

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 36 No 9 March 2025



Anne O'Callaghan Award February 2025
Encyclia randii
Courtney

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11 March

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 February 2025 17.35pm

Present: 15 members as per register.

Apologies: 7 as per register.

Visitors: Nil

New members: Carolyn

Minutes: A summary of the minutes from previous meeting was tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes from December meeting moved Jordana, seconded John. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian José presented the financial report. The balance at 31 January was \$6,676.44. Acceptance of financial report moved Ian, seconded Arnold. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft committee minutes and agenda, draft GM agenda, draft GM minutes, display plant photos, e-mails purchase of orchids from Eric Beltrame
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- SpacetoCo and City of Canning advising meeting venue booking dates/times and fee.
- Gary Yong Gee – corrections to species orchid identification for November.
- AOF re donation to support Australian display at 2025 Chelsea Flower show

Outwards:

- Committee - draft committee meeting minutes and agenda, draft GM agenda, draft GM minutes.

- SpacetoCo and City of Canning confirming Braibrise St hall booking date and start time 2025
- Members – newsletters to members
- Mich – request for Antonio Neto name badge.
- AOF advising the SOSWA will donate \$100 to support Chelsea Flower show display.

Correspondence report moved Ian, seconded Graham. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

Monthly sale plants

Lee-Anne told members that for more than 30 years, SOSWA has tried to have a reasonably priced species orchid for sale at each monthly meeting. This was initially implemented to help members build a species orchid collection.

This is becoming more challenging as the price of species orchids rises, the number of Eastern States accredited nurseries with large numbers of species orchids declines, and the cost charged by DPIRD for interstate import permits, mandatory inspection and postage/freight increases. A shipment of 20 plants (the maximum under the WA DPIRD permit system), the additional costs are approximately \$155, approximately \$7 per plant. This will mean that to cover costs, if we are able to purchase 15-20 plants of one species, we will need to charge \$20-25 per plant. As they must be sent to us bare root, it means that they need to be re-established before we sell them to members that takes 6-12

months. Currently, only a few members are prepared to grow on these plants (happy to have other members help).

Our discussions with Kevin Butler have confirmed that he is facing the same challenges. We have also discussed the purchase of well established and sun hardened compots.

Given the difficulty in acquiring locally and Eastern States species seedlings, for some years we have purchased flasks, most imported from Asia costing between \$50 and \$80 and from a local supplier, Paul Smith of Foliage Plus \$25,.

Some members of committee and one or two others are assisting by deflasking and growing on seedlings.

Do member's want us to continue the practice of having a species orchid seedling for sale at our monthly meetings?

The majority of members at the meeting voted in favour of continuing this practice. Courtney voiced concern that the 16 members present were not sufficient to hold a vote.

We have an offer from a grower in Queensland to sell us about 160 species orchids, many near flowering size and some seedlings. He will also donate 20 plants to us. The average price will be \$10 per plant.

This offer, and the cost, management and timing of purchase and delivery will be discussed at the February committee meeting,. Adrian José commented that we need to watch our funds and perhaps only sell 9 plants per year. If we proceed with this purchase Lee-Anne and Ken will apply for the permits.

Lee-Anne mentioned purchasing 9 *Stanhopea tigrina* from Bunnings & is hoping to locate more for a club plant

Plant Inventory

Lee-anne advised members 20 seedlings of each of *Laelia aurea* and *Dendrobium gracilicaule* var *howeanum*.

These plants have been repotted out of the Barrita media that is primarily isolate foam chunks as it is not suitable for hobbyist culture. They also included 5 Cattleya hybrid seedlings at no charge which can be used in the silent auction planned for mid-2025.

We have ordered one flask each of *Grammangis ellisii* and *Encyclia belizensis* from Michael Sue, and Ken a flask of *Dendrobium vandoides* in Bangkok.

AOF display at Chelsea Flower Show.

