

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 35 No 5 October 2023



Anne O'Callaghan Award September 2023

Stelis endresii

Lee-Anne

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 10 October

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 September 2023 7.45pm

Present: 16 members as per register.

Apologies: 7 as per register.

Visitors: Tommy, Chantelle, Matthew

New members: Joshua

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from August meeting moved Lee-Anne, seconded Helen. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 August was \$5,919.58.

Acceptance of financial report moved Arnold, seconded Ian. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee members – additions/ amendments to draft agendas and minutes
- Paul – request to update information in SOSWA promotional handout,
- Associations On-Line newsletter
- Adrian – monthly display plant photos,
- OSWA thanks for participating at ISODW
- Adrian and Paul – arrangements for SOSWA Perth Orchid Fair
- Members – advice of orchids for Perth Orchid Fair display, offers to assist with staging display and helping over the weekend
- Confirmation of refund from Barrita Orchids
- Paradise Distributor's catalogue
- AOC annual reports

Outwards:

- Committee – draft GM minutes, draft

committee minutes, draft GM agenda, committee and general meeting minutes.

- Adrian and Paul – arrangements for SOSWA Perth Orchid Fair
 - Paul – PDF newsletter and plant photos to be added to website
 - September newsletter to members
- Acceptance of correspondence report moved John, seconded Lee-Anne. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

Perth Orchid Fair -2/3 September 2023

Adrian thanked Paul & Andrea for transporting the display to and from the event, Graham & Margaret, Lee-Anne, Ken, Jordana, Lynn and himself & Dee stage the display on Friday and disassemble it on Sunday as well as Lee-Anne, Lynn, Lynne, Mavis, Helen and Arnold who all helped throughout the weekend.

He also thanked Graham & Margaret, himself & Dee, Paul & Andrea, Helen, Lynn and Ken for providing flowering orchids for our display that was appreciated by the feedback received from many show visitors.

He advised members that initial reports suggested it was a very successful show with members' orchid sales of approx. \$7,000, \$600 of raffle sales and about the same for kitchen sales. All the vendors were happy with their results. While attendance numbers and financial results are still being processed, Saturday numbers were reasonable but Sunday was quiet.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award

Adrian advised that following the enthusiastic endorsement of the suggestion to have members select the orchid and grower to receive the monthly Anne O'Callaghan cultural award, committee has decided on a simple process where each plant displayed would be numbered and members would be asked to record their vote for the winner on a paper slip. This will be in place for October.

Library/Orchid Digest Subscription/

Adrian advised members that committee is aware that some members might not know that society has an excellent library available for loan to members. In part, this might be the result of a failure to have any books put out to attract members attention. Mich Lee who had taken responsibility for this in the past is presently unable to regularly attend our meetings due to international travel obligations. He advised that Lynn has offered to do this for us, and it would be appreciated if another member was prepared to be a backup for this. The subscription to Orchid Digest was reviewed by Committee. A review of the borrowing records showed that few members borrow this journal. Accordingly, the subscription will not be renewed when due.

Meetings

Adrian advised that members at the recent committee meeting discussed several ideas to make meetings more interesting to members including division and repotting species orchids, media for successful culture of species orchids, advantages and disadvantages of slab culture for species orchids, and presentations from members on specific genera. Members were asked for their ideas.

Lee-Anne expressed interest in a demonstration of deflasking at the next GM as she has a number of flasks purchased in

Singapore – perhaps a *Phalaenopsis* or *Bulbophyllum*. Ken to follow up with Lee -Anne.

Adrian suggested that perhaps some demonstrations might be better done at home visits where there is more space and time to do so.

Ken advised that he had spoken with Norm who was happy to present a PowerPoint on Encyclia, but we would need to provide computer, projector and screen.

Committee membership

Adrian advised members that a major concern facing the Species Society discussed at the August committee meeting were members' concerns about the future of the Species Orchid Society if we are unable to attract new members to management committee.

Adrian advised that as current President, he has completed his two-year term and cannot nominate or be re-elected as President under the rules. He noted that although some other committee members have previously served as President and could seek re-election, it is preferable that other members take on some of the responsibilities that have been performed by the same members for many years.

