



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



AUGUST 2023

Edited by Tony Asquith mail: 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: 15th AUGUST, 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 big thank you to Trevor for his great presentation and talk on first aid CPR on people who have stopped breathing and no heart beat.

Congratulations to Ross for plant of the night and to Kyle for popular choice.

This is the last meeting before the **Spring Show at Oran Park shopping centre (9th September)** so Margaret will have the sales sheets and pot labels available at the meeting.

Sales plants will be needed on the sales table at the show, so bring along any spare plants that you have.

Bob Bishop will be coming to the September meeting so a very good chance to pick up orchid bark, potting supplies. Bob also supplies orchid mix, charcoal and perlite. You can ring and preorder any supplies that you need.

Good growing

Wally

Minutes of Meeting – 18 July 2023 – AGM and General Opened at 7.30pm

The Chair – welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and General meeting. The Chair also highlighted the importance of Macarthur ANOS and the need for us to maintain the group ethos of friendship and support – attendance is fantastic. Wally also welcomed Eamonn Culhane as a visitor.

2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Attendance: A smaller attendance than normal was noted.

Attendance via Zoom: Nil

Visitor: Eamonn Culhane

Apologies: Phil Griffiths, Ross M., Graeme M., Gordon B., Peter B., Robert M.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Proposed L. Roach Seconded C. Asquith Carried

Meeting Suspended and Annual General Meeting Commenced..

Acceptance of Previous AGM minutes was offered as a true and accurate record.

Moved T. Asquith Seconded J. Lee Carried

Business Arising from 2022 AGM Minutes: Nil

Correspondence Pertaining to AGM: Nil

President's Report:

Wally thanked the Committee and all members for their ongoing support at monthly meetings. Additionally, he thanked Kyle Hall and Justin Lee for their efforts in obtaining sponsorship for our group

Secretary's Report:

Ross thanked members for their ongoing participation in club activities and especially thanked members who had contributed as presenters at monthly meetings, highlighting the expertise of Mike Harrison, Jim Cootes and Greg Steenbeeke. Ross thanked members on monthly benching and thanked the monthly judges – Greg Steenbeeke, Robert Moon and Mike Harrison for their support. Ross also highlighted the use of the MANOS Group Facebook as a way to get other community members interested and highlighted Tony Costa, Kyle Hall and Justin Lee for support in posting to Facebook.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance \$10,191.20
Income: \$ 5,113.35
Expenditure: \$ 3613.95
Income in Second Cheque Account \$56.59
Profit for Year \$1555.99
Closing Balance - \$11,651.59

Moved C. Asquith Seconded J. Lee Carried

Life Membership: Nil

Elections:

Jim Cootes was nominated as the Returning officer for the election of the Committee

The Returning Officer thanked Wally for his leadership during 2021 / 2022 and declared all positions vacant.

POSITION	APPLICANT	MOVED	SECONDED	RESPONSE
President	Wally Southwell	J. Cootes	K. Hall	Carried
Vice President	K. Hall	W. Southwell	J. Lee	Carried
Secretary	Ross Morrison	K. Hall	C. Asquith	Carried
Assistant Secretary	Justin Lee	W. Southwell	K.Hall	Carried
Treasurer	Carol Asquith	Tony Asquith	Jim Cootes	Carried
Editor	Tony Asquith	Jim Cootes	Mike Morris	Carried
Conservation Officer	J. Cootes	Wendy Estall	Mike Morris	Carried
Show Marshal	K. Hall	Jim Cootes	Justin Lee	Carried
	Graeme Morrison	Kyle Hall	Justin Lee	Carried
Librarian	Margaret Southwell	Wal Southwell	T. Asquith	Carried
Committee	Jim Cootes	Margaret Southwell	Mike Morris	Carried
Committee	Mike Morris	Wally Southwell	Justin Lee	Carried
	Noel Bates	Justin Lee	Wendy Estall	Carried
Sales Table Coordinator	Graeme Morrison	M. Harrison	K. Hall	Carried

Motion:

That the Annual Return be completed and forwarded by the Public Officer (Wally Southwell) to Fair Trading.

Moved: Joy Gouvoussis Seconded: Margaret Southwell Carried

Close of Annual General Meeting at 7.55pm

2023 July General Meeting Minutes

The Chair – opened the General meeting at 7.55pm

Attendance: As per the 2023 July AGM.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Motion: The 2023 June minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: L. Roach Seconded: C. Asquith Carried
Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence: Some Newsletters

Business Arising from Correspondence: nil

Treasurer's Report: As per AGM.

