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The Editor
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

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NEWSLETTER

Peterskorner

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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.

CULTURAL AWARD, JULY 2009 *Cymbidium hookerianum*
Courtney

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

23 July 2009, 8.pm

Present: 37

Apologies: 3

Visitors: None

New members: Bill J

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Gordon, Adrian)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra
Current balance is \$3,715.03
(Trevor Lee)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- various newsletters.

Outwards:

- Pat, auditor.
- Water Corporation Permits - every one should have received theirs by now

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

1. Last chance for Sakdisri orders will be the Home visit at Ken & Chris's' on Sunday. Money in then too, please.
2. Reminder to keep preparing plants for the silent auction in October.
3. We wish Ted Larson all the best in his health trials at present.
4. The CITES for the Paphiopedilum importation is being completed. So far about 400 plants have been ordered. Tony is sourcing flasks in Thailand. Having Tony and Mavis bring in the orders saves us up to \$1000 in freight, GST, etc.

5. There was an AQIS inspection today and the officers were very pleased with the plants, the organization and the paper work.
6. Michele is well into organizing a record of plants brought to meetings for descriptions in 2009. We are requested to use the standard form Tony sent us and to e-mail a copy of our descriptions to Michele.

Cultural Award:

Courtney for his *Cymbidium hookerianum*, syn are *Cymbidium grandiflorum* and *Cymbidium giganteum*.

Raffle: Frank and Trevor

Name Badge: Maxine

Special Raffle: Hannah and Courtney

Home Visit Name Badge:

Bill & Sandy

Home Visit Raffle: Ken, Chris C

Frank, Michele and Adrian

Your new look Newsletter

Thanks to Michele for her creative design skills which are responsible for the new layout for the Newsletter. This allows us to make full use of our new colour printer. We hope that you will enjoy the new format.

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

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.

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.

All visitors are very welcome

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, therefore their membership will be at the renewal fee

Monthly 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.

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.

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.

THE GENUS SOBRALIA (continued from July)

GCK & E Dunsterville's publication "Orchid Hunting in the Lost World (and Elsewhere in Venezuela)" was published in 1988, and consists on many articles written for the American Orchid Review over four decades.

Prior to his retirement, Galfrid 'Stalky' Dunsterville worked for the Shell Oil Co in Venezuela having moved to Caracas with his wife Nora in 1947. Their interest in orchids began in the 1950s while looking for oil in for northern South America -he later lamented that they could have been looking for orchids instead!

Stalky says that they set out to learn all that they could about the orchids of Venezuela following his retirement in 1959, and at the time that their book was published had collected nearly 1,050 species which formed the basis for their six volume work 'Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated.

In a article devoted to Venezuelan Sobralias, Dunsterville says that while the genus was established in 1794, there has and continues to be considerable confusion about identification of the predominantly 80 terrestrial New World orchids. That confusion led to the inclusion of many species of Sobralia in Cattleya from time-to-time - a mistake that is difficult to understand given the vegetative differences between the two. This led Dunsterville to conclude the botanists must have been working with floral material only, were too hurried or too lazy to check details such as the

pollinia, or failed to recognise the significance of the differences.

While not all Venezuelan Sobralias have large showy flowers, many do. One of these species, *Sobralia cattleya* Reichb. 1877 is a tall growing species up to 4.5m in height with leaves up to 30cm long, bearing up to 12 flowers in short, stout panicles arising from leaf axils. This species grows at 1500 - 2000 m above sea level in the state of Tachira (adjoining Colombia) in the west of Venezuela.



From this picture (from Nina Rach's Sobralia pages), this species is unlike most that we see which are progressive flowerers. At up to 4.5m, clearly this is not a species to be grown in a small glasshouse, and in its natural habitat, is found amongst undergrowth that supports the tall, slender stems.

