

# THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA ( INC )

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



Vol 23 No 1 June 2011



## CULTURAL AWARD, May 2011

*Cattleya skinneri*  
Tom & Pat

# NEWSLETTER

## NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 14 JUNE

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

10 May 2011, 8.05 pm

**Present:** 38

**Apologies:** Bill & Sandra

**Visitors:** Nil

**New members:** Wally made an honorary member.

**Minutes:** Minutes as circulated accepted (John, Sharon)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was tabled by Lee, current balance is \$1547.30 #2 A/c \$1811.31. (Graham, Peter)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- GCA Winter magazine
- Flyer re Tulip Time at Bowral
- Various Club Newsletters

**Outwards:**

Nil

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- Peter suggested that we put E.S Species Societies links on our website
- Graham & Tony were both congratulated on their acceptance as Members of the AOF.
- The members were advised that there is advertising space available in our Newsletter.
- A few packs of the fertilizer & conditioner still available for purchase.
- Brazilian Orchids, a book purchased by the society from the estate of the late Barry Gardner is now in the library and

available to members

- Thanks and appreciation for the great day was given to Margaret for hosting the last Home Visit.
- The OrchidWiz software has arrived and will be auctioned at the next General Meeting.
- Norm advised he had received both email & paper copies of the newsletter. He is happy to just receive the electronic version.

**Cultural Award:** A plant of *Cattleya skinneri* that Tom said he had been growing for nearly 40 years.

**Raffle:** Hannah, John, Vic

**Name Badge:** John

**Special Raffle:**

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Come prepared to bid on the auction of a copy of OrchidWiz. The retail value of this software package is US\$295, and it has been donated to the Species Society by the late Ron Heberle's son (permission was given to the publisher to reproduce many of Ron's wonderful photos of WA terrestrial orchids). If you are actively growing, propagating and exhibiting orchids, this is the only reference that you will need.
- A special raffle will be conducted at the June meeting - the plants will be flowering size *Bulbophyllum membranaceum* and *Oncidium divaricatum*. Tickets are \$1.00
- Annual membership fees were due in May. If you haven't been able to get to a meeting, or it may have slipped your mind, please pay as soon as possible. As you know, we have been hit with a very substantial increase in our hall hire and newsletter printing costs year and will need to manage our budget carefully to make sure that we can continue to provide you with the benefits of membership of this eclectic group.
- 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.
- 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!

**President:** Adrian

**Vice President:** Graham

**Secretary:** Maxine Godbeer  
2195 Hidden Valley Rd, Parkerville  
6081

**Treasurer:** Sandra

**Editor:** Ken Jones

204 Park Street, Henley Brook  
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e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

**Committee:**

Chris

Michele

Lee

Sharon

Tony

Mavis

Trevor

**Life Members**

Barry Gardner (dec'd)

Gordon

Joan & Ted (dec'd)

Neville

Noel & Eva

# NOTICEBOARD

## FORTH-COMING 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.

26 June - Ken & Chris Jones, 204 Park Street, Henley Brook.

31 July - Sharon,

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## FOR SALE/WANTED

Olipphant, model CWS 900 laminar flow clean air work station for flasking. Barry Gardner's laminar flow is for sale, priced to sell at \$1,500 ONO (new price \$4,500). While it has not been used for some time, it was in good working order when last used and was tested some years back. An autoclave for preparing media is also available. Contact Tony on 9342 3799.



### Imported plant news

I have arranged an inspection of the plants that Tony, Mavis, Lee and Rita bought back in November 2010. in the week prior to our home visit on 26 June. You will be able to pick up what ever plants are released when you're here, although I remind you that the survival rate on this shipment has been very poor .

*Ken & Chris Jones*

## MONTHLY PLANT

### *Dockrillia pugioniforme*

**Country of origin:** Australia

**Description:** Mat-forming twig epiphyte

**Difficulty:** Generally easy to grow

**Cost:** \$15



Thanks to Mich who has grown these large, mounted flowering size plants for some time.

