

# 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)



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# NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award  
September 2015  
*Maxillaria chrysantha*  
Tony & Sandy

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 13 October**

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 September 2015,

**Present:** 25 present as per the register

**Apologies:** 5 as per register

**Visitors:** Nil.

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August meeting accepted: (Mavis, John)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Tabled by Charly  
Current balance is \$2,302.06. We also have \$6,000 in a term deposit. (Ian, Andrea)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- From St Georges Cathedral with an invitation to supply orchids for their celebration of QE II's length of reign. We can not participate as our spare WA orchids will be in Mackay.

**Outwards:**

- To Trevor and Anne offering our sympathy to their troubles.

**General Business:**

- Mention was made of the Orchidup flyer about open days on the 17th & 18th of October. Several members will be travelling to Walpole to participate.
- Adrian outlined the committee suggestion to name our Cultural Award the Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award. The meeting endorsed this with acclamation.
- Reminders were given about the near future plant orders and Adrian supplied several catalogues for members to peruse.

Two plants were auctioned with Tony winning the *Phaius tankervilleae* for \$25 and Brenda winning the *Bletilla striata* "Alba" for \$12.

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Awarded to Tony & Sandy for a beautifully grown *Maxillaria chrysantha*.

**Raffle:** Ian, Peter, Tony.

**Name Badge:** Tara.

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Adjunct Associate Professor Mark Brundrett, will be our guest speaker at the October meeting, talking about his new book on South West terrestrial orchids, and his research into these fascinating plants.
- We are planning a further plant importation for late November /December 2015. This will be discussed at the September meeting when member's interest in participating will be assessed. Potential suppliers are:
  - \* Ten Shin Gardens, Taiwan
  - \* Mundiflora, Ecuador
  - \* Ool Leng Sun Orchids, Malaysia
  - \* Plantae Orchids, South Africa

URLs and lists can be viewed at <http://>

[members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Catalogues.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Catalogues.htm). Please e-mail your wish lists to [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au) after 25/9/15 and before the October general meeting.

- A plant of *Pleione formosana* in bud and a few plants of *Cymbidium lowianum* also in spike will be auctioned at the next general meeting
- Your annual membership is now overdue. 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.

**President:** Ken Jones

**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 G (dec'd)

Gordon

Maxine

Ken

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

Trevor

Neville

Noel & Eva

Tony & Mavis

Barry W (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.

- \* 25 October - Lynne, Road, Eden Hill
- \* 20 November - host wanted - please see Mavis Watkinson if you can assist.
- \* Dec - no home visit
- \* 23 January - Ezi-Gro Orchids, Lansdale

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## FOR SALE/WANTED

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Kevin Butler at Ezi-Gro Orchids was a participant in the Taiwan order, and now has a wide range of species plants that he has 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

The next inspection will be scheduled for mid-October. As per Adrian's advice at the September meeting, we are planning to import plants from an overseas supplier later this year. If you are interested in participating, please let me know on [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au), or phone 9296 718765 as soon as possible so that I can apply for permits and arrange shipment well before Christmas..

*Ken & Chris Jones*

# MONTHLY PLANT

## *Dendrobium lindleyi*

**Country of origin:** Mainland SE Asia

**Description:** Moderate size softcane *Dendrobium* species with striking yellow flowers

**Difficulty:** Easy and vigorous plant to grow and flower.

**Cost:** \$10.00

This month's plant was supplied by Sakdisri and Daughters Nursery in Thailand and was recently released from quarantine. Thanks to Tony for looking after this for the past few months.

*Dendrobium lindleyi* Steud. 1840 (syn *Dendrobium aggregatum*) is widespread through southeast Asia including Sikkim, Bhutan, north-eastern India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and southwestern China. In Thailand, this species is most commonly found in the northern highlands at 650-1400m altitude, but are also present in the south. The species is epiphytic on the trunks and branches of winter deciduous trees, and often in the canopy where they have access to more light.