To be continued in September

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, please send it to the Secretary.
- Could all members bringing plants for display please ensure that they are labelled and the label is readable. As you know, Michele is working on a CD which will have details of all plants displayed, and it assists our photographers if the label can be easily photographed to identify the plant.
- Over the next few months if you happen to be 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!

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Adrian
Life Members
Barry
Gordon
Joan & Ted (decd)
Neville
Noel & Eva

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

30 August Graham & Margaret's

From 10am onwards. Please bring a plate of food to share and chair

FOR SALE/WANTED

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

Imported plant news

By the time that this Newsletter reaches you, Tony and Mavis will be in Bangkok, picking up 400 plants that have been ordered. As I mentioned at the last meeting, this will save members nearly \$800, or about \$2.00 per plant.

of WA's amazing native orchids. We intend to actively promote our event during the 18th AOC Conference & Show in Werribee (September 2009) and at the 20th WOC in Singapore (2011).

These activities and a number of other

Vale TED LARSON

One the Species Society's founding members, Ted Larson died in the early hours of Saturday morning 15 August 2009. With his wife Joan, he was a founding member of the Society and Joan was our Treasurer for many years. They were active members until time caught up with them and it was no longer possible for them to attend meetings, although from time-to-time, they were able to attend our Christmas function.

Ted and Joan are life members of three orchid societies, and have had a profound influence on many WA orchid growers who counted them as special friends. Nothing was ever too difficult, or too hard for them to do. Without Ted's help, Chris and I would have struggled to move our orchid collection from Morley to our new home at Henley Brook. Ted helped dismantle the glasshouse, shift the plants and glasshouse and set up a temporary growing area in what is now the living area of our new home!

For many years, while we were away, Ted would come and check on our orchids and answer questions from our house sitters. During my early years in this addictive hobby, their generous friendship and thoughtful advice helped us

administrative tasks have kept the team busy however we now await the success of our funding application.

Bruce Larson, Chair,
Organising Committee—July 2009

acquire much of the knowledge that we have today.

Ted was the world's best raffle ticket seller at shopping centre shows. He had the gift of being able to talk to anybody at their level, and always had an eye for the 'lasses' and was always able to persuade them to buy a ticket, even offering home delivery to winners!

Over the last few years, both Ted and Joan endured poor health, however when I caught up with them at WAOS 2008, neither complained -they were just delighted to chat and hear what we were doing.

The world is a lesser place for Ted's passing, and he will be sorely missed by all those involved in this hobby. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan, Bruce, Terry, Dennis, Chris and Trish, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

However, for Ted the work doesn't stop- Ted will have a fulltime job looking after all those orchids that we keep sending to heaven! After all, its been tough for Reg Allison doing it by himself for the last few years. Reg (and all the others over the years) now have another great orchid grower to help them out. 9

Ken & Chris, August 2009

WA REGIONAL ORCHID ORGANISATION REPORT

I am pleased to report that steady progress is being made towards the staging of the 19th AOC Conference & Show, to be held in Perth in 2012. Our small but energetic committee has undertaken a number of significant steps in recent months laying the foundation for what we believe could be one of the best AOC conference and shows of recent times.

The key to the 19th AOC event's success is the combination of securing funding from Lotterywest and being able to stage the event at the Burswood Entertainment Complex. The event is scheduled to be held from the 10th-16th September 2012. The 19th AOC Conference & Show has been scheduled to avoid conflicting with the London Olympics, the AFL Grand Final and the Perth Royal Show and third term school holidays.

The following are some of the key activities which have been instigated and are well underway;

- The organising committee, after viewing numerous potential locations, has negotiated the hire (yet to be formalised) of the Burswood Entertainment Complex which will be the venue for all associated activities of the conference and show including opening and closing functions. The Burswood Entertainment Complex offers first class facilities close to the city of Perth with varying levels of accommodation either on site or very close by with all forms of transport available. Additionally there are

numerous entertainment and dining options at the complex for those who seek a respite from orchids at days end (hard to believe, but if required it is available!!)

