



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 23 No 8 February 2012

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 14 February

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

6 December 2011, 7.44 pm

**Present:** 30

**Apologies:** Tom & Pat, Chris & Ken, Gill, Phil, and Val

**Visitors:** Nil

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Anne)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra. Current balance is \$3260.90. #2 A/c \$1811.77 (Murray, Mavis)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Brian Klepzig (Neutrog) – thanks for invitation to give talk
- City of Belmont – Confirmation of Hall booking dates for 2012
- City of Belmont – Invoice for hall hire 2012

- City of Belmont – liquor permit
- GCA – annual Report Re-affiliation etc.
- Various club newsletters

**Outwards:**

- Reply to COB Community Directory
- Reply to Species Society (Toowong Qld) re quarantine facility
- City of Belmont – booking application & Certificate of Currency.
- Application for liquor permit
- Get Well card to Tom (Chris, Murray)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- A Minutes Silence was observed for Lois Merrington
- Adrian expressed thanks to Margaret & Ian for their work in the kitchen, Deanna (raffle) Mich (library & Newsletter) Ken (Newsletter & quarantine), Tony (web page), Tom (auctioneering), Sandra (Treasurer) & Maxine (Secretary)
- Members were reminded of the savings made by Early Bird Registration for AOC Conference in 2012. This opportunity closes on Jan. 31st.
- The World Orchid Conference for 2017 was awarded to Ecuador
- The Home Visit in January is on Sat 28th January 2012 at Ezi-Gro Orchids. About 26 members indicated they would attend.
- Mich reported the books of Orchids of Brazil (the Oncidiinae) by Patricia Harding have arrived. The Orchid Review magazine has not arrived since May. Mich has since rectified this.

**Cultural Award:** No award for Dec - Ken and Chris still away.

**Raffle:** No raffle held

**Name Badge:** John

**Special Raffle:** *Clowesia russelliana* won by Anne

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- At the suggestion of one of our members, Adrian, members of the committee plus any other interested members will be assessing the suitability of alternate meeting venues as a means of reducing the significant expense in hall hire fees imposed by the City of Belmont. The Belmont Sports and Recreation premises across the road from our current venue premises is used by other clubs, is significantly less expensive and may provide an option - proposed inspection date is Mon 20 Feb at 7.00pm.
- Following your support for a display at the September 2012 Conference, we are seeking members to be part of a sub-committee to plan, develop and coordinate the display. We look forward to working with you on this exciting project. Your committee have also agreed (subject to their approval) to share a sales booth with Wanneroo Orchid Society as we have done at the previous WAOS events. This was financially very successful and we will need your help to work on the sales booth, and most importantly, to provide good quality, well-grown orchids for sale.
- Peter and Shirley Masters continue to support the Society, and have donated 20 plants of *Cattleya gaskelliana* var *alba* which will be used a monthly plant. Thanks Peter and Shirley.
- 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  
6081

**Treasurer:** Sandra

**Editor:** Ken Jones  
204 Park Street, Henley Brook  
6055. Phone: 9296 1765  
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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

## NOTICEBOARD

### FORTH-COMING EVENTS

**Home visits:**

At 10am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and of food to share.  
February - Bill & Sandra, Safety Bay  
March - Bruce & Kaye, Dianella  
April - Maxine, Parkerville

### FOR SALE/WANTED

Murray is interested in buying some virus test kits from the following supplier: [https://orders.agdia.com/InventoryD.asp?loc=IN&collection=ISK%2013301&attribute\\_Size=25](https://orders.agdia.com/InventoryD.asp?loc=IN&collection=ISK%2013301&attribute_Size=25)

With freight costs they work out at about \$11.50 each for the minimum order, but he is hoping that cost will come down a bit for larger orders. If you are interested in sharing costs for some test kits, please contact Murray on 9310 2800.

**Imported plant news**

We have arranged a further inspection to release the few remaining plants from Thailand and Panama (December 2010 shipment). Whatever is released I will bring to the general meeting.

*Ken & Chris Jones*

## MONTHLY PLANT

### *Sobennikoffia robusta*

**Country of origin:** Western Madagascar

**Description:** Lithophytic or epiphytic in dry western Madagascar

**Difficulty:** A strongly growing plant that is able to cope with our dry hot summer

**Cost:** \$10.00



Source: <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/load/orchidsgal/>

*Sobennikoffia robusta* and *S. humbertiana* are often seen on the Society's display bench. This species should be reasonably easy to grow, and provided it can be kept drier and warmer in our wet, cold winter, should be suited to shadehouse culture.

