



Vol 30 No 4 September 2018



# NEWSLETTER

Anne O'Callaghan Award August 2018  
*Epidendrum centropetalum*  
Bruce

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 September

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 August 2018 7.50pm

**Present:** 38 present as per the register.

**Apologies:** 5 as per register

**Visitors:** Four

**New members:** Nil.

**Minutes:** Minutes July meeting accepted (Lynn, Mich)

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Tabled by Adrian. Current balance is \$12,508.07 with many adjustments due in the next report. (Lynn, Ray)

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Orchids WA (Mavis report),
- Spring Show flyer,
- Orchids WA (Correspondence for August Meeting),
- Native Orchid News (QLD).

**Outwards:**

- Pat.

**General Business:**

- The President thanked all for their efforts for the ISODW. It would seem that we may have made a \$1400 profit. Mich made a nice congratulatory speech thanking Paul for his efforts in constructing, coordinating the society stand and the supervision of things not covered by the Sub Committee.
- Now for the Spring Show in September. Plant labels to Ken, Sheets for sales plant from Paul, Tony gave an outline of the schedule with Friday 14th (5 to 7:30) set up and Judging at 7:30.

Parking around the back so that visitors can have easy access to the hall. There will be a casserole night on Saturday. We need donations for the raffle. Again free coffee or tea for entrants and members wearing badges. Payments and free access will be discussed at the committee meeting.

- Orchids WA report included the AOC elections being due and the new rules to be considered at the next meeting.
- The WOC Report was also in the Orchids WA matters and included the website being constructed by Media on Mars, Ken handling Biosecurity, Norm coordinating the flasking of terrestrial orchids and that the tours are all in place.
- Tony distributed fliers about the proposed trip to the APOC in Kuching in July next year. There was a short question and answer session with Tony.

We were then privileged to have a talk and slide show from Jim Shaughnessy about how he grows his orchids. The initial emphasis was on *Sarcochilus* but he also covered other Australian natives and stressed their natural growing conditions particularly light levels and his use of *Tillandsia* for providing humidity.

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Awarded to Bruce for *Epidendrum centropetalum*.

**Raffle:** Jim, Tony, Marg, Norm and Paul

**Name Badge:** Maxine Godbeer

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- 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
- If you have plants for our display at the Spring Orchid Fair, or for sale, please ensure that they are not watered on the Friday morning. Our display has been cleverly designed so that it does not require black plastic film underneath, but we do not want orchid pots to be wet.
- Donations for the Spring Orchid Fair raffle will be gratefully accepted. Please bring your donation to the general meeting, or to set up on Friday 14th.

### Quiet Achievers

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

• **President:** Paul

• **Vice President:** Peter

• **Secretary:** Graham Bowden  
• 8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.  
• Phone: 9447 4528

• e-mail: [gmbowden@bigpond.com](mailto:gmbowden@bigpond.com)

• **Treasurer:** Adrian

• **Editor:** Ken Jones  
• 204 Park Street, Henley Brook  
• 6055. Phone: 9296 1765  
• e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

### • **Committee:**

• Kirsty	• Michele
• Chris	• Sharon
• Maxine	• Tony
	• Mavis

### • **Life Members**

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

# 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.

\*30 September - Maxine, Parkerville.

\* 25 November - Lynn, Belmont

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## MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

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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.

Nahiid is looking for plants of *Phalaenopsis gigantea*, *Phalaenopsis pulchra*, *Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica* and *Phalaenopsis bellina*. Please phone Nahiid on 0415 818 850

# MONTHLY PLANT

## *Dendrobium finisterrae*

**Country of origin:** Papua and New Guinea

**Description:** A moderate size *Latouria* section *Dendrobium* similar to *Dendrobium macrophyllum*.

**Difficulty:** Suitable for shadehouse culture providing humidity can be maintained through summer.

**Cost:** \$10.00

*Dendrobium finisterrae* Schltr. 1912  
SECTION *Latouria* is found in Papua and New Guinea as a large sized, cool to cold growing epiphyte. It is mostly found in the Finisterre and Bismarck Ranges on moss covered trees in mist forest at 1,300 - 2,100m.

Similar to other members of the *Latouria* section, the flowers do not fully open, and are often pointing downwards. This species can have 10 or more long-lasting, lightly-fragrant flowers that have the rear sides of the petals and sepals covered in fine hairs. Colour is variable ranging from white to cream and more or less heavily spotted red.

This species can be a little more difficult to grow and flower than the more common *Latouria* section *Dendrobium macrophyllum* and *spectabile*, but is well



Photo source: <http://www.ourshopfront.com/kabi/html/Latouria/Dendrobium%20finisterrae.php>

worth the effort. According to Laverack, Harris and Stocker, it requires intermediate conditions with year-round humidity and constant watering.

