



Newsletter of the Species Orchid Society

Editor [e-mail](#): Ph/Fax: 9296 1765

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Horticultural Award:

Was won by Peter for his magnificent example of *Den linguiforme*

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING September 27th 2007

Present: 30 as per the register.

Apologies: Anne, Margaret, Chris and Ken, Tom and Pat

Visitors: Arni

General Business:

Thanks to Deanna for substituting for Margaret in the kitchen.

Chris T gave an account of his (and his brother's) experiences in discovering lots of *Cyanicula ixioides* (yellow through to white) west of Toodyay.

There was a last chance for members to buy the AOF Cultural Notes Booklet.

Trevor asked members to consider taking the AQIS course to qualify to supervise a quarantine house.

Trevor reminded members that we will be participating in the 2008 WAOS and that we will need a lot of assistance from members.

Next meeting will be our main fund raiser the Silent Auction. Don't water plants too soon before bringing them in. The secretary will have enough bidding slips and some pencils.

Maxine would like a few extra chairs and a plate for the home visit on Sunday.

Plant descriptions then followed.

Financial Report: was tabled by Lee - the current balance is \$1526.72 with the second account having \$1802.21

Noel & Eva's Orchids



Calanthe vestita



Lycaste lassioqlassa



Dendrochilum sp.



Cattleya skinneri

IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

As Ken and Chris are overseas, there is nothing to report at this time

Raffle: Melissa and Victor
Name Badge: Reg

Correspondence:

Inwards:

Various newsletters.

Outwards:

Nil

Business Arising:

Nil

HOME VISIT:

Members present: 21.

Apologies: Chris

Visitors: Bob

Badge Prize: Ina

Raffle Winners: John S,
Ian, Eva and Gillian.

HOME VISIT

The September HOME VISIT at Maxine's home in Parkerville was attended by around 20 members and one visitor. Many of us traipsed around the bush block and found a number of terrestrials in flower. Many *Thelymitra crinita* were just starting to come into bloom. We found an *Elythranthera emarginata* which, because of its very tall flower stem, was thought to be a hybrid, but close examination proved it to be a species. There were many *Pterostylis barbata* which were all past their best, with many seed capsules evident.

Multitudes of *Caladenia flava* of course, but a pure albanistic form was a great surprise. This was the first time many of us had seen a pure yellow with no red markings at all.

The weather conspired to make the morning very pleasant and our thanks are extended to Maxine for her great hospitality.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

The next meeting is the annual **Silent Auction**. We hope that you will come armed with plants and other items for sale, and spending money and a box to take home your newly acquired gems. Pens and bid slips will be provided but we recommend that you bring a note book to keep a record of your bids - limiting the surprise at the end of the night if you've been successful in winning more than a few bids. Please remember: bring donations for the auction, but don't water plants on the day of the auction as they leak over the tables and make the bids difficult to read; when you are identified as the highest bidder for an item, keep a note of the lot number and price so you can check these off when you pay the Treasurer at the end of the night; when you've paid, ask one of the members helping run the auction to get your plants for you; and most of all, have fun!



Chris T's *Laelia spectabilis*



Chris C's *Oncidium isthmii*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**And don't miss the next
Home visit in 28thOct at....**

Adrian & Deanna's

Peter & Shirley's Orchids



Phalaenopsis schilleriana



Phalaenopsis equestris



Pleione formosana 'pricei'



Psychopsis papillio



Phal. philippinesis

Peter & Shirley were the winners of our **Horticultural Award** for September with a magnificent specimen of *Dendrobium linguiforme*. Here is some information gleaned from the Web about this species.

Dendrobium linguiforme Taken from the Orchid Guide Digest Archives



Dendrobium linguiforme.

Jim Brasch (who lives in Canada) asks ...*Dendrobium linguiforme*

"...So will someone please help me bloom my *Den. linguiforme*? It grows like a weed, has beautiful long roots in the 90 % RH. Mounted on cork. It bloomed once, but now just sits there and sulks."

Stephen Kemp, *Dendrobium linguiforme*

"...They like good sunlight and grow on cliff faces near water courses so you may need to treat it a bit meaner. Like many Aussie dens, they don't get that much water but get good humidity. Make sure you don't feed it too much and rest it during winter. They need a bit of cold to initiate flowering so if you are growing it in a glasshouse it may need moving outside but should not expose it too much to freezing temperatures."

