



January 2016
Volume 40, No. 1



Orchid News

Next Meeting: 25th January, 2016

Presentation by Garrie & Lesley Bromley on their South American Trip



Happy New Year!

Angcm. magdalenae x magdalenae 'John's'
(J Gafa)



Mycdm. brayboniae (R Young)

L. purpurata var. *carnea x purpurata*
'Do Crente' (J Gafa)



Bulb. lobbii (C & G Scott-Harden)



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Patron: His Excellency General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) , Governor of New South Wales
Email: secretaryosnsw@yahoo.com.au Web: <http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au>
All Correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 5396, Chullora NSW 2190
Meeting Venue: Ermington Community Hall, River Road, Ermington NSW 2115

WHAT'S ON AT FUTURE OSNSW MEETING 2016

- **25th January**
Presentation by Lesley & Garrie Bromley on their Sth American Trip
- **29th February**
Eric Young Foundation visit by Ian Chalmers
- **28th March**
Garrie Bromley will present the latest Awards

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dear fellow growers

I hope you have all had a happy and healthy holiday break, well possibly a little unhealthy. As we move into the new year I am looking forward to returning to meetings and seeing your orchids again. Thank you for your best wishes in the last months. As I write this we are being washed away with rain but it makes a change from the recent hot weather.

Good growing
Chris

JUDGE'S ROSTER JANUARY - MARCH 2016

	January	February	March
Panel 1	G Scott-Harden W Dhu K Koutsoukis	M Aldridge S Tay N Gill	B Richens C Polis D Brooks
Panel 2	I Bodell J Allan P Anderson	T Beehag J McAuley P Radford	W Chapman P Miszalski P D'Olier
Panel 3	C Polis J Robinson J D'Olier	C Scott-Harden T Yee B Britton	G Scott-Harden L Bromley H Choo
Award Panel	W Chapman K Siew B Britton	A Cushway T Peterson L Bromley	J Keenan W Dhu G Hart

N.B. Reserves and Associate judges for panels will be chosen on the night

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 1st JULY

- Single Metropolitan Member: \$25.00
- Joint Metropolitan Member: \$32.00
(i.e. \$27 membership & \$5 for insurance)
- Single Country and Interstate Member: \$22.00
- Joint Country and Interstate Member: \$29.00
(i.e. \$24 membership & \$5 for insurance)
- Associate Member: \$20.00
- Overseas Member: \$32.00
- Affiliated Society: \$62.00

OSNSW MANAGEMENT 2016

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 Ken Siew | Garrie Bromley | Gary Hart | Jane D'Olier
 Peter D'Olier | Geoff Fulcher | Jean Fulcher

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2016

- **Collector's Plant Fair** 9-10 April, Hawkesbury Racecourse
- **International Orchid Fair** 15-16 April, Castle Hill
- **Orchids Out West** 13-15 May, Hawkesbury Racecourse
- **Mingara Orchid Fair & Show** 25-26 June, Mingara
- **National Orchid Extravaganza** 5-7 August, Dural
- **St. Ives Orchid Fair** 19-21 August, St Ives Showground
- **Southern Orchid Spectacular** 7-9 October, Caringbah High School

AFFILIATED SOCIETY SHOWS JANUARY - APRIL 2016

- 8-10 Feb - Bankstown Orchid Society, Lidcombe Shopping Centre
- 30 March-2 April - Alstonville Orchid Society, Alstonville Plaza, Alstonville
- All Show Dates are available on the website:
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Shows2016.html>

AVAILABLE ON OSNSW WEBSITE

- Powerpoint presentation of "How to use Orchid Wiz"
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/MembersInfo.htm>
- Slideshow of selected plants from the Orchid Society of NSW monthly meetings
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/PhotosMeetings.htm>
- Excel spreadsheet of all NSW Awards from 1944-present
http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/Documents/OSNSWdatabase1944_2015.xls

SAM TSUI - New Flask List for February Delivery

New and excellent rothschildianum and sanderianum sibling crosses plus complex crosses from Oliver Duerbusch in Germany available. If you want some modern complex with huge flowers and large spots available at reasonable prices! More details on our website:
<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/MembersInfo.htm>

THE CORRECT VERSION OF THE FINAL POINT SCORES FOR 2015

OPEN

Bromley, L&G	619
Cushway, G&A	314
Gafa, J	274
D'Olier, P&J	186
Allen, J	167
Yeung & Keenan	154
McAuley, J&C	150
Robinson J	142
Law, D	103
Levi, S	101
Clowes, V	97
Bradley, C&W	93
English, J	80
Koutsoukis N&K	77
Choo, H	71
Nidagal, C	70
Radford, P&S	69
Scott-Harden, C&G	66
Williams, BV	64
Bradd, M&F	57
Peterson, T	46
Dhu, W	44
Hurst, J	44
Bird, R&L	43
Tay, S	39
Rethers, C	37
Murn, P	34
Mayer, L	33
Tanner, I	33
Curtis, G	30
Dalrymple, C	28
Fulcher, G&J	24
Duong, P	22
Gibson, P	9
Chalmers, I	5
Polis, C	4
Toombs, R	4
Briscoe-Hough, N	2
Britton, B&M	2
Jap, W	2
Siew, K	2
Kazarian, G	1
Larkham, G	1

NOVICE

Viatos, A	6
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ATTENTION ALL SECRETARIES OF ORCHID SOCIETIES

The State Library of NSW is setting up a display of gardening books, pamphlets etc. in September 2016 and wanted to know if you would have anything to donate. They only want hard copies, not electronic.

