



# Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

SEPTEMBER 2020

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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: 20 th OCTOBER, 2020**

**Life Members:** Mr. J. Riley, M. T. Cooke, and W. & M. Southwell, A. & C. Asquith. (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  
FITZPATRICK ROAD  
Mt. ANNAN.**

**Should you wish to pay into our account for your fees**

**BSB 062517 A/C 00909929**

**Doors open 7.00pm, benching closes 7.55pm, meeting starts 8pm**

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## Hi to All

Congratulations to Don for plant of the night and Ross for popular choice at the last meeting. What a great Spring Show, despite corona virus, the entries at this show were outstanding and probably the best show the club has ever staged.

Winners were:

Native epiphyte champion - species	Ross Morrison
Native epiphyte champion - hybrid	Don Roberts
Australasian champion	Greg Steenbeeke
Seedling champion	Ian Lawson
Specimen champion	Sandra Cosby & Tony Costa
Terrestrial champion	Greg Steenbeeke
Speciosum champion	Ian Lawson
Reserve Grand Champion	Ross Morrison
Grand Champion	Don Roberts

October show is on Saturday 24th Oct. at Oran Park shopping centre. Set up at 7.00am with judging to begin at 9.00am . Plants for sale will be needed, sheets and stickers for native plants will be available at the meeting or on the day.

Terry Cooke's orchid collection has been purchased from the family and will be available for sale to the members in due course.

Stay safe and well

Wally

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## General Meeting – 15 September 2020 8.15pm

### Minutes of Meeting

After a delay in getting into the hall. Wally welcomed everyone to the September meeting and made special welcome and presented membership badges to two new members – Sandra Crosby and Tony Costa.

**Attendance:** Members: Face to Face – as per sign on book.

**Members:** Online – MaryAnne W, Jagath D, Phil G.

**Apologies:** Greg S, Noel B, Mike H, Diane McD

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:** Moved: Tony Asquith Seconded: Gordon Bush Carried

**Business Arising** Carried forwarded to General Business

**Correspondence** In

26 August – AOF Grant – Hard times – up to \$500

30 August – Clover Bradley – membership payment / raffle money

31 August – Camden Council – 6 month waiver of hall hire fees

2 September – Camden Council – AGL Community Grants

6 September – ANOS Central Coast Newsletter

6 September – AOF AGM notification -

Out

10 September – 2 Grant Proposals

(a) Retention and Membership Drive \$4,400

(b) Native Orchid Survey \$2,200

### **Business Arising from Correspondence:**

The Secretary provided an overview on recent correspondence highlighting the application made for AGL Community Grants. The Secretary provided the flyer notification to members relating to AOF AGM.

Consensus was provided after discussion, that the Secretary make application for the AOF Grant.

### **Treasurer's Report**

: Opening Balance - \$4,668.86 Closing Balance - \$4,788.86

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Don Roberts Carried

### **General Business**

The President highlighted the processes for sales plants at the upcoming Shows.

December Xmas function and Xmas hamper / raffle cancelled.

**Moved:** Graeme Morrison **Seconded** Don Roberts **Carried**

Spring Show Schedules distributed. All members to be emailed spring and sarcochilus show schedules.

The Newsletter Editor highlighted some correspondence from Alan Stephenson.

Members requested to wear name badges at Shows.

The Secretary highlighted confirmation had been received from Gerry Smee that judges would be in attendance at our Shows.

Show setup beginnings at 7.00 am – any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sandra Crosby / Tony Costa show number will be 34.

Ken Coates requested identification of plant via photo – members suggested either species – ceciliae/roseum or hybrid – empress.

### **Further General Business**

September Benching Presentation (11 Plants) was shown a number of times and voting on the Virtual Benching was noted.

Big thank you to Robert Moon for doing the bench judging.

<b>Benching Class</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>Dendrobium species</b>	1	<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	<i>Dendrobium gracilicaule</i>	Wally and Marg Southwell
<b>Dendrobium hybrid</b>	1	Den. Sarah Jane x <i>speciosum</i>	Don Roberts
	2	Den. Flinders x Aust. Rhubarb Pie	Ian Lawson
<b>Sarcanthinae species</b>	1	<i>Sarcochilusfalcatus</i>	Ross Morrison
	2	<i>Plectorrhizzatridentata</i>	Ross Morrison
<b>Sarcanthinae hybrid</b>	1	Plecto. Orkology Trimarin	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	Sarcochilus Melba	Ian Lawson
<b>Bulbophyllum species</b>	1	<i>Bulbophyllumshephardii</i>	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	<i>Bulbophyllumglobuforme</i>	Wally and Marg Southwell
<b>Rhizobium hybrid</b>	1	Den. Grumpy George	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	Den. Fiona x Louise	Ian Lawson
<b>Australian Species other</b>	1	<i>Pholidotaimbricata</i>	Wally and Marg Southwell
<b>Terrestrial Pterostylis Species</b>	1	<i>Pterostylisgibbosa</i>	Ross Morrison
<b>Terrestrial Caladenia Species</b>	1	<i>Caladenia fuscata</i>	Ross Morrison
<b>Terrestrial Diuris Species</b>	1	<i>Diuris arenaria</i>	Ross Morrison
<b>Terrestrial Hybrid</b>	1	Chiloglottis x Perscotona	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	Diuris Earwig	Ross Morrison
<b>Australasian Hybrid</b>	1	Den. Megan Neifert	Wally and Marg Southwell
	2	Den. Impact	Wally and Marg Southwell
<b>Seedling</b>	1	<i>Den. kingianum</i> 'Dragonette x Linda'	Ian Lawson
<b>Growing Competition</b>	1		Gordon Bush
	2		Gordon Bush
<b>Virtual Benching</b>	1	<i>Sarcochilusfalcatus</i>	Jagath <a href="#">Dheeraseskara</a>
<b>Judge's Choice</b>		Den. Sarah Jane x <i>speciosum</i>	Don Roberts
<b>Popular Choice</b>		<i>Diuris arenaria</i>	Ross Morrison

