



CULTURAL AWARD, February 2013

Cattleya harrisoniana
John

NEWSLETTER

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 February 2014, 7.50pm

Present: 36

Apologies: As per register.

Visitors: 1

New members: Bindi

Minutes: Published minutes accepted
(Mavis, Sharon)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra.
Current balance of \$9,219.60.
(Ken, Adrian).

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Orchid Digest
- GCA –Gardens of Australia magazine
- Various club newsletters
- 1% for Conservation newsletter
- Mandurah & Districts Orchid Club- new Committee.

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Thanks to Judith for her donation of a pie warmer.
- Ken:
 - a. outlined the instructions for the auction on Feb. 15th
 - b. reported that the 2 book set Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species (Ron Parsons & Mary Gerritson) will now be available at around \$110. Thanks to Mich and Alistair for their assistance in transferring the money for payment.

c. Ten Shin order – he now has a list of what is available, costs etc. & has emailed this information to all those who have placed an order.

- Tony let members know that the issue of Renziana will be costlier than at first thought and sought confirmation of orders.
- Members were asked to consider taking on a committee position at the next AGM (May General Meeting).
- An auction of plants was conducted by Tom
 - * *Angraecum leonis* – Peter M (\$34)
 - * *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* – Ken (\$32)
 - * *Coelogyne bilamellata* – Sharon (\$28)
 Thank you Tom & congratulations to the successful bidders
- Thanks were given to Kevin & his staff for the last Home Visit. The next one is at Wanneroo, home of Les & Val, (chairs and a plate please.)

Cultural Award: John for a well grown specimen of *Cattleya harrisoniana*

Raffle: Tony, Courtney & Ian

Name Badge: Lorraine

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 March

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NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The auction of Gordon's plants was very successful due to the enthusiasm and skills of our erstwhile auctioneer Tom Jackson and an enthusiastic group of bidders. All the plants were sold along with sundry equipment. Gordon and Robyn expressed their sincere appreciation for this assistance. Special acknowledgement is made of those members who helped prior to the auction and on the day. They were:
 - * Graham & Margaret;
 - * Chris C;
 - * Charly,
 - * Ken;
 - * Mich;
 - * Paul; and
 - * Tony & Mavis.
- A blue, folding chair was left at Gordon's after the auction - if it's yours, please see Graham.
- Our Secretary and Treasurer have advised the committee that they will not be seeking re-election to these positions in May. Please give some thought to nominating for these important roles.
- At the next meeting, Mich will be collecting your suggestions for Life Membership and the Quiet Achiever award. Life membership recognises many years of service to the society, and the quiet achiever award, someone who is always there when needed to do the myriad jobs that need to be done in clubs. Please give some thought to who we should recognise in this way.
- At our last general meeting, some embarrassment arose from a member bringing hybrid orchids for sale on the opportunity table. As the Society's purpose is the promotion of species orchids, only species and natural hybrids should be offered for sale.

President: Graham
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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.

- * Mar - Gerda & Charly, Sinagra, WA
- * Apr - Margaret, Erskine
- * May - John, Bicton

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.

Imported plant news

I am awaiting final advice from Matt at Ten Shin Gardens and copies of the CITES certificates to allow me to apply for a permit from the Department of Environment, Canberra. Unfortunately, this approval can take up to a month and it is now getting closer to the time of year that I prefer not to bring plants in (we struggle to get them growing in winter due to the low light and colder weather.

I will keep members of the buying group advised of progress on this import.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

***Cattleya trianae* var. *coerulea* 'Select #2' x *Cattleya trianae* var. *coerulea* 'Select #1'**

Country of origin: Colombia

Description: Medium-sized, bluish form of large-flowered *Cattleya* species

Difficulty: Relatively easy to grow

Cost: \$5.00

These plants were bred from two select cultivars by Sunset Valley Orchids and bought to Perth in flask for the 19th AOC. They have been grown on since their release from quarantine by Chris C - thanks Chris.

Cattleya trianae (Linden & Reichenbach) was originally discovered in 1842 by Linden near Fusagasuga, Colombia. This species, commonly known as the Christmas Orchid has often been described as the finest of the large-flowered *Cattleyas*. Its flowers are longer-lasting than any other of the large-flowered species.

In the natural habitat, these plants grow along rivers and streams on trees and rocks at 800-1.500m, in rather dry locations often inhabited by cacti and succulent bromeliads. They are now rare in the wild due to over-collection and habitat destruction.



Source: http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/photo_detail.php?prod=974

It is said to be one of the easiest of all species *Cattleyas* to grow in any of the usual orchid media (pine bark etc). However, for the best flowering, it is recommended that repotting is delayed until new roots emerge from the leading pseudobulb.

