

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ORCHID SOCIETY

BULLETIN: October 2020

www.ssos.org.au

NOTE: The October meeting is cancelled.

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome:

Cym. Mad Magic 'Amber' (Heath)



Den Desert Rose (Rhonda)



Den. tetragonum (Jan)



Phal lobbii
(Wal)



Lyc. Calymea
(Jenny)



C. intermedia var Orlata 'Imperial'
x self (Robert)



Paph. Toni Semple (Melissa)



PRESIDENT

Jan Robinson

VICE PRESIDENT

Frank Daniel

SECRETARY

David Hicks

davehicks

@optusnet.com.au

0431 799 230

TREASURER

John Costa

EDITOR

Melissa Karayannis

mjbk1@bigpond.com

SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome



Coel. cristata var Alba (Gary Hodder)

LC Milred Rives Orchidglade (Sonia)



Coel. flaccida (John Hely)



Phal. Unknown (Jenny)



Paph. malipoense (Heath)

Sarc. falcatus (Rhonda)



SSOS Members, Bloomin'Awesome

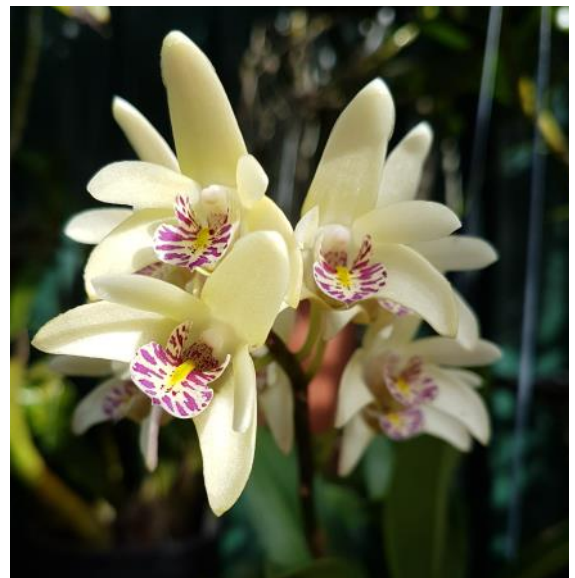


C. intermedia aquinii (Robert)



Dendrochilum tennellum Wal

Den. Delicatum (Gary Hodder)



Den Flinders 'Worlds Best' x Speciosum 'Windermere'
(John Hely)



Cymb. Unknown (Gifford)



Z. Crinit 'Loddiges' x Z. Dynamo
'Splashes' (Melissa)

President's Message...

Within just a few short weeks, our Society has sadly lost two long term members, Kevin Wilson and Ted Beehag. Within the last few weeks, I have repotted a *Cattleya King* of Taiwan that I got from John Field; an Aussie native hybrid that was Gordon Kaye's; and a *Lycaste macrobulbon* of Gordon Dodd's. One of my native hybrids in flower was given to me by John Moss. All four of these SSOS members are also no longer with us. Of the 100+ sarcs that I have, the one with the most spikes currently is an "unknown" of May Luk's, whereas all the good hybrids and line bred species ones I got from Neville Roper aren't doing so well after the hit they took last January. (I know May finds this highly amusing.) May and Neville are both gone now, too, of course. It would be easy to become melancholy thinking of all these friends and colleagues who we've lost, especially in these uncertain times of a world-wide pandemic when most of us are spending more time at home by ourselves or with a very few loved ones, unable to get out and about like we used to do.

But then, what other hobby exists that reminds us of a special person as we are repotting a plant? Or when we see a spike emerging for the first time? Or when we are bemoaning all the scale we have just discovered on that particular plant? I reckon orchid growers have the best hobby EVER—especially now! It keeps us busy when restaurants, movie theatres, state borders and many other things are closed. It gives us purpose each day and tires us out so we can sleep at night. It exercises our brains, as we try to figure out what that faded label says or how to better grow a plant that isn't doing too well. It keeps us active, as we make multiple trips back and forth between our benches and our repotting area or as we move our plants around, trying to find that optimal growing spot. It gives us joy in small things, like when we see new growth or a bud appearing or when we finally find that pesky caterpillar that was doing so much damage and squash him soundly between our fingers. What other hobby provides so much pleasure and memories and exercise and mental stimulation?

