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THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA ( INC )  
.....  
[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species\\_Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species_Newsletter.htm)



Vol 25 No 5 October 2013



CULTURAL AWARD, September 2013  
*Pleione formosana*

# NEWSLETTER

*Peterskorner*

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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](http://www.peterskorner.com), phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail [peterskorner@iinet.net.au](mailto:peterskorner@iinet.net.au).

## NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8 October

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

10 September, 15 pm

**Opened By:** Adrian Time 7:50 pm

**Next Gen. Meeting:**  
Date 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Time 7:45pm

**Next Com. Meeting**  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Adrian & Dee's home. Time 7:30pm

**Last Home Visit:** Graham & Margaret's

**Next Home Visit:** Wally's on the 22<sup>ND</sup> of Sept 2013 at 10AM.

Members present 33 as per the register.  
New Member: Patricia  
Visitors: Paul and Lyn  
Apologies: As per register.

## Minutes of the previous meeting:

Acceptance moved: Mavis Seconded: Pat  
Business arising from the minutes: Nil

**The Financial Report** was tabled by Sandra and the current balance is \$8754.54.  
Moved: Gordon Seconded: John

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Thanks to Mich (in absentia) for her work with Toni in York  
The meeting agreed to the change of date to the 22<sup>nd</sup> September for the home visit at Wally's place.

Plant descriptions then followed.

**Culture Award:** To Peter for *Pleione formosana*

**Raffle Winners:** Paul, Bruce, Brenda and Bruce – again!

**Badge Prize winner:** Noel and Eva

**The monthly sale plant:** *Holcoglossum kimballiana* @ \$10.00

**The meeting closed** at 8:45PM.

Members then adjourned for supper.

# ABOUT US

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (exc January at Forster Park Hall, cnr of Abernethy Road and Keane Street, Cloverdale 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 \$12.00. 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.

including Phalaenopsis are suitable for longer-term indoor cultivation. If you want to be successful in growing such plants inside, ensure that they are receiving filtered sun, good air movement and humidity (in the southern hemisphere, rooms with north facing windows are preferred). While this can sometimes be found in the bathroom, orchids do not appreciate hairspray and similar aerosols that are often used there, and the humidity and warmth created for the short time the shower is being used ceases when the bathroom is not occupied. The temperature drops and the humidity in the air condenses on the plant and its surrounds. We know that epiphytic orchids do not prosper if they are cold and wet; a situation that can occur in the domestic bathroom. Similarly, cooking oils and other aromatics in the kitchen mean that it is not a suitable environment for long term cultivation. Conservatories and similar sunroom/patios however can be very suitable for a wide range of genera.

For those wishing to grow a more exotic range of orchids in the house, the Wardian Case or some similar facility enables this to take place. A Wardian Case is a structure that allows your orchids to be housed in conditions that simulate their natural habitat. I am aware that people have used large aquaria for this purpose, although care must be taken to ensure constant air movement and address some of the less desirable features of these containers if you wish to use them for long-term cultivation.

These facilities require controlled lighting, water and humidity control, heating and cooling (especially if you wish to grow cloud forest species) and a constant sup-

ply of fresh air. An interesting web site, <http://www.orchidkarma.com> provides a wealth of information about how to construct a vivarium to sustainably grow and flower tropical orchids indoors in Sweden. I really recommend you take the time to look at this website that has hundreds of photos, detailed analysis and recommendations based on experience about building and operating effective orchid growing environments inside the home. The following is just one of the many photos on this website.



Photo: <http://www.orchidkarma.com/about/my-growing-spaces/>

I initially came across this website several years ago when much of it was still being developed. It is now a comprehensive reference to everything that one could wish to know about how to construct vivariums, and how to maintain the health and vitality of a wide range of tropical and sub-tropical orchids grown indoors. Karma's website has many photos of her exquisite plants in flower just to tempt you.

*Continued next month*

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

### IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP OVERDUE?

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.

- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich. The cost for badges with a magnetic clip is \$13.50, and with pin is \$11.50.
- Your Committee has decided to buy the new *Maxillaria* book, *Maxillaria - An Unfinished Monograph* by Eric A. Christenson; Patricia A. Harding, Michael McIlmurray, Mario A. Blanco compilers.

