

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



Vol 25 No 11 May 2014



CULTURAL AWARD, April 2014

Habenaria medusae

Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 13 May

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 April 2014, 7.50pm

Present: 38

Apologies: Chris , Jim ,Tony, Trevor

Visitors: Tara

New members: Tara

Minutes: Published minutes accepted
(Gerda, Chris)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra .
Current balance of \$10,139.07
(Charly, Ken)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- GCA –insurance policy & bulletin
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- Nil

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- The President reminded members that next month is the AGM. A new Treasurer & Secretary will be required, plus a couple of Committee members
- A reminder also that the annual Silent Auction will be held in July, any plant divisions should be potted up now.
- Graham thanked members for their input regarding nominees for the awards. The committee will assess them and make a decision before the AGM
- Charly & Gerda were thanked for their home visit last month. The next one is to be held at the Heaton's residence on 27th April. Members are asked to observe the usual drill of a plate and a

chair.

- An auction of plants was conducted by Tom.

* *Coelogyne fimbriata* – Sharon (\$23)

* *Gongora bufonia* – Vic (\$25)

* *Cymbidium bicolor* – Paul (\$56)

Thank you Tom & congratulations to the successful bidders.

Cultural Award: Tony & Mavis for a flowering plant of *Habenaria medusae*, a tropical terrestrial orchid seldom seen in collections.

Raffle: Jeanine, Peter, Andrea, Patricia

Name Badge: Sandra

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The May meeting is our Annual General meeting including the election of office bearers. As Graham Bowden informed members at the April meeting, there will be vacancies on committee including the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. While neither of these roles are particularly demanding, they are important for the effective functioning of the society. We look forward to having new members join the committee.
- Your annual membership is due for renewal at the May meeting. Please pay the Treasurer at the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The Society has purchased a number of plants from Margaret Heaton including the June monthly plant. These will be used a raffle plants and will give us a variety of interesting and desirable species. We are always looking for 20-25 plants of a species as our monthly plant - if you have deflasked a species orchid, or have broken up large plants and would be prepared to sell them to the Society, please let a committee member know.
- The Silent Auction is to be held at the July general meeting. This is our major fundraising event each year and is an excellent opportunity to expand your orchid collection. For those of you repotting, now is the time to set aside some divisions for this event. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

President: Graham

Vice President: Ken Jones

Secretary: Maxine Godbeer
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Treasurer: Sandra

Editor: Ken Jones

204 Park Street, Henley Brook
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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 10 am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and food to share.

* May - John, Bicton

* Jun - Norm , Riverton

ORCHID AUCTION

An auction of hybrid Phalaenopsis, many with flower spikes initiated will be held at Peter and Shirley's home on Saturday, 31 May at 10.00 am., ph 9350 6087 m 0419 831117. Peter and Shirley have approximately 1000 plants to sell as they are downsizing their collection. Plants will be sold in lots of 5-10 plants of differing sizes, and will be in mixed and single colour lots. Most plants have been repotted. A listing of the plants included in the sale will be posted on the Society's and Peter's websites (www.peterskorner.com) and distributed to other societies - please let your friends know about this. All sales will be cash, and bidders can register on the day. Please bring your own containers to carry your purchases.



Imported plant news

As I had not received CITES certificates from Ten Shin Gardens (given the 40 working day time period to issue permits), in late March I advised Ten Shin Gardens that shipping would need to be deferred until spring. While attending the orchid show in Taipei, Tony and Jim met with Matt but were unable to feel confident that this order could proceed. In the absence of any response from Matt to my e-mail communications over the past two months, I have written to him cancelling this order. I will attempt to find alternative suppliers.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Phalaenopsis aphrodite

Country of origin: Philippines and Taiwan

Description: White-flowered *Phalaenopsis* species.

Difficulty: Relatively easy *Phalaenopsis* species to grow and flower that will require winter protection.

Cost: \$15.00

These plants were purchased from Peter Masters and most are in spike. *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* Rchb.f 1862 SUB-GENUS *Phalaenopsis* SECTION *Phalaenopsis* Benth 1883 is a large, white flowered species, although it was uncommon in collections until mass propagated in Taiwan. It is often confused with *Phalaenopsis amabilis* which has very similar flowers. The sub-species *Phalaenopsis aphrodite ssp fomosana* is endemic to Taiwan.

