

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 36 No 10 April 2025



Anne O'Callaghan Award March 2025  
*Catasetum incurvum*  
Siva

# NEWSLETTER

## NEXT MEETING Tuesday 8 April

### Contents

2. March meeting minutes
3. Notes from your Committee
4. Noticeboard
5. Monthly sales plant
6. Plants displayed
8. The Sub-tribe *Catasetinae*
- 11 About us

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# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 March 2025 7.40 pm

**Present:** 18 members as per register.

**Apologies:** 5 as per register.

**Visitors:** Nil

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** A summary of the minutes from previous meeting was tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes from February meeting moved Rod, seconded Adrian.

**Business Arising:** Nil

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

**Business Arising:** Nil.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Committee - draft committee minutes and agenda, draft GM agenda, draft GM minutes, display plant sheets and photos, import permits orchids from Eric Beltrame
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- SpacetoCo confirming meeting booking.
- GCA bulletin
- Mich – name badges, presentation certificate designs and templates.
- Membership update – Adrian
- Mavis and Cameron – approving draft in memorium notices for Tony Watkinson and Maxine Godbeer for inclusion in the Memorial Orchid Garden Register
- Members confirming inventory held for SOSWA

- Notification from Associations On-Line re annual information statement.

**Outwards:**

- Committee - draft committee meeting minutes and agenda, draft GM minutes, draft GM agenda.
- Members – newsletters to members, some members to confirm inventory held for SOSWA
- Mich – request for Carolyn's name badge, design for presentation certificates.
- Mavis and Cameron – draft in memorium notices for Tony Watkinson and Maxine Godbeer for inclusion in the Memorial Orchid Garden Register
- Reimbursement request for stamps and Thailand flask purchase
- DPIRD – application for two import permits
- AOF – in memorium notices for Tony Watkinson and Maxine Godbeer for inclusion in the Memorial Orchid Garden Register. .

Correspondence report moved Bruce, seconded Diane. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**Monthly sale plants**

Lee-Anne advised members that we have accepted the offer from Eric Beltrame 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 to us will be \$10 per plant.

The species are principally *Dendrobium*

(*Dendrobium anosmum*, *keithii*, *aloifolium*, *lancifolium*, *pierardi*, *loddigesii*, *mannii* and *anceps*, and *Coelogyne ovalis* plus some Vandaceous species ( 4-5 plants of each *Aerides rosea*, *inflexa*, and *odorata*) for raffle prizes. These species should be easy for members to grow but will still need to be grown on to make new roots before being sold or used for raffles.

We are allowed 20 plants per permit although a recent change in the process means that we can now apply for one permit per fortnight. To manage these purchases, it is proposed to apply for one permit each month.

Lee-Anne and Ken have applied for the first two permits and 20 of each *Dendrobium anceps* and *Coelogyne ovalis* are on their way to us. Please let Lee-Anne or Ken know if you would like to help by growing on some of these plants.

#### **Flask orders:**

At the February meeting, Lee-Anne advised members we have ordered one flask each of *Grammangis ellisii* and *Encyclia belizensis* from Paul Smith, Foliage Plus and ordered one flask of each *Brassavola nodosa* 4N, *Grammatophyllum multiflorum* from Micheal Sue (flasks from Thailand). Ken collected a flask of *Dendrobium vandoides* from Bob & Chittima in Bangkok. Help to grow on seedlings from flask would

be appreciated. We hope that Bruce's presentation tonight in deflasking will answer many of your questions about this process. If you wish to help with growing species orchids from flask, please let Ken or Lee-Anne know.

This is now the only way that we can access the less common orchid species for members as seedlings have become very expensive to purchase in Australia.

#### **AOF display at Chelsea Flower Show**

Lee-Anne advised members that the Australian Orchid Foundation request for support for a display at the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show highlighting Australian terrestrial orchids and the Cooktown Orchid (*Dendrobium bigibbum*) did not generate enough financial support from societies to proceed and has been cancelled.

#### **Presentation by Bruce Larson**

Please see enclosed notes sheet.

**Other General Business:** Nil

#### **Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Members voted for Siva's *Catasetum incurvum* for the cultural award.

**Maxine Godbeer Award:** Nil

**Name Badge:** Adrian

**Raffle:** Arnold, Bruce, Rod, Diane, Ken.

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm

## **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

### **Orchid Auction.**

An auction of Gillian Marsh's orchid collection will be held at her home at Swan View on Saturday 12 April with viewing commencing at 8.30am.. About 350 orchid plants, some palms and some Bromeliads will be sold in lots of 5-6 plants with some large plants sold separately.

