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

14 September 2010, 8.05 pm

Present: 34
Apologies: Nil
Visitors: Peter & Patricia, Luam
New members: nil
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Ian)
Business Arising: Nil
Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra and the current balance is $4,743.05., with #2 A/c $1,810.53. (Ken, Neville)

Correspondence:
Inwards:
- Pamphlets from Neutrog
- Various Club Newsletters

Outwards:
Nil.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:
1. The plant order from Stockers Nursery has now been completed and we can look forward to using it for some interesting presentations.
2. The Panama/Thai plant order should arrive in Perth by 12th December.
3. Neville has brought in all the old newsletters for archiving.
4. Members were reminded that the next meeting will be our Auction night.
5. The purchase of our new projector has now been completed and we can look forward to using it for some interesting presentations.
6. The Panama/Thai plant order should arrive in Perth by 12th December.
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Cultural Award: Dendrobium x delicatum exhibited by Courtney & Val
Raffle: Hannah, Lee & Mich
Name Badge: Noel
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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 7.45 pm. 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) $21.50 Renewal $10.00

New members who don’t live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore their membership will be at the renewal fees

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 to sell surplus plants and equipment, and for the Society to sell products 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.
resistance, namely:
- Dracula amalae
- Dracula erythraeae
- Dracula maduroi
- Dracula olmosii
- Dracula roezlii
- Dracula vampira

Draculas are generally highland species and grow in mossbeds and similar habitats in mist forests. Clearly this makes them more difficult to grow in our conditions, although I suspect that if you are able to grow and flower the highland *Masdevallias*, you should have success with Draculas.

So what does all of this mean? For those of us importing plants from Panama, it will be important to remember the following:
- In seasonal terms, Perth is 6 months out of phase with Panama, that is, the plants will arrive here in December coming into the hottest, driest time of the year when it would be much cooler and drier in Panama. Assuming that we get them through fumigation and post entry quarantine, your plants should be released in March. As the weather may still be very hot and dry, you will need to provide these plants with plenty of moisture, good air movement, and to the extent possible, temperatures that do not exceed 35°C. Our quarantine glasshouse is misted up to 8 times per day during the hot summer months.
- From my review of the order, many of you have purchased genera that are well known such as Catasetum, *Maxillara*, Mormodes, *Prosthechea* & *Stanhopea* that adapt well to our climate, and do not need any special (glasshouse) treatment, although it would be wise to conduct your own research to find out a little more about some of the less common species that have been ordered so that you can give them the best chance of survival once released.
- For your information, we try to ensure that all plants released have active root growth. In quarantine, we regularly apply seaweed tonic, rooting hormone and similar products to encourage growth. Therefore, the new leaves/new growth will be quite ‘soft’ when released and it would be prudent to find a more shady place for your plants until the hot summer/autumn days are over.
- While some of the plants will be mounted, I expect that we will pot the majority in bark or similar media. If you want us to use your own media, we are happy to do so - all we ask is that you sterilise it first (a few minutes in the microwave will do the job) and get it to us before the plants arrive. Similarly, should you prefer your plants to be potted rather than mounted or vice versa, please let me know.

**NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

- The October meeting is our annual Silent Auction. This is our main fundraiser and is a great way to boost your orchid collection. As advised last meeting, your donation of orchids, other plants, books, wine etc will help make this a fun event and assists in keeping our membership fees low, although the recent increase in our hall hire will affect this.

  - **Please ensure that any plants that you are able to donate are dry otherwise they damage the tables and can make reading the bids difficult.**

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  - If you haven’t ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich. The cost for badges with a magnetic clip is $13.50, and with pin is $11.50.

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Conversely, higher elevation road verges and cuts often provide good habitats for orchids as they allow in more sunlight, and support a range of epiphytic orchids that are just as happy to grow as lithophytes or terrestrials (either in soil, humus or moss beds).

When Dressler published his book in 1993, there were approximately 950 orchid species recorded from Panama, although he suggests that given the limited attention paid to sampling and describing, there could be many more undescribed species.

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Recent articles indicate that nearly a third of Panama’s land area has been declared as either national park or conservation protection. This will give purpose and direction to the reintroduction objectives of groups such as COSPA and CEPROVACA. In this regard, I noted that there are several groups seeking international support for these efforts including the provision of accommodation and meals in return for work in orchid production, retail sales, marketing etc.

One such group is Workaway, a not-for-profit organisation supporting projects all over the world. In Panama, they promote a project dedicated to the conservation of native species of orchids in El Valle de Antón. Their website is at http://www.workaway.info/445784814ba6-en.html

While researching the internet for this articles, I also came across a website http://cerropunta.chiriqui.org/atractivos/chicerro-dracula.htm Finca Dracula is an orchid farm, located close to Cerro Punta. They grow 124 species of Dracula orchids in greenhouses, noting that some open only at night. The nursery which started out as a hobby for Andrew Maduro (Maduro Tropical Flowers) now covers 22 acres. Formerly pasture, it now produces over 2,200 types of orchids from all over the world. However, some of the Panamanian Draculas are their piece de
Elfin forests
Often found on exposed mountain peaks where high rainfall leaches nutrients from the soil (or it is very rocky). The vegetation is often sparse, although experiences cloud forest-like conditions. The distinction between epiphytes and terrestrials breaks down as epiphytes grow on the trees, but happily grow in the mosses and lichens when they fall. The number and variety of orchids in these habitats can be truly astounding (as we saw in some highland locations in Northern Thailand). Given the stunted vegetation, the orchids are also easy to view without having to look up into the canopy.

