



THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

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NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Award April 2026
Coelogyne macrantha
Courtney

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 12 May

Contents

- 2. April minutes
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- 7. Notes from your Committee

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Bush - part three
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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 April 2026 7.34 pm

Present: 19 members as per register.

Apologies: 6 as per register.

Visitors: Nil

New members: Nil

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

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at bank on 31 March was \$6,442.04. and \$213.40 on the Debit Card. Acceptance of financial report moved Adrian, seconded Ian. Carried

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Committee - draft GM agenda and draft GM minutes
- Jordana – photos from GM.
- SpacetoCo – April venue booking
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.

Outwards:

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes, draft GM agenda and minutes, approval from DLGIRS for change of rules at SGM November 2025.
- Paul – newsletter and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Members – newsletters to members

Correspondence report moved Graham, seconded Lee-Anne. Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Presentation:

Xiao (Shawn) made a presentation to members about his PhD research with Dr Kingsley Dixon and Dr Mark Brundrett into ex-situ propagation and conservation of WA terrestrial orchids including the genera *Thelymitra* and *Caladenia*.

Xiao commenced by describing their findings about these and other terrestrial orchid genera and their association with mycorrhizal fungus. Their experimentation with traditional sterile agar-based media revealed that terrestrial orchids will germinate, but their roots are damaged by removal from the agar media, and the plantlets often fail to survive.

As a result, much of the work to date has been identifying other substrates that can be used to germinate seed including soil-based media, millet and blotting paper. These media need to be inoculated with appropriate mycorrhizal fungus which is cultured from soil and leaf litter around terrestrial orchids. They have successfully germinated several species including *Thelymitra*

benthamiana, *pallidosa* and *variegata*. Xiao showed some examples of seedlings and fungal cultures.

The Petri dishes on the left contain fungal cultures for *Thelymitra fuscolutea*. The seedlings on the right are *Thelymitra benthamiana* and the medium is simply native bush sand with cardboard. The seedlings were germinated through symbiosis.



Their objective is to produce viable seedlings to enable repopulation of under threat native habitats where the populations have diminished, and for planting in protected, fenced conservation areas. Xiao told members that only about 25 mature plants of *Thelymitra variegata* exist in a formerly significant local population in the southwest. It is also proposed in the longer term to produce WA terrestrial orchid species hybrid and seedlings for commercial sale.

General Business:

Orchid Event

Lee-Anne advised members that Dr Peter Bernhardt, a Research Associate at The Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis will be in Perth in early May. Thanks to Kingsley Dixon who contacted Bruce. Lee-Anne as Orchids WA Events Manager has booked a venue in Cannington for him to speak to WA orchid growers at 7.30pm on 5 May 2026.

The topic for his presentation is the variation in floral shape, colour patterns and scent that are employed by orchids to attract their pollinators. The presentation is based on his work with *Cypripedium* orchids growing in the USA.

This is a free of charge event in conjunction with Northern Districts Orchid Society

Newsletter

The April newsletter included the second of four short articles by Graham Bowden on Orchids of The Southwest. Part three will be in May newsletter.

Ken advised members that he had received advice from Microsoft that their support for the Publisher software will cease in October 2026.

We will need to find an alternative product to continue to publish the monthly newsletter

Membership

The Species Society's financial year ended on the 28 February, and 2026-27 membership is due. It can be paid to the Treasurer tonight, or by EFT to our bank account as shown on newsletter.

We have some members who have not yet renewed their membership and hope that they will do so.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May.

Home Visits

Lee-Anne reminded members that the next home visit is at Ezi-Gro Orchids next Saturday. Kevin hosts us each year and this is an enjoyable opportunity to meet with fellow members and see how and hear from Kevin about how he produces orchids for sale.

2026 Program

Lee-Anne advised that we are approaching members and others to speak at a meeting. We hope that David Edmonds will be able to talk to members at one of our meetings when he is in Perth for some other event.

Lee-Anne asked members to provide feedback to committee about presentations or workshops they would like to have at a meeting so that we plan activities for the remainder of 2026 and into 2027

If any other members would like to deliver a presentation or workshop or know of someone who would be of interest to members, please let the Secretary know.

Perth Orchid Fair

Lee-Anne told members that the POF planning committee met on Thursday 26 March and commenced detailed planning the 2026 event. It is proposed that SOSWA will again stage a display and encourage its members to volunteer to help run the event.

Website

Paul administers our website on a voluntary basis. Despite relatively low usage by members, your committee has agreed to continue to have the website as a promotional tool while Paul is able to administer it for us..

Plant Inventory

Lee-Anne advised that she and Ken visited Kevin at Ezi-Gro on 10 April and have purchased seedlings and mature plants.

We purchased *Cattleya forbesii* and *Cattleya percivaliana*, *Dendrobium spectabile*, and *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* for sale to members.

Lee-Anne thanked Bruce who was able to purchase four large flowering size species from an NDOS member who has had to downsize his orchid collection.

We are always looking for more monthly sale plants – if you have a spare 15-20 plants of a species that you would be happy to sell to us or know someone who might have spare plants, please let a committee member know.

We also need to replenish our stock of raffle prizes so if you have extra flowering or near flowering size species that you would be happy to sell, please let us know.

Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award: Members voted for Courtney's *Coelogyne macrantha*

Maxine Godbeer Award: Nil

Name Badge: Linda

Raffle: Lee-Anne, Parry, Linda, Ryan and Marian.

Meeting closed: 9.20 pm

2026 Silent Auction

This event is scheduled to be held at the June General Meeting.

