Anne O’Callaghan Award June 2018
Comparettia speciosa
Siva

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 10 July

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
12 June 2018 7.38pm

Present:  40 present as per the register.  
Apologies:  4 as per register  
Visitors:  Aly & Rob.  
New members:  Eva (Eve) & Graeme (#40).  
Minutes:  Minutes May meeting accepted (Ken, Ray)  
Business Arising:  Nil  
Current balance is $8,405.07. (Lynn, Andrea)  
Correspondence:
Inwards:
• Albany Orchid Society (ISOD&W entry and fee),  
• Invitation from the Wildflower Association to field day at the Corner of Mount Street and Brookton Highway between 8AM and 4PM on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of June.

Outwards:
• Form 4 -AGM info to the GCA,  
• ISOD&W sales table information,  
• AOF newsletter.

General Business:
• The lunch at the Black Swan has been cancelled.  
• Ken secured five more *Paphiopedilum malipoense* for those who missed last month.  
• Our display has been started for the ISOD&W. Ken needs to know which flowers may be out so that the re-designed labels can be made for them.  
• Bruce went to the Bunbury Orchid meeting and it was suggested there that those who spent a lot of time on their society’s display could have a free Dinner ticket. The members present asked the Committee to consider this for our society.  
• Ken presented the 2018 Quiet Achiever Award to Paul.  
• The President was presented with Society’s “Darwin Moth”.  
• Guy Cantor is sending the auction plants this week.  
• Members were encouraged to volunteer for the ISOD&W by filling in the roster sheets.  
• Members were asked to bring in more items at the next meeting for the ISOD&W wheelbarrow raffle.  
• Ken outlined the processes to be carried out on the Sales table.

Anne O’Callaghan Cultural Award: 
Awarded to Siva for *Comparettia speciosa*.  
Raffle:  No raffle  
Name Badge:  John
NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Thanks to members who supported the Silent Auction in June, both by donating plants and bidding for the lots. We made approx. $450 - well done everyone. Special thanks to Andrea Somers who acted as our Treasurer at the meeting.

- The Species Society is the host for the 2018 Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop to be held at Morley Recreation Centre on 3-5 August 2018. Please add your name to one or more of the roster sheets at the July meeting.

- A combined sales table will be in place - please see Ken or Charly if you wish to sell orchids. Sales sheets, sales slips and seller registration forms will be available at the July meeting.

- All donations to the ISOD&W raffle will be gratefully accepted as this is one of the major income sources.

- The Spring Orchid Fair will be staged on the weekend 15-16 Sept., (set up on Fri 14th evening) at Aranmore college in Leederville. SOSWA is one of the four societies jointly staging this event. If you wish to sell orchid plants at this event, please see Ken or Charly

**Quiet Achievers**

2013 Ian
2014 Chris
2015 Margaret
2016 Tom & Pat
2017 Charly & Gerda
2018 Paul

**Life Members**

Barry (dec'd)
Gordon
Maxine
Ken & Chris
Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd)
Trevor
Neville
Noel & Eva
Tony & Mavis
Barry (dec'd)

**Committee**

- Kirsty
- Chris
- Maxine
- Michele
- Sharon
- Peter
- Tony
- Mavis

**President:** Paul
**Vice President:** Peter
**Secretary:** Graham Bowden
8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.
Phone: 9447 4528
e-mail: gmbowden@bigpond.com
**Treasurer:** Adrian
204 Park Street, Henley Brook
6055. Phone: 9296 1765
e-mail: kcjones@tpg.com.au
**NOTICEBOARD**

**FORTH-COMING**

Home visits:
At 10 am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and food to share.
* 29th July - Chris & Ken, Henley Brook.
* 26th August - Lina, North Perth.

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**FOR SALE/WANTED**

Victor wants to acquire a plant of *Rhynchostele rossii* and is also interested in small *Aerangis* species. If you have spare plants, please contact Victor on 9243 1843 or e-mail vnquin@gmail.com.

