

## 2017 Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular

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Another very enjoyable weekend was had by those who journeyed to Kempsey in 2017. It was one of renewing acquaintances and making new ones while enjoying a chat in the hospitality tent or over a few drinks at the presentation dinner or strolling through the show tent enjoying the magnificent speciosums and hybrids.

Wednesday and Thursday prior to the show saw Ted & Winsome Walmsley and their family, assisted by members of ANOS Mid North Coast Group, busy setting up the venue for benching on Friday. Thanks to the Walmsley family cooks, visitors were able to relax and enjoy the Friday night BBQ which was followed by a very informative and detailed presentation by Lloyd Edwards on his breeding of *Dendrobium kingianum* and a thought provoking presentation by Tony Blewitt on *Dendrobium speciosum* and their assessment on the show bench.

After opening at 9am on Saturday morning, the show was closed from 11am to 12.30 pm for judging the 250 exhibits benched by 21 growers from all over the country. It was very pleasing to have several new exhibitors this year and we hope

that they enjoyed the experience and will return again next year. Most growers had travelled more than 250km to the show, including Rick Winch who brought two plants from Western Australia to win the most travelled orchid trophy.

It is the support of these exhibitors that makes the Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular possible and ensures that it maintains its reputation as one of the highest quality native orchid shows on the calendar. This support is greatly appreciated by the organisers and visitors for without it we would not have a show and the weekend of fellowship that we enjoy.

Prior to the show the word around was that it was not looking like a particularly good year for speciosums but the plants on the show bench certainly did not reflect that concern. The Grand Champion *D. speciosum* of the show was Ted and Winsome Walmsley's 'Maddy', another outstanding plant from the cross of 'Windermere' x 'Daylight Moon'. Ted and Winsome also won Reserve Champion with *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Palmerston Mist Mark'. Both plants were awarded by ANOS.



*Dendrobium speciosum* exhibits.

The champion other species was David Butler's *D. tetragonum* 'Jess' while Bernie Fletcher's *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Peninsula Princess' x self was awarded the trophy for Champion *D. speciosum* seedling. It will be interesting to see this plant when it has grown to a larger specimen.

The hybrids as evidenced by the photos in the September issue of *The Orchadian* were again of a very high standard with six plants receiving awards (see awards this issue). The Champion Hybrid was a beautiful DUNO hybrid, *D. Duno Marilyn* 'Brian' exhibited by Henk van den Berg. This plant was awarded AM/ANOS. Reserve Champion Hybrid was awarded to *D. Tweetas* 'Violet Lip' grown by Grahame Young and Callyn Farrell of Down Under Native Orchids.

Champion Hybrid Seedling was Wayne Perrin's *D.*

*Dunokayla* 'WAP' x *D. Cosmic Gold* 'Sandy'. If you have any unflowered seedlings of these then you certainly have something to look forward to when they flower.

There could have been no more worthy recipient of the most successful exhibitor trophy than Henk van den Berg who thoroughly deserves all the accolades he receives as recognition of the time and effort he puts into the culture and amazing presentation of his plants.

Ted & Winsome Walmsley and ANOS Mid North Coast Group wish to thank all those who attended the 2017 Speciosum Spectacular, and look forward to welcoming you all back to Kempsey in 2018.

John Zietsch is Secretary of ANOS Mid North Coast Group.

Below: Part of the hybrid benching.





Sponsor Phil Ritchie presents prizes to major winners Ted and Winsome Walmsley.

