

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 5 October 2011



CULTURAL AWARD, Sept 2011

*Dendrobium lindleyi*

Tony & Mavis

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 October

SILENT AUCTION

NEWSLETTER

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 September 2011, 7.58 pm

**Present:** 31

**Apologies:** Sharon, Tom & Pat , Chris, Lee, Phil, Joan

**Visitors:** Merle

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Minutes as circulated accepted (Mavis, Gordon)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra Current balance is \$3,320.95 #2 A/c \$1,811.54. (Neville, Chris )

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- City of Belmont - refund of July hire fee
- . Flier - ANOS AGM
- . Merle - confirmation of talk re. AOC Conference 2012
- . Neutrog fertilizers - confirmation of talk 8th Nov. 2011
- . Email from Swiss Orchid Foundation - new journal
- . Various club Newsletters

**Outwards:**

- Letter to City of Belmont thanking them for their response to our complaint.
- . Email to Brian Burbage advising him that he is financial for this year.
- . Phone call to City of Belmont advising that the car park lighting was not on.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- Thanks to Lee for acting as Treasurer whilst Sandra was away.
- Discussion was raised re. the #2 Bank

account - referred back to Committee for further discussion

- Geoff suggested we put the complaint to COB re car park lighting in writing, since there has been no action on their part in response to the phone call. As there was also an issue this month with the kitchen roller door over the counter being locked, Graham & Margaret volunteered to speak with COB staff personally.
- Mich has placed the order for mounted plants of *Sarcochilus falcatus* & *Dendrobium aemulum* for future monthly club plants.
- Ken has booked an inspection of quarantine plants for September 26th and will attempt to get as many released as possible before he leaves on holiday.
- The September 25th Home Visit has been changed from Maxine's to Peter & Shirley's home.
- Thanks were given to Graham & Margaret for hosting the last Home Visit.
- Special Raffle plant is *Bulbophyllum cornutum*. Courtney has donated a very large softcane Dendrobium hybrid plant to be raffled for \$1 a ticket. Gordon has also donated a *Dendrobium speciosum var. grandiflora* to be auctioned.
- Merle & Bruce then presented their talk about current progress of the 19th AOC Conference 2012, and the orchid display being presented at the 20th WOC in Singapore in November of this year, which will promote the AOC Conference.

- Norm conducted the auction of *Dendrobium speciosum*. The successful bidder was Murray (\$22) .

**Raffle:** Victor, Eva, Judith  
**Name Badge:** Trevor  
**Special Raffle:** Ian

**Cultural Award:** A beautiful specimen of *Dendrobium lindleyi* grown by Tony and Mavis.

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- A phone enquiry to City of Belmont re the car park lighting situation revealed that cables were damaged after reticulation work was undertaken. Lighting should be restored in the next two weeks.
- No 2 account was discussed. Committee recommends that the money be held until the 2012 AOC Conference to purchase plants or flasks from overseas vendors (overcoming quarantine and transport issues). A direction is to be sought from members as to whether the proceeds of the sale of these plants (as monthly club plants) should then go to No1 or No. 2 account.
- **Remember the Silent Auction at our October general meeting.** This is the Society's major fundraising event each year, so dig out those divisions that you have been putting aside during the year, and come along prepared to bid for what are sure to be some interesting lots. While species orchids are preferred any plants or other items are welcome. Please refrain from watering any donated plants on the day.
- 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.

**President:** Adrian

**Vice President:** Graham

**Secretary:** Maxine Godbeer  
 2195 Hidden Valley Rd, Parkerville  
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**Treasurer:** Sandra

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**Committee:**

Chris

Michele

Lee

Sharon

Tony

Mavis

Trevor

**Life Members**

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

Joan & Ted (dec'd)

Neville

Noel & Evar

# 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.

October—no home visit

November—no home visit

Thanks Peter and Shirley for hosting our September home visit. Whilst not a hybrid grower, I was very impressed with the display of flowering Phalaenopsis. I don't recall having seen such an extensive display of lush, well grown orchid plants.

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### Imported plant news

During winter, plant growth was quite slow, but we had an inspection on 26 September 2011 where a few more plants were released. I will bring these to the October meeting. That said, with further plant deaths over the past few months, there is only a handful left - I estimate the eventual loss rate on the Panama/Thailand shipment to be in excess of 50%, the worst result that we have ever experienced.