So enjoy this wonderful hobby that we have in common, my fellow members. Remember those who have passed and be thankful for those who remain. We may not be seeing each other face to face at monthly meetings or shows, but we remain connected by our wonderful mutual bond, the world of orchids.

Until next time.....

Jan



SSOS SPECTACULAR SPECIOSUMS 2020



Speciosum tabari (Rhonda)



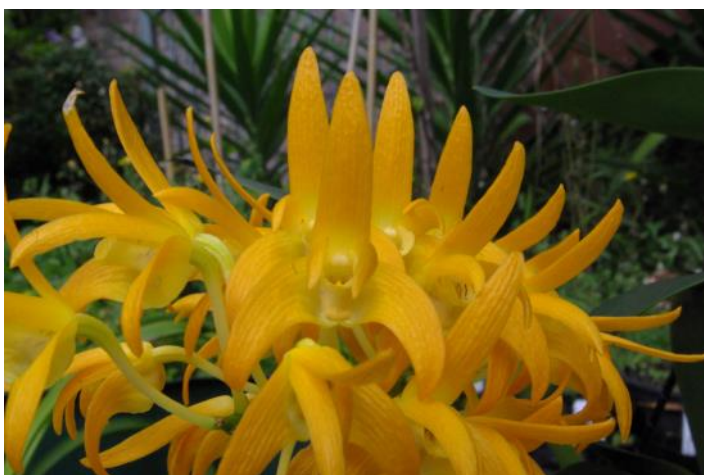
Wal's Speciosum



Speciosum hillii (Gavin)



Speciosum National White & Nifty (Jan)



Den. Spec. "Katrina" x Den. Spec. "creek aureum" (Gary Hodder)



Daylight Moon x 6 inch
spidery monster (Graeme)

THE DENDROBIUM SPECIOSUM STORY.

By Gary Hodder

The *Dendrobium speciosum* is one of Australia's true native species orchids.

The distribution of this orchid is up the east Australian coast, from the Cann River in Victoria all the way up to Cape Melville, in North Queensland.

The habitat for the various varieties is from coastal areas all the way up to the highest part of the Great Dividing Range as high as 1000 meters in the Eungella Ranges west of Mackay. Large plants can be seen in nature on sheer sandstone cliff walls, to sandstone boulders and in some areas in trees.

For example in Victoria they can be seen growing on Sheoak (Casuarina) trees or in the Murwillumbah region of New South Wales on Eucalypt trees Intermingled with staghorns and other epiphytes. West of Mackay in Queensland, they are known to invade large trees, with up to 30 plants in one tree.

In Victoria and New South Wales they are known as "Rock Lily" but in Queensland they are known as "King Orchids of North Queensland".

There are approx. 10 different varieties of this beautiful orchid ranging in colour from the albino white, through various shades of cream and yellow to a brilliant orange.

The flowering season is from late August through to October, with flowers lasting approx. 10 to 14 days depending on the location and winter temperatures. In Sydney the *D. speciosum* var *speciosum* is easy to flower, however some northern varieties such as the *D. speciosum* var *pedunculatum* may require a little assistance with extra heat. The pseudo-bulbs vary greatly in nature depending on the age of the orchid and the backup mulch depth. They can vary in diameter from 2-3cm. to 7-8 cm. at the base and may be up to 1m. in length. The bulbs are generally yellow to light brown and green in colour but in North Queensland some juvenile leaves and pseudo-bulbs may have a red pigmentation.

Some growers of *D. speciosum* claim that the best variety is the white *D. speciosum* var *speciosum* e.g. "Neil's Choice" from the Putty area. Other growers and commercial nurserymen claim the best is the yellow *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* "Windermere" as it has been bred with more other orchids than any other *speciosum*, and both varieties are from New South Wales. Most judges, however, prefer the cream *D. speciosum* var *curvicaule* e.g. "Daylight Moon" from an area west of Mackay in Queensland as the best variety.

