Horticultural Award:

Peter & Shirley for a large specimen of *Lycaste aromatica*

**General Business**

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 inundora.
NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

" Reminder about the parking - please ensure that you park your car in the bitumen parking area whenever possible as it will avoid a fine!

"A number of members met at Graham and Margaret home on Saturday 15 March to start the planning for the WAOS display. Many ideas were explored - the President will present them at the next meeting. As the time gets closer, we will need assistance from members - both in providing plants and in helping set up and man the displays.

"Special thanks to those members who helped out at the February general meeting whilst several Committee members were enjoying themselves in Vietnam.

"The Club has been donated some species orchids by a past member, Mike Kelly. These plants will be auctioned at the next meeting. Tony has also purchased on the Club's behalf the heating cable and controls for a large heat bed from Mike's glasshouse that will also be auctioned. This kind of heating is quite economical and would be ideal for someone who is establishing a hothouse.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 28/2/2008, 8.00pm
Present: 15
Apologies: The "happy trippers" in Asia plus Neville, Geoff
Visitors: Nil
New members: David D,
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Barry, Ian)
Business Arising: Nil.

General Business:
1. A reminder that some of us must try for the AQIS quarantine qualification.
2. We noted Gordon's marvelous story (and picture) in the West Australian.
3. The CD and Disa information will be expanded upon in the next meeting.
4. There is an important meeting at the Graham & Margaret’s place on the 15th of March at 2pm to set up our exhibition at the WAOS and to help out if possible.

Raffle Winners: Ian, John S
Badge Prize: Victor

Future Home Visits
Our next Home Visit will be at Ezi-Gro Orchids on the 29th of March.

IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

Thailand Update:
Tony and I met with Hans Hermans in Bangkok, and he indicated that he was prepared to send the remaining plants to us (although apparently many of the Phalaenopsis species have died). He explained that he had to move premises last year and consequently, there were some losses, although he did not offer to make them up. I will obtain an import permit and forward it to him in the near future.

Ken
Monthly Sale Plant

*Brassavola tuberculata* $7

This month's plant comes from Tinonee Orchids and has been grown on by Sharon Lyster. *Brassavola tuberculata* is one of about 15 species, closely allied to *Laelia* (although two members of the genus, *B digbyana* and *B glauca* have been moved the genus *Rhyncolaelia*). *Brassavola tuberculata* is similar to *Brassavola perrinii*, differing only in the colour of the sepals and petals. It is found in lowland Brazil, in the Rio de Janeiro City and Espírito Santo regions, often close to the coast, and is one of several species of the genus found in Brazil.

The genus *Brassavola* (with the exception of those members moved to *Rhyncolaelia*) are florally very similar and thus can be difficult to differentiate. *Brassavola tuberculata* is said to be simpler to identify due to its compact growth (similar to *B. nodosa*), erect inflorescences and small sparse flower racemes. Typical habitat is exposed rocky slopes of large bolder mountains like the Sugar Loaf and Gávea, although it is also found as an epiphyte on tree trunks close to the sea.

Francisco Miranda (Miranda Orchids writes “On these vast exposed rock areas, the species produces very large specimens either growing on the fringe of vegetation islands, or fully exposed in isolated patches. The plants are usually found on more than 45 degrees slopes up to almost vertical walls, and by no means are limited to these massive rock mountains. Even on smaller boulders that are as low as 30 metres (100 ft.) high and facing the sea, plants can be plentiful. In these cases, plants are sometimes subject to sea water splashes during especially rough seas and seem to survive well. All this sunlight, wind and sea water help explain how the plants are so compact.”)

*Brassavola tuberculata* flowers are about 2’ across and the colour of the segments vary from greenish to yellowish with red spotting. The small labellum is white with a greenish throat. I find that this species does best mounted, and paper bark, Sheaok, natural cork or dry hardwood seem suitable. I imagine that it would also quite happily grow on a slab of granite or similar. They are relatively resistant to many insect pests, although can be attacked by cotton and hard scale.

