



NEWSLETTER

Vol 24 No 9 March 2013

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12 March

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 February 2013, 7.50 pm

Present: 30

Apologies: Mavis & Tony, Ken & Chris, Sharon, Tom & Pat, Lee.

Visitors: nil

New members: Lyn

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Adrian, Gordon)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$7,494.56. The second account has now been amalgamated with the main account. (Peter, Trevor)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Lyn - Membership application & fees
- Email from John Green – a request to add info re Gympie Golden Orchid Spectacular to our website
- Email from Albert Maas – info re website of orchid photos, (www.globalorchids.info)
- Mandurah Orchid club – Office Bearers & 2013 Show dates
- Club Newsletters

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Graham gave a short report on the meeting held at the Fiona Stanley Hospital building site. David Deeley & Bob Liddelow also attended. The

purpose was to inspect & advise on possible sites for the replanting of the orchids that were rescued prior to work starting on site.

- Planting may be started as early as March and there is a possibility of a plaque being place to acknowledge the involvement of The Species Orchid Society of WA..
- The last Home visit was to Ezi Gro Orchids and was enjoyed by all who attended.
- The next Home Visit is due on 3 March and will be at Frank's home. Please bring the usual plate of salad or sweet and a chair. Frank had printed some mud maps that were distributed for those who hadn't been before.
- Peter donated a book called Orchids, flowers of Romance & Mystery to the library. Thank you Peter.

Cultural Award: No cultural award as Ken overseas on holiday.

Raffle: Peter, Norm, Chris

Name Badge: Jeanine

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Graham still has plants of *Diplocualobium obrynei* available at \$5 each.
 - As previously advised, several compots of species orchids have been released from quarantine. From those released, the committee has selected the following to grow on for monthly plants:
 - *Bulbophyllum cercanthum*
 - *Bulbophyllum grandiflorum semi-alba*
 - *Bulbophyllum longissimum*
 - *Chysis limminghei*
 - *Dendrobium discolor*
 - *Habenaria medusae*
 - *Paphiopedilum niveum*
 - *Phalaenopsis gibbosa*
 - *Phalaenopsis mannii*
 - *Sedirea japonica*
- If in the future you are able help grow on plants and haven't yet advised Ken, please let him know. Where possible, we will try to allocate you species that do not require highly specialised environments, or conditions.
- Garden Clubs of Australia (our insurance is arranged through them) are producing a 2014 calendar and are seeking photos of gardens. The calendars will be sold at \$10 each, although the Species Society is able to purchase them at \$6 cheaper to sell. Photos are to be submitted by 31 March - for further details, see Maxine or Ken.
 - If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.

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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 food to share.

- * Mar - Gerda & Charly, Sinagra
- * Apr - Maxine, Parkerville
- * May - Chris, Sorrento

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 committee has now agreed to take some of the plants grown on from flask for future monthly plants. As discussed at recent general meetings, as more species compots are released, the Society will have first option on the plants for this purpose.

We now have a further 350 plants in quarantine belonging to members on the recent trip to Thailand.

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya amethystoglossa
Cattleya tigrina

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Generally large, robust bifoliate *Cattleya* species

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture

Cost: \$10



Sources: <http://www.mirandaorchids.com/species08amethystoglossaVGA.htm>
http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5009/5282295181_f5021a2fa.jpg

These plants were donated by Alan Eggins of Rosella Orchids at the end of the 19th AOC in Perth. *Cattleya amethystoglossa* is found in the Bahia, Minas Gerais and Pernambuco states of Brazil. It is large, bifoliate cool to warm growing epiphyte at low elevations, growing on rocky areas close to sea or on palms often in full sun. The fragrant flowers are borne on terminal inflorescences from autumn to spring.

Cattleya tigrina (formerly *Cattleya leopoldii*) is also found in lowland Southern Brazil coastal forests. A bifoliate, it can occasionally be trifoliate and carries its fragrant flowers on an upright raceme in summer.

Both these species are perfectly happy in a shadehouse, providing a drier rest period can be provided after flowering, and during the cold, wet (well they used to

be!) WA winters. They need plenty of light to flower and benefit from regular application of fertiliser when in active growth.

Unless you are able to maintain high humidity during the hot /dry summer, pot culture is recommended. Whatever media you normally use for your *Cattleya* species and /or hybrids is suitable. As with other species in this genus, plentiful air movement is essential to prevent attack by cotton (soft) and hard scale. Otherwise, they are generally vigorous and resistant to many of the usual orchid pests and pathogens.

These plants need repotting.

