



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

NOVEMBER 2017

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

**Postal Address:-** 20 Colo Street,

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

COURIDJAH. 2171

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

**Next Meeting:** THURSDAY ,18th January,2018

**Life Members:** Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke, J. English, and W. & M. Southwell.

**Conservation Officer:**

*ANOS Macathur Group disclaims any responsibility for any*

*losses which may be attributed to the use or misuse of any materials published in this newsletter*

**Venue: BIRRAWA HALL**

**Should you wish to pay into our account for your fees**

**FITZPATRICK ROAD**

**BSB 062517 A/C 00909929**

**Mt. ANNAN.**

**Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.30pm, meeting starts 7.30pm**

Happy New Year to All

A sad time as there was a minutes silence for the passing of John English and members were invited to say a few words on John's friendship over the years.

A great night at our Christmas function, great fun, good food and a great way to finish the year.

Thanks to all the people who brought a variety of food which was enjoyed by all. Donations for the Christmas Hamper were very generous from the members and we even had some orchids donated.

The Harry Turner Perpetual Trophy for table show points score was presented to Margaret Southwell.

Wally

**Minutes of Meeting December 21/12/2017**

Christmas evening Meeting opened at 7.33pm.

**Apologies**

No Minutes from previous meeting noted

Moved

Seconded

**Correspondence;** Not noted

**Treasurers Report** treasurer's report not presented

Moved

Seconded

**Delegates report** nil

**General Business**

2018 Show Dates

**Autumn Show Dates 12 May 2018**

**Spring Show 22 September 2018**

**October Show 27 October 2018**

Raffle Drawn....Meeting closed 9.22pm

(I thought I would print this again as it is on later this year)

## 21<sup>st</sup> Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show 'Orchids in the Foothills'

18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018

16 Stewart St, South Windsor NSW Australia

<http://aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au>



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## Update

Remember the **early bird registration** ends on December 31 so get in before you miss the reduced fees.

If you do not wish to register, you can come as a **day visitor** for \$10 on July 20-22. This will get you into the displays and the vendor area for the day.

If you wish to hear particular lectures on a day, you may register as a **day registrant** for \$100/day on July 20-21.

**More speaker confirmations** We have more speakers now confirmed and the scientific program will be unsurpassed for registrants.

- Tim Yam from Singapore
- Fred Clarke from USA
- Andrea Nissen from Columbia
- Masayoshi Takahashi from Japan
- Alek Zaslowski from Brazil
- Scott Tan
- Greg Bryant
- Stephen Monkhouse
- Nicky Zurcher
- Kevin Butler
- Paul Sloane/Barrie Taylor
- Ken Siew & panel

A profile for each of these speakers is available on the website:

[http://aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/scientific\\_program.html](http://aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au/scientific_program.html). We will update you as more are confirmed.

### Expand your collection with vendors from around the world

From overseas

- Orquides del Valle from Columbia
  - AWZ Orchids from Brazil
  - Sunset Valley Orchids from USA
  - Tokyo Orchids from Japan
  - Ching Hua Orchids from Taiwan
  - Hanajima Orchids from Japan/Thailand; and
  - Orchid Inn from USA.

Our vendors from Australia include some of the best in the country including some new growers:

- Sim's Orchids
- Orchid Mart
- Royale Orchids
- Orchid Species Plus
- Dark Star Orchids
- Fong Ping Orchids
- Rosella Orchids
- Burbank Orchids
- Tinonee Orchids
- Alice's Orchids
- Woolf Orchidculture
- Nicky's Slippers
- Ezi-Gro
- Johnston Orchids

- Stephen Monkhouse Orchids
- Rolin Farm
- Western Orchids
- Orchids on Newbold
- MnS Orchids
- Kuranda Exotics
- Kiwi Orchid Bark
- Swagman Sprayers
- Mary Ahonen (cake decorating)
- Bromeliads Australia

**More information** You will find comprehensive information about all aspects of the Conference, including links to Registration, the Program, the Schedule and many accommodation options on the official web site:

<http://aocc2018.orchidsociety NSW.com.au>

Overall the 21st Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show will be the best ever undertaken in Australia and we invite you to join in this celebration of the magnificent diversity of orchids. We look forward to receiving your Registration and welcoming you at the Conference.

Warm regards

*Chris Dalrymple*

Conference Chair

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No Benching Results    DECEMBER Meeting 2017.

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Recently, we purchased some tubers from Nesbitts Orchids in South Australia and Mr. Nesbitt included his guide to dealing with our purchase. His hints are printed here with kind permission of Mr. Les Nesbitt.

## HOW TO HANDLE DORMANT TUBERS

In our packing area, we wash off all the soil off the tubers and the tubers are then dried, inspected and packed in an inert, absorbent material in plastic bags for shipment. We recommend that you plant your tubers soon after they arrive. Most tubers will dehydrate if exposed to dry air for long periods. If you cannot pot up straight away, then leave the tubers in the bag in a cool, dark place.

