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.

CULTURAL AWARD, September 2013
Pleione formosana

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8 October

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10 September, 15 pm

Opened By: Adrian  Time 7:50 pm

Next Gen. Meeting:
Date: 8th October 2013  Time 7:45pm

Next Com. Meeting
Date: 26th September 2013 at Adrian & Dee’s home.  Time 7:30pm

Last Home Visit: Graham & Margaret’s

Next Home Visit: Wally’s on the 22nd 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 22nd 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.
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 supply 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 or 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
NOTICEBOARD

FORTHCOMING 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 Whately 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.

For the past several years, the Society 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

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

While these plants are presently in pots, Tony has had success growing Phal. lob- bii on a slab mount. This could be hardwood, tree fern, natural cork etc. How- ever, 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).
PLANTS DISPLAYED September 2013

Graham & Margaret
- Caladenia arenicola
- Caladenia barbarossa
- Caladenia longicauda
- Caladenia hirta
- Caladenia georgeii
- Caladenia polychroma
- Elythranthera brunonis
- Satyrium odoratum
- Serapsis lingua
- Serapsis vormeracea

Peter & Shirley
- Pleione formosana
- Dendrochilum latifolium
- Dendrobium licheniostreum
- Dendrobium glumaceum
- Dendrobium wenzelii
- Cattleya intermedia var alba 'Breckinridge Snow'

Noel & Eva
- Ansellia africana var 'Breckinridge Snow'
- Bletilla striata

Gordon
- Dendrobium goldschmitianum
- Paphiopedilum insigne var Rex
- Dendrobium speciosum
- Paphiopedilum villosum

Tony & Mavis
- Dendrobium goldschmitianum
- Dendrobium linguiforme
- Maxillaria porphyrostele
- Phalaenopsis schilleriana
- Phalaenopsis stuartiana
- Chiloschiata sp unknown

Courtney
- Cymbidium sanderae

Noel & Eva
- Ansellia africana

Photography by Tony