This species is primarily found in the Philippines (north of Mindanao) as an epiphyte in primary and secondary forests at sea level - 500 m). Clearly, this indicates that the species is tropical and will require warmth during our winter. While a heated glasshouse is the best environment, if you do not have this, *Phalaenopsis* orchids can be effectively grown inside your home during the cold, wet winter months. They should not be grown for any extended period of time in the kitchen/living area



Source: <http://www.rv-orchidworks.com/orchidtalk/attachments/phalaenopsis-orchidum-intergenerics-bloom/58283d1349870158-phalaenopsis-aphrodite-1.jpg>

where the presence of aromatic cooking oils etc in the air can be detrimental as they inhibit transpiration and respiration. Similarly, a bathroom used every day will also have aerosols present that will also coat leaves is not a suitable location. A north or west facing window where they receive natural light, but not too close to or touching the glass (which will be cold at night) will be suitable.

This species is free flowering and all plants have been repotted, so should not need more than routine attention for some time. *Phalaenopsis* orchids can be susceptible to sap-sucking pests such as scale and mealy bug if there is inadequate air movement. This genus has no pseudobulb and can succumb quite quickly to a pest attack. These pests often appear on orchid plants that showed no sign of them before being bought inside, therefore it is important to regularly check your indoor plants for the presence of sap-sucking insects.

Ian

Cattleya bowringiana
Miltonia x bluntii
Miltonia spectabilis

Graham & Margaret

Chysis bractescens
Diplocaulobium aratriferum
Oncidium croesus
Prosthechea cochleata var. *alba*

Chris

Catasetum maculatum

Maxine

Bulbophyllum deareii
Cattleya trianae
Coelogyne ovalis
Dendrochilum latifolium var. *macranthum*
Phalaenopsis bellina
Phalaenopsis fasciata

Ken & Chris

Acianthera alligatorifera
Aerangis biloba
Brassavola nodosa
Cattleya bicolor
Comparettia speciosa
Dendrobium pseudolamellatum
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Dendrochilum latifolium var. *macranthum*
Epidendrum diffusum
Oeceoclades maculata
Paphiopedilum henryanum
Renantherella histrionica

Adrian & Deanna

Cattleya labiata

Peter & Shirley

Cattleya aclandiae
Cymbidium erythrostylum
Doritis pulcherrima

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2014



Chysis bractescens
Graham & Margaret



Cattleya aclandiae
Peter & Shirley

Miltonia clowesii
Oncidium hyphaematicum
Psychopsis papillio
Psychmorchis pusilla
Renanthera matutina
Rhynchosstylis retusa
Vanda vietnamica

John
Cattleya bowringiana

Norm
Dendrobium bigibbum

Tony & Mavis
Dendrobium delacourii
Habenaria medusa
Kingidium deliciosum
Miltonia x bluntii
Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica
Rodriguezia lanceolata

Tolumnia variegata
Vanda vietnamica



Psychmorchis pusilla
Peter & Shirley

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2014



Cattleya trianae
Maxine

Cattleya bicolor
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

Leafless Orchids *Continued from April 2014*

The next genus is *Encheiridion* from Africa and is closely related to *Microcoelia*. However, I was unable to find anything much about this genus, although did find a reference to *Encheiridion macrorrhynchium* (Schltr.) Summerh from West Africa. This is described as a miniature leafless species with white flowers and curved spur. It is shown as a sub-genus in *Microcoelia*. It is said to comprise one to three species, but is not known in cultivation. No photos or further information were available.

Harrisella is a genus of four species is found in Florida, Jamaica and Cuba, although DNA studies have relegated it into *Dendrophylax*. However, to follow earlier taxonomy, I will cover two of the species here, but accord them their proper names while noting *Harrisella* as the synonym. In researching this genus, I noted that it has many synonyms including *Aerantes*, *Campylocentrum* and *Epidendrum*.

Dendrophylax porrectus (Rchb.f.) Fawc. & Rendle 1909, syn *Harrisella porrecta* (known commonly as the Jingle Bell Orchid or Needleroot Orchid) is the type species for the genus *Harrisella*. Found in Florida, Mexico, El Salvador, Cuba, Jamaica, Hispanola and Puerto Rico in hardwood hammocks, juniper and old citrus trees on smaller branches and twigs in swampy areas at sea-level to 700m, it is a miniature sized, leafless, cool to warm growing epiphyte. It was reassigned to *Dendrophylax* after DNA sequencing that placed in that genus. However, it is curious that that this species with one of the smallest orchid flowers in Florida is part of the genus that

also has one of the largest flowers, that is *Dendrophylax lindenii*. In central Florida, this diminutive species begins flowering in September.



