I noted two holes where the orchids were. While it is possible that these orchids may have been dug up by animals, it is also possible that they were removed by someone who fancied them. Please leave them where they grow so that the seed pods and tubers can multiply, and we can all enjoy these beauties for years to come.



Sun Orchid *Thelymitra aff. macrophylla* - near Esperance WA



Coastal Donkey Orchid *Diuris aff. corymbosa* - Adelaide Hills SA



Shoo Peng Siah

Editor's Note:

Photos by Shoo Peng Siah and Shoo Lin Siah

The Member Snapshot concept was adapted from the Maitland & Coalfields District Orchid Society bulletin. Thank you MCDOS and best wishes to all your members!

Ray Clement's Talk at ANOS Sydney Group

By Graeme Russell

Ray Clement from [Tinonee Orchids](#) was the guest speaker on the 19th February meeting where he cleared up a number of cultural issues that growers spend hours discussing/disagreeing on. Here are a few of the gems:

- 1.) **Dynamic Lifter pellets** can clog up the mix. Better to make a 'tea' by mixing pellets with water and pouring onto the plants.
- 2.) **Slow release products** such as Nutricote, Osmocote, Basacote etc. will release fertiliser at a higher than desired rate as temperature rises. As an indication:
 - a. at 31C the 'dump rate' doubles
 - b. at 41C the 'dump rate' quadruples.

Therefore if you decide to use one of these products then use it sparingly. **Importantly, put a little IN the mix – not ON the mix!**

3.) **Foliar Feeding fertilising** doesn't work; as fertiliser cannot be absorbed through the stomata. Fertiliser can only enter a plant via the roots. However systemic insecticides sprayed on the leaves can be absorbed through the stomata to a very small depth which will be taken up by insects which chew or suck on the leaves

4.) **Don't water before applying liquid fertiliser.** Reason – the velamen layer covering the roots cannot absorb fertiliser if it is already saturated. Fertilising using small amounts frequently gives better results than large doses infrequently.

5.) **Type of Mounts** – orchids generally prefers cork as it doesn't break down, lasts longer and importantly, most plant roots prefer it over other mount types. Or for a moisture loving plant, try soft tree fern aka Tasmanian man fern (*Dicksonia antartica*).

6.) **Orientation of Mounts** – better to have them at the horizontal or at a slight slant. Mounts retain moisture longer when in these positions rather than sitting vertically. Tree fern fibres is OK, but have it horizontal. Vertical orientation means the mount will drain much quicker, this may be helpful for plants that must dry out quickly after watering.

A member asked Ray an additional question after the talk regarding how and when to water if the Weather Bureau predicts a long very hot spell in a few days time. Ray's response was:

"In very hot weather, i.e. over 30 degrees, we don't water when the temps are over 30 and it is sunny. Wait till evening and the sun is gone and temps drop. In very hot weather you can wet the floor but we don't put any water on the plants during the day. Sometimes we water each evening, which allows excess water to dry off the plants and out of the pots during the night. The safe zone is between 15 and 30 degrees. So when the temps drop below 15, we change to watering during the morning and leave the plants as dry as possible during the night when it is below 15. We also try and protect seedlings from the temperature extremes.

Sarcochilus Orchids Growing Guide

By Wayne Turville [Australian Orchid Nursery](#)

Sarcochilus is a genus of about 12 orchid species usually found on the great dividing range of Eastern and Eastern Australia. Most species are usually found in lush wet temperate rainforests growing epiphytically on moss covered trees and shrubs.

Four species grow as lithophytes (rock faces). The name *Sarcochilus* means 'Fleshy lip' in Greek. Cultivation is simple, but different to the Australian *Dendrobiums*. *Sarcochilus* prefer lower light levels and moister conditions to the *Dendrobiums*. Cooler conditions are also appreciated especially in the summer months.

A suitable place to grow your 'Sarc's' is under the bench below the *Dendrobiums*. The best growers always have a dedicated 'Sarc' house in which to grow these orchids. Within the genus there are variations in culture.



Sarco. Duno Misty's Twin Orange

Hybrids using the species *ceciliae* will grow under and appreciate higher light and temperature levels as they have a red staining in the foliage which is usually an indicator of being more light tolerant.

The twig epiphytes (such as *olivaceous*) on the other hand prefer it darker and lush. Many growers add river pebbles to their composts to keep the pot temperature lower in summer. In winter plenty of air movement is needed to alleviate bacterial and fungal diseases. It is quite difficult to keep the foliage and blooms spot free without good air movement.

An occasional feeding of Peters Excel Hi K at 1 gram per litre is fine and maybe a few Osmocote Plus pellets in the spring. Re-potting is usually carried out after blooming or in the early autumn when the worst of the heat has finished.

A bark based mix with addition of pebbles and a little hardwood charcoal is fine. Certain species will only grow mounted, so do a little homework before buying some of the more obscure hybrids and species. *Sarcochilus hartmannii* is always the best to start with as it is the most tolerant. Remember to snail bait in the late spring as the racemes appear. These are very attractive to slugs and snails!

The range of temperature suited for *Sarc's* is 2 °c to 36 °c, with 10-32 °c being optimal.

If you found this guide helpful please let Wayne know (info@australianorchids.com.au).

Some Flowering Native Orchids Found in the Sydney Region

By Jan and Margaret Mohandas

Our new **Field Trips Officer and Conservation Officer Jan Mohandas** and his wife **Margaret** hardly let a week pass when they are not out there in the bush searching for native orchids to photograph. This month they have provided us beautiful photos of native orchids that surprisingly enough were found just around Sydney!

These orchids were found along the:

- a. Braeside track in Blackheath,
- b. Burramoko trail in Blackheath,
- c. Nature trail in Wentworth Falls from Conservation Hut,
- d. Bobbin Head in Kuringai Chase NP, Sydney
- e. and the Local Reserve in Beecroft, Sydney.

They are:

- *Prasophyllum elatum*,
- *Caleana major* (see our Cover Page),
- *Diuris sulphurea*,
- *Adenochilus nortonii*,
- *Cymbidium suave*,
- *Cryptostylis erecta* and
- *Dipodium roseum*.



Diuris sulphurea – Burramoko Trail



Prasophyllum elatum - Blackheath



Cymbidium suave – Bobbin Head

Some Flowering Native Orchids.... (Cont.)



Cymbidium suave – Bobbin Head



Adenochilus nortonii – Wentworth Falls



Cryptostylis erecta – Bobbin Head



Dipodium roseum – Blackheath

Dates to Remember...	
4 December 2016	Hills District Orchids Summer Open Day 183 Windsor Rd Northmead NSW (Please park in Mary St. or Windermere Ave.) Vendors include: Tinonee Orchid Nursery & Macquarie Native Orchids
16 December 2016	ANOS Sydney Group – Christmas Party! 8.00 pm to 10:00 pm Visitors welcome!
TBA	Collectors Plant Fair Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon Rd, Clarendon
5th & 6th August 2017	WA Orchid Spectacular Conference and Show 2017 Rendezvous Hotel Perth, Scarborough, Western Australia

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