



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

JULY 2019

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: [aaasquith@bigpond.com](mailto:aaasquith@bigpond.com) Phone 4625 9874



**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:** TUESDAY, 20th AUGUST, 2019

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

**Conservation Officer:**

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**FITZPATRICK ROAD**

**BSB 062517 A/C 00909929**

**Mt. ANNAN.**

**Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm**

**Hi everybody.....A little change of address for our next meeting....thanks to Camden Council.**

## **We will be meeting in Currans Hill Community Hall, Cnr. Currans Hill Road & Tramway Drive.**

On Narellan Road, turn as going into Smeaton Grange onto Hartley Road, and not into Mount Annan at the big set of lights.. At the first roundabout turn right into Currans Hill Road and look for hall on the right at Tramway Drive. It is there. See you there... We were only advised at 3.45pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> and they told us our meeting night was set for this night.

Hi to All

President's message is authored by your editor as Wal is in Hospital. He is there for a procedure and may not be at our next meeting. Last month was our AGM and elections were held..results in this newsletter

Get well soon Wal..

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**Membership fees are now due.**

**General Meeting – 16 July 2019**

**7.55pm**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

The Chair – meeting opened 7.45pm.... Wally welcomed everyone to the June meeting and AGM.

**Attendance:** As per the sign on book.

**Apologies:** Ian Lawson, Colin Long, Kim Hines, Ross Morrison, Neil Robertson, Dianne McDougall

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Moved: Don Roberts Seconded: Graeme Morrison Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Correspondence:** Garden Club Magazine

**Business Arising from Correspondence:** Nil

**Treasurer's Report:** Orcadian subscription to be paid

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Robert Moon

**Carried**

### **General Business**

- Show Schedules for Spring Show at Oran Park
- A question was asked regarding our Incorporation

**2019 MANOS Shows**  
**28 September – Spring Show**  
Oran Park Podium  
**26 October – Sarcochilus Show**  
Oran Park Podium

**Raffles** - Jagath Dheersekara, Mike Harrison, Gordon Bush, Jim Cootes

**Monthly Meeting was suspended at 8pm and the AGM was conducted.**

**Annual General Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.**

President Wally gave his report.

The club continues to grow with an increase in membership and more members attending the monthly meetings. The monthly table shows are getting better in both number of orchids being shown and the quality of exhibits is certainly improving. Although, there has always been quality plants being shown, there is now many more of these.

At the February meeting, monetary changes were made to halt the decline in the bank balance, and that has now been reversed, and the bank balance is growing again.

The outlook for the next year is looking good with expected improvements in all these areas.  
Wal.

The Annual Report from 2018 was not available.

The Annual Treasurers Report was given by Carol. (Report available if requested.)

Moved Carol Asquith seconded D. Roberts Carried.

The Returning Officer was appointed by the meeting and Mike Harrison agreed to run the election.

Mike Harrison presented two awards.

One to Ross Morrison....a HCC.

Second one to Greg Steenbeeke and a Certificate of Botanical Recognition.

It was moved that the Annual Return to Fair Trading be addressed in the next fortnight.

Moved G. Morrison Seconded R. Moon.

Election Results..

		Nominated	Second
President	Wal Southwell	T. Cooke	P. Griffiths
Vice President	Greg Steenbeeke	G. Morrison	G. Bush
Secretary	Ross Morrison	M. Warner	T. Cooke
Treasurer	Carol Asquith	A. Asquith	G. Bush
Editor	Tony Asquith	T. Cooke	P. Griffiths
Conservation Officer	Robert Moon	G. Morrison	T. Cooke
	Greg Steenbeeke		
Show Marshalls	Graeme Morrison	W. Southwell	T. Cooke
Librarian	Margaret Southwell	W. Southwell	T. Cooke
General Committee	Margaret Southwell		
	Don Roberts		
	Graeme Morrison		
	Terry Cooke	W. Southwell	N. Bates

**All elected to office....**

**Annual Meeting Closed about 8.10pm.**

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A Story.....

A grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital and she timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good News."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. The staff tell me bugger all."

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## JULY 2019 Benching Results