This species needs high light to flower. This is particularly so for the winter months where in its natural habitat, the trees on which it grows lose their leaves. For best



Photo source: <http://picssr.com/photos/afriorchids/favorites/page96>

flowering light levels should be as high as can be tolerated without causing leaf burn. This is most likely to be up high in the brightest light area of your shadehouse/hothouse in winter. However, more shade will be needed in spring/summer.

This species appears to benefit from a rest period in winter, otherwise keikis rather than flowers may be produced. It is very suitable for slab culture if you are able to maintain humidity during the hot, dry summer months, otherwise it might be prudent to pot the plants.

*Dendrobium lindleyi* has relatively hard leathery mature leaves and while it is not particularly susceptible to insect pests or fungal pathogens, requires good air movement to minimise the risk of cotton and hard scale and two-spotted mite.

### **Graham & Margaret**

*Caladenia barbarossa*  
*Caladenia polychrome*  
*Caladenia vulgata*  
*Diuris longifolia*  
*Dockrillia banksia*  
*Pterostylis pedunculata*

### **Tony & Sandy**

*Brasilirochis chrysantha*

### **Chris**

*Cattleya loddigesii* 'Solitary Island'  
*Dendrobium gracilicaule*  
*Dendrobium nobile* var. *virginalis*  
*Phalaenopsis amabilis*  
*Phalaenopsis aphrodite*  
*Phalaenopsis equestris*

### **Maxine**

*Bulbophyllum nymphopolitanum*  
*Bulbophyllum wendlandianum*  
*Cattleya loddigesii*  
*Epidendrum nocturnum*  
*Polystachya pubescens*  
*Promenaea xanthina*

### **Adrian & Deanna**

*Dendrobium gracilicaule* 'King Midas'  
*Dendrobium jonesii*  
*Dendrobium lichenastrum*  
*Dendrobium prenticei*  
*Dendrobium trigonopus*  
*Pterostylis barbata*

### **Peter & Shirley**

*Anota violacea*

## **PLANTS DISPLAYED September 2015**



*Cattleya loddigesii*  
Chris  
Maxine  
Peter & Shirley  
John



*Bulbophyllum wendlandianum*  
Maxine

*Bletilla striata*  
*Cattleya loddigesii*  
*Dendrobium jonesii*  
*Oerstedella centradenia*  
*Rhynchosstylis gigantea*  
*Rhynchosstylis gigantea fma. alba 'Peach'*

**Courtney**  
*Cymbidium insigne*

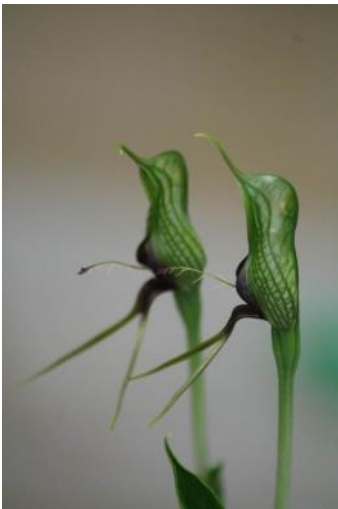
**John**  
*Cattleya loddigesii* 'Solitary Island'

**Tony & Mavis**  
*Dendrobium lindleyii*  
*Phalaenopsis aphrodite*  
*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*



*Dendrobium lindleyii*  
Tony & Mavis

## PLANTS DISPLAYED September 2015



*Pterostylis barbata*  
Adrian & Deanna



*Caladenia barbarossa*  
Graham & Margaret



## The benefits of hygienic practice in keeping your collection free of plant diseases. *Contd from September 2015*

After publishing most of this article, and seeing the after effects of a large hairy caterpillar feeding on a flower on one of my orchids, I realised that this was an obvious oversight from the earlier sections of this paper.

