



THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

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15th April 2024 Volume 65 No. 4
Annual Membership : **\$15 single, \$18 family**

Patrons - Pauline and Trevor Onslow

President : Dennys Angove 043 88 77 689

Secretary : Jenny Richardson

Treasurer : Lina Huang (and Sales Table)

Vice President : tba

Editor (Hon. volunteer) : Jim Brydie

Society mail to - PO box 1501 Lane Cove, NSW, 1595

Next Meeting : Mon 15th April 2024

Committee : Jessie Koh (Membership Secretary / Social Events)

Committee : Herb Schoch (Community outreach, Sales Table)

Committee : **New committee members are required**

Committee : **Please put your hand up to help**

web site (active link) : <http://kuringaiorchidsociety.org.au>

Society email : kuringaiorchidsociety@gmail.com

Venue : *The West Lindfield Community Hall, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

COVID remains in the community. In consideration of others, PLEASE stay home if you are not feeling well. We prefer all meeting attendees to be Covid vaccinated, masks are optional. Please complete attendance list on arrival.

The hall is open from 6.30pm This is initially to set up the hall (please help). Benching can begin from 7 pm but please no benching until all the class dividers are in place. Give the set up team time to get everything organized.

Our Culture Class this month will be **David Floyd** with the **“Purpose and formation of the orchid root system”**. Dave is very popular with his down to earth practical stuff so I expect a big crown of seats down front.

The sales table will be open as usual but as announced previously there is now a **“Sales Table Open / Sales Table Closed’ sign** to aid our stall managers and we ask members selling plants to follow the guidelines set out on page 2.

The Supper Break – The society supplies the tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc, **but - we ask all members to bring in a contribution of cake, slice, or biscuits, etc for the supper table. Please bring something to add. AND - please everyone, bring your own mug for tea or coffee.**

Supper is not self-serve, PLEASE DON'T SERVE YOURSELF - members are assigned to serve to minimise handling. Our supper volunteers this month are **Jeanne Lam** plus another yet to be organised.

After the break, our **Guest Speaker** will be **John Chang** showing and telling us about his recent visit to the **“Orchids in Singapore & Asia Pacific Orchid Show 2023”**. John is always a very interesting and experienced speaker. A chance to see the latest in the world. Don't miss it.

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Den. Enobi Purple ‘Splash’ - grown by Trevor and Pauline Onslow



What a gorgeous orchid. It has been Best of the Evening quite a few time in recent years with both the Onslows and the Bromleys growing cultivars of this unusual cross. And boy do they grow them well. Just look at the dense cluster of pseudobulbs in this specimen. There aren't many hardcane dendrobes you can grow and flower so well with around 20 canes clustered so tightly in a small pot.

I remember the tale both Garrie and Trevor told me of buying expensive flasks at a show one year, in I think Port Macquarie, only to be disappointed years later to find that not a single splash petal seedling flowered from either purchase. Luckily for them the seller went on to

supply another small batch that produced the wonderful cultivars we see now see benched. But still, the tale illustrates

so well that this cross does not produce all splash petalled babies. If you look in the image gallery for the cross in Orchidwiz you can see plain colours, and splashes ranging from some nearly all white, to nearly all pink/purple. A few samples are included here. - Congratulations Trevor and Pauline. It was a sight to behold.



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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au)

President Dennys' Desk – The weather of Easter seemed mostly ok to me but we stuck around at home and visited Brooklyn and Bobbin head. I hope all those that managed to get away had a good time. We had 46 people at our March meeting, which was great. We also had 112 orchids benched. Many of the photos that **Jane** took of this benching were posted on our Facebook page and looked beautiful- thank you **Jane**. **David** ran an impromptu keiki hand out session which went down well. I thank **Ann** and **Gloria** for managing our supper table and its preparation. Thanks also to **Mary** for selling the raffle tickets and to **Gary Hodder** for his talk. **Gary** has made the “*nutrition table*” he presented in his talk available, so if you need a copy, please email KOS. Lastly, I thank all those who helped pack up the hall after the meeting.

