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**ISSUE 542 April,  
2016**

**PATRON**  
Ian Nelson

**PRESIDENT**  
Dylan Morrissey

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Cary Polis  
Angie Sulfaro

**SECRETARY**  
Tinka Riddell  
tinkariddell@  
yahoo.com.au  
9940 0797

**TREASURER**  
Jo Ann Payne

**LIBRARIAN**  
Guy Cantor

**COMMITTEE**  
Gary McDougall  
Joy Lumby  
Val Houley

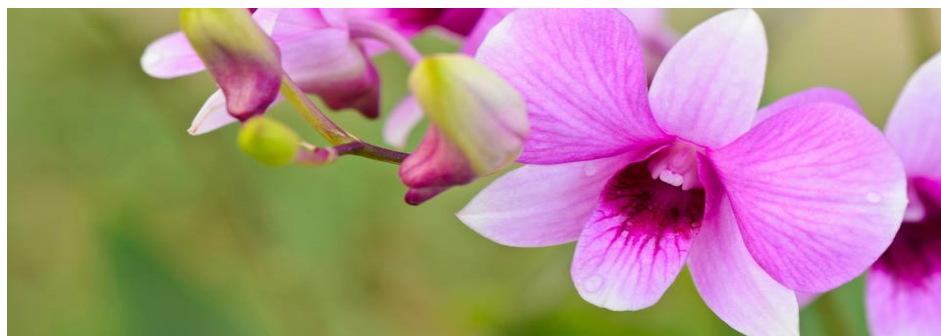
**ALL  
CORRESPONDENCE  
TO** The Secretary,  
MWOS Inc.,  
3 Kristine Place,  
Mona Vale. NSW.  
2103.

**NEXT MEMBER'S  
MEETING**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April,  
2016 at 8pm Cromer  
Community Centre,  
Fisher Road North,  
Cromer.**

**NEXT COMMITTEE  
MEETING**  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
at the DYRSL 7.30pm.

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# MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



[www.orchidsociety.com.au](http://www.orchidsociety.com.au)

## BULLETIN

**SUPPER ROSTER.** This month **Sheree Howard** has volunteered to do sandwiches once again and **Dylan** will do cake. A big thank you to last month's volunteers and also many thanks to other members who contributed to the supper table. There are still vacancies for sandwiches in June, August and September, please help out.

**GUEST SPEAKER.** This month we have the very knowledgeable **Ken Siew** as our guest speaker. Ken will be presenting a talk on species paphiopediliums.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Well done to everyone that helped make our auction last month another great success. This isn't just an event that benefits a few, it benefits us all in many ways and it's great to see that after so many years it still continues to be such a great event on our calendar. I'm sure all those who saw John and Moira Bennett's fantastic specimen of Encyclia (Dinema) polybulbon at OBTS last year will remember what an amazing display of good growing it was. You may also remember that it was awarded an OSNSW Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE), the highest award for culture that can be achieved in Australia. It is great news to hear that they have also been awarded the Australian Orchid Council overall ACE for 2015. This is the overall best ACE that was awarded in Australia last year as voted by the judges-an incredible and well deserved achievement for John and Moira. It also goes to show what a great show OBTS is, and the quality of plants that we get. Speaking of which, show season is almost upon us again, and if everyone else has as many spikes coming on as I have in my orchid house, it's going to be another great year. This is the time to start staking and grooming your plants for shows, and who knows, maybe this year it will be you that takes home an awarded plant!

**NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome Jeff Lea and Norman Casey to the Society and we hope you enjoy your time with us and we urge members to make themselves known to you and assist you in any way.

**LIBRARY.** The library still operates so please make use of this facility as we have some very good books. We will be culling some books in the future which will be available to members.

**SALES TABLE.** Honest Gary has pots in all sizes and also plant labels. Please bring in your excess plants for sale.

**Reminder** - All members who bench plants at monthly meetings will be eligible to receive a raffle ticket and be in the draw to win a prize. The tickets will be on the table in front of the library. Don't forget to take a separate ticket for the badge draw when you sign in.

