

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



Vol 21 No 4 September 2009



NEWSLETTER

CULTURAL AWARD, AUGUST 2009 *Dendrobium teretefolium*
Anne & Geoff

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

27 August 2009, 8.10pm

Present: 31

Apologies: 3

Visitors: Christina Verweider

New members:

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Gordon, Tom)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra. Current balance is \$4 147.53 whilst the second account had a 22 cent increase to be \$1 809.72. (Trevor, Pat)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- various newsletters.
- The orchid Review and Our Gardens magazines.
- Steve Irons, Federal member for Swan, informing us of an assistance scheme for volunteer groups.
- 6th Australian Orchid Conference and Show – 25th to 29th Aug 2010 – in Newcastle.

Outwards:

- Card to Ted Larson

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

1. Thanks to Ken and Chris for the last home visit.
2. Graham and Margaret mentioned convenient parking for the visit to their place.
3. Maxine presented the Kings Park Darwin lecture brochure (18th Sept) to the meeting.

4. Thanks were given to Ken and Michele for their efforts in producing our “new look” newsletter.
5. The water restrictions and our permits were discussed.
6. It seems that moderate price supplies of *Envy* are non-existent in WA.
7. Gordon gave a whimsical view of the destruction and resurrection of his glasshouse. He also bought in a sample of 10mm “Lexan” clear material and praised his insurers.
8. Maxine presented Anne with two AOC awards for her specimen of *Dendrobium bowmanii*. One was the Cultural Award and the other a Highly Commended Certificate.
- 9.

Cultural Award:

Anne & Geoff for their *Dendrobium teretifolium* var. Aureum

Raffle: Caroline and Michele.

Name Badge: Ken & Chris

Special Raffle:

Home Visit Name Badge: Frank

Home Visit Raffle: Many winners

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- While there will be no monthly plant sale at the September meeting, we have three large, flowering plants donated by Jack and the Ushers which will be raffled at the meeting. They are *Schomburgkia atropurpurea*, *Bras-savola flagellaris* and *Rhynchosstylis gigantea alba*
- 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!

President: Maxine

Vice President: Adrian

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Committee:

Chris

Michele

Lee

Sharon

Tony

Mavis

Trevor

Life Members

Barry

Gordon,

Joan & Ted (decd),

Neville,

Noel & Eva

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

27 September Anne & Geoff
4 Compass Place, Waikiki
From 10am onwards. Please bring a plate of food to share and a 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

Thanks to Tony and Mavis, we now have a further 400 plants in quarantine.
Thanks Tony and Michele for helping to pot them up. See page 5 for photos and further notes.

Ken & Chris

IMPORTED PLANT UPDATE

Michele, Tony and I potted, mounted and labelled 397 plants on Saturday 5 September. They arrived in good condition, and we are very pleased with the size of plants supplied, and with the mounting on plastic mesh that Bob and Chittima at Sakdisri and Daughters Nursery undertook for us. I am confident that it will show in the results. The photos speak for themselves, and best illustrate what I mean.



Potted Paphiopedilum species



Paphiopedilum bellatulum



Miscellaneous species



Mounted on plastic mesh



Benched plants

Graham and Margaret

Caladenia arenicola
Caladenia deformis
Caladenia discoidea
Caladenia reptans
Caladenia saccharata
Caladenia varians var. *polychroma* or
chapmanii
Diuris laxiflora

Chris

Amesiella philippinensis
Angraecum sesquipedale
Caladenia flava
Dendrobium moniliforme
Lycaste lasioglossa

Gordon

Dendrobium speciosum

Maxine

Beclardia macrostachya
Dendrochilum glumaceum
Dendrochilum wenzelii
Maxillaria porphyrostele
Scaphyglottis livida

Tom and Pat

Angraecum giryamae (syn *Angraecum*
eburneum subsp. *giryamae*)
Angraecum infundibulare
Dendrobium gracilicaule
Oncidium ornithorhynchum

Ken and Chris

Caladenia arenicola
Coilostylis parkinsoniana
Cirrhopetalum umbellatum
Dendrochilum latifolium

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2009



Beclardia macrostachya
Maxine



Bulbophyllum cominsii
Sharon



Rhyncolaelia glauca
Geoff & Anne

Dendrochilum tenellum
Dendrochilum wenzelii
Gastrochilus bellinus
Maxillaria porphyrostele

Adrian and Deanna

Caladenia arenicola
Caladenia latifolia
Caladenia reptans
Dendrobium speciosum 'Purity'
Dendrobium speciosum var. *alba*
Dockrillia banksii
Pterostylis nana

Michele

Aerangis hyaloides
Masdevallia menatoi
Pterostylis pedunculata

Sharon

Bulbophyllum cominsii

Anne and Geoff

Dendrobium speciosum var. *grandiflorum*
Diuris corymbosa
Dockrillia fairfaxii
Dockrillia teretifolium
Dockrillia teretifolium var. *aureum*
Epidendrum sp
Rhyncholaelia glauca

Noel and Eva

Ansellia africana var. *alba*
Dendrochilum glumaceum
Maxillaria porphyrostele
Paphiopedilum insigne
Phalaenopsis amabilis var. *Rex*

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2009



Coilostylis parkinsoniana
Ken & Chris



Caladenia discoidea
Graham & Margaret



Angraceum sesquipidale
Chris i

Photography by Peter & Noel

THE GENUS SOBRALIA (continued from August)

In 1981, Dunsterville wrote an article for the American Orchid Society on *Sobralia ruckeri* (Linden and Rchb.f). He had omitted this species from an earlier 1975 article as he had not seen a plant in full flower, however in 1976, a plant flowered in his garden. *Sobralia ruckeri* is a truly glorious species with large, lustrous, magenta/purple sepals with a paler rose line down each axis, while the petals were rose-purple with a pale midline. The labellum was rose-purple at the base, changing to a darker win-purple at the apex and margin with a prominent bright yellow splash down the axis.

