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 email peterskorner@iinet.net.au.
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
9 November 2010, 7.50 pm

Present: 33
Apologies: Nil
Visitors: Nil
New members:
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted
(Anne, Mavis)
Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra, and the current balance is $3,052.30. #2 A/c $1,810.86. (Ken, Noel)

Correspondence:

Inwards:
- Orchid Digest
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  Motion carried.
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Raffle: : Anne, Bruce, Pat & Sandra

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Like most members of this genus, it needs heavy watering and light shade (50% shadecloth) in summer, but protection from rain in winter when dormant to prevent bulb rot unless the pseudobulbs shrivel in which case light watering is indicated. Once the plant shows active growth of either flower buds or new leaves, water and fertilise more frequently. Lycaste cruenta is generally resistant to many of the common insect pests, although the new, soft leaves are easily damaged by the sun. It is equally happy grown in either well-drained pot or slab culture (provided you can maintain humidity during summer) and being predominantly lithophytic, would probably be OK in a garden setting provided it can be given shelter in winter.

Lycaste lassioglossa is also quite common in local collections, and can often be obtained from sales tables or our silent auction. This species has a more spectacular flower with shiny brown sepals in contrast with yellow petals and a bearded labellum flushed red. This robust species is found in Mexico, Honduras and Cost Rica, epiphytic or lithophytic at altitudes of 800-1600m in warm humid forests. Identified by Reichenbach in 1872, the name is derived from the Greek for ‘hairy tongue’. For those interested in breeding, the brown colour of the sepals is due to red pigment in the epidermis on the front side of the sepal overlying green pigment. As a result, this species has been widely used in breeding dark red show Lycastes with Lycaste skinneri (similar pigmentation occurs in Lycaste macrophylla). Lycaste lassioglossa is one of the simpler species to grow under similar conditions to those identified for Lycaste cruenta. The following image from Alan Black’s Orchid Photo pages demonstrates the shiny character of the sepals.

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Lycaste tricolor is smaller-flowered species from Central America, growing as an epiphyte in rainforest at 700-1000m altitude. Identified by Reichenbach, it is named for the three colours present in the flower - beige, white and pink, although these colours are not distinct and often merge into a pale pink. This species needs more sun than the previous two species described, as its natural habitat is open tropical forest with high light. It is said to require some heat and needs to
THE WORLD OF LYCASTE ORCHIDS

Some of the more common Lycaste species in collection are:

* Lyc aromatica
* Lyc lassioglossa
* Lyc bradeorum
* Lyc macrophylla
* Lyc cruenta
* Lyc tricolor
* Lyc deppeii

I will cover some of these in this second part of the article, and touch on some of the less common next month. Less common in collections are:

The most common Lycastes in collections in Perth are *Lycaste cruenta*, *Lycaste lassioglossa*, *Lycaste tricolor* and *Lycaste aromatica*. All three are easy to grow in a shadehouse, provided some protection from being constantly wet is provided during winter. All flower quite prolifically providing they receive a well-balanced fertiliser regime.

The first of these *Lycaste cruenta* (Lindl) was discovered in Guatemala by George Ure Skinner in 1842, and is often misidentified as *Lycaste aromatica* due to its coloration. In fact, Lindley in 1840 first described it as *Maxillara skinneri*. It occurs as a lithophyte, terrestrial or epiphyte in Southern Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador at 1000-1800m altitude in dry-humid forests. It is a variable species with several distinct varieties that vary in colour from yellow through yellow orange and occasional yellow green sepals. The species name *cruenta* is Latin for blood coloured referring to the red spotting at the base of the lip. This species has a strong cinnamon scent during bright daylight. The following image is from Wikimedia Commons and shows *Lycaste cruenta* at the Berlin Botanical Gardens - Orchid Exhibition.

The flowers of this species are strongly phototropic growing so that they face the sun, making them more visible to pollinators such as euglossine bees which are attracted by the cinnamon pheromones.

Imported plant news

As most of you are aware, we are currently dealing with a pathogen problem in quarantine - two plants from Thailand are infected with an unknown bacteria. I have had to authorise DNA sequencing to help identify the bacteria before AQIS are able to determine whether it is benign or cause for concern. The DNA sequencing will cost approx $200. However, the major concern is that this may well compromise the importation of the next shipment of plants being carried back by Tony, Mavis, Lee and Rita on 12 December.

As a fall back position in case we cannot put any new plants in quarantine, I have arranged to temporarily house the plants at AgWest, South Perth until we can move them to our quarantine facility. However this comes at a cost of $4.90 per sqm per day, so we would not want them to be there for anything more than a few days. I am hopeful that we will not need to rely on this backup plan, but it just not feasible or economic to leave them in Thailand until we solve the problem.

Ken & Chris Jones
Graham & Margaret
Cymbidium canaliculatum var. sparksii
Dendrobium discolor
Pterostylis aff. picta
Satyrium ligulatum
Sarcochilus hillii

Maxine
Aerangis sp.
Cochleanthes discolor
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Ansellia africana

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Dendrobium farmeri
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Bruce
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Sharon
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Laelia crispata (rupestris?)

Peter & Shirley
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Cattleya walkeriana ‘Tipo’
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Courtney & Val
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Phalaenopsis equestris

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PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2010

Ascochentrum ampullaceum
Sharon

Phalaenopsis sumatrana
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Laelia rupestris (crispatæ)
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Photography by Tony
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