



Callyn Farrell - Australian Dendrobiums – Culture and Breeding Strategies

Callyn has been actively involved in the orchid community for over a decade, after inheriting the 'orchid bug' at a very young age from his grandfather, Grahame Young. Callyn continued to learn from orchid greats such as the late Brian Gerhard, Kevin Hipkins and Walter Upton along with Tony Blewit, David Butler, Peter and Sheryl Adams and Ted Walmsley, investing a large amount of time into studying breeding patterns and the subsequent outcomes. After working since the age of 14 at Wallsend Nurseries in Newcastle, Australia, Callyn also developed a deep understanding of general horticulture which aided in producing a solid cultural plan for Down Under Native Orchids (DUNO), ensuring customers receive nothing less than top quality. Recently, Callyn has been a popular speaker in New Zealand, talking on a range of topics including growing Australasian orchids, breeding patterns and judging.

In 2010 Callyn commenced his ANOS judging course under the careful eye of John Creegan. In 2013 he was made an associate of the ANOS NSW panel and in 2014 he joined the ANOS Victoria panel, before joining the ANOS Queensland panel as a full judge in 2016. In 2018 Callyn became the deputy registrar of the ANOS Queensland judging panel and entered his third year as an ANOS councillor. He is also an Australian Orchid Council judge after passing the training course in early 2014. Callyn aims to improve the breeding of Australasian orchids, both species and hybrids for hobbyist growers, and it is this knowledge and constant exposure that allows him to do so. He also hopes to become more active with the national orchid bodies to ensure that orchid clubs and enthusiasts are present for generations to come.

Presentation:

We seem to be currently inundated with different potting mediums to grow our orchids in, but what work best? We have used them all from coconut fibre to scoria. Find out my opinions on a wide range of mediums, what has worked and what has not.

Australian *Dendrobium* breeding is currently producing various positive results. Where have we been and where are we going?

Exciting things are being produced within *Dendrobium* section *Rhizobium*. Explore where our breeding program at Down Under Native Orchids started, where we are heading and what we have produced so far.