



# Newsletter of the Species Orchid Society

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

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**Horticultural Award:**  
Maxine for a most floriferous specimen of *Jumellea major*.

## General Business

1. We still need a new auditor.
2. It was moved by Mavis and seconded by Ken that we approve a budget of \$500 for expenses from our efforts for the WAOS.
3. Adrian has decided that it was easier for him to have the constructs for our exhibition at the WAOS kept at his place.
4. Ken is to give the money for the plant (520) order from Sakdisri to Tony.
5. There are enough to gain a 10% discount and this will go towards transportation.
6. About 300 plants have been released but with the Sakdisri and Mr Wu's Taiwan orders the quarantine house will again be full -Ta Ken and Chris!.
7. Arthur Chadwick has been cleared to travel and will make the *Cattleya* presentation to the WAOS.
8. Thanks were given to John for his hosting of our last Home Visit.
9. Does anyone want to have a home visit at their place in June &/or July?

Tony then gave us an interesting Power Point coverage of the Vietnam trip. After having all non participants drooling in anticipation he also announced that the next trip is already full.

**Financial Report: was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$1 953.90.**

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 19th June 2008

Opened By: Maxine Time 8:05pm  
Next Gen. Meeting: 24th July 2008 Time 7:45pm  
Next Com. Meeting: Adrian's on 8th July 2008 Time 7:30  
Last Home Visit: John's  
Next Home Visit: Graham & Margaret's in August.  
Members Present 26 as per the register.  
Apologies: 8

Minutes of the previous meeting:  
Acceptance moved: Barry Seconded: Lee  
Business arising from the minutes: Nil

### **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

The props for the WAOS display are progressing well thanks to the super effort from Adrian and Vic who is painting the background scenes for us. To date, expenditure has been negligible thanks to Adrian. We are still looking for items that might have been found in an early orchid collector's camp in the rain forest. If you have items that you would be prepared to loan us, please see Adrian, Sharon or Ken. The WAOS organisers are asking all society members to support the event and to volunteer some time to assist in the many jobs that need to be done to make an event such as this successful. Please be prepared to put your name on the roster that will be tabled at our next meeting - remember, the more people to share the load, the less onerous it is for all of us!

As we will be pre-printing name cards for the plants in the display, could you please let the Editor know details of plants which are likely to be in flower for the WAOS show in late September. As we have done in past shows, we will preprint name cards that show the country of origin.

When you start repotting in spring (or as you are doing it now if you're like me), please remember to set aside some divisions for our silent auction in October - this is our major fundraiser and enables us to keep our membership fees low.

Your annual subscriptions were due at the May meeting. If you haven't paid yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Don't forget the parking - please ensure that you park your car in the bitumen parking area whenever possible as it will avoid a fine!

The Committee has endorsed the Editor's proposal to seek a further grant from LotteryWest to replace our present photocopier which is requiring more frequent servicing, with a multifunction colour printer/copier. Should any member have contacts who deal in this kind of equipment, please let us know so that we can get the best deal for the Society

### **Correspondence:**

**Inwards News, Orchid Species (N.S.W. Inc) Inc and Orchid Species Bulletin.**

**-GCA about AGM, Certificate of Currency, Awards and the passing of our representative, Daphne Murphy.**

**-WAOS Bulletin 18 (June 2008)**

**-WAOS plant registration numbers**

**-WAOS (Lee) about the Duty roster for the WAOS.**

**Outwards: None.**

Maxine's Orchids



*Aerides quinquevulnera*



*Paphiopedilum villosum*

*Jumellea major*



Graham & Margaret's Orchids



*Pterostylis hamiltonii*



*Prasophyllum parviflorum*



*Neolauchia pulchella*

**Western Australian Orchid Spectacular 2008  
Bulletin No 19 July 2008**

**The Lecture Program**

Arthur Chadwick will be joining us in September!!! We are pleased to see that Arthur's medical problems have improved to the point where he can make the trip. Arthur is recognized world wide as an expert on all aspects of Cattleya breeding and culture and we are fortunate to have him with us. The Lecture Program which is now On Line at..... [http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS\\_Lecture\\_Program.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS_Lecture_Program.htm)

You will also find a map to the well appointed Lecture Room which has been kindly offered to WAOS by the City of Belmont.

