



# THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA INC.

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com>

**Vol 38 No 1 June 2026**

# NEWSLETTER



Anne O'Callaghan Award May 2026  
*Pleurothallis quadrifida*  
Adrian & Deanna

## **NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9 June**

### **Contents**

- |                              |                                |
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| 2. May minutes               | 8. Orchids in the WA Southwest |
| 4. Program                   | Bush - part four               |
| 6. Plants displayed.         | 11. About us                   |
| 7. Monthly sale plant        |                                |
| 7. Notes from your Committee |                                |

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 May 2026 7.55 pm

**Present:** 24 members as per register.

**Apologies:** 5 as per register.

**Visitors:** 2 as per register

**New members:** Sandra

**Minutes:** Summary of minutes of April meeting tabled for members. Acceptance of minutes moved Lee-Anne, seconded Arnold. Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report:** Adrian presented the financial report. The balance at bank on 30 April was \$5,558.39. and \$145.90 on the Debit Card. Acceptance of financial report moved Adrian, seconded Ian. Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

- Committee - draft GM and AGM agenda and draft GM and AGM minutes, NFP self-review matters and timing..
- Jordana – photos from GM
- SpacetoCo – Venue booking information, request for updated Insurance Certificate.
- Paul – newsletters and photos uploaded to One Drive for website.
- Bruce, Lee-Anne, Diane re Peter Bernhardt presentation.
- GCA – insurance cover note for period 30 April 2026 - 30 April 2027.

**Outwards:**

- Committee - draft committee meeting agenda and minutes, draft AGM and May GM agenda and minutes.
  - Adrian and Paul – communications from SpacetoCo re venue bookings.
  - Paul – newsletter and photos to be uploaded to One Drive for website.
  - Bruce, Lee-Anne, Diane re Peter Bernhardt presentation.
  - Members – newsletters to members
  - GCA insurance renewal and certificate, insurance cover note submitted to SpacetoCo
- Correspondence report moved Ken, seconded Arnold. Carried.

**Business Arising:** Nil

**General Business:**

**Silent auction fundraiser**

Ken reminded members that the silent auction will be held at the June General Meeting. For this to be successful, he asked members to donate orchids (species or hybrids), other plants, orchid materials, collectables or any other items of interest to members.

Ken thanked Linda and Rod who ran the event in 2025, and provided some valuable feedback and suggestions to committee to improve the event for members

For members not familiar with this event, donated items are placed into lots. Members are invited to write their bid onto bid slips and place face down next to the lot.

Once all members have completed their bids, the bids are turned over. The highest bidder for each lot wins the bid, collects the lot and pays the Treasurer.

Ken advised that based on advice from Linda and Rod, committee has agreed that the minimum bid for any lot will now be \$10, and maximum successful bid value will be reduced to \$10 above the next highest bid. In last year's auction, a very high bid (significantly greater than the next bid) was made. Adrian noted that this was most likely to be from a newer member who particularly wanted to win the bid.

## Orchid Event

Ryan advised members that the presentation by Dr Peter Bernhardt, Research Associate at The Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis was held on Tuesday 5 May.

Peter delivered an interesting presentation of his and a colleague's research about how the variation in floral shape, colour patterns and scent are employed by *Cypripedium* orchids to attract pollinators in the USA and China with photos of pollinators using the trapdoor at the back of the pouch to escape after collecting pollen.

While it is acknowledged when Orchids WA invited Peter to present to orchid society members that this was a somewhat esoteric presentation, his presentation was informative and highlighted the strategies used by these orchids to successfully attract their pollinators. While some elements are confined to slipper orchids, the overall knowledge can be generalised to all orchids in their natural habitat.

## Newsletter

Ken advised that the May newsletter included the third of four short articles by Graham on Orchids of The Southwest including lots of photos of current and past members looking at terrestrial orchids in situ from 2003. The final part will be published in June.

## Membership

The Species Society's financial year ended on the 28 February.

If your 2026-27 membership is overdue, it can be paid to the Treasurer tonight, or by EFT to our bank account as shown in the newsletter.

## Home Visits

Ryan reported on the April home visit at Ezi-Gro Orchids on Saturday 18 April 2026 that was attended by 13 members. Kevin provided a sausage sizzle lunch and members brought salads and desert to share.

Kevin hosts us each year and this was another enjoyable opportunity to meet with fellow members, hear from Kevin about how he produces orchids for sale.

## 2026 Program

Ryan asked for any member who would like to deliver a presentation or workshop or knows of someone who would be of interest to members, please advise the Secretary

Graham asked whether any members given *Caladenia latifolia* tubers at this workshop at the March meeting have plants growing? Two members advised that they have leaves.

## Perth Orchid Fair

Ken advised that the planning committee met on Thursday 26 March and commenced planning the 2026 POF. The next meeting is Thursday 14 May

We have confirmed that SOSWA will again stage a display and encourage our members to volunteer to help run the event.

Ken asked members to provide names of species orchids that might be in flower for the display by late August so that he can prepare name cards.

## Plant Inventory

Ryan reminded members we are always looking for more monthly sale plants and raffle prizes.

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.

**Anne O'Callaghan Cultural Award:** Members voted for Adrian & Deanna's *Pleurothallis quadrifida*

**Maxine Godbeer Award:** Nil

**Name Badge:** Arnold

**Raffle:** Graham, Linda, Ken.

**Meeting closed:** 8.50 pm



## Life Membership

Victor was awarded Life Membership of the Species Orchid Society during the AGM. Ryan Craig presented Victor with a framed certificate and life member badge. Victor joined the Society in 1988, the year in which it was formed and has been a member since. His attendance at our meetings is possible thanks to Jenni who drives him to meetings and home visits.



