



The Australasian Native Orchid Society The Warringah Group Inc.

Patron:
Mick Korzenowski

ABN: 84 245 695 380

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EDITOR: Bill Dobson 0409 545 955 bdobson@optusnet.com.au

COMMITTEE: Judith Barry (Librarian), Jane D'Olier, Peter D'Olier, Cary Polis, Bill Dobson, Ian Tanner.

Web Administrator: Jane D'Olier **Website:** <https://www.anoswarringah.org.au/>  **Facebook:** [ANOS - The Warringah Group Inc](#)

CORRESPONDENCE: PO Box 421, Forestville NSW 2087

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

February 2022



Flikingeria conata Erik Lielkajis



Cadetia taylori L & B Dobson



Sarcochilus setosus Erik Lielkajis

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Culture Session - Bill Dobson

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ANOS WARRINGAH GROUP HELD ON
TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Starkey Street, Forestville on Tuesday 21 December

2021. No meetings were held in July, August, September, October or November 2021 due to health orders relating to the Covid pandemic.

The Meeting was opened at 8.15pm by President Trish Peterson who welcomed members and visitors and reminded them of the Covid precautions. Trish reflected on the period since June when we have not been able to meet and thanked Bill for his work on producing the monthly Bulletin, Jane for keeping the Group's website and Facebook pages going and the other members of the Committee. Trish also thanked those members who had offered their kind support to her during her illness. She noted that as this was our end of year meeting we would have our usual Christmas supper, (but not as grand as normal), there will be plant judging, the sales table under Cary and Peter is operating and we will have a "monster raffle".

Guest Speaker: There was no guest speaker.

Visitors: Paul McDonagh, Joy

Committee Members Present: Trish Peterson (President), Bruce Potter (Secretary), Ela Kielich (Treasurer), Judith Barry, Bill Dobson, Jane D'Olier, Peter D'Olier, Cary Polis, Ian Tanner

Apologies: Mick Korzenowski, Ian & Irene Chalmers, Steve Dunstan, Lexie Wood-Weber

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 June 2021 as published in the July Bulletin were accepted as a true record on the motion of Ian Tanner seconded by Ela Kielich

Matters Arising from 15 June meeting: Nil

Correspondence: Incoming:

- **Bulletins from other orchid societies**
- **Garden Clubs of Australia-(GCA)** Various notices regarding our Group's affiliation with GCA.
- **Northern Beaches Council. (NBC)** Various notices from the Council regarding use of Community Centres during the Covid pandemic and hiring of the Snr Citizens Hall.
- **Orchid Society of NSW**-invoice for annual affiliation fee 21/22 (24 June) and receipt for payment (3 July)
- **Aust Orchid Council**-Invoice for membership and information letter (3 July)
- **Bendigo Bank (BB)**-Various notices regarding the group's term deposits with Bendigo Bank.
- **The Orchadian**- June issue; September issue
- **G & L Bromley**-arrangements for submitting plants for judging for cultural or quality awards during Covid
- **CBA Show A/C** statements 23 May - 22 Aug and 23 Aug-22 Nov
- **Aust Orchid Foundation** -notice of AGM for 23 Oct at Forest Hill Vic (14/9)
- **ANOS-AGM 29 Nov**-arrangements for conduct of the AGM on 29 Nov by ZOOM

Outgoing:

Member Notices:

- July Bulletin and notice of the cancellation of the July meeting due to Covid restrictions.
- Email advising suspension of member fees for 2021/22. (21 July)
- Email advising cancellation of the Group's 2021 Spring Fair and August meeting (8 August)
- August Bulletin (15 August)
- Email advising arrangements for conduct of an ANOS Virtual Spring Spectacular. Organized by ANOS Central Coast to be held 30 Aug to 5 Sept (21 Aug)
- September Bulletin (19 Sept)
- October Bulletin (17 Oct)
- November Bulletin (15 Nov) including advice from President re arrangements for next meeting on 21 Dec
- Email reminding members of arrangements for meeting on 21 Dec (10 Dec)
- December Bulletin and notice of General Meeting to be held on Tues 21 Dec (17 Dec)
- **Dept of Fair Trading-Form 11**-Request for Extension of Time for Holding AGM
- **ANOS AGM**-Report on ANOS Warringah activities in 2020 and 2021 submitted for the ANOS AGM on 29 Nov.

