

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN 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 23rd April 2010 commencing at **8.00p.m.**

Orchid Society of Western Australia
Patron **Mr K.C. Rex**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

SLIDE NIGHT ABOUT THE ERIC YOUNG
FOUNDATION—IAN DUNCAN

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MAY MEETING DATES

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 3rd

OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 7th

General Meeting 8.00 pm Friday 28th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| GENERAL NEWS | 2 |
| MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION | 3 |
| CULTURAL NOTES -CYMBIDIUM | 4 |
| CULTURAL NOTES- CATTLEYA | 4 |
| MINUTES | 5&6 |
| WATERING FORUM NOTES | 6 |

**Deadline for Bulletin Items — 9 pm
Sat. 13 days prior to OSWA GM.**

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Birthdays:

April- 5th - Alex Szabo 7th - Rosemary McGrath 10th - Bernadette Campbell 12th - Karen Carless 13th - Hector Patfield 17th - Mike Burgess 21st - Anne O'Callaghan 23rd - Ron Brown

May - 7th - Dorothy Walton 9th - Ellen Dixon 31st - Jean Herbert

Congratulations to Fred & Jean Herbert who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 8th. May they have many more.

We wish everyone a very Happy Birthday and also anyone celebrating an Anniversary, our best wishes to you. To anyone on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery.

OSWA Bulletin: The Bulletin is now online at <http://members.iinet.net.au/~murray.baker/OSWA>

If you are happy to download the Bulletin from the web and not receive the printed copy by post, please let Murray know (murray.baker@iinet.net.au)

- **Shed Cleanout & BBQ:** This will take place on Sunday April 18th. This is in preparation for the 2010 round of Shows and does not take too long. A sausage sizzle follows for all to enjoy. Start time-10:00 am. The shed is situated at the back of Hazel McDougall House in Clydesdale Street Manning/Como.
- **OrchidWiz:** The people at OrchidWiz (www.OrchidWiz.com) have kindly donated a copy of OrchidWiz software for auction by OSWA. This is fantastic software for orchid enthusiasts and is already being used by a number of growers in Perth. It includes a comprehensive database, thousands of pictures, and the ability to add information and photos of your own plants. There will be a demonstration of the software before the auction at the May meeting
- **Upcoming Meeting Items:** April - Slide Night about The Eric Young Foundation May - Auction of Orchid Wiz plus plants June - Forum about Fertilising Orchids. July - Protecting your orchids from the cold in Winter August - Eddy Wajon—Regeneration after a fire, orchids & wildflowers
- **Autumn Show:** We would like to see as many plants as we can on the bench and also on the Sales Table. Please help your Society put on an extra special show. Plant sales are each day (Wed, Thurs. Fri & Sat.)
Set-up is Tues. 4th May 6-7 pm The Show is open from Wed. 5th May until Sat. 8th May.
Dismantle Sat. 8th May at 4.30 pm. The show is being held at Stocklands Riverton Shopping Centre, Cnr of High Road & Willeri Dr. Riverton.
- **By-law change:** To be ratified at the General Meeting

Page 1. By-Laws (b) iii "Exhibitor" shall mean a member of the Society or any other person approved by the Committee who benches a plant at any show or meeting of the Society. (take out—"a member of an affiliated society")

This has been done as OSWA has no affiliated societies now. We are all societies in our own right and are now all members of the AOC

Page 6 Constitution—14b States that the Committee has the power to alter a By-Law but it has to be ratified by the General Meeting.