This species requires strong air movement at all times and relatively bright light. Best flowering is obtained when the leaves are light green in colour. A rest period is required in late autumn through early winter, with flowering taking place in winter before active growth commences during the spring and summer months. In Perth, successful cultivation of this species will require protection from late autumn and winter rains and cold.

In general *Cattleyas* are robust orchids and resistant to most insect pests and pathogens, however can be susceptible to cotton scale if air movement is inadequate.

Graham & Margaret
Stenoglottis woodii (smaller variety)

Maxine
Aerangis curnowiana
Laelia fidelensis
Maxillaria tenuifolia
Phalaenopsis borneensis
Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi fma *flava*
Promenaea stapelioides

Ken & Chris
Cattleya loddigesii
Cattleya xguatemalensis (natural hybrid: *C. aurantiaca* x *skinneri*)
Dendrobium sanguineolentum
Encyclia ciliare
Laelia anceps
Laelia xanthina
Paphiopedilum godefroyae
Phalaenopsis tetraspis

Schoenorchis fragrans

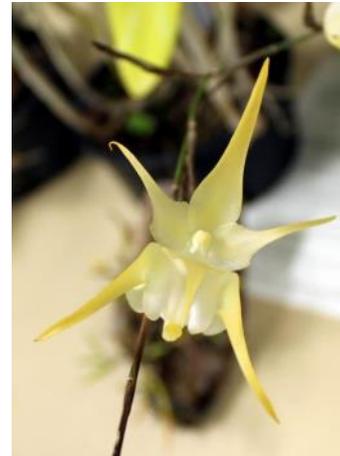
Peter and Shirley
Cattleya harrisoniana
Cattleya walkeriana var. 'Tipo'
Dendrobium beckeri
Lycaste aromatica

Victor Quinlan
Aeranthes grandiflora
Cattleya intermedia

John
Cattleya harrisoniana

Tony & Mavis
Catasetum fimbriatum
Clowesia russelliana
Cymbidium dayanum
Dendrobium delacourii
Kingidium deliciosum

PLANTS DISPLAYED FEBRUARY 2014



Aeranthes grandiflora
Victor

Cattleya walkeriana var. 'Tipo'
Peter & Shirley

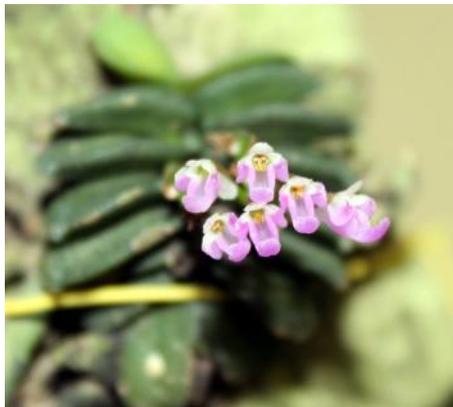


Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica
Phalaenopsis pulchra
Prosthechea radiata



Lycaste aromatica
 Peter & Shirley

PLANTS DISPLAYED FEBRUARY 2014



Schoenorchis fragrans
 Ken & Chris

Prosthechea radiata
 Tony & Mavis



Photography by Tony

Leafless Orchids

Continued from February 2014

The next genus is *Dendrophylax* consisting of some 11 species, although recent research indicates that *Polyrrhiza* should be included in *Dendrophylax*. The best known member of this genus is *Dendrophylax lindenii* (previously *Polyrrhiza lindenii*) or the Ghost Orchid from the Florida Everglades. The genus was established by Reichenbach 1864 with the type species *Dendrophylax hymenanthus*. With the exception of *Dendrophylax funalis*, they are uncommon in other than specialist collections as they seem difficult to establish, and even once established, to maintain in a healthy and vigorous condition.

As a genus, these orchids are unusual as they consist of masses of photosynthetic roots with reduced stems and ephemeral leaves which have been reduced to scales. The major vegetative characteristic of this genus is the flat, cord-like, green roots with distinctive 'track marks' called pneumatodes. The pneumatodes operate in a similar manner to the stomata found on the undersides of plant leaves allowing the gas exchange to support photosynthesis to take place. In leafless orchids, this function is performed by the roots.

Members of this genus are distant relatives of the African and Indian Ocean genus *Angraecum*. This leads to the theory that orchid seed was wind-carried across the Atlantic Ocean and colonised new habitat. Evidence derived from molecular (DNA) studies indicates that the original seeds from Africa were most likely to have been a

member of the *Angraecineae* family, likely to have had small leaves and flowers, and a monopodial growth habit. The related genus *Harriselia* seems to have had similar origins. The leafless characteristic developed in a similar time frame in both Africa and the Caribbean since common genes are present in all members of the family *Angraecineae*, and the leafless habit is common in several families within *Vandeae* (*Chilochista*, *Aerangidinae*, *Angraecineae*, *Sarcanthinae*, *Telipogoninae*, *Dendrophylax*, and *Harriselia*).

