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.
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
9 March 2010, 7.55 pm

Present: 21
Apologies: 22
Visitors: Shirley, Val
New members: Nil
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Anne, Margaret)
Business Arising: Nil.
Financial Report: No report as Treasurer was away with group in Thailand
Correspondence:
- GCA – Bulletin, Certificate of Currency, Insurance and Magazine (with Tony’s article again.
- Red cross
- NOSTI newsletter.
Outwards:
- Nil
Business Arising: Nil
General Business:
1. Amicable arrangements were made with the Karate group about finishing times (7:15PM) every 2nd Tuesday of the month.
2. Thanks to Phil and Carolyn for the home visit.
3. Gordon would want a few salad plates (but not too much) for his sausage sizzle and chairs for the 28th March visit to his place. Numbers would still be down as the “happy trippers” return that day.
5. Mich organized the purchase of a much more portable PA and it was trialed at this meeting. Adrian took it home pending finding a secure lock up for it at the hall.

Cultural Award:
Chris for his conversion of the club plant Trichoglottis atropurpurea to a magnificent specimen.

Raffle: Michele.
Name Badge: Ian
Home Visit Name Badge: Graham & Margaret
Home Visit Raffle: Adrian, Lee, Michele

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings
Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (exc January 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
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
On the weekend following the fourth Thursday of each month (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.
4cm in diameter. Many had started to make new growth, even though there was little if any moisture available.

Another interesting habitat observation was one that stood to reason, that is that species growing out in the open were generally quite different from those growing down in the ravines (that were often several metres deep and according to Peter Williams, sometimes held small streams even in the middle of the dry season). Looking down into these ravines, we were able to see large mats of orchids, principally Bulbophyllum, Drynaria, Rhytidiadelphus and Trias. Unfortunately, because we were not able to sight any of these plants in flower, it was impossible to positively identify any species.

Another species that we saw in flower was either Coelogyne cummingii or viscosa. This species was growing in a bed of leaf litter under a small evergreen shrub.

Some of the group made their way to a lookout over a high cliff, while most of worked our way through the rock field. Eventually, after about three hours, Peter Williams rounded up the stragglers and we returned to the Ranger Station area for lunch.

After a late lunch, we headed back to the vans and drove back to Rain Forest Resort. After a shower, several of us walked up to the nearby waterfall and across a very rickety suspension bridge, made all the more existing by the motor bikes being ridden across by locals (who probably wondered what we were doing there), and then wandered up for dinner at about 7.00pm.
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Home visits:
From 10am onwards. Please bring a plate of food to share and a chair

25 April: Frank, Gingin (a map showing how to get there will be available at the April general meeting)

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news
Well, we now have a full quarantine glasshouse once again. The group that travelled to Thailand brought back approximately 580 plants so we can all look forward to seeing some more interesting species and hybrids in Spring.

Ken & Chris Jones

phyllium, Coelogyne, Eria and Luisia species that were not readily identifiable.

Otachilus fuscus in situ

We did see one solitary ‘Bulbophyllum’ that Peter Williams had not seen before (this might be a Rhytonanthos species growing on an exposed rock face, with small, somewhat desiccated round bulbs. Peter collected a flower to send to Kew for identification.

Numerous leafless canes of Thunia alba (or marshalliana) that had flowered and were carrying up 3-5 large seed pods. These plants were growing in leaf litter and humus, but it was very noticeable that those in the open were less robust that those growing in shaded areas that probably retained some moisture or dew runoff.

We also observed the effect of the drought that is presently affecting Northern Thailand. Some species growing in full sun were very red in colour, and very desiccated, particularly the small botanical species shown in the next photo which was living in the thin lichen layer on top of a large rock. This diminutive species had recently flowered and some we saw were carrying seed pods. We saw several plants of Doritis pulcherima in similar positions looking extremely desiccated.

A thicket of Thunia alba

In some cases, the canes of these latter plants were up to one metre tall and up to
Seventy members of the Species Orchid Society recently travelled to Thailand on a trip arranged by Tony, in conjunction with Peter Williams who lives in Chiang Mai. This was our third trip with Peter, and this time we visited several National Parks and Wildlife Reserves in Northern and North Eastern Thailand. While the we saw a reasonable number of orchids in flower (20-25 species), what really amazed me was the habitat in which these orchids lived.

Our first visit was to a Phu Hin Rongkla National Park in the Phitsanulok province, approx 300 km south east from Chiang Mai.

To get there, after loading all our luggage into a van, we travelled by railcar from Chai Mai to Uttaradit. We were then picked up by five vans that Peter Williams had hired for the tour - five for us (including two orchid enthusiasts from UK, and two from the Netherlands) and one for luggage. The first night we stayed in Sukothai before visiting the Sukothai Historic Park, and after lunch, travelled to the Rain Forest Resort. While some members found the steps up and down a little frustrating, the surroundings were very pleasant (although well away from any sizable town and shopping).

The next morning, we travelled to Phu Hin Rongkla National Park for the first of our expeditions. After visiting a small on-site museum which had many exhibits dating from the time of the Communist occupation of the region, we watched film showing more of the history of the area. The park, which covers 307 square kilometres was designated in 1984 and lies in the Phitsanulok and Loei provinces. In addition to orchids, there were many Rhododendrons in the mixed deciduous, dry evergreen and hill evergreen forest. After watching the film, we walked to an area known as the Lan hin Taek (the Broken Rock Field). This area was a mix of rocky outcrops, crevasses of varying depth and occasional small patches of scrubby forest.

