



Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966

Patron Neil Symes MP



E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2012

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 26 July, 2012** commencing at **8.00 pm** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 2 August, 2012** at the Bayside Uniting Church Meeting Room, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

RED SPOTTERS CLUB

Ken Webster will be doing a presentation on "My Culture for *Rhynchostylis gigantea*"

Trade Table

Pauline will have the Trade Table back in operation for the remainder of the year.

FEATURE ITEM

Our Guest Speaker for July will be Andrew Woodford from Organic Crop Protectants. This will be very interesting for those who prefer to use organic products.

Promotional Display

EDOS Inc will be holding another Display at Wynnum Plaza on 22 September between 9 am and 2 pm, as a promotion for our upcoming Spring Show.

The following members are requested to make themselves available for the next meeting:

Judges: Eric Locke, Bill Williams, Les Vickers, Arthur Cornell

Associate Judges: John Rooks, Brent Nicoll, Adrian Bergstrum

Observers: Please see Eric if you are interested

Scribes: Volunteers required please.

Supper Stewards: Marian Samuels, Daphne McKell

Hostesses: Margaret Rieck, Dot Rooks

Library : Helen Vickers

Plant Registrar: Ann Kable

Plants worth Noting: Reg McIlwain

Trade Table: Pauline Webster

Please consider helping out, even if it is only for an hour or so. We held this display prior to the last show, and found that it was very beneficial in promoting our Show, but we are looking for more members to help reduce the workload on our hard-working Committee members. We will also be looking for plants to put on display.

Change to September General Meeting

The September General Meeting will now be held at 2 pm on Sunday 30th September (prior to the Presentations at the Spring Show).

This will be an abbreviated meeting, with the majority of business being held over to the next meeting where possible.

Members are asked to be present and sign the attendance book.

Upgrade to Open Section

Congratulations to M & N Tervo who have now been "promoted" to the Open Section for Judging.

Shade Houses

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UPCOMING EVENTS

What: John Oxley District Orchid Society Inc
Where: Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
When: 21 and 22 July, 2012

What: ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group Inc Aussie Native Orchid Show
Where: The Lion's Hall, Lawnton Showgrounds, 757 Gympie Road, Lawnton
When: 25 and 26 August, 2012

What: Logan & District Orchid Society Inc
Where: Logan Central Community Centre, Cnr Jacaranda & Wembley Rds, Logan Central
When: 25 and 26 August, 2012

What: North Brisbane Orchid Society Inc
Where: Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
When: 25 and 26 August, 2012

What: Nambour Orchid Society Inc
Where: Uniting Church hall, Coronation Ave, Nambour

When: 31 August and 1 September, 2012

What: Gold Coast District Orchid Society Inc
Where: Albert Waterways Com Centre, Hooker & Sunshine Bvds, Broadbeach
When: 31 August to 2 September, 2012

What: ANOS Beenleigh Group
Where: Showgrounds Pavilion, Cnr, James & Milne Sts. Beenleigh
When: 1 September, 2012

What: West Brisbane Orchid Society Inc
Where: Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
When: 1 and 2 September, 2012

What: AOC Conference and Show. (For more information refer to web site http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm)
Where: Perth WA
When: 11 – 16 September, 2012

What: Queensland Orchid Society Inc
Where: Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
When: 21 to 23 September, 2012

What: Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc
Where: Centenary Heights School Hall, Cnr Ramsay & South Sts, Toowoomba
When: 21 to 26 September, 2012

What: Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc
Where: St John's Lutheran Church Hall, Cnr 431 Bridge St (West) and Beryl St, Wilsonton
When: 21 to 25 September, 2012

What: EDOS Spring Show
Where: Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West
When: 29 and 30 September, 2012

What: Boonah Orchid Show and Qld Sarcocochilus Festival
Where: Boonah High School Assembly Hall, Macquarie St, Boonah
When: 20 and 21 October, 2012

HORTICULTURAL SOLUTIONS

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HSO-12 - HSO-22

MORE THAN JUST A FERTILISER

Horticultural Solutions, P O Box 213, Capalaba Qld 4157
Ph/Fax (07) 3206 0037 – Mob. 0419 710 634

Missing Library Book

We would appreciate it if members could check their bookshelves for one of EDOS Library's books. The missing book is "Vandas, their Botany, History and Culture" by Martin Motes. If you find that you have it please contact our Librarian Helen Vickers.

CALL FOR HELP – RED SPOTTER AND GUEST SPEAKERS

We are looking for some ideas and people to help out with the above on Meeting nights.

If you have an idea, or you are prepared to spend a small amount of time on either of these sessions at our meetings, please speak to one of our Committee members.

If we can't fill the spots, these informative sessions may need to be discontinued due to lack of support. It is unfair to those few members who are doing it month after month.

Remember, knowledge shared is knowledge gained.

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Cultural Award

Owned by B&M Williams

Sophronitis *cernua*

(Commonly known as The Nodding Sophronitis) *Sophronitis cernua* is the smallest of the genus *Sophronitis* and was named by John Lindley in 1828.

