The Australasian Native Orchid Society
The Warringah Group Inc.

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Monthly Meetings: 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 pm - Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville

May 2020

Dendrobium Class David Hemmings

Oberonia crateriformis L & B Dobson

Dendrobium Goose Bumps David Hemmings

Dear Members

I trust you are coping well with our enforced isolation. We are unsure when we will be able to meet again – our hall is closed and restrictions are still in force, though some 'easing' is occurring. We are fortunate indeed to have such a wonderful hobby to occupy us in our solitude!

Our photo-benching 'competition' has been very popular and we thank all our members who have sent in photos of their orchids and wildlife!
As pointed out by Ela:

"Our monthly photo benching, gives members, as myself, a chance to show more orchids than I normally can bring to meetings. My orchids flower when they want, very often just before or after the meeting. With the photo benching, I can capture all of those which normally would miss the traditional benching."

A special thanks to our newer members who are sometimes reluctant to bring their orchids to monthly meetings. The opportunity to share without the stress of competing against more experienced growers is very encouraging ..we hope you'll keep it up!

As well as all those wonderful photo-benched orchids, our May bulletin is jam-packed with great features:

- Articles by David Butler *Den. speciosum* 'Charlie' and the second part of the series by Mike Harrison.
- Gerry Walsh, our Guest Speaker for May (unfortunately cancelled!) has generously written an article on one of his favorite orchids, *Bulbophyllum elisae*. He has also included some great photos of this orchid. We thank Gerry for his contribution and hope to see him in person some time soon. He's looking forward to a cuppa and a scone and that bottle of plonk!
- I know you will enjoy Mick's little 'chat' about how to make that recalcitrant orchid come into flower.
- A great article by Bill on *Dockrillia rigida a*nd his regular column 'In Your Bushhouse'
- David Hemmings reminiscences about one of his 'sentimental favorites' and his long-standing link with ANOS Warringah.
- Results of the Popular Vote

A big thanks to Bill for his efforts in sorting, resizing, reformatting and placing all those photographs. Thanks also to Jane who has been keeping our website and Facebook page up-to-date! They have been doing a fantastic job ..we are very grateful!

Our thoughts and best wishes are with members who are unwell at this time, especially Garry Williams and Bryan Spurrs.

We are all looking forward to starting our monthly meetings again .but in the meantime we are washing our hands and keeping our distance!

Take care ..stay safe ..

Very best wishes…….Trish

Liparis viridiflora Jane & Peter D'Olier

Dockrillia rigida

Dockrillia rigida, according to David Jones, is an epiphyte or lithophyte which forms small clumps with stems about 30 mm thick, long and pendulous to 30 cm long. Its distribution is from north-east in Queensland, from the top of Cape York Peninsula to the Russell River, (60km south of Cairns), and also in New Guinea. It's a very common species which grows on trees in a variety of humid habitats including mangroves, coastal rainforests, paperbark swamps, stream-bank vegetation and monsoon thickets.

Plants grow on a range of trees which have rough bark and often observed in exposed situations.

Flowering occurs in sporadic bursts throughout the year. It is a very distinctive species which is easily recognized by its fleshy unequal leaves and the small racemes of crowded flowers which are cream edged with red.

It is easy to grow but requires some protection in areas with cold winter climate. Best on a hardwood slab, plants need humidity, air movement, and bright light".

In my own situation in Sydney in a bushhouse with 50% shade cloth and temperatures of 0° to 40° with the occasional day above 45° they survived. However, after observing them a few years back in a more heavily shaded area west of Cooktown they were the fattest juiciest I had seen. So on returning home I relocated my plants to the north end of my bushhouse that has two layers or 50% shadecloth and they have thrived. Yes they get misted in this area daily in summer and they love it. My plants are on the reverse side of cork that has been roughed up, and best with a thin layer of paperbark between the cork and roots. The paperbark stays wet just enough to have the roots looking for it and then on to adhere to the cork.

Plant growing in full sun all day, the leaves tend to look green/grey with some maroon blotches, and the leaves have a very hard and rough feel to them. You know they are doing it tough.

A view in rainforest situation *Dockrillia rigida* growing happily with *Oberonia complanata*, and *Dockrillia calamiformis*.

ASPECTS OF CULTURE OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS

Michael Harrison

Part 2

TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND AIR MOVEMENT

The maintenance of a good "atmosphere" in the orchid house is central to the successful culture of Australian native orchids. Atmospheric conditions are the result of three separate but interrelated factors: temperature, humidity and air movement. The interaction between these factors relates to the condition of the air in the orchid house, and when the correct balance is achieved, the orchid house atmosphere is said to be "buoyant" or to "smell right".

These factors are, of course, in a state of constant flux, and the balances between them vary depending upon time of day, season and weather patterns. Temperatures rise and fall, as do levels of relative humidity, and air movement varies, but the aim of the grower is to create and maintain a fresh, airy atmosphere which is conducive to good orchid growth. A dry, arid atmosphere should naturally be avoided, as should a heavy, water-saturated one. Rather, the orchid house atmosphere should be fresh and uplifting, with gentle air movement and a clean, earthy, slightly moist smell.

Air temperature controls the rate of plant metabolism, that is (1) food production (the utilisation of light to produce sugars), (2) respiration (the expenditure of energy provided by food to continue the life processes), and (3) growth. All orchids have optimum temperature ranges within which they perform best. Some species have quite narrow ranges of tolerance and are easily upset by temperatures that are too hot or too cold, whilst others are able to withstand wide extremes.