**President:** Graham Bowden

**Vice President:** Ken Jones

**Secretary:** Maxine Godbeer

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### Life Members

Barry Gardner (dec'd)

Gordon Doherty

Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd) Larson

Neville Risbey

Noel & Eva Verweirder

Barry Winter

## 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.

. 27 October - Sharon Lyster, 7 Manning Ave, Gosnells

. 1 December - Jeanine & Jim Giorgi, 22 Walkington Rd, Eden Hill, WA

### 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 Whatley 9309 3361.

One of our new members, Paul Somers wishes to purchase divisions of *Catleya harrisoniae* and *Encyclia cordigera*. Please contact Paul on 0419 964 240.

#### Imported plant news

A further 50 plants and several compots were released at the last inspection in August, and hopefully, the deflasked Ezi-Gro plants will have grown enough to be released in October when we return. Subject to this being the case, we will then activate the Taiwanese import and will advise all participating members or the plant prices and shipping and quarantine expenses. As it is planned to import these plants in November, payment will be required when pro-forma invoices are generated and e-mailed toward the end of October.

Ken & Chris Jones

## Growing orchids in your garden - tips for beginners

*Continued from Sept.*

To maximise the overall effect, Charly and Gerda have generally hidden pots using Spanish moss as shown in the following photo.



Last, but by no means least, both exotic and native terrestrial orchids can be grown in the garden. Exotic species like *Bletilla striata* (commonly known as the Chinese ground orchid) and *Spathoglottis* species and hybrids are very happy growing in the garden, provided they are protected from the hot sun in summer, and are growing in reasonably coarse, well-drained soil. If you are able to provide more warmth in winter, some of the tropical species such as *Sobralia*, *Phaius*, and *Thunia* can be grown and flowered successfully. We grow both *Spathoglottis* and *Sobralia* in a garden in our covered patio and they are doing well and flower each year. Another Species Society member, Gordon has a large garden bed full of *Bletilla striata* that flower profusely each year in spring.

Many orchid enthusiasts have grown reed-stem *Epidendrum* species and hybrids in their garden, often as a hedge. These plants are very vigorous and will quickly grow into large clumps. I suspect that some of the terete and quarter terete *Vanda* species and hybrids would also do well

planted in the garden as I have seen them in Asia and New Guinea in the full sun attached to wooden posts set in the ground with extensive air and soil-based roots. This massed planting can be very effective in a large garden. Using large containers or hollow logs is also an effective way to grow orchids in the garden. Subject to being able to provide some protection from the intense sun in summer and from frosts in winter, epiphytic genera including *Biffrenaria*, *Cymbidium*, *Catleya*, Australian native *Dendrobium*, *Grammatophyllum*, *Laelia*, *Oncidium* and *Schomburgkia* should do well on suitable mounts in WA gardens.

Similarly, if you are able to control watering during summer, many of the local terrestrial orchids are able to be grown in the garden. They are natural companion plants in native gardens, but with a few exceptions, do resent being wet in the otherwise dry summer period when they would normally be at rest. I know that several members of the Society have found that terrestrial orchid seed has blown onto their lawn areas and germinated. In these instances the lawns are watered during summer and the plants appear to have adapted to this abnormal environment.

The last part of this article will cover growing orchids inside the house. While most orchids will tolerate short periods of time inside, it is not conducive to vigorous growth unless some attention is paid to meeting their needs for air movement, humidity and light. However, some genera

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

*Continued from August*

The Society's general meetings were held on the evening of the 4th Thursday of the month so as not to clash with any other society as many of our members were also members of one or more general societies. For the first few years, we met at the Sandgate Street hall in South Perth. Eventually we outgrew this venue and moved to the Forster Park hall in Belmont in October 1997. We remained at this venue until the City of Belmont decided to undertake major renovations to the car parking area which would have made it difficult to operate. Additionally, The City had significantly increased the hire fees. After experimenting with another venue that was close, the decision to move to the present venue in Wilson was endorsed. However, as there was already a regular booking for the 4th Thursday each month, it was agreed to move the meeting to the 2nd Tuesday of each month. While this did inconvenience some members, the majority have adapted and are enjoying the benefits of a more economical, well equipped venue that is easily accessible from the local highways to members from all points of the compass.

