



CULTURAL AWARD, August 2013
Dendrochilum glumaceum
Maxine

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 10 September

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 August 2013, 8.15 pm

Present: 36 required.

Apologies: Noel & Eva, Chris, Jim, Gordon.

Visitors: Patricia, Lyn

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted ()

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra .
Current balance of \$8,758.75.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Flyer re Kings Park Festival 1-30 September (50th)
- Membership renewals – Malcolm T, John W (2 yr)
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Peter kindly donated an orchid book to be auctioned. Thank you Peter.
- Graham reminded members that a quantity of letter cards were still available for purchase
- An auction was held for plants -
 - a) *Oerstedella centradenia* (Bruce \$45)
 - b) *Scaphoasepalum swertifolium* (Sharon \$30)
 - c) Book – Charly (\$15)
 Thank you to auctioneer Tom.
- Thanks were given to Ken & Chris for their home visit. The next one is at Graham and Margaret's on 25th August, the usual plate & chair

Cultural Award: Maxine for a well grown plant of *Dendrochilum glumaceum* with many well-displayed, arching flower racemes.

Raffle: Norm , Bruce, Adrian & Ian.

Name Badge: Ken

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.
- Mavis Watkinson has completed the 2013/14 home visits program and has hosts for every month. For our newer members, 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.

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Committee:

Chris	Sharon
Charly	Paul
Adrian	Tony
Michele	Mavis

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.

- * 29 September - Wally, South Yunderup
- * 27 October - Sharon, Gosnells

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

We had a further inspection on Friday 23 August where another 60 plants were released along with several compots of species from the 19th AOC.

Subject to continued growth over the next two months, I expect that we should be able to have most of the plants presently in quarantine released in October and I will then schedule the shipment from Taiwan.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Holcoglossum kimballianum

Country of origin: Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China

Description: Pendant, Vanda-like species with fragrant, long-lived flowers.

Difficulty: Suitable for shadehouse culture provided protection from winter rain and cold winds is available

Cost: \$10.00



<http://orchids.la.coocan.jp/Holcoglossum/Holcoglossum%20kimballianum/DSC07849.JPG>

Thanks to Sharon Lyster who organised this month's species, *Holcoglossum kimballianum* that has been supplied by Tinonee Orchids. This is a very desirable species from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Southern China where it is primarily found as a lithophyte on rocks in exposed, sunny locations (note the terete leaves), or occasionally as an epiphyte on trees in partial shade at 1,200 - 1,800m elevation.

The fragrant, long-lived flowers are predominantly white to pale pink while the frilled, spade-like labellum is a striking pink-purple colour. Flowering is generally in autumn, and racemes can carry up to 20 flowers.

Cultural conditions are similar to those for many of the species from Northern Thailand where the seasons are distinct with cooler, drier winters. Accordingly, this

species will need to be protected from rain and cold winds during winter, and if possible, given some warmth. It also needs good light, especially in winter. Several authors recommend mounting this species on cork or tree fern slabs, although I believe that other hardwood mounts should also be acceptable. As it is naturally pendant, it is less suitable for long-term pot culture, although could be grown in a hanging basket.

As I have not grown this species, I do not know about its susceptibility to pests and pathogens, but believe that it is likely to be similar to Vanda species, that is fairly robust and more likely to be adversely affected by being cold and wet. If grown pendants as shown in the photo, the problems caused by water sitting in leaf axils are eliminated.

Ian

Ansellia africana

Graham & Margaret

Caladenia dimidia
Caladenia discoidea
Caladenia filifera
Caladenia reptans
Caladenia xanthina
Diuris corymbosa (3)
Diuris corymbosa (yellow form)
Diuris magnifica
Dendrobium aemulum

Maxine

Cymbidium grandiflorum
Dendrochilum glumaceum

Ken & Chris

Coelogyne flaccida
Dendrochilum latifolium

Dendrochilum wenzelli
Laelia anceps var. *veitchiana*
Maxillaria schunkiana
Paphiopedilum tranlienianum
Pleurothallis allenii
Pleurothallis caliptrosteles
Restrepia escobariana
Restrepia sanguinea
Restrepia trichogloosa
Trudelia pumila

Peter & Shirley
Brassia longissima
Dendrobium aemulum
Dendrobium tetragonum gigantifolium

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2013



Diuris corymbosa
Graham & Margaret

Caladenia discoidea
Graham & Margaret



Tony & Mavis

Aerangis hyaloides
Lonopsis utricularioides
Phalaenopsis aphrodite
Phalaenopsis schilleriana
Tolumnia variagata
Vanda lilacina



Diuris magnifica
Graham & Margaret

PLANTS DISPLAYED AUGUST 2013



Aerangis hyaloides
Tony and Mavis

Trudelia pumila
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

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

In 2000, Tony established the society's online presence with the creation of the Species Orchid Society of WA webpages. Creating and maintaining this site on which we have many articles, the Ron Heberle photo collection along with others that have been provided by members, monthly newsletters and other information has been a labour of love for Tony as our webmaster who has continued to take responsibility for this now very substantial website. The society has received many favourable comments about the quality of material available, and several of the photos from the site photos have been used by other online and hard copy authors.

