



CULTURAL AWARD, May 2013
Dendrobium goldschmidtianum
Ian

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 June

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 May 2013, 8.15 pm

Present: 34

Apologies: Mich, Lee, Trevor, Bill & Sandra, Sharon, Chris

Visitors: Nil

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The financial report presented to the AGM that preceded the General Meeting was tabled by Graham. The current balance is \$8266.61. (Margaret, Ken at AGM)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- LTM Risk Partners – Certificate of Currency (Insurance).
- GCA – Magazine & Sales Brochure
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- Pat thanking her for auditing the accounts.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- A reminder that subscriptions are due.
- The annual Silent Auction will be held at the July GM. Members were reminded that any plants destined for the auction table should not be watered that day. The auction is not restricted to orchid plants, any items will do, hybrid plants as well.
- The Mallard Duck restaurant in Henley Brook has been chosen as the venue for the Society's 25th Anniversary celebratory lunch on June 16th 2013. It will

be a set menu & the cost is \$40 per head. The money should be paid at the next GM (11 June 2013). The venue is located at the corner of West Swan Rd & John St. Henley Brook

- The Committee has nominated Barry as a Life Member. Ken spoke briefly about Barry for the benefit of members who do not know him.
- The inaugural Quiet Achiever Award of a framed certificate and mug (with the Society logo on it) was given to Ian. Congratulations Ian.
- Tony passed on the sad news that Ken Gorey had passed away. A well-known "orchid identity" Ken had been in ill health for some time.
- Tony also said he was taking orders for the Swiss Orchid Foundation's second publication of *Renziana* which features *Phalaenopsis*. He will also order any of the first publication featuring *Paphiopedilum* if anyone wishes.
- Ken circulated some plant lists from Ten Shin Gardens. He will be ordering plants for the Society for early August delivery and would like member orders to be given to him by the June GM so that he has plenty of time to obtain permits etc.
- Thanks were given to Maxine for her home visit. The next one is at Chris' home on 26th May, the usual plate & chair required.

Cultural Award: A well grown plant of *Dendrobium goldschmidtianum* displayed by Ian.

Raffle: Neville, Courtney, Ian.

Name Badge: Maxine

won by Peter.

Auction: Thanks to Tom for conducting another successful auction. Murray won *Gongora dressleri*, *Laelia anceps* won by Gerde and *Dendrobium lindleyii var majus*

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Membership fees were due in May. Please ensure that you pay your fees at the next General Meeting, or if you're unable to attend, as soon as convenient.
- The Society's 25th Anniversary Luncheon will be held on Sunday 16 June 2013 at the Mallard Duck Café on the corner of West Swan Road and John Street, Henley Brook at 12.00pm. A set menu at \$40 per head has been selected:

Entrée - Tasting Plate (Two per table of 10)
Warm Chorizo Sausage, Marinated Olives, Lamb Koftas, King Prawns, Chicken and Mushroom Vol Au Vents, Salt and Pepper Squid, Plus Chef's Dip and Bread of the Day

Main Course - Choice of

Grilled Market Fish of the day with vegetables and Beurre Blanc; or
Lemon & Thyme Chicken Breast finished with a lime and seeded mustard sauce with vegetables; or
Sirloin Steak with vegetables and Béarnaise sauce.

Dessert - Cake to be provided by Society

Tea and Coffee

- The annual Silent Auction will be held at the July general meeting. Please set aside a few divisions while you're repotting. For new members, this is a great way to expand your collection at minimal cost.

President: Graham

Vice President: Ken Jones

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Editor: Ken Jones

204 Park Street, Henley Brook
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Committee: Sharon

Chris Paul

Charly Tony

Adrian Mavis

Michele

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

Joan & Ted (dec'd)

Neville

Noel & Eva

Barry

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.

* 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

As announced at the last general meeting, we are going to lodge an order with Ten Shin Gardens (Taiwan) for delivery in early August. Their wholesale and retail lists are posted on the Species Society website, and if you get this newsletter by e-mail, will be attached to the e-mail. We are hopeful that we will be able to order 10 or more of each species to benefit from the wholesale price, but will not know how this works out until we receive your orders. We estimate that the additional cost per plant will be approximately A\$10 for licences and permits, freight, inspections, pots and media and glasshouse costs. To meet this timeframe, I will need to have details of your order by the June general meeting - you can e-mail me at kcjones@tpg.com.au. Ten Shin's list with photos can be found at

http://www.tenshinorchids.com/3_products.php

MONTHLY PLANT

Bulbophyllum longissimum

Country of origin: Malaysia, Borneo and Thailand

Description: medium sized
Bulbophyllum with conical pseudobulbs

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

Cost: \$5.00



Source:
<http://orchidsonline.com.au>

Thanks go to Maxine who has grown on these plants since they were released from quarantine after the 19th AOC. The flask came from Sakdisri and Daughters Nursery in Bangkok.

