



From President Tony...

Fires and hopefully the worst of Covid behind us, together with high vaccination levels, saw a very tentative emergence of fifteen Members from Lockdown at our General Meeting on 22 October, at our Secretary's Deua Valley property. Our first get together for some months. - a masked and double-vaxxed outdoor event. The Meeting agreed that the Club's activities for the foreseeable future retain as a condition of participation – face masks to be worn and proof of double-vaxxed status to be provided.

We agreed that an outdoor AGM/Christmas Party be held on Saturday 4 December at Shelley Beach, Moruya. By that time some of the post-lockdown dust might have settled and more of us may be prepared to venture out – I hope so. It will be a good opportunity to reacquaint and share some Christmas Cheer.

Some of us have passed our 'use by date' and nominations are sought for positions on the Club's Executive and Committee. It's a great opportunity to step-up and take the Club into this post-Covid rebuilding period – full training and support will be provided! Give it some thought, please.

And a big thank you to Sue Carroll and Diane Hay who have kept the Newsletters and Facebook photos flowing – maintaining contact through this 'difficult time.'

~Tony

NEXT MEETING:
AGM &
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday,
Dec 4th

President:
Tony Groube
44712052
Vice President:
Jean Swindley
44736963
Treasurer:
David Hay
44739547
Secretary:
Glenda Clapin
0414721655
Committee:
Barbara Williams
Anne-Marie Collins
Garry Evans
Una Roberts
Gordon Marion

An E.O.C. Meeting.....

With the lockdown lifted, the Committee decided to hold a meeting outdoors with Members masked and double vaxxed. It was a chance to get together, make a few decisions about future events and show any plants in flower. 15 Members travelled to the Clapin's property in the Deua River Valley on October 22nd to meet and chat. Thank you to Glenda and Tony for offering their home for this get together and a special thank you to Glenda for the delicious afternoon tea she provided.

This Year's EOC Christmas Party.....

Given the on-going Covid situation, this will be a low key event held outside with Members attending to be masked and fully vaccinated.

The Club will also require your vaccination certificate to be with you.

We will meet at

Shelley Beach, South Moruya, on December 4th (Saturday) at 4pm. for drinks and a chat.

The AGM will be held first of all with the election of Office Bearers and a Committee.

Bring your own glasses and drinks (cold or hot), something to snack on and a chair.

There is some seating and shelter there but not enough seating for everyone.

There will be tickets issued for a gift hamper etc. in lieu of a Raffle.

Do try and get to this final E.O.C. event for the year, as there have been so few chances to meet in 2021.

Monthly Maintenance.....



- ◆ Your Spring/Summer fertilising regime should be in place by now. Weak fertiliser is recommended and a monthly flush with clean water is advisable.
- ◆ The winds are persisting on the coast so keep an eye on your potting medium to make sure it isn't drying out too quickly. If the top looks dry and you aren't sure about what is below, poke a satay stick into the pot and check it for dampness.
- ◆ As the long range forecast is predicting a damp end to 2021, make sure you are prepared to treat your orchids with your preferred anti-fungal mix should the forecast be accurate.
- ◆ Last but not least, watch out for bugs and scale. Check, inspect, pick up pots, look underneath the pot as well as inside the pot. Check under leaves and in leaf axils. This is a time consuming exercise but could save you heart-ache later on.

Besides using your usual methods of control here are a few alternative ideas to consider:

For scale a 50/50 mix of 70% Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol and water can be used as a mist or to dab on.

For mealy bugs a soap solution of 3 parts liquid soap (baby shampoo works) to 1 part water can be sprayed onto the offending insects.

For grasshoppers a bait of molasses can be used.

For slugs and snails Diatomaceous Earth can be spread around plants. This is made from fossilised plankton and is non toxic. It will also kill any mealy bug which may be moving from plant to plant.

For mites increase the humidity levels. They like hot dry conditions so won't enjoy the added dampness.

The following link 'Reading Your Orchid's Leaves' is worth checking out....

<https://www.maxandmilesplants.com/blog/signs-of-a-healthy-and-unhealthy-orchid>

[Barrita Orchids grower resource page – Barrita Orchids](#)

Scott Barrie is well known in the orchid world and some interesting information can be accessed on his webpage.



OUR EOC LIBRARY

The Library is still functioning and D&D welcome all double vaxxed Members who wish to call in and borrow or return books....or simply call in for an orchid chat.

Please phone Diane 0409911087

Margaret and Don Hayes have had a tough few months and are now resting in care in Narooma.

We hope they are well enough to join us at the Christmas Party, along with several other Members who have been having a rough trot over the last few months.



We send our best wishes to all Members who are ill or undergoing treatment.



We hope you are soon feeling much better.

Editor's Orchid Spotlight

Capanemia superflua



This mini- miniature orchid is a species from Brazil and Northern Argentina where it grows on tree branches. It likes a cool to cold Winter and Intermediate conditions for the rest of the year. It needs to be watered all year round with a slight easing of water in Winter.

This dear little plant belongs to Jean Swindley. Jean grows miniature plants very well and this one is no exception.

It's Sarcochilus time....

Here are just a few you can see posted on our EOC Facebook page which you can access through our Club website.



Sarco. Magic



Restrepia

Sue Carroll

Restrepia belong to the Pleurothallidinae group, and are great little plants to have in your collection. They are easy to grow, do not occupy much space and reward with flowers throughout the year. Some might say that all the flowers look alike, but there are variations in colour and size.

I have been growing Restrepia for about 15 years and the following comments are based on my experiences with these little treasures.

I grow them in Sphagnum Moss and repot them yearly. They like to be kept damp throughout the year. They are fertilised with a very weak solution of fertiliser about once a fortnight.

Several years ago I used some slow release and they hated that. Whilst they are cool growers, they will tolerate our coastal temperature range providing they have humidity.

They do not enjoy being divided. They won't die, but just sulk for a very long time before deciding to send up new growths. Then the growth can be quite vigorous with multiple leaf growths being produced.

They can be mounted or grown in pots. Pot culture probably allows the flowers to be displayed more attractively with most species but there are some which present beautifully on a mount.

eg. *Restrepia cymbula*.

Many species flower regularly over many months of the year but there is one unnamed species I have that is very reluctant to flower so I keep on moving it to encourage it to do something. I only own one hybrid and it flowers its head off for most of the year. Some Restrepia have flowers that last for several weeks and others just a few days. They don't seem to be particularly attractive to pests or diseases but the flowers can be damaged by wind or by being knocked.

To keep the plants looking tidy, dried flower stems need to be trimmed away which is tedious but worthwhile.

Don't overlook these little orchids as they can put on quite a show as a mature well-flowered plant.

