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The Editor  
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

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

Vol 20 No 10 April 2009



*Diuris longifolia*

**Life Members**

Barry  
Gordon  
Joan & Ted  
Neville  
Noel & Eva

**President**

Maxine

**Vice President**

Adrian

**Secretary**

Graham

8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley 6022,  
Ph/fax 9447 4528

**Treasurer**

Sandra

**Editor**

Ken

Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

**Committee**

Chris

Barry

Pat

Lee

Sharon L

Tony

Mavis

Trevor

Peter & Shirley Masters  
110 Crawford St  
East Cannington 6107 WA  
Phone: 08 93506087  
Mob 0419831177  
Shirley 0414948469  
E-mail: [peterskorner@iinet.net.au](mailto:peterskorner@iinet.net.au)

*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](http://www.peterskorner.com), phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail [peterskorner@iinet.net.au](mailto: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,



*Stanhopea martiana* is found in the lower coastal mountains of Mexico, and is another species seldom seen in collections.

Barney Greer also challenges the oft practised practice some orchid growers in cross pollinating anything that is in flower. He reasons that as *Stanhopea* flowers are so spectacular in their own right, what possible benefit could be gained by producing hybrids. In this same vein, he notes that there are relatively few natural hybrids suggesting that the euglossine bees that pollinate this genus are somewhat discriminating in their choice of flower to gain access to the nectar; or it may be that the very short flower life is specifically engineered to limit the occurrence of natural hybrids. In this regard, he urges those of us who have these fabulous plants to self pollinate or sibling cross them so that the genus can be more widely distributed. However, unlike many other species, when pollinating *Stanhopeas*, let the pollen dry for an hour or two (during which time it shrinks in size) because the stigmatic surface is not instantly receptive to the pollen.

I hope that this rather rushed, and scattergun discussion about *Stanhopeas* has sparked your interest, and that in future we might see more *Stanhopeas* on our display bench, and perhaps some of the less common species. Thanks to Anne and Geoff Graham and Margaret, and any other member who has displayed a *Stanhopea* in flower over the past few months..

*Stanhopea embreei* discovered in western Ecuador in 1958 is found in cloud forests at low altitudes. This species is said to be relatively easy to grow.



*Stanhopea grandiflora* is native to warm rainforests from Brazil to Venezuela, Trinidad and Colombia from low to moderate altitude. It was one of the earliest Stanhopeas collected, and first flowered by Loddiges in 1824.



*Stanhopea marizaiana* is a newly identified species from Peru. It was published by Dr Rudolph Jenny in August 2003, from a plant collected in 2001.



## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 26 March 2009, 8.00pm

Present: 31

Apologies: 3

Visitors:

New members: Peter A

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Tom, Trevor

Business Arising: Nil.

Financial Report: Tabled was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$4 154.55. (Gordon, Lee)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Inwards – Lloyd Mullin – Renewal of membership.
- Email from Carolyn asking about our society
- AOF –receipt for a donation and an information sheet about its activities.-
- 6<sup>th</sup> ANOS conference and show in Newcastle (August 2010).
- Various newsletters.

Outwards:

- Email to Carolyn.
- City of Belmont about parking (we were the only people at the hall this week!).
- AOF – a donation.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Home visit to Gordon's and Robin's – Bring salad and a chair.
- Tony explained about the way Kew gardens are using a photo of the "Presidential Moth" (originally donated to us by Michelle and Raoul of Madagascar) in their Charles Darwin Exhibition.
- Orders were taken for copies of Barney Greer's Stanhopea book – about ten people wanted copies. Graham will try to get our library copy spiral bound.
- Jack has very generously donated several large (and knowing Jack, superbly grown) plants to be raffled at future meetings. Chris will collect them.
- Judith donated a copy of Andrew Brown new WA species book to the society for auction or raffling - a most generous donation.
- Ken is still trying to find an overseas supplier of species orchids. Please let him know of any places you think may be an option. It would seem that some Asian suppliers think it is too much of a hassle to export to Australia.

- Anyone with Convoir air conditioners will be pleased that Frank Grosvenor has found a supplier of parts – particularly the vulnerable little belts.

**Cultural Award:** Anne for a superbly grown example of *Miltonia spectabilis var moreliana*

**Raffle:** Carolyn & Tony (plants donated by the Ushers and Peter ).

**Name Badge:** Tom

**Home Visit Raffle:** Pat, Murray & Hannah.

**Home Visit Name Badge:** Trevor

#### NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- There will be a special raffle at the April meeting - bring some loose change to win a desirable species orchid in flower.
- At the June meeting, we plan to auction a copy of *Orchids of Western Australia* by Brown. A, Dundas, P, Dixon K. and Hopper S kindly donated by Judith (you can view this fabulous book in the Library).
- 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! Your Committee is following up that matter as it was nearly impossible to find a parking space at the February meeting.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Home visits:**  
No home visit in April.

#### 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

The genus is tropical, however because most are found at higher elevations they cope quite well with our cooler winter temperature provided they are kept moist in the hot summer months. Like all orchids, this genus needs high air movement, and for that reason, they can be very successfully grown hanging over Cymbidium and similar shadehouse orchids.

