

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 33 No 8 January 2022



Anne O'Callaghan Award December 2021

Encyclia adenocaula

Norm

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11 January

Contents

2. December meeting minutes
4. Noticeboard
- Notes from your Committee
5. Monthly plant

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8. Plants displayed
15. About us

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 December 2021 7.15pm

Present: 35 members as per register.

Apologies: 3 as per register.

Visitors: 3 as per register

New members: Nil

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from November meeting moved Arnold, seconded Lynn. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Treasurer's report presented by Adrian. Account balance is \$6,229.96. Acceptance moved Mavis, seconded Jane. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Orchids WA – draft GM minutes
- Mavis – confirmation changes to home visit program
- E-mails committee – draft Committee meeting minutes, draft GM agenda
- Associations On-line – newsletter and advice of a review of the Act
- GCA – forms due date sheet, December bulletin

Outwards:

- Committee – draft agenda, committee and general meeting minutes
- Committee - Orchids WA draft minutes
- Committee – Associations on-line newsletter, GCA December bulletin
- City of Canning - COVID-19 contact register sheet November GM

Acceptance of correspondence report moved Mavis, seconded Jane. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Ken advised members that part 1 of the member survey would be distributed in January. For members who receive their newsletter on-line, it will be available from the SOSWA website, while for those who receive their newsletter by ordinary mail, it will be included as a paper copy with their January 2021 newsletter.
- Tony advised that society has received the three flasks purchased from Yi Ying Orchids, Taiwan. He asked for members to volunteer to help grow them on. Lynne offered to deflask and grow the *Renanthera vietnamense*, and Adrian offered to take the remaining two flasks, *Encyclia mariae* and *Laelia rubescens* aurea. Tony also advised members that flasks of *Dendrobium devonianum*, *Dendrobium findleyanum* var. *oculatum* and *Vanda chirayupiniae* have been ordered from Sakdisri, Thailand and are expected late December/ early January.
- Ken confirmed that the Orchid Digest subscription was renewed. The British Orchid Society Journal is currently posted to Mich. Confirmed she has copies and will bring them into the library.
- Ken confirmed \$300 seed funding for Perth Orchid Fair 2022 had been transferred to WJOS who act as Treasury for this event.
- Ken advised members about the communication from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation re pro-

posed changes to garden sprinkler arrangements for homeowners using bore water. It is proposed to reduce the allowable watering days from three days to two days per week from 1 September 2022. It was agreed that this communication be placed on the SOSWA webpages.

Anne O’Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Norm for *Encyclia adenocaula* .

Raffle: None.

Badge Prize: Ian

Meeting closed 10.15pm

Life Members

- Graham & Margaret
- Chris (decd.)
- Barry (dec’d)
- Gordon (dec’d)
- Maxine
- Ken & Chris
- Adrian & Deanna.
- 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
- 2018 Paul
- 2020 Adrian & Deanna
- 2021 John

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.

- * No home visit in December
- * 29 Jan - Ezi Gro Orchids, Evandale St, Landsdale.
- * 27 Feb - Richard & Jane, Carramar

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Karl would like to purchase a plant of *Ceratocentron fessellii*. If you have a plant for sale, please contact Karl on 0432 956 885 or e-mail karl.khlee@gmail.com.

Harry would like to buy plants of *Cattleya purpurata* var. *werkhauseri* and *Cattleya neokautskyi*. Contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or harry.ashton@live.com.au.

Lynn would like to purchase *Section Latouria Dendrobium* orchids. Contact Lynn on 0414 922 923 or contrarymiss@hotmail.com.

President: Peter

Vice President: Adrian

Treasurer: Adrian

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

Editor: Ken Jones

Committee: Paul
Graham Tony
Maxiner Mavis
Charly

- While the next AGM is still some time away, with the passing of Chris, we have another committee vacancy to fill. Please give some thought to nominating for committee as your society always benefits from fresh ideas.
- With this newsletter, you will find the first of three member surveys. Please make time to read and respond to this survey asking members what they want from their society. We also ask members to please be prepared to assist in implementing changes that might follow on from the survey results as the current committee is a relatively small group, many of whom also have commitments through the other orchid club memberships.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

MONTHLY PLANT

Ludisia discolor

Country of origin: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines

Description: Small sized terrestrial or lithophytic species.

