

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 35 No 11 April 2024



Anne O'Callaghan Award March 2024

Phalaenopsis equestris

Bruce

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9 April

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 March 2024 7.50pm

Present: 15 members as per register.

Apologies: 9 as per register.

Visitors: 2 as per register

New members: Nil

Minutes: Acceptance of minutes from February meeting moved Bruce, seconded Lynn. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 29 February was \$6,229.74.

Acceptance of financial report moved Bruce, seconded Margaret. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft committee minutes and agenda, draft GM agenda, draft GM minutes, March sale plant.
- Orchids WA agenda, reports for AGM, draft and final minutes.
- Jordana – photos of plants benched.
- Gary – identification of unknown orchid.
- Bruce – POF meeting notes and draft budget.

Outwards:

- Committee - draft GM and committee agenda, draft GM and committee minutes, draft 2024 program, Orchids WA meeting discussion notes.
- Jordana – thanking her for offer to create social media for SOSWA and photos.
- Norm – Foliage Plus flask list.

- Paul Smith – sending *Cymbidium dayanum* seed pod.
- Gary – identification of unknown orchid.
- Paul – March newsletter, orchid photos and article for uploading to website.
- Members – March newsletter,

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

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

Perth Orchid Fair

Ken advised members that the first planning meeting for the Perth Orchid Fair on 7-8 September 2024 was held on 29 February. It was attended by Chair Bruce (NDOS/WJOS), Helen (COCWA), Steve (COCWA/NDOS) and Ken (SOSWA, PSG). Fred Clarke, USA is now unable to attend, but Scott Barrie (Barrita Orchids NSW) will attend as a vendor and speaker. We will also have local suppliers Orchidup and Orchids by John.

Ken asked members to prepare plants for sale to the public, noting that in 2023, we sold in excess of \$8,000 worth of member's plants.

Proposed changes to the financial management arrangements are under consideration to improve accountability. In the first instance, it is likely to mean that members selling plants cannot be paid until all the financial accounts for the event have been reconciled.

For accountability purposes, it is preferred that payments to members for plant sales

are made by EFT. Payment for member plant sales by any other method will need to be agreed in advance with the organisers.

Considerable attention was given to the need to attract more orchid society members as volunteers to share the workload. As encouragement to attract volunteers, the following is proposed for society approval:

- 50% of the net profit will be shared in proportion to each club's seed funding (as in the past).
- The other 50% will be shared between participating clubs based on volunteer hours contributed by their members (minimum 4 hours). Volunteers will be required to register each day, noting their club and the hours volunteered.
- We will also give volunteers a raffle ticket when they sign on enabling them to participate in the 'volunteer raffle' with prizes for volunteers.

2024 Home Visit Program

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.

March Home Visit

Thanks very much Adrian & Dee for being the hosts for our March home visit. As they have in the past, they will provide a BBQ lunch and ask members attending to bring either a salad or dessert to share.

A discussion/workshop will be conducted

at the home visit to enable members to bring along orchids that are not growing well, perhaps for reasons they do not fully understand. The members attending will be able to participate in discussion about the possible remedies based on their experience that might help resolve the grower's concerns and assist with orchid revival. We will also provide water testing for pH and EC

2024/25 Membership

Adrian reminded members that SOSWA's financial year ended 29 February, and their membership for 2024/25 is now due.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 May. As previously advised, Adrian will complete his second year as President and in accordance with the Society's rules, cannot immediately seek re-election. We will need a member to nominate for this position.

Adrian again asked members to consider nominating for committee, noting that most of the current members have been on committee for many years, and some might appreciate a break. While it is not an onerous commitment (only 4 meetings a year at weekends), it is important to have new people with new ideas for the future operation of the society.

Other General Business: Nil

Member Discussion – Resuscitating heat damaged orchids

Ken & Adrian led a lively discussion about the outcomes of the recent extreme heat on our orchids, and remedies to help damaged orchids recover. Members participated in the discussion and

NOTICEBOARD

Home visits:
23 June 2024 -Helen, Kewdale.

