

# Carniflora News

October 2014

Welcome. This issue of *Carniflora News* provides a summary of the last meeting, happenings in the greenhouse and details of new events.

## The Current Executive

The current executive is as follows:

President – Robert Gibson  
Vice President & Secretary – Wesley Fairhall  
Treasurer & Public Officer – Gareth Hambridge  
Committee Member 1 – Terry Watts  
Committee Member 2 – Glen Moss  
Committee Member 3 – Kirk 'Füzzzy' Hirsch  
Committee Member 4 – Marina Chong

## Delayed start to renovations at Woodstock:

**Planned renovations of the Woodstock Community Centre have been delayed. Therefore meetings up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> October will be held at Woodstock Community Centre as per usual.**

Check the ACPS Facebook page for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Australasian-Carnivorous-Plant-Society/194049760656595?>

## Upcoming ACPS meetings for 2014

10<sup>th</sup> October—Swap Meet (bring plants for sale or trade)

14<sup>th</sup> November— Presentation by Greg Bourke

12<sup>th</sup> December—to be announced

6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> December—**Christmas Party** at Mt Tomah (date to be decided by the members)

6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> December—**Annual Show** at Mt Tomah (option to be finalized by members)

The next meetings are on **10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November & 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014** & (all are Fridays). Meetings start at 7.30 p.m. Please bring plants for show or sale, or both.

Please give consideration to presenting a talk, a demonstration, or showing a selection of your favourite photos at one of the forthcoming meetings.

The society now has a general email address:

[auscps@gmail.com](mailto:auscps@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events:

**Plants With Bite Carnivorous Plant Fair, 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> December**, Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, Bells Line of Road, via Bilpin, Mount Tomah. Volunteers will be needed to provide advice on plants on display, to help sell plants, and to give some of the talks on both weekends (see roster on [page 7](#)). Please bring plants for display and plants for sale – this is a great way to make some money from your spare plants and share them – and your knowledge and enthusiasm – with other people.

The Society will hold its **Christmas Party** on the first weekend of this event: would Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> or Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> work best for you? Please let the Executive know on [auscps@gmail.com](mailto:auscps@gmail.com)

There has also been a suggestion that the Society hold its **Annual Show** during the 'Plants With Bite Fair', which would provide a chance for you to show off your plants (there will be judging categories) and also a chance to sell plants too (with the society taking 10% of the sale price in commission). Please let the executive know if you support this idea for the annual show.

## Seed Bank (see March 2014 newsletter: all seed donations are welcome).

**New seed available:** *Drosera cistiflora* RED x *D. pauciflora*, *D. natalensis*, *Roridula gorgonias*.

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER: Want ads, or plants for sale. Free service for members. Please notify Robert Gibson two weeks before a meeting if you wish to place an ad in this newsletter.

## Summary of the Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014:

The September meeting included a lovely display of tuberous *Drosera*, flowering Mexican *Pinguicula*, and two lovely *Nepenthes*. **John Neilsen** brought some bare-rooted *Sarracenia* cuttings of some rare and highly desirable species and forms which have now been able to be spread more widely through the local membership.



Thermometer

**Raymond Chin** gave a talk on inexpensive chambers for cool-growing carnivorous plants. A summary is provided below:

*Darlingtonia*, *Heliophora* and highland *Nepenthes* have very exacting requirements for temperature, water and light. These conditions can be met in small controlled growing chambers that can be made using cheap and readily available items including:

1. A non-contact infrared thermometer (essential for taking spot temperature readings);
2. LED lights, particularly strip lights, with a preference for red and some blue rather than white (red and blue lights also generate less heat than white lights);
3. Small humidifiers (these are crucial to counter drying effects of lights);
4. LCD digital temperature humidity meters with probe for both the inside and outside of growing chambers;
5. 24 hour timer switches to enable devices to automatically turn on and off each day so the set ups can run themselves for several weeks. Plants require a diurnal variation in temperature so the timer allows set ups to cool to ambient night temperatures before the system turns on again;
6. A cooling system, such as a Mini USB cooler heater beverage drinks fridge chiller (set at up to about 18°C) on which a pot is placed; chilled water circulated inside a terrarium that is made beside the terrarium, such as by an ice-cube maker, or growing the plants inside a small fridge either permanently or only during the summer; and
7. Fans to ensure air flow inside the chamber.

*Darlingtonia*, *Heliophora* and highland *Nepenthes* grow well in these set ups, and are able to survive during those extremely hot days that can quickly kill exposed plants.



Wine fridge terrarium (photo by R. Chin)



LED strip lighting (5 m rolls)

Raymond also showed some photos of his growing set ups at home and also some photos of *Nepenthes bokorensis*, *Drosera burmanni* and *D. lunata* in the wild in Cambodia, Thailand and southern China respectively from his extensive travels in that region in 2013.