Benching Results Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	W. & M. Southwell
	2	<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>	W. & M. Southwell
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise	W. & M. Southwell
	2	Den. Starsheen x tetragonum	W. & M. Southwell
Sarcanthinae Species	1	nil	
	2	nil	
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	1	S. Ozzydil	W. & M. Southwell
	2	S. Confetti	R. Morrison
Bulbophyllum	1	<i>B. bowkettiae</i>	Mike Harrison
	2	<i>B. shepherdii</i>	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Hybrid	1	<i>Pterostylis x conoglossa</i>	Ross Morrison
	2	<i>Pterostylis x conoglossa</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
Terrestrial Species Other	1	nil	
Rhizobium Species	1	<i>D. hepatica</i>	W. & M. Southwell
Rhizobium Hybrid	1	D. Australian Freckles	M. & W. Southwell
	2	D. Wamboral	M. & W. Southwell
Australian Species Other	1	<i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	M. Harrison
Australian Hybrid Other	1	nil	
Novelty	1	nil	
Australasian Species	1	<i>Mediocalcar decoratum</i>	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Pterostylis Species	1	<i>Pterostylis nana</i>	W. & M. Southwell
	2	<i>Pterostylis ophioglossa</i>	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Hybrid	1	<i>Pterostylis x conoglossa</i>	W. & M. Southwell
	2	<i>Pterostylis Ralph Crane</i>	M. & W. Southwell
Terrestrial Species Other	1	nil	
Seedling First Flowering	1	D. (Intense x Cabbor) x Star of Gold	D. Roberts
Australasian Hybrid	1	D. Really Blue	M. A. Warner
	2	D. Supanburi White	M. A. Warner
Growing Competition 1	1		R. Morrison
	2		G. Bush
Judge's Choice		<i>Bulbophyllum bowkette</i>	Mike Harrison
Popular Choice		D. Supanburi White	M. A. Warner

Further General Business

Nil

Meeting Closed at 9.05 pm

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Both articles are from O.S.C.O.V. website..although older articles, information still relevant.

## THE AUSTRALIAN SPECIES CYMBIDIUMS

by Frances and Julian Coker

There are three Cymbidium species indigenous to Australia, namely *Cym. canaliculatum*, *Cym. suave*, and *Cym. madidum*. They are found in Queensland, with *Cym. canaliculatum* extending westward across northern Australia to Western Australia and *Cym. suave* extending south to southern New South Wales. *Cym. madidum* is largely confined to Queensland, with only a small extension into northern New South Wales. They are all generally found in association with trees but are more appropriately considered as terrestrial rather than epiphytic, as their roots penetrate the rotted heartwood rather than attach themselves to the sound timber. All are small flowered, have leathery leaves and their leaves

closely surround the pseudobulbs. When the leaves fall the bases remain as tight dried sheaths, and sharp spines remain at the dehiscence points. They flower from spring to early summer, those plants in the north flowering earlier than those in the south.

**Cym. canaliculatum**, first described by Robert Brown in 1810, is the most widely distributed and is more tolerant of heat and dryness than the others. It has extremely leathery leaves and multiple

inflorescences of densely packed, variably colored flowers, even on the same raceme. The flowers display four general color patterns, giving rise to four varieties or groups. *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *canaliculatum* is the common form with red brown blotches overlaying a green to yellow background. *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *marginatum* has red brown flowers with a distinct yellow green margin, while *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *sparkesii* is solid red brown to almost black without any green. There is also a rare albino form that is clear green. Because *Cym. canaliculatum* prefers a drier habitat, it is most commonly found on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range and the western plains in the east and the coastal forests rather than the rainforests in the north. *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *canaliculatum* is typical as the southern form while *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *marginatum* and *Cym. canaliculatum* var. *sparkesii* are found in the north of its range.

**Cym. madidum**, first described by Lindley in 1840, prefers a higher humidity and moisture level and thus grows on the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range and the coastal plains. It is characterised by very large pseudobulbs and long pendulous inflorescences with widely spaced green to yellow flowers. *Cym. madidum* is commonly found growing in the bases of elkhorn and staghorn ferns or in the rotting heartwood of trees and branches. Plants can grow into huge clumps that flower between September and December, the northern forms flowering earlier.

**Cym. suave** is found in a narrow band along the eastern seaboard from northern Queensland to southern NSW and was first described by Robert Brown in 1810. It prefers an environment between those preferred by *Cym. canaliculatum* and *Cym. madidum* and is characterised by canes, rather than pseudobulbs, that continue to grow and flower for a number of years. It is found growing in the rotting heartwood of Eucalyptus or between the flaking layers of bark of *Melaleuca*; it sometimes produces rhizomes that will run for a considerable distance before surfacing and producing leaves. *Cym. suave* requires a considerable amount of sunshine and is the coolest growing of the three species. The flowers are similar to those of *Cym. madidum*.

Select forms of each of these species are now grown and their specimen plants make a magnificent display when in full bloom. A protected environment with added heat during winter may be required in the southern states. Because of their individual charm, the fact that they are part of our national heritage, and the variety and extension of flowering time that they provide, the Australian species cymbidiums are worthy of a place in any orchid collection.

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## NATIVE TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS - GIVE THEM A GO! by Frankie Fraser

A 'terrestrial' orchid literally means an orchid that grows in the ground. There are approximately 1200 native orchid species in Australia: more than half of these are terrestrials and most are uniquely Australian. Terrestrial orchids have tubers. In comparison to other plants, they have few roots because they live in association with fungi, called mycorrhizal fungi, which gather nutrients for the orchid. Some of these orchids are easy to grow, while some are difficult and others are impossible because of a special symbiotic relationship that they have with mycorrhizal fungi.

