



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



MARCH 2023

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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: 21st MARCH, 2023

Life Members: W. & M. Southwell, A. & C. Asquith & R. Morrison, M. Yabsley.

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 7.00pm, benching closes 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm

Hi to All

A great talk and presentation at the last meeting by Zoe-Joy Scanlin on the current orchid research at Mt Annan Botanical Gardens.

Congratulations to Mike Harrison for plant of the night and popular choice, well done.

At this meeting there will be a discussion and repotting demonstration on Dendrobium speciosums.

At the last meeting the motion to have a 2 day show in September instead of a one day show, the motion was discussed and the vote was taken and defeated so that we will only be having one day shows this year.

The sales table went well. If anyone wants any of the items sold on this table, ring Margaret and it will be brought to the next meeting or you can pick it up.

Good Growing

Wally

General Meeting – 21 February 2023 8.00 pm

Minutes of Meeting

The President welcomed everyone to the February meeting and highlighted the order of business would change to enable the better use of time.

Attendance: Members: as per sign on book but included Wally and Marg S, Mike M, Graeme and Ross M, Jim C, Carol and Tony A, Peter B, Robert M (Via Zoom), Justin L, Kyle H, Col L, Noel B, Gordon B, Joy G, Mike H, Wendy E, Brian B, Jim C, Lorraine R

Apologies: Mary-Anne W, Noel B, Ian L, Greg S, Jagath D, Maureen G, Phil G, Julia B.

Visitor: Eamonn C

The Meeting Agenda was altered to allow for Zoe-Joy Scanlin to leave as soon as practical.

Meeting Presentation : Orchid conservation at the Australian Institute of Botanical Science: Current challenges and achievements. Zoe-Joy Scanlin. An interesting and informative presentation by research scientist was delivered by Zoe-Joy explaining the current orchid research happening at the RBG Mt Annan. Members were engaged and asked a variety of questions.

Potting Demonstration

The Secretary, after explaining the origin of over 200 *Pterostylis curta* tuber donations, provided a practical demonstration on terrestrial tuber potting and theory behind: pot size, soil / media retention, possible mix composition, fertilizers, depth of tuber planting, media coverage, labelling techniques.

Meeting Agenda and processes were restored at 8.50pm.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Moved: Joy Gouvoussis Seconded: Tony Asquith Carried
Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence

In:

Newcastle and Central Coast ANOS Newsletter were forwarded to members via email
CSIRO Book Catalogue
ANOS Inc – The Orchardian – December
Oran Park Podium – request for Show information
Felicity Crowe – Calanthe / Geodorum flasks from Barrita Orchids
Camden Council – Small Grant Application open
Illawarra ANOS – offer of Nita Wheeler excess tubers
Nita Wheeler – appreciation and reason for tuber donation
Woolgoolga District Orchid Society – 2023 2 day Orchid Conference and workshop.

Out

Media Outlets / AGL / Community Members – Release regarding **Macarthur Native Orchid Update Series** on the Macarthur ANOS Group Facebook.
Illawarra ANOS – collection of Nita Wheeler tubers and initiation of *Pt. gibbosa* partnership project Nita Wheeler – thank you for tuber donations

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer highlighted a closing balance of \$11,836.33 + \$190.26
Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Wendy Estell Carried.

General Business

Motion: The 2023 Spring Show be held across a Saturday and Sunday.

Moved: Justin Lee Seconded: Ross Morrison Motion Lost

This motion generated positive and constructive discussion across the membership. It was resolved as part of the discussions that the Secretary investigate and provide a report to the June meeting of possible alternate venues to the Oran Park Podium for 2024.

- Camden Council Small Grants Application: the Secretary asked for possible reasons for requesting a grant. Suggestions included – purchase of raffle plants, Chromebook, digital projector, screen, electronic raffle machine, venue hire.
- Section separators – the Secretary asked if any members had access to securing 'bench separators.
- Nita Wheeler tuber donations – the Secretary highlighted Nita Wheeler's achievements and her generosity in the tuber donations. These will be grown on for next year's 'tuber bank'.
- Macarthur Native Orchid Update Series – 24 Fb posts (3 per week) starting 20 February, to highlight the 100 species found during the Macarthur Native Orchid survey. It was again suggested that sharing these posts would attract interest and members to the Group.
- Macarthur ANOS Group Sponsorship – Kyle offered to seek sponsorship for MANOS. Following a discussion it was resolved the Secretary would develop a proposal – suggesting possible MANOS offering and sponsors.
- Draft Show Schedules were distributed in November 2022 and ratification was held over till the March meeting.

