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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 21 No 1 June 2009



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,



Did you know....

....that orchids have been around for a very long time

August 29, 2007—For this ancient bee, carrying a flower into the afterlife allowed it to deliver a rare gift to today's biologists. The extinct species of stingless bee was found encased in amber with a well-preserved part of an ancient orchid attached to its back. The amber, dug up in a mine in the Dominican Republic, is 10 to 15 million years old. The pollen-bearing package represents the first known fossil of an orchid, researchers say.

Orchids are the most diverse flowering plants on Earth, with more than 20,000 known species. But until now the flowers have been absent from the fossil record. In a paper describing the find in the journal *Nature*, Santiago R. Ramírez of Harvard University and colleagues note that the fossil flower, called *Meliorchis caribea*, belongs to a living group of orchids called *Goodyerinae*.

In addition to shedding new light on the orchid family tree, the find provides "an unprecedented direct fossil observation of a plant-pollinator interaction," the team writes. For example, when bees visit living members of *Goodyerinae*, the pollen parts become stuck to their mouths as they take nectar from the lip of the flower. But the fossil pollen was found stuck to the ancient bee's back. "This indicates that the flower of *M. caribea* was gullet-shaped," the researchers write. "The anterior part of the bee would have had to enter the flower completely."

Victoria Jaggard *National Geographic News*
Photograph courtesy Santiago Ramírez

June Auction

With assistance of our redoubtable auctioneer Tom, we will be auctioning 10 flowering size plants (several in flower) of *Ionopsis utricularioides* that have been grown on by Peter and more recently by Tony from a flask donated to the Society. Make sure that you bring some money to bid on these very desirable species

From the March issue of The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin
Ionopsis utricularioides – David Glass



This very attractive miniature species occurs in a widespread habitat that runs from Brazil to South Florida, where it grows as a twig epiphyte and in some areas is considered something of a weed. The species name can be a bit tricky to pronounce, and comes from the resemblance of the flowers to those of the carnivorous *Utricularia* (bladderwort) species. The inflorescence emerges from a recently matured pseudobulb and on well grown plants will develop into a panicle which flowers for many months. A specimen plant can be in bloom almost indefinitely. Resentful of disturbance once established, *Ionopsis utricularioides* is usually grown tightly mounted on a tree fern slab, but needs high humidity at all times and watering several times a day in hot dry weather, and keeping it flourishing over the long term can be difficult.

This species will hybridize within many of the genera in the Oncidium Alliance, including *Comparettia*, *Oncidium*, *Tolumnia*, *Rodriguezia*, and *Trichocentrum*.

<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/newsletters/200903-March.pdf>

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 28 May 2009, 8.30pm

Present: 29

Apologies: 5

Visitors: Norm

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Murray, Ian)

Business Arising: Nil.

Financial Report: T a b l e d b y S a n d r a C u r r e n t balance is \$3 360.53. Due to the delays in receiving statements it was suggested that electronic banking options be explored. (Trevor, Adrian)

Correspondence:

- Inwards:
- A letter asking us all to think about speakers for the AOC show in 2012.
 - From The Orchid Review acknowledging the change of address from Barry to Tony.
 - E-mail from Paula Sawadsky (Vancouver) to us asking to use a picture of THE MOTH from Jay Pthal's site. Tony suggested that they donate to Jay's site.
 - GCA requesting Society details from the AGM.
 - Several newsletters and orchid magazines.
- Outwards:
- To Lotterywest – by Ken (an acquittal of our copier purchase and their donation),
 - To Barry and to Judith

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

1. Michele requested care to be taken with plant description details so that the proposed yearly presentation of tabled plants can be more easily and informatively collated.
2. Members are asked to make sure that Tony has their email addresses so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.
3. Bring a chair and a plate (with food on it!) to Mavis & Tony's for the home visit.
4. Tom has agreed to auction the 10 or so *Ionopsis utricularioides* plants (some are in flower!) during our June meeting.
5. Ken is hoping to import some Paphiopedilum species plants with the Sakdisri order but he needs to know exact names and numbers so the CITES documentation can be completed.

Cultural Award: Peter for *Phalaenopsis lindenii*. This is a

Raffle: Adrian, Maxine
Name Badge: Sharon
Home Visit Raffle Ken, Sharon, Michel, Murray, Lee, Carolyn. Adrian, Tony, Sandra, Hannah, Anne, and Les. Badge Prize: Murray
Home Visit Badge Murray

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- As discussed at the last General Meeting, Tom will auction 10 plants of *Lonopsis utricularioides*. Please see notes on page 10.
- The notes for our May monthly plant, *Vanda tricolor* are also included in this newsletter - the *Dockrillia chordiformis* were quite small and we decided to grow them on.
- 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:

No home visit in June
 July - Ken & Chris's 204 Park Street, Henley Brook
 August - Adrian & Deanne's, 72 Waikiki Road, Safety Bay

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

Tips for growing reluctant orchids!!

The January– March 2009 edition, page 6 of the Orchid Digest makes the following suggestion (this was drawn to my attention by Trevor)

For most of my orchid life, I was unable to grow Vandas and most of vandaceous alliance because the humidity in Southern California is too low for them and their roots hated being confined to pots with bark. As a result the plants seemed to wither away dying at the very slow rate for which most orchids are famous.