The photo from <http://www.orchidsforum.com/threads/dendrophylax-porrectus.6798/> shows the diminutive size of this flower. The flowers, only slightly larger than a pinhead, are remarkable in that they faithfully replicate the orchid flower structure in a small package of just a few thousand cells when compared with the millions of cells in larger orchid flowers. The tiny flowers that make it difficult to find produce a strong night fragrance to attract their pollinator, a night insect perhaps a moth. In Florida, this species is found on small twigs of cypress, eastern red cedar, pop ash, pond apple, and occasionally in old citrus groves. It is often found growing in association with *Encyclia tampensis*, *Epidendrum magnoliae*, and several *Tillandsia* species on the undersides of branches. The slender, silvery orchid roots don't connect to anything resembling a plant, but during the flowering season, you might see the tiny green flowers amongst split seed pods that look like little brown bells. After

flowering, the seed pods expand to become one of the most conspicuous aspects of this plant, turning a deep brownish orange prior to dehiscing.

It is thought to be the most common epiphytic orchid in Florida, but given its diminutive nature, is rarely seen. It has a state protected status of Threatened. However, while the range of some other epiphytic orchids has decreased due to the freezes in the 70's and 80's, new northern populations of this species have been identified extending its known range. Although common in citrus groves in the past, the use of herbicides to control ball mosses, wild pines and other *Tillandsia* species has significantly reduced its presence. The blogspot <http://fnativeorchids.blogspot.com.au/search/label/Jingle%20Bell%20Orchid%20%28Harrisella%20porrecta%29> provides information and pictures of this interesting species.

Dendrophylax filiformis (Sw.) Benth. ex Fawc. (syn *Harrisella filiformis*) is found in Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico on twigs and small branches in regrowth woodland at 500 to 950m as a small sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with numerous, grey-green, fascicled roots, mostly attached to the substrate. There is some doubt about the status of this species as some authors consider it to be synonymous with *Dendrophylax porrectus*.

Species in the genus *Kingidium* can often appear to be leafless however it appears that this more often than not associated with their deciduous nature than being truly

leafless. In cultivation where conditions are often more favourable, this species will permanently retain its leaves. Therefore, I have chosen to exclude this genus from this article.

The genus *Microcoelia* includes approximately 40 species and is found in Madagascar and throughout tropical Africa. *Gussonea* is a prior name for *Solenangis* and *Microcoelia* and is sometimes used in literature and in the trade. The type species is *Microcoelia exilis* Lindl., 1830. This species is found in Natal province of South Africa, Kenya, Swaziland, Madagascar, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia on trees in riverine, lake-shore and coastal forests as a miniature sized, hot to cool growing, leafless twig epiphyte at sea level to 1,800m. It is also occasionally found in high rainfall areas.



Source: <http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/images/11/118870-1.jpg>

It is principally epiphytic and rarely

lithophytic with the living stem up to 3.5 cm long, usually less. The roots are numerous, much-branched, 1–3 mm in diameter, clinging closely to the substrate when young but later forming hanging masses which often become detached. The photo below shows the large colony formed over time.



Source: <http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/images/11/118870-7.jpg>

Microcoelia aphylla (Thouars) Summerh. (syn. *Solenangis aphylla*) is found in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Zanzibar, the Mascarene Islands and Mozambique at sea level to 300m in thickets and bushes near the coast as a miniature sized, hot to warm growing twig epiphyte. A great range of pictures of *Microcoelia* species can be found at <http://www.picsearch.com/Microcoelia-pictures.html>.



Source: http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5517/11594951385_36ac430981_m.jpg

Microcoelia corallina Summerh is found in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania growing in open dry woodland, generally adjacent to watercourses, and most often on smooth barked trees such as *Baobab* at 200-600m elevation. It is interesting that species inhabits smooth rather than the rough-barked trees generally preferred by epiphytic orchids. The species is distinctive due to its red coloured column, and pink flushing in the petals and sepals.



Source: http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3183/2901454482_b432bb58af_b.jpg

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 13 May 2014

Peter & Shirley

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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.