

5th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show Report.

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Leumeah NSW 2560

What a great time we had! Although very busy without stopping for even a minute to absorb the atmosphere. I do believe that we managed to pull it off! Well done to all, thank you to the 5th ANOCS Committee and volunteers.

"Congratulations" to all exhibitors, each display was well presented and a good showing of a wide diversity of our native orchids. It was so lovely to meander down the path through the displays and see such magnificent colours and as for the aroma it was stunning.

Congratulations to Fred Fear of ANOS

Newcastle Winning

GRAND CHAMPION

with his magnificent hanging ball of

***Dockrillia nugentii* 'Jeffrey'**

Also congratulations to the following people for winning a Championship section.

2 x Michael and Roslyn Harrison – Macquarie Natives /ANOS Sydney

4 x Fred Fear – ANOS Newcastle

1 x Gerry Walsh – ANOS Sydney

1 x Bill and Lorraine Dobson – ANOS Warringah

1 x Malcolm Thomas – ANOS Victorian

2 x Nita Wheeler – ANOS Warringah

1 x Alan Dash – ANOS Inc Conservation Officer

2 x Harry and Doreen Turner – ANOS Macarthur

4 x Henk van den Berg

1 x Ros Capell – ANOS Warringah

1 x Syd Burton – ANOS Mid North Coast

Facts on the organizing of this Conference

There were a few issues as with many shows, but sadly we knew of derogatory comments by person/s applied to the committee and the conferences success. We can honestly say that what ever this person/s said or had done had no effect on us as we organized this national show to our best ability. We are very proud of all the committee members and volunteers for the work that was put into organizing this

national event.

Of course now with the experiences at hand we surely may have chosen different avenues for some issues if it had been known at the time. We will endeavor to give as much detail and suggestions to the committee of the 6th ANOCS. This show has been reported to be one of the happiest and friendliest events that they had been to. All vendors happy with there takings, and each guest speakers lecture was well presented and attended, the knowledge and expertise given by these professionals were most informative. The proceedings will be an invaluable aid when in years to come registrants are able to refer back to it and remember the presentations given by these botanical experts.

In October 2000 a deposit was made at the Campbelltown RSL Club to be the venue for the 5th ANOCS. The first official meeting was held on 11th Dec, 2000. With nine members present these consisting of John Riley, Les Winch, Terry Cooke, John English, Ken Jackson, Sophie Jackson, Irene Bodell, Bob Osborne and Chris Patterson. The next meeting in March 2001 stated that John Riley would be Chairperson, John English, Secretary and Terry Cooke, Treasurer. Over the four year period numerous raffles were held for needed funding. Donations were also coming in from societies, growers and companies sponsoring Championship sections of the show.



Fred Fear with the Grand Champiom
Dockrillia nugentii 'Jeffrey'



Bill Olsen collecting his registration from Lorraine Dobson and Karen Winch.



ANOS Warringah Group display



ANOS Geelong Group display

All Conference photos
Peter Eyselshoven

Roll changes of the Committee: -

- Due to personal reasons two members resigned from the ANOS Macarthur Group and 5th ANOCS.
- Next we had a committee member with ill health resulting in a quadruple by-pass, then to add to this later on a hip replacement.
- Late in 2003 Karen (me) took on the roll of the people above.
- Our Chairperson moved away from the area in October 2003
- Les then took over as Chairperson
- Our Treasurer had numerous heart attacks which he then too, needed to resign from his position.
- February 2004 Bob Osborne took on the position as Treasurer.
- Due to falling numbers of committee members, in March 2004 we approached the ANOS Inc Council with our concerns with the ever increasing workload. We then welcomed aboard most of the ANOS Inc Councilors.

2004 met with monthly meetings. These seem to come about like they were weekly. Now with a full quota on the committee all systems were go! Promotions by the ANOS Inc President Graham Slater and Secretary Irene Bodell being taken directly to meetings around Australia.

Karen was spending most of her time now devoted to the conference, standing aside temporarily from two other committees she is on, and juggling between the two boys, school issues and work. Registrations were starting to come in with the first as early as March 2004.

By the last months with meetings now fortnightly.

The Orchadian editor Peter Eyglehoven taking on the huge task to collate and edit the proceedings along with Roslyn Capell proofing it and Karen Winch designing the cover.

Then the last three week roll up to the

conference our phone and email system ran hot with up to ten phone calls a night and Karen logging on and off the emails waiting replies etc, up to three times a day. Meanwhile new issues would arise and needed to be dealt with; we were also seeking local business and companies for sponsorship or donation of materials or goods for raffles.

In-between all this Bob and myself managed to put on a small display at the ABC Gardening Live show in Sydney to promote the Conference. Most of the committee too, gave up there precious time to go and man the stall over the five day period. I myself exhausted doing four days. Thank you to those who gave plants to exhibit there.

The art work for the conference was kindly provided and drawn by John Riley.

The 5th ANOCS begins.

On the eve.

On Tuesday 14th it all started. Apart from the Registration desk during the day we also started to organize the sales and display rooms. The RSL placing the tables to our floor plan, we then needed to move each one as we laid the plastic on the floor and on each table. Same with the display area, with each display requiring plastic to protect the carpet. Tuesday night even saw delivery of some plants it was then we knew it was all starting to happen.

Day 1.

Wednesday 15th 8am people were arriving unloading plants, logs and display props from an early hour. It was great to see everybody working with and around each other. The display hall was organized chaos with plants and display material everywhere. But by later that day it was looking amazing. Each time I would get a chance to have peek I was amazed at how they had got all these displays together and how each plant was brought in and not damaged during transport. The variety and colour was astounding.

