

**THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)**

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



**Vol 34 No 12 May 2023**



Anne O'Callaghan Award April 2023  
*Cattleya lueddemanniana*  
Norm

# NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9 May**

**Contents**

2. April meeting minutes
3. Notes from your Committee
4. Noticeboard
5. Monthly plant
6. Interview with Gary Sweikert .
8. Plants displayed
- 10 The Subtribe *Pleurothaliidinae*
12. About us

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 April 2023 7.55 pm

**Present:** 17 members as per register.

**Apologies:** 9 as per register.

**Visitors:** 3 as per register

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Acceptance of minutes from March meeting moved Ray, seconded Lynn. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no financial report.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Draft Orchids WA meeting minutes.
- Committee members – additions/ amendments to draft agendas and minutes.
- Adrian – inventory held, microphone issues, GM photos.
- Dianet– contact details for Lynn.
- Bruce , Peter - SOSWA plant inventory.
- Michael – change of address
- Peter – apologies for SOSWA meetings.
- Murray – advise standing down as Vice-President at AGM.

**Outwards:**

- Committee – draft GM minutes, draft committee minutes, draft GM agenda, committee and general meeting minutes.
- April newsletter to members.
- Adrian, Peter, Bruce – details of plant inventory held for SOSWA
- Paul – photos, articles and information for website
- Adrian, Paul – draft 2022-23 financial

statement

Acceptance of correspondence report moved Ray, seconded Graham. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**Annual General Meeting**

Members were advised that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 9 May prior to the General Meeting.

Ken informed members that the Vice-President Murray has advised that due to his medical issues, he does not feel able to fulfill the responsibilities of the position for the second year of his term. However, he will nominate for election as an ordinary committee member.

In 2022/23, we lost two members of the committee, Charly Hartmann and Tony Watkinson. Unless other nominations are received, the office of Vice President and at least one ordinary committee position will be vacant.

Members were reminded that they must be financial to vote at the AGM.

**Inter Society Orchid Display and Workshop**

Murray reminded members that the 2023 ISODW to be held at Manning Community Centre, 2 Conochie Crescent, Manning is not far away. Set up on Saturday 5th and open to the public on the Sunday 6th. OSWA requires societies to RSVP numbers and payment for the dinner (\$50 per head) by 1 June 2023. If you plan to attend the dinner, please pay the Treasurer at the May meeting.

**Perth Orchid Fair**

The Perth Orchid Fair will be held at John Septimus Roe College, Mirrabooka on 2nd-3rd September with set up in the afternoon of Friday 1st.

This event will be widely promoted as an opportunity to purchase flowering size orchids, and members are therefore encouraged to prepare both sales and display plants. Ken will be preparing a roster and members will be asked to commit to volunteering at the event.

### **2024 Perth International Orchid Fair**

Ken advised members that the next Orchids WA general meeting on Saturday 15 April, a decision will need to be made by members whether we continue with the plan to stage an international orchid event to accompany the AOCC and International Orchid Conservation Conference in 2024.

Despite visiting several alternative venues (all of which were unsuitable) we are still unable to secure a suitable venue at a reasonable cost for the preferred early September date. While it is possible the event could be postponed to 2025, even though this is another year out securing a suitable venue is difficult.

Ken further explained that the few people carrying the planning workload are most concerned at an apparent lack of interest and commitment from Orchids WA membership clubs, and a decision will need to be made as to whether it is abandoned. This would be very disappointing to the people who have worked for many years to win and WOC, and then when that was taken from us, to plan another international event.

Ken asked members for feedback so that our delegate, Mavis is able to vote on this matter if required. When asked whether members of SOSWA were supportive of staging this event in 2024 if we can find a suitable venue, and if

so, prepared to commit to support it with sale and display plants, and as volunteers; few members seemed prepared to commit to the event.

Ken referred to the requirement to generate income to meet the cost of staging the event. This would likely include a registration fee estimated at about \$300 a head. The majority of members present indicated that they would not pay a registration cost of this magnitude.

Harry stated that he would not pay for registration at a conference to attend academic lectures. Ken replied that the scientific lectures would form part of the International Orchid Conservation Conference, while PLOF program would focus on hobbyist and cultural information. Harry said that he can get all the orchid growing and cultural information he needs for free on-line. Income also comes from the pre-and post-conference tours, public entry to the event, and sales commission. Several Eastern States suppliers and some international flask suppliers have indicated their intention to attend.

### **Sale Plants for May**

Following the suggestion by Tara, the plant sale at the May GM will be a "second chance" to get one or more of the leftover past monthly plants that you might have missed purchasing.

