



# BATEMANS BAY ORCHID & FOLIAGE SOCIETY INC.



President.....Robert Fish           44713678  
 Secretary.....Ron Boyd           44721934  
 Treasurer.....Margaret Turner   44725771

Website <http://batemansbayofs.weebly.com/>  
 Mail – P.O. Box 3334, Batehaven, NSW, 2536

## SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

**Next Club Meeting 7.30pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

**Guest speaker**

“.....”



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

*Our September Birthday members*

*Bill Giust, Michael Grelek, Norm Hanslow,  
Mitch Karnaghan, Peter & Laurina Vanest*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Wanted, Buy, Swap & Sell

Anybody wanting to buy swap or sell? Give a call to Dorothy on 44740884

#### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Where is this year going, make out your Christmas list its nearly here.

OK I am pleased to report Joy is at home, and Bill is on the mend after a little stay in hospital.

Also best wishes to any one recovering from illness.

Last month's speaker , Neville Roper's talk on " Pollinating Orchids" was very interesting to hear , but sounds like a lot of trouble to do, also the time it takes .

If you have your name down for the Village Centre day please turn up. , Saturday 30th August 9am to 3pm. If you have any orchids that you wish to sell please bring them along, you do not have to stay if you do not want to.

Also Sunday 31st August if you have your name down for Bunnings, please turn up.

Our Spring Orchid Show is on Thursday 4th September, set up between 12noon and 5pm. The Spring Show is open Friday 10am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 3pm. We do require cakes and or slices for Thursday night, also for Friday and Saturday, if you can please bring something along. We do require helpers on the Friday and Saturday .

Thanks  
Robert Fish.

New Members

Welcome to the Club

Katherine Willis



Notes supplied by Mr. Neville Roper on his Talk given at the August Meeting

MAKING BABIES (ORCHIDS OF COURSE!!!)

There are three ways of increasing the number of orchids in the world:

BY DIVISION – ‘breaking-up’ a relatively large plant into smaller pieces resulting in multiple pots of the same plant (clone): all identical

BY CLONING – a laboratory procedure where a very small piece of plant tissue is grown into a ‘blob’ (my term) that can be cut into several pieces which can then be manipulated with chemicals to become either tiny plantlets or continue forming more ‘blobs’ to later create an even greater number of plants with the sky being the limit as to the number of plants possible from this method. Experience has shown that the greater the number of clones produced the greater the likelihood of the resulting clones being altered from the original..

Essentially cloning is, in theory at least, a hi tech way of mass producing divisions. The resulting plants are called clones or mericlones and remain clones for the rest of their entire life.

BY MAKING BABIES – This too becomes a laboratory procedure as growing orchids from seed is a little more complicated than for most other plants. The result of this process is potentially a large number of genetically similar (but slightly different) plants which can be regarded as brothers and sisters (siblings). Unlike the above two methods breeding new orchids creates the possibility of producing improved new forms of existing species and an infinite number of new hybrids, Existing hybrid crosses can even be remade using improved parents. The resulting baby plants are called seedlings until they have finished their first flowering season.

HOW TO MAKE BABIES

This can best be detailed as a series of steps:

- Set An Objective – what do you hope that your babies will achieve. This could include one , several or all of the following points identified by the members at the last meeting.
  - Improved flower shape
  - New, better or stronger colours
  - Floriferousness – more racemes with more flowers
  - Better substance – longer flower life, damage resistance
  - Greater plant vigour
  - Stronger racemes/ better flower arrangement

Resistance to pests and diseases

Reduced plant or foliage size

Improved fertility

Heat or cold tolerance

Extended flowering season

- Decide which plant will be the mother (carry the seed pod) and which will be the father (provide the pollen). There is no reason why you could not swap pollen so the each plant plays both roles. Many hybridists do this every time they make a cross. Note that carrying a pod can be a strain on a plant so motherhood should only be for established/ robust plants.
- The Act – to accomplish this you will need some ‘sex aids’ in the form of tooth picks. Using a BRAND NEW toothpick the pollen cap and pollen need to be removed from the tip of the column of the mother flower. This is best done in a single motion from behind the pollen cap towards you to minimise any chance of pollen fouling the stigmatic cavity of its own flower. The tooth pick with the pollen attached should be discarded or put aside for future use, the pollen cap usually comes loose and falls to the ground. You now need to collect the pollen from the plant being assigned the father role. This is done with another BRAND NEW toothpick using the same procedure that was just outlined. The pollen now needs to be placed in the stigmatic cavity of the mother flower – this is a gluey sunken area just behind where the pollen cap was but on the underside of the column. Job done, have a cigarette!
- Label the flower with the name of the parents and the date of pollination
- The plant should be put aside for the gestation period (until the seed pod ripens). The pregnancy period varies from one species to another and depends on the weather but can be as short as one month or longer than one year.
- Sowing the seed – in nature an orchid seed that germinates and survives to flower is an absolute fluke, for us it becomes a technical laboratory procedure. There are several ways that might allow a few seeds to germinate but these are really impractical.

