



# THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

**Vol 37 No 2 July**



Anne O'Callaghan Award June 2025  
*Phalaenopsis lindenii*  
Murray & Arni

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 8 July**

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# NEWSLETTER

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

10 June 2025 7.36 pm

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

**Apologies:** 7 as per register.

**Visitors:** Nil

**New members:** Nil

**Minutes:** Summary of minutes of May meeting tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes moved Arnold, seconded Helen. Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 May was \$6,206.49 plus \$307.95 on the prepaid credit card. Acceptance of financial report moved Graham, seconded Linda. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Secretary explained that the expense of \$210 referred to in the Treasurer's verbal report was for rectification of a printer fault that has recurred. Replacement of the Society's printer is on the agenda for the Committee meeting next Sunday.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Committee - draft GM agenda and draft GM minutes, draft AGM Agenda and draft minutes, display plant sheets and photos, suggestions for future printing options.
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- SpacetoCo confirming meeting booking, bookings summary
- Lee-Anne – monthly plant for June, orchids purchased from Ezi-Gro
- GCA certificate of Insurance, GCA bulletin, GCA convention program.
- Draft minutes of Orchids WA May 31 meeting

**Outwards:**

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes, draft GM agenda and minutes, draft AGM agenda and minutes, issues with printer, monthly plant for June
- Paul – newsletter and photos to be uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Certificate of Insurance sent to SpacetoCo and City of Canning
- Corrected Annual financial statement.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Arnold, seconded Margaret. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**Plant orders**

- Lee-Anne advised that she and Ken will apply for another two permits this month to get plants from Eric in July. We plan to order 20 of each *Dendrobium lancifolium* and *Dendrobium aloifolium*, both of which are New Guinea species.
- She asked members to let one of us know if you can help growing on these plants.

**ISODW**

- SOSWA has agreed to participate and stage a display, and Adrian is currently constructing new display staging for us
- The 2025 ISODW will be hosted by South Eastern Orchid Society on 2-3 August 2025 at the Agricultural Hall, Cannington Show Grounds, Cnr Station Road & Albany Highway.
- The catered dinner Saturday night will cost \$80 per head (copies of the menu available for those interested). SEOS has asked for dinner numbers as soon as possible, and societies to collect the money from their members and transfer to SEOS before the event.
- Following the meeting on 31 May, Orchids WA will now pay a \$350 display subsidy to all OWA members staging displays.
- We now need volunteers to help plan and stage the display, and our members to commit flowering species orchids for the display. The \$35 registration fee has been paid to SEOS.

- Graham, Lee-Anne, Adrian, Ken & Chris confirmed that they will have plants and will help stage the display. Lee-Anne encouraged members to support this event.

### **Perth Orchid Fair**

- SOSWA is staging a display of flowering species orchids at the Perth Orchid Fair with set up in the evening of Friday 12 September.
- Members are willing to volunteer to help run the event on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September.
- The venue will be in use in the afternoon Friday 12 September. We can access it at 6.00pm. This will result in a later start to set out, judging and displays.
- No vendors or members other than those marking out the floor will be permitted to enter the hall until marking out is completed at 6.30pm. No plant sales will be permitted until judging concludes at estimated 9.00pm.
- All members selling plants will be required to volunteer for at minimum full roster.
- Members were asked to provide details of plants that they might have in flower to the Newsletter Editor by the end of August.
- Lee-Anne reminded members that participating Orchids WA 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 volunteer raffle run in 2024 will take place again.
- SOSWA has purchased four folding trestle tables – two for use in the plant sales area and two for our display that Adrian is constructing.
- Profit generated will be distributed to participating clubs - 50% on member's recorded volunteer hours and 50% on their seed funding contribution.
- Lee-Anne again asked members to be a part of a working group to plan and stage the display. Adrian, Lee-Anne, Marian, Linda and Ken indicated their availability. Lee-Anne encouraged other members to participate in this event.