He reminded members that over the past 3 years, Chris Cabassi, Tony Watkinson and Peter Masters have passed away, and Mich, Sharon and Charly did not seek re-election or have resigned. All were long term committee members. During this period, the only new member to nominate for election to the committee, and subsequently to the

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

September - King's Park with Jacqui, 12.00 midday
Sunday 24th. meet at the steps near the cafeteria.
October - Orchid walk at Wandoo National Park with
Graham & Margaret Sunday 8 October. Meet at Lakes
Roadhouse, Great Eastern Highway at 10.00am

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

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: Adrian

Vice President:

Treasurer: Adrian

Secretary: Ken Jones

210 Hermitage Drive, The Vines

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Editor: Ken

Committee: Lee-Anne

Murray Paul

Graham Mavis

Maxiner

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

position of Vice-President was Murray, who reluctantly had to stand down prior to the last AGM for personal health reasons, although remains on committee as an ordinary committee member.

To make SOSWA committee membership less onerous for members who find it difficult to attend evening meetings, the number of committee meetings has been reduced from 11 to 6 (approximately each second month), and they are now held during the day at weekends (generally Sunday mornings). Adrian emphasised that the implications of a failure to fill vacant executive committee positions at the next AGM in May 2024 may compel winding up the society and distributing its assets in accordance with the rules.

Graham & Margaret's terrestrial orchid walk

Graham addressed members and discussed plans for a walk to see flowering terrestrial orchids and other wildflowers. He proposes visiting Wandoo National Park, which is about 50 km from the Lakes turnoff on Great Eastern Highway. He and Margaret visited recently and there were plenty of terrestrial orchids in flower.

Possible dates were discussed, and it was

agreed that the Sunday, 8 October was the most likely date. He proposes that we meet at the Lakes Roadhouse at 10.00am, and then proceed in convoy to the park. At the end of the bitumen road, there is a made gravel road for approximately 9km. Last time he was there, the gravel road was in good condition and driving on it should not damage a normal car. Graham also reminded members that there are no facilities at the park, so it would be prudent to use the facilities at the Lakes Roadhouse. Ken will send an e-mail to members seeking names of those interested in participating

Other General Business: Nil

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Lee-Anne for *Stelis endresii*

Raffle: Arnold, Ian, Adrian, Helen and Tommy.

Badge Prize: Diane

Meeting closed: 9.15pm

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

• Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award

As advised at the September general meeting, from October the Anne O'Callaghan award will be the outcome of a popular vote. While we do not have any rules about what plant and grower is chosen, it has been to recognise the achievement of growing and flowering a less commonly grown or known to be difficult to grow species, or flowering a species that is known to be difficult to flower.

• Annual Membership

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

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya purpurata Werkhauseri

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Medium sized epiphyte with leathery leaves

Difficulty: Relatively fast growing species to grow and flower in shadehouse culture.

Cost: 15.00

Cattleya purpurata Lindley and Paxton 1852 is a medium sized, hot to cool growing epiphyte from Brazil where it can be found high in the canopy of tall trees on wooded hillsides adjacent to coastal areas.

Clavate (club-shaped with thicker bases) pseudobulbs carry single, apical, leathery, erect long lasting leaves. The species flowers in spring, and this cultivar has a distinct blueish tinge. Flowering takes place on a robust 30-37cm raceme



Photo source: <https://www.ecuagenera.com/Laelia-purpurata-var-werkhauseri/en>

emerging from a large flower sheath with 3-7 long-lasting, showy, fragrant, colour variable flowers. The flowers have a pleasant anise scent.

This species requires moderate year round light, fresh air movement and a drier winter rest.

A large robust species, *Cattleya purpurata* is resistant to most pests and diseases, however if air movement is poor, cotton and hard scale can infest the species and be difficult to eradicate. Similarly, the

flowers are attractive to slugs and it is disappointing to have flowers on an otherwise healthy orchid damaged, so watch out for slugs and snails at flowering time.

In situ photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rosim/15597897659>



Perth Orchid Fair

Thanks to Paul who constructed and transported the Perth Orchid Fair, Mirrabooka display; and Adrian, Graham, Jordana, Lee-Anne, Lynn and Ken who helped stage our display. Public attendance on the Saturday was good, although Sunday was quiet. We sold over \$7,000 worth of members' orchids on the sale tables, and all the vendors were pleased with their results.



