



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



JANUARY 2022

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Next Meeting: 18th JANUARY, 2022

Life Members: Mr. J. Riley, W. & M. Southwell, A. & C. Asquith, R. Morrison. M. Yabsley (J. English, T. Cooke decd.)

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 6.45pm, benching closes 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm

Hi to all,

Happy New Year to all, this must be going to be a better year.

A great Xmas Party again last year with big thanks to all who contributed food. A very good spread on the night and congratulations for the quality of food.

Money and trophies were distributed at the meeting.

Tuber night this month, so any spare or extra tubers we need these to keep our tuber night active and progressing.

Face masks must be worn at meetings, the virus is still with us and care must be taken and follow the rules like social distancing.

Good growing

Wally

General Meeting – 21st December 2021

As most would be aware, our December meeting was our Christmas celebration night. I think those who attended had a terrific night with good food and good company.

Covid is still with us, like it or not. Stay safe. One thing I would like to note is that it is getting harder and harder to get articles to publish for members.

Please note that if you are not financial, this will be your last newsletter.

2022 MANOS Meeting Dates

18 January	15 February	15 March	19 April
17 May	21 June	19 July	16 August
20 September	18 October	15 November	20 December

Christmas Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

Rangers have discovered a secret meadow of near-extinct native orchids on a travelling stock reserve in the Riverina.

The extremely rare Oaklands donkey orchid comes from the genus *Diuris*, known for its petals that poke up like "donkey ears".

Until recently, there were just 1,000 Oaklands donkey orchids remaining, their survival threatened by live stock grazing, rabbits and invasive weeds.

Murray Local Land Services officers had been searching for a reintroduction site for the endangered bloom when they discovered a hidden crop.

"We found a single plant back in 2017," senior land services officer Shanna Rogers said.

"It was dry conditions for the next two years, and nothing came up.

"And then, last year with the good rainfall, they found a healthy population of 250 plants."

Rangers discovered a new crop of the native Oaklands donkey orchid in a reserve.*(Supplied: Murray Local Land Services)*

Wild Orchids Project brings new life

There are just four populations of the orchid in the entire region, all clustered around Urana and Oaklands.

Ms Rogers said it was a bit of an estimate as to how many flowers there were.

"Not all of the orchids found within an area flower each year," she said.

"So we just monitor the flowering orchids because there potentially could be other orchids in the area that are dormant tubers that just don't come up."

Travelling stock reserves ranger Roger Harris on the grazing land where the orchids were discovered.*(Supplied: Murray Local Land Services) (A photo was here)*

It was the incredible rarity of these flowers that seeded the Wild Orchids Project, a New South Wales Environmental Trust-funded initiative.

As part of the project, experts are looking into three endangered orchid species, also including the sandhill spider orchid and crimson spider orchid.

"Monitoring back in 2014 indicated the numbers of these orchids were incredibly low, and that we needed to do something to manage the remnant populations and boost their numbers in the wild," Ms Rogers said.

Key points:

About 250 rare Oaklands donkey orchids have been discovered in the Riverina

Before the discovery, there were just 1,000 of the near-extinct native flowers left

Rangers are working to protect endangered blossoms through the Wild Orchids Project

Steps to protect near-extinct orchid

Officers have started caring for known remnant populations and are working to reintroduce orchids back into the wild at new translocation sites.

In the wake of their latest discovery, officers have fenced off the meadow to protect the orchids from grazing stock.

It's just a small patch – 3 hectares of a 150-hectare reserve.

But it could determine the survival of this highly endangered plant.

"While the orchids are dormant tubers, it's not a risk," Ms Rogers said.

"But we obviously didn't want to have stock grazing and trampling the orchids while they were flowering and setting seeds.

"This management of the orchids will continue permanently."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-21/secret-crop-of-near-extinct-native-orchid-discovered-100715998>

Cymbidium Canaliculatum Orchids (From Bribie Island O.S. Website)

Common names are: black orchid, channel leaf orchid.

Habitat: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* is found in the warmer areas of Australia from the Kimberleys in W.A. across the north then down to the Hunter River in N.S.W., but not in south-west Queensland. On a trip to Longreach at the beginning of October 2000 we saw some *Cymbidium canaliculatum* in flower growing on trees beside the railway line.

Description: This orchid is classed as an epiphyte but differs from *Dendrobiums* etc. in that its root system invades the heart of trees where there is rotting wood. This rotting wood retains moisture in prolonged dry periods. *Cymbidium canaliculatum* is recognised by its ovoid pseudobulbs which grow to about 3cms across and up to 15cms long.

