

# 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 10 April 2015**



**CULTURAL AWARD,**  
**March 2015**  
*Aerangis articulata*  
Peter

# NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 14 April**

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

10 March 2015, 7:53pm

**Present:** 30

**Apologies:** 11 as per register

**Visitors:** Siva Subramanian

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting: (Paul, Ian).

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Tabled by Charly  
Current balance is \$2,616.12 plus \$6,000 in Term Deposit (Jeanine, Murray )

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Convention at Orange NSW on the 12th to the 16th of October 2015,
- Ian about security, Ian about Quiet Achiever Awards.
- Ken about the purchase of plants for raffles and auctions from Peter.
- WJOS about the Inter society Display and workshop on the 1st of August at the Craigie Rec Centre.
- Various newsletters.

**Outwards:**

- City of Canning via Mrs Barnard to pay for meetings to June (5 x \$58 = \$290)

**General Business:**

- Reminder that the AGM is only two meetings away. Any award nominations to the committee.
- 26th ISD&W in August.
- Prepare plants for the silent auction for June or July.
- An auction was run by Tom to sell *Coelogyne lawrenceana* (Ken won it @\$26.

**Cultural Award:**

Presented to Peter for *Aerangis articulata*. This can be a difficult species to maintain over time.

**Raffle:** Ken, Ian, Paul and Chris.

**Name Badge:** Courtney.

# NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Society AGM is in May, and each year we recognise members who make exceptional contributions to our club. Mich will have slips that can be used to nominate people for life membership and the quiet achiever award. Please see Mich at the April meeting
- The annual Silent Auction will take place at our July general meeting. This is a fun event and a good way to get your species collection started. While this was our major fundraiser, in the past thanks to our members, the Society is now in a very sound financial position and its purpose has changed. If you are dividing and re-potting species, put some aside for this auction.
- Paul's car was broken into recently and a portable hard disc on which was a copy of the Species Society membership list was among items stolen. Should you receive a phone call from an unknown person, it may be a result of this theft.
- Each year, the Society makes a donation to the AOC, and subject to your approval, we will again donate this year.
- Unfortunately, many of our members are aging and may be finding it more difficult to look after their orchid collections. If you hear of anyone that needs our help, please let a committee member know.

## Quiet Achievers

2013	Ian
2014	Chris

**President:** Ken Jones  
**Vice President:** Adrian  
**Secretary:** Graham Bowden  
8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.  
Phone: 9447 4528  
e-mail: gmbowden@bigpond.com  
**Treasurer:** Charly  
**Editor:** Ken Jones  
204 Park Street, Henley Brook  
6055. Phone: 9296 1765  
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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.

- \* 26 April - Charly & Gerda, Sinagra,
- \* 31 May - Chris, Sorrento
- \* 28 June - Sharon & Glenn, Gosnells

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## FOR SALE/WANTED

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### Imported plant news

Approximately 250 plants from Taiwan were released on Friday 13 March. Following installation of a humidifier, plants are more vigorous and many of the plants from Thailand that have only been in quarantine for a month are showing considerable root and leaf growth. The next inspection for Taiwan plant release and first inspection for the Thailand shipment has been scheduled for second week in April.

*Ken & Chris*

# MONTHLY PLANT

## *Encyclia ciliare* (*Coilostylis ciliaris*)

.....  
**Country of origin:** Central and South America  
.....

**Description:** Cattleya-like species that quickly grows into large clumps.  
.....

**Difficulty:** Vigorous species that is easy to grow in local conditions  
.....

**Cost:** \$10

This month's plant has been purchased from Peter and most are flowering size. All have recently been repotted so will not need attention for some time.

*Coilostylis ciliaris* [L.] Withner & Harding 2004, common name the Hairy Lip Epidendrum is found throughout central and northern south America, and from sea-level to moderate elevations of 2,500m. Widely distributed, in its natural habitat this species is found as dense clumps forming large colonies on boulders, cliff faces, and tree trunks in humid tropical forests, dry and wet forests at sea level and in lower montane forest in mountainous regions.

Vegetatively, this species resembles *Cattleya* rather than a reed-stem *Epidendrum* or an *Encyclia*. Accordingly, there are many synonyms dating back to 1759, although prior to its recent transfer to *Coilostylis*, it is mostly known as *Encyclia ciliare*.



Source:  
[http://lh4.ggpht.com/\\_jU9XIS3pyIY/SqOdR8AID4I/AAAAAAAAAB6s/CXxBMPjgaUI/s800/Dscn1482.JPG](http://lh4.ggpht.com/_jU9XIS3pyIY/SqOdR8AID4I/AAAAAAAAAB6s/CXxBMPjgaUI/s800/Dscn1482.JPG)

*Coilostylis ciliaris* is very easy to grow and flower in a shadehouse given the wide range of environments from which it comes. Well grown plants will also flower more than once a year, and given its vigorous nature (it outgrows the pot quite quickly), it is often the growths outside the pot that flower.

