

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 9 March 2016

NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award
February 2016
Bulbophyllum emiliorum
Maxine

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8 March

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 February 2016, 7.35pm

Present: 27 present as per the register

Apologies: 5 as per register

Visitors: Nil

New members:

Minutes: Minutes of the October meeting accepted (Paul, Tom)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly . Current balance is \$2,098.55. We also have \$6,000 in a term deposit. (Mavis, Noel)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Nil.

Outwards:

- Nil.

General Business:

- The President thanked Norm for opening the hall in the absence of Graham & Margaret who are away on holiday.
- Tony advised members about the import of plants from APOC in Thailand. Ken advised members that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources permit now allowed all plants to be dipped.
- Ken advised members that Lesley had donated Barry's orchid book collection to the Society.
- Ken reminded members about the auction of Les' plants at the weekend.
- Ken and Adrian advised members that it had been suggested that a meeting be held in January. A show of hands indicated that the majority of members

were in favour as there is now a long gap between the Christmas meeting in early December and the February meeting.

Tom very successfully auctioned ten plants raising \$251:

Stanhopea inodora - Paul (50% of sale price to Peter)

Aerides odorata - Sue

Laelia anceps - Judith

Laelia anceps - Hugo

Laelia anceps - Judith

Laelia anceps - Siva

Laelia anceps - Noel

Schomburgkia exaltata - Judith

Stanhopea pulla - Paul

Stanhopea panamensis - Chris

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Maxine for her mounted plant of *Bulbophyllum emiliorum*.

Raffle: Lynne, Chris, Noel, Jim..

Name Badge: Lynne

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Given the positive response by members to participation in the Inter-Society Workshop and Display to be held in Busselton on 6-7 August 2016, we would like to form a sub-committee

to plan and stage the display. Please speak to a committee member if you are able to help with this.

- Our AGM will be held in May. Please give some thought to nominating to join the committee. For the health of groups like ours, new people and ideas are essential for long-term survival. As we do not stage shows, committee-membership of the Species Society is not a significant impost on a member's time. We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at a member's home.
- Thank you to our enthusiastic (and highly effective) auctioneer Tom, members who helped out and the bidders at Les and Val's auction. It was very successful and made considerably more than we had estimated.
- Lesley has generously donated a number of Barry's orchid books. As the Society already has the majority in its library, they will be placed on a table for members to take. If members wish to do so, they could make a donation to the Species Society.
- If you haven't yet 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.

Quiet Achievers

2013	Ian
2014	Chris
2015	Margaret

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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)

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.

- * 27 March - Adrian & Deanna, Safety Bay
- * 1 May - Tony & Mavis, Koondoola
- * 29 May - Gerda & Charly, Sinagra

FOR SALE/WANTED



Imported plant news

Unfortunately, some further mortality has occurred in the Ecuador plants as a result of the 5 days over 40°C that occurred in early February. I will arrange a release inspection of these plants in March before Tony's group returns. The shipment of plants from APOC in Thailand is due late March. Subject to getting a good proportion of the Ecuador plants released in March, and the number of plants that Tony's group brings back, I will schedule shipment of plants from Malaysia for late April.

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

Brassia maculata

Country of origin: Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica

Description: Medium size

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

Cost: \$7.00

This month's plant was purchased from Peter and has been grown on by Adrian & Dee. Some of these plants are in flower as the picture above demonstrates.

Brassia maculata R Brown 1813, the type species for the genus is a moderate sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte and occasional lithophyte commonly found growing in detritus over rocks, trees and rotten fallen logs, generally at less than 750m although occasionally up to 1.100m in broad-leaved forests.

Species in the genus *Brassia* are commonly known as spider orchids given the large, spider-like flowers. In their natural habitat, they are pollinated by female spider-hunter wasps that mistake them for spiders and "sting" the lip prior to attempting to drag the anaesthetised victim away to a nest to lay an egg in the body of what the wasp believes to be a spider. During this process, the pollen is



Photo source: Adrian

transferred to the head of the wasp. Eventually, unable to drag away its victim, the wasp abandons the attempt and moves on to another flower.

