**Contents**

2  General Meeting Minutes
3  Notes from your Committee
4  Noticeboard
5  Monthly plant
6  Plants displayed April 2010
8  Orchid Habitats of Northern Thailand
10  About us

**CULTURAL AWARD, April 2010**
*Cymbidium dayanum - Phil*

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2010**
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 April 2010, 7.55pm

Present: 36
Apologies: 3
Visitors:
New members:
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Mavis, Trevor)
Business Arising: Nil
Financial Report: Tabled at the AGM by Sandra. The current balance is $5,052.08. The second account has a balance of $1,810.40
Correspondence:
Inwards: From the Colin & Jenny plus various newsletters.
Outwards:
- To the AOF with a donation of $100
Business Arising: Nil
General Business:
1. The new president thanked Maxine for her efforts on our behalf over the past two years. He also thanked the other members of the outgoing committee for their help.
2. Only Two library books are missing whilst the four new ones are ready for use. There is a new cabinet for the newsletters and the magazines and Mich has indexed them for easier reference and access.
3. Mich has contacted Geoff Stocker about plant purchases. Catalogues were available to members as a large order helps to defray transport and processing costs. Could you let Mich know of your orders by the next meet-
4. The committee is researching new name badges. Neville displayed a non commercial laminated badge from one of his clubs.
5. The room setup for meetings has been tried to ease congestion at the door.
6. See Peter for Calcium Nitrate orders.
7. Thanks very much to Frank for the last Home Visit. For the next one, John asked that a chair and a plate be brought along by the 25 or so visitors.
8. Ken gave a progress report on the plants imported recently
Cultural Award:
Phil for a well-flowered specimen of Cymsidium dayanum and its novel “mount
Raffle: Chris, Eva, and Trevor
Name Badge: John
Special Raffle: Anne and Noel
Home Visit Name Badge: Courtney
Home Visit Raffle: Thanks Frank for all of the extra prizes – Les & Val, Mich, Sharon, Courtney, Maxine, Bill & Sandy, Hannah, Judith, Chris and the Gill
Michele had followed up with Geoff Stocker and it was decided to order 100 plants from his nursery for the monthly plant. We have ordered 25 plants of each Cattleya jenmanii, Cattleya percivaliana, Renanthera imschootiana and Bulbophyllum sumatrana. However, given the additional costs involved with inspection, spraying and freight, Michele is keen to include member’s orders to share these costs - if you are interested, please get your order (and money) to Michele at the next general meeting.

Tony advised that Ezi Gro Orchids has just released a lot of species orchids for sale - apparently these have been grown from flask over several years.

If you want to be part of the order for the Bulbophyllum book that Tony demonstrated earlier this year, please see Michele (with your money) at the next meeting.

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!
NOTICEBOARD

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Sunday 27 June 2010
Maxine’s 2195 Hidden Valley Road
Parkerville

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news
Thanks you to those members that responded and registered their interest in Philippine species orchids. However, my exploration of suppliers has been put on hold temporarily due to work pressure and advice from one of our Thailand contacts (Brett) that several plants that he purchased from our proposed supplier were not the species that he paid for. I will make further inquiries in this regard.

Ken & Chris
**MONTHLY PLANT**

*Cattleya intermedia var orlata Crownfox*

**Country of origin:** Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina  

**Description:** A robust bi-foliate Cattleya.  

**Difficulty:** Shadehouse culture  

**Cost:** $10

*Cattleya intermedia* is a cool-warm growing species found in coastal forests as an epiphyte or lithophyte, often close to streams. The flowers are long-lived and like many Cattleya species, are pleasantly fragrant.

The in situ photo is from Boia Ceia', Sao Paulo State, Brazil. Jay Phal says that these plants are plentiful in their natural environment which happens to be the preferred seaside location for condominium development. The coastal forests the fringe the sea generally consist of stunted hardwoods with swales of tidal saltwater and freshwater runoff. These forests are extremely humid and hot and often subject to salt spray from surf, sometimes only 20m away. Jay Phal notes that *Cattleya intermedia* is found in these hammocks in vast quantities, referring to nearly 500 plants in a 30acre area. Almost all were on trees at or just above eye-level., on branches and trunks that were extremely damp and had lichen and mosses. There was a lot of standing water and mosquitoes and bromeliads were everywhere. While there have been some reports about this species being endangered in the wild, Jay Phal says that he has been assured by Brazilian friends that this species is still commonly found along the coast where the seaside hammocks exist.

