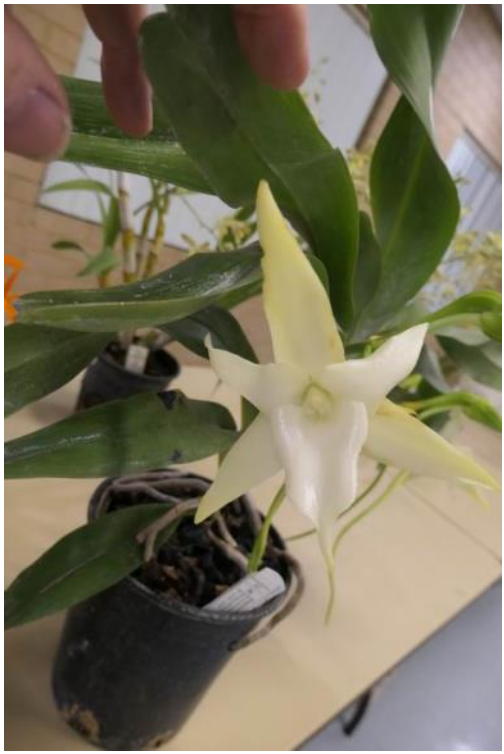
THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)
http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm

Vol 32 No 6 November 2020

NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Award October 2020
Angraecum sesquipedale
Richard & Jane

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 10 November

Contents

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 October 2020 7.50pm

Present: 36 members as per register.

Apologies: 4 as per register.

Visitors: Calvin, Jenni

New members: Nil

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from August meeting moved Ray , seconded Mavis. Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Adrian. Account balance $10,528.81. Acceptance moved Arnold, seconded Lynn. Carried

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- E-mails - Orchids WA AGM and GM notices
- Minutes of Spring Orchid Fair Review meeting and e-mails re 2021 event
- Emails Peter, Adrian, Tony plants for display Northern Orchid and Garden Fair

Outwards:

- Confirmation of support for Orchids Western Australia Inc. circular resolution
- Financial results of Spring Orchid Fair

Acceptance of correspondence report moved Arnold, seconded Richard. Carried

General Business:

- Spring Orchid Fair report - $766 return to SOSWA. Sincere thanks to all those members that helped over the weekend to make this event a success. The Species Orchid Society display attracted considerable attention, particularly the terrestrial orchids primarily from Graham and Margaret. Plant sales were nearly $8,000. Discussions and planning is underway to conduct the 2021 event.
- •Northern Orchid and Garden Fair – this event generated a moderate profit for Northern Districts and Wanneroo/ Joondalup Orchid Societies. Our display attracted attention and after talking with Ray at the show, Calvin has come along tonight to see what we do.
- Peter will contact Kevin Western to find out when the pre-ordered flasks are likely to be available.

Silent Auction

Members were informed about the Silent Auction process. The meeting was suspended while members lodged their bids. The bids were checked and successful bidders informed. Once all members that wished to do so had lodged their bids, Chris read the details of the winning bids. Adrian and Mavis tallied up the results.

Following the display plant discussions, successful bidders than paid Adrian for the lots that they won and collected their lots from Chris and Charly.

Peter thanked Chris and Charly for setting out and managing the silent auction, and members who donated plants, books and other items.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Richard and Jane for a well grown *Angraecum sesquipedale.*

Raffle: No raffle

Badge Prize: Margaret

President: Peter

Vice President: Adrian

Secretary: Ken Jones, 210 Hermitage Drive,/the Vines 6069.
Phone: 9296 1765
e-mail: kcjones@tpg.com.au

Treasurer: Paul

Editor: Ken Jones

Committee:

Graham
Chris
Maxine
Charly
Tony
Mavis

Life Members

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

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian
2014 Chris
2015 Margaret
2016 Tom & Pat
2017 Charly & Gerda
2020 Paul

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Thanks to the members who provided plants for the display and helped out over the weekend at the Northern Orchid and Garden Fair, staged by the Northern Districts and Wanneroo Joondalup orchid societies on 10-11 October at John Septimus Roe College, Mirrabooka Avenue, Mirrabooka.
- The Spring Orchid Fair 2021 is likely to be staged on the weekend of 21-22 August 2021, and will be held at either the Vasto club in Balcatta, a new venue with much better parking or at Aranmore College in Leederville.
- Our Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 December, one week earlier than usual. As we have done in previous years, each member will be given a plant. We do understand that newer members may not have surplus species orchids, however if you do have a spare species orchid plant please bring one for our Christmas free raffle.