Phalaenopsis amabilis, for example, a native of north Queensland's tropical lowland rainforests, prefers a temperature range of 15 - 30°C, and although temperatures outside this range may be tolerated at times, they are stressful to this species. Low temperatures in particular are potentially damaging, and may result in the death of a plant. A sudden drop in temperature is especially dangerous, as plants in active growth are more at risk than those in a semi-dormant state.

In some places in the wild, *P. amabilis* is occasionally exposed to quite cool conditions, but by that time of year plants have become acclimatized by the onset of the dry season and gradually falling temperatures. In cultivation, *P. amabilis* is usually grown actively throughout the year without any kind of a dormancy period, as are a number of other tropical rainforest species. They take well to this type of culture and, as long as temperatures are kept up, and watering and feeding are continued, they perform well.

Conditions in the tropic forests which support *P. amabilis* are mild, and relatively high humidity levels are maintained by regular year-round rainfall (higher, of course, during the wet season; usually December-April) and the protective, closed canopy of the forest. Air movement is seldom strong but is constant. The differential between day and night temperatures rarely exceeds 10°C and is generally somewhat less. This "soft" environment is remarkably constant throughout the year, and the differences between summer and winter, wet season and dry season, night and day are not great.

In certain areas, one has to travel not more than a few kilometers to come upon an entirely different set of environmental circumstances, and an orchid flora which is quite dissimilar to that which inhabits the shaded, humid protection of the tropical rainforest. Out in the open paperbark savanna of Cape York Peninsula, conditions are marked by extreme seasonality; during the wet season rainfall is abundant, temperatures are warm, humidity is constantly high, and orchids such as *D. canaliculatum*, *D. trilamellatum* and *D. bigibbum* make their vegetative growth. How ever, once the rains cease and these areas dry out, conditions become quite harsh. The very bright light, brisk dry air and almost complete absence of rain from about May- December force these orchids into a state of dormancy from which they will emerge only when the wet season commences again. As the dry season reaches its zenith, conditions are hot, dry and dusty, and regular fires are a feature of this habitat from October to December. Day temperatures may reach 40°C or more, and during the early hours of the morning they may fall as low as 10°C, a considerable day/night fluctuation.

Likewise, in temperate eastern Australia, different types of orchids prefer different habitats. Some confine themselves to warmer, humid and generally more protected situations, while others opt for more open areas, where temperature and humidity levels vary greatly. It all depends upon their biology and the conditions to which they have accustomed themselves.

Over the years growers have tended to group orchids according to their temperature requirements, and three broad categories are recognized:

1. Cool-growing orchids: Many of Australia's favorite species and hybrids fall into this group, most notably the Section Dendrocoryne dendrobiums and the temperate Sarcanthinae. These orchids grow well under shade house conditions in most areas and are remarkably adaptable to cultivation. They are tolerant of winter-time minimums down to 0°C as long as they are protected from frost, and summertime maximums of 40°C+ with adequate shading. They require cool conditions during the winter months to grow and flower properly, and usually fail to thrive in tropical climates.

2. Intermediate group: Orchids in this group prefer somewhat warmer conditions and in many areas of temperate Australia they are best grown under cool (unheated) glasshouse conditions. Minimum temperatures during winter should not fall below about 8°C. Many orchids from topical areas grow successfully under these conditions, especially those which occur naturally at altitudes between 300 m and 1000 m. Species such as *Doc. rigida, Doc. wassellii* and *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* are in this group along with *Peristeranthus hillii*, *Sarcochilus serrulatus*, *S. minutiflos* and *S. roseus*, among many others.

3. Warm-growing orchids: These are the true tropicals, and included in this group are the Section Spatulata and Section Phalaenthe dendrobiums, the tropical Sarcanthinae genera *Phalaenopsis, Vanda, Pomatocalpa, Robiquetia*, etc., and the tropical lowland species of *Bulbophyllum*. Winter minimums should not go below 15°C.

When considering the above temperature ranges, it should be noted that these conditions are not absolute and they should be used as a broad guide only. Many orchids which perform best under cool conditions will

grow just as well in the intermediate house, and similarly, a number of species normally considered as intermediate types will be quite happy under cool conditions. As always, the grower should look to the natural habitat for guidance, and should always keep a close eye on the manner in which the plants are behaving.

With regard to maximum temperatures during the warmer months of the year, it is a practical impossibility to influence open shade house temperatures apart from providing extra shade. However, in an enclosed structure such as a glasshouse, the installation of an evaporative cooler may be of great advantage in moderating extremes. On hot sunny days, internal glasshouse temperatures may soar to 50°C or more if ventilation and air flow through the house are less than adequate, and such conditions may cause severe injury or death to orchids. If the temperature in the glasshouse can be kept below 35°C by a thermostatically controlled evaporative cooler, the plants within will be much happier. The use of circulating fans to keep the air in the glasshouse continually moving is also strongly recommended as an aid to keeping temperatures constant throughout the house.

The temperature of the air determines the amount of water which can be held in the air as vapour, and the amount of water vapour actually held in the air compared to the amount of vapour which could be held in the air at a given temperature, expressed as a percentage, is known as the relative humidity. Warm air is capable of holding more water vapour than cool air, and this generally means that levels of relative humidity rise as temperature falls, and vice versa.

Orchid plants lose water vapour through the stomata's on the surfaces of their leaves, and the lower the relative humidity, the faster this vapour loss occurs. Consistently low levels of humidity over a period of time will cause orchid plants to dehydrate, and it is for this reason that reasonable levels of humidity are important to good orchid health. Most orchids prefer humidity levels of 50% - 70% and a hygrometer in the orchid house is a most useful aid to orchid culture.

