



Vol 35 No 12 May 2024



Anne O'Callaghan Award April 2024  
*Dendrobium bigibbum*  
Courtney

# NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 14 May**

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 April 2024 7.45pm

**Present:** 22 members as per register.

**Apologies:** 10 as per register.

**Visitors:** 3 as per register

**New members:** Nil

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

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 March was \$6,487.74. Acceptance of financial report moved Ian, seconded John. 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.
- Bruce – POF meeting notes and draft budget.
- ANOS – Auction advice and plant listing

**Outwards:**

- Committee - draft GM and committee agenda, draft GM and committee minutes, draft 2024 program,
- Jordana – inviting her to attend April committee meeting.
- Gary Yong Gee – identification of unknown orchid.
- Paul – April newsletter, March orchid

photos.

- Members – April newsletter, ANOS auction, M Godbeer funeral details
- Acceptance of correspondence report moved John, seconded Bruce. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**AGM**

Adrian reminded members that our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 May. He advised that this is his second year as President and in accordance with the rules, cannot seek re-election. We will need a member to nominate for this position.

He again asked members to consider nominating for committee. With the passing of Maxine Godbeer, we have lost another long-time committee members. Most current members have been on committee for many years, and therefore might appreciate a break. As committee meets four times a year on Sundays, it is not the onerous time commitment as in the past.

**Perth Orchid Fair**

Ken advised members about the first planning meeting for the Perth Orchid Fair on 7-8 September 2024. Members of the planning committee are Bruce, Helen, Steve and himself.

As we sold in excess of \$8,000 worth of member's plants in 2023, members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to sell plants to the public as this is a significant reason that people attend this event.

Ken reiterated the new financial management arrangements proposed to improve accountability. Members selling plants will not be paid until all the accounts for the event have been reconciled, and payment to members for plant sales will be made by EFT. For members requiring cash, arrangements will need to be made in advance.

To encourage volunteers, the following proposal has been circulated to participating societies for approval:

50% of the net profit will be shared in proportion to each club's seed funding.

- The remaining 50% will be shared based on volunteer hours contributed by each club's members (minimum 4 hours). Volunteers will be required to register each day, noting their club and the hours volunteered. Volunteers will also be eligible for a raffle prize draw

### **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 suggested by Jacqui as there was an excellent display of WA terrestrials at Wireless Hill in 2023. There was considerable discussion about this venue, and we will make sure that we visit prior to the date so that we can let members know exactly where to meet.

### **March Home Visit**

Adrian & Dee were thanked for hosting the March home visit and providing a BBQ lunch, while members brought salads or desserts to share.

A discussion about orchids not growing well was held, and some members brought water for pH and EC testing.

### **2024/25 Membership**

SOSWA's financial year ended 29 Feb. Membership for 2024/25 is now due.

Adrian advised that he had received renewal payment from 3 members since that last meeting, and that members will need to be financial to vote at the AGM

### **Flasks purchased**

Ken showed members the further 9 flasks from Paul Smith:

*Dendrobium tangerinum* (2)

*Dendrobium trilamellatum* (3)

*Dendrobium williamsianum* (2)

*Zelenkoa onusta* (2)

The flasks cost us \$25 each. Ken thanked Bruce who brought them back to Perth on the plane thus saving on airfreight or postage with no media disturbance.

He asked for help to deflask and grow on these species as future monthly sale plants. Lee-Anne, Adrian, Bruce, Norm and Rod all took flasks to grow on.

**Other General Business:** Nil

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Members voted Courtney's *Dendrobium bigibbum* for the cultural award.

**Raffle:** Mavis, Lina, Rod, Bruce, Graham

**Badge Prize:** Jordana

**Meeting closed: 9.15pm**

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- **AGM**

The Society's AGM will be held before the General Meeting on 14 May 2024. Over the past monthly meetings, we have encouraged members to consider joining committee. Please give this some thought - it is not an onerous responsibility or workload unless it is an executive position.

- **Auction of Maxine Godbeer's orchid collection**

Thank you members who helped prepare Maxine's orchid collection for auction, and at the auction on Sunday 28 April. Lee-Anne, Bruce, Paul and Murray have all helped me catalogue and assemble the auction lots and promote the auction. We specially thank our auctioneer, Norm and Maxine's daughters Danielle and Wendy who have gone out of their way to help us.

Thanks to all the members that came to the auction to help us with the event and to purchase some of Maxine's extensive orchid collection.

- **Maxine Godbeer's library**

Maxine's family have asked us to give away her extensive library of orchid books to members of orchid societies. A list of the books still available has been sent to SOSWA members with this newsletter and to other orchid societies. If there are any books that you would like to have, please let the Secretary know by e-mailing me at [secretary@speciesorchidsocietywa.com](mailto:secretary@speciesorchidsocietywa.com), or by phone 9296 1765.

