



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

APRIL 2022

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)

**Meeting: Tuesday, 17th MAY, 2022**

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

**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 0090929**

**Mt. ANNAN.**

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

Hi to All,

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

The annual auction was a great success, and as always Tony did a terrific job as the auctioneer, and good money was raised for the club.

Another great show at Oran Park Shopping Centre and the champions were:

Grand Champion	M & W Southwell
Reserve Grand Champion	Mike Harrison
Bigibbum Influence Champion	C & A Asquith
Other Orchid Champion	Mike Harrison
Terristrial Champion	M & W Southwell
Specimen Champion	Mike Harrison
Exotic Champion	S Crosby & T Costa

Congratulations and well done to the winners, and to all the exhibitors who put in plants to make a good showing for the public.

Unless covid interferes, we can look forward to our next show in September when there will be many more orchids in flower.

Good growing

Wally

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General Meeting – 19 April 2022 8.00 pm  
Minutes of Meeting

The President welcomed everyone to the April meeting and highlighted the passing of two gentlemen – John Riley, the first President and Life Member of MANOS and Don Roberts, a current committee member of MANOS. A minutes silence was held out of respect.

**Attendance:** as per sign on book but included Wally and Marg S, Carol and Tony A, Brian B, Mike H, Mike M, Tony C, Sandra C, Graeme M, Jim C, Gordon B, Noel B, Ian L, Maureen G, Peter B.

**Apologies:** Ross M, Greg S, MaryAnne W, Neil R, Diane Mc, Wendy E, Julia B, Phil G, Marg Y.

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:**

**Moved:** Sandra Crosby **Seconded:** Tony Costa **Carried**

**Business Arising: Nil**

**Correspondence:** Show Schedules and the CCANOS Newsletter were forwarded to members via email.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, reported a closing balance of \$10,198.65.

**Moved:** Carol Asquith **Seconded:** Gordon Bush **Carried**

**General Business**

- Wally Southwell and Mike Harrison spoke in respect to John Riley's passing and highlighted John's varied and interesting life around orchids, fossils and his excellence in drawing orchids.
- Ian Lawson spoke in respect to Don Roberts passing and his orchid achievements and the upcoming funeral arrangements.
- Additional Show Schedules were distributed and Margaret Southwell distributed paperwork regarding the sale of native plants at the Show.
- Tony Asquith then conducted the fundraising auction.

**Monthly Benching Results**

Benching Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
<b>Dendrobium species</b>	1	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum var. compactum</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
	2	<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>	M. & W. Southwell
<b>Dendrobium hybrid</b>	1	Dendrobium Awesome	Mike Harrison
	2	Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory	S. Crosby / T. Costa
<b>Sarcanthinae hybrid</b>	1	Sarcochilus Velvet x Amelia	S. Crosby / T. Costa
<b>Bulbophyllum species</b>	1	<i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	Mike Harrison
	2	<i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	M. & W. Southwell
<b>Rhizobium species</b>	1	<i>Dockrillia bowmanii</i>	M. & W. Southwell

<b>Australian species other</b>	1	Cadetia taylorii	Mike Harrison
	2	Cadetia taylorii	Mike Harrison
<b>Terrestrial Pterostylis species</b>	1	Pterostylis truncata	Mike Harrison
	2	Pterostylis ophioglossa	Mike Morris
<b>Terrestrial hybrid</b>	1	Pterostylis x furcillata	M. & W. Southwell
<b>Terrestrial Species other</b>	1	Chiloglottis sylvestris	Ross Morrison
	2	Chiloglottis seminuda	Mike Morris
<b>Australasian species</b>	1	Diplodium repandum	S. Crosby / T. Costa
<b>Judge's Choice</b>		Dendrobium Awesome	Mike Harrison
<b>Popular Choice</b>		Dendrobium Awesome	Mike Harrison

**Raffles:**

Wally Southwell, Peter Brown x 2, Maureen Gillett.

**2022 MANOS Meeting Dates**

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

Meeting Closed at 9.15 pm

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**2022 Macarthur ANOS Autumn Show Results**

**Entry Statistics: 7 Exhibitors – 69 orchids – 12/19 Sections**

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PLANT</b>	<b>GROWER</b>
<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> Complex	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Den. bigibbum</i> var compactum 'Mauve Shower'	M & W Southwell
Australian Dendrobium species	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	M & W Southwell
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>	M & W Southwell
Australian Rhizobium species		
Australian Bulbophyllum species	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	Wendy Estall
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	M & W Southwell
Other Australian species	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	Mike Harrison
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Cestichis angustilabris</i>	Mike Harrison
Australasian species		
Dendrobium bigibbum influence hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Topaz Sweet	C & A Asquith

