



Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group



OCTOBER 2022

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: 18th OCTOBER, 2022

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

Conservation Officer:

ANOS Macathur Group disclaims any responsibility for any losses

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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

Congratulations to Norm Biffen for plant of the night and Ross for popular choice at the last meeting.

A great talk by Richard Dimon on the reintroduction of terrestrial orchids back into the National Parks. Victoria ANOS is doing wonderful work in the preservation of native orchids.

What a great show in September. This society put on the greatest show ever with a magnificent display of orchids and 2 awards to be presented.

The October show is on Saturday the 22nd. Set up time is 7.00am and all show plants to be benched by 8.30 am. Sales plants will be needed at this show, so bring along any plants that you can.

There will be a display and sale of orchids at the BLOOM Festival at Picton Botanic Gardens, Regreme Rd, Picton on Sunday the 30th October, 10am to 4pm. This display will be held in conjunction with the Southern Highlands Orchid Society.

Wally

General Meeting – 20 September 2022 7.50 pm

Minutes of Meeting

The President welcomed everyone to the September meeting and highlighted the success of the Spring Show.

Attendance: Members: as per sign on book but included Wally and Marg S, Carol and Tony A, Mike M, Ross and Graeme M, Jim C, Wendy E, Peter B, Robert M, Phil G, Justin L, Kyle H, Col L, Marge Y, Chris P, Norm B, Tony C, Sandra C.

Apologies: Mike H, Greg S, Noel B, Ian L, MaryAnne W, Jagath D, Julia B.

Visitor: Richard Dimon

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Moved: Kyle H Seconded: Graeme Morrison Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence:

Newcastle and Central Coast ANOS Newsletter were forwarded to members via email

Camden Council Grant Applications

Resolved: To investigate options for the Grant Request

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, reported a closing balance of \$9,787.35.

Moved: Carol Asquith Seconded: Wendy Estall Carried

General Business

- Presentation of Spring Show Champions, Section Placegetters and Show Sale monies. Show Results distributed and provided in Appendix 1.
- Sales Table items available to all members.
- Sarcochilus Show Schedules were distributed and emailed to all members.
- The Secretary highlighted the Spring Show was our largest in a decade – 177 plants and 15 exhibitors.
- Justin L asked for the Spring Show to be extended over two days. Discussion followed

Notice of Motion

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

Moved: Justin Lee *To be voted on in November*

- **The Secretary discussed the option of bring the 2023 Spring Show forward by a week. Discussion followed.**
- ***Notice of Motion*** The 2023 Spring Show be held a week earlier than the 2022 Show.
Moved: Ross Morrison *To be voted on in November*
- The Editor, highlighted his desire to send through a lengthy article on Sphagnum Moss which had created problems with the August newsletter. (Sent to members early this month)
- The Editor highlighted the our new returning member, Norm Biffin had won the Grand Champion at the Campbelltown Orchid Society Show with a Native Hybrid and received adulation from the MANOS members present.

Night Presentation Richard Dimon provided a wonderful presentation on reintroduction work done by RBG Victoria, ANOS Victoria and volunteers in the plants of 6000 tubers of *Caladenia arenaria*, *Caladenia concolor* and *Diuris callitrophila* in the Albury / Corowa areas.

Raffle Winners: Robert Moon, Margaret Southwell, Sandra Crosby, Colin Long.

NATIVE TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS – GIVE THEM A GO!

From OSCOV Website) by Frankie Fraser

A 'terrestrial' orchid literally means an orchid that grows in the ground. There are approximately 1200 native orchid species in Australia: more than half of these are terrestrials and most are uniquely Australian. Terrestrial orchids have tubers. In comparison to other plants, they have few roots because they live in association with fungi, called mycorrhizal fungi, which gather nutrients for the orchid. Some of these orchids are easy to grow, while some are difficult and others are impossible because of a special symbiotic relationship that they have with mycorrhizal fungi.

Growth Cycle. Almost all terrestrials are deciduous and have a growth cycle in which they spend 6-8 months growing in cool, moist conditions and 4-6 months resting as dormant underground tubers during the hot, dry summer. This is their unique way of surviving Australia's harsh dry summer conditions. New tubers are produced in winter-spring and after flowering the plant dies down, the tubers becoming dormant until the next autumnal rains. Most terrestrial orchids flower in spring but there are some earlier flowering species such as the autumn flowering *Pterostylis* (greenhood orchids).

Growing terrestrials from tubers. I grow a few terrestrial orchids and love the sight of a potful of them in flower. The cultural comments below refer to my growing practices in my conditions – methods may vary from grower to grower. Tubers can be potted in December/January -I do mine in January when I am on holidays and have time to do it.

I use black plastic pots – squat pots are good because of their extra drainage holes. Before I put the potting mixture into the pot, I place a circle of shade-cloth in the bottom of the pot to cover the drainage holes. The cloth prevents the sandy potting mixture from leaking out and also deters larger slaters and earwigs from sneaking in!

I use the basic potting mixture recommended by ANOS which comprises two parts of coarse sand, one part of mountain soil, one part of buzzer chips (not treated pine, Western Red Cedar or chipboard), one part of leaf mould (partially rotted down leaves found under trees) and approximately one dessertspoonful of Blood and Bone per 9 litres of mix. Fill the pot about two-thirds full with the mix, and arrange the tubers with their growing 'eye' facing upwards. The tubers should be about 30 mm below the final level of the mix. Cover the tubers with more mix and firm it down. Top the mix with about 10 mm of chopped pine or Casuarina (sheoak) needles. The chopped needles form a mat and prevent erosion of the mix when watering. It also keeps the leaves above the mix so that they dry off quickly, thus lessening the chance of leaf rot. The juvenile plants find their way through this mat without difficulty. Note: When re-potting tubers the following year, use equal quantities of new mix and last year's mix, so as to transfers necessary mycorrhizal fungi to the new mix.