The publications I have reviewed suggest that Stanhopeas are resistant to most pests, although can be attacked by mites (two spotted and red spider mites) - another reason to ensure that they are grown in an area with plenty of air movement. The most effective culture appears to be basket-based using pine bark or similar media, although they can be grown on hardwood slabs or mounts provided additional moisture is provided during the hot, dry WA summer. This is critical as most Stanhopeas are summer-autumn flowering, and the desiccation of pseudobulbs due to lack of moisture inhibits the very outcome that we all hope for.

Some of the less common species are:

*Stanhopea candida* (from the moist tropical rainforests of Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia Peru and Brazil. This species needs hot/humid conditions.



*Stanhopea deltoidea* is another rare species found in Peru. This species grows in dappled light, and has large (14cm) flowers.

### IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

A further inspection has been conducted and some more plants have been released. I will bring whatever is available to the next meeting.

Tony and Mavis are holidaying in Thailand in August and have once again offered to bring plants back from Sakdisri on the same basis as last time. This results in a very substantial saving over the normal freight charges, customs fees, GST etc. Please let me know if you are interested at the next meeting - I have requested an updated pricelist which I hope will be available at the April meeting.

Ken

### The Exotic Stanhopeas (continued from March)

Last month, we covered some of the background information on this exotic and eye-catching species. Unlike many other tropical orchids that we grow in WA, once they grow into large plants, Stanhopeas will flower several times a year. So, even though the flowers are short lived, given the ease of culture (only a shadehouse is needed) and the large flowers that appear more than once a year, they are well worth the trouble.

The acknowledged Stanhopea guru Barney Greer wrote in the Australian Orchid Review in 1987 "*The day my first Stanhopea burst into flower (they told me it was Stanhopea tigrina), I couldn't believe my eyes. Its huge, savage beauty, its uninhibited perfume, the incredible sculpture of the lip! The way the buds exploded into life, flaunted their brazen charms like CanCan dancers and then fell in a heap! This was an ORCHID. I was hooked.*"

While the number of Stanhopea species has grown from about 45 to 55-60 with 6 natural hybrids known, we only see a fraction of them. Most are truly spectacular - with large, colourful intricate flowers. In the last issue I covered several of the most common species that we see from time-to-time, however later in this article, I will also cover some of the less well known species and perhaps you will be tempted if you see them advertised.

### Monthly Plant

*Epidendrum elongatum* \$7.00

This month's plant has been supplied by Anne O'Callaghan. *Epidendrum elongatum* (synonym *Epidendrum secundum*) is native to South America and the Lesser Antilles Islands, growing epiphytically on trees or occasionally as a terrestrial at 600 to 1750m elevation. The Society previously sold this species in 2003, and it is one of those easy to grow species that rarely stops flowering once it starts in Spring.



The small pink flowers are carried on upright, simple or branched arching inflorescences (note secondary flowering on old racemes is a feature of this species). It is an intermediate grower and copes well with shadehouse culture for those who do not have access to a hothouse. It is adaptable and will grow equally well mounted or in a pot in pine bark. *Epidendrum elongatum* quickly grows into a multistem plant and can be potted up into a specimen, or divided.

Plants Displayed March 2009

Murray & Arni <i>Aeranthes ramosa</i> <i>Cattleya bowringiana</i>	Peter and Shirley <i>Aerangis mystacidii</i> <i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> v <i>chumpornensis</i> <i>Oncidium isthmi</i>
Graham and Margaret <i>Dendrobium distichum</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis fasciata</i> <i>Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana</i> <i>Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica</i>
Chris C <i>Anacheilium cochleatum</i> var. <i>alba</i> <i>Miltonia spectabilis</i> var. <i>moreliana</i>	Anne and Geoff <i>Aerangis mooreana</i> <i>Bulbophyllum echinolabium</i> <i>Dendrobium bracteosum</i> <i>Epidendrum diffusum</i> <i>Epidendrum peperomia</i> <i>Miltonia spectabilis</i>
Maxine <i>Aerangis articulata</i> <i>Aerangis macrocentra</i> <i>Barbosella australis</i> <i>Bulbophyllum deareii</i> <i>Cattleya bowringiana</i> <i>Pescatorea lehmannii</i>	John S <i>Cattleya bowringiana</i>
Ken & Chris <i>Anacheilium cochleatum</i> var. <i>alba</i> <i>Bulbophyllum capillipes</i> <i>Dendrobium delacourii</i> <i>Dendrobium longifolium</i> <i>Dendrochilum magnum</i> <i>Lycaste cruenta</i> <i>Cattleya bowringiana</i> <i>Cattleya bicolor</i> (?) <i>Miltonia clowesii</i>	Tony and Mavis <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> <i>Dendrobium formosum</i> <i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> <i>Phalaenopsis bellina</i> <i>Phalaenopsis violacea</i>

March Treasures on Display



*Bulbophyllum echinolabium*  
Anne & Geoff



March Cultural Award  
*Miltonia spectabilis* v *moreliana*  
Anne & Geoff



*Barbosella australis*  
Maxine



*Aeranthes ramosa*  
Murray & Arni



*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*  
Peter M



*Pescatorea lehmannii*  
Maxine



*Phalaenopsis violacea*  
Tony & Mavis