

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 11 May 2015



CULTURAL AWARD, April 2015

Comparettia speciosa

Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12 May

Contents

- 2 General Meeting Minutes
- 3 Notes from your Committee
- 4 Noticeboard
- 5 Monthly plant

- 6 Plants displayed April 2015
- 8 Hygiene tips to keep your orchids disease free
- 10 About us



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 April 2015, 7:48pm

Present: 35

Apologies: 6 as per register

Visitors: Lucy

New members: Siva

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting:
(Mavis, Ian).

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly
Current balance is \$2,906.82 plus \$6,000
in Term Deposit.
(Andrea, Ian)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- AOF –General annual information.
- ISDW (Wanneroo/Joondalup) - general info and list for the Dinner.
- GCA – insurance payments.
- Mandurah Newsletter.
- Emails about buying some of Peter's plants.

Outwards:

- Emails about Peter's plants.

General Business:

- A donation to the AOF of \$100 was passed on a motion moved by Paul and seconded by John.
- The Dinner list for the Inter Society Display and Workshop in August was circulated.
- The AGM was discussed and nominations called for any awards.
- Reminder to set aside plants for the July Silent Auction.
- Information about plants for raffles and auctions.

- Peter presented a virus-infected Cattleya leaf for inspection and discussion.
- The Thai plants will be inspected soon with a hoped for date of release in late May or early June.
- Thanks to Peter for the donation of a mounted plant of *Restrepia trichoglossa* which was used a name badge prize.

Cultural Award:

Presented to Tony & Mavis for *Compartmentia speciosa*. This can be a difficult species to maintain over time.

Raffle: Courtney, Hugo, Judith, Brenda and Jim.

Name Badge: John.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The next meeting is the AGM. Thanks to members who submitted nominations for life membership and the quiet achiever awards. Recipients of these awards will be announced at the AGM.
- We also have a vacant committee position that we are keen to fill. As part of our planning to ensure that Society continues to grow and provide benefits to members, we encourage you to put your name forward to join us.
- The difficulty experienced by members sitting towards the back of the room in hearing the members giving plant descriptions has again been raised. Please respect those members speaking by not having your own discussion. We will also ask the members giving plant descriptions to use the headset mike.
- The monthly plant purchased and distributed in June 2014 as *Guarlanthe bowringiana* is now flowering for some members and is in fact an early primary hybrid between *Schomburgkia splendida* and *Guarlanthe bowringiana*. It has been registered as *Schombocattleya* (Laelianthe) Splendid Bow.
- We do not have a host for our November home visit. If you would be willing to host a home visit at this time (or any other time), please advise Mavis .

Quiet Achievers

2013	Ian
2014	Chris

President: Ken

Vice President: Adrian

Secretary: Graham Bowden

8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.

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Committee:

Chris	Sharon
Maxine	Paul
Michele	Tony
	Mavis

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon Doherty

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.

- * 31 May - Chris, Sorrento
- * 28 June - Sharon & Glenn, Gosnells
- * 26 July - Ken & Chris, Henley Brook

FOR SALE/WANTED

Kevin Butler at Ezi-Gro Orchids was a participant in the Taiwan order, and now has a wide range of species plants that he will soon be making available for sale. The genera include *Aerangis*, *Angraecum*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Cymbidium*, *Encyclia*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Renanthera*, *Rhynchoaelia*, and *Sobennikoffia*. Kevin's participation in this shipment helped to spread the fixed costs and enabled us to purchase plants at wholesale prices. Many of these are not readily available, so contact Kevin or his staff.

Imported plant news

A further 200 plants from Taiwan were released on Wednesday 22 April, and the first inspection was conducted for the Thailand shipment. The next inspection will be scheduled for the first week in June at which time we anticipate that up to half of the Thailand plants will be ready for release, given the level of root growth evident .

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

***Laelia anceps* 'Disciplinata' HCC/AOS
x *Laelia anceps* 'SVO Flair'**

Country of origin: Mexico

Description: Moderate size, free flowering Cattleya-like species

Difficulty: Easy, vigorous plant to grow and flower.

Cost: \$10.00

This line bred *Laelia anceps* cultivar was purchased from Rosella Orchids and has been grown on by Paul & Andrea. Bred by Sunset Valley Orchids, this cultivar is expected to have prominent feathery flaring. The cultivar name 'Disciplinata' is often published as either a varietal (var.) or forma (fma.) name, however I could not find any valid taxonomical record to verify this despite widespread use, so for the time being will regard it is a cultivar name.

