MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 24/1/2008 8.00pm

Members 37 present as per the register.
New Member: John Brigham (Broome)
Visitor: Ken
Apologies: Anne and Geoff
Minutes of the previous meeting:
Acceptance moved: Mavis and Seconded: Sharon
No business arising from the minutes:
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted moved: John Seconded: Chris

1. The president issued several reminders including asking members to consider hosting home visits, points from the committee minutes, fixing the amplifier plug lead and an urgent appeal for people to join the organizing committee for our WAOS exhibit stand.
2. WAOS Early Bird registration has been extended to the 29th of February.
3. Graham outlined points from a call from Michael Zink.
4. Ken and Trevor asked members to qualify with AQIS to manage a quarantine house.
5. Ken said he was still trying to contact Hans.
6. Peter's donated 50% of the proceeds of an auction, by Tom and won by Ken, of his Stanhopea inadora.

Horticultural Award:

Peter & Shirley's Onc. leucochilum.
NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

At the January meeting, our Treasurer Lee McNichol read out a letter from the City of Belmont, reminding visitors to Forster Park to park in the bitumen carpark, and not any grassed area. In the event that the bitumen carpark is full, the designated overflow area is to the front of the meeting hall that we use. The City of Belmont has indicated that the owners of cars that are not correctly parked will be fined by the City Rangers who will make regular checks of the venue. Please ensure that you park your car in the bitumen parking area whenever possible.

WAOS is now just 7 months away, and to get the planning started, we will be meeting at Graham and Margaret Bowden’s home on Saturday 15 March at 2.00pm. The theme is “Living with Orchids”, giving us plenty of encouragement in planning to display our unique and unusual species.

A number of your Committee members will be away in Thailand for the February meeting. Please be prepared to assist the remaining members.

Raffle Winners: Sharon and Frank
Badge Prize winner: Adrian

IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

Thailand Update:

I have not been able to make contact with Hans Hermans about the plants that remain in Chiang Mai. We will try to contact him on his mobile phone while we are in Bangkok, although given the lack of response to e-mails, I am not confident of success. I have also been in contact with Allan Eggins (Rosella Orchids) who was his agent in Australia to seek his assistance in making contact whilst I am in Bangkok.

Ken

Madagascar - A memorable experience

As I said last month, Michelle produces plants by vegetative propagation (you probably know this as division) and in her case, the plants grow rapidly. She showed us plants that had been divided only a few months ago and species such as Aerangis citrata were already showing multiple growths. Her golden rule is the same as ours though, that is, don’t divide small or weakly growing plants. We did discuss the opportunities that might be presented by growing some of her species from seed, ie flasking. She showed me some Aerangis and Angraceum seedlings, sown by a local laboratory that specialises in crop plants such as pineapples, and some exotic plants that were deflasked and mounted several years ago. These plants were still weak and very undersize compared with vegetative divisions of the same species that were 2-3 years younger. Clearly, it is just not economic to set seed and flask these species.

Future Home Visits

Our next Home Visit will be at Ezi-Gro Orchids on the 29th of March.
In the past year, Michelle told us that she has abandoned using any pesticides and fungicides as she felt that the use of chemicals in her nursery had resulted in fewer birds and insect predators such as chameleons and other lizards. She also believed that the constant use of chemicals led to weaker plants that were increasing more susceptible to insect and pathogen attack. Consequently, I expected and observed some leaf damage on plants that are grown under very natural conditions, but this was offset by vigour and active root growth. From the number of birds and insect predators around now, it seems that her beliefs were well founded, although there is one bird that she does not want (it appeared to be a mynah). Her strategy to deal with this ‘bad bird’ was to send her housekeeper, Ramatoa Rasoa out to scare it away – another strategy that worked.

The moment that the mynahs saw Ramatoa Rasoa come outside, they flew away.

In the dry season (while we were there) plants and gardens are hand watered. Often (but not always) those grown terrestrially are in beds topped off with a mulch layer of leaves, wood shavings and other local material designed to reduce evaporation loss. I noticed that the smaller, mounted species seem to be grown somewhat drier than we would regard as usual, and while we were there, the humidity in Madagascar was substantially less than Bangkok or Singapore. This leads me to believe that perhaps we are guilty of killing our plants with kindness by over-watering. My first reaction when I see a plant that is looking stressed is to water it, but perhaps this just hastens its departure.

The shade houses, built with local materials were not designed for nearly 2m high visitors. In this photo, you can see the construction and the hit and miss nature of the roofing. It also shows the racks of mounted species and earth beds with their protective mulch.

Michelle is now finding success with letting nature take its course with many small orchid seedlings appearing around trees in her garden. She has noticed that these seedlings grow rapidly and is using this as a means of supplementing plants produced by vegetative propagation.

In this article, I have included a few photos that we took, but will put together a program to show at a Species Society General Meeting later this year. Michelle and Raoul were very welcoming, and would equally welcome others who visited, however, as we said, Madagascar is an undeveloped country, and cannot provide (other than for the very wealthy) facilities for tourists that we have come to expect. We were privileged to be invited to stay with Michelle and Raoul, and plan to return as there is so much more to see.

We did not bring back any plants as it is very difficult to obtain the permit from the Department of Environment and Water Resources in Canberra (the Australian CITES authority) to import Schedule IIA species from Madagascar as there are no artificial propagation facilities. However, we do plan to approach them again at some time to seek approval to import another shipment of these fascinating orchids.

