

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 35 No 10 March 2024



Anne O'Callaghan Award February 2024

Paphiopedilum kolopackingii

Siva

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 12 March

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

13 February 2024 7.50pm

Present: 20 members as per register.

Apologies: 9 as per register.

Visitors: 1 as per register

New members: Nil

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from December meeting moved Arnold, seconded Jordana. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Secretary presented the financial report. The balance at 31 January was \$5,857.49.

Acceptance of financial report moved Helen, seconded Lynn. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft committee minutes and agenda, draft GM agenda, draft GM minutes
- Orchids WA agenda, reports for AGM, draft and final minutes
- Lee-Anne – ideas for SOSWA
- City of Canning – Acknowledging cancellation of January booking
- Foliage Plus February flask list

Outwards:

- Committee – draft GM minutes, draft GM agenda, proposed February monthly sale plant..
- City of Canning – Acknowledging cancellation of January booking
- Mich - name badges, clothing.
- Foliage Plus - flask order,

Acceptance of correspondence report moved Siva, seconded Bruce. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

Orchids WA AGM

The Orchids WA AGM and GM were held on 19 November and clubs have been asked to provide feedback to the next meeting on 24 February 2024:

Perth Orchid Fair

- As advised at the December meeting, it is proposed future management and organisation of the Perth Orchid Fair on 7-8 September 2024 be undertaken by Orchids WA.
- Committee has discussed and recommends endorsement of this outcome by members, recognising however that profits previously shared by coordinating societies will flow to Orchids WA who will assume responsibility for all expenses associated with the event.
- Proposed expenses in 2024 include assisting Fred Clarke from USA and Scott Barrie from NSW to attend as speakers and vendors.
- Harry advised that members wanting to enter plants for judging need to be able to get an identification number.

ISODW

- Members at the December meeting participated in discussion about ISODW, noting that Orchids WA members have diverse views expressed by some delegates at the AGM. No club has expressed any interest in hosting an ISODW in either 2024 or 2025.
- Bunbury Orchid Society has written to

Orchids WA expressing an interest in hosting a major event in Bunbury in 2026, welcomed by delegates.

- Your committee agreed that ISODW had been a valuable activity to bring city and country members together and that its cessation could sever the relationship between city and country societies and their members.
- However, it was noted that regional member attendance to ISODW events in the city was low, so perhaps the event might be staged in alternate years (rather than every year) if a host club could be found.
- The requirement for financial support from Orchids WA was recognised.

Australian Orchid Council (AOC)

- Member clubs and societies asked to provide feedback on the AOC strategic planning exercise to be undertaken the guidance of Bruce.
- AOC is at a financial crossroads as their principal source of revenue, the printed Orchids Australia magazine is no longer financially viable..
- Bruce reported that progress is being made on developing the strategic plan, and on “Orchids Australia” as this is the major AOC income and cost

International Flask Importation

- Establishment of a co-operative international flask importation scheme as a benefit for Orchids WA members was proposed.
- Ken is drafting a discussion paper but is awaiting costings from international suppliers and is looking for a customs agent prepared to provide import services to us.

- Members suggested contacting Kevin Butler, Richard Dekker or Tropical Colours to see who they use.
- Bruce noted that Kevin is going to the WOC in Taiwan shortly, and was advised that as he will be bringing flasks back with him, he will not need to apply for an import permit.

Foliage Plus flask list

- We received the February 2024 flask list from Paul Smith, Foliage Plus. There are more species flasks on the list, so we have ordered:

2 @ WB 8012 *Zelenkoa onusta*

2 @ PS 254 *Phaius australis* var *bernaysii*

2 @ PS 381 *Dendrobium*

williamsianum (New Guinea species)

2 @ PS 401 *Dendrobium tangerinum* (New Guinea species)

The following are on back order:

2 @ PS248 *Dendrobium trilamellatum*.

- With help from Helen, the remaining flasks from the initial order have all been deflasked.

