

Australian Native Orchid Society - Macarthur Group

AUGUST 2012

Edited by Tony Asquith

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President Mr. W. Southwell (Ph. 46818589)

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Secretary: Mr. J. English (Ph.96079809)

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Treasurer: Mrs. C. Asquith (Ph. 46259874)

Next Meeting: THURSDAY , 16th AUGUST, 2012

Life Member: Mr. J. Riley

Conservation Officer: R. Hanman

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Venue: BIRRAWA HALL

FITZPATRICK ROAD,

Doors open 7.15pm, benching closes 7.45pm, meeting starts 8pm.

Mt. ANNAN.

Presidents Message. Hi to all,

Many thanks to Greg for his presentation on Dockrillia's at the last meeting.

The passing of Walter Upton is a great loss to the orchid world, particularly the native organisations. Regarded by many as the father of A.N.O.S., recognised internationally as an author, lecturer and his great knowledge of native orchids. Walter will be sadly missed by all who knew him and of him.

Thanks to Doreen, there will be 10 tables at our spring show, which is held after our next meeting. Saturday 22nd September. Set-up time 7.00am. Benching to be completed by 9.00am, so that judging can start. The show finishes at 4pm. Tags for the plants will be available at the meeting, fill them in before arriving at the show to save time. These tags will be used at all table shows and shows in the future.

Don't forget to bring your sales plants as there is always great interest from the public in these plants.

Maryann and Ross have really outdone themselves with the work on our website. WELL DONE! Maryann will give training to anyone interested in keeping the website up to date in a couple of months time, when it is completed.

Next meeting...**WALLY ON WHIPS...** demonstration, and a talk on how whips are made...Whips will be there for anyone who wants to crack them and some simple plaiting for those interested in having a go!

WALLY.

SPRING SHOW 22nd SEPTEMBER...Narellan Town Centre.(outside Coles)

Set-up and benching between 7am and 9am...clean up your plants and see you there!!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

AUGUST, 2012

- 1. Meeting Opened:** 7:55pm, and the President welcomed members.
- 2. Apologies:** Allan Kneip, Ross Morrison and Chris Munson
- 3. Minutes from Previous Meeting:** As presented to the members in the monthly Newsletter were offered for acceptance.

Proposed by: Margaret Southwell **Seconded by:** Tony Asquith

- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** was tabled for the month.

Proposed by: Carol Asquith **Seconded by:** Terry Cooke

- **Inward Correspondence:** Newsletters from various Societies

Outward Correspondence: Newsletters to members and kindred Societies.

General Business

Narellan town centre offered to allow 10 tables, Wal thinks we should offer a nice plant to the florist near to our display.

Discussion about Growing Competition..some plants beginning to flower.

Greg Steenbeeke spoke to Masters regarding a display and growing tips 1st September. (Saturday)

Editor requests items for newsletter.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting closed at 9:00pm .

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The following article appeared in ANOS Illawarra Bulletin, August 2012. The author (and President of Illawarra) wrote this piece regarding conservation practices and his experiences as Conservation Officer . I for one hope he will continue his work for many years to come. (" Illegitimus et carborundum" Alan)

JUST PONDERING ABOUT THINGS..

Alan Stephenson

In a brief moment of contemplation after completing a submission about the proposal to allow 80 illegal dwellings on a Paper Estate near Tomerong and before beginning another submission to a Draft Paper titled, *A New Planning System for NSW, Green Paper*, I wondered how I became embroiled in this line of activity and I think back to 1995.

In 1995 the Shoalhaven City Council had proposed to construct a large landfill facility in the Central Shoalhaven, which rapidly became known as the Mega Tip proposal. In short, 32 sites of approximately 1000 ha were selected from desktop surveys of topographical maps, their value was assessed for the task and eventually a final list of five sites were selected for in-depth environmental assessment. All of the sites had problems in that the drainage was either directly into Redhead Beach or Lake Conjola. The residents of the Bendalong area immediately formed a group to head off development on one site in particular and early in the days of mobile phones they proved what a benefit these could be by being able to rapidly contact people. In that same area the NSW Forestry Commission was preparing to log several sections for more than the obvious reason. Bob Carr was then in opposition and had promised the district a national park if he was elected and the then government thought that if the area was sufficiently damaged by logging a national park would be out of the question.

The mother of a school friend of my daughter became involved with the group through her Aboriginal heritage and later showed me a photo her daughter had taken in the area. At that time I had not seen *Calanthe australasica in situ* but when I was shown the photo to identify the poor quality colour print didn't matter. About that time I was given a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and despite my limited orchid knowledge at that time, I considered it to be seriously lacking in orchid detail, particularly as it failed to list *Calanthe australasica* as occurring on the site.

A visit was arranged a few days' later and after meeting the group we walked down one gully and easily located 19 orchid species of terrestrial and epiphyte within two hours, including *Calanthe australasica*. I wondered how such an obvious species could be overlooked, particularly as it is a sizeable evergreen species. I was then asked by the group to write a report for them about what I had found because none of the species I had identified were in the EIS. There were also few birds listed so it was apparent the EIS was seriously lacking and this became the first report I had written about anything for anyone. I am told it was distributed to most of the environmental lawyers in NSW and it didn't cost a cent. I continued my association with the group to the extent I presented a slide show with all orchid species they could expect to find in the area and also attended several public meetings. At one meeting I became hostile (hard to believe) when my report was attributed to the writer of the EIS but following my outburst the meeting realised the facts. Eventually Bob Carr was elected and the Greater Conjola National Park became a reality. This was due to this dedicated group who with a few moments could have 30-40 people on site to surround logging machinery, therefore preventing work and the destruction of their promised national park.