Difficulty:

Cost: \$10.00

Ludisia discolor [Ker-Gawl.] Blume 1859 is a South East Asian mainland and island jewel orchid. A hot to warm growing species, it is generally cultivated for its attractive dark brown/ green leaves with red lateral veining rather than its insignificant white flowers. A terrestrial species, *Ludisia discolor* is either terrestrial or lithophytic in evergreen, lowland forests in shady, humid habitats over rocky substrates along streams and rivers at 70 -1,100m.

A monopodial orchid, this species has no pseudobulb. Red fleshy stems that are twisted, erect or pendulous up to 20cm tall have stalked elliptic-lanceolate 5-7.5 cm leaves. This species flowers in spring on terminal cylindrical, dense 10-30 cm long inflorescences with small asymmetrical, lightly-fragrant flowers that can last for 2-3 weeks. Over time, *Ludisia discolor* can grow into a large clump as shown in the photo.



Photo source: Photo source: <https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/information/?pid=115489>

This species should be potted in good quality potting mix, sphagnum moss, coir or bark-based mixes. Heavy shade, year-round watering and good air movement are strongly advised. If the larger dark brown/green leaves become much lighter in colour, it is generally a signal that the light is too intense, or the plant is being kept too wet.

This species with its soft fleshy stems is attractive to molluscs such as slugs, snails and grasshoppers. This kind of insect attack can quite rapidly cause the death of the plant. I have found that they are also subject to hard and soft scale infestation if there is insufficient fresh air movement.

Species Orchid Society Member Survey

As announced at the December general meeting, Jane is assisting your committee to conduct a member survey to seek your feedback about what you expect from membership of the Society. This will be a simple, three part survey undertaken over the next three months.

Members who receive a paper copy of the newsletter will be provided with a printed survey to be completed and posted or handed to Jane as per the instructions, or alternatively if you wish, it can be completed on line-at

<https://forms.gle/rKqvhkS52Du4przW6>.

Many thanks to Jane who provided this article for us. It will be published over the next couple of months, which will also provide an opportunity to update the information as we go through summer - the most difficult time of year for growing these small plants. This has become increasingly important as our usual suppliers of monthly plants are now unable to sell us the 20-25 plants we would usually order, COVID-19 has played havoc with international freight and higher biosecurity constraints have limited the import of plant and plant products to Australia

Following the 2012 AOC and the 2018 WAOS, the Species Society was the beneficiary of flasks referred to quarantine which were then given to us free of charge, and more recently, unsold flasks. Members' experience when they offered to grow the deflasked seedlings was often unsatisfactory with the result that they are now reluctant to volunteer to assist. Jane & Richard are newer members, and Jane has generously offered to share their experience with members in the hope that we can all become more successful at growing orchid seedlings from flask.

Growing orchids from flask – what I have learned

The first step is to establish a grow space for orchid seedlings. The following factors need to be addressed:

- humidity,
- light,
- fresh air, and
- temperature.

Assuming that the grower already has suitable grow-spaces, temperature should not be too much of a problem. If outside grow-spaces are not suitable, seedlings can be grown successfully inside. Additional light can be provided. (Lighting will be addressed in greater detail in the final instalment.)

Humidity:

Any seed-tray with a clear dome lid will do for growing seedlings with some modifications. Providing some sort of wicking substrate in the bottom of the tray will aid evaporation. It is important to maintain an air gap between the media and your compots. This can be achieved by using a piece of galvanized mesh supported by plastic or

galvanized tubes or a layer of gutter-guard may be sufficient if the substrate does not push through.

Wicking media Options: Bark (fine bark will be more effective), clay balls or moss. Additional humidity can be provided by placing the seed-tray on a heat mat when temperatures are low.

Light:

A north or east-facing window is ideal for positioning a seed-tray during winter months when seed-trays can be in full sun for 4-5 hours a day. During summer months, east-facing seed-trays may need some shading and north-facing seed-trays will not get any direct light. Many house windows have a UV protective tint applied that reduces the risk of burning leaves. Artificial grow-lights will support seedling growth, but if natural light is not available it is recommended to use full-spectrum lights, ensuring the green and yellow components of the full spectrum are included.