Hundreds of FREE (used) 2" pots. These are suitable for seedlings, tube-stock etc. but need to be washed before use. If you want any please let Murray know

RESULTS OF PLANT COMPETITION - (MONTH - MARCH 2010)**Open:**

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--|
| Class 1A (1) | 1. Jim & Kaye Baylis | <i>Enc. radiata</i> |
| Class 1B (1) | 1. Henry Eaton | Blc. Toshie Aoki Pokai 'Pizzaz' |
| Class 1D (1) | 1. Henry Eaton | C. Bimayothin x Lc. Red Empress |
| Class 3C (1) | 1. Jim & Kaye Baylis | Paph. Voodoo Magic 'Midnight Moss x <i>Paph. philippinense</i> 'Corkecreou' |

Novice:

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| Class 15A(2) | 1. Merrilyn Brechin 2. Merrilyn Brechin | <i>C. bowringiana</i> <i>Enc. radiata</i> |
| Class 15B(5) | 1. Ross & Alice Lang 2. Ross & Alice Lang 3. Merrilyn Brechin | Pot. Chatoyant 'Great Purple' Lc. Anzac 'Doris' Blc. Unknown |
| Class 15C(3) | 1. Merrilyn Brechin 2. Merrilyn Brechin 3. Ross & Alice Lang | C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama' C. El Patio Blc. Golden Delicious 'Pokai' |
| Class 16B(1) | 1. Ross & Alice Lang | Cym. Florida Cracker 'Marmalade' |
| Class 16C(1) | 1. Ross & Alice Lang | Cym. Zig Zag 'Kiwi' |
| Class 24B(2) | 1. Meg Donald 2. Ross & Alice Lang | <i>Dendrochilum cobbianum</i> <i>Z. maculatum</i> |

POPULAR VOTE:

Open: Blc. Toshie Aoki Pokai 'Pizzaz' - Henry Eaton

Novice: *C. bowringiana*—Merrilyn Brechin

Schokman Trophy Points: Blc. Chatoyant 'Great Purple' (70 pts.) - Ross & Alice Lang

Remember you can purchase your orchid supplies at the Opportunity Table at each General Meeting.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2010) by Roy Brown

With the hot summer days now behind us, we can look forward during the next two months, to a weather pattern which is far more favourable for cymbidium growing.

Temperatures should be generally around the twenties and the night air should be laden with moisture. These are conditions that Cymbidiums thrive on, so make the most of the current growing season while it lasts.

Watering will probably be needed once a day from now on depending on weather conditions.

The regular feeding programme can be continued during April with the addition of a little extra Potash. Now that the plants are producing their flower spikes, that extra Potash is needed for the formation of strong sturdy stems. April is the month when most of the Spring flowering plants send up their spikes. Cymbidium flower spikes are produced from the base of the growing pseudo bulb or sometimes they appear between the lower and second leaf. In their early stages of growth they are easily damaged, so if you should be pulling weeds from the pot, or perhaps topping up the pots with fresh compost be very careful of the young spikes.

The early flowering Cymbids have already produced their flower spikes and these are growing at a fast rate. During the next month the flower buds will emerge from the protective covering on the stem, and it's from here on that extra care and attention will be needed to protect the flowers from the weather and damage by insects.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2010) by Henry Eaton

This year autumn arrived on time and we have been experiencing mainly temperate sunny days with a hint of winter cold at night. This has been good growing weather allowing most of the pseudo bulbs formed in summer to fatten and throw up flowering sheaths. The measures you now adopt are geared to producing and displaying the flowers so that they will be at their peak for the coming Show season.

If you have had extra shading over your growing area, this can now be safely removed. Plants should be maintained facing in the same direction as they were grown in, if you were to transfer them under cover, or to a dedicated flowering house. As the weather cools, watering has to be more carefully managed so as not to over dampen the mix and also prevent water accumulating between the leaf axils and the flowering sheaths or buds. Fertilising can still be carried out, but remember growth is now slowing and the need for high nitrogen can be replaced with a higher Potassium (K) content. The higher Potassium helps with flowering.

The success of your growing practices during the year can be gauged by the percentage of mature plants now either flowering or in bud. To show off their flowers to their best it is best to stake the pseudo bulbs as erect as possible. If a pseudo bulb has grown up at an acute angle, this can be corrected by inserting a malleable stake next to it and bending the stake down to lie alongside the growth, to which it is then tied. Do NOT, at the beginning, try to bend the growth up too much to lie alongside an erect stake as there is a good chance the growth will fracture and be ruined. Instead, get the stake down to the growth and gradually over the course of several days or even a week or two, gradually straighten out the stake and the growth will straighten too.

