

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 29 No 2 July 2017

NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award June 2017
Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica
Tony & Mavis

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 July

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 June 2017, 7.50pm

Present: 30 present as per the register

Apologies: 8 as per register

Visitors: Karl

New members: Andrea .

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting accepted (Lynne, Noel)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Charly provided the financial report. Current balance is \$5,559.77, plus \$6,000 in a term deposit. (Ray, Paul)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Victorian Orchid Spectacular (25th to 27th Aug),
- WAOS bulletin #5,
- Roster for Sales table at WAOS,
- Dept of Commerce (new rules).

Outwards:

- Dept of Commerce,
- Pat Jackson,
- GCA form #4 from the AGM.

General Business:

- Good wishes were moved to Trevor.
- The rules need to have our society name as the first point so also require renumbering. The amended rules will be presented for approval at the August general meeting.
- The decommissioning of the quarantine house is not a simple matter. The last inspection of plants will be on the 29/6.
- The society has pre-ordered quite a lot of plants/flasks from WAOS vendors.

Please order as soon as possible, through Ken, and using the lists on the WAOS web site.

- We have bought a number of plants from Ezi-Gro Orchids for raffles and monthly plants.
- At the WAOS we will have volunteers at the sales table. Rosters to which you can add your name will be on the Society website for those available to assist with this event.
- The plants ordered from Eric Beltrame are in Welshpool.
- Thanks were given to Ken for his efforts at the Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Tony and Mavis for their *Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*.

Raffle: not applicable - Silent Auction.

Name Badge: Jo & Sue

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The new rules that were accepted at the May Annual General meeting have been approved by the Department of Consumer Affairs subject to the inclusion of the Society name.
- The Silent Auction was successful generating \$450 for the Society. Thanks to the members who donated plants and items for sale, and to the members who made bids for the lots. Some very happy members went home

with more plants for their collections.

- The display layout was demonstrated at the June 29 home visit at Ken & Chris' home. Members in attendance were very supportive of the sub-committees efforts.
- All the orchid societies that are members of WAROO have been asked to accept responsibility for one or more of the major volunteer activities at WAOS. The Species Orchid Society has accepted responsibility for co-ordinating the public demonstration program, supporting vendors who are also delivering formal lectures for registrants and providing people on the show floor to answer questions from members of the general public. The roster will be available at the July meeting, and is on the Species Society website for you to nominate the times/dates that you can assist.
- In preparation for the Species Society display at WAOS, Ken is preparing all new plant labels that will be consistent the theme. Please advise Ken of any plants that you might have in flower for the display, either at the July meeting or by e-mail. It won't be possible to print any labels after 28 July, so please make sure you get your details to Ken well before then.
- If you are planning to sell plants at WAOS, plant sales sheets and price slips can be downloaded from the Society's website.

Quiet Achievers

- 2013 Ian
- 2014 Chris
- 2015 Margaret
- 2016 Tom & Pat
- 2017 Charly & Gerda

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Chris Peter

Maxine Tony

Michele 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.

* 30 July - Ray & Peta, Bullsbrook

* 27 August - Rod and Heather, Woodvale

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

The final inspection took place on 30 June. A further 25 plants were released, 6 were transferred and the remainder 32 destroyed. Plant owners have been sent photos of the plants that were not released, some of which had been in quarantine for more than 12 months. Those transferred were by special arrangement between the owner and another facility in WA.

Ken & Chris

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya purpurata var *carnea*

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: A large, robust species, often up to 70cm tall.

Difficulty: Relatively easy species to grow in shadehouse conditions with winter

Cost: \$10 .00

This month's plant comes from Ezi-Gro Orchids, and has been grown from flask material imported by Kevin.

Cattleya purpurata Beer 1854 (formerly known as *Laelia purpurata*) is responsible for much of the large-flowered purple hybrid *Cattleya* breeding, and is one of the largest flowering of the genus with up to 5 flowers per raceme. Flowers can be up to 12cm in size.

Lindley was responsible in 1848 for the inclusion of this species in the genus *Laelia* despite its origin in Brazil rather than Mexico, and the number of pollinia.