Water the pots well and keep them shaded. Allow the pots to dry out between very light sprinklings until about the end of February (you don't want the tubers to rot). Then place the pots in their growing position in the orchid house -I stand mine on paving bricks on the floor. *Diuris* like a brighter position than *Pterostylis*, and *Corybas* like more shade. Water them more regularly now, gently filling the pot to the rim and then allowing the water to soak in.

In autumn each tuber sends up a shoot to the surface and leaves grow quickly in late autumn. *Pterostylis* are the first to appear (March), then *Diuris* and finally *Corybas* (June). Terrestrial orchids don't cope well with fertiliser (they can be burnt and even die), although *Pterostylis* and *Diuris* are tougher and can cope with a very weak solution (I use Aquasol®) when the leaves first appear.

After flowering, the plants begin to die down in or about November. I stop watering them, remove the pots from the orchid house and put them where they won't get water (as in their natural growing conditions) – mine go under my decking because they are conveniently out of the way. I do give the pots a little sprinkle of water occasionally every week or two. Too much water will rot the tubers – so don't overdo it!

Pests The worst pests are slugs and snails – they love to chomp on a stem or bud just when the plants are ready for the Spring Show! Snail pellets help (Baysol® works best for me). Scatter them around the pots, but preferably not in them. Remember that snail bait is poisonous to pets! Placing the pots on rough paving bricks also helps to deter snails and slugs. Slaters, and occasionally earwigs, find their way into the bottom of the pot if I don't put a piece of shade cloth inside the pot before adding the mix. Infrequently, near flowering time, tiny green caterpillars appear and wreak havoc with the stems. Pyrethum spray 'fixes' them, but nothing can fix the damaged stems!

Some Recommendations. Beginners should choose species that are hardy and multiply well. I find colony-forming *Pterostylis* the easiest to grow, particularly *Pterostylis curta*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. nutans*, *P. concinna* and *P. baptistii*, which has large impressive flowers. Hybrids show vigour, and I grow *Pterostylis* Cutie ‘Harold’s Pride’ which makes a nice show.

Terrestrial orchids are available as dormant tubers (Dec-Feb), bare rooted plants (May-August), flasks (all year) and as pots of plants (winter-spring). For starters you could try the following:

Sales at spring orchid shows and sales tables at club meetings. Pots of plants are available. Australian Orchid Nursery (Wayne Turville). A few *Pterostylis* species are available. 58 Mornington-Tyabb Rd., Tyabb, Victoria. 3913. Phone:(03)59773122

Nesbitts Orchids (Les Nesbitt). Tubers, bare-root plants and flasks are available. PO Box 72, Walkerville, SA 5081. Phone: (08) 8261. Les Nesbitt is a renowned grower and hybridiser of native terrestrials as well as a senior judge in South Australia. He puts out a catalogue twice a year, so get on his mailing list if you are interested in terrestrial orchids. He has quite a range, particularly of *Pterostylis* species and hybrids. Join the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS.Do NOT remove terrestrial orchids from the wild)

Monthly Benching Results

Benching Class	Place	Plant Name	Owner
Dendrobium species	1	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> ‘Dragonette’	Justin Lee
	2	<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> ‘Jabba the Hutt’	Justin Lee
Dendrobium hybrid	1	<i>Dendrobium</i> x <i>Delicatum</i> ‘Royal Purple’	Justin Lee
	2	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>Gracillum</i>	Chris Paterson
Sarcanthinae species	1	<i>Sarcochilus spatulatus</i>	Justin Lee
	2	<i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>	Carol and Tony Asquith
Sarcanthinae hybrid	1	<i>Sarcochilus</i> <i>Kilgra</i> ‘Purple’	Tony Costa / Sandra Crosby
Bulbophyllum species	1	<i>Bulbophyllum shepherdii</i>	Ross Morrison
Rhizobium species	1	<i>Dendrobium banksii</i>	Norm Biffin
	2	<i>Dendrobium mortii</i> ‘Dave’	Justin Lee
Rhizobium hybrid	1	<i>Dockrillia</i> <i>Grumpy</i> <i>George</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
	2	<i>Dockrillia</i> <i>Oliver</i> <i>Jack</i>	Tony Costa / Sandra Crosby
Terrestrial Pterostylis species	1	<i>Pterostylis gibbosa</i>	Ross Morrison
	2	<i>Pterostylis curta</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
Terrestrial Caladenia species	1	<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Ross Morrison
Terrestrial Diuris species	1	<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Ross Morrison
Terrestrial hybrid	1	<i>Caladenia latifolia</i> x <i>Spider</i>	Margaret and Wally Southwell
Terrestrial Species other	1	<i>Chiloglottis truncata</i>	Ross Morrison
	2	<i>Chiloglottis truncata</i>	Justin Lee
Australasian Hybrid	1	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>Passion</i>	Justin Lee
Seedling	1	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>PeeWee</i> <i>John</i> x <i>Finale</i>	Chris Paterson
	2	<i>Dendrobium</i> <i>Brians</i> <i>Quest</i> ‘Genesis’ x <i>Dunokayla</i>	Kyle Hall
Judge’s Choice		<i>Dendrobium banksii</i>	Norm Biffin
Popular Choice		<i>Pterostylis gibbosa</i>	Ross Morrison

2022 MANOS Meeting Dates

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

Meeting Closed at 9.25 pm