Supper and such– We still need some volunteers to help each meeting so please add your name to the list. Also, if you are able, please contribute an offering to supper since it helps make the evening more enjoyable. Being a volunteer is not about supplying food, but by all means, bring in a contribution if you are able. **Please, remember to wait until the supper helpers are ready to serve and, try and remember to wear your name badges.**

Congratulations – I extend my personal congratulations to **Fred Gorginian** who is now the new Honorary President of NSOS. I look forward to working with you **Fred** for the benefit of our orchid community.

The Orchid Pot Company (OPC) Closure – **John Howell** of OPC has advised that his company will be closing with effect from the end of June 2024 unless the company is taken over by some others. KOS acquires many pots each year from OPC, some of which are specialised. So put your thinking hats on since if there is interest, we could submit a final order. However, it is unlikely we can store any more of the stock that we currently cater for, so members will need to take delivery of their order shortly after OPC delivery.

Wearing masks – COVID is still around, I will no longer be wearing a mask at our meetings. However, please feel free to continue to wear a mask at our meetings and hand disinfectants will be available.

Member's welfare – personal challenges occur all the time, so please remember, if you need to speak to someone immediately then you are most welcome to contact me at any time, 24/7 on 043 88 77 689.

Other Society News

1. New Members – A new member (**Georgina Augustesen**) has signed up so please make her feel welcome. And don't forget to wear your name badges. And welcome aboard Georgina. I hope you enjoy our meetings.

2. Membership Fees – If you wonder why you suddenly aren't getting the bulletin any more, maybe you overlooked renewing your membership? Just to be clear, there **IS** an annual fee - Current fees are \$15 single, \$18 family.

If you are not sure whether you have paid, email us at kuringgaiorchidsociety@gmail.com before paying again.

You can pay by bank transfer to - **Westpac Bank, BSB No 032 188, account name - Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society Inc. and account number 103568**. If you use this method, **please use your full name as the payment description or your phone number if your financial institution does not allow you to enter your name.**

You can also pay Jessie Koh, our membership secretary, in person at a meeting by cash or a cheque made out to **Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society Inc** or alternately you can also post a cheque to KOS, PO Box 1501, Lane Cove, 1595.

4. Culture Class New set up – Don't forget we no longer have use of the old culture class room in the hall. We now set up the culture class speaker on the right hand end of the front table where the library boxes used to be. It is another of David Floyd's popular series this month. Don't miss out.

5. Sales of Member's plants: DON'T FORGET ***If you have plants for sale on the sales table, please leave them in your car until the sales table is fully set up with regular stock like pots and fertiliser.*** Check with Herb/Pearl before you start bringing sale plants inside. You can't stash them in the hall or anywhere else either because they become a cluster point with potential buyers wanting to poke through them. And please note, **ALL** sales of either **member's plants sales or culture items** will **ONLY** occur from the sales table **AFTER** the “**Open**” sign goes up.

For sellers who are in a bind for set up time we will find helpers to bring your plants inside. Please ASK.

Dates of Coming events

Sat 13, Sun 14 April– Collectors Plant Fair Hawkesbury racetrack. Fabulous plant lovers fair, 100 stalls.

Sun 14 April MWOS Auction, Cromer Community Centre, Cromer (auction catalogs available at MWOS)

Fri 17- Sun 19 May – Orchids Out West, Philip Charley Pavilion, Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon

Sat 29, Sun 30 June Mingara Orchid Club Fair & Show, Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi

The accident – 911 Operator - “what is your emergency?”

“A guy has just been hit by a car. I need an ambulance.” – Operator: “What is your location?”

“I am on Eucalyptus Street”. --- Operator : “Can you spell that for me?” --- Man: – long awkward pause.

Operator: - “Sir, are you there?” -- “I am just going to drag him over to Pine Street ... and I'll call right back.