**Bulletin Articles** – The Ed is always on the lookout for news articles so if you have anything interesting you wish to share with other members please contact Tinka.

**Thank you to those members who have elected to have their Bulletin sent by email. There are still 42 members receiving the Bulletin by mail so if you have the internet please consider email Bulletins. I have also compiled an email Member's List so you can receive urgent messages and reminders of events.**

#### **DIARY DATES 2016**

April 28<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting  
May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Orchids Out West, Hawkesbury  
Race Club, Clarendon  
May 26<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting  
June 9 – 12 North Shore OS Winter Show at  
St. Ives Shopping Centre  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Winter Show Dee Why Grand  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Members Meeting  
June 25 -26 Mingara Orchid Fair & Show  
July 14-16 North Shore OS Show, Gordon  
Shopping Centre  
July 28<sup>th</sup> Member's Meeting  
August 5-7 Orchids by the Sea  
August 12 - 14 National Orchid Extravaganza,  
Dural (\*\* please note incorrect dates in last  
Bulletin, should be 12-14 not 5-7)  
August 19-21 St. Ives Orchid Fair  
August 25<sup>th</sup> Member's Meeting  
September 10-11 ANOS Warringah Group  
Spring Show, Forestville Memorial Hall.  
September 15-17 Spring Show Dee Why  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> Members Meeting & AGM  
October 27<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting  
November 13<sup>th</sup> AUCTION  
(\*\* please note incorrect date in last Bulletin,  
should be 13<sup>th</sup> not 6<sup>th</sup>)  
November 24<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting  
December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party  
December 15<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting

#### **MONTHLY MEETING SET UP.**

**At the last meeting no one turned up till 7.15pm and the hall was nicely set up for you with everything ready for you to put your plants on the benches and then socialise before the meeting commenced. Who do you think does all this work beforehand?**

**Please can a couple of men come at 7pm to help set up the tables and not leave it to a couple of (not so young anymore) ladies or Dylan who often puts the tables out by himself. Also help is needed to put tables away after the meeting.**



John and Moira's plant of Encyclia (Dinema) polybulbon at last year's OBTS.

**Show Marshal Report For March 2016**  
**Hybrid of the Month : Bratonia [Brat.]**  
**(syn. Miltassia or Mtssa.)\_ Aztec 'Toni'**  
**Grown by: Li Shan Fan**



This was a very nice plant grown by Li Shan and was nicely displayed, not all flowers are seen in the photo. Again another name change, yes it is hard to keep up to these changes. It has four



species in its breeding, being Milt. spectabilis (37.5%) Milt. candida (25.0%) Brs. verrucosa (25.0%) Milt. clowesii (12.5%) was registered in 1976 by W W Goodale Moir Hawaii and in the USA there are 10 awards to different clones of Aztec. These type of plants are easy to grow in a shade house and can grow into quite large plants.

### **Specimen Plant of the Month :**

**"Dendrochilum latifolium"** Lindl.,  
Edwards's Bot. Reg. 29(Misc.): 56 (1843).

#### **Grown by: Angie Sulfaro**

How big can this plant grow, the flower spikes were in very good condition and to transport a plant like this is not an easy task. It is *Found only in the Philippines in forests on trees at*



*elevations above 300 to 2200 meters. Orchidwiz.* This plant was in very good condition and is a cool grower and would take a very long time to grow to this size. Angie is a grower that loves every plant she has and just knows what to do and where to put it to grow to perfection, this plant is one of them.