The most obvious method of increasing humidity is to water the orchids, for as well as providing water directly to the plants, humidity is increased as water evaporates into the air. This, however, cannot be done all the time, and humidity levels should be maintained apart from the actual watering of plants. Very often the grower will feel the need to increase humidity without wetting the plants, and "damping down" may be carried out. This involves wetting the walk-ways and under bench areas and is an effective method of providing humidity. Many growers keep open containers of water in the orchid house to aid humidity, and fine misting systems are used in many orchid houses. In dry climates and in areas where artificial glasshouse heating is needed during winter, the atmosphere may become very dry, and the installation of some form of automatic humidification system may be necessary. Of course, in an open shade house humidity levels fluctuate with temperature and prevailing weather, and standard levels may be difficult to maintain. However, with the use of misting systems and by regular damping down on hot days, the grower should be able to keep humidity within acceptable limns.

Higher than preferred levels of humidity are sometimes a problem for certain types of orchids, especially during cool, damp weather. There are times when humidity levels stay naturally high for considerable periods of time, and this may result in stagnant, excessively damp conditions, especially in glasshouses. Good ventilation and a decrease in watering should overcome this problem, although flower spotting is always a nuisance during damp and overcast weather.

Continuous air movement or, more accurately, air exchange, is a feature of natural orchids habitats, and plants in cultivation must be provided with similar conditions. In a shade house, air movement through the house is generally ad equate as long as the sides are not enclosed and closely adjacent areas do not become overgrown with garden shrubs and the like. Many growers do enclose the southern and western walls to provide protection from extremes of weather, and as long as this does not impede good air flow it may be beneficial in some locations and climates.

In a glasshouse it is especially important to ensure continuous air movement, and the installation of air circulating fans is a necessity. Good ventilation must also be provided by adequate venting, and the usual arrangement is to have below bench vents as well as gable venting. This allows cool air to enter at the bottom as warm air escapes at the top. Depending on the weather and season, these vents may be completely open to allow as much ventilation as possible, or may be closed up to conserve warmth and/or humidity. The internal fans should be kept running at all times.

Fresh, moving air is essential to the good health of epiphytic orchids and growers should not underestimate its importance in helping to provide the buoyant atmosphere so necessary to orchid culture.

WATERING

Watering is probably the aspect of orchid cultivation which causes the most confusion and is the most difficult cultural procedure to master. The provision of water in the correct amounts, at the correct times and in the correct manner is of prime importance and is the subject of judgement on the part of the grower. Frequency of watering is determined by a number of factors, and the grower must take into account the method of culture (pot or slab, size and type of pot, composition of potting medium), the prevailing weather conditions, including temperature, light levels, humidity levels and air movement, and the requirements of the type of orchid concerned.

In their natural environments, epiphytic orchids are, at times, deluged by soaking rain, often for days or even weeks at a time. Conversely, they are quite able to tolerate dry conditions, and many withstand periodic drought on a regular basis. The supply of water to orchids in the wild is not confined to rainfall as such; mists, fogs and dews all play their part in sustaining these plants, and account for their ability to colonise certain areas and situations. It should be remembered, how ever, that orchids have evolved in harmony with, and are adapted to the environments they inhabit, and their periods of vegetative growth, flower production and seed dispersal are timed to coincide with suitable climatic conditions.

In cultivation, water may be supplied either by drenching or misting, and a combination of both techniques is used by most growers. Drenching gives the plant a complete soaking, wetting all roots and the potting medium to the point where water is running off. The potting mix and root mass stay wet for a considerable period before dry-

ing out. Misting, on the other hand, wets just the exposed leaf and root surfaces, and results in a much shorter dry-out period.

Regular drenching is essential to the health of orchids in cultivation, for it flushes the potting medium, retarding the build-up of waste substances and other toxic materials. It also washes through the mix, helping to remove fine materials which tend to clog the mix and hinder air circulation to the roots. During the main growth periods, orchids require plenty of water, and drenching is necessary to ensure that supply. Drenching is the cultural equivalent of natural heavy rainfall, and when combined with an effective feeding programme, is an integral part of successful cultivation. There is, however, no substitute for natural rainfall to boost orchid growth. With this in mind, it is best to grow orchids under open shadehouse conditions where possible, even tropical types in temperate climates during the warmer months, so that they may be exposed to rain.

Misting or light watering (some growers talk about “splashing” their orchids and this is what they mean) provides water in lesser quantities and is often preferable to drenching much of the time. Most orchids in the bush are not subject to heavy rainfall on a regular basis throughout the year. Passing showers may result in just a few drops or, sometimes, only a wetting of exposed surfaces, but such water may be invaluable to these plants. Likewise, the moisture made available by mists and dews is important, and for many species is an essential part of their survival strategies. The purpose of misting is to simulate these conditions.

Misting is generally used by growers as an in between measure, and a typical regimen would be to drench every second or third day and mist every other day. During the warmer months of the year, drenching may be required every day in order to keep water up to the plants. At these times, when days are long and evenings are warm, this is best done in mid to late afternoon, so that plants will stay damp overnight and have the benefit of this extra water around their roots. Misting can be carried out first thing in the morning, to augment the previous evening’s soaking, and again mid-morning if necessary.

During really hot weather it is advisable not to water during the heat of the day, regardless of how tempting this may be, to avoid scorching or “steaming” of plants. The danger lies in wetting plants that are already hot, and unless the grower has the facility (i.e. overhead misting or sprinkling system) to continuously keep plants wet, it is best to keep them dry until they can be safely watered in the cool of the evening.

It is important to keep water up to plants during periods of warm, dry weather to maintain good condition and prevent dehydration. Dehydration will not necessarily damage plants but it will lower their condition and make them more susceptible to insect attack due to increased concentrations of sugars in their tissues. Growers need not try to keep their plants permanently wet during dry spells, a little drying out may be beneficial, but dehydration should be avoided.