Membership of the Society continued to grow through the 90s and early 2000s, and was recently boosted by new members who joined up at the 19th AOC. There has always been a number of Eastern States members, some who joined to take advantage of the co-operative importation of plants and others who shared or common interest in species. Attendance at monthly meetings has varied 20-30 to more than 50 over the 25 years that the society has been in existence although generally higher in the spring/summer/autumn months when the weather is more benign.

Over the past 25 years, the Society has invested in a magnificent library of books, journals and more recently, digital media that is available to members. While in earlier years, many of the books purchased were those on general sale,

those purchased over the last 10-15 years have often been expensive publications and/or genera and/or/country specific books that are not widely available. The materials in the library are conservatively valued at several thousand dollars, and many are now out of print and thus cannot be purchased. Members of the committee travelling overseas have often bought books back from Asia and USA to enhance the collection. Please take the time to browse through the library.

In 2000, the Society presented the first life membership to Ted and Joan. Ted and Joan were foundation members of the Society, and both were active on the committee, Joan as Treasurer from 1988 to May 2001. With others, Ted and Joan helped create the spirit and ethos of the Society, and were exemplars in their dedication and service to us. We are known as a friendly, open and sharing group, recognition of the values that were both espoused and acted out by those original members. Many others have followed their example and have been active members of the committee for many years. Since then, the Society has recognised a further six members for their long and meritorious service to us.

Continued next month

Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

Continued from last month

However, as your orchid garden is likely to be outside (or at least in a less controllable environment than a glasshouse), regular attention to ensure that pests such as slugs, snails, slaters and other insects likely to feast on new root and leaf growth are eliminated or kept at bay, and ants likely to bring in scale are controlled will assist in achieving success.

Retaining walls are also a suitable habitat for many of the orchids that will grow well in rock gardens. While concrete is not a suitable host, other material such as granite, similar hard rock, sandstone and even limestone (although it is soft and can be rapidly invaded by algae, mosses and lichens which further break down the material). Once again, the ideal aspect in the southern hemisphere is north facing where it will get the maximum light and warmth in winter, with, for optimum results, some summer overhead protection (this could be a temporary shadecloth cover). As can be seen from the photos of orchids in rock gardens, the plants are very adaptable and will attach to a suitable host in a short space of time. The roots will seek out crevices and faults in the rock searching for moisture. Accordingly, random stone walls rather than flat, regular blocks cemented together are preferred.

Ken Blackburn's excellent articles and photos at http://theorchidfiles.com/?page_id=379 show the development over time of an orchid garden atop and along a

rock retaining wall. Ken also provides excellent advice about what to plant and when, although this needs to be adapted for our rather more severe summer temperatures in the west than in coastal Queensland. However, what his series of article and pictures show that it is possible to maintain an orchid collection on a smaller property without the space and income to erect and operate a glasshouse.



Source : <http://theorchidfiles.com/?p=3384>

The next photo shows the growth of orchids (including companion plants such as ferns) over several years. While growing orchids this way does prevent you taking them to shows and displays, they are growing in a more natural habitat and make a striking display for visitors to your home. This photo clearly demonstrates the advantage of using irregular shaped stone as it creates crevices and locations into which orchids can be planted. In this photo, you can also see orchids that are growing on the bare rock face, similar to those that we have seen in northern Thailand



Source: <http://theorchidfiles.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/5-Lower-left-of-Centre.jpg>

I strongly recommend that those of you interested in venturing into growing orchids this way read Ken Blackburn's articles and look at the extensive range of photos of his orchid garden over several years. As noted earlier, living in hot, dry WA will mean that some adjustments will need to be made. These are likely to include the provision of shade during the hot, dry summer months. While ferns are the most natural companion plants, they too are likely to be damaged by hot, dry conditions and some thought might therefore be given to planting winter deciduous plants and shrubs, keeping in mind the space available, ie, don't plant something that is going to grow into a huge tree if you only have a small space available. Humidity in summer can be provided by low pressure misting off the mains water supply, or by drip system, although you might need approval if you do not have your own rainwater tank but wish to water more frequently than allowed under the sprinkler restrictions that apply in WA. Watering can be managed by directional sprinklers or capillary tubes/individual drippers that

direct water to where it is needed.

In this context, members who attended the home visit at Charly and Gerda's home earlier this year were treated to a brilliant display of orchids and companion plants, in a small area where the plants were growing in a more natural setting. As the photo clearly illustrates, they have creatively used dry branches attaching to them ferns, tillandsia and bromeliads, alocasias and orchids (at this time, generally in pots). These plants are growing well in their covered patio area that has a polycarbonate roof, and shade-cloth sides to allow free air movement. Bromeliads make excellent companion plants for orchids as the water they hold helps increase local humidity.



Charly and Gerda are experimenting with the orchids that will grow well and flower in their idyllic setting, and have found that those which will ordinarily grow in a shadehouse are very well suited. The majority of their plants are still in pots although as they gain more experience, they are attaching plants to the dry wooden branches.

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 10 September 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.