It's up to you, the individual, to select what you prefer.

An email from Gary Hodder to Gerry Walsh solved Gary's issue:

This brown flower damage was caused by garlic snails damaging the flower surface and allowing bacteria to enter and develop inside the flower.



SSOS October Virtual Raffle

October's Virtual Raffle Prize is Cymbidium Donny Brook 'Devils Pearls'. It is a pendulous variety and is coming into flower.



Winner of the September raffle:
Eleanor Whitley ! Congratulations!



October Prize Plant

You don't need to buy any raffle tickets to be in the draw! It's FREE !

All you need to do is to send an email to Rhonda at info@ssos.org.au saying "please put my name in the raffle draw for October".

The deadline for participating entries is Sunday **25th October 2020**

All the names of participating members will go into a hat and the winner will be drawn on the 22/8 . One entry per member. The plant will then be delivered to the lucky winner on a day and time agreed by that person and a Committee member. Don't miss out on a chance to win a fantastic flowering size orchid, send your email now!

Keep in touch via our **Facebook Group:** **"Sutherland Orchid Society"**

Post your growing tips, recent mail order purchases, questions or just what's in flower at your place..... we'd all love to hear about it.!

If you are having any problems, please contact Jan Robinson jadrob@bigpond.com or Dan Coulton 0419 466986 for assistance.





Welcome to Wal Chapman's
Guess The Genera!

Take a guess then read the up-side-down answers



Dendrobium striolatum 'Ruffles', Pterostylis pedunculata
Pterostylis baptsisii 'Gosford', Dendrobium striolatum,
Pterostylis curta 'Variegated Leaf Form', Dendrobium gracilicaule

Orchid photos for the **November Bulletin??**

Email photos of orchids currently in bloom and their names to Melissa
at **mjbk1@bigpond.com**

**Want to write an article for the
bulletin??**

Email to **mjbk1@bigpond.com**

Both before Sunday Oct 25th please !



A Chat with Graeme Davies.

When did you start with orchids? What hooked you in?

My Father grew cymbidiums and my Uncle Jack grew australian natives, especially speciosums. I remember my Uncle telling my Father “speciosums are the future of orchids in Australia”, this stuck in my brain. In 1978 I moved back to Sydney from a job in Melbourne. We lived in Gymea Bay on a very steep block and I took on the challenge of creating a garden there; all native plants including orchids. Back then this garden won one of the Leader Native Garden competitions. I got transferred to Auckland for a few years and when I returned to Gymea Bay I found one little dendrobium keiki, on its own on the ground, flowering pink. That hooked me into growing more orchids.

I started collecting native orchids from all over the place. One place I used to go to in order to de-stress from my job was Wal Upton’s nursery. I spent many hours there.

I was then moved to Philadelphia for my job and lost most of my Gymea Bay orchids due to my absence. When I returned to Sydney, being a bit older, the Gymea Bay block was too much for me, so we moved to Menai. In our first Menai home I had my first shade house. I increased my collection of speciosums and other native orchids, as well as other Australian native garden plants. That garden won a Sutherland Shire Native Garden Competition and

we were forever having people wanting to view it!

During this time I was a member of the Sutherland Branch of ANOS. Col Brandon was also a member at this time, in the mid 1980’s.

In my search for more native orchids I met Ted & Barbara Gregory, initially in Mt Tambourine. I bought a lot of plants from them. I learnt a lot from Ted. I visited him at one time to watch him repotting. He told me “I started so careful, Laddie, now I just rip roots off (during repotting) with my hands and stick the plant in new mix”.

When I was doing an orchid repotting demonstration for the Menai Wildflower Group several years ago, Gary Hodder was in the audience, giving me encouragement. We have been good friends ever since. Through him I have met Gerry Walsh “The Rock Lilly Man” and learnt a lot more, as well as acquiring more orchids. I consider Gerry Walsh “The God of Speciosums”. One speciosum I bought from him was Den. Speciosum var grandiflorum “Ben”, which is predicted to be amazing; hopefully it will flower for me next year.

Gary Hodder talked me into joining SSOS a couple of years ago.

