



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 24 No 7 December 2012



## CULTURAL AWARD, November 2012

*Zelenkoa (Oncidium) onusta*

Tony & Mavis

## NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 4 December

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 November 2012, 7.55 pm

**Present:** 45

**Apologies:** Lee, Judith, Jack.

**Visitors:** nil

**New members:** Yuphir, Geoff, Paul & Andrea, Tory & Anne-Marie, Richard, Leigh, Irene, Linda, Penny, Peter & Collette, Frankie

**Minutes:** Minutes as circulated accepted (Gordon, Peter)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$4,576.35. #2 A/c \$1812.68. (Trevor, Murray)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Neutrog Feedback 2012
- GCA summer edition of Our Gardens plus flyers for Gardens of Europe Tour
- Booking forms for the hall for 2013
- Geoff Curry (new member) offering disc of PNG trip in 2009
- 1% for Conservation update
- Various club newsletters

**Outwards:**

- Return of booking dates for hall in 2013

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- Members were reminded that the December GM & Xmas party will be

held on 4th December. New members were advised of the procedure for the Xmas meeting (drinks supplied, bring a plate & gift plant etc). Chris offered to make the Xmas cake this year.

- Ken explained about the monies given to SOSWA from Melville Orchid Soc. and the decision made by the committee to use the money by buying plants to use as Special Raffles/ Auctions so the account can be closed.
- Thanks were given to Tony & Mavis for hosting the last Home visit.

**Cultural Award:** Tony & Mavis for a well-grown specimen of *Zelenkoa onusta*

**Raffle:** Ian, Peter, Jeanine

**Name Badge:** Ian

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The December meeting on the 4th is our Christmas event. At this meeting, we focus on social activity and provide wine, beer, soft drink and some food, and ask members to bring a plate of Christmas fare to share.

At this meeting, we also hold a Chris Cringle Christmas raffle so that every member (individual or family) wins a plant. To this end, should members have any spare plants, please bring them along. In saying this, we do understand that new members who are just starting to build their

collections may not have any spare plants for this raffle so please do not be embarrassed if you are unable to donate a species orchid plant as we normally have enough. For new members, we are delighted to be able to contribute to your collection!

- As explained at the November meeting, we have now expended the remainder of the money that was given to us following the winding up on the Melville Districts Orchid Society. The money was given to us to bring species orchids into WA, and to this end, we purchased plants and flasks from Orchid Species Plus. The remainder will be used to meet the costs of quarantine for deflasked species orchid compots that will be eventually be available for sale as monthly plants.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.

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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.

- \* Jan - Ezi Gro Orchids, Evandale St, Darch
- \* Feb (Mar 3) - Frank, Gingin
- \* Mar - Gerda & Charly, Sinagra

### FOR SALE/WANTED

We have some product left over from the 19th AOC Conference and Show.

- With high quality photos of Western Australian terrestrial orchids, we have Species orchid letter cards (\$10 per pack of 6) and Postcards (\$4.50 per pack of 4) for sale - please see Mich
- There are also several Spider Orchids CDs at \$20 each - please see Graham

#### Imported plant news

The deflasked orchids are now growing well, with very few losses to date (hopefully this will continue) and it is expected that a number of compots will be released early in the new year. All but approximately 50 bottles have now been deflasked.

*Ken & Chris Jones*

As there is no monthly plant for December,  
this page has intentionally been left blank

**Graham & Margaret**

*Diuris drummondii*  
*Cymbidium canaliculatum*

**Chris**

*Anacheilium chacaoense*  
*Ansellia africana*  
*Coilostylis parkinsoniana*  
*Cattleya walkeriana* (?)  
*Prosthechea cochleata* (Syn. *Encyclia lancifolia*)

**Gordon**

*Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*  
*Phalaenopsis philippinensis*  
*Sarcochilus hartmanii* var. *alba*  
*Scaphyglottis* sp. aff. *behrii*  
*Vanda lamellata*

**Ian**

*Ansellia africana*

*Dendrobium canaliculatum*  
*Psychopsis papilio* var. *alba*

**Maxine**

*Cattleya aelandiae*  
*Dendrobium chrysotoxum*  
*Rodriguezia ensiformis*

**Frank**

*Dendrobium pulchellum*

**Ken & Chris**

*Ansellia africana*  
*Cattleya aurantiaca*  
*Oncidium leucochilum*  
*Phalaenopsis equestris*