All of this occurred 10 years before I became ANOS National Conservation Officer and when I was still working a full time job. The only difference between then and now is that the time spent on full time work has reverted to conservation and of course the money has stopped but it is an involvement I feel obliged to continue, as it has led to a wide range of contacts within the wider orchid community

and also those not directly associated with orchids. It also led to a book, which was never a consideration at that time.

Conservation is mostly a case of win a few lose a lot and although this matter is not finalised, the satisfaction of a major developer "gifting" 53 ha of land for orchid conservation is most satisfying, despite the "gift" being made reluctantly and grudgingly.

However the most disappoint feature is when I read another EIS to learn the person/s responsible have yet again failed to notice terrestrial orchids through pure ignorance and in many cases belligerence. This occurs when a job is taken and time for orchid surveys over an area of 30 ha is noted as "three person hours" or "I have undertaken driven and walked surveys". This was in relation to a 400 ha development where some of the bush land is quite dense. It might prove enlightening for a person not directly involved to occasionally read some of these EIS reports. Most are available on the NSW Government website, local council website or the Environmental Defenders Office website under Major Projects for Comment or a similar title. Any person who has orchid knowledge pertaining to a particular area will be surprised by the contents of some of these documents.

Other odd features are some of the photos I am sent for identification. These come via email and many have been the worst examples of mobile phone photography. One sticking point was a request for identification of two epiphytes (from good photos) and these were the easiest but most frustrating identifications I have ever undertaken. The photos were of *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Liparis reflexa*, two of the most common epiphytic species in NSW. The person who sent the photos had tertiary qualifications and was undertaking an EIS in the Blue Mountains. This person was not known to me personally but was recommended to me by others I did know. Remember, development applications are frequently based on EIS results.

Such are the joys of a voluntary job but it has become an addiction I feel unable (and unwilling) to give up, at least for a few more years.

Alan



(above: *Calanthe australasica*) :•

Those receiving this by email will get these photo's in colour, I hope it comes out ok in black and white.

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It would be remiss of our Society if we did not note the following tribute:

Vale Walter T. Upton, DFM OAM

All Australian orchid growers will mourn the passing of Wally on Friday morning, 10th August 2012 in his ninetieth year. Walter was born in Kent, Great Britain on 18th January 1922, and first became interested in English native orchids at the age of nine.

After the war he and his wife Jill migrated to Australia where they resided in North Narrabeen and later Elanora Heights. The surrounding bushland re-awakened his enthusiasm for orchids and he soon began identifying the abundant Australian native orchids locally.

He was an accomplished artist in oils and charcoal. As his interest in Australian native orchids progressed he began developing his botanical art skills and drew in minute dissected detail, to scale, every native orchid he found. These drawings appeared in orchid journals worldwide..They now reside in the Mitchell Wing of the N.S.W. State Library.

He published three books on orchids and many hundreds of papers published worldwide, and corresponded with many leading orchid scientists throughout the world. He lectured on orchids overseas.

Wally was the real founder and driving force in the creation of the Australasian Native Orchid Society in 1962, and was elected founding Hon. Secretary at its Foundation Meeting on 6th July 1963 before 90 members. He was a founding member and later Life Member of A.N.O.S.; founding member & Life Member of A.N.O.S Warringah Group; founding member of A.N.O.S. Sydney Group; a sustaining member of North Shore Orchid Society Inc.; Member, Judge and President of The Orchid Society of N.S.W.; Chairman Symposium Committee of the Orchid Society of N.S.W. 'Orchid Symposium' as a satellite function of the 13th International Botanical Congress at the University of Sydney, 1981.

Wally and Jill founded 'Double U Orchids' at Elanora Heights and hybridised, flaked, and cultivated very many native Australian and exotic orchids. Later Wally and Jill moved with their nursery & collection to the Central Coast and subsequently retired to Bonnells Bay.

Vale dear friend to so many; a full, honourable life, devoted to country, family, belief and an orchid obsession!

This is an excerpt of an obituary written by Murray Corrigan, long-standing friend and colleague of Walter Upton. Murray, who is Patron of ANOS Warringah Group is also a founding member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society. We thank Murray for sharing his thoughts about his good mate, and our sympathies and condolences go to Wal's family and his many friends - he will be sadly missed.

Benching Results AUGUST 2012		(115 plants)
Dendrobium Species	Den aemulum	N. Bates
	Den tet-gig x tet S.R.	W. & M. Southwell
Dendrobium Hybrid	D. Warrambool	J. English
	Den. Unknown	A. Kneipp
Sarcanthinae Species	nil	
Sarcanthinae Hybrid	nil	
Bulbophyllum	B. Shepherdii	R. Morrison
	B. schilleriana	R. Morrison
Aust. Species (Other)	Dock. Teretifolium	R. Morrisom
	Dock. Teretifolium	N. Bates
Aust. Hybrid (Other)	Nil	
Terrestrial Pterostylis	Pt. curta	W. & M. Southwell
	Pt. Curta	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Evergreen	nil	
Caladenia Species	C. caterata	N. Bates
	C. caterata	W. & M. Southwell
Diuris Species	D. Maculate	W. & M. Southwell
	D. maculate	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Hybrid	Ptst. Cutie	R. Hanman
	Ptst. Bartram	R. Morrison
Terrestrial Other	Chiloglottis truncate	W. & M. Southwell
	G1 major	R. Morrison
Australasian Hybrid	Dock. Fuliginosa x teretifolium	W. & M. Southwell
	Dock. Striolata x fuliginosa	R. Morrison
Seedling First Flowering	D. Bergers	J. English
Growing Competition 1 (Dendrobium)	Colin Long	W. & M. Southwell
Growing Competition 2 (Sarcochilus)	M. Warner	J. English

Plant of the night...Dendrobium teretifolia grown by Ross Morrison.

See you at the meeting....GOOD GROWING