



CULTURAL AWARD, March 2013

Trichoglottis brachiata

Chris

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 9 April

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SOSWA turns 25 in 2013
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 March 2013, 7.50 pm

Present: 31

Apologies: Mavis & Tony, Lee, Dee & Adrian, Tony, Jim, Suzie, Jo

Visitors: Kyoko

New members: Kyoko

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Ian)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$7,822.61/. The higher bank balance is due to the merging of No. 1 & No. 2 accounts. A short explanation was given to newer members of how the No.2 account came into being. The money was given to SOSWA by Melville & Districts Orchid Society when that society folded. It was given with the direction that it was to be used to foster the importation and distribution of species orchids from overseas. (Gordon, John)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- AOF – general info. Re seed bank & protocorm sales etc.
- GCA – Insurance invoice
- Email from Patrick & Cassandra giving their new address
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Graham asked members to think about introducing an Achievement Award for

members who give a lot to the society without necessarily holding a position or being on the committee. Please let a member of the committee know their thoughts on the proposal.

- Graham advised the members that this is the Society' 25 Anniversary year and gave some information about founder members and the names of the attendees at the first meeting. The original Minutes Books were on display for members to look at. Ken will publish snippets of interest from the past through the Newsletter. A social gathering, probably lunch at a restaurant, may be organized for later in the year to celebrate the milestone. Chris and Mich will investigate venues.
- Neville (Founder Member) gave a short address on why the society started the display plants cultural notes.
- 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.
- Thanks were given to Frank for hosting the last Home visit. This month's Home Visit is at Charly & Gerda's home & about 20-25 members indicated they would be attending.
- Graham asked if members would think about donating spare divisions of plants for raffles and the annual auction which will be held either June or July.
- If any members are interested in ordering plants from John Woolf, Mich or Lorraine are willing to take orders.

- Ken explained that to cover some of his Quarantine House costs, he has made a deal with the committee to sell donated flasks for \$30 per compot for monthly plants (when they are large enough). He needs members to help grow on as compots and will endeavour to only give plants that would suit growing conditions of those people who volunteered.
- Ken has the photographic criteria for photos for the GCA 2014 calendar if

any members are interested. The deadline is late March.

Cultural Award: A well grown plant of *Trichoglottis brachiata* grown by Chris

Raffle: Courtney, Trevor, Vic

Special Raffle: Bill

Name Badge: Maxine r

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Graham still has one plant of *Diplocualobium obrynei* available for \$5.
- Further compots of species orchids released from quarantine and purchased:
 - * *Aerides houlettianum*
 - * *Bulbophyllum putidum*
 - * *Cattleya trianae* var. *coerulea* 'Select #2' x *trianae* var. *coerulea* 'Select #1'
 - * *Dendrobium freidericksianum*
 - * *Vanda coerulea*
 - * *Vanda limbata*
- Thanks you to those members who have offered to grow on plants for us.
- Please pot up a few divisions while you're repotting for the upcoming Silent Auction - it doesn't have to be species plants, or even orchids. For new members, this is a great way to expand your collection at minimal cost.
- Membership fees are due in May - as our Treasurer will be away for the AGM, please pay for fees at the next meeting.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.
- The Society has metal badges for sale at \$2 - get one with your raffle tickets.

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 Lee

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 food to share.

- * 28 Apr - Maxine, Parkerville
- * 26 May - Chris, Sorrento
- * 30 Jun - Tony Giorgi,

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 Lee
- There are also several Spider Orchids CDs at \$20 each - please see Graham Bowden

Imported plant news

A further 10 compots of species plants were released on 28 March 2013 and have been purchased by the Society (multiple compots of some species). Thanks to those members who have volunteered to grow them on for the Society - I will let you know once plants that will suit your conditions are available.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Miltonia spectabilis var *moreliana* 'Sonja' AM/AOC x 'Geyserland' (4n)

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Medium-sized, creeping rhizome species. Several plants have flower spikes

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture

Cost: \$15



Sources: <http://www.orchidsonline.com.au/files/images/IMG0294.preview.JPG>

These plants were purchased from Alan Eggins of Rosella Orchids at the 19th AOC in Perth. *Miltonia spectabilis* var *moreliana* (syn *Miltonia moreliana*) is found from the Bahia to Espirito Santo states of Brazil at 400-1000m elevation. It is a medium sized intermediate to warm growing epiphyte with a creeping rhizome that inevitably grows outside its container. It quickly grows into a large specimen as generally each mature pseudobulb tends to send up two new growths on which the plant flowers.

Miltonia spectabilis is the largest flowering Miltonia, and in the case of *M. spectabilis* var *moreliana* the most richly coloured of the Brazilian species. The flowers carried on flattened inflorescences open successively over a few days.

