



THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

Vol 37 No 6 November 2025

NEWSLETTER



Anne O Callaghan Award October 2025
Chysis bractescens
Bruce

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 10 November

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 October 2025 7.40 pm

Present: 20 members as per register.

Apologies: 7 as per register.

Visitors: 1 as per register

New members: Nil

Minutes: Summary of minutes of September meeting tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes moved Arnold, seconded Bruce. Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Ken Jones presented the financial report. The balance at 30 September was \$6,513.99. Acceptance of financial report moved Norm, seconded Margaret.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft GM agenda and draft GM minutes, date/time change for Committee meeting, NFP self-review matters and timing
- Siva – photos from GM
- SpacetoCo – October venue booking
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- ATO – reminder NFP self-review due by 31 October 2025.
- Members – plants for POF display

Outwards:

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes and date/time changes, draft GM agenda and minutes, SOSWA debit card updated, NFP self-review issues and timing, appointment of Public Officer and Special General meeting to amend SOSWA rules, deferral of NFP self –assessment due date to 5/1/2026
- Members reminding them about Wireless Hill visit.
- Paul – newsletter and photos to be uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Marian, seconded Jordana. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Presentation

Siva presented a PowerPoint slide show showing images from a previous visit to Madagascar with others from WA including Mich and Alastair, Harry and some from his most recent trip to Madagascar as a volunteer on the Mercyships project where with others, they operated on facial deformities.

Siva told us that even though Madagascar has natural resources, the majority of the population live in poverty. Recent community protests about corruption, power and water supply and other matters have forced the President to leave Madagascar.

Siva showed us images of orchids in both the tropical east and surprisingly, the very dry southwest and northwest which is much drier and more desert-like. He showed us pictures of the area known as Tzingy is a large area of heavily weathered limestone, often into sharp pinnacles which surprisingly has some orchids growing in what we would regard as very harsh conditions along with Euphorbia and similar succulents.

He also showed us pictures of several of the country's endemic and lovable lemurs.

Members and Lee-Anne thanked Siva for his informative and fascinating presentation

General Business:

Perth Orchid Fair

- Lee Anne told members that while the weather for the Perth Orchid Fair was not perfect, it appears that general public attendance was similar to 2024. The raffle and kitchen were well supported by attendees, door takings were OK but less than 2024, and plant sales were

marginally lower than 2024 event.

- Members who provided flowering species orchids for the SOSWA our display, volunteered to help out at the event, and helped stage the display on Friday evening and disassemble it on Sunday afternoon were thanked. Special mention was given to Linda who with Lee-Anne has put her hand up to help stage SOSWA displays.
- The sale of orchids is a major source of attraction for the general public and orchid society members. Members who sold orchids were thanked as the 10% commission charged helps increase the profit that can be distributed to participating societies .
- Bruce and Steve attended AOCC in NSW and will complete the reconciliation and distribution of profit to members on their return.

Orchids WA AGM

- The Orchids WA AGM was held on 21 September 2025. One of the matters considered was the proposal to establish a grant process to allocate some of the substantial funds held.
- Delegates participated in this discussion, but no decision was made about what should be eligible for funding.
- The grant application process developed was approved in principle by member delegates subject to further negotiation at the next general meeting.
- A late submission was received from a member society that made some recommendations, but as the majority of delegates at the meeting were only given a copy at the commencement of the meeting, this and other proposals will be on the agenda for February 2026.
- Ken was appointed as the OWA Public Officer to enable him to access the ATO On-Line Business Operations pages to complete financial and NFP self-assessment obligations.

