



CULTURAL AWARD, July 2013
Maxillaria sophronitis
Peter

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 13 August

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 July 2013, 7.55 pm

Present: 32

Apologies: John, Neville, Tom & Pat, Eva, Dee & Adrian, Jeanine, Sharon, Lee.

Visitors: Lucy

New members: Hugo, Clive

In memory: A minutes silence was observed in memory of our life member, Joan Larson

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Trevor, Ian)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra with a current balance of \$9,034.47 (Mavis, Peter)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- GCA news of 2014 calendar release & order forms
- Invoice WA Newspaper – bereavement notice
- Membership renewal Andrew
- Various Club publications

Outwards:

- Thank you letter to John Brogan

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Members were reminded that Subs are now due for renewal
- Rescued plants from Fiona Stanley site were replanted. Unfortunately some were subsequently “weeded” by gardeners by mistake.
- Ken reported that any plant export to the Eastern States (excepting Qld.) must now be inspected for green snail

at a cost of \$56 per 15 min. inspection time. Ken also noted that while it used to be possible to obtain a permit to bring up to 20 orchids into WA at no charge (and without inspection fees), the Department of Agriculture and Food is now charging approx \$40 for these permits.

- Tony was thanked for hosting a great Home Visit. Next one is scheduled at Ken & Chris’ on 28th July.
- A break was held for the placing of bids on the Silent Auction lots.

Cultural Award: A well grown plant of *Maxillaria sophronitis* displayed by Peter.

Raffle: No raffle held.

Name Badge: Paul & Andrea

Silent Auction: Thanks to members for supporting the Silent Auction, both through donating items for sale and placing bids on the lots. \$520 was raised for the society.

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.
- Thanks to those members who donated orchids, various plants and other items for the Silent Auction, and to Chris, Charly and Noel who conducted the auction and Chris who recorded the bids and collected money from the successful bidders.
- Mavis is now starting to plan our home visit program for 2014. If you are willing to host a home visit, please let Mavis know and we will include you in the program. Home visits are an excellent way to socialise with members, and to get advice on growing your orchids and/or addressing any problems you might be encountering including advice on glass-house/shadehouse design, location and equipment.
- Graham met with the Fiona Stanley Hospital representatives who are exceedingly embarrassed by the destruction of some of the orchids that we rescued many years ago and had replanted. Further negotiations are under way to ascertain whether we are able to replace some of those lost, and if so, to replant at a time when the gardeners are working so that we can teach them about the orchids.

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Charly Tony
Adrian Mavis
Michele

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)
Gordon
Joan (dec'd) & 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.

- * 25 August - Graham & Margaret, Hamersley.
- * 29 September - Wally, South Yunderup

FOR SALE/WANTED

- 3m x 2.5m treated pine frame greenhouse with double plastic cover (inside and out) available. As Ken wants it removed, he is not asking for payment but suggests that you make a donation to the Species Orchid Society. It has been dismantled. Fans, hotbed and controllers also available - make an offer. Contact Ken 9309 3361.
- One of our new members, Paul wishes to purchase divisions of *Cattleya harrisoniae* and *Encyclia cordigera*. Please contact Paul on 0419 964 240.

Imported plant news

I have now deflasked Ezi-Gro's 42 flasks and hopefully they will grow on rapidly so that we can get them released in early September or late October. I will schedule another inspection in August with a view to getting more plants from the Sabah/Thailand trip released, and more of the 19th AOC compots.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Stanhopea connata



Source:
<http://stanhopea-collection-gabri-el.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/stanhopea-connata-in-bloom.html>

Country of origin: Peru, Ecuador and Colombia

Description: Large plant with pendant, fragrant, short lived flowers

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture provided some protection from winter rain is available

Cost: \$12.00

This month's plant, *Stanhopea connata* Klotzsch 1854 has been sourced from Tinonee Orchids - thanks to Sharon for making this happen on short notice. The type specimen was described and published by Friedrich Klotzsch in *Otto & Dietr. Allg. Gartenz.* xxii. (1854) 226. Synonyms are *Stanhopea graveolens* and *Stanhopea tadeasi*.

It is said to be one of the simplest of the Stanhopeas to identify due to its distinctive form and unusual orange coloured flowers. Unusually, the petals also have more and heavier markings than the sepals.

