

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 26 No 3 August 2014



CULTURAL AWARD, July 2014

*Brassavola glauca*

Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12 August

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 July 2014, pm

**Present:** 33

**Apologies:** Tom and Pat, Patricia, Ken & Chris, Trevor and Gerde

**Visitors:** Nil

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Published minutes accepted (Ian, Mavis)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Tabled by Charly Hartman. Current balance of \$9,917.84 (Gordon, Margaret)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Amended ISC Rules
- Various Newsletters
- Renziana for the library
- GCA notice of AGM for the 16th Sept

**Outwards:**

- To Bank re: changes from AGM
- Hall Payment for 2014
- WAROO stating that Mavis is our official WAROO delegate

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

- The Acting President asked to see if there was interest in the organization of a near Perth field trip to see local orchids. Perhaps in early September
- The ISC was discussed & members to see treasurer to list their names for the dinner
- Gerde, Charly & Mich have the exhibition for the ISC at the Morley Sport & Recreation Centre well in hand. Mich gave details for the needs of flowering

plants for our display

- The Acting President thanked Norm for his home visit and welcomed members to visit the Adrian & Dee's home for the next one on Sunday 27th July at 10am

• .

**Cultural Award:** Presented to Tony & Mavis for a superb flowering specimen of *Brassavola glauca*.

**Raffle:** No Raffle this month due to the Silent Auction

**Name Badge:** Peter

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

### *VALE BARRY*



Sadly, our life member Barry passed away in June after many years of struggle, wheelchair bound with partial paralysis. Barry was a prolific orchid grower in his day, with many desirable orchids to his collection. He was a most knowledgeable orchidist who was more than generous with that knowledge, being willing to pass it onto all who wanted to learn. Our condolences to Lesley, who has been Barry's constant carer through all his troubles. We are

diminished by his passing and he will be missed by all who knew him.

**President:** Ken Jones

**Vice President:** Adrian

**Secretary:** Graham Bowden

8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.

Phone: 9447 4528

e-mail: [gmbowden@bigpond.com](mailto:gmbowden@bigpond.com)

**Treasurer:** Charly Hartmann

**Editor:** Ken Jones

204 Park Street, Henley Brook 6055.

Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

#### **Life Members**

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

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

Trevor

Neville

Noel & Eva

Tony & Mavis

Barry (dec'd)

**Committee:** Sharon

Chris Paul

Maxine Mavis

Michele Tony

# 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.

- \* Aug - Paul & Andrea, Gidgegannup
- \* Sept - Judith & Aiden, Mt Pleasant
- \* Oct - To Be Advised

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## TERRESTRIAL ORCHID BUS TRIP

**Sunday 14th September 2014**

We have booked a 21 seat bus to take interested members on a field trip to see Western Australian Terrestrial Orchids. Interested members will need to put their names down at the next General Meeting and pay the Treasurer \$15.00 per person to secure your seat.

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## 25th Inter-Society Challenge 2014

Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation presents:

The 25th Inter-Society Challenge 2014

To be held at The Morley Recreation Centre, Wellington Road, Morley

On Sunday 3rd August 2014 9am to 3pm

If anyone has plants please drop them off at Tony's place on Friday the 1st August after 10am. Tony & Chris will decide which plants will go in the display and which will be shown.

The Inter-Society Challenge dinner is on Saturday the 2nd August at 7pm. The cost is \$45. There are still places available so contact Bruce Larson on 0417 903 280 if you wish to attend.

There will be two guest speakers at the Challenge, Scott Barrie and Ray Clement who will be giving lectures for members on Saturday afternoon and Sunday for the General Public.

# MONTHLY PLANT

*Trichocentrum (Oncidium) ascendens*

.....  
**Country of origin:**

Mexico, Central America, Costa Rica  
West Indies

.....  
**Description:** Warm Growing  
Pendulous orchid

.....  
**Difficulty:**

.....  
**Cost: \$5.00**

This orchid is found in Mexico south through Central America to Costa Rica, including the West Indies.

In Mexico, this normally low-elevation species is found on the slopes of foot-hills facing the Gulf of Mexico. It grows on trees in swamps, pastures, coffee plantations, and open forests at elevations up to 1500m but usually much lower than this.