Special General Meeting

- Not-for-profit associations with an ABN that do not submit taxation returns are required to annual self-assess their exemption from income tax.
- Ken has conducted this self-assessment in 2022/23 and 2023/24. But, the ATO requirements have changed for the 2024-2025 tax year.
- Associations are now required to appoint a Public Officer to enable access to the ATO On-Line Business Operations pages to complete financial and NFP self-assessment obligations. Election as Treasurer or Secretary does not satisfy this requirement.
- The person taking on this responsibility is also required to have a digital myID
- This appointment should be made at an AGM or similar meeting.
- Tonight's discussion is to give members notice of a Special General Meeting to be held before the November General Meeting to make this appointment and include the requirement in the Society's rules.
- The motion "to hold a Special General Meeting before the November general meeting to appoint a Public Officer for the society, and to include the requirement for such appointment in the Society's rules" was moved Arnold, seconded Lee-Anne and carried on a show of hands.
- Secretary will e-mail the formal notice of Special General Meeting to members.

Home Visits

- The Wireless Hill terrestrial orchid walk was our last home visit for 2025.
- Mavis is currently working on our program for 2026 – if you are willing to host a home visit, please let Mavis or a member of the committee know, and your preferred timing.
- We now have a number of new members who will appreciate the opportunity to see how other members grow their orchids.

Raffle Prizes

- The inventory of raffle prizes is rapidly diminishing. Ken has spoken with Kevin Butler who will sell us plants at wholesale.
- If any members have surplus species orchids that they would be prepared to sell, please let a committee member know.
- We will contact some Eastern States commercial vendors accredited to send to WA to ascertain what they might have available for monthly plant sales and/or raffle prizes.

Other General Business: Graham Bowden advised that he has access to Bob Liddelow's book on WA terrestrial orchids at \$45 each – if members are interested, please see Graham.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award: Members voted for Bruce's *Chysis bractescens*

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Name Badge: Bruce

Raffle: .Bruce, Lee-Anne, Marian (2), Ken, Graham, Arnold, Carolyn

Meeting closed: 9.30 pm

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

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 Jones

Committee:

Murray

Graham

Linda

Marion

Rod

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 Pratt

• Neville Risbey

• Paul & Andrea Somers

• 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

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED October 2025

Photography by Jordana

Murray & Arni

Cattleya intermedia
Cattleya loddigesii
Sarcochilus hartmannii

Ken & Chris

Ansellia africana
Bletilla striata
Cattleya intermedia
Cattleya intermedia var. *aquinii* *coerulea*
Cattleya quadricolor
Coelia triptera
Coelogyne speciosa
Coelogyne usitata
Dendrobium lindleyi
Dendrobium regium
Phragmipedium sargentianum
Pleurothallis grobyi

Rod

Cattleya intermedia

Bruce

Cattleya intermedia
Chysis bractescens

Lee-Anne

Brassavola subulifolia
Bulbophyllum taiwanense
Leptotes bicolor
Mormolyca ringens
Oncidium flexuosum

Courtney

Cattleya loddigesii

Norm

Dendrobium kingianum
Dendrobium x *delicatum*
Dendrobium x *ruppium*

Helen

Dendrobium nobile
Dendrobium nobile var. *virginialis*
Guarianthe aurantiaca

Siva

Paphiopedilum appletonianum
Paphiopedilum philippinense
Paphiopedilum primulinum var. *purpurescens*



Guarianthe aurantiaca
Helen



Paphiopedilum philippinense
Siva

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED October 2025

Photography by Jordana



Mormolyca ringens
Lee-Anne



Leptotes bicolor
Lee-Anne



Coelia triptera
Ken & Chris



Dendrobium nobile var. *virginalis*
Helen

MONTHLY PLANT

***Phaius tankervilliae* var. *australis* (F.Muell.) J.V.Stone & P.J.Cribb**

Cost: \$15

Country of origin: Queensland & Northern New South Wales

Description: It is a large terrestrial plant found in seasonally inundated swamps and wetlands.

Difficulty: This is an easy to grow local terrestrial species suitable for shadehouse culture. Does not need to be kept dry in winter.

Lee-Anne found this this sale plant for us - thanks Lee-Anne. Some have flower racemes. The species is found in coastal *Melaleuca quinquenervia* swamps and sclerophyll forest at or near sea level.