Cultivation: Although it is possible to grow this orchid in pots, care must be taken with watering, particularly in the cooler months. Potting media including sand, hardwood chips, peanut shells, and pine bark have been used with success. Bright light is essential to achieve good growth and successful flowering. Fertilisers include Dynamic Lifter, cow manure and other general orchid fertilisers. This orchid grows best when placed high, 2 metres or more from the ground. Good air movement is needed for successful cultivation. This is an orchid which resents its roots being disturbed.

Flowering: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* inflorescences are erect to arching with some pendulous. The racemes grow to 40cms long and carry up to 60 flowers per raceme. The flowers can be up to 5cms across. Colours vary from the rare albino apple-green segments with a white labellum, to green with red-brown spots, yellow-green, reddish brown, bright magenta to the red-brown variety of *sparkesii*.

Hybridizing: Hybrids registered using *Cymbidium canaliculatum* include *Cymbidium Little Black Sambo* using *Cymbidium madidum* and *Cymbidium James Webeck* using *Cymbidium suave*. A number of other hybrids have been made with exotic cymbidiums including the almost black *Cymbidium Australian Midnight* and the attractive *Cymbidium Burma Star*. *Cymbidium Burma Star*

By Vic Horton.

These notes have been used at our Cultural and New Grower's Meetings. They are from various sources and we thank the authors. All articles are supplied in good faith and the Bribie Island Orchid Society and its members will not be held responsible for any loss or damage.

This article is from Noosa District Orchid and Foliage Society's website

Phaius tankervilleae

Also commonly known as Lady Tankerville's Swamp Orchid.

Scientific Name: Phaius tankervilleae

Conservation Status in NSW: **Endangered**

National Conservation Status: **Endangered**

Description

Lady Tankerville's Swamp Orchid has flower stems up to 2 m tall and large broad leaves with a pleated appearance, both arising from fleshy bulbs near ground level. The large, showy flowers, with up to 16 per stem, have four petals, which are white on the outside and brown with pale veins on the inside.

The central tongue of the flower is mauve and yellow with lobes curling inwards to form a tube. This orchid can be distinguished from the similar Southern Swamp Orchid by the more strongly curved inner tongue.

Location and Habitat

Widespread, though seriously depleted, through Asia, New Guinea and Queensland and at least formerly, in north-east NSW. It may be extinct in north-east NSW.

Habitat and Ecology

"This orchid is found in swampy grassland or swampy forest, including rainforest, eucalypt and paperbark forest.

Information

This species probably has the most spectacular and beautiful flower of any Australian native and should be grown in tropical conditions. It is a native of Australia and being found along the eastern seaboard of Australia from well into NSW right up the East coast of Queensland and on through PNG, Indonesia, Malaysia, Indo-China, Thailand and on into Northern India. Southeast Asia.

This means hot to warm temperatures on the orchid scale. Most growers use a combination of bark and terrestrial soil sometimes adding compost to the mixture. They require heavy watering during the growing period and then a rest period after flowering. There are two related varieties of the plant – one with white on the back of the petals and sepals and one which is the same color as the flower. The white backed varieties display especially well in shady locations. There is also an alba, or uncolored, variety which has golden petals and sepals with a white lip. They have squat pseudobulbs and large, pleated leaves.

They require filtered light in order to flower, but can tolerate most sun except at noon day strength, however they do better in lower light conditions. Repotting should be done after flowering in the spring rest period so that plant has time to acclimate before it starts growing again. One interesting feature of this plant is that the inflorescences can be cut after flowering and placed carefully on sand so initiate new plants. They will usually get big enough in about nine months to be able to pot. One source on the web has recommended this plant for those who consistently overwater since it is one of the orchids that loves to be moist all the time.

The genus has 30 to 50 species (depending upon the source) most of which are also terrestrial although there are several epiphytes in the group. They are widespread found from the Philippines through Australia all the way to Africa and Madagascar. They are generally large to medium size plants with Phaius tankervilleae being the largest.

This magnificent species is a very widespread terrestrial, It has also become naturalised on some of the islands of the West Indies. As one would expect of an orchid with a very wide range, there are several synonyms, and plants from different parts of the range show a little variation in blooms, but all fit within the species. There has also been some confusion over the spelling of the specific epithet, but it seems that the above spelling is now the correct one.

The plant is a large one, with stout fleshy pseudobulbs and several large pleated leaves. Inflorescence is a simple raceme which may attain 100cm in height, and bear up to 30 large (10cm) shapely blooms. It is a species which has evolved as a bog dweller, found in shady areas, around 70% shade, and subject to flooding

for at least a few months each year, remaining cool and moist for the rest of the year. In cultivation it is easy, needing a largish container as it grows, with a rich compost.

Large plants only become so if ample food is available, *Phaius tankervilleae* loves food while in growth. The addition of such things such as Blood and Bone, bone meal, chicken pellets etc., to the compost is welcome and additional feeding with such things as slow release fertilizers and dressings of organics will assist growth.