This species requires similar conditions to Cattleyas, and is able to be grown in a

shadehouse, although needs to be kept drier during the cold, wet winter months. While this species does best under moderate light, it is relatively forgiving and will tolerate both more and less optimal light. However, given its predisposition to escape its container, if you can provide suitable conditions, it should be good slab mount candidate with tree fern slab an option. Alternatively, it can be grown in a shallow container with fine media (remember this species has very fine roots). They benefit from regular application of fertiliser when in active growth.

Good air movement is essential to prevent attack by cotton (soft) and hard scale, and mealy bug that can quickly cause plant death.

Graham & Margaret

Brassavola nodosa var *major*

Chris

Brassavola nodosa var *major*

Catasetum maculatum (syn *oerstedii*)

Trichoglottis brachiata

Vanda lamellata

Gordon

Epidendrum elongatum

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima

Maxine

Barbosella australis

Bulbophyllum deareii

Bulbophyllum echinolabium

Cattleya forbesii

Cleisostoma crochettii

Dendrobium linguella

Dendrochilum macrantum

Ken & Chris

Cattleya bicolor

Cymbidium dayanum

Dendrochilum latifolium

Dendrochilum magnum

Phalaenopsis tetraspis alba

Spathoglottis kimballiana

Unidentified Species

Sharon

Dendrobium venustum

Peter & Shirley

Aerangis cryptodon

Christensonia vietnamica

Dendrobium bigibbum

Epidendrum diffusum

Lophiaris lanceana

Miltonia x leucoglossa

Renanthera matutina

Rodriguezia venusta

PLANTS DISPLAYED MARCH 2013



Dendrobium linguella
Maxine

Catasetum maculatum
Chris



Courtney & Val
Zelenkoa (Oncidium) onustum

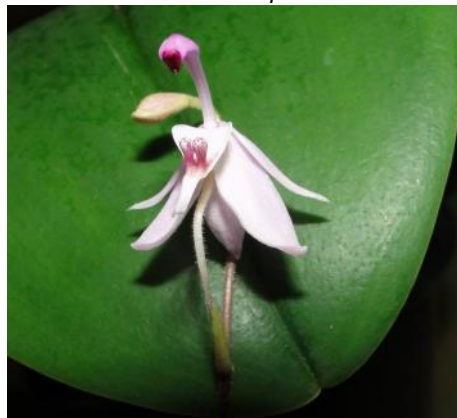


Dendrobium venustum
Sharon Lyster

PLANTS DISPLAYED MARCH 2013



Christensonia vietnamica
Peter & Shirley



Unknown species

Photography by Peter

Reflections on yesteryear - the Species Orchid Society of WA turns twenty five in 2013!

As your President suggested last meeting, over the next few months I will report on some of the highlights over the past twenty five years. I attended the first general meeting held at the Sandgate St Hall in South Perth on 26 May 1988.

Of the thirteen members that attended that meeting, only Gordon, Joan, Neville, Noel and Eva and I continue to be members. However, from the meeting in March 1998 convened by Neville to explore the proposal to start an orchid society focussed on promoting the propagation and cultivation of species orchids, the Society has grown and prospered and we now have more than 70 members (both individuals and families).

On 27 October 1998, at a special general meeting the Society's draft constitution (modelled on the Northern Districts Orchid Society constitution) was endorsed by members and subsequently registered with the appropriate State government agency.

The first silent auction was held on 24 November 1988 as a simple, but enjoyable means of generating funds for the Society's ongoing operation, thereby helping to keep the annual membership fees to a minimum. Plants were donated by members and several local nurseries. The Silent Auction generated \$440.50 which met the Society's immediate need for funds to meet the monthly expenses. By the way, in reviewing the minutes of

those early meetings, I noted (as did Graham Bowden) that our hall hire expense was only \$16 per night!

At their meeting in February 1989, the Committee decided to take a proposal to the next general meeting that home visits be scheduled for the Sunday following the general meeting. The first home visit was held at Neville and Olwyn's home on 26 February 1989. This innovation has been an integral part of what our society does from the very early days, an idea that I am pleased to observe has been adopted by other general societies since. These visits continue to be a core activity of the Species Orchid Society of WA.

Another integral part of the Society's monthly meetings was benching of species orchids, with the grower saying a few words about their plant(s). Some time later, one of the members who worked for Kings Park Botanical Garden commented that given the level of knowledge displayed by members, we should be doing something to record this valuable information so that it could be made available to members. Neville took on the responsibility of designing a form to gather this information, and continued to coordinate this activity for many years until Murray offered to take it on. Murray very wisely persuaded Mich to help him.