Ezi-Gro January Home Visit

- Kevin was thanked for hosting the traditional January home visit, and providing us with food at lunch time.
- Mavis was thanked for arranging the event.
- Attendance was poor—only 11 members attending.
- Members were asked whether we continue to have this event in January or schedule it for later in the year.
- Members were supportive of holding it later in the year. (contd. Page 10)

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

24 March - Adrian & Dee , Safety Bay.
Please bring a salad or dessert to share,
Adrian & Dee will provide a BBQ lunch.

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Harry would like to buy plants of *Cattleya neokautskyi*. Contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or hjaashton@gmail.com.

President: Adrian

Vice President: Lee-Anne

Treasurer: Adrian

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

Editor: Ken

Committee:	Lee-Anne
Murray	Paul
Graham	Mavis
Maxine	

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

MONTHLY PLANT

Vanda falcata

.....
Country of origin: Japan & Korea
.....

Description: Miniature to small sized monopodial epiphyte

.....
Difficulty: This small monopodial orchid needs constant fresh air movement, and heavy shade in summer .
.....

.....
Cost: \$15.00



Photo source: <https://growingontheedge.net/>

Vanda falcata (Thunb.) Beer 1845 was for a long time known as *Neofinetia falcata*. These seedlings were purchased from Barrita Orchids at the 2023 ISODW.

This species comes from Japan, Korea and the Ryukyu Islands where it is found as a cool to cold growing epiphyte. They are found on deciduous trees, so during summer are shaded from direct sun while in winter when the leaves fall, they are exposed to almost full sun.

Flowering from early summer through to autumn takes place on a 7cm, several flowered inflorescence. The nocturnal flowers are fragrant reminiscent of jasmine and vanilla.

For those of us whose culture supports orchids on mounts, it is recommended that this species is mounted on tree fern or cork. Alternatively, it can be grown in pots with a very coarse mixture to allow air to get to the roots.

As a diminutive species, *Vanda falcata* is very susceptible to insect pests like mealy bug and scale, so should be grown where there is good fresh air movement. Keep a watch out for these pests as they can rapidly lead to the death of your orchid.

Harry

Phalaenopsis equestris

Ken & Chris

Angraecum eburneum ssp *xerophyllum*

Aspasia lunata

Brassavola nodosa

Clowesia russelliana

Coelogyne latifolia

Oncidium maizifolia

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima

Bruce

Zelenkoa onusta

Lee-Anne

Cymbidium dayanum

Phalaenopsis pulcherrima

Courtney

Phalaenopsis equestris

Siva

Paphiopedilum kolopackingii

Paphiopedilum niveum

Paphiopedilum tonsum

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Feb. 2024



Phalaenopsis equestris
Courtney



Paphiopedilum niveum
Siva



Zelenkoa onusta
Bruce

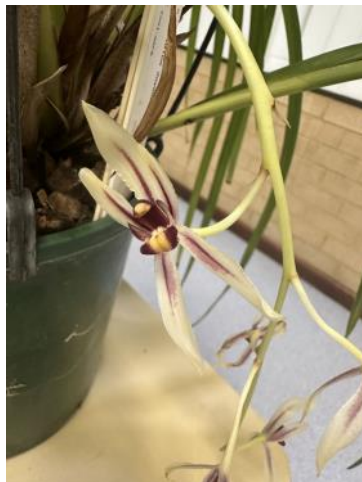


Angraecum eburneum spp *xerophyllum*
Ken & Chris

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Feb. 2024



Clowesia russelliana
Ken & Chris



Cymbidium dayanum
Lee-Anne

- Mavis is currently developing the 2024 program. If you would be happy to host a home visit, please let Mavis know.
- We plan to visit Wireless Hill in Spring this year in place of the Kings Park visit as there was an excellent display of WA terrestrials in 2023.