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.

* 29 Nov - Adrian & Dee. Safety Bay.
* 30 Jan 2021 Ezi-Gro Orchids, Evandale St, Lansdale
* 28 Feb 2021 Tara , Greenmount

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Harry would like to purchase the following.
Brassavola cucculata
Dendrobium torresae
If you have spare plants/divisions for sale, please contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or by e-mail to harry.ashton@live.com.au

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya eldorado (Cattleya wallisii)

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Medium sized , hot-warm growing epiphyte

Difficulty: Relatively easy species to grow - suitable for shadehouse culture.

Cost: **$10.00**

Photo source: http://www.orchidspecies.com/catteldorado.htm

Cattleya wallisii Linden & Rchb. f. comes from the Amazonas state of Brazil where can be found as a medium sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte, often growing on tree branches high above water in wet Amazon forests.

It has smooth, cylindrical pseudobulbs carrying a single apical, rigid, leathery, erect leaf. Generally flowering in summer through to autumn, up to 3 fragrant flowers are carried on short inflorescences. Sometimes, the flowers of this species do not fully open.

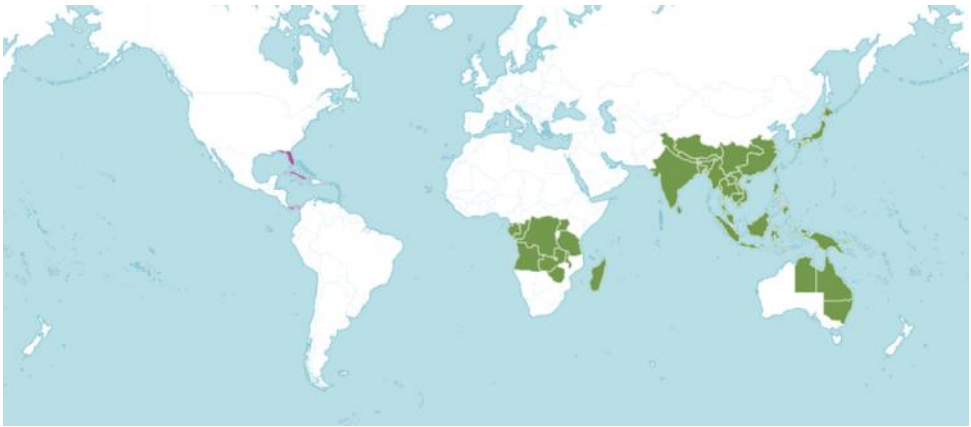
It is a relatively bright light Cattleya, so will need good light and also requires warmer winter temperatures. Therefore, covering on your shadehouse to retain some warmth during our cold winter, and to prevent the plants from being both cold and wet is recommended. Cattleya species are generally resistant to insect pests, although prefer good air movement to deter hard/soft scale and mealy bug.

An interesting article on the history of Cattleya eldorado from Chadwick Orchids can be found at http://chadwickorchids.com/content/cattleya-eldorado-0. In this article, they explain that Linden's collector in South America, Gustav Wallis, sent him the first plants of *Cattleya dowiana aurea* from Colombia and *Cattleya eldorado* from Brazil in the 1850's. These plants were an immediate success for Linden's Belgian firm L'Horticulture Internationale, and generated substantial profits.

Gustav Wallis had sent Linden over 700 plants of Cattleya eldorado in 1866 and they arrived the season before Linden was to put a large exhibit in the International Exposition of 1867 in Paris. The plants became well established during that year and were in flower in time for the exposition and Cattleya eldorado virtually exploded onto the horticultural scene that summer.

The genus *Phaius*

Orchids in the *Genus Phaius* Lour. 1790 *SUBFAMILY Epidendroideae, TRIBE Collabieae, SUBTRIBE Collabiinae* can be found in Africa, Madagascar, mainland and island southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea and Australia as shown in the following map. *Phaius* species from Madagascar are more often listed in the genus *Gastrorchis*. *Phaius* is an introduced and somewhat invasive genus in the purple areas shown in Florida, Cuba and Central America. The genus was identified by Juan Loureiro, who named it using the Greek word phaios (swarthy), probably because of the yellow–brown flower colouration that dominates the genus. *Phaius tankervilleae* was introduced into England in 1778 by John Fothergill, who brought the plant from China.



