



# Newsletter of the Species Orchid Society

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

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November 2007

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## Horticultural Award:

Was won by Graham & Margaret for *Cymbidium canaliculatum* Var *Sparksii*

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING October 25th 2007

Present: 32 as per the register.

Apologies: Barry, Anne, Ken and Chris and Noel and Eva.

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (moved: Pat Seconded: Mavis)

Business arising from the minutes: Jack is to receive an internet copy.)

Correspondence:

**Inwards**: Various newsletters, WAOS update and the relevant dates for the GCA.

The AOF orders were received for those who ordered.

**Outwards**: Nil

## General Business:

### General Business:

Maxine was thanked for her great hospitality - in the bush as well.

Deanna and Adrian said that there would be a sausage sizzle but to bring a plate and chairs may be needed.

The next meeting is a Christmas Party and is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (second last Thursday) of November.

John and Chris were thanked for organizing the Silent auction lots.

Members then placed their bids on the 40 + lots on offer.

As Chris and John sorted the bids Plant descriptions were given.

Winning bids were announced, paid for and collected.

Financial Report: was tabled by Lee - and the current balance is \$1594.22.

Moved: Tony

Seconded: Gordon

#### NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

The November general meeting is our Christmas Party. Please bring a plate of supper to share - wine, beer and soft drink will be provided.

As we have done in the past, each member (individual or family) will receive a free plant for Christmas. We also conduct a raffle and if you have any spare divisions that you would be happy to donate, please bring them along.

The Silent Auction was a resounding success returning over \$400 to the Societies coffers. Huge thanks to John S, Lee, Mavis and Chris C who did a great job in the absence of Noel and to all the members who participated

#### Please Note

**November Meeting — 22nd November 2007**

**DECEMBER MEETING — THERE ISN'T ONE!!**

**The following meeting of the Species Orchid Society of WA will be on the 24th of January 2008**

#### HOME VISIT

Home Visit at **Adrian & Deanna's**. Members present:  
25 Apologies: 8 Visitors: 2  
Badge Prize: John S  
Raffle Winners: Anne, Les and Murray

25 members turned out on a clear but chilly day at **Adrian & Deanna's** in October.

There were many pleasant comments about their immaculate gardens and the odd comparison with some members own back yards.

As the day was a bit on the chilly side, nobody took up the offer of a dip in the pool despite it being heated, (probably warmer in than out) but large quantities of hot tea & coffee were consumed.

All in all fine day for a gasbag, and a noshup.

Many thanks to our hosts who excelled themselves as usual.



**Your Committee  
would like to  
thank all  
members for their  
support during the  
last year, and wish  
you all well for  
Xmas and the New  
Year.**

#### Home visits

##### Future Home Visits

At this stage, it seems that our next Home Visit will be at Ezi-Gro Orchids on the 29th of March.

Stay tuned for further info.

#### IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

##### Thailand Update:

In January, we will organise the import permits and licences for the upcoming trip to Thailand and Vietnam. Before the end of the year, we will again attempt to make contact with Hans Hermans to arrange to import the plants that remained in Thailand in 2006.

*Ken*

Raffle: Lee and Murray  
Name Badge: Chris C

## Correspondence from Ron Parsons regarding Chris T's *Laelia spectabilis*



Chris T's *Laelia spectabilis*

Hi Tony,  
Nice newsletter as usual. The *Laelia spectabilis* looks to be **var.coerulea** (maybe it's the photography?), and if so is very rare. The *Catt. skinneri* appears to be a hybrid, but not a pure skinneri.  
Regards, Ron Parsons

Hi Ron  
Thanks for the info.  
Chris, who owns the *Laelia spectabilis*, is not on email so I will pass your comments to him at the meeting Thursday. I have attached the three pix that I took on the night, plus a (not very good) pic of the label to give you a better look.  
Tony

Hi Tony,  
It sure looks like a coerulea form. The normal color looks a lot like a normal *L. pumila*.  
I sure wish it was mine!  
Thanks, Ron



November **Free Plant** - *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* from Tinonee Orchids  
Jay Pfahl says....

This is a northern Central American, cold to warm growing species that grows as an epiphyte in humid forests at altitudes up to 1500 meters and likes a semi-winter rest. Found as a medium sized, epiphytic plant with oval, compressed, 2 1/2" [6 cm] pseudobulbs that are fairly closely grouped on the rhizome and as a rule there are two apical, 8" [20 cm] leaves. The basal, curving or pendulous, to 2' [60 cm] long, dense and branched, strongly arched panicle, sometimes two to a mature pseudobulb, arise in the winter and have numerous fragrant long lasting flowers. I mounted this species on cork and it thrives, many times blooming more than once a year.