General Business

- Our Guest Speaker is Trevor Hulbert who spoke about CPR and First Aid and offered the following tips:
“Blood leaking” stop it.. “Bones” Put back into place “Person Down” CPR

CPR detail was amended 2006... 30 compressions – 2 breaths patient on back...check breathing

- Show Schedule 9th September accepted by meeting
Moved W. Estall Seconded J. Lee Carried
- \$50 Sponsorship TLE Smeaton Grange arranged by Kyle Hall
- A member brought along a few leaves and asked if they are ok..Suspected to be fungal by most members..Justin Lee spoke of what it looks like.

Raffles – Trevor (Guest Speaker), Zoe, Wendy E, Lorraine R.

July Benching Results

Benching Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i> ‘	K. Hall
	2	<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
Dendrobium hybrid	1	Dend. Anne's Rainbow Surprise “bernice	J. Lee
	2	Dend. Jazz 'Windsor Downs'	M. Harrison
Sarcanthinae hybrid	1	nil	
Bulbophyllum species	1	<i>Bulbophyllum McPhersonii</i>	W. & M. Southwell
	2	<i>Bulbophyllum shepherdii</i>	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium species	1	<i>Dockrillia teretifolia</i>	Mike Harrison
Rhizobium hybrid	1	Dock. Tweetas 'Wagunya'	K. Hall
	2	Dock. Amphion Glow 'Babylon Ghost'	K. Hall
Australian species other	1	<i>Oberonia rimachila</i>	J. Lee
	2	<i>liparis augustilabris</i>	M. Harrison
Terrestrial Pterostylis species	1	<i>Pterostylis curta</i>	M.Morris
	2	<i>Pterostylis ophikoglossa</i>	M. Morris
Terrestrial hybrid	1	nil	
Terrestrial Species other	1	<i>Chiloglottis truncata</i>	Ross Morrison
	2	<i>Acianthus scopulus</i>	W. & M. Southwell
Australasian species	1	<i>Mediocalcar decoratum</i>	Ross Morrison

	2	<i>Bulb. Triaristata (PNG)</i>	M. Harrison
Seedling	1	nil	
Growing Competition 1		-----	W. & M. Southwell
Judge's Choice		Mediocalcar decoratum	Ross Morrison
Popular Choice		<i>Dock. Tweetas 'Wagunya'</i>	K. Hall

Further General Business nil

• 2023 Meeting Dates

19 September	17 October	21 November
19 December		

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm

GOOD GROWING!

Something a little different

HOW OUR HOBBY GREW by Brian Milligan

Over a hundred years ago an English orchid grower, Frederick Boyle, wrote a book called 'About Orchids : A Chat'. He described the way in which various orchid species were collected around the world and imported into Britain. Boyle's aim was to dispel the myth that orchids were incredibly expensive and difficult to grow. He pointed out that orchid prices had fallen because sailing ships were being replaced with modern steamships, and that orchid growing was no longer the preserve of the aristocracy and the fabulously wealthy. Of course, it helped if you were rich!

Although man-made hybrids were known in Boyle's day, they were not commonly available until the development of sterile culture seed-raising techniques (flasking) in the 1920s. Most of the readily available orchids a hundred years ago were species or natural hybrids. Even so, it was estimated that there were 1500-2000 species (including varieties) in cultivation at that time. Boyle remarked that this was "a startling figure, which almost justifies the belief of those who hold that no others worth growing will be found in countries already explored". We now believe that there are between 20,000 and 30,000 orchid species throughout the world.

In 1893 the big nurserymen, such as Rollinson in Twickenham, Veitch in Chelsea and Low in Clapton, were major suppliers of species orchids in London. But the best bargains could be obtained at the auction rooms of Stevens or Protheroe & Morris. It was there that shipments of orchids, freshly arrived from overseas, were sold. Boyle's list of those present at an auction included "a duke,...some clergymen, gentry of every rank, the recognised agents of great cultivators, and of course, the representatives of the large trading firms". He observed that orchids "sell best in Spring, when they have months of light and sun before them in which to recover from the effects of a long voyage and uncomfortable quarters...The buyer must make them grow strong before the dark days of an English Winter are upon him; and every month that passes weakens his chances".

