

December Bulletin 2014

SSOS GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES - 10 NOVEMBER 2014

The Meeting opened with Frank welcoming members and guests. He asked for a member to motion that our October meeting minutes which were distributed to members through the Bulletin, either by mail or email, be accepted as accurate. Motioned by Bob Nicol. Carried.

Correspondence received

- OSNSW 2014 October *Orchid News* and Eurobodalla Orchid Club November 2014 newsletter
- Guides to Blooming Tasmania from Tasmania Tourism

Welcome to New Members

Wilna & Christoff MANS

Peter BARKER

Richard SEALEY

Gavin CURTIS

Colin BAILEY

TONIGHT: Alan Stephenson spoke about the different types of terrestrial orchids and displayed the different types of tubers, and how to grow and pot them. His talk may encourage more of our members to try their hand at growing these interesting orchids.

DECEMBER meeting: Christmas Party

JANUARY meeting: Daniel Coulton will facilitate the Seedling competition

FEBRUARY meeting: Steve Falcioni from Eco OIL

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The Society held a Novice Group and new member get together at George Birss' house on Saturday, 15 November 2014 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. George and Mike Hitchcock held a potting demonstration. Members were welcome to bring along a plant that needed repotting and one that wasn't growing too well that you could receive some advice on. Some committee members were also present to provide assistance.
- The Society is intending to conduct a seedling competition which would be run along the lines of members paying a small fee to enter and being given a plant to nurture. You would then bring your plants at different stages of growth to be judged and awarded. We were looking for a member or two who would be interested in running this. Heath Myers offered to run this competition.

Events

- **December Meeting** on the 8th of December we will have Alan Stephenson talking on native terrestrial orchids.
- **January Meeting** will be our annual seedling competition presented by Daniel Coulton on the 12th.



President: Frank Daniel

Secretary: Rhonda Jackson

Treasurer: Jan Robinson

Editor: Dan Coulton

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- Are you interested in winning a subscription to Orchids Australia magazine? All members who pay their membership by the close of the January 2015 meeting are in the ballot to win the subscription. Please see Jan to renew your membership.
- ST Ho was awarded two medals and four ribbons for his exhibits at the World Orchid Show and Conference held in South Africa.
- Our Treasurer Jan Robinson will be retiring from this position at the AGM in March 2015 and a new Treasurer will be needed. Members are asked to consider nominating for this role. Jan will be able to provide an overview of what is required in the role.
- Gary Hodder spoke to members at the meeting about how his interest in growing orchids started with growing cymbidiums. He then progressed onto other orchids and became hooked.

LUCKY PLANTS: Wal Chapman, Troy Rickard, Heath Myers

NAME BADGE DRAW: Pat de Santos

RAFFLE: Doris Katsigarakis, Heath Myers, Trevor Haney, Daniel Coulton (2), Lynette Black, Sandra Crosby, May Luk and Diane Hannah.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE: Michael Chappell's *Cymbidium Canaliculatum* Var Sparksii

Membership Fees Now Due

Membership fees are now due. Anyone who pays their fees before the end of the January 2015 meeting will go into a draw to win a subscription to Orchids Australia magazine. To pay, please see Jan who will kindly accept your payment.

What's Happening in My Greenhouse - November



What a mixed up season, some orchids flowering early and some very late. One of the reasons to start this article was to tell you of a delight I had in my glass house. One day last month I discovered an orchid with many buds, a cute little grass like plant. Two days later I was watering and here were ten beautiful, pristine white star shaped flowers slightly bigger than a 50 c piece. The orchid is a *Diplocaulobium tentaculatum*. This genus is a ONE DAY WONDER, the flowers were all dead by the next day. It looked spectacular but it's a plant to be admired by the grower as you very rarely get to show them.

Other orchids that have given a great show are the *Dendrobiums* - *thysiflorum*, *densiflorum*, *Mousmee*. I have had my *Mousmee* for four years and after repotting eight months ago I had my first flowering and this one is a "keeper".

Another success I have had is a decent flowering of *Dendrobium aggregatum* (or *Dend. lindleyi*). I have had two plants for some years and grown them in my bush house, and although growing quite well did not produce flowers. This year I gave them some heat and this has made all the difference, this year I have flowers and I think a good showing.