Strong filtered light, winter protection and either pot or slab culture can be used. For plants in slab culture, care needs to be taken to ensure that they do not dry out, even in winter. However, this species needs well drained media to avoid root loss.

These soft leaved *Dendrobium* orchids can be susceptible to both hard and soft scale insects, and to two-spotted mite when air movement is inadequate.

More useful information and photos are available from <http://www.orchidsnewguinea.com/orchid-information/species/speciescode/2403>

## Our 2018 Quiet Achiever - Paul

Firstly, an apology to Paul that this has taken me so long to get done.

Our 2018 Quiet Achiever, Paul joined the Species Society after the Australian Orchid Conference held at Burswood in 2012. In fact, as I recall, Paul and Andrea were recruited by Adrian who along with Mich did a great job selling the benefits of Species Society membership at that event.

Both Paul and Andrea quickly showed their preparedness to get involved in the life of our society. Coincidentally, I knew Andrea from past employment in the same WA government agency many years earlier. Paul joined the Committee in May 2014, agreed to nominate for the position of Vice-President, in May 2016 and was elected President in May 2018.

Paul has been a committee member for several years, and he has the ability to see any job that needs to be done and getting it done without any fuss. He has been actively



involved with some of our invaluable “can do” members including Adrian, Charly, Chris and Mich for several years in planning, constructing and erecting and removing our displays. This was no more evident than his contribution to the amazing display that the sub-committee designed and constructed for the recent Inter Society Orchid Display and Workshop.

Paul has the ability to work well with others, to think creatively outside the box and to most importantly, to make things happen by leading from the front. In the past four

years, Paul has put his mark on much of what we have done to promote our interest in species orchids to the general public. We rely on his organisational and technical/ electrical skills in many ways. Paul is one of those rare people always ready to help others whenever and wherever it is needed.

Thanks Paul for being a quiet achiever, and Andrea for supporting him to do so.

## The incredible Queen of Sheba orchids

The purpose for this article is to introduce you to one of our most well-known, but less often seen terrestrial orchids, *Thelymitra variegata*. Commonly named the Queen of Sheba, this amazing species is, after the large blue sun orchids such as *Thelymitra macrophylla* due to their colour, the Western Australian orchid that attracted the most comment when we were in South Africa in 2014 and Ecuador in 2017. It is this group of plants that most people we talked to in promoting our WOC bid wanted to see.

Rightfully so, the Queen of Sheba orchid is the orchid flower emblem that we plan to use for the 2023 World Orchid Conference on Perth, and will appear in at least stylised form in our banners, our website, promotional material and all correspondence and registration information. The rich variety of Western Australian terrestrial orchids and the significant number of them that are unique to WA is one of the reason for international visitors to come to Perth. When we remember that Perth is one of the more remote state capital cities in the world, and a considerable distance from Europe, North and South America, it is our extraordinary terrestrial orchids that will be the reason for making a commitment to come to WOC2023Perth.

The Queen of Sheba group of sun orchids, *Thelymitra variegata* (Lindl.) F. Meull., *Thelymitra pulcherrima* (the Northern Queen of Sheba) and *Thelymitra speciosa* (the Eastern Queen of Sheba) are for many orchid enthusiasts, the jewel in the crown amongst Western Australia's fabulous terrestrial orchids. They are found in shrub lands and woodlands from Kalbarri – Esperance.



*Thelymitra variegata*, from the Latin *variegatus* (variegated) for its striking flower colouration was named in 1839 as a species of the genus *Macdonaldia* from specimens collected, and was subsequently moved to the genus *Thelymitra* in 1865.

*Thelymitra pulcherrima* and *Thelymitra speciosa* were both identified in 2009, the first from specimens collected along the Eneabba – Leeman road in heath sandplain, and the second from specimens collected west of the Twertup Creek – Fitzgerald River junction.

Garry Brockman told me on his return from a field trip to the mid-west that *Thelymitra pulcherrima* seems to have two flushes of flowers with some plants flowering early August

*Thelymitra variegata*  
Photo: Andrew Brown

and others in early September.

