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CULTURAL
AWARD, May
2012

Peter & Shirley

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12 June
AT WILSON COMMUNITY HALL

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 May 2012, 8.20 pm

Present: 35

Apologies: 10

Visitors: Nil

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Anne, Adrian)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Lee (in the absence of Sandra). Current balance is \$33345.96, and #2 A/c \$1812.22 (Gordon, Ken)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- LTM Risk Partners – confirmation of insurance
- Dr. Tim Wing YAM (Singapore Botanic Gardens) asking for expression of interest in a book being published on Native Orchids of Singapore.
- Mark Sullivan – 1% for Orchid Conservation
- Coates Tours – enquiring about advertising costs & deadlines etc. in our newsletter. They wish to advertise their wildflower tours of the SW. Ken will advise.
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- To GCA – details for Registration & contacts.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- This was the first meeting at the Wilson Community Hall. The majority of members present found it amenable to

our needs, so it will be booked again for the June meeting, at which time there may be additional members present to add their opinion.

- Gary Backhouse has produced a CD (Spider Orchids – the Genus *Caladenia* & it's Relatives) available at \$30
- The next meeting of the display committee is to be at Graham's residence on Sat. 19th May at 2pm. Adrian has indicated that he has already collected about 50% of the required panelling for the display, free of charge.
- Mavis reminded the members that volunteer sheets need to be returned by the next meeting date.
- It was suggested that Ron Heberle's photos may be used better as postcards rather than calendars (for sale at the AOC Conference)
- Questions were raised about acquiring insurance cover for the society's equipment. It was advised that we had been down that path several times in the past and cost was always prohibitive, and the library was almost impossible to value. Most equipment was kept in various private homes & covered under contents insurance.
- Tony explained the entry cards for the AOC Conference and also left flyers for members to distribute to advertise the Conference.
- Thanks were extended for the last Home Visit at Maxine's, although she broke the rules and allowed it to rain!! The next Home visit is at John's on 27th

- May, please bring a plate & chair.
Address will be in the Newsletter.
- Peter said that he was in receipt of Pennant Hills Orchid Society's e-newsletter and suggested that our society reciprocate.
 - Ken thanked Adrian for his efforts as President of the Species Orchid

Society for the past two years.
Cultural Award: *Aerangis cryptodon*
grown by Peter & Shirley
Raffle: : Bill, Norm, Gordon
Name Badge: Sharon

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The next meeting is the Silent Auction and will be held at the Wilson Community Hall in Braidrise Street, Wilson where we met last month. Please remember to bring along orchids and/or other plants, and other items. To avoid making bids hard to read, it is important that that pots are dry, ie, not watered that that day.
- As trestle space is limited at the Wilson Community Hall and we will need the majority of available trestle tables for the silent auction, please bring no more than three plants for display.
- While we realise that the library is not currently available, please bring back any books or periodicals that you have so that Mich can undertake the annual audit.
- AOC volunteer forms are now on the AOC website - please give some thought to how you might assist in making this event the most successful conference ever.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.

President: Graham
Vice President: Ken Jones
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
Adrian
Michele
Lee
Sharon
Trevor
Tony
Mavis
Life Members
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.
- * Jun - Adrian & Deanne, Safety Bay
 - * Jul - Gordon, Karrinyup
 - * Aug - Ian, Ardross
 - * Sept - Anne & Geoff, Waikiki

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

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

Bulletin No10.May 2012

Only 15 weeks to go!!

Conference attracts overwhelming number of Judges

The Conference Committee continues to be pleasantly surprised with the terrific support for our event. Not only have we had to change the venue for the conference lectures but we have now been forced to move the judging from the ballroom foyer into one of the ballrooms due to the large number of judges from around the world, wishing to participate in the judging on Tues 11th September. There are over 100 judges now registered who have expressed a desire to participate in the judging.

Individual plant/flower judging will take place in the afternoon of Tues 11th Sep while display judging will take place in the afternoon of Wed 12th.

This change (to the ballroom for judging) will in fact delay the set up of the Marketplace for vendors by a full day. We do not expect this to cause any concern or delay to the event but it will mean that vendors will not be able to set up plants and other products until very early on Wed 12th Sept. The Conference Committee will have each vendor's booth location identified and sales tables in place by early Wed morning ready for immediate occupation by vendors.

