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Peterskorner

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 Orchid Society monthly meetings.

Check out our catalogue at www.peterskorner.com
Phone Peter or Shirley on the above numbers or email peterskorner@iinet.net.au



Gongora sp. (labelled *Gga. quinquenervis*...can anyone identify?)

Grown by Anne and Geoff

.....
Christmas Party and General Meeting
6 December 7.45pm
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 November, 7.55pm

Opened by: Graham in Adrian's absence

Members present: 28 as per the register.

Visitors: Marcia & Gerald (USA), Val, Gloria, Brian (guest speaker)

New member: **Greg Wood**

Apologies: Adrian, Deanne, Tom, Pat, Ken, Chris, Gill, Phil, Sharon.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Acceptance moved: Gordon; **Seconded:** Anne

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra, and the current balance is \$3817.80. No. 2 A/c \$1811.77.

Moved: Lee; **Seconded:** Trevor

Inwards:

- GCA – magazine & news release of Wormfest
- City of Belmont – Hall booking 2012
- City of Belmont – Expression of interest Community Directory
- Species Orchid Society, Toowong Qld. – re quarantine facilities
- Orchid Digest

Outwards: Nil

Correspondence accepted: Chris;

Seconded: Murray

General Business

- The car park lighting was on this month, the roller door in the kitchen has been fitted with handles to make it easier to lift.
- The latest edition of Western Australian Native Orchids by Hoffman & Brown has been released. Mich has taken orders and will pick them up.
- It was suggested that the Silent Auction be held earlier in the year eg. June or July to allow us October (a warmer

month) to release club plants. We may experiment with this next year.

- The 2nd CD of monthly plants shown in 2010 & 2011 (mainly those not appearing in the first one) may be produced and sold at the 2012 AOC Conference. Most present seemed in favour of this so it will go back to the Committee for further planning.
- Mich has researched the book Orchids of Brazil (the Oncidiinae) by Patricia Harding. The cost is approx. cost is \$46 (which includes bulk shipping). Anyone interested please contact Mich.
- Our guest speaker Brian Klepzig gave a very interesting and informative talk on Neutrog products accompanied by a Power Point presentation. All present seemed to enjoy the programme and were keen to ask questions. Brian finished his programme by giving all present a sample box of products.
- Chris donated a large plant of *L. lobata* which was auctioned by Norm. Thank you to Norm for raising \$60. The successful bidder was Gordon.

Ken Jones Culture Award: No award was given this month as Ken is still happily "tripping".

Raffle Winners: No raffle was conducted.

Special Raffle: The *Maxillaria sp.* (white) was won by Anne, the *Ansellia africana* was won by Tony.

Badge Prize winner: Trevor

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm

Members then adjourned for supper

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The 19th Australian Orchid Council (AOC) Conference will be held in Perth from 11 to 16 September 2012. Closing date for early registration is **31 January 2012**. Early registration: \$180 for Primary Registrant; \$120 for Accompanying Registrant. You will save \$50 per person. You can obtain the forms on www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Registration.pdf. There will be a few copies available at the next meeting.
- A sub-committee will be formed in January to design, produce and implement our stand at the 19th AOC Conference. Needless to say, we need all the help so if anyone would like to be involved, please let us know.
- The next 'home visit' is at Ezi Grow in January. A show of hands is required for the sausage sizzle. Dates etc on page 4.
- A book, *Bulbophyllums of Sulawesi* was recently bought for the library.
- Wishes to Tom for a speedy recovery from his recent illness.
- Thank you to those who have brought plants in the past year for auction and for the usual raffle to raise funds for the Society.
- There is a constant demand for future raffle plants; please do keep this in mind when you are repotting and doing divisions.
- 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!

- Wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Keep safe and look forward to an exciting year together.

.....
● **President:** Adrian

● **Vice President:** Graham

● **Secretary:** Maxine Godbeer

● 2195 Hidden Valley Rd,
● Parkerville 6081

● **Treasurer:** Sandra

● **Editor:** Ken Jones

● 204 Park Street, Henley Brook 6055

● **Phone:** 9296 1765

● **e-mail:** kcjones@tpg.com.au

● **Committee:**

● Chris

Mich

● Lee

Sharon

● Tony

Mavis

● Trevor

● **Life Members:**

● Barry (deceased)

● Gordon

● Joan & Ted (deceased)

● Neville

● Noel & Eva

.....