	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Red Ballerina 'Macquarie'	M & W Southwell
Rhizobium hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Dockrillia Hot Coals	Greg Steenbeeke
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dockrillia Grumpy	Greg Steenbeeke
Dendrobium hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Issy's Summer x Aussie Victory 'Sunset Dream'	Wendy Estall
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Glenn Star 'Yondi Giant'	Mike Harrison
Other Australian hybrid		
Australasian hybrid		
Seedling species or hybrid		
Sarcanthinae species or hybrid		
Pterostylis species	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Pterostylis ophioglossa</i>	M & W Southwell
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Pterostylis truncata</i>	Mike Harrison
Other Australian Terrestrial Spec.	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Corybas hispidus</i>	M & W Southwell
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Chiloglottis sylvestris</i>	M & W Southwell
Australasian Terrestrial species	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Diplodium repandum</i>	Mike Harrison
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Diplodium repandum</i>	S Crosby / T Costa
Australian / Australasian Ter. hybrid	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Pterostylis x furcilatta</i>	M & W Southwell
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Pterostylis Ralphcranei</i>	M & W Southwell
Exotic	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Phrag caudatum</i>	S Crosby / T Costa
	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Miltassia Aztec 'Toni'</i>	C & A Asquith
Novelty		
<b>Champions</b>		
<b>Grand Champion</b>	<i>Pterostylis ophioglossa</i>	M & W Southwell
<b>Reserve Grand Champion</b>	<i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	Mike Harrison
<b>Bigibbum / Influence Champion</b>	Den. Topaz Sweet	C & A Asquith
<b>Other Orchid Champion</b>	<i>Cadetia taylorii</i>	Mike Harrison
<b>Terrestrial Champion</b>	<i>Pterostylis ophioglossa</i>	M & W Southwell
<b>Specimen Champion</b>	<i>Cestichis angustilabris</i>	Mike Harrison
<b>Exotic Champion</b>	<i>Phrag caudatum</i>	S Crosby / T Costa

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## South Australian Terrestrial Orchid Culture Notes

### Part One of Four Parts

Les Nesbitt is a founding member of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia and is our most experienced terrestrial orchid grower. The following posts on growing are from his notes and pictures

#### Introduction

Australian terrestrial orchids have been grown in pots in Adelaide for more than 50 years. Nowadays with a wider range of species and hybrids available there are an estimated 300 cultivars successfully growing here. When the cultivation of the fungus dependent terrestrials is fully understood this number will increase dramatically. Australian ground orchids are cool climate plants that follow an annual growth cycle comprising 6 – 8 months as growing plants under cool (5 – 20°C max, 0 – 14°C min) moist conditions and 4 – 6 months as dormant tubers in hot dry (18 – 40°C max, 12 – 30°C min) conditions. All species like good air movement and will not thrive in a stuffy humid atmosphere especially if temperatures are high.

#### Growing Area

In South Australia, terrestrials are grown in shadehouses with 50% cloth on the roof and sides. This lets the rain soak the pots and flush out salts from tapwater use. Some growers add a second layer of 50% shade cloth in summer to lower pot temperatures. It is very important that winter sun and breezes reach your plants so place the shadehouse away from the winter shadows of buildings and evergreen trees. A shade cloth cover or evergreen tree to the southwest and overhead will give protection from frost, hail and storms. Light frosts of -2°C do not worry the majority of species. Galvanised mesh benching about 750mm high will deter slugs and snails and is a convenient height for observing the pots. Watering with rainwater is better than Adelaide tap water. Fungi and orchids do not like salt.

#### Light

Some species prefer heavy shade, others full sunlight, but most will adapt to a wide range of light intensity. If the leaves and stems are weak and limp or if the rosettes are drawn up to the light, then the shading is too dense and the amount of light should be increased. The spring flowering species like higher light intensities at flowering time and flowers may have pale colours under dull conditions.

#### Watering

The soil should be kept moist at all times during active growth by watering gently if there is no rain. Hand watering is especially necessary in spring as soil in pots dries out more rapidly than in the garden. Watering must be done slowly so that the mat of needles on the surface of the pot is not disturbed. If pots are allowed to dry out during the growing season, the plants may go dormant prematurely.

#### Pests and diseases

Slugs and snails love these plants and must be kept under control. Raising the pots off the ground on galvanised steel benching is very effective in controlling these pests.

Thrips, aphids, red spider and caterpillars may cause damage. Blackbirds can scratch out small orchids. Various rots can destroy plants. Orchids showing virus like symptoms should be burnt or dumped.

### Fertilising

Be very careful with fertilisers because some terrestrials are easily burnt or even killed by overuse. *Diuris* and *Pterostylis* are very hardy and will benefit from weak applications of foliar feed in the early growth stages.

### Repotting

The new tubers are produced in winter – spring. The fast multiplying types form several tubers per plant each year. Sometime in October – November, the leaves go yellow and then brown and dry, as the days get longer, hotter and drier in late spring. After the leaves have turned yellow, let the pot dry out completely to dry up the old roots and tubers otherwise they may turn into a soggy mouldy mess and rot may destroy the adjacent new tubers.

