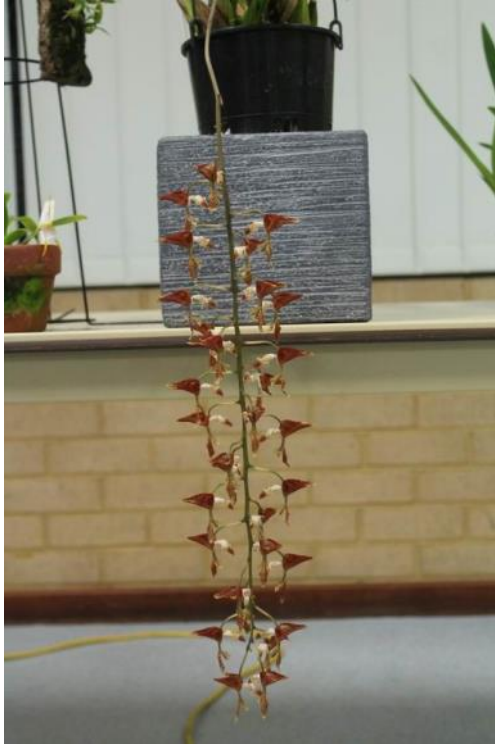


THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



Vol 29 No 3 August 2017



Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award July 2017
Gongora rufescens
Siva

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8 August

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 June 2017, 7.50pm

Present: 37 present as per the register

Apologies: 3 as per register

Visitors: Nil

New members: Jo .

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting accepted (Jacqui, Lynne)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Charly provided the financial report. Current balance is \$5,438.04 plus \$6,000 in a term deposit. (Ken, Tony)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- WAOS final letter,
- WAOS Bulletin #6,
- GCA Bulletin
- AOC renewal of membership (\$100),
- Native Orchid News for July,
- Notice of Special Resolution for the 8th August GM.

Outwards:

- Nil.

General Business:

- Ken was congratulated and thanked for the use of his quarantine house and its enormous contribution to our Society.
- Ken outlined the addition to our new rules (Rule 2) to put in the name of our Society. The members at the August GM will vote on these rules.
- If you have plants for the WAOS display tell Ken by the 21st of July so that labels can be made.
- If you are a volunteer you need to be

on a roster somewhere. Try to get to the orientation meeting at 6pm on Wednesday the 19th of July.

- Our trailer will be unloaded at 8am on Friday the 4th of August and we will need a few people to help unload it.
- Plants for our display can be given to Ken after 9:30am that day. Plants for judging need to be there at 8am.
- The photo competition closes on the 14th of July.
- A letter needs to be written to the AOC to show our support for Grahame Zerbe's nomination for president.
- Courtney spoke about the Cymbidium Show in August. It is now called The Spring Orchid Show. There is a meeting of participants at the Rogasch residence on the 20th of July. Volunteers were called for a fund raising BBQ at the Cannington Bunnings on Saturday the 12th of August with roster times of 7 to 10, 10 to noon, noon to 2 and 2 to 4. Ken will be running our sales table – his way.
- Ken and Chris Jones were thanked for the last home visit. Ray and Peta will host the one on the 30th of July..

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Siva for his plant of *Gongora rufescens*

Raffle: Ian, Ian, Maxine, Murray, Ken, Tara, Lina & Courtney.

Name Badge: Sue.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- By the time that we meet on Tuesday 8 August, the WA Orchid Spectacular will be over. The enthusiastic support of Western Australian orchid growers and interstate and overseas registrants and vendors, and by the general public is appreciated. Thank you to all our members who helped out over the weekend, and helped us create another memorable display.
- The Spring Orchid Show will take place at Cannington on 26 and 27 August. We will be putting on a display using the props from WAOS. Please let Ken know if you have any plants that might be in flower for the display.
- Members that wish to sell plants can do so. Ken will be managing this and you need to contact Ken if you wish to participate. A 10% commission will be charged to cover the Species Society contribution to the cost of staging the show.

Quiet Achievers

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

President: Adrian

Vice President: Paul

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Committee:

Kirsty Sharon

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.

- * 27 August - Rod and Heather, Woodvale
- * 1 October - Graham & Margaret, Hamersley
- * 29 October - Lynne, Eden Hill
- * 26 November - Charly & Gerda, Sinagra

FOR SALE/WANTED

Imported plant news

Our quarantine facility is now closed. Further imports of plants will now need to be flasks or plants from the Eastern States and local nurseries. *Ken & Chris*

MONTHLY PLANT

Oeceoclades spathulifera

Country of origin: Madagascar

Description: Terrestrial species that is grown for the attractively patterned leaves

Difficulty: Winter protection.

Cost: \$12.00

This month's plant is *Oeceoclades spathulifera* that was purchased from Tinonee Orchids and has been grown on by Peter.

Oeceoclades spathulifera (H.Perrier) Garay & P.Taylor 1976 (the genus name is pronounced ee-see-oh-klah-deez) is a species from in north-western Madagascar, where it grows in seasonally dry sandy forests and on coastal dunes over limestone at 30-900m. This area is covered with montane woodlands.

Oeceoclades spathulifera is a medium sized, warm growing terrestrial with subterranean, flattened, ovoid pseudobulbs carrying 2 to 3, elliptic-linear, green with darker green-blackish spotted leaves. The flowers that appear in late spring and early summer on an erect, basal, simple, several flowered inflorescence are insignificant and the species is principally grown for its



Photo source: <http://www.orchidsdeluxe.com/images/>

attractively patterned foliage as its common name the Shining Spots *Oeceoclades* indicates.

As it is a terrestrial species, it is best grown in a terrestrial mix. This could be premium quality potting mix, sphagnum moss, perlite, or coarse sand or some hydroponic media.