At other times of the year, drenching may not be considered necessary more often than every 7- 10 days, although daily misting may be beneficial. During the cooler months it is best to water only in the morning, so that excess water will have evaporated during the day and that plant surfaces will be dry by evening. This will greatly lower the risk of fungus attack.

Of course, orchids grown on slabs must be handled somewhat differently as the ability of a slab to hold water is much less than a pot. For orchids grown under this style of culture, it may be necessary to water several times a day, even during cooler weather, to maintain optimum growth. For many species which are amenable to slab culture only, the provision of adequate amounts of water may be difficult without some form of automatic misting system. Cloud forest species in particular are a problem, for they are used to swirling mists and dense fogs for a greater part of each day, conditions which are not easily reproduced in cultivation.

Generally, orchids make their main vegetative growth during the wet season, whether that be the typical wet season of the tropics or the wetter months of more temperate regions. Climatic conditions may vary from year to year, but on average the same weather patterns recur at approximately the same times from year to year, and plants in the wild are reliant upon this cyclical repetition.

During periods when regular, often heavy, rainfall is occurring, orchids make their main growth; new pseudobulbs growths and leaves are produced and the roots are also growing actively. At such times water should be applied liberally and frequently, and regular feeding of orchids should also be carried out. Some genera have definite growing periods whilst others grow more or less throughout the year.

Our temperate Dendrobium species mostly flower in spring (late August to early October) and then commence vegetative growth. New shoots appear from the bases of the mature growths and, as they elongate, new root tips begin to emerge. The developing pseudobulbs take a couple of months to reach full size, by which time summer is upon us. The fully grown stems and leaves harden quickly with the higher temperatures and extra light.

Another burst of active growth usually commences in late summer. Temperate eastern Australia enjoys its highest average rainfall from February to April and the orchids respond accordingly. Many dendrobiums produce another set of new pseudobulbs during this period and root growth is especially active at this time. As the weather cools towards winter, plant growth slows. The pseudobulbs are plump with stored water and the roots become much less active. From now until spring there is little activity except for the development of flowers.

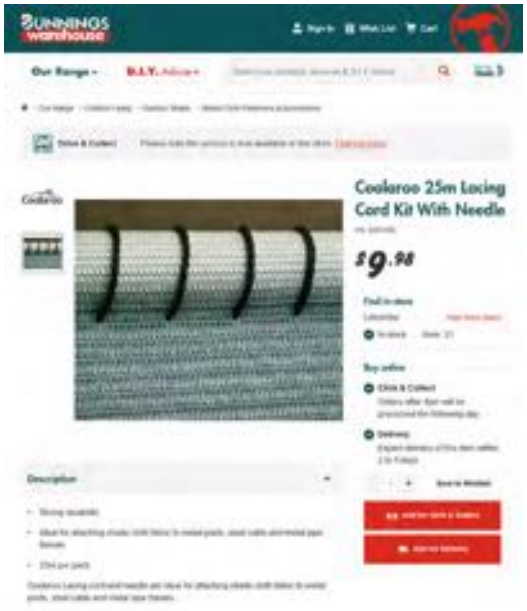
Conversely, many temperate Sarcanthinae continue to grow actively throughout the winter and into spring. Their period of semi-dormancy is during the warmer months, from November to February, and during this time they should be kept cool and well shaded. These orchids are at their most active during autumn, when new leaf and root growth occurs rapidly, and repotting or remounting should be done in March or April.

One final point to be made about watering is that while an overhead watering system may be a useful and time-saving tool, hand-held watering is still the best method. Each plant can be given the individual attention it needs, and the grower can withhold water or add extra as considered necessary. The other advantage of hand-held watering is that the grower actually looks at each plant as it is watered, and these regular observations are invaluable in the early detection of cultural problems, insect infestation or fungus attack.

Attaching Shadecloth

By Nita Wheeler

I was reading the current bulletin where you talk about replacing the joins on your shadehouse. I didn't put my houses up until 2002 but found a product called Lacing Needle and Cord made by a company called Coolaroo which did the trick and is still great. It is used for attaching Shade and windbreak fabrics to metal posts, steel cable and metal pipe frames. It is also great for joining together shadecloth pieces together and the needle and cord easily go through 90% shadecloth. I got it through my local hardware shop.



Australasian hybrid using *Dendrobium affine* David Hemmings

Dendrobium bigibbum 'Pete' x 'Big Dave' David Hemmings

Australasian hybrid using *Dendrobium affine* David Hemmings

Dendrobium bigibbum 'Pete' x 'Big Dave' David Hemmings

Dendrobium bracteosum Cary Polis

Dendrobium erectifolium Cary Polis

Dendrobium erectifolium
Found in New Guinea at elevations around 900 meters as a small to medium sized, warm growing epiphyte with slender, erect to arching with age, flattened stems carrying many, all along the stem, erect more or less parallel to the stem, linear leaves that blooms in the winter very short, arising through the leaf sheaths towards the apex of the stem, single flowered inflorescence.