### *Caterpillars and similar insects*

Caterpillars and green loopers are the larvae of moths and butterflies. We all experience the hairy black caterpillars that abound in early spring. These unwanted visitors to your glasshouse are quite selective – it is likely that they will fancy the flower bud of your best and most showy orchid rather than something that is more drab or less appealing. The simplest control measure is to prevent butterflies and moths from entering your orchid growing area to lay eggs by covering the opening with flywire. However, this is not always feasible and direct action, ie removing and squashing them is possible, there is a very effective organic product Dipel® that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis*, abbreviated to Bt. This product is very effective, highly selective against most species of caterpillars and has little or no adverse effect on other beneficial insect or aquatic animals. This biological control is in fact a bacterial stomach poison for all caterpillars, mixed with water and sprayed onto foliage. It must be ingested by the actively feeding caterpillar, which dies 3-5 days later. It is totally safe to beneficial insects, bees and mammals. Bt is broken down by sunlight within a few days; so repeated applications may be necessary.

### *New directions for control of plant pathogens*

During my research for this article, I came across information about the use of biological and quasi-biological control products used in the US to deal with brown rot of *Paphiopedilum*. I have not used any of these products so cannot provide any information based on personal experience and therefore provide only that which is published and seems to have multiple author support.

The first non-chemical control that I discovered is use of a 'beneficial' fungi, *Trichoderma sp.* In the US, a product Root Shield ® is actively marketed to orchid hobbyists and professionals as part of a preventative treatment regime designed to develop plant resistance to a wide range of orchid pathogens. For example, this fungi is reported to inhibit the growth and spread of fungal pathogens including *Botrytis*, *Fusarium*, *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, and *Rhizoctonia*. In his book, *Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants* (2004), William Cullina strongly promotes the use of beneficial insects and biological plant pathogen controls as a more sustainable way of growing orchids that is less damaging to the fragile environment in which we live.

An article by F.A. Gutierrez-Miceli, T. Ayora-Talavera, M. Abud-Archila, M. Salvador-Figueroa, L. Adriano-Anaya, M.L. Arias Hernandez and L. Dendooven, 2008 titled



Acclimatization of Micropropagated Orchid *Guarianthe skinneri* Inoculated with *Trichoderma harzianum*. Asian Journal of Plant Sciences, 7: 327-330 reports a significant improvement in the survival and growth rates of *Guarianthe skinneri* seedlings ex flask after treatment with *Trichoderma harzianum*.

In Australia, a product Tricho-Shield™ available from Nutri-Tech Solutions in Queensland is a talc-based formulation containing the beneficial fungal species *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma lignorum* and *Trichoderma koningii* which the manufacturer claims promotes plant and root growth, and helps ornamental plants develop resistance to fungal and bacterial pathogens. This product is quite expensive (\$53 per kg) and has a relatively short shelf-life (3 months), along with refrigerated storage requirements..

Another US product in this arena is Cease® a foliar spray which has *Bacillus subtilis* as its active ingredient. This product is claimed to be effective against *Botrytis*, *Erwinea* and *Pseudomonas*. I found a range of broadly similar products available on -line from [Plant Health Solutions .com.au](http://PlantHealthSolutions.com.au) although these too are expensive at \$66 and up for amounts as little as 250gm.

Another product SPOREKIL® (available in Australia) is said to be environmentally friendly while helping control fungi, bacteria and it is claimed, certain viruses. The active ingredient is Didecylidimethyl-Ammoniumchloride. This product should more correctly be described as an agricultural disinfectant, but is reported to be non-phytotoxic to plants at recommended application rates. From my reading of the accompanying information sheets, it appears to perform similar functions to the pool chlorine NaOCl that I have referred to throughout this article, although is considerably more expensive. According to the article I read, the nursery trade has been using this product for many years to treat benches, pots, growing media, foot baths and treating seedlings etc. Controlling these rapidly multiplying plant diseases is challenging. For example, bacterium cells can divide and multiply themselves every 30 minutes, which means that in 24 hours a single cell could produce 281,474,956,710,656 offspring! Water is the main carrier of diseases that affect orchids including *Erwinia*, *Fusarium*, *Phytophthora*, *Pseudomonas* and *Pythium*.

## Checklist

Included with your newsletter is a checklist of plant problems and remedies. This is not exhaustive and generally uses products and remedies that I have used and found to be effective. I have also concentrated on products that are readily available and reasonably priced.

If you know of, or have used other products successfully, please let me know so that I can update this sheet and we will post it on the Society's website.

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# 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 13 October 2015**