

The Australasian Native Orchid Society Sydney Group

"The Orchidophile" March 2016

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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 18th March 2016

"Orchids and Other Wildflowers of Arctic Norway" by James Indsto

James' presentation will be based on photos taken from his visit to family in northern Norway in 2011. He proposes to also relate his talk on Norwegian orchids to the history of Australia's native orchids of Gondwanan descent, which evolved in Antarctic conditions!



Plant of the evening
Sarco. Bonanza
grown by Clover Bradley

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Minutes of the ANOS Sydney Group General Meeting

Held at Baulkham Hills Community Centre – 19th February 2016

Meeting opened at 8:10pm by President Andrew Locke. Andrew Locke welcomed members and visitors.

Apologies: David Butler, Liliana Hurst, Dan Tomich, Mike Harrison, Bob Toombs.

New members: None.

Visitors: Rob Buckwell. Ray Clement.

Correspondence in:

Newsletters from other societies.

Correspondence out:

Guest speakers.

Treasurer's Report:

	January 2016
Income:	\$388.80
Expenditure:	\$81.68
Balance:	\$307.120
Cash Assets:	\$5875.94

Moved John Hurst, seconded Kath Buckwell that the report be accepted.

General Business:

The President:

thanked Ray for the donation of plants and pumpkin for the raffle;

thanked Graeme and the Secretary for organising the popular vote;

thanked Charlie, Joe and John Hurst for bringing cake for supper, and Charlie and Joe for assisting in the kitchen;

advised members the Manly Warringah Orchid Society auction is on Sunday 20 March. Details are at <http://www.orchidsociety.com.au/events/march-auction/>

advised members that ANOS Sydney Group is sponsoring the 8th ANOS Conference (Champion any other hybrid (classes 48-50), and Section 7 – Dendrobium section Dendrocoryne Hybrids Classes 28-32) to the value of \$400;

advised members that Graeme is still looking for an Editor to take over when he steps down from the position at the end of the year;

noted Hills District Orchids autumn open day is on 28 February. (details at <http://hillsdistrictorchids.com/OpenDays.htm>);

presented John Hurst with an Silver 2014 Ira Butler Certificate for Dendrobium Katrin's Gold 'Seraphine'; and presented Greg Steenbeeke with an ANOS HCC award for Sarcophilus falcatus 'Cambalb'.

Graeme advised members that Peter Adams' "A Guide to Dendrobium of Australia" is available and is well worth purchasing. Orchidaceous Books currently has the book in stock for \$23. (see <http://www.orchidaceousbooks.com.au/>)

Ray advised members that the conference planning is going well, however volunteers are needed to assist at the event. As usual, a walk on Sunday will be organised by John Riley and Dennis Sinclair.

The meeting broke for refreshments.

Presentation by Ray Clement on "Media and Mounts".

Plant of the evening: *Sarcophilus* Bonanza grown by Clover Bradley.

Popular vote: 1st: *Dendrochilum longifolium* (B Spurrs), 2nd: Sarco. Bonanza (C Bradley), 3rd: *Den. Avril's Gold* 'Copper Pot' (P Murn).

Lucky door & raffle prizes were drawn.

Meeting closed: 10:00pm.

Next meeting: 18 March. James Indsto: "Orchids and Other Wildflowers of Arctic Norway".

RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 2016

***Dendrobium* species (1 entry)**

1. *Den. tetragonum* B. Spurrs

***Dendrobium* hybrids (3 entries)**

1. *Den. Avril's Gold 'Copper Pot'* P. Murn

2. *Den. Colonial Maid* P. Murn

3. *Den. Class 'Windsor Downs' x Yondi Tina 'Goliath'* C. Shaw

***Dockrillia* hybrids (1 entry)**

1. *Dock. Hot Coals* C. Bradley

***Sarco.* & other epiphytic hybrids (6 entries)**

1. *Sarco. Bonanza* C. Bradley

2. *Sarco. Zyzy* B. Spurrs

3. *Sarco. Velvet* B. Spurrs

Other epiphytic species (2 entries)

1. *Liparis reflexa* C. Nidagal

2. *Cadetia taylorii* B. Spurrs

Australasian species (1 entry)

1. *Dendrochilum longifolium* B. Spurrs

Plant of the evening

Sarco. Bonanza C. Bradley

Popular vote competition

Result details for the Feb meeting are as follows:

Brian Spurrs - 1st - *Dendrochilum longifolium*

Clover Bradley - 2nd - *Sarco. Bonanza*

Phyl Murn - 3rd - *Den. Avril's Gold 'Copper Pot'*



March Speaker: James Indsto

Orchids and Other Wildflowers of Arctic Norway

James is a biologist with a background in horticulture. James worked in the nursery industry for several years, and after university study researched citrus virus diseases, and then worked in cancer research for 11 years. He has a Master of Science in botany, specifically orchid pollination and genetics. This led to a position as a forensic botanist with NSW Police. James is still in this role, although it is now with NSW Health, who supply most of the forensic services to NSW Police. Much of James' work involves cannabis identification, although James also do some cases involving plant fragments in major crime.

