

# 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, 25 October 2013, commencing at **8:00 p.m.**

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**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:**

NADO LENKIC: "CYMBIDIUM ORCHID-  
GROWING MADE SIMPLE"

**NOVEMBER MEETING DATES:**

Judging Panel 7:30 pm Monday 4th  
OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 1st  
General Meeting 8:00 pm Friday 22nd

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**website: [www.orchidsocietywa.net.au](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au)**

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**Birthdays:**

**October: 5<sup>th</sup>** - Nathan Carless **16<sup>th</sup>** – Barbara Burnett **November: 10<sup>th</sup>** – George Price **18<sup>th</sup>** – Trevor Burnett

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

**New Members:** Pam Kennedy (Scarborough), Eva Peacock (Mundaring)

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:**

- **Royal Show:** A big thank you to all members who helped set up & dismantle the display, those who supplied the orchids and helped man the display. Our display was very well received by the Royal Show Committee and the public. Next year our September General Meeting date will be the THIRD (3<sup>rd</sup>) Friday so that it doesn't clash with the Royal Show setting up.
- **September Raffle Plants:** Thank you again to **Tom Dixon**, for donating his *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon for a special fund-raising raffle. The lucky winner was Jack Krishnan. Thanks also to **Jack and Betty Rensen** for donating two Phalaenopsis orchids in flower for the September meeting raffle.
- **Perpetual Trophies:** Could any members holding Perpetual Trophies please return them at the **OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING** so they can be engraved for the next winner.
- **Christmas Meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 8 pm.** Presentation of trophies and Christmas Festivities. Members please bring a plate of finger food to share. Drinks are supplied by OSWA.
- **OSWA's Annual Christmas Dinner** is on Saturday 7 December 2013 at RAAF, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek. I will let you know the cost (hopefully) by the October Meeting. This is a great night and enjoyed by all who attend. Great food and company. Please bring a small gift or plant (Secret Santa) so that everyone goes home with a gift or plant.
- **Morning Tea:** The next Morning Tea is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 am, at Kaye & Jim's home, 18 Wheyland St., Willagee.
- **January General Meeting: Will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

- **Hydroponics Gear for Sale.** OSWA has been contacted by a person who has the following hydroponics gear for sale to legitimate grower hobbyists. Asking price is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the catalog price for single items, better prices for larger lots. If interested in seeing or purchasing any items, contact Murray (9310 2800) for further details.
  - Power boxes (ballasts?): 1x SS1000MH, 1x MH1000C240/C/IEPS, 1x HPS600 Super Charge, 1x HPS400, 3 x HO600R240T/C1/1EPS
  - Extractor Fan mounted in metal frame with small length of silver ducting
  - Reflectors, both folding and fixed square: 5 x with lamp holders and cords, 1 x new blades in box, unassembled
  - 4x Lamp Holders, in addition to the 5 above
  - Light globes/bulbs (large sizes): 1 x Supergrow Agricultural Lamp 1000W Metal Halide, 1 x GE Multi Vapor Lamp 1000W, 1 x Osram Vialox Nav-T (Son-T) 1000W, 4 x GE Lucagrow 600W LU600/HO/T/40/L
  - 1x Fluorescent light fitting, with light tube
  - 3 pin-style plug-in timers, 2 extension power boards, ordinary domestic size and style and 1 extension cord.

## RESULTS OF MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (September 2013)

### OPEN

Class 1A (2)	1. C. Rogasch	<i>C. intermedia</i> var. <i>amethystina</i>
	2. M. Godbeer	<i>Leptotes bicolor</i>
Class 1E (1)	1. C. Rogasch	Slc. Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic'
Class 2C (1)	1. C. Rogasch	Cym. Fair Delight 'Polar Bear'
Class 4A (1)	1. M. Godbeer	<i>Den. amethystoglossum</i>
Class 5C (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Phal. Unknown
Class 8A (2)	1. M. Godbeer	<i>Den. lingueforme</i>
	2. M. Godbeer	<i>Den. monophyllum</i>
Class 8B (1)	1. M. Godbeer	Den. A Song
Class 10B(3)	1. M. Godbeer	<i>Bulb. echinolabium</i>
	2. M. Godbeer	<i>Polystachya pubescens</i>
	3. M. Godbeer	<i>Promenea xanthine</i>

