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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 2 July 2009



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June Cultural Award:  
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*Bulbophyllum longissimum* - Bill & Sandy

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

**Life Members**

Barry , Gordon, Joan & Ted, Neville, Noel & Eva



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,



pages). This is a Guatemalan and Mexican epiphytic and sometimes lithophytic species found in pine-oak forests and occasionally mountain rain forests at elevations of 800 to 1600 m. It is a large to giant sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with thin,

leafy stems with plicate, elliptic, long acuminate leaves, spotted red brown flowering in summer on a very short raceme with 3 to 5 successive opening, malodorous short-lived flowers.



*Sobralia xantholeuca* is also said to have several colour forms, although the yellow form was the original species described.



This colouration is evident in the common hybrid, *Sobralia Mirabilis* that is present in many local collections. Ezi-Gro orchids has been selling this secondary hybrid between *Sobralia micrantha* and *Veitchii*. *Sobralia Veitchii* is primary hybrid between *macrantha* and *xantholeuca* and was first registered in 1984).

To be continued in August



*Sobralia macrantha* has one of the largest bloom sizes of some 50 species within the genus. Such a beautiful, huge, perfect, Cattleya-looking flower, that seldom lasts more than a full day! It's ironic that a flower

which only remains open less than 12 hours takes approximately 135 days between pollination and fertilization! Even when the pods are mature, they are never very swollen and will split open while still green! This plant used to be very common along the gulf slopes from central Veracruz south into Chiapas, around 3000 ft elevation, but since it does have a spectacular flower, it is often harvested for local sales by the natives to be used in gardens. They are very easily transplanted, as long as a good sized portion of the root mass is taken with at least 6-8 stems and one new growth. Commonly all of the foliage will turn black and die off when disturbed, but they are quick to send up new shoots. It is a terrestrial orchid and does well in a loamy soil or

peat-light foliage potting mix. [Source Weyman Bussey's page on *Sobralia macrantha* [http://www.abundaflora.com/sob\\_macra.htm](http://www.abundaflora.com/sob_macra.htm)]

This species is the most commonly seen *Sobralia* in WA, and from the above description, it is obvious why it was named *macrantha*.

Another species, less commonly seen but available is *Sobralia xantholeuca*, as shown in situ below (photos from Jay Vannini, published in the *Sobralia*

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 25 June 2009, 8.pm

Present: 32

Apologies: 4

Visitors: Bill J

New members: Norm

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Chris J, Chris C

Business Arising:

- A vote of thanks was given with acclamation, to Pat for auditing the books for the 2008/9 financial year.
- It was moved by Ken and seconded by Trevor that the \$200 owed to us by Hans Hermans be written off as a bad debt. (Carried).
- Ian nominated Pat as our auditor for 2009/10 and this was seconded by Gordon and carried by the meeting with acclamation.

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra. Current balance is \$3,293.03 with \$1,809.50 in the second account. (Lee, Gordon.)

Correspondence:

Inwards: - various newsletters.

- An Email to Maxine from Leilani Munday about her grandmother (Maude Dedman) discovering an orchid in the 1930s. This was identified as *Thelymitra dedmannii* BUT it should be *T. dedmaniarum* as it is named after two ladies. Maxine has told Leilani this.

Outwards: - AGM details of office bearers to the GCA .

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Thanks to Tony and Mavis for the home visit to their place last month.
- Ken described how he has arranged for the importation of the Paph species. He has sent Sakdisri & Daughters an order of about 350 plants so that they can organize the preparation of the plants for Tony and Mavis to collect in August (21<sup>st</sup>). payments will need to be in by the visit to Ken & Chris's home in July (26<sup>th</sup>).
- Tom then successfully auctioned ten *Ionopsis utricularoides* (one in flower and several in spike).

**Cultural Award:**

Bill and Sandra for a well grown *Bulbophyllum longissimum* (labeled as *Bulbophyllum phytrectum*) .

