



monthly bulletin vol. 45 no. 2

February 09

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Meetings held at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Flora and Merton St., Sutherland on the Second Monday of the Month. All Visitors Welcomed. Visit our Website on www.ssos.org.au

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Minutes from the January 09 Meeting.

Our President Murray Aldridge was on holiday therefore our Vice President Bob Moar stepped in and took the Meeting.

Bob opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

Apologies had been received from Murray Aldridge, Neville Roper and John Moss.

No correspondence has been received.

Bob proceeded to present the 2008 Annual Point Score Certificates to the members who were absent at the December Meeting.

The following items were then mentioned -

The January Meeting is our Annual Seedling Competition Night. Throughout the 2008 meetings, Dennis Wood has taken photos of the winning seedling orchid of the night. These will be shown after supper tonight and members will be asked to write down their favourite orchid. A member's prize and a Judges prize will be given.

At next months February meeting the Beginners Classes will be starting again for 2009. The class will start at 7.30 p.m. in the Crying Room.

Beginners are asked to bring along 2 orchid plants you need help with or have concerns with.

Members who have joined the Society within the last 15 months will be receiving an invitation through the mail for a casual get together to meet our Committee and discuss orchids. This will be held on the 7th February at the Secretary's home in Miranda.

February Meetings Topic will be a talk by Neville Roper on Sarcophilus. It's certainly one talk not to be missed.

Sutherland Shire Orchid Society Inc disclaims any liability for any losses or damages which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any material in this Bulletin

Annual Subscriptions are now overdue. Please see our Treasurer, George Birss as soon as possible.

Any members wanting to buy the Society T Shirt, please see George. Price- \$25.

Brochures are available from Secretary, of Easy Orchids tour of N.Z. in March.

Coming Events-

7th. Feb. SSOS Secretary's Get together.

9th. Feb SSOS Monthly Meeting. Point score.

Beginners Class 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker

8:00p.m. N. Roper on Sarcophilus.

9th. March. SSOS Monthly Meeting. Point Score. A.G.M.

11th. May. AUCTION. (Don't forget to groom those plants)

JUNE - SSOS Winter Show at Swanes Nursery (25th - 28th June, setting up Wed. 24th.)

SEPTEMBER - SSOS Spring Show at Swanes Nursery (3rd - 6th Sept., setting up Wed. 2nd.)

Calenders and Placemats are for sale on the Sales Table. Calenders have been reduced to \$1.50 each.

Before supper, Bob gave us an interesting plant description on some of the orchids benched tonight.

Supper break

SEEDLING COMPETITION DEC '07 - NOV '08.

On behalf of the members, Bob thanked Dennis for organising another year Seedling Competition. The seedlings presented were a mixture of paphs, sarcs and a dendrobium. All members were asked to choose their favourite seedling. The result was a win for See Ting Ho with Den. cuthbertsonii

(judges choice) and Neville Roper with Sarco. Red Imp (members choice). Congratulations to you both.

DECEMBER Paph. haynaldianum
Gary Hart

JANUARY Den. cuthbertsonii
See Ting Ho

FEBRUARY Paph. Wossner Butterfly X
malipoense
Sandra Crosby & Tony Costa

MARCH Paph. Primechild X armeniacum
See Ting Ho

APRIL Paph. Harold Koopowitz
Gary Hart

MAY Paph. Flaming Gold
Gary Hart

JUNE Paph. sukhakulii X concolor
Neville Roper

JULY Paph. Neridah
See Ting Ho

AUGUST Sarco. Norma
Neville Roper

SEPTEMBER Sarco. Bessie
Neville Roper

OCTOBER Sarco. Red Imp
Neville Roper

NOVEMBER Sarco. Fitzhart X Nabisac
Neville Roper

LUCKY PLANTS - T. Thorburn, See Ting Ho,
Sandra Crosby & Tony Costa

PLANT RAFFLE - M. Luk (2), G. Birss, R.
Ettrick, M. Hitchcock. O. Sutton

Editors Corner.

Great to see Gordon Dodds back on deck at the meeting , after a break with illness.

VALE. Bob Maxwell.

Bob was a long time member who joined us about 1975, but due to ill health, couldn't participate at meetings, but helped in collating and the posting the Bulletin. Bob passed away on the 19th. of January. The Society has passed on its sympathy to the family.

Across the FOR SALE!!!!

Seed flasks(not mericlones!), from the Orchid Inn Nursery, America.

These flasks, represent some of the BEST and latest breeding, using the best stock available in Japan and America!

