



Tuckers Orchid Nursery

Presents...

Orchids for Everyone



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FROM ROSS THE BOSS

Welcome back –

Spring has certainly sprung all around Auckland – loads of blossom and spring flowers everywhere. The last few orchid shows are happening now, building up to the “big one” at New Plymouth in November. We are preparing loads of new releases for that show including some very unusual species we have acquired, along with our ever-changing range of hybrids. So come along and get one or two.

Most orchid shows we have attended this year report an increase in patronage and better and bigger sales, but I hear on the grapevine some have had a poor attendance, with very disappointing results. I wonder if this is not perhaps a job for the Orchid Council of New Zealand, as many members wonder what they do for their capitation fees, except hold meetings and produce a yearbook, etc.

If, at one of their National Conferences, they asked a “Marketing Guru” how to promote orchid shows to the great unknowing public, we might all learn something. They could also survey the most successful orchid shows and pass along this information to other clubs who are struggling to operate successful events. I regularly get the nursery industry magazine for plants and I notice that the “Promotion” of growing plants is a very big part of their organization.

Orchid growing doesn't really have a commercial abundance, and we definitely aren't organized to the same extent. So to promote orchid growing and orchids has to come from the societies. Give away material to promote your club is always a good start. Otherwise orchid clubs will steadily fail without the new members that are attracted at shows.

We have had a lovely display of Den speciosums this year due to the long hot summer (see the photo later in newsletter). People who have visited the nursery have gone away and told their friends who have made special trips just to see them.

SPECIALS THIS MONTH:

6 pack of Aussie Dendrobiums size B	\$55 incl GST
10 pack of Aussie Dendrobiums size B	\$90 incl GST
6 pack of Aussie Dendrobiums size C	\$95 incl GST
Size D (150mm sq pot)	\$23 each
Dendrobium speciosum C size whites to yellows	\$25
Dendrobium speciosum/hybrid 6” pot	\$45
“Really Big Ones” speciosum/hybrid	\$70

Check out our Website Birthday special further on in this newsletter.

Included are free cultural notes and a special free gift (Delivery charges apply). To place an order you can email us at orchids@clear.net.nz or visit our website www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz to view our range. We are happy to send these orchids anywhere in NZ only.



CATS COMMENT:

We really should have done this newsletter last month when all the Den speciosums were in flower. They have mostly finished now, but they were glorious to see when all the really big ones were out in full bloom. They were much admired by customers who came to the nursery. They are being saved for the next big orchid show in Auckland 2016. Some may even make it down to New Plymouth for the Orchid Conference in November this year. It's on from the 31st October till the 3rd November, so if you can make it along to the show it would be well worth the effort, as plants will be on display from all over NZ and some from overseas too. There will be lots of vendors from NZ, Taiwan, Australia and possibly the US with orchids, flasks and orchid related products to purchase. There are still lots of other Aussie Dendrobiums in flower, as they last a bit longer than the pure species. The Starbright Corona crosses have been amazing. Lots of different colour combinations and some seriously large flowers that present well above the foliage. The Australian Rose Beauty crosses have also produced some fine flowers and a couple of these have squeezed their way into my collection. I am repotting much of my collection now and am very pleased to see excellent root growth on most plants. I put this down to the excellent bark we are using. Give it a try you won't be disappointed.

No 2 bark \$20 for 40litre bag (seedlings and up to 5" pot size & Odonts)

No 3 & 4 \$18 for 40 litre bag (Cymbids, Phallies & Cattleyas over 5" pot size)

Some of the colour varieties of Den. Starbright Corona (Den. Ranger x Den. Louise's Rainbow)



Den Starbright Corona 'Ozone'



Den Starbright Corona



Den Starbright Corona



Den Starbright Corona

(Plants displayed in this section are for informational purposes only; we may not always have these plants in stock)

FEATURE OF THE MONTH –AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUMS

The name Dendrobium comes from Greek *dendros* = tree and *bios* =life, in other words plant living on trees. With more than 1400 species the genus Dendrobium is one of the most diversified of the Orchid families. Dendrobiums have an extremely wide distribution from the Pacific Islands to the Himalayas including Burma, Malaysia, southern China, Japan, the Philippines, Fiji and Australia. Australian dendrobiums are among the hardiest, and at times, the most drought tolerant plants on earth. Many occur in the temperate forests of the Great Dividing Range that runs down the entire length of the Eastern coast of Australia at altitudes from sea level up to 1500m. Temps can range from freezing to 45°C. With its irregular rainfall, plants have adapted to obtaining water as it becomes available and storing it in their leaves stems and fleshy roots for drier times.