Awarded to Siva for

Paphiopedilum kolopackingii

Raffle: Ian (2), Diane, Lee-Anne

Badge Prize: Victor

Meeting closed: 9.00pm

Other General Business: Nil

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

• **Help needed at meetings**

Thank you to Lee-Anne for chairing our February meeting, Jordana for photographing the orchids benched, Mavis and Maxine managing the raffle. Also thanks to Graham, Norm, Lee-Anne and others for setting out and packing away the chairs and tables. If you can help with some of the jobs at every meeting including taking photos, setting up the PA, helping set out tables and chairs, and the raffle, please let Ken know .

• **Monthly sale, raffle, name badge and Anne O'Callaghan award plants**

As discussed in December, we are rapidly depleting our stock of raffle plants. Thanks Lee-Anne and Graham for donating plants last meeting and Lynn for the books. For several years, we have benefited from members growing orchids from flask for us, and from purchasing surplus plants from our members, but we are now finding it almost impossible to acquire plants at a price that enables our raffle to cover costs. While we do know that a number of members do purchase flasks, when contacted to see whether they are prepared to sell some of the plants to the Society, most often we are advised that they prefer to sell their surplus plants at shows or on-line where they can ask and receive higher prices. Please give this some thought

• **AGM**

As has been our practice for many years, the Society's AGM will be held at the May 2024 meeting. Over the past monthly meetings, we have encouraged members to consider joining the committee. Please give this some thought - it is not an onerous responsibility or workload unless it is an executive position.

• **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.

The Subtribe *Pleurothallidinae*

To conclude the treatment of the Sub-tribe *Pleurothallidinae*, I will suggest some ways in which these predominantly cloud forest, often high-altitude orchids can be grown by Western Australian orchid hobbyists. Harry has agreed to provide some notes about how he grows these species and their hybrids.

Firstly, we need to recognise that their natural habitat is nothing like Perth. Where we have hot, dry summers and cold wet winters, the members of this Sub-tribe come from Central and South America where they are mostly found growing as epiphytes, occasional lithophytes or terrestrials. Unlike our very hot dry summers and cool/cold wet winters, these orchids grow in primary and secondary rainforest at 2,000-4,000m where the maximum temperature rarely exceeds 25°C and the minimum temperature (day and night) is seldom less than 13°C. The mean average is about 22°C. Humidity is generally 100% as often the climatic zones in which they can be found are in clouds day and night. However, some orchids in this sub-tribe can be found from sea level to lower mountains, so there is some variation in their climate requirements.

So, what this tells us is that if you wish to grow some of the better-known species like *Dracula*, *Lepanthes*, *Masdevallia*, *Restrepia* and *Stelis*, you will need to create the right climatic condition for them. This will inevitably require substantial summer cooling and some winter warmth with constant high humidity. Creating this environment in Perth is challenge as we have found out over the past few months where daytime temperatures have often exceeded 40°C with relative humidity less than 10%. This environment is very different to the cloud forests in Ecuador and Madagascar.

I grow my *Pleurothallidinae* along with most of my species orchid collection in a Sproutwell double layer polycarbonate hothouse with a large commercial air cooler that during summer operates from 7.00am to 7.00pm (the finish time ensures that there is a night-time temperature drop which is one of the initiators along with reducing day-length for flowering). Given the extreme day-time temperatures over the past two months, all the plants are now in trays on mesh underneath a central bench in my hothouse, along with recently deflasked orchid compots. This location is directly in the cool air flow from the air cooler (see photo page 10 that shows the heat damage to many of these temperate species). The plants are constantly moving in the air flow, reminiscent of the challenge Chris and Tony faced when photographing orchids at Ecuagerera's nursery that we visited in Ecuador. Their large growing areas had very persistent air movement and it was necessary to physically hold the plants still enough to be able to photograph the flowers.

To keep track of temperature and humidity, I have a data logger for temperature and humidity that records values every 15 minutes. I try to keep the maximum to less than 33°C on the hottest days (when the outside temperature has been recorded at 45°C), but it appears that the only way to maintain less than 30°C will be to install reverse cycle air conditioning. (contd. Page 10)

I water daily in summer with rainwater from our two 42,000l tanks, where the pH is 6.6 and EC 35ppm. I fertilise weakly weekly (on cooler days) with either Polyfeed high K at 1g/l, or Powerfeed at 1ml/l. I also intermittently add trace elements or soluble potash. In autumn and spring, I water each second or third day, and in winter, once a week.