### NOVICE

Class 15B(1)	1. Ann & Mal Davis	C. Pastel Pageant
Class 15F(1)	1. Ann & Mal Davis	Blc. Hawaiian Treat 'Carmela's Freckles'
Class 22B(1)	1. Ann & Mal Davis	Den. X delicatum 'Alex'

### POPULAR VOTE

<b>OPEN:</b>	Phal. Unknown – Ian Duncan
<b>NOVICE:</b>	C. Pastel Pageant - Malcolm & Ann Davis

**Schokman Trophy Points:** C. Pastel Pageant (70 pts) – Ann & Mal Davis

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013) by Roy Brown**

Repotting should be in full swing, but by the middle of November the temperature will be fairly high, so it would be advisable to have all the repotting done by the first week of November at the latest.

When dividing your plants, try not to break them up into sections that are too small. A three bulb piece will have a better chance of flowering the following year.

Try not to overpot your plant. Select a pot that will hold the plant and its root system and will allow for a further two years growth.

When repotting, hold the plant firmly in one hand one inch below the top of the pot, then using your fingers work the fresh pine bark between the plants roots.

Fill the pot to about ½ inch from the rim, firming the bark in as you go. The plant should now be sitting neatly in the centre of the pot, with the base of the bulb just below the top of the bark. Give the plant a good watering and place it in a cool, shady position for about a week, until the roots start into active growth again.

When the flower spikes have been cut and the plant repotted, you will find the new seasons leads will shoot ahead. Keep them growing strongly by increasing the fertilizing to weekly or fortnightly intervals.

In the growing season, Cymbidiums love plenty of light, water and a regular feeding programme.

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

Now that the shows are over for this year, we will be getting into the season for assessing the needs of our plants to be repotted or potted on. This is the start of the growing season and getting the plants off to a good start will result in better flowering next year.

Plants that will need to be considered for potting will be:

- a) seedlings that have been more than six months in the pot
- b) plants where the front growth is over the edge of the pot, or where the next growth will take it
- c) plants showing signs of being unhappy in their current mix
- d) plants that need breaking up because of their large size.

When to pot can be largely influenced by the appearance of new roots. When new roots appear, you can be sure they will establish in new mix quite readily. Do not allow new roots to grow more than 2-3 cms long before potting as longer roots are more likely to get broken in the process of potting.

When potting, choose a pot size one step up from the pot you had used till then, e.g from a 125mm to a 150mm pot. The mix you use should fit in with your schedule for having time to water your plants. The coarser the mix, the more frequent the watering will have to be.

At the time of potting place the oldest pseudo bulb against the back wall of the pot and fill in with mix from the front. Push the mix in so that the plant is held firm in the pot. If adequately immobilised, you can usually lift the plant up by its leaves without the plant coming away from the pot. Stake the pseudo bulbs up vertically as far as possible and make sure the front growth cannot move around damaging the emerging new roots.

Place the repotted plant in a shady spot in your growing area for a couple of weeks to counter the shock of replanting. Something like a seaweed solution watered through would also help

counter shock.

If there is a need to divide a plant, make sure you use a sterilised cutting instrument and do not make a division smaller than 3-4 healthy bulbs.

### **PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013) by Trevor Burnett**

This month is about getting our newly potted plants into full growth as the growths will need to mature in order to produce flowers next year. With the warmer weather, the fertilizer programme can be increased to weekly or fortnightly at  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength, with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths.

In our repotting process we usually end up with plants being repotted into larger pots or divided into several pieces, so be very mindful not to cram your plants together like sardines. They still need space between plants for good air movement. If we cram plants together, we provide a wonderful place for all sorts of bugs to hide and also restricts the airflow around plants. Good air movement around the plants is essential for good healthy plants and greatly reduces the problems of disease.

In respect to watering, we must ensure that our plants do not become completely dry, as we have a nice new mix which for the first couple of months will tend to dry out quicker than the old mix we have just replaced. At this time of the year I would water at 7 day intervals, unless the temperature goes above 32 °C for three consecutive days, then I would bring back my watering to 4 days.

It is also an ideal time to see if that plant you admired from one of the growers, has been divided and a piece may be available to purchase.

