



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

July 2014

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: aaasquith@bigpond.com. Phone 4625 9874



President: Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 43 Strickland Cres.,

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph. 86262934)

PARRAMATTA. 2150

Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 21st August, 2014

Life Member: Mr. J. Riley

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

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Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

FITZPATRICK ROAD, Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.45pm, meeting starts 8pm

Mt. ANNAN.

President's Message. Hi to all.

Congratulations to John English for popular choice and Margaret for plant of the night last meeting.

Hearty congratulations for Terry Cooke, Life Membership – well deserved – a foundation member and always a man to be relied on when any help for any project. Well done Terry.

It was also great that John Riley made a special trip to Sydney to be part of the presentation to Terry, Well done John.

Special General meeting this month to consider Incorporation and a constitution. This will be followed by the normal meeting. As part of incorporation, it is necessary to keep a members register, which must be made available to any member on demand, for the purposes of serving notices to members. Should any member requires that their information not be included on the register, please advise a committee person.

Spring show next month, schedules will be available at the meeting, don't forget to bring any excess plants for the plant sales.

Margaret will have the sales table at this meeting for members to stock up on any supplies, before the show season

Ross Morrison has organised Three Guest speakers this month..

John English who will speak on Growing Conditions for Terrestrials..

Don Roberts who will discuss Mounting Orchids and ...

Carol Asquith who will speak on Growing Media..

Please assist our Treasurer and pay your **annual fees which are now due!!!**

Good Growing!

Wally

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Minutes of MEETING HELD 17TH JULY, 2014.

Meeting Opened: About 7.30pm, and the President Wal welcomed members.

- 1. Apologies:** Carol Asquith, Graeme Morrison Chris Munson, Peter Wise, Noel Bates
- 2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Proposed by: Chris Munson **seconded by:** Terry Cooke

- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Tony Asquith..Wal Southwell did a check on goods held by the club's sales area. Holding goods worth \$1,120..

Proposed by: Tony Asquith

Seconded by: Ross Morrison

Inward & Outwards Correspondence: Various Newsletters, sent & received.. email from Phil Ritchie (Secretary ANOS) re encouragement for incorporation..

Delegates Report: Greg Steenbeeke spoke about the potential Conference in 2016...basically Sydney and Central Coast involved.

Life Member John Riley addressed the meeting regarding Incorporation and the need to follow Through with incorporation to protect members of the group.

(Editors note; The AGM was conducted this evening..and will be recorded in the bulletin, although not in the order the meeting was conducted, for ease of editing.)

General Business: There has been some discussion amongst members regarding whether to incorporate or not. This evening two 'Notices of Motion' were presented to the meeting.

1. That the club becomes Incorporated

2. That we adopt a constitution as supplied (proposed constitution circulated to members prior to the next meeting) This is to be discussed and offered for adoption at our meeting on the 21st August, 2014

Moved Tony Asquith Seconded John Riley.

A general discussion followed regarding the proposed incorporation.

John Riley moved that "Wal Southwell become the Public Officer of the Group" and Richard Hanman seconded the motion.

The meeting was advised that Peter Wise is going through hospital treatment and wishes to put a lot of his specimen plants up for sale.

President Wal to arrange a reservation for our name "ANOS Macarthur Group Inc."

The meeting welcomed new member Richard Dimon.

Raffle : Don Roberts, Cathy Munson, Wally Southwell, Richard Dimon.

And the meeting closed.. about 9.30pm

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The AGM was declared open at about 8pm and accepted apologies of Graeme Morrison and Carol Asquith.

The Minutes were read and accepted by the meeting. The earlier Treasurer's report in the General meeting

Was noted and a spreadsheet of our financial position was presented to the members.

Moved by Chris Munson seconded Terry Cooke

A discussion continued with the decision to become incorporated and the two motions were to be placed before the general meeting. (That the club becomes incorporated and That we adopt the constitution as placed before the meeting.)

It was noted that we needed to appoint a Public Officer and Wal Southwell was subsequently appointed by the members.

John Riley addressed the meeting and spoke of the fact that the club is now 24 years old. He then surprised Terry Cooke by asking him to come forward and receive a Life Membership to our club which was recognised by the membership by acclamation.

The election was conducted by Tony Asquith who was appointed as the Returning Officer.

