



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



December 2015

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President: Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)
Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.86262934)
Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)
Life Member: Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke.

Postal Address: 8A Boundary Road
PARRAMATTA. 2150

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 17th December, 2015

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

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Venue: **BIRRAWA HALL**
FITZPATRICK ROAD
Mt. ANNAN.

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

Hi to All

President's Message

Hi to All

A very Merry Christmas and a great New Year for all.

Congratulations to Don Roberts for plant of the night and popular choice at the last meeting.
Well Done, Don

Tuber night a great success again thanks to all who donated tubers. Tuber night again in
January for plants that were still green in November.

Xmas Party at this meeting, no table show, just come along and enjoy the good social night.
Wally

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 19th November, 2015.

Meeting Opened: About 7.30pm, and President Wal welcomed attending members and Visitor Rose Gibson.

1. **Apologies:** John English, Colin Long, Graeme and Ross Morrison, Greg Knight.
2. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**
Proposed by: Don Roberts **seconded by:** Kim Hines
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Moved Carol Asquith Second: Terry Cooke
5. **Inward & Outwards Correspondence:** Newsletters

Delegates Report nil

General Business 1.

There was a discussion on the recent show and how the schedule for the show could be improved. This is now going to be looked at by the committee.

The tuber sale was then begun and went quite well. There were some packets left and these will be offered at the January meeting. Wal thanked all for the contribution to the night.

Raffle Results.. no raffle

Next Meeting Christmas Party

And the meeting closed.. about 9.30pm

GOOD GROWING..

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More on the Insurance and affiliation situation with the Garden Club of Australia. (GCA)

As a member , Tony expressed concern about the intent of GCA to be able to Direct Debit both the insurance and affiliation fees from our bank account.

It started with an **email 22 November** to Wal requesting bank details to “enable the Annual affiliation fees etc to be direct debited for 2016.” The email requested bank details (BSB and account numbers) as well as authorising signatures. It was signed by Mr. David Lambert, GCA Treasurer.

Wal presented this at the November meeting and after discussion I was asked to look into this.

Wal sent (**Nov 23rd**) **the following email** to The Treasurer “In response to your email re direct debiting. The club members do not want direct debiting from our account, is there any other way that these fees could be paid?”

The following **email was received shortly after** this was sent. “It is a GCA requirement and a condition of membership that all affiliates have fees (affiliation, insurance premium, magazine subscriptions) direct debited. This is because with approx.. 700 clubs and only volunteers (who are not paid) looking after things, collecting and banking this number of cheques three times a year is not feasible”. Signed GCA Treasurer

There has been a couple of conversations with people from GCA and:-

on **9th December we sent this email** to the GCA Treasurer

“I am Treasurer of Macarthur ANOS group in Campbelltown area. (Australian Native Orchid Group)

Regarding our Insurance policy

I believe that our insurance is due in April. Will you be issuing an invoice or receipt for our policy, and will the copy of the Insurance Policy be forwarded to us? Or will we need to request our copy.

Affiliation Fees.

How are the fees determined? Should GCA exercise the direct debit for our fees, will we be sent an invoice or receipt?

We are endeavouring to arrange a direct debit and we are looking into a separate account for this transaction, but we will need to know Approximately how much we need to pay the GCA.

Signed by Carol Asquith etc.

As at 11.30am Sunday 13/12/15 we have had no reply.

The Mystery of *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*

Sarcochilus hirticalcar, the 'Harlequin Orchid' Is a tropical species which according to most sources is found in the McIlwraith Ranges of far North Queensland. It may seem that it only recently began to contribute its genes into the rapidly expanding list of hybrids with the appearance of grexes such as *Sarco. Velvet* and *Sarco. Nicky* and, more recently, their offspring. Surprisingly this impression is very wrong as *Sarco. hirticalcar* was used as a parent in one of the early hybrids when Noel Jupp registered *Sarco. Riverdene* In 1976.

The mystery to the writer is why the massive interval in the use of this most interesting species? One could be forgiven for thinking that it was only recently discovered but it was actually found in 1966 by Malcolm Brown.

As a parent it seems to provide some very desirable traits

- It extends the flowering season into summer and seems to encourage its offspring to produce several flushes of blooms throughout the year. My larger plants of *Sarco. Velvet* are rarely without some flowers.
- Its progeny have excellent flower substance with very thick, long lasting flowers that generally resist reflexing.
- It not only contributes a variety of colours {green, yellow, red} to its offspring but allows or even enhances the colour inheritance from the other parent. A case in point would be *Sarco. Nicky* where *Sarco. hirticalcar* has been paired with *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* to produce a grex of predominantly red flowers.
- When combined with a partner having full shaped flowers such as *Sarco hartmarmii*, the progeny mostly adopt the improved shape(as with *Sarco. Riverdene*) of the other parent rather than the sparse form of *sarco. hirticalcar*.

So once again it is asked "Why was Sarco- hirticalcar ignored for so long by hybridists?" Was it because Noel Jupp had the only plant in cultivation until recently (unlikely)? Was it because its progressive flowering habit was deemed to be a liability (note that breeders were using Sarco. ceciliae another noted progressive flowerer during this time)? Was it because it was difficult to grow and died out in collections (seems to be widely grown today) or was it because its offspring were difficult to cultivate (could be as some are a bit 'slow' although Sarco. Riverdene 'Holly' seems to have been around for ages but then again most selfings of this clone available over the years from DUNO have been slow growers at best).

