



THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

Vol 37 No 7 December 2025

NEWSLETTER



Anne O Callaghan Award November 2025
Dendrobium farmeri pink form
Helen

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9 December

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

11 November 2025 7.39 pm

Present: 20 members as per register.

Apologies: 4 as per register.

Visitors: Nil

New members: Nil

Special General Meeting: The draft minutes of the Special General Meeting are attached to this newsletter.

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

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at 31 October was \$5,913.38. Acceptance of financial report moved Graham, seconded John. Carried

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft GM agenda and draft GM minutes, date/time change for Committee meeting, NFP self-review matters and timing
- Jordana – photos from GM.
- Graham – donating large Cymbidium to be broken up and repotted for raffle prizes
- Lee-Anne – Phaius species for sale, collection of November monthly sale plant
- GCA annual membership and insurance invoices and members details update form
- SpacetoCo – November venue booking
- Diane – Thailand flask listing
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website

Outwards:

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes, draft GM agenda and minutes, draft 2026 program, appointment of Public Officer and Special General meeting to amend SOSWA rules and deferral of NFP self-review due date to 5/1/2026, GCA annual communication.
- Ken request for reimbursement for postage stamp purchase and Curtin 100.1 FM community announcement renewal,
- Paul – newsletter and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Graham, seconded Jordana. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

Perth Orchid Fair

- The Society has received \$ 1,003 as its share of profit for its part in planning and supporting the Perth Orchid Fair. This represents nett profit of \$703 after refund of the \$300 seed funding.
- Compared to 2024 when we received \$1,140, it is in part a result of reduced volunteer hours recorded for the society - 16.6% of the total hours compared with 20.3% of the total in 2024.
- Secretary thanked Helen for designing and managing the volunteer recording system that enables distribution of profit to societies partially based on member commitment as volunteers to the event. Lee Anne told members that while the weather for the Perth Orchid Fair was not perfect, 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.

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 eligibility 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

- Lee-Anne advised members that the principal agenda item for the next meeting in February 2026 will be to define the purposes for which members can apply for grants and document grant application and acquittal processes.
- She explained that a grant application process developed by the Peel Region delegates was approved in principle at the September AGM by member delegates subject to further negotiation at the February general meeting.
- Lee-Anne asked members to provide feedback to her as the SOSWA delegate on the purposes for which OWA members might submit applications for funding. She noted that their efforts to obtain grant finding from other sources should be documented.
- Bruce spoke to this and said that member societies should be encouraged to seek funding from other sources such as local government and other funding bodies before OWA as a last resort. He noted that some societies had accumulated substantial funds.
- Ken confirmed that he had lodged the change of registration with ATO following his appointment as the OWA Public Officer. He is still awaiting advice from ATO that the appointment has been recorded to enable him to access the ATO On-Line Business Operations pages to complete financial and NFP self-assessment obligations. He applied for and was granted an extension from 31 October to 30 November to submit the Orchids WA NFP self-assessment.

ATO requirements/Special General Meeting

- As advised at the October GM. all not-for-profit associations with an ABN that do lodge taxation returns are required to annually self-assess their exemption from income taxation.
- While Ken has done this in the past for SOSWA as Secretary, ATO requirements for the 2024-2025 tax year have changed and only an appointed Public Officer is able to access the ATO On-Line Business Operations pages to complete financial and NFP self-assessment obligations. The person appointed is also required to have a digital myID
- The Special General Meeting held before this general meeting has made this appointment and has approved the inclusion of this requirement in the Society's registered rules.
- Ken has negotiated an extension with ATO from the 31 October 2025 due date to 6 January 2026 to enable the change of particulars form to be submitted to and actioned by ATO

Home Visits

- Mavis has compiled a program for 2026. Lee-Anne thanked members who have agreed to host a home visit in 2026, and Mavis for her effort to an activity sincerely appreciated by members.
- We know that both new and long-term members appreciate the opportunity to see how other members grow their orchids, and to learn from them.
- The next home visit will be at the home of Adrian & Dee on 22 March 2026..