- We have been in discussion with Lotterywest for some time and have submitted a proposal for funding of the 19th AOC Conference & Show which will link to the Kings Park Wildflower Festival, one the States most popular public annual activities conducted in September each year.
- Associated with our proposal for funding of the 19th AOC event is the strategic goal of WAROO, to hold a World Orchid Council event in Perth. Our submission, supported by WA Tourism, highlights our intent to make application for the 22nd WOC, which will be held in 2017.
- The program for 2012 has been fully developed as has;
 - . The conference program which potentially includes numerous well known international speakers
 - . A fully costed budget has been developed based on our discussions with the Burswood Entertainment Complex and the final content of our conference program, developed by ourselves.
 - . We have undertaken the development of a web site and other promotional materials including a power point presentation, incorporating stunning photographs

(Continued on page 9)

MONTHLY PLANT

Dendrobium thysiflorum

Country of origin: NE India, Thailand
Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam

Description: Medium size, warm growing epiphyte

Difficulty: Relatively easy to grow

Cost: \$7

Dendrobium thysiflorum is one of ten species in the desirable Callista section. In its natural habitat, it is found between 1200 and 2000m above sea level, growing as an epiphyte in strongly seasonal, deciduous forests, and in both full sun and shade. The pseudobulbs are up to 60cm in length, with 5-7 leaves per cane.

The flowers are borne in crowded, pendulous racemes that emerge from the apical part of both leafless and leafy pseudobulbs.

In common with others in this group (*D farmerii*, *lindleyii*, *palpebrae*, *densiflorum*, and *chrysotoxum*), *Dendrobium thysiflorum* is a spring flowerer, and the flowers last for a week or less.

This species is said to be one of the simpler Callista section Dendrobiums to grow, and should be given good air movements, a drier resting period (shelter from rain) during the colder



winter-early spring months, but once in active growth, regular fertilising with dilute, high K (potash) to promote flowering. I have found that many of the epiphytic orchids respond well to occasional treatment with trace elements.

Pine bark or similar media is suitable, as is slab mounting if you can provide plenty of water during summer.

This species is generally resistant to pests provided your culture is good, however like many Dendrobiums, is a magnet for mealy bug and hard/soft scale if there is inadequate air movement or plants are too crowded.

Graham and Margaret

Caladenia longiclavata
Cymbidium ensifolium
Osmoglossum pulchellum
Pterostylis recurva
Pterostylis sargentii

Chris C

Lycaste macrophylla

Bill and Sandra

Ludisia discolor
Mastigion putidum (formerly *Bulbophyllum putidum*)
Rhynchoaelia glauca (formerly known as *Brassavola glauca*)

Maxine

Barkeria melanocaulon
Cleisostoma crochetii
Laelia anceps var. *Veitchiana*
Mastigion putidum (formerly *Bulbophyllum putidum*)
Oncidium ornithorhynchum

Ken and Chris

Ascocentrum christensonianum
Bulbophyllum gracillimum (formerly *Cir-rhopetalum gracillimum*)
Cymbidium hookerianum
Dendrochilum wenzelii
Laelia anceps
Pleurothallis hanosa ?

Peter and Shirley

Anota violacea
Cattleya maxima
Epidendrum elongatum

Ray and Nancy

Dendrobium acumulum
Dendrochilum glumaceum

Anne and Geoff

Dendrobium tetragonum var. *hayesianum*
Schomburgkia superbiens

Courtney

Cymbidium hookerianum

Noel and Eva

Calanthe vestita

Hannah

Oncidium splendidum

Mavis and Tony

Cadetia taylori
Dendrobium tetragonum

PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2009



Schomburgkia superbiens
Geoff & Anne



Mastigion putidum
Bill & Sandra



Caladenia longiclavata
Graham & Margaret



Rhynchoaelia glauca
Bill & Sandra



Laelia anceps
Veitchiana
Maxine



Osmoglossum pulchellum
Graham & Margaret