Remember this is the ideal time to reflect on your cultural success and sharing your growing success with friends and club members

Good luck and good growing for the summer months ahead.

### **The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**

#### **Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth on 27 September 2013**

**Welcome:** Open 8.10 pm. Welcome to members and visitors.

**Minute's Silence** – Wendy Brown

#### **Evening's Programme: Deflasking (John Walton)**

John demonstrated his method for deflasking using two glass flasks of hybrid Cattleyas. He wrapped each flask in newspaper and used a hammer to break the glass. Next, he removed as much of the agar as possible from the seedlings (to prevent fungal growth) and soaked the seedlings briefly in a solution of Fongarid (fungicide) and Powerfeed (fertilizer). The potting mix was 50:50 Perlite:small bark. John prepares his bark for use by soaking the contents of a 50L bag in a 60L bin full of water and two bottles of lime juice (not cordial) for a week, then in a dilute solution of Ionic (fertilizer), Polyfeed etc. To pot a seedling, John put a bit of potting mix in a 2" pot, then held the seedling in the pot and filled the pot with more potting mix to cover the roots, pressing down only gently to avoid damaging the roots. He typically fertilises freshly potted seedlings with Ionic or Polyfeed every day for a week. Fertilisers containing calcium are best at this stage. After a week, the seedlings go into John's normal watering regime.

After John's demonstration, members were able to pot seedlings using materials that John had provided.

#### **Intermission/Tea Break**

**Minutes:** Moved P. R. McGrath, seconded R. McCallum that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried**

**Business Arising: Nil**

**Confirmation:** Moved R. McCallum, seconded R. McGrath that the Business Arising has been resolved.  
**Carried**

**Key Correspondence: (list placed on Notice Board)**

- A member of the public phoned to say he had orchids in flower on his block and asked if anyone was interested in seeing them
- Phone call from a person in Mandurah offering hydroponics gear for sale.
- From AOC – President's newsletter and a list of digital programmes available from the AOC library
- From Kardinya Shopping Centre (payment for Winter Show)
- From T. Burnett – advice about prizes at Shows
- From West Australian (invoices for auction advert, Potting Workshop advert)
- Garden Clubs of Australia (miscellaneous information)
- Email exchanges with members of the public on miscellaneous matters of orchid identification, culture and sourcing.
- Received: Society Bulletins & junk mail

**Business Arising: Nil**

**Confirmation:** Moved H. Reynolds, seconded R. McCallum that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried**

**Financial Statement:** On Notice Board was provided by I. Duncan

**Confirmation:** Moved M. Baker, seconded R. McGrath that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment be endorsed. **Carried**

**New Members:** Lutetia Daniel (rejoined: Willagee), Joyce Tan (Kardinya)

**Reports:**

- **BBQ at M. Godbeer's place:** Turnout was small but the visit was enjoyed by those who attended, and in addition to the orchids in the shade house, native orchids were flowering on the block.
- **Royal Show:** I. Duncan and Rosemary McGrath reported that five members (R. McGrath, I. Duncan, R. McCallum, J. Baylis and M. Baker) set up the OSWA display at the show, and M. Brechin, J. Rensen and M Godbeer also supplied plants. I. Duncan noted that the display was small but that the Royal Show was a valuable event to OSWA, and that we need more members to contribute plants and help set up the display in future. R. McGrath noted that, although small, the display was still very good. OSWA received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Show Management.

**General Business:**

- Prize monies were give out to winners of the Spring Show
- Potting Workshop: Members were reminded of the event and were encouraged to come along and enjoy the day
- Raffle and other competition winners from the August Meeting were given their plants (P. DiGiovanni, D. Walton. R. McGrath: S. Casey & R. West not present, so plants are to be looked after by M. Baker until they are claimed)

**Raffle:** Betty Rensen kindly donated two Phalaenopsis in flower as raffle plants. Winners: M. Davis, J&D Walton (x 2), N. Jones

**Raffle of Tom Dixon's Dendrobium Hilda Poxon 'Freckles'** – winner Jack Krishnan

**Door Prize:** L. Dodd (kindly donated her plant to visitor P. Kennedy)

**Popular Vote: Open-** I. Duncan, Phalaenopsis unknown; **Novice/Junior-** M. Davis, C. Pastel Pageant

**Meeting closed at 9.35 pm**