



Milton - Ulladulla

ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

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2018 Christmas Party and Awards Presentation

There will be a list ,on the table at the back of the Hall, for those members who will be coming to the Christmas party in December. The Club will be providing meats & buns. Members are asked to provide nibbles, salads & deserts plus their own drinks. Guests of members are allowed, at a cost of \$10.00 per guest. Please enter your name on the list, with what you are bringing & any guest. OR ring Bruce with your information by the end of November.



From the President Bruce McIntosh

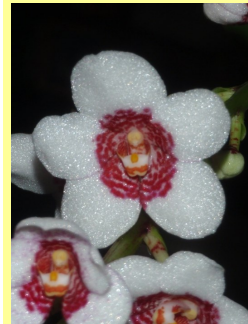
Some Members have been advising Anne-Marie, our Editor of the newsletter, to make apologies for them at monthly meetings. Would you please not do this. Please advise the Secretary direct, if you need to submit an apology.

OCTOBER 2018

NEXT MEETING:

12th November, 2018

This month Paula Brown will give a very interesting talk on Sarc's. She is often referred to as "Lady



Sarc" — she is an excellent grower of this type of orchid.

CWA Hall 57 Wason Street, Milton NSW

Plants to be benched from 1pm, once all is set up, and before 1.30 pm.

GROW COMPETITION.

"Grow Comp. "plants - Sarco. Kulnura Kaliedescope 'Frangipani' x Roberta 'Good Yellow' , & Den. Superstar 'Bright' [2017 comp. plant], should be brought along each month. There will be small squares of paper for you to write your name on [place it under your plant, name down]. The table behind the President's seat is the spot to leave them. They will be judged and points given 1st— 3. 2nd— 2. 3rd— 1 . These points are added to your points for monthly benching. Competition continues until one is brought in flowering. Bring them to the November meeting. We are hoping to see one in flower at our next meeting. September meeting both comp. plants of Tony Groube & Liz Cleaver were in spike. Good growing all. :)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017/2018.

The Society has had a very successful year. Membership is at an all time record level, financially the Society is stronger than it has ever been and, the Winter and Spring Shows were an outstanding success.

With the increase in membership, the number of plants benched at monthly meetings is ever increasing and at one meeting, 98 plants were benched.

There was a wide variety of guest speakers at monthly meetings, who were enthusiastically listened to by members.

The Committee performed admirably and undertook all tasks without hesitation and I would like give them a big thank you.

2018 saw the introduction of a new benching class, Intermediate and, although it hasn't as yet progressed far in numbers, it will be continuing for the foreseeable future.

I would particularly like to thank our Treasurer and Public Officer, Rod Thomas, for organising the introduction of the legislation for the selling of native orchids by members at our Shows, obtaining the Licence from NPWS, drawing up forms and obtaining special sellers tags. He also puts in considerable time organising our Winter and Spring Shows. Through his cleverness The Society also receives a GST reimbursement. Well done Rod.

Congratulations to those members who received awards at the Winter and Spring Shows.

Also, congratulations to the Annual Point Score Winners at Monthly Meetings.

Lastly and, indeed not forgotten, are all the Members who come to meetings, participate in activities, attend the various promotions and help out Shows, without you, the Society would not function. Thank you all.

Bruce McIntosh,

President.



Here are some of our 2018 Spring Show winners.

Michelle McIntosh

Liz Cleaver [Tony Groube was absent]

Jean Swindley

Doreen Cambourn



Bob Harper was too late for the B.B.O.F.S. 2018 Native Show, but he had a cracker of a sarc.

RAFFLE WINNERS from OCTOBER Meeting—

B. McIntosh 3, R. Thomas 3, I. Smythe 3, R. Spry 3,
A.M.Collins 3, H. Douglass 2, J. Brennan 2, L. Cleaver 2, L.
Phelan 1, J. Church 1, B. Rutledge 1, H. Thompson 1, M.
Martin 1, R. Boyd 1, A. Buricod 1, P. Callaghan 1,
B. Harper 1, & D.Hogan 1.

Well done to all who went home with a new plant or item.

