



The Australasian Native Orchid Society

The Warringah Group Inc.

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Monthly Meetings: 3rd Tuesday at 8:00 pm - Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville

Next Meeting
Tuesday, 16th May 2017
Mystery Auction

May 2017



Eriochilus cucullatus– Beechworth, Vic.



Pterostylis sp. aff. *revoluta* – Beechworth, Vic.



Chiloglottis reflexa – Mt. Gibraltar

Photo – Ciaran Nagle

Photos – Trish Peterson

Autumn flowering orchids in the wild

Following a very wet March there has been an abundance of autumn flowering native orchids in local reserves within Warringah. Many of these are appearing in places not seen previously in the past few years. These include autumn flowering greenhoods, mosquito orchids and midge orchids.

The greenhoods seen appear to be *Pterostylis acuminata* or Sharp Greenhood and have been seen in at least two locations. In one location dozens have appeared under trees growing in soil with deep leaf litter. (See photos below).

Mosquito orchids are out in abundance and seen in at least three locations. There appear to be a few varieties including a large number of a small mosquito orchid (*Acianthus pusillus*), a paler mosquito orchid, possibly a variation, with green labellum and a small number of the Dark Mosquito orchid (*Acianthus exsertus*). Confirmation of species in the photos below would be appreciated.

In late March my husband Rob spotted some stems in a local reserve and upon investigation we found 2-3 stems of a very small midge orchid in flower. Photos were taken and sent to the Save Our Species email of the Office of Environment and Heritage NSW. Dr David Bain identified the orchid as the endangered Brittle Midge Orchid (*Genoplesium baueri*). In addition, he has posted the find on the Atlas of Living Australia and the NSW Wildlife Atlas, the exact location only being accessible to licensed people. This orchid is one of the species being targeted by the 'Save our Species' program and is only known to currently exist in a limited area. The information has been passed on as a new location to his colleague studying this orchid and by me to the Environment Officer of the Northern Beaches Council in the hope of its protection. An exciting find!

Unbelievably on another bush walk soon after we found one stem of this same endangered midge orchid flowering in Garigal National Park. This information has now also been passed on to the OEH. See photos of this rare orchid below for your information. The location of these orchids is sensitive and therefore is not provided.

Judy Peters



Genoplesium baueri – Brittle Midge Orchid – Garigal National Park



Acianthus species – Mosquito Orchids – Garigal National Park

Photos - Judy Peters

In My Bushhouse

A lot has happened since I last wrote this column. Plants have grown and are looking good. With all the rain, I have not had to water much. I have repotted some plants where necessary, and really, April-May is a good time as there are good roots on all the orchids, and if they're growing....then feed them.

Then a disaster of my own making, as I notice that the new growths of some plants have been chewed and eaten. Not more grasshoppers!! I thought that I had moved past this! So after many nights of searching and finding nothing, I decided to spray with Supracide, which I don't like doing....but I have to get this critter! I spray and leave for a few days and then flush the bushhouse out with fresh water.....and I am still getting chomped.

Cary comes for a visit and I show him what is going on, and he says "too big for a grasshopper, more like a rat". Never had one before, so I go out that night in total darkness down to the far end of the bushhouse before turning on my headlamp and proceeding towards the entrance, when I hear a sound, a rustle of leaves.....then I see two eyes looking at me for a second, and then it dashes out a hole in the corner of the door. A bloody mouse or small rat!

I knew that the door needed repair and just put it off for later. Bad decision. After 50 years in manufacturing and telling people about preventative maintenance....ah well. So I go all over the bushhouse, repair the door, crawling under the benches and checking for any access. I think that I have sealed it.....only problem now, is the rat/mouse on the outside or inside. Time will tell.

I have *Cadetia taylori* in flower as well as *Bulbophyllum sladeanum* and *Bulb. macphersonii*, *Oberonia titania* (or is it *palmicola* or *crateriformis*?). I had *Dockrillia bowmanii* in flower, but they have been eaten. New flowering eyes on *Dendrobium speciosum* are showing.

See you at the next meeting.

Bill Dobson



Corybas barbarae – Central Coast



Chiloglottis sp. – Central Coast

Photos – Trish



Eriochilus cucullatus

Photos – Ciaran Nagle



Pterostylis obtusa

Field Trip in the Illawarra – Photos by Ciaran Nagle

Ciaran joined the Illawarra ANOS Group on a field trip in the Illawarra on 1st April 2017. It was obviously a very successful trip with a number of flowering orchids spotted.

Thank you to Ciaran for sharing his beautiful photographs with us!



Acianthus exsertus



Pterostylis ventricosa
[*Speculantha ventricosa*] a
Critically Endangered species
and the highlight of the trip!



Pterostylis truncata [*Diplodium truncatum*]



Genoplesium densum [*Corunastylis densa*]



Genoplesium fimbriatum [*Corunastylis fimbriata*]



Pterostylis reflexa [*Diplodium reflexum*]



Pterostylis coccina
[*Diplodium coccinum*]



Invitation to join on-line Citizen Science “Orchids of Warringah” project

Over the past few years my husband Rob and I have enjoyed bush walking in Warringah and photographing what we see, Rob with a particular focus on fungi and myself on native orchids. We ended up with hundreds of photos we didn't know what to do with until we came across the Bowerbird citizen science website: Bowerbird.org.au. This website, commenced in 2013 as a joint project of Museum Victoria, Melbourne, the Atlas of Living Australia and the CSIRO, Canberra, is free to join and photographs of sightings are identified and uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia on a regular basis. Members are able to start projects or join and contribute photos to the existing projects of others, by posting them under Creative Commons license and identifying them or having them identified by others using the taxonomic tree provided. Descriptions with tags can also be included which describe the type of vegetation, community, soil etc. where an orchid is growing. A location needs to be included by placing a pin on the interactive map which automatically records latitude and longitude of the record. As orchids are protected by law it is advised to press the 'Yes' option for hiding this location from public view so the exact location of an orchid cannot be identified and therefore the orchid protected.

We were heartened by the fact that our photos are now being used to record sightings of local native orchids and that we have become part of an online community with common interests, with sharing of expertise and information, including input from experts in their fields. We would like to invite others to join our project titled “Orchids of Warringah” and post your own sightings in the local area, which will then be recorded in the Atlas of Living Australia. The one sighting can be posted to multiple projects at once. There is another project “Australian Native Orchids” which can be joined and added to your sighting which may increase the possibility an expert will identify your photo. This website is a resource for members of the Bowerbird community and the general public for now and for future generations.

Judy Peters

Notes from Norfolk Island – Ron Howlett

Photos of the Norfolk Island leafless orchid, Norfolk Island Ribbonroot - *Taeniophyllum norfolkianum*) on a Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*). Some had seedpods. There were quite a number on several trees near the summit of Mount Bates, the highest point on Norfolk Island at a little over 380m - an exhausting climb! There are about a dozen orchids on Norfolk Island – I also saw plants of *Dendrobium macropus*, similar to *Dendrobium gracilicaule* and *Phreatia paleata* – this was in flower, but very high up the tree on a windy day.

Coming Events

- Orchids Out West, Friday 26th – Sunday 28th May
Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon Road, Clarendon.
- Mingara Orchid Fair & Show, 24-25 June, Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi
- Royale Open Weekend, 23rd, 24th & 25th June, Brieses Road, Peats Ridge
- Tinonee Open Weekend & Show, 6th & 7th July, 2017