

fire scar. This provides the fuel to feed a hot fire that the vegetation of the scrub is not adapted to survive. Unlike many patches of remnant vine-thicket that survive on outcrops of volcanic rock, Forty Mile Scrub has areas of good volcanic soil that provides a suitable host for weeds to thrive. The *Lantana* and other weeds displace the natural vegetation and build the fuel load, so that the next fire encroaches even further into the remnant vine-thicket.

Although thirty-one biological control agents for *Lantana* have been introduced to Australia, only seventeen have established enough to cause seasonal damage, reducing vigour and competitiveness. Whilst biological controls have been introduced to Forty Mile Scrub, their effect has been limited, at best slowing down the growth but they have not provided any effective control. Unfortunately, unless a “miracle bullet” biological control is found we fear that *Lantana* is permanently established at Forty Mile Scrub, and will continue to degrade what was once a fascinating example of dry inland vine-thicket. Luckily for those of us who enjoy seeing native

orchids in the wild, the Orchidaceae of Forty Mile Scrub, except for the *Habenaria*, can be observed in other relatively close by locations.

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- The three authors live in North Queensland and have extensive experience with the orchids there.*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Australasian Native Orchid Conference & Show 2016

This will be held at Kempsey from 1–4th September 2016 in association with the 15th Annual Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular, which has established itself as a major national orchid event. This year the combined show will require one enlarged show area and an enlarged Show Schedule. Ted and Winsome Walmsley pioneered the concept of a show featuring *Dendrobium speciosum*, and the first Kempsey Spectacular was held in 2002.

This year the event will be held at the property owned by the Macleay District Motor Cycle Club (Greenhill Speedway Complex), colloquially referred to as ‘The Kempsey Dirt Bike Track’. Large numbers of show entries featuring the latest flowering line bred *D. speciosum*, and Australian and Australasian species and hybrids are expected from all over the country including Victoria and Queensland. Displays from ANOS groups and individual growers will be seen, as well as many plants exhibited in the general benchings. The show promises to be the best Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular yet and should be the highlight of the 2016 season.

Show set up will be 9am to 5pm Thursday 1st September with judging on Friday between 8.30am and 12.30pm. The show will be open to the public from 1.00pm Friday and closes 2pm Sunday 4th September.

The Conference speaker programme will be held at Kempsey Heights Bowling Club on Saturday 3rd September with presentations by Neil Anderton, Lloyd Edwards, Brendan Larkin, Amie McElroy, Robert Reitano and Laura Simmons, covering topics ranging from studies of *Phaius australis* to the culture and latest breeding of dendrobiums and *Sarcochilus*, and the culture and conservation of terrestrial orchid species. The conference committee appreciate the fantastic support that has been received from many ANOS Groups and individual members who have made very generous donations of sponsorship. Prize money will total over \$6000, with \$1000 for the Grand Champion.

If you are planning to register for the conference and presentation dinner do so as soon as possible, as spaces are filling quickly and some accommodation is booked out.

Further information can be obtained from: ANOS website [www.anos.org.au](http://www.anos.org.au), Conference website [www.8thanosconference.org.au](http://www.8thanosconference.org.au), Facebook Group: 8th ANOS Conference & Show.

Enquiries: John Zietsch, Conference Chairman, Ph. 02 6554 9733 or 0408 034 633





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