**Graham & Margaret**

*Caladenia chapmanii*  
*Encyclia nocturnum*  
*Dendrobium tongii*

**Tony & Sandy**

*Cymbidium sinense* 'Wan Dai Fu'  
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum* 'Sandy'

**Maxine**

*Dendrochilum glumaceum*

**Bruce**

*Dendrobium aemulum*  
*Oerstedella centradenia*

**Lina**

*Coelogyne speciosa*

**Clive**

*Diuris corymbosa*  
*Serapias lingua*

**Siva**

*Amesiella monticola*  
*Calanthe vestita*

**Ray**

*Coelogyne cristata*  
*Coelogyne cristata* var. *major*

**Tony & Mavis**

*Phalaenopsis aphrodite*  
*Stenorrhynchos speciosum*  
*Tolumnia variegata*

## PLANTS DISPLAYED August 2018



*Coelogyne cristata*  
Peter



*Cymbidium sinense*  
Tony & Sandy



*Diuris corymbosa*  
Clive



*Dendrobium tongii*  
Graham & Margaret

## PLANTS DISPLAYED August 2018



*Caladenia chapmanii*  
Graham & Margaret



*Dendrobium aemulum*  
Bruce

Photography by Tony

According to Brown, Dixon, French and Brockman, 2013, there are two races of *Thelymitra speciosa*, the type form from Fitzgerald River-Esperance, and the second later flowering form from Stirling Range- Esperance. The two forms occasionally grow together but flower several months apart.



*Thelymitra pulcherrima*

Photo: Garry Brockman



*Thelymitra speciosa*

Photo source: <http://orchidswa.com.au/thelymitra-sun-orchids/queen-of-sheba/>



*Thelymitra variegata* Photo: Garry Brockman

The photo of *Thelymitra variegata* on this page and the photo on page 7 demonstrate the significant colour variation in this species, often observed in plants in the same population and in close proximity.



*Thelymitra apiculata* (Cleopatra's Needles) is the other of the strikingly coloured members of the *Thelymitra spiralis* complex, grouped for their distinctive narrowly, spirally twisted or laterally curved leaves. Note the difference in flower colour and spotting.

Photos: Garry Brockman

I, along with 20 other WAOS registrants, and Garry Brockman as our guide for the post-WAOS tour to the mid-west were thrilled to see three plants of *Thelymitra pulcherrima* in flower last August.

As described by Brown, Dixon, French and Brockman, 2013 in the Field Guide to the Orchids of Western Australia, the plants were growing in dense heath covered sandplain. After walking a few hundred metres from the road down a sandy track to where Andrew Brown's group had seen a plant the previous day, we found three plants in flower. We were fortunate as there was sufficient sun on the day for the flowers to be open.





In situ photo: Chris Jones

*Thelymitra pulcherrima* habitat

Photo: Chris Jones



Photo: Manee Poffley



While researching this article, I came across a story from ABC in August 2015. The Southern Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra variegata*) had been spotted in flower on Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Ranges near Albany in landscape covered in a light dusting of snow.

Photo: Ayleen Sands  
<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/08/13/4292742.htm>

The concern for all of us is that these rare orchids are often damaged by people trampling them, picking the flowers, or worse still, removing them from their natural habitat. While it is an offence to do, given the sparse distribution of these species, it is difficult to catch offenders unless they are seen in the act. For this reason, actual sites where these orchids can be found are generally a well-guarded secret.

Andrew Brown, interviewed on ABC radio in August 2016 remarked that while it was illegal to take native orchids from the wild, theft was an occasional rather than widespread problem in WA. Habitat clearing and degradation from slashing, herbicide use and fire were bigger threats to orchid populations than theft. The Government had plans to safeguard all critically-endangered flora by purchasing land for reserves, and undertaking weed control, fencing, propagation and translocation.

There are many excellent photos of the Queen of Sheba orchids that demonstrate the incredible colour variation in these species. Photos of *Thelymitra pulcherrima*, *Thelymitra speciosa* and *Thelymitra variegata* and their habitat can be found at:

- Noel Hoffman's website, <http://orchidswa.com.au/thelymitra-sun-orchids/queen-of-sheba/>,
- the Ron Heberle collection on The Species Orchid Society of WA website <http://members.iinet.net.au/%7Eemntee/Thelymitras%20Page%20198.htm>,
- the WA Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group website at <http://wanoscg.com>,
- Terry Dunham photography [https://www.facebook.com/pg/TerryDunhamPhotography/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/TerryDunhamPhotography/photos/?ref=page_internal); and
- [http://chookman.id.au/wp\\_orchids/?page\\_id=1417](http://chookman.id.au/wp_orchids/?page_id=1417)

I strongly encourage each of you to take the time to look at some of these websites and Facebook pages so that you too can appreciate just how spectacular our terrestrial orchids are, how fortunate we are to live in a part of the world where their beauty can be appreciated, and why international visitors would want to come to see them.

If you visit Heinrich Beyrle's website at <http://www.myorchids.de/main1.htm>, you will find that he has many Australian terrestrial species for sale. Heinrich's business is in Bavaria and his list demonstrates the level of interest and commitment that orchid enthusiasts in other parts of the world will go to acquire, grow and flower our orchids.

With help from Dr Kingsley Dixon, Ron Fauntleroy, Ben Vrieling and Kevin Western, we hope to have terrestrial orchids in vitro for sale over the next few years.

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# 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<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> 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 11 September**