



THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

Vol 37 No 5 October 2025

NEWSLETTER



Caladenia discoidea



Caladenia flava

Terrestrial orchids at Wireless Hill
28 September 2025

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 14 October

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 September 2025 7.40 pm

Present: 20 members as per register.

Apologies: 9 as per register.

Visitors: 1 as per register

New members: Ryan

Minutes: Summary of minutes of August meeting tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes moved Norm, seconded Rod. Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 August was \$6,804.94 plus \$109.95 on the prepaid credit card. Acceptance of financial report moved Adrian, seconded Norm. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft GM agenda and draft GM minutes, change for Committee meeting.
- Jordana – photos from GM
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Mich - name badge ordered
- ATO – reminder NFP self-review due by 31 October 2025.
- Bruce – Joseph Wu Orchids at POF, POF.
- GCA – AGM agenda
- Members – plants for POF display

Outwards:

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes and date/time changes, draft GM agenda and minutes, proposed text for Curtin FM community announcement, POF set up and show, SOSWA debit card.
- Members reminding them about home visit, and thanking hosts and attendees
- Mich – name badge for new member
- Paul – newsletter and photos to be uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Graham Bowden, seconded Helen Stretch. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Presentation

Our presenter tonight is Norm. Norm has a PowerPoint presentation on the “Orchids of Lane Cove National Park” Norm is a very knowledgeable and experienced grower and cultivator and hybridiser of Australian epiphytic orchids, as well as being an entertaining speaker.

Siva be our presenter in October telling us about his visit to Madagascar

General Business:

Perth Orchid Fair

- As discussed last general meeting, we are staging a display of flowering species orchids at the Perth Orchid Fair. Setup will take place in the evening of Friday 12 September. If you think that you will have plants for this display, please provide details to Ken Jones as soon as possible.
- A roster for volunteers to help run the event on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14 September is again here tonight. If you have not added your name to the roster and can volunteer to help us run this event, please add your name to the roster.
- As we have discussed advised at previous meetings, the profit generated from the event will be distributed to participating clubs - 50% on their member's recorded volunteer hours and

50% on their seed funding contribution. Last year, we received a refund of our \$300 seed funding plus \$670 in our share of the profit.

- The volunteer raffle conducted last year will take place again. Remember to sign in when you come to the event for your volunteer hours to be recorded and a ticket in the volunteer raffle.
- The sale of orchids is a major point of attraction for members or the general public and orchid society members. If you have spare orchids that are ready for sale, please bring them along.
- Members wishing to sell plants at POF are required to volunteer for at least one full roster.

Orchids WA AGM

- The next Orchids WA meeting on 21 September 2025 is the AGM.
- One of the major items to be considered is the proposal to establish a grant process to allocate some of the substantial fund accumulated to support the World Orchid Conference bid that is no longer proceeding. As part of this discussion, member delegates will need to consider what activities could or should be eligible to receive funding, and the applicant responsibilities for supporting and managing those activities.
- Ken mentioned that some of the options to be considered included university orchid research scholarship funding, support for orchid judging training and growing the Perth Orchid Fair.
- A grant application process has developed and will be put to members for approval and our delegate, Lee-Anne needs to know what SOSWA members want.

Curtin FM club promotion

- As a member of the POF organising committee, SOSWA has written to Curtin FM to authorise our monthly subscription for August 2025 to be applied to promotion for the Perth Orchid Fair.
- Committee reviewed the community announcement text about our society and meetings provided by Curtin FM under our annual contract and have submitted updated text to them

Supper

- For the July meeting, we trialled having supper earlier during our meeting to allow members helping with supper to commence the clean up earlier and to depart the meeting at the same time as other members. This has been a popular change to the evening program
- Supper will be ready after the plant description and at the same time as the Anne O'Callaghan award popular vote is carried out.

Other General Business: Nil

September Presentation: Norm presented an informative PowerPoint presentation on the "Orchids of Lane Cove National Park". It was very clear that Norm started out on his orchid journey early in his life, and has many long-term friends growing orchids. He told us that he visited a patch of bushland when still a teenager and his understanding, knowledge and love of Australian species and hybrid orchids developed from these early experiences. The in situ photos of these orchids was both interesting and led to many questions and observations from members.

October Presentation: Siva will talk to us about the orchids of Madagascar, and I have asked him to talk about his recent trip to Madagascar as a volunteer doctor. Siva is a very knowledgeable orchid grower, and brings the discipline of his role as a Paediatric Anaesthetist to the practice of cultivating his orchids

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:

Members voted for Bruce's *Chysis limminghei*

Name Badge: Graham

Raffle: .Ryan, Marian, Helen, Ryan, Bruce

Meeting closed: 8.40 pm

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits: 10am 28 Sept - Wireless Hill terrestrial orchid walk

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

President: Lee-Anne

Vice President: Ryan

Treasurer: Adrian

Secretary: Ken Jones

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Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: kcjones@tpg.com.au

Editor: Ken

Committee:

Murray

Graham

Linda

Rod

Marion

Paul

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 Cabassi (dec'd)

2015 Margaret

2016 Tom & Pat

Quiet Achievers

2017 Charly & Gerda

2018 Paul

2020 Adrian & Deanne

2021 John

2024 Graham

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED SEPTEMBER 2025

Graham & Margaret

Bletilla striata
Caladenia arenicola
Caladenia nobilis
Dendrobium teretifolium
Dendrobium x ruppium
Diuris corymbosa

