

# BULLETIN

## EASTERN SUBURBS ORCHID SOCIETY

**NEXT MEETING: 7.45pm Monday 19 February 2018 at Community Hall, on corner Arden and Varna Sts Clovelly** (held 3rd Monday of each month except January) **Visitors always welcome.**

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

**Single \$12 Family \$18**

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## Christmas Party Issue



2017 Champion Novice Herbert Chen receiving his trophy and plant

## Indian Dendrobiums (part 1)

by Gary Hodder

*Soft Cane ("Indian") Dendrobiums must surely be the easiest of all exotic orchids to grow, and the range of colours and showy flowers are unsurpassed by any other type of orchid. All SE Asian Dendrobiums have a growing period and a rest period, so it is best to grow them in a well-drained open bark mix. Keep the plants moist and heavily fertilised during the growing season. However reduce watering during the dormant winter period until new shoots appear. Gary Hodder gave a fascinating presentation to ESOS in 2017, and has kindly written this series to honour his favourite species. Perhaps you would like to try growing them?*

### **DENDROBIUM THYRSIFLORUM**

This species is native to SE Asia as it has been found in Eastern Himalayas (Bhutan, Assam, Yunnan and Arunachal Pradesh as well as in the mountains of northern Indochina (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam) It grows as an epiphyte, or sometimes lithophyte, in high elevation monsoon humid, mossy mixed and coniferous forests at elevations of 1200 to 2000m. *Dendrobium thysiflorum* has slender, ridged, rounded, club-shaped, yellowish pseudo-bulbs carrying 5 to 7 leathery dark green leaves which last for several years.

Second year canes grow one or more inflorescences from the top of the cane in the spring. The inflorescences arch gracefully downwards, each carrying a large number of flowers. Each white flower has a large yellow labellum, frilled on the edges. Unfortunately the flowers only last for about a week.

### **DENDROBIUM FARMERII**

This beautiful species from SE Asia grows in the Himalayas (Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, India, Bangladesh) and Indochina (Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Peninsular Malaysia and Vietnam). This evergreen epiphytic grows in nature on the spreading branches of large trees in the lowlands at elevations of 150 to 1000m and grows in summer-moist forests in warm to hot temperatures with medium amounts of light. (It grows in warmer areas than the *Den. thysiflorum* which it resembles.) This orchid has leathery dark green leaves on four angled pseudo-bulbs and flowers from late winter into spring and early summer. The flowers occur in drooping clusters of between 20 to 40, and are very fragrant white or pale-lilac, and yellow-lipped.



*Dendrobium thysiflorum*





*Dendrobium farmerii* What beetle is that?!



## **DENDROBIUM DENSIFLORUM**

*Dendrobium densiflorum* is native to SE Asia as it has been found in Assam, Bangladesh, Eastern Himalayas, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Tibet, Hainan and southern China as a small to medium sized, cool growing epiphyte or occasional lithophyte, on moss covered trunks or branches of trees at altitudes of 1100 to 1830m. This is a densely flowered species with a spectacular inflorescence resembling a pineapple. It is easily identified by its pendulous cluster of bright yellow flowers, with a rich orange lip arising from the apex. The pseudo-bulbs are 30 – 45cm long, with several angles (distinguishing feature from *D. farmerii*) and about 2cm in diameter. Persistent leaves numbering 3-5 remain on the pseudo-bulbs. These leathery leaves are generally grouped at the apex and last for several years. Second year canes grow one or more inflorescences from the top of the cane in the spring. Even leafless canes will flower, but they are short lived, only lasting for about a week.

## **BEWARE THE BEETLE!**

The Dendrobium Beetle is one of the most destructive pests, mostly to *Dendrobium* orchids and hybrids, but it will sometimes attack other orchid genera. These beetles are native to Australia and are found from Northern Territory through Queensland and down through New South Wales. The adult beetle is a vivid orange colour, with black stripes across its back and also having black markings across its shoulders. They grow to approx. 1 cm in length and have two black antennae from the head. The female will lay eggs on new growths and after about 10 days the larvae pupate. The larvae is cream in colour approx. 1.5 mm long having a slippery waxy covering and are generally found at the base of the orchid.

Normally in the summer months the larvae tunnel down the pseudo-bulb or new growth and eventually the growth above the affected area will turn brown and die.

The adult beetle will feed on flowers, new growth or bulbs and when disturbed will fall straight down to the ground. Young beetles will fly away when approached but as they get older, they simply drop to the ground.

As a result they can easily be captured in the late afternoon by placing a container underneath them so that they fall in. They can then be destroyed immediately with fly spray.

The best method of controlling the Dendrobium Beetle is to mix 50% Eco Oil and 50% Eco Neem in a spray bottle with water as per the instructions, and spray thoroughly in all areas then repeat the process after about 10 days.



*Dendrobium densiflorum*



Chris Dalrymple, Barry Collins, Roger Lodsman



Chris Dalrymple, Buda Ivanisevic, Barry Collins



Barry Collins and Oryit Fotini Crompton



Barry Collins and Cathy Starrett



Boonseng Leelarthaepin



Chris Dalrymple, Gavin Curtis (Open Champion) Barry Collins

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### NUMBER OF PLANTS BENCHED

NAME		Number
Gavin	Curtis	<b>80</b>
Warleiti	Jap	68
Chris	Dalrymple	56
<b>Herbert</b>	<b>Chen</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Roger</b>	<b>Lodsman</b>	<b>23</b>
Chin	Wong	18
Barry	Collins	18
<b>Oryit Fotini</b>	<b>Crompton</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Buda</b>	<b>Ivanisevic</b>	<b>9</b>
David	Bullock	7
Margaret	Leonard	6
Denis	Collier	6
Michael	Morrow	5
<b>Helen</b>	<b>Mason</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Boglar</b>	<b>Gertner</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mira</b>	<b>Kostic</b>	<b>3</b>
Gregory	Kazarian	3
<b>Cathy</b>	<b>Starrett</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>373</b>

## NOVICE plants = 28%

**FIRST FLOWERING SEEDLING**  
Gavin Curtis

### OPEN POINTS PLACING

PLACE	NAME	
1	Gavin	Curtis
2	Warleiti	Jap
3	Chin	Wong
4	Barry	Collins
5	Margaret	Leonard
6	Denis	Collier
7	David	Bullock
8	Michael	Morrow

### NOVICE POINTS PLACING

PLACE	NAME	
1	Herbert	Chen
2	Roger	Lodsman
3	Buda	Ivanisevic
4	Mira	Kostic
5	Oryit Fotini	Crompton
6	Cathy	Starrett
7	Helen	Mason

### POPULAR VOTE/PLANT OF NIGHT

PLACE	NAME	
1	Warleiti	Jap
2	Gavin	Curtis
3	Herbert	Chen
4	David	Bullock
5	Cathy	Starrett
6	Gregory	Kazarian



It was also Gavin's birthday!



Warleiti Jap (First Prize Popular Vote) and Chris Dalrymple



Margaret Staunton



Mira Kostic (4th Novice) Chris Dalrymple, Barry Collins

# Coming Up in 2018

- **AOCC2018 on 18-22nd July**
- **ESOS Show on 4-5th August**
- **Southern Orchid Spectacular 5-7th October**
- **Annual Gavin Curtis Workshop/Open Day**
- **Seedling Growth Competition**
- **All You Need to Know about Flasks' Workshop**
- **REMEMBER THERE'S NO JANUARY MEETING!**



Chin Wong (Third Prize Open)