A list of the species available will be distributed with the May newsletter, and the plants will be on the sales table.

Contd. on page 5

# NOTICEBOARD

## FORTH-COMING EVENTS

### Home visits:

At 10 am on Sundays. Please bring chairs and food to share. The next home visit is scheduled for:

\* 30 Apr Adrian & Deanna , 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](mailto: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](mailto:harry.ashton@live.com.au).

Lynn would like to purchase *Section Latouria Dendrobium* orchids.

Contact Lynn on 0414 922 923 or [contrarymiss@hotmail.com](mailto:contrarymiss@hotmail.com).

**President:** Adrian

**Vice President:** Murray

**Treasurer:** Adrian

**Secretary:** Ken Jones

210 Hermitage Drive, The Vines

6069. Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

**Editor:** Ken

**Committee:** Paul

Graham Peter

Maxine Mavis

### 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 (dec'd) & 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

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Awarded to Norm for *Cattleya leudemanniana*

Raffle: Rod , Graham, Lina, John

Badge Prize: Lina

Meeting closed: **9. 30pm**

**'Second chance' monthly plants**

The following plants that were not sold when first offered for sale will be available for purchase at the May general meeting.

Species	Number	Price
<i>Anoectochilus formosanus</i>	16	\$5
<i>Aspidogyne argentea</i>	4	\$5
<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	5	\$5
<i>Dendrobium devonianum</i>	10	\$5
<i>Laelia briegei</i>	2	\$10
<i>Vanda foetida</i>	6	\$5

**NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

• **ISODW**

Members who wish to attend the ISODW dinner Saturday 5th August will need to pay \$50 per head to the Treasurer by the May GM

• **Monthly sale/raffle plants.**

If you have species orchids that are surplus to your needs, or have successfully grown species orchids from flask that you wish to sell, the Society needs monthly sale plants (minimum of 20 plants) and raffle plants. Please us know if you have plants for sale.

• **Annual Membership**

Individual member \$20, family \$30. You can pay the Treasurer at the meeting, or transfer payment by EFT to the Society's account at Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, account 122491988 including your surname.

## An Interview with Gary Sweikert (contd. From April)



*Cym. suave* growing in the bush.

Looking at these results, the root system of this species prefers acidic conditions (totally different to *canaliculatum*). All plants in nature had at least a 25mm layer of good leaf mould from decaying leaves, twigs and bark around their base. This species is renowned for very long root systems penetrating down into the decayed centre of stumps and trees; the decayed matter (known as mudgut) from stumps had a pH level as low as

3.5 in some locations. Ken recommends getting hold of some of this matter when potting up this species at home.

To lower the mix pH for this species, one can use vitamin C tablets, 5ml per litre of pure pineapple juice, Phostrogen Acid Plant Food or coffee grounds which has a natural pH of 4.5. Never apply lime to *Cym. suave* as it hates alkaline conditions and the plant will slowly fail.

*Cymbidium madidum* plants that were studied in north eastern NSW all living in trees and on logs and stumps. The pH around the root zone was typically 6 to 6.5; with this pH requirement, this species is easier to maintain in cultivation.

All three species are very difficult to raise and grow ex flask and this is not recommended for the novice grower, especially when one sees the price of some flasks today. For the average hobbyist and new grower, I advise one to seek out established seedlings or plants; they are available, but one needs to ring around and do some research on availability. Experienced growers working in this field do not advertise but rely on word of mouth advertising these days. The orchid world is still small at times.

The following page has a summary table to help compare the traits of the three different Aussie Cyms:



*Cym. madidum* growing on a tree stump.

Trait	<i>Cym. madidum</i>	<i>Cym. suave</i>	<i>Cym. canaliculatum</i>
Growth	large	small	in between
Raceme	300 -900mm	150 – 300mm	200 – 400mm
Flowers	20 – 70	10 – 30	15 – 60
Flower size	small	small	slightly larger
Flowering time	Aug – Feb	Aug – Jan	Sep – Nov
Average rain	lots all year	avg all year	lots summer only
Habitat	moist forest	temp forest	arid woodland
Temps	warm to hot	cool to warm	cool to very hot
Growth cycle	Spring – Autumn	Summer – Winter	Summer – Autumn
Rootzone pH	Neutral 6-6.5	Acidic 4-4.5	Alkaline 9-9.5
Sun/shade in situ	50-70% shade	50% shade	0-30% shade
Cover/shelter	shade cloth	shade cloth/poly	poly
Pot size	big standard	long or stump	normal
Mix	bark	bark/heartwood	bark, gravel, perlite
Fertilizer	OK	acid no lime	OK plus lime
Availability	average	below average	average
Pod/Pollen	can be both	better pod	better pollen
Registered primary hybrids	18+	6+	12+
Ease of culture	easy	difficult	challenging
My overall rating*	2	7 to 8	6 to 7

\* where 1 = no problems and 10 = impossible

Of particular interest these days is the increasing availability of albinistic forms of these species:

*Cym. canaliculatum* has a definite pure colour green form and a pure colour yellow form in existence.