The Miranda Orchids webpage at [http://mirandaorchids.com/species34tuberculataVGA.htm](http://mirandaorchids.com/species34tuberculataVGA.htm) has excellent photos and information.

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**Correspondence:**

Inwards: - Various magazines and newsletters.
- Email from David D and possible future dig sites.
- Wildwood Flora about experiments in propagating terrestrial and seed collection.
- Scott and Broad - insurance.
- Notification of a CD on Brassias and a new Disa book in time for WAOS

Outwards: Nil

Business Arising: Nil
The Species Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.)

This year, the Species Orchid Society is 20 years old!. Thanks Graham for providing the following information from the minutes of the first meetings.

In the beginning ….

A meeting to form our Society was held on the 23rd of March 1988 in the Karrinyup Community Hall at 8pm.

Those recorded as present were Neville, Noel and Eva, Ted and Joan, Ross C, H.J. (Harry) Lodge, Terry L, Max C, Gordon and Ray T. Neville, the convener of the meeting, was elected President, Ted L Vice President, Ross C Secretary, Joan L as Treasurer and the other Committee members were Noel and Eva, and Gordon.

The Committee was to meet at Neville's house on the second Tuesday of April (the 12th). The meeting decided to find a hall in the South Perth area and arrange meetings for the 4th Thursday of each month. Fees were discussed and the fees were set at $7 for a single and $10 for a double.

The committee duly met and discussed:
THE CONSTITUTION
BADGES
INCORPORATION
EMBLEM &
INSURANCE

A bank account was to be with the R & I Bank at Dianella, meetings at the Rotary Community Centre, South Perth and the constitution to be developed over several meetings.

The Committee again met on the 10th of May 1988 confirming the GM meeting times and place (at $16 per meeting). There was a balance of $27 in the account. Notices were to be circulated about the first General Meeting on the 26th of May 1988 and members were asked to bring any flowering plants to the meeting. As there were no judges a popular vote would take place.

The first General meeting was held at the South Perth Rotary Hall on the 26th of May with the committee members plus Ken, Rob M and N.J. and Noni M present.

The president said that the aims of the society were to promote species growing, purchase flasks and com. Pots among members, contact other species clubs in Australia (swaps), build a glass house for public display (to be run by the members) and to compile a listing of species orchids grown in WA.

Harry Lodge spoke of the AOF.

Members also raised the following matters:
" Competitions - How do we run them
" Judging of species
" Affiliation with the orchid society of WA (cost $25 per annum)
" Species Orchid displays with other orchid societies' shows
" Pronunciation of the species' names
" Membership drive
" Silent Auction.

Noel gave cultural notes for Laelia anceps.
Encyclia vespa var leopardianum

Encyclia radiata

Cattleya mossiae
Peter & Shirley’s Orchids

Cattleya forbesii

John S's Orchid

Doritis pulcherrima "chumpornensis"

Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi
Graham & Margaret’s Orchids

Oncidium micropogon var chrysopterum

Cattleya (guttata var) leopoldii

Prosthechea cochleata 'Alba'
Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008

Bulletin No 15 March 2008

The Lecture Program
With the withdrawal of Arthur Chadwick as our Lecturer on Cattleyas, the WAOS Committee has contacted a major Cattleya hybridiser who has tentatively accepted the invitation. Can't say too much more at this stage, but his expertise is second to none. You will not be disappointed so watch this space!!! The WAOS Committee has also had an offer for a lecture on Thai Species from a prominent authority in Thailand!! More in future Bulletins.

Orchid Tours!!
The One Day Orchid Tour is booked out!! We are amazed at the response to our tours and so happy that orchid folk want to see our WA Native Orchids in the wild.

The WAOS Four Day Orchid Tour is all sold out too. - 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

THERE ARE STILL VACANCIES ON THIS TOUR so email SYLVIA at Country Escapes.

Outside Broadcast
Your Committee's attempt to have an Outside Broadcast by ABC Radio is looking good at the moment and we are awaiting a decision from the ABC Management. Watch this space too.