Wilford Neptune, *Dendrobium linguiforme*

"...Jim Brasch inquired re culture of *Den linguiforme*-now preferably called *Dockrillia linguiforme*.

I grow this in the cool house, with a min nite temp of 48F (it tolerates temps down to freezing), on a cork tube, hanging up near the glass in full sun without shade. It is watered nearly every day, except in winter when I dry it, and fed with 200ppm of N/wk (?) in a formula of 9-30-25. I dry it out in the winter.

In Upton's book on *Dendrobium* Orchids of Australia, he advises watering every day in the evening in summer, and in the early morning in winter, and does not apparently dry it out. Mine usually blooms in Mar-April, (Nthn Hemisphere) and runs a close race with kingianum for my favourite orchid."

Peter Gordon, *Dendrobium linguiforme and speciosum*

Getting back to your problem with *D. linguiforme*, I have had this orchid for a number of years now and have had moderate success with flowering it.

One of the main factors that I have become aware of is the need for a good amount of light prior to flowering time. This year my plant received the full morning sun all through winter and has had its best show of flowers so far. Besides regular watering through summer and fertiliser applications I am unsure of any further advice. Hope this helps!"

Claudio Rossi, *Dendrobium linguiforme*

"Since I live in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, hopefully this information will help Jim to bloom his *Den. linguiforme*. I find that all of the Australian dendrobies really require a large diurnal range during the late fall to properly trigger them into blooming. Depending on the temps outside, in early November I allow the nights to dip to just under 10 C (50 F) and jump the day temps to 24 C (75 F). I keep this up for about 3 weeks. Of course I cut back on the water leading up to and during this period since it would wreak havoc with rot setting in! Give as much brightness as you can provide, at least 4000 fc (strong cattleya light), and within a couple of months you should have a mass of flowers! This treatment works with all of my other Aussie dendrobies as well, like *speciosum*, *tetragonum*, *kingianum* and all of their hybrids.

I know that Jim lives less than an hour away from here, so this should work for him. Unfortunately I don't know if this will help Michael in Vancouver. I would think your biggest challenge will be providing enough light during the winter to accompany the dryness and temperature dips. Good luck, it is definitely worth the effort !!!"

Ray & Nancy's Orchids



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum



Dendrobium kingianum



P. villosum



Dendrobium nobile



Baptistonia echinata

A Plea From Neville. When you fill out your Plant Sheets, please make sure that they are readable.

Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008

Bulletin No 10 October 2007

Hello again. Less than a year to go!!! September 2008 will sneak up on us very quickly, so let's be on the ball and get moving with planning our displays and getting those registrations in!!

PRE-ORDERING

As we get closer to the WA Orchid Spectacular & Conference 2008, we will be asking our vendors to send us a catalogue of the orchids that they will be bringing from interstate and overseas. These catalogues will be disseminated via this Bulletin, the internet and through Club Newsletters so that all who may be interested will have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor. The plants or flasks can be ordered by you in advance and paid for at the Spectacular. This is a great way to do business!! The vendor knows that he has X number of sales before he even leaves home, and you know that your plants will be personally transported to you with great care by the vendor himself. We will have a secure central ordering system where you can place your order and have it passed on to the vendor. Your order will be received by our WAOS agent and passed on to the vendor and you will then receive notification of this.

We have outgrown the venue already. The **Conference Dinner** has been moved to the Queens Park Leisure Centre at Centre Street, Queens Park. I am told that it is only 8km from the Belmont venue and we expect to have our shuttle bus operating between the two on the night.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The WAOS Committee expects that Volunteers will be in great demand at the Spectacular 2008. There are plans to distribute a portion of the WAOS profits to Societies whose members volunteer to assist in the myriad of tasks that need attending to during the event. The orchestration of such an event relies on the goodwill of all Orchid Society Members to make it a success, so give a thought to how your Society can help *itself* while contributing to the promotion of Orchids & Orchid Growing. Some of the smaller Orchid Societies may find this a good way to add to the health of their coffers.

Sponsorship

There are moves afoot to link WAOS with the *Kings Park Wildflower Festival in 2008. Other Orchid Events, such as your Society Shows and Displays could also be included in the Kings Park advertising with cross promotion between Kings Park and the local Orchid Societies. The K.P. Wildflower Festival now runs for the whole month of September and has huge backing from the State Government and Tourism WA. Input from Orchid Society members with Orchid Displays and Demonstrations at the K.P.W.F. could help cement cooperative relations between all these groups who have similar goals.*

REGISTRATION Don't Forget!!