**Paying by Credit Card.** Some confusion has arisen when Registrants who have paid by Credit Card, receive their Credit Card Statement. They are seeing an item listed as "Western Australia R. Ardross" and not understanding that this refers to the bank account of the Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation, (the Organisation behind WAOS) with a bank branch at Ardross WA. The Registrants are then contacting their own bank and querying this payment. Their bank then contacts the WAOS Treasurer for an explanation and requires that he produce a signed authorisation from the Registrant.

This has our hard working Treasurer tearing his hair out in frustration. (and he doesn't have enough hair to spare) So if you see "Western Australia R. Ardross" on your bank statement, that means WAOS folks, and we are legit.

**The Opening Ceremony and the Conference Dinner.** If you would like to attend either of these functions but you are not Registering for the Conference, or if, as a Registrant, you wish to bring along a non-Registrant to these events, all you have to do is fill out the appropriate place on the Registration form and send it to the Secretary along with your payment.

**Orchid Tours!!**

**The Four Day Orchid Tour!! Is now sold out!!**

**The One Day Orchid Tour!! Is also sold out!!**

**BUT.**

**A new Wildflower & Orchid Four Day Spectacular Tour** has been organised, run by 'Country Escapes in Western Australia Tours'

**Wildflowers of Western Australia**

The Southwest Australia Eco Region is of Global and National Significance and is globally recognised as one of the planet's major biodiversity hotspots. The south western part of Western Australia is known as a biosphere for wildflowers, with over 12,000 species in a huge diversity of regional colours and displays. Western Australia seems an unlikely place for wildflowers as much of the state is harsh and dry with very low nutrient soils. Yet that is one of the very reason the flowers here are among the most colourful and abundant in the world. The Wildflower season begins in June, and lasts until December with the best viewing time being in August, September and October. Viewing wildflowers is as easy as walking into the bush from the road to find and see an abundance of big, small, colourful, dainty flowers, including many orchids. Some of the most famous of the wildflower are the Banksias, Pin Cushion Hakea, Wreath Lechenaultia, Blue Lechenaultia, everlasting daisies, Queen of Sheba orchid, spider orchid and a host of other orchid species. Our Wildflower & Orchid Four Day Spectacular Tour 1st to 4th Oct. 2008 will be touring in the southern part of Western Australia where we will see this diversity of wildflowers and orchids species.

**AND THERE ARE STILL VACANCIES WITH THIS TOUR** so email Sylvia at [countryescapes@iinet.net.au](mailto:countryescapes@iinet.net.au)

More information can be found here;- [http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Second\\_Orchid\\_Tour.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Second_Orchid_Tour.htm)

Or - Mobile 0429 385 642 - Phone: + 61 08 9385 6422 - Fax: + 61 08 9385 6433

**Vendors**

The first of our Vendors Catalogues for pre ordering is now on the WAOS Web Site at ..... [http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS\\_Catalogue\\_Page.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/WAOS_Catalogue_Page.htm) where it can be downloaded as a Word File or a PDF.

Should you have problems downloading either of these, please contact Tony at ... [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)

Orchid FLASKS and PLANTS can be ordered by contacting Neville at.... [neville\\_risbey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:neville_risbey@yahoo.com.au)

Joseph Wu Orchids of Taiwan has sent LIVE ORCHID PLANTS!! So be quick and look at the CATALOGUE PAGE for their catalogue. If you like Phalaenopsis, this is too good an opportunity to miss!!! There are some Phalaenopsis species among the orchids sent and we are endeavouring to acquire a catalogue and price list of them from Joseph Wu Orchids for our Catalogue Page.