President	Wal Southwell	Moved T. Cooke	Seconded R. Hanman
Vice President	Robert Moon	Moved J. English	Seconded R. Morrison
Secretary	John English	Moved R. Moon	Seconded M. Warner

Treasurer	Carol Asquith	Moved C. Munson	Seconded R. Hanman
Editor	Tony Asquith	Moved W. Southwell	Seconded R. Morrison
Conservation Officer	Richard Hanman	Moved C. Munson	Seconded J. English
Show Marshall	Peter Gibson	Moved D. Roberts	Seconded R. Morrison
	John English	Moved R. Morrison	Seconded W. Southwell
Librarian	Vacant		
General Committee	Terry Cooke	Moved W. Southwell	Seconded J. English
	Ross Morrison	Moved W. Southwell	Seconded R. Hanman
	Greg Steenbeeke	Moved W. Southwell	Seconded R. Morrison

All were thanked by President Wal for standing on Committee and the AGM was closed.

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Benching Results JULY Meeting 17/7/2014.

Dendrobium Species	Den. Tetragonum	W. Southwell
	Den. prenticeii	R. Morrison
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Starlight 'Como'	R. Morrison
	Den. Breatless	J. English
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Sarc. Melba	J. English
Bulbophyllum	B. schillerianum	R. Morrison
	B. shepherdii	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Pt. Curta	R. Morrison
	Pt. Ophioglossa	T. Cooke
Terrestrial Hybrid	Ptst Nodding Grace	T. Cooke
Terrestrial Other	Chiloglottis trapeziformis	J. English
Australasian Species	Pte terrocauda	T. Cooke
	Pte terrocauda	J. English
Australasian Hybrid	D. Impact	J. English
Novelty Class (50% or more)	Nil	
Seedling First Flowering	D. Brumbank 'Sunset'	G. Steenbeeke
Growing Competition 1.	R. Hanman	2nd. R. Morrison
Growing Competition 2.	Nil	

Plant of the night is Dendrobium tetragonum grown by Wal and Margaret Southwell and the Popular Choice was ? Congratulations

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I have been a bit of difficulty finding good articles..Thanks to Orchid Tray Company, they put me in touch with Val Hooley of Ku-ring-gai Orchid Society and access to the article below by Jim Brydie who has graciously allowed me to reproduce it here. My special thanks to Mary-Anne Warner who straightened out the article so I could print it here.

Phaius tankervilleae (?) Jim Brydie

In preparing for this months bulletin, I was struggling for an idea for the usual orchid article but while watering the shadehouse, a big developing spike on a plant labelled *Phaius tankervilleae* took my eye.

It seems like ages ago, but back in a 2008 bulletin I wrote about the species we all commonly call *Phaius tankervilleae*, so to save myself some time I will start again here with some of that piece. I hope it doesn't bore some of you older members with good memories.



In the beginning, *P. tankervilleae* was regarded as a highly variable species that ranged from India across to China, down through all of SE Asia through Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, PNG, and Australia. In Australia it was thought to occur in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and down as far as northern NSW. It is essentially a swamp plant, growing among grasses and sedges in wet areas. In the north it was reported as occurring mainly on the tablelands or higher country but further south it is restricted to lowlands.

It is a large plant with clustered, fleshy pseudobulbs, and big pleated leaves which are up to 1.2 metres long and about 15cm wide. The flowers are large and showy too. About 12 to 15cm across, white on the back of the segments but brownish red to cinnamon inside, with purple in the lip.

However, today's thinking (perhaps from the 'splitters'?) is that what we previously believed to be one widespread species (*tankervilleae*) is actually three or four, variable, but fairly similar species, whose ranges overlap. Among these, perhaps the most confused pair are *P. tankervilleae* and *P. wallichii*. In the Kew Bulletin of the Royal Horticultural Society, in I think 2005, Phillip Cribb, Mei Sun, & Gloria Barretto published an article titled "*Phaius tankervilleae* and *Phaius wallichii*, a pair of confused species" in which they give some of the relevant history and clarify the differences between the pair. The following text is based on that article:

"... Phaius tankervilleae (alternately but wrongly spelt 'tankervilleae' and 'tankervilleae') is a well known and widespread species but one that has caused considerable taxonomic confusion over the years. Widespread and variable species often acquire names from various parts of their range, that analysis of the entire variation can show to be synonyms or regional variants.