While strictly speaking, *Sobralia ruckeri* is a Colombian species, it does occur across the Venezuelan border in a mountainous, cloud forest region at approximately 2000m elevation. The plants were in large clumps, up to 3m tall, with canes up to 1.5cm in diameter



A very pleasing feature of this species, apart from the handsome flowers is that its flowers are relatively long lasting, with up to six flowers per raceme open simultaneously.

Dunsterville believes that while *Sobralia yauaperyensis* (Barb Rodr 1891) is one of the most common and best known species in Venezuela, although there is now debate about whether those found outside Brazil are in fact *Sobralia yauaperyensis*. Dr E Christenson concluded in 2003 that the real *Sobralia yauaperyensis* is endemic to Brazil, and that the plants thus described in Guyana, Ecuador, and Venezuela are *Sobralia violacea* or *virginalis* (the white form). This species is widely distributed throughout Venezuela at 1000-1800 m altitude, growing on roadside cuttings and steep grassy slopes.



Photo from orchidspecies.com .

The short-lived flowers emerge progressively from the scape over several weeks, and the intensity ranges from pale to deep rose purple. It grows to about 1m in height.

Sobralia sessilis is another Venezuelan species that had been the subject of mis-

(Continued on page 9)

identification for many years. Dunsterville had sighted this species in situ in 1969 and made a drawing of it, hoping to be able to identify it at some later time. A cutting that he took with him flowered and he photographed it without being able to identify the species. While it bore a general resemblance to *Sobralia violacea*, its branching habit was uncharacteristic of that species. Some 10 years later while preparing material for publication with material sent to Leslie Garay, they decided that it was time to solve the riddle.

Further research at the Reichenbach Herbarium revealed that this species was in fact *Sobralia sessilis*, a name that was commonly applied to a white species from Venezuela and elsewhere. A watercolour painting by Loddiges showed a rose purple flower, not the white flower that was more commonly known as *Sobralia sessilis*. Eventually, Garay found that the error occurred in an 1851 edition of Botanical Magazine, and was subsequently repeated in a 1894 issue. This led to the perpetuation of the error for more than 100 years, with many plants in herbaria and collections being misnamed. It now appears that the species illustrated was in fact *Sobralia decora*, a Central American species.

However, the debate still continues and I found it difficult to find a photo that I was confident was *Sobralia sessilis* -the confusion with *Sobralia decora* continues to this day.

It appears that *Sobralia sessilis* is found



in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Guyana and Brazil at low to moderate altitude as a large hot to warm growing terrestrial with a characteristic branching stem as described by Dunsterville. The flowers are fleshy and fragrant, and in common with many of this species, short-lived. However, what makes it a desirable species for cultivation is that the flowers appear successively over a long period. In its natural habitat, it is found along rivers and streams.

The type species for the genus is *Sobralia dichotoma* identified by Spanish botanists Hipolito Ruiz & Jose Antonio Pavon in 1794, although it appears that the first *Sobralia* to be identified and drawn was in fact *Sobralia mutisii*, a Colombian species. José Celestino Mutis Director of the Colombian Royal Botanical Expedition (1783-1816) apparently had this species drawn well before the drawings were made from Ruiz and Pavon's botanical expedition to Peru and Chile.

Sobralia dichotoma is a high altitude,

terrestrial species from the Andes. It is found around Machu Pichu in Peru (2000-3600 m), and in Ecuador, it has been found growing as an epiphyte from 500-2000 m elevation. This species has long canes (1.5-3 m tall) with stalks that are similar to sugar cane with leathery leaves. Branched inflorescences carry reddish-brown flowers with lighter margins. The following illustration is from the Nov 1965 cover of the American Orchid Society Bulletin



In common with other members of the genus, the successive flowers are large, short-lived and emerge from the apical extremities of the reed-like stems.

Sobralia mutisii is supposedly the first *Sobralia* to be identified. In an article at http://www.victoria-adventure.org/more_than_links/guillermo_sobralia/page_1.html Guillermo Angulo tells about his experience in sighting a *Sobralia* species in flower in a residential high rise community in the centre of Bogotá. He

took a photo of a species that he did not recognise and sent it to Fr Pedro Ortiz for identification. After some time, it was



identified as *Sobralia mutisii*.

Soon after sighting and photographing the plant, even though the weather was not promising, Angulo decided to seek out this species in its natural habitat . In company with Fr Ortiz, he set out towards *San Antonio de Tequendama* . At 2800m altitude, they saw *Sobralia mutisii* in full flower, well protected by high and inaccessible cliffs. However, they later found more accessible specimens and collected a few plants for the Botanical Garden as well as photographing *Sobralia mutisii* in situ.

To be continued in October.

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)

\$31.00renewal \$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 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.

If unclaimed, return to
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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.