Found in Thailand, Burma, Borneo and Malaysia at lower elevations, *Bulbophyllum longissimum* is a spectacular member of the section *Cirrhopetaloides*. The long lateral sepals can be up to 18 cm in length, and are displayed in an umbel of 5-10 short-lived, pleasantly fragrant flowers. This species is somewhat unusual as each pseudobulb can produce up to three flowers rather than the one more commonly associated with the genus.

Bulbophyllums are generally scrambling epiphytes, and tend to quickly grow across the top of the media. As such, they are best grown in shallow dishes, or

alternatively (if you have the conditions) on a large mount. In this regard, Bill and Sandra have regularly flowered this species that they grow on a treefern slab mount, although I suspect that it would do equally well on a large hardwood or cork mount.

While it is described as a warm to hot growing epiphyte in its natural habitat, Bill and Sandra grow their plant without any winter heat, but under cover so that it is not wet and cold. They also have good air movement and humidity during summer. In my experience, Bulbophyllums need protection from our cold, wet winters, and good air movement (this also helps keep pests like cotton scale at bay). Humidity in the hot, dry summer months is important to prevent desiccation. Like all orchids, this species is a gross feeder and enjoys regular nutrient - little and often.

Ian

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum

Chris

Eriochilus dilatatus
Zelenkoa onusta

Gordon

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum
Zygopetalum mackayii

Maxine

Aerangis biloba
Angraecum eburnum var *commorensense*
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Laelia anceps var *chamberlainianum*
Sophranitis cernua var *miniera*

Ken & Chris

Cattleya labiata
Laelia anceps

Oncidium hyphaematicum
Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Paphiopedilum wardii
Pleurothallis saundersiana
Renanthera monachica
Schomburgkia splendida

Peter and Shirley

Cattleya amethystoglossa
Cattleya labiata Tipo
Dockrillia mortii
Laelia anceps "Blumen Insel"
Laelia anceps *Gloriosa* x *Mendenhall*
Laelia praestans
Laelia purpurata
Miltonia clowesii
Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Sophranitis brevipedunculata

Courtney

Doritis (Phalaenopsis) pulcherrima

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2013



Laelia praestans
Peter & Shirley

Dendrobium delacourii
Tony & Mavis



Noel & Eva

Prosthechea cochleata alba

Tony & Mavis

Dendrobium bigibbum
Dendrobium delacourii
Kingidium deliciosum
Phalaenopsis sanderiana
Tolumnia variagata
Vanda tessellata 'Blue'



Laelia anceps 'Blumen Insel'
Peter & Shirley

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2013



Vanda tessellata 'Blue'
Tony & Mavis

Schomburgkia splendida
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

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

The Society continued to grow its membership and in 1992, purchased a second-hand photocopier to simplify publication of our newsletters and other printed materials. Subsequently, it ceased operating and for some years, we relied on the generosity of others who allowed us to use their equipment free of charge. In 2004, we purchased another second hand copier that supported duplex printing and collation making newsletter editor's life simpler and substantially reducing the time taken to print and distribute the newsletter each month. In 2009, the members endorsed the purchase of a colour laser printer to enable the inclusion of some colour photos in the newsletter, which at the same time was redesigned to its current format by Michele. With Tony's assistance, more than half our newsletters are now e-mailed to members as a PDF file resulting in a substantial saving in postage costs.

In 1992-93, members of the Society considered the vexing question of whether line-bred species should be eligible for display at meetings, given the obvious superiority in flower form over a naturally occurring species. While a range of views were expressed and some robust discussion followed, ultimately, it was agreed that line-bred species were still species, and as such, their display was entirely consistent with the Society's objectives, and furthermore, would help in demonstrating desirable plant

characteristics such as larger or more numerous flowers, (often a result of tetraploidy) flower life, reduce plant size etc. At the same time, it was agreed that natural hybrids (eg *Dendrobium x delicatum*) would be eligible for display and members were encouraged to research plants in their collection to ascertain whether some might be natural hybrids.

With help from Bill Edwards in 1991, Ken & Chris had constructed and licensed their quarantine glasshouse to reduce the difficulty in importing orchids from overseas. At that time, the glasshouse care fees charged by the WA Agriculture Department were starting to rise and given the commercial nature of that organisation, it was not always possible, despite the best intentions of quarantine glasshouse staff, to give plants the individual attention that was required to help them overcome the rigours of bare-root transportation and compulsory Methyl Bromide fumigation. Ken & Chris had used the glasshouse to bring back orchid plants on several overseas trips, and in 1994, offered the use of the facility to the Society to enable members to access species orchids that were generally not available in Australia.

