MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD 26/4/2007, 8.06 pm
Present: 33 members
Apologies: 5
Visitors: Nil
New members: Nil
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Ian, Victor)
Business Arising: Nil

Horticultural Award: The April horticultural award went to a superb specimen of Bulbophyllum echinolabium grown by Anne and Geoff. The Plant had several large flowers with more coming.

General Business:
Tony outlined the registration procedures for WAOS.
Tony left some Thailand travel brochures for the February trip with Hannah emphasizing the group booking conditions (at least 20 people). Costs have been calculated but they obviously depend on exchange rates at the time of payment.
The president thanked Eva and Noel for the home visit to their place. The next one is at Pat and Tom’s home this Sunday.
The AGM is next month.
The meeting decided that we would not buy Dr. Arditti’s book for the library. However The president thanked Tony for his research and encouraged members to search for material which might be of interest to our members.
AQIS has advised us that the plants involved in the Vanda virus infection are to be destroyed and after quite a long discussion the main stakeholders decided that further efforts would probably prove futile so they will have to be destroyed. The advice is that we should no longer import plants in the Vanda alliance. Everyone appreciates the enormous efforts put in by Ken and Chris and roundly applauds their work on our behalf.
The urn has been “repaired” – or at least cleaned by the distributors.
Noel and Eva will be away for a couple of months and Adrian has volunteered to man the sales table at meetings.
Financial Report: Tabled by Barry for the Treasurer. Current balance is $3001.68 with the No 2 account at $1629.96. (Anne, Ken)

Graham & Margaret’s Orchids

Dendrobium discolor (broomfieldii)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

GCA magazine, The Orchid Species Bulletin, Mandurah and Districts Newsletter, News (note the new address), Native Orchid News.
Down Under Nursery Catalogue.
Art show invitation to the Gadfly Gallery (Neville says he might go).
I have since received the WAOS newsletter and have informed them of the meeting’s agreement to participate in having a Sales table with WOS and a display booth.

Outwards: Nil

Business Arising: Nil
Raffle: Carolyn & Maxine
Name Badge: Neville
Special Raffle: 
Home Visit Raffle: Ian, Graham, Adrian & John S
Home Visit Name Badge: Chris C

Gordon’s Orchids

Oncidium barbatum

Paphiopedilum charlesworthii

Stenoglottis longifolia

Home Visit
The April home visit was at Tom and Pat’s home in Mandurah. They grow a wide range of species and hybrids, most in cool-intermediate conditions. Their home is a virtual treasure trove of orchids and like others of us, they make use of all the space that they have available. Thanks Tom and Pat for your generous hospitality.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
Home visits
May  Les and Val, Wanneroo
Maxine’s Orchids

Aerides quinquevulnera

Barkeria lindleyana

Cattleya forbesii

Phalaenopsis fasciata

Dendrobium bigibbum Blue
Thailand Update:
I will now bag up all the Vanda species and hybrids, however I will delay removing the other vandaceous species, eg *Renanthera philippinensis*, *Rhynchostylis gigantea* etc until I can check with Aaron Maxwell that the destruction order applies to all plants in the Van-dae family. He will be back from South Africa in early June, so I will clarify this with him at that time.

Ken

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Membership fees are now due. Please pay the Treasurer.
Should any member wish to join a committee that is not hard work, provides another opportunity to meet with orchid friends, please let us know, or nominate on the night. We have two vacancies at present.
Please let the Editor know if you are happy to download your newsletter from the web page rather then receive a paper copy and I will cease sending the hard copy.
Two plants will be offered in the special raffle at the May meeting *Cymbidium finlaysonianum* and *Laelia anceps* (perhaps Var Dawsonii).
Your committee has agreed to invest in several species for our future monthly plants from Ezi Gro Orchids (compots) - Kevin has some very desirable species available.
The Society will have a display @ the 2008 WAOS and a sales table in conjunction with Wan-neroo Orchid Society
Barry W has donated some flasks on *Cuitlauzina pendula* to the Society. Barry G will replate them for future use as a club plant. Many thanks to both.
Ken & Chris’s Orchids

Bulbophyllum umbellatum

Pleurothallis alligatorifera

Oncidium ornithorhynchum

Psycopsis papilio

For Sale

A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia, David L Jones $60.00

(ordered but not collected).