<http://orchidspecies.com/>

We only have 25 of these beauties so it is one per family.

## Magazine Auction

Due to the fact that one of our members (Whose name has been withheld due to his modesty) had written a wonderful article for the current issue of the Orchid Digest regarding the differences between *Elythranthera brunonis* and *Elythranthera emarginata*, the publishers have kindly sent the Author a number of copies of the said magazine to dispose of as he saw fit. The member has graciously donated three copies to the Society and they will be Auctioned by the renowned Auctioneer Thomas Jackson at the November meeting.

This issue of the Orchid Digest also contains numerous learned articles on the subject of **Lycastes** by Authors such as **Dr. Henry Oakeley, James Rose** (both of whom will be at the WA Orchid Spectacular next September) & **Eric Christenson**. Also an article on The Genus Brassavola by **Carl Withner**.

Don't miss out on this desirable collectors item!!

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## **HOME VISIT**

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Many thanks to our hosts who excelled themselves as usual.

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As usual, our November meeting will be the last for 2007. **The following General Meeting will be on January the 24th.**

There will be no Committee Meeting in December or January. **The next Committee Meeting** will take place on February the 5th at Maxine's.

2008 is promising to be more than a bit interesting with the Societies involvement in the WA Orchid Spectacular 2008.

**Your Committee** is trying to put together a sub-committee to plan our display and to liaise with the Wanneroo Orchid Society regarding the combined sales area. A number of members have already volunteered their services for which we are most grateful. The Committee is seeking a person with enormous talents to take on the post of Artistic Director. (If you don't happen to have "enormous talents" it doesn't matter. A little bit of talent will do.) (Or failing that we will settle for whoever puts their hand up.) Think of it as a fun way to spend your leisure time. (And it will be fun as "not having fun" is not allowed.)

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Reprinted from the Native Orch Soc Toowoomba Inc

## **GLYPHOSATE, ORCHIDS and FUMES**

I would like to bring to your attention a problem I had in 2004. In February 2004 I sprayed glyphosate beneath the benches on which my orchid collection' was growing to kill the weeds growing there. I noticed as my orchids were starting to flower they all suddenly closed up and what appeared to be a pod formed at the back of the flower.

When I mixed up the spray in a 5 litre pump sprayer, I had followed the very limited warning on the label and made sure I didn't get the spray anywhere near the orchids sitting on the benches above. The genera that were affected were - *Sarcochilus*, *Masdevallia*, *Odontoglossums* and *Cymbidiums*. which were all sitting on the benches above where I sprayed.

I phoned some chemical companies that produce glyphosate. The company whose product I used agreed with my findings as they had known of this product affecting roses before with twisted growths and yellowing. but really didn't know if it affected orchids. (I wonder if they ever done any testing on orchids). The company told me they thought that the fumes would have got into my plants at the time of spraying causing the twisted growths, general yellowing of the leaves and probably the flowers turning into pods which by the way were infertile. They also said it would probably take 6 months to grow out of the plants. They did not have an answer to my question "Why did new plants that I put into my shed 8 months after I sprayed still get affected?"

I looked up the internet under "Glyphosate" and found many sites listed and was amazed what I found under this topic. Amongst other things I found it has a half life or part thereof in soils for anything between 30 to 360 days after spraying. Glyphosate leaches out nitrogen. Was this why my plants went yellow? Symptoms of exposure to humans include eye irritation, blurred vision, skin rashes, sore throat, headache - the list goes on. A friend in Tasmania had the same problem in 2003 with *Sarcochilus* and *Masdevallias* turning to pods after spraying under his benches with glyphosate. I also had leaves tested for deficiencies and the response was that they were deficient in nitrogen.

Just this year (2005) I contacted Peter Cundall from Gardening Australia after seeing weird growths on some of my orchids. When he replied to my query he said and I quote" The big mistake you made was spraying this beneath your orchids as I have seen the fumes rising from glyphosate after spraying" End of quote. I will leave it up to you to do your own investigating as I know some of you who read this will say they have used it for years with no ill effects to their orchids. Some even weeding their orchids with it. As I am repotting many of my plants that look "sick" I am finding all the roots have died on them as well.