There are two main types of dendrobiums cultivated by collectors:

- The Dendrocoryne dendrobiums e.g. *Den kingianum*, *Den speciosum* and their various hybrids
- The Dockrillia, which are the terete or rolled leaf dendrobiums e.g. *Doc teretifolia*, *Doc striolata*.

These have unusual upside down flowers and prefer to be mounted on tree fern or cork.

Dendrobiums:

These desirable and highly attractive orchids are unique to Eastern and South eastern Australia. Generally, in most cases they do not require the demanding temperatures and high humidity that most other exotic orchids require. In the wild most grow as either Epiphytes (growing on the outside of other trees and shrubs on their bark) or as Lithophytes (growing on wet cliff faces and boulders). In most cases the roots of the orchids are covered with the ferns and mosses that also inhabit these spots, so they rarely, if ever dry out completely. These same ferns and mosses also add plenty of humidity to the air around the orchids, so a damp airy atmosphere is the most suited.(Fernery conditions.) The locations in the wild where they occur are usually quite bright, as few other plants grow under the same conditions. Australian dendrobium orchids enjoy bright but definitely not hot positions. A gentle shadow should be seen when moving your hand over the top of the plant. Dark wet conditions will allow rots to occur and blooms to become spotty with fungal infections.

Some of the varieties of *Den speciosum*



Den speciosum 'Beechwood'



White form



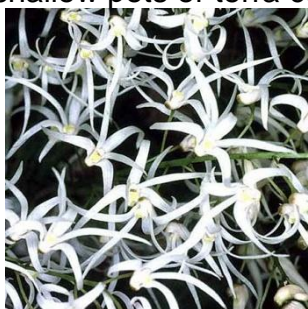
Den speciosum
'Mt Larcom Gold' x 'The King'



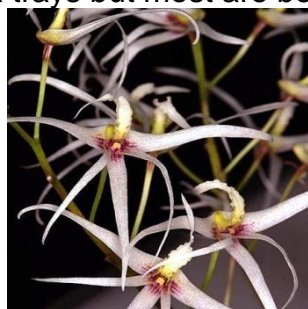
Den speciosum var *curvicaule*

Dockrillias:

Dockrillias are a relatively new genus having been removed from the Genus Dendrobium only very recently. They differ from normal Australian Dendrobiums in that the leaves and canes have been fused to form a solid tube or 'Rat Tail'. The other difference is that the blooms are inverted to what we know as normal. In the wild they are found as far south as eastern Tasmania and as far North as the tip of Cape York. There are about 25 or so species in the genus. A few may be grown in shallow pots or terra cotta trays but most are best suited for mounting.



Dockrillia linguiforme



Dockrillia sulphurea



Dockrillia teretifolia



Dockrillia pugioniforme

(Plants displayed here are for informational purposes only; we may not always have these plants in stock)



SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIES:

Another type of Dendrobium from Australia that has proved popular at the Nursery in recent times is the Dendrobium phalaenopsis aka bigibbum hybrids. These come in a large variety of colours and sizes from very tall large whites and dark purples to the miniature shorter cane types in blue, yellow red pink & even green. They grow in similar conditions to the Phalaenopsis but can tolerate a bit more light. They have also been used extensively in hybridizing, with the kingianum and speciosum type dendrobiums being crossed with Den phalaenopsis to create what are colloquially known as the tropi-cools i.e. cooler growing tropical dendrobiums. Examples of this are Den Warringah (x speciosum), Peewee (x tetragonum), Rosella (tetragonum x Peewee), Elegant Heart (Peewee x speciosum) & Kiwi Rainbow (Elegant Heart x Rosella). And so on... Even our Den Starbright Corona and Den Jonathan's Glory have Den phalaenopsis as a parent a few generations back. They have the versatility to also hybridize freely with the New Guinea and Indian species and Roy Tokunaga from H & R Nurseries in Hawaii has created some beautiful hybrids. While we do not have a large stock of these at the Redvale nursery we can obtain them for you in most colours. Flowering plants are priced from \$35 + Postage. The taller ones may be impractical to pack as they are very large, but they could be collected if you are in the Auckland area.



