

MANLY WARRINGAH ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

ISSUE 607
SEPTEMBER 2021

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TREASURER
Position Vacant

COMMITTEE
Kathleen Nelson
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Mark Asbury
Ros Mathews
Penny Johnson
Cary Polis

**ALL
CORRESPONDENCE
TO – The Secretary,
MWOS Inc., 3 Kristine
Place, Mona Vale,
NSW 2103**

**NEXT MEMBER'S
MEETING**
TBA at the Cromer
Community Centre.

**NEXT COMMITTEE
MEETING**
TBA at Angie's house
at 7.30pm



www.orchidsociety.com.au

President's Message

Unfortunately we are still in lockdown and even when restrictions ease there is no guarantee that we will be able to have meetings soon. As soon as we hear of a change in the situation from Northern Beaches Council we will let you know.

On a more positive note it is Spring and hopefully everyone is enjoying a great flowering season. If you are like me you may also have found time to repot and tidy up the collection. Not before time in my case!

Recently Anne Evans had a problem with one of her plants and given that we didn't have a meeting to get an opinion from other growers she approached me. We managed to work out what was wrong but Anne's suggestion to have a help line for less experienced (and sometimes experienced) growers is a great one particularly during lockdown.

We are going to give it a try so have set up an email address, whatstheproblem.mwos@gmail.com, if you have a plant problem send an email with details and particularly photos to that address. Your email will be forwarded on to an experienced grower who will review and possibly seek further advice from the experts. Advice on what the problem may be and possible solutions will be sent to the original grower. Issues which would be of interest to the membership will be published in the bulletin starting with Anne's problem next month.

NOVEMBER AUCTION –

Unfortunately the November auction has been cancelled. The next Auction will be held in April 2022

MEMBERSHIP FEES.

The Committee has decided to waive the annual membership fees for 2021/22 due to ongoing Covid concerns and lockdowns. Members who have already paid will have their fees credited for 2022/23. Members who have their Bulletin posted are requested to pay \$10 postage. The account details are BSB062155 A/c 00906498.

DIARY DATES 2021

September 23 AGM and Member's Meeting – CANCELLED

October 28 Member's Meeting

November 14 Auction - CANCELLED

November 25 Member's Meeting

December 5 Christmas Party

December 16 Member's Meeting

BARK ORDER

The bark order has been put on hold for the time being due to Covid. I will keep you posted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – SALES TABLE

Members please note that the sales table will only operate before the meeting and then close. There will be no sales during the supper break

Cary's Shadehouse

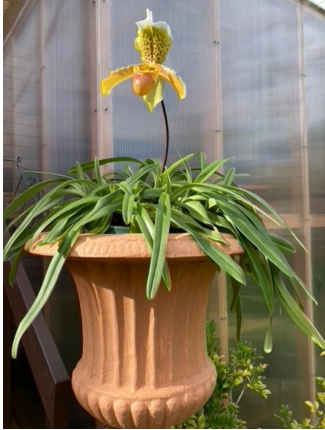
Spring has really sprung at my place, especially with the natives. The Dockrillias in particular have been outstanding. Things like calamiformis, teretifolia, fairfaxii, schoenina and pugioniformis. I'm really finding that the ones that are in mesh pots are doing far better than the ones on mounts, no matter which way they have been planted. I have used 3 basic methods: 1) just plant straight into the pot 2) cut a window or flap on the side of the mesh pot and poke the roots through making sure that the plant is secure 3) cut a window or flap in the base of the pot and poke the roots up into the pot. Seeing that they mostly have hefty roots, I use large or medium bark. This technique works well with other things as well, including Sarcophilus falcatus, especially on the side of the pot. In fact Guy just ties them onto the side and this allows the roots to find their own way in. One of the really good things about growing orchids (and gardening in general) is that you can experiment quite a bit with your growing techniques. It can lead to unusual and spectacular results. How many times have you admired a plant on the bench which has been grown in an unconventional manner, ending up in not only a healthy, robust plant but almost a work of art? For example, it wasn't that long ago that the idea of growing orchids successfully in water well pots would have been debunked by the "experts". There is a whole range of orchids that are more than suited to this technique with brilliant results. I have never been able to grow Dendrobium agrostophyllum for any length of time, just standing by helplessly watching it go into an irreversible state of decline leading to death but now I have one in a waterwell and it is one of the stars in my bush house. Of course when trying different things you must be prepared for some failures, but this tends to happen anyway no matter what you do. Right now you should be actively engaged in repotting, feeding and general maintenance. I've been having too many distractions and interruptions like fishing, bushwalking and car projects, not to mention all the things that Jill wants me to help her with in the garden and the house. Just repotting the odd plant on the run here and there is not exactly the most efficient way of doing things but it's still something. Even this week is not looking that good for me especially now that the COVID restrictions have eased. I certainly have a number of big potting jobs looming that I need to get onto and this is the best time of the year for that. So somewhere, sometime I'm going to have to bite the bullet and get stuck into my "orchid jobs", and sooner rather than later. I still make the time everyday at least once, to go into both the bush house and the hothouse and cast an eye over while doing a walkpast to ensure that nothing awful is happening anywhere. Like any interest, what you put into it is directly related to what you get out of it. Good growing and I hope to see you all at a meeting soon.



Dendrochilum convallariforme – grown by Angie



Grown by Gloria

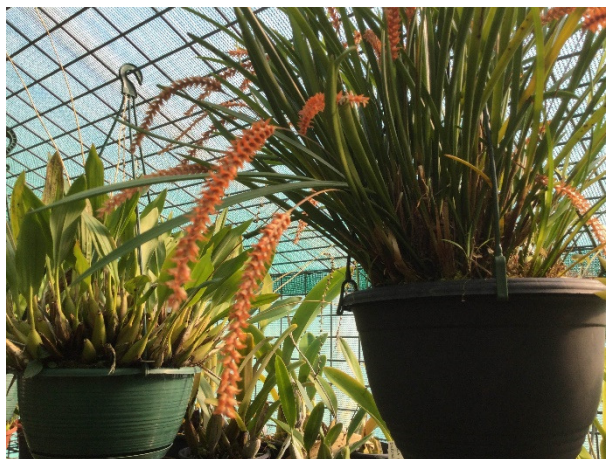


Emilia shared photos of her shadehouse and some plants.

In my Shadehouse.



Den. cooksonii



Dendrochilum wenzelii 'Brown'



Dendrochilum cobbianum 'Royale Gold'



Dendrochilum glauumaceum



Dendrobium soft canes now flowering

Thanks to Gloria, Emilia and Angie for sharing photos.