In their natural habitat in the Eastern Andes, this species grows on a range of host trees in moist forests at 1,000-1,700m and produces 3-5 flowers at any seemingly time of the year (including winter). The scent is said to be reminiscent of narcissus.

Cultivation of this genus is dictated by the flowering habit which is for downward growing flower racemes to emerge through the bottom of the pot, or preferably, hanging basket. Commercially available wire hanging baskets work well and can be lined with coconut fibre (avoid the preformed liners that include plastic), paper bark, large gap plastic mesh or similar material. Suitable media is pine bark, sphagnum moss and coarse coconut chips, although care should be taken to ensure that the plant is in a well-drained environment as being too wet will lead to root loss. While slab mounts can work, experience indicates that hanging baskets are most successful in other than ideal conditions.

This plant will need to be kept drier in winter, and the genus is seldom bothered by insect pests provided there is good air movement and free draining media.

Ian

Eria javanica

Maxine

Angraecum distichum
Angraecum equitans
Cattleya jenmanii
Cynoches warscewiczii
Isabella pulchella
Paphiopedilum villosum

Ken & Chris

Bulbophyllum ssp
Dendrochilum wenzellii
Epidendrum elongatum
Jumellea triquetra
Laelia anceps
Paphiopedilum villosum
Phalaenopsis amabilis
Restrepia escobariana
Rodriguezia decora

Peter and Shirley Masters

Aerides lawrenceana
Cattleya jenmanii
Laelia anceps var *veitchiana*
Maxillaria sophronitis
Oncidium pulvinatum
Zelenkoa onustum

Tony & Mavis

Dendrobium bigibbum
Prosthechea cochleata

PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2013



Eria javanica
Ian

Isabella pulchella
Maxine



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



Cynoches warszewiczii
Maxine

PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2013



Angraecum distichum
Maxine



Bulbophyllum ssp
Ken & Chris

Photography by Tony

Nurseries from which plants have been imported include Alvim Seidel Orchids (Brazil), Mallala Orchidee (Madagascar), Everest Orchids (India), Kolopaking Orchids (Indonesia), Orchideas Peruanus (Peru), various suppliers at the 17th World Orchid Conference in Malaysia, several nurseries in Thailand (often associated with trips arranged by Tony and Mavis Watkinson) and from a breeder in Panama, Gaspar Silvera. These co-operative imports of plants are in part responsible for the diversity of orchid species that we see displayed at our meetings and in the displays that the Society contributes to conferences and major shows.

In September 1996, Bill Edwards proposed that interested members travel to the Stirling Range National Park in place of the usual home visit. The park had been subject to hot summer fires and consequently he expected that there would be good germination and flowering of some of the less commonly seen terrestrial orchids. Ten or twelve members made the trip, staying overnight in Albany, and saw more than 50 different species in flower over the weekend. Subsequently, Society members including Graham & Margaret have continued to promote interest in, and education about our unique West Australia terrestrial orchids, and are always prepared to show members and visitors these beautiful plants both in situ and at their home. Tony has written several articles on the WA terrestrial species that have been published locally and internationally.

While this interest in terrestrial orchids has been in large part been stimulated by Graham and Margaret, and more particularly by the membership of his uncle, the late Ron Heberle who joined the society in May 2001 when he and his wife retired to Perth. Ron was absolutely passionate about West Australian terrestrial orchids, and was widely recognised as one of the most knowledgeable people about WA Sun Orchids (Thelymitras) as well as many other local genera. He was always willing to show some of his vast collection of slides and stimulate discussion about the variance within populations of what was to all intents and purposes, the same genus and species.

