

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

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Vol 26 No 7 December 2014



CULTURAL AWARD, November 2014

Ansellia africana

Ian

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 2 December

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 November 2014, 7:55pm

Present: 40

Apologies: 4 as per register

Visitors:

New members: Howard

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting:
(Paul, Andrea).

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly
Current balance of \$9,999.48.
(Gordon, Adrian).

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Hall Booking for 2015.
- WAROO meeting report from Mavis.
- GCA Magazine and Orchid News

Outwards:

- Booking of the Hall; dates for 2015.

General Business:

- WAROO report from Mavis. It includes AOC magazine will be printed in A5 size.
- The NT, Tasmania and SA don't want to hold the 2018 conference so WA will hold it if there are no takers.
- To assist in funding, the Inter Society Challenge will be renamed "The Society Workshop and Display.
- Bring a plate and a plant to swap for the Christmas party on the 2nd of December.
- The January the 24th, 2015 Home visit will be at ESIGRO. This is a Saturday.
- Adrian spoke about his visit to Orchidup near Walpole. Phone before you go.
- We have a permit now to import plants

from Taiwan and it also includes provision to import plants by the February 2015 tourists. The Taiwan plants should arrive on the 25th of November.

Cultural Award:

Presented to Ian for a large flowering specimen of *Ansellia africana*. The plant is the darker colour form that is less common in collections

Raffle: Hugo, Patricia, Jeanine, Peter and Noel

Name Badge: Hugo

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 December. Wine, beer and soft drink refreshments in addition to tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a plate of festive supper to share.
- There will not be a monthly plant in December– we ask that members who have spare species orchid plant bring it to be part of a free raffle so that every member attending goes home with another species orchid for Christmas. However, if you do not yet have spare plants, do not be concerned as we will have extras.
- We wish all members a safe and happy festive season.

President: Ken Jones

Vice President: Adrian

Secretary: Graham Bowden

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Editor: Ken Jones

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Committee:

Chris Sharon

Maxine Paul

Michele Tony

Mavis

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

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

Trevor

Neville

Noel & Eva

Tony & Mavis

Barry (dec'd)

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.

- * 30 Nov - Ken & Chris Jones, 204 Park Street, Henley Brook
- * 24 Jan - Ezi-Gro Orchids, Evandale St, Lansdale (note this will be on Saturday 24 January)

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

The plants arrived from Taiwan on Tuesday 25 November , and were inspected and fumigated on Wednesday. The plants are of good quality, although some that Matt thought were not good enough were not shipped. Thanks to Tony Watkinson for assisting in potting up the plants in quarantine.

Ken & Chris Jones

Phaius tankervilleae (?) by Jim Brydie (reprinted with kind permission from the author)

Tony found this article recently and sent me the URL, suggesting that it might be of interest to members. I contacted ANOS Sydney and they put me in touch with the author, Jim Brydie who has generously allowed me to reprint his article in our newsletter. He has generously provided a copy of an article that he wrote on *Dendrobium tetragonum* that I will publish early next year. .

.In the beginning, *P. tankervilleae* was regarded as a highly variable species that ranged from India across to China, down through all of SE Asia through Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, PNG, and Australia. In Australia it was thought to occur in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and down as far as northern NSW. It is essentially a swamp plant, growing among grasses and sedges in wet areas. In the north it was reported as occurring mainly on the tablelands or higher country but further south it is restricted to lowlands. It is a large plant with clustered, fleshy pseudobulbs, and big pleated leaves which are up to 1.2 metres long and about 15cm wide. The flowers are large and showy too. About 12 to 15cm across, white on the back of the segments but brownish red to cinnamon inside, with purple in the lip.



However, today's thinking is that what we previously believed to be one widespread species (*P. tankervilleae*), is actually three or four, variable, but fairly similar species, whose ranges overlap. Among these, perhaps the most confused pair are *P. tankervilleae* and *P. wallichii*. In the Kew Bulletin of the Royal Horticultural Society, in I think 2005, Phillip Cribb, Mei Sun, & Gloria Barretto published an article titled "Phaius tankervilleae and Phaius wallichii, a pair of confused species" in which they give some of the relevant history and clarify the differences between the pair. The following text is based on that article:

".... *Phaius tankervilleae* (alternately but wrongly spelt 'tankarvilliae' and 'tankervilliae') is a well known and widespread species but one that has caused considerable taxonomic confusion over the years. Widespread and variable species often acquire names from various parts of their range, that analysis of the entire variation can show to be synonyms or regional variants.

A plant of Chinese origin was first flowered and named *Limodorum tankervilleae* by Joseph Banks, a name subsequently validated by Aiton in 1795. Carl Blume transferred it to

Murray & Arni

Phalaenopsis parishii

Graham & Margaret

Diuris drummondii var. *buttery*

Satyrium ligulatum

Satyrium parviflorum

Smitinandia micrantha

Chris

Ansellia africana

Cattleya mossiae var. *coerulea*

Cattleya porphyroglossa

Cryptopodium andersonii

Dendrobium pierardii or *cucullata*?

