ISSUE 547 September 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 22nd
September, 2016 at 8pm Cromer
Community Centre, Fisher Road North, Cromer.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 6th October 2016 at the DYRSL 7.30pm.

MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



www.orchidsociety.com.au

BULLETIN

This month is our AGM. We have had a good response for new committee members which is very pleasing and this will inject some new ideas and fresh blood into our committee. Any other members who wish to nominate for committee can do so by contacting Tinka for a nomination form which must be returned 7 days before the meeting.

Changes have been made to the Associations Laws from 1st September (please read notice over the page). We have been considering for some time changing our Constitution over to the Model Constitution which is much more straightforward and up to date in this electronic age. Basically it will still be the same Objects but would like to change the number of committee members and drop the Librarian from the executive committee. This will be open to discussion and hopefully implemented at a later special meeting before our regular meeting.

SUPPER ROSTER. This month our volunteers are Tinka for sandwiches and Sheree Howard for something sweet.

Thank you to last month's volunteers and members who brought in something extra. The new roster for the next 12months will go around at the meeting. In the last 12 months we have had only 10 volunteers on the roster so these members are doing several repeats. We usually have 35 + members at our meetings so to those that stand back and enjoy the suppers please come forward and volunteer!

GUEST SPEAKER. There will be no guest speaker.

AUCTION REMINDER. This event is only 9 weeks away and lists need to be returned by **Friday 30th September.** (Change of date from 25th to give you a little more time).

DEE WHY GRAND SPRING SHOW 15,16,17

September. Please bring in your plants so we can put on a good display. Sales plants need to be clean and well established in the pot. Substandard plants will be removed from the sales bench. Your help is required again for the three days of the show and also need volunteers

to do the night shift to 12 midnight. Set up is from 5pm with judging at 7pm. Pull down is 3pm on Saturday.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Congratulations to everyone who exhibited at St. Ives. It was another fantastic show this year, with very high quality plants both on display and for sale. Thank you again to those that volunteered over the weekend.

Our Dee Why Grand Spring show is coming up, and as our last show for the year, one final effort from everyone would be greatly appreciated in helping set up and man the stall whilst the show is on.

Hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather as much as I am, hope to see you all soon. Dylan

Changes to NSW association laws start on 1 September 2016

Amendments to enhance the way incorporated associations are administered and to clarify the way associations operate start on **1 September 2016.**

After public consultation over a 3 year period, the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* will be amended and the existing Regulation replaced with a new Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 on 1 September 2016.

Together, the changes to the Act and the new Regulation will assist associations comply with the legislative requirements and improve governance.

The key changes include:

- the official address of an association will now be an address in NSW where the public officer can generally be found and where documents can be served on the association by post (but not a post office box)
- a new provision for keeping financial records and minutes of meetings electronically and providing that financial records be kept for at least 5 years
- amendments to the model constitution: these changes will automatically apply to all associations that have adopted the model constitution. If an association has its own constitution and it fails to address a matter in Schedule 1 of the Act, the provision in the model constitution relating to that matter will automatically apply
- allowing for electronic ballots if this is permitted under an association's constitution
- the fee for lodging the annual statement of financial affairs has reduced for Tier 2
 [small] associations (gross receipts less than \$250,000) and has increased for Tier
 1 [large] associations. In general, fees have been revised to reflect the amount of
 work required to process the documentation
- clarifying the duties and liabilities of committee members
- removing the need to reserve a name before lodging an application to register an association or change an association's name.

For one year from 1 September 2016, any association wishing to update its constitution as a result of the amendments to the legislation will not have to pay a fee to register the change. To find out how the changes to the association laws will affect associations, visit the Changes to the associations incorporation laws page on the Fair Trading website.

LIBRARY. The library still operates so please make use of this facility as we have some very good books.

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

Bulletin Articles – The Ed is always on the lookout for news articles so if you have anything to buy, sell or tell please contact Tinka.

DIARY DATES 2016

September 15-17 Spring Show Dee Why

September 22nd Members Meeting & AGM September 24-25 Plant Lovers Fair, Kariong Mountains High School

October 7-9 Southern Orchid Spectacular, Carringbah High School, 85 Willarong Rd.

October 15 Sarcochilus Show, Revesby Worker's Australian Native Orchid Club.

October 27th Members Meeting

November 13th AUCTION

November 24th Members Meeting December 4th Christmas Party

December 15th Members Meeting

ST. IVES RESULTS

Class 58: Cary Polis 1st.