At this time of the year keep an eye out for the appearance of slugs and snails, as well as thrips and grasshoppers, who can damage the emerging flowers. Apply baits as necessary to control them

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,
On Friday 26th March 2010**

Welcome: The President opened the meeting at 8.02 pm and thanked the past President, Mr John Walton for his efforts over the past year.

Attendance & Apologies: As per register

Minutes: Moved M. Brechin, seconded T. Dixon that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence Inward:

- Update request for upcoming events from S Perth Council Village Voice
- Society Newsletters

Correspondence Outward:

- Letter to Ezi-Gro re sponsorship for Shows

Business Arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved T. Dixon, seconded E. Dixon, that Correspondence Inward & correspondence Outward be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: #413 was tabled

Acceptance: Moved K. Baylis, seconded M. Davis that the financial Statement be accepted. **Carried**

New Members: Nil

Reports: OPJWA- Approximately \$700 was made from the Judges BBQ at Mandurah— an excellent day.

General Business:

- Many thanks to Faye & Hector Patfield for the extra raffle plants.
- Competition Plants - as none were brought in for judging & because many members were away, the meeting agreed to postpone the awarding of the \$100 prize until the April meeting.
- Sales tickets, Entry tickets & Schedules were available for the upcoming Autumn show at Stocklands Riverton. All members to endeavour to bring in plants for an excellent show. Plant sales are daily.
- Davis Home Open Sun. 28th March. BYO chair & drinks. \$5 pp

Raffle: Tom Dixon, Jim Baylis, Judith Keogh, Dorothy Walton

Door Prize: Myrna Eaton

Winners will be able to collect their plants at the next meeting.

Evenings Programme: Many thanks to all those who contributed to the discussion on orchid plants from the display bench & to those who shared how they first got into growing orchids. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all those present.

Meeting closed at 9.33 pm

Forum about Watering concludes

Tom Dixon uses two sprinklers supported on 1m risers to water the orchids in his 6 metre long shade-house. Each sprinkler head spins and sprays two adjustable jets that make a nice spray and cover a good area. Merrilyn Brechin has also used this type of sprinkler, but mostly hand waters with a wand & fertilises weekly Henry Eaton also waters by hand, every 2 to 3 days during summer, but only fertilises when the temperature is not too high.

For misting Tom has a fogger that connects to a garden hose and he uses it to mist his orchids by hand. The fogger came from the US, and Tom has never seen one locally, but it works well and has never blocked up.

John Walton spoke about the pH of water, and noted that the pH of his scheme water changed noticeably when the desalination plant came online. He suggested that a pH of about 6 was best, but water with a pH 6 would become pH 5 when fertiliser was added, and the pH needed to be re-adjusted before application to the orchids. John uses a sophisticated fogger/fan unit that switches on when the temperature hits 34C and switches off when temperature drops to 30C. This unit produces a very fine mist but still wets the orchids, but in hot weather they dry off quickly in the evening.

Ian Duncan is experimenting with this type of fogger too, and uses it on a timer. Jack Rensen has a fogger that he has to activate manually. He is wary of using temperature to activate the fogger because when the temperature is low, humidity can be low too, but the fogger relying on high temperature for activation would not operate. Jack does not have scheme water, and needs a 4 micron filter to stop his fogger from blocking up.

A request from your Editor

I would really appreciate it if members would write in the Genus of their plant when filling in their entry slips for benching plants at the meetings eg. Cattleya or Dendrobium etc. as it takes time for me to find the details.

Also, you no longer need to put your member number on the monthly entry slips. You may just write in your name.

Printing (legibly) the name of your plant would also help, as I am not good at deciphering handwriting!!

Thank you,
Maxine