

CULTURAL AWARD, August 2012
Angraecum sesquipedale
Chris

NEWSLETTER

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 August 2012, 8.00 pm

Present: 34

Apologies: 5

Visitors: Clive. P

New members: Jeanette W, Charly & Gertraud

A minutes silence was observed in memory of Anne O'Callaghan

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Judith, Victor)

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:

- Latest issue of Orchid digest
- AOC Conference info.
- Various Club Newsletters.
- Garden clubs issue of Our Gardens

Outwards:

- To New Lawns, thanking them for efforts to honour their sponsorship

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Graham sold all the Gary Backhouse CDs that he had ordered.
- Rosters were circulated for help with Sp. Sales table & display monitoring at Conference.
- The next meeting for Display Committee is Sunday 19th August at Artek (10 am)

- The society plant sales tickets & master sheet were displayed
- Mich showed samples of the postcard & letter cards which are to be sold at the AOC Conference singly or as packs of 6.
- Judith reported a good reception from Green Planet re sponsorship of artificial lawn for the display. However she has not received the promised follow-up contact and if there is no progress in the next few days, she will approach someone else.
- There is to be a familiarisation tour of the conference area at the Burswood on Tuesday 21st August at 6pm
- Ken has had contact with the owners of Species Plus Orchids who are attending the conference as vendors. They asked if we were interested in buying any unsold stock at the end of the conference to save them taking them home again. Depends on price
- 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 Gordon & Robyn for their Home visit. The next one is at the Ian Duncan's residence on 26th August. Members were asked to bring a salad or sweet & a chair.
- Ken issued a gentle reminder that any member not having renewed their subscription for this year will not

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 September

Contents

2	General Meeting Minutes	6	Plants displayed August 2012
3	Notes from your Committee	8	Big Orchids—the Genus <i>Grammatophyllum</i>
4	Noticeboard	10	About us
5	Conference Update		



receive a newsletter after this month. **Raffle:** Trevor, Gordon, Lee

Cultural Award: *Angraecum sesquipedale* grown by Chris.

Name Badge: Trevor

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Conference display props have been constructed and are nearly ready to go. Please see page 8 for a vote of thanks to our Display Team. The display will be assembled on Tuesday 11 September with finishing touches in the morning of Wednesday 12 September. Please be prepared to assist. If you are bringing plants for judging and/or display, please bring them on Tuesday morning. We still need foliage plants including bromeliads, ferns and tillandsias. As we will not know just what we need until we see how many orchids we have, please bring foliage plants with you on Tuesday.
- Mich will need help on Monday 10 September to transport the display boards to the venue. Please contact Mich on 9252 1668 if you can help.
- Please be sure to clearly mark your plants with your Species Society number - it saves confusion about plant ownership when we pull the display down on Sunday
- If you are bringing plants for sale, there is nowhere to store them until Wednesday when the Marketplace will be set up. Make sure that you place a price tag on each plant, and list them all on the summary sheet e-mailed out by Tony.
- Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to work for the Conference, and those who have signed up to work on our Sales stall and attend the display to answer questions.

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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.
- * Sept - Ken & Chris Jones, 204 Park Street, Henley Brook
 - * Oct - Tony & Mavis, Koondoola.
 - * Nov - Judith, Mt Pleasant

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

MONTHLY PLANT

Jumellea ssp (from Tampoilo)

Country of origin: Evergreen/primary forests in Madagascar .

Description: 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. We are advised that it was grown from a seed pod collected in from an unidentified *Jumellea* in Madagascar.

The genus *Jumellea* Schltr. comprises some 40-60 species almost exclusively endemic to Madagascar. They grow as both epiphytes and lithophytes, and generally in high light situations. Vegetatively, they are distinguished by the distinctive double vertical row of leaves on opposite sides of the stem that are obtusely bilobed at the tip. Flowers, rising singly from the base of the plant are white and are generally small, though attractively displayed on thin wiry stems. In common with other Madagascan genera, the flowers have a distinctive spur positioned at the base of the column. They also have a spicy aromatic scent to attract pollinators. Unfortunately, as they generally flower in winter-spring when there is high humidity, the flowers are often marked by botrytis spotting .