Class 47 Bryce Barton 1st

Class 24 Angie Sulfaro 1st

Class 86 John Portelli 1st

Class 12 Angie Sulfaro 1st

Class 99 Angie Sulfaro 2nd

Class 90 J&M Bennet 2nd

Class 87 Cary Polis 2nd

Class 54 Angie Sulfaro 2nd

Class 51 Bryce Barton 2nd

Class 30 Angie Sulfaro 2nd

Class 16 John Portelli 2nd

Class 10 Angie Sulfaro 2nd

Class 6 Seb Torrisi 2nd

Congrats to Ros Mathews who

placed 2nd in the Bridesmaid Bouquet.

Val Houley extends her thanks to our members who turned up and helped over the 3 days of the St. Ives Show.

Show Marshal Report August 2016 <u>Hybrid of the Month</u>: Dendrobium [Den.] DaNang

Grown by: Ralph Lumby



This was a nice plant grown by Ralph which is a cross between Tie-Die and Aussie Victory

making it a hot /cool grower. Tie-Die has bigibbum in its background. This type of plant are good to grow in a collection and can be very rewarding. The

plants can vary in color due to what is in the back ground.

Specie Plant of the Month: "Rhyncholaelia glauca" (Lindl.) Schltr., Beih. Bot. Centralbl. 36(2): 477 (1918)

Grown by: Tinka Riddell



This plant is well known and has been used to breed into many crosses. It comes from Mexico, southward to Nicaragua through Guatemala,

and Honduras. Plants were first found near Xalapa (Jalapa), Mexico and later not far from Veracruz. Rhyncholaelia glauca occurs over a wide area, but it is not common in any of its habitats. Plants are often grow either on the surface of the ground or in trees in dry, open mountain forests at 3950-4920 ft. (1200-1500 m). However, they occasionally grow at lower elevations in dense tropical forests. From Orchidwiz.

<u>Specimen Plant of the Month : "Bulbophyllum ambrosia"</u>

(Hance) Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.





Beih. 4: 247 (1919).

Grown by: Guy Cantor

This plant grows quite easily and, as seen, grows downward and there can be

quite a lot of growth as this plant has done. One to watch when it comes into flower as can be missed. This is a plant from *China and Vietnam. A rather common creeping epiphytic or lithophytic herb found in the Cao Bang District in northern Vietnam. Plants grow in mossy, primary and secondary, evergreen and semi deciduous, broad-leaved, mixed, and coniferous forests which are growing on weathered limestone at 1650-2300 ft. (500-700 m). Plants are reported to be locally abundant, especially along ridge tops. In China, plants are*

found in the provinces of Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, and southern Yunnan where they grow on tree trunks in mountain forests at elevations up to 4250 ft. (1300 m). It is quite an attractive flower and a plant that doesn't take a lot to look after.

Novice Plant of the Month: Coelogyne [Coel.] Unchained Melody

Grown by: Richard Wakim



This is a cross between Coelogyne [Coel.] cristata and Coelogyne [Coel.] flaccida and can grow into very large plants. They are cool growing and are seen at shows at this time of the year. Richard's plant is a nice one and he has grown it well. These type of plants I find don't like being disturbed too often. That nice white color makes it stand out. I grow them in a cym. bark mix.

Don't forget the show this week and bring those plants in to display.

Ian Nelson

Show Marshal/Patron

AUGUST BENCHING POINT SCORE 2016

OPEN DIVISION	
1. Sarcochilus Hybrid	3 Plants
1. Sarco. First Light	R. Schneidereit
2. Sarco. Green Vista	Li Shan Fan
3. Sarco. Burgandy on Ice	R. Schneidereit
2. Australian Native Hybrid	21 Plants
1. Den. Da Nang	R. Lumby
2. Den. Den. Starsheen x D. speciosum	J&C McAuley
3. Den. Robbie McInnes	R. Schneidereit
3. Australasian	2 Plant
1. Den. mohilianum x chrysopierum	A. Sulfaro
2. D. caniculatum x tangerium	C. Polis
4. Dockrillia Hybrid	13 Plants
1. Dock. Australian Freckles	R. Schneidereit
2. Dock. 'Huge' x Dock. striolata 'Tasmanian	
Gold'	R. Schneidereit
3. Dock. Australian Freckles	J&C McAuley
5. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) >120mm 3	Plants
1. Blc. Sylvia Fry 'Supreme'	G&A Cushway
2.Blc.Sylvia Fry 'Supreme'	G&A Cushway
3. C. unknown	G&A Cushway
6. Laeliinae Hybrid (Exhibition) <120mm	1 Plant
1. Rlc. Dal's Grace x Pot. Dal's Moon	A. Sulfaro
7. Laeliinae Hybrid (Multifloral/Novelty)	1 Plants
1. Ctna. Splash of Port 'Yellow Face'	A. Sulfaro
7A. Laeliinae (Novelty Type) Hybrid	1 Plant