**Adrian & Dee**

*Dendrobium atrovioleaceum*  
*Dendrobium lichenastrum*  
*Trichoglottis tricolor*

**PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2012**



*Cattleya skinneri alba oculata*  
Peter & Shirley

*Cattleya aelandiae*  
Maxine  
Peter & Shirley





*Vanda lamellata*

**Mich**

*Dendrobium goldschmidtianum*  
*Oncidium bifolium*

**Peter & Shirley**

*Ansellia africana*  
*Angraecum compactum*  
*Cattleya aelandiae*  
*Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata*  
*Cattleya lueddemanniana*  
*Cattleya skinneri* var. *alba occulata*  
*Cattleya walkeriana* var. *alba*  
*Paphiopedilum liemianum*  
*Vanda tricolor* var. *suavis*

**Courtney & Val Rogasch**

*Cymbidium bicolor* subsp. *obtusum*  
*Cymbidium maddidum*

**John**

*Cattleya skinneri* 'Casa Luna'  
*Cattleya walkeriana* var. *semi-alba*

**Norm**

*Anacheilium baculus*

**Noel & Eva**

*Angraecum sesquipedale*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Cryptostylis ovata*  
*Dendrobium secundum* var. *alba*  
*Phalaenopsis fimbriata*  
*Phalaenopsis parishii*  
*Zelenkoa (Oncidium) onusta* x 2

**Hannah**

*Trichocentrum stramineum*

**PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2012**



*Phalaenopsis parishii*  
Tony & Mavis

*Cattleya walkeriana semi alba*  
Peter & Shirley



Photography by Tony

**Big Orchids - The Genus *Grammatophyllum***

*Grammatophyllum scriptum* [Lindley]Blume 1849, the Written Grammatophyllum is once again, a large to giant-sized hot growing epiphyte from Borneo, Lesser Sunda Islands, Moluccas, Philippines, Sulawesi, Solomon Islands, Bismarck Archipelago, Papua and New Guinea, Fiji and Santa Cruz Islands. It occurs at low elevations (sea level to 100 m), always close to the coast and epiphytic on tree trunks and branches overhanging beaches, lagoons, and coconut plantations. *Grammatophyllum scriptum* is a bright light orchid.

Each pseudobulb has 5 to 8 broad, coriaceous, linear-ligulate, dull green, basally clasping leaves. The upright or arching flower racemes are more than a metre long, and each mature pseudobulb may have more than one flower. This giant of the orchid world has up to 100 waxy flowers per raceme, often with a few imperfect flowers at the base of the raceme. The following photos are the *forma citrinum* Valmayor & D.Tiu in H.L.Valmayor 1984 and normal form.



Source: <http://mississippigarden.blogspot.com.au/2008/07/grammatophyllum-scriptum-orchid-in.html>



Source <http://orchidsamore.com/tutorials/Grammatophyllum-%20photo%20-%20culture.htm>

The Amboin Island native people make a paste from the pseudobulb of *Grammatophyllum scriptum* to heal sores, and others within this species' range use this plant to cure intestinal ailments and a cleanser for worms. People of the Spice Islands have been known to make a love potion from the seeds of this species.

Interestingly, a dwarf form *Grammatophyllum scriptum* var. *kiilani* is now being marketed to hobbyists unable to cope with the huge sized *Grammatophyllum scriptum*. This newly introduced miniature flowers with the same colouration as its large parents yet seldom

gets over .30cm tall and flowers in a 60mm inch pot.

Other varieties and colour forms are:

*Grammatophyllum scriptum* var. *boweri* (F.Muell.) Schltr. 1912

*Grammatophyllum scriptum* var. *minahassae* Schltr. 1911

*Grammatophyllum scriptum* var. *tigrinum* (Lindl.) Holttum 1964

*Grammatophyllum scriptum* is synonymous with:

