

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 8 February 2015



CULTURAL AWARD, December 2014

Zelenkoa onusta
Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 10 February

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Brydie contd
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

2 December 2014, 7:50pm

Present: 34

Apologies: 3 as per register

Visitors:

New members: Howard

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

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly. Current balance of \$4,580.18 with \$6,000 in the term deposit. (Mavis, Adrian).

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Various newsletters. Also some comments on our newsletter (Thanks for this).

Outwards:

- Numbers (70) to the GCA for insurance.

General Business:

- The plants from Ten Shin Orchids arrived this week in excellent condition and with all of Ken's instructions followed. The plants are of such a high quality that even Customs and AQIS were impressed. Ken is working on potting them now. He thanked Tony for all of his help.
- Bruce's *Dendrobium jonesii* donations are to be potted on and used as a monthly plant in 2015.
- There was a request to keep the plant description brief and concise.
- Mrs. Barnard is presently inconvenienced (we wish her well) so

the keys are to be collected from the Canning Shire Offices from 9am to 5pm on weekdays. Norm and Ken are arranging for their collection in February if necessary.

- The president gave an outline of how the raffle would be run later. He also gave thanks to Dee and Andrea for their year's efforts on the running of our raffles.

Cultural Award:

Presented to Tony & Mavis for a very free flowering specimen of *Zelenkoa onusta*.

Raffle: Everyone

Name Badge: Tara .

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Peter has offered to sell plants to the Society for our monthly plants sales and for raffle prizes. Peter is a strong supporter of the Society and we are pleased to access some excellent species orchids.

In this context, should you have excess species orchids from time-to-time, please let a committee member know as if they are suitable, we are more than happy to support our members and local nurseries before meeting the cost of acquiring plants from the Eastern States.

The Thailand Tour Group will be bringing back plants that have been purchased from Sakdisri and Daughters Nursery who have always supported us strongly, although these plants will be in quarantine for at least three months

-

President: Ken Jones

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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.

- * 1 March - Venue to be advised
- * 29 March - Caroline,
- * 26 April - Charly & Gerda, Sinagra,
- * 31 May - Chris, Sorrento

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

The Taiwan shipment has had its first inspection, and plants are generally growing well with lots of new root growth.

A further shipment of plants will come back with the Cambodia/ Thailand travellers in mid February, so I am hopeful that we will be able to get 40-50% of the Taiwan plants released in late February.

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

Dendrobium polyanthum

Country of origin: India and Southeast Asia

Description: Semi-pendulous softcane dendrobium

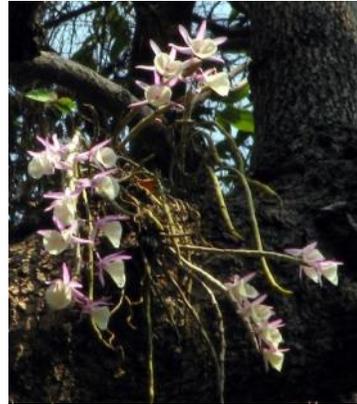
Difficulty: Easy to grow and flower softcane Dendrobium

Cost: \$5.00

Dendrobium polyanthum Wall. ex Lindl. 1830 (synonyms *Dendrobium primulinum*, *Dendrobium nobile* var *pallidiflora* and *Dendrobium cretaceum*) is found throughout India and Southeast Asia, from Mussorie in the Garhwal region of northern India, through Nepal, Sikkim, and the Lushai Hills region of north-eastern India, the Chin Hills of Myanmar, the mountains of northern and western Thailand, the Vientiane region of Laos, the Dalat, Blao, and Langbian regions in Vietnam, and Yunnan Province in south-western China.

Its common name is the many flowered dendrobium. Plants usually grow in deciduous forests with a distinct dry season at 500-1600 m altitude.

Inflorescences are generally on mature, leafless pseudobulbs (canes) with one-two fragrant flowers on short lateral stems. Petal and sepal colour varies from pink through mauve, and purple to white with cream to yellow labellum.



Source: <http://s25.n14.n84.n66.static.myhostcenter.co>

This species requires distinct seasonal variation in moisture and temperature to flower. A drier resting period of 3-4 months in winter is suggested where the media is allowed to completely dry out between watering. Bright light and good air movement are also essential for this species to flourish. Heavy watering and regular application of fertiliser when the plant is in active growth will encourage vigorous growth and flowering.

Given the pendulous nature of this species, either slab or hanging pot /basket culture is recommended to accommodate the up to 50cm canes that naturally arch downwards.

The most common pests attacking hard and soft cane *Dendrobium* species are cotton scale, hard scale and red or three spotted mite. Good air movement and careful husbandry will minimise opportunities for these insect pests to damage your orchids.

Chris

Encyclia cordigera var. *roseum*

Maxine

Angraecum compactum

Bulbophyllum bicolor

Bulbophyllum echinolabium

Phalaenopsis borneensis

Ken & Chris

Maxillaria houtteana

Oncidium leucochilum

Paphiopedilum niveum

Psychilis atropurpurea

Schomburgkia sp.