1. Blc. Waianiae Leopard Ching Hua x Slc.

Jungle Treasure

8. Laeliinae Hybrid (Miniature)<75mm	3 Plants
1. Slc. Tiny Titan 'Orange Blush'	G&A Cushway
2. Lc. Tokyo Magic x Slc. Cosmic Delight	A. Sulfaro
3. Slc. Angel Flare 'Janella x Pot. Rosella	11 Dullaro
'Tokyo'	A. Sulfaro
	3 Plants
8A.Laeliinae Epidendrum	C. Polis
1. Epi. Renee Marquis 'Flame Thrower'	
2. Epi. Topaz Special 'Beauty Cosmo'	F&M Lee
3. Epi. Renee Marquis 'Flame Thrower'	P. Christie
9. Cymbidium Standard	2 Plants
1. Cym. Foxfire Amber	A. Sulfaro
2. Cym. Foxfire Amber 'Dural'	R&J Payne
10. Cymbidium Intermediate	2 Plants
1. Cym. Freeling 'Green Ice'	A. Sulfaro
2. Cym. Freeling 'Green Ice'	A. Sulfaro
11. Cymbidium Minature	3 Plants
1. Cym. Dr. Len	A. Sulfaro
2. Cym. Ice on Fire	A. Sulfaro
3. Cym. Pumisan 'Cooksbridge'	A. Sulfaro
12.Dendrobium	1 Plant
1. D. Mini Snowflake	C. Polis
13. Oncidinae 30mm and less	7 Plants
1. Onc. Twinkle Red Fantasy	A. Sulfaro
14. Oncidiiae 30mm - 60mm	2 Plants
1. Odcdm. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'	A. Sulfaro
2. Odont. Chery Fudge 'Carmella'	T. Riddell
15. Oncidiiae 60mm and above	3 Plants
1. Odc. Mayfair	A. Sulfaro
2. Odm. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'	T. Maclure
3. Wils. Tiger Glow	G&A Cushway
16. Paphiopedilum Exhibition	6 Plants
1. Paph. Personella 'Condor'	R. Nurthen
2. TB Fruitcake	R. Nurthen
	K. Ivultiicii
3. Paph. Maiden Blanch x Chayi	A Culfono
'Green Apples'	A. Sulfaro
17. Paphiopedilum Novelty	6 Plants
1. Paph. Canhinga x Macabre	R. Nurthen
2. Paph. Lathanianum	B. Barton
3. Paph. Onyx x Somers Isle	R. Nurthen
18. Phalaenopsis Exhibition	0 Plants
19. Phalaenopsis Novelty	1 Plant
1. Paph. unknown	A. Sulfaro
20. Vandaceous >51mm	5 Plants
1. V. unknown	B. Barton
2. V. Pachara Delight	A. Sulfaro
3. V. Karen Ono	C. Polis
21.Vandaceous/Ascocendas	3 Plants
Arachnostylis charchalood	B. Barton
1. 7 Hacimostynis charcharood	D. Durton
	A Sulfaro
2. Sarconopsis Braveheart	A. Sulfaro
2. Sarconopsis Braveheart3. V. Sunny Beach	C. Polis
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid 	C. Polis 5 Plants
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES 38. Sarcochilus Species	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES 38. Sarcochilus Species	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES Sarcochilus Species Sarco. falcatus Sarco. falcatus 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan 2 Plants R. Lumby
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES Sarcochilus Species Sarco. falcatus Sarco. falcatus Australian Epiphyte Species 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan 2 Plants R. Lumby R. Lumby 9 Plants
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES Sarcochilus Species Sarco. falcatus Sarco. falcatus Australian Epiphyte Species Cym. madidum 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan 2 Plants R. Lumby R. Lumby 9 Plants R&J Schneidereit
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES Sarcochilus Species Sarco. falcatus Sarco. falcatus Cym. madidum Den. cacatua 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan 2 Plants R. Lumby R. Lumby 9 Plants R&J Schneidereit R. Lumby
 Sarconopsis Braveheart V. Sunny Beach Other Orchid Hybrid Lyc. Lawson Lyc. Skinneri x Rachel Coel. Unchained Melody SPECIES Sarcochilus Species Sarco. falcatus Sarco. falcatus Australian Epiphyte Species Cym. madidum 	C. Polis 5 Plants F&M Lee F&M Lee Li Shan Fan 2 Plants R. Lumby R. Lumby 9 Plants R&J Schneidereit