There are two options available at this stage; sowing green seed or dry seed and you will need to locate a lab well in advance that will sow your seed and you will need to ask which option they prefer. ‘Dry’ seed is seed that has been allowed to fully mature in its pod while on the plant, this results in a fully ripe pod beginning to split open exposing the tiny seeds inside to the air and therefore potential contamination. This seed needs to be sterilised in something like weak bleach before it is sown in a flask. ‘Green’ seed is taken from a pod before it is fully ripe but the seeds inside are mature enough to grow. As the seeds inside have not been exposed to the air they remain sterile so only the outside of the pod needs to be sterilised and because it will ultimately be discarded it can be sterilised with really strong bleach and/or a flame.

## POST POLLINATION

So the choice is yours, if you want more of the same you have the first two methods at your disposal but if you want improvement or different plants then you will need to practise your pollinating technique.

The only difficult parts are finding a laboratory that will do your seeds and remembering to constantly use new toothpicks.

Neville Roper

# Growing tips from the Orchid Society of N.S.W. Website

## **Sarcochilus by Neville Roper**

The term 'sarco' is commonly used to refer to a group of genera including Sarchochilus, Plectorrhiza, Rhinerrhiza, Parasarchochilus, Schistostylis, Peristanthus etc. (all cool growers) and even Phalaenopsis (namely amabilis, the only native and definitely a warm grower). It is also used to refer to an ever increasing number of hybrids both within and between these groups. The use of this term is often incorrect.

**Growing Conditions** They are grown in a shade house. I use one layer of 70% shade cloth in winter (maybe Easter to the October long weekend) for the rest of the year two layers of 70% are used. Under my benches is a layer of pine bark while the walkways are made of river pebbles and on hot days these are hosed down to moderate temperature and increase humidity. Some protection from westerly winds may prove beneficial.

**Mixes** I have been using the same for Sarco's and Den.s -

- 80% treated pine bark , medium to coarse grade ( or a mix of the two.)
- 20% river pebbles of a similar size to the bark.

Over the last twelve months I have been using cocomulch as a substitute for pine bark as the quality of the bark has decreased and price has escalated. A recent trip to Melbourne revealed that many growers were already converted to a variety of cocopeat products many of which were readily available at show sales stalls. An internet search of 'orchids + cocopeat' revealed that cocopeat is widely used by U.S. orchid nurseries and so I began experimenting. For sarc.s I use cocomulch - a chunky mix of coconut husk pieces which I soak, flush and sieve out the fines. I have combined this in various ratios the following

- River pebbles
- "Maidenwell Stone"
- Perlite ( coarser grades)
- Coarse pine bark
- Styrofoam chips

Although I have made some mistakes which mostly relate to overwatering all experimental mixes seem to be growing well over the short term but the long term success will be the true test.

**Pots and Mounts** Pots: Plastic squat pots, well drained, are my preference. Watch out for fat juicy roots or pebbles blocking your drainage! Terracotta pots are also very good.

- Mounts: Some species prefer to be mounted (usually Sarco. falcatus, weinthalii, Plecto. tridentata. Rhiner. divitiflora) and there are endless possibilities that will suit them. Try some of the following - red cedar, melaleuca branches, tree fern slabs, cork, aged fence palings, bagasse or gutter guard pouches filled with bark. You should not overlook tying some to live trees in your garden.

**Fertilising** As for all other natives - **little and often** - but as sarco's grow year round and especially in autumn. Winter fertilising should be maintained. I often forget to fertilise in winter so now I apply a top-dressing of a slow release fertiliser as they are repotted in autumn. I also lime all of my plants in spring and autumn with superfine lime at one gram per litre (agitate to keep it in suspension).

Most fertilisers are suitable and the following have been used with little problem - Aquasol, Nitrosol, fish emulsion, Campbells, Phostrogen, Peters, HSO 8, Nutricote and similar products. A little extra Epsom Salts and iron chelates occasionally does no harm. It is always a good idea to alternate between brands and always water at least once between applications of fertiliser. I have recently come to the conclusion that it is imperative to use some organic fertiliser.

I have recently begun to top dress all repotted plants with blood and bone plus dolomite lime (50:50 in a big salt shaker) and a good drink of Seasol.

If you have time to frequently mist the leaves with a weak fertiliser solution then you will be rewarded with fantastic fat, glossy leaves.