To be continued next month

Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

When thinking about possible topics that could be presented to visitors to the 19th AOC orchid show, I did some planning for a presentation on growing orchids in your garden. Many orchid growers do not have the luxury of space or resources to erect a glasshouse and/or shadehouse. This shouldn't be a barrier to enabling them to grow a few orchids. Conversely, experienced orchid growers are often keen to push out the boundaries of their hobby and growing orchids in a garden can be a rewarding experience. With the popularity of flowering orchids and their ready availability in hardware and department stores, florists, general nurseries etc., many more people are now buying these plants instead of cut flowers or other pot plants, or giving them as gifts. While it is reasonable to assume that many of these orchids only ever get to flower once (ie, they die), there are some simple ways of growing these plants for those who do not want to go to the expense of a purpose-built shadehouse or hothouse.

For example, hybrid *Phalaenopsis* orchids can quite be grown quite successfully inside the house, perhaps in a bathroom or similar room where there is enough light and humidity/warmth. However, it should be said at the outset that most inexperienced growers will overwater their orchid plants, believing that as they come from tropical climates, they need to be wet all the time. As a more experienced orchid grower, and having observed many species orchids in the wild, I now know that this is not so.

Epiphytic orchids (the majority of those we grow), whether from the hot tropical rainforests or from cooler, temperate rainforests need to dry out between watering. If you take a close look at epiphytic orchid roots in a natural setting, that is exposed to the air, you will see a white coating on the roots called velamen, and when the plant is actively growing, a green (or occasionally brown/red) root tip. What the velamen coating does apart from protecting the orchid's critical food supply system and anchoring it to its host, is they act a food reservoir by absorbing and storing nutrient from the water washing down the tree when it rains. Next time you are repotting an orchid, look at the roots that have been covered by the media - they may be white or brown, but are substantially modified for life in an environment where they are not exposed to air and light.

The host provides many things to an epiphytic orchid in its natural habitat - a suitable place to live that provides the required amount of light (in the tropics, many of the host trees lose some of their canopy during the less light intense, cooler and drier season, thereby increasing the light available to the orchid). Further, the host tree modifies the immediate local climate by humidifying the air in its canopy, it attracts pollinators and birds and animals, attending to the plants reproductive destiny and assisting with its nutrition. Observing epiphytic orchids in their natural habitat, it soon becomes obvious that not all trees are desirable hosts. Those that are literally

covered in orchids will also be festooned by a wide range of ferns, mosses and lichens, and tend to be rough-barked primary forest species such as Asian dipterocarps (egg Luan and Meranti) and tropical hardwoods and softwoods (Mahogany, Teak and Cypress). These are the trees that we look for while hiking through the forest. While some epiphytic orchids have adapted to introduced species such as oil palms, the majority continue to inhabit the primary forest species and disappear once these trees are cleared, although this disappearance can also be the result of pollinator loss.

Understanding of these requirements of epiphytic orchids is fundamental to the successful cultivation of epiphytic orchids in your garden. Clearly, the same constraints do not necessarily apply to growing terrestrials (orchids that grow in soil) and this will be covered as will growing epiphytes in pots or lithophytes on rocks and walls in future parts of this article.

So, assuming that we want to try growing a few epiphytic orchids on trees in our garden, what do we need to do?

Firstly, we need to find a suitable host tree, to provide an acceptable environment for our orchid. Epiphytic orchids need a rough, permanent barked tree - if the tree sheds its bark like most Eucalypts, it is not suitable. I have found that native trees including *Grevillia*, *Allocaeusuarina* (Sheoak), *Casuarina* (River Oak), *Melaleuca* (Paperbarks and Myrtle Trees), *Callistemon* (Bottlebrush), *Callitris*

(Cypress) and *Acacia* (Wattle). There are also many exotic tree species that are suitable including *Plumeria* (Frangipani), *Jacaranda*, *Poinciana* and *Crescentia* (Calabash) as well as Australian tropical trees including Red Cedar, Hoop Pine, Lilli Pilly, and though not strictly a tree, *Cyathea* (Tree Fern).

In choosing a suitable host for your epiphytic orchids, you need to look for the following attributes:

- i. rough, permanent bark (that does not contain large amounts of volatile phenolics, for example *Ficus* [Rubber Tree]) as this type of surface retains more water than does a smooth bark;
- ii. a robust tree that is not susceptible to white ant attack, wind damage or loss of limbs;
- iii. an open crown of leaves that provides the required level of shade to the orchids (approximately 50-70% shade in Perth), and that allows free circulation of air;
- iv. a suitable aspect where the orchids are protected from the hot midday sun, but directly exposed to early morning and late afternoon sun. North-facing is the preferred aspect. If the situation is too sheltered, intermittent or absence of flowering may be the outcome (usually indicated by excessive leaf production and dark green leaves); and
- v. reliable access to water either from reticulation or hand watering.

Next month: Choosing your orchid and host, attaching your orchids and encouraging healthy growth

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