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, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 July 2011, 7.55 pm

Present: 34
Apologies: Tony & Mavis, Wally
Visitors: Peter E.
New members: Nil
Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Anne, Trevor)
Business Arising: Nil
Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra, current balance is $3,074.70 Account #2 $1,811.54 (Anne, Neville)

Correspondence:
Inwards:
- E-mail from L&P Lawrence (Vic) re proposed visit to WA
- GCA - nominations for delegates etc
- Club Newsletters
Outwards:
- E-mail reply to Lawrences
- City of Belmont notifying them of missing pie warmer

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:
- Library - members were encouraged to make more use of the excellent books available.
- Some plants released from quarantine were given out at the last home visit. Ken is organizing the next inspection for October.
- Club newsletters are now only kept for the next month after a meeting. They will then be discarded.
- Mich told the members that a box of excess magazines were available to any-one who wanted any of them.
- Thanks were expressed to Ken & Chris for their excellent home visit.
- The next home visit is at Sharon’s residence. Members to bring the usual chairs, plates etc.
- Two plants were auctioned which came from Peter. Paph. spicerianum unfortunately did not meet the reserve price. Laelia anceps var. Veitchiana fetched $28, the successful bidder being Ken.

Cultural Award: A well grown Laelia gouldiana shown by Sharon.
Raffle: Ken, Tom
Name Badge: Jack
Special Raffle: Murray, Peter E.
Home Visit Raffle: Les & Val, Gordon, Deanne, Ian, Hannah, Sandra, Ian
Name Badge: Rita

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 (1st 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 (1st 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.
Lepanthes eltoroensis is another miniature epiphyte found growing on moss-covered trunks of upper-elevation forests in the Luquillo Mountains of eastern Puerto Rico. These forests are primarily sierra palm, palo colorado, and dwarf forest at elevations higher than 850 m (all known locations of this species are within the Caribbean National Forest). It has been reported on several species of trees, all supporting abundant mosses and liverworts. The relative humidity in these forests ranges from 90-100%, and cloud cover is continuous during evening hours and the majority of the day. Annual rainfall is 123-177 in (313-450 cm).

The extreme rarity of this orchid makes the loss of even one individual critical. It has been reported that collecting eliminated a previously known population in the sierra palm forest. Even in the Caribbean National Forest, forest management practices such as the establishment and maintenance of plantations, selective cutting, trail maintenance, and shelter construction may affect these orchids. Hurricane Hugo devastated the Caribbean National Forest, creating microclimatic conditions unfavourable for *Lepanthes eltoroensis* by opening numerous canopy gaps in the major area of the known populations.

*NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE*

- **IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP OVERDUE?**
  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 had to bear a very substantial increase in our hall hire and newsletter printing costs and 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.

- **Special raffle August** - A large plant of *Oncidium splendidum* in bud (from Barry Gardner’s collection) and a *Maxillara* sp from Geoff & Jaqui Stocker

- **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!**

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Committee:
Chris
Michele
Lee
Sharon
Tony
Mavis
Trevor

Life Members
Barry (dec'd)
Gordon
Joan & Ted (dec'd)
Neville
Noel & Eva
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At 10am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and a plate of food to share.
28 Aug - Graham & Margaret

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Oliphant, model CWS 900 laminar flow clean air work station for flanking. 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.

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You will recall that I mentioned Lepanthes telipogoniflora last month. The flower closely resembles that of a Telipogon species, and this species was only identified in 1996. Lepanthes telipogoniflora is found in Colombia at low altitudes growing in moss beds. While the photo below is not in-situ, it illustrates how this diminutive species grows.

Imported plant news

With the onset of winter, growth on plants in quarantine has now slowed. As advised at the last general meeting, I will delay the next inspection as long as possible so that we can release as many plants as possible before we go to the US in October.

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Lepanthes guatemalensis is found in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador as a warm to cool growing epiphyte at moderate elevations. The in situ photo following shows it growing on a rough barked tree that the plant’s roots are able to cling to and to extract nutrients that wash down from above. The flowers (approx 10mm) are one quarter of the plant size (approx 40mm).


