



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



MARCH 2018

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

Postal Address:- 20 Colo Street,

Secretary: Mr. R. Morrison

COURIDJAH. 2171

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

Next Meeting: THURSDAY ,19th APRIL, 2018

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

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 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm

Hi to All

Congratulations to Margaret for plant of the night and also Ross for popular choice.

Bob Bishop of Kiwi Bark and Potting Media will be at this meeting to give a talk and bring material for sale.

The first show of the year, 12th May, Rosemeadow Shopping Centre, remember to bring plants for sale. A day before Mothers Day, any orchid in flower tends to sell very well.

Wally

Minutes of Meeting MARCH 15/3/2018

Apologies Terry Cooke, Tony and Carol Asquith, Marj Yabsley, Graeme Morrison, Neil Robertson.

Minutes from February meeting noted

Moved Ian Lawson Second Noel Bates Carried

Correspondence; various newsletters,

Treasurers Report treasurer's report to be presented next meeting

Delegates report nil

General Business

1. Nearly all of John English's orchids have now been sold.
2. Motion: "That the two bank accounts of MANOS be combined and internet banking be accessed"
Moved Ross Morrison Seconded Greg Steenbeeke Carried
3. April Meeting Speaker - Bob Bishop, KIWI Orchid Bark – Catalogue to be sent out before meeting
For members to order.
4. Wally is selling Indian Myna traps for \$40 being produced by local Men's Shed.
5. May Weibel said to say Hi to members as she and hubby depart for South Australia.
6. NPWS Management Plan -Flora and Fauna – December 2017. This is available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

Motion: "MANOS write to NSW ANOS regarding their position on the Management Plan and advice to NSW ANOS clubs.." Moved Robert Moon Seconded Ian Lawson Carried

Raffle: Margaret Southwell, Ross Morrison and Julia Bismire

Meeting Closed about 8.25pm.

2018 Show Dates

Autumn Show Dates 12 May 2018
Spring Show 22 September 2018
October Show 27 October 2018

Australian Terrestrial Orchids



Australian Terrestrial Orchid – *Pterostylis baptistii*

Australian native terrestrial orchids are ground dwelling orchids and Australia has large number of them. Native species include types such as *Pterostylis baptistii* (pictured above) which is one of the ‘Greenhoods’, one of the most common groups of Australian terrestrial orchids.

Often difficult to find, these orchids grow predominantly in lightly wooded areas, they are not large and flashy like many other orchid species but they are fascinating. In the garden they can be grown in small groups in protected areas, or as many growers and collectors do they can also be grown in pots or containers.

Australian Terrestrial Orchids – Varieties and species

These little wonders usually flower in winter and spring, and in the lightly forested areas of the southern states the observant bushwalker can usually find a range of species . Look for the well known Greenhoods (*pterostylis* species) with their hooded flowers. Or on a sunny afternoon, Sun Orchids (*thelymitra*) which actually open and close with the heat of the sun. Or perhaps the Donkey Orchids (*diuris*) which are one of the easier species to grow.

Many species are dormant over the hot summer, although a few are evergreen. The dormant species are sparked into life by the rains of autumn, during summer they are dormant, but as soon as the rains come the tubers are sparked into life. Foliage appears first and is very difficult to spot in the wild, the flower then appear, and to the untrained observer are easily missed.

Cultivation of Australian Terrestrial Orchids

The greenhoods and *diuris* are perhaps the easiest to grow, they seem to be a little more tolerant of less than ideal conditions and will multiply and spread through the underground tubers. Growing conditions for Australian terrestrial orchids need to mimic the natural conditions as much as possible, semi shade (like a woodland) and certainly a well drained soil. But remember that some species require a lot more sun to flourish.

Protection from overwatering is essential, and watch out for snails especially with new growth.

Growing Terrestrial Orchids in pots and containers

Most collectors of Australian terrestrial orchids choose to grow them in containers where they not only have control over the growing conditions but also can bring the containers into view when flowering. Container growing offers a number of advantages and few problems as well.

Australia has a wide range of terrestrial orchids, many are easy to grow and some are very difficult. Given the right conditions you should be able to grow a good range in the home garden.

1. Most of these orchids are dormant during the drier months of the year, they also have interesting relationships with the soil fungi. These two condition, dryness at the right time of year, and soil fungi are ate major key factors.
2. Nearly all of the terrestrial orchids have a tuber a bit like a small potato. One species is even called the Potato Orchid (*Gastrodia sesamoides*).
3. Most are dormant over summer, which is the dry period, and are therefore fairly drought tolerant.
4. They spring into life in autumn when the first rains encourage them to shoot. Some sending up leaves, some a single leaf and then the flower shoot.
5. This active growing period continues through to spring and into summer when the soil begins to dry again and they go back into dormancy.

Growing medium or Potting Mix for terrestrial orchids

Many gardeners will grow these orchids in pots and the selection of a potting mix is most important. An Australian Native Potting Mix with 25% added perlite suits many species.

