



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

November 2014

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

Postal Address:- 8A Boundary Road,

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

PARRAMATTA. 2150

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 20th November, 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.

A big thank you to Don Roberts for his very good presentation on sarcophilus orchids at our last meeting.

What a great October Show this year, best display of Sarc's that has ever been shown at one of our shows.

Congratulations to Don Roberts for Grand Champion, Greg Steenbeeke for Reserve Champion Peter Dowling for Champion Sarc. Hybrid and Champion Specimen. Congratulations to Nita Wheeler who travelled up from Yass on the day, with a great set of terrestrial orchids to win Champion any other Orchid. There were many other exhibitors who all combined to make this a great show.

There were very good plant sales on the day and this show seems to be getting better every year. Thanks to all the members who brought along plants for the sale.

At our last meeting congratulations to Margaret for plant of the night and popular choice.

Nita Wheeler will be the guest speaker this month, don't miss this if you are interested in terrestrial orchids, Nita is an absolute top grower of terrestrials.

NOVEMBER IS TUBER NIGHT

Bring along your spare and extra tubers to donate for the night. Tubers are really needed to keep this tuber night going. A good opportunity to buy tubers. We need to keep this night going.

Sales table at this meeting, so you can stock up on your supplies before Xmas.

December is our Xmas Party night, a good social night. This month is the time to bring donations for the Xmas Hamper raffle.

Good Growing, Wally

Sales Report

This was the best sales table that we have had in a long while. The plants that were put up for sale were of very good quality and had lots of flowers which help sell these plants to the public.

A big Thank You to all those who helped on the table, from putting plants in, selling, and talking to people about orchids.

Our club may gain some new members from this as 3 or 4 people seemed very interested in joining a local club after talking to our members.

Thanks once again. Margaret.

Minutes of MEETING HELD 16th October, 2014.

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

1. Apologies: T. Cooke, G. Morrison, P. Gibson

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Proposed by: Don Roberts **seconded by:** Peter Brown

3. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

4. Treasurer's Report:

Moved by: Carol Asquith **seconded by:** Ross Morrison

Inward & Outwards Correspondence:

Various Newsletters, sent & received,.Revesby Workers Sarcophilus Show,
Email from Phil Richie, Secretary ANOS, wants to see reports of Shows, photos,etc.
List of Club Liaison Officers.
Certificate of Incorporation from Dept of Fair Trading

Delegates Report: Next Month (November) donations for Hamper desired for Christmas Hamper.

General Business: Wal presented sashes to the winners of the Spring Show.

TUBER NIGHT AT NEXT MEETING

Tony gave a description of his trip to Cairns.

Don Roberts gave an interesting presentation on Sarco. falcatus

Raffle : John, Ross, Don, Phil, Ian and Margaret.

.... And the meeting closed.. about 9.30pm

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Benching Results October Meeting 16/10/2014.

Dendrobium Species	Den.Tunsteads Pinkx Snowy ??	A. & C. Asquith
	Den. Kingianum	W. & M. Southwell
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Makybe Diva	A. & C. Asquith
	D. Lipstick x Lillian Leaney	M. & W. Southwell
Sarcanthinae Species	Sarc. Hartmannii	J. English
	Sarc. falcatus	G. Steenbeeke
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	Plect. Kilgra	R. Morrison
	Sarc. Fizzy Dove Pesky Topaz	M. Warner
Bulbophyllum	Nil	
Aust. Species Other	Dock. Schonina	W. & M. Southwell
	D. Striolatum	W. & M. Southwell
Aust. Hybrid Other	Nil	
Terrestrial	Phaius tankervillea	R. Morrison
Caladenia Species	Nil	
Diuris Species	D. Pardina	W. & M. Southwell
	D. punctata	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Hybrid	Nil	
Terrestrial Other	Microtis	W. & M. Southwell
	Microtis	W. & M. Southwell
Australasian Species nil	Nil	
Australasian Hybrid	D. Amythaeon	G. Steenbeeke
	D. Grumpy	G. Steenbeeke
Novelty Class (50% or more)		
Seedling First Flowering	D.schoeninum	G. Steenbeeke
	Sarc. Zoe x Bunyip	R. Morrison
Growing Competition 1.	1st A. & C. Asquith	
	2nd R. Morrison	
Growing Competition 2.	Nil	

Plant of the night is Dock. Schonina grown by Wal and Margaret Southwell and the Popular Choice was also Wal's and Margaret's Plant above..... Congratulations

GOOD GROWING..

Nita and Jim Wheeler – Growing Terrestrials

This article is from our Country Member in Yass—Nita and Jim Wheeler have been members for a few years now and have forwarded an article regarding Terrestrials which I print here--- gratefully and with my thanks.

When we first moved to Yass from the northern beaches of Sydney, I made the decision that I was not going to attempt to grow any orchid that needed heat. Considering the current price of electricity and gas, this was a fortuitous move on my part. Where I live the temperatures ranges from minus 8c to 45c so I decided that native terrestrials would be my speciality.

Despite sometimes being considered the poor relation of the orchid world, terrestrials have a unique charm and many advantages.

Advantages.

1. Terrestrial tubers are relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain legally, but remember it is highly illegal to collect from the bush.
2. Most will multiply quite rapidly.
3. Part of your potting mix can be reused the following year and the rest tipped on the garden.
4. Terrestrials are not prone to many pests.
5. They don't require much water.
6. You don't have to do anything to them for 4 months of the year while they are dormant.
7. They don't require fertilizing after potting.
8. The variety in shapes, flower size and colours is wonderful.
9. A good size specimen pot is really eye catching.
10. A hot/cold climate seems to create excellent growing conditions even for coastal terrestrials.
11. Once you have an interest in terrestrials, holiday bushwalking takes on a whole new interest.