This species needs year-round high air movement otherwise it can quite rapidly succumb to fungal pathogens that rapidly spread through the plant. Similarly, filtered light is required throughout the year for vigorous growth and flowering. Cattleya conditions will be ideal for this species.

These plants have been grown in a shadehouse, so do not need heat during winter, but should be kept drier and under cover to prevent them from becoming waterlogged.

Bark potting media has proven to be the easiest way to grow these orchids which are generally vigorous, although if high humidity can be provided in summer, slab mounts or wooden baskets should also be effective.

Maxine

Bulbophyllum deareii
Bulbophyllum emiliorum

Ken & Chris

Cattleya loddigesii
Cattleya maxima
Eulophia petersii
Phalaenopsis pulchra

Peter & Shirley

Brassavola nodosa fma. *dawsonii*
Catasetum tenebrosum 'Mac'
Lycaste aromatica
Stanhopea inodora

Victor

Aeranthes grandiflora

Noel & Eva

Cattleya mossiae

Tony & Mavis

Brassavola cucullata
Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica
Vanda tessellata

PLANTS DISPLAYED February 2016



Brassavola cucullata
Tony & Mavis



Bulbophyllum deareii
Maxine



Eulophia petersii
Ken & Chris

PLANTS DISPLAYED February 2016



Cattleya maxima
Ken & Chris



Brassavola nodosa fma *Dawsonii*
Peter & Shirley

STANHOPEAS by Bill Mather

Given the level of interest in this genus demonstrated by bidding at the last general meeting, the following article from the Orchid Society Council of Victoria <http://www.oscov.asn.au/articles/stanhope.htm> is published in this newsletter. I have added photos of the species mentioned in the article, and from next month, will cover some additional members of this interesting genus

There are approximately sixty species in the genus *Stanhopea*, all native to central America from Mexico south to Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. They are mainly found growing on steep mountain sides, trees and rocks but there are also a few terrestrial species. Although some of these species grow near sea level, others are found at altitudes up to 5000 m, so by no means are they all warm growers and some thrive in Melbourne in conditions suited ideally for cymbidiums. My *Stanhopeas* grow in baskets lined with paperbark and are suspended about 500 mm below the shade cloth roof (50% shade factor) of my Cymbidium house during both summer and winter.

Stanhopeas grown in shadehouses generally flower in summer or autumn. Usually the first flower 'spears' (flower spikes) emerge from beneath the basket in late spring and take about two months to develop fully. Flowering is spectacular - the flower 'spears' emerge from the base of the mature pseudobulbs, pierce the liner of the basket and eventually the buds burst open (sometimes with an audible pop) in early morning. A heavy, sweet fragrance is immediately released. The flowers last for

only three days, which in nature gives the pollinator (a bee) little time to have his wicked way. The grower faces the same time constraint to show his plant at an orchid meeting! Transporting your plant to a meeting is not difficult, although it requires some ingenuity. Select a deep box or bucket which is a little wider than your basket and thrust two stakes horizontally through it just below the rim. These stakes will support the basket so that the inflorescence will dangle safely within the box or bucket. Some fore-thought is also necessary as to how your exhibit will be displayed - either on your own stand or by propping the basket on its side on the bench.

The genus *Stanhopea* was founded on *Stan. insignis* when that flamboyant orchid flowered at Kew Gardens in 1828-1829, and there are about sixty other species. Natural hybrids are rare because, although different *Stanhopea* species may flower side by side, each has its own perfume which attracts a different species of bee. Also the precise dimensions of the fertilisation path that the bee follows down the lip limits the size of the bee and the pollen mass that the bee can carry away.

Some *Stanhopea* species are quite variable in colour and markings. The species most commonly benched in Melbourne are *Stan. nigroviolacea*, *Stan. tigrina* and *Stan. wardii*.

The flowers of *Stan. tigrina* are larger and the tiger stripes are made up of an aggregation of red spots.



Photo source: <http://www.sborchid.com/plantdisplay.php?ocode=STAN1671>

The red spots on the flowers of *Stan. nigroviolacea* are randomly distributed on the tepals and the base of these cream-coloured segments is covered by an intense "bull's-blood" red.