Lynn wants to acquire a plant of Oncidium (*Odontoglossum*) *naevium* if you have a spare plant. Please phone Lynn on 0414 922 923 or e-mail contrarymiss@hotmail.com.
MONTHLY PLANT

*Cattleya mossiae*

Country of origin: Venezuela

**Description:** Unifoliate medium-sized species

**Difficulty:** Shadehouse species that is relatively simple to grow and flower.

**Cost:** $10.00

*Cattleya mossiae* Hkr. 1838 is found in Venezuela where it is endemic as a small to medium-sized, unifoliate, warm to cool growing epiphyte. It is found at 900-1,500m in dense forests, growing high in the canopy. *Cattleya mossiae* was the second unifoliate *Cattleya* species discovered after *Cattleya labiata*, and was a sensation when introduced into the horticultural world in Europe in 1836 as it was plentiful in the wild at that time.

This species grows in the intermediate to cooler parts of the coastal mountains westward from the State of Anzoategui to the extreme eastern part of the Andes in the State of Lara. While reportedly found in patches of cloud forest on north-facing slopes, in recent years, it has been primarily found on south-facing slopes where forests that still exist are no longer cloud forest.

This is an easy species to grow in a shadehouse, and quite rapidly grows into a large specimen. As the habitat photo demonstrates, this is a relatively high light orchid that enjoys plenty of air movement. It will appreciate being kept drier in our cold wet winters, so a cover over your shadehouse is recommended.

The most common insect pest is cotton scale, and that is most often a result of poor air movement. Bark or similar potting media, or if you are able to provide high humidity in summer, slab mounting is also suitable.

This plant was purchased from Ezi-Gro Orchids and has been grown on by Chris.

Photo source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/84195394@N07/32208917763
Growing *Bulbophyllum* Orchids—Charly

*Continued from June*

As you can see the pseudobulb on the left in the picture has no more room to expand, so it had to go into a bigger pot.

How to repot this *Bulbophyllum*?

Add more donuts in the bottom of a bigger pot and use the same method as above. Put the plant in the middle and then just fill more moss around the sides.

3rd method:

The last potting process is somewhat different and perhaps a bit controversial. I am talking about potting an advanced plant into a basket. I make my own baskets from cedar. Cedar is light and easy to work with and is not affected by moisture. If you have the book from Bill Thoms you will learn how to build a cedar basket. He describes how to build one, very thoroughly, over several pages.

My method is:

Fill the gaps between the slats tightly with moist to wet sphagnum moss. Place a thick layer of moss at the bottom. Then place a small mound of Styrofoam packing donuts in the middle and sit the *Bulbophyllum* on top of it, putting more donuts on the side if required and then fill in the rest with more moss. Just to clarifying this, the roots of the plant sit on top of the donut mound. Now here’s the controversial part! Since when do orchids grow in Styrofoam? Well, they do and this is why!

The plant will thrive in this enclosed chamber of Styrofoam, air and lots of moisture. The roots are able to hold themselves firm and any salts are easily washed off the Styrofoam. Often the roots will not go around the donuts but right through them.
A few words on Styrofoam packing-donuts. There are 3 kinds on the market:
(i) will dissolve when moist or wet; therefore completely unsuitable for our use;
(ii) very hard Styrofoam, that may damage the roots; and
(iii) nice and soft so that the roots are able to go right through - this is the one to use.
They all look the same so be very specific when you purchase them.

What is a happy *Bulbophyllum* and what is a sad one?

There are 3 things to look out for to determine if your *Bulbophyllum* is healthy or struggling.

- The main indicator is the pseudobulb itself. If it is plump and full – it’s good.
- If the pseudobulb is shrivelled, take it out from the pot and look at the roots. The roots will tell you if it can be saved or not. If the roots are dark to black then they are dead or dying. You need light coloured roots
- The leaves: Are they shiny or dull looking? The front leaf should look shiny or else something could be wrong. If the back leaves are dull that could simply be aging. What are front and back leaves? The front leaves are the newly grown ones (youngest), the back leaves are the first grown or the oldest ones.

Example of a good root system

I was given this *Bulbophyllum kubahense* with one root about 1 cm long (on the right pseudobulb), at about the end of April in 2017. As you can see the left pseudobulb was shrivelled and the roots were black indicating that this part of the plant was dying. Did it survive? Yes! The left leaf died soon after, but the right leaf did open properly.

