



**CULTURAL AWARD, December 2012**

*Laelia purpurata var. Werkhauseri*  
Vic

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12 February

**Contents**

2	General Meeting Minutes	6	Plants displayed Dec 2012
3	Notes from your Committee	8	Some interesting orchid facts
4	Noticeboard	10	About us

NEWSLETTER



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

4 December 2012, 7.50 pm

**Present:** 34

**Apologies:** Jack, Noel & Eva, Sharon, Carolyn.

**Visitors:** nil

**New members:** **Minutes:** Minutes as circulated accepted (Mavis, Trevor)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$5,111.81. #2 A/c \$1,812.68

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- AOC Conference Committee - cheque for Volunteer hours
- GCA Annual Report including proposal to publish a Gardens of Australia Calendar 2014
- Geoff Curry offering CDs of PNG trip in 2009 and native orchids of Tasmania
- E-mail from John Woolf requesting orchid seedpod maturation list (now posted on our web site)
- Orchid Digest
- Various Club Newsletters.

**Outwards:**

- To GCA providing membership details for insurance
- Letter to Bendigo Bank requesting transfer of #2 account to #1 account, and closure of #2 account.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- Ken deflasked plants in quarantine. When released, volunteers will be needed to help grow on the compots that the club decides to purchase.
- The seed pod maturation list is now posted on our website
- Chris has 2 lockable upright cabinets plus 2 on wheels that he needs to get rid of. Anyone interested, please get in touch with Chris.
- The visit to EziGro in January 2013 falls on Australia Day. Mavis will contact them to see if it can be held on 19th January.
- Approximately 32-35 members will attend.
- Norm auctioned *Coelogyne marmorata*. The winning bid was \$42 by Peter.
- Thanks were given to Judith for her home visit. The next one is at EziGro, usual plate & chair required.

**Cultural Award:** Vic for a well grown specimen of *Laelia purpurata var. werkhauseri*

**Raffle:** No raffle

**Name Badge:** Lorraine

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Eric Beltrame has donated 18 flowering size plants of the New Guinea species *Diplocualobium obrynei* to the Society. While this species flowers for only one day at a time, it will flower frequently throughout the year (apparently 8 plants have already flowered). We are selling them for \$5 each. If you are interested, please see Graham.
- A number of species orchid compots have been released from quarantine, and as discussed at the last general meeting, we will be seeking assistance from members to help grow some of these plants until they can be used as monthly plants. Ken & Chris will be going away for three weeks on 25 January, and some of these compots will need to be re-housed on their return on 13 February as the group travelling to Sabah and Thailand will be bringing 200-300 plants back that will require the space in the quarantine glass-house. Please let Ken know if you can help with this.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.

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Lee  
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Trevor  
Tony  
Mavis  
**Life Members**  
Gordon  
Joan & Ted (dec'd)  
Neville Risbey  
Noel & Eva

## NOTICEBOARD

### FORTH-COMING EVENTS

#### Home visits:

At 10am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and plate of food to share.

- \* 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

At our quarantine inspection on 14 January, about 45 compots/trays were released. While some of these belong to Kevin Butler, a number are species orchids which have been identified by the committee as of interest as future monthly plants for the Society. We still have approximately 30 of the H & R Nursery mother flasks that have not yet grown enough to deflask. We have also experienced some losses through damping off in plants from the mother flasks that we have deflasked.

*Ken & Chris Jones*

## MONTHLY PLANT

### *Laelia tenebrosa* 'Maria Fumaca' x 'Kathleen'

Country of origin: Brazil .

Description: Moderate to large sized epiphyte.

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture with protection in winter .

Cost: \$12.00

This month's plant was purchased from Rosella Orchids at the 19th AOC, and has been grown on in our shadehouse.

*Laelia tenebrosa* occurs in the Espírito Santo state of Brazil (adjacent to Rio de Janeiro) as a medium sized, hot to cool growing species. However, as its natural habitat is tropical rain forest, it is less exposed to bright light than *L. purpurata*, *L. lobata* and *L. crispa* and requires more shade than these species.