**Repotting** This can be done anytime but avoid the hottest and coldest periods, autumn seems to be the best. They like fresh mix and should be repotted at least every two years. A drench with Seasol immediately after potting seems to eliminate transplant shock.

**Watering** Sarco.'s have no pseudobulbs and so cannot withstand long periods without water. They are surprisingly resilient due to their thick leaves and fleshy roots which enable them to survive short dry spells and watering routines should reflect this. Lack of water is less critical if high levels of humidity are maintained.

S. ceciliae has its own requirements preferring to be grown a little on the dry side. I used to grow them in terra cotta pots under cover and give them a good drenching then allow them to dry out.

If you decide to try cocomulch then be careful with your watering and do not push the potting mix into the pots too firmly - it's very different to the open pine bark mixes most of us have been using.

**Pests** Sarco's have no particular problems in this area except for S. ceciliae which occasionally becomes infested with scale. I prefer to scratch them off and keep the ants at bay as much as possible. White oil the recommended treatment should be used with caution or you can do what I did - stop growing them!

March 2006

\*\*\*\*\*



## Minutes

### **Batemans Bay Orchid and Foliage Society General Meeting 4<sup>TH</sup> August 2014 Held at Soldiers Club Beach Road Batemans Bay**

Apologies; Joy Giust & Sylvia Hawkins.

New member Katherine Willis was introduced to all members by President Robert Fish.

President Robert Fish opened the meeting at 7.30pm

**Secretary's report**, July 7th Club meeting minutes have been circulated, moved they be accepted Ron Boyd, 2nd Phil Bailey. Accepted on the voices!

**Incoming and Outgoing correspondence** read out, moved they be accepted Ron Boyd, 2nd Ann-Marie Collins.

Treasurer Report! Treasurer Margaret Turner read out the report and copies of statement were available for members. Treasurer Margaret Turner moved they be accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ann-Marie Collins.

## GENERAL Business

**Item 1;** President Robert Fish spoke on how the Winter Show went, all good.

**Item 2:** Joy Giust is still recovering for her operation and is staying at Maranatha nursing Home

**Item 3:** Mogo Orchid and Fern Nursery is having an open day and inter clubs Mini Orchid Show on Monday 22nd September 2014, all plants to be setup by 11am and they will be judge by an accredited Judge, followed by a BBQ for all.

**Item 4:** President Robert Fish thanked Leanda O'Connor and Dorothy Kauffman for setting up the orchid display in the Soldiers Club Fountain, job well done!

**Item 5:** President Robert Fish spoke on the Accreditation Food Safety Certificates with the Eurobodalla Shire officers and they are not needed but would be nice if all BBQ food handlers were accredited, some of our clubs members have done the course off the website and the rest were encouraged to do the course.

**Item 6:** Dorothy Kauffman discussed the items donated from her stock at Grumpys shed to club nights raffle prizes, they need to be recorded properly and a receipt for good donated needed from clubs treasurer! A Motion was moved by Dorothy Kauffman "That Dorothy Kauffman give an invoice to the Clubs Treasurer for goods donated to Club Nights raffle table and receipt be given for such goods" 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Groube and passed on the Voices.

**Item 7:** President Robert Fish asked for volunteers for the 'Hot Rod' Clubs display open day at Sunshine Bay public school October 2014.

**Item 8:** President Robert Fish spoke on the new clubs aprons, and showed a sample, they were to be used by Clubs members when at functions doing BBQ'S.

**Item 9:** President Robert Fish spoke on our Clubs display at Village Centre on Saturday 30th August 2014, 9am setup and finish 3pm, volunteers needed to help out and plants needed for display and sales to the public.

**Item 10:** A mini raffle was drawn by Roberta Roper for the volunteers who helped out at the Winter Show, village Centre display and the posies makes. Winner receiving a \$20 voucher from Bunnings, winners! Bill Giust for helping at Winter Show and Leanda O'Conner won twice for helping at the Village Centre and making the posies.

**Item 11:** President Robert Fish presented Susanne Del Nido with a lovely floral arrangement and framed certificate for all the help given by her in the making of the posies for the Winter Show.

**Item 12:** Guest speaker for tonight was Neville Roper, Neville gave a very interesting talk on pollinating orchids and why we needed to do this breeding, to improve the shape, colour, vitality etc. of the orchid being pollinated.

Neville gave 2 Cymbidium flowers to each member and with Neville demonstrated how they were pollinated step by step and each member copied his pollinating technique with donated orchid flower.

President Robert Fish thanked Neville Roper for doing the talk on orchid breeding and presented him with a present.