At our April meeting, committee reviewed the 2025 event to plan for 2026. On advice from Linda and Rod who coordinated the event last year, it was agreed to set a minimum bid of \$10 per lot. Subject to receiving similar donations of plants and items for the auction, last year each lot contained three plants of which one was a species. However, some lots that didn't attract many bids sold for only two or three dollars. It is felt that this devalues member's donations. Further, one lot which was wanted by a new member who made a very high bid to ensure they won the lot. Committee has decided that should this recur, the high bid will be adjusted to a price \$10 above the next highest bid for that lot.

The success of this event depends on the donation of orchids, other orchid items and items of interest to orchid growers, so we ask you to put aside some orchids and/or other plants/items for donation to this fun event.

2026 Programs

Meeting Presentations/Workshops

9 June 2026	GM Silent auction
14 July 2026	GM
11 August 2026	GM Antonio, Hormones & root growth
8 September 2026	GM Norm, Australian epiphytes
13 October 2026	GM – Bruce deflasking
10 November 2026	GM
8 December 2026	GM & Christmas Party

Home Visits

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

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits: 21 June 2026 Bruce & Kaye, Dianella

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 Somers

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 & Deanna

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 & Deanna

2021 John

2024 Graham

MEMBER PLANTS DISPLAYED

April 2026

Photography by Jordana

Ryan

Polystachya vulcanica
Prosthechea cochleata
Restrepia pachy glossa
Restrepia sanguinea

Ken & Chris

Brassavola nodosa
Catasetum atratum
Cattleya perrinii
Cymbidium dayanum
Guarianthe bowringiana *coerulea*
Oncidium hyphaematicum
Stelis argentata

Adrian & Deanna

Dendrobium bigibbum
Dendrobium lobatuam
Dendrobium sinense
Cattleya perrinii
Guarianthe bowringiana
Miltonia x bluntii
Paphiopedilum charlesworthii

Bruce

Gomesa radicans
Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica

Lee-Anne

Pterostylis fischii
Stenoglottis longifolia

Courtney

Brassavola nodosa
Coelogyne macrantha

Siva

Coelogyne usitana
Paphiopedilum vejvarutianum
Phragmipedium longifolium var *roezlii*



Coelogyne usitana
Siva



Restrepia sanguinea
Ryan



Dendrobium sinense
Adrian & Dee

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya purpurata carnea (Lindl. & Paxton) Rollisson ex

Cost: \$15

Country of origin: Brazil

Difficulty: This *Cattleya* like others is suited to shadehouse conditions

Description: Medium size *Cattleya* with large white flowers with a striking red labellum

This species comes from the canopy of wooded hillsides in the Santa Catarina state of Brazil where grows as a medium sized, hot to cool growing epiphyte. The pseudobulbs carry a single, apical, leathery, erect leaf. Flowering in late spring through autumn occurs on 30-37.5 cm raceme subtended by a large sheath with 3 to 7 long-lasting, showy, fragrant, colour variable flowers with an anise scent. This species needs a dryer winter rest and moderate year round light.



Photo source: <https://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/laeliapurpuratavarcarnea.jpg>

In situ photo source: <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/5897830496>



NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Monthly Sale Plants

We continue to explore options to acquire species orchid seedlings for sale to members at reasonable prices, and have made contact with local growers including Margaret Heaton. Rod Halliday is experiencing some success with deflasking and will probably have some species that he could sell us later this year. If any members have up to 20 plants of any species that they would be prepared to sell to us, please advise a committee member.

Annual Membership

Our financial year ended 28 February 2026. ,2026-27 membership is now 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 plus surname.

Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 May.2026 The notice of AGM was sent to members with other documents on 8 April 2026.

Thanks to Linda & Marian for nominating for committee and Ryan for Vice President at the 2025 AGM, we have had a full committee in 2026.

In accordance with the rules, Lee-Anne will stand down as President at the 2026 AGM having served in the position for two years, and will remain on committee as an ex-officio member. We have nominations for President, Treasurer, Secretary and committee members whose two year election ceases at the 2026 AGM. We do not have a nominee for the position of Vice-President.

Orchids in the WA Southwest Bush –part three

More members on the prowl

In August 2011 there was a SOSWA excursion to two reserves on the York Road near Wambyn.



Maxine, John Varigos and Margaret at the main Wambyn reserve.



Caladenia reptans



Pheladenia deformis



Diuris corymbosa or *Diuris brumalis*

The most common orchid there was the white spider orchid *Caladenia eminens*. We found two mutations of *Caladenia eminens* (shown) with the normal one last.





Yuko in 2013



Al and Mich near Windy Harbour in 2009



Mich and Al with *Diuris amplissima* on the SW Highway south of Broomhill. Peringillup Reserve.



Keith who lives near Albany on a farm at Torbay has been a rich source of orchid information to us and has shown us several rare plants. .

This is a shot with Adrian and me shooting some *Corybas* on Gull Rock Road just East of Albany in 2008. It is also found in coastal sandhills in Victoria and south Australia.

John spent some time in our Society. Here he has a clump of *Caladenia chapmanii* at Culbin.

Keith spends a lot of time looking for orchids. Bob is well known in WA orchid circles and his book *A Guide to Native orchids of South Western Australia* is widely used in the field.



John



Keith



Bob



Caladenia chapmanii



Caladenia hopperiana
discovered by Keith in 2004



Calochilus stramenicola

Contd. in June

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 12 May 2026