Species and hybrids flasks lists, now available, from Robert Bisetto. Please email me for a copy of the Flask Lists, on rbisetto@optusnet.com.au 10% of any sales, to be directed back to the SSOS
NOTE: Upon confirmation of order, 30% of total cost to be used as deposit, which if any problem arises, will be fully refundable.

Judging Roster for February

	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
LEAD JUDGE	N ROPER	G HART	I CHALMERS
JUDGE	W CHAPMAN	D BROOKS	K WILSON
JUDGE	I WARE	S T HO	J HART
ASSOC.	J MOSS	M HITCHCOCK	R BISETTO
WRITER	S CROSBY	J ROBINSON	D COULTON

The Five (or so) Best Sarcochilus Crosses

I was talking orchids, more specifically Sarcochilus with Kevin "Grouchy" Wilson over dinner one night when I posed the question "What do you reckon are the five best Sarco. crosses ever made?" Pretty simple question and you would think that the answer would be simple too considering that they are a relatively small group of orchids with only a short period of cultivation and hybridisation. Ultimately we couldn't reach a consensus. There was a temptation to promote the very recent crosses that have been producing exciting results but these crosses have not stood the test of time nor would they be familiar to most orchid folk. For what it is worth here goes with my thoughts on the best five Sarco. crosses that have stood the test of time – their virtues and their vices.

Sarco Fitzhart (hartmannii X fitzgeraldii)

Virtues

A primary hybrid so it has great growth vigour

Prolific flower production

Second generation (such as a sibling cross or an outcross between two unrelated Fitzharts) have a high percentage of highly coloured clones. Some have improved flower shape

A reasonably fertile parent which has produced some great crosses – Heidi, Jeanne, Fizzy Dove, Sweetheart, Burgundy On Ice

A very bright future as a grandparent with credits such as Orange Glow, Hot Ice and Kirra Lea

Vices

As an older cross that was made with the best parents available at the time but which would now be considered to be inferior. Clones from these early crosses are mostly lacking in flower quality.

Generally the more intensely coloured clones from the newer sibling crosses tend to be smaller than expected.

Sarco. Weinhart (hartmannii X weinthalii)

Virtues

Much easier to cultivate than weinthalii

Flowers are as cute as 'all get out'

Great variety of colour forms – yellow, cream or almost white with brown to purple flushing and spots. There are some pure yellow forms

Some clones clump and form specimens rapidly

Very generous flower production and this usually starts in a 50mm tube

Generally have a good shaped flower, some clones are very round and filled-in.

Great parent that produces a range of colourful, often spotted flowers on smallish plants – Jeanne, Jewell, Billie, Pixie Pearls which will often flower at different times of the year.

Vices

While easier to cultivate than weinthalii some clones are very tardy

If size matters then the flowers could be a little on the small side

Sarco. Melba (Hartmannii X falcatus)

Virtues

Crystalline white flowers with wonderfully contrasting red spots in the centre

Large flowers (sometimes very!)

Excellently shaped, filled-in flowers

Long, elegant racemes of flowers

Grows vigorously and will flower off small plants, especially if falcatus is the pod parent.

Can flower at different times of the year and several times during the year

Great parent producing George Colthup, Judith, Melody

Proven grandparent with Dove, Burgundy On Ice, Fizzy Dove, Lyn etc to its credit

Vices

Some clones are progressive flowerers especially when they flower out of season (not in spring)

Some clones, especially the monster flowers are distorted with ridge type tissue along the edges of the sepals

In instances where falcatus has been used as the pod parent there is a tendency towards shorter racemes and less filled-in flowers.

Sarco. Jeanne (Fitzhart X Weinhart)

Virtues

Although not as widely available as the above nominations this cross deserves credit for a kaleidoscope of colours from dirty red-browns, vibrant reds, spots, whites, yellows, combinations of the above and even albas

Small free-flowering plants

Good shaped flowers with crystalline surfaces

The early signs are that it will be a good parent –Orange Glow, Molly

Vices

Smallish flowers

Not widely available as it is not an easy cross to get seed from – a reluctant parent

Some clones can be touchier to grow than either parent

Sarco. Judith (Melba X Fitzhart)

Virtues

One of the first hybrids not to have a species as a parent and so has a wide diversity of genes.

Robust grower which will flower from small plants but will readily form large clumped specimens.

Produces long racemes in abundance

Typically has crystalline white flowers with varying amounts of red towards the centre although pink clones are not uncommon

Generally produce large flowers of considerable substance. Good clones have well filled-in flowers.