- **SOSWA Social Media presence**

Jordana Sheahan has offered to develop and maintain social media exposure in addition to the Society's Facebook page as a means of attracting interest in our activities, and potentially new members. Jordana attended our meeting on the 21 April and discussed her proposal with committee, including posting photos of the orchids displayed at general meetings. She asked whether with approval from the orchids owners, she could also post technical and cultural information that the display plant owners had compiled for presentation to members at the meeting.

- **Monthly plant display**

Committee members discussed the declining number of plants displayed at meetings and things that might be done to encourage members to bring in flowering orchids for display. We are aware that some members are not comfortable public speaking about their orchids, and therefore do not bring them in, or are reluctant to take the time to prepare information. Given Maxine Godbeer's recent passing, it was suggested that we create another award to be given to a new member the first time they table a flowering species, or to a member who brings in a flowering species that has not been seen before. The award of a species orchid (similar to the Ann O'Callaghan cultural award) would be made at the net meeting.

- **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.

# 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](mailto:hjaashton@gmail.com).

Courtney would like to purchase a plant of *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* (he too was one of the members who got *Phalaenopsis equestris* instead of *Phalaenopsis aphrodite*).

**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](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

**Editor:** Ken

**Committee:** Lee-Anne

Murray Paul

Graham Mavis

## 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

**Harry**

- Cattleya cernua*
- Dendrobium bigibbum*
- Dendrobium schneiderae*

**Graham & Margaret**

- Coelogyne cobbiana*
- Coelogyne latifolia*
- Cymbidium dayanum (red form)*
- Dendrobium monophyllum*

**Ken & Chris**

- Catasetum atratum*
- Catasetum ssp*
- Gaurianthe bowringiana coerulea*
- Miltonia x leucoglossa*
- Oncidium maizifolium*
- Paphiopedilum victoria-regina*
- Zelenkoa onusta*

**Adrian & Deanne**

- Brassavola perrinii*

- Dendrobium bigibbum (x2)*
- Oncidium tigrinum*
- Vanda lamellata*
- Prosthechea livida*

**Lee-Anne**

- Bulbophyllum tingabarinum*
- Stenoglottis longifolia*

**John**

- Gaurianthe bowringiana*

**Courtney**

- Cattleya perrinii*
- Dendrobium bigibbum*
- Miltonia x bluntii*

**Siva**

- Cattleya labiata*
- Dendrobium cymbidiodes*
- Paphiopedilum purpuratum*

**MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Apr 2024**



*Cattleya cernua*  
Harry



*Cattleya labiata*  
Siva





*Brassavola perrinii*  
Adrian & Dee



*Cymbidium dayanum*  
Graham & Margaret

## MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Apr. 2024



*Miltonia x bluntii*  
Courtney



*Catasetum atratum*  
Ken & Chris

# MONTHLY PLANT

## *Dendrobium moschatum*

**Country of origin:** Mainland SE Asia

**Description:** Tall-cane species that can rapidly grow to 2m and fill a large pot .

**Difficulty:** An easy species to grow and flower. It grows equally well in shadehouse or hothouse

**Cost:** \$15.00



Photo source: <https://capeoasis.net/products/dendrobium-moschatum>

*Dendrobium moschatum* [Banks] Sw. 1805 Section *Holochrysa* is the Type species for this Section

This species grows in the Western Himalayas, Eastern Himalayas, Assam, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Myanmar, Hainan China, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Its habitat is primarily open primary and secondary forests up to 1,000m. It grows on tree trunks as a large sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with erect, arching or pendulous dark brown mature canes. The leaves are narrowly elliptic to oblong-ovate and leathery.

The very distinctive flowers appear in late spring and early summer in its natural habitat carried on axillary, pendulous to 20cm few to several flowered inflorescences with short-lived, musk scented flowers. This species is highly colour variable from yellow through white to pink as shown in the photo. Most often, flowers are carried on leafless canes, and

this tall species can be up to 2m in height.

These monthly plants are all grown from keikis that appear after flowering.

Water and fertilizer should be reduced through the winter months and resumed with the onset of new growth in the spring.

While generally resistant to pests, if air movement is low, scale and other sap-sucking insets can attack the orchid.



Photo source: <http://www.orchidboard.com/community/dendrobium-alliance/59850-dendrobium-moschatum-var-coloratum-enjoyment.html>



## The Sub-tribe *Catasetinae*

### Introduction:

At a recent Northern Districts Orchid Society meeting, President Bruce led an interesting overview and advice on the culture of orchids in the sub-tribe *Catasetinae*. Several of their members are growing both species and hybrids, many of the latter coming from Fred Clarke's Sunset Valley Orchids.