The first large shipments of orchids introduced to Britain were imported by the Royal Horticultural Society. Wealthy amateurs, such as the sixth Duke of Devonshire, followed suit and then the big nurseries, realising there was big money to be made. These nurseries employed "travellers" (collectors), whom they sent to almost every part of the world. It was a risky business – financially to the nurserymen, personally to the collectors. Even if the collector managed to escape being killed by a tiger, speared by a native, or bitten by a snake, his greatest danger was probably being bitten by a mosquito! There were no

inoculations against yellow fever, typhoid, cholera etc., and in Boyle's words "the fever, of various sorts, comes as regularly as Sunday" to the collector. Among Sander's collectors, Falkenberg perished at Panama, Klaboeh in Mexico, Schroeder in Sierra Leone, Arnold on the Orinoco (Venezuela), Digance in Brazil, Brown in Madagascar and Endres at Rio Hacha. Even more unfortunate, perhaps, was the collector sent to

Madagascar to find birds and butterflies. He shot at a native idol, and was promptly soaked in oil by the priests and barbecued on their altar!

Some idea of the difficulties and costs involved can be gained from Boyle's description of the importation of *Odontoglossum crispum* from Colombia. "Those who seek her make Bogota their headquarters". To reach the desired broad-petalled variety the collectors then had to make his way ten days to the south along mule tracks. He then "hired" a tract of mountain clothed with timber, presumably from the local chief. Next he hired "natives, 20, 50 or 100 as circumstances advise", and set them to cut down all the trees, while he built a wooden stage on which to sort and dry the orchids. Each large tree held up to five plants of *Odontoglossum crispum* and up to fifty "comparatively worthless" plants of the related *Odontoglossum gloriosum*. Neither the natives, nor the collectors, would climb the trees to collect the orchids, because the trees were home to millions of stinging ants!

When the plants had been cleaned and dried, they were fastened to sticks with copper wire, and these sticks were then nailed across wooden boxes for transport. It was known that if plants were to travel well, they had to be kept separate and dry, otherwise they would rot. The boxes were then loaded onto mules, which took ten days to return to Bogota, and then a further six days to reach Honda on the River Magdalena. Next the boxes were transferred to the deck of a flat-bottomed steamboat for the seven-day trip to Savanilla on the coast. During this trip the boxes were covered with blankets, which were kept continually wet in an effort to keep the plants cool. Finally the boxes were loaded onto a Royal Mail steamer for the long voyage back to Britain.

No wonder orchids were expensive! And who are we to criticise the South Americans for cutting down their forests today? As Boyle wrote "If we estimate that a good tree has been felled for every three scraps of *Odontoglossum* which are now established in Europe, that will be no exaggeration. And for many years past they have been arriving by hundreds of thousands annually!"

Plant losses during transport were expected to be high. Boyle described the reaction of Mr. Sander, the nurseryman, when 40,000 plants of *Miltoniopsis vexillarius* arrived in London – "he hugged himself with delight when 3000 proved to have trace of vitality". He could probably have turned a profit if only 300 had survived. By contrast, Roezl was almost ruined when only two plants survived out of a shipment of 27,000 plants of *Masdevallia schlimii*. Each of these plants sold at auction for 40 guineas, but the cost of sea freight alone on big shipments was in the order of £500.

Fortunately, the advent of efficient means of raising both species and hybrid orchids from seed gradually reduced the demand for wild-collected plants. And more recently, the introduction of restrictions by CITES has halted the export of species from most countries. Many species, raised from seed are now available from Australian nurseries. In most instances, because they have been bred from selected parents, they will have larger and more colourful flowers than the average bush-collected species.

(Both Articles are from OSCOV Website

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS – AN OVERVIEW by Julian Coker

Australia is relatively rich in its native orchid population with over 750 different species. Two thirds of these grow in the ground – the terrestrials, and one third on trees or rocks – the epiphytes or lithophytes. The major populations occur along the eastern seaboard in New South Wales and Queensland, in Victoria and south-eastern South Australia and in the south-western corner of Western Australia. Some species extend across northern Australia and others to the west of the Great Dividing Range but few are found where the rainfall is below 400 mm per year.

A strong Asian and New Guinean influence is found in the orchids of northern Queensland. This decreases as we move south and is totally absent in southwest Western Australia. Between southeast Australia and Tasmania there is a similarity with species found in New Zealand. Many terrestrial species and in some cases whole genera are endemic to Australia. Many terrestrials grow with a specific fungus in a shared relationship. This is referred to as symbiosis. If that particular fungus is lost, the orchid dies, which explains why so many terrestrials are difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.