**Raffle:**

Maxine and Lee

**Name Badge:** Ray & Nancy

#### NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Membership subscriptions were due in May. If you've overlooked renewing your membership, please see the Treasurer at the next meeting, or for those of you who reside away from Perth, send it to the Secretary.
- There will be a special raffle at the next meeting— we have a plant of *Cattleya trianae* that was donated by Kayley and Andrew Usher which is in bud, plus another flowering size species. Please see Lee.
- Over the next few months if you happen to repotting (like me!), remember to put aside some divisions for our silent auction in October.
- On behalf of the WA Regional Orchid Organisation Tony has asked us to identify potential speakers for the 2012 AOC Conference to be held in Perth. This is your opportunity to contribute, so give some thought to whom you would really like to hear!
- 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:

July - Ken & Chris's

August - Graham & Margaret'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

Michele would like to acquire *Dendrobium speciosum*, and sub-species *jonesii*, *curvicaule*, *pedunculatum*. If you have spare plants, please see Michele at the meeting, or phone her on 9252 1668

Central and South America with some 40-50 in Colombia. The plants are usually medium to tall terrestrials, rarely epiphytes, with reed like stems and plicate leaves. The flowers range in colour from white through yellow, orange, pink, purple, and red, with some coerulea varieties known. The inflorescences occur terminally or laterally from the upper leaf axils, and there are eight pollinia. There is considerable debate about the taxonomy of this genus. Dr. Robert Dressler, one of the few taxonomists who have worked with Sobralias considers that they allied to *Elleanthus*, *Palmorchis*, *Corymborchis* and *Sertifera*, although others disagree, or include *Xerorchis*.

As noted earlier, the flowers are not long lived, and consequently seldom seen in shows. However, they are very attractive, often quite large and strikingly coloured. The members of this genus are generally vigorous, and respond well to regular fertilising. I recall Gordon Doherty gave me a plant that had been fertilised with dynamic lifter that grew very tall canes and flowered prolifically, although I cannot recommend this approach as it eventually leads to problems. This genus has no pseudobulb, although has thick, fleshy roots that are highly adventitious, that is just like palms and citrus trees, they will grow out the bottom of the pot into the soil or mulch in the bottom of your shadehouse

In this first instalment, I will cover some of the more common Sobralia species that are readily available in WA. Next month, I will look at some of the more exotic species that we might hope to acquire in the future, and after more research, their habitats.



*Sobralia micrantha* is quite readily available, and while doing the research for this article, I came across the following post.

"The flower pictured here is 8 inches across! The same flower you see en situ is the close up in the hand. The plant itself is not visible on the roadside because of the dense vegetation covering it. The plant seldom reaches more than six feet tall and will normally be between 3 and 4 feet tall in higher light culture (near full sun).

*(Continued on page 10)*

## IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

If you have ordered plants for the next importation, please bring your money to the next meeting, home visit at our place, or arrange to get it to me by mid-August as Tony and Mavis leave for Thailand on the 21st. Approximately 400 plants in total have been ordered including some 50 Paphiopedilum species - thank you all for having confidence in us to participate.

Ken

### The Genus Sobralia

Much of the research for this article comes from Nina Rach's Sobralia home pages at <http://sobralia.autrevie.com/> There is some excellent information and brilliant photos in these pages and for those of you with internet access, well worth a visit.

While we don't often see Sobralia species on our display benches (they tend to be large plants and the flowers are relatively short-lived), they are well worth growing and can be cultivated in the garden as they are principally terrestrial in their natural habitat (members who come to our home visit will be able to see how we plan to grow this ubiquitous genus).

The genus was established by the Spanish botanists Hipolito Ruiz & Jose Antonio Pavon in 1794 in the publication *Sobralia dichotoma* in *Flora Peruviana, et Chilensis Prodr.* 120 (abbrev. *Fl. Peruv. Prodr.*). This genus was based on material collected between 1777 - 1781 in Chile & Peru, and is named for the Spanish physician and botanist, Dr. Francisco Sobral.

More recently, it was discovered that in fact the first Sobralia recorded was *Sobralia mutisii* from Colombia. José Celestino Mutis was director of the Colombian Royal Botanical Expedition (1783-1816). It seems that Mutis had ordered this Sobralia to be drawn before the drawings made from Ruiz and Pavon's botanical expedition to Peru and Chile.

