

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 27 No 1 June 2015



CULTURAL AWARD, May 2015

Dendrobium fairchildiae

Graham & Margaret

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 9 June

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 May 2015, 8.28pm

Present: 32

Apologies: Mich, Brenda, Chris, Mavis & Tony and Tony.

Visitors: Nil

New members: Lee-Anne

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

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly at AGM. Current balance is \$2,306.77. We also have \$6,000 in a term deposit. The audited annual report was tabled during the AGM. (Andrea, Ian)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Newsletters,
- Tulip Time in Bowral
- Invoice for plants from Peter.

Outwards:

- Nil

General Business:

- The use of head mounted microphones for the meeting was initiated. Later the members endorsed this method.
- A reminder of the Silent Auction in July.
- A reminder of the IS Workshop and Display in August and hearty thanks to Gerda on her efforts on our behalf.

Cultural Award:

Presented to Graham & Margaret for *Dendrobium fairchildiae*.

Raffle: Murray, John (twice with a third time redrawn!), Vic, Adrian and Ken.

Name Badge: Courtney

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- At the AGM, the society awarded Margaret its Quiet Achiever award for 2015, and Life Memberships to Maxine and Ken. Next month's newsletter will include a short biographical piece on each of these members whose contributions over many years have been recognised by all of us. We sincerely thank them for helping make our society the vibrant, friendly and stimulating group of passionate orchid growers that it is.
- Your annual membership is now due. Please pay the Treasurer at the next meeting. Should you see any members who may not regularly attend meetings, you might mention it to them.
- As noted at the last meeting, the Silent Auction will be conducted at the July general meeting. Please put some divisions aside for this fun event, and for new members, come along prepared to acquire some bargains to expand your collection.
- 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.

President: Ken Jones

Vice President: Adrian

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Committee:

Chris

Sharon

Maxine

Paul

Michele

Tony

Mavis

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

Maxine

Ken

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

Trevor

Neville

Noel & Eva

Tony & Mavis

Barry (dec'd)

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian

2014 Chris

2015 Margaret

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.

- * 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*, *Rhyncholaelia*, 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 quarantine inspection has been scheduled for next week. This will include a second inspection for the Thailand shipment at which time I anticipate that a substantial number of the plants will be ready for release, along with more plants from the Taiwan shipment.. If you have plants in these shipments, I will be in touch with you once the inspection has taken place to let you know what has been released.

Ken & Chris Jones

MONTHLY PLANT

Oncidium bifolium (*Coppensia bifolia*)

Country of origin: Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

Description: Compact *Oncidiinae* species that quickly forms large clumps

Difficulty: Vigorous growing and flowering plant

Cost: \$5.00

This month's plant has been supplied by Peter and grown on by Adrian & Dee. Peter sold us a very large specimen which has been divided and mounted on tree fern.

In Brazil, this orchid is found in the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul where they occur as epiphytes in a wide range of habitats from hot lowlands where it is usually found in shady, streamside locations, to cold mountainous areas at elevations to 1000 m. Peter has grown this species from many years in his shadehouse without heat, but with protection from cold winter rains and wind.

The correct name for this species has been the subject of considerable controversy and there are many recorded synonyms, some of which are invalid. However, the most recent publication I found was in Baptista, Harding and Neto, 2011 and they refer to it as *Coppensia bifolia* (Sims) Dumort (1835). This species is very



Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/apao/261407390>

variable and is widely distributed with *Oncidium chrysothyrsus* and *Oncidium bicolor* possibly being examples of morphological variations.

It should be relatively tolerant of our climate provided winter protection can be given, and plenty of water and air movement during the very hot, dry summer. Slab culture appears to be the recommended way to grow this species. Given their natural habitat, a rest period during the cooler, darker winter months is indicated with a consequent reduction in watering and fertiliser application, although the plants should not be allowed to dry completely. Frequent watering and fertiliser can recommence once new root growth is sighted.

Good air movement will address most of the pest problems, however care should be taken to minimise opportunities for sap-sucking pests to become established.

Graham & Margaret

Dendrobium cumulatum
Dendrobium fairchildiae
Pterostylis abrupta
Pterostylis laxa

Chris

Angraecum distichum
Cattleya labiata Tipo
Dendrobium spp
Laelia rubescens
Paphiopedilum gratrixianum
Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sanderae*

Maxine

Bulbophyllum rothschildianum
Cattleya trianae
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Trichoglottis brachiata

Peter

Oncidium pulvinatum
Psychopsis papilio
Rhynchostylis retusa
Sophronitis brevipedunculata

PLANTS DISPLAYED MAY 2015



Cattleya labiata Tipo
Chris

Psychopsis papilio
Peter





Dendrobium spp
Chris



Laelia rubescens
Chris

PLANTS DISPLAYED MAY 2015



Paphiopedilum gratixianum
Chris

Sophranitis brevipedunculata
Peter



Photography by Peter

Hygiene tips to keep your orchids disease free.

Common Bacterial pathogens

St Augustine Orchid Society in the US has an excellent page on its website devoted to orchid pests and diseases with photos of many of the more commonly encountered fungal and related pathogens – see <http://staugorchidsociety.org/culturepests-diseases.htm>. These bacterial pathogens are more common than generally thought, and can be difficult to combat once they become established.

Bacterial Brown Spot is an infection caused by the bacteria *Acidovorax* (syn. *Pseudomonas*). The symptoms may appear anywhere on the leaf as a small, soft, water-soaked blister. Initially dirty green in colour, the infected spot enlarges, coalesces and eventually becomes brown or black, dried up and sunken. It oozes bacteria-laden liquid. Bacterial brown spot is a common and severe problem with *Phalaenopsis* orchids although many other orchid genera can be affected.