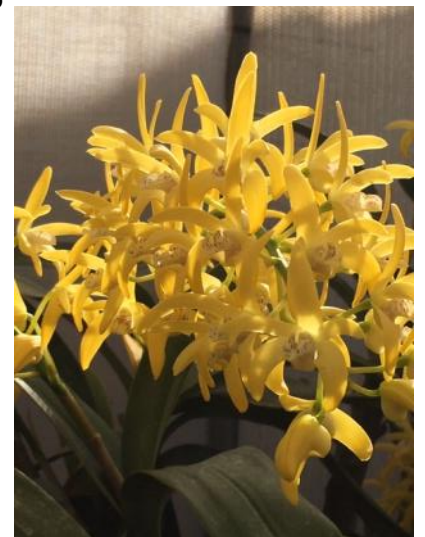
What’s your favourite genus & what do you grow now?

I grow only Australian Natives. I love them because you have to look INTO their blooms not just AT them. I’m actually not really interested in other genera and I just don’t have the room for big exotics.

I like having a mixture of seedlings to nurture and to watch grow, as well as established plants to enjoy flowering.

What’s the oldest orchid in your collection?

Den. Speciosum var curvicaule “Cathu”, its about 30-35 years old, originally from Wal Upton.



What's on your orchid wishlist?

It's the same every year: I just want a nice display for myself and my wife, Joy, to appreciate. I love anticipating the first flower on various plants and I also love seeing new growths sprouting forth.

I would like to add different coloured blooms to my collection, I hunt for these. I'd like a strong dominant colour to add to my collection. I'd also like to flower speciosums from exciting crosses, like "Ben".

Which genera have you tried and failed with?

I have really only ever been interested with natives!

What's your greatest orchid challenge?

There's been such a shift in orchid growing. In years gone by it was less complicated. It's not just bark in our mix now. Now we have to wonder if we need perlite, charcoal or something else. Then there's changes in watering: do we need water-well pots, are we heavy or light waterers? There's not just one fertilizer nor just one anti-fungicide; there's a plethora of products!

There's so many different computations of it all! How do we figure it all out? Who do we listen to for advice. Who do we follow? Years ago we didn't have to worry about so many aspects of orchid culture, it was so much simpler back then. There are, however, many new exciting products that I'd like to try. The various fungicides available now, for example, could be very beneficial!

By Melissa Karayannis



Alternative Chemical Treatments for your Plants by David Brooks

There are many alternative chemicals which are less harmful to use. These are usually readily available and much cheaper than many other products. They can be used on their own, or in combination, to give an effective treatment.

Cinnamon - can be used for wet rots, the type that often appears on the leaves of vandaceous plants such as Phalaenopsis. Apply directly as the powder.

Alginox® - This is a pool algaecide/disinfectant and is found in the pool accessory section of most supermarket chains and general retail stores (Big W, Kmart, etc.). There are other brands, but Alginox has been around for a long time. The active constituent is 150g/l Benzylkonium chloride. It can be used to disinfect cutting tools or to combat fungal and bacterial infections.

Cutting tools: soak at 5ml/litre

Fungal spray: 3 - 4ml/litre (use the lower concentration for soft-leaved plants)

Deflasking: 1.5 - 2ml/litre

Hydrogen peroxide - Available as 3%, 6% or sometimes a 10% solution. I have found 3% ineffective but 6% works well.

6% - As a spray fizzes any insect eggs & destroys most insects on contact.

Add 6% to fertiliser. Plant roots can handle it and it will attack root bugs and bacteria.

Canola oil - This can be used as a smothering agent, either for moulds or insects. It works the same as any agricultural spray oil. Sunflower, grapeseed, olive oil, etc. is just as effective but may be more expensive. I tend to suggest canola oil rather than any of the others as it tends to be the same as most agricultural spray oils (Spraytech Oil®, Rapeseed, Eco Oil®, etc.) and you can easily and cheaply buy unbranded food grade canola oil in any supermarket. People can use brand name extra virgin olive oil if they wish, but I would rather spend the money saved on other things.