Try to have pots and potting mix prepared before the package arrives. A suitable potting mix will include 50% sand, a little clay soil and at least 10% organic matter of the hard type that does not go mushy or rot down too quickly. Some people are having success using Premium Native Potting Mix plus sand for greenhoods. The mix should be on the acid side of neutral for most cultivated Australian Terrestrial Species. Diuris and Thelymitra like more clay, Caladenia more sand, while Corybas prefer a thick leaf litter topping. We add a pinch of blood and bone fertiliser per pot.

Pots should be 125mm (5") or 150mm (6") standard type for 1-7 plants, and 175mm squat pots (same depth as 125mm pots) for up to 20 plants. Smaller pots dry out too fast in Spring and larger pots stay too wet in Winter.

Carefully tip the tubers out of the bag onto a dish or newspaper, separate from the packing material and look out for small bonus tubers if we have some to spare. Try not to break off any new shoots which appear in late summer, but if this happens, then pot up both tuber and shoot as both are capable of making new plants and tubers before the end of the growing season.

Fill the pot with potting mix to within 20-30mm of the top of the pot. Gently push the tubers into the mix until only the tops and the shoot can be seen. Fill the pot with mix and gently firm the mix down. Some form of topping on the soil surface is recommended to keep the leaves clean, feed any fungus present and prevent drips off the shade cloth boring holes in the pot. Materials that can be used include coarse sand, chopped pine or sheoak needles, gum nuts, seedling grade pinebark or leaf litter. Water gently but thoroughly to settle the mix in the pot. Do not forget to label each pot.

In Adelaide pots can go straight into the shadehouse but in colder areas like Canberra and Melbourne, a solid roof and shade cloth walls is preferable. Good air movement over the pots is very important to prevent mould and leaf rot. If rot breaks out, move the pots to a dry place and keep the leaves dry. Water the pot by standing it in a dish of water. Winter sun for at least 4-5 hours a day is necessary, for healthy plants. Do not let the pots dry out during the growing season (May to October for most species).

It is best not to plant different species in the same pot even though they will grow happily together, because one will multiply faster than the others. One dormant greenhood tuber looks exactly the same as the next at repotting time, making it difficult to separate them. If you hope to exhibit your plants, the judges frown on pots of mixed orchids.

February, 2016.

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### **LEARN BASIC GOOD CULTURE**

An average orchid, well grown, will give you better flowers than a fine variety poorly grown. When breeding is set for a particular plant it cannot be changed. Only the full potential for that variety can be developed through good culture. As simple as it may sound, learn how to water the various genera, learn how to feed and adjust the light. Do not be continually experimenting with new mixes, feeding procedures and all sorts of techniques until you have learned the basics. Develop a good relationship with a grower whose opinions you respect, and who has demonstrated his skills. Listen to him. Wait until you have proven for yourself that you have mastered the basics of good culture before you start out to revolutionize the orchid world.

### **PROVIDE PROPER GROWING FACILITIES**

A shade house is best. Don't try raising orchids under adverse conditions unless it is absolutely necessary. It is "getting the cart before the horse" if you spend money on orchid plants before you have proper facilities. This may sound like heresy to commercial orchid growers. I am one myself more plants will follow if you are successful with your first ones.

### **WATCH FOR 'CREEPING OBSOLESCENCE'**

An orchid collection is forever changing. Your interests do not remain the same. What you liked yesterday will not be your favourite tomorrow. As you build your collection, you will find your tastes become more refined and selective. Realize that you have just so much space, time, energy and money to spend. Get the most satisfaction and pleasure from your orchids. If you have plants which you know are diseased or not doing well, get rid of them (I rime you!). Good orchid plants are no longer expensive. Make sure that every plant produces well and give you the blooms you desire. If you have cattleyas, count the leaves on a mature plant. How many out of this total have flowered? You can tell by the flower stubs in the leaf axils. Most should have; otherwise that plant is a non-blooming, boarder. Do you have a plant which won't flower though you are determined to make it do so? Give it a fair trial under varying conditions. If it still doesn't flower, get rid of it. There are other plants waiting to take its place. Do you have a plant which flowers well for you but which has inferior flowers? You have divided it. Now you have a dozen plants of the same variety? Give some away to someone who is starting, or as gift plants. Make room for better quality. Keep upgrading your collection and you will get more pleasure from it.

### **LEARN ABOUT DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND PEST CONTROL**

Learn aseptic technique. I cannot tell you here how to identify virus and other diseases in orchids. There are some excellent articles and books on the subject in your library. I can suggest you realize that orchids have certain diseases which can be spread. What a shame to have a beautiful and perhaps expensive variety become infected with virus merely because you did not learn about virus prevention. -Learn basic pest control. Common orchid scale is so easily identified and eradicated with modern insecticides. Learn what a red spider looks like and be on the alert for it. How often beautiful blooms are eaten by slugs and snails, and yet there are so many effective baits available. As for aseptic technique, do not cut your flowers until you have sterilized your cutting tool. There are good chemical sterilizers available.

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May all members enjoy a successful growing year and luck at our Shows. (despite the temperatures)

GOOD GROWING