A reasonably willing parent of quality hybrids such as Burgundy On Ice, Yvonne, Jedda, Norma and Duno Judilly

Vices

There are no obvious weaknesses although many of the early Burgundy On Ice clones were shy to flower and when they did the buds on each raceme often opened erratically over several months. Newer crosses seem to have eliminated this fault.

Sarco Velvet (Nicky X Riverdene)

Virtues

Can be in a range of colours from full red to brown or yellow with varying amounts of red at the centre.

Multiple flowerings during the year with a more reliable period towards November has lengthened the flowering season towards Christmas

Produces large reasonably filled-in flowers of tremendous substance.

Showing early signs of being an excellent parent with Bessie (X George Colthup) and Jill (X Fairy) already achieving wins on the show bench.

Vices

A slow but steady grower.

Progressive flowerer with most clones starting out with about six fully open flowers which dwindles over time to one or two flowers on the tip of a very long raceme

Sarco Cherie (Fitzhart X fitzgeraldii)

Virtues

A much easier proposition to grow than fitzgeraldii.

Probably the first hybrid to approach the much awaited 'full red sarco.' status, something that some clones approached but few actually achieved. They were dark pink at best but, for their time, very colourful.

A major breeding breakthrough as Cherie seemed to be more generous in passing colour genes to its offspring than either of its parents.

Some surprisingly rare remakes have produced much more intensely coloured clones with much better flower form – largely due to improvement in the Fitzhart parents.

An outstanding parent with offspring such as Redstone, Cherie Snow, Yvette and Yvonne.

Vices

Early crosses produced smallish flowers with a dominant fitzgeraldii influence featuring ping -pong bat shaped segments.

An old cross that has largely been superseded by newer, better hybrids most of which are descendents but never the less deserves a place in this hall of fame.

Conclusion

Quite simply, as I explained to Grouchy after several beverages, its easy to identify the **five** best Sarcophilus crosses made so far.

Neville Roper

July 2008

Beware of Bargain Orchids

(Reprinted courtesy of Cumberland Orchid Circle)

When is a bargain not a bargain? When it comes to orchids, it pays to think carefully about prices and convenience that seem too good to be true. In the recent past, orchids could only be purchased from nurseries and other specified orchid growers.

Today, you can find orchids blooming on the display racks of discount stores, home centres, even grocery stores, for prices that seem to belong to much more modest plants. But there could be a hidden cost to these amazing bargains.

Orchids sold by professional growers or reputable nurseries are always clearly labelled, handled and shipped with care. Instructions on the care of each species or hybrid purchased are often included with the sale. Growers can also answer your specific questions concerning your new plant. It is extremely important to know exactly what kind of orchid you're purchasing. Why? Because each genera and, in some cases, each species within a genera may require very different environments, watering techniques and localities in your home to thrive. How can you care for it properly if you have no idea what it is? You can't.

What's more, shippers often repot orchids just before transporting them to these kinds of multipurpose stores. Repotting can be traumatizing to the plants, causing damage to their root systems. In addition, shippers often repot the plants in a water-retaining "shipping mix", which prevents the plants from drying out en route. The inexperienced buyer may mistake this temporary medium for a proper growing environment. And the pretty paper wrapped around the pot can conceal a damaged plant, or else prevent an otherwise healthy plant from draining, causing its roots to become waterlogged. The repotting is also done at the very worst time of the plant's life ... while it's in bloom! This may make for an enticing store display, but soon the shock of repotting will cause the buds and flowers to start falling off the spike - possibly as soon as it reaches its new home. This can be a sorely disappointing experience for the budding orchid enthusiast.

Adding insult to injury, you may even pay more at your local home store than you would from a grower for an equivalent plant!

Tips in selecting healthy orchids

1. Check and see how firm the plant is in the pot, if it is shaky and not firm then chances are it has

either been recently repotted or it has a bad root system. If it has been recently repotted check the mix, you may want to replace it for something more suitable for orchids, even though the plant is in bloom. Sphagnum moss is often used to pot the orchids in for shipping and if it is packed too tightly in the pot it can cause problems. Sometimes this mix can rot your roots very quickly since it does not dry out.

2. The pseudobulbs should be fat and plump. Beware of shrivelled pseudobulbs.

3. The leaves should be firm. Leaves that are limp or crinkled like an Accordion are indications that the plant may have been exposed to excessively cold temperatures or lack of water due to no root system or just not being watered correctly. Are the leaves brown or have spots? This is an indication of exposure to excessive sunlight or high temperatures. On many of the orchids make sure the centre leaf is still growing and there is no damage to the crown of the orchid. This damage can result in crown rot and the orchid will die.