*Sobennikoffia robusta* comes from the drier western Madagascar where it is lithophytic on rocks, or epiphytic on low shrubs in sandy dry woods, and occasionally terrestrial (I have seen this species growing terrestrially at Malala Orchidees).

Given this environment, it copes well with hot temperatures, although does need some humidity in the hottest months of summer when it generally flowers. I have found that this species, while slow growing in our conditions, is hardy and over time produces side growths (keikis) that can be taken off and grown separately. This vegetative reproduction

approach is that used by Malala Orchidees.

In keeping with many Vandaceous orchids, *Sobennikoffia robusta* needs high light although care should be taken to ensure that the leaves do not become too yellow as it will constrain flowering. While hardwood or cork mounts are probably the most effective means of growing this species provided summer humidity can be provided, wooden baskets or pot culture with large media are also effective.

The species is generally resistant to pests although can be vulnerable to cotton scale if there is insufficient air movement in your growing environment. When in active growth (green root tips showing) as a gross feeder, regular fertilising with a high K fertiliser will promote growth and flowering.

### Chris

*Paphiopedilum kolopakingii*

### Noel & Eva

*Cymbidium maddidum*

### Adrian & Deanne

*Bulbophyllum wendlandianum*

*Dendrobium stricklandianum*

*Saccolabiopsis armitii* x self

*Trichocentrum capistratum*

### Michele

*Dendrobium stricklandianum*

### Peter & Shirley

*Cattleya gaskelliana*

*Laelia purpurata*

### Anne & Geoff

*Chiloschista viridiflava*

## PLANTS DISPLAYED DECEMBER 2011



*Laelia purpurata*  
Peter & Shirley

*Paphiopedilum kolopakingii*  
Chris





often branching, can be up to 1.5m and carry more than 30 progressive flowers.

The next species *Myrmecophila exaltata* (Kraenzlin 1926) is found along the Caribbean coasts of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in low montane forests and scrub. It is also a robust, large hot growing epiphyte. While its short (up to 30cm) ribbed pseudobulbs are substantially smaller than those of *M. brysiana*, the terminal 2m flower raceme can carry up to 80 dark purple flowers. The species name refers to a tall flower raceme that carries its flowers well above the surrounding plants rather than some other attribute

While some authors consider this species synonymous with *M. tibinicensis*, Withner does not accept that view. Nor does he accept that it is a natural hybrid between *M. brysiana* and *M. tibinicensis* as suggested by others, although it may help explain the origin *M. exaltata* as a species.

The following photo Jay Phals's website,



shows the distinctive purple flowers, while the photo from <http://speciesidentificationtask-force.blogspot.com/2009/05/myrmecophila-exaltata.html>

shows the relatively small plant and long flower



raceme of this species.

*Myrmecophila galeottiana* (Richard 1845) is also subject to considerable debate with many synonyms, although it is most commonly known as *Schomburgkia galeottiana*. I have included it in this section as it also has many *Myrmecophila* synonyms. It is found in Guatemala and Mexico on the Pacific coast, while the florally similar species *M. exaltata* occurs on the Caribbean coast. While some authors have classified this species as *M. humboldtii* demonstrating in their view an interesting example of disjunct distribution, most authorities are satisfied that it is a separate species. However, if this alternative view was proven, the name *M. humboldtii* would have priority.

The following habitat photo from Jay Phal's website clearly shows the tall flower racemes that are a dominant characteristic of the genus.



The pseudobulbs are less conical and more elongate than others in the genus, and have five or six distinct nodes. Each has two-four hard leathery apical leaves, and

long racemes with up to 20 successively opening pink/purple flowers as shown in the following photo.

<http://www.orchidphotos.org/>



*Myrmecophila humboldtii* (Reichenbach 1856) is the only species found in South America (on the Pacific coast). Humboldt's *Schomburgkia* was discovered by Humboldt and Bonpland near Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. It is reported from Venezuela, Aruba and the Netherland Antilles as a medium sized, hot to warm growing species with clavate, slightly compressed pseudobulbs carrying 2 to 3 rigid, narrowly oblong, obtuse leaves. The erect flower racemes can be 1-1.5m in height carrying up to 20 lilac/

purple flowers. An alba form has been recorded but is extremely rare. *M. humboldtii* natural habitat is under pressure from clearing for other land use, and in Aruba, it seems that its natural habitat has been lost, although the species has been introduced to a nearby national park where some protection exists.



The full flower raceme photo is from <http://orchid.unibas.ch>.

*To be continued in March.*

## 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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skorner@iinet.net.au

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).