Dockrillia rigida Cary Polis

Dendrobium bigibbum David Hemmings

Dockrillia cucumerina L & B Dobson

Dockrillia rigida L & B Dobson

Liparis reflexa L & B Dobson

Dockrillia Limestone L & B Dobson

Oberonia crateriformis L & B Dobson

Dendrobium bigibbum David Hemmings

Dendrobium monophyllum David Hemmings

Bulbophyllum macphersonii L & B Dobson

Dendrobium Brimbank 'Uluru' David Hemmings

Dendrobium Brimbank 'Jazzy' David Hemmings

Dendrobium monophyllum David Hemmings

Bulbophyllum macphersonii L & B Dobson

Dendrobium Sorrento Star David Hemmings

Dendrobium bigibbum 'Sunset x Enobi Purple David Hemmings

Dendrobium tetragonum David Hemmings

Dockrillia Lilac Queen *x nugentii* David Hemmings

Registered as
D. Belmont Jewell by Col Fitzsimmon

Dendrobium tetragonum David Hemmings
(Conway Ranges)

Dendrobium Australian Sunset 'Bondi Beach'
David Hemmings

Dockrillia hepatica x cucumerina David Hemmings

Registered as
D. Belmont Surprise by Col Fitzsimmon

Dockrillia Limestone David Hemmings

Liparis reflexa David Hemmings

Red Fox David Hemmings

Red foxes pose a serious conservation problem in Australia. 2012 estimates indicate that there are more than 7.2 million red fox, and growing with a range extending throughout most of the continental mainland. The species became established in Australia through successive introductions by settlers in 1830's. Due to its rapid spread and ecological impact it has been classified as one of the most damaging invasive species in Australia. Although they are legal to hunt, they may be domesticated in New South Wales.

Dendrobium capitisyork L & B Dobson

Dockrillia Granma 'Pure' L & B Dobson

Dockrillia Granma 'Pure' L & B Dobson

Liparis reflexa Mark Asbury

Acianthus pusillus Ciaran Nagle

Cadetia taylori Mark Asbury

Dockrillia fuliginosa x *hepatica* L & B Dobson

Bulbophyllum macphersonii Trish Peterson

Dendrobium tetragonum - Conway Range form
Trish Peterson

Dockrillia Papuan Delight 'Ginger Falls'
Trish Peterson

Dendrobium monophyllum Trish Peterson

Bulbophyllum schillerianum Trish Peterson

Dockrillia Beverly Anne Trish Peterson

Dockrillia Beverly Anne
It is a Doc. rigida x bowmanii hybrid -
it flowers spasmodically one or two flowers only.
I have had it for several years....only started flowering once I put it into direct sunlight!

Dockrillia Sultana Bread x Hot Coals Trish Peterson

Liparis swenssonii Trish Peterson

Australian Orchid Nursery Members Popular vote for April.

1st	Ella Kielich	*Den.* Hibiki
2nd	L&B Dobson	*Doc. hepatica*
3rd	David Hemmings.	*Doc. bowmanii* 'Gin and Tonic'

Don't forget to vote, and remember it's not a photo competition just study the plants and vote for the one you think is best orchid for the month. Our Patron Mick is collating the votes.

Also don't forget to send in photos!
If you are unsure of how to do this or need help, please give me a call.

Bill Dobson 0409545955

Our Patron Mick Korzenowski

After my chat last month I realized how lucky I was that I did not take the plant of *Den. kingianum* to our normal meeting at Forestville.I could see bulging pockets and a very small plant to take home, lots of missing aerials. I don't trust those sitting in the last row near the serving window ☺

This chat is about "When is a seedling not a seedling". A seedling is classed as a Whole Plant that has never flowered. Not a Division or an Aerial.

I enclose a photo of a Seedling of "Dendrobium Henk Vandenberg" which I purchased about 10 years ago from Wayne Turville of Australian Orchid Nursery, who are sponsors of our Members' Popular Vote Competition. This plant has never flowered so technically, it is a seedling. It is a whole plant never divided and is growing strongly in a 300mm squat Port Pot. At the moment it is growing in full sun in my front yard.

The hybrid "Den. Henk Vandenberg" is Den. Ivory x Den. Yondi Tina. Den. Ivory is made up of *Den. speciosum*, *jonesii*, *falcorostrum*, and *tetragonum* in various percentages. On the Den. Yondi Tina side you have *Den. speciosum*, *fleckerii*, *kingianum*, *jonesii*, *falcorostrum* and *tetragonum* in various percentages. No wonder it won't flower, the poor thing is confused by its parentage. There is a lot of *Den. speciosum* in the cross ,so it can take a while to flower, but 10 years?
Anyway, I hope it flowers soon. If it doesn't I have a foolproof method to make it flower. I will let you in on my secret methods of flowering. I have two.

1. My 90% chance of flowering is to give the plant to a friend you like.
2. My best kept secret and a 110% chance of flowering is give the plant to someone you don't like. You can read this and more in my Blank Page Edition Of "All I Know About Orchids" Volume 1.

Until next month Keep Safe.

Miss you All.

Regards Mick.

Sentimental Favorite

We probably all have them, a few plants in our collection that are there for the sentiment above any other quality. I have a very nice Den. Hilda Poxon that ranks right up there as a “Sentimental Favorite”. Why? This plant reminds me of my journey thus far with growing orchids and the ANOS Warringah Group Spring Show.

I’m estimating that I purchased this plant about 20 years ago at the sales bench at the ANOS Warringah Spring Show. I wasn’t a member back then but looked forward to visiting the show and buying a few plants for our collection. It was customary to take a few photos of our haul before putting them into position in our modest makeshift bush house at the back at our first house in Fairfield. It was there when we purchased our modest house with a big block, so it made sense to throw a few shade loving plants inside. I managed to dig up a few old photos and front and centre is the same Hilda Poxon plant.

I have very fond memories of Mick Korsenowski and Garry Williams selling plants like hot cakes and dishing out great advice at the same time. Now time has rolled on and I have found myself in recent years behind the sales table, enjoying the mayhem and camaraderie that goes along with selling orchids.