**Volunteers. The WAOS Committee will soon be calling for Volunteers, and we do appreciate the efforts put in by Orchid Society members, but we want to emphasise the difference between volunteering to man your Societies Sales/Display area and volunteering to assist the running of the WA Orchid Spectacular & Conference.**

**Publicity You will see WAOS advertising on Channel 9 and in all Community Newspapers throughout the metro areas in the weeks leading into the Spectacular. We are looking for orchid growers who would be willing to have their picture in their local paper showing them preparing their orchids for the WA Orchid Spectacular. This would enhance the WAOS advertising and add a local touch. If you are happy to be a part of this exercise, please contact any member of the WAOS Committee, phone 9342 3799 or email [waos@iinet.net.au](mailto:waos@iinet.net.au)**

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

**To be included on our emailing list for further Bulletins, please contact [TONY](#)**

**Tony  
Publicity  
WAOS 2008**

#### **IMPORTED PLANT NEWS**

**I have had no further contact from Hans Hermans, however as previously advised, now have a full quarantine glasshouse with the plants from Thailand that Tony and Mavis bought back with them.**

**As advised last month, we had an inspection in June and approximately 60-65% of the plants in quarantine were released. However, some spotting on mature leaves of Dendrobium species *D. griffithianum*, *D. palpebrae* and *D. dixanthum* resulted in the plants being taken across to AQIS for identification. This pathogen has not yet been identified and I have supplied leaf cuttings from other plants in our collection to see whether there is a match. I will let you know the outcome at the meeting.**

**Ken**

**Raffle: Chris, Sandra and Eva**

**Name Badge: Frank**

**Future Home Visits**

**No home visit in July**

**Steve's Orchids**



*Pterostylis nana*



*Pterostylis vittata*

**Tom & Pats Orchid**



*Paphiopedilum insigne*

## Monthly Plant

### Monthly Plant *Laelia anceps* \$7.00

These plants were purchased from Tinonee Orchids and have been grown on by Sharon. *Laelia anceps*, from Mexico is a highly variable species. Generally growing as an epiphyte, it can also be lithophytic or terrestrial and is often found growing in full sun. First introduced in 1835 by Messrs Loddiges, it was described in the same year by Lindley in the Botanical Register.

*Laelia anceps* is a highly variable species with many named varieties, differing in flower form and colour. Colour varies from purple through pink to white, and there is even a line bred form with a bluish cast (coerulea form). Some varieties exhibit striping in the labellum and petals, while others have contrasting colours in the petals, sepals and labellum. Lastly the flower size varies widely from the *L. anceps* var *chamberlainiana* with flowers up to 14cm carried on tall racemes up to 100cm tall. To see a photos of a broad collection of varieties, visit Santa Barbara Orchids web site at

<http://www.sborchid.com/listdisplay.php?listname=Laelia%20anceps>. This site also shows the prices for some of the more unusual varieties in the US - it makes me pleased that I live in Australia!

*Laelia anceps* is a hardy species and grows well in our climate, even putting up with wet, cold winters although in common with most tropical species, it prefers being kept drier during winter. It can be grown in pot culture with almost any media, or slab mounted, although when mounting, it is prudent to select a mount that will not break down quickly, and that provides plenty of room for growth as it is a vigorous species. The species flowers from autumn - mid winter, and is among the easiest to grow.

Culture is as for Cattleya hybrids and this species will be more than happy in your shadehouse with Cymbidium and similar cool growing orchids. They are tough orchids and are resistant to most insect pests and pathogens, although the flowers are susceptible to Botrytis spotting.

As the July monthly plant is another Laelia, I thought it might be useful to provide some general cultural information. The following basic cultural information aimed at the northern hemisphere has been adapted from <http://www.orchidflowerhq.com/laeliacare.php>

Laelia is a genus in the orchid family. While not large, its members are highly sought after in the floral trade. They are comparatively easy to culture and Laelia orchid care is not very difficult as long as you are prepared to do some reading. The Laelia orchids are close relatives of the Cattleya orchids and the main difference between them is the number of pollinia.