Ken & Chris

Bletilla striata
Coelogyne assamica
Coelogyne fragrans
Diuris corymbosa
Maxillaria densa
Oncidium maculatum
Dendrobium x delicatum
Paphiopedilum primulinum var. *purpurescens*
Phragmipedium sargentianum

Adrian & Dee

Ansellia africana
Maxillaria nigrescens
Rhyncholaelia glauca

Bruce

Anacheilium fragrans
Chysis limminghei

Marian

Dendrobium speciosum

Norm

Pterostylis baptistii

Siva

Coelogyne glumacea

Anne O'Callaghan Award September 2025
Chysis limminghei
Bruce



Caladenia arenicola
Graham & Margaret



MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED SEPTEMBER 2025



Dendrochilum glumacea
Siva



Pterostylis baptistii
Norm



Dendrobium x ruppium
Graham & Margaret



Dendrobium speciosum
Marian

MONTHLY PLANT

***Oeoniella polystachys* (Thouars) Schltr. 1918**

Cost: \$10

Country of origin: Madagascar, Comoros, the Mascarenes and the Seychelles

Description: Small-medium sized hot growing epiphyte.

Difficulty: This species should not be difficult to grow if you can keep them sheltered from cold rain in winter.

This hot growing, lowland epiphytic species is found at sea level to 100m. It has erect, leafy stems carrying oblong or ligulate, fleshy leaves. It blooms throughout the year with the heaviest flush of flowers in September - May. Flowers are borne on lateral, arching 15-25 cm racemes with 7-15 fragrant flowers on inflorescences with short and rounded floral bracts and a nighttime vanilla scent.

These plants were purchased from Kevin at Ezi-Gro Orchids, and were grow from flask. I have grown them on since March 2025 in an intermediate polycarbonate hothouse.



In situ photo source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oeoniella>

Photo source: <https://armstronggenetics.wordpress.com/2011/02/28/oeoniella-polystachys/>



NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Perth Orchid Fair Displays

The Species Society participated in the Perth Orchid Fair (13-14 September), and staged a small display. We thank all those members who provided plants and helped stage the display. The WA terrestrial orchids provided by Graham & Margaret created much interest for members of the public show attended and asked lots of questions. We also had plants from Ron Fauntleroy and two large boxes of Diuris from Mark Brundrett. Public attendance on Saturday was good, but Sunday was less than last year. However, it is expected that revenue distribution to the member clubs will be similar to 2024.

Special General Meeting

To meet the ATO requirement for not-for-profit self assessment for tax exemption, at the October meeting we will give notice of a Special General meeting preceding the November general meeting to appoint a public officer for the Society, and incorporate this requirement in the Society Rules. This will enable us to complete the self assessment as a not-for-profit.

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 (cont. from September)

The following table of mineral elements required for orchid growth was also published by Morrison 1991.

Element	Action
Nitrogen as NO_3^- & NO_4^-	Constituent of amino acid (proteins and enzymes), chlorophyll, DNA and RNA
P as H_2PO_4^- of HPO_4^{2-}	Phosphorus is an important component of the DNA and RNA molecules and is an essential element for cereal crops in Australia due to our poor soils. It is not taken up by orchids at anything but very low concentration.
K as K^+	Potassium is the prime activator of enzymes, a cation to neutralise anionic change. Potassium is a non-toxic cation except in high salinity conditions.
S as SO_4^{2-}	Sulphur is a constituent of amino acids and has a major role in the configuration of protein.
Ca as Ca^{2+}	Calcium has low mobility in plants but is the glue between cell walls.
Mg as Mg^{2+}	Magnesium is a very active element in plant metabolism, constituent of chlorophyll and the enzyme initiating CO_2 fixation in photosynthesis. Activates many enzymes
Mn as Mn^{2+}	Manganese is only needed in small quantities in the water splitting process, and can substitute for Magnesium.
Fe as Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+}	Principal activity as oxidised Iron in photosynthesis and respiration, as well as an activator of enzymes.
Cu as Cu^+ and Cu^{2+}	Copper $^{2+}$ is easily reduced and is involved in photosynthesis and is a component of several enzymes which react with O_2 reducing it to H_2O_2 or H_2O
Zn as Zn^{2+}	Zinc is very prominent in enzyme structure and function. Zinc deficiency results in poor chloroplast development. Important in nucleic acid protein synthesis.
Mo as MoO_4^{2-}	Molybdenum required only in very small quantities as a component supporting nitrate oxidation in roots and shoots.
B possibly as $\text{B}(\text{OH})_3$	The value and role of Boron is not well understood as our knowledge is principally based on deficiency symptoms. It could be associated with hormonal
Cl as Cl^-	Chlorine is essential for O_2 production from isolated chloroplasts. Possibly linked to Manganese in splitting water.

I have included this table, although it is probably more that we need to know, because it does set out the majority of essential inorganic minerals required by most plants for healthy growth. However, this does not mean that organic fertilisers are not of equal value, and in fact they may more closely resemble what our species orchids received in their natural habitat, plus they promote beneficial soil flora that helps strengthen our orchids and make them more resistant to pests and pathogens. Many organic products will contain one or more of the above elements.

In the next newsletter, I will describe what I use in my orchid fertilising regime that is best described as “weakly weekly”. I do not suggest that these are the only fertilisers you might want to consider, but I have used most of them for many years without any problems.

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 14 October 2025