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.

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Mob 0419831177
Shirley 0414948469
E-mail: peterskorner@iinet.net.au

CULTURAL AWARD, October 2010
Leptotes bicolor - Peter & Shirley
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
12 October 2010, 7.50 pm

Present:  33
Apologies: Nil
Visitors: Nil
New members: Luam, Bill & Margaret
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Ian)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Lee and the current balance is $2351.00. #2 A/c $1810.63. (Neville, Sharon)

Correspondence:

Inwards:
- Membership fees from Don \.
- New membership from Bill & Margaret
- Various Club Newsletters.
- Orchid Review.

Outwards:
- Email to Guy thanking him for his donation of Dale Borders CD.
- Emails to Bil & Margaret and Don acknowledging receipt of their mail.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:
1. Members were requested to restrict their plant description to 3 plants due to the auction.
2. Thank you to Neville for his generous donation of a further 7 orchid books to the library.
3. Members were advised that the orchid CD will only be produced bi-annually as there will not be enough data to fill the disc every year.
4. Lee outlined the procedure for the auction.
5. Due to the sharp increase in our hall rental next year, the Membership Fees will need to be increased for the society to remain solvent. The suggested fees for next year were $30 a double and $20 for a single.
6. The auction lot winners were announced.

Cultural Award: A very well grown club plant *Leptotes bicolor* exhibited by Peter and Shirley

Raffle:
Name Badge: Bill
Home Visit Name Badge: Home Visit Raffle:

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 7.45 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 (Badges with magnet fastening additional $4.00)
Single (1st year @ 1 badge) $21.50 renewal $10.00. (Badge with magnet fastening additional $2.00)
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.
are principally epiphytes, they need good air movement throughout the year (another reason to grow them in a shadehouse with a plastic cover during winter). Shelter also need to be provided when they are coming into flower to avoid flower damage.

Various mediums are proposed including sphagnum moss, pine bark, tree fern fibre, coconut chips coarse river sand, charcoal, perlite and so the list goes on. As a general rule, they will grow well in a similar mix to your Cymbidium orchids, and if you are growing these plants well, you have your cultural conditions well under control. The one major difference of which I am aware is the use of lumps of Styrofoam or Styrofoam peanuts as crocking on the bottom of the pots to aid drainage. This is beneficial as mature plants need to be somewhat drier after flowering before new growth commences, otherwise the new growth may rot.

Squat pots seem to be most suitable for Lycaste as they are not deep rooted species and do not grow very tall, so don’t require the additional weight to keep them from falling over, however be careful not to overpot. When repotting Lycaste, it is important to avoid damage to the root system while moving any old dead roots. Therefore, the best time to repot is when the new growth has started (6-12 cm tall) and new roots appear. This will avoid shrivelling and compromised flowering.

Lycaste appreciates regular fertilising with a balanced regime that includes both organic and inorganic products. The most successful growers of this genus fertilise regularly (weekly to weekly) with higher nitrogen from midwinter to mid summer, and high potash from midsummer to midwinter. Alcorn also recommends Epsom Salts and Chelate of Iron. Naturally, Lycaste orchids appreciate rainwater given the increasing amount of dissolved salts in our scheme water. If rainwater isn’t an option, ensure that once a fortnight, you water very heavily (perhaps by hand) to flush out any salt build up in your pots. Evidence of salt build up can be seen by a white crust on top of the media, or around the rim of the pot, although this can also be calcium from hard water.

Most often, the pest and diseases are sap-sucking insects such as scale, mealy bug, two-spotted mite, aphids, and molluscs such as slugs and snails. For the sap-sucking insects, good culture will generally eliminate the problem, although there are a range of organic products available now that do far less damage to both the grower and the environment - the downside is that you will need to use them more often. The seaweed tonics now widely available can assist by helping build stronger, disease and pest resistant plants.

Next month, I will research some of the more commonly available species, and the flowing month those are less common in collections.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Committee is considering ways to improve the format of our meetings. Some members have expressed concerns about the late finish of our meetings, and have identified the length of time the plant descriptions take at the end of the night as the main culprit. Suggestions include starting with the plant description, followed by general business and then supper, inviting members with plants to talk to smaller groups of members and limiting descriptions to a maximum of three plants when there are many plants benched (spring and autumn). Please come to the next meeting with your thoughts on how we might structure the meetings to address these concerns while retaining the key activity of sharing our knowledge with one another.
- The Committee endorsed the Treasurer’s recommended fees for 2011-12 of $20 for a single membership and $30 for a family membership. To comply with our Constitution, a motion to this effect will be put forward at the next meeting.
- 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.
- Our December meeting on the 7th will be our Christmas party. As we have done before, if you can please bring a plant for inclusion in the free raffle.
- 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:
At 10am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and a plate of food to share.