Peter & Shirley's Orchids



*Renanthera monachica*



*Brassia maculata*



*Phalaenopsis stuartiana*



*Oncidium bifolium*

**Tom & Pat's Orchids**

*Dendrobium draconis*



*Cattleya skinneri* Var Alba

*Brassavola nodosa*??



**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 11 November 2007

Hello again.

### “Sponsorship”

**The Committee's efforts to obtain a grant from Lotterywest has stumbled and bumbled over the many hurdles that have been placed in our path, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it shines brightly. We understand that our submission for \$30,000 has been recommended to the Lotterywest Board for grant. They meet on the 15 November. Stay tuned!! (For hurdles, think GST!!)**

### \*Lecturer Program\* Stop the Presses!!

We now have **14 Overseas Speakers** in the WAOS Lecture Program with the inclusion of **Arthur Chadwick** of Chadwick & Son Orchids, Virginia, USA. Arthur is a well known Lecturer who spoke at the **2005 World Orchid Conference** in France on 'The Future of Standard Cattleyas'. Chadwick & Son Orchids will also be on our vendors list!!

### REGISTRATION Don't Forget!!

Early Bird Registration Expires in **Jan 2008!!**

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!!)

### Publicity

*The WAOS Committee calls on all Society members to look at their local community to find outlets for publicising the WA Orchid Spectacular and Conference. Do you have a local radio station that broadcasts community information? If so please send the station contact details to [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)*

### Orchid Tours

***The Four Day Tour is all sold out!! A whole year in advance. BUT. Some efforts are now being made to organise an overflow tour for those who missed out.***

For further information, email Tony. [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)

**BUT don't forget 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.

Tour costs per person; A\$50 (Great value for money)

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](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)

**A HUGE thanks** to Merril Brechin of OSWA who has offered her calligraphic services which have been gratefully accepted by the WAOS Committee. (calligraphic services? It means that she will hand write all the winners cards.) All who have seen Merril's work will understand why we are so pleased with her kind offer. Ta Merril.

### WAOS Speakers/Vendors

**Cal-Orchid, Inc. is owned and operated by James and Lauris Rose.** In the early 1970's the Roses began their orchid careers in the commercial realm, and eventually purchased their own nursery in 1987. When you call or visit you will be assisted by James and Lauris, not sales clerks. That is a combined experience of 60+ years. The Roses have always been active in the orchid world, travelling for shows, sales, or lecturing. Whenever possible, they are generous with their time in personally visiting with customers about orchid culture, and don't miss their weekend sales events. A good time is had by all.

**The inventory at Cal-Orchid is very diverse** and reflects the interests of not only the current marketplace, but many trips made to foreign locales. James has long been known to have a sharp eye for the unusual and these are featured in the website. As with all nurseries however, it pays to ask if you are looking for something you don't find listed. Plants may be available, but in quantities too small to list.

**Cal-Orchid is on the Pacific Coast**, two short blocks from the beach in Central California. We maintain 25,000 square feet of intermediate temperature controlled greenhouse as well as an additional 25,000 square feet of saran covered shade area. This means we can offer plants for coastal So. Cal. gardens, greenhouses, or windowsills. Look to Cal for anything from Aerangis to Zygopetalums! You will find the most competitive prices around, friendly stewardship, honest answers and an incredible array of product to choose from. The inventory changes constantly. The workers are potting out flasks of seedlings every day.

James Rose will be one of our guest speakers the WA Orchid Spectacular & Conference. His subject will be **Modern Epidendrum Breeding**. Please check out their web site. <http://www.calorchid.com/>

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For any queries or questions, please write to, the Secretary, PO Box 4076, Alexander Heights, WA 6064, or email [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)

To be included on our emailing list for further Bulletins, please contact Tony at [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto: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?*

*25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.*

*(Setup on the 25<sup>th</sup>, open to the public from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>)*

Tony  
Publicity  
WAOS 2008



## **John S's Orchids**

*Cattleya skinneri 'Casa Luna'*



*Cattleya skinneri Var Alba*

Gordon's Orchids

*Cymbidium lowianum*



*Sarcochilus hartmanii*

*Cymbidium findlaysonianum*



**Tony & Mavis's Orchids**



*Dendrobium pierardii*



*Dendrobium primulinum*



*Habenaria rhodocheila*



*Renanthera monachica*



*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*

*Phalaenopsis equestris*



From 'clubBulbo'

Jim Cootes [jecootes@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jecootes@ozemail.com.au)

Hi Luiz,

All the *Bulbophyllum* species I have seen, growing in the wild, have been growing either on trees or on rocks. The plants which were growing on trees are usually amongst some type of moss. The same with the plants on the rocks: they were amongst mosses. I have even seen *Bulbophyllums* growing on the trunks of tree-ferns, but that seems to be a rare occurrence. The most important thing that I have observed with the plants in the wild is that they have perfect drainage.

