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Check out our catalogue at www.peterskorner.com, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA ( INC )
http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm

Vol 22 No 3 August 2010

CULTURAL AWARD, July 2010
Schomburgkia superbiens - Anne & Geoff

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2010

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2 General Meeting Minutes
3 Notes from your Committee
4 Noticeboard
5 Monthly plant
6 Plants displayed July 2010
8 Orchid Habitats of Northern Thailand
10 About us
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
13 July 2010, 8.00 pm

Present: 29
Apologies: 8
Visitors: Nil
New members:
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Gordon)
Business Arising: Nil
Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra and the current balance is $5444.04. (Mavis, Geoff)
Correspondence:

Inwards:
- Australian Orchid Foundation - receipt for our donation.
- Garden clubs of Australia - advising of a new Co-ordinator for our region.
- Water Board - advising that we do not have to reapply each year for the water exemption.
- Various Club Newsletters Garden Clubs of Australia

Outwards:
- Bendigo Bank - information re: signatories to the Society accounts.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:
1. The new design for the club badge was circulated along with order form
2. Members were asked if they would be willing to donate any spare plants for raffles.
3. Mich reminded members that their orders from Stockers need to be in this week please
5. The new book on Stanhopea by Rudolf Jenny is selling for $185 at present. A decision to purchase a copy for the library has been put on hold for now.
6. Ken outlined the new regulations regarding plant importation permits. He also advised that he has planned an inspection of the quarantined plants for late July.
7. Neville has done some PR work regarding some rescue digs at a site in Alkimos. We are awaiting a letter of permission from the site Manager.
8. The "Home Visit" for September has been arranged by Tony as a tour of the Kings Park laboratories and a "picnic in the Park" was suggested to follow.
9. Mich requested that members returning magazines to the library leave them on the table for her to re-file.

Cultural Award:
Anne & Geoff for a plant of Schomburgkia superbiens with a 2 m flower raceme.

Raffle: Anne, Trevor, Victor and Tom
Name Badge: Chris
Home Visit Name Badge: Chris
Home Visit Raffle: Sharon, Hannah, Chris

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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

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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.

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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.

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The Society conducts a raffle each meeting and at home visits as a means of raising funds.

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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.
In our trip to Vietnam in 2008, we did a part day trek in a pine forest (planted by the French) in a high area outside Da Lat. All of us were struck by the successful colonisation of these pine trees by *Dendrobium bellatulum*. The plants were almost always solitary, with perhaps only 3-6 plants per tree. While this species is particularly difficult to grow in our conditions, in Da Lat they were out in the open, exposed to any extremes in the weather. The canopy was sparse and the plants were exposed to high light, generous air movement, and as is obvious by the mosses and lichens, reasonably high humidity. The first photo shows the roots actively clinging to the pine bark, ready to capture any water and fertiliser available.

A little further along the track, we found a small branch that had broken and fallen to the ground, on which was growing a juvenile plant (unflowered). This photo shows just how diminutive this species is, and yet in many cases the plants were on the weather (sunny) side of the tree. What was more surprising however was while some plants carried seed pods, we saw few juvenile plants on the same tree as the parents. Similarly, not every tree carried plants of *Dendrobium bellatulum*, although in some cases there were also large mats of *Bulbophyllum* species.

**NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

- If you haven’t renewed your membership yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you’re not able to attend a meeting but want to maintain your membership, please send your subscription to the Secretary on the address shown, or give it to another member to pay on your behalf.
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- 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

29 August
Courtney

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**FOR SALE/WANTED**

- Tony has CDs of photos from the March 2010 Thailand Trip for sale @ $5.00 each.

- Neville has the following equipment for sale:
  1. only glove box for table top working $30.00
  2. only growlite with 2 60cm grow tubes $40.00
  15 flasks same as Taiwan sellers at our shows use for Phalies, suit all plants $15.00, and 20 smaller jars same as Barry used $20.00
Contact Neville Risbey - 93045236 not Tuesday or Thursday afternoon

- Ken has ceased growing orchids and has 2.5mx1.8m hothouse for sale.
Timber frame with double layer of plastic with lower half styrene between the plastic sheet, roof is opaque plastic. $500
Ring Ken on 93093361

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**Imported plant news**

As advised the first inspection of plants from the March Thailand trip has taken place, and I have booked another inspection for 6/8/10 at which I hope to have a reasonable number of plants released (these plants will be available from my home on the next two weekends—please phone and confirm a time before you come). I am continuing to explore options for another shipment in August /September.