I have yet to assign a clonal name to the plant, I think I’ll call it Den. Hilda Poxon ‘Hamilton Road’. As you can see from the current and vintage photos, it hasn’t grown much, not for the want of trying. It throws out a new growth every other year and reliably flowers in late autumn and again in spring. It’s won Plant of the Evening once and the flowers are nice but the raceme just wants to spiral out of control. Even though the growth is somewhat of a “Mexican Standoff” I still give the plant that little bit more attention knowing that it holds so much sentimental value. In 20 years not a single keiki, perhaps I’m too kind.

I think I’m lucky to have such an anchor to the past and the present. In these challenging times I hope that all our members are safe and well. For now I have my Den. Hilda Poxon ‘Hamilton Road’ as a reminder of being part of the ANOS Warringah Group.

David Hemmings

Dendrobium Alice's Rainbow Graeme Russell

Dendrobium Warringah 'Scorinne' Graeme Russell

Dockrillia calamiformis L & B Dobson

Dockrillia rigida Reiner Schneidereit

Dendrobium Alice's Rainbow Graeme Russell

Dendrobium Warringah 'Scorinne' Graeme Russell

Dockrillia Virginia Jupp (baseyana x nugentii)
Anne-Maree Mitford

This is a reliable plant which I have had since 2011 bought as a seedling. It sits quietly in the orchid house and every year I 'rediscover its beauty' when it gives me a lovely spray of flowers when you least expect it! I grow it about 1 metre off the ground, facing east in a net pot.

Recollections of Dendrobium ‘Charlie’ AM/AOC 1989

David Butler 2020

I joined Cumberland Orchid Circle at the start of the 1980s at which time three of the older members grew a top-class Dendrobium speciosum called ‘Charlie’. This *D. speciosum* looked like the ones from the Hawkesbury sandstone region and was accepted as being the local form *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum*.

D. speciosum ‘Charlie’ The story was that Charlie Smith, a respected senior member of Cumberland Orchid Circle, had over the years exhibited a stunning D speciosum which usually blew the opposition away. It was described to me that Charlie Smith flowered D. speciosum ‘Charlie’ to perfection in a cold glasshouse with the racemes facing the glass on the sunny side. When he was no longer able to grow his orchids he gave this good D. speciosum to three friends - Reg Green, Tom Turner, and Don Jones. The proviso was that they would keep the plants to themselves while Charlie was alive, a promise they honoured. It is a matter for conjecture whether the three plants handed down were really divisions of the one plant.

After Charlie Smith passed away Bernie Fletcher and I were fortunate to obtain pieces of the various plants. What was immediately of interest was that the tags showed *D. speciosum* ‘Charlie’ but Tom’s added (C1) and Don’s had (B2). Reg had received an AM for his so we just called it ‘Charlie’ AM. The plants looked a bit different from each other so care was taken not to mix them up when pieces were further exchanged. In 1987 Don Jones was selling his orchid collection and I obtained a plant of several bulbs with rot in the middle. When the rot was cut out and treated I ended up with several separate growths each of which flourished when potted up individually. For want of a better name I called it ‘Charlie 87’.

My recollection is that the growths of ‘Charlie C1’ plants taper so that they are quite narrow at the top, also flowering is from the apex between the top leaves with no (or few) other eyes evident. I think that ‘Charlie’ AM may be similar in this regard.

D. speciosum ‘Charlie’

The other two, ‘Charlie B2’ and ‘Charlie 87’, each have canes which are much wider at the top with numerous flowering eyes. As they both came from Don Jones, albeit many years apart, they may be the same.

All these plants have flower racemes that are almost invariably 680mm (2ft3in) long and the buds become quite large soon after they leave the sheath. The petals tend to come forward, but when the grower gets the flowers to open up and stay that way it is an imposing orchid. Perhaps this is where Charlie’s glasshouse served its purpose.
In breeding it proved difficult for me as either the pod or pollen parent but I have heard of it giving a few seedlings in a cross with another *D. speciosum*. With so many wonderful speciosums around these days it is hard to understand just how admired and sought after one individual plant could have been, but I still remember how wonderful it was to receive our own special pieces of ‘Charlie’.

David Butler 2020

Display at ANOS Conference Wollongong 1990
featured a plant of D. speciosum ‘Charlie’

Correspondence from Norm Stockton

Dear David,
Thanks for your article in the Orchadian, I agree that Charlie is a very special speciosum. I used to be a member of Cumberland before moving to Perth in 1985.
I visited Charlie Smith in Berowra and he parted with a plant of Charlie that I still have and cherish. I also have a plant he called number 2, but it’s not as good as the real thing. While visiting him, I asked the big question...where did it come from?

He told me a friend sent it to him from Queensland. It was found growing in the mountains west of Proserpine. So that would make it a var. curvicaule. You will see this in the ANOS speciosum cultivar list. There are a few that reckon it’s a var. speciosum, but I have to believe him in knowing where his best plant actually came from. Sure, number two is a var. speciosum though.

Charlie grew it well and his glasshouse was quite dark on the south side. He would let his plants grow their

racemes towards the brighter light on the north side, thereby lengthening them a bit.

Another trick is to not let the plant have too many spikes, thereby increasing flower size. Windermere benefits from this too. Hopefully someone will get an AM for Windermere, which apparently has not been awarded....yet.

One of my plants of Charlie has two new bulbs forming, and one is quite large, 700mm tall.

Yep, a very special plant indeed.

Cheers for now,

Norm.