A big thank you to those who bring in items for the monthly meeting raffle or for either of our 2 auctions each year—greatly appreciated. :)

2018 PROGRAM

November

12th—General meeting—guest speaker—Paula Brown [Sarcocochilus]

December

10th – MUOS Christmas Party

2019 Dates for your diary.

- March 23rd & 24th - Workshop [B.B.O.F.S.]
- July 19th & 20th - B.B.O.F.S. Winter Show
- M.U.O.S. Winter Show
- August [last weekend] - E.O.C. Spring Show
- September 6th & 7th - B.B.O.F.S. Spring Show
- M.U.O.S. Spring Show
- October 5th & 6th - S. & W. Regional Conference & Show [E.O.C.]
- 18th & 19th - B.B.O.F.S. Native Show

Society Polo Shirts

Society Polo Shirts can be ordered from the Secretary. These are coloured purple with a white logo and are available in the following sizes. **See the Secretary if interested in one.**

Ladies 8-24 Mens to 5XL

Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society Workshop

March 23rd & 24th , 2019

Registration form will soon be on their web site.
FOUR speakers with plants & flasks for sale. :)

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Do you know someone who is interested in orchids, who might like to join our club—ask them to come along to a meeting—NEW MEMBERS are always welcome.

WISH LIST

- Bob Harper—Sarc. George Coulthorpe X Bessie
- Suzanne Brennan—Den. densiflorum
- Sam Burton—yellow Psychopsis
- Michelle McIntosh—angraecum , Oncidium chei-rophorum.
- Mary Glading—Laelia anceps ‘alba’
- Liz Karacsonyi— Dock. Aust. Ginger
- Doreen Cambourn– Den. Hagoromd ‘Spring Beauty’ X sailor boy ‘Shirasagi’ , Dendrochilum Cobbianum

—FOR SALE—

Speciosums for sale—contact Michelle McIntosh in November.



Milton Ulladulla Orchid Society members, would like to express their sympathy, to his family and friends, on the loss of Christian Petersen, former Treasurer and Life Member.

CLUB WINNERS from our October meeting:

Open

Cym Stan	1st no 1	Michelle McIntosh
Cym. Mini	1st no 2	Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube
Paphiopedilum	1st no 4	Bob Harper
Cattleya to 70mm	1st no 6	Yvonne Young
Cattleya over 70mm	1st no 10	Ron Boyd
Dendrobium	1st no 14	Yvonne Young
Native hybrid	1 st no 18	Yvonne Young
Native Species	1st no 22	Gary & Pat Callaghan
Oncidiinae Alliance	1st 36	L. & B. Phelan
Misc	1st no 37	Gary & Pat Callaghan
Species	1 st no 29	L. & B. Phelan
Vanda	1st no 47	John Clancy
Seedling	1st no 49	John Clancy
Foliage	1st no 50	Rhonda Spry

Intermediate

Cym. Mini	1st no 52	Rod Thomas
Cattleya to 70mm	1st no 53	John Harriman
Native Hybrid	1st no 55	Rod Thomas
Oncid. Alliance	1st no 58	John Harriman
Misc	1st no 59	John Harriman

Novice

Cym. Mini	1st no 60	Helen Douglass
Dendrobium	1st no 61	Jo Church
Native Hybrid	1st no 63	Helen Douglass
Onc alli	1st no 70	Helen Douglass
Species	1st no 71	Helen Douglass
Vanda	1st no 73	Helen Douglass
Phall	1st no 74	Susan Virgo

Popular Vote

Open Equal 1st no 2 Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube
no 10 Ron Boyd and no 36 L. & B. Phelan

Intermediate 1st no 52 Rod Thomas
2nd no 54 Rod Thomas

Novice 1st no 60 Helen Douglass
2nd no 74 Susan Virgo

Well done to those who benched & the best of luck to everyone with your growing, flowering and benching.

GROW COMP. WINNERS:

Sarc

1st Michelle McIntosh 2nd Bruce McIntosh 3rd Rhonda Spry

Dendrobium.

1st Liz Cleaver & Tony Groube 2nd Michelle McIntosh





NOVICE CORNER BY A.M. & J.C.

Recently a few of our members ventured south to Graham Jackson's place to be part of a workshop on Speciosums & Dendrobiums. It was very informative. Here are some of the things I learnt, which I think would be useful to Novices and other growers.

1] A good mix for Speciosums is 5 parts large bark + 5 parts medium bark + 1 part stone [either scoria or river pebbles].

2] A good mix for young dendrobiums is 5 parts small bark + 1 part perlite + 1 part stone.

3] Lime keeps bark sweet - builders lime from Bunnings [quite cheap in bulk].