*Dockrillia pugioniforme* (formerly known as *Dendrobium pugioniforme*) is native to Northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland. It is found in rainforest as an epiphyte on trees, or as lithophyte at low to moderate elevations. Over time, this species grows into a large mat that can be literally covered in small yellow and white flowers.

Its common name is the Dagger Orchid for its fleshy leaves which have a rigid, dagger-like point.

It is said to be easy to grow, and appears to be best on large slabs or mounts that will allow it to grow undisturbed for several years. In its natural habitat, this species will form roots where the dangling stems contact a suitable surface. Some

authors suggest that *Dockrillia pugioniforme* can be difficult to flower in subtropical lowland environments where the winter is cold and wet, however I am aware that several members of the Species Society have had success with this and similar species.

I am also advised that this species can be susceptible to cotton and hard scale and mealy bug where there is insufficient air movement. As there is no pseudobulb, these plants often succumb to quickly to these and other sap-sucking insects.

Suitable slab mounts are well-weathered hardwood, natural or compressed cork, sheoak or other Casuarina species.

**Graham & Margaret**

*Eriochilus dilatatus*

*Trichoglottis batanense*

**Gordon**

*Cattleya intermedia* var. *alba*

'Breckenridge Snow'

*Paphiopedilum insigne* var. *sanderae*

**Maxine**

*Angraecum superbum*

*Barkeria lindleyana* 'white'

*Bulbophyllum cominsii*

*Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*

*Christensonia vietnamica*

*Cymbidium erythrostylum*

*Oeonia volucris*

*Sophronitis cernua*

**Tom & Pat**

*Cattleya skinneri*

**Ken and Chris**

*Cattleya skinneri*

*Christensoniana vietnamica*

*Laelia anceps*

*Prosthechea cochleata* var. *alba*

*Psychopsis papilio*

*Stenoglottis longifolia*

**Adrian & Deanna**

*Coelogyne fimbriata*

*Liparis rizalensis*

*Ornithophora radicans*

*Sophronitis cernua*

**Mich**

*Restrepia trichoglossa*

# PLANTS DISPLAY



*Barkeria lindleyana*  
Maxine

*Aerangis cryptodon*  
Peter & Shirley



**Gillian**

*Oncidium trulliferum*  
*Stenoglottis longifolia*

**Peter & Shirley Masters**

*Aerangis cryptodon*  
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*  
*Phalaenopsis sanderiana*

**Noel & Eva**

*Cattleya skinneri*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Brassavola nodosa*  
*Dendrobium bigibbum* 'Blue'  
*Dendrobium striaenopsis* var. *alba*  
*Oncidium hyphaematicum*  
*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*

*Restrepia trichoglossa*  
Michele



# LAYED MAY 2011

*Oeonia volucris*  
Maxine



*Sophronitis cernua*  
Maxine  
Adrian & Deanna

Photography by Tony



## *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*

### A Swamp Loving Orchid of the Southwest

Tony had the following article published in 2009, and it is on the Species Society website. There are many more large photos showing interesting facts about this species. Tony and Graham's photos show just why WA terrestrial orchids are so admired by enthusiasts worldwide. .

In mid December 2008, Graham took me on a trip to Windy Harbour on the south coast of Western Australia to photograph *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*, an orchid that is wide spread throughout the coastal strip from north of Perth to East of Esperance.

For good reason has this small settlement been named Windy Harbour. Sited on the Southern ocean with its cold winter storms, this sparsely populated region has an almost constant sea breeze even on calmer days.

The handsome purple flowers of *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum* grow mainly in swamps, sometimes covered in thick rushes and often with their roots in water. It seems that they start their growth while there is standing water in the swamps, and growth continues as the stems push their way up

through the water, and flowering continues as the standing water dries out through the summer. *Epiblema* can be



seen flowering into the southern summer between November and January and, after flowering, become deciduous, resuming growth with the winter/spring rains.

