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The Editor

Monthly Newsletter of the
The Species Orchid Society of WA (Inc)
Web page <http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/index.html>

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Diuris longifolia

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Peterskorner

Peterskorner is now distributing a range of orchid products from Easy Orchids (Murray and Jean Shergold) and we are happy to take orders, and bring them to the Species Society monthly meeting.

Check out our catalogue at www.peterskorner.com, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.



Monthly meetings held on the 4th Thursday each month (exc Dec) at Forster Park Hall, cnr of Abernethy Road and Keane Street, Cloverdale commencing 7.45pm.

Visitors always welcome

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings commence at 7.45pm. Usually, the short formal meeting is followed by plant descriptions given by members. Supper follows to allow members time to socialise and discuss orchids.

Monthly Plant Display

Given that the prime objective of the Society is to promote the cultivation of species orchids, only species or natural hybrids are acceptable for display. Since we all may be uncertain about the identification of a plant from time to time, we encourage members to bring plants along about which they are unsure since someone may be able to identify them. There is no competition nor restriction on flower count, quality or length of ownership. We want members to be able to see species plants in flower. So even if your flowers are a bit past their best, bring them in as others may not have seen that species in flower.

Plant Sales

The Society provides an opportunity table for members to sell surplus plants and equipment, and for the society to sell product from time to time. A commission of 10% is charged on all sales.

Plant Purchases

The Society endeavours to obtain a different species seedling for sale at each meeting, usually costing between \$6.00 and \$12.00. The Society makes a small profit on these sales which is invested in benefits to members. As it is always difficult to get new or different species, should members have 20 or more plants of one species which they feel might be suitable as a monthly plant, please contact a committee member.

Raffle

The Society conducts a raffle each meeting and at home visits as a means of raising funds.

Home Visit

During the weekend following the monthly meeting (generally on the Sunday morning), a home visit is held at a member's home. This gives members an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship that our mutual interest provides, and to see how others go about growing their orchids.

Plant Imports

The Society is able to use quarantine facilities provided by Ken & Chris Jones to co-operatively import species orchids.

Management

In accordance with the Constitution, the Annual General meeting is held in May each year at which time the office-bearers and committee are elected. The majority of Committee members serve two year terms.

Membership Fees

Family (1st year @ 2 badges)	\$31.00	renewal	\$15.00
Single (1st year @ 1 badge)	\$18.00	renewal	\$10.00

New members who don't live in Perth will not require name badges,



Anne & Geoff's *Stanhopea trigrina*.

is almost a thing of the past. Tiny rolls seeming to contain an outside perfect large sheet, on unrolling; all too often reveal smaller fragments, which are not entirely suitable. I have taken Barney Greer's advice and am successfully using a four (4) sheet layer of newspaper with success. The print weathers off quickly and the paper quickly achieves a patina as aesthetically acceptable as weathered paperbark. My preferred compost is medium pine bark with perlite in the proportions 85% and 15%. Other growers use Cymbidium compost or sphagnum moss, the latter demands frequent watering for survival which with today's watering restrictions constant attention is required.

I suspend my baskets with wire hangers, under shade cloth, on barbed wire lines with quality fishing mline swivels. The swivels allow constant rotation which produces superior plant growth. I have found that the brass plated swivels quickly corrode and will not allow rotation, so I use the Jarvis Walker black rolling swivels, about size 4, or larger depending on the wire gauge. I fertilise every time I water and use a reduced concentration.

"The Astonishing Stanhopeas" by Barney Greer, is a great reference



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 26 February 2009, 8.00pm

Present: 38

Apologies: 1

Visitors:

New members: Courtney

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Mavis, John)

Business Arising: Nil.

Financial Report: Tabled was tabled by Sandra and the current balance the current balance is \$3 903.05. (Trevor, Lee)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- John Brogan Subs and a donation.
- Email from Brazilian Orchids and orchid News.
- Lottery West – Copier.
- Email from Peter about Peterskorner.
- Various Newsletters.
- GCA Bulletin.
- Patrick Smith and Cassandra Zervos about their move to QLD and Subs.