In 2002, the Society conducted the first 'special raffle'. These are flowering sized species plants, often donated by members which are raffled at general meetings. This provides another opportunity for members to expand their species collection.

has also auctioned flowering size species, again often donated by members or acquired from collections sold when local orchid growers leave the hobby. For example, former members, Kayley and Andrew Usher gave their extensive collection to the Society and these plants were grown on by members and when in flower, either raffled or auctioned. When our Life Member, Barry Gardner passed away, the Society purchased many species from his fine collection of *Catasetum* and related genera. At the recent AOC, the Society purchased 50 flowering size plants from Orchid Species Plus that are being auctioned as they come into flower. In 2013, the Melville and Districts Orchid Society (Inc) was unable to continue and ceased operating. Very generously (and in accordance with their Constitution), the members of that Society agreed to donate the funds that it held to the Species Orchid Society of WA to be used for the importation and distribution of species orchids. The Society established a separate account for this generous bequest and over the following several years, used money from the fund to purchase plants that were on-sold to members. Each was tagged with an acknowledgement of Melville Orchid Society's generous bequest. The balance of this bequest was used to acquire plants and flasks at the 19th AOC that will be distributed to members over the next few years.

*Continued next month*

For the past several years, the Society

## MONTHLY PLANT

***Phalaenopsis gibbosa***

**Country of origin:** Laos, Vietnam

**Description:** Small sized *Phalaenopsis* with attractive, predominantly white flowers on a branched raceme.

**Difficulty:** Requires heat during winter, and humidity during summer.

**Cost:** \$5.00

*Phalaenopsis gibbosa* is part of the sub-genus *Parishianae* according to Christenson, (other members includes *Phal. parishii* and *Phal. lobbii*). These plants were one of the flasks that were quarantined after the 19th AOC, and have been grown on by Tony.

It is a recently discovered species, first described by Sweet in 1970 and placed in the sub-genus by Christenson in 2001.

While not readily available in cultivation, it appears to be quite abundant in its natural habitat. It also the subject of taxonomist review and has been renamed *Phal. thailandica*, while *Phal. gibbosa* is a new species described by Olaf Gruss in 2009. It is found as an epiphyte in broad-leaved, evergreen, lowland forests at sea-level to 1,000m. The climate in Laos and Vietnam is very tropical with hot, wet summers and marginally cooler, though drier winters. The grow this orchid, you will need to be



Source: [http://www.orchidspecies.co.uk/images/D/IMG\\_6570.jpg](http://www.orchidspecies.co.uk/images/D/IMG_6570.jpg)

able replicate this environment, preferably in a hothouse/glasshouse.

While these plants are presently in pots, Tony has had success growing *Phal. lobbii* on a slab mount. This could be hardwood, tree fern, natural cork etc. However, unless you are experienced in growing this way, it might be better to continue to grow them in a pot, in pine bark and perlite.

Being a smaller size, soft leaved, monopodial orchid, care needs to be taken to minimise the potential for scale (both hard and cotton scale) and mealy bug attack. This can be minimised by ensuring good air movement, adequate space between plants and proactive management to ensure that opportunities for insect infestation are minimised (eg. ensuring that ants are prevented or eradicated as they will bring in sap-sucking insects).

**Graham & Margaret**

*Caladenia arenicola*  
*Caladenia barbarossa*  
*Caladenia longicauda*  
*Caladenia hirta*  
*Caladenia georgeii*  
*Caladenia polychroma*  
*Elythranthera brunonis*  
*Satyrium odoratum*  
*Serapsis lingua*  
*Serapsis vomeracea*

**Gordon**

*Dendrobium goldschmitianum*  
*Paphiopedilum insigne* var *Rex*  
*Dendrobium speciosum*  
*Paphiopedilum villosum*

**Peter & Shirley**

*Pleione formosana*  
*Dendrochillum latifolium*  
*Dendrobium lichenastrum*  
*Dendrochillum glumaceum*  
*Dendrochillum wenzelii*  
*Cattleya intermedia* var *alba* 'Breckinridge Snow'

**Noel & Eva**

*Ansellia africana*  
*Bletilla striata*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Dendrobium goldschmitianum*  
*Dendrobium linguiforme*  
*Maxillaria porphyrostele*  
*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*  
*Phalaenopsis stuartiana*  
*Chiloschiata* sp unknown

**Courtney**

*Cymbidium sanderae*



**Noel & Eva**  
*Ansellia africana*

# PLANTS DISPLAYED September 2013



**Graham & Margaret**  
*Elythranthera brunonis*



**Graham & Margaret**  
*Caladenia hirta*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Chiloschiata* sp unknown



**Tony & Mavis**  
*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*

Photography by Tony