*Ken & Chris*

# CUT FLOWERS FOR DISPLAY AT 20WOC CONFERENCE SINGAPORE

Support for the display to be staged at the 20WOC Conference in Singapore would be greatly appreciated. It is our opportunity to promote the 19<sup>th</sup> AOC Conference to be staged in Perth, September 2012 and also to promote the AOC on the international stage.

## **PACKING OF THE CUT FLOWERS.**

**WHERE:** Ezi Gro Orchid Nursery,  
Evandale Road, Darch

**WHEN:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
commencing at 10am.

## **DELIVERY OF FLOWERS:**

Between 9.30am and 10.30am  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Ezi Gro

If you are unable to deliver flowers on this date please contact Merle.

Information sheets and exhibitor entry forms are available for those wishing to provide cut flower stems for the display and should be available from your Society Secretary or you can complete them on the day at Ezi Gro. A sample of how the form is completed has been produced for exhibitors use also.

Co Coordinator, Merle will allocate each

exhibitor with a specific code that will identify their cut flower stems and this will make it easier when setting up the display in Singapore.

If you have any queries please contact Merle phone 0415 116 960 or email [aoc-conference@dodo.com.au](mailto:aoc-conference@dodo.com.au) prior to 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Merle  
Conference Secretary  
19<sup>th</sup> AOC Conference

**Graham & Margaret**

*Caladenia flava*  
*Caladenia polychroma*  
*Caladenia vulgaris*  
*Chiloglottis X pescottiana*  
*Dendrobium kingianum* var. *alba*  
*Disperis* sp.  
*Diuris amplissima*  
*Paphiopedilum delenatii*  
*Serapias neglecta*

**Gordon**

*Dendrobium speciosum*

**Ken and Chris**

*Dendrobium jonesii*  
*Dendrobium lindleyi*  
*Gongora truncata*  
*Lycaste tricolor*

*Paphiopedilum philippinense*  
*Phaius tankervilleae*  
*Vanda coerulescens*

**Michele**

*Dendrobium aemulum*  
*Maxillaria porphyrostele*  
*Sarcochilus falcatus*

**Peter & Shirley**

*Aerangis citrata*  
*Dendrochilum glumaceum*  
*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*  
*Serapias lingua*

**Anne & Geoff**

*Angraecum sesquipedale*  
*Coelogyne cristata* var. *lemoniana*  
*Dockrillia banksii*

# PLANTS DISPLAYED



*Aerangis citrata*  
Peter & Shirley

*Paphiopedilum delenatii*  
Graham & Margaret



*Ludisia discolor*  
*Plectorrhiza tridentata*

**Neville**

*Caladenia flava*

**John**

*Dendrobium jonesii*

**Noel & Eva**

*Ansellia africana* var. *gigantea*

*Bletilla striata*

*Calanthe vestita*

*Dendrobium jonesii*

*Maxillaria porphyrostele*

*Zygopetalum crinitum*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Dendrobium lindleyi*

*Maxillaria porphyrostele*



*Caladenia polychroma*  
Graham & Margaret

# D SEPTEMBER 2011

*Sarcophilus falcatus*  
Mich



*Coelogyne cristata* var. *lemoniana*  
Anne & Geoff

Photography by Tony

## *Schomburgkia - or are they Laelias?*

The genus *Schomburgkia* is a member of the subtribe Laeliinae, which has at different times has been included or excluded from the genus *Laelia*. It is generally accepted that fifteen-eighteen valid species exist with several natural hybrids.

This genus has stimulated debate among taxonomists for the past 100 years as the arguments about whether it is part of *Laelia* are pursued. H. G Jones (1968) published paper titled "Some Notes on the Genus *Schomburgkia* Lindl. of the Orchidaceae and its Relationships". Evidence of this may be found when looking up the genus in most publications where it is shown under the genus *Laelia*, with the genus *Schomburgkia* shown as a synonym. I will revisit this later.

Three distinguished botanists, Lindley, Reichenbach and Schlechter initially studied this genus which was established by Lindley in 1838, named after Dr Richard Schomburgk, who discovered the type species, *S. crispa* and *S. marginata*. Over the next 15-20 years several more *Schomburgkia* species were discovered and identified, but as commonly happened at that time, several were misnamed or were synonyms. In the early 1900's, several more species were identified with another two identified by Jones in the 1960's.

