

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 8 February 2016



Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award
December 2015
Dendrobium delacourii
Tony & Mavis

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 9 February

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

1 December 2015, 8.15pm

The meeting began with a talk and slide presentation from John Varigos about how he was able to use the vacant annexes of the Conservatory in Central Park at East Malvern (Victoria) to house his orchid collection. It has become a tourist spot and is involved in educating school students about orchids.

Present: 37 present as per the register

Apologies: 4 as per register

Visitors: Alison, John Varigos

New members: Kirsty, Joel.

Minutes: Minutes of the October meeting accepted: (Ian, Victor)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly.

Current balance is \$2,274.86. We also have \$6,000 in a term deposit. (Mavis, Ian)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Various newsletters and from the GCA about our zone and representative.

Outwards:

- GCA giving membership numbers to date for insurance purposes (form 2) and re-affiliation (form 1).
- Eric Beltrame thanking him for his donation of two sets (20 each) of monthly plants.

General Business:

- The Mundiflora order will be shipped on the 8th of December.
- All orders for the Malaysian supplier to be with Ken now!

Tom auctioned the marvellous Christmas decorations created, then donated by Gerda .

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Tony and Mavis for a prolific flowering *Dendrobium delacourii*.

Raffle: Free Christmas raffle with a plant for each family/member.

Name Badge: Brenda

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- An auction of several flowering and large flowering size species plants will be conducted at the February meeting. We have plants in spike of :
Laelia anceps Blumen Insel BM/JOGA x 'Irwin's' AM/AOS

Laelia anceps Sanbar Gloriosa x Mendenhall
Laelia anceps var. *chamberlainianum*
 and large plants (ex Orchid Species Plus)
Stanhopea panamensis
Stanhopea pulla
Schomburgkia exaltata
 and from Sakdisri, a multi-planted
Aerides odorata
 If any of these plants interest you, please come along and bid.

- See For Sale/Wanted section on page 4 for details of an auction of a member's orchid collection.
- If you haven't paid, your annual membership is now well overdue. Please pay the Treasurer at the next meeting. Should you see any members who may not regularly attend meetings, you might mention this to them.

President: Ken Jones
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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 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.

- * 28 February - Jim & Jeanine, Eden Hill
- * 27 March - Tony & Mavis, Koondoola
- * 24 April - Adrian & Deanna, Safety Bay

FOR SALE/WANTED

Les has decided the time has come to downsize his orchid collection. An auction will be held at Les and Val's home in Wanneroo at 10.00am on Saturday 13 February 2016. Tom has again offered to act as auctioneer, and a list of the orchids and other equipment to be offered for sale will be posted on http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Orchid_Auction.htm No prior sales will be allowed, and payment on the day will be by cash.



Imported plant news

The plants arrived from Ecuador on 14 December and are all potted up or mounted. Thanks to Tony for his help in unpacking plants after fumigation/dipping and Peter for the donation of natural cork slabs which have been utilised to mount plants. While there has been fumigation damage to soft leaved genera such as *Dracula* and *Masdevallia* with some 11 plants affected, the plants arrived in excellent condition and many are already showing new root growth.

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

Aerides lawrenciae

.....
Country of origin: Philippines

.....
Description: Large to very large vandaceous species. (up to 1m tall)

.....
Difficulty: Needs winter protection and some warmth during colder months.

Cost: \$10.00

This month's plant was provided by Bob & Chittima in Thailand, and following release from quarantine, has been grown on by Tony & Mavis. Some of these plants are in spike, thanks Tony & Mavis.

Aerides lawrenciae Rchb. f. 1883 is a large to very large warm to hot growing, monopodial epiphyte. It comes from the Philippines at sea-level to 500 m in bright light locations, where it can be found hanging from on tree branches often overhanging bodies of water, and occasionally on rocks and stony landslides

Specifically, it is found on Mindanao Island with collections reported in both Davao and Cotabato Provinces and on Leyte Island. Its light requirements are marginally more shade than *Vanda* spp.

This species will do best in wooden slatted or plastic baskets or slab culture as it is a large rambling, often pendant species and cannot be easily confined to a pot.



Photo source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/440367669792697919/>

This genus benefits from heavy watering to maintain high humidity when in active growth, and from regular application of fertiliser.

I have not grown this species in a shadehouse over winter, but from discussion with Peter, feel confident that it would be feasible providing protection from the cold and wet was available. The genus is generally resistant to insect pests and fungal/bacterial pathogens, although care needs to be taken to ensure that water does not sit in the top leaf axils as it can allow soft rots to flourish.

Graham & Margaret

Encyclia tampensis albolabia

Ken & Chris

Cattleya mendelii

Cryptopodium andersonii

Dendrobium delacourii

Dendrobium moschatum

Encyclia osmantha

Oncidium leucochilum

Oncidium

Physosiphon tubatus

Psychilus cordigera

Adrian & Deanna

Dendrobium tosaense

Maxillaria tenuifolia

Phalaenopsis bastianii

Pleurothallis grobyi

Smitinandia micrantha

Staurochilus gibbosocalcar

Peter & Shirley

Brassavola nodosa

Dendrobium lindleyii

Laelia purpurata

Tony & Mavis

Aerides houletiana

Dendrobium delacourii

Mystacidium braybonae

PLANTS DISPLAYED December 2015



Aerides houletiana
Tony & Mavis



Mystacidium braybonae
Tony & Mavis



Laelia purpurata
Peter & Shirley

PLANTS DISPLAYED December 2015



Cattleya mendelii
Ken & Chris



Smitinandia micrantha
Adrian & Deanna

Ecuador - An orchid lover's paradise

Continued from December 2015

Orquideario Palphinia

Three kms from Zamora, this garden has many orchids and there are other small gardens throughout the city.