### **Silent auction fundraiser**

- Lee-Anne reminded members that we will be holding the silent auction at the July General Meeting.
- To be successful, we need donations of orchids (species or hybrids), other plants, orchid materials, collectables or any other orchid items.
- Ken advised that we have some Cattleya hybrids that came from Barrita Orchids as a bonus for our seedling order, and from Maxine's auction which can be included.
- Lee-Anne observed that not all members will have orchids to donate, so other items of value are equally acceptable.
- As some members are not familiar with this event, Lee-Anne reminded them about the process. All the donated items are placed into lots, and members then are invited to write their bid onto small slips and place face down next to the lot. Once all members have completed their bids, the bids are turned over. The highest bidder for each lot wins the bid, collects the lot and pays the Treasurer.
- Ken advised members that he will remind them about this event in the next newsletter, that there won't be a monthly plant for sale, but that they should bring any flowering orchids for the regular bench display.
- Participating clubs will be asked to provide \$300 seed funding.
- Profit generated will be distributed to participating clubs - 50% on their member's recorded volunteer hours and 50% on their seed funding contribution.
- Lee-Anne asked members to be a part of a working group to plan and stage the display as in the past, this responsibility has fallen on a few members. Rod, Graham, Lee-Anne and Ken volunteered.

### **Home visit**

- Lee-Anne reminded members that Ken & Chris will host the June home visit, 10am on Sunday 22 June. Chris will provide hot soups and crusty bread for a light lunch. Members are asked to bring cakes and biscuits to share with morning tea

**Other General Business:** Nil

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

Members voted for Murray & Arni's *Phalaenopsis lindenii*

*Contd, p5*

## FORTH-COMING EVENTS

**Home visits:** 24 August, Rod and Heather, Woodvale

## MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

**President:** Lee-Anne

**Vice President:** Ryan

**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

**Committee:**

Murray

Graham

Linda

Rod

Marion

Paul

Mavis

### **Life Members**

Ian

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)

### **Quiet Achievers**

2013 Ian

2014 Chris (dec'd)

2015 Margaret

2016 Tom & Pat

### **Quiet Achievers**

2017 Charly & Gerda

2018 Paul

2020 Adrian & Deanne

2021 John

2024 Graham

**Name Badge:** Chris

**Raffle:** .Helen, Chris, Ryan, Arnold, Bruce

Meeting closed: 8.43 pm

## **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

### **Silent auction**

As discussed at the May General Meeting, we will hold the Silent auction at our July. General Meeting. Please donate whatever you can for this fun event as we discussed at the June GM. We do realise that some of our more recent members and less experienced growers may not have spare species orchids, but might have spare hybrids, orchid books, fertiliser, other plants etc. Please bring them along for this fundraising event that provides additional income for us.

### **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.



# MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED JUNE 2025

Photography by Siva

## Murray & Arni

*Oncidium tigrinum*  
*Phalaenopsis lindenii*

## Graham & Margaret

*Eriochilus dilatatus*  
*Pterostylis* aff. *nana*  
*Pterostylis vittata*

## Ryan

*Saccolabiopsis armitii*

## Ken & Chris

*Cattleya harrisoniana*  
*Coelogyne usitana*  
*Laelia anceps*  
*Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*  
*Paphiopedilum insigne*  
*Paphiopedilum insigne* var. *sanderæ*  
*Stelis multirostris*  
*Zelenkoa onusta*  
*Zootrophion atropurpureum*

## Adrian & Dee

*Coelogyne saccolabium*  
*Encyclia livida*  
*Liparis reflexa*  
*Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*  
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*  
*Rossioglossum grande*

## Bruce

*Cattleya percivaliana*  
*Laelia anceps*

## Siva

*Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*  
*Paphiopedilum insigne* var. *sanderæ*  
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*  
*Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica*



*Zootrophion atropurpureum*  
Ken & Chris



*Saccolabiopsis armitii*  
Ryan

# MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED JUNE 2025

Photography by Siva



*Laelia anceps*  
Bruce



*Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica*  
Siva



*Liparis reflexa*  
Adrian & Deanne



*Oncidium tigrinum*  
Murray & Arni

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

However, when reviewing April's article, I noted that I missed providing advice about the best time of year to transfer tropical and sub-tropical epiphytic orchids to mounts. For us in WA, it is spring or early autumn as the daytime temperatures are not excessive, the ambient humidity is higher, and the nighttime temperature is not too low. The majority of our epiphytic orchids will be making new root growth in our spring and some in autumn.

Another question I have often been asked is whether it is better to place a pad of sphagnum moss under or over the orchid roots. Over time, I have found that doing so does not lead to better results, and in some instances, retards root growth and attachment to the mount.

However, I acknowledge that successful cultivation of epiphytic orchids on mounts, or if you can provide a suitable environment, on trees or shrubs in your garden that do not shed their bark including *Calistemon* (Bottlebrush), *Camelia*, *Frangipani*, *Grevillea* and *Melaleuca* (Paperbark) is effective and attractive.