No home visit in November

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
  1 only growlite with 2 60cm grow tubes $ 40.00
Contact Neville - 93045236 not Tuesday or Thursday afternoon

Ken's 2.5 m x 1.8m hothouse for sale. Timber frame with double layer of plastic with lower styrene between plastic sheet, roof is opaque plastic. $500
Ring Ken on 9309336.

Imported plant news
The plants from Panama are now in Bangkok (Brett's apartment is serving as a greenhouse!) and will be grown on until December when they will be packed and bought back to Perth by Tony, Mavis, Lee and Rita. As advised last month, I will try to schedule the next plant inspection before the next General Meeting so that we can clear as much as possible out of the quarantine glasshouse before December. If this is not possible, you may wish to come and pick up your plants. I will advise the outcome of the plant inspection to us as enthusiasts, both Alcorn and the San Francisco Orchid Society have some thoughts about Lycaste culture.

Alcorn says that it is important to remember that Lycaste is a cool-growing species, and does not need the heating that Phalaenopsis or Vanda generally require during our winter months, unless your area is susceptible to frosts. (minimum 4-5°C). However, during our extremely hot summer months, they will need some cooling at least in the evenings, and additional protection from the sun if you wish to avoid leaf damage. Similarly, Lycaste orchids appreciate higher humidity - if you are growing in a shadehouse in summer, you will need to make some arrangement to maintain humidity during the day.

With the exception of summer months, in suburbia 50% shadecloth should be OK, although in summer a second layer may be required. An alternative (that we employ) is to place them among other taller plants such as Cymbidiums that provide some shade, or under orchids or other plants in hanging baskets (although this can be a problem in winter if the baskets drip onto your Lycaste plants. In the Swan Valley, we use 70% shadecloth all year round as we have quite bright light. Leaf colour should be light to yellowish green.

Air circulation is also critical (as it is with almost all orchid species). As Lycastes

DNA sequencing.

Several Lycaste species including L aromatica, L cruenta, L deppei, L lassieglossa, L locusta, L macrophylla and L tricolor are relatively common in mixed collections in Australia. Lycaste hybrids are widely grown and much of the early hybridising in Australia was carried out by Fred Alcorn who did much to reintroduce this genus to Australian orchidists.

This genus has large plicate leaves, clustered ovoid pseudobulbs and multiple lateral inflorescences. Accordingly, mature plants of the larger members of the genus require substantial space due to leaf width and span. Flowering takes place when the new growth is half grown. A feature of most Lycaste species are the spines at the leaf abscission point. These spines are said to offer some protection to the plant against foraging herbivores - they certainly can surprise the unwary grower!

Oakley identifies 4 sections; aromatica, intermediae, skinieri and lycaste. Fowlie also identified 4 sections; Deciduousae, Macrophyllae, Fimbriatae and Longisepalae based upon floral and other vegetative characteristics, although Oakley asserts, this treatment was not validly published. You may wonder, how is this relevant? In my view, it helps explain some of the never-ending, frustrating (to anyone but a taxonomist) taxonomic revision of orchid nomenclature.

However, to focus on what seems more useful to us as enthusiasts, both Alcorn and the San Francisco Orchid Society have some thoughts about Lycaste culture.

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Air circulation is also critical (as it is with almost all orchid species). As Lycastes
THE WORLD OF LYCASTE ORCHIDS

We are now seeing a few more Lycaste species from time-to-time, and accordingly, I thought that it might be time to undertake a little research about this genus.

They are popular because the flowers are long lasting, and unlike some other genera, come in a wide range of colours. Few orchids rival a well grown specimen such as Lycaste skinnerii. In the past, they have been considered difficult to grow, however this myth has largely been dispelled with better understanding of their habitat and cultural needs. Lycaste species and hybrids have been grown in cultivation for more than 170 years.