Den phalaenopsis



Den Kiwi Rainbow
'Redvale' HCC/OCNZ



Den Elegant Heart



Den White
(similar hybrids
available)



Den American Beauty
(similar hybrids
available)

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BASIC AUSSIE DENDROBIUM CULTURE:

Dendrobiums are relatively easy to grow.

Light – Fairly bright light, leaves should be light to med green. Give more light in autumn /winter to promote more flower spikes. A little more shade in summer prevents the plants getting too hot.

Temperature – Min night temps in winter recommended to be 5-10°C. Protect from frosts.

Feeding – Feed with Flowering Orchid Tucker weekly, all year round. Flush the plants with plain water monthly to remove excess salts from the mix.

Repotting & compost – Med- fine grade bark is suitable. Small plants = fine bark, large plants = medium bark. Dendrobiums have relatively fine roots, and will increase in size fairly quickly but don't put them in too large a pot, as they flower best when pot-bound. December and January is the best time to repot, as the roots will be active again then. Kiekies can be removed and potted separately, but leave your main plant to get as big as you can handle, before dividing for best flowering effect.

Humidity & watering - When the plants are making up their new growths water and feed fairly frequently. When the plants have finished growing towards the end of summer, water less frequently – just keep the mix damp until new growths emerge.



Parents of our Dendrobium seedlings:



Den Lynette Banks
'Lemonade' HCC/NZOS



Den Jonathan's Glory
'Dark Joy' HCC/AOC



Den Golden Arch



Den Jesmond Dazzler



Den Anne's Rainbow
Surprise



Den Tyabb



Den Australian Rose Beauty



Den Cobber

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Den Lynette Banks x speciosum – expect fine yellow forms B – C size

Den Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' (Colonial Surprise x Kingrose) – Mericlone of an excellent, dark flower with a white centre. B size (some have flowered this year)

Den Starbright Corona x Golden Arch – expect a range of colours and fine shapes. B -C size

Den Tyabb 'Rosy Cheeks' x speciosum 'Beechwood' HCC/AOC – expect a range of colours and fine shapes. B size

Den Australian Rose Beauty x Tyabb 'Rosy Cheeks' – expect fine pink forms B size (some have flowered this year)

Den Australian Rose Beauty x Cobber 'Lavender & Lime' – expect well marked pink forms B size

Den Anne's Rainbow Surprise x (kingianum x Jesmond Dazzler) – expect a range of colours and fine shapes B size

Den Golden Arch 'Yellow Magic' x speciosum 'Golden Rain' – expect fine yellow forms C size

Den Starbright Corona x Lynette Banks 'Yella' – expect a range of colours and fine shapes C size

Den kingianum 'Purple Star' x Lorikeet – expect fine dark purple forms D size

Den kingianum 'Purple Star' x Yondi – expect fine dark purple forms D size

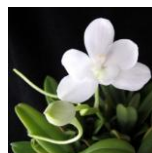


WHERE WE ARE OUT AND ABOUT THIS MONTH:

26th – 28th October – K&R Orchids, Tuakau

1st – 3rd November – 7th NZ National Orchid Exhibition, New Plymouth

9th – 10th November – North Shore OS Sarco & Mixed Genera Show St Anne's Hall, Browns Bay



Next month we are focusing on Species

Amesella monticola

WEBSITE WATSUP:

Fastway's Rural Delivery Zones available online:

Fastway's rural delivery zones are different to NZ Post. Mostly, Fastway is rural where NZ Post is not, however that rule cannot be applied across the board. We're considered rural under NZ Post but not under Fastway. Check to see what you are. They are available on the home page under Shipping and Returns.

Viewing the specials on our website:

I have been outlining the process for viewing our website specials over the last few months. It is now time to make room for other content. If you would like the instructions, please email me and I will send them to you individually.

Website Birthday:

It is our new website's 1st birthday. Ross the Boss says thanks for all the support of our Online Orchid Club members. For this month, anyone who refers a new person to join the Online Orchid Club and purchases 5 plants from us will receive a free plant specially selected for them. This can be done either online, through our website, or see us at our stand at the New Plymouth show.

Susan Tucker

Please note, the photos of plants shown in our newsletter are a mixture of breeding plants, plants we have seen in our travels and plants we have for sale. Not all of the plants that are displayed in our newsletter are available as plants for sale. Please check our website for details of what plants we have for sale. We do, however, welcome requests for plants that are not listed on our website as we may be able to supply them or something very similar.