Moved for acceptance Bruce Potter seconded by Ian Tanner

Ted Shaw gave an interesting talk on the filming in his and Nancy's garden of a segment for inclusion in an episode of Gardening Australia. Ted said the filming was done in Oct 2020 but it was not screened until Sep 2021 The segment ran for eight and a half minutes, quite long for the programme. Since then the film crew has been back 4 times to shoot short clips for use in future shows.

General Business:

Annual General Meeting. The AGM is normally held within 6 months of the end of the Group's financial year ie 30

June, As no meetings have been able to be held since June, the Committee decided to defer the AGM until March

2022. A request for an extension of time has been submitted to Dept of Fair Trading. Trish encouraged members to consider nominating to serve on the Committee which will be elected at the March AGM.

A financial statement for 2020/21 was presented to members. Despite the loss of revenue from annual shows, waiving of members' fees for 2 years and continuation of regular costs and charges the Group's finances remain in a healthy condition as shown below. As at 30 June 2021 the balances in the Group's bank accounts were:

CBA accounts:	\$12,030.19
Bendigo Bank Term Deposits;	\$14,428.17
Total	\$26,458.36

Member fees 2021/22 due 1 July 2021. As advised to members by email on 21 July

the Committee decided to waive member fees for 2021/22. Any member who had already paid their fees will have the amount applied as a credit to their 2022/23 fees.

Judges Report: Bill Dobson

Plant of the Evening: *Saccolabiopsis armitii*

David Hemmings

Other Plants of Interest: *Dendrobium toressae*

Jane & Peter D'Olier

Dendrobium Kuranda Pixie x canaliculatum

Jane & Peter D'Olier

Presentation of badges: Trish presented name badges to Nel Davis, Guy Cantor, Tran Thuy and Chris Murray . Chris gave a short talk about his orchid spotting bush walks around Sydney that have been featured in recent Bulletins.

The meeting then adjourned for supper.

After supper Trish conducted a very successful “monster” raffle.

Trish thanked everyone for coming, Judith and others who helped with the supper, those who contributed items to the raffle and all who helped make the night a success. She wished everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and looked forward to seeing all at our next meeting in January. Trish reminded members to send their orchid photos to Bill for inclusion in the Bulletin.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm

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Dendrobium speciosum var. *blackdownense* L & B Dobson



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon L & B Dobson



Sarcochilus eriochilus Erik Lielkajis



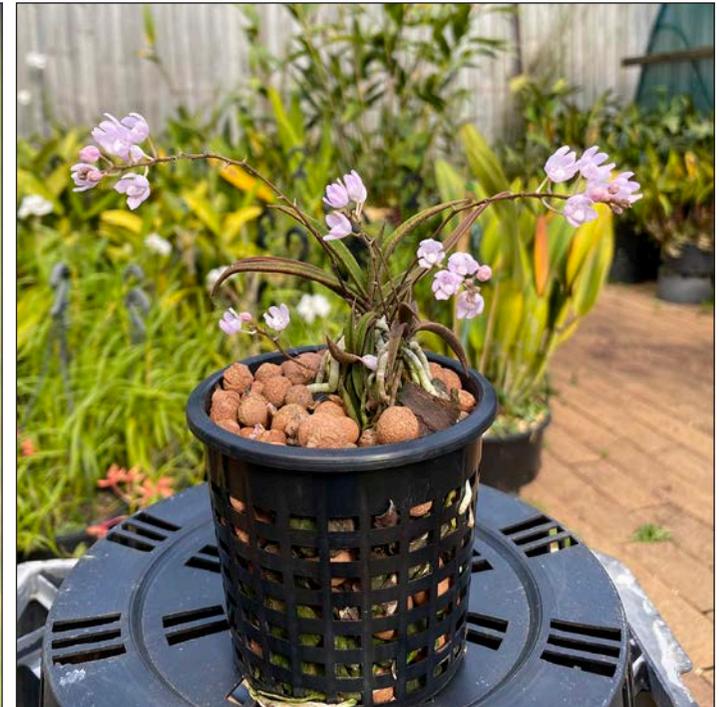
Sarcochilus ceciliae Erik Lielkajis



Denia aphrydis Erik Lielkajis



Dockrillia Limestone L & B Dobson



Sarcochilus eriochilus L & B Dobson



Sarcochilus eriochilus L & B Dobson

A RECENTLY DISCOVERED COLONY OF *Rhizanthella Sp.* IN A NORTHERN SUBURBAN AREA OF SYDNEY

An amateur orchid photographer, James Bornstein, a personal friend, is privileged to be the 'guardian' of a highly intelligent and likable Native Dingo, which answers to the name of 'Kimba'. Over the past few years Kimba has been taking James for walks in bushland, wherever permitted, within the Sydney basin, particularly within the Ku-Ring-Gai and Northern Beaches Local Government Areas.(LGAs).