*Cym. madidum* has a pure colour yellow-green form that has dark yellow colouring at the back of the labellum. This is known to be a true alba based on breeding behaviour.

*Cym. suave*, to date, has not had a confirmed alba form found yet, but exciting news is

**Harry**

*Brassavola cucullata*  
*Catasetum fimbriatum*  
*Dendrobium schneiderae*  
*Epidendrum diffusum*  
*Sarcochilus eriochilus*

**Graham & Margaret**

*Cymbidium ensifolium* Fu Shan  
*Coelogyne cobbianum*  
*Dendrobium monophyllum*

**Lynn**

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* Red

**Ken & Chris**

*Bulbophyllum echinolabium*  
*Cattleya perrinii*  
*Coelogyne carinata*  
*Coelogyne cobbianum*

*Epidendrum diffusum*

*Miltonia x leucoglossa*

*Oncidium* spp

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*

*Schomburgkia albopurpurea*

**Bruce**

*Aeranthes filipes*

*Oncidium excavatum*

**Norm**

*Cattleya lueddemanniana*

*Dendrobium schneiderae*

*Paphiopedilum victoria-regina*

**Ray**

*Coelogyne micranthum*

*Prosthechea cochleatum*

## MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED April 2023



*Cattleya perrinii*  
Ken & Chris



*Coelogyne carinata*  
Ken & Chris





*Aeranthes filipes*  
Bruce



*Brassavola cucullata*  
Harry

## MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED April 2023



*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* Red  
Lynn



*Dendrobium monophyllum*  
Graham & Margaret

that there is pure green form known to exist (closely guarded I might add). Photos and maybe some pollen will be available later this year (2021) – fingers crossed for that exciting prospect. More on that in the years to come perhaps.

*The alba form of Cym. madidum  
(Joshua White's photo).*



I do hope the reader finds some useful information here and I encourage all to look more closely at our great Aussie Cyms. Even though their flowers might be small, they have found their way into many a great hybrid Cymbidium on the world stage. Thanks to Harry Ashton for making the arrangements to enable re-publication of this article..

### **The Subtribe Pleurothalidinae (cont'd from March)**

*Masdevallia towarensis* Rchb.f 1849 is endemic to Aragua State and the Federal District of Venezuela at 1,600-2,400m where it grows as a miniature, cool to cold growing epiphyte in a small area of cloud forest in coastal mountains. Despite excessive

collection of the species, it was still abundant in its natural habitat in the early 2000's. Stout, erect ramicauls enveloped by 2 to 3 loose, tubular sheaths carrying single, apical, erect, thickly coriaceous, glossy green, elliptical, subacute to obtuse leaves. Flowering in autumn and early winter takes place on an erect congested 8-18cm raceme arising from low on the ramicaul with a basal bract carrying 2-4 simultaneously opening flowers on each inflorescence with white, tubular, imbricating floral bracts holding the waxy, long-lived flowers well above the leaves. An interesting characteristic is that the inflorescences will reflower the following year.



Photo source: <https://www.orchids.org/grexes/masdevallia-tovarensis>

Its common name is the Tovar Masdevallia named after a Venezuelan town near where it was found. Synonyms are *Alaticaulia towarensis* (Rchb.f.) Luer 2006 and *Masdevallia candida* Klotsch & Karst.

*Masdevallia veitchiana* Rchb.f 1868 was initially found growing around Inca ruins at Macchu Picchu in Cusco Department of Peru, although now has all but disappeared as a result of massive over-collection. Initially, they were found growing as small-sized cool-cold terrestrial/lithophytes or rarely epiphytes at 2,000-4,000m on steep rocky slopes covered with grasses and shrubs in full sun with their leaves protected by the grass. A tufted species with short ramicauls enveloped by tubular bracts with erect, linear-oblongeolate, tapered to the channelled thick leaves, it flowers in spring and early summer on an erect 39-44cm single flowered inflorescence carrying 2 distant, tubular bracts and a single inflated tubular, ovate floral bract. The long-lasting flowers held well above the leaves. This species, known as the "King of Masdevallias" is variable with different colour forms recorded, and has dominated the Masdevallia hybridization programs for many years.