### **Specie Plant of the Month : "Bulbophyllum exiguum"** F.Muell., Fragm. 2: 72 (1860).

#### **Grown by:**

**Reiner  
Schneidereit**

What an interesting plant this was and I wasn't able to phot graph it to perfection as it was too long. It had flowers all along the length and were all out which made it a great specie for the month

*Australia. This*

*orchid is found in the coastal regions from south-eastern New South Wales to south-eastern Queensland, growing from near sea level to about 3300 ft. (1000 m). Plants usually grow in the coastal ranges, but the habitat may extend some*

*distance inland, and they are found in a wide range of environments ranging from densely vegetated gullies in rainforests to exposed sandstone rock faces. Plants grow both epiphytically on large tree trunks and limbs and as well as sandstone boulders and rock faces, but they appear to achieve their best growth in nature when growing on exposed rock faces. Reports of this species' occurrence in tropical areas were the result of misidentification and confusion with Bulbophyllum newportii and Bulbophyllum argyropus. From Orchidwiz this gives an account for this orchid which I looked up and those two named could seem very similar. In some ways a nice plant to have in the collection. Thanks Reiner for bringing it in.*

### **Novice plant of the Month: Cattlianthe [Ctt.] (syn. Cattleya or C.) Chocolate Drop** **Grown by: Tanya Chernishov**



A nice head of flowers on this orchid grown by Tanya. This is not a new type of orchid and was registered by Steward of California in 1965 and this plant has been admired by many for years. Steward has produced many great orchids of all types and has registered to them 1323 crosses. This plant is a cross between Guarianthe [Gur.] aurantiaca (syn. Cattleya aurantiaca) x Cattleya [C.] guttata. It is interesting to look at each specie used in a cross of any orchid and the question is what color was used, take aurantiaca as it comes from very bright orange to yellow forms and between and guttata comes from alba form thru light greens spotted to reddish color and use different forms of a specie and get different looking plants, this happens with all types of orchid.