James has always had an interest in natural history, and more recently, orchids in particular. Although not an orchid grower, James developed a continuing interest in finding and photographing common and rare local orchids of the area. James's photographs are taken in-situ and shared with the world through social media. Through these activities, James hopes to add to the knowledge of native orchids with a view to preserving orchid habitats and the other flora they contain.

In the past, James had realised that Kimba had a great nose for orchids, having guided James to them by concentrated sniffing of them. This has enabled James to find and photograph some very rare and scarce local orchids, which are seldom seen. On the 9th of May 2021 during one of James's bush explorations, Kimba was concentrating on sniffing some leaf litter. James removed the leaves where Kimba was sniffing and found a single flowerhead in the local area. James recognised the flowerhead as belonging to an underground orchid, most probably *Rhizanthella slateri* (The Eastern Underground Orchid).

The following day James returned to the area with Kimba. Kimba was soon showing a great interest in a particular patch of ground. On close inspection it became apparent that Kimba had found another small pink/red flowerhead, completely covered in leaves together with two old flower heads from the previous year. James has informed me that the flower seemed to give off a smell "not too unlike a soiled baby's diaper," which obviously attracted Kimba's attention.

James reported the site to appropriate Government, and Scientific bodies who have since visited the site. The experts advised James to avoid trying to locate further specimens until October when the orchids will be flowering, as the flower heads are very fragile and easily damaged and take a few months to develop the seeds.

The following October several more flowering heads were found within the general area which measures approximately 15 metres across. Some were passed their prime, others were just opening. James has been monitoring the site since those earlier discoveries, and now has numerous photos of flower heads through to ripe seed pods, some of which were collected by scientific personnel for study and propagation under controlled conditions. James has also photographed and taken video of what appears to be a very small fly climbing in and out of individual flowers with pollinia attached to its head. James was able to capture a live specimen of one of the flies which, I have been informed, has been given to the Authorities for study and identification.

Being as *Rhizanthellas* are difficult to find, and taking into consideration the density of the number of specimens in Kimba's site, I can't help but wonder if perhaps *Rhizanthellas* are far more widespread and common than we believe.

Without Kimba's keen sense of smell and intelligence, the new site containing what is most probably *Rhizanthella slateri*, and other sites containing other rarely seen orchids, which James has photographed, may have been left undiscovered.

Kimba's site location is being kept secret in order to protect the orchids, and their environment, from non-natural or non-scientific disturbance.

Has Kimba taught us a lesson here for future botanical surveys and research using Native Dingos with their extraordinary intelligence and sense of smell? Food for thought.