It can be found in south eastern Brazil near the sea, often within distance of wind borne spray, growing on small to medium trees or on rocks. It can be found as

far inland as Paraguay.

The pseudobulbs are short and small, up to 1/2" or 12mm and glossy dark green. The single leaf is rigid, ovate, up to 1 1/4" (3cm) long, and usually gray-green coloured with some purple tinge underneath. It grows best on cork or tree fern slabs but can also be grown in pots in a very well drained medium. The flowers are approx. 1" to 1 1/4" (2.2 to 2.7cm) across and can have up to 10 flowers per inflorescence.

I grow my *S. cernua* on a tree fern slab under 70% shade cloth where it is hung 2ft (60cm) from the roof against the metal side of the shed wall facing East.

When watering, it is important to allow this plant to dry out between waterings, as the plant has fleshy leaves that require somewhat drier conditions. When buds emerge, keep the plant a bit wetter at the roots than normal.

Fertilize with organic and inorganic fertilizer at half strength weekly.

Bill Williams

Request for Support

Our Committee recently received some information from Youngcare seeking support for their organisation.

This organisation works to provide the families of young people with disabilities the financial assistance to allow them to live at home, and also to provide Youngcare Apartments so that these young people who can no longer live at home, do not have to live in aged care facilities

If any member is interested in helping this very worthwhile cause, please phone Shelley Ryan on 07 3041 3400 or email sryan@youngcare.com.au

ORCHIDS AS FOOD AND MEDICINE

For thousands of years man has relied upon nature to provide his needs in regard to food and medicine. Some of the plants used belong to the orchidaceous family. Orchids from around the world have made their mark as a source of food, medicine and to satisfy spiritual and ceremonial needs. An example was the Aztec people using *Vanilla planifolia* as a flavouring for food and beverages. It was also considered having therapeutic values, for aiding with digestion and preventing headaches, to counteracting poisons and bites as well as being regarded as an aphrodisiac. The Australasian aborigines and the native people of the Pacific Islands used orchids in a number of ways for food, medicine and ceremonial adornments.

Orchid tubers provided part of a staple diet for aborigines together with yams, corms and roots that formed part of a major food source. The roots and tubers of orchids have a similar food value as potatoes

and carrots. The tubers of the terrestrial orchids *Acianthus*, *Glossodia*, *Caladenia*, *Microtis*, *Pterostylis*, *Prasophyllum*, *Diuris* and *Thelymitra* were all harvested and consumed by Aboriginal communities. The tuberous roots of *Dipodium punctatum* and *Gastrodia sesamoides* sometimes produce tubers the size of sweet potatoes which was a big advantage as a food source. The tubers of *Gastrodia sesamoides* were roasted on the fire before eating and was the principal orchid consumed by the Tasmanian aborigines.

Australian epiphytic orchids were also harvested as a food source. The fleshy pseudobulbs of *Dendrobium canaliculatum* and *Dendrobium speciosum* were beaten to break up the fibres of the stems and then cooked on hot stones. The pseudobulbs of *Cymbidium canaliculatum* and *Cymbidium madidum* were also eaten by the aborigines. These same pseudobulbs were crushed and boiled to produce flour similar to arrowroot which was also used as a treatment for dysentery. In NSW some tribes would eat the stems of *Cymbidium suave* as a food source. The milky sap from the crushed stems of *Den affine* and *Cym canaliculatum* were dripped onto sores and wounds as a dressing to aid in healing of the affected area. The remains of the pseudobulb were used as an applicator by dabbing it onto cuts, sores and itchy skin conditions and repeated a number of times until the affected area eventually healed. Throughout Australia aborigines used many of our orchid species for burns, the seeds from a seed capsule of *Cym madidum* were eaten by the women as a contraceptive., The leaves of *Dendrobium* species were used to relieve a severe cough and *Dipodium pandanum* leaves were used to form a tea for respiratory infections. The seeds from *Grammatophyllum scriptum* were mixed with coconut milk to treat infants with skin diseases. Just about most of the orchid species we know of have been used for food and medicinal purposes. There were also many other uses for orchids such as using the green leaves to wrap food for cooking, the use of juices as a bonding agent with ochre used in paintings. The juices of some orchids were used to stick feathers and paint to the bodies of dancers. Other species stems were dried and stripped and then the fibres used for making armbands, necklaces, waistbands and also for tying and

strengthening weapons. Many flowers were also worn by the women for ceremonial reasons.

Article provided by David and Pat Harmer from the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc

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WEBSITE

www.edos.org.au. Our Webmaster Ray Girdlestone would like you to have a look at our EDOS website and make comment – remember it is still a work in progress and any suggestions will be appreciated. If you have any Cultural advice you think may be useful to others please pass it on to Ray for inclusion on the website.

Ray can be contacted on email webmaster@edos.org.au or phone 3823 4277

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

If anyone has any articles they would be interested in having included in the Newsletter please let me know
For anyone who is interested in receiving their Newsletter electronically, please let me know your email address and I will include you in our email group. My email address is editor@edos.org.au

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