During Spring and Summer containers should be placed in a saucer of water, so that water level is 2 to 3 inches up the pot, which approximates the natural conditions for this species. It does not grow in water, but in soil and compost just above water level when its habitat is flooded. An added bonus for the grower, is the species speedy multiplication by way of keikei's from spent racemes.

If the spike is removed as soon as flowers fall, cut into sections with at least one eye on each, and the sections planted into spagnum moss, a high proportion of the eyes will develop into plantlets which may be potted on as they grow.

There are other colorful *Phaius* varieties – for instance *Phaius flavus* have huge yellow/red color blooms, *Phaius pulchellus* blooms with dark burgundy color flowers, there are others with lime green or dark brown or orange/ copper colored flowers, presenting quite a range for landscaping with orchids.

Threats

Collection for horticulture. This showy species is highly sought after.

Clearing and fragmentation of habitat for development, agriculture and roadworks.

Drainage of swamps, or pollution from nutrient run-off.

Frequent Fire

Grazing and trampling by domestic stock and feral pigs.

Invasion of habitat by introduced weeds.

What needs to be done to recover this species?

View and photograph native orchids but leave them in the wild.

Buy plants only from licensed nurseries.

Assist with the control of feral pigs.

Protect wetland areas from frequent fire.

Protect wetland areas from pollution particularly by minimising the use of pesticides in and adjacent to swamps.

Fence off swampy areas to protect from grazing stock.

Control Weeds

Protect areas of habitat from clearing, draining or development.

Report any records of Lady Tankerville's Swamp Orchid to the DEC.

If you have a shaded spot in the garden and would like to grow an orchid or two, try *Phaius tankervilleae*— they are quite hardy and easy to grow and will reward you with many beautiful blooms.

References

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (2002)

Threatened Species of the Upper North Coast of NSW:

Flora. NSW NPWS, Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Noosa District Orchid & Foliage Society

This plant was named after:- Emma, Lady Tankerville

Botanist Emma Colebrooke or Emma, Lady Tankerville was a British heiress, art patron and botanist. Lady Tankerville's collection of botanical illustrations are held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Date of birth: 1752 (age 270 years)

Place of birth: [Gatton, Surrey](#)

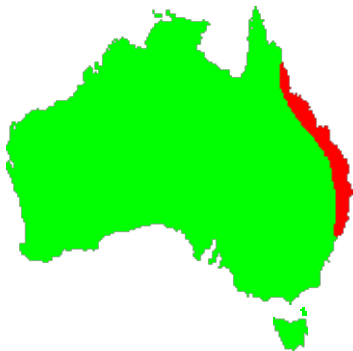
Parents: [James Colebrooke](#)

Children: [Lady Margaret Alicia Emma Bennet](#), [Henry Grey Bennet](#), [MORE](#)

Grandchildren: [Alicia Beresford](#) , [Henry Charles Bennet](#), [MORE](#)

Grandparents: [James Colebrooke](#), [Mary Hudson](#)

Phaius australis



Family: Orchidaceae

Distribution: North Queensland to north-eastern New South Wales, usually in wet areas.

Common Name: Swamp lily.

Derivation of Name: *Phaius*...From Greek *phaios*, dusky. apparently referring to the flower colour but most are anything but "dusky"! *australis*... from Latin, *australis*, southern, referring to the geographical distribution of the species.

Conservation Status: Listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act* (ie. facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with prescribed criteria). Classified as 3VC- under the ROTAP * system.

Until relatively recently, *Phaius australis* was classified as *P. tancarvilleae* but plants formerly ascribed to that species have been reclassified as *P.australis* in the Australian Plant Census. The other Australian species, *P. bernaysii* and *P.amboinensis* were also previously included in *P. tancarvilleae* (which is now considered to be a related species found in parts of Asia).

P.australis is the most widely cultivated of the Australian species. It is a robust plant with elongated, oval shaped leaves up to about a metre or more long and flowering stems which may reach 2 metres. The flowers are the largest of any Australian orchid and occur in clusters of between four and twelve. The individual flowers are about 100mm diameter and are reddish brown and white in colour. Flowering occurs in spring.

Unlike most Australian terrestrial orchids, *P.australis* is easily grown. It does best in a large container with a potting mix which is high in humus content. It prefers a position in semi-shade.

P.australis is easily propagated from seed and may also be propagated by division of the clump. It is also reported that new plants can be obtained by cutting the flower stem into pieces and placing them on a moist surface.

EPBC Act = Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

ROTAP = Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (Briggs and Lee, 1988)

For further information refer the [Australian Plants at Risk](#) page

GOOD GROWING