The very small pseudobulbs are concealed by long, papery sheaths with each growth producing a single terete leaf at the apex of the pseudobulb. The leaves can be up to 75 cm long.

These plants were purchased from Tropical Orchids and are potted in sphagnum moss. It is recommended that they might be easier to grow if mounted on cork slabs or similar. Mounted plants may need several misting's a day during very hot, dry weather. If you must pot them, potted plants are usually grown in pots or baskets using a very open, fast-draining medium such as medium sized fir bark. Adding perlite to the mix will help hold the medium open and also retain some moisture. Charcoal is often included in the mix to keep the medium open and help prevent souring. A



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

plant should be repotted when the medium starts to break down or when the plant outgrows its pot. Repotting should be done just as new root growth is starting to enable the plant to become re-established in the shortest possible time. The fact that these orchids have terete leaves indicated that they require high light but not full sun. In their natural environment, summer days average 27-28C, and nights average 18-19C, with winter days averaging 25-27C, and nights, 15-16C. They should adapt to conditions both somewhat warmer and cooler than indicated. Rainfall in the habitat is low in winter, but additional moisture is often available from heavy dew and night-time mist. Cultivated plants need less water in winter, especially if light is low or temperatures are cool. They should dry between watering's but should not be without water for long periods.

**Graham & Margaret**

*Pterostylis sargentii*

**Maxine**

*Laelia anceps* var. *veitchiana*

**Peter & Shirley**

*Oncidium pulvinatum*

*Oncidium sotoanum* (previously known as *Onc. Ornithorhynchum*)

**Tony & Mavis**

*Brassavola glauca*

*Phalaenopsis amabilis* subsp. *formosum*

*Trichocentrum ascendens* (previously known as *Oncidium ascendens*)

## PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2014



*Laelia anceps* var. *veitchiana*  
Maxine

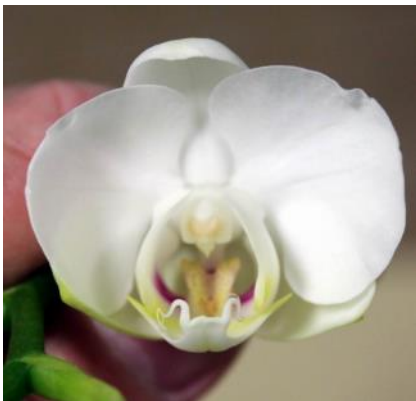
*Trichocentrum ascendens* (previously  
known as *Oncidium ascendens*)  
Tony & Mavis





*Pterostylis sargentii*  
Graham & Margaret

## PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2014



*Phal. amabilis* subsp. *Formosna*  
Tony & Mavis

*Oncidium sotoanum* (previously known  
as *Onc. Ornithorhynchum*)  
Peter & Shirley



Photography by Tony

## Leafless Orchids *Continued from July 2014*

This photo of an awarded plant, *Microcoelia stolzii* 'Cathy Fenwick's Medusa' CHM/AOS demonstrates just what is possible with good cultural conditions.



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/394276142349577750/>

Unfortunately, I was unable to find much information about culture of the genus. However, from Tony's experience, some of the species are very vigorous (eg his plant of *Microcoelia cornuta*). Accordingly, I suspect that the same rules apply, that is high humidity, good air movement and plant husbandry. Isobyl and Eric La Croix advise that *Microcoelia* species require slab mounting and good light to enable their roots to photosynthesise. They have found that smooth slabs of wood are better than rough barked timber or natural cork. They also suggest freshwater driftwood but I suspect that smooth cut hardwood such as aged jarrah or teak would also work well. They say that plants can take some time to establish, but once they are established, they generally grow well and flower. Intermediate glasshouse conditions are required in moderate to light shade, with high humidity year-round that stops plants drying out.

The genus of *Microtatorchis* has approximately 30 members found in New Guinea, but also New Caledonia, Indonesia, Philippines, Samoa and Australia. The type species, *Microtatorchis perpurilla* Schltr 1905 is found in New Guinea, and one member, *Microtatorchis clementsii* named after Mark Clements is found in Australia. The genus name is derived from the Greek *mikros* (small) and *orchis* (orchid), suggesting the minute habit. Not all *Microtatorchis* species are wholly leafless with some displaying rudimentary or ephemeral leaves from time-to-time similar to *Chilochista*.

