

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL. FOUNDED 1946.

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NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held in the Collins St. Hall, cnr Collins St & Shaftesbury St. South Perth, Friday, 22 November 2013, commencing at **8:00 p.m.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

BUILDING AND AUTOMATING AN ORCHID
HOUSE - MURRAY BAKER

DECEMBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7:30 pm Monday 2nd
OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 6th
General Meeting 8:00 pm Friday 13th

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Birthdays:

November: 10th – George Price **18th** – Trevor Burnett **December: 6th** – Val Seaman

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list, may you soon be well.

New Members: Jacinta Lee (Como)

Welcome to the Society, may your membership be an enjoyable experience.

Name Badges: If you haven't a name badge, please see Ian and let him know. When at our shows or displays we would like name badges to be worn, so it is easy to see that you are not one of the public helping themselves to orchids. Not all of our members are familiar with each other, so it is made easier if you are wearing a badge.

General News:

Membership Subscriptions for 2014 are now due. \$26 double, \$21 single. Please pay Ian Duncan at the November meeting or send a cheque payable to The Orchid Society of WA to: OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd Leeming 6149.

Potting Workshop: Many thanks to all the members who volunteered their time to man the door, Sales Table, and kitchen. Thanks also to the potting team, John Carless & Murray Baker and the Speakers. We all combined to make it a successful and rewarding day.

December Meeting: This meeting will be our Trophy Presentation Night, followed by a supper of Xmas Fare. It would be appreciated if all members supplied a plate of finger food to share. OSWA will supply drinks (both alcoholic and soft) or tea and coffee for those who prefer it. **Please do not forget this meeting will be held on the 13th December (2nd Friday of the month).**

OSWA Christmas Dinner: This will be held at Wings Restaurant, RAAF Centre, Bull Creek Dr. Bull Creek on **Saturday 7th December 2013 at 6.30 pm. The cost per person is \$32.00 which must be paid at the November Meeting.** The menu consists of Soup, Roast Turkey or Ham with vegetables, Xmas Pudding, Tea & Coffee. Members are requested to bring a plant or small gift for the Secret Santa, so each can go home with a gift. This is always a great social night, enjoyed by all. Please come along and join us. Drinks can be purchased at the Bar.

January General Meeting: Will be held on Friday 24th January 2014 at 6.00 pm. This meeting is a social evening with a **BBQ. BYO meat, chair, drinks & a salad or sweet (to share).** We do have at least 22 chairs so if you forget yours we won't be short. This meeting will be held at Jim & Kaye Baylis' home, 18 Wheyland St (cnr Caple St.) Willagee. Bring along any problem plants, or anything special or simply one you need advice on how to grow. There is no Monthly Plant competition. This is a great social evening and a great way to start the year.

Meeting Items: Members are encouraged to contact any Committee Member with any suggestions you may have for a Monthly Item (talk). It is the only way to make us aware of what

you are interested in hearing someone talk about. Now is the ideal time, as we can then make enquiries and arrangements to acquire the speakers well ahead of time, also giving the speaker time to put a programme together and reserve the date in his/her calendar.

Recycled Galvanised Pipe for free: 40 mm diameter, short lengths up to 1.8 m; "scaffold rods" (40 mm diameter pipe with ends pressed to allow bolting together), 1.6 m lengths; 60 mm diameter pipe, short lengths up to 1.8 m plus one piece about 6 m long; gate made of welded 25 mm galvanised pipe, 175 cm x 90 cm (would make a solid support for an orchid bench). If interested, contact Merril (ph. 9337 9750).

RESULTS OF MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (October 2013)

OPEN

Class 1A (1)	1. J&B Rensen	<i>C. walkeriana</i> 'Light Pink x 'alba'
Class 1E (1)	1. I. Duncan	Ctt. Chit Chat 'Tangerine'
Class 4C (1)	1. I. Duncan	Den. Woo Leng x <i>Den. canaliculatum</i>
Class 5B (1)	1. J&B Rensen	Phal. Charlene Rinke x Phal. Hsinying Pink
Class 5E (2)	1. J&B Rensen	Phal. Orchid World
	2. J&B Rensen	Phal. Orchid World
Class 6E (1)	1. NAS	
Class 7B (1)	1. J&B Rensen	Ascda. Mem. Sally Vilders x Ascda. Saeng Udom
Class 8A (1)	1. I. Duncan	<i>Cym. madidum</i>

NOVICE: No Entries

POPULAR VOTE: *Odontocidium* Tai - Tai – J&B Rensen

Schokman Trophy Points: *C. walkeriana* (68 pts) – J&B Rensen

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013) by Roy Brown

Most of the dividing and repotting of our Cymbidiums should be completed by now because by the time we reach the middle of November, the weather pattern will have changed from warm Spring days to hot, dry days with easterly winds. These conditions, of course, are not suited to dividing and repotting our plants. Any pots that were not attended to will be better left until next Autumn.