Ken & Chris
Ken & Chris’s Orchids

Promenaea stapelioides

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi

Dendrochilum pangasinanense

Angraceum calceolus

Angraceum scottianum

Dendrobium uniflorum

Encylia cordigera
Peter & Shirley’s Orchids

Oncidium leucochillum.

Aeranthes glandiflora

Stanhopea indora
Tom & Pat’s Orchids

Brassavola martiana

Epidendrum ciliare

Ian’s Orchid

Stanhopia oculata
Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008
Bulletin No 14 February 2008
Good News about the Early Bird REGISTRATION
DEADLINE EXTENDED!!
Last chance for Early Bird Registration. Get them in by the 29th of February!!!
You can download your Registration form as a PDF or Word File from 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!!)

Don't Miss Out!! Get your Registration in now

Good News (and some bad) about the *Lecture Program* !
First the Good News!! Joseph Wu Orchids of Taiwan has agreed to attend the Western Australian Orchid Spectacular as both a Speaker and Vendor!! Joseph Wu Orchids grows and hybridizes spectacular Phalaenopsis as you can see from his web site at ….. http://www.joyorchids.com.tw/index-eng.htm
Joseph began collecting Phalaenopsis in 1975 and has amassed huge range of species Phalies plus an even bigger range of Phalie hybrids
The bad news is that Arthur Chadwick has been forced to withdraw due to health reasons and will be sadly missed.

BUT
Sam Tsui, of Bloomington, Illinois, USA, will lecture on Paphiopedilum breeding. Sam and his wife Jeanie operate Orchid Inn, Ltd. They began growing orchids in the early 1980's and it has been their passion ever since. Sam started breeding/hybridizing in the early 1990's and eventually started a home-commercial business "Orchid Inn" in the basement and a greenhouse attached to their home. As the business grew, they purchased a six acres property and built their first commercial 6,000 square greenhouse in 2004. In the past 10 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world, travelling for shows, sales, and lecturing while he still maintains a full time computer software job. Orchid Inn, Ltd, continues to specialize in Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums. They particularly emphasize species, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum and Multifloral hybrids. Only the best, most vigorous parent plants in their collection are selected for breeding/hybridizing. Occasionally, they select the best plants or flasks which are, they believe, outstanding example of their type from their friends around the world to improve the breeding stock. The Orchid Inn web site can be found here……… http://www.orchidinnusa.com/index.jsp

Orchid Tours!!
The WAOS Four Day Orchid Tour is all sold out. - BUT! A new Wildflower and Orchid Four Day Spectacular Tour has been organised for those who missed out. Being run by 'Country Escapes in Western Australia Tours', this new tour will cover some of the same ground as the first. More information can be found here:-
http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Second_Orchid_Tour.htm

The One Day Orchid Tour, is being booked out fast. This will be run on Sunday 28th Sept to see native Orchids growing in situ at various locations around the Perth metro area. A packed lunch is included. Almost two thirds of the seats are already booked!!
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:-  TONY

The SCHEDULE ……is on schedule
And can now be downloaded as a PDF or Word File at….
http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Schedule_WAOS_2008.doc

For any queries or questions, please write to, the Secretary, PO Box 4076, Alexander Heights, WA 6064, or EMAIL.
To be included on our emailing list for further Bulletins, please contact TONY

Tony
Publicity
WAOS 2008
Ray & Nancy"s Orchids

Doritis pulcherrima

Brassavola cucculata

Stanhopea occulata
There are 17 large plants at $12.00 and 3 small plants at $8.00. These plants came from Ezi Gro Orchids and have been grown on by Maxine Godbeer. They are mounted on paperbark, and Maxine has done an excellent job in growing them into almost flowering size plants.

*Aerangis biloba* is another African species that is found in Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal Sierra Leone and Togo. It was first described by John Lindley in 1840 as *Angraceum biloba*.

This species grows as an epiphyte in forests, woodlands and thickets, and may found on plantation crops such as cocoa. While said to be an easy species to grow, in common with most Aerangis species, they need warm-intermediate temperature throughout the year with high humidity. In my experience, this species needs to be kept warm, and drier in winter (consistent with the relatively leathery leaves that enable it to survive dry periods. The dark green leaves, obtusely bilobed at the apex when mature are the reason for its name. The flower form is typical of the genus, with 8-10 small white flowers on a pendant inflorescence, with a night perfume. The spur can often be pinkish in colour.

I & E La Croix advise that while this species can be grown in a bark mix in a pot, it can also be mounted. We have found that the Aerangis species seem to be more vigorous when grown on mounts as it allows the plant to dry out by the evening, and avoids over watering and the consequent loss of roots. In our hot, dry summer, this species will benefit from some cooling, high humidity and good air movement. Similarly, they will need protection from the cold, wet winters. These small species are particularly susceptible to pathogen and insect pest attack, (scale and mealy bug) and good air movement is essential to keep these pests at bay. Good photographs can be viewed at

Neville’s Orchids

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima

Phalaenopsis fasciata

Phalaenopsis pulchra
Tony & Mavis's Orchids

Phalaenopsis pulchra

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi Forma Flava

Phalaenopsis venosa

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi

Oncidium onustum
Graham & Margaret’s Orchids

Encylia radiata

Stenoglottis woodii

Epidendrem ciliare