Fresh air:

Seedlings need air-movement. The movement of humid air helps to dry leaves and roots after watering. A small computer fan can be installed inside the dome to create air movement. Mounting the fan inside the grow box provides air movement without compromising humidity. Air exchange can be managed by leaving the louvre vents open or adding small holes low down on the dome. If the seed-tray does not have sufficient fresh-air, making some small holes in the lid/dome will assist air-exchange (I used a hot metal skewer to poke holes in the clear plastic lid). A trial with the fan installed in the side of the dome resulted in low humidity levels and very high evaporative water loss.

Computer fans can be obtained readily on eBay, or if you know someone in a computer-repair business, they will often give you second-hand fans for free. Old cell-phone chargers can be used as power supplies.

Temperature:

As with all orchids, their natural temperature range needs to be considered along with the typical temperature range they would have experienced in the flask. The goal in the end is to transition them to shade-house or glass-house culture. The seed tray is one step along that journey. Seedlings appear to respond well to warmth from the base. The heat mats are helpful in winter and on cool summer nights but can be turned off for the summer.

Seed trays can be purchased from hardware stores, specialist hydroponic suppliers or online.

Harry

Cattleya aclandiae
Cattleya purpurata
Cattleya tenebrosa
Phalaenopsis japonica

Ken & Chris

Dendrobium lindleyi
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Encyclia diurnal
Epidendrum pseudopidendrum
Masdevallia ayacabana
Masdevallia deceptrix
Miltonia regnellii alba
Paphiopedilum rothschildianum
Phalaenopsis mariae

Adrian & Dee

Dendrobium tangerinum
Encyclia bractescens

Maxillaria marginata
Pleurothallis pubescens

Mich

Dendrobium catenatum

Victor

Cattleya tenebrosa

Courtney

Rhyncholaelia digbyana

Norm

Encyclia adenocaula

Helen

Cattleya purpurata
Cattleya purpurata alba
Oncidium phymatochilum (now *Miltonia phymatochila*)

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED November 2021



Cattleya aclandiae
Harry



Pleurothallis pubescens
Adrian & Dee

Siva

Coelogyne pandurata

Jane & Richard

Restrepia falkenbergii

Tony & Mavis

Encyclia atrorubens

Zelenkoa onusta



Maxillaria marginata
Adrian & Dee

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED November 2021



Dendrobium tangerinum
Adrian & Dee



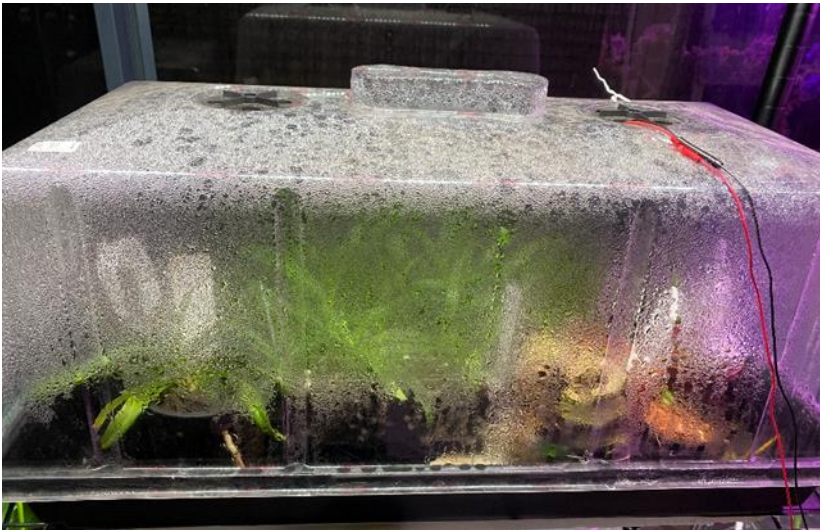
Cattleya purpurata alba
Helen

1 Small Bunnings Seed-tray:



Bunnings sells the Saxon mini seed tray for around \$12. This seed tray base is 24cm x 38cm, and the height is 18cm. Base heat mats to suit 10" x 20" or 25cm x 51cm cost about \$20 online or can be purchased from your local hydroponic shop.

2 Commercial propagation tray with lid.



This product is often sold with the mat and thermostat for around \$125 at the Hydroponic shops. It fits the 10" x 20" heat mats and is 24cm high.