You can also try a more elaborate mix such as:-

- 1 part Native Potting Soil
- 1 part Native Leaf Mould
- 2 parts 2 mm Gravel
- 1 part Euci mulch soaked for 6 hours in water.
- An added tablespoon of blood and bone.

In this mix, 1 part represents a 2 litre pot full

Repotting Terrestrial Orchids

Repotting will be required every 3 years or so. This is must carried out when the orchids are dormant, usually in summer .

This is a matter of tipping the tubers out of the pot and separating them from the potting mix. Fill the new clean pot to around 4 cms from the top with your selected potting mix. Place the tubers on top , with the eyes facing upwards. Cover with 2 cms of potting soil.

If you can get them, cover the whole surface of the pot with Casuarina needles.

You do not need to water in immediately as the potting mix should already be damp. Wait for a month or so and then water. Just enough to keep the soil damp. When the leaves begin to appear again in autumn, water normally..

Most Australian native potting mixes are suited to growing our orchids but for expert advice try joining one of the Australian Native Orchid Societies. You will find a wealth of practical experience far exceeds the advice we can give.

Further Information

- o [Orchid Clubs and Societies](#)
- o [Pterosylis Orchids](#) (Internet entry)
- o [Thelymitra Orchids](#) “ “
- o [Arachnorchis Orchids](#) “ “
- o [Australian Native Orchids](#) “ “