Ecuador and neighbouring Colombia and Peru are the home of the distinctive *Phragmipedium besseae*. This species, which we often struggle to maintain in cultivation can be found along cliff-faces at riversides, on granite rocks and in wet montane forests.



Phragmipedium besseae Photo source http://www.orchidphotos.org/images/orchids_bad/speciesV2/Phragmipedium/phragmipediumbesseae3_165.html

Ecuador is home to some 200 species of *Maxillaria*. The following photo of *Maxillaria striata* in situ shows its habitat and the profuse flowering that some of these less commercially important species display.



Photo source: <http://kalboor.com/maxillaria>

The genus *Telipogon* is also well represented with some 50 of the total 135 species found in Ecuador. This in-situ photo of an unidentified *Telipogon spp* shows the mist forest environment which many of the Ecuadorian species thrive.



Photo source: https://c2.staticflickr.com/6/5087/5338775943_7b9857f86b_n.jpg

However, Ecuador like many other tropical and sub-tropical countries faces issues such as deforestation, habitat loss and over-collection of economically important orchid species. To combat this, local organisations committed to the preservation of wildlife seek and receive support from international donors and enthusiasts. For example, the US-based Rainforest Trust and its Ecuadorian conservation partner Fundación EcoMinga in late 2014 have together established a new reserve in the Chocó rainforest that will protect rare, newly-discovered orchids and other species of wildlife. With support from the Rainforest Trust and the University of Basel Botanical Garden, Fundación EcoMinga purchased land for a 513-acre reserve that will protect 5 species of *Dracula* orchids.

Named for the sinister face-like appearance of their flowers, the *Dracula* orchids are highly endemic with 90% of all species are found at three or fewer localities. The Chocó rainforest, which lies along the Pacific coast of Ecuador and Colombia, holds the world's highest amount of orchid diversity, especially of the genus *Dracula*. Colombia and Ecuador have about a quarter of the world's orchid species.

This region of Ecuador is one world's most biodiverse, but sadly, one of the most threatened. This reserve provides a refuge for many of the endangered and endemic species of plants and animals. Nearly a third of orchid species found in Ecuador and Colombia are threatened with extinction due to deforestation. It is likely that at least 14 *Dracula* species have become extinct as a result. Wild populations are also threatened by commercial

collectors that supply Ecuadorian and international markets. In this regard, it is important to satisfy ourselves that the suppliers we deal with comply with the highest standards and do not export wild-collected species unless they are properly authorised to do so. That said, Australia does not accept commercial imports of plants unless they are certified to be CITES Schedule ID or IIA

The Director of Fundación EcoMinga, Lou Jost said that he had not ever seen so much orchid diversity in such a small area. The reserve will also protect habitat for many endemic bird species, including the Long-wattled Umbrella bird.

EcoMinga is also negotiating the purchase of additional properties to expand the Dracula Orchid Reserve and protect new *Dracula* and *Lepanthes* species that have only recently been discovered and identified.

Rainforest Trust acknowledges its donors and partners that helped raise funds for this reserve, especially Luanne Lemmer and Eric Veach, the University of Basel Botanical Garden and the Quito Orchid Society.

Rainforest Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization focused on saving rainforest and endangered species in partnership with local conservation leaders and indigenous communities. Since founding in 1988, Rainforest Trust has saved nearly 8 million acres of rainforest and other tropical habitats and has 85 projects across 22 countries.

Fundación EcoMinga is an Ecuadorian nonprofit conservation organisation that

establishes strategic, science-based reserves to protect unique ecosystems containing important clusters of locally-endemic plants and animals. Its focus is on Andean cloud forests, the bioregion with the greatest amount of endemism. The organisation has protected almost 12,000 acres of habitat in eight reserves

Our recent import of Ecuadorian orchids came from Mundiflora. Their website at <http://www.mundiflora.com/> refers to their conservation credentials and commitment to CITES principles. They say

It is important to enhance that Mundiflora is a company that goes into the Regulations and Vigentes laws in Ecuador, thanks to this, it obtained the Scientist Permit of Investigation given from the Minister of the Environment of Ecuador (MAE) for the Wild Flora rescue. Thanks to this permit, our company will nearly be able to offer you a better diversity of plants, which one will be reproduced and cultivated in our nursery. We have to emphasize that our goal is not only to increase economic benefits, indeed the company has promised to reintroduce about 10% of the species that it reproduced into the natural environment, in order to help their saving and conservation.

VISION

Mundiflora is a model of familiar company for which homes have become a place of nature and beauty through flowers and ornaments plant, obtained by an efficient quality process, using efficient brand new reproductive technology, in harmony with the environment, which is based on motivated clients, faith and satisfied in and over the country. It also contribute to the society's

development thanks to the ecologic truism program which let spread natural and cultural Ecuadorian wealth. His staff, highly motivated and qualified, always act aimed to a constant practice of value.

MISSION

To form an harmonious staff of collaborators able to interact into an harmonious environment with their customers, inmate or external, dealing with a deep respectful behavior to nature and human being, using flowers and ornament plants beauty as the most effective way to bring happiness at home.

OUR VALUES:

HONESTY

ETHICS

PERSEVERANCE

SOLIDARITY

When I met with Magali Portilla at the WOC in Johannesburg in 2014, these were among the matters that we discussed. I told her that wherever possible, our Species Society is committed to conservation of wild orchid populations. I was reassured by our conversation that they were not selling illegally collected wild orchids, and the quality of plants that we recently received confirmed this to be the case.

Hopefully, this short account will whet your appetite to visit Ecuador for the 20th WOC in November 2016. Several WA orchid growers have already decided to attend. Not only will there be an incredible display of South American orchids (particularly species), there are excellent tours available including those arranged by both Mundiflora and Ecuagenera

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 February