The pots can be knocked out and the tubers examined in summer without harm, in fact we find at the Nursery that the best results are obtained if the tubers are repotted in half fresh soil mix each year. Our soil mix is 40% loam, 50% sand and 10% organic matter with a little blood and bone fertiliser added. A 5 mm sieve is a useful tool for separating tubers from soil. Replant the dormant tubers with the tops 20 mm deep. Cover the soil surface with a mulch of sheoak needles, chopped to 20 – 50 mm lengths, to prevent soil erosion & aerate under the leaves. Repotting is normally done in November, December, January and February in South Australia. Ideal pot sizes are 125 – 150 mm standard plastic pots.

Keep the pots shaded and allow the pots to dry out between light watering until mid February when they should be set out in their growing positions and watered a little more often. The tubers of some species will rot if kept wet during the dormant period, others will produce plants prematurely which are then attacked by pests such as thrip and red spider and fungal diseases in the warm weather. Each tuber sends up a shoot to the surface in autumn and leaves grow rapidly in late autumn – early winter as temperatures fall and the rains set in. *Pterostylis* are usually the first to appear in March followed by *Diuris* and *Thelymitra* in April, *Caladenia* in May and *Corybas* in June – July.

Sun loving species like *Diuris*, *Microtis* and *Thelymitra* prefer a brighter location for good growth. *Corybas* like the shadiest corner in winter.

Editor's note..article came with a photograph of *Thelymitra* 'Kay Nesbitt' cultivar.(Fast Multiplier)

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And again, this article, part 2 came from NOSSA website....I will print the other articles next month... (Having a little trouble getting articles out and reproducing them..operators error, of course!!!)

Regards to all and GOOD GROWING

# South Australian Terrestrial Orchid Culture Notes

Part Two of Four Parts

## Terrestrial Orchid Cultural Groups

Terrestrial orchids can be placed into one of three groups that have similar cultural requirements.

- Fast multipliers with an annual increase rate greater than 1.5
- Slow multipliers with an annual increase rate less than 1.5
- Fungus dependent orchids survival rate less than 1

### Fast multipliers (FM):

Fast multipliers are the easiest deciduous terrestrials to grow and potfuls are regularly seen at orchid meetings and shows. They multiply rapidly by forming 2 - 4 tubers per plant each year. They will take some fertiliser and grow better if repotted annually. It is usually not commercially viable to grow seed of these in flask. They will grow well in premium potting mix from your local hardware store with some sand added. This group contains many genera

including *Acianthus*, *Chiloglottis*, *Corybas*, *Cyrtostylis*, *Diplodium*, *Leptoceras*, *Microtis*, *Pterostylis* and some species from *Caladenia*, *Diuris* and *Thelymitra*.

### Slow multipliers (SM):

Slow multipliers are not so easy because there is less room for error. Some very showy *Diuris*, *Pterostylis* and *Thelymitra* fall within this group. A few have a near zero increase rate and will fade away unless additional plants can be produced to make up for occasional losses from predators and disease. They are more expensive because they have to be raised from seed in flasks. Flowering plants are hand pollinated and the seed collected just before the pods split open and the dust-like seed blows away. The pull-off-the-tuber method can be used with some *Diuris* and *Pterostylis* species to double plant numbers annually. Do not fertilise these except when repotting. Those with large tubers such as *Thelymitra nuda* and *Diuris behrii* should be the first to be repotted in November - December.

### Fungus dependent orchids (FD):

Some of Australia's most fascinating orchids rely on a symbiotic fungal association to obtain nutrients from the soil as these orchids have virtually no roots. The majority of Australia's terrestrial orchids are in this group and many are rare plants as they seldom multiply. We talk about survival rates for these orchids that are normally less than one. Propagation is from seed. They have a reputation for being difficult to grow in pots. However some species have been kept alive in pots for nearly 30 years. Never use fertiliser because it can kill the fungi. They should be repotted only when the tubers reach or come out of the bottom of the pot or seedlings get too crowded. A new thin layer of leaf litter is added to the surface each summer to feed the fungi which is active near the surface. Flowers are hand pollinated to get seed. Seed is sprinkled on the pots each autumn and with good culture, seedlings will appear in spring around mother plants.



Since the fungus cannot be seen with the naked eye, the health of the leaves is used to indicate that the fungal relationship with the orchid is working. If seed is sown in autumn, by springtime, when mature orchids flower, there may be a new crop of tiny seedling leaves around the base of the large mother plants. The appearance of new seedling leaves around mother plants each spring confirms that the fungal relationship is healthy. Seedlings take 3 - 5 years to reach flowering size.

### Important Rules

- Use a mix that is at least 50% sand. The bottom of the pot can be pure sand.
- Never use fertilisers (fertilisers can kill fungi).
- Feed the fungus by adding new leaf litter on top of the old litter layer each summer. Chopped up sheoak needles or gum leaf stalks/nuts are recommended.
- Do not repot unless absolutely necessary (eg the tubers come out the bottom of the pot, overcrowding, disease).
- (Note: This article also had a photo at the bottom of this :
- *Thelymitra nuda* cultivated by Les Nesbitt (Slow Multiplier)

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