From this, we all learnt not to take things at face value, and to be proactive in looking more carefully at what we see when we look at orchid plants in their natural settings. Unfortunately, Ron's time with us was all too brief and he died in 2004. However, during his time with us, he agreed to allow the Society to publish his photos on our newly constructed web site, and on large boards which could be taken to displays and shows as he wanted them to be freely available to as many people as possible. These display boards were replaced by newly constructed display materials for the 19th AOC thanks to the efforts of Mich and Margaret enabling the society to present a highly professional image to the public while informing them about the ubiquitous WA terrestrial orchids.
Continued next month

Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

There are many other orchids that while principally epiphytic, are readily adaptable to lithophytic or terrestrial growth. These include species in the genera *Angraecum*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Cattleya*, *Coelogyne*, *Dendrobium*, *Encyclia*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia*, *Pleione*, *Schomburgkia*, *Thunia*, and *Vanda*. Although their light and temperature requirements can vary widely (some will need 70-80% shade while others will be quite happy with 50%). When planting in a rockery, it is also important to research whether the particular species prefers its roots exposed to the air and light like *Vanda*, or like *Pleione*, prefer its roots to be covered by moss, lichens or ferns. Other genera such as *Arundina*, *Bletilla*, *Calanthe*, the rupicolous *Laelia*, *Lycaste*, *Neobenthamia*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phaius*, *Sobralia*, *Spathoglottis* and *Stenoglottis* are true terrestrials or lithophytes and will flourish in the right environment.

Even in Perth's hot, dry Mediterranean climate, it is possible to create rockery gardens which provide damp crevices and pockets of humus and leaf mould in which orchids will grow, although generally some shade is necessary during the summer months to stop the hot sun and clear skies from burning your plants. However, as few orchids tolerate 'wet feet', the garden should be designed and arranged so that it does not become waterlogged in winter. While as orchid growers we generally make do with whatever we have available to us, if you decide that you really want to grow some of your orchids in a more natural

setting such as a rockery, they will benefit from some planning and construction designed to provide the most supportive environment. If there is no natural slope available, it would be well worth considering excavating or filling to create a slope.

In this regard, it will be beneficial to locate the rock garden so that it gets the maximum winter sun and warmth (this can be assisted by placing near a north facing wall that absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night), but has protection from the harsh sun in mid-summer. Unless the rock garden is under cover, you will also need to give some thought to protection from frost if your location is susceptible – a temporary shade cloth, plastic or similar cover can help. It is also possible to include pyrotechnic (electric heating) cable which could be used to boost soil temperature during the winter months – this is an efficient and reasonably economical method of heating and applies heat where it is needed.

After ensuring that all weeds are removed from the subsoil, add a thick layer of coarse road base or broken bricks 20-30cm deep topped with 10cm of finer material such as coarse river sand, fine blue metal road base, washed fine gravel or any other finely crushed rock. This allows the water to drain away preventing waterlogging, but stops the finer soil and humus from being washed away. The soil layer itself should be a mix of compost or leaf humus, coarse sand and fine gravel which will provide

encouragement and nutrition for your orchids once planted. The larger rocks are them placed on top of this bed, and the rockery allowed to settle for a few weeks before planting. Remember that the majority of lithophytic orchids grow on limestone, so if you are using granite, it will be necessary to occasionally add dolomite lime to maintain a pH that is acceptable to your orchids.

The normal rules apply when planting/ attaching orchids to rocks or in a rockery. Those are that the newly planted/attached orchid must be held firmly so that the new roots can attach to the media without being damaged by the plant moving about in the wind or by watering. This can be done by gluing (using a glue such as that used to attach tillandsias to wood or clay mounts). For larger plants, masonry nails, strategically placed smaller rocks, ties made of old stocking etc can be utilised. Similarly, the terrestrial species need to be held firmly in place by compacting the soil mix around their roots.



Photo: www.bellevueterasse.com

Companion planting is a critical part of the development of a rock garden. Clearly, it would not be appropriate to include plants

that require (or at least benefit from) intense sunlight during summer as this will damage your orchids. Similarly, unless you are able to incorporate different zones, bog plants which prefer growing in waterlogged conditions may be unsuitable. Including a small water feature can be an attractive part of your rock garden, although some though needs to be given to stocking it as you may need to use fungicides and pesticides from time-to-time on your orchids. These products (other than some of the organics) are generally toxic to fish and amphibians.

Suitable companion plants include ferns (preferably not those that spread rapidly such as fishbone ferns and similar, or those that grow tall and take over), bromeliads, tillandsias, judiciously placed tree ferns and mosses.



Photo source: <http://www.orchidboard.com/community/outdoor-gardening/68128-orchids-garden.html>

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 13 August 2013

Peter & Shirley Masters

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E-mail: peterskorner@iinet.net.au

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.