We thank you all for your wonderful support and for your understanding of these necessary changes to the programming of the event.

New Orchid Tour

The overwhelming response to our Five Day

Orchid Tour of the southwest of Western Australia means that not all who would like to, can take part. If you have missed out, then you may be interested in the offering from Coates Wildlife Tours.

Join orchid specialist guide, Wayne Merritt and a small group of like-minded people to see Western Australia's magnificent native orchids. **Coates Wildlife Tours** are offering a **10 Day Terrestrial Orchids Tour**, departing Perth on the 19th September, 2012. This accommodated tour will take you to the best orchid sites in WA's Wheatbelt and South West regions during wildflower season. With a maximum of 12 participants on tour, the small group ensures a personalised experience. At \$3,165.00 per person (twin share) with all meals included, this tour is excellent value. For more information or to place your booking, call Coates Wildlife Tours on 1800 676 016 or +61 08 9330 6066 or visit their website.

The Conference Tours

Vacancies still exist for Full and Half Day Swan Valley Tours. Conference registrants will be given first preference on all tours.

A reminder that if you have not registered yet, the next deadline is **31st July** for the close of standard registrations.

Vendors

We expect to have a full list of the Conference vendors in our next update along with their catalogues for pre ordering your orchids. We already have the first of these catalogues on the Conference web site at http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/Pre-Ordering_Orchids.htm

Speaker program update next month

Graham & Margaret

Eriochilus dilatatus

Gordon

Cattleya skinneri ?

Ken & Chris

Aerangis biloba

Dendrochilum cobbianum

Dockrillia mortii

Laelia anceps

Peter & Shirley

Aerangis biloba

Aerangis cryptodon

Aerides lawrenciae

Cattleya labiata 'Tijo'

Stenoglottis longifolia

Tony & Mavis

Dendrobium bigibbum

Dendrobium delacourii

Dendrobium strianopsis var. *alba*

Epidendrum porpax

Gastrochilus dasypogon

Kingidium delicosum

Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica

PLANTS DISPLAY



Dendrobium bigibbum

Tony & Mavis

Dendrochilum cobbianum

Ken & Chris





Eriochilus dilatatus
Graham & Margaret

AYED MAY 2012

Aerangis biloba
Peter & Shirley



Cattleya labiata
Peter & Shirley



Photography by Tony

The genus *Sophronitis*

Sophronitis brevipedunculata (Cogniaux) Fowlie 1972, the 'Short Stalked Sophronitis' is distinguished by a double row of pseudobulbs with ovate green leaves flattened to parallel the surface of the media on which it is growing (this growth habit is also exhibited by *S cernua* var *miniera* and *S. wittiginana*), and short flower racemes so that when pollinated, the ovary appears to emerge from the top of the pseudobulb. Cogniaux 1898-1902 originally described this species as *S. wittigiana* Var. *brevipedunculata* recognising the very short flower racemes. Fowlie raised it to species status in 1972 when he published his findings in the *Orchid Digest* 36(5), p181-194.

This species is usually found growing epiphytically on *Vellozia* scrub in drier, cool mountainous habitats along with thorny dryland vegetation and cacti at 1,500-2,000m altitude in southwest Minas Gerais. It can also be found growing lithophytically on exposed rocks in the same locations. Consequently, this species is tolerant of brighter light and less water than other members of the genus, existing principally on condensation from mist clouds and cool breezes rather than seasonal rain.

Its host, *Vellozia* is an ancient botanical curiosity found in tropical and southern Africa, Madagascar and Brazil, and is closely related to the amaryllis or lily family of plants, and also is a host for

Pseudolaelia species.

The flowers are distinctively different with 'abruptly pointed' petals, and are salmon pink in colour rather than the more common red exhibited by *S. coccinea*. Flower size varies considerably, and from time-to-time, colour variants have been described, although there is some doubt about their provenance. A yellow form was awarded as *S. rossiteriana* 'Ericka' in 1967 (award never confirmed), although Withner suggests that it was most probably a colour form of *S coccinea*.

The following photos show this species in situ growing on *Vellozia* in very open habitat where it would be in high light. The presence of *Tillandsia* and moss or lichen confirms the high humidity present in mist forests.