Early Bird Registration Expires in **Jan 2008!!** And it is so cheap!! (Sorry, that should read **inexpensive**) A lousy **\$70** gets you into **ALL the lectures!!** The Full Details of WAOS 2008 Registrations are now available as a printable form through the WAOS Web Site at; <http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS.html> or ask your Club Secretary to obtain a copy for you. (Many Orchid Societies have included a WAOS Registration form with their newsletter!! Good for them!!)

Refund Policy

The WAOS Committee has introduced a **Refund Policy** for Registrants who find themselves unable to attend the Conference after paying the Registration. From the moment a **Registration** is received the organising committee begins to incur costs, your refund therefore up to 1 June 2008 will be less about 5% after that Catering payments will have been made name tickets printed etc and your refund will become substantially less.

Publicity

Watch out for WAOS Ads and articles in 'Orchids Australia' and the 'Australian Orchid Review' in the coming months!!

Orchid Tours

*Places for the Four Day Tour are being gobbled up fast. Only **Two Seats** left!!! So be quick!!*

This tour is now sold out. Consideration is being given to running a second Four Day Orchid Tour the week commencing the 6th October 2008 depending on numbers.

Cost includes:-

As places are extremely limited we have decided that a deposit of A\$100 per person will be required to confirm your reservation for the Four Day Orchid Tour. Seats will be reserved on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please act now. \$550 Twin Share and Single supplement +\$165

Please confirm your reservation with Tony at waos@iinet.net.au and do it quick!!

And send your deposit to:-

Secretary,

PO Box 4076,

Alexander Heights,

Western Australia 6064

More information can be found here:-

<http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Orchid%20Tours.htm>

The One Day Orchid Tour. Will be run on either Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th Sept to see native Orchids growing in situ at various locations around the Perth metro area. A packed lunch is included.

The day is designed to be an informal affair, so please feel free to ask Andrew questions at any time.

Please note; the itinerary has been developed so that we can view a range of habitats and orchid species. It is likely that we will visit most locations, depending on climatic and other factors, orchids do not flower as well in the same locations every year and, if this is the case this year, alternative locations will be selected prior to the day.

Tour costs per person; A\$50

No deposit is necessary for the One Day Orchid Tour at this time, but please confirm your reservation with Tony at:-

waos@iinet.net.au

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 for further Bulletins, 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?

*Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre on the corner of
Abernathy & Alexander Rd, Belmont, WA.*

When is it?

25th and 29th September 2008.

(Setup on the 25th, open to the public from 26th to 29th)

Tony



The Columbian Orchid Nursery Ecuagenera

Ecuagenera was launched 50 years ago with the arrival of the Catholic priest, Father Angel Andreetta, (now 83 years old) in the Bomboiza sector in the village of Gualaquiza in the eastern province of Morona Santiago. In Bomboiza, a place privileged for its abundance of gold deposits and orchidacea flora, Andreetta began the process of researching, selecting and collecting orchid species, making him a pioneer of orchid collection in the region. As a result of his work, in 1968 it was possible for Ecuador to participate for the first time in a world exposition of orchids in Colombia.

Wanting his work to continue, Andreetta found help from a young man who demonstrated a real love for nature: Mario Portilla, who would become his main ally for many years. Later, Andreetta continued his work of orchid collection in the hacienda Yumacay in Paute.

Meanwhile, they felt the need to build a business that would be dedicated to the conservation and marketing of orchids. In 1991 José Portilla, Mario's younger brother, appeared on the scene. Jose demonstrated a deep interest in this work and was invited to participate in the business.

February 1992 marked the beginning of the new business, which by May of the same year was legally recognized under the name Géneros Ecuatorianos Ecuagenera CIA, TDA. The Portilla brothers were the founding members and Andreetta was their adviser. It was this organization which took charge of the preservation of Andreetta's orchid collection. To this day, this collection is carefully preserved in an effort to support the maintenance and reproduction of various species.

By 1993 Ecuagenera became the first Ecuadorian business to obtain legal permission to export orchids through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Since its founding, Ecuagenera has established itself as a business leader in the research, preservation, and conservation of the flora orquidacea of Ecuador. Now, Ecuagenera is the largest orchid exporter in Ecuador and one of the largest in all the Americas.

