



CULTURAL AWARD, July 2012
Angraecum eburnum subsp. superbum
Peter & Shirley

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 14 August
AT WILSON COMMUNITY HALL

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NEWSLETTER



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

10 July 2012, 7.45 pm

Present: 34

Apologies: 11

Visitors: Lucy

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Adrian, Peter)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$3,448.16 #2 A/c \$1,812.22.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Email from Gary Backhouse to Graham, re. e-book of Caladenia & it's Relatives for sale at AOC conference
- Email from Dr. Yam Tim Wang (Singapore Botanic Gardens) seeking interest for their publication of Singapore Native Orchids.
- Various Club Newsletters.
- Email from Nelson de Sousa (City of Belmont) confirming our cancellation of meetings at Forster Park & advising we will be receiving a refund of \$105 (paid for April Meeting)

Outwards:

- To City of Belmont cancelling our booking for the remainder of the year

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Anyone else wishing to volunteer for AOC Conference can contact Mavis.

- Graham is representing The Species Orchid Society at the Fiona Stanley orchid rescue meeting
- The society will purchase 10 copies of Gary Backhouse's CD @ \$20 per copy
- The storage cupboards are in situ at the Wilson Community Hall, The library will be in use for the next meeting.
- The display committee will meet at Artek in O'Connor 10am 19th August.
- Mavis advised that we will have to have covers for the sales tables at the conference, & has offered to buy some the same as Wanneroo have.
- Chris & Ken have asked for 3 or 4 people to help with the morning tea which is part of the Conference home & nursery tour program on Sat. 15th Sep
- Ken suggested that we use the money from the No.2 account to purchase plants from the conference to maybe use as raffle plants etc.
- Thanks were extended to Adrian & Dee for their Home visit. The next one is at Gordon's residence on 29th July. Members were asked to bring a salad or sweet & a chair.
- Tony advised that Terry Root cannot attend the conference but has agreed to video his lectures. Mike Coronado also cannot come but Robert Fuchs will do both Vandaceous lectures.
- Ken advised that anyone buying flasks at the AOC Conference to take overseas may need to obtain a

phytosanitary certificate.

Cultural Award: *Angraecum superbians*
grown by Peter & Shirley.

Raffle: Lorraine, Ian

Name Badge: Tony

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Conference Display planning is well advanced thanks to Adrian who has been able to source materials at little or no cost. The following materials will also be needed, and it would be appreciated if Members could let the Display Committee know whether they can provide:
 - * Spanish moss,
 - * Foliage plants including ferns,
- 2012-13 fees were due in May. If you have overlooked renewing your membership, we will have no option but to discontinue sending the monthly newsletter. Please remind any of your friends who may have overlooked renewing their membership.
- The Society is always looking for monthly plants. If you see something advertised that you think is likely to be of interest, and the vendor can supply between 20 and 25 plants, please let a Committee member know. We also appreciate donations of any species plants to be used as prizes for our raffles.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.

- **President:** Graham
- **Vice President:** Ken Jones
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- **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.

- * Aug - Ian, Adross
- * Sept - Ken & Chris, Henley Brook

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

MONTHLY PLANT

Gastrochilus calceolaris

Country of origin: Evergreen/primary forests in Mainland Asia, and SE Asia .

Description: Small –moderate sized epiphyte.

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture with protection in winter .

Cost: \$10.00

This month's plant has been grown on by Adrian.

Gastrochilus calceolaris Buch.-Ham. ex Sm.] D. Don 1825 SECTION *Gastrochilus* is a medium sized, cool to hot growing epiphytic orchid from the eastern Himalayas; Assam India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Yunnan and Hainan Provinces China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra and the Philippines. Primarily it grows as an epiphyte in evergreen lowland forests or primary montane forests at low-moderate elevations.

The flowers are translucent cream marked with dark brown spots, fragrant with a distinctively fringed white labellum. Generally, an autumn/winter flowerer, the raceme is very short although the flowers themselves are relatively long lasting.