This is the second *Laelia anceps* that has been selected as a monthly plant in recent months. By way of explanation, recently we have quite deliberately chosen species that can be grown in a shadehouse, do not require heat, and that are vigorous and free-flowering recognising that many of our members do not have hothouses. Originating from Mexico, the species comes from the mountains on the Gulf of Mexico side of the country in the states of Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo, Querétaro, Puebla, Veracruz,



Laelia anceps
'Disciplinata' HCC/
AOS



Laelia anceps 'SVO'

Source:<http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com/html/photo.php?sec=2&toptext=&page=15>

Oaxaca, and Chiapas. Generally found in warm, oak forests with tropical deciduous trees at 1200–1600 m, are also often found at higher and lower altitude in both shady and sunny locations as well as growing lithophytically. Their wide range of natural habitat means that they are easy to grow in cultivation..

These plants have been grown in a cool glasshouse, and all have been recently repotted, so will not need attention for another 12-18 months. For best results, this orchid needs to be kept drier during our cold, wet winter months and for this reason, it is advisable to cover at least part of your shadehouse with plastic or similar film to exclude rain. However I grow this species on trees in our garden and they do survive so while desirable to keep them drier, it is not essential. With good air movement, this species does not seem to attract insect pests other than cotton scale and this pest is kept at bay by ensuring the there is always plenty of air movement..

Ian

Miltonia x bluntii

Graham & Margaret

Dendrobium bullenianum

Eriochilus dilatatus

Vanda vietnamica

Chris

Guarianthe bowringiana

Phalaenopsis aphrodite

Stenoglottis longifolia

Maxine

Angraecum distichum

Bulbophyllum annandalei

Bulbophyllum dearei

Bulbophyllum echinolabium

Coelogyne ovalis

Dendrochilum longifolium var. *macrantha*

Gongora gratulabunda

Phalaenopsis fasciata

Ken & Chris

Acianthera alligatorifera

Bulbophyllum pulchrum

Bulbophyllum umbellatum

Eria hyacinthoides

Guarianthe bowringiana

Oncidium sotoanum

Paphiopedilum henryanum

Peter

Cattleya maxima

Cattleya walkeriana var. *Tipo*

Oncidium hyphaematicum

Renanthera matutina

Restrepia trichoglossa

John

Guarianthe bowringiana

Howard

Paphiopedilum glanduliferum var. *praestans*

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2015



Bulbophyllum annandaleii
Maxine

Cattleya maxima
Peter



Noel & Eva

Coilostylis ciliaris
Prosthechea cochleata

Tony & Mavis

Brassavola cucullata
Comparettia speciosa
Miltonia x bluntii
Phalaenopsis bellina
Phalaenopsis violacea
Stenoglottis longifolia
Tolumnia variegata
Vanda vietnamica



Dendrobium bullenianum
Graham & Margaret

PLANTS DISPLAYED APRIL 2015



Paphiopedilum glanduliferum var.
praestans
Howard

Bulbophyllum umbellatum
Ken & Chris



Photography by Tony

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

Fungal and/or Bacterial Pathogen infections

Earlier in this article, I referred to some of these pathogens in the context of hygienic practice, specifically in maintaining cleanliness of cutting instruments and pots. However, even if we follow good practice, from time-to-time, we will need to deal with infections that take hold in our orchid collections. It is also worth remembering that even in a perfect world, plant pests and pathogens exist, and if we make sure that our orchids are healthy and strongly growing, they will be better able to resist any attack. The most likely time of year for these infections to occur are the season changes, that is early spring and autumn where the humidity is high, growing conditions are changing and these pathogens are active in the general environment outside our glasshouse or shadehouse.

Black Rots

Black rot in orchids can be caused by many pathogens some fungal or close relatives and others by bacteria such as *Erwinea*. All lead to significant damage, and often death of the plants infected, so need to be promptly addressed infections are present. The most common are the water moulds, *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* that are often loosely referred to as fungal pathogens but are in fact protists or Oomycetes (one-celled organisms, classified in the kingdom Protista, that is either free-living or aggregated into simple colonies and that has diverse reproductive and nutritional modes, including the protozoans, eukaryotic algae, and slime moulds). More than 60 species of *Phytophthora* are recognised and most are pathogenic. These water mould infections are responsible for Black Rot, Crown Rot and Damping-Off in orchids with the symptoms being the rapid disintegration of tissue once the plant is infected.

Often the infection is first observed as water-soaked spots on leaves that rapidly expand and turn brown or black before progressing to the roots leading to plant mortality. It can also affect orchid roots and crowns appearing as necrotic lesions that eventually defoliate the orchid. For example, in Vandas the infection may start on new leaves as a soft, dark brown to black rot. Over time if left untreated, the infection progresses down the stem which becomes dark brown in appearance. In Cattleyas the first signs of infection will be seen in the new growths turning them black and soft. Unless treated, the infection can spread along the rhizome to the next growth causing the same symptoms.