My sarcocochilus were all very late, well after the shows and are still in flower now, the end of November, oh well soon there will be plenty of repotting to do. A few years ago everybody was chasing red Sarcos. This year anything with yellow or orange just flew off the sales bench, what will be the colour for next year? Keep an eye out for scale on your Sarcos.

Cymbidiums have now finished, but in saying that I still have Australian Midnight just flowering along with Suave and madidum in full bloom. You should be repotting and dividing your Cymbids. now. If dividing do not cut smaller than 3-4 bulb divisions. Check for scale and two spotted mite, use Neem oil mixed with Confidor or Anti Scale. Don't use any oils where the temperature is going to be 27o C or over that day as burning will occur. Check for Black Spot and control with Mancozeb every ten days, you won't get rid of the spots already there but the new growth should be spot free. After repotting give plants a good watering with Auxinome to encourage new roots, keep in a cool shaded area, don't over water and hold off fertilizer for one month.

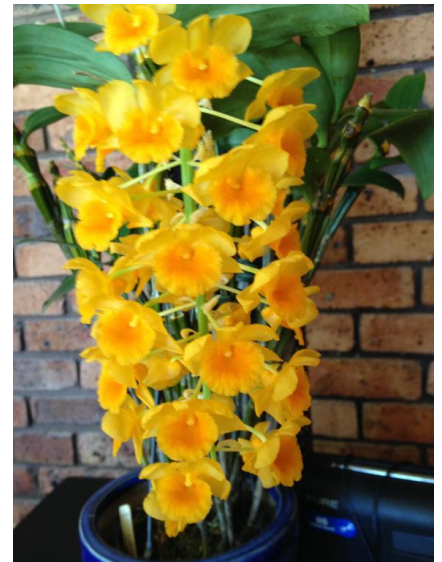
Cattleyas are sending out new roots and can be repotted. Damped bark before repotting, this will help new roots develop. Cut off any bad bulbs, seal cuts with "Steri - Prune" or sulphur (cinnamon can also be used) and you can spray with Fongarid or Anti Rot". Give a good watering with Auxinone. Water as plants start to dry out and be careful of leaf burn in hot months. Hard Cane Dendrobiums are starting to grow and can be repotted, but keep cool after repotting, again use Auxinome to encourage root growth, Watch for black spot, spray with Mancozeb or Black Spot for Roses, don't water in the heat of the day and fertilize weekly.

Soft Cane Dendrobiums have almost finished flowering and these two can be repotted. Now is the time to give them a little protection from the hot Summer sun but now is also the time to pump up the fertilizer and water to encourage the new growths.

Remember if you repot put the tag back in the pot and write the date you repotted on the back for reference.

Most important when repotting and dividing be VERY careful of the new growths and new "eyes" as they are soft and break off very easily.

The dreaded Dendrobium Beetle seems to have disappeared, probably laid their eggs in your best Speciosum, but don't worry they will be back in a few months. What is a BIG, BIG problem for me at present is big brown grass hoppers. I have found six inside my shade house in the last three weeks, don't know how the little devils got in but they are there, or were. I have given the house a couple of good sprays of Neem oil mixed with Confidor, flushes the critters out, particularly from behind mounts, when you find them be cruel. Another pest starting to appear is green caterpillars, only small at present, hoping the Neem Oil and Confidor will stop them growing bigger as they wreak havoc with new growth, nibbling away until detected which is too late.



You Grew It

Dendrobium aphyllum exhibited by Lee Buividis

Note: *Dendrobium aphyllum* = *Dendrobium cucullatum* which are both commonly called *Dendrobium pieardii*. The orchid exhibited is in fact the showy pink orchid *Dendrobium pieardii*., if that makes sense.

These *Dendrobium*s are found throughout Asia and into Queensland at elevations of 150 – 1800m making it a warm growing epiphyte. I grow *Dend. pieardii* in Engadine in my shade house.

This orchid has beautiful slender, pendulous leafy stems that become deciduous and can bloom at any time of the year but mostly in Winter and Spring. They produce fragrant, scented similar to violets, pink coloured flowers along the hanging stems.

This orchid is best mounted or in a hanging basket to accommodate the pendulous growth habit of the canes that can reach 60cm or longer.

A dry winter with no fertilizer will encourage Spring flowers. Water and fertilize when new growth appears.