Ian Nelson, Show Marshal/Patron

# MARCH BENCHING POINT SCORE 2016

## OPEN DIVISION

### 1. Sarcophilus Hybrid

1. Sarco. Elise 'Plum' Velvet Splashes

### 2. Australian Native Hybrid

1. Den. Topaz Dream x bigibbum
2. Den. unknown
3. Den. Topaz Dream x bigibbum

### 3. Australasian

1. Den. Petite Bouquet
2. Den. alexanderae x johnsoniae

### 4. Dockrillia Hybrid

### 5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm

### 6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm

1. C. Aloha Case 'Ching Hua'
2. Blc. Hosdee x orpetii
3. Thw. Dal's Girl

### 7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelty)

1. C. Fitz 'Eugene Dixon'
2. Lc. Angel Heart 'Sumi'
3. Ctna. Barrel of Brandy 'My Dream'

### 7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type) Hybrid

1. Blc. Waianiae Leopard x Slc. Jungle Leopard
2. Bc. Island Charm Carmella

### 8. Laeliinae Hybrid (Miniature)<75mm

1. Sc. Lana Coryell 'Delicious'
2. Cat. Splash of Port 'Yellow Face'
3. Pot. Burana Angel 'Hsinying'

### 8A. Laeliinae Epidendrum

1. Eplc. Volcano Trick

### 9. Cymbidium Standard

### 10. Cymbidium Intermediate

### 11. Cymbidium Minature

### 12. Dendrobium

1. Den. Glung Garb Blue
2. Den. Classic Printing
3. Den. Chao Praya x D. bigibbum

### 13. Oncidiinae 30mm and less

1. Baptistonia echinata x Onc. Twinkle
2. Onc. Kaulani

### 14. Oncidiinae 30mm - 60mm

1. Colm. Wildcat 'Red Cat'
2. Onc. Sharry Baby 'yellow'
3. Colm. Wildcat 'Blood Shot'

### 15. Oncidiinae 60mm and above

1. Miltassia Aztec
2. Onc. unknown
3. Miltassia Aztec 'Toni'

### 16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition

### 17. Paphiopedilum Novelty

1. Paph. delentai x Paph. micranthum

### 18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition

1. Phal. unknown
2. Phal. Unknown
3. Phal. unknown

### 19. Phalaenopsis Novelty

1. Dtps. KV charmer 'Fong Ping'
2. Phal. unknown
3. Phal. fasciata x pallens

### 20. Vandaceous >51mm

1. V. Thow Pee Yen 'Red'
2. Vanda unknown

### 21. Vandaceous/Ascocendas

1. Sarconopsis Lavinia
2. Rhya. Jade Magic x Vasco Crown Fox Magic

### 22. Other Orchid Hybrid

1. Coel. Janine Banks
2. Coel. Janine Banks

## SPECIES

### 38. Sarcophilus Species

### 1 Plant

- T. Maclure

### 6 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- T. Riddell
- A. Sulfaro

### 2 Plants

- I. Nelson
- P. Christie

### 0 Plants

### 0 Plants

### 10 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- A. Sulfaro
- J. Portelli

### 4 Plants

- G&A Cushway
- G&A Cushway
- A. Sulfaro

### 2 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- G&A Cushway

### 6 Plants

- G&A Cushway
- ?