Pseudomonas spots on *Phalaenopsis* leaves.

Source: <http://staugorchidsociety.org/culturepests-diseases-pseudomonas.htm> and <http://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/BacterialBrownSpotbySueBot-tom.pdf>



Pseudomonas treatment involves killing the bacterium, and preventing reinfection by rectifying the environmental conditions that allowed it to gain a foothold in the first place. Localised infection may be treated with Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), although it is prudent where possible to remove the infected leaf tissue below the infection. I suspect that treatment with NaOCl would also be effective as a sterilant in these circumstances. It is very important to preventative treat adjacent plants as this disease is rapidly spread by water splash. Alginox® should take care of this, or a copper-based fungicide such as Kocide Blue Extra®, Yates Liquid Copper®, or products containing copper oxychloride as an active ingredient, and these can be applied to plants, benching, wall/floor/roof surfaces. The environmental control required is to increase air movement so that no plant leaves are wet for extended periods of time during the daylight hours, or overnight.

Erwinia is a particularly damaging bacterial pathogen that can quickly spread through different genera in an orchid collection, leading to the death of many plants before it can be eradicated. As noted in an earlier part of the article, sterilising media and pots before use with pool chlorine (NaOCl) can help minimise outbreaks, and drenching plants with a 4ml/litre solution can help prevent the spread of infection if it is present. This should be accompanied by cover-spraying the walls, roof, floor and benches with a 10% NaOCl solution to kill any spores present. However, treatment needs to be applied to infected

plants, which should be quarantined to minimise the spread of infection. As there are few treatments that are effective, it is prudent to excise all infected parts of the plant(s) and treat the remainder



Erwinia spp on *Paphiopedilum* plants. Source: <http://staugorchidsociety.org/culturepests-diseases-erwinia.htm>

My research revealed that substantial research has been carried out in the US dealing with *Erwinia* soft blight infections in *Paphiopedilum*s, and in commercial horticulture, for *Oncidium* and *Phalaenopsis*. The products that consistently achieved acceptable results were Kocide 300® (sold in Australia as Kocide Blue Extra®) and Kleen Grow® from PACE 49. The latter is not available in Australia, but its active ingredient, Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride is found in a range of products including Pool Magic No Metal Algae Killer® (which also includes the active ingredient in Alginox®, Benzalkonium Chloride) and Agricrop Steri-Max Biocide®. These products are relatively inexpensive and Kocide Blue Extra® can be purchased in small quantities from Bunnings (30g for less than \$10), or 10kg from suppliers including Mirco Bros at approximately \$130.

Erwinia cypripedii.

Another soft rot bacterium, this disease infects through a wound on the leaf or roots. On the leaf it starts as a small brown spot or across a cracked leaf and spreads in both directions so that it eventually reaches the crown of the plant, before spreading to the next leaf and so on until the whole growth is affected. Even new growths from the crown can be affected and turn brown and die. Often, the whole crown is affected and turns brown while the outer ends of the leaves remain green. In this instance, unless there are multiple growths with others unaffected, the plant cannot be saved. However, if caught in the early stages the leaf can be cut below the infection so that clean tissue is left, or by removing the infected section. The plant then needs to be soaked for several hours in fungicide and repeated 2-3 times every three to four days to ensure that the disease does not start again. Following treatment, the foliage should be kept dry with watering applied carefully to avoid any splash onto the leaves. Treatment with a systemic fungicide (Fongarid™) every three months can be an effective deterrent, keeping in mind the need to rotate fungicide to minimise development of resistance.

Bacterial soft rot (*Erwina carotovora*).

From my research It appears that this disease is incurable. *Cattleya* is the genus that is mostly affected by this disease but other genera can also be affected. Although a rare disease in most collections it is so destructive that removal of the plant and destroying it is the only effective solution. The disease starts as a water-soaked dark green spot appearing on the upper end of the leaf. It will break open at a slight touch, the inner tissue of the leaf is destroyed and the leaf appears flaccid and wrinkled. If the leaf breaks then the rest of the plant, bench and whole surrounding area will be contaminated by the bacterium. Clean up of the area with a strong solution of NaOCl is recommended after removing the plant.

Bacterial leaf rot (*Erwinia chrysanthemi*).

This is a relatively new disease, can be water-soaked, brownish or water-soaked with a yellowish appearance. In some genera it is translucent on the leaves, in other words you can almost see through the leaf and gradually the colour becomes darker to black and sunken. As a preventative measure it is best to spray the surrounding areas and plants with fungicide before and during wet weather. To control the disease on the plant itself remove or cut out the infected area from the leaf and treat with fungicide

As an example of just how serious this bacterial infection can be, Fire Blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) is a very serious problem for the Apple and Pear orchard industry in the US and elsewhere, but fortunately has not been able to establish a foothold in Australia, although was identified and believed to have been eradicated in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens in 1997. This species primarily affects some 75 members of the *Rosaceae* family that includes apples and pears, but fortunately, does not appear to infect orchids.

Fungal pathogens are very diverse in nature and can equally affect leaves, roots and flowers. As the most effective treatments can be specific to the pathogen, it is important to determine what the problem pathogen is before considering how to treat it. That is why it is essential to figure out what type of fungal infection you are dealing with before determining the proper way to treat it.

Cercospora sp, *Septoria sp*, *Guignardia sp* and *Phyllosticta sp*, often referred to 'leaf spots' are rust-like fungal pathogens that can affect orchids, and given their nature can be very difficult to eradicate. The first step is to remove infected leaves using sterilised cutting instruments, and disposing of the infected leaves to prevent the infection spreading from spores released by the fruiting bodies.

Phyllosticta capitalensis on Vanda

Source: <https://www.aos.org/Default.aspx?id=135>

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 9 June 2015