Colloidal Silver - Appears to have an effect on bacterial rots. Use at 5ml/litre. Spray/drench the affected part after removing the infected tissue.

Ecocarb (Potassium bicarbonate) is an excellent treatment for fungal infections.

Condy's crystals (Potassium permanganate) Approx. ½ tspn in a standard 8 litre bucket should give a solution that is the colour of weak tea. This is a good alternate for fungal and bacterial infections. It has become more expensive and harder to purchase.

Neem Oil - has been noted to have antifungal properties. I can't say I have had a lot of experience with it as I haven't been able to source it in large enough quantities at a reasonable price or on a regular basis to make it worthwhile.

When I have found it I have used it in the following mix –

Neem oil 5.0 ml

Detergent 2.5 ml

Water 1 litre

When using it, make it and use fresh, as it is suggested that it will breakdown and hence cannot be stored.

Remember to shake vigorously to mix initially and during use to maintain the mix.

Repeat weekly or fortnightly as required.

Avoid using strong detergents or ammonia based cleaners as they may burn soft tissue. Similar consideration should also be given to when it is used, as it is an oil.

Plant oils such as **Tea tree** and **Eucalyptus oil** have also been shown to have good antifungal and antibacterial properties and are obviously used in this way on people.



Alternative Chemical Treatments for your Plants by David Brooks

(Continued from previous page)

Many of the above can be used in combination to give good all round treatment.

For example:-

1. Alginox plus a good pyrethrum (**not permethrin**) based insecticide is useful in treating mealy bug/boisduval scale outbreaks and the associated sooty moulds that often accompany them. I usually use Sharpshooter Pyrethrum concentrate. Use the Alginox® at 3-4 ml/litre and the Pyrethrum as per the package.
2. Colloidal silver 30ml + 120ml 6% Hydrogen peroxide made up to 1 litre with boiled water gives a good general spray. (The impurities in tap water often causes the peroxide to break down prematurely).
3. Another good all round spray can be made by making up the following concentrate. This tends to have a good broad spectrum anti fungicidal/bactericidal properties.

Tea tree oil 3ml Eucalyptus oil 10ml

Colloidal Silver 20ml Canola oil 70ml

Make up to 1 litre with water and shake vigorously or put in blender to combine. This completes your concentrate.

The concentrate can be stored in a cool dark place indefinitely, preferably in a glass container. It may separate but can be recombined with shaking/blending.

Note: The Colloidal silver can be left out if people wish or find it too hard to get. They will just need to add a little extra water to make up the concentrate. However it will cut down on the effectiveness of the spray.

To spray, add at a rate of 50ml concentrate to 1 litre of water. To increase its effectiveness, one may also add 3g of Ecocarb for each litre of spray.

Please note these are only suggestions based on my own experiences and there are other alternatives. Like any product, if you choose to try these, test on one/some of your own plants before wide scale application. Any of these are not a magic bullet and will require observation and follow up treatments on your plants.

While they contain ingredients that are generally less harmful than many agricultural chemicals, care should still be exercised and protective equipment used.

Human life cannot be replaced as plants can be.

CURRENT NATIVES TO BE FOUND IN THE BUSH

*Photos from
Jan and Rhonda*



Calochilus unknown,
The Bearded Orchid



Caladenia carnea,
Pink Finger Orchid



Prasophyllum patens,
The Sandstone Leek Orchid

Gordon Deans' Recent Photos of a hoverfly removing pollen from *Caladenia catenata*

Caladenia catenata is an eastern Australian ground orchid with a single hairy leaf and one or two white, sometimes pink flowers on a thin, sparsely-hairy stem. Adult hoverflies are 4-7 mm long and have a dark-coloured, flattened body with black and yellow markings. They can hover or fly swiftly, and like all flies, have only one set of wings. Pollinium is a coherent mass of pollen grains that is the product of each anther lobe of some flowers, especially orchids. Single or paired pollinia are often attached to, and carried by, pollinating insects.

Photo 1 - A Hoverfly enters a *Caladenia catenata* looking for nectar.



Photo 2 - Pushing the flower apart to get to the nectar, it contacts the sticky pollinia.