Lee-Anne advised members that all Australian orchid societies have been contacted by the Australian Orchid Foundation seeking financial support to stage a display at the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show.

This year, the Show is highlighting Australian terrestrial orchids and the Cooktown Orchid (*Dendrobium bigibbum*). Prof Kingsley Dixon Ph.D. AO and the AOF is preparing a display stand for Chelsea and are asking for donations of \$100 to help to fund this venture.

In addition to showcasing Australia's orchid flora, Kingsley would like to produce an Orchid gami of *Dendrobium bigibbum* as an activity to raise awareness at the Show about the conservation and ecology of Australian native orchids (<https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/orchid-gami/>)

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NOTICEBOARD

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

23 March - Adrian & Dee , Safety Bay.

26 April - Ezi-Gro Orchids, Evandale Rd, Lansdale

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Harry would like to buy plants of *Cattleya neokautskyi*. Contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or 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: Lee-Anne

Vice President:

Treasurer: Adrian

Secretary: Ken Jones

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Editor: Ken Jones

Life Members

Graham & Margaret

Chris (dec'd.)

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon (dec'd)

Maxine (dec'd)

Ken & Chris

Adrian & Deanne

Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd)

Trevor (dec'd)

Neville (dec'd)

Paul & Andrea

Noel (dec'd) & Eva

Tony (dec'd) & Mavis

Barry Winter (dec'd)

Committee: Paul

Murray Mavis

Graham Rod

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian

2014 Chris (dec'd)

2015 Margaret

2016 Tom & Pat

2017 Charly & Gerda

2018 Paul

2020 Adrian & Deanne

2021 John

2024 Graham

MONTHLY PLANT

Jumellea confusa

.....
Country of origin: Madagascar
.....

Description: . Medium to large sized epiphyte or occasional lithophyte

.....
Difficulty: This genus is quite adaptable and can be grown in a hothouse or shadehouse (once established and sun-hardened)

Cost: \$20

Jumellea confusa (Schltr.) Schltr. 1915 comes from central Madagascar where it grows in in low dense forests among mosses and lichens at 600 -1,500m. It is a medium to large sized (up to 50cm tall requiring staking to support mature plants), warm to cool growing epiphyte or sometime lithophyte. It has numerous, 2 ranked, leathery, conduplicate below, linear-ligulate, equally lobed apically dark green leaves.

Flowering in late spring to early autumn, with several flower racemes takes place on an axillary 2- 4 cm erect, single flowered inflorescence arising from the leaf axils as well as the stem below the leaves. The white 3cm flowers are jasmine scented. Its common name is the Confused Jumellea.



Photo source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/142468-Jumellea>



In situ photo: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/142468-Jumellea>

Adrian & Dee

Angraecum calceolus
Clowesia russelliana
Prosthechea livida

Lee-Anne

Cymbidium aloifolium (2)
Cymbidium dayanum
Encyclia belizensis

Courtney

Encyclia randii

Ryan receiving the Tony
Watkinson award for 2024 from
Mavis for his plant of *Stelis*
poasensis benched in August
2024



MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Feb 2025



Cymbidium aloifolium
Lee-Anne



Prosthechea livida
Adrian & Dee



Encyclia belizensis
Lee-Anne



Clowesia russelliana
Adrian & Dee

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Feb 2025



Cymbidium dayanum
Lee-Anne

Other General Business: Nil

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Members voted for Courtney *Encyclia randii* for the cultural award.

Maxine Godbeer Award: Nil

Name Badge: Mavis

Raffle: Rod Ian, Lee-Anne (2), Graham, Ryan

Meeting closed: 9.30pm

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

March meeting.

Bruce will present a workshop on deflasking seedling orchids. Bruce is getting excellent growth in his deflasked orchids, and will be happy to answer questions.

Annual Membership

Our financial year ends 28 February and annual membership is now due. The annual membership fee is \$20 for an individual member and \$30 for a family membership.

