

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 9 February 2022



Anne O'Callaghan Award January 2022

Cattleya purpurata

Courtney

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 8 February

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 January 2022 7.15pm

Members observed one minute's silence in memory of our life member Noel.

Present: 28 members as per register.

Apologies: 7 as per register.

Visitors: 2 as per register

New members: Nil

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from November meeting moved Richard, seconded Lauren. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Treasurer's report presented by Adrian. Account balance is \$5,841.48. Acceptance moved Charly, seconded Lynne. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Orchids WA – draft GM minutes
- Tony – flasks from Thailand arrived
- Jane – draft and final membership survey forms
- City of Canning – mask mandate and amended COVID-19 requirements

Outwards:

- Committee – City of Canning notices, GM draft minutes
- City of Canning - COVID-19 contact register sheet December GM

Acceptance of correspondence report moved Arnold, seconded Lynn. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Peter led discussion on part one of the member survey that can be

completed on-line, or for members that do not have access to the on-line version, using the copy included in the newsletter. Jane thanked members who had returned paper copy responses at tonight's meeting, and members who had completed and submitted the on-line version. Part two will be conducted in February.

- Adrian led a general discussion with members about the possible WA COVID-19 requirements post February 5th, and in the lead up to borders opening. As has been the case in WA, it is likely that the State Government will determine the arrangements and restrictions applying to meetings, and that the City of Canning will as a minimum apply those constraints to venue hirers such as SOSWA. As a minimum, it is likely that members attending meetings will be required to wear masks, and that members attending meetings will need to be double vaccinated or have an approved medical exemption. It is also possible that the State Government might impose limits on the number of people that can be present at homes.

The requirements for members attending home visits were discussed, and it was accepted that SOSWA should follow best practice to minimise opportunities for members to become infected with SARS-COV2. This could include the exclusion of unvaccinated members (or those without a valid medical exemption) from

home visits and committee meetings. As a medical practitioner, Lina supported a conservative approach to managing the uncertainty that will apply once WA opens its borders to the other states. Jacqui advised that the GCA voluntary workers and public liability insurance does not provide cover for members or others who might become infected while attending meetings or events, or prohibit SOSWA from conducting any activities. However, she has received advice that incorporated associations wishing to provide more protection for themselves and their members should consider framing by-laws to address such matters. This could include requiring members attending meetings to provide proof of vaccination or medical exemption similar to recently announced WA government requirements to apply post February 5th. Arnold Davies reminded members that they could download copies of their vaccination certificate from MyGov provided they had linked their Medicare data. It is also likely that the WA Government will mandate this information be displayed in the replacement Safer WA app. due for release in the next few days. Line Pacca reminded members assisting with setting out the hall to ensure that there is spacing of 1.5m between chairs, and that SOSWA complies with the 2sqm rule for its public meetings. A show of hands indicated a majority of members supportive of the proposed response to the likelihood of a significant increase in community transmission of COVID-19 post February 5th.

- At the conclusion of the meeting, Peter advised that he was standing down as President. He was thanked for his work on committee for the past several years.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Courtney for a well grown specimen *Cattleya purpurata* .

Raffle: Helen, Jane, Courtney, Adrian, Arnold.

Badge Prize: Margaret Bowden

Life Members

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

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian
2014 Chris (dec'd)
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.

- * 27 Feb - Richard & Jane, Carramar.
- * 27 Mar Adrian & Dee, Safety Bay

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: Vacant

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

Committee: Paul

Graham Mavis

Maxine Tony

Charly

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Membership renewals are due this month. There is no change in the fee, and you can pay the Treasurer at the meeting. If you are happy to provide proof of vaccination at the same time, you could provide details to Adrian when paying your membership. Alternatively, you can transfer payment by EFT to the Society's account at Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, account 122491988 including your surname in the transfer.
- While the next AGM is still some time away, with the passing of Chris, we have another committee vacancy to fill. Please give this some thought.
- With this newsletter, you will find the second of three member surveys. Please take the time to complete the survey, using either the paper form included which can be given to Jane or the on-line version at <https://forms.gle/cQaZfWtZnLgSdJKNA>

Vale Noel Verweirder

Our Life Member Noel died on 14 January 2022 after being unwell for some time. As his health deteriorated, Noel was unable to drive to attend orchid meetings and relied on others including Charly to give him a lift. It was always a pleasant surprise when Noel and Eva were able to come to meetings and home visits.