Photo source: <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/php/diagnosticguide/2010/orchid/>

Prompt action is required to halt the spread of infection otherwise it will continue to spread rapidly throughout the orchid leading to its death. While leaves may initially show signs of infection on only one side, the infections spreads rapidly and the entire leaf soon turns black.

What distinguishes these black rots from fungal pathogens such as *Glomerella* is that the lesions are soft and uniform in appearance, have no defined rings or lines of fruiting bodies. However, it is almost impossible to distinguish infections caused by *Phytophthora* from those caused by the bacterial pathogens *Pseudomonas* and *Erwinia* that also cause diseases commonly called 'black rots'. All produce water-soaked lesions that do not show any fruiting bodies, all spread rapidly, and can be similar in colour. The one distinguishing feature is that the liquid from the bacterial lesions has a very offensive smell.

Pythium is an infection that occurs at or below the surface of the medium, and leaves are rarely infected. The infection starts in the roots or rhizome and progresses up the pseudobulb as a soft brown rot that has a clearly defined border.

Photo source: <http://www.hark-orchideen.de/Pflanzenschutz/Pythium/bilder.php?lang=en&navID=99>



This infection is most often seen in newly deflasked plants which 'damp-off' with a soft brown rot that affects the stem where it enters the media, but can also affect mature plants in poorly drained or stale media. As is the case with *Phytophthora*, there are no obvious fruiting bodies distinguishing this infection from those caused by other root-rot pathogens such as *Rhizoctonia* that causes hard, dry, brown bases of the pseudobulbs. While it is less pathogenic than *Phytophthora*, *Pythium* can still have equally devastating effects.

Oomycetes Black Rot control

While the best method of dealing with these pathogens is to manage your growing environment well, from time-to-time, these diseases can be present and need to be confronted. The zoospores of both are readily spread by water splash, so the infection can rapidly spread from plant to plant. Therefore, your first action should be the removal of infected plants from the general collection to minimise the spread of the disease. These plants should be treated and isolated until there are no further signs of disease before being returned.

Phytophthora can be treated using a product such as Alginox ® in which the active ingredient is Benzalkonium chloride. This product is widely sold as swimming pool algacide, and is relatively cheap when compared with many of the commercial fungicides. While it was not prepared for use on orchids, it has been shown to be effective, and can be applied at the rate of 15 ml per 4 litres of water. If the infection is well estab-

lished, the plant should be removed from the media and immersed for 10 minutes. Following this, remove all the dead/damaged plant material and re-immerses in a freshly made solution for a further 10 minutes.

By the time an infected plant is noticed, spores will have infected neighbouring plants, therefore some action is necessary to control of this pathogen. This can be achieved by drenching with Aliette® WG systemic fungicide from Bayer Cropscience at the rate of 90g/100l of water at 6 week intervals. The active ingredient in this product is 800 g/kg Fosetyl Aluminium. However, this product is expensive and is not readily available at the local hardware shop or nursery (although Mirco Bros and several on-line suppliers do list it at \$93 per kg). A broadly similar product, Yates Anti-Rot® which contains a phosacid, Potassium phosphite as its active ingredient may be just as effective and is available from Bunnings and is relatively inexpensive at less than \$20 for 500ml.

Contact fungicides such as Mancozeb are ineffective against these pathogens, while copper-based fungicides including copper oxychloride or Kocide Blue® kill the spores and do provide some protection against initial infection, but have no curative effect once the disease is established (however, their repeated use may lead to phytotoxic effects particularly in some of the Dendrobiums). Ridomil® is effective against *Phytophthora*, and is more effective than Aliette® WG against *Pythium* (Ridomil Gold® in which the active ingredients are mancozeb and a small proportion of metalaxyl is available from specialist suppliers, but is quite expensive at \$195 for 5 kg). Fongarid® controls both and has both protective and curative properties (Fongarid is available from Bunnings at \$17 for 10gm). All three of these fungicides have a systemic effect and may control both *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* for up to 6 weeks after treatment.

Unfortunately, none of these products control diseases caused by other fungal pathogens. Thus, alternative fungicides are required to control leaf-spotting diseases or root rots caused by fungal pathogens such as *Fusarium* or *Rhizoctonia*, although Phosphorous-acid based fungicides such as Fosject®, Agrifos® or Phosacid®, provide some measure of both protective and curative action against *Phytophthora*, and therefore, Yates Anti-Rot might be the best low-cost, all-round product to purchase, particularly if your orchid collection is only small. There is some evidence that these fungicides may also stimulate the natural resistance of the plant. They have very low toxicity and can therefore be used as a prophylactic treatment. As part of this preventative approach, spraying of your glasshouse/shadehouse roof and walls, floor and benching with Alginox® on a regular basis will help limit the growth of spores and minimise the opportunity for this pathogen to become established, as will ensuring that orchid foliage does not remain wet for extended periods of time.

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 12 May 2015