Best of the Evening Novice – Phal. Nobby's Green Eagle x Mituo Blue Smurfs - grown by Nancy Yao

Well this is an unusual and complex hybrid. I can't find it registered in Orchidwiz v9.1 (latest), but both parents are there and each follows a similar pattern in breeding so I can tell you a bit about what I see from that.

Both parents are strongly based on the smaller flowered Phally species like violacea/bellina, amboinensis, micholitzii, and others. But, although you wouldn't think so from Nancy's plant, the word 'green' in the parent Nobby's Green Eagle is a clue. It looks like all the various steps in the breeding process have steered to the alba forms of the species, and non-alba's that at least predominate in the yellow and green colours.

The thing that is common amongst white, yellow, and green flowers is that they lack or at the very least subdue the red pigments found in others. It seems clear to me that both parent lines have been part of a focused breeding program to generate yellow Phalaenopsis. Let's look at the genealogy involved. (genealogy tables below from Orchidwiz)



Phalaenopsis [Phal.] Nobby's Green Eagle (Phal. Gelblieber x Phal. Nobby's Fox)								
Genetic Composition: 4 Species								
Gen.	Genus	Name	Nds	Share	Awds	Offs.	Flwrs.	N.Spr.
2	Phal	amboinensis	2	31.3%	114	564	3.5	5.5
2	Phal	micholitzii	2	31.3%	5	71	1.6	4.9
3	Phal	violacea	2	25.0%	265	542	2.5	5.0
3	Phal	venosa	1	12.5%	29	347	3.2	4.2

Phalaenopsis [Phal.] Mituo Blue Smurfs (Phal. Mituo Prince x Phal. Mituo Reflex Dragon)								
Genetic Composition: 7 Species								
Gen.	Genus	Name	Nds	Sha	Awds	Offs.	Flwrs.	N.Spr.
7	Phal	lueddemanniana	8	5.5%	63	362	3.3	5.5
4	Phal	mariae	1	6.3%	20	111	9.8	3.8
5	Phal	micholitzii	4	9.4%	5	71	1.6	4.9
4	Phal	amboinensis	9	15.4%	114	564	3.5	5.5
5	Phal	venosa	8	16.4%	29	347	3.2	4.2
3	Phal	bellina	2	18.8%	201	174	2.4	5.4
4	Phal	violacea	18	28.3%	265	542	2.5	5.0

These tables show you species names in each background but what you don't see is the albino/yellow thrust.

From the Orchidwiz entry for Nobby's Green Eagle, there is a picture gallery of about 7 different cultivars, all cultivars favour the yellow and green colours. I can't show you all but here are some examples :



'Yaphon'

'Tariflor N8'

'Green Baby'

'No 15'

unnamed (by Brian Baynes)

I am sure there are others, and many with more pinkish mauve tones but you can see from these samples that the objective appears to have been yellow or greenish yellow. And, given that there are no full size full yellow Phalaenopsis species, it isn't hard to imagine that the Nobby's Green Eagle breeding lines are but a step along the way to creating better full size yellow Phallies for the commercial marketplace.

But what about the other parent in Nancy's orchid? You would think that the blue in "Mituo Blue Smurfs" would indicate that it is focused in a different direction. That is, toward the red or blue colour lines. And before I go further, the "Blue" we see in Phalaenopsis isn't a true blue. It is really just a violet tone and is a kind of mix of yellow, red and blue. The background colour of the flower affects the expression of the other colours.

I can see from each of Blue Smurfs parents that there is a strong push to develop Blue as a more clearly expressed colour. But they aren't all the way there yet. In one of 'Blue Smurfs' parents (Mituo Reflex Dragon or MRD) they have got as close as I can recall seeing, as you can see from these few. But not all 'Reflex Dragon' cultivars come in blue. There are also yellowish individuals and also pink/red. (pictures below are all Phal Mituo Reflex Dragon)



MRD 'Blue Ring'

MRD 'Blue No 2'

MRD yellow/red

MRD more yellow

From the cultivar pictures I have seen, 'Smurfs' other parent (Mituo Prince) seems to have focused on intensifying

the yellows and reds but there are many cultivars in other combinations so I am not sure of what its value was. And as far as Blue Smurfs itself goes, only the breeder knows which cultivar of Mituo Prince was used in making the Blue Smurfs cross. Perhaps it was a very bluish one? I wonder what the aim was?