As already noted, this robust species is adaptable and will grow equally well in a pot with any of the standard orchid media, or on a slab if humidity can be maintained. Winter protection from cold and damp is recommended. It is not particularly susceptible to insect pest attack provided good air movement is present and sound plant hygiene practices followed.

### Graham & Margaret

*Brassavola nodosa* var. *major*  
*Bulbophyllum baileyi*  
*Cattleya bicolor*  
*Prosthechea cochleata* var. *alba*

### Chris

*Cattleya bicolor*  
*Dendrochilum cobbianum*

### Ken & Chris

*Acianthera alligatorifera*  
*Cymbidium dayanum*  
*Dendrochilum magnum* (*latifolium* var. *macrantha*)  
*Dendrochilum uncatum*  
*Vanda vietnamica*

### Michele

*Aeranthes grandiflora*  
*Cadetia taylorii*  
*Epidendrum diffusum*

### Peter

*Aerangis articulata*  
*Brassavola nodosa* fma *Dawsonii*  
*Bulbophyllum deareii*  
*Dendrochilum cobbianum*  
*Haraella retrocalla*  
*Paphiopedilum liemianum*  
*Phalaenopsis speciosa* x *tetraspis*  
*Phalaenopsis tetraspis* var. *alba*  
*Psychopsis papillio*

### Norm

*Brassia maculata*  
*Encyclia brassavolae*

### Tony & Mavis

*Dendrobium delacourii*  
*Miltonia* x *binotii* (*candida* x *regnellii*)  
*Miltonia spectabilis* var. *moreliana*  
*Phalaenopsis bellina*

## PLANTS DISPLAYED MARCH 2015



*Vanda vietnamica*  
Ken & Chris

*Cattleya bicolor*  
Chris  
Peter





*Miltonia x binotii*  
Tony & Mavis

## PLANTS DISPLAYED MARCH 2015



*Brassavola nodosa fma dawsonii*  
Peter

*Aeranthes grandiflora*  
Michele



Photography by Tony

## The benefits of hygienic practice in keeping your collection free of plant diseases.

Last month, I provided some ideas about how better hygienic practices can help keep your orchid collection free of some of the more preventable diseases. The first part of this article was focused on best practice for sterilisation of cutting instruments and containers etc. to minimise the spread of disease by sap transfer. In the second part of the article, I will concentrate on plant management or husbandry. In this regard, I will also refer to insect pests. As mentioned earlier, they can spread viral and other diseases, or foster the spread of fungal pathogens such as sooty mould which will grow on the sugary exudates from sap-sucking insects.

### Glasshouse/Shadehouse Management

In this context, I must confess to “do as I say, not as I do”. By and large, as enthusiastic collectors, we acquire more and more orchids, and constantly add plants to our collections without taking account of the space we have available, or ‘quarantining’ them before adding them to our collection. An old rule of thumb suggests that the space between your orchid plants should be equivalent to the size of the pot, ie, providing adequate corridors for good air movement and for you as the grower to be able to clearly see each pot and orchid plant when you are watering/fertilising. This would be the “gold standard” and as we observe when we visit growers who are able to keep the size of the collection under control (or easily increase their glasshouse/shadehouse size), the plants are more healthy and have less problems with insect pests and fungal/bacterial pathogens. But, being realistic, none of us has unlimited resources and room, so some form of compromise is necessary.

The disease and pest problems that can be attributed to overcrowding are many, but for simplicity, I will categorise them as sap-sucking pests, and common fungal pathogens. Orchid fleck and other virus can be transmitted by plant to plant contact, although orchid fleck virus is also directly transmitted by insects.

### Reducing the Adverse Impact of Plant Pests

The problematic plant pests in WA are principally sap-suckers including hard and soft scale and mealy bug; mites; slugs and snails, caterpillars, and flying insects including aphids, thrips and white fly. Simply put, a clean and hygienic environment, free of dead plant material with adequate space between plants to allow plenty of air movement, appropriate light, and maintenance of required humidity can help to keep these pests at bay. However, as previously suggested, we do not all live in a perfect world and consequently need to maintain some form of regime to minimise the adverse effect of these pests.

The presence of ants in orchid pots is often a sign of uneven watering, although I recently repotted an *Oncidium ensatum* in a large pot that contained a big ant nest even

though the media was very wet. The ants provide transportation for scale hard and soft scale, and in return, receive a benefit by 'milking' the sweet honeydew exudate from the scale. So, if you see evidence of ant activity in your glasshouse, you need to do something about it. There are some excellent products in the market, both organic and inorganic, and many home remedies that can be found on the internet to deal with ants.