The genus Lycaste has been revised many times over the past 150 years since Lindley separated it from Maxillara in 1843. Most recently, Fowlie's 1970 monograph The Genus Lycaste, Its Speciation, Distribution, Literature and Cultivation - A Monographic Revision identified the many difficulties with classification of this genus, and it appears that the debate still continues. Almost more interesting is that Lindley did not say why he chose the name Lycaste (other than his note A fanciful name. Lycaste was a beautiful woman). Despite many reviews since, no-one has been able to more accurately clarify his reasoning for naming the genus thus.

Henry Oakley who holds the UK National Scientific collection of Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa recently published his seminal work Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa - The Essential Guide in 2008 (it is in our library).

There continues to be debate about the type species - variously reported as L macrophylla or L plana. Oakley clarifies this confusion when reduces L plana to a colour form of L macrophylla. He notes that Dr Fowlie's work contains many incorrectly named plants in the three genera Lycaste, Ida and Anguloa. However, this problem is not just Dr Fowlie's.

The genus Lycaste is endemic to the Central Americas, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, West Indies, Jamaica and Cuba. Most commonly found in forest regions between sea level and 3000m, growing either epiphytically, lithophytically or terrestrially, they inhabit a wide variety of climates ranging from cloud forests to regions with pronounced wet and dry seasons. Some species such as L macrophylla can be found from 700-2800m elevation. Therefore, the deciduous Lycastes can very successfully be grown in a shadehouse in WA.

31 species, 14 natural hybrids and 29 varieties have been identified by Oakley, several published for the fist time using

Bulbophyllum sumatranum

Country of origin: Sumatra

Description: Small, warm-cool growing epiphyte

Difficulty: Moderate

Cost: $13.00

These plants have been supplied by Geoff and Jaqui Stocker in the order Mich coordinated. Bulbophyllum sumatranum is widely considered to be a synonym for Bulbophyllum lobbii var breviflorum, though more recently Seigerist 2001 argues that it has nothing more in common than being a member of the same section, Sestochilus (single leaf).

As the species name indicates, this species is from Sumatra, and JJ Smith alluded to its short flower raceme when giving it the varietal name breviflorum.

The plants are currently mounted on plastic mesh, although successful growing in this way requires high humidity in the hot dry summer months. Alternatively, in common with Bulbophyllum lobbii, shallow pot or dish culture works well - be sure to choose a pot or dish large enough, and medium that will last long enough to allow your plant to remain in place for some years. Bill Thoms in his book Bulbophyllums - the Incomplete Guide From A to Why? Shows how to make a large basket and to very successfully grow Bulbophyllums.

I have found that Bulbophyllum do not appear to be particularly susceptible to pests such as scale and mealy bug providing you have good culture and plenty of air movement.
Ian
Dendrobium nobile

Graham & Margaret
Cymbidium floribundum
Pterostylis picta
Serapias vormeracea

Gordon
Paphiopedilum villosum

Maxine
Cattleya amethystoglossa
Dendrobium amethystoglossum
Osmoglossum pulchellum

Ken and Chris
Cattleya intermedia var. alba
Cattleya intermedia var. amethystina
Coilostylis falcata

Dendrobium chrysotoxum
Dendrobium fimbriatum
Dendrobium nobile var. virginalis
Polystachya paniculata ??
Prosthechea cochleata

Adrian and Deanne
Aerangis citrata
Dendrobium goldschmidtianum
Dendrobium primulinum
Dendrochilum yuccaeformis
Lycaste guatemalensis

Gillian
Cattleya amethystoglossa
Cattleya intermedia var. alba
Cymbidium floribundum
Epidendrum elongatum
Masdevallia cocinea var. Bianca

Peter & Shirley
Cattleya intermedia var. alba
Cattleya walkeriana var. Tipo
Laelia anceps ‘Santa Barbara’
Leptotes bicolor
Phalaenopsis suartiana
Renanthera monachica
Vanda tricolor var. suavis

Anne & Geoff
Arpophyllum giganteum
Chysis bractescens
Chysis X chelsonii
Epidendrum pseudopendendrum

Norm
Encyclia cordigera

Tony & Mavis
Cattleya skinneri var. alba occulata
Cymbidium canalculatum var. sparksii
Oncidium pumilum
Vanda tricolor

PLANTS DISPLAYED SEPTEMBER 2010

Osmoglossum pulchellum
Maxine

Vanda tricolor
Peter & Shirley

Laelia anceps Santa Barbara
Peter & Shirley

Arpophyllum giganteum
Anne & Geoff

Chysis x chelsonii
Anne & Geoff

Photography by Tony