This species should do well in shade-house culture, either mounted or in a bark media

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http://www.flickr.com/photos/guilhermecorigliano/4226414118/

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<tr>
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*[Image of Cattleya intermedia]*
Graham and Margaret
Cattleya maxima
Eriochilus dilatatus

Maxine
Bulbophyllum blepharistes
Cymbidium erythrostylum
Dendrobium cumulatum
Miltonia clowesii
Sophronitis cernua
Sophronitis cernua var. miniera

Tom & Pat
Cattleya skinneri

Ken and Chris
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Epidendrum elongatum
Lycaste deppei

Octomeria grandiflora
Pleurothallis hamosa

Adrian and Deanna
Coelogyne frimbriata var. alba
Ornithophora radicans

Anne & Geoff
Aerangis biloba
Aerangis platyphylla (Cattleya gaskelliana var. coerulea
Cattleya harrisoniana
Cattleya mendelii
Cattleya walkeriana
Ceratostylis retisquama
Paphiopedilum herren

Norm
Dendrobium bigibbum

Cattleya gaskelliana coerulea
Anne & Geoff

Bulbophyllum blepharistes
Maxine
Phil
Cymbidium dayanum

Tony and Mavis
Dendrobium striaenopsis var. alba
Phalaenopsis hiroglyphica

AYED APRIL 2010

Dendrobium striaenopsis alba
Tony & Mavis

Sophronitis cernua
Maxine

Ceratostylis retisquama
Anne & Geoff

Photography by Tony
The final part of this article covers the two days that we spent at a high elevation, remote Phulang wildlife sanctuary and hour and half drive from Loei (as mentioned in last month’s article.). I have already listed some of the species that we saw in flower around the ranger station, and while we saw more of the same in the forest, we were able to view them in their natural habitat.

In term of flowering species, the most frequently sighted was *Dendrobium unicum*. The flowers ranged from pale to intense orange, often on small, shrivelled plants on twigs. These often leafless, sometimes blackened plants carried up to 4 flowers per raceme. As you can see from the photo below, they were growing on branches covered with lichen.

In recent discussions with orchid-growing friends, they have often remarked about the difficulty in growing this species so that it continues to be vigorous. I have imported several *Dendrobium unicum* (and I recall that the Species Orchid Society once had it as monthly plant), but have not found it easy to grow.

We set out along a narrow trail with the ranger in the lead, and three young men from a local high school who had come along as volunteers. They were very enthusiastic and quite happy to discuss the orchid plants that we saw, telling us the local names.
As we walked along (straggled might be a better word) I took the opportunity to observe the habitat. I have attempted to grow *Bulbophyllum dayanum* without much success to date, but here it was growing in large masses, often on the lower side of large rocks in moss/lichen beds. This unusual species was another that was in flower as the preceding photo shows. I also noted that leaves were often quite red indicating that the plant receives a lot of light.

In this same area we saw *Aerides, Bulbophyllum, Chilochista, Cleisostoma, Coelogyne, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Eria, Gastrochilus, Hygrochilus, Luisia, Paphiopedilum, Vanda* and various botanical species in flower. Thankfully, this sanctuary showed much less impact from collecting than most of the others that we visited, and demonstrated the value of having a tour leader who had developed a relationship that permitted access to such locations.

Observing these plants growing in their natural habitat constantly challenged my assumptions and the accepted wisdom about these species. For example, we saw many *Dendrobium* species growing as lithophytes as the preceding and following photograph shows. However, when speaking to other experienced growers about whether it was practical to attempt to replicate these conditions, generally their advice was a firm no!

It appears however, that many of the species that we regard as epiphytes are quite opportunistic when it comes to making the most of the available habitat.

This assumption was further reinforced while on another trek the following day, we were privileged to see a large colony of *Paphiopedilum villosum* growing part way up a large tree, with many small seedlings scattered down the trunk. As noted earlier, we saw few *Paphiopedilum* species as these are one of the prime
targets for wild collecting. While it proved difficult to photograph these plants as we were looking into the sun Tony has done a great job with the following photos.

The trail on the second day finished up at a lookout that showed that we were on a high plateau which receives strong air movement, and presumably (from the abundant lichens and mosses) good rainfall in the wet season. From the lookout, we were able to see large tracts of primary forest which appears to be protected by virtue of its inaccessibility.

As I have remarked earlier, there were relatively few large trees, however generally those that did exist in the areas we trekked through were festooned in orchids, ferns and similar plants competing for the limited space and sunlight.

While walking in these forests, you need to look up and down, left and right - firstly to make sure that you don't trip and fall, but most importantly to see the orchids and other flowing plants. On our way back to the ranger station down a dirt road, I saw a orange coloured flower in the undergrowth- we tentatively identified it as *Bulbophyllum siamense*.

Thanks to Tony for making his photos available, and Chris for the photos that she took for me. Tony has provided many more photos of orchids around the ranger station and I will cover a few more next newsletter.
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 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
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.
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.