This species is adaptable and will grow on a suitable mount, in a pot, with bark



Source: http://http://www.orchidphotos.org/images/orchids/speciesV2/Gastrochilus/gastrochiluscalceolarisvista1_10.html

media or in a basket with bark or similar free draining media remembering that it does need humidity during the hot summer months, and protection from the elements during the colder winter months when it needs to be kept drier. I have not experienced any particular sensitivity to insect pests or plant pathogens, however, in its natural habitat, it enjoys good air movement and is able to dry out by nightfall. I suspect that like other monopodial orchids, it will be susceptible to cotton scale if there is not enough air movement.

Graham & Margaret

Dendrobium crepidiferum (syn. *Den. sulawesiense* or *Den. glomeratum*)
Pterostylis hamiltonii
Pterostylis nana
Pterostylis sargentii
Pterostylis vittata

Chris

Caladenia xantha

Gordon

Paphiopedilum insigne var. *Harfield Hall*

Maxine

Angraecum equitans
Laelia anceps var. *veitchiana*
Paphiopedilum villosum

Rodriguezia decora

Ken & Chris

Anacheilium fragrans
Cattleya percivaliana
Dendrobium garrettii
Bulbophyllum longissimum
Laelia anceps var. *chamberlainianum*
Lycaste macrophylla

Peter & Shirley

Angraecum eburnum subsp. *superbum*
Anota violacea
(syn. *Rhynchostylis retusa*)
Bulbophyllum longissimum
Paphiopedilum wardii

Courtney

Doritis pulcherrima

PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2012



Anota violacea
Peter & Shirley

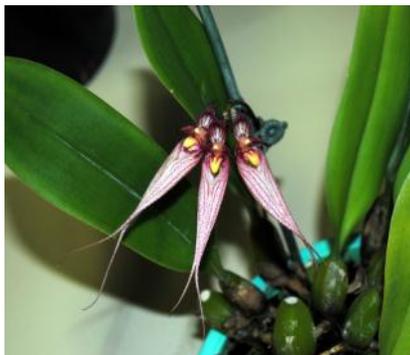
Doritis pulcherrima
Courtney & Val



Dendrobium sulawesiense
Graham & Margaret



Bulbophyllum longissimum
Peter & Shirley



PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2012

Angraecum equitans
Maxine



Euanthe sanderiana
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony & Peter

Vale Anne

One of our long-term members, Anne passed away early on Saturday 28 July 2012. Anne had been seriously unwell for several years, but managed to overcome enormous health issues to be an active member of ours and other orchid societies. Anne and Geoff made a great pair - while Geoff constantly denied his interest in orchids, he did whatever was required to support Anne's love of these plants, including in recent years all the 'heavy lifting'.



Anne had a typical collector's approach to orchids - if it was unusual, different, or just plain hard to grow, she gave it a go and frequently succeeded. She was generous in sharing her knowledge and experience, and often apologetic for what she described as her

'simple approach'. Anne and Geoff are those true orchid enthusiasts that are delighted to share whatever they have. Many of us have plants that they freely gave to their orchid friends. It didn't matter if it was rare, desirable, expensive or unusual - it was just something that could be shared.

Anne has been described as feisty - she knew what she wanted, where she wanted to go and was clear about getting there. This strength of character was no more evident than in her approach to coping with her ill health - she was determined that it wouldn't get in the way of doing the things that she loved. She was a caring friend to many, always ready to help someone else whose life was difficult, but was a very private person who managed her own ill health with resolve and stoicism.

We are so fortunate to have had her in our society - who else would go to the trouble of bringing in a *Schomburgkia* more than 2m high? Anne and Geoff were always ready to host a home visit and thoroughly enjoyed meeting with their orchid friends. Given ill health in recent years, they often apologised for the state of their orchids, but continued to bring beautifully grown plants often covered in flowers. These "poorly grown" plants frequently received the cultural awards at our meetings.

A visit to Anne and Geoff's home was always exciting. Not only did they have unusual orchids in flower, as Anne loved to cook (particularly cakes and desserts) there was always something delicious to tempt the tastebuds. For many years. Anne made the

Christmas cake for our annual Christmas meeting.

Anne was a member of the Species Society committee for many years and always contributed to the fullest extent possible until her ill health meant that it was no longer feasible. She and Geoff continued to be active members, were always happy to offer advice and suggestions to enhance the benefits of membership, and look for better ways of doing things. She will be sorely missed by the WA orchid community.