Condolences to the Merrington family for the recent loss of Lois Merrington, who had continued to support the Society after Fred died.
~ VALE LOIS ~

Photograph by Noël



MONTHLY PLANT

Renanthera imschootiana

Countries of origin: Assam, Burma, Southern China, Laos and Vietnam

Description: Large sized, cool to hot growing epiphyte

Difficulty: Moderate, if given the right conditions

Cost: \$12



<http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/renimschootiana.jpg>

Renanthera imschootiana from Assam, Burma, Southern China, Laos and Vietnam grows on tree trunks and along gorge edges in evergreen, lowland forests at low to moderate elevations of (500–1500m) as a large-sized, cool to hot growing epiphyte. These plants have been grown on by Peter and Shirley Masters who are our resident *Renanthera* experts, however, Peter reports that these seedlings have been a challenge to grow. The bright red flowers of this species, borne on branched racemes are quite striking, and presumably, part of the reason for past over-collection.

Due to the effects of deforestation, habitat destruction and over collecting, *Renanthera imschootiana* is listed in

Appendix I of CITES. These seedlings were sourced from Geoff and Jacquie Stocker.

Members will have observed that Peter grows *Renanthera* species in small wooden baskets, and it is recommended that this approach is followed, although if suitable conditions can be provided (warm and dry during our cold, wet winters), a suitable hardwood or natural cork mount might also be effective.

This is a slow growing member of the *Renanthera* genus, and while immature, can be susceptible to sap-sucking pest attack, particularly hard and soft scales. To combat this, ensure that good air movement is provided.

Murray and Arni

Brassavola nodosa var.
grandiflora

Graham and Margaret

Cymbidium canaliculatum
var. *sparksii*
Diuris drummondii

Chris C

Laelia lobata

Maxine

Cycnoches warscewiczii
Promeneia ovatiloba

Anne and Geoff

Dendrochilum curranii
Epidendrum parkinsonianum
Gongora [quiquenervis]
Phaius tankervillea
Paphiopedilum callosum var.
thailandense
Scaphyglottis sp. aff. *behrii*

Tony and Mavis

Phalaenopsis sumatrana
Seidenfadenia mitrata

B. nodosa var. *grandiflora*
Murray and Arni



Diuris drummondii
Graham and Margaret



Cycnoches warscewiczii
Maxine



Scaphyglottis sp. aff. *behrii*
Anne and Geoff
(this is what the flower looks like!)

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2011



Seidenfadenia mitrata
Tony and Mavis



Dendrochilum curranii
Anne and Geoff



Laelia lobata
Chris C

Photography by Mich

I was going to write an essay to tell you about the recent visit to Singapore for the Conference but have decided to do a photojournal of my impressions. Recent feedback tells me that few read the Newsletter, and therefore have not realised that an imposter has taken over, but Ken has given power of attorney in his absence and I am do what is necessary...herewith less words and more pictures. Enjoy!

mich



Marina Bay Sands Resort as seen from Gardens by the Bay

Postcards from Singapore – 20th World Orchid Conference



Stand from China had rocks, planted with Cymbidiums, and a stream to recreate a traditional Chinese garden



The entrance hall to the orchid show in the Expo Centre was garlanded by thousands of cream Dendrobiums, no doubt hybrids, kind unknown



A new hybrid Renanthera was bred to commemorate the event named Renanthera 20th WOC Singapore 2011

DATES TO DIARY

6 December: Xmas Party. Do remember to bring a plant for the Xmas Gift Swap and food to share. (APOLOGIES for the wrong date in the last issue).

1 January 2012
Chat and eat at Mich and Alastair's at 66 Dalry Road, Darlington G070. From 4pm onwards till late. Please bring a dessert or cake. Buffet dinner will be provided as well as teas and coffees. Please also



Nepenthes hamata from the island of Sulawesi



Paphinia herrerae, a small-sized epiphyte from Ecuador, was one of many exotics flown in for the show

Facts:

- Singapore is the only Asian city that has hosted this Conference twice. The last time was in 1963.
- Held at the Marina Bay Sands Resort, a recently-built complex on reclaimed land which in itself is worth visiting
- 75 displays from 23 countries including species and hybrids, 19thC book collection, floral arrangements, and a tempting marketplace which sold plants, flasks and other horticultural paraphernalia.



Visitors to the Conference were given a preview of Gardens by the Bay, not officially opened till mid next year. This conservatory, named the Flower Dome, is the larger of two, and occupies more than two football fields with cool-dry climatic conditions. Full sized Boababs and other kinds of caudiciforms were rescued or donated by Governments from around the world. There was a team of horticulturists as well as engineers, involved with the building of the structure, who added to the experience with their in-depth knowledge. Highlight of the visit!

bring your own favourite tittle to herald the New Year. We will supply a bathtub of ice. You will probably need to bring a chair and whatever else you need to keep cool. Informal plant display so do bring plants to show.

28 January 2012

Visit to Ezi Grow Orchids. Evandale Road, Lansdale at 10.00am. Kevin and his staff provide a sausage sizzle for lunch, please bring salads and desserts to share.

ERRATA

The plants attributed to Peter, in last month's listing, were Tony's. Sorry for the error. There was no written record of Peter's except I was told that he brought in his magnificent *Dendrobium linguiforme*.

