

Dave Groffen : Judging *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata*.

I have been growing orchids since 1984, after buying a few plants in far north Queensland while on my honeymoon. My collection is comprised of a wide variety of species and hybrids. The majority are dendrobiums and the majority of those are ANOS eligible plants. My involvement with ANOS started in early 1990s when the ANOS Kabi Group was formed and I was a foundation member and the first Editor. Shortly thereafter I joined the first judging course to be conducted outside Sydney. I became a full judge in 1995. I was the Regional Registrar for the Northern Panel for about 9 years. The panel conducted two training courses during that time and increased the number of judges to 18.

I was appointed National Registrar of Judges in 2016. During this time a new handbook was published and several amendments, the most significant being to change from appreciation judging of Australasian orchids to pointing up, and to introduce the ability for judging panels to include some judges not physically present in remote areas, under strict conditions.

The topic I will present is Judging *Dendrobium* section *Spatulata*.

These orchids, together with all Australasian orchids, are now assessed by pointing up the characteristics instead of being judged by appreciation. The discussion will cover all of the criteria, with particular emphasis on shape, which has proven to be the most difficult to assess. A number of slides of examples will be shown and discussion invited as to the merit of them.