

It has been a busy year for ANOS Inc., with a successful triennial Conference and Show at Kempsey, and a plethora of awards, helped by an enlarged judging group. A link to all awards is available on the website. The judges train long and hard for their qualifications, and we thank them for their dedication. Discussions are underway regarding the next conference, and we will keep you informed about progress.

The website coordinators have been at work on an updated website, which has now been launched. Give us your feedback on the new look, and use the links to let us know of any suggestions for added online resources you would like to use. More features will be added over the next few months, so keep checking the site. There is also a new Facebook page, and the link can be found on the website. To enable us to communicate with you more easily, please let the secretary know your email address if you have not already supplied it. Council aims to keep individual members informed of events and issues as they arise, and direct email is the quickest, cheapest and most reliable way to achieve this.

The ANOS Travel Club led by John Zietsch and Ray Clement organized a very successful spring tour to Western Australia for a small group of members. Andrew Brown from Perth led the bus tour and many spectacular species were found and photographed. Glowing reports from participants have been received, and members will be kept informed when plans for another orchid trip are underway, as there were a number of people disappointed to miss out.

*The Orchadian* production team, led by Peter Adams, continues to provide informative, high quality articles which require many hours each quarter to prepare. Please encourage your friends to become ANOS Inc. members by subscribing if they do not do so already.

How was your orchid season this year? When I reflect on what that means I realise that there is no such thing as a single season - orchid activities and flowering are all year round. Orchid repotting starts late spring to early summer in the southern states and usually ends with the

onset of cool weather in autumn, or when I lose enthusiasm for the large task. Over summer *Aeridinae* (*Sarcanthinae*) species and hybrids last right through until Christmas in cool southerly conditions in Melbourne. The three Australian *Cymbidium* species and their hybrids flower over summer, and then the autumn terrestrials begin. *Dendrobium bigibbum* season and the hot/cold hybrids are flowering in May and through winter. Because of the strong *D. tetragonum* influence in many *Dendrobium* hybrids, there is no gap before the spring flowering starts, the busiest time for us down south. The only things that are dormant over summer are usually orchid meetings.

For keen orchid growers, life is dominated by these cycles. When to take holidays, how to get to interstate meetings and shows, when to fit in field trips, when to be home to nurse newly deflasked seedlings. There is no orchid 'season', just life with orchids.

It has been a long cool winter and flowering times have been erratic, while some species such as *D. speciosum* had a bumper flowering year down south. November has been cool and overcast in Melbourne, so the growing season has been delayed for dendrobiums, and few new canes are appearing in my orchid house. I expect it will be a short growing season here. Bushfires are predicted to be bad, and we think of our members in New South Wales who have had their homes under threat already.

On behalf of Council, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable Christmas season.

*Sheryl Lawson*

