



CULTURAL AWARD, April 2013

Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica

Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 14 May

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 April 2013, 7.50 pm

Present: 31

Apologies: Graham & Margaret, Gordon, Carolyn, Noel & Eva

Visitors: Lucy

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Sharon, Trevor)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$7730.11. (Peter, Adrian)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Alan Englert – seed pod maturation list originator

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Members were reminded that Subs are now due for renewal
- Ken asked that members put aside any extra plants they may have after repotting and subdividing their plants, for the annual Silent Auction to be held either in June or July. Items other than orchids may also be brought for the auction.
- Members wishing to purchase one of the new design club badges are asked to see Mich who will compile a bulk order.
- Thanks were given to Charly & Gerda for hosting the last home visit. Their home & garden are a great

example of utilising a small area well, orchids & companion plants melding beautifully.

- This month's home visit is at Maxine's home.
- Feedback was sought regarding the proposal for Achievement Awards.
- Tom mentioned that SOSWA has probably the best library available to members of any other orchid society in Perth. He suggested that it may be better used if more books were put out on display as many members may like to browse, rather than knowing a specific topic or genera to ask for. The committee may look into having a couple more helpers to make this happen rather than Mich having to do it all herself.
- Next months meeting is the AGM and members are asked to consider nominating themself or another person for a position. There are also two present Committee Members standing down.
- Ken Jones advised that 3 plants were being auctioned after the plant description has taken place. Tom will be the Auctioneer.

Cultural Award: A well grown plant of *Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica* displayed by Tony & Mavis.

Raffle: Jim, Tony, Gerda, John, Trevor

Name Badge: Sandra

Auction: The successful bidders were Peter (*Laelia praestans*), Chris (*Cattleya deckeri*) and Mich (*Pleurothallis aligatorifera*)

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The May meeting is the Annual General Meeting. As advised at the April General Meeting, two long serving members of the committee, Lee and Trevor are not seeking re-election meaning that two positions on the committee are available to be filled. We thank them for their long and valued service to the Society
- The annual Silent Auction which is the Society's main fundraiser will be conducted at the July general meeting. 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. Please ensure that you pay your fees at the meeting, or if you're unable to attend, as soon as convenient.
- As mentioned at the last meeting, we are planning a 25th Anniversary Luncheon. The proposed date is Sunday 16 June. While more details will be provided at the May meeting, put it in your diary now.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich.
- The Society has metal badges for sale at

Stop Press - Plant Auction at May meeting

Gongora dressleri in spike, *Laelia anceps* in flower and *Dendrobium lindleyii majus*. Be ready to bid for these desirable species plants.

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Michele Mavis
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.

- * 26 May - Chris, Sorrento
- * 30 Jun - Tony, Bassendean.
- * 28 Jul - Ken & Chris, Henley Brook

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

We are planning to put together an order from Ten Shin Gardens (Taiwan) for later this year. You may recall that Matt was one of the vendors at the 19th AOC, and I took the liberty of discussing the supply and shipment of live plants with him. I am impressed by the range of plants in his catalogue and the emphasis on quality at reasonable prices. Take a look at his list at http://www.tenshinorchids.com/3_products.php

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Renantherella histrionica



Country of origin: Malaysia, Borneo and Thailand

Description: small-medium sized vandaceous species.

Difficulty: This species will need protection plus some heat during winter if your area is subject to frost

Cost: \$5.00

Thanks go to Maxine who has grown this species on from a flask that was donated to the Society at the 19th AOC. You may recall that I had this species in flower at the last meeting, and thanks to Tony, we have a picture of the flower (see above)

This small to medium sized vandaceous lowland and mangrove forest epiphytic species is found in Malaysia, Borneo and Thailand. It is a hot growing sub-erect to pendant species that is found at altitudes from sea-level to 300m, and typical of vandaceous orchids, had somewhat fleshy linear, acuminate, channelled leaves. While it is reported to be a spring flowerer, I have found that if it is given the right conditions will flower several times a year. I grow this species in an intermediate glasshouse with winter heating to a minimum of 10°C.

The flowers are small and can often be

resupinate (upside down), although there are as many photos showing them to be non-resupinate. The small flowers open in succession over a period of 2-3 weeks.