Sobennikoffia humbertiana

Gillian

Angraecum scottianum

Vanda tricolor

Peter

Bulbophyllum bicolor

Cattleya aclandiae

Laelia purpurata

Paphiopedilum philippinense

Physosiphon tubatus

Renanthera coccinea

Courtney & Val

Sarcochilus falcatus

Norm

Encyclia cordigera

Encyclia hanburyi

Encyclia seidelii

Laelia purpurata

Tony & Mavis

Aerides houlletiana

Brassavola nodosa

Cymbidium canaliculatum var. *sparkesii*

Dendrobium delacourii

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2014



Paphiopedilum niveum
Ken & Chris

Angraecum scottianum
Gillian



Kingidium deliciosum
Zelenkoa onustum



Laelia purpurata
Peter

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2014



Bulbophyllum bicolor
Maxine

Encyclia cordigera
Chris, Norm



Photography by Tony

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



Two forms of *Phaius tankervilleae*

Two forms of *Phaius wallichii*



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



So how do we tell the difference? Well for starters, *Phaius australis* flowers are a bit smaller. Generally 10cm vs about 12-15cm for the other two, although *wallichii* is a little the larger of those two. In addition, there are differences in the spur at the back of the flowers, and simple differences in the shape of the lip, but it is the lip shape we will use here.

In *Phaius tankervilleae* and *Phaius wallichii* the side lobes of the lip curl strongly up over the column and form a relatively tight, closed tube over the column. In *Phaius australis* the side lobes do not usually curl up over the column. The gap is variable from clone to clone but only in the rarest cases will the side lobes even partly enclose the column.

To separate *tankervilleae* and *wallichii*, we look at the length of the mid lobe of the lip (ie the end part extending furthest out in front of the column). In *Phaius wallichii* the midlobe is large and widely flared. In *Phaius tankervilleae* it is short. The pictures above show several examples for each species. Please don't judge by the colour, that is not a factor.

The other 'variety' of *Phaius australis* is *var. bernaysii* which is much the same shape and form as *var. australis*, but it is a clear greenish yellow colour. Some experts regard *bernaysii* as a species in its own right. There is also a yellow form of *Phaius tankervilleae* and an albino form as well but there can be no confusion with *Phaius bernaysii* because of the lip side lobes.

Unfortunately for all of us however, because in the old days the only name anyone knew was *Phaius tankervilleae*, that was what every label read no matter what the species was. In addition, the plants being imported were almost certainly *Phaius wallichii*, probably just because they were more readily available. All these old plants have been divided, shared, sold, and given away in Australia for such a long time, that nearly all "*Phaius tankervilleae*" on the market, and in collections, are probably divisions of these original *Phaius wallichii* plants.

Culture - *Phaius tankervilleae*, and *Phaius wallichii*, are both lovely species that grow quite well here in Sydney, although in the coldest areas they might need just a little protection in winter. The same may apply to *Phaius australis*, but for some reason I have never even seen it at meetings in Sydney so I will leave it out of my culture discussion.

In nature these species all grow as terrestrials in swampy, wet soils among grasses and low shrubs. I believe you can grow them as garden plants in soil, but I haven't tried it myself. Orchid growers usually grow it in large Cymbidium pots in various mixes. Whichever you choose, they are shade lovers (50-70%) and should stand near the ground for higher humidity. For potting I use a fine Cymbidium mix with some added peat moss, crumbled foam, and a little sand, but others recommend just a basic garden potting mix with a rich humus component. I don't think *Phaius* are all that fussy so long as you repot reasonably regularly to keep the mix fresh, and that you feed and water to their needs.

Bill Dobson, one of Sydney's best growers of all orchids advises : "In cultivation it is easy, needing a largish container as it grows, with a rich compost. Large plants only become so if ample food is available, *Phaius tankervilleae* loves food while in growth. The addition of such things as 'blood and bone', bone



meal, chicken pellets etc., to the compost is welcome and additional feeding with such things as slow release fertilizers and dressings of organics will assist growth. During Spring and Summer, containers should be placed in a saucer of water, so that water level is 2 to 3 inches up the pot, which approximates the natural conditions for this species. It does not grow in water, but in soil and compost just above water level when it's habitat is flooded." (Jim: I don't stand them in a saucer of water but I am a fairly heavy waterer anyway, so perhaps that compensates)

These *Phaius* are rather large plants and needs to be given space. Their leaves are up to a metre long and 15cm wide at their broadest point, with a pleated surface. The inflorescence is usually up to 1.5m tall, but can be over 2m, and carries up to 20 of these amazing, stunningly coloured, big flowers. Because of the size of the leaves, if you grow them out in the garden, bugs and strong wind might be a problem with damage to the leaves. The plants make a nicer display at flowering time if they are grown in a shadehouse and the leaves kept as clean as possible.

Phaius species are soft-fleshed plants that are prone to snail damage, and can also be a target for aphids or scale, but not much worse than other orchids. You just need to keep an eye out for pests and take action as soon as you see a problem. They aren't supposed to be deciduous, or have a marked resting period, but in winter I cut back my water and fertiliser routines for the whole shadehouse and they don't seem to object. In fact, the spike on my plant commenced early winter and continued to develop nicely over winter.



Interestingly, it seems that *Phaius tankervilleae/wallichii* are among those orchids that can be propagated by cuttings from the flower spike. I haven't tried it myself but I have propagated *Thunia* species from stem cuttings in a similar way. An explanation of the process for *Phaius* can be found under "node culture" at the web site <http://www.orchideenvermehrung.at/english/index.htm>

It would no doubt be a slowish process, and would take quite a few years to produce flowering plants of the propagated clone, but it is easily done, cheap, and can produce multiple divisions of a good one. Why not give it a try this season?

Editor's note. I sincerely thank Jim for allowing us to reprint his insightful article in our newsletter and hope that it might trigger your interest in growing some plants of this showy and rewarding species

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
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Next meeting Tuesday 10 February 2015

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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.