Photo 3- Accessing the nectar, pollinia is now attached to the hoverfly's back.



Photo 4 – The fly leaving the flower with pollinia attached.





Edward 'Ted' Beehag *Compiled by Jan Robinson*

On the 3rd of September, Ted joined Kevin Wilson in the Great Orchid Garden in the Sky at 84 years of age. Ted was a member of our Society for over 40 years and helped with its orchid judging classes “back in the old days” as well as judging at our monthly meetings on a regular basis.

Gary Hart writes, “I was saddened to hear of the passing of another of Sutherland Shire Orchid Society’s stalwart orchid growers. I am happy to say I was a friend of Ted’s. He was a straight shooter, forthright senior judge, orchid grower and administrator. He was involved in many Society roles, having organized and spoken at many OSNSW judges training courses, SSOS judges training courses and state wide workshops. The things I will always remember most about Ted were his cheeky grin, laughter and loyalty to those he valued. Many a time, Wally, Neville, Murray and myself would gather at meetings to

review all the orchid happenings since we last met. It was fun, and Ted was an integral part. Ted was tenacious, having fought off several serious illnesses in the last few years. Ted was a serious grower of the oncidium alliance and lycastes”and “had a diverse collection with a bit of everything. We will miss you, Ted.”

Wal Chapman also remembers Ted’s distinctive personality: “The entire orchid community including OSNSW where Ted was The Register of Judges for several years and the many societies Ted attended as a member and a judge will miss his cheeky personality and sense of humour.” Wal and Ted went through the OSNSW’s judging class at the same time and Wal says Ted’s “knowledge and enthusiasm enabled both of us to pass the final examinations.” Wal knew a different side of Ted than most of us did—his passion for fishing—and reminisces about one particular incident that happened at Bawley Point where Ted had a holiday cottage. Wal and Janette were lucky enough to be invited to go fishing down there one time with Ted. Wal reports, “It took ages for Ted to position the boat to his satisfaction, lining it up to be in a straight line with the church steeple and a large tree further inland in one direction and some other landmarks on the other side of the bay.” But once Ted was finally satisfied that their boat was in just The Right Spot, they “didn’t stop catching snapper until the burley ran out.” Wal was amused to note that “another boat came and anchored five meters away from us and caught nothing.” “Good bye My Friend.”



During the first year that I was a Society member, Ted was the guest speaker at a monthly meeting and I remember how shocked I was when Ted described his method of preparation for repotting—especially the part about “boiling the bark in a big pot on the stove” to get all the nasties out! I couldn’t—and still can’t—imagine doing that but obviously it worked for Ted as he grew his plants beautifully. Ted and I became friends through orchid judging, he would sometimes ring me after we had both judged at the same show and we would discuss the judging results. I learned a lot from those chats. One year at the Southern Orchid Spectacular I benched a first-flowering lycaste. Ted had a special fondness for lycastes and he took note of my plant. After the show he rang me to tell me to look after it as it was a “keeper,” and he subsequently inquired about this plant various times.

In mid April this year, having never flowered another lycaste again, I rang Ted in frustration to pick his brain about growing this genera. He was having trouble with his hearing and told me to email him, which I did. We exchanged a few emails until on the 20th of April, Ted wrote that “when this lock down is eased, it would be a good idea to get together and talk about” growing lycastes as “it is hard to discuss the pros and cons by email,” which of course I agreed to do.



On the 16th of July, I received an email from Ted with the attention-grabbing subject “Time is running out.” Ted elaborated that he was unwell and was going in for surgery shortly. I emailed back straight away that “time is NOT running out, lycaste talks are only postponed temporarily.” I wished him a speedy recovery and asked that one of his family members give me a ring after his surgery to let me know how it went, which his daughter did and she reported that the surgery went well and that she hoped Ted would be back home again soon.

I was shocked when the next call that came from the family was to tell me that Ted had passed away from complications following his surgery. Did Ted have some sort of premonition that his time really was running out? I’ll never know, but I am so glad I reached out and had some contact with him in his last few months, even if it was just about growing lycastes. Rest in peace, Ted, we will miss you.