

grim and Graeme was delighted to see signs of recovery after the rain. The mosses and ferns were green again with lots of evidence of grasses and wildflowers but, like everywhere else, follow up rain is needed. We saw quite a few *P. revoluta* rosettes, finished flowers and several still in flower - including a double headed one, and some *Eriochilus* leaves. Graeme climbed one of the ridges and discovered a large patch of *Cyrtostylis* and some leaves, probably of *P. laxa*. This is really a beautiful spot with some wonderful lookouts over the country from the top of the hill.

After almost running out of petrol at Lockhart and eventually finding the only petrol station down a side street (no thanks to Frannie who wanted us to go miles down the road), we moved on to The Rock. This is a huge formation some 6km west of the township of the same name. It is a 340 hectare Nature Reserve rising 364 metres above the surrounding plains and is

an island of natural habitat for the local flora and fauna in an agricultural landscape. Like Galore Hill, this area is recovering but still very dry and did provide us with *P. nana* rosettes, *Thelymitra* leaves and lots of *P. revoluta* rosettes, with spent flowers and open flowers. There is a 6km walking track on the rock but we decided the day was getting late and we were unlikely to see orchids other than those we had already seen, so decided to head homewards.

Graeme wanted to be back in Wollongong that night, and although we had spent limited time at both Galore Hill and The Rock a further visit in spring would be worthwhile. With Frannie happy again to be on a main road and recovered from the sulks, we headed back to Yass via Wagga Wagga, pleased with the rate of recovery of the flora and planning to monitor the rainfall over autumn and winter hoping for the best spring flowering in 15 years.

2014 Speciosum Spectacular

Another great father's day weekend at Kempsey.

John Zietsch, Secretary, ANOS Mid North Coast Group

The weekend began on Friday night with the customary welcome BBQ provided by ANOS Mid North Coast Group. This was followed by a very entertaining talk from the guru of Dendrobium speciosum variety grandiflorum, Gerry Walsh

which he illustrated with a unique collection of photos showing grandiflorums in their natural habitat.

The judges had the task of sorting through some



A view of the Speciosum Spectacular show display. Photo by Bill Dobson.



Dendrobium speciosum 'Sonny James', Champion Species of the show (this page). Photographs supplied by Bill Dobson

240 odd exhibits of many high quality orchids to find the champions. Again growers from the Newcastle region made a huge contribution to the display of hybrids while the display of speciosums from Ted and other growers is breath taking. Without these and the many other growers from outside the area the show could not be so successful.

During the judging Ted demonstrated how he divides his speciosums and discussed his culture methods. If you want to learn from the master there is no other place to go.

A BBQ and coffee was available all day and this provided an atmosphere in which visitors were able to enjoy each others company in a friendly, relaxing environment and admire some exquisite native orchids.

Around 140 guests attended the presentation dinner on Saturday night at Kempsey Heights Bowling Club. Ted Walmsley was presented with the trophy for the grand champion *D. speciosum* 'Sonny James' (var. *speciosum* 'Red Spot' x var.



pedunculatum 'Red Factor'). This plant was from a cross made many years ago by Phil Spence.

The champion native hybrid went to *Dendrobium* Dingadee 'Bob' owned by Wayne Perrin. This is a truly magnificent plant which



dampener on things.

The weekend could not be the success it is without the magnificent sponsorship of Phil Ritchie and the incredible effort of Ted and Winsome Walmsley and their fantastic family. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Thank you to all those who attended and if you haven't been able to make it to Kempsey we hope to see you there next Father's Day weekend when we will welcome back so many long-time friends.

Don't forget your entries to the 2014 Speciosum Competition.

Dendrobium Dingadee 'Bob', Champion Hybrid of the show (this page). Photographs by Bill Dobson.

will only improved as it grows to a larger specimen. Wayne also collected the champion hybrid seedling class with another plant of *D. Dingadee*.

The inaugural 'Legends Trophy' to perpetuate the memory of ANOS Mid North Coast members Alwyn Flanagan and Syd Burton who both passed away during the year, was awarded to the most successful exhibitor. That honour this year went to Wayne Perrin.

ANOS Judges awarded HCCs to both the champion *D. speciosum* and the champion hybrid. Several plants have also been recommended for AOC awards.

The Sunday bush walk was again well attended with visitors encountering a good number of species. Plants found included *D. aemulum*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. speciosum* var. *hillii*, *D. schoeninum*, *D. gracilicaule*, *Sarcochilus olivaceus*, *S. falcatus*, *Plectorrhiza tridentata*, *Bulbophyllum exiguum* and *Calanthe australasica*. An untimely shower put a bit of a





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