As this seems to be a typical vandaceous species, it has a somewhat straggly growth and its roots will often invade nearby pots, or attach to mounts, your glasshouse frame or anything else nearby. I currently have this plant wired onto a green cane stick, although few if any roots are attached to it. I think that it might be more vigorous if it was mounted to either wood of natural cork where it could make more abundant root growth and will experiment once the current flowering concludes. Consistent with other monopodial species, this orchid grows upward although does from time-to-time produce keikis or side shoots.

Ian

Cattleya bowringiana
Miltonia x bluntii

Ian

Dendrobium bigibbum

Maxine

Aerangis curnowiana
Brassavola nodosa
Bulbophyllum blepharistes
Cattleya bowringiana
Dendrochilum macranthum (*latifolium* var. *macranthum*)
Haraella retrocalla
Miltonia moreliana
Phalaenopsis fasciata

Ken & Chris

Cattleya bowringiana
Coelogyne ovalis

Comparettia speciosa
Dendrochilum latifolium
Dockrillia mortii
Epidendrum diffusum
Epidendrum xanthinum
Euanthe sanderiana
Oeceoclades maculata
Paphiopedilum henryanum
Pleurothallis saundersiana
Renantherella histrionica

Peter & Shirley

Cattleya bowringiana
Doritis pulcherrima
Oncidium incurvum
Psychopsis papillio

John

Cattleya bowringiana

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2013



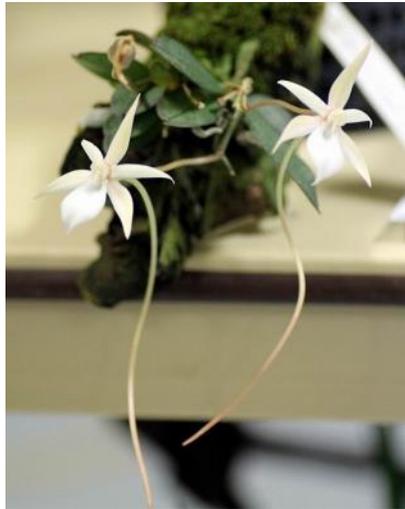
Haraella retrocalla
Maxine

Miltonia x bluntii
Ian
Tony & Mavis



Tony & Mavis

- Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *superbum*
- Miltonia x bluntii*
- Phalaenopsis violacea*
- Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica*
- Stenoglottis longifolia*



Aerangis curmowiana
Maxine

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2013



Paphiopedilum henryanum
Ken & Chris

Comparettia speciosa
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

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

From the society's earliest meetings, members and visiting speakers were invited to make presentations to the members on a wide range of topics including conservation and propagation of WA terrestrial orchids, slide shows of species orchids, orchid culture, plant importation and quarantine, and plant breeding. The Society has always taken advantage of visiting expertise including people such as Ross Maidment (Aranbeem Orchids), Geoff Stocker (Stocker's Orchids), Norito Hasegawa (Paphanatics), Michelle Andriamanamihaja (Mallala Orchidee), as well as that possessed by members to increase the knowledge and awareness of species orchid culture.

The Society's emblem, *Diuris longifolia* was adopted in October 1998 and was included on the letterhead that was designed by Eva in mid-1990 when members agreed that it was time that the Society had some formal identification. A representation of *Diuris longifolia* was also used on the white plastic name badge members agreed to purchase from Imprint Plastics at a cost of \$3.06 each in April 1989. This name badge continued in use for many years with additional badges being ordered as required. More recently, a new badge designed by Mich has been made available to members although some prefer to use the original badge.

In January 1991, the members agreed to

mount a display at the Australian Orchid Conference scheduled for September of that year, and ever since, has mounted display at major shows including the Forest Place Shows in August 1993, August 1994 and August 1995; the Horticultural Spectacular in November 1995; the WA Orchid Spectacular events in 2005 and 2008, and more recently, the 19th AOC in September 2012

Initially, the Society followed the well-established practice in other societies of setting up seedling competitions. The first of these were *Oncidium varicosum* var *rogersii* and *Cattleya intermedia* var *inorata* in September 1998. Consistent with the operation of seedling competitions, the growth of these and other plants were assessed over time. Subsequently, it was decided in July 1990 that to assist members to expand their species collections, that suitable orchids would be sourced at the lowest possible cost and sold to members. In the beginning, these plants were small and often sold for as little as \$2! This initiative continues and over past 13 years, more than 200 different species orchids have been offered for sale to members. While there have been many of these plants that have perished many have survived and can be seen from time-to-time on the display bench at our monthly meeting.