The Open Garden Scheme - Two families have offered their gardens for the Open Garden Scheme with the idea of their gardens being open to the public the weekend before the Spectacular, thus generating interest in orchids and promoting the Spectacular too.

Registration
Early Bird Registration is now closed and we were pleasantly surprised at the interest from interstate and overseas with registrations coming in from the UK, USA, Singapore, Indonesia, NZ, South Africa and all Australian States. The Registrations have not been tallied at time of writing, so more on this in future Bulletins.

Vendors
Our vendors list is growing by the day with Neerabup Organic & Hydroponic Supplies coming on board this week. They carry a large range of orchid related supplies including Perlite in six grades from super fine to coarse.
A large number of Overseas Vendors have indicated that they will be bringing orchid flasks with them for sale at the Spectacular. Pre-ordering will begin shortly so stay tuned.

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
Or you can peruse it at…. http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS_SCHEDULE.htm

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
Along with several members of the Society, I was fortunate to be able to take three weeks holiday recently to visit Thailand and Vietnam. Tony and Hannah put together a great overall package, and Peter Williams from Chiang Mai arranged the Vietnam land content.

We flew to Ho Chi Minh City (previously Saigon) from Bangkok and spent the first night at the famous Rex Hotel.

The next morning, we met our guide, Xuan and boarded a bus to journey to Cat Tien National Park approximately 150 km north of Ho Chi Minh City where we spent two nights. On the second day, we trekked through the secondary and primary (a little) forests looking for orchids and wildlife.

We saw many species although few in flower—the latter included Phalaenopsis sp, Holcoglossum kimballianum, Dendrobium palpebrae or farmerii, Thrixspermum or Cleisostoma sp and Schoenorchis sp.

_Dendrobium palpebrae_
We then travelled by bus to Da Lat, a city in the mountains about 300km north of Ho Chi Minh City. The elevation of approximately 1600 metres above sea level makes Da Lat very popular as it is considerably cooler than Ho Chi Minh City. It is known as the flower city and the gardens were absolutely beautiful. The flower market that is set up each day in the main street offered orchids and many other plants and cut flowers for sale. We couldn’t help but be disappointed that we could not bring plants back from Vietnam as we saw many fine species and hybrids (particularly spectacular Miltoniopsis hybrids with flowers more than 12 cm across) at very reasonable prices.

We also saw an amazing variety of flowers (orchids and others) at the Da Lat flower Gardens, and as happens all over the world, when we said we could not take plants, but wished to take photos, vendors offered to sell us 'orchid seed". We told them that what they were showing us was definitely not orchid seeds, as in some cases, the seeds were similar in size to tomato seeds!

With our guide Xuan, about 15 of us set out for 3-4 hours trekking in the forest outside Da Lat. We rode part way up the hill in Russian-built 4- wheel drive jeeps.

We then walked for a few km, initially through conifer forest that was planted by the French, and then into old primary forest. In the very open, dry conifer forest, we saw many, although generally solitary plants of *Dendrobium bellatulum* in flower.
We also saw several *Bulbophyllum*, *Schoenorchis* and unidentified *Vandeceous* species in flower in this forest, but were un-

In the wetter primary forest, while we saw many orchid species, generally they were high in the canopy and too far away to be able to identify them. Binoculars and a powerful zoom lens on the camera were the only way to see these species. However, we also visited several nurseries and private orchid collections around Da Lat and were able to see many species close up.

(to be continued) Ken
We also saw some unidentified orchids in flower in an orchid nursery in Da Lat. Any help in identification would be appreciated Tony. (My apologies for the lousy pix)

Orchid 1.

The leaves on this one were like a succulent vandaceous orchid

Ron Parsons has identified this on as Pteroceras semiteretifolius (succulent leaved vandaceous)
Ron Parsons has identified this as Dendrobium hemimelanoglossum (green flower with dark apex to lip).

A pendulous growth habit with the inflorescence extending from the end on the canes.