

Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

September 2012

Edited by Tony Asquith

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President Mr. W. Southwell (ph. 46818589)

Postal Address:- 43 Strickland Cres.,

Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.96079809)

ASHCROFT . 2168.

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 18th OCTOBER, 2012

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 Ian Lawson for Grand Champion at our Spring Show and also for Champion Native Epiphytic Species, Peter Gibson for Reserve Champion and for Champion Native Epiphytic Hybrid, Peter Wise for Champion Australasian Orchid and also Champion Specimen Orchid, Don Roberts for Champion First Flowered Seedling, and John English for Champion Terrestrial Orchid.

Congratulations to Robert Moon who is now CERTIFICATED as a native orchid judge, WELL DONE!

The Dendrobium growing competition was won by Colin Long at our last meeting. The name of the plant is Den. Dianne Gee 'Affon' x Tyabb 'Niddrie'. Well done Colin! (Tags will be available at the next meeting.)

The Sarc. Show is on Saturday 27th October, at the Narellan Town Centre, with a 7.00am set-up time. Judging will commence at 9.00am sharp. Don't forget to bring along any sales plants that you have available. The pull down time is 4.00pm.

At the Spring show we had a magnificent display of orchids which created a great interest on the day, the extra tables really were needed and congratulations to all the exhibitors.

Greg S. brought along a magnificent set of diuris to display, to highlight some of the work being done by Mt. Annan Botanic Gardens, to preserve some of our endangered orchids.

The November meeting is our tuber sales night, some donated tubers are already in hand but we need any surplus tubers that you can spare for the night.

*****Guest Speaker is Alan Stephenson who will talk on his Visit to WA – Terrestrials.*****

Good Growing.... Wally

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

September 20th, 2012

- 1. Meeting Opened:** 7:55pm, and the President welcomed members.
- 2. Apologies:** Tony and Carol Asquith
- 3. Minutes from Previous Meeting:** As presented to the members in the monthly Newsletter were offered for acceptance.
Proposed by: **Seconded by:**
- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** was tabled for the month.
Proposed by: Carol Asquith **Seconded by:**

- 6. Inward Correspondence:** Newsletters from various Societies
Outward Correspondence: Newsletters to members and kindred Societies.

General Business

Wally demonstrated the art of Whip making and associated craft.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting closed
 (Sorry, but who has the minutes?? I don't. Put down what I knew about!)

Benching Results September 20th, 2012.

Dendrobium Species	Den Kingianum	Ross Morrison
	Den. Falcorostrum	W. & M. Southwell
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Berry 'Oda'	J. English
	Den. X gracillimum	W. & M. Southwell
Sarcanthinae Species	Sarc. Equalis (???)	J. English
	Sarc falcatus	R. Morrison
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	S. Magic	I. Lawson
	S. Judith x S. Fitzhart	N. Bates
Bulbophyllum	B. Shepherdii	R. Morrison
	B. schilleriana	R. Morrison
Aust. Species (Other)	Dock. rigidum	N. Bates
	Dock. Dolichophylla	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Pt. curta	W. & M. Southwell
	Pt. Curta variegated	R. Morrison
Caladenia Species	C. caterata	W. & M. Southwell
	C. curea affinis	R. Morrison.
Diuris Species	D. Chryseopsis	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Hybrid	Ptst. Cutie	W. & M. Southwell
	Diuris Pioneer	W. & M. Southwell
Terrestrial Other	Lyperanthus suavedens	R. Morrison
	Glossodia major	W. & M. Southwell
Australasian Species	Striolatum fuliginosa	W. & M. Southwell
Seedling First Flowering	Dock. Schoenina Hot Lips-Moulin Rouge	I. Lawson
	Dock. Grimesii x Dock. Jiggi	I. Lawson
Growing Competition 1 (Dendrobium)	Colin Long	W. & M. Southwell
Growing Competition 2 (Sarcochilus)	I. Lawson	J. English
Plant of the night	Dendrobium kingianum grown by	Ross Morrison.
	See you at the meeting....GOOD GROWING	

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Results of Spring Show at Narellan