Source: http://plantsoftheworldonline.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:325891-2

The type species is *Phaius grandifolius* Lour. 1790 which is considered to be synonymous with *Phaius tankervilleae* [Banks] Blume 1852. Genus synonyms are *Cephalantheropsis* Guillaumin 1960; *Gastorchis* A. Thouars 1822; *Hecabe* Raf. 1838; *Limatodis* Lindley 1825; *Pachyne* Salisb. 1812; *Pesomeria* Lindl. 1838; *Tankervillia* Link 1829

Depending on which author you follow, this genus comprises some forty species that are widespread from Africa through Madagascar to the Philippines, the Pacific Islands and Australia. They are predominantly robust, sympodial, terrestrial herbs with relatively attractive foliage even when not in flower. As shade loving terrestrials (although a few species can be found as epiphytes or lithophytes), year round watering is required and the plants will benefit from fertiliser during active growth phases.

Pseudobulbs are generally small, and new growths arise from the base of mature pseudobulbs or from the rhizome connecting pseudobulbs. The large plicate (folded lengthwise) leaves can be ruffled. Flowering occurs on upright inflorescences arising

from the base of the old pseudobulb or from the rhizome with racemose (unbranched raceme) with several flowers held at the top of the raceme.

The relatively large, and often richly coloured flowers have fleshy, similar shaped tepals, and an erect three lobed, saccate (shaped like a pouch or a sack) to spurred lip is connate (joined or united with a structure of the same kind such as sepals or petals) at or near the base of the column. The disc is variously ridged, and the column is long and stout without a foot. The anther is incompletely four-lobed and the eight, waxy pollinia are in two groups of four and attached to *a* large granular viscus.

Species in the genus *Phaius* generally have large, pleasantly fragrant flowers. Plantlets can be produced from the nodes on flower racemes by layering. After removal from the flowering plant, the cut flower raceme should be placed in a container and partially covered in seed raising mix. When kept in a shady moist area, plantlets can be produced from the nodes in one-two months.

A detailed explanation of the layering process for Phaius can be found under "node culture" at the web site https://www.orchideenvermehrung.at/english/nodes/index.htm.

Photo source: Orchidophile November 2014

The common name refers to the flowers turning back with age

With some exceptions, species in the genus are generally amenable to shadehouse culture although do require heavier shade than the majority of bright light orchids that we grow such as *Cymbidium* and *Dendrobium* species to avoid leaf damage/burning. Winter protection is also required to prevent plants being cold and wet as the majority come from the warm to hot tropics where the winter is generally drier and cooler, and the summer hot and wet.

Seedlings and flowering size plants of *Phaius australis*, *Phaius tankervilleae* and *Phaius wallichii* are generally commercially available, with several other species available from specialist suppliers. The Madagascan *Phaius* species have been also been used in hybridising, often with species in the genus *Calanthe* with which Phaius will hybridise to produce the hybrid Phaiocalanthe. The six species in the Asian genus *Thunia* were also

Harry
Dendrobium lichenastrum
Guarianthe aurantiaca
Zelenkoa onusta

Graham & Margaret
Bulbophyllum maxillare
Cymbidium canaliculatum var. *sparkesii*
Pterostylis picta
Pterostylis spathulata

Ken & Chris
Cattleya kautskyi
Dendrobium faciferum
Dendrobium nobile
Leptotes bicolor
Restrepia falkenbergii
Restrepia muscifera

Peter
Cattleya intermedia Orlata 'Crown Fox'
Chysis limminghei fma. *aurea*
Guarianthe skinneri
Laelia praestans

Richard & Jane
Angraecum sequipidale
Ansellia africana

Tony & Mavis
Phalaenopsis philippinensis

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED October 2020

Dendrobium faciferum
Ken & Chris

Cattleya intermedia Orlata Crown Fox
Peter

Leptotes bicolor
Ken & Chris

Chysis limminghei fma. *aurea*
Peter

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED October 2020

Laelia praestans
Peter

Guarianthe aurantiaca
Harry

Photography by Tony

considered by early taxonomists to be *Phaius* species. For convenience, I will include them as a separate group at the end of this article as they require similar cultural conditions.