Raffle Winners: Ross Morrison, Col Long, Margaret Southwell, Peter Brown

- **(Last Month)** The Secretary highlighted that as part of the recent ANOS Inc Zoom meeting – the MANOS report had indicated the success of the Pt gibbosa project. This project will hopefully lead to a partnership with Illawarra ANOS and repopulation of this endangered species. The President indicated additional seed was being sent to Richard Thomson for seed propagation. Richard had indicated that tuber separation should be used to increase the population. The President was going to trial this process in the near future. The Secretary indicated 35 additional tubers were to be sent from Victoria.

• **Macarthur Calendar set for 2023**

2023 Show Dates **Autumn Show 13 May**
Spring Show 9 September
Late Spring Show 21 October

2023 Meeting Dates

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

Monthly Benching Results

Benching Class Place		Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	Dendrobium lichenastrum	Margaret and Wally Southwell
	2	Dendrobium biggibum	Wendy Estall
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Pumpkin Pie'	Kyle Hall
	2	Dendrobium Hilda Poxon	Mike Harrison
Sarcanthinae species	1	Sarcochilus setosis	Mike Harrison
	2	Sarcochilus eriochilus	Justin Lee
Sarcanthinae hybrid		nil	
Bulbophyllum species	1	Bulbophyllum lageniforme	Mike Harrison
	2	Bulbophyllum johnsonii	Mike Harrison
Australian species other	1	Cadetia taylorii	Mike Harrison
	2	Cestectis coelogynoides	Mike Harrison
Australasian species		nil	
Australasian hybrid		nil	
TG. Evergreen species	1	Spiranthes australis	Ross Morrison
	2	Goodyera viridiflora	Justin Lee
Seedling	1	Plectochilus Minirose	Ross Morrison
Growing Comp 1 (Terr.)	1	Tony and Carol Asquith	
	2	Ross Morrison	
Growing Comp 2 (Dend)	1	Carol and Tony Asquith	
	2	Wendy Estall	

Judge's Choice & Popular Choice Bulbophyllum lageniforme grown by Mike Harrison.

A big thankyou to Jim Cootes & Mike Harrison for judging and well done to exhibitors...a very pleasing benching for a February meeting!!!

A tale of a single *Pterostylis gibbosa* plant

(a.k.a. *Oligochaetochilus gibbosus*)

by **Ross Morrison and Jim Cootes**

A number of dedicated lovers of Australian native orchids have made a decided difference for a rare and endangered terrestrial orchid species. It is a fine example of what can be done, by a few people, to help propagate rare orchid species. Even more importantly discussions are now underway for artificially grown plants of this orchid to be returned to its' original habitat.

Pterostylis gibbosa is listed as endangered by both state and federal governments. This rare species is only found in the Illawarra area of New South Wales and is only known from a few locations.

The tale of this single plant is very interesting and one of patience, dedication, and commitment.

In 2000, John Riley (first Life Member of Macarthur ANOS) collected this plant under the Australian National Botanic Garden Licence for Mark Clements from an area in South Nowra, New South Wales. The collection was to allow John Riley to draw the species in flower. These drawings were then used in the publication: Orchids of Australia by John Riley and David P Banks. This beautifully illustrated book was first published in 2002 by the University of New South Wales Press.

In 2005 John Riley moved from his Leumeah home to reside on the Mid North Coast (Moorland) of New South Wales. John gave the single plant of *Pterostylis gibbosa* to his long-time friend Terry Cooke (second Life Member of Macarthur ANOS). Terry was never able to flower the single plant again. In 2013, Terry gave the plant to his mate, Ross Morrison (Secretary, Macarthur ANOS), who was able to flower the plant in 2014 and subsequent years. This single plant has flowered each year since 2014 and has not been re-potted to ensure no tuber disturbance occurs.

In 2019, Mike Harrison, self-pollinated the single flower of this plant. The resultant seed capsule was consequently sent to Richard Thomson OAM and the seed propagation team in Victoria. This team includes Bryan Lawrence, Helen Richards, Neil Anderton, Andrew Gibbons, and Wendy Bedggood.

In December 2021, Richard sent Ross Morrison a total of 50 tubers of *Pterostylis gibbosa*. All the tubers were planted in January 2022 and in September 2022, all of the tubers generated rosettes and most flowered. These plants have again been pollinated and we anticipate more plants in the future.

Apologies for late newsletter this month..lots of distractions this month

Good Growing