D. speciosum 'Charlie C1'
Photo Norm Stockton

Den. Johnathan's Glory Ela Kielich

Den. Hilda Poxon Ela Kielich

Den. Angellene Ela Kielich

Dendrobium bigibbum var. *compactum* Ela Kielich

Den. Sedgefield x Top Hat Ela Kielich

Den. Hibiki Ela Kielich

Den. Angellene Ela Kielich

Dendrobium lawesii Cary Polis

Dendrobium lawesii Cary Polis

Dendrobium Brimbank Dream ‘Chan May’
Yin and Sau-wan Chan

Dendrobium Warringah No 11 ‘Chan May’
Yin and Sau-wan Chan

Dendrobium bigibbum Cary Polis

Dockrillia dolichophylla x *hepatica* ‘Chan May’
Yin and Sau-wan Chan

Dendrobium Melbourne x Robbie McInnes ‘Chan May’
Yin and Sau-wan Chan

Dendrobium capitisyork Mick Korzenowski

Den. Hilda Poxon ‘Townsville’ Reiner Schneidereit

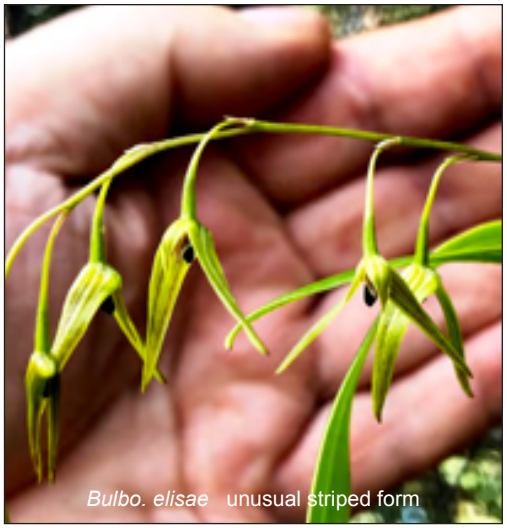
Bulbophyllum elisae

Bulbophyllum elisae is found from near Kanangra Walls NSW (Jenolan Caves) to at least the Bunya Mountains west of Toowoomba Qld. I have seen it on the shore of Lake Burragorang (Warragamba Dam) and just north of Leura, as well as in the valley under Wentworth Falls. It grows on Myrtle trees and also on rock, in both open forest and rainforest. It is not common in this region but it can be seen if you slog it out and know what to look for.

I have also seen it in the Bunya Bunya Mountains on trees, but not on rock out that way. Between these two locations it is likely to turn up anywhere. By far the largest clumps are found on rocks in the cold country of the NSW New England Region. I have seen clumps here that would be close to one metre across, but broken bare rock here and there in the clump.

Rainforest situations see Elisae take to trees and a big variety of them too. At one spot I know of a few clumps on the major limbs of very old Pinus radiata, an introduced plantation pine tree. Hoop Pine is also very often a host tree. Elisae is not a species that occurs close to the coast. Also, it prefers to take to higher altitudes. However, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, it will drop down to just a few hundred metres altitude.

In cultivation it's been an issue for me for decades. I used to think tree fern blocks were good but I don't think so anymore. I've experimented with many things and situations for many years. I now believe that it's best to take all the moss and lichen off the roots, and tie it to a piece of Portuguese Cork. Also, lengths of paper bark, either limbs or paperbark glued to hardwood or plastic pipe from Bunnings, will be very good as well.



Bulbo. elisae unusual striped form

Bulbo. elisae on rock at 1200m altitude, New England

The main thing is to keep the moss and lichen away from the roots. Elisae wants to breathe! And it doesn't want to be wet for too long. And also, it should be fed very often because there is no nutrient to be had in a bare piece of cork. It also wants to be hung up in bright light. Not full sun of course. All these tips I give here have been worked out the hard way!

As Elisae establishes itself, it will often send out what I call stilt roots. It doesn't want to sit flush on its host. It isn't uncommon to see it sitting atop 25 mm long aerial type roots. Why do think? My guess is that it wants to get away from the wet stuff. Like I say, it doesn't want moss and lichen all over it.

Isn't that strange? Because, in the wild, you often see it growing in moss and lichen! What is the difference I hear you ponder? Because in the wilds, it doesn't have paranoid growers roaming around with a hose in hand trying to water it all the time. That's the best advice I can offer you folks. Keep it in bright light, no wet roots, and feed it up. No rocket science in it. I'm very happy with the way I currently grow my plants of the very lovely *Bulb. elisae*.

Gerry Walsh
rocklilyman@gmail.com


Bulbo. elisae on tree, Carrai Plateau NSW


Bulbo. elisae on tree, Carrai Plateau NSW


Bulbo elisae, flowering, near Tenterfield NSW

Dockrillia rigida Reiner Schneidereit

Den. Hilda Poxon 'Clear Yellow' Reiner Schneidereit

Dockrillia chrysantha 'Tassie Gold'
Reiner Schneidereit

Dockrillia Tweetas 'Red lip' Reiner Schneidereit

Dockrillia fuliginosa 'Black Pam' Reiner Schneidereit

Liparis reflexa Reiner Schneidereit

Dendrobium monophyllum Reiner Schneidereit

Den. Rutherford Starburst Reiner Schneidereit

Cadetia taylori Reiner Schneidereit

In my Bushhouse

We are into May and are having a mild autumn. The first of the 'spikes' have started showing on some of our *Dendrobium speciosum*. I usually don't look until after Anzac Day and I did, but nothing until early into May. Then I noticed a *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* outside the bushhouse and some of the Dendrobium capricornicum had some eyes initiated. In the wild *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *capricornicum* will start flowering from May onwards although the 'normal' period would be middle of June to middle of August with a month either side of this for odd plants.

I was surprised to see that our *Bulbophyllum macphersonii* have flowered again with more flowers to come. Our *Bulbophyllum sladeanum* has buds but is taking it's time. *Bulbophyllum schillerianum* is budding up and will flower in the coming weeks. This is an interesting orchid that will usually have a big flush of flowers once a year but also have 2 or 3 other smaller flowerings. The flowers are beautiful orange red with that mobile lip usually a darker meat red so typical of *Bulbophyllum*. *Oberonia crateriformis* have extended their racemes and the flowers are opening. These are beautiful and relative tough plants and very rewarding to grow, they can start from just a single fan. They do require misting during our hot summer. I have them mounted on cork and also Cyprus pine which they do really like.

Some plants you have to move and adjust if they are not growing as expected. I have a Bulbophyllum lageniforme that I have mounted on cork but even with misting in the evening in summer it was not making new growths and not looking happy so I took it down and laid it horizontal on the bench. It now has lots of new grows and looks way better.

We still have new growths coming on all types of plants as we are into autumn proper but with a warm April, above average temps, and no cold weather forecast the plants are making the most of it. We continue fertilizing and alternating with fungicides Mancozeb and Bravo one dose each month and spraying with EcoOil and Neem Oil as there are still aphids about. To show how warm it is I even caught a Dendrobium beetle this week and haven't seen one in over a month.

I get back to the main requirements to grow good plants, Air, Water, and Sun. You have to provide these three essentials to your plants before you worry about what potting mix, pots or fertilizer you are adding.

We are fortunate that we have some amazing growers in ANOS Warringah Group and if you are having a problem growing a particular plant, don't be afraid to ask for advice.

Good growing
Bill Dobson

Dendrobium mixed display David Hemmings

Den. Rutherford Starburst x Hild Poxon
David Hemmings

Pterostylis concinna Judith Barry

Den. Brimbank Jazzy David Hemmings

Den. Autumn x Jesmond Sparkler
David Hemmings

Dockrillia bowmanii x *nugentii* David Hemmings

Den. tetragonum Henks Red Lip' x 'Noahs Ark'
David Hemmings

Den. tetragonum Henks Red Lip' x 'Noahs Ark'
David Hemmings

Den. Regal Gilleston x Regal Hilda David Hemmings

Den. Regal Gilleston x Regal Hilda David Hemmings

Liparis reflexa David Hemmings

Liparis reflexa David Hemmingss

Den. Bergen '#1' Barry Moore

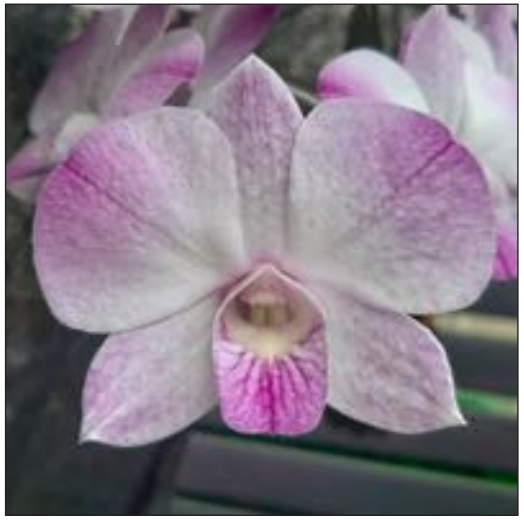
Den. Grace Robson ‘Patrick’ Barry Moore

Den. Always A Lady Steve Dunstan

Den. Hawaii Spectacular Steve Dunstan

Den. Gracemere Steve Dunstan

Den. Green Mist ‘Best Marked Lip’ Steve Dunstan



Dendrobium bigibbum ‘Mancho’ x ‘Greta’
Steve Dunstan

Den. Elegant Autumn Steve Dunstan
(D. Ellen x bigibbum)

Den. Aussie Angel x Gai Ellen Steve Dunstan

Den. Tricia Stimpson Steve Dunstan
(Den. Beryl Wuth x Topaz Dream)

Dendrobium bigibbum ‘Peter’ x ‘Enobi
David Hemmings

Dendrobium bigibbum ‘Peter’ x ‘Enobi
David Hemmings

Den. Cheryls Glory David Hemmings

Den. Cheryls Glory David Hemmings

Den. Esme Poulton ‘Tinonee’ David Hemmings

Den. Esme Poulton ‘Tinonee’ David Hemmings

Den. Esme Poulton ‘Tinonee’ David Hemmings

Den. Esme Poulton ‘Tinonee’ David Hemmings

Doc. Wesley Pink 'Cream' David Hemmings

Doc. Wesley Pink 'Cream' David Hemmings

Doc. bowmanii x *nugentii* David Hemmings

Doc. rigida experiment - wintering inside
David Hemmings

Doc. Wesley Pink 'Cream' David Hemmings

Den. Regal Hilda x Star of Gold David Hemmings

Den. Regal Hilda x Star of Gold David Hemmings

Oberonia crateriformis Trish Peterson

Bulbophyllum macphersonii Trish Peterson

Doc. Limestone Trish Peterson

Liparis viridiflora Trish Peterson

Bulbophyllum macphersonii Trish Peterson

Liparis viridiflora Trish Peterson

Liparis viridiflora

The bottle brush orchid

Found in Assam, Bangladesh, eastern Himalayas, Nepal, lower India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, China, Borneo, Java, the Philippines, Sulawesi, Sumatra, New Guinea and Taiwan as a variable, small to medium sized, hot to cold growing epiphyte, terrestrial or lithophyte occurring in broadleaf, evergreen, lowland forests on highly eroded, stratified limestone cliffs and bluffs at 300 to 2500 meters, that has short and ovoid to long and cylindrical pseudobulbs carrying 2, obovate-oblong or oblanceolate, obtuse, acute or acuminate leaves that blooms in the late fall to early winter on an erect, cylindrical, to 10” [25 cm] long, slender, densely many flowered, racemose inflorescence with small, lanceolate, acuminate, scarious bracts and very small, crowded flowers.