Laelia orchids develop one or two leaves from each pseudobulb. These leaves can reach a length of up to 20 cm (nearly eight inches) and are leathery with a waxy coating. The inflorescence can be much longer and produce up to eight flowers. Most Laelia species have pink to purple flowers with a purple lip that is white near the column, and there are albino variants of these orchids.

### Watering

Laelia orchids should be frequently watered when they are growing, but leaving them "with wet feet " can cause root rot and decay. Try to mimic the natural habitat of Laelia orchids when you water. Most Laelia species hail from environments where the rainfall is

moderate to heavy from spring to autumn, and then declines in late autumn. The winter season is usually dry and lasts for 2-3 months. Moisture is then available from dew. Reduce the watering during the winter season when the orchid is resting, but don't allow them to remain completely dry for long periods. Providing resting Laelia orchids with occasional misting in the early morning to mimic dew is an important part of good Laelia orchid care.

### Nutrients

As with most autumn/winter flowering orchids, *Laelia* species should be given a high-nitrogen fertilizer from spring to midsummer. In late summer, it is time to switch to a fertilizer high in potash and continue to use it through autumn. During the winter no fertilizer should be added to the water. Start again with a nitrogen rich fertilizer when you resume heavy watering in spring.

### Temperature

*Laelia* orchids grow in subtropical as well as temperate regions in Mexico and Central America, some at high elevations. It is a good idea to research your particular *Laelia* orchid to find out more about its exact requirements when it comes to temperature. If your *Laelia* orchid is a species used to high elevations, it will appreciate fairly cool conditions, combined with dry air and plenty of sunshine. However, if *Laelia* species is from the rainforest regions it will prefer warmer temperatures and high moisture during the summer and dry cool winters. Generally speaking, *Laelia* orchids benefit from a resting period during the winter when they have finished blooming. If your orchid hails from higher elevations it is ideal to provide it with temperatures in the 69-73°F (21-23°C) range during the day and 52-53°F (11-12°C) during the night. As spring returns, you can gradually increase the temperature up to 75-79°F (24-26°C) during the day and 61-63°F (16-17°C) during the night. If your *Laelia* orchids come from lower elevations, they will prefer warmer temperatures.

### Light

*Laelia* orchids need bright light, especially if they hail from higher elevations. Generally diffused light (about 50% shade) is appropriate. Insufficient light, evidenced by dark green leaves, usually impedes flowering, or results in smaller or deformed flowers.

### Potting medium

The majority of the *Laelia* orchid species grow on trees (epiphytes), but some grow on rocks (lithophytes). What both types have in common is that their roots will rot if they are forced to stand in a soggy potting medium. Picking a well draining potting medium is an essential part of good *Laelia* orchid care. Ideally use a coarse and open medium that allows the orchid roots to dry quickly after each watering. If you still encounter problems with root decay, add chopped tree-fern fibre and broken pieces of sandstone to the potting mix.

### Repotting

The pot you use for your *Laelia* orchid should be as small as possible since large pots retain water more efficiently and can increase the risk for root rot. Repot (or remount) the orchid when it outgrows the pot. The best time for repotting a *Laelia* orchid is when new roots are just beginning to grow. The same is true for dividing the plant.



**Adrian's Orchids**



***Dendrobium lichenastrum***



***Crytostylis huegelii***



***Bulbophyllum shepherdii***

**Peter's Orchids**



*Anota violacea*



*Epidendrum elongatum*

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**John's Orchid**



*Laelia anceps* v *chamberlainiana*

*Cadetia taylorii*



*Cattleya percivaliana*

*Dendrobium formosum*





*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*



*Dendrochilum cobbianum*



*Rodriguezia decora*