So where does that leave us? Nancy's orchid itself looks a bit like a very nicely improved variety of Phal violacea/bellina. I can't make up my mind what to call that specie or species but whichever way you go, their plants have broad longish leaves to 25 -30 cm long and up to around 10cm wide. The flowers are reasonable in size at 5 cm wide and have some interesting colours and combinations. But it is the fact that colour seems to be used partly as a separator between the two species that gives me pause in accepting which is which or whether they are the same.

Regardless of a name, both are quite attractive in their own right, but the flowers occur on rather short spikes and occur rather sequentially. The short spike and 'few at a time' flowers are factors that need to be improved by breeding with other Phals with more attractive characteristics but I noticed in pictures of several cultivars of Nobby's Green Eagle that they had decent but modest extended flower spikes so I guess the improvement of that feature is already being dealt with.

My guess is that the breeding in Nobby's Green Eagle and in Mituo Prince are aimed at creating the genes for new and attractive colours like yellow and blue, and making them stable before taking them forward into longer spiked new coloured Phallies.

Isn't the business of orchids fascinating? What other hobby can be as complex as this but still drag you in.

Congratulations Nancy. It's wonderful to see so many up and coming growers like yourself producing wonderfully grown plants every month.

Best of the Evening Species – *Gomesa crispa* grown by *Lisa Harris*



30 years ago the common old *Gomesa* species *recurva* and *crispa* were looked down upon. Sort of common, easily acquired, easy to grow, ho-hum.

I am so pleased to see more and more growers appreciating the intricacies and beauty of the smaller flowered orchids these days.

Lisa gained a best of evening with this particular one last year as well. It was magnificently grown back then and this year has perhaps 15% more flowers.

There are two sister species of *Gomesa* (*crispa* and *recurva*) that are very, very similar. Both come from the east coast of Sth America. Mostly from Brazil but the range of *Gomesa recurva* also extends further

down into Paraguay and the top of Argentina. Both come mostly from reasonably high elevations of up to say 1400 M which suggests that they would grow outside without added heat in most backyards in Sydney.

These are quite easy to grow in our area and so long as you repot regularly to avoid decaying and stale medium, and apply water and fertiliser regularly they will reward you with copious displays of flowers like this one of Lisa's. The flowers are only about 2cm tall and they certainly produce plenty of them.

The sister species look much the same. They both have 20-25 mm green flowers that look a bit like a little man with his arms in the air. The key distinction between them is that in *crispa* (the one on the right) the sepals and petals have wavy edges and *recurva* doesn't. And that in *recurva*, the lower sepals (the man's legs) the sepals are fused together for nearly all their length (the man is keeping his legs pressed together). In *crispa* they are only joined at the top (the man has his legs apart).



Gomesa recurva

G. crispa

Congratulations yet again Lisa. Wonderfully grown and a delight to see.

The Dilemma

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: 'So I hear you're getting married?'

'Yep!' -- 'Do I know her?'

'Nope!' -- 'This woman, is she good looking?'

'Not really.' -- 'Is she a good cook?'

'Nah, she can't cook too well.' -- 'Does she have lots of money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.' -- 'Well, then, is she good in bed?'

'I don't know.' -- 'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'

The Benefits of a Good Vocabulary

I recently called an old engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days. He said it was treatment of ceramics, aluminium, and steel in a constrained environment. It turned out that he was washing the dishes at home under his wife's supervision.

Alginox – yet again. Please read these explanations and notes if you intend to deploy Alginox.