This offer was accepted, and in May 1996, the first shipment of orchids for members was imported from Kabukiran Orchids in the Philippines. Since then, shipments have been brought in from suppliers in several countries. *Continued next month*

Ode Ken Gorey

Ken and Maureen Gorey joined the Species Orchid Society in the 1990's and immediately impressed members with his immaculately grown plants, and his wide knowledge of orchid growing generally. Ken and Maureen were generous hosts for many home visits, with Ken proudly showing his immaculate collection and passing on his knowledge to others. Ken was a typical 'can do' aussie bloke who was able to turn his hand to almost anything, and his exceptionally neat and tidy orchid house and gardens caused many more than one of us to be unfavourably criticised by our spouses.

Ken was an active member of our Society and regularly displayed his plants at meetings, often winning the cultural award for a well grown specimen. He actively supported our displays and could always be counted on to provide high quality plants.

Ken became ill some years ago and found that the distance from his home in Falcon to

our evening meetings in Perth was more than he could manage. For some time, he was able to get a lift with one or other of our members living in Mandurah and continued to display his orchids at our meetings. However, as his health declined, this became more difficult and he had to let his membership lapse. He continued to be an active member of the Mandurah Orchid Society and the Paphiopedilum Study Group, giving generously of his knowledge to others.

Ken was ever the optimist, the 'half full' type of guy. At his memorial service, his brother said that Ken's optimistic approach to life was typified by recent his purchase of orchid seedlings even though he was seriously ill.

Ken will be missed by his family, his many friends and orchid buddies. He made a difference to this world and to all of our lives.

Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

I also use a slow release fertiliser/tonic (eg Strikeback, Sea Mungus, Osmocote for Orchids etc) that is contained in a small net pot on a spike (while I have not seen these for sale in Australia, they can be purchased in Thailand and I feel sure that someone will be selling them here). This ensures that every time it rains, your orchid receives a small dose of fertiliser.

The frequency of watering one's orchids is a topic that always stimulates debate. There is no 'one right way'; it all depends on your situation and conditions. However, as a general rule of thumb, when orchids are first attached to a tree or other mount in your garden, it is prudent to water them at least every day until new roots start to attach themselves to the mount. Once

vigorous new root growth is evident, the watering frequency can be reduced, remembering however that during very hot/dry weather conditions, your orchids will need to be watered at least once every day, and perhaps in the evening on those days where the night time temperature and/or easterly wind combine to desiccate your orchid. After the first year, the roots should have made their way to a part of the tree trunk or branch that is less exposed and your plants will no longer need the daily attention. When watering, it is important to remember the wet/dry cycle that is part of the natural environment for the majority of epiphytic orchids. This cycle is based upon the orchid plant being drenched, allowed to dry out before being drenched again. If the roots are still white after watering, you have not applied enough water - the velamen coating on the roots should turn greenish-brown after watering indicating that they have absorbed some of the water that can be made available to the plant.

Other epiphytic options include the use of dead, rather than living trees, hollow logs, wooden posts, tree stumps and similar mounts. The problem with these mounts is that they can be subject to termite attack, along with a host of other insects and fungus pathogens that act to break down the wood, in time requiring the orchid(s) to be remounted. The consequent root damage that occurs while doing so will adversely affect the orchid and can lead to its demise. However, if you have a suitable location in your garden and can access a well-weathered hardwood mount, placing a large *Dendrobium*

speciosum or *Cymbidium maddidum* on an old stump, or a large piece of tree trunk can make a spectacular display when the plant is in flower. Hollow logs or stumps can be an excellent place to grow epiphytic orchids as the hollowed out section can be filled with compost or humus into which the roots will quickly grow providing a readily available source of nutrient.

Growing orchids lithophytically can be very rewarding, and as many of the commonly grown epiphytes are equally adaptable to being grown as lithophytes, many options are possible. As most of us in the Perth metro area live in an environment that is primarily sandy, the options are more limited than in settings where there is exposed rock. However, retaining walls constructed from moss rock or limestone can provide a suitable location for an orchid, proving sufficient protection is available. The common name for *Dendrobium speciosum* is the Sydney Rock Orchid and it will readily attach to a suitable rock substrate. Similarly, the common name for *Dendrobium kingianum* is the Pink Rock Lilly. Both these species are relatively tolerant of high light, although the leaves will be damaged by the overexposure that can occur in Western Australia's hot, dry summer. However, in my experience, this does not prevent flowering.

Continued next month

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 11 June 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.