Graham & Margaret

Cattleya harrisoniana
Encyclia megalantha
Ludisia bicolor

Gordon

Cattleya intermedia 'Breckenridge Snow'
Epidendrum diffusum

Maxine

Aerangis curnowiana (*Aer. punctata*)
Aeranthes imerinensis (*Aeranthes caudata*)
Maxillaria tenuifolia
Neolehmannia porpax (Syn: *Epidendrum porpax*)
Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi var. *flava*
Promenaea stapelioides
Vanda tessellata var. *alba*

Peter and Shirley

Cattleya aelandiae
Cattleya harrisoniana

Cattleya tigrina
Cymbidium dayanum 'Maxi'
Dendrobium amabile
Lycaste aromatica
Rhyncholaelia digbyana var. *fimbripetala*
Vanda lamellata

Vic

Aeranthes grandiflora

Courtney & Val

Encyclia alata

PLANTS DISPLAYED FEBRUARY



Phalaenopsis cornu cervi alba
Maxine

Aerangis curnowiana
Maxine



“ It grows like a weed! ”



Vanda tessellata alba
Maxine

PLANTS DISPLAYED FEBRUARY

Encyclia alata
Courtney



Promenaea stapelioides
Maxine



Photography by Peter

How often have you heard the phrase “It grows like a weed!” Most often this expression means that the plant that is vigorous and easy to grow. But, conversely, a ‘weed’ is not something that we want in our orchid pots. However, a ‘weed’ is just a plant that is in the wrong place. It is not of itself a nuisance other than when it is out of its natural habitat where nature provides checks and balances in the form of predators, climatic conditions or soil types that restrict unfettered growth and prevent it becoming a weed.

Patterson’s Curse or as it is known in South Australia, Salvation Jane, *Echium plantagineum*, native to western and southern Europe (found from southern England south to Iberia and east to the Crimea), northern Africa, and southwestern Asia (east to Georgia) was introduced to Australia, South Africa and United States. It is now an invasive weed, and due to the high concentration of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in the shoot, it is poisonous to grazing livestock, especially those with a simple digestive system like horses. The toxins are cumulative in the liver, and death can result. It also blocks up cereal harvesting machinery.

There are many other examples of plants that have become weeds when introduced to an environment where they do not occur naturally. So it begs the questions, can this happen with orchids? In general, orchidaceae tend not to be weeds because

they are highly adapted to their environments and pollinators.

The WA Department of Agriculture and Food has a list of ‘known weedy species’. There are two orchids on this list, *Oeceoclades maculata* and *Spiranthes sinensis*. While import of these species is prohibited, I was not able to find any information about local infestations of concern that would lead to this listing.

There are other orchids which also have the potential to become weeds. Perhaps the best known local example is a South African orchid *Monadenia bracteata* (recently reclassified as *Disa bracteata*). This species apparently made its way to Australia on ships from South Africa in the 18th century and is now widespread in southwest WA and Victoria. While it is not a proclaimed species (a noxious weed) in either WA or Victoria, it has been identified as a new and emerging weed in the



Wimmera district as it is considered to be a threat to the environment as it has the potential to impact on native understorey flora, especially rare and endangered plants. It is particularly attracted to disturbed sites and will grow in all soil types and light conditions. An added issue is that this species is self-pollinating. We have this plant growing on our property In amongst the native grasses and Banksias.

A local example with which some of you may be familiar with is *Cynorkis fastigiata* from Comoro Islands, Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion, and the Seychelles. This species turned up in plants brought in from the Eastern States in the media. A vigorous terrestrial species, it is readily pollinated by local insects, with wind-dispersed seed. Some years ago, many of us had this species growing in other orchid pots although I suspect that it is no longer a problem as we destroyed unwanted tubers when we repotted our plants.

In the United States, the broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) is now causing serious concern as it becomes established in garden beds and lawns.

It was intentionally introduced from Europe and is now spreading throughout Michigan in lawns, flower beds and along driveways. This orchid's (syn *Serapias helleborine*) natural habitat is Europe and Africa through to China. The Michigan State University has had many samples submitted by homeowners for identification and advice on removal. Unfortunately (though an advantage to plants that become weeds), this orchid is also very vigorous, and will

regrow from even small segments of root left in the ground.



Epipactis helleborine. Photo credit: Rebecca Finneran, MSUE
Source: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/homeowners_battling_a_weedy_orchid_invading_lawns_and_flowerbeds



Source: <http://7song.com/photos/629/191/Epipactis-helleborine-Weed-orchid.jpg>

However, in a somewhat strange twist to this story, *Epipactis helleborine* is now

protected in UK as it is uncommon. This supports the notion that a weed is merely a plant growing outside its proper habitat.

Arundina graminifolia (syn *Arundina bambusaefolia*) also known as Kinata weed is an Asian terrestrial species that has shown potential to become a serious weed. This species has now colonised many new habitats including Hawaii (where we saw it on the big island in the Kilauea national park), Cook Islands, Guam, Fiji and Marshal Islands as well as Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Guadeloupe. It is very adaptable and rapidly takes over roadsides and any similarly cleared areas, crowding out local plant species. It is very vigorous and keikis from just below the raceme after flowering. It is not particular about its pollinators, and as a result, it is cited as invasive in many Pacific islands,

In a paper by Ms M Goosem on issues associated with control of weeds along

major powerline routes in Queensland, she strongly recommends that a localised infestation of *Arundina bambusaefolia* be removed as it has the potential to become as serious problem. She notes that it is a tall plant, and when blown over by the wind or knocked down, will readily regrow from any part of the stem in contact with the ground. The photo below shows an expanse of *Arundina graminifolia* adjacent to steam vents in Kilauea National Park.

In an article by Clifford and Kobayashi 2012, Naturalizing Orchids and the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment System, the authors identify several exotic introduced orchid species that in their view pose a serious weed risk to Hawaii. These include *Arundina graminifolia*, *Spathoglottis plicata* and *Vanda tricolor*. A major concern is the displacement of native plants that can occur through crowding out.



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

Next meeting is Tuesday 12 March 2013

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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.