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

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: Paul

Murray Mavis

Graham

Life Members

Graham & Margaret

Chris (dec'd)

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon (dec'd)

Maxine (dec'd)

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

Vale Maxine Godbeer (27/12/1943 - 16/3/2024)

Maxine and John Godbeer joined the Species Orchid Society of WA Inc. on 27 May 1993. While John passed away some years ago, Maxine continued to actively support the activities of the Species Orchid Society along with her responsibilities on the Orchid Judging Panel of WA, most recently as its Registrar. Maxine was also from time-to time a member of planning and organising committees for the AOC Conferences staged in



Perth, and for several WA Orchid Spectaculars. She was also Geraldton Orchid Society's delegate to Orchids Western Australia Inc.

In May 1999, Maxine nominated for the position of Vice President and was elected for two years, before nominating and being elected President in May 2000. At the expiry of her two-year term, she served as an ex-officio member of committee as past President from May 2002 and joined committee at the expiry of that term in May 2004. In May 2006, she was again elected as Vice President, and two years later, in May 2008 re-elected as President. At the conclusion of her presidency in May 2010, Maxine nominated and was elected as Secretary before standing down from this role in May 2014, although continuing to be an

ordinary committee member until her passing in March 2024.

Maxine was an vital member of the Orchid Judging Panel of WA, most recently as its Registrar until her retirement in late 2023. Having joined the Panel as a student judge in 1994, she became an AOC accredited judge in 1998 and its registrar in 2014. She was actively involved in training new judges, and for many years presided over judging at orchid shows and club meetings. Maxine was also a member of several other local orchid societies including the Orchid Society of WA who awarded her life membership in 2022 in recognition of her service to the society, and the Paphiopedilum Study Group.

Over the years, Maxine assembled a large collection of orchids including many desirable species and hybrids. Her orchids were always well grown, often large and free-flowering and she regularly won awards at local orchid shows. She also participated in several co-operative plant imports and associated travel to Asia arranged by the late Tony Watkinson. In recent years, members of the Species Society enjoyed visits to her home at Parkerville and the opportunity to see how she grew her orchids. The photo above by Tony Watkinson was taken at a home visit to Charly and Gerda's home in 2013.

Murray & Arni
Phalaenopsis lindenii

Ken & Chris
Coelogyne cobbiana
Coelogyne longifolia
Coelogyne uncata var. *uncata*
Dendrobium cymbidioides
Epidendrum diffusum
Miltonia x leucoglossa
Oncidium maizifolium
Phalaenopsis equestris
Phalaenopsis pulcherrima

Adrian & Deanne
Encyclia livida

Bruce
Phalaenopsis equestris



Coelogyne longifolia
Ken & Chris

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Mar. 2024



Miltonia x leucoglossa
Ken & Chris



Dendrobium cymbidioides
Ken & Chris



Phalaenopsis lindenii
Murray & Arni



Epidendrum diffusum
Ken & Chris

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Mar. 2024



Coelogyne cobbiana
Ken & Chris



Coelogyne uncata var. *uncata*
Ken & Chris

contributed their experiences. It was agreed that 2023-24 summer was the worst that most members could recall due to the successive heat waves.

Adrian noted that even members living close to the coast had experienced extreme heat that was unusual, and in some cases, the usually reliable afternoon sea breeze failed to arrive

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Awarded to Bruce for

Phalaenopsis equestris

Raffle: Marian, Linda, Ian, Ken, Diane

Badge Prize: Lina

Meeting closed: 9.15pm

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Thanks Graham for donating a raffle plant last meeting.

As previously discussed, in the past we have benefited from members growing orchids from flask and allowing us to purchase plants at a reasonable cost. However, it is becoming almost impossible to acquire plants at a price that enables our raffle to cover costs as some members prefer to sell their seedlings and surplus plants at shows or on-line where they can ask and receive higher prices.

- **March Home Visit**

Thanks Adrian and Dee for hosting the March home visit attended by 24 members and one guest., and for providing lunch for us. This was the highest attendance since July 2019. The weather was just perfect and we enjoyed catching up with some members that we have not seen for some time, and seeing Adrian & Dee's orchid collection.