*Laelia tenebrosa* is closely related to *L. purpurata* (several of which were in flower at the December meeting) and I expect that it will flower at about the same time. While it has a very showy flower, it is relatively short-lived during our hot summer. The plants are large (up to 70cm) and the flowers up to 20cm across. wide open, and up to 4 (very rarely more) per inflorescence. The varietal form *L. tenebrosa* Maria Fumaca is well known and named after Mrs. Maria Rodrigues



Source: [orquidea.base33.net](http://orquidea.base33.net)

Bittencourt , known as 'Mary Smoke' because she was very strong-willed, had a short fuse and was generally intolerant of others she considered to be behaving inappropriately.

Laelias are very adaptable with regards to media. While I grow some that are mounted, the majority are potted in pine bark. Maintaining adequate moisture in our hot summer can be a challenge in the shadehouse, especially for mounted plants. As with other tropical/sub-tropical genera, some form of protection from winter rainfall when it is cold and dark is recommended.

I have not experienced any particular sensitivity to insect pests or plant pathogens with Laelias, however, in their natural habitat, they enjoy good air movement and dry out by nightfall. This genus, (like Cattleyas and their hybrids) can be susceptible to cotton scale and mealy bug if there is insufficient air movement.

Graham & Margaret  
*Oncidium flexuosum*  
*Plectorrhiza tridentata*

Chris  
*Cymbidium atropurpureum*  
*Oncidium phymatochilum*

Gordon  
*Paphiopedilum haynaldianum*  
*Paphiopedilum philippinense*

Maxine  
*Grammangis ellisii*

Frank  
*Cryptopodium andersonii*  
*Vanda denisoniana*

Ken and Chris  
*Anacheilium baculus*

*Dendrochilum cobbianum*  
*Miltonia flavescens*  
*Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum*

Mich  
*Pleurothallis* sp. aff. *grobyi*

Peter and Shirley  
*Cattleya maxima coerulea* x *alba*  
*Laelia purpurata*  
*Miltonia flavescens*  
*Vanda tricolor*

Vic  
*Laelia purpurata* var *Werkhauseri*

John  
*Cattleya mossiae*  
*Oncidium phymatochilum*

## PLANTS DISPLAYED DECEMBER 2012



*Laelia purpurata*  
Peter & Shirley  
Norm

*Grammangis ellisii*  
Maxine



Norm

*Encyclia cordigera*

*Laelia purpurata*

Tony & Mavis

*Dendrobium delacourii*

*Tolumnia variegata*



*Vanda denisoniana*  
Frank

## PLANTS DISPLAYED DECEMBER 2012

*Encyclia cordigera*  
Norm



*Miltonia flavescens*  
Peter & Shirley  
Ken & Chris



Photography by Peter

## Some interesting orchid facts

Did you know that:

- \* There are approximately 35,000 orchid species worldwide, in approximately 750 genera (this constantly changes as taxonomists review the classification of orchidaceae). They are the world's most numerous and widely distributed flowering plants.
- \* Orchids grow in many different habitats and have evolved to claim their place among other plants. There are four different forms (although many orchids will grow equally well in more than one form). Epiphytes that grow on trees and other small shrubs are the most numerous and receive all their nutrients from exposed roots. Lithophytes grow on exposed rocks and also access their nutrients through exposed roots. Terrestrials grow in the ground and access nutrients through often extensive root systems. Saprophytes get their nutrition from dead and decaying debris and have no chlorophyll or leaves (eg *Rhyanthella gardneri* - see article on the Species Orchid Society website).
- \* Orchids have two distinctive vegetative forms. Monopodial orchids have a central stem of growth, no pseudo bulbs, and produce new growth from the crown of the plant or from side growths called keikis. Flowers are produced from the stem between the leaves, usually alternating from side to side. Common examples of monopodial orchids are Vanda and Phalaenopsis.
- \* Sympodial orchids have a rhizome, which sends out a shoot. This develops into a stem and leaves and eventually produces flowers. Later, from the base of this growth, a new shoot develops and produces a new plant. While these orchids appear bulbous (eg Cymbidiums), it is a pseudobulb although may have 'growth eyes' that allow it to generate new plants even after the leaves have gone. The flower buds are often protected by a sheath.
- \* All orchid flowers have three petals, one of which is modified to form the labellum and three sepals. In more detail, the outer whorl of petal-like parts, known as the sepals, are generally similar to each other. The inner whorl of petal-like parts are the actual petals, two of which are similar in size and shape, but the third petal, the labellum or lip, is often different from the petals. Orchid flowers are usually bilaterally symmetrical - that is, you can only cut the flower in half and still have each part be a mirror image of the other. Other flowers like lilies, daisies etc are radially symmetrical - that is, they can be cut in many directions and still end up with mirror images of each half.
- \* Orchids do not have separate stamens and pistils in their flowers. Instead, the stamens and pistils are united into a single central organ known as the

column. They are also distinguished by having fused pollen unlike the pollen 'dust' that is characteristic of many common flowering plants such as lilliums.