Encyclia randii x sibling

Laelia purpurata var. *russelliana*

Ian

Ansellia africana

Maxine

Bulbophyllum basisetum

Bulbophyllum echinolabium

Bulbophyllum sinapsis

Cattleya mendelii

Gongora gratulabunda

Grammangis ellisii

Phalaenopsis mannii

Phalaenopsis tetraspis var. *alba*

Ken & Chris

Cattleya aurantiaca

Cattleya mossiae var. *coerulea*

Coelogyne usitana

Cryptopodium andersonii

Cymbidium finlaysonianum

Jumellea ibityana

Miltonia flavescens

Physosiphon tubatus

Vanda tricolor

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2014



Coelogyne usitana
Ken & Chris

Diuris drummondii var *Buttery*
Graham & Margaret



Bruce

Anacheilium baculus (Encyclia pentotis)
Chysis limminghei

Peter

Anacheilium baculus
Angraecum compactum
Lonopsis utricularioides
Laelia lobata
Miltonia flavescens
Oncidium bifolium
Phalaenopsis sturatiiana
Renanthera monachica

Howard

Paphiopedilum armeniacum
Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum
Paphiopedilum liemiana
Paphiopedilum platyphyllum
Paphiopedilum rothschildianum

Tony & Mavis

Chiloschista sp.
Kingidium deliciosum
Microcoelia cornuta
Mystacidium braybonae
Phalaenopsis parishii
Zelenkoa onusta



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum
Howard

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2014



Chysis limminghei
Bruce

Angraecum compactum
Peter



Photography by Tony

the present genus in 1856. Many authors followed Hooker (1894) in accepting a morphologically variable species for which he used the name *P. wallichii*, with the earlier names *Limodorum tankervilleae*, and *Phaius grandiflorus* in synonymy. *P. wallichii* was discovered in Sylhet (India) by Nathaniel Wallich and was described by John Lindley in 1831. Most recent authors (Kataki in 1986, Chowdhery in 1998, Pearce and Cribb 2001) have followed Seidenfaden (1986) in recognising the priority of the name *tankervilleae*. Seidenfaden recognised *tankervilleae* as a morphologically variable species distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Taiwan, the Philippines archipelago, the Malaya archipelago, SW Pacific, and East Australia.

This paper originates from the discovery of two distinct, large *Phaius* species in Hong Kong. One of them which has been known for many years on Hong Kong, matches well the type material of *P. tankervilleae*, but the other, a recent discovery there, is quite distinct in its floral morphology.

The former species (ie *tankervilleae*) originally described from Chinese material, has sub-nutant (semi nodding) flowers with sepals and petals that are tan brown within and white outside, a trumpet shaped lip with a broad purple margin and blunt apex and a short spur (less than 9mm long).

The other (ie *wallichii*) has larger flowers with more spreading, ochre coloured sepals and petals and a conical, acute lip (ie pointed apex) which is predominantly white with a yellow & purple band in the throat, and a spur up to 20mm long. The latter has been referred to in Hong Kong as the "Kadoorie" *Phaius* (it was first found growing on the estate of the Kadoorie Botanical Garden in the new Territories) and clearly does not fall within the variation of *P. tankervilleae* as usually understood. A similar plant, was illustrated in colour by Chen et al (1994). However, in its floral morphology it matches closely the species described from the Himalayas as *P. wallichii* and from Sri Lanka as *P. bicolour*.

Living plants and recently collected herbarium and spirit collections of the two Hong Kong taxa have been studied and compared with herbarium and spirit material from elsewhere in south and southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in the herbaria of Beijing, Kew, Leiden, the natural History Museum, Paris, and Singapore. In the living state and in the herbarium, two distinct taxa can be readily distinguished in southern and eastern Asia. *Phaius tankervilleae* has smaller rather pendent flowers with a blunt lip and a short spur, usually 5-6mm long.

The other species, *P. wallichii*, has larger flowers that are spreading rather than pendent, have an apiculate (sharp pointed) lip with a longer spur, usually 10-20mm."

In Australia, we often see *P. tankervilleae* reported as occurring in the wild, but there is considerable doubt over the accuracy of these reports. Concerning a plant reportedly found in the wild near Woodburn in northern NSW (over 40 years ago), the highly re-

spected David Banks advised that he had a piece of this 'Woodburn' plant but that it actually matches *P. wallichii* very well. He said that it was ironic that this "one off" discovery occurred in an area that the related but different, *Phaius australis* still grows wild today, and that he understood that it was the only one of these "tankervilleae" (or wallichii) plants that has ever turned up along the east Australian coastline. He was doubtful that any real *P. tankervilleae*/*wallichii* ever really occurred naturally in New South Wales. In David Jones's book *Native Orchids of Australia*, he also believes that all reports of *P. tankervilleae* and *P. wallichii* in Australia are wrong.

This all leads us to the distinctions between the various species that do occur in Australia. Jones reports the Australian species as only: *P. amboinensis*, a white flowered species from the Northern Territory and PNG, 2 forms of *P. australis*, which is somewhat similar to *P. tankervilleae* and occurs in Qld and just down into Northern NSW, and *P. pictus* from Qld, which is a quite different looking brown and yellowish species that could never be confused with *P. tankervilleae* or *P. wallichii*. Reports of Australian collections of either *P. tankervilleae* or *P. wallichii* are likely to be either *P. australis*, or material sourced from imported plants of *P. tankervilleae* or *P. wallichii*.

At this point I am going to stop mentioning any species other than *P. australis*, *P. tankervilleae*, and *P. wallichii*. These 3 are closely related and look very similar in colour and flower form, so they are the 3 that we need to be able to separate.



Two forms of *P. tankervilleae*



Two forms of *P. wallichii*



Three different plants of *Phaius australis* variety *australis*, and one of the yellow *P. australis* var *bernaysii*

Contd 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 2 December 2014

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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.