Continued on Page 8

# NOTICEBOARD

## FORTH-COMING EVENTS

### Home visits:

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](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:** Lee-Anne

**Vice President:**

**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 Jones

<b>Committee:</b>	Paul
Murray	Mavis
Graham	Rod

### Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian  
2014 Chris (dec'd)  
2015 Margaret  
2016 Tom & Pat

### 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 (dec'd)

2017 Charly & Gerda  
2018 Paul  
2020 Adrian & Deanne  
2021 John  
2024 Graham

# MONTHLY PLANT

## *Dendrobium gracilicaule* var. *howeanum*

Country of origin: Australia

**Description:** Medium to large sized epiphyte or occasional lithophyte at sea-level to 600m

**Difficulty:** As an Australian species, it should be relatively easy to grow providing it is kept drier during our wet, cold winter.

**Cost:** \$20



Photo source: <https://orchidroots.com/display/summary/orchidaceae/57890/>

*Dendrobium gracilicaule* var. *howeanum* Maiden is a medium to large sized, hot to warm growing epiphytic and sometimes lithophytic species.

*Dendrobium gracilicaule* is found in Queensland and New South Wales, while *Dendrobium gracilicaule* var. *howeanum* comes from Lord Howe Island and the SW. Pacific. It is distinguished by the paler flower colour.

It is generally found below 600m in sunny situations with erect, basally swollen, cylindrical, greyish stems carrying 3 to 6, long lanceolate to ovate, acuminate, thin textured leaves.

This species flowers in the late winter and spring while younger plants, but becomes free-flowering with age with drooping few to many [5 to 40], fragrant flowered

inflorescence arising from the nodes near the apex of mature canes.

It is recommended that this species be kept drier during winter starting from mid autumn and withholding fertilizer until new growth appears in the spring.

In situ photo: <https://uk.inaturalist.org/observations/183960621>



**Graham & Magaret**

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

**Ken & Chris**

*Broughtonia sanguinea*

*Cattleya bicolor*

*Coelogyne cobbiana*

*Coelogyne latifolia* var. *macrantha*

*Coelogyne longifolia*

*Coelogyne uncata* var. *uncata*

*Dendrobium anceps*

*Myrmecophila tibicinis*

*Neobenthamia gracilis*

*Oncidium maizifolium*

*Paphiopedilum primulinum* var. *purpurescens*

*Paphiopedilum victoria regina*

*Restrepia lankesteri*

**Adrian & Dee**

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

*Prosthechea livida*

**Bruce**

*Phalaenopsis equestris*

*Zelenkoa onusta*

**Lee-Anne**

*Coelogyne latifolia* var. *macrantha*

*Coelogyne uncata* var. *uncata*

**Courtney**

*Dendrobium wassellii*

*Phalaenopsis equestris*

*Vanda tricolor*

**Helen**

*Cymbidium dayanum*

*Cymbidium dayanum* *alba*

**Siva**

*Catasetum incurvum*

*Paphiopedilum concolor*

*Paphiopedilum dianthum*

**MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Mar 2025**



*Paphiopedilum concolor*  
Siva



*Broughtonia sanguinea*  
Ken & Chris



*Restrepia lankersteri*  
Ken & Chris



*Zelenkoa onusta*  
Bruce

## MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Mar 2025



*Dendrobium wassellii*  
Courtney



*Myrmecophila tibicinis*  
Ken & Chris

Continued from Page 3

### **April meeting.**

The Special Raffle for flowering plants of *Neobenthamia gracilis* and *Laelia albida* will be drawn at the April meeting. Tickets will be on sale at the March home visit and at the general meeting before the winners are drawn.

### **May meeting**

The May meeting will be our AGM. Our President was elected for 2 years, and our Treasurer and Secretary were elected for one year in May 2024 and will need to seek re-election. The term for two committee members expires in May 2025. The position of Vice-President remains vacant.

Please give some thought to nominating one of these vacancies

### **Annual Membership**

Our financial year ended 28 February and your annual membership is now due. The 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 March)

### Pots and Media

As a precursor to the successful cultivation of all orchids, it is important to establish an overall approach to orchid culture that includes the media used, whether orchids are grown in plastic or terracotta pots, slab mounted, or in wooden or plastic baskets, and whether crocking for drainage is used. You should also be aware that many of the species in this group have pendant flower habit, so your plant growth preferences should plan to accommodate this feature. Keeping in mind the pendant flowering habit of many of the *Catasetinae*, arrangements should be made to raising the pot or container above the bench to prevent the inflorescences from touching the bench.