Source: orchidsonline.com.au

This species is adaptable and will grow in a pot, with bark media or in a basket with bark or similar free draining media, or on a suitable mount 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 grow several *Jumellea* species in the shadehouse all year round.

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. It can be attacked by cotton scale and mealy bug if there is not enough air movement.

As we do not know exactly what the flower of this species looks like, I have attached a photo of one of the more commonly grown species, *Jumellea major*.

Graham & Margaret

Caladenia discoidea
Caladenia filifera
Caladenia filimentosa
Caladenia polychroma
Caladenia xanthina
Dendrobium aemulum
Epidendrum porpax

Chris

Angraecum sesquipedale

Bill & Sandra

Bulbophyllum wallichii

Maxine

Dendrobium aemulum
Dendrobium prenticii
Dendrobium teretefolium

Dendrochilum glumaceum
Maxillara porphyrostele
Rhyncolaelia glauca

Ken & Chris

Bulbophyllum amplifolium
Bulbophyllum wallichii
Dendrochilum wenzellii
Paphiopedilum sukhakulii

Adrian & Dee

Caladenia reptans
Diuris corymbosa
Diuris magnifica
Pterostylis nana
Pterostylis recurva

Peter & Shirley

Dendrobium aemulum

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2012



Dendrobium aemulum
Graham & Margaret
Maxine
Peter & Shirley

Phalaenopsis rosenstromii
Tony & Mavis



Epidendrum elongatum
Lonopsis utricularoides
Laelia anceps var *veitchiana*
Rhyncostylis gigantea

Tony & Mavis

Aerangis hyaloides
Cloweisia warswicii
Lonopsis utricularoides
Phalaenopsis amabilis var *formosana*
Phalaenopsis rosenstromii
Tolumnia variegata
Vanda lilacina



Caladenia xanthina
 Graham & Margaret

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2012

Vanda lilacina
 Tony & Mavis



Bulbophyllum wallichii
 Bill & Sandra
 Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DISPLAY TEAM

As the 19th AOC Show draws ever closer, several members who have done a huge amount of heavy lifting to ensure that we provide a professional display, and maximise the opportunity to generate revenue for the Species Society need to be acknowledged: They are:

- * Mich Lee who with Margaret and Graham Bowden and Judith Keogh's assistance has redesigned the former Ron Heberle WA Terrestrial Orchids display boards. They now have a very professional appearance and will be valuable for future displays. Adrian told me that they are fantastic.
- * Mich has also designed and had printed letter cards and post cards for sale featuring the fabulous WA terrestrial orchids. Judith Keogh has helped by packaging these cards for sale. Make sure that you purchase some as they are quite unique.
- * Adrian Jose who once again has sourced material at little or no charge from Artek for the display, worked tirelessly to cut out, assemble and paint the props, supported by Artek who allowed us to use their premises and equipment, and will let us use their van to transport the display materials. Adrian has been assisted in building by a willing band of workers including Graham and Margaret Bowden, Mich Lee, Chris Cabassi, Judith Keogh, Maxine Godbeer, Trevor Pratt and Ian Bailey. Mich, Judith and Trevor and Ian provided food for the workers

As a society, we owe each and every one of these people a huge vote of appreciation. I have been privileged to work with them in bring to fruition the ideas put forward by the Conference Display Committee that were translated into a practical design by Adrian and Mich. I am sure that all of you, just like me will be very proud of what our Society has achieved.

Big Orchids - The Genus *Grammatophyllum*!

This article was planned during a recent visit to New Guinea recently on a fishing trip that included a little orchid exploration as well. While fishing for black bass in a river on the north coast of New Britain, in a tree overhanging the river, we saw a large flowering plant of *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. In the past, I often have written articles about little plants (botanical curiosities) and thought that it was about



time to look at the other end of the spectrum.

This Asian genus includes some of the world's largest orchid plants. In their natural habitat, they often grow to several metres in diameter, and can have hundreds if not thousands of flower racemes. The plant I saw in the preceding photograph was nowhere near that size, but I recall a conversation we had with the proprietor of Burnham Nursery in Devon, UK about a large plant they which required a furniture removal van to take to a show. A plant of *Grammatophyllum speciosum* reported to have weighed two tons was one of the highlights in the 1851 exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Apparently, this species is also in the Guinness Book of Records with two metre canes and three metre flower racemes weighing in at more than 2000lbs.