The Subtribe Pleurothallidinae (cont'd from September)



Pleurothallis restrepioides

Photo source: <http://www.orchidboard.com/community/pleurothallis-alliance/105517-pleurothallis-restrepioides.html>

Continued page 10

Harry

Cattleya intermedia alba
Cattleya loddigesii
Dendrobium x delicatum
Rhyncholaelia digbyana
Sarcochilus falcatus
Sarcochilus hartmannii
Serapias lingua

Murray

Dendrobium falcorostrum
Dendrobium linawianum

Graham & Margaret

Caladenia arenicola
Dendrobium jonesii
Dendrobium x ruppiosum

Ken & Chris

Bletilla striata

Caladenia latifolia
Coelogyne cobbiana
Coelogyne saccolabia
Coelogyne tenella
Coelogyne yuccaefolia
Dendrobium linawianum
Elythranthera brunosis
Laelia anceps
Oncidium maculatum
Phalaenopsis amabilis
Phalaenopsis aphrodite

Adrian & Dee

Dendrobium gracilicaule
Masdevallia coccinea alba
Maxillaria variabilis

Lee-Anne

Stelis endresii

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Sept. 2023



Elythranthera brunosis
Ken & Chris



Dendrobium x ruppiosum
Graham & Margaret



Masdevallia coccinea alba
Adrian & Dee



Dendrobium linawianum
Murray
Ken & Chris

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Sept. 2023



Rhyncholaelia digbyana
Harry



Dendrobium falcorostrum
Murray



In situ photo: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/pleurothalrestrepiod.jpg>

Pleurothallis strupifolia Lindl. 1839 comes from Peru and Brazil where it grows as a deciduous, small sized warm to cool growing epiphyte at 1,000m. It has elongate, strap-shaped, coriaceous (leathery texture), obtuse, flat leaves and flowers on a pendent several flowered inflorescence. Lindley 1839 observes that this species is “distinguished by leather thong shaped [strap-shaped], elongate leaves and blooms in autumn and winter with dull purple and white flowers with patches of short, deep purple hairs on the inside of the lower sepals.” Its common name is the Strap-Shaped Leaf Pleurothallis. Synonyms are *Acianthera strupifolia* (Lindl.) Pridgeon & M.W. Chase 2001; *Humboldtia strupifolia* Kuntze 1891; *Pleurothallis bicolor* Lindl. 1842; *Pleurothallis dichroa* Rchb.f. 1865; *Pleurothallis glaucophylla* Hoehne 1927; *Pleurothallis hookeri* Regel 1880; and *Pleurothallis picta* Hkr 1841.



Photo source: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:1084449-2>



A photo showing growth habit- source: <https://www.orchidsforum.com/threads/acianthera-pleurothallis-strupifolia.21781/>

Pleurothallis teaguei Luer 1996 comes from Ecuador where it grows as a large sized, warm to cool growing, caespitose (growing in clusters or large mats) epiphyte at 750 – 1,550m. Erect stout ramicauls basally enveloped by close tubular sheaths carry single, apical, horizontal to spreading, leathery heart-shaped acute leaves. Flowering in summer takes place on a fascicle (bundle) of successive single flowered inflorescences that hold the flower close to the leaf base. Luer 2005 says this species is "distinguished by the large, deeply cordate, spreading leaves with 2 to 3 immense, deep purple flowers borne on top of the leaf. The suborbicular dorsal sepal is deeply concave and multiveined. The ovate synsepal is convex above the base behind the lip. The lip is thick, transversely



obovate and convex with a broadly rounded revolute apex." The other giant leafed relatives are *Pleurothallis gargantua*, *Pleurothallis reginae*, *Pleurothallis imperialis* all of Section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* and *Pleurothallis colossus* of Section *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. Its common name is Teague's *Pleurothallis* named for an American botanist.