Whatever the reason for the barren period in the use of Sarco. hirticalcar as a parent and even its first hybrid, Sarco. Riverdene, it has certainly been overcome in recent years with hybridists having produced 39 progeny as at mid 2008. The most notable of these would include the following Sarcocnilus hybrids; Riverdene. Topaz, Velvet, Nicky, Cherry Cheer, Elise, Bessie and Duno Nicky'sTwin.

If the idea of year -round flowers of great substance in an interesting array of colours is at all appealing then Sarcocnilus hirticalcar and its extended family should never be ignored for 50 long again.

Neville Roper....(July 2008) (From Sutherland Orchid Society's website)

Awarded Natives of the Early Years.

Recently when good friend Dennis Wood loaned me his copy of "The Australian Orchid Council Awards register :1964 – 1986 – Nos. 1 to 600" to research an article I was writing on Dendrobium Speciosum 'National White', I took the opportunity to scan the record for other native orchids that had received awards in the early years. I was greatly surprised to discover that of the first 600 awards, only 600 18 were awarded to native orchids.

While the small number of native species and hybrids to receive award recognition may have been a surprise, so to was the relatively large variety of species and hybrids across a number of genera.

- 4 Sarcocnilus species
- 1 Sarcocnilus hybrid
- 5 Dendrobium species
- 7 Dendrobium hybrids
- 1 Terrestrial species

There was also a large variety of growers achieving these awards. Most Growers only appear once or twice on the list with J.Smith being the exception with three awards.

Just what this all means, I'm not sure. Perhaps in these relatively early years of interest in native orchids, there were few specialist native growers. Maybe early attempts at hybridising were struggling in their attempts to develop quality breeding lines. Possibly growers were not encouraged to put natives up for award consideration. It is also possible that the 18 awards that were given compares very favourably with the level of recognition granted to other genera – I didn't have the inclination to count all of the other awards!

Regardless of these possible justifications, it is surely the case that orchid species and hybrids being grown in the country of origin where a greater availability of genetic material, large areas of suitable environment and a healthy interest in all things native exist, there should have been greater recognition of our native orchids. 18 awards out of 600 represents a mere 3 out of every 100 awards granted or 3 awards every 2 years over the first 12 years of AOC awards – I rest my case!

Summary of AOC Awards to Native Orchids 1964 – 1986

Award

no.	Plant	Owner	Award	Year
159	Den. Bardo Rose 'Berowra'	R. Kerr	HCC	1975
231	Sarco. Falcatus 'Miriam Ann'	A.J.Merrimam	HCC	1977
296	Den. Bardo Rose 'Teresa'	C. Brandon	HCC	1979
297	Den. Speciosum 'National White'	C. Brandon	HCC	1979
298	Den. Kingianum 'Bungan Castle'	E. Webeck	AM	1979
299	Sarco. Hartmannii 'Kerri'	J. Williams	AM	1979

330	Den. Ku-Ring-Gai 'Ann Brown'	W. Brown	HCC	1980
339	Caladenia catenata 'Gigantea'	J. Smith	HCC	1980
371	Den. Striolatum 'Lesley'	I. Brewster	HCC	1981
382	Den. Biggibum var. superbum 'Blue Horizon'	J. McKinney	AD1	982
388	Den. Rachele Simpson 'Qlander'	S. Hayden	HCC	1982
392	Den. Hilda Poxin 'The Lodge'	Mr. & Mrs. R. Rankine	HCC	1982
425	Sarco. Fitzhart 'Wollumbin'	B. Simpson	HCC	1982
454	Den. Falcorostrum 'Anembo'	E. Gogerly	AM	1983
473	Den. Bardo Rose 'Bronilyn'	J. Smith	HCC	1983
492	Den. Hilda Poxin 'Gold Star'	J. Smith	AD	1984
496	Sarco. Hartmannii 'Sylvandale'	K. Wilson	HCC	1984
527	Sarco. Hartmannii 'George'	G. Colthup	AM	1985

20 or more years later some of these plants are still seen as winners on show benches or appear as parents in nursery catalogues – they have been good enough to stand the test of time...but what became of the others?

Neville Roper.. (Sept.2003) Again from Sutherland Orchid Society's website

Monthly Benching Results November Meeting 2015

Dendrobium Species	Den. Flecklerii	G. Steenbeeke
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Waianae Profusion	M. Warner
Sarcanthinae Species	S. hillii	P. Brown
	S. P???	G. Steenbeeke
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	S. ? (Riverdene x tridentata)	D. Roberts
	S. Kulnura Festival	G. Steenbeeke
Bulbophyllum	B. schilleranum?	G. Steenbeeke
	B. ???	G. Steenbeeke
Aust. Species Other	Cym. Maddidum	J. English
Aust. Hybrid Other	Cym. Little Black Sambo	J. English
Terr. Pterostylis	nil	
Terrestrial Other	D. ephrydis	J. English
	Microtis unifolia	W. & M. Southwell
Australasian Species	nil	
Australasian Hybrid	Den. Hot Coals	G. Steenbeeke
Seedling First Flowering	S. NABIAC x Elegance	I. Lawson
	S. Kellie x Roberta	D. Roberts
Growing Competition 1.	N. Bates	
Novelty Class	Sartylis Blue Knob 'Toowoomba Sparkle'	G. Steenbeeke
Plant of the Night	Den. Riverdene Tridentata	grown by Don Roberts
Popular Vote	Den. Riverdene Tridentata	grown by Don Roberts also. Congratulations

Good Growing and a Merry Christmas to all.