4] The dendrobium beetle [photo with permission, by George Oehm] lays the egg on the leaf, parent eats leaves but the hatched slug will eat into the cane, then travel down eating the inside of the cane, to the root base. The fluffy white stuff at the base and just under the surface of the mix will hatch into the next generation of beetles. Confidor tablets work well, as a preventative.

5] You can soak your new bark in seasol, water and dish washing liquid to pre-prepare it. The dishwashing liquid breaks down any oils which could prevent the soaking in of the seasol.

6] Zygopetalums often get fungus. A preventative and active cure is 1 litre of water with the juice of half a lemon—wipe only the top side of the leaf. The underside has tiny hairs and should not be disturbed.

7] Another general fungicide is 1 level teaspoon condies crystals [potassium permanganate] + half a cup of Epsom salts in 20 litres water. You spray this every 2 months.

8] An E.C. meter tests the strength of your fertiliser when mixed in water. 0.7 to 0.9 parts per million is a good strength.

9] Algaecide [buy from Bunnings or Woolies], which is a pool cleaner, is an excellent liquid to soak tools in to kill off fungi, germs, etc. Soak for an hour and don't use the same tools on different orchids as it spreads disease.

10] After dividing orchids use Steri-prune [bitumen] to seal open wounds. You can use either the spray can or from a jar with a paint brush. This can be bought from garden nurseries.

So much more I wrote, Graham really knows how to spread his knowledge. :) AM

GROW Orchids TIPS FOR BEGINNERS



All novices need help.

Our questions need answers and we learn by doing, seeing, hearing and picking the brains of experience growers.

If you have a question—send it to the editor and we will try to find the answer for you.



Rod Thomas's Orchid houses [Intermediate] with guard dog [doesn't look ferocious].



*****ORCHID SALE*****

Bill & Joy from Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Society are having an orchid sale.

They have a large & varied collection, which they need to down size.

It is on **Saturday, 3rd November** from **2 p.m.**, at **76 Palana Street, Surfside.**

Cash only sales.



Before I start with this article I feel I must make an explanation. I began writing this over a month ago with the intention of using it in this month's bulletin but then something happened which made me almost scrap the idea. However, I am stuck. I can't generate another article in time so I have chosen to make this explanation instead, despite the unfortunate timing.

At our last meeting, our distinguished guest speaker gave us all some wonderful new insights into a genus with which I have had only moderate success over the years. I learned things I didn't know and I intend to adopt many of his recommendations to improve my culture. However, during his talk, he also expressed his view that it doesn't matter when you repot orchids. If it needs repotting and you have the time, then do it.

I have to agree that when you have a large collection, sometimes that approach just has to be, and if the plants are in reasonable condition it can work out ok too, but over the years I have personally reached a different point of view. And that strategy is what I want to tell you about here. I apologise for any apparent conflict in opinions. This article was not written in response to what the guest speaker said or to what any other orchid grower says or thinks.

This is just what I think orchid growers should consider. ---

Now back to the subject.

So when do you repot? - When anyone asks that question, whoever is being asked knows full well that the asker isn't looking for a botany lesson so I/we always try to give a short and direct answer. But I am sure you have all worked out by now that I have a hard time answering without telling a story. I think I should have been a writer for TV murder mysteries (you know, like *Midsommer Murders*, or *CSI*, or *Bones*) rather than an orchid grower. Anyway, I would hate to disappoint you, so I am going to do it again, but please stay with me, it all turns out in the end.

One of the first things new orchid growers are told is that there are between 25,000 and 30,000 species of orchids that occur naturally throughout the world. The orchid family is one of the largest of all plant families and probably the most diverse. But it is the reason that 'orchids' have become so widespread and diverse that is relevant here. And that is because orchids, as a plant type, seem to have an unusually high ability to evolve quickly, and to develop adaptations that allow them to take advantage of an enormous variety of habitats. This makes them very successful in competing against other plants.



One particular adaptation was the ability to live as an epiphyte, which allows them to colonise tree canopies, trunks, or branches, even rocky areas where few other plants can grow. Different orchids can grow as soil plants (terrestrial), or on rock surfaces or loose rocky areas (rupicolous/lithophytic), or in trees. Some are truly tiny plants, some can be more like shrubs, some are like ground covers, some are climbers, some have flowers only a few millimetres across, some flowers can be 30 centimetres. You get the picture – one orchid can be very different from another.