Any items you may have which you think they might be interested in can be sent to:

Gardening Collection Drive
Collection Strategy & Development
State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



TRIP TO PNG IN 2016 ORGANISED BY PHIL SPENCE

A new trip to PNG has been arranged for early August 2016. The trip has been put together by Phil Spence and Ruth NG Tours.

Information regarding the

- Orchid Tour itinerary;
- trip registration form;
- details of plants expected to be seen in each area;
- and flight options are available on the Orchid Society of NSW Website.



<http://www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/MembersInfo.htm>

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Dendrobium capituliflorum

by Craig Scott-Harden (Courtesy of BMPDOS)



This unfashionable orchid is endemic to New Guinea, New Britain, Bougainville, The Solomon's, New Ireland & Vanuatu! In these lands it can be found growing from sea level to 1800m in varying situations. Plants here can grow both epiphytically and lithophytically in everything from lowland savannahs, coastal forests trees on the banks of watercourses, and right up into higher elevation rainforests!

Rolfe described this species in 1901 from plants presumably originating from the island of New Britain, where the type sheet is said to be located at the Rabaul Botanic Gardens. Available information on this point is at best scant! I can find that Schlechter discovered plants on trees in the Minjem Gorge around 1907 and also 4 or 5 other locations from what was then known as German New Guinea, in the following couple of years!

So the question to be answered is "why is this orchid unfashionable?" Well, let me state at this point this orchid is a favourite of mine. I in fact have two plants; the one benched on the night is a relative new comer to my collection, being in residence for only about four years! My original plant I have owned for about twenty years! With the exception that this requires a bit of warmth during winter, this orchid is as tough as they come, flowering on a regular basis even up to 3 times a year, this orchid can take it all! The question still remains though "why unfashionable?" Because it's untidy! Light plays a huge part in its development! The less light the plant gets the longer the canes get, in doing so the canes can get top heavy and tend to arrange themselves in a layered fashion finally laying down over the side of the pot with the tufted clusters of white flowers standing in attention at

different intervals along these canes! So what needs to be done here is to increase the light, over a period of time the new bulbs as they mature will become shorter and plumper, and remain more upright, whilst maintaining the same amount of flowering nodes along the bulb, given forth to a much denser flowering! Another benefit of increased light is that the underside of the leaves on these new bulbs turns an attractive dark purple! So my mission with this orchid is to cultivate to the best of my ability, bench it and have the judges say wow isn't that attractive! My mission continues!

Ansellia africana

by Craig Scott-Harden (Courtesy of BMPDOS)

John Lindley described this species in 1844 and named it in honour of its discoverer, one John Ansell. This first specimen being collected on the island of Bioko in 1841, a smallish island 32km off the West Coast of Cameroon (Tropical Africa) & belonging to the diminutive country of Equatorial Guinea! Some years later in 1860 and being some six years before Livingstone's famous expedition to discover the source of the Nile, John Speke and James Augustus Grant mounted the second of Speke's expeditions into Africa's interior, this also to find the same answer to the great question that had plagued the ill fated Livingstone! The intrigue this question raised was first contemplated as far back as the Roman Empire, with Emperors Herodotus & Ptolemy having been fascinated by the same mystery! With Ptolemy producing a rough map which these later English expeditions used to help plot their own respective routes! It was on this second expedition that Grant discovered what was then regarded as *Ansellia gigantea* var. *nilotica* (all the different species are now regarded as being part of the one very variable species) in what is now Tanzania. As it turns out Speke's theories on the source turned out to be correct, unfortunately Speke would not live to see this, dying in 1864 aged 38!

It would be true to say this species was well known by the indigenous Africans long before the Europeans came close to setting foot in Africa! The Zulu race having their own name for it, being Imfeyenkawu meaning Leopard Orchid, this would be an easy comparison to make with the flowers being spotted, and as an epiphyte living on the high braches and forks of trees just as a leopard would. The plant is used for many conditions by the tribal witch doctors including cures for coughing in children, an antidote for bad dreams, a love potion, as an emetic to induce vomiting, it is used on homesteads to ward off lightning, the pseudobulbs can be worn by a person to stop ex lovers from having children, and believe it or not is even used as a garden plant! I think most importantly it is also said to be made into a broth to cure madness, I do believe this broth should be made available at most orchid societies?

They are found in a large range, its elevation from around 700m to 2200m usually in river valleys, by the coast and in open woodlands throughout most of Tropical Africa. To grow them they certainly need some protection lots of light, and about 60% humidity, and a free draining mix! They can grow into huge plants weighing in excess of a ton. I don't know if any DNA comparisons have ever been done, but on a personal note I do wonder if there may be any relationship between this species and our own *Dendrobium speciosum*.

Morphologically there are some remarkable similarities between the two species! If you look back at what was then Gondwanaland, you will see that Antarctica was a land bridge, in the middle of what is now Africa, India & Australia! It also makes me wonder what was to be found in Antarctica back then!