This species is found from Santa Catarina to Porto Alegre in southern Brazil. It is primarily epiphytic in the coastal zone, with the heaviest populations in heavy forest along watercourses below 200m altitude. In Grande do Sul plants grow on large old trees a bit inland from the sea, in Santa Catarina they are found on scrubby



Photo source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphodir/laeliapurpuratavarcarnea.jpg>

vegetation growing on rocky hills directly facing the sea, and in São Paulo they grow in swampy areas.

Originally very common throughout its range, excessive collection and habitat destruction has meant that relatively few plants are left in the wild. These are mostly found in very tall trees in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

This autumn free-flowering species has many colour variants, with some of the rarer forms selling for very high prices. The *carnea* form is predominantly white with attractive red flaring in the labellum.

This vigorous and robust species is easy to grow and flower, and provided some winter protection is available for small seedlings, they should flower in a few years. Generally resistant to insect pests and plant pathogens, cotton scale can be a problem if air movement is not adequate

Ken & Chris

Dendrobium mortii
Dendrochilum saccolabium
Laelia anceps
Oncidium ornithorhynchum
Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Stenoglottis longifolia

Peter

Cattleya labiata 'Tipo'
Dendrobium mortii
Laelia anceps
Paphiopedilum insigne
Paphiopedilum insigne var sanderae
Zelenkoa onusta

Tara

Cattleya percivaliana

Tony & Mavis

Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica
Phalaenopsis sumatrana
Stenorrhynchos speciosum
Vanda tessellata
Zelenkoa onusta

PLANTS DISPLAYED June 2017



Laelia anceps
Ken & Chris
Peter



Paphiopedilum insigne
Peter



Paphiopedilum insigne
var. sanderae
Peter

PLANTS DISPLAYED June 2017



Stenorrhynchos speciosum
Tony & Mavis



Vanda tessellata
Tony & Mavis

Photography by Tony

WAOS VENDOR UPDATE

We now have a total of nine vendor lists on the WAOS website http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/WAOS_Vendors.htm

The latest additions are Mainly Species (Marni Turkel) and Tinonee Orchids (Ray Clements).

Mainly Species - Marni Turkel

Marni is one of our international speakers and vendors, and is well known for her extensive collection of species orchids from which she produces most of her flask material. She has many photos on her website <http://marniturkel.com/mostlyspecies/spec.list.html> of the flasks that she is bringing to WAOS.

Marni started flasking in 2009, and as we all have, found there is much to learn about these plants and the process of growing from seed. Marni says "though I've learned a great deal, there is so much more to know". Marni tries to produce the very best seedlings that she can so that her customers have the best chance of successfully growing them to flowering.

Marni sells only her own material and tries to propagate species that interest her and deserve a wider audience. She also has a few hybrids in her list. Unless otherwise noted, she tries to set 25 seedlings per flask.

If you still want to pre-order, please e-mail Marni as soon as possible at marni@marniturkel.com. She may be able to bring the flasks that you want, but needs to have your pre-order by early July.

Tinonee Orchids - Ray Clements

Ray has been a great friend of WA orchid hobbyists for many years and regularly attends events as a speaker and vendor, and is again a lecturer for WAOS.

Ray and Lorraine Clement established Tinonee Orchid Nursery in 1984 after moving. Starting small, the business grew until in 1987, they opened to visitors on Saturdays. Over the years, their business continued to grow and eventually hired additional staff to meet the demand of a full-time business.

Tinonee Orchid Nursery specialises in the breeding and propagation of many orchid genera including Australian species and hybrids as well as exotic species and hybrids.

Many orchids grow in the Manning Valley within a short distance from the nursery. Naturally, it is these orchids that Tinonee Orchids have specialised in propagating. Fifth and sixth generation hybrids are now available to growers.

However, like many of us, Ray and Lorraine are not getting any younger, and have been advised that they need to slow down.

Ray will be sending plants across and his list has many interesting Australian and exotic species and hybrids, plus a range of Paphiopedilum hybrids and species. Pre-orders will be accepted up to 15 July so you don't have much time to get your pre-order in to Ray phone 02 6553 1012 or e-mail orchids@tinoneeorchids.com.