Photo Source: http://stanhopea.autrevie.com/stanhopea_nigroviolacea.html

Stan wardii has 5-10 medium-sized, golden flowers covered with fine red spots with a conspicuous eye spot at the base of the lip



Photo source: http://www.autrevie.com/Stanhopea/stanhopea_wardii.html

More important than flower count, size or colour, the shape of the lip is the main basis on which taxonomists separate the *Stanhopea* species. The lip is considered in three obvious sections – the hypochile (the bulky perfumed part at the top where the lip meets the base of the column), the mesochile (the short middle section which carries the horns) and the epichile (the piece at the end, which is more or less heart-shaped). The hypochile is the source of the perfume which attracts the pollinator, a particular species of bee. Having invaded the hypochile, drunk the nectar and over-indulged, the bee slides down the chute formed by the horns of the mesochile to the epichile, in the process having the pollinia attached to its metathorax by a sticky glue.

This article draws on an excellent book, *Those Astonishing Stanhopeas*, published in 1998 by Barney Greer, who resides in Sydney and who is internationally recognised as an authority on the genus *Stanhopea*.

The Genus *Stanhopea* was established by Sir William Hooker in 1829, on publication of *Stanhopea insignis* in the Botanical Magazine. The genus was named for the Rt Hon. Philip Henry Stanhope, Earl of Stanhope who was President of the Medico-Botanical Society of London 1829-1837. Stanhopeas are found throughout Central and South America and are pollinated by euglossine bees.

According to Rudolf Jenny, a well-recognized taxonomist for this genus and author of an authoritative monograph, the genus *Stanhopea* is allied to the following genera: *Acineta*; *Acropera* (*Gongora*); *Archivea*; *Braemia*; *Cirrhaea*; *Coryanthes*; *Embreea*; *Endresella* (*Trevoria*); *Gongora*; *Horichia*; *Houlletia*; *Kegeliella*; *Lacaena*; *Lueddemannia*; *Lycomormium*; *Paphinia*; *Peristeria*; *Polycycnis*; *Schlimia*; *Sievekingia*; *Soterosanthus*; *Stanhopeastrum*; *Trevoria* and *Vasquezziella*.

Stanhopea and related genera have large, pleated leaves and incredible flowers that have complex structures and mechanisms for pollination. These range from walkways for insects to containers of watery solution. Generally, inflorescences grow downward and plants must be potted in hanging baskets or similar containers. The flowers generally have a spicy fragrance, and unfortunately are short-lived - some only for one day. However, well-grown plants will flower more frequently than once a year. The related genera of *Paphinia* and *Peristeria* require warmer temperatures and generally produce upright inflorescences.

This genus requires bright, direct, diffused sunlight. They are best grown suspended given their pendulous inflorescences, and this helps place them in brighter light. The preferred light level is 3000 foot candles or 32,300 lux (similar to that for good *Cattleya* culture).

This genus prefers moderate summer and winter temperature in the range 10°-15°C night and 20°-24° daytime. However, as we have seen recently in Perth, these plants can withstand higher temperatures provided

air movement, humidity and shading are increased. Light levels that are too high, or long periods of high temperature will inevitably lead to leaf burn and damage to your plants..

Abundant water to encourage growth during spring, summer and autumn, with protection during the cold, wet winter months will help develop strong pseudobulbs and minimise foliar spotting. This genus can be very susceptible to salt accumulation in the media, so should be kept moist at all times, even in winter, and watered heavily in the other seasons to flush out salts. *Stanhopea* are slow to make new root growth so careful management of water and fertiliser is critical.

Regular fertiliser application will promote growth and flowering. For plants grown in bark media, a rotation of high nitrogen NPK and balanced NPK in spring, and high potassium NPK in the summer flowering period, supplemented by organic fertiliser and plant tonic seems to encourage robust growth and free flowering.

Re-potting is most effective after summer flowering as in Perth, this genus grows all year. An open mix that retains some moisture (it can include perlite or chopped sphagnum moss to increase water-holding) and large baskets containing big plants will reward the grower with most flowers. Vigorous plants may require repotting every three years, or when the basket liner breaks down. Care should be taken when splitting up *Stanhopea* plants to ensure that the resultant individual plants are large enough to support multiple new growths .

Cont. 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 8 March