Next decide the best medium for your plant if you are going to put it in a pot or basket. If you decide to mount it, sphagnum or similar moss can be wrapped around the roots prior to tying the plant to the mount. My preferred media for pots and baskets is sphagnum moss or seedling/small to medium bark or coir chink mixes. Remember, if the roots are broken during this process, they will not continue to grow. Replacement roots may initiate but the broken roots will not grow. Accordingly, it is important that the plants be placed firmly in their pot with staking if required. The plants should not wobble about in the media since movement risks damaging the roots.

I know growers who have successfully used other media such as clay pellets, charcoal



and other types of artificial media, but I have not found them as successful as sphagnum, coir or fine bark. While some growers favour coconut husk, I am concerned that they can be subject to salt buildup from fertilizer application and water evaporation (if your water has a high mineral content) that will burn or damage roots. It is recommended to flush orchid pots thoroughly at least once a month to address salt build-up from the regular fertilization I recommend.

Now that we have the plants potted or mounted, I want to move on to how I treat them. While the plants are in growth, they should be given copious amounts of water and fertilizer. The high amounts of water and fertilizer mean that the plants need good light, but not full sun, plus plenty of air movement so they can utilize the large quantities of water and fertilizer. In my experience, it is almost impossible to over-fertilize any of them as long as you use low rates of fertiliser along with copious amounts of water, good light and air movement, and free draining media .

Air movement is essential. As the plants develop, I use 20-20-20 or another balanced fertilizer at first. However, if you choose bark, you may wish to apply a higher nitrogen fertilizer at this point to promote growth and address the possible bark retention.. The three numbers indicate the percentage of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). After three or four months of growth, you can add a bloom-booster product to your fertiliser regime. Although some *Catasetum*, *Mormodes* and *Dressleria* species bloom with the maturing growths, most of the *Catasetinae* bloom after reaching maturity.

The *Catasetinae* are relatively free from pests and diseases when grown in this manner. Three-spotted (spider ) mites love the juicy foliage of the *Catasetinae*, but mostly they appear when conditions are hot, dry and stagnant . Constant moisture and good air movement will help keep them at bay, and a good miticide or neem oil should be applied if you find these pests. The webbing, mostly on the underside of the leaves is often the first sign of their presence, but if left untreated, the population expands rapidly.

The tendency of the *Catasetinae* to produce multiple inflorescences is one of the reasons I find them so rewarding. As the plants mature and the buds form, reduce watering and fertilizer. If they have not yet done so, this may lead the plants to lose their leaves and going dormant. Some species bloom after the leaves have fallen and they have dried out. As mentioned earlier, *Dressleria* is a bit different from the other four members of the subtribe. *Dressleria* do not lose their leaves each year and do not go dormant. The leaves are retained usually for two to three years. After the new pseudobulbs are fully developed they may have a rest period. At this time, you should decrease the amount of water and move them to a cooler location but do not allow them to completely dry out as may be done with the other four members of the subtribe. While developing, *Dressleria* generally prefer a cooler environment area than the other *Catasetinae*. Do not put them in a location where they get any direct sun. These approaches can equally be applied to window-sill culture.

Following is a summary of the cultural points.

- Preferred temperature 10°C or higher,
- During growth, give them good light, (so-called “cattleya” conditions) or higher,
- Keep them well watered, do not let them dry out when in growth but when the pseudobulbs mature and buds develop, decrease the watering and be careful not to get water into the flowers. This can trigger the ejection of the pollen or harm the flowers. I recommend pot-watering rather than overhead watering year round,
- Always provide good air movement. Hot, dry, stagnant conditions attract three-spotted mites, the greatest enemy of *Catasetinae* because of the soft, succulent leaves.
- Apply frequent fertilization when in growth. I also recommend potting the plants with short-term (6 months) time-release pellets (such as Troforte, Nutricote , Osmocote or other slow release products from Neutrog). Weekly applications of balanced formula, urea-free fertilizer while they are in growth. Providing you have copious water, light and air movement, it is almost impossible to over fertilize unless you fertiliser concentration is too high (apply at manufacturer’s recommendation for flowering perennials if you are unsure about the rate)
- After pseudobulbs mature, decrease watering, stop fertilizer, allow leaves to drop and let plants go dormant until new growth begins again

These conditions also apply to *Dressleria* with two exceptions. *Dressleria* do not lose their leaves annually nor do they go dormant. They also prefer cooler and more humid conditions year around.