Noel was a foundation member of the Species Orchid Society and with past life members Neville, Gordon, Ted & Joan and a few others, attended an initial meeting on 23 March 1988 where it was agreed to form the Society. The first General Meeting was held on 26 May 1988. Noel and Eva were members of the inaugural committee established to guide and manage the society. At the same



time, Noel and Eva were active members of other orchid societies including the then Wanneroo Orchid Society (now the Wanneroo/Joondalup Orchid Society).

Noel always had a passion for species orchids and grew many large species, including two massive *Vanilla planifolia* species that the Species Society acquired with many others from his collection when due to deteriorating health in early 2021, Noel made the difficult decision to sell the majority of his orchids. He generously gave the Species Society prior opportunity to purchase the majority of his species

orchids before the auction arranged by Wanneroo/Joondalup Orchid Society. These plants have, and continue to be used as raffle prizes for our members. Noel's Eden glasshouse also found a new home with Jane and Richard.

Noel and Eva joined other orchid society members on Asian trips arranged by Tony and Mavis and enjoyed the opportunity to see orchids in their natural habitat, visit orchid nurseries and spend quality time with orchid friends. They regularly hosted home visits where Noel enjoyed showing his orchid collection and demonstrating his orchid culture to others.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE (contd.)

Minimising the risk of community transmission of Corona virus between members.

In view of the increasing incidence of community transmission of Corona virus in Western Australia, notwithstanding the Government decision not to open our borders on 5 February, the management committee at its monthly meeting on Thursday 27 January decided to implement measures designed to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus at our meetings including home visits. In summary, effective from the next general meeting on Tuesday 8 February 2022, the following measures will apply:

- All members are required to register their QR code or sign the City of Canning contact register when attending a meeting at the Wilson Community Hall. This is a City of Canning requirement
- Members are encouraged to apply hand sanitizer when entering the hall before signing the SOSWA attendance register, assisting in setting out chairs and tables, and putting away chairs and tables following the meeting.
- Chairs will be spaced apart to assist in maintaining social distancing consistent with Government COVID-19 guidelines.
- For the time being, there will be no tea, coffee or supper served (please do not bring supper to share). For members who need liquid refreshment, disposable plastic cups will be available. Members are also free to bring their own refreshments.

At the next meeting, member input will be sought on the following matters:

- Whether members are prepared to provide proof of vaccination to enable development of a member's vaccination register?
- Suspension of home visits. Some members who previously agreed to host home visits have expressed concern about hosting such visits given the increasing incidence of community transmission, and the likelihood of substantial growth in infection rates in Western Australia. Therefore, post 31 January, cessation of home visits is recommended to minimise the risk of community transmission of the virus.

Species Orchid Society Member Survey Part 2

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find part two of the member survey. Thank you to those members who have completed part one, either on-line or using the paper form and returning it to Jane at the January meeting. The on-line survey part two can be completed at <https://forms.gle/cQaZfWtZnLgSdJKNA>

Special Raffle

A special raffle commenced at the Ezi-Gro Orchids home visit on Saturday 29 January, and will be drawn at the February general meeting. The prize is a large *Stanhopea occulata* that we purchased from Noel.



MONTHLY PLANT

Bulbophyllum kubahense

Country of origin: Sarawak

Description: Small-medium sized rambling species .

Difficulty: This species requires year round humidity

Cost: \$12.00

Bulbophyllum kubahense J.J. Verm. & A. Lamb 2011 SECTION Beccariana Pfitz. 1889 is one of the more recently identified members of the genus. Its common name is the Kubah National Park *Bulbophyllum*. Somewhat disturbingly, obviously wild collected plants of this new species from a single location were seen in nurseries in Singapore before its publication. See <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00606-010-0414-y>. Most plants of this species are those in collections.

When it first became commercially available for sale, *Bulbophyllum kubahense* was very expensive due to its rarity and strikingly attractive flowers. These plants have been grown by our local *Bulbophyllum* expert, Charly who will talk to members about growing this desirable species.

Found only in then Kubah National Park, Kuching Province, Sarawak, Malaysia, it



Photo source: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/586171707722477072/>

grows at 100- 200m as a small-medium sized, hot growing epiphyte with distant, cylindrical pseudobulbs. Each pseudobulb carries a single, apical, erect, coriaceous, elliptic, acute to acuminate leaf. Flowering occurs in late spring on a short 9.5-11cm 15 to 17 flowered inflorescence carrying non-resupinate, wide open, mostly simultaneously opening flowers. The flowers are unusual for the genus in their form which is reminiscent of many other genera, while *Bulbophyllum* as a genus is better known for its unusual flower forms.

This orchid is related to *Bulbophyllum refractilingue* but has a longer inflorescence, longer lateral sepals and longer petals.