Consistent with the other leafless orchids, they have flattened roots which are firmly attached to the host tree. They are predominantly small-flowered with fleshy sepals and petals that are fused together while the triangular labellum has a sharply recurved apex with a filiform appendage. This genus is similar in appearance to *Taeniophyllum*, but is distinguished by its two pollinia, whereas species of *Taeniophyllum* have four. These species are generally found in high, cloud surrounded mountainous areas in New Guinea, and are extremely complex in structure, though largely unknown in anything but highly specialised herbarium collections.

Unlike other leafless orchids, *Microtatorchis* are generally singular plants rather than large colonies.

Some species of *Microtatorchis* have leaves present as juvenile plants that



disappear as plants reach maturity and begin flowering. Schlechter (1982) noted that these orchids often grow near the tips of young branches, and that some species flower when less than one year old. In this context, they may be amongst the pioneering plants colonising fallen trees resulting from storms and trees in open sites while persisting in living trees along rainforest margins and road verges.

*Microtatorchis clementsii* D.L.Jones & B.Gray is the single species from Australia in this genus. It is found around Mt Windsor Tableland, Henrietta Creek and Paluma in north eastern Queensland at 1,000-1,250m where it grows on the branches of trees in highland rainforest. It flowers May-October. The flowers, which each last 3-5 days, are produced in succession over many months, and a single inflorescence may display buds, open flowers and capsules at the same time. *Microtatorchis clementsii* appears to share some similarities with



Source: [http://keys.trin.org.au/key-server/data/08090a09-0d0e-410b-860c-020705070e0e/media/Html/Microtatorchis\\_clementsii.htm](http://keys.trin.org.au/key-server/data/08090a09-0d0e-410b-860c-020705070e0e/media/Html/Microtatorchis_clementsii.htm)

*Microtatorchis platyrhachis* Schltr. from the

Dischore Range in New Guinea (Schlechter 1982), but has smaller flowers with ovate rather than oblong sepals

*Microtatorchis compacta* (Ames) Schltr. Found in central Taiwan and the Philippines on trees in coniferous and broad-leaved forests at elevations below 1000 to 1600m as a mini-miniature sized, warm to cool, twig growing epiphyte with a short roots that are radiately adpressed to mossy twigs, this species carries leaves on a permanent basis. The roots however are photosynthetic in common with the other members of the genus.



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

*Microtatorchis javanica* J.J.Sm. 1918 Found in peninsular Malaysia, Java, New Guinea and Borneo in lower montane forests at elevations around 900 to 1500 meters as a miniature sized, hot to warm growing, twig epiphyte with a very short stem carrying 2 to 4 flowers.



Source: [http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/pubs/orchidweb/genera/Microtatorchis/Microtatorchis\\_javanicaPO.jpg](http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/pubs/orchidweb/genera/Microtatorchis/Microtatorchis_javanicaPO.jpg)

*Microtatorchis schlechteri* var *schlechteri*  
 Garay Found in New Caledonia and Vanuatu in dense forests and scrublands at elevations of 500 to 1500m as a miniature sized, hot to cool growing epiphyte with ribboned roots. This species is protected in New Caledonia



Source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/microtschlechteri.jpg>

*Microtatorchis oreophila* Schltr. Found in New Caledonia in dense rain forests on mossy trees at elevations of 900 to 1600m as a mini-miniature sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte. The photo below is several times magnification.



Source: <http://www.endemia.nc/flore/fiche5123.html>

While searching for information about species in this genus, I came across a PNG Orchid Society report on an expedition to the Minj, Waghi Valley, Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea in 2003 where they documented among many other orchids, an undescribed *Microtatorchis* ssp which also shows the rudimentary leaves common amongst members of this genus while retaining the photosynthetic roots.



Source: <http://gallery.orchidspng.com/displayimage.php?album=random&cat=3&pos=-1950>

*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 (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 \$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 12 August 2014

Peter & Shirley Masters

Phone: 08 93506087

Mob 0419831177

Shirley 0414948469

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