Unusual and surprising orchids and their reproductive biology

Orchids have some of the most unusual and surprising, as well as some the most sublime flowers of all the flowering plants. But, as the late Professor Julius Sumner-Miller would say “why is this so”.

It is not accidental. Flowers primarily have only one purpose, that is, to attract a pollinator. While they are attractive to us, we are not part of the evolutionary process that has been going on for thousands of years.

Accepting that notion that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, for this article, I will focus on the unusual, sometimes bizarre but always interesting orchid flowers.

For those among us using the internet and social media, you will have seen images of some of the following orchid flowers. I thought that it might be helpful to find out a little more about some of these species, and if possible, why their flowers are the way that they are.

Let's start with the Monkey Face orchid. *Dracula simia* is a south eastern Ecuadorean and Peruvian species that occurs in cloud forests from 1,000 - 2,000m as a small sized, cool growing epiphyte. It has 10-15cm successively flowering inflorescence with large flowers resembling a monkey's face. A mature plant will have many racemes in flower at the same time



Photo source: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-vRihdx45SqY/T9ChnXI3vDI/AAAAAAAAAVrY/OWqrrEcFiSI/w1200-h630-p-k-no-nu/monkey+orchid+.jpg>

One of the most recognisable, and unique features of a *Dracula spp* flower is a lip that resembles an inverted mushroom cap. For this reason, biologists suspected that *Dracula* orchids mimic mushrooms to attract pollinators, and that these pollinators are most likely to be insects that will at least spend, but most likely complete their life cycles on mushrooms. The majority of this genus have narrowly restricted distributions and are found in forest with very little or no external intervention. Loreno Endara had always wondered what were the pollinators for these species, and why were those pollinators, most likely insects, attracted to the flower?

She wanted to understand whether there were differences in the pollinator frequency of widespread vs. narrow spread endemics,

and studied *Dracula* species in the Los Cedros Biological Reserve where fourteen *Dracula* species are known.

After many hours of field work, she was able to confirm that small dipterans (flies) of the genus *Zygothrica* remove and deposit pollinia loads on the *Dracula* species studied. The *Zygothrica* flies (superficially similar to the fruit flies) complete part of their life cycle on mushroom surfaces, where they breed, lay eggs and in some cases they feed on mushroom tissues or yeasts that grow on the mushroom surfaces. Other *Dracula* species are pollinated by small flies in the same genus.

Another orchid flower with more than a passing resemblance to an insect (its pollinator) is the Bee Orchid, *Ophrys apifera* that closely resembles a female bumblebee in the act of visiting the pink flower. This species also has a pheromone that smells much like orange blossom.



Photo source: <https://featuredcreature.com/6-amazing-orchids-that-look-just-like-animals/>

This mechanism has been developed by this orchid to attract its principal pollinator, the male solitary bee. The lip of this orchid's flower resembles a female of a species of solitary bee (*Eucera* spp.; *Hymenoptera*; *Anthophoridae*) sitting on the flower. Male solitary bees attempt to 'mate' with the female, and during this process, the pollinia are detached and adhere to the male bee which flies to the next flower where the pollinia are detached and adhere to the stigma.

However, in some areas (particularly in the UK), the solitary bee has become extinct, largely as a result of habitat distraction and the spread of other bees which have replaced them. The orchid has adapted and in many parts of the UK, is now self-pollinating. When the pollinia is ready, wind action blows it onto the stigma pollinating the flower. This process is called autogamy. But as we know, this evolution will only delay the inevitable decline and extinction of the species.

Western Australia has an orchid that also mimics its pollinator. Orchids in the genus *Drakaea* (Hammer orchids) use a combination of physical and chemical cues to attract their pollinator. The flowers of this orchid physically resemble female wasps in the genus *Zaspilothynnus* (*Tiphiidae*) and release a chemical that mimics a mating pheromone of the female wasp. As the male wasp attempts to mate with the flower, they make contact with the pollinia which adheres to their abdomen. When they go to the next flower, the pollen is transferred. *Cont. next month*

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 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 member's 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 generating funds.

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 11 July