



Vol 36 No 11 May 2025



Anne O'Callaghan Award April 2025

*Laelia perrinii*

Murray

# NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 13 May**

**Contents**

2. April meeting minutes
4. Noticeboard
5. Monthly sales plant
6. Plants displayed
8. Notes from your Committee
9. Discussion about media
- 11 About us

Proudly supported by



# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

8 April 2025 7.34 pm

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

**Apologies:** 4 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 March meeting moved Rod, seconded John. Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 March was \$5,994.14 plus \$439.95 on the prepaid credit card. Acceptance of financial report moved Adrian, seconded Arnold. 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.
- Membership update – Adrian
- Notification from Associations On-Line re annual information statement.
- Draft minutes of Orchids WA meeting

**Outwards:**

- Committee - draft committee meeting minutes and agenda, draft GM minutes, draft GM agenda.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Arnold, seconded Ian. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**Home visits**

Nineteen members attended the home visit at Adrian & Deanne's home on Sunday 23 March. We enjoyed caching up with one-another, lunch served by Adrian & Dee with salads and desserts from members.

We started the special raffle for two large flowering orchids – *Neobenthamia gracilis* and *Laelia albida* that will be drawn tonight after we sell any more tickets.

The next visit is to Ezi-Gro Orchids on Saturday 26 April- we look forward to seeing you there and know that Kevin has recently released more species seedlings for sale.

A show of hands indicated that about 20 members will attend.

**Plant inventory**

As Lee-Anne advised at the March meeting, we ordered 20 of each *Dendrobium anceps* and *Coelogyne ovalis* from Eric Beltrame. The plants arrived in good condition, and many are near flowering or flowering size.

All have been potted up to make new root growth as they must be sent to us "bare root". We will order another 40 plants in May. Lee-Anne and Ken will apply for the permits.

Please let Lee-Anne or Ken know if you would like to help by growing on some of these plants.

**AGM**

Our next meeting on Tuesday 13 May is

the Annual General Meeting followed by the general meeting. 30 days-notice of the AGM will be sent to members later this week

The AGM will include the President's Report, Annual Financial Statement, confirmation of the membership subscription for 2025/26, any business raised by members and the election of office bearers and committee.

To vote at the AGM, you must be a financial member. If you haven't got around to renewing your membership, please do so tonight so that you are able to vote.

### **Perth Orchid Fair committee**

The POF planning committee met on 13 March 2025. Lee-Anne has joined the committee. The POF date is confirmed as 13-14 September with set up on Friday 12th from 4.00pm. Participating clubs will still be asked to provide seed funds – amount to be advised.

No vendors or members, other than those marking out the floor will be permitted to enter the hall until this is completed (4.30pm). No plant sales will be permitted until judging concludes at 7.00pm on set-up day.

Committee decided that there will be no additional paid advertising on Curtin Radio. Despite being arranged last year, it didn't take place, but we had good attendance. Clubs will be asked to use the existing Curtin Radio arrangements to promote the Fair along with their social media facilities. Club members will be asked to complete volunteer rosters which will be distributed well prior to the event, and to sign in when they come to the event. The successful volunteer raffle run in 2024 will take place again.

Part of the profit will be distributed to participating clubs based on the member's recorded volunteer hours

Clubs participating in the event have been asked to provide trestle tables as the previous arrangements to borrow tables from Edmund Rice centre fell heavily upon WJOS and NDOS. It was decided that each participant club should purchase at least two of the folding trestles that can be carried in a normal car.

No plants other than these belonging to participating club members will be accepted for sale. All members selling plants will be required to volunteer for at least one full roster.

Designated parking will be provided for trucks and club trailers for access to venue through south-east door. Other members will be asked to unload their car then move it away from immediately in front of the venue to allow others to park.

There is an issue with the kitchen that is presently being converted to a storeroom. We will need to plan morning and afternoon tea arrangements around this change. There will not be a social function Saturday night.

Ken is revisiting the workshop program that will be focused on information for novice orchid growers including for example repotting Phalaenopsis.

**The Next Home Visit:** The next visit is to Ezi-Gro Orchids on Saturday 26 April- we look forward to seeing you there and know that Kevin has recently released more species seedlings for sale. Kevin will provide a sausage sizzle for lunch - members were asked to bring a salad or desert to share.