Flower size is generally small (commonly 50 to 200 mm across) compared to the commonly seen exotic orchids, such as *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Phalaenopsis* etc. However this is adequately compensated by their great diversity in shape, colour and delicate perfume. Every colour is represented in the terrestrials including black and blue, and their diversity in shape is incredible. Flower count varies from one in some species to over one hundred per stem and many thousands per specimen plant. The smallest of all flowers is found in the genus *Bulbophyllum*, where the whole flower of some species is only a few millimetres across. The majority of native orchids flower in spring. However, there are many that flower at other times and some flower more than once a year. Flowering time depends on latitude for widely dispersed species, being earlier in the north and at lower altitudes.

Although common names are frequently used by the layperson or orchid-newcomer, the botanical name is to be preferred. Initially this often appears daunting but once mastered the botanical name is totally specific, compared with a common name, which may describe different orchids in different areas. Thus the term spider orchid is commonly applied to many different orchids throughout the world, but if we mean the particular spider orchids that grow across southern Australia we use the name *Caladenia*.

This is equivalent to our surname, and to distinguish between the various spider orchids we use a further name equivalent to our given names, e.g., *Caladenia dilatata*, *Caladenia carnea* etc. Other examples include the donkey orchid – *Diuris*, the greenhood – *Pterostylis*, the waxlip orchid – *Glossodia*, etc.

The terrestrials are found especially in the southern states, including Tasmania, but also extend up the eastern seaboard. Moisture and sunlight are the most critical factors governing their growth and flowering, so that they are usually found in open forests, natural grasslands, coastal heaths and swamplands. They are generally found in poorer soils, because the undergrowth and trees commonly overgrow them in richer soils. Areas with a rainfall of at least 750 – 1000 mm per year are preferred, although some species are found in the Mallee and the alpine areas. The terrestrials grow from a fleshy tuber and have a definite annual cycle, controlled mainly by soil moisture. Following a dry period, generally the summer, and under the stimulation of increased soil moisture, a shoot forms, grows through the surface of the soil and develops leaves and commonly a flower stem and flower, prior to dying back in the late spring. If fertilization occurs this process is extended whilst seed is produced and dispersed. Prior to dying back, the next season's tuber is produced, and with colony orchids several tubers are produced. These colony-forming orchids, such as *Pterostylis*, *Diuris*, *Chiloglottis*, etc., are those most easily introduced into cultivation. They may be grown in shallow containers in a mixture of equal parts of well-decayed humus, coarse river sand, and friable bush loam. The tubers are planted (preferably during the resting phase) to a depth of 30 – 50 mm and the surface covered with coarse sand or *Casuarina* needles. Enough water is provided during the resting stage to prevent desiccation, and this is increased during the growing stage. Perfect drainage is essential and nylon fly wire placed in the bottom of the pot helps to prevent pests entering and damaging the roots and tubers.

Tubers may be lifted each year or left undisturbed. They may only be collected from their natural habitat on private property, with the owner's permission. It is generally best to remove the natural soil and replant them in the suggested mix. The species most suitable for hobby cultivation are *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis curta*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Diuris pedunculata*, *Diuris maculata*, and *Chiloglottis gunnii*. With more experience, other species from these genera and also *Spiranthes*, *Thelymitra*, and *Caladenia* may be attempted. Do not attempt to grow *Caladenia*, *Glossodia* or *Prasophyllum* species or *Dipodium punctatum*, as they are all difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.

Terrestrials may be grown without any heat in all states, all the year, either in the garden or in a bush house. They prefer 50% shade, adequate air movement and a weak fertiliser during the growing season. Avoid frost and be on constant watch for snails, slugs and aphids.

The epiphytes and lithophytes are found mainly in the tropical rainforests of northern Queensland and from southern Queensland to northern and mid New South Wales. Only five species extend into eastern Victoria, two into Tasmania and three across to northern Western Australia. Some, such as *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and *Sarcophilus fitzgeraldii*, are found in relatively confined areas around the Queensland/New South Wales border. Others such as *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Cymbidium suave* extend along the full eastern seaboard, while *Cymbidium canaliculatum* extends across northern Australia. Mean temperature is the main determining factor that controls their range. True epiphytes use the trees or rocks simply for support and gain their nutrition from the humus that collects about their roots or from minerals dissolved in the water that passes over them.