In the November 2014 newsletter, I reprinted an article by Jim Brydie about *Phaius tankervilliae* that can be found on the Species Society website at http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Phaius%20tankervilleae.htm. This article provides helpful background on the Australian members of this genus, the taxonomic debate about its identification and more importantly, helpful cultural advice for those wishing to grow this genus.

For the purpose of this article, I will focus on the more readily available species plus highlight some that will be more of a challenge and therefore more suitable for experienced growers. The most commonly grown Phaius species are *Phaius australis* and *Phaius tankervilliae*. However, I will discuss them within an alphabetic listing

Phaius australis F. Muell. 1888 while recognised by the Australian Government as it is considered an endangered species is not recognised as species by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Following the publication of Lady Tankerville's Legacy - A Historical and Monographic Review of *Phaius* and *Gasrtrorchis* by J.V.Stone & P.J.Cribb in 2017, *Phaius australis* was reduced to a variety of *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *australis* (F.Muell.). This species is found in coastal swampy forest between Cooktown in Queensland and Lake Cathie in New South Wales, where it often forms large colonies in *Melaleuca quinquenervia* swamps and in wet forests. *Phaius tankervilliae* var. *australis* is probably the most widely cultivated of the Australian *Phaius* species, and is a large robust plant with elongated, oval shaped leaves up to a metre in length with flower racemes that can be up to 2m in height. Flowering in spring, the large flowers are borne on upright racemes in clusters of between four and twelve flowers. Individual flowers are about 100mm diameter and are reddish brown and white in colour. Flowering occurs in spring. The other varieties of *Phaius tankervilliae* will be included in the review of this species later in the article.

Photo source: https://www.gardensonline.com.au/GardenShed/PlantFinder/Show_4483.aspx

Phaius amboinensis Blume 1856 can be found in Java, the Moluccas, Sulawesi, the Philippines, the Bismark Archipelago, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Northern Territory Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futna, the Cook Islands and the Carolines. It grows in dense shade in swampy forests at 100-300m and is a medium to large sized, hot growing terrestrial. Three-four cylindrical to angular stems each carry 3 to 8, dark green plicate leaves, Flowering in winter and spring occurs on erect, 30-90 cm 5 to 20 flowered racemes.

Photo source: http://www.orchidspecies.com/phaiusamboinensis.htm

Its common name is the Ambon Phaius referring to the location where it was originally discovered, while in Australia it is known as the Arnhem Land Swamp Orchid. Synonyms in use are *Bletia amboinensis* Zipp. ex Blume 1856; *Phaius amboinensis* var. *papuanus* (Schltr.) Schltr. 1912; *Phaius graeffei* Rchb.f. 1868; *Phaius neocaledonicus* Rendle 1921; *Phaius papuanus* Schltr. 1905; and *Phaius zollingeri* Rchb.f. 1857.

Phaius antoninae P.Balzer 2011 is found in the Philippines at sea-level to 600m as a large to very large hot to warm growing terrestrial. The tapering pseudobulbs carry elliptic, acuminate, plicate, petiolate base leaves. Flowering in spring occurs on erect, up to 1.3m racemes carrying up to 20 flowers, each with a large floral bract behind nodding flowers that do not fully open. The difference between this species and the more common *Phaius tankervilleae* is that the sepals and petals of *Phaius antoninae* are always longer than the lip and the flower appearance is always nodding and does not fully open. Its common name is Antonina's Phaius after the wife of its describer.

However, as noted in the discussion about *Phaius australis*, the published and accepted work of J.V.Stone & P.J.Cribb, Lady Tankerville's Legacy: 103 (2017) has reduced *Phaius antoninae* to *Phaius tankervilleae* var. *antoninae* (P.Balzer).

Photo source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/86/Phaius.antoninae.inflorescence.JPG/1200px-Phaius.antoninae.inflorescence.JPG

In a publication Phaius orchids by Eike and Carlise Jauch, a blog about *Phaius, Calanthe, Gastrorchis*, *Cephalantheropsis* and their hybrids that can be found at https://prachtorchideen.wordpress.com/2020/04/15/phaius-antoninae-growing-in-new-caledonia/ , it is suggested that *Phaius antoninae* appears to be an apomictic species. Apomixis, or the setting of seeds without the benefit of fertilisation resulting in seedlings identical to the parent plants is frequently observed in many terrestrial orchids, particularly in the mycoheterotrophs (parasitic on fungi). Such plants have bypassed the pollination syndrome and have found a way to perpetuate themselves without the help of pollinators.