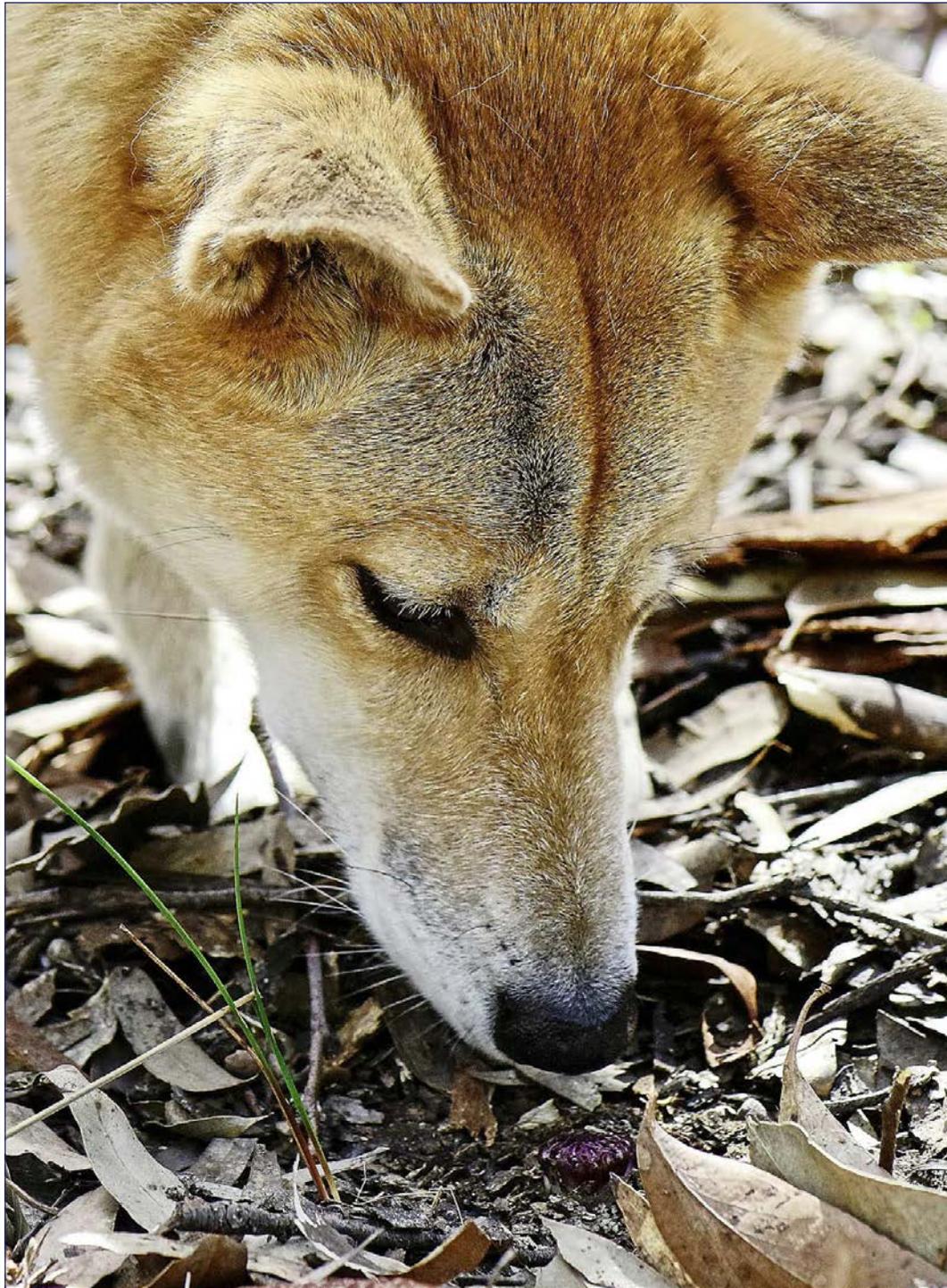
I wish to thank KIMBA for making this article possible, and I also thank James Bornstein for sharing his experiences and supplying the accompanying photographs for the article.

(Footnote: *An underground orchid was discovered in 2016 by Maree Elliot in the Barrington Tops of NSW. Described by M.A. Clements & D. L. Jones in 2020 as a new species, naming it *Rhizanthella speciosa*. At the time of writing (January 2022), *R. speciosa* has not been accepted Internationally or by the Australian Plant Census as a valid name.)*

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Kimba with underground orchid



Rhizanthella sp.



Rhizanthella sp. size



Pods *Rhizanthella*



Rhizanthella sp.



Rhizanthella sp. Group shot



Rhizanthella sp. Group shot

Book Review

Since I last wrote in the Bulletin, the big news for orchid spotters has been the CSIRO releasing the 'Guide to Native Orchids of NSW and ACT' by Lachlan Copeland and Gary Backhouse. Lachlan, in my opinion, is the leading expert in the identification of NSW orchids. He is also a nice guy who is generous with his time; generous enough to help me with my ID'ing. Given that I doubt the CSIRO will print huge numbers, I recommend anyone keen on spotting orchids on their bushwalks to get a copy ASAP from the CSIRO bookshop (<https://www.publish.csiro.au/books>).

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This should also result in Trish correcting a lot fewer of my nomenclature errors.

Moving onto local sightings. I do not have many photos of orchids in flower this month as I am a bit of an epiphyte/lithophyte fan. However, there are plenty of terrestrial orchids flowering at the moment- the fire trails of Ku-Ring-Gai National Park should give you a chance of seeing Tongue Orchids (*Cryptostylis*) and the odd Midge orchid (*Corunastylis*) if you look carefully. If you are like me and queued for an hour to get a COVID test at St Ives Showground over Christmas, out of your driver's side window, you will have seen the best display of Tartan Tongue Orchids (*Cryptostylis erecta*) that you can wish for.

I have seen Thin Pencil Orchids (*Dendrobium teretifolium*) and Ironbark Feather Orchids (*Dendrobium aemulum*) locally before, however, I was very happy to see them elsewhere in separate locations. Huge numbers of the Thin Pencil Orchids were present- thousands probably. Quite a sight even when they are not flowering. I also found another location for *Dendrobium aemulum* which was pleasing. I have also attached a few other photos of recent sightings.