From November on, with the increase in temperatures, we must increase the watering too. Provided the pots have good drainage, the plants will appreciate having the surrounding area nice and damp all through the summer period.

This is, of course, the start of the summer culture, and this means added fertilizing: once a week or fortnightly as you prefer. If you are not too certain as to how much fertilizer you should apply, then always err on the lighter side. It's far better to give the plants two applications of half strength fertilizer than one dose that is too strong. Always remember to give the pots a good

watering before you apply the fertilizer, then another good, heavy watering several days later. In the meantime of course, if you have fine misting overhead, then use this to keep the plants leaves, benches and surrounding areas nice and damp.

During November and December, the sun's rays are increasing and shining more directly overhead each day, and if it should shine through a break in the shade cloth the plants beneath will suffer with badly sunburnt leaves. This will affect the efficiency of the plant in producing the necessary plant sugars. Once plant leaves are burnt, they do not repair themselves and the scar will stay there until the leaf eventually dies.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

Although this year has seen a late rainy season and mild temperatures, the heat is now beginning to arrive with a little more consistency. It is now getting too late to do much more dividing of your Cattleyas, you may still pot some on if they are badly in need of it. They will not be too traumatised providing the roots are not disturbed too much.

As the weather heats up further, you should assess the degree of shade needed to keep your plants protected. The best indication for this is the colour of the leaves. If the leaves are deep green, then it indicates that they are too shaded, whilst reddening of the leaves means that too much light is hitting the plants. The ideal is to have a greenish yellow leaf colour.

At this time of the year fertilising can be carried out once a week, or every fortnight, with a high nitrogen product. Fertilising is best done the day after the plants have been given a thorough watering to flush out the salts in the mix. Because of the warmth, be on the lookout for caterpillars, scale and mealybug that multiply very quickly in these conditions. Treat them as soon as they are identified as causing trouble.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013) by Trevor Burnett

Paphiopedilum growing season will now be fully in progress. The plants should be producing new roots which will support the new growths which should be developing strongly.

As the sun power is increasing towards summer it is time to consider whether you need to increase the shading required to stop any burning. Generally with our hot conditions, plants may appreciate a little additional shading. Passing your hand over the plants on a bright and sunny day can indicate the amount of shading required. The shadow cast should only be faint. The plants should not be excessively dark green, as this indicates a lack of sufficient light.

Bright light produces the best flowering but if too bright, burning will occur and plants will suffer a setback which will be reflected in the flowering results later in the year. It is also very important to keep up good air movement.

As the plants will be growing strongly now, a weekly application of fertiliser at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ strength with a high nitrogen base, will promote good development of the new growths.

With the warmer days, I increase my watering to twice a week.

Do not crowd your plants in the growing area as plenty of fresh air movement is essential for the good health of your plants.

Once again, with the warmer weather, check your plants and the surrounding area for mealybugs, ants and other bugs that may decide to move into the cooler conditions of a hothouse or glass house where greater moisture content is available. It is much easier to get rid of the pest when there are only a few and not let them multiply, which makes the task harder.

NADO LENKIC – "CYMBIDIUM ORCHID GROWING MADE SIMPLE"

Here is a summary of Nado's talk about some of the things he has learnt over the years to make his cymbidium-growing simpler, smarter.

Plant names: Nado does a lot of breeding of cymbidiums, and to keep things as simple as possible, when he names new crosses he only uses a one-word grex name.

Fertilising: Nado uses only MacroCote slow release fertiliser on all his plants (everything from cymbidiums to grevilleas in the garden). Only needs to be applied once a year (lasts 12-14 months) and naturally releases most fertiliser during watering over the summer months, releases less in the colder months. MacroCote is not available at common retailers, but can be obtained from Premium Plastics (Wangara)

Potting Mix: Except for his seedlings, Nado uses the same mix for all his cymbidiums – a mix of six parts small size Aus-Gro bark and one part small blue metal (granite). He has no problems using this mix for large or small plants and finds that although it drains freely, it retains moisture well so that less frequent watering is required (only once every two days in summer). The blue metal in the mix helps the mix to trap water, and gives the pot a bit of weight that helps prevent it blowing over in strong winds. The cymbidiums grow better in a mix containing the blue metal than in bark alone. Compared to Nado's potting mix, large bark mixes dry out too quickly in summer while peat moss stays too wet in winter.