### 1 Plant

- I. Nelson
- A. Sulfaro

### 0 Plants

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plant

### 3 Plants

- C. Polis
- A. Sulfaro
- C. Polis

### 2 Plants

- G&A Cushway
- T. Riddell

### 9 Plants

- H. Corduroy
- R. Schuback
- G&A Cushway

### 7 Plants

- Li S. Fan
- Li S. Fan
- T. Riddell

### 0 Plants

### 1 Plant

- A. Sulfaro

### 3 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- A. Sulfaro
- A. Sulfaro

### 7 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- A. Sulfaro
- C. Polis

### 2 Plants

- I. Nelson
- T. Riddell

### 2 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- C. Polis

### 2 Plants

- A. Sulfaro
- A. Sulfaro

### 0 Plants

### 39. Australian Epiphyte Species

1. Bulbo. exiguum
2. Den. bigibbum var superbum
3. Cadetia taylori

### 40. Australasian Epiphyte Species

1. Den. gorbessii

### 41. Dockrillia

### 42. Australasian Terrestrial

### 43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)

1. Cat. bowringiana var coerulea
2. Cat. labiata rubra 'Schmer'
3. Cat. bowringiana

### 44. Laeliinae Alliance

1. Prosthecea cochleata
2. Prosthecea radiata
3. Epi. viviparum

### 45. Oncidiinae Alliance Species

1. Pyp. papilio
2. Pyp. papilio
3. Onc. truliferum 'Royale' x self

### 46. Other Species 'The Americas'

1. Max. grandiflora
2. Stan. wardii

### 47. Dendrobium Species

### 48. Paphiopedilum Species

1. Paph. spicerianum
2. Paph. chamberlianum x Matilda

### 49. Phalaenopsis Species

1. Doritis pulcherrima – blue

### 50. Vandaceous Species

1. Vanda tricolor
2. Vanda tricolor
3. Angraecum didieri

### 51. Dendrochilum Species

1. Ddc. latifolium var macranthum
2. Ddc. latifolium var macranthum
3. Dendrochilum latifolium

### 52. Other Species 'Asia & Rest of World'

1. Coelogyne tomentosa
2. Bulbo. annandellii
3. Coelogyne celebensis

### 53. Miniature max. 150mm

1. Epi. porpax

### 54. Miniature Species min. 150mm

### 55. First Flowering Species

### 56. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid

1. Onc. Tropical Heat Wave 'Everglades'

## NOVICE

### 23. Australasian Species

1. Den. prenticei

### 24. Laeliinae Species

### 25. Oncidiinae Species

### 26. Any other Species of Americas

### 27. Species Rest of the World

### 28. Australasian Hybrids

1. Den. bigibbum x

### 29. Cymbidium Standard

### 30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature

### 31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid

### 32. Dendrobium Hybrid other than Australasian

### 33. Laeliinae Hybrid

1. Cat. Chocolate Drop
2. Sc. Mem. Ken Martin
3. Cat. Little Suzie

### 34. Oncidiinae Allied Genera Intergeneric Hybrid

1. Miltonia Golden Masie
2. Miltonia William Kirch v flavescens

### 35. Hybrid of Americas All Others

### 36. Other Orchid Hybrid

### 17 Plant

- R. Schneidereit

- A. Sulfaro

- G. Cantor

### 1 Plant

- P. Christie

### 0 Plants

### 0 Plant

### 7 Plants

- C. Polis

- T. Riddell

- C. Polis

### 5 Plants

- T. Riddell

- C. Polis

- P. McDonough

### 10 Plants

- G&A Cushway

- G&A Cushway

- T. Riddell

### 2 Plants

- P. McDonough

- T. Riddell

### 0 Plant

### 2 Plants

- P. McDonough

- R. Schuback

### 1 Plant

- T. Riddell

### 3 Plants

- C. Polis

- C. Polis

- C. Polis

### 8 Plants

- A. Sulfaro

- T. Riddell

- P. Christie

### 5 Plants

- P. Christie

- A. Sulfaro

- P. McDonough

### 1 Plants

- T. Riddell

### 0 Plants

### 0 Plants

### 1 Plant

- G&A Cushway

### 1 Plant

- M&S Howard

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plant

### 1 Plant

- M. Asbury

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plants

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plants

### 3 Plants

- T. Chernishov

- M. Asbury

- M. Asbury

### 2 Plants

- T. Chernishov

- M&S Howard

### 0 Plant

### 0 Plant

The following notes are from Ken Russell, who had consented to the use of these notes, presented at our July Meeting three years ago and our last March meeting.

## **FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS OF ORCHIDS**

Orchids generally have low requirements for fertilizer. However, since they grow in low nutrient bark mixes, you do need to administer some form of fertilizer.

**Eggshells:** Orchids thrive on potassium and calcium and eggshells are an excellent source. Crush eggshells using a mortar and pestle and sprinkle on orchid bark. This helps to keep it from washing away during watering.

**Molasses:** Mix a teaspoon of molasses in 1 to 2 litres of water. Use the mixture to water the plant. Molasses is a rich source of potassium. You needn't worry about the molasses attracting bugs. The plants absorb the molasses instantly. Boom it's gone! The fruit trees just love it!

**Potatoes:** Cut unpeeled potatoes into small pieces and boil until well done. Cool and add periodically to the bark in the pot to provide potassium to orchids.

**Epsom Salts:** Epsom Salt provides magnesium for the orchid. This promotes healthier growth and stronger roots. Mix 1 teaspoon of Epsom salts to the water and use as part of regular fertilizing.

## **Molasses for Organic Pest Control.**

One final benefit of molasses is its ability to be used in the control of a couple of common pests encountered in gardening. The most commonly known use of molasses is its ability to help control Fire Ants. When Malcolm Beck was using molasses in the fertilizer spray for his fruit trees he noticed that the fire ants moved out from under the trees. We've also found a internet reference to the ability of molasses to control white cabbage moths in the UK.

Mix a tablespoon of molasses in 1 litre of warm water and let cool then spray every week or every two weeks as required for white cabbage moth *they hate it* and I think it would be good soil conditioner as well if any drops on your soil. So molasses could be an effective deterrent in more ways that we are aware of.

## **Why use molasses on Orchids?**

The reason nutrient manufacturer have "discovered" molasses is the simple fact that it's a great source of carbohydrates to stimulate the growth of beneficial micro-organisms. 'Carbohydrate' is really a fancy name for sugar and molasses is the best sugar for horticultural use. Folks who have read some of our prior essays know that we are big fans of promoting and nourishing soil life and that we attribute a good portion of our growing success to the attention we pay to building a thriving 'micro-herd' to work in concert with plant roots to digest and assimilate nutrients. We really do buy into the odd organic adage – 'Feed the soil not the plant'. Molasses is a good quick source of energy for the various forms of microbes and soil life in a compost pile of good living soil. As we said earlier, molasses is a carbon source that feeds the beneficial microbes that create natural soil fertility. But, if giving a sugar boost was the only goal, there would be lots of alternatives. We could even go with the odd Milly Blunt story of using Coke on plants as a child, after all Coke would be a great source of sugar to feed microbes and it also contains phosphoric acid to provide phosphorus for strengthening roots and encouraging blooming. In our eyes though, the primary thing that makes molasses the best sugar for agricultural use is its trace minerals.