Growers are still discovering the use of this product as a disinfectant but the frustrating aspect for me is that it is discovered as a lightbulb moment by each grower one at a time and some of the story gets lost along the way.

I think the first time I published the table of Alginox dilution rates for various purposes was back in 2007. It has also been published independently by other organisations and I know was published by North Shore Orchid Society before I published it in the Ku-ring-gai OS bulletin.

None of us in Sydney invented this product or proposed its use as a bactericide or sterilant in orchid growing.

The story that goes with the table is that it was originally put together by a clever nurseryman somewhere in the northern zone of NSW but I doubt we will ever know or be able to track down the initiator.

THIS IS A SWIMMING POOL CHEMICAL - NOT A GARDEN SUPPLIES PRODUCT

The product we have been adopting as an orchid growers aide was not made for our purposes. It is an algaecide designed for swimming pool treatment.

The active ingredient in Alginox, is Benzalkonium Chloride and the “Alginox” that we were using in 2007, was listed as having that active ingredient at the concentration of 150 g per litre. That is the Alginox for which the dilution rates chart was designed for orchid growers.

HOWEVER – time has marched on. There are many more pool algaecides available in the pool chemicals market and “Alginox” brand is getting harder to find. What is more, even when you can find a store that sells Alginox, it may now come in different concentrations. If you can only buy Alginox with a different concentration of the active ingredient, there is some mathematics to apply to adapt the dilution rate table to apply the different concentrations of Alginox. For example, Woolworths presently still has 2.5 litre containers of Alginox in some stores. I know Thornleigh store still has some. BUT their Alginox has Benzalkonium chloride at only 100 g/l concentration. To use that product with the table we publish you would have to multiply the suggested rates in the table by 150%.



Other Algaecide Brands and formulations

There are many different kinds of algae that grow in swimming pools. It therefore follows that commercial pool algaecides come in a variety of formulations and that they use multiple active ingredients.

That product variety must be a real boon to pool owners trying to manage different kinds of outbreaks of algae or other problems in their backyard pools. However, it is a nuisance to we poor orchid growers wanting to sideline Alginox for our own special purpose.

Because we want to spray this product around and even on live orchids, **WE DON'T WANT ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING OTHER ACTIVE INGREDIENTS** – Especially the Copper compounds which seem to be prominent in some algaecides.

WE WANT A POOL ALGAECIDE CONTAINING JUST BENZALKONIUM CHLORIDE, and preferably at just the right concentration.

That is not to say some other products or formulations might not be very good at doing what we want Alginox to do. It is just that I can not predict what they will do unless someone with better facilities does some extensive testing to determine toxicity and effectiveness. You and I know that just isn't going to happen.

So I can only say only buy Alginox 150g/l and with only Benzalkonium chloride as the ingredient.

At the last meeting I mentioned that Bunnings sell an alternate product called HY-CLOR and that HY-CLOR is available with only Benzalkonium Chloride and at 150g/l. But be aware they also sell 3 other formulations of HY-CLOR. If you go for this product, **READ THE FINE PRINT and ONLY BUY THE RIGHT ONE.**



REMEMBER, THESE ARE POOL MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS. When Autumn arrives and pools usage declines, supermarkets like Woolworths seem to stop stocking Pool Products. I guess that is understandable and I wouldn't be surprised if supply shrinks in all pool product outlets. For you as an orchid grower, this means you should buy your Alginox or equivalent in **SUMMER**. Please don't come to me in Winter and ask me where to buy Alginox – you probably can't - apply common sense.

Now, having loaded you with all that, here is the article on using Alginox that perhaps new growers haven't found as yet.

ALGINOX as a Disinfectant – Jim Brydie

Alginox is a liquid sanitizer used for control of algae and bacteria in Swimming Pools. It has the same active ingredient as a once popular, but much more expensive, orchid/plant disease control product called Physan (ie dimethyl benzyl ammonium chlorides, and ethyl benzyl ammonium chlorides). As far as I know, the guidelines in the table below were put together by a nurseryman on the North Coast of NSW about 20 years ago. The rates recommended are believed to be quite safe for all orchids and in fact, the experience of a few local users suggests you might even want to slightly increase the suggested rates.