Graham reminded us that we sold *Phaius bernaysii* to members in August 2019 that when they flowered, were correctly identified as *Phaius tankervilliae* var. *australis*. It is susceptible to frost, and the best media one similar to the swampy soil from its natural habitat. Good quality general potting mix, coconut fibre, Flora Plants substrate, or bark are all effective, with added compost to encourage vigorous growth and flowering. The relatively soft leaves of this species are attractive to hard and soft scale insects and need to have constant air movement. Regular inspection to ensure that ants have not taken up residence is recommended to ensure hard and soft scale infestation is prevented.

In situ photo source:
<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/taxon/apni/51613788>



Photo source: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/802831-Phaius-australis>

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Special General Meeting

To meet the ATO requirement for not-for-profit self assessment for tax exemption, at the October meeting, we gave 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.

December General Meeting

Each year at our December meeting, we give each member attending an orchid. At the November meeting we will remind members about this practice and ask for donations of orchids or orchid materials. If you can help, please let a committee member know.

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 October)

I fertilise weekly throughout the year, although sticking to this plan is more difficult during our colder, winter days where I choose to fertilise in the middle of sunny days when the ambient temperature is at it highest.

In the middle of summer, I check the weekly forecast to choose a cooler day and fertilise early in the morning or late in the afternoon (note – where we live, we have experienced temperatures up to 47°C in summer). From the research for this article, it is clear that while it is possible to over fertilise and create media and orchid toxicity, irregular fertilising wastes fertiliser as microorganisms in the media or living on the roots also consume some of the nutrient limiting its availability to the orchid.

When the residual fertiliser in the media is low, growth will be low. Then, as the microorganisms are satisfied, minerals become available for the orchid and growth increases at a more rapid rate. But, beyond this point, excess nutrient is stored in the orchid tissue rather than promoting growth and more fertiliser at this point results in toxicity and a decline in plant health. The major minerals contributing to toxicity if applied too often or in too high a concentration are boron, zinc, copper and manganese so care needs to be taken when applying these elements.

I apply a variety of fertilisers on a rotational basis than can be purchased in bulk from suppliers including Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Polyfeed High K

Polyfeed High K (Potassium) soluble fertiliser contains 12% nitrogen, 2.2% phosphorus and 33.2% potassium as well as very low concentrations of boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc. I use this product throughout the year applying at 1 gm/l three weeks of each month

Magnesium Sulphate

Magnesium sulphate, sold in pharmacies and food stores as Epsom Salts is expensive and my orchids do not require a nutrient approved for human use. I purchase soluble bulk agricultural product containing 9.6% magnesium, 12.4% sulphur which I apply at 1 gm/l once a month.

Calcium Nitrate

If I want to give a nitrogen boost to my orchids during the active growth seasons of spring and summer, I apply 1 gm/l of soluble calcium nitrate that is 14% nitrate and 1% ammoniacal nitrogen. Care needs to be taken with this product as it can sharply change the pH of your substrate as it reduces acidity.

Potash

From time-to-time, I apply MultiK GG, a soluble potassium nitrate-based fertiliser. It contains 81.4% potassium and 13.5% nitrogen at concentration of 1gm/l.

Trace Elements

It also purchase bulk trace elements that I add to my nutrient from time-to-time when not using Polyfeed. The 25kg bulk product that I purchase from Nutrien comes from India, but is expensive at more than \$250, but more economic than buying from Bunnings. I apply at 1 gm/l.

Troforte

Troforte is a general purpose slow-release fertiliser now being used by many orchid growers. It is described by the manufacturer as a 'slow release, microbial granular fertiliser' that releases over time up to 8 months. It contains nitrogen 18.3%, potassium 10.5%, phosphorus 1.55% and trace elements 11%. I have found this product effective.

Seasol

Seasol contains plant nutrients, trace elements, alginic acids and other bioactive compounds and is largely derived from Kelp. It is said to help plants to cope with heat, drought, frost, pest and disease attack stress, and is beneficial to the growth of beneficial soil flora.

cont. in November

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.

Single \$20.00 pa. For first year only, new members will need to purchase a name badge.

Name Badges

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 11 November 2025