- \* The ovary is always inferior (located behind the flower), three-carpelate and one or three-partitioned, with parietal placentation with a few exceptions. If pollination succeeds, the sepals and petals fade and wilt but they remain attached to the ovary.
- \* Most orchids are pollinated by insects including bees, wasps, ants, gnats, moths, and butterflies. Occasionally, birds and other small animals are also the preferred pollinators (see following article). Each orchid is highly adapted to attract its specific pollinator. This adaptation includes colour, flower form, scent (pheromones), and in some instances, associations with other plants .
- \* *Grammatophyllum speciosum* is the largest orchid plant and *Bulbophyllum globuliforme* is the smallest orchid plant. The tallest is *Sobralia altissima* which can grow to more than 13m.
- \* While they are most abundant in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Africa, Central and South America and Asia, orchids are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- \* Orchid flowers are often highly and bizarrely adapted to attract their pollinators (see following article) .
- \* Vanilla flavouring comes from the pods of *Vanilla planifolia* that comes from

Southern Florida to the Caribbean, and Mexico to Paraguay. In 1510, Vanilla was first brought to Europe as a perfume

- \* Orchid flowers come in every colour except black.
- \* An orchid seed is the size of a dust particle and has no endosperm (the usual seed food source in seeds eg, grains, vegetable seeds ) To germinate in its natural habitat, an orchid seed must associate itself with a micorrhizal fungus (often specific to the orchid) to enable it to grow.

Tony sent me the following article published on-line -

Subject: Bird perch for reproduction.

In a paper published in PLOS ONE <http://www.plosone.org/>, a team led by Zhong-Jian Liu at the Orchid Conservation & Research Center of Shenzhen and Laiqiang Huang at Tsinghua University investigated the function of the sheaths in flowering populations of *Coelogyne rigida* in the limestone area of Southeast Yunnan, China.. The research found the perch to be essential to orchid reproduction.

In many orchids such as *Coelogyne rigida*, the basal axis of the pendulous, multi-flowered inflorescence is covered by multiple coriaceous sheaths (bracts) forming a clavate cylindrical handle...

They discovered that the sheath-wrapped handle serves as the specialised perch

(landing platform) to attract, secure and position foraging sunbirds, *Ethopyga gouldiae*, for orderly collection and dispersal of pollinaria, attached to different parts of their beaks, resulting in efficient cross-pollination and fruiting.

The perch-enabled cross-pollination by sunbirds accounts for essentially all the seed production of this orchid, which was largely abolished by sheath removal (perch damage) that reduced visitation by sunbirds markedly, both in frequency and duration, revealing an essential role of the perch in assuring the species' reproductive success by crossing..

*Coel. rigida*, while self-incompatible, has a bi-modal pollination system. That is, it is can also be self-pollinated by insects, honeybee and wasp, that use the floral lip common in orchids as visiting plate, leading to infertile self-pollination which decreases (wastes) pollinaria and ovules otherwise available for fruitful cross-pollination, incurring high mating cost (gamete discounting). However, the insect-mediated and fruitless self-pollination is offset by the efficient cross-pollination by sunbird.

This represents a mode of structural adaptation that promotes cross-pollination in angiosperms. By merely adding a perch to the basal axis of inflorescence without altering the multiple flowers on it, *Coel. rigida* gains not only reproductive assurance but also mating and fertility advantages and genetic variability.

It is likely that in *Coel. rigida*, self-incompatibility has evolved to avoid inbreeding depression by rendering insect self-pollination infertile, but it can't prevent self-pollination that still leads to gamete discounting at a high cost to mating, nor directly promote crossing which becomes essential for sexual reproduction. In turn, this necessitates selection for the evolution of an outbreeding mechanism -- the perch-enabled bird cross-pollination that assures reproductive success with multiple advantages.

URL : <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130108091347.htm>

## 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

**Next meeting is Tuesday 12 February 2013**

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).