This is a relatively easy orchid to grow for novices and when grown into a specimen plant looks spectacular.



Dendrobium fleckeri exhibited by Col Brandon

Named after Dr.H.Flecker who first discovered it in 1935 in the Mossman River area of Northern Queensland. It is found growing between the Johnston River and Annan River in Nth. Queensland. This is a mountainous area and the plant grows in the mists of the highlands at an altitude rarely less than 1000m as a cool grower. It likes a bright position to flower well.

There are two forms, the longer more robust type, with canes around 30cm with no more than two leaves can grow in deep shade as an epiphyte and a smaller spindlier type with canes less than 10cm but caring four leaves is found growing as a lithophytes on exposed



rocks. This type does not readily produce aerial growths as does the taller form. These differences are due mostly to growth conditions and each will revert to the other if conditions are changed.

Dendrobium fleckeri flowers between August and January and is coloured apricot to yellow and yellowish-green and has a musky or spicy fragrance. It has a beautiful hairy lip.

Given a drier winter will enhance flowering and can tolerate cool temperatures.

FOOTNOTE : Col Brandon has had this plant for many years and grows it in his shade house in Engadine.

A very attractive orchid worth adding to a collection IF you can find a piece.

***Bifrenaria harrisoniae* exhibited by W. & J. Chapman**

Species plant from the coast areas of Brazil, growing in full sun at elevations of 200 – 700m, grows warm with a dry winter and resume watering as new growth appears in Spring. This orchid is related to *Lycaste* and *Maxillaria*.

The flowers will appear on a short basal (from the base of the pseudobulb), producing two fragrant flowers from the most recent pseudobulbs and being shorter than the leaves.

Bifrenarias will adapt to a wide range of temperatures and quickly grow into a specimen plant if conditions are suitable. They will take bright light and in fact may not bloom if grown in shade.

They prefer to be potted in a squat pot in a coarse bark mix and like to be pot bound. Propagation is by division with not less than five pseudobulbs.

Colour is off white to yellow cream to a pinkish wine colour with a distinctive purple lip covered in fine hairs. There is an albino form with pure white blooms and yellow in the lip.

FOOT NOTE: Russell Etrick grows and flowers this species very well hanging on his palling fence in full sun.



4th	Sarco. Maria	C. Brandon	1st	Paph. Glaucolem	H. Myers
5th	Sarco. Duno Judilly	C. Brandon			
CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRIDS					
	Sarco. Nabitac x hartmannii				D. & M. Hannah
1st	'Noelene'	P. Middleton	1st	Sarco. Kunama	
2nd	Sarco. Fizzy Dove	C. Matheson	CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - LAELIINAE		
3rd	Sarco. Memoria Dennis Wood	P. Middleton	1st	C. Digwood JP	T. & I. Scerri
4th	Sarco. 'unknown'	R. Coulton	CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS		
CLASS # 28 NOVICE - LAELIINAE					
1st	Blc. Volcano Prince	P. Middleton	1st	Den. Gerald McGrath	H. Myers
2nd	Pot. Koolau Orange	R. Coulton		Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'	H. Myers
3rd	Lc. Orange Crush	P. Middleton	2nd	Den. My Nobile Lady 'Felicity Fortesque'	H. Myers
CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS					
1st	Dtps. Chian Xen Piano	P. Middleton	4th	V. Pakchong Blue 'Giant Blue'	M. Dimon
2nd	Onc. Sydney	P. Middleton	CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES		
3rd	Lyc. Macama 'Aline'	J. Sharpham		Den. fimbriatum var. oculatum	D. & M. Hannah
4th	Phal. 'unknown'	J. Sharpham	1st	Den. thysiflorum	R. Nicol
CLASS # 30 NOVICE - SPECIES					
1st	Den. loddigesii	R. Jackson	3rd	Den. Mousmee	H. Myers
2nd	Bifrenaria harrisoniae	P. Middleton	4th	Den. tortile	H. Myers
3rd	Bifrenaria harrisoniae	P. Middleton	CLASS # 37 INTERMEDIATE SEEDLINGS		
CLASS # 31 INTERMEDIATE - PAPHIOPEDILUMS					
			1st	V. Tricolor x Sarco. Ceciliae 'Sonia'	H. Myers