The sub-tribe *Catasetinae* in the Tribe *Cymbidieae* includes the following genera – *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cyaneorchis*, *Cycnoches*, *Dresslera*, *Galeandra*, *Grobya*, and *Mormodes*. These epiphytic species are all found in lowland tropical habitats in South and Central America at elevations between 1,200 – 1,500m above sea level. In their natural habitat, they can often be found growing on trees and tree stumps, while in more developed areas, occasionally on fence posts. In this article, I will cover some of the most commonly grown species and hopefully intrigue readers about this interesting and different group of orchids.

While it is a very complex group of orchids, fortunately, most have attractive foliage and flowers, but their very specific cultural requirements often pose significant challenges to the hobbyist orchid grower. The first section will highlight some of the genetic differences between these species, and what these differences mean for species identification and culture.

### Genetic Differences in some members of the Sub-tribe *Catasetinae*

#### Cycnoches

While several members of this sub-tribe were once regarded as *Catasetum*, the significant differences in their morphology, pollination vectors and flower sexual orientation led to their separation into separate genera.

For example, in their sexual orientation, both *Cycnoches* and *Catasetum* have separate male and female flowers unlike most other orchids which unite the male (pollen) and female (stigma) elements in a single column. This separation of sexes is known as dimorphism from the Greek for two forms, although both *Cycnoches* and *Catasetum* occasionally produce intermediate hermaphroditic flowers and accordingly, polymorphism might be a more appropriate.

The genus *Cycnoches* presently has 53 species divided into two sections. Section *Cycnoches* consists of a small number of species whose male and female flowers are quite similar except for the difference in the structure of the column. The type species is *Cycnoches loddigesii*. Section *Heteranthes* is the larger section with the majority of the species and is named from the Greek for different, because of the completely different appearance of the male and female flowers.

*Cycnoches egertonianum* is one of the most confused and important species in this group. Pendant inflorescences originate from the upper nodes of the mature pseudobulbs. The lip of both male and female flowers is uppermost.

### Catasetum

*Catasetum* is the other dimorphic genus. Some 200 species and many more natural hybrids are divided into two subgenera and several sections, however with the continual discovery and description of new species and natural hybrids, the number of species grows. Similar to *Cycnoches*, the female flowers of all the species are very similar and like *Cycnoches*, the male flower is generally used for identification making it difficult to identify the species unless male flowers are present. The male flowers of *Catasetum* species may be divided. The type species for the smaller group distinguished by male flowers with the lip uppermost is *Catasetum macrocarpum*, and for the larger group distinguished by male flowers with lip lowermost, *Catasetum pileatum*.

### Clowesia and Dresslerella

Two of the other genera in the subtribe *Catasetinae*, *Clowesia* and *Dresslerella* have bisexual or “perfect” flowers with the male and female elements united in the column, similar to most other orchids. However, these two genera are protandrous, which means that the pollen must be removed before the stigma is receptive to fertilization. In 1975, Dr. Callaway Dodson published his opinion that the genus *Catasetum* should be reserved for species with dimorphic flowers, and that the hermaphroditic flower species should be separated and placed in either the genus *Clowesia*, or new genus named *Dresslerella*.

*Dresslerella* flowers develop with new growth and are upright although may arch. The lip is uppermost with the column adnate to or embedded in the basal section of the lip. Currently, there are 15 published species. The pollinia are released when the anther cap is displaced from the column by the pollinator bee inserting its head into the opening in the lip in the process of collecting fragrance crystals.

*Clowesia* inflorescences are pendent, extending over the media and on reaching the edge, growing downwards. Some species develop inflorescences with the new growth, some from leafless, mature pseudobulbs. *Clowesia* is the smallest of the genera, with eight published species. The lip of all the species of the genus is uppermost and free from the column. The pollen is ejected when pressure is applied to the stipe by the pollinator bee. *Clowesia rosea* is the type species of the genus.

### Mormodes

The other more widely grown member of the subtribe *Catasetinae* is *Mormodes*, perhaps the strangest of all in keeping with its name derived from the Greek for phantom or frightful object. The name was given by John Lindley due to the strange, twisted flowers, which make the genus the only member of *Orchidaceae* that is not bilaterally symmetrical. Since it was named in 1836, further study of the genus has revealed that although the flowers of the genus are generally hermaphroditic or “perfect”, some of the species produce different sexual forms – generally referred to as extreme female, extreme male and intermediate hermaphroditic or what could be called normal (for this genus at least).

Cond. in June

# 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 14 May 2024**