Wear rubber gloves while repotting: Your hands stay nicer this way, don't get damaged by the blue metal in the mix etc.

Use quality plant labels: Use robust labels, ones that are not too thin. Nado recommends thick plastic labels, not pieces of venetian blinds. Thick plastic labels will last 7-8 years, but thin label will start to degrade after just a year. As well, thick labels can be used to cut off brown leaf tips – the leaf is pressed against the label then pulled against the edge of the label for cutting, and then the label is put back in the pot. This procedure helps minimise transmission of infections between plants, because a plant is only cut by its own label. No cutting tool is used that will spread sap from one plant to the next. Of course, Nado takes care not to get plant sap on his hands when he cuts off leaf tips, and if he does get sap on his hands, he washes it off before handling another plant.

Write on labels with a 4B pencil: It is easy and the pencil can be sharpened with a standard pencil sharpener.

Black pots are better than light coloured pots: Black pots last much longer than lighter coloured pots (which get damaged faster by sunlight).

Use a white chinagraph pencil to write on black pots: It is easy and the pencil can be sharpened with a standard pencil sharpener.

Long nosed pliers are handy for removing the husks of backbulbs: Nado demonstrated how quickly the pliers could be used for this job, and also how they can be used to twist off shrivelled bulbs without pulling the whole plant out of the pot.

Use sugar soap for sterilising/cleaning: Sugar soap is an alkaline liquid (contains trisodium phosphate) that destroys viruses. Dip cutting tools etc. in sugar soap solution for several hours.

The less a plant is stressed the better it will grow: Nado does not like to hack off too many roots during repotting, but instead prefers to carefully tease the roots away from the old potting mix to minimise damage. He finds the plants recover better when treated gently.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)
Agenda of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,
on 25 October 2013

Welcome: Open 8 pm. K Baylis (Immediate Past President) welcomed members and guests.

Minute's silence — Queenie Jahn

Apologies: 8 apologies were received

Evening's Programme: Nado Lenkic: "Cymbidium Orchid-Growing Made Simple"

Intermission/Tea Break

Minutes: Moved N Jones seconded R Pohl that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

Business arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved J Walton seconded N Jones that the Business Arising has been resolved.

Key Correspondence

- West Australian (statement for auction advert)
- Garden City Plastics (advice of price increases of 1-5% due to rising costs of raw materials)
- City of South Perth meeting venue bookings
- Email exchanges with members of the public on miscellaneous matters of orchid identification, culture, and sourcing.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Business arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved M Brechin seconded R Pohl, that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: Presented on noticeboard.

Confirmation: Moved K Baylis seconded T Stacy, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. **Carried.**

New Members: Pam Kennerly (Scarborough), Eva Peacock (Mundaring)

Reports:

- **Royal Show:** Thank you to all those members who helped out with plants, setting up, manning, or packing up our display at the Royal Show. The display was well received by Show management and the public, and many visitors to our display attended the Potting Workshop.
- **Potting Workshop:** Thank you to all members who helped set up, helped pack up, looked after sales, ran the kitchen, did repotting, gave talks, and manned the doors. We were a little short-staffed but managed OK. Special thanks to Tom Dixon, who donated the raffle plant, and John Walton, who gave a talk and donated the proceeds of his plant sales to OSWA.

General Business:

- **December GM** will be on the 2nd Friday (13 Dec). It will be our Christmas meeting, so members should bring a plate to share.
- **Christmas Dinner** will be on 8 December, \$32 per person, from 6:30 pm. More details will be in the Bulletin. We need numbers of attendees by the November GM.
- **January meeting** will be a BBQ at the Baylis residence. BYO meat, drinks, chair, bring a sweet or salad to share. No plant competition, but members can bring a plant of interest to talk about.
- **WAROO:** I Duncan discussed matters concerning AOC/WAROO conference funds. Motion: That conference money (~\$160K) should be placed in a secured deposit in a bank. Proposed M Brechin, seconded I Duncan. **Carried.** It was suggested that funds could be split between a long term (higher interest) and a short term deposit, and possible uses for funds might include assistance with Challenges, contributions towards costs of visiting speakers from interstate, etc. I Duncan to convey the views of members to WAROO.

Raffle: R McCallum, J Krishnan, M Perry.

Popular Vote: Open: *Odontocidium Tai - Tai* – Owners: J&B Rensen.

Novice/Junior: No entries.

Door Prize: H Tan

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm