

From The National Registrar of Judges

Dave Groffen

I've only held this office since the beginning of September, so much of the credit for the progress of the ANOS Judging system goes to Ray Clement, the previous Registrar.

The revision of the Judges Handbook has been a long term project and has resulted in the publishing of Version 6.08 of the handbook which replaces all previous versions. The handbook is available for download from the ANOS website under the Judging tag. There are still a number of suggestions for changes to the handbook to be fully considered and these may lead to a further revision being published, hopefully before the next major spring flowering season.

At the time of writing there have been 26 awards granted in 2016, all but one during the spring flowering season from August to October, 18 of these were granted at the ANOS Conference at Kempsey. This is a clear indication of the quality of species and hybrids, and their superior culture, on display at the conference.

It is pleasing to note that the Victorian panel now has sufficient full judges to consider plants for awards and 5 awards were granted in Victoria.

The future looks bright for recognition of superior clones of ANOS eligible orchids as the number of fully qualified judges continues to increase due to the successful running of training course in all 3 of the eastern states. In total NSW has 27 judges, Northern Regional has 17 and Victoria has 11. There is still some way to go in SA and WA and regional areas generally.

It is difficult to convene a panel of 5 full judges in those areas and at times growers either miss out altogether on recognition for their plants and/or their cultural efforts or settle for AOC awards where its' panels are available. There is value in AOC awards, of course, and they are not to be denigrated, but in my opinion having a plant assessed by judges specifically trained to recognise quality in the range of plants eligible for ANOS judging is more appealing.

Accordingly, I believe that methods of assessing orchids remotely, where a full panel of judges cannot be physically present, should be seriously considered and tested with an eye to implementing a reliable system in the near future. It is essential that such a system will not lead to a lowering of the currently high standard of judging.

A small trial of remote award judging during the 2016 flowering season was successful with scores in the range of judges on site. Comments and suggestions are welcome.



Dendrobium Australian Freckles 'Best Blue' AM/
ANOS 2016 (NSW) Owner: Graham Young &
Callyn Farrel