4. Is the foliage damaged? Look under the paper wrapper if it is covering any part of the plant.

5. Are the plants waterlogged or swimming in water inside of the paper wrapper? The Pretty paper does not have drainage holes. Remove this immediately after you get your orchid home.

6. Is there a sticky substance on the leaves? The plant has bugs! Avoid bug-infested plants.

7. Are the flowers limp or the buds turning yellow? Are there buds missing? The plant has been stressed too much and will most likely drop all its flowers and buds within a few days no matter what you do for the plant.

8. Does the plant have a correct label? The label should say more than just "ORCHID PLANT".

9. Ask how long the plants have been at the store?

10. Does the sales person know anything about the orchids and can they give you some information about caring for it?

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : Jan-09

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE (If Winner is Species, 2nd will be a Hybrid & vice v)

Winner Paph. St. Swithin G Hart

Second Paph. haynaldianum G Hart

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Prom. Norman Gaunt x sibling J Robinson

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner Anguloa Camilla M Luk

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st Sarco. hirticalcar G Birss

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. haynaldianum G Hart

2nd Paph. moquettianum S T Ho

3rd Paph. moquettianum S T Ho

4th Paph. lowii S T Ho

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Paph. St. Swithin G Hart

2nd Paph. St. Swithin S T Ho

3rd Paph. Armeni White S Crosby/T Costa

4th Paph. Bel Royal G Hart

5th Paph. Dollgoldi G Hart

CLASS # 7 CATTLEYA INTERGENERIC (Up to 70mm)

1st Bark. spectabilis x halbingeri R Bisetto

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID

1st Den. Hilda Poxon T Thorburn

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st Den. cuthbertsonii S T Ho

2nd Doritis pulcherrima D Wood

3rd Schoenorchis fragrans G Birss

CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS

1st Phal. Minho Venus S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Phal. Brother Precious Stone x Cats Paw G Birss

3rd Phal. Luchia Coral S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st Paph. Nisqually S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Miltoniopsis Bouley Bay 'Les Landes' I Chalmers

3rd Den. glomeratum x mohlianum T Thorburn

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM

1st Onc. Carotene 'Yellow' S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st Phal. Taida Pearl S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Phal. Miva Granny x Barbara Golden S Crosby/T Costa

3rd Dtps. Queen Bear S Crosby/T Costa

4th Phal. Brother Peterstar S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st Colm. Wildcat 'Carnivale' S Crosby/T Costa

2nd Colm. Wildcat 'Lorene' G Hart

3rd Odcm. Wildcat 'Bobcat' S T Ho

4th Wilsonara Golden Afternoon 'Rich Yellow' T Thorburn

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st Acdopis. Gunther I Chalmers

2nd Prom. Norman Gaunt S T Ho

3rd Ctsm. Doris' Choice D Wood

4th Epi. Sun Valley 'Easter Egg' x Packlic Shack S Crosby/T Costa

5th Brassia Longissimum S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

1st Den. glomeratum x Den. chrysopterum T Thorburn

CLASS # 18 VANDACEOUS NOT VANDA

1st Renanthera Kalsom I Chalmers

2nd Vasco. Pine Rivers 'Brighton Blue' M Errington

3rd Vasco. Pine Rivers 'Red' M Errington

4th Neostylus 'Lou Sneary' 'Tokyo' M Errington

CLASS # 19 MASDEVALLIA & DRACULA SPECIES

1st Masd. coreacea G Hart

2nd Drac. simboydensis G Hart

3rd Masd. picea R Moar

CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS

1st Drac. hirtzii x Drac. roebdorum G Hart

2nd Masd. ionocharis x exquisita G Birss

CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st Psy. papillio R Bisetto

2nd Odm. cordatum D Wood

3rd Lockhartia sp. I Chalmers

4th Phrag. caudatum G Hart

5th Odm. cordatum D Wood

CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES

1st Pleuro. platy miseia G Hart

2nd Pleuro. restrepia morphii R Moar

CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID

1st Sarco. Jill S T Ho

2nd Sarco. Velvet S Crosby/T Costa

CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID

1st Anguloa Camilla M Luk

2nd Oncidium unknown M Luk

3rd Phal. City Girl M Luk

4th Phal. Sogo Finework M Luk

CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES

1st Stanhopea nigroviolacea M Luk

2nd Prosthechea radiata M Luk

CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS

1st Prom. Norman Gaunt x sibling J Robinson

2nd Prom. Catarina J Robinson

3rd Prom. Catarina J Robinson

4th Prom. Crawshayana x (Samsu x Crawshayana) D Coulton

CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES

1st Coel. celebensis M Hitchcock