Sap-sucking insects including hard and soft scale and mealy bug are the curse of many orchid enthusiasts, particularly those of us who do not have adequate space between our plants to allow really good air movement. I have found that eco pest oil is quite effective against these insects but requires frequent re-application. This product works by breaking down the insect's waxy protective coating, but is not of itself a poison. If necessary for particularly heavy or persistent infestation, an insecticide such as Confidor® can be added. For isolated insects, methylated spirits and water can be applied using a small paintbrush or cotton bud and used to remove the insects. Biological controls of mealy bug such as predatory ladybirds (*Cryptolamus*) are effective, but the predators perish unless there is a consistent source of mealy bug for them to feed on.

Three-spotted mite (also known as red spider mite) and false spider mite are very damaging pests on orchids, and once established, can be very difficult to eradicate. As the common name suggests, they are not actually insects, but are closely related to arachnids (spiders). They are very small and best observed with a magnifying glass or by holding a piece of white paper under an infected the leaf and shaking some of the animals onto the leaf. They can then be seen with the naked eye moving around. The presence of this pest is indicated by a silvery appearance to the underside of orchid leaves, generally seen firstly on *Dendrobium* and some other genera. This appearance is the result of the insect infesting the underside of the leaves and leaving a silvery deposit. This pest is difficult to eradicate as there are several different stages in their life cycle (wetttable sulphur included in Mancozeb Plus® will address some stages, but not all). As the population rises rapidly once egg-laying commences, frequent retreatment is necessary. Ordinary pesticides are not effective against this pest – specialist miticides are required, however these are often chemicals dangerous to us so care is required. If you have a major problem in a large collection of orchids, the following miticides are effective; Stealth®, Acramite®, Floramite® & Vertimec®. Due to the short- life-cycle of this pest, they can quite rapidly develop resistance to particular chemicals (eg Kelthane®), so it is better to carefully manage your environment to make it less conducive to their occupation. Doing so requires good air movement, general cleanliness including removal of dead and damaged plant material, and maintenance of high humidity (this pest prefers low humidity/dry conditions). Another control option is predatory mites and insects although this is not really efficient in other than large collections as you need to maintain a small population of the pest to feed the predators.

Another group of pests are slugs and snails. Once again, the population is able to build up over time when hygienic practice fails and dead plant material is allowed to accrue in

the shadehouse or glasshouse. These pests are very happy to live in the bottom of pots, or amongst companion plants growing underneath benches. They can be prevented from living in the bottom of orchid pots by putting a layer of coarse river gravel/ small rocks in the bottom of the pot, or a layer of shadecloth or flywire, however this can result in pots staying too wet if this layer becomes blocked. It may be that a layer of small styrene foam balls like those in beanbags will provide the same protection although I have not experimented with this. There are many commercial baits and products for dealing with these molluscs but in the moist environment in which we grow orchids, they often break down very quickly as they mostly include some kind of attractant in addition to the poison (generally metaldehyde) which swells when wet. These baits are also very poisonous to pets so care must be taken when using them.

Some other insect pests that are present from time-to-time are aphids and thrips. The former can be controlled by aphicides of which several containing Carbimate are readily available. There is potential for flower damage from liquid pesticides and wherever possible, for this reason wettable powder is preferred. Aphids are one of the known vectors transmitting orchid fleck virus, so it is important to deal promptly with any infestation that occurs. Small numbers can be washed off with water spray, remembering that eggs will be present and treatment will need to continue to break the life-cycle of this pest. In other parts of the world, it is a major pest in commercial orchid nurseries, particularly those in more tropical climates. Similarly, thrips while not a frequent orchid pest in WA can infest plants if the conditions are favourable and are difficult to eradicate. The visible evidence of thrips is similar to that seen when mites are present, that is a silvering of the leaf surfaces. Unfortunately, thrips readily develop resistance to pesticides and only very strong insecticides such as Rogor or systemic products, are effective. If you need to use these products, regular rotation of the active ingredient is necessary to minimise resistance development. Fortunately, there are some biological controls becoming available that utilise fungal insect pathogens (cf products used for caterpillars) and biological control insects such as predatory mites and these options should be explored if the problem persists.

In summary, the best way to minimise the impact of these pests is to maintain a clean and healthy environment. This will mean that we need to:

- \* ensure that there is plenty of fresh air and air movement in our glasshouse/ shadehouse;
- \* remove any diseased or damaged leaves, and dead plant material;
- \* maintain humidity and provide our orchids with water and nutrient when needed;
- \* provide adequate light (not too much or too little);
- \* promptly address any pest infestation; and
- \* if possible, avoid overcrowding our orchids so that there is space between our plants to permit air movement.

*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 14 April 2015**