However! As with the use of any chemical, you should proceed with caution. Use gloves, don't drink it or get it in your eyes, keep it away from children, etc, etc, etc. You also never know if some plants may be more sensitive than others, or if effects in some circumstances may differ. Usage is at your own risk. Please read all directions on the Alginox container before using it, and test on samples in your own conditions before making any decision to use more widely.

If you think Alginox might be helpful to you and you would like to try it, it is currently available (April 2024) in some Woolworth's supermarkets, in the pool chlorine section and in some pool supply outlets. A 2.5 litre container at Woolworths costs about \$20 so it's cheap as chips. However, this Woolworths Alginox is only 100 g/l concentration. If you use this one, you will need to multiply the rates in the table below by 1.5

ALGINOX – SUGGESTED RATES AND APPLICATIONS

USAGE	RATE	APPLICATION
Dividing Plants	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75mls per litre)	Remove old compost, soak plant for 5 minutes before dividing with sterilized cutters. Trim the division and its roots, soak again for 5 minutes before repotting.
Seedlings from flask. Protect from damp off.	7 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 1.75mls per litre)	Soak plants including agar, in Alginox solution for 5 mins. Remove agar, soak compost in Alginox solution. Afterwards, spray once per month or anytime disease is evident.
Adult plants	50 mls to 20 litres of water (ie 2.5ml per litre)	Spray once a month or anytime disease is evident. Soak compost when disease is evident.
Maintenance dosage. (Dendrobium cut flower growers spray)	20 mls to 20 litres of water (ie 1ml per litre)	For specific problems such as rots or Botrytis, use the recommended dosage until under control. Then resume this maintenance dosage & spray once a month.
Disinfectant - to kill virus, bacteria, fungus, algae on contact.	5 mls to 1 litre of water	Wipe plant sap from the cutting edge first. Submerge cutting tool in Alginox solution before using again.
Rots such as black rot, brown rot, Erwinia etc	15 mls to 4 litres of water (3.75ml per litre)	Remove compost, soak entire plant 10 minutes or more. Trim all rot from plant using sterilized cutter. Soak plant wounds 10 minutes or more. Repot using compost soaked with Alginox solution.
Brown rots in Vandaceous orchids	25 mls per 10 litres of water (ie 2.5ml per litre)	Spray weekly during rainy periods. Ensure the solution gets in and around the leaf bases. Do not omit spraying because it is raining.
Spraying walkways and under benches	15 mls to 4 litres of water (ie 3.75ml per litre)	Spray heavily under benches and on walkways.

Stanhopea Culture – by Sebastian Torrisi

A hanging Stanhopea specimen with many racemes and bearing numerous and sometimes fragrant flowers attracted my attention many years ago. Encouraged, I decided to give them a try. Back then, more orchid growers were beginning to dispel the misleading tale that these magnificent flowers only lasted a couple of days. It's true that individual flowers don't last all that long but a good strong flowering specimen like this one will be in flower for quite a while. The health and strength of a plant affects flower life and in addition a big plant produces many, many spikes, and not all at the same time.

Well, year after year with effort and attention I benched my plants and I am happy with the results. Barring an accident in transit they are real show pieces but they can be a little difficult to transport without accident.

I find that my plants need to become specimen plants and not divided until the plant in a larger basket looks like it can become two large plants. This should ensure that both will continue to grow new growths and will normally, in the flowering season, produce more than one flower flush.



Plants should be repotted when new growths start to emerge below the top rung of the wire basket. This basket should be lined with sheets of 'tea tree' bark (Melaleuca species, also commonly known as paperbark trees), or alternately lined with coco-peat liners. If using the latter, check that the liners aren't the types that have a plastic sheet between the coco peat layers. If they do, I remove the plastic and I am just left with just the coco-peat matting. Coco liners should be soaked and rinsed with fresh water to remove any residue from the manufacturing process.