But now we get to the key point. This variability has also led to orchids adopting many different ways of growing, and yet, new orchid growers generally all start out with the assumption that orchids are orchids and that there must be one general pattern of culture that can be applied to them. – Wrong.

Which brings me back to being asked "the question". There are two different circumstances under which I get asked "When do I repot it?" The first is with a particular orchid actually being shown in person, the second, and more common, is being asked about an orchid which was left at home and which the asker recently bought or was given.

For the orchid that is not available for inspection, a direct answer is virtually impossible but guesses can be made. I usually start by asking a raft of questions. For example, I want to understand :

what kind of orchid it is so I may know something of its annual growing pattern.

what kind of condition the orchid itself is in right now.

an idea of when it was last potted, the mix it is in and condition of the mix.

if this grower has had it a while, what sort of culture has it been receiving? (light, water, fertiliser, etc)

whether the orchid is suffering from some bug or disease. If the poor thing is dying from some scale insect infestation or fungal disease, potting it now, even if it is the right time, won't do it much good. It may just put it under more stress.

The owner may not be able to properly answer my questions and may not want to answer anyway. Sometimes, when I start asking questions, I see blankness in the eyes and I imagine that they are wishing they never asked. Or perhaps whether they wonder if they are just being put off. Perhaps they think you haven't really got a clue. - No winners here.



When do you repot? continued

If the orchid is being presented for inspection, an answer can usually be supplied quite quickly because I can assess the answers to all those questions by examining the orchid myself. You would be surprised at what you can read by seeing and assessing the orchid and its pot and contents.

General rules for repotting - As I said earlier, I know you weren't asking for a botany lesson, so I have tried to sort of create a general set of repotting rules to cover all circumstances. Perhaps not all growers will agree with this advice, but if I am allowed to express an opinion, I think they work pretty well, – but then I guess I would say that wouldn't I.



My general simplified decision making process is :

If it is infested with bugs (and please look carefully before you say 'not') – fix that first.

If you just received it bare root (eg: in the mail?) pot it up immediately in some sphagnum moss packed tightly into as small a pot as possible. Sphag is best, temporarily at least. It helps the plant get going again but it needs replacing more frequently than other mediums and is relatively more expensive.

If it is an existing orchid sitting in rotting old mix, for goodness sake get it out and clean it up now. If, once cleaned up, you find that its roots and/or the plant are in very poor condition – pot the same as 2. above.

If none of the above apply, we are now assuming that the orchid is in reasonable condition. It isn't going to harm it if we forget the repotting for the moment and just grow it well.

Then, for the actual time to repot, it is my personal belief that you should try to repot each orchid when it is at that "right" time in its growing cycle. ie when it is making new shoots and new roots.

The idea is that when the orchid is in active growth it will adapt better to the stress of potting and will establish itself in the new pot much more quickly. If you can try to time it properly, you should do it.

It isn't absolutely critical. Repotting at other times can still be better than not repotting at all, if it really needs it. Just try to make it a positive experience for the poor thing, and don't send it into shock or withdrawal.



It obviously follows logically that you should try as hard as you can to try to grow the orchid in all phases of its growing cycle in tune with its natural cycle. Water and feed it when it is actively growing – ie making a new pseudobulb or leaves, or fattening up bulbs or leaves. You often can't see the roots themselves but I assure you that if it is growing leaves and/or a pseudobulb, it will be growing roots too. It might not be making new ones, many orchids only make one flush of new roots each year, but it will certainly be extending existing roots if there are any.

Hmm. Which brings us back to the botany lesson question. To grow an orchid in tune with its evolved natural cycle means you have to know what that cycle is. Oh what the heck, I know, you saw this coming right from the start. The repeat references to no botany lesson was the

clue. Well you are going to get a sort of botany lesson anyway.

It is curious to me that for many hundreds of years mankind has understood that plants like trees, vegetables, grain crops, and even garden flowers, have specific growth cycles, usually related directly to our worlds 4 seasons that we call summer, autumn, winter and spring. We accept this knowledge and don't question it. But not so with orchids.

Man's total conquest of the world's geography and the cataloguing of all earth's plants and animal species is a much more recent development and is still proceeding today. The more we have studied, the more complexity and subtleties we have discovered. Even plants with distinctly annual cycles are not always just avoiding winter cold.