SCHOMBURGKIA - OR ARE THEY LAELIAS? PART III

Schomburgkia splendida Schltr. from Colombia and Ecuador is a large, hot to warm growing epiphyte or lithophyte found in full sun in dry montane forests along rivers on trees and rocks at moderate elevations. It is commonly known as the Splendid Schomburgkia. Under the new naming conventions, this species is now *Laelia splendida*. Charles and Margaret Baker (on Troy Meyers' website) say that this species was originally discovered in the mountainous southwest Colombia at about 1000 m, with plants subsequently discovered in northwest Ecuador at similar elevations on the western slopes of the Andes.

The large, pink, waxy, long-lived flowers are borne on one–two metre flower racemes – this is not a species for a small glasshouse! The following photo from Ecuagenera shows this species in situ.



Source:http://www.google.com.au/imgres?imgurl=http://www.ecuagenera.com/WebRoot/whitelabel4/Shops/ecuagenera/Categories/images/Schomburgkia_splendida

Schomburgkia superbiens Lindl. is found growing in rain forests in the mountains of

Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. It grows as an epiphyte on trees or as a lithophyte rocks in moist forests. This species forms impressively large colonies (up to two metres across) in its natural habitat. While its common name is the Superb Schomburgkia, closer



examination of the flower shows why it is more correctly classified as *Laelia superbiens*.

In common with many Schomburgkia species, there are a number of colour forms including albinistic as the following photo from Andy's Orchids (on Jay Phal's website) illustrates.



Source:<http://www.orchidspecies.com/schomsuperbiens.htm>

Schomburgkia undulata Lindl. is found in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Trinidad, Venezuela and possibly Bolivia at moderate elevations. Once again, it is a large sized, epiphyte or lithophyte on large branches and tree trunks or on large boulders on the Pacific slopes in dry deciduous forests. Its common name is the Undulate Schomburgkia, and it is currently more correctly described as *Laelia undulata*.

However, this species, whilst not classified as a member of the genus *Myrmecophila* resembles those species as it is characterized by myrmecophilia (coexistence with ants). Colonies of ant species live in its pseudobulbs which split open, providing a space which is occupied by the ants. The relationship is described as a “mutually -beneficial cooperation”, ie: the orchid provides the ants with a dwelling and in turn it receives nutrition from the ants’ excrement and protection from other pests.

The following photo shows the large flower head borne on a 1–1.5m flower raceme.



Source:<http://cattleya.wikidot.com/schomburgkia-undulata>

Schomburgkia wallisii Rchb is found growing in mountainous forests in Colombia and Venezuela as an epiphyte on tree trunks or a lithophyte on boulders. It is another large species with tall, cylindrical pseudobulbs that become rough-textured with age. Each pseudobulb has one or two tongue-shaped leaves.

Schomburgkia wallisii is closely related to *Schomburgkia undulata* but has a different geographic distribution and minor floral details. The flower colour varies widely with some forms being quite brown while others are redder (like *Schomburgkia undulata*).



Source:<http://www.orchidspecies.com/scombwallisii.htm>

Schomburgkia weberbaueriana Kraenzl. is found in wet mountainous regions of Peru (and Bolivia?) growing at moderate elevations as an epiphyte on trees and as a lithophyte on rocks in wet montane forest, exposed to high sunlight. In common with many of the species reviewed in this article, *Schomburgkia weberbaueriana* has large, tall pseudobulbs with a few long leaves, and

SCHOMBURGKIA - OR ARE THEY LAELIAS? PART III CONTINUED

forms large colonies over time in its natural habitat.

The following photo shows a rather pale flower form compared with the darker brown colour which seems to be more common.



Source:<http://orchidstudium.com/Estrangeiras/Schomburgkia%20weberbaueriana.html>

Charles and Margaret Baker (on Troy Meyers' website) say that this species was initially found at Santa Ana near Cuzco growing lithophytically at 1300 m. It was also found in the same area at slightly higher altitude. Dodson and Bennett (1989) reported this species in northern Peru in seasonally dry regions along the Rio Uctubamba not far from Bagua on exposed rocky outcrops at 1600 m. They go on to say that the species has been reported from Ecuador although no further details were available.

In concluding these parts of the article, I have come to the conclusion that this genus is among the most confusing that I have examined. There are so many contradictions, duplication and examples

of synonymy that it is virtually impossible for an amateur like me to undertake a comprehensive review without referring to more authoritative sources than I could find on the Internet. I chose to follow the classification set out in a listing that I downloaded from Kew many years ago, but now suspect that it has been superseded. For the next part of this article, I will review some of the more commonly grown *Myrmecophila*, and revisit *Schomburgkia* to look at some of the other species that I found listed while researching the earlier parts of the article.

Ken

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 (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 \$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