Then one day, I visited a grower near San Clemente, California and he was growing Ascocendas outside in baskets. The baskets were empty except for a little live Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia*) among the roots. His plants were quite healthy.



At the next opportunity in Florida, I purchased a few vandaceous meristems in plastic baskets. There was nothing in the baskets except for a few roots. Back in my greenhouse in Tustin, California I draped a little Spanish Moss around the roots and stood back. They seemed to like it. Both the moss and the roots now grow really rapidly. I have only lost one of fifteen plants. The mature plants now flower regularly. If you are growing in a dry apartment, or in the desert, you might want to try the Spanish moss trick. Good luck.

IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

As advised last 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. We currently have approximately 320 plants ordered including Paphiopedilum species. If you still wish to participate, please let me know at the June General meeting (I won't need your money until mid-August)

Ken Jones

Vanda tricolor (May sale plant)

Vanda tricolor from Java and Laos is hot growing epiphyte, lithophyte or terrestrial with long, erect stems carrying curved, leaves. Flowers are carried on short racemes with 7-12 waxy, fragrant large, fragrant, long-lived waxy flowers in autumn and winter. There are two varieties *var suavis* which hails from Central and Eastern Java which has an inflorescence with 15 or more flowers, narrower and longer sepals and petals. *Var tricolor* has an inflorescence with 6 to 9 flowers, the sepals and petals being different in width and are shorter.



This species appears to cope well with WA's cooler winter temperatures, provided it can be kept drier, as otherwise, the water in the top leaf axil leads to fungus attack.

It is suitable for both basket and pot culture, and pine bark is the most suitable media. The species

is vigorous when in full growth in spring/summer and will benefit from regular fertiliser application.

Monthly Plant *Neofinetia falcata* @ \$7.00

Neofinetia falcata is a species from Japan, Korea and the Ryukyu Islands, and is a warm to cool grower, found in areas that have shady summers, but because of the deciduous trees that they grow on, almost full sun in the winter. It is sometimes called the Japanese Wind Orchid, or the Samurai's Orchid. The inflorescence generally appears in early summer through fall with nocturnal, fragrant flowers. Often this



species is best mounted on tree fern or cork, but can be grown in suspended pots with a very coarse mixture to allow air to get to the roots.

Neofinetia falcata is tolerant of a wide range of conditions. Apparently, many clones are available, with differing tolerances for temperature extremes. In general, this species requires moderate to strong

(always indirect) light, frequent moisture (less so when the roots are dormant), and excellent drainage. Some authors say that *Neofinetia falcata* can do very well under lights. Frequent, half strength fertiliser when the plant is actively growing helps to produce more abundant flowers.

This species has been cultivated by the Japanese *bushido*, or warrior class, for centuries. At one time anyone who was not a member of this elite samurai class was forbidden to possess a specimen of the plant. This species is still held in the highest regard today, with some cultivars commanding prices in the thousands of dollars. The elegant flowers are sweetly fragrant. There is a class in some of the major Japan orchid shows for *Neofinetia falcata* not in flower - they are shown for their variegated foliage!

In my experience, this species can be difficult to grow, and does not tolerate lack of air movement and/or good water. It can be susceptible to cotton and hard scale which can rapidly kill this diminutive orchid species.

For further information, see <http://www.orchids.org/species/genera/N/Neofinetia/falcata/index.html>

Plants Displayed May 2009

Murray and Arni	Ken and Chris
<i>Urochilus vittatus</i>	<i>Barkeria lindleyana</i> var. <i>cyclotella</i>
	<i>Cattleya loddigesii</i>
Graham and Margaret	<i>Dendrobium garrettii</i>
<i>Aeranthus ramosa</i>	<i>Dendrochilum arachnites</i>
<i>Eriochilus dilatatus</i>	<i>Laelia anceps</i>
<i>Linguella nana</i>	<i>Paph concolor</i> v <i>hennisianum</i>
<i>Pterostylis hamiltonii</i>	<i>Rodriguezia decora</i>
<i>Urochilus vittatus</i>	<i>Spathoglottis affinis</i>
Maxine	Peter and Shirley
<i>Aerangis biloba</i>	<i>Ionopsis utricularioides</i>
<i>Angraceum comorense</i>	<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>Veitchiana</i>
<i>Bulbophyllum deareii</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis lindenii</i>
<i>Cymbidium erythrostylum</i>	<i>Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica</i>
<i>Dendrobium prenticei</i>	
<i>Epidendrum pseudopidendrum</i>	Mavis and Tony
<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>chamberlainiana</i>	<i>Dendrobium striaenopsis</i>
<i>Laelia rubescens</i>	<i>Dendrobium striaenopsis</i> var. <i>alba</i>
<i>Sophranitis cernua</i>	<i>Oncidium tigrinum</i>



Laelia anceps Var *Veitchiana*
Peter



Spathoglottis affinis
Ken & Chris

May Treasures on Display

(Photographs —Tony



May Cultural Award
Phalaenopsis lindenii
Peter



Sophranitis cernua
Maxine



Aerangis biloba
Maxine



Epidendrum pseudoepidendrum
Maxine



Paphiopedilum concolor var
Hennisianum
Ken & Chris