1. Den. polysema **41. Dockrillia**

1. Dock. teretifolia

2. Dock. teretifolia

3. Dock, teretifolia

A. Sulfaro

P Christie

4 Plants

C. Polis

R&J Schneidereit

R&J Schneidereit

42. Australasian Terrestial	2 Plants
1. Pterostylis curta	J&C McAuley
2. Pterpstylis curta var 'variegated'	J&C McAuley
43. Laeliinae Alliance (cattleya & laelia)	5 Plants
1. C. trianae 'AA Miller'	T. Riddell
2. C. maxima	C. Polis
3. C. ausartiaca	C. Polis
44. Laeliinae Alliance	3 Plants
1. Rhyncolaelia glauca	T. Riddell
2. Encyclia osmantha	C. Polis
3. Epi. florabundum	T. riddell
45. Oncidiiae Alliance Species	1 Plant
1. Ada aurantiaca	C. Polis
46. Other Species 'The Americas'	11 Plants
1. Max. sophronites	G. Cantor
2. Max. porphyrostele	T. Riddell
3. Stenorrhynchos speciosus	D. Morrissey
47. Dendrobium Species	3 Plants
1. Den. bilobum	G. Cantor
2. D. sulawesiense	T. Riddell
3. Den. linawianum	G. Cantor
48. Paphiopedilum Species	4 Plants
1. Paph. sukhakulli	J&C McAuley
2. Paph. villosum	B. Barton
3. Paph. villosum 'Victor'	R. Nurthen
48. Paphiopedilum Species	4 Plants
1. Paph. sukhakulli	J&C McAuley
2. Paph. villosum	B. Barton
3. Paph. villosum 'Victor'	R. Nurthen
49. Phalaenopsis Species	3 Plants
1. Phal. luedlemuiana	J&C McAuley
2. Phal. schilleriana	J&C McAuley
3. Phal. heiroglyphia	J&C McAuley
50. Vandaceous	1 Plant
1. Vanda bensonii	C. Polis
51. Dendrochilum Species	6 Plants A. Sulfaro
1. Ddc. longifolium	
2. Ddc. longifolium 3. Ddc. niveum	A. Sulfaro T. Riddell
52. Other Species 'Asia & Rest of World'	5 Plants
1. Bulbo, ambrosia	G. Cantor
2. Coel. flaccida	T. Riddell
3. Coelogyne sp.	G. Cantor
53. Miniature max. 150mm	9Plants
1. Ceratocentron fesselii	J&C McAuley
Restripia citrina	J&C McAuley
3. Restripia songuirea	J&C McAuley
54. Miniature Species min. 150mm	0Plant
54. Miniature Species min. 150mm	0Plant
55. First Flowering Species	0 Plants
56. First Flowering Seedling Hybrid	3 Plants
Den. RSB Mahogant x APCS	R&J Schneidereit
2. Den. (Bicentinal Rose x Bardo Rose) =	
Eleminaton Desa	C Dolin

30. Cymbidium Intermediate & Miniature	3 Plants	
1. Cym. Clarisse 'Best Pink'	T. Chernishov	
2. Cym. unknown	R. Mathews	
3. Cym. Little Bumble Bee	M. Asbury	
31. Paphiopedilum Hybrid	0 Plant	
32. Dendrobium Hybrid other than Australasian 0 Plants		
33. Laeliinea Hybrid	0 Plants	
34. Oncidiae Allied Genera Intergeneric Hybrid 0 Plants		
35. Hybrid of Americas All Others	0 Plant	
36. Other Orchid Hybrid	2 Plants	
1. Coel. Unchained Melody	R. Wakim	
2. Coel. Unchained Melody	M. Asbury	

MWOS St. Ives display 2016



NOVICE

Flemington Rose

3. Den. Robbie McInnes (Aussie Parade) Splash x spec. windermere

110 1102	
23. Australasian Species	0 Plant
24. Laeliinae Species	0 Plant
25. Oncidiae Species	0 Plant
26. Any other Species of Americas	0 Plant
27. Species Rest of the World	0 Plant
28. Australasian Hybrids	3 Plants
1. Den. Australasian hybrid unknown	T. Chernishov
2. Dock. Tweetie x Dock. teretifolia	M&S Howard
3. Den. unknown	M. Asbury
29. Cymbidium Standard	3 Plants
1. Cym. unknown	T. chernishov
2. Cym Akibono 'Rose Bud'	T. Chernishov

C. Polis

R&J Schneidereit

ALAN & MIRIAM 'S NEWSLETTER ALAN'S COLUMN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2016

At last I am on the mend. Sorry no newsletter has come to light since April. At long last I have ventured down into the growing houses to see what has been going on. What I could see was some *botrytis* had been attacking some of the flowers and then the spores set sail here there and everywhere! To get a good fungicide to control flower spotting and not leave a residue on the blooms is not that easy! Over the years BRAVO® has been used with great success, but now, small packs are out of the picture and some small packs are not registered for use on ornamentals! ROVRAL AQUA FLO® is very, very good. It is water based.

