



THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

Vol 37 No 3 August 2025



Anne O'Callaghan Award July 2025
Laelia anceps "Disciplinata"
Graham & Margaret

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 12 August

Contents

2. July meeting minutes
4. Noticeboard
5. Monthly Sale Plant
5. Notes from your Committee

6. Plants displayed
7. Plants displayed
8. Orchid Culture Essentials – Nutrition
9. About us

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

Passing of Ray Taylor.

Lee-Anne reminded members that as advised in the e-mail accompanying the July newsletter, Ray Taylor passed away last week. There will be a private cremation.

Ray was an active member of SOSWA for several years, and many other societies.

Lee-Anne advised members that Peta, Druce & Keely will open their family home at 10am on Sunday 13th July to enable his many orchid friends to say farewell to Ray.

Compromised e-mail

Ken advised members that Rod's e-mail has been compromised by scammers. If you receive an e-mail from Rod that appears suspicious, please do not reply but phone him. You can get his mobile number from Ken.

Several members received scam e-mails, but fortunately, no-one received requests for or has lost any money as a result.

General Business:

Silent auction

- Lee-Anne thanked Rod and Linda who have volunteered to manage this including setting out the lots, and when all members have lodged their bids, advising the name of the successful bidder. Lee-Anne also thanked the many members who had donated plants and other items. Ken specially thanked Paul and Andrea who cannot be at tonight's meeting for their donation

of about 30 species and hybrid orchids.

- Lee-Anne explained the process for members unfamiliar with this event. The donated items are placed into lots, and members then are invited to write their bid onto small slips and place their bid face down next to the lot. Members can collect bid slips from Ken and pencils/biros to write their bids.
- The silent auction will commence immediately following the benched plant description and completion of the popular vote.
- Once all members have completed their bids, the bids will be turned over by Rod and Linda. The highest bidder for each lot wins the bid, collects the lot and pays the Treasurer.

Plant orders

- Lee-Anne and Ken applied for another two permits in July for more plants from Eric.
- She advised we have ordered *Dendrobium lancifolium* and *Dendrobium aloifolium*, both of which are New Guinea species. The plants left Queensland on Monday by Express Post and are expected by the end of this week.
- Please let Lee-Anne or Ken know if you can help by growing on some of these plants.

ISODW

- Lee-Anne reminded members that we have agreed to stage a display at the 2025 ISODW hosted by South Eastern Orchid Society on 2-3 August 2025 at the Agricultural Hall, Cannington Show Grounds, Cnr Station Road & Albany Highway. Adrian has constructed new display staging for us.
- She reminded members to provide details of any plants that they think will be in flower for the display by 27 July to Ken so that he can prepare name tags.

Perth Orchid Fair

- Lee-Anne confirmed that we will stage a display of flowering species orchids at the Perth Orchid Fair in September. We will be staging the display in the evening of Friday 12 Sept.
- If you think that you will have plants for this display, please provide details to Ken by the end of August.
- A roster for volunteers to help run the event on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14 September will be at the August meeting – please add your name to the roster because as previously advised, any profit generated will be distributed to participating clubs - 50% on their member's recorded volunteer hours and 50% on their seed funding contribution. The volunteer raffle conducted last year will take place again. Please remember to sign in when you come to the event.
- SOSWA has purchased folding trestle tables – two for use in the plant sales area and two for the display that Adrian has constructed.
- All members selling plants at POF will be required to volunteer for at least one full roster.
- Lee-Anne asked members interested in being part of a working group to plan and stage the display to let a committee member know of their interest.

Other General Business: Nil

Silent Auction bidding, and announcement of winning bids

Linda and Rod announced the winning bids and bidder for each lot. On a quick estimate, it is likely that this silent auction generated more than enough money to cover the cost of our new printer.

Ken reiterated his thanks to Linda and Rod, and to members who donated plants and other items, and to members who bid for the lots. Well done all of you!

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Members voted for Graham & Margaret's *Laelia anceps* "Disciplinata"

Name Badge: Chris

Raffle: .No raffle

Meeting closed: 9.20 pm

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

Editor: Ken

Committee:

Murray

Graham

Linda

Rod

Marion

Paul

Mavis

Life Members

Ian

Graham & Margaret

Chris Cabassi (dec'd)

Barry Gardner (dec'd)

Gordon Doherty (dec'd)

Maxine Godbeer (dec'd)

Ken & Chris

Adrian & Deanne

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

Trevor Pratt (dec'd)

Neville Risbey (dec'd)

Paul & Andrea

Noel (dec'd) & Eva

Tony (dec'd) & Mavis

Barry Winter (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

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2025

Photography by Siva

Graham & Margaret

Laelia anceps var. *chamberlainianum*
Laelia anceps 'Disciplinata'
Paphiopedilum gratixianum
Pterostylis vittata

Ryan

Prosthechea cochleata

Ken & Chris

Cattleya percivaliana
Dendrobium x grimesii
Oncidium hyphaematicum
Paphiopedilum insigne
Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sanderæ*
Rhyncholaelia digbyana

Adrian & Dee

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum
Laelia anceps (2)
Liparis reflexa
Maxillaria nigrescens

Bruce

Phragmipedium longifolium
Paphiopedilum spicerianum

Helen Stretch

Cattleya

Siva

Paphiopedilum villosum
Paphiopedilum wardii



Phragmipedium longifolium
Bruce



Maxillaria nigrescens
Adrian & Deanne

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED JULY 2025

Photography by Siva



Cattleya trianae
Helen



Paphiopedilum wardii
Siva



Rhyncholaelia digbyana
Ken & Chris



Paphiopedilum villosum
Siva

MONTHLY PLANT

Encyclia guatemalensis [Klotzsch] Dressler & Pollard 1971

Cost: \$5

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Medium sized hot-cool growing epiphyte.