Harry

Brassavola cucullata
Cattleya purpurata
Cattleya tenebrosa

Graham & Margaret

Stenoglottis woodii

Charly & Gerda

Bulbophyllum amplebracteatum

Ken & Chris

Bulbophyllum arfakianum
Cymbidium aloifolium
Dendrochilum moschatum
Encyclia atrorubens
Encyclia diurna
Encyclia tampensis
Eulophia petersii
Lycaste aromatica
Micropera rostrata

Mormolyca ringens

Paphiopedilum thaianum

Adrian & Dee

Dendrobium tangerinum
Sarcolabopsis arritii

Victor

Angraecum magdalenae

Courtney

Cattleya purpurata

John

Cattleya purpurata
Cattleya tigrina

Jane

Sarcophilus hirticalcar

Tony & Mavis

Brassavola nodosa
Cattleya gaskelliana alba

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED January 2022



Micropera rostrata
Ken & Chris



Cattleya gaskelliana alba
Tony & Mavis



Bulbophyllum amplebracteatum
Charly & Gerda



Brassavola cucullata
Harry

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED January 2022



Sarcophilus hirticalcar
Jane & Richard



Brassavola nodosa
Tony & Mavis

The next part of the article from Jane printed last month follows. What makes this very relevant are the constraints imposed on international live plant imports by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Growing orchids from flask is now the only option for many of us wanting to expand our collections, and more specifically, to access a supply of orchids for SOSWA monthly plant sales. Thanks Jane for your article last month about growth boxes.

First-year deflasking lessons – by Jane

Disclaimer: I'm a beginner! I've only been doing this for 14 months!!! I have some success and I expect to still have a few failures. I am still conservative in my expectations – if I keep 50% of a flask alive, I consider that a success. I approached this as a skill to be learnt, accepting that there would be an investment required to build my hobby.

It was in September 2020 that I first attempted deflasking. I had listened carefully to Ken Jones explain and demonstrate what to do. I chose a flask of *Sarcochilus* hybrids because it was the only flask available to me at the time. In retrospect, this was not a wise choice. I am not good at growing Sarcs when they are mature plants – why would I manage with seedlings?!? I did not struggle with the first 6 months – it was when I needed to move them out of the seed-trays to make room for species seedlings that I suffered the major losses. I think I have 6 or 7 of the 30 that I started with. In all honesty, my total lack of concern for these *Sarcochilus* seedlings is evidenced by the fact that one of these has been sitting on my kitchen counter being totally neglected for the last 10 days. (Note to self: Try to only grow orchids you like Jane!)

The next few flasks were a bit hit-and-miss and two in particular, were badly shaken in the post and the agar gelatin on the leaves destroyed most of the plants before I got them out of the flask. By this stage, I had watched Bruce deflask some *Cattleyas* and my next stop was to visit Charly to find out what he knew.

So I tried again. Flasks 5, 6, 7 and 9 I could see significant improvements:

- *Plectrelminthus caudatus* I deflasked in May 2021. Of the 33 plants I kept, 25 are still alive and doing well in November. (75% success)
- *Angraecum calceolus* I deflasked in May 2021. Of the 34 plants I kept, 34 were still growing well in November. (100% success)
- *Biffrenaria aureo-fulva* I deflasked in May 2021. Of the 42 plants I kept, 38 are still growing – though Sphagnum is not a great media for them. (90% success)
- *Dendrobium Air Way Blue* (A hybrid, I know). Of the 43 plants I kept, 43 are vigorously growing. (100% success)

It has been an incredibly steep learning-curve! But here are MY take-aways:

- * I take time to read up on the plants I am about to deflask. This will guide decisions. (Mounting vs pots or bark vs perlite or styrene, more open mix etc.)
- * I will ALWAYS use a good fungicidal soak on seedlings that come out of the flask.
- * I will ALWAYS soak my seedlings in rooting hormone for 15min. (I use Root XS)

- * I don't worry as much about the potting media – I use what I have and what the roots dictate: fine roots = fine media; thick roots = thick media. (Thanks Peter ☺)
- * I keep them in high humidity (around 80%) with good air-movement IN the seed-tray/ Bulbophyllum box (see following part of the article)
- * I water daily, currently, due the loss of water from the tray.
- * I don't worry about getting water in or on the leaves because I have sufficient air-movement in the tray.
- * My seed trays sit on heat-mats to help stimulate root-growth and keep the humidity high.
- * My seedlings like the additional artificial light I provide.
- * Deflasking and growing seedlings is the easy part for me. Getting the rest of my set-up ready for them to move out of their seed-trays is the next big hurdle.