Source: <http://www.orchidboard.com/community/attachments/cattleya-alliance/62891d1325398257-sophronitis-brevipedunculata-mveis-059.jpg>



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

Sophronitis cernua Lindley 1827, the 'Nodding Sophronitis' is the type species for the genus, and is easily recognisable by its nodding or drooping flower habit, yet, was redescribed many times after its initial identification by Lindley. The pseudobulbs grow almost flat against the media surface, and it was first collected by William Harrison from the forests which preceded the city of Rio de Janeiro. The plants were first flowered in Liverpool in 1826.

S. cernua pseudobulbs are rounded and somewhat elongated, and grow in a single row, although *S. cernua* Var. *mineira* has a distinctive double row formation similar to *S. wittigiana* and *S. brevipedunculata* (note: Fowlie considers this to be a subspecies). The main habitat for this species is the coastal region both north and south of Rio de Janeiro extending to the Organ mountains

and western slopes of Serra da Mantiqueira and Sao Paulo State (almost to the border with Bolivia and Paraguay). The thick leathery leaves are grey-green in colour, while the flower colour ranges from cinnabar or carmine red through to yellow. Cogniaux also described a variety *albiflora* in 1906 that is now unknown.

The photos show a typical form *S. cernua* in situ in a coastal location in Sao Paulo State, 100m from the sea, and a yellow form, highly prized and consequently very expensive (seedling price US\$160) pictured on a Japanese nursery website.



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



Source: <http://newworldorchids.com/pages/sophronitis.htm>

Sophronitis coccinea (Lindley) Reichenbach f.1861, the 'Scarlet Sophronitis' first appeared as a plate in a series of painting by the French artist and naturalist, Michel Descourtilz. He called the plant *Epidendrum ponceau*, commencing the complicated and confused naming history of this species. Its many names were reduced to synonymy by Fowlie in 1968 when he fully described this species.

While more has been written about this species than any other *Sophronitis*, the information is often confusing and repetitive, and the some of the designations such as varietal epithets are in fact clonal names that are only horticulturally recognised. Lindley later acknowledged that in calling this species *Cattleya coccinea*, he had erred as he failed to count the pollinia, of which there were eight, an attribute of the genus *Sophronitis*.

This species can be identified by their cylindrical rather than spherical pseudobulbs and upright, narrow leaves with a red stripe in the midrib, and frequently, red margins to the leaves. Generally single flowers are produced throughout the year, and well-grown plants can be very free flowering *S. coccinea* 'Ethel Sackett' awarded a CCM in 1975 carried 123 5cm flowers and 14 buds on a plant in an 8" pot! Other clones have flowers exceeding 7cm across.

There are many colour forms of *S. coccinea* as well as three ecotypes based on differing habitats - *militaris* with

thin pencil like pseudobulbs originating in darker forest where they grow low on host trees, *coccinea* which is the normal form and more rarely, *insularis* which is found as a twig epiphyte in bright light showing intense red purple midrib and leaf margins, and intense red flowers (more tetraploid forms have come from this group).

The recognised colour forms are:

- Var. *aurantiaca* Cogn. showing orange colour tones;
- Var. *barboleta* Hort. with bright yellow bases to the petals and sepals and an overall yellow flush making the flower appear an orange colour. A peloric form has also been reported;
- Var. *carmesa* Hort. with more purple than red flowers;
- Var. *discolor* Hort. with brick-red flowers with darker pigment along the veins and yellow labellum, also known as *S. xanthocheila* Hort.;
- Var. *flava* Hort. indicating a yellow colour, although it has been so widely used as to be of little value and the species may actually be *S. mantiqueirae*;
- Var. *gigantea* Hort. Is reserved for the large-flowered forms that are often tetraploid, with leaves up to 15cm tall and 7-8 cm flowers;
- Var. *lobbii* Hort. ex Decker was a very unusual plant with lemon coloured flowers that no longer exists in cultivation;
- Var. *lowii* is a yellow form awarded an AM in 1923 that no longer exists in cultivation;

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 which time the office-bearers and committee are elected. The majority of Committee members serve two year terms.

If unclaimed, return to
The Editor
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

REMEMBER

Next (June 12th) meeting at Wilson Community Hall,
Braidrise Road Wilson

Peter & Shirley

Phone: 08 93506087

Mob 0419831177

Shirley 0414948469

E-mail: peterskorner@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, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.