Online prices:

- Dome \$13

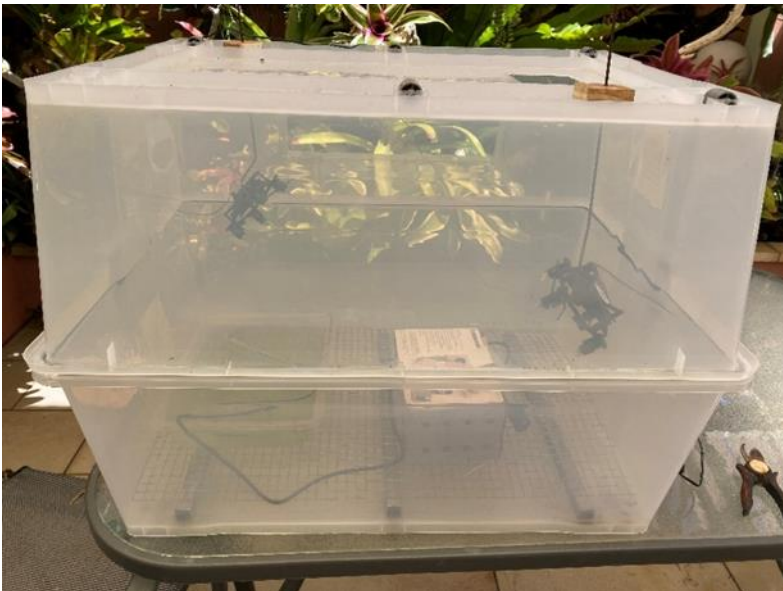
- Dome, tray with \$10 postage \$25.
- Kit with heat mat \$60

3 Larger sturdy propagating tray with lid:

Available on eBay for \$60. The Cultiv8 35m x 62cm heat mat suits this tray. 35cm deep, 54 wide, 22cm high).

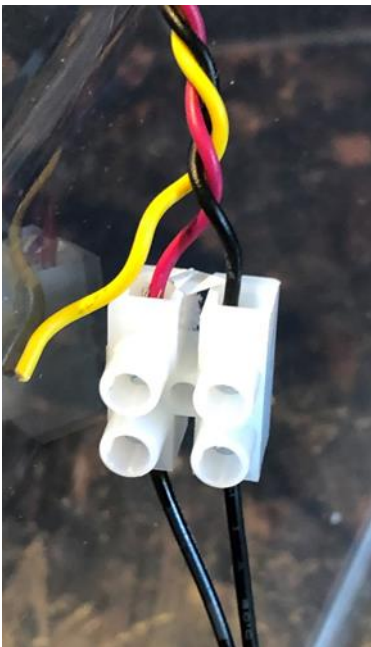


The storage container option: Two storage containers make a suitable growing space if you have the room.



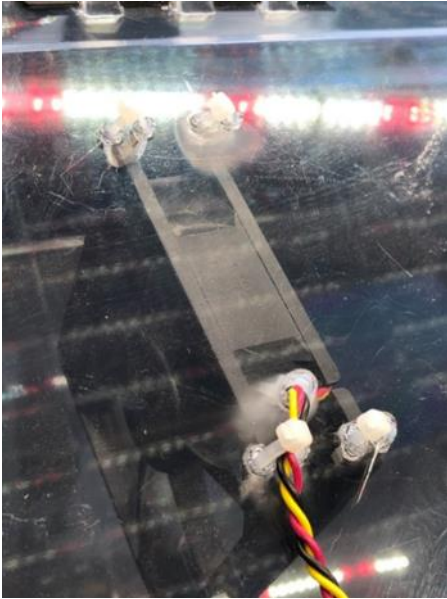
Installing fans. You will need:

- Fan – any small computer fan will do.
- Power supply – old cell phone charger works well. (See table regarding choosing the power supply.)
- Connection blocks (from Altronics)
- Small zip-ties, wire, or strong thread to mount the fan.
- Small screwdriver (flat head normally.)
- Pliers (optional)
- Drill for holes OR a skewer heated over a flame will melt a hole in the plastic. (Note: the fumes given off from the melting plastic are toxic, so do this in a well-ventilated space).