In addition to sugars, molasses contains significant amounts of potash, sulfur and a variety of micro-nutrients. Because molasses is derived from plants and because the manufacturing processes that create it remove mostly sugars, the majority of the mineral nutrients that were contained in the original sugar cane or sugar beet are still present in molasses. This is a critical factor because a balanced supply of mineral nutrients is essential for those "beneficial beasts" to survive and thrive. That's one of the secrets we've discovered to really successful organic gardening, the micronutrients found in organic amendments like molasses, kelp and alfalfa were all derived from other plant sources and are quickly and easily available to our soil and plants. This is especially important for the soil 'micro-herd' of critters that depend on tiny amounts of those trace minerals as catalysts to make the enzymes that create biochemical transformations. That last sentence was our fancy way of saying – it's actually the critters in "live soil" that break down organic fertilizers and "feed" our plants. One final benefit molasses can provide to you garden is its ability to work as a chelating agent. That's a scientific way of saying that molasses is one of those "magical" substances that can convert some chemical nutrients into a form that's easily available for critters and

plants. Chelated minerals can be absorbed directly and remain available and stable in the soil. Rather than spend a lot of time and effort explaining the relationships between chelates and micro-nutrients, we are going to quote one of our favorite sources for explaining soil for scientific laymen. "Micronutrients occur, in cells as well as soil, as part of large, complex organic molecules in chelated form. The word chelate (pronounced "KEE-late") comes from the Greek word for "claw" which indicates how a single nutrient ion is held in the center of the larger molecule. The finely balanced interactions between micronutrients are complex and not fully understood. We do know that balance is crucial: any micronutrient, when present in excessive amounts, will become a poison, and certain poisonous elements, such as chlorine are also essential micronutrients. For this reason natural, organic sources of micronutrients are the best means of supplying them to the soil: they are present in balanced quantities and not liable to be over supplied through error or ignorance. When used in naturally chelated form, excess micronutrients will be locked up and prevented for disrupting soil balance.

## **MIRIAM ANN ORCHIDS NEWSLETTER ALAN'S COLUMN APRIL 2016**

During April we will not be having our growers class. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> April I am still in Minchinbury Community Hospital for Rehab. I wish to thank all of those growers who have sent their good wishes for a speedy recovery. Also who have dropped into cheer me up and been at home to keep the plants alive!!

As I have hardly seen any sunlight since being here I do not know what has been happening in the orchid world.

By now our plants should be growing extremely well. Early cymbs. should be in flower, catties in sheaf, paphs coming into spike and all sorts of growth taking place. Keep plants well fed, but drop the nitrogen levels back a bit. Increase the potassium a little. Don't forget the snail pellets to keep crawlies under control. Watch for grubs this time of the year. Watch your watering! Don't overwater during April! Watch spotting on leaves. Use MANCOZEB® to keep spots at bay! Watch for rots, drench with ANTI ROT®. Two applications maybe necessary for good results.

Now you can pot on your favourite seedlings. Check your heater to make sure it is in good working condition for the on coming winter. Those growers up north will not have to worry about heating your plants. Remember, day temperature has to be hotter than night temperatures! No fertilising late in the day during winter.

The next newsletter will be after I return home. I have my mobile with me so if you wish to ring do so. Hope to see you all soon.

GOOD GROWING

ALAN & MIRIAM MERRIMAN

MIRIAM ANN ORCHIDS

89 Levy Street, GLENBROOK NSW 2773

PHONE 02 4739 5141 MOBILE 0439 514141 EMAIL [mirannorchids@pnc.com.au](mailto:mirannorchids@pnc.com.au)