*Epiblema* are terrestrial orchids that are

endemic to Western Australia and have subterranean tubers. They have a single leaf that is almost terete and grows to approximately 30cm.

The stem grows to about 80cm to a metre tall and can carry up to 8 or more blue to mauve flowers with darker spots.

The flowers are up to 4cm across....



....and have a most unusual series of ribbon like appendages called calli, at the base of the labellum. The column wings form a hood over the anther. The flowers are very similar to *Thelymitra* but do not share the *Thelymitra* habit of closing on cloudy days and at night.

We noticed that the back of the flowers showed distinct colour changes where the sepals and petals had overlapped in the buds. They grow in peaty soils in winter wet swamps and tend to form colonies.

They do not appear to require fire to regenerate but at one site, it has been recorded that 200 plants were found in each of the years 1987 & 1988 after an

area was burned but fewer and fewer in succeeding years. Other factors may also bear some responsibility for that decline such as road works and housing development, etc.

Graham had been told that the *Epiblema* were in flower at the time so a photography trip would seem to be worth while. We left Perth at 6am, and a five hour drive south had us in the area at 11am. We needed to be away from there by around 1pm so we would be back in Perth about 6pm. This left us two hours on site in which I still managed to take around 200 pictures. Digital, naturally.!

*Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum* were not difficult to find on the low lying coastal plain. They grew in profusion in standing water alongside the road with the flowers easy to spot as we drove along.

Close up photography dictated that we had to get our feet wet, so it was off with the shoes and, camera safely strung



around our necks, we waded into the water with our toes in the muck. We were surprised at height of the *Epiblema* flowers above the water and estimated that many were a good metre from the soil below.

Only one species occurs in the genus *Epiblema* but there is another variety, (*var. cyaneum*) a light blue form which is currently listed as endangered under the Federal Governments *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. This variety was reported to occur in only two known areas, one in a northern Perth suburb and the other at Walpole on the South Coast, but it seems there is some dispute regarding *Epiblema grandiflorum var. cyaneum* at the Walpole site. (See "Orchids of Western Australia" 2008 by Andrew Brown et al.)

Our own observations of the *Epiblema grandiflorum var. grandiflorum* at Windy Harbour showed that there is quite some variation in colour forms within a 1 km range with some lighter and others darker. Their colour is difficult to describe, often being called mauve. The closest I could come to it would be blue-ish with a tinge of red-ish. You would not call them blue.

The pollinators of *Epiblema* are unknown at this time, but they had certainly been busy at the Windy Harbour site as many plants carried seed capsules in various stages of development. It was common to see buds, fully open flowers and seed capsules on the same plants showing that the flowers were opening in succession. A good reproduction strategy!



To the best of my knowledge, *Epiblema grandiflorum var. grandiflorum* has never been grown in private orchid collections, which should come as no surprise to any who have seen them in their natural environment. To duplicate the optimum conditions in your garden, though not impossible, would be difficult in the extreme. Besides, it is good to know that the future of these orchids is safer in their natural environment and they do not run the risk of becoming the subject of orchid collecting.

Ed: Now that I've wetted your appetite be sure to visit the Species Society website at <http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/page18.html>.

## 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** \$30 PA + 2 badges (1<sup>st</sup> year only) [Badges come in two versions. Pin fastening (\$11.50) or Magnet fastening (\$13.50) *Please indicate your preference.*]

**Single** \$20.00 PA + 1 badge (1<sup>st</sup> year only) [Pin fastening (\$11.50) or Magnet fastening (\$13.50)]

New members who don't live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore membership will be at the renewal fee only

### 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.

If unclaimed, return to  
The Editor  
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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 **(please confirm your order the week prior to the meeting).**

Check out our catalogue at [www.peterskorner.com](http://www.peterskorner.com), phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail [peterskorner@iinet.net.au](mailto:peterskorner@iinet.net.au).