*Grammatophyllum boweri* FvM.,

*Grammatophyllum guilelmii* Kraenzl. 1894,

*Grammatophyllum guilielmi-secundi* Krzl. 1894,

*Grammatophyllum leopardinum* Rchb.f. 1888

*Grammatophyllum multiflorum* var. *tigrinum* Lindl. 1842, and

*Grammatophyllum seegerianum* hort. 1896

In an article I found while researching the genus *Grammatophyllum*, the author noted that while Singapore is only a small island, it is the home to the largest orchid plant in the world, *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. Known as the tiger orchid, because of the markings on the flowers that resemble the skin of a tiger, it is extremely rare if not already extinct in the wild in Singapore. However, it can still be found in Indochina, Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Borneo, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands (Seidenfaden and Wood 1992). *Grammatophyllum speciosum* was last found in the wild in Tuas and Pulau Ubin. As a mature plant might weigh more than a

ton, it is surprising that such a large plant could live on the trunk of a tree, and accordingly, the very large specimens are generally found on large, mature hardwood trees in primary forest. The Singapore Orchid Garden led a venture to re-establish the species in Singapore, and, from a self-pollination of *Grammatophyllum speciosum* in the National Orchid Garden, a number of 2 year old seedlings were attached in 1999 to Durian, Rambutan, Mango, Angsana, Tembusu and Rain trees in Pulau Ubin.

Seedlings were also planted on trees in the Gardens, around the Visitor Centre at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, and the Orchard Boulevard area in the heart of the city. Factors that appear to have played an important role in the survival of introduced seedlings include the microclimate of the area (relative humidity, for example), texture of bark of the host, presence of other epiphytes and the size of seedlings. For example, seedlings planted in areas with high relative humidity tended to survive better than those in dry areas. In Pulau Ubin, the seedlings established in a damp area inside a secondary forest were much healthier and more vigorous than those growing near the sea where the breeze tends to dry the bark faster. Texture of the bark is important because certain barks tend to retain more moisture. For instance, Rain trees are generally better hosts than Tembusu. Similarly, trees that support more epiphytes tend to be better hosts than those with fewer epiphytes –that is ,where conditions are suitable for other epiphytes. While I have not visited the Pulau Ubin area, I have seen large plants of *Grammatophyllum scriptum* at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and the Singapore

Botanic Gardens .

*Grammatophyllum stapeliiflorum* [Teijsm. & Binn.] J.J.Sm. 1905 is a medium sized, epiphytic, warm to hot growing species from Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Celebes and the Philippines. Found in rainforests on large mature tree trunks at elevations of 200 to 1000m. it has the typical long racemose inflorescence with waxy, long-lasting flowers. However, unlike others in the genus, the flowers are foul-smelling suggesting pollination by carrion flies or similar.



Source: [http://forum.theorchidsource.com/ubbthreads.php/topics/119964/Grammatophyllum\\_stapeliiflorum\\_Gramm.html](http://forum.theorchidsource.com/ubbthreads.php/topics/119964/Grammatophyllum_stapeliiflorum_Gramm.html)

One of the major problems associated with growing this genus (other than size) is that they seem particularly susceptible to soft rots, perhaps generally bought on by loss of active roots. This condition seems to be triggered by over watering and media breakdown, suggesting that if

possible (conditions permitting), slab or similar mounting is a better option than potting in media. I have lost several large plants (7-10 pseudobulbs) to soft rots like *erwinia*, *pythium* or *phytophthora* that rapidly progress through the pseudo-bulbs turning them brown. Cutting back the infected bulbs and applying fungicide did not save the plants. Reading several on-line articles, the over-watering problem was confirmed by a number of authors who recommended the use of styrofoam 'peanuts' for the bottom 50% of the pot, with the remainder filled with rocks and large pieces of bark. Eventually, these plants grew out of the terracotta pot with the living root basket totally above the pot.

So, the secret to success seems to be managing your conditions to ensure that the root basket around the pseudobulbs stays healthy. Allowing the plant to completely dry between waterings, ensuring good fresh air movement and access to oxygen are critical elements of effective plant husbandry for this genus. With good drainage, careful watering and proactive environmental management, we should be able to grow these very desirable species in a shadehouse with winter covering. I have not found them to be particularly susceptible or attractive to the usual insect pests as they are generally very robust plants. However, I have seen Cymbidium Mosaic Virus affected plants in the wild so some care should be taken when sourcing plants. In summary, given the abundant, attractive flowers, I recommend that you acquire and grow some members of this genus.



## 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 (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  
The Editor  
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

**Remember—Next meeting is first Tuesday of the month—4  
December 2012**

Peter & Shirley Masters

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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](http://www.peterskorner.com), phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail [peterskorner@iinet.net.au](mailto:peterskorner@iinet.net.au).