As this has been a learning experience for me, I have regarded the expense as being similar to the fees that might be incurred by attending a course of instruction. The costs incurred over the past year or so have been:

Initial introduction	Free
First Flask (this was expensive)	\$70
Root hormone	\$30
Fungicide	\$10
Pots and Media	\$30
First seed-tray, heat-mat, Dome and fan	\$120
Flask 2-4	\$135
Second Seed-tray, heat-mat, Dome and fan	\$82
Flask 5	\$142
Flask 6	\$162
Flask 9	\$66
Third seed-tray, heat-mat, Dome and Fan	\$138
1st year TOTAL	\$985

My preferred setup takes 3 flasks when compotted:

Large Sturdy 35cm x 53cm Tray	\$17.60
Large Clear Dome with 2 vents	\$43.12
Large Heat Mat 35cm x 62cm	\$56.50
Fan	\$5.00
Power cable	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$137.22

On the following page, I have included some photos of deflasked orchids over time.



Plectrelminthus
caudatus
Development
over 9 months:
29 May '21
15 November
25 January '22



Badly shaken flask



Surface cleaning spray



Newly compotted Dendrobium hybrid



seedlings.

Advanced Dendrobium hybrid seedlings

I recently deflasked *Dendrobium devonianum* for the Species Orchid Society. Given the opportunity to share knowledge with members through newsletter articles, I have documented the process. The steps were

1. Research culture and prepare tags and potting mix.
2. Clean counter
3. Balance pH of rainwater.
4. Prepare fungicide mix and rinse bowl.
5. Break flask.
6. Get orchids out of flask and rinse off agar.
7. Soak in fungicide.
8. Lay out to dry.
9. Prepare rooting hormone mix.
10. Soak in rooting hormone (Root XS)
11. Lay out to dry and sort size
12. Pot
13. Spray with calcium nitrate solution.
14. Add labels
15. Update notes.
16. Move to grow tray.
17. Photograph.

Thanks Jane for your informative articles over the past two months. We look forward to hearing more from you as you successfully grow more orchids from flask.

Why are orchids grown in sterile containers.

Jane's article relating her experiences with deflasking orchids begs the question, 'why do we germinate orchid seed this way?' While those of us who have been growing orchids for some time will know the answer to this question, less experienced orchid growers may wonder why this is so.

Orchid seed is tiny. Each seed is about the size of finely ground white pepper, and the average orchid seed capsule holds thousands of seeds which in the native habitat are distributed by the wind once the seed capsule ripens and dehisces (dehiscence is the splitting of a mature plant structure along a built-in line of weakness in order to release its contents). The other unique and important attribute of orchid seeds is that they have no ready made food supply like most other seeds (think of grains, garden plants, weeds etc.) to support germination. Each orchid seed is only an embryo surrounded by the epicarp (the protective coating around the embryo), but no endosperm (food supply) to support germination until the plants is able to make active roots. In their natural habitat, the food supply to a germinating orchid seed is largely provided by mycorrhizal fungi which exist in a symbiotic relationship with the orchid seedling, as they do with many thousands of plants.

In a mycorrhizal association, the fungal hyphae of an underground mycelium are in contact with plant roots, but the fungus does not parasitize the plant in any way. In fact the association is commonly (but by no means always) mutually beneficial. Through photosynthesis a chlorophyll-containing plant makes simple carbohydrates (using carbon dioxide, water and sunlight). While it is clear that the majority of plants form relationships with mycorrhizas, the exact percentage is uncertain, but it is likely to be somewhere between 80% and 90%. In many of these associations between 10% and 30% of the food produced by the plant moves through to the fungi (the mutually beneficial aspect of the relationship).

The special relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and orchids is complex and beyond the scope of this note, however each of an orchid's life stages are to a greater or lesser degree dependent at some level on specific fungi. In the earliest stages, orchids are entirely reliant on mycorrhizal fungi for all nutrients including carbon. In artificial propagation, this relationship is replaced with an agar-based media containing essential nutrients and hormones. In 1922, Lewis Knudson discovered that providing orchid seed with the nutrients, carbohydrates and hormones supplied by mycorrhiza in the wild, he was able to have the seed germinate, grow and mature into the orchid plant. This made the asymbiotic or artificial propagation of orchids possible, and with refinements to media formulation over the years since he published his work on the culture medium. For further information, see <http://mycorrhizas.info/#symb> and <https://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/mycorrhiza.html>

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 8 February