Steps:

1. Mark where you want the holes to be. (Texta is the best option.)
2. Create holes for mounting and a larger hole for the wires.
3. Thread the wire through the hole and secure the fan (loosely to start with – you can tighten it up later.)
4. Connect the wires (black and red) to the power supply and check that the fan turns when you plug it in.
5. Tighten up the mounting of the fan.



For those with little knowledge of electronics here is a guide for selecting your power supply: Fan specification Power supply specification Note on selecting the Power supply:

Voltage – typically 12v (DC12V) OUTPUT: 12v Keep the Voltage the same or LOWER than the fan specification. You can run a 12v fan on 9v – it will just run slower.

Amp – typically around 0.15 (0.13A) 500mA Power supply amps must be HIGHER than the fan. (Note 500mA = 0.5A which is much higher than 0.13A)



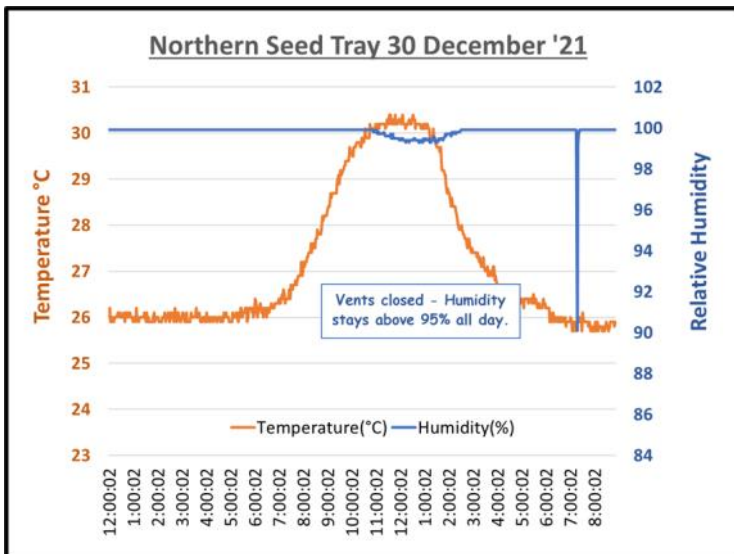
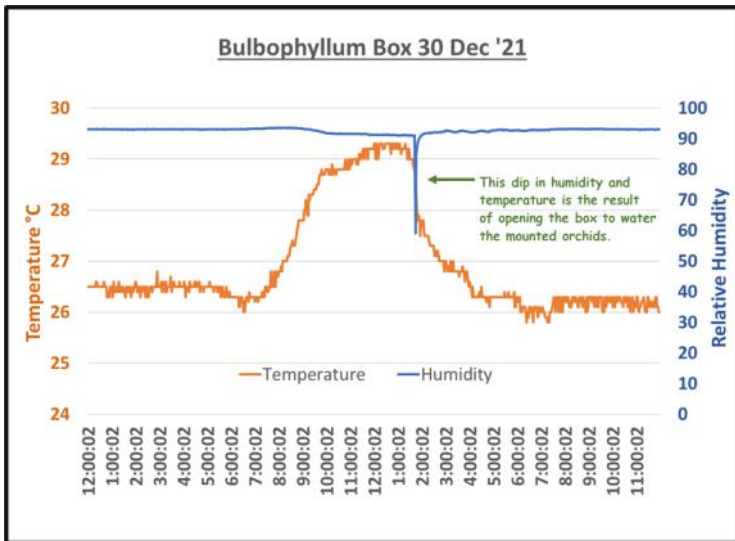
Note on connecting fan to power supply: Ignore the white or yellow wire – you can cut it off. Before permanently connecting the wires, test which way they should be connected. Plug in the power supply and try connecting the wires. If the fan does not start turning, just swap the wires over.

Advanced Note: you can connect several fans to one power supply as long as the

combined amps is less than that specified on the power supply.

EG: One Power supply with output 12v 1A can be connected to 4 Fans with a 12V, 0.13A rating by connecting all of the black wires of the fans together and all of the red wires of the fans together and then connect them to the power supply.

Jane has provided the following two graphs showing humidity and temperature on Thursday 30 December. High humidity is essential for vigorous growth of seedlings out of flask (in flask, humidity is a constant 100%)



Cont. 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 11 January