Outwards: - From Ken to LotteryWest about assistance with copier purchase

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Bring chairs, food and a BBQ is available at McG's for Sunday's home visit.
- The library will have the new (\$135) book on Cymbidiums. See Maxine if you want a personal copy.
- Murray will summarize the Plant description notes from the meetings. I believe that Michelle has offered to do it for him.
- Graham asked that members remember to put plant divisions or spare seedlings aside for club raffles.
- Tony has posted our long, expensive and painful experiences in dealings with Hans Herman on the internet. He has already had several replies confirming what we knew about his lack of integrity.
- Graham will contact the council about the acute lack of parking at the hall. Perhaps there could be an extension of the area to the treed area.
- Tony commented on the feedback from Ron Parsons about the naming of some of our orchids and Gary Yong gee's conflicting comments. I remember Ron Heberle saying in one of our meetings that the plants don't mind what they are called "they keep on happily growing and delighting us."

Raffle: Trevor and Bill
Name Badge: Tony
Home Visit Raffle: John, Graham, Noel
Pat, Anne
Home Visit Name Badge: Sharon

Horticultural Award: Anne & Geoff for a well-grown specimen of *Stanhopea tigrina*.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Your Committee discussed options for a further importation of plants without reaching any conclusions - Ken is following up some leads.
- 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!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Home visits:

29 March - Gordon & Robyn's

WANTED/FOR SALE

Courtney thanks all those members that contacted him and offered to sell/swap Cymbidium species. He is particularly keen to acquire the following: *Cym cochleare*, *Cym mastersii* and *Cym whiteae*. If you have any divisions available, please call Courtney on 9459 1522

Grande, Tiara, Guatopo [now a national park], etc. ... The most common species, the *Stanhopea wardii* has from 8 to 10 yellow flowers. The labelum has the shape of an insect. The hollow hypochil has two big dark brown eyes. Inside are located the glands producing an intoxicating liquid. The mesochilus has two horns simulating the insect's legs and the epichil looks like the body of the insect."

In **The Orchids of Guatemala and Belize**, Ames and Correll (1985, but text untouched from 1953) write that *Stanhopea wardii* is "Epiphytic on trees and on rocks in humid forests, up to 2,700 meters alt. Widespread but not common in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama." This is updated in a note regarding the cover illustration: "*Stanhopea wardii* ... is now considered to be found only from Nicaragua south. A closely related species with which this plant is often confused is *Stanhopea graveolens*, a species which does occur in Guatemala."

Murray Corrigan's Culture Notes - Stanhopea Species

Background

Stanhopeas are frequently called the upside-down orchids because of their extraordinary habit of flowering downwards instead of upwards. The genus is widespread in origin in South America, from Mexico to Brazil. They are epiphytes and current research suggests some 56 species. They generally feature large egg-shaped pseudo bulbs with a single leaf. Their blooms whilst usually lasting only a few days are large, bizarre, colourful with an amazing lip structure and fragrant.

Cultivation

Stanhopeas, in the main, are easy to cultivate outdoors with easterly light. NOT sun, good ventilation, frequent light application of fertiliser and adequate watering. Under these conditions these plants will grow and flower from November to March depending on the species. These orchids are best grown in baskets; wire baskets are superior to other containers. Make sure that too larger container is not used. Frequently, most Stanhopeas seen for sale have been potted in a container that is too large for the plant. Thin sheets of paper bark have been the popular choice of basket liner for many years. However, with the constraints imposed by the NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service), quality bark in large sheets

In view of the spectacular display of flowering Stanhopeas that we have enjoyed over the past few meetings, I thought that it might be interesting to take a look at this fascinating genus.

From my research on the internet, our library, and some notes from the Southerland Shire Orchid Society that Tony Watkinson found, I compiled the following short article that I hope is of interest

While the number of Stanhopea species is subject to considerable debate, Kew Gardens recognise 55 species that occur from Mexico to Southern Tropical America and Trinidad, although over 100 names and synonyms are in common use. This genus has exception flowers - without exception they have large, complex, waxy, highly fragrant flowers that are variable in colour. All flower pendently from the base of the pseudobulb, requiring this species, if not mounted, to be grown in a basket so that the flower raceme is able to make its way through the medium and out the bottom of the basket. Seedlings planted in pots will try to flower through the drain holes in the base of the pot. In their native habitats, the majority are epiphytic although a few occur grow lithophytically with some even growing as terrestrials.