In May 1973, Jones published "The

Genus *Schomburgkia*: A Study in the History and Bibliography of Plant Taxonomy", and over some 15 years, undertook a revision of the genus examining in detail the species found in Mexico-Central America, northern South America and the West Indies.

One of the interesting aspects of this genus was the amalgamation of *Laelia* and *Schomburgkia* proposed by Dr L O Williams in 1941. His classification was been accepted by some taxonomists (principally those working in the Ames Herbarium) but has been rejected by others.

Schlechter in his 1913 review of the genus proposed the names §*Eu-Schomburgkia* and §*Chauno-Schomburgkia*. As the International nomenclature rules require, *Eu-Schomburgkia* was invalid as the section that includes the generic type must repeat the name unaltered. Subsequently, Rolfe 1917 proposed the name *Myrmecophila* in place of *Chauno-Schomburgkia* that is in common use among nurseries and hobbyists.

However, it may well be that those of us who continue to call them *Schomburgkia* are wrong. Recent DNA sequencing seems to confirm that the genus *Schomburgkia* is in fact *Laelia*. A 2010 article in the American Orchid Society journal titled Farewell *Schomburgkia* refers to

Withner's 1992 Volume III of the *Cattleyas and their Relatives*. Withner's treatment of *Schomburgkia* included the South American members, ant-associated species and one Mexican species in an expanded group. But, contemporary taxonomists, relying heavily on DNA evidence that is considered to be irrefutable truth have concluded that the South American *Schomburgkia* are in fact *Laelia*, while the ant-associated species are the genus *Myrmecophila*.

<http://orquideas-katia.com/orquideas-expovirtual/ESP/SALAS/SCHOMB/SCHOMB> 3.htm



An alba form also exists.

The two sections, *Schomburgkia* and *Myrmecophila* are distinguished by the conical, hollow pseudobulbs of the latter while the former are more fusiform and fleshy. Often, these hollow pseudobulbs provide a home for black ants which attack any invaders with vigour. The type species is *Schomburgkia crispa* (syn *Schomburgkia marginata*) from British Guyana. As noted earlier, they were discovered and named after Dr Schomburgk



The type species *Schomburgkia crispa* (syn *Schomburgkia marginata*) is generally found in Venezuela, Surinam, Guyana, French Guyana, Northern Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador at low altitudes growing high up in trees where it receives nearly full sunlight and good air movement. It is a robust, hot growing species.

The flower has distinctive undulate margins as shown in the following photos from



I could not find any details of *Schomburgkia elata* which is found in Colombia, although Kew shows it as unresolved which means that they are unable to determine whether it is accepted or a synonym (some authors suggest that it is synonymous with *Laelia elata*).

*Schomburgkia fimbriata* found in Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, Colombia and Ecuador as a large sized, hot growing epiphyte with 2 leaves at low elevations is another species that is subject to debate as to whether it is actually a separate species, or is synonymous with *Schomburgkia gloriosa*. Its common name, the glorious Schomburgkia seems to support this view.

*Schomburgkia gloriosa*, is also in the view of many authors synonymous with *Schomburgkia crispa* further contributing to the uncertainties about identification of this genus. Found in Surinam, French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and northern Brazil at low elevations as a large hot growing epiphyte, in Brazil, it is most often found growing on *Hevea brasiliensis*, the Pará rubber tree. Generally this tree is simply called the *rubber tree*, and belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae. It is the most economically important member of the genus *Hevea* because its sap-like extract (known as latex) can be collected and is the primary source of natural rubber

Typical of this genus, the plant is a large, robust plant up to 1.2m tall with 8-15 short-lived, waxy flowers carried on up-



right racemes.

<http://www.orchidsonline.com.au/node/4506>

*Schomburgkia x heidii* Carnivali (perhaps now more correctly *Laelia heidii* Van den Berg & M.W.Chase) comes from Venezuela, however the only images that I was able to find seem not to be this species as the person posting them was asking others whether they were able to identify it.

While there seems to be less debate about *Schomburgkia lueddemanii* Prill. from Northern South America (Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia etc), only very limited information about its distribution and habitat is available. In common with other members of this confused genus, it is large, robust plant with more than 1 metre upright flower racemes, carrying a head of synchronously opening reddish/brown flowers (I will include a photo in the next part of this article). Two members imported this plant as part of the recent shipment from Panama and hopefully we will see it on display at some future date.

*To be continued*

# 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 \$15.00. 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  
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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).