While the majority of these species have soft fleshy leaves, and no pseudobulb from which regrowth can commence should the leaves die.



Pleurothallidinae species
under the bench



Unfortunately, as can be seen in the above photos, I am now having to deal with some of these issues following the failure of the air cooler recirculating pump. On several days toward the latter part of January and early February, the temperature in my hothouse was recorded at 45°C with relative humidity at 10% . Clearly, this is not conducive to mist forest plant survival, although I do have some harder leaved species that survived this heat stress. See more photos in paper titled “Resuscitating heat damaged orchids” issued with this newsletter.

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 12 March 2024

Resuscitating heat damaged orchids

The past two months have seen unprecedented summer temperatures associated with low relative humidity in Perth, and higher than usual night-time temperature. For those of us growing cool/cold growing orchids, managing these conditions has been stressful, at both a collection and personal level.

In late January, the recirculating pump in my large commercial air cooler failed and consequently, did not provide any cooling for a few days. On one or two days of this period, despite regular misting, the data logged temperature in my hothouse was recorded at 45°C with relative humidity at 10% while the outside temperature was even higher. These temperatures are not conducive to cool growing orchid survival, let alone mist forest plant survival.,

Similar high temperatures were also experienced in my shadehouse as the prevailing winds were strong, hot easterly winds rather than the afternoon cooling westerly breezes that coastal suburbs enjoy. I also run misting in the shadehouse, and while I believe it helped, it did not prevent damage.

As a consequence, I have many damaged plants including *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* and other species. The following photos show some of the damage, although I have already removed many damaged leaves and the damaged leaf tips.



Coelogyne species (prev. *Dendrochilum*)



Coelogyne latifolia



Cymbidium bicolor in shadehouse



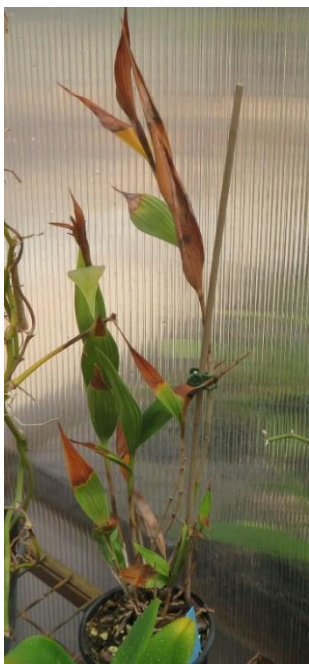
Dendrobium species



More *Dendrobium* species



Pleurothallidinae under hothouse bench



Sobralia xantholeuca

However, while I do not profess to have all the answers, when I discovered the air cooler pump failure, I needed to act quickly to minimise the loss of species orchids that are becoming more difficult, if not impossible to replace.

My research found the following suggestions that I have largely implemented other than repotting:

- i. obviously – fix the air cooler problem to reduce heat stress,
- ii. where possible, remove the orchid and place in a cooler location with more shade and abundant air movement,
- iii. when watering, ensure media is thoroughly wet (until water drains out the bottom of the pot) as the moisture evaporation will help cool roots but do not overwater,
- iv. increase humidity (more frequent misting) and with increased air movement,
- v. remove any dead leaf tissue to prevent fungal and other pathogens proliferating,
- vi. for some particularly susceptible species, I have placed them on a tray with wet pebbles,
- vii. when the weather moderates and you see abundant new growth, apply growth tonic and repot into fresh media, then resume fertiliser regime.

As I suspect this topic is of interest to many of us, please be prepared to take part in a general discussion at the March meeting and share with us the benefit of your experience when dealing with the extreme heat that has recently affected WA.