Difficulty: This species should be easy to grow, and has been grown from flask for us by Adrian.

Encyclia guatemalensis (syn *Epidendrum guatemalensis*) comes from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua where it grows as a hot to cool growing epiphyte in dry scrub oak, oak forest and tropical semi-deciduous forests at 100-1,300m. as a medium sized species.

Flowering in late spring and summer takes place on apical racemes that arise from mature pseudobulbs. The inflorescences are typically 17- 60cm tall, erect to arching and racemose or branching, carrying few to many brown to yellow or greenish flowers.



Photo: https://www.ecured.cu/Encyclia_guatemalensis



In situ photo: <https://travaldo.blogspot.com/2022/03/encyclia-guatemalensis-guatemalan-encyclia-care.html>

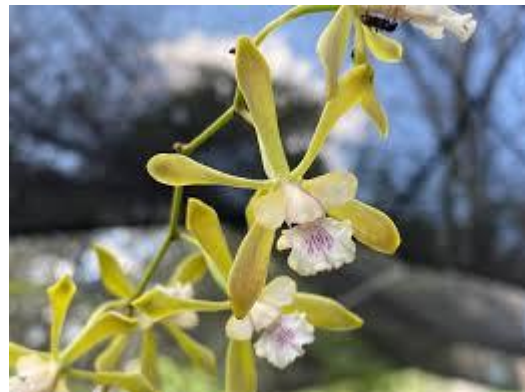


Photo: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/283521-Encyclia-guatemalensis>

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

ISODW and Perth Orchid Fair Displays

As discussed at the July meeting, the Species Society has committed to staging displays at both the ISODW (first weekend in August) and the Perth Orchid Fair (13-14 September). We will need every flowering species orchid you have for each of these displays.

As we have mentioned several times, please advise the secretary of any orchids that you are likely to have in flower for either of these displays a week prior to the event so that name tags can be prepared.

If you have indicated your willingness to be involved in either planning or staging one or both of the displays, you will be contacted prior to the events. Also, the POF roster will be at the August general meeting. As 50% of the profit is distributed on volunteer hours, we do hope that you are able to assist in delivering this event as a volunteer.

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.

Orchid Culture Essentials – Nutrition

I have often had questions from both novice and experienced orchid growers who found information on the internet or social media recommending particular fertilisers and other treatments to promote plant growth and flowering and wondered about the lack of evidence about their efficacy. While some of the ideas seem reasonable, others seem to be opinion-based with little or no evidence for them.

As specialist species orchid growers, we should firstly remember that in their natural habitat, these orchids do not enjoy the luxury of regular fertilising with both inorganic and organic nutrient. Rather, as primarily epiphytes they survive, grow and flower on whatever washes down the tree or is blown onto their roots by the wind.

This article attempts to cover a broad range of matters, some of which might be well or little known. The information following should be taken in the context of your orchid cultural practice, for example how often you water your orchids, how much air movement do they receive and how much moisture is retained by your media between waterings when orchids are grown in pots.

Carbon Dioxide

One of the surprising facts about plant nutrition is that a major plant nutrient all plants require is carbon dioxide (CO_2), freely available from the atmosphere. Most of us do not generally think about CO_2 as a nutrient as it is free and we do not purchase it in a packet, although we can if we desire artificially increase the level of CO_2 . Many years ago, I decided to trial increasing CO_2 in my glasshouse by adding yeast to water containing sugar and allowing it to ferment, releasing CO_2 . The result was no visible difference in the growth of the orchids, and it smelt bad.

CO_2 as a component of the ambient atmosphere is absorbed into the orchid through the stomata on the underside of the leaves. The stomata under the leaves, stems and roots are the exit for water vapour during the process of transpiration. I have seen popular opinion that suggests that the air that flows into the leaf tissue has the CO_2 extracted and the remainder expelled. This is plainly incorrect as air is a mixture of gases, not separate compounds that can be simply separated. Assuming that the air our orchids are exposed to does not contain other gaseous contaminants, the usual composition of dry air at 0°C and 100kPa is 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.03% CO_2 and 0.93% argon (G Morrison 1991).

So, what does this mean for us as orchid growers?

1. Were you aware that our orchids obtain an important nutrient CO_2 from air exchange that supports photosynthesis through respiration as it penetrates the leaf cells,
2. In the damp tropical forests where many of our orchids come from, the CO_2 concentration can be 40% higher than the figures above for dry air due to the damp decomposing leaf litter, and
3. While we are in our glasshouses respiring normally, we exhale 12-15 litres of CO_2 per hour boosting CO_2 concentration and level (a benefit that possibly occurs when growing orchids inside your home).

For the purposes of this discussion, I won't spend a lot of time on the demonstrated benefits of fresh air flow and orchid growth, although we all know that an absence of persistent fresh air movement around our orchids leads to lack of vigour, presence of insect and pathogen pests and interrupted flowering.

Contd. In September

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), when we can find a host, 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 12 August 2025