Raffle Prizes

- Lee-Anne and Ken visited Ezi-Gro Orchids on Wednesday 29/10 and purchased twenty *Cattleya quadricolor* and 20 *Cattleya purpurata* carnea for monthly sale plants and 45 assorted species for raffle and other awards.
- Lee-Anne and Adrian have contacted Eastern States suppliers to obtain lists and pricing.
- If any members have surplus species orchids that they would be prepared to sell, please let a committee member know. Graham has given Ken a large plant of *Cymbidium atropurpureum* to be broken up and repotted for raffle prizes.

Other General Business: Ken reminded members about the December meeting and the

free Christmas plant for each member. He asked members who were able to donate a plants for this purpose to bring them to the December meeting.

Business will be kept to a minimum at this meeting so that members can spend time with one another and enjoy a festive supper. There is no general meeting in January.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award: Members voted for Helen's *Dendrobium farmeri*

Special Raffle: Ryan

Name Badge: Dee

Raffle: .Dee, Linda, Ken, Diane.

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits: 22 March 2026, Adrian & Dee, Safety Bay

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

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 November 2025

Graham & Margaret

Epidendrum parkinsonianum

Ryan

Pleurothallis cyripedioides

Polystachya vulcanica

Diane

Chysis limminghei

Ken & Chris

Ansellia africana

Cattleya amethystaglossa

Cattleya neokautskyi

Chysis limminghei

Eria javanica

Guarianthe aurantiaca

Guarianthe skinneri fma *alba-occulata*

Lycaste lassioglossa

Oncidium hyphaematicum

Polystachya paniculata

Adrian & Deanne

Chysis bractescens

Dendrobium chrysotoxum

Dendrobium lichenastrum var. *prenticii*

Encyclia bractescens

Bruce

Dendrobium anosmum

Guarianthe skinneri fma *alba-occulata*

Eria ornata

Lee-Anne

Dendrobium lichenastrum var. *prenticii*

Epidendrum cf. *elongatum*

Phaius spp

Schoenorchis fragrans

Jordana

Miltonia flavescens

Phaius tankervilleae var. *bernaysii*

Phalaenopsis schilleriana

John

Bifrenaria harrisoniae

Helen

Dendrobium farmeri pink form



Pleurothallis cyripedioides
Ryan



Phaius tankervilleae var. *bernaysii*
Jordana

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED November 2025

Photography by Jordana



Schoenorchis fragrans
Lee-Anne



Polystachya paniculata
Ken & Chris



Cattleya neokautskyi
Ken & Chris



Epidendrum parkinsonianum
Graham & Margaret

2026 Home Visit Program

Sunday 22 March 2026, 10.00am	Adrian & Dee, Safety Bay
Saturday 18 April 2026, 10.00am	Ezi-Gro Orchids, Lansdale
Sunday 21 June 2026, 10.00am	Bruce & Kaye, Dianella
Sunday 26 July 2026, 10.00am	Ken & Chris, The Vines
Sunday 16 August 2026, 10.00am	Norm, Riverton
Sunday 27 September 2026, 10.00am	terrestrial orchid visit, Wireless Hill
Sunday 25 October 2026, 10.00am	Graham & Margaret, Hamersly

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Special General Meeting

Thanks to members attending the Special General Meeting before the General Meeting. The resolutions proposed were all passed and Ken was appointed the SOSWA public officer for the Society and has completed and submitted a Change of Registration to the ATO. He will complete the Not-For-Profit self assessment as soon the ATO have actioned the change..

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 ends 28 February 2026 and your 2026-27 membership will be due. The current 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 November)

Power Feed/Fish Emulsion

Powerfeed is a liquid fertiliser that includes 12% nitrogen, 1.4% phosphorus and 7% potassium. It combines Seasol and fish emulsion and provides fertiliser as well as promotion of beneficial soil flora.

Other organic nutrients

I have friends who use a range of organic nutrients including the liquid from worm farms, well composted plant material, and dried animal manure including Dynamic Lifter. Some care needs to be taken when using non-aged material as it can encourage substrate contamination and pest and pathogen infestation.

The Ecology of Orchids

The Ecological Factors

The physical factors are edaphic (relating to the physical and chemical conditions of the soil, especially in relation to the plant and animal life supported) and climatic. The chemical factors relate to toxic substrates, nutrient availability and acidity, and the biotic factors to intra - and inter-specific competition, intergeneric competition, fungal symbionts, bacterial and fungal saprophytes and the distribution of the species.