Contd. page 8

# NOTICEBOARD

## FORTH- COMING EVENTS

### Home visits:

26 April - Ezi-Gro Orchids, Evandale Rd, Lansdale  
22 June - Ken & Chris, The Vines

## MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

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

### 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)

<b>Committee:</b>	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

## *Cattleya wallisii* (Linden) Rollisson 1875-1876:

Country of origin: Brazil

**Description:** Medium sized warm-hot growing, unifoliate epiphyte.

**Difficulty:** This species has been selected as it should be easy to grow, and cope with winter conditions provided it is kept drier with good air movement.



Photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/59658996@N08/47989691507>

**Cost:** \$5

*Cattleya wallisii* (syn *Cattleya eldorado*) is a medium sized, hot to warm growing labiate *Cattleya*. This month's sale plant was purchased from Ezi-Gro Orchids, and because Kevin gives us a generous discount we are selling it at \$5.

*Cattleya wallisii* was initially described as *Cattleya eldorado* by Linden ex Van Hout in 1869. Similar to many of the early orchid discoveries, this species has many synonyms. This *Cattleya* species has more white clones than most others.

This species is found in the Amazonas state of Brazil as a medium sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with smooth, cylindrical pseudobulbs carrying a single apical, rigid, leathery leaf. Flowering in summer and autumn takes place on a short inflorescence that carries up to three fragrant flowers that often do not fully open. Kevin has this species as *Cattleya eldorado* concolor on his labels. My research on this cultivar indicates that it is

most likely to be pale pink with yellow disc in the labellum as shown above. The in-situ photo is a different cultivar but shows the growth habit.



In situ photo: <https://www.naturepl.com/stock-photo-orchid-cattleya-eldorado>

**Murray**

*Laelia perrinii*

**Ryan**

*Maxillaria hematoglossa*

**Rod**

*Coelogyne latifolium var macranthum*

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

*Guarianthe bowringiana coerulea*

**Ken & Chris**

*Brassavola nodosa*

*Cymbidium dayanum*

*Guarianthe bowringiana*

*Guarianthe bowringiana coerulea*

*Oncidium maizifolium*

*Paphiopedilum primulinum var*

*purpurescens*

*Paphiopedilum victoria regina*

*Restrepia lankesteri*

**Adrian & Dee**

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

*Coelogyne imbricata*

*Guarianthe bowringiana*

*Laelia perrinii*

*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*

*Vanda lamellata*

**Lee-Anne**

*Brassia spp*

*Cymbidium dayanum*

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

*Oncidium hyphaematicum*

**Courtney**

*Brassavola perrinii*

*Coelogyne latifolium var macranthum*

*Cymbidium dayanum alba*

*Dendrobium bigibbum*

**Jordana**

*Guarianthe bowringiana*

**MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Apr 2025**



*Miltonia clowesii*  
Helen



*Brassavola perrinii*  
Courtney

Helen

*Dendrobium bigibbum*  
*Miltontia clowesii*



*Maxillaria hematoglossa*  
Ryan

Victor

*Stenoglottis longifolia*



*Stenoglottis longifolia*  
Victor

## MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED Apr 2025



*Cymbidium dayanum alba*  
Courtney



*Brassavola nodosa*  
Ken & Chris

**Other General Business:** Nil

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:**

Members voted for Murray's *Laelia perrinii* for the cultural award.

**Maxine Godbeer Award:** Nil

**Name Badge:** Victor

**Special Raffle:** The Special Raffle was drawn by Lee-Anne. Arnold was the winner of the *Neobenthamia gracilis*, and Lee-Anne won the *Laelia albida*. Lee Anne advised members that the sales went very well and thanked them for their support.

**Raffle:** Lina, Ryan, Linda, Graham,

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm

## NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

### **Orchid Auction.**

An auction of Gillian Marsh's orchid collection was held at her home at 8 Elia Courtyard. Swan View on Saturday 12 April. A sincere thank you to those members who assisted and came to bid for plants. As a result of your help, it was a very successful event and Gill's orchids have all found new homes.

### **Special Raffle.**

We plan to hold another Special Raffle later this year.