To be continued next month

Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

Once you have identified a suitable host tree, you need to think about what epiphytic orchids to attach. I recommend that you experiment with orchids known to be robust and accommodating of less than optimal conditions. Generally they will be hybrids that are vigorous growers, for example reed-stem *Epidendrum*, *Cattleya*, Australian native *Dendrobium* and *Oncidium*, and that have some degree of drought-tolerance.



Because I am passionate about species, I started out with *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Dendrobium kingianum*. Both these Australian epiphytic species are virtually indestructible and are tolerant of less than perfect growing conditions, and you will often have odd bits left over when repotting. They were attached to a *Grevillea* several years ago and have grown well and flowered regularly since.



More recently, I attached a hybrid *Oncidium* to the same tree which has also flourished.

I attached them to the host in early spring (although autumn is also suitable once the extreme heat of summer has passed) by using the ubiquitous telephone wire tight around mature pseudobulbs to prevent the plant moving. If the wind is able to move the plant around, the roots will not attach to the host and the active green tips will seal over. I do not use any material such as sphagnum moss between the orchid and the tree, although may, if the weather is likely to be hot and dry, wire paperbark or similar material over the root mass to help retain some moisture. This protects new roots from the effect of sun and hot, dry wind, while allowing air movement and moisture penetration. The wire can be removed once the roots have a firm hold on the host.

For your first venture, choose orchids that are inexpensive and surplus to your requirements. Don't choose sickly plants as the orchids that you attach to trees are going to be growing in a much more hostile environment than those living in your shadehouse. Over the years I have

attached several genera, often as a result of dividing and repotting plants and being left with an 'odd shaped' division that would not fit in a pot. These have included *Bifrenaria harrisoniae*, *Oncidium sphacelatum* and hybrids, *Laelia anceps*, *Cattleya* species and hybrids.

Choosing your host is a vital part of this exercise, and as noted earlier, its location is also important. Shade and protection from hot, dry summer winds and protection from cold, wet weather and frosts in winter are equally critical. Further, in winter, it is important to make the most of whatever sunlight is available, and to this end, it is desirable that the host tree canopy is less dense over the winter period but still provides enough cover to protect your plants from frosts. In the southern hemisphere, a northerly aspect is optimum as the sun tends to shift to the north in winter. Because the amount of light diminishes during winter, it is important to mount your orchid so that it receives the benefit of winter sunlight (note that as the sun moves to be more overhead in mid-summer, the canopy should provide more shade).

When choosing a tree, ensure that it is rough-barked, does not shed its bark, and if you intend the orchid to become self-sufficient, in a place that receives water on a regular basis. In the beginning, it is worth mounting your orchid in a situation where it gets more than enough shade as this can be corrected later by pruning the tree. You might also consider attaching companion plants such as *Tillandsia* ssp or *Bromeliad* ssp or other exotic

ornamentals close to your orchid as they will help maintain humidity during the drier months.

Orchids can be attached in several ways. The simplest are the use of telephone wire, plant tie string, old stocking or plant grafting tape. The latter three will break-down over time and the wire can easily be removed once the orchid has firmly attached to the host tree. Another option with large plants is to nail them on, although I do not recommend this method that as it can allow unwanted pathogens to infect the tree. I suspect that a glue such as that used to attach *Tillandsia* to small bits of pottery could also be used. I do not use sphagnum moss pads under or over the plant roots as I find that it can hold too much moisture, and becomes moisture repellent when it dries out. I have also found that if you're attaching orchids during the hot summer months, an antitranspirant spray is helpful as it reduces leaf desiccation.

Encouraging healthy growth presents some challenges compared with glasshouse/shadehouse culture where conditions can be carefully controlled. I fertilise regularly to ensure that these plants get the best start possible, remembering however that orchids are gross feeders and the maxim, "little and often" is the rule. It is also important to maintain a pest patrol as new shoots are very attractive to snails and slugs, and sap-suckers such as scale and mealy bug (that is, considerably more attractive than the host plant).

To be continued

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 14 May 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 on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.