GRAND CHAMPION	Den. Speciosum Daylight Moon x Jaqueline	I. Lawson
RESERVE CHAMPION	Den. Bill Dobson 'Jamie'	P. Gibson
NATIVE SPECIES CHAMPION	Den. Speciosum Daylight Moon x Jaqueline	I. Lawson
NATIVE NATIVE HYBRID	Den. Bill Dobson 'Jamie'	P.Gibson
AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPION	Dock. Oliver Jack	P. Wise
SPECIMEN ORCHID CHAMPION	Dockrillia Striolata	P. Wise
TERRESTRIAL ORCHID CHAMPION	CLDNA Leptoclavia	J. English
SEEDLING CHAMPION	Den. Speciosum Curviccaule	D.Roberts
AUB BRUNIGES Memorial Trophy	Den. Speciosum Daylight Moon x Jaqueline	I. Lawson
Class1	Dend. Speciosum Den. Speciosum Daylight Moon x Jacqueline	I. Lawson
	Den. Speciosum Windemere x Kates Special	R.Morrison
Class2	Dend. Kingianum Den. Kingianum Colleen x Jackie	P. Wise
	Den. Kingianum	J. English
Class3	Den. Falcorostrum Den. Falcorostrum	M. Yabsley
	Den. Falcorostrum	M. Yabsley

Class4		Den. Gracilicaule	G.Steenbeeke
		Den. Gracillicaule	M. Yabsley
Class5	Den Tetragonum	Den. Tetragonum	P. Wise
		Dend. Tetragonum	P. Wise
Class 6	Den. Other species	Den. Biggibum	P. Wise
		Den. Aemulum	R. Morrison
Class 7	Sarcochilus Species	Sarc. Hartmannii	R. Morrison
		Sarc. Hartmannii	R. Morrison
Class 8	Sarcochilus Other Sp.	Plectorhiza Tridentata	P. Brown
		Plect. Tridentate	P. Brown
Class 9	Bulbophyllum Species	Bulb. Longiflorum	P. Wise
		Bulb. Shepherdii	R. Morrison
Class 10	Australian Dockrilla	Dock. Linguiforme	P. Wise
		Dockrilla striolata	M. Warner
Class11	Other Epiphytic Spec.	Nil	
Class12	Dend. Primary Hybrid	Den. Bardo Rose	R. Morrison
		Den. X gracillimum	M.&W. Southwell
Class13	Dend. Hybrids (Reds/Pink)	Den. Zip x Bardo Rose	T. Cooke
		Den. Desert Rose	P. Wise
Class 14	Dend Hybrids (yellows/oranges)	Den. Bill Dobson 'Jamie'	P. Gibson
		Den. Yondi Sparkle	P. Wise
Class15	Dend. Hybrids (Whites/Creams)	Den. Yondi	P. Wise
		Den. Kingianum Big Foot 'NRF'	J. English
Class16	Dend. Hybrids (other section etc)	Den. Berry 'ODA'	J. English
		Den. Elegant Heart	J. English
Class17	Sarcochilus Hybrid	Sarco. Magic 'Alpha'	I. Lawson
Class18	Sarcantha Hybrid	Nil	
Class19	Caladenia (& related)	Cldna leptoclavia	J. English
		Cldna catenata	M.&W.Southwell
Class20	Pterostylis (" ")	PTST Curta variegated	R.Morrison
		PTST Curta	M.&W.Southwell
Class21	Diuris (" ")	Diuris Aurea	T. Cooke
		Diuris punctata 'TC'	T. Cooke
Class22	Evergreen Terrestrial	Nil	
Class23	Other terrestrial species	Chilo trapeziformis	M.&W.Southwell
		Lyperanthus suaveolens	R.Morrison
Class24	Aust. Terrestrial Hybrid	Thely. Melon Glow	R.Morrison
Class25	Dockrillia Hybrids	Dockr. Tweetie x teretifolium	I.Lawson
		Dockr. Oliver Jack	P. Wise
Class26	Australasian Species	Nil	
Class27	Australasian Hybrid	Nil	
Class28	Species First Flowering	Den. Speciosum curvicaule 'Palmerston'	D. Roberts
Class29	Hybrid First flowering	Den. Sweet Ellen	G.Steenbeeke
Class30	Hybrid Australasian Species In parentage	Cym. Dr Len 'Ruby Sunset'	P. Wise
		Cym. Plush Canyon 'Beenak'	I. Lawson

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Since Alan Stephenson is our guest speaker, perhaps this article will give an insight into the valuable work that he undertakes trying to ensure the continued existence of our rare native orchids.

OENPELLI PYTHON

Alan Stephenson.

