



NEWSLETTER of the HOWICK ORCHID SOCIETY Inc.

Nov. 2014

NEXT meeting Sun 14th Dec. 2014

NEXT MEETING: Christmas time is a chance to wind down and enjoy each other's company for a little longer during the meeting. As usual there will not be a speaker but please bring your plants for display.

All members are asked to bring a small plate of either a sweet or savory dish for afternoon tea. Please bring finger food only as anything requiring a fork or spoon is not manageable. HOS will provide a selection of drinks and nibbles.

Those with surnames beginning with **A – K** (Sweet) and surnames beginning with **L – Z** (Savory).

Don't forget Santa will be coming so don't miss a hug from the man in red.

It's always a bonus to find an orchid in the wild.

*This *Corycium orobanchoides* was found growing in a nature reserve full of wild flowers near Darling (SA) 75km north of Capetown. This is a terrestrial species.*



LAST MEETING: Members were asked to give their opinions of the displays photographed at the WOC21 and many were discussed for their appeal and how they were presented to the public. One of the big problems was poor lighting in the hall making photography very difficult. As the South African native orchid *Ansellia* was at its peak blooming time more photos were devoted to the many variations exhibited by this spectacular species which were in abundance on one large display. One of these, a huge specimen was voted Reserve Champion of the show. Our display this month was dominated by the plentiful *Sarcochilus* plants in flower. There was a lot of variation of colour and colour combinations, most were displayed in baskets.

A very sorry *Phalaenopsis* was brought in for diagnosis from a friend of a member. It was potted in a commercial pot built more for decoration than growing and this was then placed in a large glass jar filled with bark and sphagnum. As was expected, inside the pot was a soggy mess with no roots left. This was a graphic example of how not to grow an orchid. There was no drainage and no air which is usually fatal to most plants let alone orchids.

If you buy a plant from a retail shop it is advisable to repot it into a clean, well drained mix using a pot with plenty of drainage holes. At the very least, check to see how the roots look.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

IMPORTANT NEWS

At the last committee meeting it was unanimously agreed that next year (2015) our annual one day show will be a **non-judged show**. The primary reason is to reduce the work load for a few members. This will have some important ramifications. Obviously we will **not** be presenting any trophies nor will we need a meeting mid month to have prize giving. Our show is usually held on the first Saturday of October but this will **not** now be the case. Our monthly meeting day (second Sunday) will instead be utilized but changed to Saturday to hold our show. This will be held on Saturday 11th Oct. subject to booking confirmation. As we will be **saving** a significant sum of money on printing, hall hire and other items, a large proportion of this will be **allocated** towards spot prizes to exhibitors and societies to encourage them to support our show. We will keep you informed as more details are confirmed.

We do not have a meeting in January but you will have received forms regarding the Taranaki summer show should you be interested.



Some more South African orchids at the WOC21 show.

(L) *Satyrium carneum*

(Centre) *Polystachya* Rodney Ellis

(R) *Oeceoclades saundersiana*

CULTURE

Spring has been a long time coming with cool nights persisting through November. The danger is fungal disease if your plants remain wet into the night. New growths are soft and can rot very easily. I have read a lot lately having recently acquired the last 3 of Rentoul's books on orchids. In my opinion they are some of the best written as they are so comprehensive and contain so much valuable and practical information. (There are seven altogether). As he lived in the Melbourne area many of his comments apply to us as our temperatures and seasons are similar although we do not get such hot, dry summers. An important point he notes is the value of Calcium in your fertilizers. I have heard this from other sources as well. Some areas contain this naturally in their water supply but Auckland's water does not have much in the way of dissolved mineral salts. Most commercial fertilizers have some Calcium in them but you can also use Calcium nitrate which is a very good source of Ca, but you only need a heaped teaspoon to 50 litres. Dolomite lime can be sprinkled onto the top of your pots which also adds Magnesium, another important element. Dolomite lime will not burn the roots. A quick way I use for a lot of pots is through my watering system (**not** fine nozzles or sprinklers) but you have to keep stirring the reservoir as it will settle out and clog everything up very quickly.