Phaius baolocensis Duy, Tao Chen & D.X.Zhang 2012 has also been reduced to a varietal form of *Phaius tankervilleae* in the published and since accepted work of J.V.Stone & P.J.Cribb, Lady Tankerville's Legacy: 103 (2017). In publishing their findings, Duy and Zhang wrote that in January 2011 during an expedition to Dang Rac Village, Di Linh Distr., Lam Dong Province, in the southern highlands of Vietnam, they collected specimens in a private orchid garden of an unusual flowering Phaius orchid. The owner informed them that he had collected the plants from the Bao Loc forest some years earlier, however subsequent attempts to locate the population failed.

In their description, they say that this ‘endemic’ species is only known from the Bao Loc District, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam where it grows in wet mossy ground over shale, sandstone and granite in closed evergreen broad-leaved primitive forest. This habitat at 800-1,200m has constant high humidity amongst shaded and damp areas in forests, forest margins, along valleys and streams. The conical pseudobulbs are 7-8 cm long, 3-4 cm in diameter and carry 2-5 prominently veined leaves 60-80 cm tall. Flowering in

late winter to early spring, upright sparsely flowered inflorescences are 60-100cm tall.

Photo source: https://www.bluenanta.com/detail/526344/species/?gen=150964&newgen=&type=species&tab=tax&role=pub

Phaius baconii J.J.Wood & Shim 1994 can be found in Sabah Borneo in lower montane forests generally growing in amongst bamboo thickets at 1,200 -1,500m as a medium sized cool growing terrestrial. It has a fleshy, branching, dark green flushed purple stem that carries 2 apical leaves and rarely a 3 smaller, lower leaf. Flowering in winter and spring 3-6 white flowers with purple stripes on the lip and a yellow disc sometimes speckled with red are borne on erect inflorescences. Its common name is Bacon's Phaius named for a Sabah veterinary officer who discovered the species. A synonym is *Dimorphorchis rossii* var. *tenomensis* A.L.Lamb 1994.

Phaius borneensis J.J.Sm. 1903 can be found in Borneo and the Philippines in lower montane forests at 500 to 1,500m as a large sized, warm to cool growing terrestrial in deep shade, often near streams in humid valleys. The pseudobulbs are circular at the base but become more quadrangular towards the apex and carry up to six, elliptic to lanceolate, plicate, petiolate base leaves. Flowers are borne on erect 75cm racemes carrying up to 15 flowers. Its common name is the Borneo Phaius'

Photo source: http://www.orchidspecies.com/phaiusborneensis.htm

In situ photo source: http://www.fpcn.net/a/lankezhiwu/20131025/Phaius_borneensis.html

Phaius callosus [Bl.] Lindl. 1831 can be found in peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, Java, Sumatra & Sulawesi as a medium sized, cool growing terrestrial in montane forests on mossy boulders and leaf litter at 1,000 -1,800m. The pseudobulbs are enveloped by imbricate leaf-bearing sheaths that carry plicate, acute, gradually narrowing leaves. Flowering in spring, the basal inflorescence up to 1.2m tall carries 10-20 fragrant, long-lasting flowers. The oblong, obtuse, concave floral bracts drop off as soon as the flowers open. An albinistic form of *Phaius callosus* also exists. Its common name is the Callous Carrying Phaius. Synonyms in use are *Geodorum plicatum* Voigt 1845; **Limodorum callosum* Bl 1825; *Phaius callosus* var. *sumatranus* J.J.Sm. 1920; *Phaius kuhlii* Rchb.f.

Photo source: https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/314689092706465043/

Continued next month

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the second 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. For first year only, new family members will need to purchase two name badges. Badges come in two versions - pin fastening $11.50 or magnet fastening $13.50 [*Please indicate preference*]

Single $20.00 pa. For first year only, new members will need to purchase a name badge. Badges come in two versions - pin fastening $11.50 or magnet fastening $13.50. [*Please indicate preference*]

New members who don't live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore membership cost 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. If you have spare species orchids that you wish to sell to the Society for raffles, please advise a committee member.

Management

In accordance with the Rules, 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
210 Hermitage Drive, The Vines WA 6069

Next meeting Tuesday 10 November