There are approximately 100 *Sobralia* species found throughout

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## Monthly Plant

## *Cymbidium erythrostylum* @ \$7.00

This very desirable, moderate altitude Vietnamese species has been grown on by Maxine. *Cymbidium erythrostylum*'s natural habitat is the highlands of Vietnam including the Da Lat region that many of us visited in February 2008. While cool compared with Ho Che Minh city and the lowlands, 'winter' temperatures are not as cold as Perth (nor as wet) so some care needs to be exercised to ensure that your plants are not wet and cold during winter or exposed to frosts. It also appears that it is critical to provide this species with as much light as possible during winter to replicate the more intense winter light in its natural habitat.

*Cymbidium erythrostylum* is said to be one of the most attractive of the



genus. The large, predominately white flowers are borne on a typical upright raceme.

This species is referred to as 'very forgiving', that is it is adaptable as in its natural habitat it grows as an epiphyte, lithophyte or terrestrial. Therefore, any bark-based potting mix should be suitable, although if

you can maintain high humidity in summer, it should be a good candidate for slab or mount culture.

Cymbidiums by and large are hardy orchids, and do not suffer many of the pest attacks to which some of the more delicate genera succumb. Hard and soft scale are the major pests and can be controlled by ensuring good air movement, and cultural management. They are generally vigorous species and will enjoy regular fertilising during their active growth in spring-summer with any of the wide range of organic and non-organic products available, although half-strength is always recommended.

Plants Displayed June 2009

Murray and Arni <i>Epidendrum elongatum</i>	Adrian <i>Bulbophyllum lasiochilum</i> <i>Bulbophyllum shepherdii</i>
Graham and Margaret <i>Dockrillia rigida</i> <i>Pterostylis nana</i>	<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i> <i>Dendrobium oligophyllum</i> <i>Dendrochilum bicallosum</i> <i>Dendrochilum convallariiforme</i>
Chris <i>Cattleya x guatemalensis</i> <i>Vanda lamellata</i>	<i>Liparis reflexa</i> <i>Pterostylis hamiltonii</i> <i>Sophronitis cernua</i>
Bill and Sandra <i>Bulbophyllum longissimum</i> <i>Oncidium ornithorhynchum</i>	Peter and Shirley <i>Cattleya walkeriana</i> var. <i>Tipo</i> <i>Dendrochilum glumaceum</i> <i>Phalaenopsis lindenii</i> <i>Psychopsis papilio</i>
Gordon <i>Paphiopedilum gratrixianum</i>	Ray and Nancy <i>Barkeria lindleyana</i> var. <i>cyclotella</i> <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> <i>Prosthechea fragrans</i>
Maxine <i>Bulbophyllum dearei</i> <i>Cattleya jenmanii</i> <i>Cleisostoma crochetii</i> <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i> 'Blue Horizon' <i>Dendrochilum tenellum</i> <i>Laelia autumnalis</i> <i>Paphiopedilum villosum</i>	Anne and Geoff <i>Barkeria whartoniana</i> <i>Oncidium ornithorhynchum</i> <i>Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica</i> var. <i>alba</i>
Frank <i>Vanda lamellata</i>	Norm <i>Prosthechea cochleata</i>
Tom and Pat <i>Cymbidium iridioides</i>	Noel and Eva <i>Calanthe vestita</i> <i>Dendrobium nobile</i> <i>Doritis pulcherrima</i> 'Dark Red' x <i>Laelia anceps</i> <i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i> <i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i> var. <i>sanderiae</i>
Ken and Chris <i>Barkeria lindleyana</i> var. <i>cyclotella</i> <i>Dendrobium garrettii</i> <i>Dendrochilum convallariiforme</i> <i>Dendrochilum</i> sp. <i>Paphiopedilum villosum</i> <i>Pleurothallis hanosa</i> <i>Pleurothallis tuerckheimii</i> <i>Rodriguezia decora</i>	Mavis and Tony <i>Angraecum comorense</i> var. <i>krainei</i>

June - Treasures on Display  
(Photographs—Tony )



*Cleisostoma crochetii*  
Maxine



June Cultural Award  
*Bulbophyllum longissimum*  
Bill & Sandra



*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica alba*  
Anne & Geoff



*Trias picta*  
Anne & Geoff



*Barkeria whartoniana*  
Anne & Geoff



*Vanda lamellata*  
Chris