As the following photographs illustrate, the orchids were growing in a dry, evergreen low scrub area with frequent large rock outcrops. In some instances, these rocky areas were literally covered in orchids including Epigeneium amplum, Eria pannea, Dendrobium pulcherrimum, Otochilus fusces (sausage orchid), Thunia alba (or marshaliana), with many Bulbo-

MONTHLY PLANT

**Sophronitis brevipedunculata**

**Country of origin**: Brazil

**Description**: Miniature, warm-cool growing epiphyte or lithophyte

**Difficulty**: Relatively easy to grow

**Cost**: $8

This month’s plant has been purchased from Tononoe Orchids and grown on by Sharon and Carolyn (while Sharon was in Thailand). *Sophronitis brevipedunculata* is a Brazilian epiphyte, or lithophytic warm to cool growing, miniature orchid from Minas Gerais State. In its natural habitat, it is most often found on vellocia trees or in humus pockets on the rocks in drier cool winter mountain habitats. This region often experiences very hot days and cold, dewy nights, consistent with elevations of 1500 to 2000 metres. The main source of moisture is clouds/dew during the night.

The single, erect, stiff leaves are carried on wrinkled, double-ranked pseudobulbs. In autumn-winter, one-three flowers are carried on very short racemes. The colour varies from light red to orange-red, with yellow-orange marking in the labellum.

This species is relatively easy to grow and does not need heated glasshouse conditions, provided it can be kept somewhat drier during the wet, cold, dark winter months. It can be mounted on any rough-barked branch or slab.

Photos from http://www.orchidspecies.com

*Sophronitis brevipedunculata* is susceptible to hard and soft scale and being a miniature species can quickly succumb. In my experience, it is important to ensure plenty of air movement around the plants, and to be vigilant for any signs of insect pests such as bleached markings on the leaves. Regular, weak fertiliser will help build a strong healthy plant that rewards by flowering each year.
PLANTS DISPLAYED MARCH 2010

Graham and Margaret
Brassia maculata
Brassia verrucosa
Cymbidium dayanum
Laelia anceps var. Veitchiana

Peter & Shirley
Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi var. flava
Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana
Psychopsis papilio

Anne & Geoff
Brassavola cucullata
Dendrobium montanum
Gongora galeata
Seraphyta diffusum
Stanhopea warscewicziana

Neville
Brassavola nodosa

John
Cattleya mossiae
Dendrobium helix
Micropera rostrata

Gillian
Cattleya intermedia var. alba

Chris
Cattleya mossiae
Miltonia spectabilis var. moreliana
Prosthechea cochleata var. alba
Trichoglossis atropurpurea

Dendrobium lichenastrum
Dendrobium oligophyllum
Liparis coelogyroides

Dendrobium montanum
Anne & Geoff

Phalaenopsis cornu cervi alba
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Photography by Michele
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ORCHID HABITATS OF NORTHERN THAILAND

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As the following photographs illustrate, the orchids were growing in a dry, evergreen low scrub area with frequent large rock outcrops. In some instances, these rocky areas were literally covered in orchids including Epigeneium amplum, Eria pannea, Doritis pulcherrima, Ototilus fuscus (sausage orchid), Thunilia alba (or marshalliana), with many Bulbo-

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This species is relatively easy to grow and does not need heated greenhouse conditions, provided it can be kept somewhat drier during the wet, cold, dark winter months. It can be mounted on any rough-barked branch or slab, or natural cork. I am aware that others are successful with pot culture, but I find that it is more difficult to maintain healthy root systems as some mediums stay too wet.

Sophronitis brevipedunculata is susceptible to hard and soft scale and being a miniature species can quickly succumb. In my experience, it is important to ensure plenty of air movement around the plants, and to be vigilant for any signs of insect pests such as bleached markings on the leaves. Regular, weak fertiliser will help build a strong healthy plant that rewards by flowering each year.

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Sophronitis brevipedunculata growing on moss rock as a lithophyte
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25 April: Frank, Ginger (a map showing how to get there will be available at the April general meeting)

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NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- John Brogan sent Graham Bowden some Australian epiphytic plants some of which he is donating to the society to raise funds. They are all mounted on board (iron bark?). It was decided to auction some of them at the next meeting (13th April). In order of the photo they are *Dendrobium aemulum* (iron bark orchid), *Dockrilla rigida*, *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *Dockrilla wasselli*, *Dendrobium monophyllum*, *Dockrilla cucumerinum*, *Dendrobium monophtymum* and the lower four are *Bulbophyllum bracteatum*, *Pleochromia brevilabris*, *Sarcocirrhia hillii* and *Pleochromia tridentata*.

- Remember, while we will continue to meet at the same venue, the meeting is on the second Tuesday of each month, not the fourth Thursday.

- 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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4. The “A to Why” book costs $75 and the
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THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm

Vol 21 No 9 April 2010

CULTURAL AWARD, March 2010
Trichoglottis atropurpurea  Chris

NEXT MEETING—TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2010

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1 General Meeting Minutes
2 Notes from your Committee
3 Noticeboard
4 Monthly plant
5 Plants displayed Mar 2010
6 Orchids in Situ—Nth Thailand
7 About us

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