It also demonstrates just how diminutive this species is. If we want to grow these plants well, I suspect that we will need to be able to maintain live sphagnum moss (this is a common aspect of the genus, and of the companion species that are often found growing in close proximity). Another feature of this genus is that often, the flat flowers are brightly coloured in contrast with other genera in the subtribe Pleurothallidinae which are more often green, yellow or brown.

Lepanthes guatemalensis is another species in this vegetatively diverse genus. With its large, attractively mottled leaves, this species is from Western Colombia and Ecuador where it is found in wet montane...
**Lepanthes** - an intriguing genus

As I foreshadowed last month, I spent some time researching this interesting, but seldom grown (at least in Australia) species. The genus *Lepanthes* consists of more than 800 species and occurs from Mexico through the West Indies, Central America and South America. Generally dwarf, creeping rhizome epiphytes or lithophytes, these diminutive plants are mostly found low in the forest, most often living in moss beds, in conditions that range from hot to cool.

In this context, it might be helpful to clarify what these terms mean. Hot is generally accepted to mean a minimum of 18°C with a minimum daily lift of 6°C, intermediate is minimum of 15°C with a minimum daily lift of 6°C while cool is minimum of 12°C. In the cloud forests, the diurnal variation is often less than 2-3°C.

What makes these plants desirable to passionate collectors who are prepared to take the trouble to replicate the environment in which they grow are the ornate and beautiful (but tiny) flowers. Often, the foliage is of velvety appearance and attractively mottled.

The type species is *Lepanthes concinna*, however this is shown as an illegal name. and is more correctly described as *Lepanthes ovalis*. The genus was first described by O Swartz in 1799. Most authors say that this genus is not well understood or described, and there are several articles on the web about newly discovered species. For a genus first described over 200 years ago, at first glance this is surprising. However, the diminutive nature of these plants, the short lived flowers, taxonomically diverse foliage appearance, narrowly defined and highly localised endemism and often inaccessible habitats are the most obvious explanations. This genus largely flowers all year round.

Three new species were discovered in Costa Rica in 2009 by a team from the Lankester Botanical Garden and written up in the online publication Lankesteniana (vol 9:3) [http://www.lankesteniana.ucr.ac.cr/lankestenianaDOWNLOADS.html](http://www.lankesteniana.ucr.ac.cr/lankestenianaDOWNLOADS.html). If you are interested in Central and South American botanical species, this is an excellent, free publication.

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**MONTHLY PLANT**

**Cattleya aclandiae**

*Country of origin: Brazil*

*Description:* A dwarf bifoliate species up to 20cm tall up.

*Difficulty:* Moderate - this species requires a drier rest period in winter.

*Cost:* $12

This month’s plant has been provided by Peter & Shirley.

*Cattleya aclandiae* Lindl 1840 is endemic to the state of Bahia in Brazil, in a small area adjacent to Salvador with highest concentrations on the elevated plateau bordering the Paraguay River. It grows in dry areas along the coast between 100 and 400m elevation in areas exposed to sea breezes and up to 100km inland. The species is epiphytic on upright trunks and branch crotches of rough-barked trees 3-6m above ground, and generally close to permanent water. It is described as a hot to warm to intermediate growing species which makes it very suitable for WA conditions provided it is kept dry in the cold wet winter months.

The large, waxy flowers in spring/summer are long lasting and have a mild spicy fragrance. This species requires higher light than many other in the genus, and therefore is best grown up high in the shadehouse or glasshouse. As noted above, a drier rest period in winter is recommended (by both Peter Masters and all the literature that I reviewed).

*Cattleya aclandiae* is quite adaptable and can be grown in pots in any open, well drained media such as pine bark, or can be slab-mounted provided humidity can be maintained during the hot, dry summer months. The best time to divide/pot/mount this species is as new root growth is just starting.

Good air movement is essential for health growth of *Cattleya aclandiae*, especially if it is grown high in the shadehouse to get maximum light. Like many in the genus, it is susceptible to cotton and hard scale when air movement is inadequate.

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Photography by Mich
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*Lepanthes eltoroensis*. Photo by Raymond Tremblay.

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Name Badge: Rita

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 (1st 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(1st 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.
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, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.