This species will grow in our conditions outside a glasshouse, but I believe will need winter protection as the western side of Madagascar is dry (and hot in summer) compared with the eastern seaboard and central plateau rainforest.

Tony & Sandy

Dendrobium bigibbum var. *compactum*
Paphiopedilum spicerianum

Ken & Chris

Barkeria whartonian
Bulbophyllum spp
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Dendrochilum convallariaeforme
Paphiopedilum spicerianum
Paphiopedilum tranlienianum
Paphiopedilum villosum
Restrepia cymbula

Peter

Comparettia coccinea
Laelia anceps var. *veitchiana*
Paphiopedilum insigne
Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sander*

Tara

Isochilus aurantiacus
Isochilus linearis
Laelia anceps var. *veitchiana*

Siva

Comparettia speciosa
Dinema polybulbon
Gongora rufescens
Masdevallia mejiana
Prosthechea boothiana

Tony & Mavis

Phalaenopsis bellina
Stenorrhynchos speciosum
Zelenkoa onusta

PLANTS DISPLAYED July 2017



Bulbophyllum spp
Ken & Chris



Isochilus linearis
Tara



Masdevallia mejiana
Siva

Dinema polybulbon
Siva



PLANTS DISPLAYED July 2017



Comparettia speciosa
Siva



Gongora rufescens (close up)
Siva

Photography by Tony

Unusual and surprising orchids and their reproductive biology

The Mediterranean terrestrial species *Orchis simia* and *Orchis italica* also resemble monkeys, although are more reminiscent of naked hanging little men. The appearance is of cute little bodies hanging from the flowers, which are usually grey, white, pink, purple or reddish.



Photo source: <https://au.pinterest.com/pin/152348399867634556/?lp=true>

Orchis simia was first discovered in France in 1779 and can be found from southern England down to northern Africa and as far east as Iran.

It used to be a common orchid in UK but widespread clearing and de-vegetation since 1920 have made it much rarer and difficult to find.

It is a perennial and flowers from May until June each year. Like many of our Australian terrestrial orchids, it has two oval tubers from which its genus name orchis from the orchidaceae family is derived. In Greek, *orchis* is the word for testicle.

Now, it is only known from two locations in Kent and two sites in Oxfordshire. It was common in the Thames Valley about 150 years ago. Fortunately, *Orchid italica* is still widespread in the Mediterranean countries.

Pecteilis radiata, [Thunb.] Raf. 1836 (syn *Habenaria radiata*) is found in China, Japan, Korea and Russia in forest glades at 1,500 m as a small to medium sized, erect, cold growing terrestrial with small, ovoid or ellipsoid tubers.

It is known by the common name the White Egret Orchid and as the Fringed Orchid, Crane Orchid or Sagiso and is one of the most well known Japanese species. It has up to 3 showy white flowers as the photo on the following page illustrates The flowers are up to 4cm across.

Unfortunately, *Pecteilis radiata* has become endangered in the wild due to habitat destruction, and is not easy to grow in captivity.



Photo source: <https://dengarden.com/gardening/unusual-orchids>

Fortunately, it can still be found in private orchid collector's gardens, and in some non-urbanised mountain areas over 500m as well as in protected Japanese bogs where people are allowed to view the flowers.

A number of variegated leaf forms are in production. Some have white margins on the leaves while others have variegated leaves with yellow/green variegation. There is also a peloric flower form with the cultivar name 'Hishou' in Japanese. In this instance, the peloric form has the petals replaced by a further two labellums creating a stunning symmetrical flower. This cultivar is rarely seen outside Japan, and the species itself demands special conditions and attention if mature flowering plants are to survive in cultivation for more than one or two seasons. Fortunately due to the liberal production of new tubers each season, the number of plants is easy to increase.



Photo source: <http://botanyboy.org/wp-content/uploads/HabenariaRadiataHishouFLS.jpg>

Caleana major R Bria a unique Australian species from Queensland to Tasmania . As the photo on the following page demonstrates, it strongly resembles a duck in flight.

It is widespread and common, and forms sparse vegetative colonies in open forest and heathland on gravel or sandy soil. Pollination is undertaken by male sawflies that attempt to mate with the labellum, another instance of pseudocopulation in endemic Australian species.

This and the following species rely on the beneficial association with a very specific mycorrhizal fungi often found with Australian terrestrial orchids.



Photo source: <http://worldoffloweringplants.com/caleana-major-flying-duck-orchid/>

Paracaleana minor (R.Br.) Blaxell 1972 (formerly *Caleana minor*) is known as the small duck orchid and has up to seven flowers on each raceme. It shares habitat with and resembles the somewhat larger *Caleana major*. However, these plants are seldom noticed because of their small size.

The habitat occupied by this species varies between open rocky areas on sloping ground. Generally, it is found with other grasses and smaller trees.



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

In common with *Caleana major* it is often found growing at the base of eucalyptus trees, and its flower too is structured for insect pollination, although some populations produce viable asexually set seed.

In Western Australia, we find the Hammer Orchids. The genus *Drakaea*, all species of which are endemic to Western Australia use pheromones and mimicry to attract their *Thynnine* wasp pollinators. What is even more incredible is that each of the nine or so species has a one-to-one relationship with a particular *Thynnine* wasp species.

All are to some degree endangered by habitat destruction that affects their pollinators which too are often highly localised populations. The orchid emits a pheromone that is similar to that of the female wasp, and when the male wasp attempts to mate with it, the hinged labellum pivots and brings the male wasp into contact with pollinia and stigmatic surface.



Drakaea thynniphila

Photo source: <http://www.oznativeplants.com/plantdetail/Narrow-lipped-Hammer-Orchid/Drakaea/thynniphila/zz.html>

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 8 August