**Raffles: Tony Asquith, Gordon Bush, Clover Bradley, Sandra Crosby, Ian Lawson**

**October Presentation: Sarcochilus relatives by Mike Harrison**

**Meeting Closed at 9.10pm**

**Editor's note** I am finding it really hard to find appropriate articles to place before members in our newsletter...If you happen to see a good article, please get it to me!!

## PREPARING AND SHOWING ORCHID PLANTS by Alan Hope

I'm sometimes asked "How many plants will I need to set up a display?" Many Spring Show schedules provides for mini-stands (maximum of ten plants) as well as the more traditional larger displays. Obviously each will require a different number of plants but half a dozen plants would probably be adequate for a mini-stand. You need to check the area allocated for mini-stands and then practise your set-up at home. You'll be amazed at how attractive a small group of orchids can look and the satisfaction that building a display will provide! I can clearly remember my first stand as a novice. It comprised a mere nine cymbidiums plus the beautiful Australian native species *Dendrobium falcorostrum*. My stand didn't win but I gained experience and a desire to do better next time.

**Preparing Your Plants.** A well groomed and presented plant is an excellent start to winning the hearts of the judges. Cleaning and tidying-up is rather time-consuming but it is absolutely necessary. It is probably best to start with the raceme (flower spike), which should have all brown sheaths removed. In most cases the stake and ties will already be in place and you will have only to trim the ends of any ties that protrude. If the raceme requires a stake, remember to allow the raceme to follow its natural inclination. Pulling an arching or pendulous raceme upright when the flowers are partially or fully open will look unnatural, and may also cause damage.

Use a solution of detergent or Cleansel® and a small sponge or cloth to clean the leaves and the pot. But take care not to pull out the central leaves of any new growths or to damage the flowers. Any scale found on the leaves can be removed by wiping them with cotton wool soaked in methylated spirits. Remove dry husks and dead leaves by splitting them apart and then pulling each section away from the bulb separately. If any leaves have black tips or unsightly damage, you can trip them to a natural leaf-tip shape. Ensure that you sterilise any scissors or secateurs used, especially if you intend to use them on more than one plant. It's a good idea to have several pairs soaking in a sterilising solution, such as a strong solution of Tricleanium®, so as to avoid cross-infection as you move from one plant to the next. At this stage your plant should be looking great. Note its best position for viewing and insert a removable label to help you place the pot in the best orientation at set-up time.

**Labels.** You will need to label your plants according to the instructions in the show schedule. Use stiff card of the required size. White card is often used but if there are many labels, the mass of white cards is distracting. A neutral colour, such as leaf-green, results in a better overall appearance. Correct spelling and the use of large print is important, as the card should be legible when viewed from a distance of 2 m. Blu-Tac® can be used to fasten the label either to the foliage or to a stake, or you can use a piece of thin, straight wire which has a double loop at its top to hold the card.

**The Stand.** You are usually required to build your own stand, so you may need to obtain some foam boxes or to devise other structural materials. You will also need some black or green covering to hide the boxes and perhaps to disguise the pots. If the Society provides a pre-fabricated stand your job will be made a lot easier. Put your best orchid in a position where it can be clearly seen – probably in the centre at eye level. If you have a plant with pendulous spikes that extend below the base of the pot, it can be better displayed by placing the pot in a stack of pots of the same size. Alternatively, you can place the pot on top of another up-turned pot. However, in this case you will need to tape the pots together to avoid the possibility of the plant falling if its pot is bumped or moved during judging.

**Transporting Plants.** The aim is to arrive at the show venue with the flowers undamaged. Place the pots in a foam box or in a protected position in your car and ensure they can't move or topple over if you have to brake suddenly. Be careful that the racemes don't become entangled, because many a plant has been ruined when a flower is caught up as the plant is being removed from the car. Last, but not least, don't forget to check in your plants with the show marshal on arrival and receive registration numbers.