Two spotted mites have been rather quiet over the last few months. Before going into hospital I gave the collection a good go over with D.C.TRON OIL, so maybe the oil gave them the message! This oil is available in smaller containers. The Late Bernie Astill of the B,M & P.D.O.S. used oil every autumn over his collection with great results. I think he used it at mls in 1 litre of water. This was repeated after repotting. This was applied only when there was a break in the weather, such as cool days three days before spraying and five days after spraying. That means below 25 degrees C. REMEMBER OILS CAN BURN ON HOT SUMMER DAYS!

CATTLEYAS and allied genera are either in bud or new growths are on the move. There is no need to fertilise this time of the year as the plants should be living off the nutrient stored in their bulbs. Look for mealy bug, scale etc. I had a rather large plant of Cattleya BOW BEST ' MIRIAM ANN' that would not kick along. Over the last couple of years I sprayed with a few concoctions with poor results! I was advised to send the plant to my friends residence up the north coast for R & R! I decided to have quick look before sending he plant off. After the plant out of its pot I made a great discovery. In amongst the roots were millions of mealy bug and in the bottom of the pot were 10 large white grubs eating the roots away. I collected them for the local swamp hens that frequent our property for dinner. The plant should now start to grow. To think that I tell others what to look for etc, but alas on the occasion I did not do it myself.

CYMBIDIUMS are now in bloom or coming into bloom over the next few weeks. Keep plants just moist. Watch for aphids on warm days. I noticed spray with CONFIDOR® or PIRIMOR®. Some growers spray with MAVRIK® with no phyto. problems. Start to sort out those plants that have flowered but need attention.

PHALAENOPSIS are now growing – flowering etc. Watch for aphids and mealy bugs. I saw some great flowers at Bunnings recently but alas <u>no name tags</u>. In fact most phalli that have originated overseas do not have labels or some fictitious name on a label. Alas how can you use these plants to breed with. I remember many years ago a fellow orchid grower had a magnificent phalli. At a meeting judges suggested to put it up for an award, maybe an A.M. The grower then

replied, sorry I cannot put it up for an award. This plant was purchased from BIG W and has no name and known registered parents. Now is the time to start to get all of your potting mixes into gear. Cymbidium mixes mixed with your secret ingredients. Start to purchase your bark for use later on in the season. Check on the label of the bark to see if it has been treated for nitrogen draw down or not. If not it would be a good idea to do so . An easy way to do so, Peter Albery suggests, to each cubic metre of untreated pine bark add 2.5Kg Urea, 1.0Kg Superphosphate and 0.5Kg Iron Sulphate. Turn the heap over after three weeks. While turning the heap dampen it down. After 6 weeks check the pH and adjust. If OK it will be ready to use. To change the pH Dolomite 2 parts + Lime 1 part by weight. One gram of mix to 1 litre of media will raise the pH one half unit. This will give a 3:1 Ca to Mg ratio .Or one gram calcium hydroxide to one litre of mix will raise the pH one unit.

If you has purchased some flasks recently do not be in a hurry to deflask them. I recently saw some deflasked seedlings dying very quickly. When I checked the mix I was horrified! The pH of the compost was around 3.5 and when the E.C. was checked it had enough salt in the mix to feed thousands of plants. No wonder the plants were going to heaven at a great rate. So be careful when deflasking and place flasks in a sunny spot in your house. Leave them there for a few weeks before deflasking. The Late Bill Johnston had a great success over many years deflasking many genera. So be careful.

Below is some useless information that may become of interest.

PETERS ORCHID SPECIAL IS

N18 P7.8 K14.9 made up of Potassium nitrate + Mono ammonium phosphate + Urea so this means 3.5% ammoniacal N

5.4% Nitrate N

9.1% Urea + a little magnesium + trace elements. Of interest is its N.P.K. ratios recommended for orchids 15 ppm N

So at 100 ppm N that's 0.55 grams per litre and at 150 ppm N that's 0.83 grams per litre.

I have found some of our new members in Societies find that they have virus in their cymbidium collections and are told that they will have to get rid of them are most upset as it cannot be cured. Maybe some of the older growers that have excess of plants could donate them to these members to keep them interested.

Did you know Calcium improves absorptions of all nutrients through the roots! Info from an old orchid grower.