This article comes from “Nurseries On Line” website...Have a look at this site as it contains articles on plant culture, buying plants on line, various nurseries and general information, etc.

~~~~ ARTIE ~~~~

Constantly being broke and stuck in an unhappy marriage, a young husband decided to solve both problems by taking out a large insurance policy on his wife, with himself as the beneficiary, and then arranging to have her killed.

A 'friend of a friend' put him in touch with a nefarious, dark-side underworld figure who went by the name of 'Artie.' Artie explained to the husband that his going price for snuffing out of a spouse was \$10,000.

The husband said he was willing to pay that amount but that he wouldn't have any cash on hand until he could collect his wife's insurance money. Artie insisted on being paid at least something up front, so the man opened his wallet, displaying the single dollar coin that rested inside. Artie sighed, rolled his eyes and reluctantly agreed to accept the dollar as down payment for the dirty deed.

A few days later, Artie followed the man's wife to the local Costco Warehouse. There, he surprised her in the produce department and proceeded to strangle her with his gloved hands. As the poor unsuspecting woman drew her last breath and slumped to the floor, the manager of the produce department stumbled unexpectedly onto the murder scene. Unwilling to leave any living witnesses behind, ol' Artie had no choice but to strangle the produce manager as well.

However, unknown to Artie, the entire proceedings were captured by the hidden security cameras and observed by the shop's security guard, who immediately called the police. Artie was caught and arrested before he could even leave the premises. Under intense questioning at the police station, Artie revealed the whole sordid plan, including his unusual financial arrangements with the hapless husband who was also quickly arrested.

The next day in the newspaper, the headline declared. (You're going to hate me for this...)

**AARTIE CHOKES 2 for \$1.00 @ Costco"**

**Benching Results March Meeting 2018.**

|                                 |                                   |                                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dendrobium Species              | Den. Schneiderae                  | R. Morrison                        |
|                                 | Den. Lichenastrum                 | W. & M. Southwell                  |
| Dendrobium Hybrid               | Den. Pintery                      | R. Morrison                        |
| Sarcanthinae Species            | nil                               |                                    |
| Sarcanthinae Hybrid             | Sarc. Velvet                      | D. Roberts                         |
|                                 | Sarc. Bessie                      | R. Morrison                        |
| Bulbophyllum                    | Nil                               |                                    |
| Rhizobium (Species)             | Nil                               |                                    |
| Rhyzobium (Hybrid)              | Den. Limestone x brevicauda       | W. & M. Southwell                  |
|                                 | Den. Lemon Lime Pepper x hepatica | W. & M. Southwell                  |
| Aust. Species Other             | cadetia taylori                   | W. & M. Southwell                  |
|                                 | cadetia taylori                   | M. Warner                          |
| Aust. Hybrid Other              | Nil                               |                                    |
| Terrestrial Pterostylis Species | Nil                               |                                    |
| Caladenia Species               | Nil                               |                                    |
| Diurus species                  | Nil                               |                                    |
| Evergreen Terrestrial spp       | Nil                               |                                    |
| Terrestrial Other spp.          | Nil                               |                                    |
| Terrestrial Hybrid              | Nil                               |                                    |
| Australasian Species            | Nil                               |                                    |
| Dockrillia                      | Nil                               |                                    |
| Australasian Hybrid             | Nil                               |                                    |
| Seedling First Flowering        | Nil                               |                                    |
|                                 | Growing Competition 1             | R. Morrison &<br>W. & M. Southwell |
|                                 | Growing Competition 2             | R. Morrison                        |

**Plant of the night was Den. Limestone x brevicauda grown by Wal and Margaret Southwell and Popular Choice was Den. Schneiderae grown by Ross Morrison,. Congratulations**

Good Growing To All!!!

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And an extra article...both articles were printed in Campbelltown OS newsletter..but I thought both were well worth reading!!!

## **Australian Native Orchid Cultivation**

### **GENERAL**

Australia has more than 600 species of native orchids which can be classified into more than 70 genera. The plants have a large and varied distribution being found in some form or other in all Australian states. Orchids can be divided into two major groups as follows:

#### **Epiphytic orchids**

These are found growing on the trunk and limbs of trees or on moss and humus covered rocks. These orchids are not parasites as they use the tree or rock merely as a host on which to grow. Any crevices and fissures on the surface of the host serve as channels to direct rainfall and humus to the roots of the plant where water and its mineral contents are absorbed into the plant.

This group of orchids depends on its root system to extract moisture from the air and is usually confined to the eastern coastal ranges and areas of relatively high rainfall and high humidity.

#### **Terrestrial orchids**

As the name suggests terrestrial orchids grow in the ground from either a tuber or rhizome and usually have an annual growth cycle. These orchids live in association with fungi called mycorrhizal fungi which act as nutrient gatherers for the plant. This group has an active growing season in which new tubers and flowers are produced which in the majority of cases commences in autumn and extends through to spring. After flowering the plant goes into dormancy during the hot summer months and is reduced to a live but dormant tuber underground with all other parts of the plant drying out and dying back. During the next growing season the dormant tubers shoot and the cycle begins again. This group occurs mainly in the southern and more temperate areas of Australia with largest numbers occurring in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.

### **CULTIVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS**

As mentioned above our native orchids can be grouped into two basic groups, the cultures of which are entirely different. A brief description of the type of cultures applicable to each of the groups follows below.

#### **Cultivation of Epiphytic Species**

The majority of our epiphytic species can be easily grown in cultivation if the correct cultural requirements are provided. Some species are best suited to pot culture whereas others are best mounted on strips of cork or on pieces of native timber (ie. paperbark, etc). Various mixtures have been adopted over the years for pot culture of epiphytic orchids. Most of these comprise differing proportions of well aged bark chips, sieved decomposed granite (5mm-10mm in size) and charcoal. Many growers now use, as the major component in their mixture, one of the processed barks which are available in a range of grades to suit the size and culture of the plants being grown.

To the mixture, a small amount of dolomite, blood and bone, and superphosphate may be added to promote plant growth. It is essential that the mixture remain properly drained and even though most epiphytes require a continuous moisture supply, one of the best ways to kill plants is to grow them in a wet ill-drained mushy mixture!

Plants should be grown in a well drained mixture frequently watered and fertilised regularly with one of the commercial fertilisers at half strength (Aquasol, Nitrosol, Field Pack, etc) and placed in a position where they get light and air circulation. Plants best suited to this type of culture include *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium gracillimum*, *Sarcochilus hartmannii* and numerous man made hybrids (*Dendrobium Ellen*, *Bardo Rose*, *Hilda Poxon*, etc). Plants best suited to being mounted include those with pendulous habit such as *Dendrobium teretifolium*, *temiessimum*, *pugioniforme*, those with a creeping type growth such as *Dendrobium cucumerinum* *lichenastrum*, *linguifonne*, most *Bulbophyllum* species and those which resent having their root system covered such as most *Sarcochilus* and allied species.

**Cultivation of Terrestrial orchids** Terrestrial orchids grow in a variety of situations and in general require a well drained mix as a heavy mixture causes rotting of the tubers. A basic mix developed contains the following. 2 parts coarse sand; 1 part scrub soil; 1 part wood chips; 1 part leaf mould. A small amount of blood and bone approx. one dessertspoon per 10 litre bucket should be added to the mix. This mixture may require some variation to suit different species. Plants should be watered regularly to maintain a constant moisture deposit during the growing period but during the dormant period the mix must be allowed to dry out as warm wet soils lead to the rotting of tubers. At this time watering must be reduced to no more than once a week to prevent desiccation of the tubers.

### **Garden Culture**

For those orchid enthusiasts who don't have access to a bush house or who don't wish to be bothered with the more complex needs of some orchid genera, there are a large number of 'low maintenance' native orchid species and hybrids available. These will grow and flower quite well in the outside garden environment provided some thought is given to the basic growing requirements of the plants ie. light, watering and fertilising. Many species (ie. *Dendrobium speciosum*, *gracilicaule*, *tetragonum*, *teretifolium*, *Sarc. falcatus*. etc) will grow well if attached to suitable host trees which do not shed their bark.

Other species and hybrids can be grown in pots placed in an outdoor rockery environment in dappled shade areas (ie. not full sun or full shade). Further details of plants which can be adapted to this type of culture can be obtained from your local Native Orchid Society or orchid nursery

Thanks to the Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba

(From Bribie Island Orchid Society Website....Culture Notes)

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