A massive specimen *Den. x delicatum* at Duckitts nursery Darling (SA)



Another SA species photographed at Kirstenbosch gardens Capetown

Plants On Display (November meeting)

Compiled by **Michelle Tung**

(Plant names in bold type denote label changes are recommended - either incorrect spelling or a new name of a registered hybrid)

(Use of italics denotes that the plant is a species)

Open Section

Grahame Leafberg

Gom. echinata,
Sarco. Cherie, *Sarco. Verolica*,
Sarco. Cherie x falcatus, and
Ste. acutula

FIRST

William & Man Lo

Angcm. germinyanum, *Masd. Red Flamingo*,
2x Masd. Lyn Sherlock, *Masd. Marguerite*,
Masd. Falcata, *Masd. Peppermint Rock*, and
Masd. Bella Donna

John Muddiman

Bif. harrisoniae

Warren Mullins

Den. Pukekura

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Glenn & Manee Poffley

C. Mem. Robert Strait x intermedia
= **C. AOS Beach Magic**,
C. Mini Purple, *C. mossiae*,
C. intermedia, *Onc. Christmas Star*,
V. Kekaseh, *Den. Pukekura*,
2 baskets of *Sarcochilus* (1 pink/red other white) and
1 basket of *Phalaenopsis*

Kathy Rimmer

Den. nobile and *Sed. japonica*

Alan Robinson

Sarco. Toowoomba Magic, *Sarco. Pinky*,
Sarco. Fizzy Dove, *Sarco. Fitzhart*,
Sarco. George Colthup and *Sarco. Sonata*

Ken & Chui Tse

Sed. japonica and *Zga. King's Park*

Michelle Tung

Masd. Red Flamingo, *Den. Kuniko*,
C. Undine, and *Lc. Trick or Treat* (red variety)

Anton & Janet Wehman

Den. thyriflorum, *Phal. Sogo Yukidian*,
1 basket of *Sarcochilus*, *Cym. Cricket*,
Pot. Hsinying Topaz, and
Slc. Hamana Bonfire

Bryce & Lea Westlake *Sarco. hartmannii*, *L. milleri*, and
Den. thyrsoiflorum
 Kitty & Kevin Yong *Phrag.* Appalachian Sunset,
Wils. Hilda Plumtree, and
Masd. Peppermint Rock

SECOND

Novice

Barry & Penelope Gasson *Odm.* Anna Claire,
 1 Paph. and 1 Zygo.
 Carol Brown *Den. nobile*
 Lily Han *Masd.* Sugar Baby,
 1 *Sarco.* and 1 unnamed
 Lea Jooste *Phal.* unknown
 Heather Hunwick *Den.* Kuniko, *Bif. harrissoniae*, and
Masd. coccinea

FIRST

THIRD equal

THIRD equal

SECOND

Novelty

Kathy Rimmer *Eria multiflora*
 William & Man Lo *Pths. Malo(?)*
 Michelle Tung *Dda. zebrina*

FIRST

SECOND equal

SECOND equal

Commentary was given by **Grahame Leafberg** and Glenn Poffley.



Left: Hanging display plants at Duckitts Nursery (all mounted).
 Above: An unusual SA native at Kirstenbosch (not an orchid)

HOS Club meeting Dates for 2015

Meetings start at 1.30pm at the Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd. Howick. (Next to library)

PLEASE NOTE these dates in your diary or calendar.

8th Feb; 8th Mar; 12th Apr; 10th May; 14th June.

Note: There is **NO** meeting in **January** 2015.

This will be the **final** newsletter this year the next issue will be in January for our February meeting.

We look forward to 2 speakers who will concentrate on advice for **new members** with a talk about potting mixes, potting and care for you orchids.