LCD meter



Raymond giving his talk



LED lamp



Darlingtonia set-up (Left) and Heliamphora terrarium (Right)

### IUCN Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group

During the 10th International Carnivorous Plant Society Conference in Cairns, Rob Cantley officially launched the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group [<http://www.iucn-cpsg.org/>]. This group serves to preserve and study carnivorous plants in the wild. The work of this new group is to provide accurate and current Red List assessments for all carnivorous plants. The results of which will inform conservation efforts so they target the most threatened species. Everyone is welcome to contribute, whether by joining as a General Member or as a Specialist Member for a group of plants to help with this assessment work. I encourage everyone to get involved, for we all have a part to play in this effort to preserve the plants that fascinate us.



*Dionaea muscipula* "Gold Strike" in scape

### September & October in the Greenhouse

September and October is a time when many plants start to grow strongly; particularly *Dionaea muscipula*, *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*, *Nepenthes* species and hybrids, *Sarracenia* species and hybrids and many species of *Utricularia*. *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* turions are stirring and this is a danger time when plants with insufficient reserves can die shortly after breaking dormancy. Many erect-growing tuberous *Drosera* are in flower and setting seed. Evergreen rosetted *Drosera* are now starting to flower too. Please remember to pollinate your *Sarracenia* flowers (and to record which cross you have made) and to collect *Drosera* and other seed so that you can provide spare seed to the ACPS seedbank.

*Drosera menziesii* subsp. *basifolia*)



*Sarracenia rubra* in  
scape



Dormant *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*

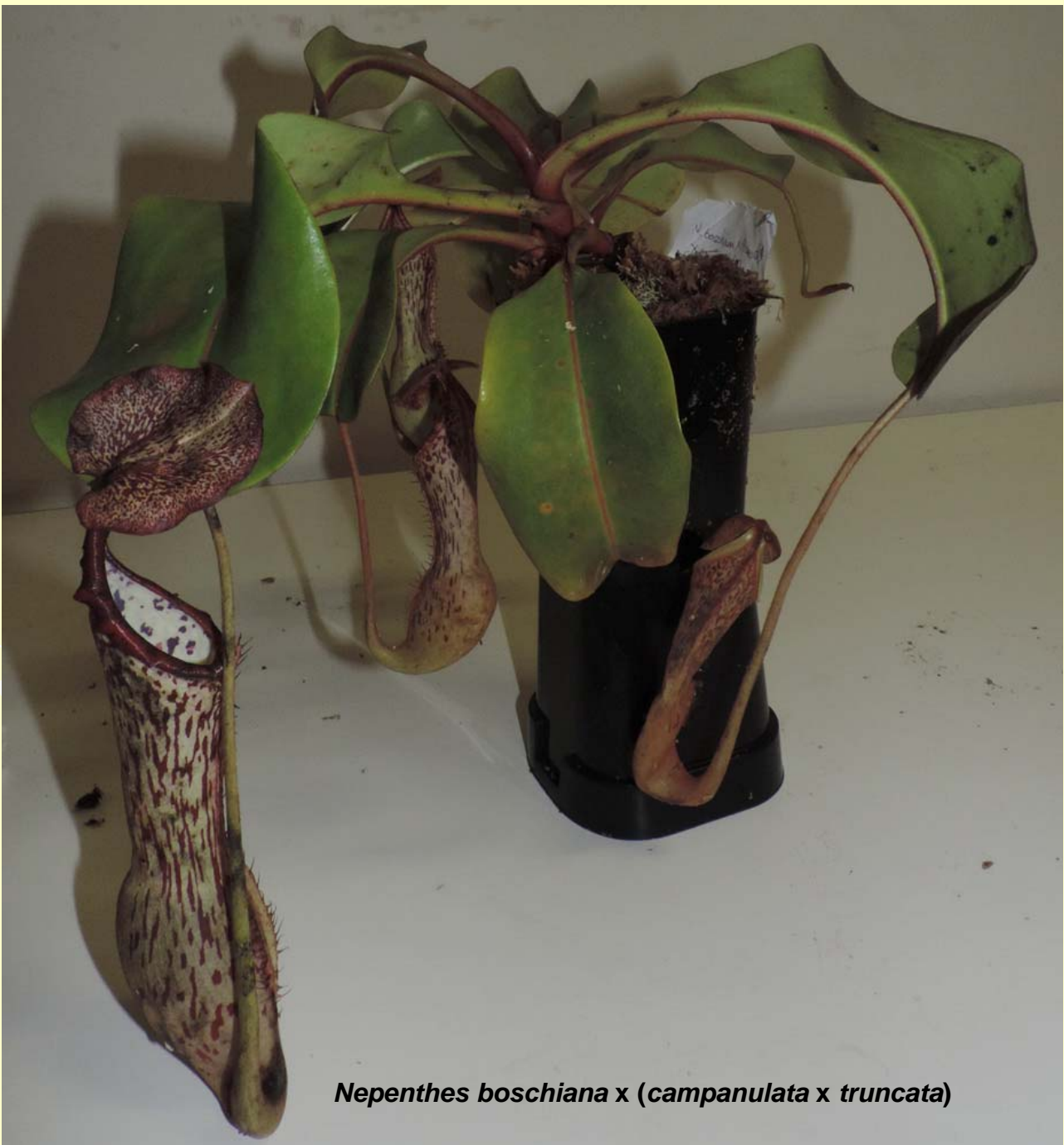


*Drosera moorei*

### **Growing *Nepenthes boschiana* x (*campanulata* x *truncata*)**

Raymond provided a few pointers on how he grows his wonderful *Nepenthes* plant, which are summarised below:

