

Cumberland Orchid Circle inc.

There will be no meeting for the month of December. The next meeting of the Cumberland Orchid Circle will be on Wednesday 28th January 2015 in Barton Hall, which is situated in Gough Drive (off David Road), Castle Hill. The meeting will start at 8.00pm and will last approx 2.0 hrs. At the meeting, orchids in bloom will be benched for a monthly point score competition. This month's meeting is a Cultural Night and members who are having problems with any plant or have a question about anything associated with orchids are encouraged to bring it up at the meeting, where other members can offer advice about the problem. If you are bringing along a plant for advice, please let an experienced member see the plant before you bring it into the hall as we do not want a diseased plant in the hall which is liable to infect other plant in the hall.

At each meeting there is a sales table selling plants brought along by members, in addition to accessories used for orchid culture. During our supper interval, there will be time to "compare notes" and seek advice from other members.

In 24th October 2014, Circle members celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Circle in Baulkham Hills Sporting Club. A joyful evening was had by all the participants.

Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Circle's publicity officer on 9481 8895.



Circle president Roy Walker (left) and patron David Bell cutting the cake at our 50th anniversary dinner in October

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Delivered First week of each month
Call 9653 1321 for bookings

Planting Guide for Native Plants

DEC 14

By Barry Lees and Julia Hamilton



Choose a plant suitable for your soil and climate. Small plants grown in forestry tubes establish fast and are easy to plant.

Materials - available commercially.

- Slow release fertiliser for natives (low phosphorus)
- Jute mat (or similar) 368mm square with slots for the plant and 3 stakes
- Plastic sleeves with 3 stakes (or similar)
- Plastic or wire mesh cage
- Wetting agent



Method

- Dig hole at least 50 mm wider and deeper than the tube or pot holding your plant.
- If soil is poor put 1 teaspoon of slow release fertiliser for natives in the bottom of the hole with some soil.
- Remove plant from the tube or pot and carefully place it in the hole, planting it at the same or slightly below the original soil level.
- Backfill with dug out soil or native planting mix and create a Saucer like depression for easier watering.
- Add at least 1L of water to wash the backfill soil against the plants roots.
- A jute mat on the ground around the plant will reduce weed growth.
- A plastic sleeve will retain a moist environment, preventing wind, frost and rabbit damage.
- If wallabies can access the plant, it must be protected. A wire or plastic mesh cage about 1 metre high has proven adequate.
- If there is no rain, deep water the plant about once a fortnight for the first 3 months. After that, little or no water is required other than natural rainfall.
- Wetting agent or granules may be of benefit if the soil does not absorb the water.
- The plant might benefit from a small application of native fertiliser twice a year. No other fertilisers are needed, in fact they may harm the plant.

Contact us: StillCreekLandcare@inet.net.au, ph: 9653 2056. Look us up on Facebook or StillCreekLandcare.com.au.

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