They are the native orchids most amenable to cultivation, especially *Dendrobium*, *Cymbidium* and *Sarcochilus* species.

Dendrobium is the major Australian epiphytic genus with over 50 species. Within this there are two major groups. The warm growing includes *Dendrobium bigibbum* (the Cooktown Orchid) and *Dendrobium discolor* (the Antelope Orchid), while the cool-growing group includes *Dendrobium kingianum* (the Rock Orchid), *Dendrobium speciosum* (the King Orchid) and the fleshy-leafed variety *Dockrillia teretifolia* (syn. *Dendrobium teretifolium*, the Bridal Veil Orchid). The warm-growing varieties require a heated glasshouse during the winter in the southern states, whilst the cool growing species may be grown in a shade house.

Epiphytes may be grown either on a slab or in a suitable potting mix. Some may be grown either way. With slab culture a stable surface must be provided. Thus well-weathered hardwood or tree fern, cork or various stable fissured barks such as *Casuarina* or *Melaleuca* may be used. If a plant is not already established, it must be fastened to a suitable slab with nylon cord or galvanised staples. The root area should be covered with a wad of *Sphagnum* moss during the initial stages. It is essential that the plant be firmly secured at this stage so that movement cannot damage the root tips before the roots have had time to adhere to the slab. The slab is then hung in a well-ventilated area with 30 – 50% shade, and watered and fertilised during the growing season. At this time water should be applied copiously and then the root area allowed to partially dry before the next watering. During the cooler months watering should be decreased in proportion to the activity of the plant.

Container culture is more appropriate for cooler-growing dendrobiums and their hybrids. terracotta saucers with holes added, squat plastic pots, baskets and even hollow logs are appropriate, provided drainage is adequate. A suitable compost is made from 3 parts of 5 – 8 mm weathered pine bark and 1 part of coarse river sand. Re-potting should be done in the warmer months after flowering, when active new growth begins. Provide 30 – 50% shade together with adequate air movement. Regular fertilising with a balanced fertiliser provides for optimum culture. As with slab culture, water copiously during the growing season and taper this off during the cooler months.

Rapid development is occurring in hybridizing programmes involving native dendrobiums and excellent results are being achieved. Older hybrids are being re-made with superior parents and new hybrids are being developed between the *Dendrocoryne* and *Phalaenanthe* groups. These are yielding cooler growing plants that have larger flowers and a wider colour range. These hybrids provide an exciting challenge for those willing to try to grow them. The native cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus* are amenable to culture but are generally not as easy to maintain in cultivation. Of these *Sarcochilus hartmannii* is probably the best one to try first. With *Sarcochilus* hybrids, the use of the totally purple-red cultivar *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* ‘Lorraine’ and species such as *Sarcochilus hirticalcar* are opening new horizons.

As well as the above type of culture, dendrobiums especially may be grown in the garden in specially prepared beds, or on rocks, stumps or trees. Those suitable for garden culture include *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and many of the hybrids between them, such as *D. Bardo Rose*, *D. Delicatum* and *D. Hilda Poxon*. They require a position that provides morning and early afternoon sun, with protection from the hot afternoon sun, drying winds and frost. In time these plants will grow to specimen size and provide dramatic displays during the flowering season.

Some species are threatened with extinction due to man’s encroachment into their natural habitats. Hopefully, adequate nature reserves will be established for their preservation. Where appropriate, the collection and cultivation of some of these unique gems may be necessary if they are to survive and be enjoyed. Selected outcrossing of choice clones is also very appropriate and superior clones are resulting from this approach. Native orchids are part of our natural heritage and together with recent advances in hybridisation for colour, shape and multiple flowering time, combined with their delicate perfumes and massed flowering displays, they provide a most desirable addition to any collection.

*******Just a brief Reminder!!!**

Robert (Bob) Bishop Mobile 0413 702 335

E-mail orchidbark@optusnet.com.au

NSW Distributor For Kiwi Orchid Bark – Top quality orchid bark

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Bark Size Price Per 50 Litre Bag --- Per Pallet 40 Bags

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Website Links. Kiwi Orchid Bark

www.barkproductstaranaki.com

Sunset Valley Orchids - USA-- - Fred Clarke uses Kiwi Orchid Bark exclusively

(Prices are subject to change...)

MEMBERS –Please see Ross Morrison's email of 31/7/2023 and check attachments for Bob Bishop's brochures. See Wally's note at beginning of newsletter

Good Growing All