**Growth Cycle.** Almost all terrestrials are deciduous and have a growth cycle in which they spend 6-8 months growing in cool, moist conditions and 4-6 months resting as dormant underground tubers during the hot, dry summer. This is their unique way of surviving Australia's harsh dry summer conditions. New tubers are produced in winter-spring and after flowering the plant dies down, the tubers becoming dormant until the next autumnal rains. Most terrestrial orchids flower in spring but there are some earlier flowering species such as the autumn flowering *Pterostylis* (greenhood orchids).

**Growing terrestrials from tubers.** I grow a few terrestrial orchids and love the sight of a potful of them in flower. The cultural comments below refer to my growing practices in my conditions – methods may vary from grower to grower. Tubers can be potted in December/January -1 do mine in January when I am on holidays and have time to do it.

I use black plastic pots – squat pots are good because of their extra drainage holes. Before I put the potting mixture into the pot, I place a circle of shade-cloth in the bottom of the pot to cover the drainage holes. The cloth prevents the sandy potting mixture from leaking out and also deters larger slaters and earwigs from sneaking in!

I use the basic potting mixture recommended by ANOS which comprises two parts of coarse sand, one part of mountain soil, one part of buzzer chips (not treated pine, Western Red Cedar or chipboard), one part of leaf mould (partially rotted down leaves found under trees) and approximately one dessertspoonful of Blood and Bone per 9 litres of mix. Fill the pot about two-thirds full with the mix, and arrange the tubers with their growing 'eye' facing upwards. The tubers should be about 30 mm below the final level of the mix. Cover the tubers with more mix and firm it down. Top the mix with about 10 mm of chopped pine or Casuarina (sheoak) needles. The chopped needles form a mat and prevent erosion of the mix when watering. It also keeps the leaves above the mix so that they dry off quickly, thus lessening the chance of leaf rot. The juvenile plants find their way through this mat without difficulty. Note: When re-potting tubers the following year, use equal quantities of new mix and last year's mix, so as to transfers necessary mycorrhizal fungi to the new mix.

Water the pots well and keep them shaded. Allow the pots to dry out between very light sprinklings until about the end of February (you don't want the tubers to rot). Then place the pots in their growing position in the orchid house -1 stand mine on paving bricks on the floor. *Diuris* like a brighter position than *Pterostylis*, and *Corybas* like more shade. Water them more regularly now, gently filling the pot to the rim and then allowing the water to soak in.

In autumn each tuber sends up a shoot to the surface and leaves grow quickly in late autumn. *Pterostylis* are the first to appear (March), then *Diuris* and finally *Corybas* (June). Terrestrial orchids don't cope well with fertiliser (they can be burnt and even die), although *Pterostylis* and *Diuris* are tougher and can cope with a very weak solution (I use Aquasol®) when the leaves first appear.

After flowering, the plants begin to die down in or about November. I stop watering them, remove the pots from the orchid house and put them where they won't get water (as in their natural growing conditions) – mine go under my decking because they are conveniently out of the way. I do give the pots a little sprinkle of water occasionally every week or two. Too much water will rot the tubers – so don't overdo it!

**Pests.** The worst pests are slugs and snails – they love to chomp on a stem or bud just when the plants are ready for the Spring Show! Snail pellets help (Baysol® works best for me). Scatter them around the pots, but preferably not in them. Remember that snail bait is poisonous to pets! Placing the pots on rough paving bricks also helps to deter snails and slugs. Slaters, and occasionally earwigs, find their way into the bottom of the pot if I don't put a piece of shade cloth inside the pot before adding the mix. Infrequently, near flowering time, tiny green caterpillars appear and wreak havoc with the stems. Pyrethum spray 'fixes' them, but nothing can fix the damaged stems!

**Some Recommendations.** Beginners should choose species that are hardy and multiply well. I find colony-forming *Pterostylis* the easiest to grow, particularly *Pterostylis curta*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. nutans*, *P. concinna* and *P. baptistii*, which has large impressive flowers. Hybrids show vigour, and I grow *Pterostylis* Cutie 'Harold's Pride' which makes a nice show.

Terrestrial orchids are available as dormant tubers (Dec-Feb), bare rooted plants (May-August), flasks (all year) and as pots of plants (winter-spring). For starters you could try the following:

**Sales at spring orchid shows and sales tables at club meetings.** Pots of plants are available.

Australian Orchid Nursery (Wayne Turville). A few *Pterostylis* species are available.  
58 Mornington-Tyabb Rd., Tyabb, Victoria. 3913. Phone: (03) 5977 3122

Nesbitts Orchids (Les Nesbitt). Tubers, bare-root plants and flasks are available.  
PO Box 72, Walkerville, SA 5081. . Les Nesbitt is a renowned grower and hybridiser of native terrestrials as well as a senior judge in South Australia. He puts out a catalogue twice a year, so get on his mailing list if you are interested in terrestrial orchids. He has quite a range, particularly of *Pterostylis* species and hybrids.

Join the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS).

**Do NOT remove terrestrial orchids from the wild.**