The genus *Sophronitis*

Fowlie states that this species is found in "Gully swamps" at 1,000-1,300m elevation on the slopes of Serra Caparaó. During the dry season, these swamps maintain high humidity around the plants. Fowlie and others believe that *S. purpurea* Reich (also called *S. grandiflora* var. *purpurea*) belongs with this species. Apparently, a nearly pure white form of this species was found providing an interesting contrast to the yellow forms where the dominant red pigment is missing in the other species. This seems to indicate that *S. wittigiana* has lavender labiate cattleya pigmentation where the lack of anthocyanin pigmentation results in white colouration rather than the retained carotenoids which give *S. coccinea* and others species the yellow colouration.



<http://www.orchidspecies.com/sophrwittigiana.htm>

This absence of carotenoids would explain

the rosy rather than red colouration.

Sophronitis alagoensis P. Castro Neto and G. R. Chiron 2003 was discovered in Alagoas state in Brazil in October, 2002. It is reported that the smaller flowers of *S. alagoensis* are a truly scarlet colour without the orange tones evident in *S. cernua*. This species blooms in Sept – Nov rather than Apr – Jun for *S. cernua*. As this discovery is well after Withner's book and Fowlie's revision of the genus, I am unable to comment on the rigour of the scientific research. However, it appears to be smaller and more compact than *S. cernua* which it most closely resembles.



http://www.ne.jp/asahi/orchid/sophronitis/description_of_species.htm

As hobbyists, it is worth noting that some authors say that attempts to cultivate *Sophronitis* orchids often fail owing to the

extreme ecological requirements of the plants' natural habitat where temperatures can drop to freezing point. As a result, plants in collections gradually reduce pseudobulb size becoming stunted and rarely flowering. The original dark red flower colour becomes more orange over time, said to be due to insufficient ultra violet radiation. The roots are prone to deterioration and to combat this, plants are better mounted on slabs of cork or pine bark, and grown in well ventilated, airy environments. This genus resents being moved or repotted, and doing so has often led to the demise of a once healthy and vigorous specimen!

So, are there simple secrets to growing, flowering and ensuring robust and healthy long-term survival of these very desirable species? A former member of the Species Society had a 'conversation pit' in his backyard (he called it the 'hole'). He grew his *Sophronitis* species on wooden mounts for many years in this area with considerable success. Other members do equally well with pot culture, and in both heated glasshouse and unheated shadehouse environments. While growing conditions do not always translate from one country to another, and, if you really wanted to grow this genus well, there is no better place than their natural habitat, there are lessons we can learn. The following advice comes from an article which was published by the American Orchid Society in 1983 at <http://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=334>

1. Water the Brazilian *Sophronitis* almost as much as you would *Miltonia* or

Phalaenopsis. Select a medium which helps you to maintain this moisture.

2. Provide high (80% maximum) humidity and keep the air in constant motion — otherwise, flowers will not appear. A buoyant, refreshing breeze is necessary for these species..
3. Provide "Cattleya" light conditions, or greater, as this is what these species often receive in nature. *Sophronitis* will grow well and bloom better in more-than-ideal light. Sometimes a bit more light will make a remarkable difference in the growth and flowering of plants.
4. Fertilize frequently, using balanced soluble fertilizer at least every week when the plants are in growth, and every other week when they are not. Avoid using too small a pot, and repot the plants every two years in fresh sphagnum or other medium. Use any kind of pot you prefer.
5. Remember, *Sophronitis* species prefer cool temperatures, not warm. Due to the altitude of their typical habitats, *S. pygmaea* and *S. mantiqueirae* require the coolest temperatures, *S. coccinea* can tolerate slightly higher temperatures, while *S. cernua* can tolerate still higher temperatures.
6. Try different microclimates in your growing area to your and your plants' advantage. "Warm and dry" will be near your heat source, "cool" will be found near your humidity source, while "full sun" will occur in the location nearest the glass or lights. Avoid warm and dry conditions.
7. Closely examine your plants; observe how they react to conditions and alter those conditions accordingly.

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (exc January) at Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise St, Wilson 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 (August 14th) meeting at Wilson Community Hall,
Braibrise Road Wilson**

Peter & Shirley Masters

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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.