## 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 Larson, 12 Majestic Drive, Dianella

## MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

**President:** Ryan

**Vice President:** Lee-Anne

**Treasurer:** Adrian

**Secretary:** Ken Jones

210 Hermitage Drive, The Vines 6069.

Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: [kcjones@tpg.com.au](mailto:kcjones@tpg.com.au)

**Editor:** Ken Jones

**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 & Deanna

• Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd) Larson

• Trevor Pratt (dec'd)

• Victor

• 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

## May 2026

Photography by Jordana

### Graham & Margaret

*Cymbidium dayanum*  
*Eriochilus dilatata*  
*Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*  
*Prosthechea cochleata alba*

### Ryan

*Polystachya vulcanica*  
*Pleurothallis cyripdiodes*  
*Restrepia sanguinea*  
*Restrepia trichoglossa*

### Ken & Chris

*Dendrobium bigibbum*  
*Oncidium hyphaematicum*  
*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*  
*Zelexoa onusta*

### Adrian & Deanna

*Coelogyne fimbriata*  
*Dendrobium bigibbum*  
*Dendrobium rigidum*  
*Laelia rubescens*  
*Paphiopedilum gratrixianum*

*Pleurothallis quadrifida*

### Lee-Anne

*Pterostylis fischii*

### Helen

*Dendrobium bigibbum*  
*Prosthechea boothiana*

### Siva

*Paphiopedilum purpuratum*  
*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*  
*Paphiopedilum vejvarutianum*

### Victor

*Stenoglottis longifolia*



*Laelia rubescens*  
Adrian & Deanna



*Prosthechea boothiana*  
Helen



*Zelenkoa onusta*  
Ken & Chris

## MONTHLY PLANT

***Cattleya percivaliana coerulea*** [Rchb.f] O'Brien 1883

**Cost: \$15**

**Country of origin:** Venezuela & Colombia

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

**Description:** Medium size *Cattleya* with large bluish tinged flowers with a striking labellum

Found in full sun near rivers, as a large sized, cool growing, largely lithophytic, but sometimes epiphytic species at 1,300 - 2,000m. The compressed green pseudobulbs carrying a single apical leaf.

This desirable species form flowers in summer through autumn on a terminal, to 25 cm few flowered, short lived, racemose inflorescence with a large, basal, green sheath carrying 2-4, musty scented flowers.



Photo source: <https://www.orchidweb.com/p/cattleya-percivaliana-coerulea-ondine-am-nosc>

In situ photo source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/americanorchidsociety/posts/10160994628094840/>



## 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 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 ends 28 February each year. 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.



## Orchids of the Southwest (part 4)

### Neville and Chris

Neville was the second person (after Reg Allison) to regularly accompany us into the bush to photograph orchids.

Besides the rushes of discovering we had to spend lots of time travelling to the locations so on our trips we discussed many topics and got to know each other quite well. The return trips were usually about the day's discoveries.

Neville was our first SOSWA president and on retirement as a plumber he became keen with cameras and computers.

Other than the Mitchell Freeway reserve, we often went to the Ruabon locality between Bunbury and Busselton. There was a particularly spectacular White Spider orchid there. It was very tall – some nearly a metre tall and had a bright red lip. We thought it was probably a hybrid other than a few *filamentosa* type *Caladenia* there we could find no real partner for the tall pure white spiders there.

They look like the recently named *Caladenia excelsa* but are not in the region described for them. There are the white spiders and they are possibly *Caladenia splendens*





Neville at Ruabon. Near his leg is one of the red lipped Caladenias as he sets up to shoot one in front of him.



On the way to Ruabon, we pass through Bunbury and this is a park in Carey Park when the *Diuris drummondii* flower. They are the yellow flowers in the grass on the other side of the fence.



*Drakea glyptodon*

*Caladenia speciosa* or *Caladenia splendens*?



Chris and I had a long association and had many trips together.



Chris at Sullivan Rock with Duck orchids.



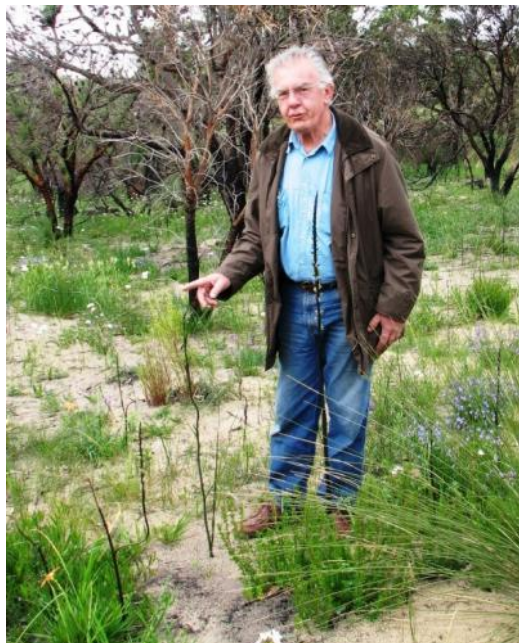
Chris in a gravel pit area near Tarwonga



*Paracaleana granita*



*Caladenia filifera*



Chris Cabassi and John Brogan with *Prasophyllum elatum*.at Star Swamp reserve in Marmion after a burn.

## 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 19 June 2026**