At the end of October 2017 I did a check and found that the roots had grown back to a point where I was unable to pull it out of the moss. It may take another 6 months before it is back to its normal growing cycle because *Bulbophyllum kubahense* is a slow growing plant. Never give up; even with one tiny root, your plant can be saved in the right condition.
Lyn B (presented Lynn)
*Dendrobium formosum*

Ken & Chris
*Bulbophyllum* spp
*Dendrochilum saccolabium*
*Euanthe (Vanda) sanderiana*
*Laelia anceps*
*Phalaenopsis violacea*
*Stenorrhynchus speciosum*

Adrian & Dee
*Dendrobium bigibbum* v
*Laelia rubescens*
*Paphiopedilum henryanum*

Bruce
*Cattleya percivaliana*
*Gomesa crispa*

Peter
*Laelia anceps* ‘Rod’
*Mormolyca ringens*
*Paphiopedilum insigne forma sanderae*
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*

Clive
*Acianthus pusillus*
*Diplodium robustrum*
*Diplodium truncatum*

John
*Laelia anceps* ‘Disciplinata’ HCC/AOS x ‘SVO Flair’

Siva
*Comparettia speciosa*
*Laelia anceps* ‘Disciplinata’
*Stenorrhynchus speciosum*

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**PLANTS DISPLAYED June 2018**

*Gomesa crispa*

*Stenorrhynchus speciosum*

*Ken & Chris*

*Siva*
PLANTS DISPLAYED  June 2018

Tony & Mavis
Dendrobium bigibbum var. Schroderianum alba
Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica

Vanda sanderiana
Ken & Chris

Dendrobium bigibbum var. Schroderianum alba
Tony & Mavis

Cattleya percivaliana
Bruce

Mormolyca ringens
Peter

Photography by Tony
Two leaves have grown out of the pot. What should I do? This is a typical situation where parts of the plant are happily growing in moss and others rambling out of moss. Notice the difference in root growth (photo to the left).

You can see about 3 cm long roots on the rhizome and about 7 cm long roots where the roots were in the moss. If the moss is still in good condition do not remove it, this way the plant will continue growing without pausing.

A plastic pipe will be its new home. I cut a 100 mm wide pipe in half lengthwise, then take my heat-gun warm the ends and bend it up at the end and drilled some holes in the bottom. Put some moss in the bottom of the pipe, plant on top, more moss on top and done.

This plant decided to go walkabout. (picture to left).

However, what is interesting again is the difference in root growth, out of moss and in moss.

In the photo on the following page, you can see a much larger root grows in the middle of the rhizome, where the *Bulbophyllum* expanded into the second container, compared to the roots as it comes out of the first container, where it did not get much water as it was not in the sphagnum moss.
The photograph on the right illustrates a wrong choice of pot. The roots are coming out of the pot because they are not getting enough water.

I carefully cut the roots free of the pot avoiding damaging the roots, so that I am able to remove the plant and repot in a bigger pot (Pic. below right). The moss also still looks ok, so put more donuts in a bigger pot and fill in the sides. Now the new leaves will have more room and the roots will get more water. This plant should improve.

If the plant is small or the roots are short then at times use old meat or sausage trays and only use larger pots when the roots have grown longer.
Moss, Bark and Mounting

While you can grow *Bulbophyllum* in either bark or sphagnum moss. I grow all of mine in only moss, as it holds water much longer than bark - up to one week. While bark is cheaper I consider moss to be better. You will see the difference when it has been repotted in moss compared to a plant in bark. I have had a greater result growing *Bulbophyllum* in moss. Removing moss from the fine *Bulbophyllum* roots is a breeze while removing them from bark is almost impossible. The roots stick to the bark like s**t** to a blanket and getting them apart without damaging them (the roots) is impossible. The other thing which comes to my mind is the absorption of the fertiliser. With bark the plants absorb less fertiliser than with moss. Hence if I ever have to miss a watering day, then it would be always the day after fertilising. Why? So that the roots get more food for another extra day.

When I started growing *Bulbophyllum*, mounting them was on my mind. I collected nice driftwoods and they looked terrific. The only thing they didn’t do was grow well. After two years I came to the conclusion something was wrong (I must be a slow learner). I did try three on fern tree slabs.