In cultivation, I grow my plants on mounts of tree-fern fibre, especially those plants that have a long rhizome. The most important thing to remember when fixing your plant to a mount is **MAKE SURE IT DOES-N'T MOVE**. In other words tie it very securely to the mount. After the plant is secured to the mount I then place a small amount of sphagnum moss along the plant's rhizome. This sphagnum moss will keep the base of the plant damp, whilst it is trying to establish itself to its new home.

The plants that I grow in pots are in a mixture of 75% pine bark about 5 to 10 mm in diameter. Then I put 20% perlite of a similar diameter to the bark. This is to keep the mixture damp but not wet. The remaining 5% is quartz pebbles of a similar size. These are used to keep the mix open so that air can still get to the roots of the plants.

All the ingredients I use are new and I try to re-pot my plants every couple of years.

The most important thing to do is to observe your plants. If they appear to be growing well, then don't interfere with them. If they are not growing well then move the plant to a shadier place; or a place where it gets more air movement; put it where it gets more light; put it closer to the ground so the humidity is higher. Just moving the plant a metre one way or the other can be the difference between success and failure.

Good luck in the growing of your *Bulbophyllums*,

Jim Cootes

**A couple of items posted on the *Bulbophyllum* forum, 'clubBulbo'**

***Bulbophyllinae*.**

Posted by: "Jim Cootes" [jecootes@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jecootes@ozemail.com.au)

Hi Everyone,

There is very little chance of me doing a book on the *Bulbophyllinae*. Time is against such a monstrous task. And the actual literature is in a state of confusion (to say the least.) Thanks to everyone for their encouraging words, but I am too old now to pursue this task.

I hasten to add though, that I will continue to work on the orchid species of the Philippines and who knows, one of these days a second volume of "The Orchids of the Philippines" might appear (that I am working on.)

All the best,

Jim Cootes

**Bulbo Book**

Posted by: "Jean Allen-Ikeson" [greenhouses@win.eastlink.ca](mailto:greenhouses@win.eastlink.ca) ijean14

Well, actually there is a bulbo book that is nearly complete and has been ten years in the making. It will come out on CD because of the cost and trouble of getting a publisher for such a large book. The format is a description and synonyms etc and lots of useful info, a line drawing and a photo wherever possible. I am told that there are over 900 line drawings at this point and a number of people such as Vermuelen have offered material. It is like an encyclopedia and massive as opposed to a little beginner intro that Siegerest did or a massive taxonomic upheaval that Garay and Siegerest did. The author hopes to have it out within the year. I was allowed to use it when working on a presentation on the effects of *Bulbo* species on their hybrids. It is being written by Dr Doris Jensen in Ontario Canada. Jim Cootes is aware that she has been working on it.

The group, as you all know, is complicated and full of inconsistencies and taxonomic disputes---trying to wade through all that and find some sense, along with gathering photos, many of which are hers, and writing for permission, which you must do under copyright law, to use in publication hundreds of photos and drawings is a massive undertaking. Books, especially on a group as large and complicated as bulbos, is a LOT more than just throwing a few things together. The putidum (fascinator)/appendiculatum confusion that Jim Cootes has so elegantly illustrated in his book is a drop in the bucket to what this group offers by way of challenges as you all know. But I think that you will find that this book at the very least will put something like 1500 species plus synonyms under one 'cover' and with a huge number of drawings and photos. I know, for instance, that she has spent several months just cleaning up and standardizing the text on the drawings.

Jean

[greenhouses@win.eastlink.ca](mailto:greenhouses@win.eastlink.ca)

Graham & Margaret's Orchids



*Drakonorchis barbarossa*



*Cymbidium canaliculatum* Var *Sparksii*



*Oncidium bifolium*



*Dendrobium tetragonium* Var *Giganteum*



*Ponerorchis graminifolia*

**Maxine's Orchids**



*Cattleya mossiae*



*Vanda javierae*



*Cattleya amethystoglossa*



*Cattleya walkeriana*

*Trevor's Orchid*  
*Dendrobium prenticei*