Several species such as *Dendrophylax funalis*, *Dendrophylax fawcetti*, and *Dendrophylax lindenii* produce large, highly fragrant white flowers. The species in this genus are mostly pollinated by moths with very long proboscises as the flowers of most species in this genus possess very long nectaries (spurs) ranging from 10-20cm in length (the giant sphinx moth is known to pollinate several species within this genus). *Dendrophylax funalis* is the most easily cultivated species and over time, given the right cultural conditions can become a large root mass both in nature and cultivation. Other species including *Dendrophylax lindenii* are often very difficult orchids to grow even

Dendrophylax varius (syn. *Dendrophylax hymenanthus*) (C.C. Gmel.) Urb. 1918 is found in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic as a small, hot to cool growing leafless epiphyte that blooms on an erect, 14-30cm long, simple or paniculate inflorescence arising from low on the stem and carrying a few to several, resupinate,

successively opening flowers towards the apex.



Source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/denvarius.htm>

Dendrophylax barrettiae Fawc. & Rendle 1909 is from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica in very wet and steamy areas at sea level to 1800m. It is a miniature-sized hot to warm growing epiphyte with flattened grey-green roots. Summer to autumn flowering occurs on short, successively few flowered inflorescences with a single non-resupinate, fragrant flower open at any one time. It is synonymous with *Campylocentrum ariza-juliae*.



Source: <http://buildingofeden.blogspot.com.au/2011/10/dendrophylax-ghost-orchids-on-trees.html>

Dendrophylax fawcettii Rolfe. 1888. Found

only on Grand Cayman Island as a small sized, hot to warm growing leafless epiphyte that blooms in late spring on an erect or ascendant, 7 cm inflorescence with 1 to 2 bracts and carrying a single, non-resupinate, diurnally fragrant flower. Articles reviewed indicate that this species has a tendency to keiki. An inflorescence-like growth that is about 5cm long will sometimes have at its apex a new growth rather than a flower. In their natural habitat, this additional growth sometimes persists, or falls off and attaches to a suitable substrate.



Source: http://caymannature.wordpress.com/2012/11/11/405/dendrophylax-fl-apr4-11_113/

Its habitat is the Ironwood Forest, a unique, self-sustaining ancient growth forest anchored on a ridge of pinnacled Cayman Dolostone limestone rock. Located south east of George Town on a fresh water lens in a high rainfall area, the forest contains an amazing diversity of Cayman indigenous plants, including endemics and single-neighbour endemics. One of these plants, *Dendrophylax fawcettii* is confined to the last remaining one square kilometre of old

growth forest in the Ironwood Forest and is classified as critically endangered.

In the report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Species Survival Commission and the Zoological Society provided to the Grand Cayman government about this threatened forest, the authors say that habitat destruction due to infrastructure development is the cause of the species' decline. They say that preserving this forest would not only protect the ghost orchid but numerous other indigenous species as well, including Cayman's national flower, the banana orchid *Myrmecophila thomsoniana*.

Dendrophylax funalis [Sw.]Fawcett 1889. Found in Jamaica, this epiphytic species is found at low altitude where it is hot growing with constant high humidity and bright indirect light. Flowering from autumn to spring, 5-10 cm inflorescences arising from the central stem carry a single medium sized, pleasantly citrus fragrant flower.



Source: <http://buildingofeden.blogspot.com.au/2011/10/dendrophylax-ghost-orchids-on-trees.html>

Dendrophylax lindenii [Lindley] Garay

1969. is the best known member of this genus. Alleged illegal collecting of the Ghost Orchid from the Florida Everglades was the central theme of the book 'The Orchid Thief' and the movie made from the book. It is small sized leafless epiphyte found growing in hot-cool swampy forest thickets and coastal brush land in southern Florida, Cuba and the Bahamas. The best known location in the US is the Fakahatchee strand in the northern Everglades.



Source: <http://www.ghostorchid.info/pictures2.htm>

While researching this article I found a really interesting web page <http://www.ghostorchid.info/generalinformation.htm>. This page provided a wealth of information about this legendary species, saying that in the author's view, it is the most revered orchid in the US. Originally discovered by Linden in Cuba in 1844, it was subsequently discovered in Florida some 50 years later. *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 Tuesday 11 March 2014

Peter & Shirley Masters

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Mob 0419831177

Shirley 0414948469

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.