Photo source: <https://www.actabotanica.com.br/familia/orquidaceae/pleurothallis/pleurothallis-phymatodea>

In situ photo source: <https://www.facebook.com/ecuagenera.orquideasecuador/posts/pleurothallis-teaguei>



Pleurothallis titan Luer 1977 comes from Panama and Colombia large sized, cool growing, mat-forming epiphyte in cloud forests at 1,000 – 1,300m. Erect, stout basally enveloped ramicauls carry single, apical, suberect to spreading, leathery, ovate (oval -

shaped) basally sessile (directly attached to the ramicaul) and deeply cordate (heart-shaped) leaf. Flowering in winter and spring occurs on a reclining, successively single, few flowered inflorescence with tubular floral bracts holding the large flower close against the leaf base. Luer 2005 notes that it is "similar to *Pleurothallis cardiothallis* but the flowers of the new species are twice to three times larger. The shield shaped lip is concave and usually widest above the middle with thick, incurved margins, below the middle the lip is convex." Its common name is the Giant Pleurothallis, and synonyms are

Acronia titan [Luer] Luer 2005;
Zosterophyllanthos titan (Luer) Szlach. & Kulak 2006.

Photo source: <http://www.theorchidcolumn.com/2015/04/pleurothallis-titan.html>



In situ photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/58798926@N07/14119644174>

Pleurothallis trimeroglossa Schltr. 1921 comes from Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia although actual locational data is uncertain. It grows as a miniature sized epiphyte with erect to suberect slender ramicauls carrying single, apical, erect petiolate base leaves. Flowering in autumn occurs on erect single flowered inflorescences with as long as the pedicel floral bract and holding the flower at mid-leaf. This species is similar to *Pleurothallis talpinaria* and *Pleurothallis jostii*. Its common name is the Thrice Split Tongue Pleurothallis.



Photo source: <http://www.epharmacognosy.com/2021/03/pleurothallis-trimeroglossa.html>

In situ photo source: https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/1145779-Pleurothallis-trimeroglossa/browse_photos



Pleurothallis truncata Lindl. Is found in several provinces of Ecuador where it grows as a medium to large sized, caespitose, cool to cold growing epiphytic and sometime lithophytic species at 1,700 – 3,000m. Elongate, terete, slender ramicauls basally enveloped by tubular sheaths carry single, apical, elliptic, acute, attenuate (having a narrow base), short conduplicate base leaves. Flowering in winter and spring takes place on apical, racemose, 7.5-10cm successively several to many flowered inflorescences with short ovary floral bract that holds the flowers tight against the mid leaf. Luer 1998 writes that this species is "Characterized by the more or less horizontal, ovate leaf with a longer, slender ramicaul with the raceme lying on the dorsum of the leaf. The flowers are spherical with the synsepal deeply concave. The lip within is also spherical with broadly rounded sides incurved to meet in the midline. The lip is open at the tip and with the bright orange colour, it is no doubt hummingbird pollinated." Its common



name is the Truncated Pleurothallis, and synonyms are *Acronia truncata* (Lindl.) Luer 2009; *Humboldtia truncata* (Lindl.) Kuntze 1891; *Humboltia truncata* (Lindl.) Kuntze 1891; *Orbis truncata* (Lindl.) Luer 2005; *Pleurothallis corazonica* Schltr. 1915

Photo source: <https://www.akerne-orchids.com/en/orchids/1595-pleurothallis-truncata.html>



In situ photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/andreaskay/8544707230>

Stelis with some 1,000 recognised species is one of the larger genus in the sub-family. Its name comes from the Greek, where it is the name for mistletoe. *Stelis* was first described by O Swartz in 1799, and was further refined by Lindley 1858, Reichenbach 1864 and much later Garay 1956 who proposed three sub-genera: *Stelis* with all sepals similar, *Inaequales* with dissimilar sepals and *Dialissa* also with dissimilar sepals. The type species is *Stelis ophioglossoides* (Jacq.) which was one of the first American orchids described for science and originally named as *Epidendrum ophioglossoides* Jacquin 1760.

Stelis species are found in Florida, Mexico, the West Indies, Cuba, Central and South America. The greatest concentration of species is found in Southern Central America and the Andes mountains. It is a complex genus, in part due to the small fleshy flowers, the significant variability between the members, and some lack of research into the genus since it is not considered to be as commercially important as larger flowered orchids. The members of this genus typically are found in moist forests at moderate to high altitude where they grow as epiphytes on trees or as lithophytes on damp rocks. Some members of this genus have light-sensitive flowers (cf *Thelymitra*) which open when exposed to sunlight and close at night.

Cont'd in November

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 \$14.00 or magnet fastening \$16.00 [*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 \$14.00 or magnet fastening \$16.00. [*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 October