### Where to Buy in Australia

Barrita Orchids	<a href="https://barritaorchids.com">https://barritaorchids.com</a>
EBAY	<a href="https://www.ebay.com.au">https://www.ebay.com.au</a>
ETSY	<a href="https://www.etsy.com/au/market/catasetum_orchid">https://www.etsy.com/au/market/catasetum_orchid</a>
Orchids R Us	<a href="https://orchidsrus.com.au/collections/mixed-tyes-rare-orchids">https://orchidsrus.com.au/collections/mixed-tyes-rare-orchids</a>
Orchid’s Scent	<a href="https://www.orchidsscent.com/catasetum">https://www.orchidsscent.com/catasetum</a>
Pacific Beach Orchids	<a href="https://pacificbeachorchids.com.au/shop?category=13346&amp;p=2">https://pacificbeachorchids.com.au/shop?category=13346&amp;p=2</a>
Red Fox Orchids	<a href="https://www.redfoxorchids.com.au">https://www.redfoxorchids.com.au</a>
The Orchid Patio	<a href="https://theorchidpatio.com.au/collections/all-products">https://theorchidpatio.com.au/collections/all-products</a>

While some of these suppliers are nationally registered, others may not be and biosecurity restrictions apply to sending plants to WA. All plants coming into WA are subject to biosecurity inspection by DPIRD, and unless purchased from an accredited supplier, are also subject to a DPIRD import permit allowing the import of up to 20 bare-root orchids.

## 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 8 April 2025**

## Deflasking Presentation:

Bruce Larson demonstrated a proven process for deflasking orchids. The orchids were in a “whiskey bottle” glass flask from Thailand which he wrapped in paper, placed in a large plastic bag and broke with a hammer.



He carefully removed the mass of plants ensuring that no glass fragments remained, washed the plants in water and divided the mass of plants into two so that they would fit into the pots he was using as compots. He left the plants in the media, only removing any loose agar and placed each segment of the seedlings on the media placed in the pots. He then back-filled around the plugs so that the seedlings were held firmly in the pot.

Bruce advised members that he usually applies a low strength fungicide (he uses Mancozeb Plus) solution in case there are any pathogens present. The water used during his demonstration to wash-off loose agar included Mancozeb Plus.

He advised members he puts the compots into his glasshouse where they are grown under LED lights for about 16-17 hours a day to encourage growth.

In response to member's questions, Bruce advised that his seedling compots get fertiliser every time he waters, and that he includes a product called Root Zone (made by Growth Technologies) to promote root growth. While expensive, the recommended application rate of .5ml/litre makes it reasonably inexpensive, and he has found that it does work because it significantly enhances root growth. It is available from Hydroponics shops.

Prior to commencing the presentation. Bruce showed members several compots at different stage of growth to demonstrate the superior results he was now getting compared to the way that he used to deflask and grow orchid seedlings. In some cases, seedlings were big enough with good root growth to be transferred to individual pots in 18 months. He expects that some will flower less than 12 months after transfer to individual pots.

## Auction of Gill Marsh' orchid collection.

**When:** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Viewing:** from 8.30am

**Auction:** starts at 9.00am

**Venue:** TBA Swan View

Sadly Gillian Marsh' health has deteriorated significantly in recent times and Gill is now in full time care. Her son, Paul Marsh, has asked NDOS if the club could arrange an auction to sell off Gill's orchid collection.

There are about 350 orchids which have now been sorted into about 80 lots (in plastic trays), and 98% are in very good order, having been watered through summer and are presently being looked after by Paul, who has also fertilized and applied fungicide from time to time. Some plants have flower spikes (some in flower have recently been sold) and many of the Cattleyas have flower sheaths in place.

There is no individual plant listing, rather similar orchids have been grouped into trays with maybe one or two other orchid genera. Some are large specimen plants which will be auctioned on their own.

There are many other orchid bits & pieces to be sold including, plastic carry trays, steel stands, wire wall hangers and lots more, including many fabulous potted garden plants.

As we all know Gill was an excellent grower who owned some very good quality orchids.

**Credit Card** facilities (NDOS) will be available on the day. Cash is also welcome. Steve Bowman will handle all payments on the day.

All intending bidders should register with Chris Jones on arrival at Gill's home and collect a bidding number, which is to be used to indicate your interest in any of the lots being auctioned.

Once confirmed as the successful bidder your number/name will be recorded against the lot sold for and the amount. You will be responsible for making payment for that lot and any other successful purchases once you have finished bidding.

Bidders are asked to collect their successful lots immediately and place them in a secure place separate from others (or risk having them mistaken as someone else plants). No responsibility will be taken by NDOS and any of the volunteers involved on the day.

For further information contact.

Bruce Larson 0417 903280 or [bruce@pegasusconsulting.org](mailto:bruce@pegasusconsulting.org)

Ken Jones 9296 1765 [secretary@speciesorchidsocietywa.com](mailto:secretary@speciesorchidsocietywa.com)