But within four months the tips of the leaves on one plant started to get yellow. So what happened? The first plant on a piece of driftwood simply did not get enough water. To make a mounted plant grow like the ones in moss, you would probably have to water them more than once a day.

A second plant on the tree fern slab did grow better, however again within four months yellow leaves started to appear. A salt build-up was the cause. The only way to rectify that was to take it off the tree fern slab, though it was a 3-hour operation.

I still have one *Bulbophyllum* on a tree fern slab, but the reason for that is, it’s doing quite well and I am afraid to take it off. It is *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* and in very good condition, so I don’t want to disturb it. The slab is on a slight angle to hold more water.

Bill Thoms did mention to me that he is growing his *Bulbophyllum frostii* on timber mounts. However, he will make sure that the timber is horizontal and the timber has
some kind of hollow so that the timber holds some water.

At this time it’s probably appropriate to add a quote from Bill’s book: ‘If it’s mounted on something that dries out quickly, such as cork or hardwood, it doesn’t stand a chance of reaching its true potential’. He should know, after 40 odd years of growing this genus.

**Pests and Diseases**

Fortunately so far I have not had any issues with pests or diseases. However should I see some bugs, I would use Neem Oil. This is a natural product from the seed of a tree from India. Neem works by being absorbed into the plant and causing insects to stop eating as they don’t seem to like the taste. Mix with hot water and a drop of Palmolive detergent to form a yellow milky solution and apply to the plant. For any insects I would also use rubbing alcohol. Apply full strength to the insects (DO NOT USE ON PAPHIOPEDILUM BUDS). The other product I use to prevent fungal problems is Bravo Weather Stik fungicide.

**BioGro**

What is BioGro is a question on many of my orchid colleague’s minds.

I have used BioGro on my Orchids since February 2018 and the results are outstanding. Basically, BioGro is an organic microbial enzyme activator, which changes the soil or medium structure and improves the nutrient uptake. The microbes in BioGro will control the pH to maintain a better nutrition uptake by the plants so that the plants in turn will give sugars back to the microbes. This is a symbiotic relationship and the microbes in BioGro will do everything possible to ensure their own survival. They will control their own environment. That is why your pH levels will stabilise.

The microbes in BioGro also secrete plant growth enzymes that are needed by the plants. These enzymes are secreted by the microbes in nature. What the manufacturer has done is to increase the concentration of this type of microbe in their product., and I believe is responsible for the vigorous growth seen in my orchids.

BioGro prevents fungal diseases from cropping up by out competing the pathogens for food and space. This is called Competitive Inhibition and Exclusion.

BioGro will alter the pH and adapt itself to the PH in the medium if necessary. The pH basically controls which species of microbes are able to perform their tasks. What the manufacturer has done is to include various species of microbes into BioGro that are able to perform in a variety of pH conditions. For example, at pH 5, species A will function for Nitrogen absorption, at pH 6, species B will perform the nitrogen absorption function because species A is now unable to perform. At pH 7, species C will take over this role.

The microbes in BioGro will cease to function at about 60°C. Anything above 45°C will severely degrade its performance. So, never use hot water when you mix or use BioGro.
At the other end of the temperature range, the microbes in BioGro will go into hibernation at 6°C. So, when you use BioGro in winter expect little or no reaction.

Another requirement for the microbes to perform well is adequate moisture in the growing medium. Moist to the touch is sufficient for the microbes to perform. The optimum temperature is anything from 16°C to 40°C.

BioGro is an Australian product that has been used very successfully in countries including Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, India, Germany and Nigeria. In these countries, BioGro has been used in conjunction with field expertise and advice provided to farmers, leading to better and more sustainable agricultural practices, increased crop yields and reliance on natural ingredients to repel pests.

This is Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’. It has flowered for me every year. Since February this year it has grown 3 new leaves. This may not be unusual would it not be for the fact that it had already grown 4 leaves from August last year to December. In other words, it has grown 2 lots of leaves in one growing season.

The old leaves are 20cm long while the new one 25cm long

BioGro also supposed to increase root growth. This appears to be the case as can be seen on this plant of Bulbophyllum biflorum

If anybody is in need of any products I am using please let me know, I can advise the best place to purchase same or buy some on your behalf.

Charly
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 (1\textsuperscript{st} 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\textsuperscript{st} 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.

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 10 July