Grammatophyllum was established by C L Blume in 1825, and initially comprised 12 rather confused species which were revised by Schlechter in 1915. The type species is *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. In particular, there continues to be confusion over the name *Grammatophyllum scriptum* which was given to two distinct species by G E Rumph. There are two distinct growth forms in the genus – the first has long pseudobulbs (really fleshy stems bearing leaves) and the other has short, thick pseudobulbs that are not covered by the leaf-bases, and bear only a few leaves toward the apex. Schlechter placed these two forms in sections *Gabertia* and *Pattonia* respectively. The name is derived from the Greek *gramma* (letter) and *phyllon* (leaf) in reference to the dark conspicuous

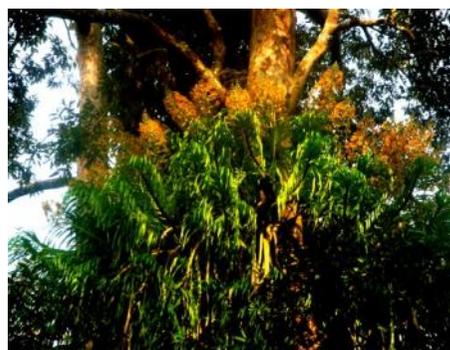
markings on the sepals and petals. The flowers have large showy sepals and petals with a smaller lip that has 3 low keels The habitat is South East Asia, Indonesia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Polynesia.

This genus is closely related to *Cymbidium*, and is in the Subfamily *Vandoideae*, Tribe *Cymbidiaceae* and Subtribe *Cyrtopodiinae*, differing specifically in the pollinia which are directly attached to the viscidium in *Cymbidium* and attached by separate straps to the viscidium in *Grammatophyllum*. One of the distinctive features of this genus is the basket of aerial roots that point upward to catch leaf litter that feeds the plant. These aerial roots are very evident in the New Britain photo above. This habit is also seen in *Ansellia africana*, and some plants of *Dendrobium speciosum* will have large numbers of aerial roots, though nowhere near as pronounced as *Grammatophyllum*.

As I have done in previous articles, where there are only a small number of species (with many synonyms and varietal names), I will take a closer look at each of the species starting with the type species *Grammatophyllum speciosum* Blume 1825.

This is a very large plant with erect pseudobulbs up to 3m in length and 5cm in diameter that occurs in South East Asia in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Borneo, Java, Moluccas, the Philippines, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Bismarck Islands, Papua and New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It was originally described by Blume from a plant that was collected in the forest near Bogor on the

island of Java. It is found in lowland forests as an epiphyte or occasional lithophyte, often adjacent to streams and rivers at low to moderate elevations.



Source: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-t6Pyh2itnQQ/Tp14QOSnptI/AAAAAAAAABD0/CB3-OdvOmNE/s1600/Grammatophyllum+speciosum+4.jpg>

Dr H Valmayor 1984 in her book "Orchidiana Philippiniana" says that this species has been reported with canes to 7m in length, and is one of the eight species of *Grammatophyllum* that is found in the Philippines. *Grammatophyllum speciosum* can be difficult to grow and flower, not only because it takes an enormous amount of room, but also because it requires winter heat plus good air movement. Otherwise, it can be susceptible to soft rots and water moulds that can quickly kill even a large plant. It is also reported to only flower every second or third year. However, in the tropics, I have seen large clumps of this plant growing very vigorously out in full sun that seem to flower every year.

Grammatophyllum elegans Rchb. f. 1882

is another Philippines species (also been reported in Fiji although Jim Cootes suggests that it might just be a colour variant of *Grammatophyllum scriptum* and that the species is in fact endemic to the Philippines) growing at low elevations from sea level to 300 meters. It is another large hot growing epiphyte with stout, flattened pseudobulbs that carry up to four apical, elliptic-oblong, 30cm leaves. Flowering in spring, the up to 1m racemes have up to 50 long-lasting, slightly fragrant, spotted flowers. *Grammatophyllum elegans* is the pod parent of the best known hybrid, *Grammatophyllum Tiger's Paw* registered in 1980.



Source: botolanwildlifefarm.com

To be continued next month

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