Ordinary bark is used as the medium to fill the new basket. I do not tease the root system, I just gradually stabilise the plant as I fill the bark, to make sure the new plant doesn't wobble.



After potting, I secure the plant with light pot holding chain in large olive trees but of course any open foliage tree will do. I hang the plant in location using a specialised hooked wire piece made into an "S" shape. I then use a Seasol drench. In addition I hang a sock (or stocking) from the hanger and load it with about a tea cup of dynamic lifter pellets,

hanging so that the sock is hanging over the centre of the plant (see circled in picture). This becomes a drip type soluble fertiliser and should be replenished annually. Watering should be done when needed. Plants in baskets in wind or breeze dry out faster than most other pots so keep your eye on the plant to judge when water is needed.



The benefit of the sock system is that when you are applying soluble fertiliser (perhaps for your other orchids), you can bypass the sock and apply your usual fertiliser normally. If it rains, nature takes care of a little fertiliser for you.



This picture and the ones above may give you an idea of the light and location that provide good flowering and green leaf vigour in my circumstances but this is not an exact science. As most orchid growers know, at times we need to move our orchids around to get them to flower at their potential. Whilst they must have sun to photosynthesise, too much exposure, particularly in temperatures above 30 C will cause leaf burn.

Keep misting them on these hot days. Stanhopeas are large leafed plants and normally grow in mottled shaded areas.

(Note from Jim : Re Paperbark). Not all species of Melaleuca have the required broad sheeted papery bark. The larger, tree type Melaleucas are the most common you will find with what you want. In NSW, suitable species are Melaleuca quinquenervia (broad leaves with 5 longitudinal nerves) and M. styphelioides 'the Prickly leaf paperbark'. These are common in nature on the east coast, mostly in wet or swampy areas. They are sometimes also grown as backyard trees or in street scaping but both are large trees so beware if you are considering it.

Finally, if you are eying off a tree in private property, **it is not yours to touch without permission**. Don't do it. Make some new friends first and ask, or buy liners at the nursery.

When you find a source, the paper-like bark from suitable *Melaleuca* species is easily peeled from the outer layers of the trunk. In fact it will eventually peel away by itself to some extent as the trunk inside it grows and expands. However, if you wish to harvest bark please do so sensibly and sustainably. DO NOT strip too much bark off a single tree or try to take the bark too deep, nearer to the woody inner trunk (xylem). There is a vital live tree cell layer (phloem) between the outer bark and the xylem, that you may damage if you cut it.



2 young *M. quinquenervia* trees + leaves



a mature *M. styphelioides* + leaves

Other Notable Benched Orchids in March

Catt. Deception Palouse – How is that for a globular inflorescence?

I was never quite convinced by these spotted pink Catts when I first saw them but I have gradually come around. Especially this one. It has nice colour and just the right amount of spots. Very nice.

I don't know who benched this one but I know Garrie and Lesley like the spotties. The breeding has really focussed on the style as it has several criss crosses with the famous spottie 'Penny Kuroda'.

And then what about this hardcane Dendrobium below.



Den. Fujiyama 'Fire'

I didn't notice it at the meeting

but when Jane sent me the picture it first reminded me of that unusually coloured species *Phal tetraspis* which has the occasional dark coloured tepal with the others white.

Den Fujiyama was registered in 2011 by T Orchids in Thailand. There seem to be a few of these distinctly coloured 'bicolor' cultivars and the second pic comes from Orchidroots. The cultivar name of the second one is "Fire Cracker". They sure are eyecatchers.

I find the hardcanes a little difficult to grow but for those who have mastered it, these might be ones to look for.



First ever photograph of a newly hatched electrician (with the eggshell still on top of its head)



MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE. I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING! SHE LAUGHED. I LAUGHED. ALEXA LAUGHED. SIRI LAUGHED.