How to grow terrestrials

There are many different mixes that are used to pot terrestrial tubers. Quite a few people use a mix of potting mix, sand, peat moss and leaf mould, others a straight Australian native plant mix, others sand, pebbles, even coco fibre etc, but the main thing is the pot must have excellent drainage. My mix is straight Amgrow Black Label Seed Raising mix which is a very light mix with excellent drainage. As this mix doesn't have much organic matter added to it, finding small tubers at repotting time is easier.

I grow my terrestrials in a north/south facing tunnel house under 90% shade cloth. Most growers have a solid roof and open sides to control the watering regime but I like to have full air movement and if too much rain is forecast, I can just throw a cover over them.

I try to always use the same sized pots, if you use different sized pots under watering and over watering can occur, causing problems with rotting tubers. I also do not use squat pots as when the plant is making new tubers, I feel they need room to move and grow.

For general growing purposes I use 6 inch pots. These will hold on average 15 to 20 tubers depending on the tuber size, you want the surface of the pot to be covered by foliage so it really is a judgement call.

How to repot terrestrials

You should keep the plant moist at all times during the growth period. Once flowering has finished the leaves will start to turn yellow. Stop watering and let the pot dry out, over watering at this point will cause the tubers to rot.

I generally repot late December/January and this is the easy part. Tip out the pot and you will find the old plus new tubers in the mix. Some of the new tubers are very small so go through your mix carefully to minimise the risk of throwing them away by accident.

I don't line the bottom of my pots before adding the mix, I know a lot of people do but I find that the initial watering after potting settles the mix and once positioned in the tunnel house, I don't move the pots.

Fill your pot to within 65mm of the top, place a small pinch of blood and bone over the mix, remembering that like all Australian native plants they don't like fertilizer, and then place 25mm mix on top. Arrange

your tubers on top of this mix, if uncertain about which direction is up, when you examine the tubers you will see that each tuber has an "eye" from which the new growth will appear. If the tuber is dirty and you cannot see the eye, the tubers can be rinsed in warm water.

I have found over the years that like bulbs, the positioning of the "eye" doesn't seem to matter too much, for my non show plants, I sometimes just spread them over the mix surface, cover and they all still come up. So like bulbs, they seem to turn and grow towards the surface.

Place the tuber with the "eye" facing upwards, cover with another 25mm of mix and top the pot with a cover of clean and chopped casuarina or pine needles. This is to make watering easier as there is less soil disturbance, also the plants sit nicely on top of the needles to create a good display.

Some growers like to bury their tubers deeper than 25mm but this is my average on all my terrestrials and I never have a problem with flowers falling over in transit to meetings or shows. I have a theory that the tubers find their own level for optimum growth.

Give to pot a good watering to settle the mix, then place in the shade or dappled light. Be careful to only give light watering until the plant starts to show new growth, then water regularly until flowering finishes and the whole cycle begins again.

I tend to use 6 to 10 inch pots for showing, mainly because the flowers look wonderful en masse, I start by placing a tuber in the centre and work my way out in a circular pattern, I used to try to use the biggest tubers but after a few years found it made no difference with *Pterostylis* and very little with any thing else, they all seem to grow and flower equally well.

Australian terrestrial orchids are judged at shows by the appreciation method, in other words by appearance and general condition.

1. The flowers should be erect with no need of staking, all the same height is preferable to contribute to the balance and harmony of the display:
2. Flowers are not judged individually and all should be the same clone
3. The shape and size of the flowers is compared to the optimum for that species or hybrid and should have clear distinct coloration.

In my unheated conditions I did grow the evergreen *Phaius* and *Calanthe* but they refused to flower so were given to a like-minded friend on the coast where flowering of course is fantastic.

Corybas and *Corysanthes* do very well in this climate with the same treatment as everything else. Being covered with a plastic food container when flowering is first initiated, just to maintain some humidity is the only extra care they receive. *Diuris*, *Thelymitra* and *Caladenia* like more light, while *Acianthus*, *Chiloglottis*, *Cyrtostylis*, *Spiranthes* and most others are happy alongside the *Pterostylis*.

I grow many different species of terrestrials but they all get the same treatment and are repotted at the same time. Most are repotted annually mainly because they multiply so much, and over the years I have found that while they like to be crowded they don't like to be crushed.

Good beginner orchids are *Pterostylis curta*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Pterostylis nutans* and *Pterostylis truncata*, all good, hard to kill plants. There are also more hybrids being made, particularly among the *Pterostylis*. I prefer to grow species as you cannot improve on perfection.

The main point I want to emphasise is that your mix should have excellent drainage and your plants must be given sufficient light that they will grow upright, if you notice the flower spikes leaning, it's towards the light, rotate your pots for maximum exposure.

Pest and diseases are few with terrestrials, snails and slugs can be a nuisance. The only major problem I have had, has been during the two mice plagues we have experienced, those nasty little rodents ignored all my dendrobiums and went straight for the terrestrials, decimating my collection.

But all in all, terrestrials are a very satisfying orchid to grow, and the colours under a magnifying glass are stunning and since few people grow them, a nice potful will always cause interest at a meeting or show. I believe that a greater appreciation of our terrestrial orchids is needed as well as some form of controlled growing programme. What a shame it would be if some natural disaster wiped out an entire species which could have been saved by some forethought on the part of the relevant authorities.