Ken & Chris

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In the Phuluang Wildlife Park, we saw many plants of *Bulbophyllum capillipes*. This diminutive, single flowered species gradually forms large colonies.

The photo above shows a clump of this species that had been transplanted to a tree near the headquarters. The next photo shows a close up of a flower in the wild (note the size of the photographer’s the fingers!)

We also observed *Taeniophyllum obtusum* (a leafless orchid) growing on a rough-barked tree, and carrying several seed pods. Most often, leafless orchids grow as twig epiphytes (eg Chilochista *usneoides*), often dangling in the air and secured by one or two roots. In this instance, the plant is firmly anchored to the rough bark surface. Perhaps this indicates that this species ought to do well on natural cork or perhaps a large piece of pine bark that retains little or no moisture.

The following photo shows the same species in company with a variety of other orchid and non-orchid species, in a considerably darker area of the forest - shown by the darker green colour of the leaves, and the abundant ferns and lichens.
ORCHID HABITATS OF NORTHERN THAILAND

This month, I will take a final look at some more of Tony’s photos from the recent Thailand trip, and some from our visit to Vietnam in 2008.

Firstly to Thailand - when visiting one of the many temples, I noted a number of trees with vandaceous species orchids mounted on them. The roots ran up and down the tree over a span of more than two metres. What this tells us that when mounting many of our species orchids, we need to use a mount that will be suitable for several years, and it’s probably much larger than we first imagine. While not as large, if you look at the roots in the following photo of Vanda lilacina that we saw in a car park along the Mekong River, you will note that way the roots run along the trunks and tree branches firmly locating the plant and absorbing every bit of nutrient that is available.

We also saw, by way of contrast, semi-cultivated orchid species (obviously receiving more water than those in the wild) in the Ancient City in Sukothai that were multi-planted along with birdsnest ferns and some succulent species.

MONTHLY PLANT

Brassia maculata

Country of origin: Belize, Honduras, Cuba, Jamaica, Guatemala

Description: Moderate sized epiphyte

Difficulty: Easy to grow

Cost: $7

Brassia maculata (the Spotted Spider Orchid) from the West Indies is the type species for the genus. It grows as a large epiphyte and occasional lithophyte, commonly found growing in leaf mould over rocks at low to moderate altitudes.

This species can grow up to 1m in height, with substantial pseudobulbs and lanceolate leaves up to 40cm in length. The flowers, arranged alternately in two rows on an arched raceme are quite variable in colour ranging from green through yellow to tinged with brown.

This easy to grow species seems to be happy in pots in pine bark or similar media, or should you be able to maintain high humidity during summer, mounted on a hardwood or cork slab. Under suitable conditions, it multiplies rapidly so if you are choosing a mount, make sure that it is large enough to last for several years.

While this species is generally relatively trouble-free to grow and flower, I have found that Brassias generally are quite susceptible to soft rots and this can quickly infect the whole plant. Most often, this infection appears to be triggered by water sitting in the new grow which turns brown before rapidly spreading throughout the plant. Other than fungus pathogens, this species is generally unlikely to be a target for mealy bug or hard/soft scale unless your cultural conditions are poor (eg overcrowded plants, poor air movement, too wet).

This month’s plant has been supplied by Peter who is growing them cold (although I understand that they are protected from the rain and frosts).
Gordon
Paphiopedilum insigne ‘Harefield Hall’

Bill & Sandra
Angraecum eburneum
Coelogyne cristata
Paphiopedilum villosum

Tom & Pat
Angraecum giryamae

Ken and Chris
Barkeria whartoniana
Dendrobium garrettii
Dendrobium cobbianum
Dendrobium sp.
Epidendrum elongatum
Gastrochilus bellinus

Adrian and Deanna
Dendrochilum bicallosum
Epidendrum difforme
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Prosthechea fragrans

Sharon
Dendrochilum bicallosum
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Laelia gouldiana

Peter & Shirley
Angraecum eburneum ssp. superbun
Epidendrum elongatum ‘Fairy Lavender’

Anne & Geoff
Isabelia pulchella
Schomburgkia superbiens

Tony & Mavis
Bulbophyllum echinolabium
Bulbophyllum shepherdii
Dendrobium bigibbum
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Paphiopedilum insigne forma sanderae
Phalaenopsis amabilis ssp. rosenstromii

PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2010

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Sharon

Prosthechea fragrans
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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.

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