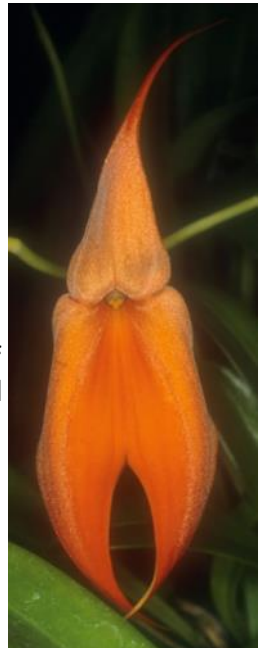
Its common name is Veitch's Masdevallia named after Veitch and Sons, the English importers who were the first to flower it in captivity. In Peru, it is known as Gallo-Gallo referring to the rooster-like red comb, crest and wattles of the flower. The Incas call it Wajanki

Photo source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/masveitchiana.htm>

Dale Borders is quoted as saying. "The unequal colour distribution apparent in *Masdevallia veitchiana* is accorded to the presence of minute purple hairs on the sepals which lend a prismatic visual aspect to the flower. Viewed head-on with the light behind you, the colour is symmetrical."

*Masdevallia veitchiana* albescent form

Photo source: [http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/masveitchiana\\_varalba.jpg](http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/masveitchiana_varalba.jpg)





In situ photo from Macchu Pichu source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/429506-Masdevallia-veitchiana>

### *Octomeria* (210 recognised species)

This genus of some 200 species, most numerous in Brazil but found throughout South and Central America is named for the Greek word for "eight parts" referring to the eight pollinia of its flowers. The vegetative appearance of the members of this species is variable with the majority having coriaceous to fleshy flat leaves while others have terete or needle-like foliage. Most often, they are small and insignificant, although the predominantly single flowers with large membranous sepals and petals which appear at the base of the leaf are attractive ranging from white through green and yellow. Flower labellums are lobed with a hinged base. As this genus is not commercially exploited, published descriptions of the species are minimalist.

*Octomeria crassifolia* Lindl. 1837 comes from Ecuador, Brazil and Uruguay where it is found in the west tropical biome and is robust, small to large species with strong roundish ramicauls that are not laterally compressed and are more than 2mm thick in the upper parts.

Its common name is the Thick Leafed Octomeria. Synonyms are *Octomeria crassifolia* var. *negrensis* Porto & Brade 1937; *Octomeria crassifolia* var. *triarticulata* (Barb.Rodr.) Cogn. 1896; *Octomeria densiflora* Barb.Rodr. 1881; *Octomeria densiflora* var. *triarticulata* Barb.Rodr. 1881





Photo source: <https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/information/?role=pub&pid=137273>

Simon Pugh-Jones of the Writhlington Orchid Project writes “*Octomeria densiflora* is a species we have had in our collection for twenty years and always a delight when it flowers. This is a beautiful species native to the Mata Atlantica cool cloud forests of Brazil and a species we found near Macae de Cima on our expeditions in 2001 and 2006 at around 1300m altitude. The flowers are small but are produced in profusion. The grey-green thick leaves are also very attractive. The flowers are short lived but produce a dramatic display with the small plants smothered in flowers.”

In situ photo source:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/26128697@N07/6957518465>



In situ photo source:  
[https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/932316-Octomeria-crassifolia/browse\\_photos](https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/932316-Octomeria-crassifolia/browse_photos)

*Octomeria diaphana* Lindley 1939 is found in south-eastern Brazil as a small sized, warm to cool growing epiphytic species from the Organ Mountains where it grows in humid, primary forests on mossy tree trunks and branches with slender, terete, erect, 3 to 4 nodded stems carrying a single, apical, erect or slightly spreading, rigid, fleshy, sessile, oblong-lanceolate, acute leaf, tinged purple. Flowering on late spring and early summer takes place on an axillary 3-5cm single flowered inflorescence. Its common name is the



Translucent Octomeria

Photo source: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffloradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br>

In situ photo source: <https://inaturalist.nz/taxa/1190655-Octomeria-diaphana>



*Octomeria estrellensis* Hoehne 1938 is endemic to the Mata Atlântica of south-eastern Brazil where it grows as an epiphyte in the wet tropical biome. It is distinguished by the long-acuminate sepals and petals, and its short fleshy leaves. Its common name is the Star-Like Octomeria.



In situ photo source: <https://inaturalist.ca/taxa/1190652-Octomeria-estrellensis>

Contd. 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 9 May**