Already I can imagine people saying, how I can relate the Oenpelli Python to orchids. Actually it's quite simple, if you have the same thought processes as do I. The Oenpelli python (*Morelia oenpelliensis*) was only named in 1977 and is a five metre, rare ambush predator reptile species, which has its habitat in rock crevices in the Kakadu escarpment in the region of the South and East Alligator Rivers. Recently, searches for this reptile were undertaken by a group of volunteers by investigating every crack and crevice in the escarpment, covering several square kilometres and this was a feature of an ABC TV program on 19th May 2012 and is where I found some relativity to problems with rare orchids.

I have quite recently written a submission against the development of a residential estate in the Flatrock Creek area of west Nowra. As orchid people will know, this is the area where *Specalantha vernalis* was originally discovered and is also home to several plants of *Genoplesium baueri* and to say I had some issues with the environmental assessment of the development which failed to locate either species, would be an understatement.

Some orchid people who are more deeply involved with orchids other than appreciation and growing will have heard of the Random Meander method frequently used for orchid surveys by those paid to do such work. This technique is described in environmental survey work as *The Random Meander Technique*, (as described by Cropper 1993) and in my opinion is the most irrelevant method which could be used to search for any small terrestrial orchid. It simply involves a random walk over the area proposed for development, usually, (but not always) at a time when the target species orchid is expected to be in flower. If this method fails to produce an orchid the report will indicate no target species were located. However, as orchid people are aware, terrestrial orchids are not always the easiest plants to locate and can often appear in the most unusual places, sometimes in areas which are not considered typical habitat.

Just one of the problems I have with this survey was that the preferred habitat of *S. vernalis* was identified but listed as not being an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) and as such is not protected by law. However this habitat of *Kunzea ambigua* (tick bush) and *Leptospermum sejunctum*, growing in islands over rock shelf is the habitat of an endangered species but this was not recognised and never considered to be of concern, although *L. sejunctum* is a 2K ROTAP species (rare or threatened Australian plant) and limited to the Nowra area. I wonder why the federal authority failed to take this into consideration.

Compare this technique with that used to search for the Oenpelli python. I do concede the python search team was volunteers and environmental assessment work is a paid activity but to continually use a random technique and consider the job completed is an exercise in dishonesty. The person undertaking the survey has never seen the target species and is reliant on a photo from the NSW Wildlife Atlas for an identification, despite the fact it is the only species of its type in flower in that area at that time. Along with this technique I also questioned the use of survey **plots** as a determinant of orchid occurrence. The plots used in the same development earlier mentioned **were 20 m x 20 m** and several were established over the development site. These were also situated in a random manner and to my astonishment; none of these produced an orchid of any type. In fact a grand total of five terrestrial species were recorded over, the 400 ha site, although one of these was listed as *Cryptostylis* sp. This is the final insult as all but one *Cryptostylis* species are evergreen and therefore easily identifiable when not in flower. As one of the species on the list was *C. subulata* I feel I can safely assume the unidentified species was *C. erecta*. This says something about the quality of the person undertaking the environmental assessment and in an email to the federal office which assessed this development this point was stressed, however development approval was granted and my concerns were considered irrelevant.

To further muddy the waters this same environmental assessment was required to note any buildings on the Register of the National Estate (RNE). The comparisons used were several buildings in Moss Vale, Mittagong and Bowral. All are towns of the NSW Southern Highlands, with the nearest being 60 km distant The RNE list is a file which this person has cut and pasted from other work into this survey document for the sole benefit of adding detail, none of which has any relevance to the development. However, there is more as the relevant site used for orchid comparison was the Ryde local government area. Ryde is a highly urbanised suburb of Sydney, is 160 km from this site and again is a cut and paste inclusion with no relevance to the Shoalhaven. Both of these anomalies were overlooked by the federal government environment assessment of the report which gave assent to this development I regularly see this type of detail and it frequently comes from one source, which even in this article I cannot name.

The main point of the story is the detailed search by the volunteers for the Oenpelli python as opposed to the ad hoc random search for two endangered orchid species.

I have recently written letters to all state, territory and federal environment ministers outlining my objection to this survey method and to date have received two responses from the offices of the South Australian environment minister, Hon. Paul Caica and his Tasmanian equivalent, Hon. Brian Wightman, which simply said, thank you for your correspondence. I do not hold out much hope of receiving a response from Victoria as a letter highlighting concern on another front still awaits a response, dated from February 22nd.

Alan

Hi Everybody, November sees our Tuber Night! However, this year, one of our suppliers of tubers is unable to supply us! So, If you have a few tubers that you could make available to the club, it would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

Wally