An appreciation of these concepts helps species orchid growers to take account of the natural surroundings in which our species orchids exist in their natural habitat and can help us decide how and whether we should attempt to replicate some of these attributes to improve orchid health and wellbeing.

We often talk about the habitats in which our species orchids naturally occur. Those of us who have been fortunate to travel to parts of the world in which the majority of tropical and

sub-tropical species orchids exist have been able to observe the habitat for ourselves. For example, I often say to fellow orchid growers that I have never seen a species orchid in the wild growing in a pot where the roots are buried in substrate. Growing epiphytic orchids this way is merely a convenience for hobbyists to grow their orchids. If you can provide humidity and cooling in summer, epiphytic orchids will do well on slab mounts.

I have seen many epiphytic orchid species in the wild growing on primary and secondary rainforest trees and other smaller shrubs where the roots that anchor the orchid to the tree are exposed to air movement along with green growing tips. Simply explained, the white velamen coating on the roots captures water and nutrients which is eventually released to the central active root to feed the plant. Depending on the genus, some orchid genera grow high up in the canopy in bright light, while others grow lower down where they receive filtered light, and others, on the forest floor in leaf litter. In making decisions about where grow our orchids, we should also remember however that light intensity varies between the seasons, and in many cases, tree foliage thins at different seasons as daylength varies. These changes are a useful predictor for flowering.

While this epiphytic relationship also supports the Mycorrhizal fungi that live in a symbiotic relationship with orchid roots, and that are said to assist in seed germination, Lewis Knudson demonstrated that orchid seed would germinate on organic and inorganic media without beneficial fungus provided sucrose and nitrate are available.

So, it must be remembered that the species orchids we grow do not have the benefit of any of the nutrients that I have previously discussed in their natural habitat. Their principal sources of nutrition are mineral nutrients leached from the leaves and stem of the host and rainfall carrying nutrient washed down the tree or bush. Somewhat surprisingly, despite large amounts of inorganic nutrients leached from the leaves and stems, carbohydrates account for the majority of leached material from the tree tissue involved in the transport of sugars from the leaves. While glucose is a major product of photosynthesis, it is converted to sucrose for transport within the tree's vascular system. Plant hormones are also leached from mature leaves.

We also observe that not all trees are suitable hosts for epiphytic plants. It is not uncommon when walking in rainforests to see some trees laden with epiphytes, while next to them are trees with few or no epiphytic plants. Research has shown that some trees have bark that has toxic properties, for example Ficus and Euphorbia and are not suited to epiphytic plants. Some of the tallest rainforest trees belong to family Dipterocarpaceae including Meranti. Menara and Kapur that have rough permanent bark, and occur in South America, Africa, Asia, and India where they are the major hosts for epiphytic plants. This is important to remember when deciding on a suitable mount for your orchid. Well weathered timber slab, natural cork slab and aged dry local timber or living plants of She-Oak and Bottlebrush.

The other major factors are climatic, particularly for those orchids growing in the treetops, while geophytes have access to moisture retained in the substrate in their natural habitat. Living in the tree foliage, epiphytic orchids benefit from the microclimate, although some epiphytic orchids can do quite well without precipitated water (rainfall) as they are adapted to survive on moisture from clouds. Their hosts create localised humidity which benefits the epiphytic orchids. Epiphytic orchids also have CAM (Crassulacean acid metabolism) metabolism with their stomata open at night as part of their photosynthesis process. This also means that they do not experience CO₂ competition with their host

So, in conclusion, while our species orchids in their natural habitat do not have the benefit of any of the nutrients that I have previously discussed, and their principal sources of nutrition are mineral nutrients leached from the leaves and stem of the host and rainfall carrying nutrient washed down the tree or bush. Somewhat surprisingly, despite large amounts on inorganic nutrients leached from the leaves and stems, carbohydrates account for the majority of leached material from the tree tissue involved in the transport of sugars from the leaves. While glucose is a major product of photosynthesis, it is converted to sucrose for transport within the tree. Plant hormones are also leached from mature leaves. We know from experience that our species orchids will benefit from the application of fertiliser, weak but regular application and trial to ensure that it is not creating any other problems for our plants is recommended.

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 9 December 2025