A plant of Chinese origin was first flowered and named Limodorum tankervilleae by Joseph Banks, a name subsequently validated by Aiton in 1795. Carl Blume transferred it to the present genus in 1856. Many authors followed Hooker (1894) in accepting a morphologically variable species for which he used the name P. wallichii, with the earlier names Limodorum tankervilleae, and Phaius grandiflorus in synonymy. P. wallichii was discovered in Sylhet (India) by Nathaniel Wallich and was described by John Lindley in 1831. Most recent authors (Kataki in 1986, Chowdhery in 1998, Pearce and Cribb 2001) have followed Seidenfaden (1986) in recognising the priority of the name tankervilleae. Seidenfaden recognised tankervilleae as a morphologically variable species distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Taiwan, the Philippines archipelago, the Malaya archipelago, SW Pacific, and East Australia.

This paper originates from the discovery of two distinct, large Phaius species in Hong Kong. One of them which has been known for many years on Hong Kong, matches well the type material of P. tankervilleae, but the other, a recent discovery there, is quite distinct in its floral morphology. The former species (ie tankervilleae) originally described from Chinese material, has sub-nodding (semi nodding) flowers with sepals and petals that are tan brown within and white outside, a trumpet shaped lip with a broad purple margin and blunt apex and a short spur (less than 9mm long).

The other (ie wallichii) has larger flowers with more spreading, ochre coloured sepals and petals and a conical, acute lip (ie pointed apex) which is predominantly white with a yellow & purple band in the throat, and a spur up to 20mm long.

The latter has been referred to in Hong Kong as the “Kadoorie” Phaius (it was first found growing on the estate of the Kadoorie Botanical Garden in the new Territories) and clearly does not fall within the variation of P. tankervilleae as usually understood. A similar plant, was illustrated in colour by Chen et al (1994). However, in its floral morphology it matches closely the species described from the Himalayas as P. wallichii and from Sri Lanka as P. bicolor.

Living plants and recently collected herbarium and spirit collections of the two Hong Kong taxa have been studied and compared with herbarium and spirit material from elsewhere in south and southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in the herbaria of Beijing, Kew, Leiden, the natural History Museum, Paris, and Singapore. In the living state and in the herbarium, two distinct taxa can be readily distinguished in southern and eastern Asia. Phaius tankervilleae has smaller rather pendent flowers with a blunt lip and a short spur, usually 5-6mm long.

The other species, P. wallichii, has larger flowers that are spreading rather than pendent, have an apiculate (sharp pointed) lip with a longer spur, usually 10-20mm.”

In Australia, we often see *P. tankervilleae* reported as occurring in the wild, but there is considerable doubt over the accuracy of these reports. Concerning a plant reportedly found in the wild near Woodburn in northern NSW (over 40 years ago), the highly respected David Banks advised that he had a piece of this ‘Woodburn’ plant but that it actually matches *P. wallichii* very well. He said that it was ironic that this “one off” discovery occurred in an area that the related but different, *Phaius australis* still grows wild today, and that he understood that it was the only one of these “*tankervilleae*” (or *wallichii*) plants that has ever turned up along the east Australian coastline. He was doubtful that any real *P. tankervilleae/wallichii* ever really occurred naturally in New South Wales. In David Jones’s book *Native Orchids of Australia*, he also believes that all reports of *tankervilleae* and *wallichii* in Australia are wrong.

This all leads us to the distinctions between the various species that do occur in Australia. Jones reports the Australian species as only: *P. amboinensis*, a white flowered species from the Northern Territory and PNG, 2 forms of *P. australis*, which is somewhat similar to *tankervilleae* and occurs in Qld and just down into Northern NSW, and *P. pictus* from Qld, which is a quite different looking brown and yellowish species that could never be confused with *tankervilleae* or *wallichii*. Reports of Australian collections of either *tankervilleae* or *wallichii* are likely to be either *P. australis*, or material sourced from imported plants of *tankervilleae* or *wallichii*. At this point I am going to stop mentioning any species other than *australis*, *tankervilleae*, and *wallichii*. These 3 are closely related and look very similar in colour and flower form, so they are the 3 that we need to be able to separate.