Day 2.

Thursday 16th about thirty five judges arrived at 8.30am to start on what was to be a very long day of judging. It was a hive of activity as each panel moved from display to display locating plants that had been nominated. With each panels runners taking details of winning plants to the team who had set up an office in the bar, (Location, Location, Location). This was a trying and difficult task well done to the team of hard workers who produced all the certificates. The Sales area was also opened and seemed to be quite constant.

This evening was the Cocktail Party combined with the Civic Reception. Where Guests wandered through the displays for the first time. The Mayor of Campbelltown, Brenton Banfield, then gave a short speech to welcome everyone to Campbelltown along with the official opening of the Conference. We then enjoyed superb hors d'oeuvres and socialized amongst old and new friends. During the evening a quick auction was held with some very nice plants and flasks up for grabs along with a pair of Felco Secateurs.

Day 3 & 4

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th

The conference and show now open to the public. This too was the start of fourteen lectures by our guests speakers spread over Friday and Saturday. Each lecturer delivered there talk with registrants listening on with much enthusiasm and delight. It was such an honour to hear such professional informative presentations. The Proceedings will be a wonderful reminder to all who attended. All were well attended and highly spoken of.

Friday evening we had advertised a civic reception but only one week prior to the conference these arrangements were unfortunately rearranged and combined with the Cocktail Party; this was due to official commitments of the mayor.

Saturday evening was the Conference

Dinner. We had eighty eight people attend this dinner. It was a lovely evening socializing with good friends. After the meal which was just beautiful there was another quick auction, this time being a flowering plant of a very desirable *Dendrobium speciosum*, kindly donated by Ted and Winsome Walmsley along with flasks and other items.

We also held a raffle, 1st prize was a cold frame seedling glasshouse donated by Hobby Greenhouse Products in Bowral NSW. 2nd prize was a printer donated by Cartridge World Campbelltown. 3rd prize a pair of Felco snippers donated by Felco in SA. 4th was A&B fertilizer donated by Colin Campbell (Chemicals) P/L of Wetherill Park. The evening then went onto the official speakers and awarding the winners.

It was a very pleasant evening that everyone would agree was very much enjoyed. If you are wondering of my silly antics and are not quite sure what happened, during the speech by Walter and Murray my nerves were playing up so I took off my ring, as my fingers were swollen, to put on my necklace. This is when I dropped the chain and my ring rolled straight across the floor and landed right in front of Walter. I then realized that my Argyle Champagne coloured diamond too had come off the chain. So as you could imagine I was a little concerned for it. Luckily it was found quickly and we could get on enjoying the night. I'm such a dill.

Day 5

Sunday 19th this day was to be the last the guest speakers had finished but the sales area was still moving along nicely. It was a steady amount of public flowing through to see the displays and pick up any last bargains from the sales area. Then at 4pm the time had come to start the dreaded pull down. Most of the sales area had already been packed and ready to move out at this stage and by 6pm the halls and rooms were empty once more. The sales room once again looked barren.



ANOS Newcastle Goup display



ANOS Macarthur Group display



Henk van den Burg display



Down Under Native Orchids display

Day 6

Monday 20th most had gone and said their goodbyes. It was now time for the last of the clean up. Just a few of us arrived early to take away the last of the paperwork display props and material. The RSL had already started packing away the tables and chairs, the hall once again was looking very bare. All that was needed to do now was to shovel the last ton of mulch into the bins and clean up that area. By 1pm Tony and Les finished.

For myself it was a pleasure to have met such a lovely bunch of people. I had been dealing with most of you for eighteen months via email and of absolute no knowledge of the orchid world. Most of the time I was typing away with not much understanding of what I had been typing. Constantly asking Les what is this or what does this mean, who is this where are they from. Would this be ok, how about this and Les, I need you to read this for me NOW. I can honestly say Yes I do know something of orchids now.

It was an incredible challenge and experience for me and thinking back I do not know how I managed to do all the work I did plus going to work (I work at Narellan Library P/T) be an active member and Treasurer of Little Legs Playgroup, on the committee for organizing a war museum at Aarons, my six year old sons school and also p & c duties. Then of course, there is work that I do with our youngest Caleb, who is three. Caleb as most of you know by now is Globally Developmentally delayed and does not speak. We use sign language and pictures to communicate. We attend Allied Health and see a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Physio Therapist at least once a week. At the time of the conference we were on our last week of Early Intervention group. It was great to see how patient everyone was with my son attending the show. He was a very good little boy for us but did tend to roll around of the floor in the walk ways. *Thank you.* It was very difficult to juggle the kids while the show was on and also prior to the

event. Thank you to my parents Yvonne and Colin McMahon for being there to take care of them. If it wasn't for them I would not have been able to attend meetings and be at the show.

Now that the Conference is over we can once again set some quality time aside to dedicate to our two wonderful boys who have done just as many hard yards as Les and I have.

We wish ANOS KABI Group every success in hosting the 6th ANOCS up in Queensland in 2007.

Cheers for now we hope you enjoyed your time with us and hope to meet up with you again soon.

Karen and Les Winch



Aaron and Caleb

If anyone wishes to purchase a copy of the proceedings, badges, or even a satchel please contact Les Winch.

02 46281406 or email
karen.winch@bigpond.com.au

If anyone has photos of the 5th ANOCS, I would appreciate a copy of them. Most of mine are quite dark. I mainly wish them for my own personal use. Please email them to me at the same email address or post them to me at 23 Wordsworth Avenue Leumeah NSW 2560. I am happy to pay for the copies.

Many thanks Karen and Les.

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