- **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.

- **Orchid Flasks**

Special thanks to Bruce & Kaye Larson for bringing the latest shipment of flasks from Foliage Plus back to Perth. We have 2 flasks of each *Dendrobium williamsianum*, *Dendrobium tangerinum*, *Dendrobium trilamellatum* and *Zelenkoa onusta*. Help with deflasking and growing on would be appreciated.

MONTHLY PLANT

Clowesia dodsoniana

Country of origin: Mexico

Description: Large pseudobulbs with long soft leaves and pendant flower racemes

Difficulty: This species can be difficult to grow and flower well due to the requirement to accommodate winter dormancy.

Cost: \$15.00



Photo source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/122567056>

This month's very desirable sale plant *Clowesia dodsoniana* Ag. León 1986 was deflasked by Bruce from a flask purchased by Tony at 2022 AOC in Logan, Queensland from Sunset Valley Orchids. Bruce has done a marvellous job growing these plants.

It comes from the Michoacan state of Mexico where it grows in tropical forests at 100 - 600m. It is a medium sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte or occasional lithophyte with ovoid-sub-conical top elongate, sulcate pseudobulbs carrying imbricate, distichous leaves. It flowers in late spring through to mid autumn on a pendulous 12-30 flowered raceme of pleasantly fragrant flowers. Its common name is Dodson's Clowesia after the well know [American botanist and orchidologist.

Orchids in the sub-tribe *Catasetinae* are unfortunately "the canary in the coal mine" because they are attractive to two-spotted

mite and other sap-sucking insects like mealy bug. Often, they will be the first orchids to show signs of infestation of these pests, therefore, we need to observe them when they produce new growth and ensure that any insect infestation is promptly dealt with.

Mancozeb Plus, Savage or several other insecticides/fungicides are recommended for control of these pests.

In their natural habitat, most of the species in this sub-family drop their leaves before going into a short period of dormancy before new growth commences. During this period, withhold water and fertiliser to minimise the possibility of pseudobulb rot. Once vigorous new growth is observed, recommence watering and fertilising to encourage pseudobulb growth and flowering..

I recommend visiting <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/122567056> as there are some excellent in situ photos.

Vale John Brogan (30/11/1948 - 12/03/2024)

John Brogan has been a long-time member and supporter of the Species Orchid Society of WA. He passed on 12 March 2024 after several years of illness that eventually led to the stroke that killed him. John lived in northern NSW and was a great supporter of our society, and close friend to Graham and Margaret and to the late Chris. He used to send plants to Graham and Chris for the Society to raise funds.

Graham told me that John was a generous man who became a landscape gardener after retiring as the NSW government's top lawyer. He said his claim to fame was to devise a formula to ascertain the goodwill value of businesses being sold. He also told an anecdote about when he was in the public service of the time when Malcolm Turnbull was Kerry Packer's lawyer. Malcolm rang him and John says he hung up after about five minutes of abuse which was mostly unprintable whilst John was not able to say one word.



During a telephone conversation with his wife Mary last week, she told me that he was not a member of any other orchid society, and that in part, this was due to his belief that the competition promoted by many as a key element of their operation and member recruitment practice promoted competitive behaviour rather than sharing and understanding orchid culture. Most importantly however was his passion for Australian orchid species and other endemic plant species, and commitment to preserving the plants and their environment.

Mary sent me the photo of the two of them, and the following excerpt from one of his long-time friends who said during his eulogy for John *"He was such a character, I honestly don't think I've met someone quite like him.*

Such an innocent manner combined with a wicked sense of humour."

She also told me that on coming out of an induced coma in 2022 after respiratory failure, John asked her to tell the boys *"Tell them I'm Lazarus on a turbocharger but with one flat tyre.* From then on, his nickname was Lazarus".

Members may remember that John sent us a copy of paper he wrote in the early 2000's on native *Dendrobium* orchids published in the February 2006 newsletter and a subsequent article for our newsletter about the regeneration of *Dendrobium tetragonum* after a fire.

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 9 April 2024