1. The plant is grown indoors in a 6 feet long terrarium under an artificial light combination that includes LED strip lighting and fluorescent lights on a 12 hour cycle;
2. Grown in a 12.5 cm full length pot in a mix of pure sphagnum moss that is placed in an inverted empty pot of similar size (for pitcher formation) that is on a bed of live sphagnum moss that lines the terrarium;
3. The interior of the terrarium is kept humid (>80% humidity) by a combination of a humidifier and water in the live sphagnum layer. Standard tap water is used when needed to keep the potting mix moist and the humidity high;
4. The maximum temperature in the terrarium is kept to at most 22°C thanks to chilled water from an ice-cube maker below the terrarium being piped into one end of the terrarium in front of a fan; and
5. This terrarium also grows a number of other *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora* and a range of orchids and ferns.



***Nepenthes boschiana* x (*campanulata* x *truncata*)**

## Plant of the Month:

Contenders for 'Plant of the Month' included *Nepenthes sibuyanensis* x *truncata* and *N. boschiana* x (*campanulata* x *truncata*), *Pinguicula laeana*, *P. moranensis* 'Superba', *Drosera bulbosa* ssp. *major*, *D. ramellosa*, *D. menziesii* ssp. *basifolia*, *D. modesta* (to 80 cm tall!) & *D. moorei*. The winner was the *N. boschiana* x (*campanulata* x *truncata*) plant grown by Raymond Chin.



### SOME ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL SOURCES OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS IN AUSTRALIA

Some additional sources to those listed in the September newsletter are provided below:

**Walls Creek Watergarden**, Wallis Creek Lane, Mulbring, NSW, 2323. Ph. (02) 4938 0230  
[www.walliscreekwatergarden.com.au](http://www.walliscreekwatergarden.com.au)

Kim and Darren at **Mangrove Mountain (near Gosford)**. Phone on (02) 4374 1355 to arrange a visit.

**eBay**. Offers a variety of plants throughout the year.

## VOLUNTEER ROSTER FOR 'PLANTS WITH BITE FAIR' 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, MOUNT TOMAH BOTANIC GARDENS, BELLS LINE ROAD, MOUNT TOMAH

The Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens is easily accessed by the Bells Line Road between Richmond and Lithgow, and is about 40 minutes' drive from Richmond (see map below). Information on this lovely botanic garden is available at: <http://www.mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au/>



**Volunteers from the ACPS are required for the 'Plants with Bite Fair' as per the table on the next page.** Please nominate a time and task to assist with to make this event even enjoyable for all involved.

Members can set up sales and display plants between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the Friday 5<sup>th</sup> or between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. Pull down is from 4 p.m. on the Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.

The society will need to provide someone to handle cash on all of the weekend days. When there is nobody from the Society to handle sales there will be no sales. If the society wishes have any sales on weekdays then we'll also need to provide someone for that job—the shop at Mount Tomah will not be doing this on behalf of the Society.

Two presentations are planned for the four weekend days of the Fair. Documentaries will be shown for the afternoon events, but the Society will need to provide someone for the morning sessions that begin at 11 a.m.

Please advise the executive (in person or by [auscps@gmail.com](mailto:auscps@gmail.com)) and Greg Bourke ([orders@captiveexotics.com](mailto:orders@captiveexotics.com)) of the time, date and activity that suits you so we can best plan these days. The first weekend will also likely have the Society's **Christmas Party** and **Annual Show**. Please bring yourselves, your partners and kids, and of course plants for show and sale to make this event wonderful.

Volunteer roster for the 'Plants with Bite Fair', 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Please nominate a task, date and time to assist and help make this Fair a great success for the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and the ACPS.

Date	Set Up	Plant Table discussion	Plant Sales	Delivering morning presentations	Pull Down
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> [i.e. the day before the Fair opens]	Plant display and sales set up between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.				
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Plant display and sales set up between 8 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.	11 a.m.—12 noon	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.	11 a.m.—12 noon	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> (Optional)		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.		
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> (Optional)		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.		
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> (Optional)		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.		
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> (Optional)		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.		
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> (Optional)		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.		
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>		9 a.m.—5 p.m.	9 a.m.—5 p.m.	11 a.m.—12 noon	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>		9 a.m.—4 p.m.	9 a.m.—4 p.m.	11 a.m.—12 noon	4 p.m.— 6 p.m.