### **May meeting**

The May meeting will be our AGM. The President was elected for 2 years, and Treasurer and Secretary were elected for one year to May 2025 and will need to seek re-election. The term for two committee members expires in May 2025 and both have nominated for re-election. However, the position of Vice-President and an ordinary committee position remain vacant. Please give some thought to nominating for 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.



## **What's all the fuss about the best media for orchids?**

For all of us growing epiphytic species orchids, at some time we will have to make a decision about what media we use to grow them, what conditions do we want to provide for our orchids and what fertiliser and water regime will we adopt. The challenge in making these decisions is who and where do we seek advice, and how do we assess the value and objectivity of the guidance received?

As a novice orchid grower more than 40 years ago, I remember the sometimes dogmatic assertions at orchid society meetings, which more often than not, excluded information which might have enabled me to grow my orchids better and win prizes at the orchid shows conducted by the society.

In 1988, the Species Orchid Society of WA was founded with specific aims of encouraging orchid growers to grow 'exotic species'. A small group of experienced orchid growers happy to share their collective knowledge and experience became the founding members of this group. Sadly, many of the founding members are deceased, and no longer able to transfer their knowledge and experience, although we still have many excellent growers who are happy to pass on their knowledge to new members.

In the articles written for this newsletter, wherever possible I include photos that show the orchid growing in its natural habitat. As epiphytes or lithophytes, these orchids grow on trees or rocks with their roots exposed to the air and sunlight affixing the orchid to its host. The roots do not penetrate the host tree.

The white coating on orchid roots is velamen which acts a bit like 'blotting paper', that is, it absorbs and holds moisture and nutrient which washes down the tree or rocks to the green root tips where it is absorbed by the orchid. Cells in the velamen transport the water to the stele, like a blood vein for orchids and that delivers nutrients to the pseudobulb and leaves. Healthy orchid roots are firm to the touch and white to green in colour. Orchid roots that are always green all over are an indication of overwatering orchids, even though the root tips may continue to be bright green.

You may ask why is this stuff important? We grow our orchids in pots for convenience, rather than the reasons we grow other garden plants in pots. Many of us grow our epiphytic species on hardwood, clay, treefern or plastic slabs where the roots are constantly exposed to air movement and moisture every time water and/or humidify our growing area.

For all of us living in Western Australia, we are growing orchids that by and large come from tropical and sub-tropical primary and secondary rainforests, not a habitat with a long, hot, dry summer, and cold, wet winter. While orchids are remarkably adaptable, growing them on slab mounts with their roots exposed to the air challenges us to carefully manage our growing environment. Growing on slab mounts requires more hanging space, and planning the size of mount selected to attach an orchid that may become a large plant over time to a new mount needs careful thought. Transferring a



well grown plant from a mount that has become too small can severely affect your orchid which might not survive, or may not flower for several seasons.

The photos beside and below show a large plant of *Brassavola nodosa* on a natural cork mount that was acquired from Chris Cabassi. When we got this plant, it was much smaller and only occupied a small part of the mount, but over the years it has grown and now covers almost all of the front surface with roots on the back side of the mount as well.



Next month, I will explore the complex and often confusing topic of what constitutes an effective potting media for orchids as most of us grow our orchids in pots.

Contd. In June

# ABOUT US

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise St, Wilson commencing 7.30 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 13 May 2025**

## Annual General Meeting

In accordance with rule 51, notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Species Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc. to be held at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at the Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise St, Wilson.

### Agenda

1. Confirm the minutes of the AGM held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 9 May 2024
2. Receive and consider the Financial Statement for the year ending 28 February 2025
3. Receive the report on activities for the year ended 28 February 2025
4. Confirm the annual membership subscription for 2025/26
5. Business matters raised by members in accordance with the rules.
6. Election of association officers and ordinary committee members. Members wishing to nominate for committee vacancies can obtain the nomination form from the Secretary at the April general meeting or download it from the Society's website at <http://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Committee-Nomination-Form.pdf> Nominations for election to the management committee are to be submitted to the Secretary no later than 24 April 2025.

Members are reminded that annual membership fees are due and payable after the 28 February 2025, and that unfinancial members cannot vote at an AGM.

K A Jones, Secretary  
7 April 2025