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 Sub-Family *Catasetinae* (contd. from February)

Galeandra montana Barb.Rodr. 1881 is a bulbous terrestrial endemic to Brazil where it grows in rocky areas in thin savannah and dry forests in clayey, sandy and stony soils. It flowers between November and May. Its common name is the Montane Galeandra.



Photo source: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/349924421>



In situ photo source: <https://uk.inaturalist.org/taxa/956917-Galeandra-montana>

Grobya

The genus *Grobya* is the remaining member of the sub-family that I will write up for this article. Seldom seen in Australian hobbyist collections, the 5-6 species of this genus are also not present in any registered hybrids, although the species seems to be more widely grown in USA and South America. This genus has also been subject to taxonomist intervention but remains in its original form.

Grobya amherstiae Lindl. 1835 is a small sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte found in Ecuador and eastern Brazil in lowland, wet forests at 200 - 900m. Densely tufted, erect, ovoid to almost spherical pseudobulbs enveloped by persistent, white, fibrous leaf bases carry up to 6 firm-textured, erect and arching, linear-lanceolate, subacute, slightly grooved leaves. Flowering takes place on a basal several flowered, arching to pendant, 15 cm racemose inflorescence arising from a mature pseudobulb with fragrant flowers and narrowly lanceolate bracts. Its common name is the Amherst Grobya named for an 1800's English Countess.



Photo source: <https://identify.plantnet.org/he/the-plant-list/observations/1016502359>



In situ photo source: <tps://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/reflora/listaBrasil/>

Grobya galeata Lindl. 1840 Found in Brazil as a small to medium sized epiphyte with round-ovoid pseudobulbs carrying narrowly linear leaves that blooms in the later winter through spring on a to 8" [20 cm] long, densely several flowered inflorescence. Its common name is the Helmut-Shaped Grobya.



Photo source: <https://orquideasjph.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/grobya-galeata/>

Catasetinae Culture

This group of orchids are both fascinating and challenging. All are fragrant and many of them are extremely floriferous, a trait that has made them desirable for hybridisation. From my experience and research, providing you can provide their desired cultural conditions, they are no more difficult to grow than other genera cultivated by most orchid hobbyists.

However, while saying this, the classic requirements to grow and flower orchids, light, water, air movement and fertilizer are different for *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches*, *Mormodes*, *Galeandra* and *Grobya* than genera such as *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya* and *Dendrobium*. *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* are seasonal growers and produce new growth from initiation to maturity over a six-to-ten-month window, followed by a period of dormancy when the pseudobulbs mature and the leaves die back and drop.

Once the leaves drop and the orchid enters its dormant period, watering should cease. While you could choose to remove the pseudobulbs from the pot and media and clean off dead roots, unless new media is required to replace media that is breaking down, they can simply be left in the pot and placed away from other orchids being watered through winter. You need to observe them regularly to check for signs of new growth.

The appearance of new growth following dormancy is where we will discuss culture. Once new growth is sighted, keep the plant dry until the new roots are sighted (white velamen between the plant and the green growing tip). If the plant was left in last year's pot, this is a good time to check the condition of the media and decide whether it should be repotted into new media. It might also need repotting if it has outgrown its pot as well grown species will make larger pseudobulbs each year and can rapidly outgrow the pot. The new roots of the most of the *Catasetinae* are rather brittle and easily broken, so care should be exercised when handling the plants for potting. An unusual characteristic of *Catasetinae* is their ability to produce new growth from both the base of the old pseudobulb and nodes along the pseudobulb. Other orchids we grow, for example *Dendrobium* develop new plants (called "keikis") from nodes on their canes while *Catasetinae* can develop new plants from any of the nodes on the pseudobulbs, especially if the eyes at the base of the pseudobulb have been damaged. This article will conclude next month with a section on pots and media and pests and diseases.

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 7.30 pm. Usually, the short formal meeting is followed by plant descriptions given by members. Supper follows to allow members 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 \$15.00 and \$20.00. 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 11 March 2025