



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



JUNE 2021

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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)

**Meeting: Tuesday ,15th JUNE, 2021**

**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

Looking forward to being at the meeting, even Margaret has her arm out of plaster now.

Very good to see that the club has survived the corona virus and is operating well and seems to be growing.

**Auction this month at the meeting, bring along any unwanted plants or anything else, items to be donated with all proceeds to the club.**

Good growing  
Wally

**General Meeting – 18 May 2021** 8.00 pm

## Minutes of Meeting

The Vice - President welcomed everyone to the May and highlighted that Wally and Margaret were again an apology following Wally's recent surgery. The Editor highlighted challenges he was having in the production of this month's newsletter and distributed printed copies at the meeting.

Attendance: Members: Face to Face – as per sign on book but included Tony C, Sandra C, Ross M, Peter B, Greg S, Jim C, Gordon B, Phil G, Robert M, Tony and Carol A, Kyle H, Julia B, Wendy E, Mike M, Mary-Anne W, Julia B, Noel B, Ralph M, Jagath D, Brian B, Colin L, Marge Y.  
Visitors: Peter W, Brian T, Richard D  
Apologies: Diane Mc, Don R, Neil R, Graeme M, Justin L, Ian L, Wally and Margaret S.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Moved: Phil Griffiths    Seconded: Wendy Estall    Carried

Business Arising: nil

Reminder: 2021 Shows have been confirmed.

**Spring Show – 18 September**

**Sarcochilus Show – 23 October**

**VENUE: Oran Park Podium**

The Secretary provided an update on convalescing members – Margaret / Wally Southwell and Graeme Morrison.

Correspondence:

In: May Central Coast ANOS Newsletter  
Orchadian ANOS Quarterly Journal

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, reported a closing balance of \$9576.94.

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Sandra Crosby Carried

### General Business

The Vice-President congratulated all Autumn Show exhibitors and presented Autumn Show sashes and sale plant monies.

- Gordon B told the meeting of his upcoming eye surgery and his possible apology for the next meeting.
- Gordon B highlighted the new *Pterostylis* mentioned by ABC media found on the southern highlands. The Vice President highlighted the erroneous nature of the media release as it was really just a new population of an Illawarra species.
- The Secretary thanked all members that attended the Autumn Show and their assistance was greatly appreciated.
- June Meeting is an auction night and members are encouraged to donate unwanted plants / items.
- Contact has been made with Royale Orchids who will hopefully be presenting at a meeting in the near future.

### Meeting Presentation

Richard Dimon provided an informative presentation on the successful propagation processes being undertaken by RBGV to conserve some NSW endangered terrestrial orchids.

Raffles: Mike Morris, Sandra Crosby, Greg Steenbeeke.

### 2021 MANOS Meeting Dates

	15 June	20 July	17 August
21 September	19 October	16 November	21 December

### Monthly Benching Results

Benching Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> 'Nice Colour'	Noel Bates
	2	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	Noel Bates
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Dendrobium Avrils Gold 'Copperpot'	Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa
	2	Dendrobium Jonathon's Glory	Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa
Rhizobium species	1	<i>Dockrillia rigida</i>	Ross Morrison
Terrestrial <i>Pterostylis</i> species	1	<i>Pterostylis ophioglossa</i>	Mike Morris
	2	<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	Ross Morrison
Terrestrial species other	1	<i>Corybas pruinosus</i>	Ross Morrison
			e Morris

Novelty	1	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum x superbum</i> ‘ <i>Rys Splash</i> ’ x <i>Enobi Stripe</i>	Noel Bates
Judge’s Choice		<i>Dendrobium Avrils Gold</i> ‘Copperpot’	Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa
Popular Choice		<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> ‘Beauty’ x <i>Hilda Poxon / Red Lip</i> ’	Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm

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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) 59773122

Nesbitts Orchids (Les Nesbitt). Tubers, bare-root plants and flasks are available. PO Box 72, Walkerville, SA 5081. Phone: (08) 8261. 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.

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**THIS ARTICLE IS FROM THE OSCOV Website..**  
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**A story!!!!**

During his physical examination, a doctor asked a retired man about his physical activity level.

"What yesterday afternoon was typical. I took a five-hour walk about 5ks through some pretty rough terrain."  
I took a five-hour walk about 5ks through some pretty rough terrain. I took a five-hour walk about 5ks through some pretty rough terrain. I waded along the edge of a lake. I got sand in my shoes and my eyes. I barely avoided stepping on a snake. I barely avoided stepping on a snake. I barely avoided stepping on a snake. climbed several rocky hills. I went to the bathroom behind some big trees. The mental stress of it all left me shattered. At the end of it all I drank a scotch and three glasses of wine. Amazed by the story, the doctor said, "You must be one hell of an outdoor man!"

"No," the man replied, "I'm just a really, really shitty golfer"

Good Growing To All.