Photos:

Book cover

A couple of *Den. teretifolium* (*Dockrillia teretifolia*)

Rosy Hyacinth Orchid (*Dipodium roseum*)

Bulb. exiguum and fern coated tree

Bulb. shepherdii on a rock

Den. aemulum

Den. speciosum and fern coated rock face.



Dockrillia cucumerina L & B Dobson

Regards

Chris Murray



**GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS
OF NSW AND ACT**

LACHLAN M. COPELAND AND GARY N. BACKHOUSE







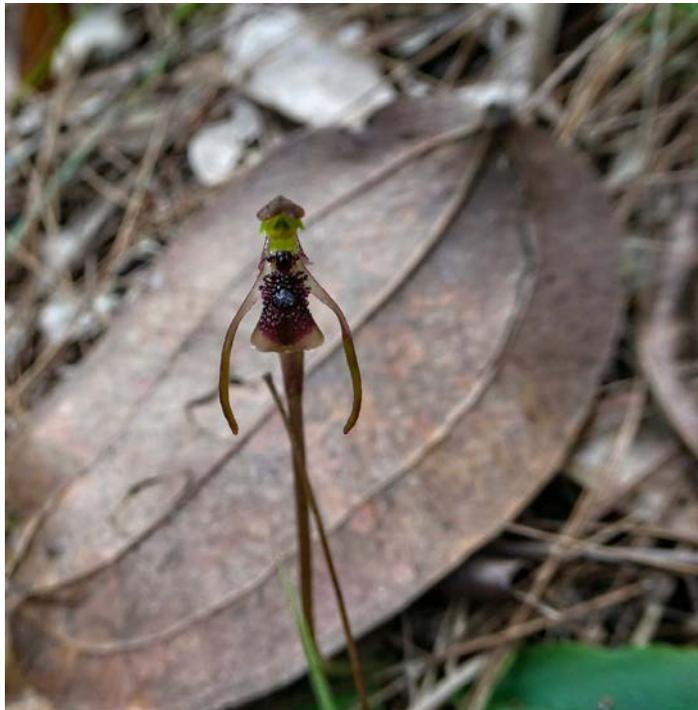
Chiloglottis seminuda Trish Peterson



Chiloglottis seminuda Trish Peterson



Cadetia taylorii Trish Peterson



Chiloglottis seminuda Trish Peterson



Bulbophyllum longiflorum Erik Lielkajis



Flikingeria conata Erik Lielkajis

Sarcochilus setosus

D. L. Jones, M. A. Clem. & D. P. Banks

A recently described (2018) north-east Queensland species that is a member of the *Sarcochilus ceciliae* complex. This new species was discovered by David Banks and Michael Harrison on 19th September 2009, growing on granite. Together, they had been looking for *Sarcochilus roseus*, in one of the locations mentioned by Steve Clemesha in his 1969 description and discussion of this species.

As the plants were not in flower at the time, Banks and Harrison assumed they had indeed found *Sarcochilus roseus*, particularly in light of the stiffly erect plant habit and unspotted, leaves. The following day they took local naturalist James Walker to the site and more plants of this lithophyte were located. All noted the unusual number of aerial plantlets on the previous season's spent inflorescences, a feature not mentioned in Clemesha's original descriptions in 1967 (as *Sarcochilus ceciliae* subsp. *roseus*) and 1969 (as *Sarcochilus roseus*). When this species was first observed in bloom, it was clear that this was not *Sarcochilus roseus*, but something new. I then contacted Steve Clemesha and sent him images of the flowers. He agreed that it was a distinctive *Sarcochilus* that he had not seen before.

Apparently Clemesha had collected plants from Tully Falls in the late 1960s, but they died without blooming, and he assumed they were *Sarcochilus roseus*, purely on the growth habit and unspotted leaves. It took over 50 years before the real status of this *Sarcochilus* was unravelled. Only a few bright pink distinctive flowers are open at once, others opening as the inflorescence extends, producing up to 20 flowers sporadically over a short period. The shortly crenulate/dentate distal margins of the petals are also noteworthy. Each flower lasts 5-7 days. The labellum is white, densely covered with long white needle-like hairs. Aerial growths often form at the end of the inflorescence after blooming, but initiating whilst the distal flowers are still fresh. Flowers December to March.

David P. Banks
Australian Orchid Review
December 2019 - January 2020



Sarcochilus setosus L & B Dobson