Subalpine and Alpine Vegetation
These areas are typically windswept, cool to cold, have very limited soil and consequently little or few stunted trees and shrubs. The principal vegetation is grasses and sedges. While they may enjoy high rainfall, the lack of soil and vegetation means that orchids living in these habitats are often exposed to drought. Genera found in these habitats include Brachionidium, Fernandezia, Pachyphyllum and Telipogon.

The remaining classification to which Dressler refers is the man-made habitats - principally pastures and grasslands, secondary forests and road verges and cuttings. Often, there are substantial orchid populations on remnant vegetation in pasture areas, while the terrestrial orchids such as Sobralia and Arundina invade the open spaces. Given the practice of burning the grasslands (degraded pastures) each year, these areas are very sterile and the soil becomes poorer every year until it is almost impossible to rehabilitate.

The secondary (or regrowth forest) is largely devoid of orchids until they mature

**LAST MONTH’S PLANT**

**Cattleya jenmanii**

**Country of origin:** Venezuela

**Description:** Moderate sized epiphyte

**Difficulty:** Easy to grow

**Cost:** $13

As you are all aware, at the last minute the Committee decided that we would substitute the *Cattleya jenmanii* supplied by Stocker’s Orchids for the *Cattleya labiata* originally advertised. There was a very good response to the sale of these large, flowering size plants.

However, as there is no monthly plant for November due to silent auction, the following information on *Cattleya jenmanii* is provided for your interest.

*Cattleya jenmanii* is a recently rediscovered (late 1960’s) species from Venezuela. However, further research indicated that in fact the species had been described by Rolfe 1906, and named for Mr George S Jenman, the government botanist in Georgetown

Its rediscovery was surprising as Venezuela had been thoroughly explored by plants collectors since the 1830’s, and it was not thought that there were any species to be discovered. Like other Cattleya species, it is very variable with many different colour and flower forms, although purple is the most common. Although its late discovery should have helped protect it in the wild, native poachers collected it for sale to unscrupulous collectors. Therefore, a breeding program has been established in order to ensure survival of wild populations.

*Cattleya jenmanii* is both epiphytic and lithophytic in dense forests at low elevations (400-1200 m). One its attributes is that it is reported as flowering twice per year. This species (as many of the Cattleyas) grows well in local conditions provided it is kept drier during our cold, wet winter months. It can either be mounted or potted and should grow vigorously in pine bark or similar media. The main insect pests seem to be scale and similar sap-sucking pests, often due to poor ventilation/air movement.
PLANTS DISPLAYED  SEPTEMBER 2010

Ian
Caladenia arenicola
Caladenia longicauda
Dendrobium speciosum var. pedunculata
Diuris sp.
Serapias lingua

Graham & Margaret
Caladenia filamentososa (various types)
Caladenia arenicola
Caladenia georgeii
Caladenia longicauda
Caladenia macrostylis
Diuris amplissima

Chris
Papillilabium beckleri
Plectorrhiza tridentata
Phaius tankervillae
Zelenkoa onusta

Maxine
Bulbophyllum ambrosia
Cattleya intermedia var. amethystina
Cattleya loddigesii (mericlone)
Cattleya walkeriana
Dendrobium aemulum
Dendrobium monophyllum
Jumellea comorensis
Rhyncholaelia glauca
Vanda hindsii

Ken and Chris
Dendrobium amethystoglossum
Dendrobium palpebrae
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Ionopsis utricularioides
Laelia anceps
Phaius wallichii
Phalaenopsis mannii
Stelis aprica

Adrian and Deanne
Dendrobium gracilicaule
Dendrobium lichenastrum
Dendrobium speciosum curvicaule x grandiflorum
Diuris longifolia
Papillilabium beckleri
Pterostylis curta

Peter & Shirley
Dendrobium speciosum
Dendrochilum glumaceum
Phalaenopsis amabilis
Phalaenopsis aphrodite
Phalaenopsis schilleriana
Plectorrhiza tridentata
Serapias lingua
Vanda lamellata

Anne & Geoff
Dendrobium tetragonum
Papillilabium beckleri
Plectorrhiza tridentata

Trevor
Serapias lingua

Vic
Dendrobium tetragonum
Rodriguezia decora

Neville
Dendrobium tetragonum
Phalaenopsis stuartiana

Courtney & Val
Dendrobium × delicatum
Dendrobium kingianum
Dendrobium speciosum ‘The King’

Diuris amplissima
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Cattleya loddigesii
Maxine

Bletilla striata
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**ORCHID HABITS OF PANAMA**  (contd)

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8. Members were reminded that the next meeting will be our Auction night.

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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 7.45 pm. 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) $21.50 Renewal $10.00

New members who don’t live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore their membership will be at the renewal fees.

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.

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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.

Peter & Shirley Masters
110 Crawford St
East Cannington 6107 WA
Phone: 08 93506087
Mob 0419831177
Shirley 0414948469
E-mail: peterskorner@iinet.net.au