ANOS Sydney Group 2016 Growing Competition

This year the Committee has organised a new growing competition for members to participate in. The plants have been purchased from Colin Fitzsimmons of Fitzsimmons Orchids and were selected because of their interest, potential and relative ease of culture.

The new growing competition will run concurrently with the current 2014 growing competition (with Den fleckeri and Den Warragul x Flinders) though will finish later.

Members will have the opportunity to purchase the growing competition plants at the upcoming March and April General Meetings. After this any remaining plants will be sold or raffled as non competition plants. Growing competition plants will be sold for \$6 each and will be allocated randomly at the meetings.

The growing competition benching months will be the same as the 2014 growing competition (February, May, August and November). So it will just be a matter of bringing all your growing competition plants on the same evening. The growing competition rules will be provided in full in an attachment to the April newsletter email.

The two growing competition plants available are:

Q32 Sarcophilus Aequalis Yellow x Aequalis 'Brown Spot'; and
Q226 Dendrobium dolichophyllum x Grumpy 'George'.

Col has provided the following information on the crosses...

The Aequalis as the name suggests, is a crossing between a yellow form and a plant with good shaped flowers and brown spots on the sepals, petals and all around the outside of the labellum.

The Den. cross was done by Stan Harper from Melbourne and uses Den. Grumpy 'George' which came from a cross done by George Dimos from Victoria. Stan has been using dolichophyllum as a parent for increasing the size of the flowers and letting the colour through where teretifolium recesses the colour. This cross will hopefully produce good shaped, meaty flowers of about 6/7cm with a range of good colours. Similar crosses with Den. Grumpy have been producing beautiful varying offspring (Colin says to expect the unexpected).

The growing conditions for the competition plants are as for Sarcophilus and Dockrillia in general. From October to April Colin has his plants under three layers of shade cloth (50%) which helps to prevent dehydration.

For those who are not aware of Colin & Wayne and Fitzsimmons Orchids:

Colin Fitzsimmons has been running Fitzsimmons Orchids in Belmont (south of Newcastle) since 1984. Colin and Wayne grow and supply a large range of Australian Native orchids. Colin and Wayne specialise in Dendrobium Section Rhizobium (Dockrillia) and Sarcanthinae Hybrids and species, and have a staggering array of seedlings available with great show bench potential.

The Fitzsimmons Orchids 2016 seedlings catalogue and pricelist is attached to the email that included this March edition of The Orchidophile. Colin and Wayne are happy for members to contact them by email at w.fitz@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 4945 9737.

ANOS Sydney Group 2016 Growing Competition Rules

The committee has decided to commence a new growing competition to start in March.

Plants for the competition have been selected due to their show bench potential and relative ease of growth. The plants should not require any special growing conditions and they should flower relatively quickly.

The plants that have been selected have been supplied by Colin and Wayne Fitzsimmons from Fitzsimmons Orchids and are:

Sarcochilus Aequalis Yellow x *Aequalis* 'Brown Spots'; and
Dendrobium dolichophyllum x Grumpy 'George'.

Plants will be available at the March and April 2016 meeting and will be sold for \$6.00 each.

Plants will be distributed at 1 plant per member, until all members have had a chance to purchase a plant. A total of 20 plants of each cross will be available for each growing competition.

Plants will be allocated in a number draw system. All plants will be numbered and each participating member will pay for a plant, then draw a number out of the hat. 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 March or April meetings, but would like a plant in either competition, please let Andrew Locke know and a number/plant will be reserved for them.

Any plants not allocated by the May meeting will be available to members who already have a plant in the competition, but would like another non-competition plant.

The plants will be judged four times a year - at the February, May, August and November meetings.

The growing competitions will last for approximately three years. The first judging will be at the May 2016 meeting, and the final judging will be at the May 2019 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 with the plant during the competition for judging identification purposes.

Ray Clement Talk at ANOS Sydney Group - 19 February 2016

Ray was the guest speaker on the night 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 fertilising. Reason – the velamen layer covering the roots cannot absorb fertiliser if it is already saturated
5. Type of Mounts - generally prefers cork as it doesn't break down, lasts longer and importantly, most plant roots prefer it other mount types. Or for a moisture loving plant, try soft tree fern aka Tasmanian man fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*).
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 fibre is OK but have it horizontal. Vertical orientation means the mount will drain much quicker, this may be helpful for plants than must dry out quickly after watering.

A member ask 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 try and protect seedlings from the temperature extremes.

Ray cleared up a number of misconceptions. No doubt the above will generate even more discussion and possibly some more disagreement???

Members may remember that Greg Steenbeeke was presented an ANOS Highly Commended Certificate for *Sarcochilus falcatus* 'Cambalb' which was awarded at the Macarthur late spring show in October last year. Congratulations Greg!



What have you photographed?



Dipodium roseum
Jenolan Caves 26/1/2016
Photo bt John Klepetko



Cryptostylis leptochila
Blue Mountains 24/1/2016
Photo bt John Klepetko

Dates to Remember...

- 18 March 2016 - ANOS Sydney Group - 'XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX'
- 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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