Please contact Graham or Lee.
Gordon provided the following article from the Dahlia March 2007 newsletter -

**The Humble Tea Leaves**

Did you know that tea leaves hold more nitrogen than poultry manure? The nitrogen however is locked up by the tannin in the tea leaves. They also contain a useful quantity of manganese. In the tea we drink, the tea leaves contain potash.

Cold, ‘stewed’ tea is excellent high potash liquid manure. Tea leaves should always go into the compost to break down slowly. Because of the tannin, the compost lasts longer in the soil before breaking down and the worms love it. If you live in an area with sandy soils, just dig your leftover tea leaves into the garden bed.

The article finishes ‘If you use tea bags, remember this tip from an English gardener - instead of throwing them away, put one in each flower pot before potting or sowing seed.

Yesterday, while listening to the ABC gardening show, I heard Sabrina Hahn recommending soaking the used tea bags in something (do you remember) and putting them into staghorns and elkhorns as a rich source of nutrient.
Tony & Mavis's Orchids

*Phalaenopsis amboinensis*

*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*

*Dendrobium peguanum*

*Phalaenopsis venosa*

*Phalaenopsis bellina*
Bulbophyllum echinolabium

After being treated to Anne and Geoff’s superb specimen of *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* last month, and Tony and Mavis’s similar plant early this year, I decided to do a little more research on this stunningly beautiful species.

*Bulbophyllum echinolabium* identified by J J Smith in 1934 is found in Borneo and Sulawesi. The flower is one of the largest in the Bulbophyllum world, its dangling sepals being up to 40cm long. The flower is held on an upright, 70cm raceme, and because it is progressive flower, this species can be almost constantly in flower (it has been recorded as having up to 10 flowers on a single raceme). Its only negative trait is the rather unpleasant smell indicating that its pollinating vector is most likely a fly.

Tony’s plant, one that I had which is now growing in Madagascar (we gave it to Michelle because she was so impressed with Tony and Mavis’ plant at the Spectacular in September 2005, and a similar plant that Chris C had awarded some years ago, but that died all came as part of an order from Simanis Orchids in Indonesia. Many of those plants were misnamed and it was a bit like pot luck.

I was not able to find much information on this species, however it as above, it was identified by J.J. Smith who sailed to Java in 1891 and became assistant curator at the Botanic Gardens of Buitenzorg (near Batavia), now Bogor. He made several expeditions in Java, Celebes (now Sulawesi) the Ambon Islands and the Moluccas. In 1905 he was promoted to the position of assistant of the herbarium. He was awarded a honorary Ph.D. degree at the Utrecht University in 1910. Finally, he was appointed the director of the Botanical Gardens at Buitenzorg from 1913 till his retirement in 1924. He then returned to Holland, settled in Utrecht and later in Oegstgeest, near Leiden. He continued describing orchids till shortly before his death in 1947, such as naming the Sumatran orchid *Dendrochilum atjehense* J.J.Sm. 1943.

If you can add to this, please let me know as I would be pleased to explore this species further.
Victor's *Cattleya bowringiana*

Adrian & Deanne’s Orchids

*Trevor’s* *Eriochilus cucullatus*

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

*Dendrobium sp* (flowering in vitro)
Following is the next paper from the Australian Orchid Foundation - Awareness Campaign

**The little black ant - scale insect - mealy bug - aphid connection**
By Ben Wallace

These four groups of insects can work hand-in-glove to make a living at the expenses of the photosynthetic production of your orchids. The latter three literally suck the sap from the plants for their own needs and also produce sugary exudates on which the ants feed. In turn, the ants carry the sap-suckers to the choicest locations, such as young emerging leaves, expanding buds, or active root tips where the nutrient concentration is at its greatest. Loss of this nutrient by the plant can have a seriously deleterious effect on its growth and ability to flower properly. Worse still, the insects may, in the meantime also inject pathogenic virus into the plant which spells its doom.