During our hot summers, the foliage provides shade and humidity, while in winter the foliage thins and allows more light to reach your orchids. Native trees with coarse bark including *Allocasuarina* (Sheoak) are also suitable hosts are many of the commonly grown fruit trees including fig, apricot, plum and nut trees including *Prunus* (almond).

### Substrates (media) for growing epiphytic orchids in pots

Orchids growing in their natural habitat have to be stress tolerant plants as they must cope with dry periods, lack of mineral nutrient and varying light conditions. We should not assume that epiphytic orchids growing in their natural environment are in their optimum position and growing in perfect conditions. They also must cope with a less than perfect environment and competition from other plants.

We can say with some confidence that species orchids in cultivation by and large enjoy much better conditions than their wild predecessors with an adequate supply of moisture, mineral nutrient and light. You might well ask if this is so, why are some species orchids so difficult to grow? The answer can be found in the fact that most of us choose to grow many different genera from significantly different natural environments, and more importantly, that we "kill them with kindness". In my experience overwatering, over fertilising, insufficient air movement around the orchid and through the media and the absence of "media management" that allows media to break down and become a muddy sludge allowing the build-up of mineral salts in the media resulting either more acidic or basic pH.

There are many different organic and inorganic materials that can be used for orchid media. Historically, partially composted pine bark has been the most common substrate in use, and we all developed or adapted our orchid culture using this as the principal component of orchid media along with added charcoal.

However, the world is now a very different place with many other options available to us as orchid growers. Many of us in the past used Orchidata bark from New Zealand, but some years ago a change in supplier led to a substantial reduction in quality, increase in price and a product that over time often become water repellent or lost its water retention trait. When using this bark, we often added charcoal when we could purchase good hardwood charcoal and perlite to enable some air movement. Ezi-Gro Orchids still use pinebark media, varying the size to suit the orchid roots – small bark for fine root genera like *Miltoniopsis* and *Oncidium* and larger size bark for robust root genera like *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium* and *Vanda*.

The rise of interest in buying hybrid orchids as pot plants led to development of substrates to support rapid growth, flowering and long flower life in plants sold for this purpose. A substrate imported from the Netherlands by Flora Plants labelled BVB is basically bog peat, pumice and coir fibre with added nutrients. This is a very successful product, although more expensive than composted pine bark. As these orchids are commercially grown in strictly controlled environments where light, air movement, temperature and nutrient are all managed, excellent



growth rates and flowering are achieved, and the substrate retains moisture meaning that businesses selling these plants do not have pay as much attention to watering them.



**BVB Substrate**

**BVB Substrate -close up**



Dried Sphagnum moss is also used for growing orchid hybrids for commercial sale. It is an effective substrate if carefully managed as it retains moisture, however if it is allowed to dry out, it can become water repellent. For this reason, many Dendrobium, Oncidium and Phalaenopsis hybrids are grown in containers like soft plastic tubes and glass pots with no drain holes . If you are given one of these plants, check the container to see whether it has drain holes, and if not, repot it!

The growth and interest in growing plants and vegetables hydroponically has stimulated the importation of high-quality coir fibre and chips which are perfectly suited to growing species orchids. I use a commercially available coarse coir chip product sold by hydroponic suppliers to which I add small amounts (about 10% in total) of expanded clay, coarse perlite and charcoal. This helps ensure that there are air pockets in the media. I have been using this media for about 2 years and find that this media retains moisture (with the assistance of fine misting). during our long hot summer I have yet to see how long the coir chip lasts before it starts breaking down like composted pine bark, but assume given its wide application in hydroponic culture, it should be longer lasting than pinebark.





**Coir Chip media**



Orchids will also grow in rock mixes, e.g. blue metal, broken clay pots, and quincan rock or scoria but this media does get cold during winter nights unless some form of air or underpot heating is available. This may lead to plant death, or at the very least, retarded growth.

There are also terrestrial orchids (other than Australian native terrestrials such as *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Pterostylis* etc.) that appreciate a compost-rich, but open soil mix. These are the species that can generally be found growing on the floor of the forest, or in some case, lithophytes that grow in the shallow humus layer over rock. There are relatively few orchids that grow on exposed rock in the full sun.

## 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 Tuesday 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 July 2025**