2 plants of tankervilleae 2 different wallichii



Three different plants of Phaius australis variety australis, and one of the yellow P. Australia var bernaysii

So how do we tell the difference? Well for starters, australis flowers are a bit smaller. Generally 10cm vs about 12- 15cm for the other two, although wallichii is a little the larger of those two. In addition, there are differences in the spur at the back of the flowers, and simple differences in the shape of the lip, but it is the lip shape we will use here.

In Tankervilleae and wallichii the side lobes of the lip curl strongly up over the column and form a relatively tight, closed tube over the column. In australis the side lobes do not usually curl up over the column. The gap is variable from clone to clone but only in the rarest cases will the side lobes even partly enclose the column.

To separate tankervilleae and wallichii, we look at the length of the mid lobe of the lip (ie the end part extending furthest out in front of the column). In wallichii the midlobe is large and widely flared. In tankervilleae it is short.

The pictures above show several examples for each species. Please don't judge by the colour, that is not a factor.

The other 'variety' of australis is var. bernaysii which is much the same shape and form as variety australis, but it is a clear greenish yellow colour. Some experts regard bernaysii as a species in its own right. There is also a yellow form of tankervilleae and an albino form as well but there can be no confusion with bernaysii because of the lip side lobes.

Unfortunately for all of us however, because in the old days the only name anyone knew was tankervilleae, that was what every label read no matter what the species was. In addition, the plants being imported were almost certainly wallichii, probably just because they were more readily available. All these old plants have been divided, shared, sold, and given away in Australia for such a long time, that nearly all "tankervilleae" on the market, and in collections, are probably divisions of these old wallichiis.

Culture - Phaius tankervilleae, and wallichii, are both lovely species that grow quite well here in Sydney, although in the coldest areas they might need just a little protection in winter. The same may apply to australis, but for some reason I have never even seen it at meetings in Sydney so I will leave it out of my culture discussion.

In nature these species all grow as terrestrials in swampy, wet soils among grasses and low shrubs. I believe you can grow them as garden plants in soil, but I haven't tried it myself. Orchid growers usually grow it in large Cymbidium pots in various mixes. Whichever you choose, they are shade lovers (50-70%) and should stand near the ground for higher humidity. For potting I use a fine Cymbidium mix with some added peat moss, crumbled foam, and a little sand, but others recommend just a basic garden potting mix with a rich humus component. I don't think Phaius are all that fussy so long as you repot reasonably regularly to keep the mix fresh, and that you feed and water to their needs.

Bill Dobson, one of Sydney's best growers of all orchids advises : *"In cultivation it is easy, needing a largish container as it grows, with a rich compost. Large plants only become so if ample food is available, Phaius tankervilleae loves food while in growth. The addition of such things such as 'Blood and Bone', bone meal, chicken pellets etc., to the compost is welcome and additional feeding with such things as slow release fertilizers and dressings of organics will assist growth. During Spring*

and Summer, containers should be placed in a saucer of water, so that water level is 2 to 3 inches up the pot, which approximates the natural conditions for this species. It does not grow in water, but in soil and compost just above water level when it's habitat is flooded.”

(Jim: I don't stand them in a saucer of water but I am a fairly heavy waterer anyway, so perhaps that compensates)

These Phaius are rather large plants and needs to be given space. Their leaves are up to a metre long and 15cm wide at their broadest point, with a pleated surface. The inflorescence is usually up to 1.5m tall, but can be over 2m, and carries up to 20 of these amazing, stunningly coloured, big flowers. Because of the size of the leaves, if you grow them out in the garden, bugs and strong wind might be a problem with damage to the leaves. The plants make a nicer display at flowering time if they are grown in a shadehouse and the leaves kept as clean as possible. Phaius species are soft fleshed plants that are prone to snail damage, and can also be a target for aphids or scale, but not much worse than other orchids.



You just need to keep an eye out for pests and take action as soon as you see a problem.



They aren't supposed to be deciduous, or have a marked resting period, but in winter I cut back my water and fertiliser routines for the whole shadehouse and they don't seem to object. In fact, the spike on my plant commenced early winter and continued to develop nicely over winter. Interestingly, it seems that tankervilleae/wallichii are among those orchids that can be propagated by cuttings from the flower spike.

I haven't tried it myself but I have propagated Thunia species from stem cuttings in a similar way.

Good Growing to all.