Cont.
To deal with such a conspiracy effectively requires a multi-pronged response from the grower. Firstly, you need to be patient and watch where the ants are running from and to so that you can discover the location of the nest. If it is in a pot, it is easily destroyed - tip the plant and mix out of the pot somewhere outside the glasshouse, remove the plant, spread the mix and spray with a mixture of pest oil and pyrethrum, and spray the plant. If the nest is in a concrete slab, or a brick wall, you’ll need to use a bit more guile and lay an ant poison bait. Mortein Ant Sand, recently introduced is effective as are other similar products.

Having dealt with the ringleaders, next get the subordinates. A close examination of all plants is important to locate infestations of scale, aphids and mealy bug, remembering they can hide in obscure places such as leaf sheath bases, down among the plant’s roots and other obscure places. Remove all infected plants individually and spray them with the mix mentioned earlier, or use a soft toothbrush with the same or detergent. It is important to use some form of tension breaker like soluble oil or detergent, or methylated spirit to penetrate the waxy coating and kill the insect. Don’t use more chemical than necessary on your plants as they can damage soft tissues.

Remember, it is important to deal with all culprits, not just the obvious sapsuckers doing the damage!

Western Australian Orchid Spectacular & Conference 2008
Bulletin No 5 May 2007

LECTURES
Our list of Guest Speakers which now includes 13 International Lecturers, will be the most prestigious ever assembled in WA with the addition of Mr Jose “Pepe” Portilla of the Ecuagenera Orchid Nursery in Ecuador. Mr Portilla will lecture on Ecuadorian Orchid in situ and new discoveries. Ecuagenera will also be a welcome addition to our vendors list. Their web site states that…….

“Ecuagenera, Cía. Ltda. was born out of the search for the proper use and preservation of a natural resource of incalculable value for Ecuador and the world: the orchid.

Ecuagenera, Cía. Ltda. specializes in the cultivation, reproduction and sale of native Ecuadorian orchid species. We are the largest such company in Ecuador. We send native orchid species to clients around the world. We attend expositions in Europe, Asia and the Americas. We also give lectures about native Ecuadorian orchid species and our greenhouse techniques for successful growing of our orchid species”. www.ecuagenera.com

REGISTRATION
Early Bird Registration: $70.00 expires on 31 Jan 08
Regular Registration: $90.00 from 1st Feb 08 to 15th Aug 08.
Late Registration: $120.00 16th Aug 08 until the Conference

Registration Includes:
1. Daily admission to Conference Venue, all Lectures
2. Display Preview, Discounts, Pre-purchasing opportunities
3. Registration Satchel.
4. Preferential Photography opportunities

The Full Details of WAOS 2008 Registration are now available as a printable form through the WAOS Web Site at; http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS.html
The WAOS Committee will introduce a Refund Policy for Registrants who find themselves unable to attend the Conference after paying for Registration. This policy is being formulated as this Bulletin is being prepared, so look for further information in future Bulletins.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide range of accommodation within a few kilometres of the venue. You should be able to find something here that suits your taste and pocket http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS%20Accommodation.htm

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS2.htm

For any queries or questions, please write to, the Secretary, PO Box 4076, Alexander Heights, WA 6064, or email waos@iinet.net.au
To be included on our emailing list, please contact Tony at waos@iinet.net.au

WA Orchid Spectacular 2008
What is it?
A Conference and Showcase for all Western Australian Orchid Societies.
Where is it?
The venue chosen for the WAOS 2008 is the Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre on the corner of Abernathy Rd and Alexander St, Belmont.
When is it?
The Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008 will be held between the 25th and 29th September 2008. This is also a long weekend with Monday the 29th being a public Holiday giving the event three full non-working days for the public to attend as well as Friday the 26th. There are a number of other events happening that weekend too, which would be of further interest for overseas and interstate visitors. The Perth Royal Show and the Kings Park Wildflower Week are on at the same time.