

MACARTHUR ANOS REPORT
For ANOS Inc Meeting
November 2023

Overview

Macarthur and Districts ANOS was established in 1990 and is a relatively small society of active growers of all varieties of Australasian orchids. The group is active in encouraging native orchid growing as well as supporting local native orchid conservation.

Monthly Meeting

In 2023, our monthly meetings returned to face-to-face gatherings. These meetings have been well attended by over 30 members and visitors each month. ZOOM options have been maintained for members as well as providing an option for presentations. Monthly benching of plants averaged 55 throughout 2023 and 70% of members benched plants over the year. Meetings always had either an arranged presentation / presenter for the evening or a benching report was delivered by one of our members. Members were active to seek out advice, learn growing techniques and ask questions throughout all meetings.

In 2023, we introduced a plant growth segment at each meeting – where 4 selected plants were spoken about by growers on their successful growing skills. This is well received by all and creates a better community for all members.

The benching of plants at the monthly meetings occurs across 21 sections. A ‘Plant of the Night’ is selected by the judges and ‘Popular Choice’ is selected by members / visitors in attendance. Annually, prize money and trophy is awarded to the ‘Point score Champion’ plus second and third placegetters. The Terry Cooke Memorial Champion Terrestrial Grower Award is presented to growers accumulating points from monthly and show benchings.

2023 Sponsorship

Macarthur ANOS embarked on a sponsorship drive in 2023 to enhance the Societies activities and encourage membership. In 2023, the following Sponsors have been added to the supporters of Macarthur ANOS:

- Thismia – Environmental Consultants
- Kings Orchid Nursery
- Macquarie Orchids
- Barrita Orchid Nursery
- Macarthur Orchids and Plants
- TLE Electrical Products
- Donut King – Oran Park

2023 Annual Shows

Macarthur ANOS conducted three very successful shows during 2023. All Shows were held at Oran Park Podium (Shopping Centre) on Saturdays with setup from 6.30am, benching from 7.15 – 8.45am and judging from 9.00am. Sales tabled operated throughout the day and pack up started from 3.45pm.

2023 Show Statistics

| SHOW | Sections | Champions | Exhibitors | Plants |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Autumn Show 13 May | 19 | 7 | 4 | 38 |
| Spring Show 9 September | 30 | 9 | 10 | 135 |
| Late Spring Show 21 October | 33 | 7 | 15 | 191 |

This year saw good participation by members at each of our Shows.

Membershi

Macarthur ANOS currently has 51 members with 10 new members joining the group during 2023.

Funding

Apart from the \$15 annual membership subscription, Macarthur ANOS conducts monthly and show raffles / sales table activities.

Macarthur ANOS also received a Council grant in 2023.

- Camden Healthy Community Grants - \$650 – for the purchase of a notebook / technology upgrade.

Communication / Other Activities

Conservation Projects

Macarthur ANOS and its members currently has a variety of conservation items happening

- i) Macarthur Native Orchid Survey – this project funded by AGL/ and LGA's has allowed the society to engage with local Councils and other community members to survey orchid species and populations throughout Macarthur. The current survey has identified 106 orchids species – 27 of which are new observations since the 1995 survey. Eighteen species listed on the 1995 survey are yet to be seen. The current survey has seen over 2,000 observations logged in iNaturalist by over 90 community members.
- ii) *Pterostylis saxicola* population mapping – Macarthur ANOS is actively supporting Campbelltown Council in mapping *Pterostylis saxicola* populations. The *Pterostylis saxicola* project has been added to the Dept of Environment 'Save our Species' Project.
- iii) *Pterostylis gibbosa reintroductions* - Macarthur ANOS is investigating the opportunity to establish a reintroduction program of *Pterostylis gibbosa* into some Illawarra locations.
- iv) Royal Botanic Gardens - Mt Annan – Macarthur ANOS is corresponding with Mt Annan to see if we can support the Gardens Native Orchid projects. The *Pterostylis gibbosa* project has been added to the Dept of Environment 'Save our Species' Project.

Communication Activities

Macarthur ANOS has an active Facebook Group Page (at least 1 post per week) at [Macarthur ANOS Group](#) . This page currently has over 490 members and allows us to:

- a. Communicate to members and potential members,
- b. Promote our activities,
- c. Disseminate other interesting articles about native orchids,
- d. Allows the community to ask questions, highlight their finds,
- e. Highlight Macarthur ANOS successes.

Apart from the Facebook page, Macarthur ANOS also forwards other societies newsletters – Newcastle and Central Coast ANOS to our members. This creates interest and initiatives.