## Coffee Break

**Item 12:** President Robert Fish handed out certificates for July plant of the night.

**Item 13:** President Robert Fish drew the raffle, Lucky winners Phil Bailey, Dorothy Kauffman, Susanne Del Nido, Elizabeth Richardson, Robin Baker, Jill Bailey, Jim Quinlivan, Manuel Del Nido, Phil Bailey, Ron Boyd, Katherine Willis, Margaret Turner, Norm Kemp, Susanne Del Nido, Anne Marie Collins, Robert Pollock, Lin Barnes, Norm Kemp, Margaret Turner, Anne Marie Collins, and Ron Boyd.

President Robert Fish thanked all for supporting the raffles and those who bought in items to be raffled.

**Item 14:** Lucky door prize of \$25 voucher from Batehaven Garden Plus nursery, winner is Robin Baker.

**Item 15:** Robert Pollock read out the plant of the night results.

Being no further business, President Robert Fish closed the meeting down at 9.40pm;



Ron Boyd Secretary 18/8/2014

\*\*\*\*\*

## Murphy's Law

"Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.

Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.

Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.

The only way to ensure rain, is to give the garden a good soaking.

Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.

Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.

Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting.

The only way to guarantee some color all year round is to buy a garden gnome.

However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.

Evergreens go a funny shade of brown in the winter.



### ALL articles for newsletter

Can be mailed to or phoned or emailed to

THE EDITOR

873 Princes Highway

Mogo 2536

Phone- 44740884

Email -kkauff@bigpond.com



## OPEN POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

Species	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob Pollock
Cymbidium 60 - 90	1 <sup>st</sup> Liz & Tony
Cymbidium under 60	1 <sup>st</sup> Liz & Tony
Cattleya	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob Pollock
Pleurothallidinae	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob Pollock
Australian Native Orchids	1 <sup>st</sup> Mitch 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.O'Conner 3rd Liz & Tony
Oncidiinae Alliance	1 <sup>st</sup> Liz & Tony 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.O'Conner
Vandaceous	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob & Sue Fish 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rob & Sue Fish
seedlings	
Fern	
oliage	

## NOVICE POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

Cymbidium under 60mm	1 <sup>st</sup> Alan Bird
Cattleya	
Cattleya under 70mm	
Vandaceous	
Oncidium Alliance	
Misc. Hybrids	
Foliage	
Australian Native Orchids	1 <sup>st</sup> Margaret Turner

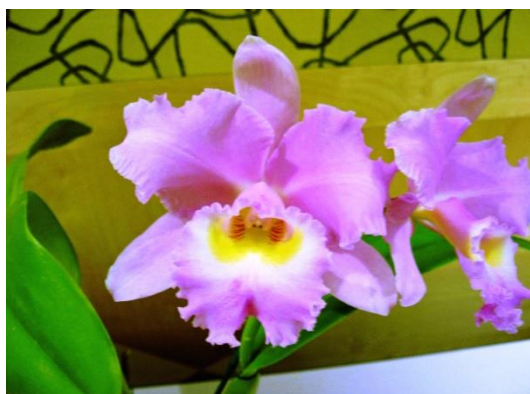
## Growing Comp

DEN. ELLEN.	1 <sup>st</sup> Rob & Sue Fish
SARC	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Rob &amp; Sue Fish</u>

## PLANT OF THE NIGHT

ROB POLLOCK

"BLC MARCELLA KOSS"



## NOVICE PLANT OF THE NIGHT MARGARET TURNER



## GRUMPY'S shed.

Your Clubs Store of discounted Orchid Supplies  
ALL profits are returned to the Orchid Club

From Bark to pots all at club members special prices



Run by Dorothy at her home in Mogo. All are welcome to come and look at what is available to buy. Please give Dorothy a ring on 44740884 or email [dkauffman7@bigpond.com](mailto:dkauffman7@bigpond.com)



## Major Sponsors of our Club



Batemans Bay Soldiers Club  
Beach Road, Batemans Bay

.....

**Batehaven Garden Centre &**

**Thrifty-Link Hardware**



VISIT PLANTS PLUS IN EDWARD RD

BATEHAVEN- FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN SUPPLIES!

.....

**Bunnings of Batemans Bay**

Sponsoring our Club through its BBQs

.....

**Elizabeth Richardson** sponsoring

The cost of printing our Club's Newsletter.

.....

**Finer foods:** The Gourmet Food People **Mark Hood** 0244729514

5/35 Cranbrook Road Batemans Bay NSW sponsors of our BBQ Sausages for Bunnings BBQ

*“The cultural information offered in this newsletter is intended as a guide only. Batemans Bay Orchid & Foliage Soc. Inc. cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage that may occur to plants as a result of using this information*