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Some of the more commonly grown species are:

- Stanhopea eburnum*
- Stanhopea ecornata* (Central America)
- Stanhopea grandiflora* (Trinidad to Southern Tropical America)
- Stanhopea graveolens* (Mexico, C. America, Brazil to Argentina)
- Stanhopea nigroviolacea* (Mexico)
- Stanhopea occulata*
- Stanhopea tigrina*
- Stanhopea wardii*

Pierre Couret (1982) describes the Venezuelan habitat as the "humid jungles of medium altitude of the northern mountain range, like Rancho

IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

In the absence of any concrete proposals to import more plants in the near future, I will request an inspection immediately prior to the April meeting. Remember, if you happen to be surfing the net and find a supplier that looks interesting, please let me know so that I can follow up to ascertain whether it might provide an opportunity for us.

Ken

Monthly Plant *Dendrobium amabile* \$7.00

These plants were supplied by Ezi Gro Orchids in compot and have been grown on. *Dendrobium amabile* synonymous with *Dendrobium furcatum* and *Dendrobium bronckartii* although these is considerable debate about its correct name.

It is recorded in Sulawesii, but more commonly from China and Vietnam. While researching this species, I found may differing views, in some instances described as very rare

Dendrobium amabile is found growing as an epiphyte in montane rainforests at moderate altitude, and in common with species more commonly grown such as *Dendrobium thysiflorum*, should not be difficult to grow in Perth.

It is also said to be one of the parents of the celebrated hybrid Dendrobium Mousmee



Plants Displayed February 2009

Graham and Margaret	<i>Pleurothallis alligatorifera</i>
<i>Cymbidium dayannum</i>	
<i>Encyclia megalantha</i>	Peter and Shirley
	<i>Cattleya harrisoniana</i>
Chris C	<i>Phalaenopsis sanderiana</i>
<i>Angraecum xerophyllum</i>	
	Anne and Geoff
Gordon	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> var. <i>dawsonii</i>
<i>Cattleya loddegessii</i> 'Martinique' x self	<i>Parasarcophilus spathulatus</i>
<i>Encyclia cochleata</i>	<i>Pleurothallis</i> spp.
	<i>Stanhopea tigrina</i>
Maxine	
<i>Aerides falcata</i>	Neville
<i>Cattleya guttata</i> var. <i>alba</i>	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i> var. <i>majus</i>
<i>Cattleya harrisoniana</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>
<i>Cymbidium bicolor</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis pulchra</i>
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i> v <i>sparksii</i>	
<i>Cymbidium finlaysonianum</i>	John S
<i>Cymbidium simulans</i>	<i>Dendrobium secundum</i> var. <i>alba</i>
<i>Epidendrum ciliare</i> (<i>Coilostylis ciliaris</i>)	
<i>Jumellea comorensis</i>	Noel and Eva
<i>Phalaenopsis pulchra</i>	<i>Cynorchis fastigiata</i>
<i>Psygmorchis pusilla</i>	<i>Encyclia alata</i>
	<i>Encyclia megalantha</i>
Frank	<i>Encyclic radiata</i> (<i>Prosthecea radiata</i>)
<i>Doritis pulcherimma</i>	<i>Encyclia vespa</i> var. <i>leopardianum</i>
<i>Vanda liouvillei</i>	
<i>Vanda testacea</i> (syn <i>Vanda parviflora</i>)	Tony and Mavis
	<i>Phalaenopsis bellina</i>
Adrian	<i>Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi</i>
<i>Catasetum fimbriatum</i>	<i>Dendrobium antennatum</i>
<i>Phalaenopsis equestris</i>	<i>Dendrobium crepidiferum</i>
	<i>Doritis pulcherimma</i>
Ken and Chris	<i>Doritis pulcherimma</i> blue (??)
<i>Aerides quinquevulnera</i>	<i>Oncidium micropogon</i>
<i>Cattleya harrisoniana</i>	<i>Sobenikoffia robusta</i>
<i>Dendrobium cumulatum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium formosum</i> v <i>giganteum</i>	
<i>Dendrobium scabrilingue</i>	

February's Treasures on Display



Ann & Geoff's
Brassavola nodosa var. *dawsonii*.(?)
(Can you identify this one?)



Chris's *Angraecum xerophyllum*



John's *Dendrobium secundum* var. *alba*



Ken and Chris's
Cattleya harrisoniana