Ecuagenera will be represented at the WA Orchid Spectacular & Conference by Jose (Pepe) Portilla

Self Pollination

An orchid has been caught in the act of self pollinating in a time-lapse video You can see it at this web site.

http://www.natureasia.com/ch/Shenzhen_spotlight/video.php

The video shows a bisexual orchid flower in the process of self-pollination. The procedure takes place in the absence of pollinators and involves self-directed, 360° rotation of the male part of the orchid flower. The orchid *Holcoglossum amesianum* dwells on tree trunks in southwestern China and flowers during the dry, windless and insect-scarce season. Its flower has a column structure with a cap at the top that covers the male part (anther), which consists of a flexible stick (stipe) carrying two orange-like pollen aggregates (pollinia) that lie on a long bed (clinandrium) underneath which the female part (stigma) can be found inside a cavity. When the flower is fully open, the cap opens and falls off. The male part then rises up from the clinandrium, curves forwards and downwards to cross over the clinandrium edge (rostellum), then back and up towards the cavity where it finally inserts the pollinia into the female stigma cavity to achieve fertilization. This fascinating pollination mechanism has evidently evolved to adapt to the orchid's harsh pollinator-scarce habitat, to ensure reproductive success and long-term survival. It shows the incredible power of plant adaptation and evolution

Jack's Orchid



Dendrobium miyakei

Tony & Mavis's Orchids



Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi Forma Flava



Dendrobium lindleyi



Elythranthera emarginata



Phalaenopsis equestris



Phalaenopsis amabilis



Chiloschista nakanporensis

Dendrobium brachypus

I have a plant which is labelled *Den. macropus* that came from the estate of the late Reg Allison and before that, from Neville's Sydney Rd Nursery. This month, it flowered for the first time since I rescued it, so I looked it up on the internet but with little success. The plants listed under *Den. macropus* all appeared to be related to *Den. gracilicaule* with yellow flowers and red spots. This is quite unlike the plant that I have. Mine has short canes (15cm) and light green or creamish flowers which have a lip that is very much like a petal. Further investigations led me to "Dendrobium Orchids of Australia" by Walter Upton, where on pages 86 & 87 he details a plant that was being called *Den. macropus*, but was very different from the type plant. It turns out to be *Dendrobium brachypus*, which is on the endangered list.

He says "I am giving another description here for the taxon previously called *Den. brachypus*, as no doubt it should be either a separate subspecies or at least a variety of *Den. macropus* var. *macropus*." He describes the flowers as, "Off-white flowers borne in a different manner from any member of the Australian native Dendrobium species. Generally from three to four approximately 12 mm flowers produced on a 40 to 50 mm raceme. Each flower emerges from the axil of a roundish bract. Pedicel of the first flower much longer than that of the last flower, so that the inflorescence has an almost capitulate appearance. Bracts also become smaller towards the top of the raceme. Petals slightly narrower than sepals. **Flowers are peloric**, the labellum being indistinguishable from petals. Column short and column foot absent." He goes on to say, "Flowers appear to be frequently self-pollinating" (which my plant appears to have done already) "Endemic to Norfolk Island. Common in the forests of Mount Pitt Reserve and less common elsewhere on the island. Flowering period mainly August to September (late-winter to spring), but can flower much earlier.

The Australian Government has it on the endangered list as *Thelychiton brachypus* Their web site says, "An orchid living on tree branches in the forests on Mt Pitt with 2 or 3 small pale cream flowers on a short stem. In 2003, there were fewer than 250 mature plants surviving in the wild. It occurs only on Norfolk Island."



Dendrobium brachypus



Monthly Plant No sale plant this month due to the Silent Auction

Graham & Margaret's Orchids



Paphopedium delanatii



Caladenia arenicola



Serapius vomeracea



Plectorhiza tridentata



Pterostylis picta



Dendrobium gracaule var *Howeanum*



Caladenia barbarossa

Maxine's Orchids



Dendrobium amethystoglossa



Aerangis citrata



Cattleya loddegessii



Aerangis modesta



Eulophiella elizabethae



Adrian &
Deanna's
Orchids



Bifrenaria harrisonae



Caladenia flava



Sarcochilus hartmanii



Vanda lilacina