Growth patterns : It will hardly be any surprise when I tell you that the earth's seasonal weather patterns vary tremendously between key elements such as latitude north and south of the equator, (which basically affects seasonal day length variation, and severity of winter temperatures), elevations above sea level (varies temperature ranges and rainfall patterns), and also between certain areas where surrounding geography and weather patterns have created unusual localised conditions such as deserts or rain forests or seasonal monsoon rainfall areas. Orchids have evolved to grow in all of these situations and more, and to do so have developed cyclic growth patterns to suit their habitat. **Page 7**





When do you repot?

concluded

Some of the more common growth cycle patterns are :

1. flowering in the spring on the previous seasons matured growth, and then commencing the new seasons growth as they flower, or just after, and then growing and maturing that growth before winter. They usually rest to some extent over the winter period. Softcane Dendrobiums more or less follow this pattern but vary it by flowering off the two year old stems instead of the most recent growth.

- 2. starting a new growth in spring or summer, growing it quickly, and then flowering off the newly matured growth at the end of the season. Usually late summer or autumn. Then resting in winter (either due to cold conditions or a seasonal dry period). Catasetinae often match this kind of pattern.
- 3. Orchids from more tropical areas where there is less seasonal variation can be far more varied in how they grow and flower. They may grow more or less perpetually, or they may have their own 'seasons' timed to coincide with some other variable such as a wetter season or a dryer season or a season that is paralleled to match the lifecycle of some insect or bird that it has paired with as a pollinator.

Nearer to the equator there is far less variation in day length throughout the year and therefore much less distinct seasonal variation. This is especially important if the habitat also happens to be in an area where water is available to the orchid pretty much throughout the year. This isn't the case in all tropical areas but is likely in areas near a constant water source like a flowing river or similar.



- 4. Man has further complicated many orchid patterns by his passion for hybridizing, trying to continually create something new, and hopefully from his/her perspective better. In most cases, growth of these combinations tends to follow one or other of the parent species or some obvious variance of one or both. Once we observe the mix we can usually easily adapt our practices to suit.

These are just a few patterns of course and I am making no attempt to list all the most common or whatever. They are just examples to illustrate a point. Coming to terms with an array of patterns in a large collection is a life's work that is never fully accomplished, but the process is great fun trying.

When you are starting out and only have a small number of orchids it isn't all that daunting a task. Especially if you have access to something like the Orchidwiz database although I guess that is unlikely for a new grower. The next best source is the internet. For many of the most popular orchid types, google or its equivalents can point you to excellent guidance You may not understand all the nuances of what they tell you at first, but that doesn't matter. The final resource pool for you are the experienced growers at your orchid society who can help you get on top of it all.



The crux of all this is try to repot when the orchid is commencing an active growing phase. That is usually when a new shoot has gotten off to a decent start a few weeks after you first saw it start growing. If you repot too early you may accidentally damage the brittle new shoot when handling the plant. If you wait too long the new roots will be too far advanced and more easily damaged during repotting. Try to time it right but don't get too worried if you are a bit early or a bit late. At least make sure it is active.

I think I will leave it there. But in accordance with any good murder mystery writer, I can't leave you wondering – it wasn't the butler who did it.

Please note—"not to be republished without permission of the author."

Some of our 2018 Spring Show winners.

Yvonne Young

Bob Harper

Helen Douglass

With our 2019 President
Bruce McIntosh.



Premium Hunter Valley table wines.

Whites - Semillon, Chardonnay, Verdelho, Quartet (blend of 4 dry whites).
Reds – Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Vardot, Cabernet/Shiraz blend.
Only \$108 per case/dozen + freight.

Order through Rod – 4456 4352



Get Well Wishes to

Michelle McIntosh, as she recovers from surgery and to any other club member , also recovering from surgery or sickness . :)

BISHOPS

We stock an extensive product range for all your orchid needs.

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Orchid Supplies

Karen has new stocks of Orchiata bark at \$35 per bag and is offering 15% discount on pots to orchid club members – proof of membership should be provided please.

Tyrepower

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Keith Forster - Manager

Disclaimer:

The Milton-Ulladulla Orchid Society Inc., is not responsible for any information given by a member, visiting speaker or material printed in the Club's Newsletter. 2018

The committee would like to thank those generous members that provide the goodies for afternoon tea and also the members who bring in plants etc. for our monthly raffles. Also we thank the people who help set up and clean up the hall as with many hands it doesn't take very long.



-REMEMBER -
Please do not water your plants before benching them, at our meetings or shows, as it makes quite a mess. Thank you. :)

