

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 28th September 2012, Commencing at **8.00 pm**

PATRON: Mr Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Mrs K. Baylis
Tel. 9337 6210

SECRETARY

Mr M. Baker
58 Gladstone Rd
Leeming 6149
Tel. 9310 2800

TREASURER

Mr I. Duncan
Tel. 9364 5439

REGISTRAR & BULLETIN EDITOR

Mrs M. Godbeer
2195 Hidden Valley Rd
Parkerville 6081
Tel. 9295 5448

website: www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:
MAINTAINING HUMIDITY AROUND
ORCHIDS- PETER MASTERS**

OCTOBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 1st
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 5th
General Meeting 8.00 pm Friday 26th

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Birthdays:

September: Bob Longmore **October: 5th** – Nathan Carless, **16th** - Barbara Burnett

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

The **OSWA Bulletin** (and other information) is now available at www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

New Members: Hassim and Ami Abdullah from Murdoch. Welcome to the society, we hope you enjoy a long and happy membership.

General News:

- **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.
- **Perth Royal Show Display:** Please put your name down on the roster for the royal show. Contact Rosemary McGrath 9367 9306. The show runs from Sat. 29th September – Sat. 6th October. Please, if you can spare a little time, it does make it easier for the few who are in attendance at the display. Every little bit of time you can spare will help those who have put their names down to man the display. We do get passes for you from the RAS for entry into the Showgrounds, so before and after your time looking after the display, you can wander around the Show. We are setting up the Royal show display on Friday 28th September, 11:30 am and dismantling at 8 am on Sunday 7th October.
- **Potting Workshop:** 21st October 2012 in the Scout Hall, Pilgrim St, south Perth.
Setting up 8:30 am. Close 4 pm
Open to the public 10 am – 4 pm

We would like some volunteers for the potting of the orchids please. Also needed are helpers in the kitchen, door entry, speakers and just some helpers to be friendly and talk to the public as they wander around.

Plant sales on Sunday 21st October
- **Orchid Virus Test Kits:** Kits to test for the most common orchid viruses (Cym. Mosaic virus & Odontoglossum Ringspot virus) can be purchased from a supplier in the Eastern states. The kits work a bit like pregnancy test strips. Each kit contains 25 test strips and will cost about \$300 inc. freight or about \$12 per test strip. The cost will come down a little for larger orders. If anyone is interested in a group purchase of a kit (or more), contact Murray Baker
- **Please Note:** Our Christmas Meeting will be held on the **2nd Friday of December (14th December)**
- **New Orchids Forum:** OSWA member Ryan Craig has created a new online orchid forum at <http://speciesorchids.proboards.com/>. It will be a place for discussion about orchids and orchid culture. Take a look at the range of topics, post questions and answers, and visit the site occasionally to see how it grows.

RESULTS OF MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (AUGUST 2012)**Open Class:**

Class 2A (2)	1. Phil Taylor	Cym. Eileen's Dream 'Alana'
	2. Phil Taylor	Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'
Class 2B (2)	1. Phil Taylor	Cym. Pumisan 'Orange'
	2. Phil Taylor	Cym. Redvale Beauty 'Orange Glow'
Class 8B (2)	1. Gillian Marsh	Den. Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall'
	2. Gillian Marsh	Den. Victorian Yondi 'Rusty Bucket' x
		Den. Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall'
Class 12A (1)	1. Phil Taylor	Den. Moondarra x <i>Den. speciosum</i> var. <i>curvicaule</i>

Novice Class:

Class 15B (1)	1. Valerie Cooper	Blc. Twenty Four Carat x Blc. Golden Delight
Class 16C(1)	1. Judy Brabin	Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'

POPULAR VOTE:

Open: Den. Victorian Yondi 'Rusty Bucket' x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall' – Gillian Marsh

Novice: Blc. Twenty Four Carat x Blc. Golden Delight – Valerie Cooper

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012) by Roy Brown

We are now entering into the spring months when we see the majority of our cymbidiums flowering once again. These are also the months when the orchid societies hold their annual Spring Show, so give your plants that are in spike that little extra care and attention and enter them into the show, so everyone can enjoy them with you.

I should start off this month with a few hints on preparing your plants for exhibition. Firstly, give the pots a good clean. Next, wipe the leaves over with a soft, clean damp cloth. Trim up the ends of the leaves, some may have dead tips and these can look rather unsightly: always remember to sterilize the cutting instrument after attending to each plant. Then probably the most important point, make sure those plants that need it, are properly staked so they present their flowers in a proper manner. It doesn't really take long to prepare each plant for a show, but it does make all the difference to the finished product. Finally, on the morning of the day the show is to be set up, give your plants a good watering; they may have to be on display for 3 or 4 days.

You should be hard at it with the dividing and re-potting by now, and by doing each plant in turn after it has flowered, this will save a lot of last minute hurried work at the end of October.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012) by Henry Eaton

With the increase in daylight hours there is evidence that Spring is here after a winter of cold nights and late winter rains. Your cattleya should now be showing signs of recovering from dormancy, by growth buds beginning to enlarge in some and the appearance of new roots in others. Where you see these signs on plants, they provide an indication that those plants are ready to be repotted in new mix if they are growing out of the pot or if the mix has been there for a long while and is probably going stale and is unlikely to last for another year in good condition. These plants should be inspected to see if they only need transferring to a larger pot, or whether they need to be divided. If division is contemplated, do not go for divisions of less than four mature bulbs each. If there appears not to be any new roots on the

posterior divisions, the plant could be partially cut at the necessary spot and left for a couple of months to let a new growth appear, when the cut could be completed and the division made. This also reminds me that when thinking of dividing a plant, make sure by removing any old sheaths around it, that there is a viable bud at the point of division. If none is found, do not divide it at that point but seek another spot.

When potting on a cattleya, it is worth choosing a mix that will be adaptable to the time you can give to watering your plants. If frequent watering is possible, a coarser, less absorbent mix can be used, while those people who cannot spare enough time to water the plants should use a smaller sized mix which will hold water for longer. Cattleyas like a wet to nearly dry cycle for best growth. Use a pot size you feel will be adequate to allow at least 2-3 years growth before the need for repotting arises. Do not over-pot. When repotting, hold the plant so that the oldest bulb sits plumb with the back edge of the pot, giving the new growth at least 2 years of growth in front. After filling the pot with your mix, the plant should be anchored firmly enough for you to lift it up by the leaves without separating it from the pot. A stake alongside the foremost growth to which it is tied is also worth considering if there is any doubt about stability. Water the plant well and leave it in a shady area of the shade house for a couple of weeks before returning it to its normal spot. You can fertilise the plant with something like Seasol before commencing normal feeding after 3-4 weeks.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012) by Trevor Burnett

As I discussed last month, you should now be ensuring that by the end of October you have completed your repotting of the plants that have finished flowering. The plants that did not produce spikes should already be done.

With warmer conditions now gradually becoming the norm during these months, increased attention needs to be given to the watering. As all my plants now have a nice new open mix, I increase my watering programme to once a week, but always in the morning.

When you water now, check to ensure that the water freely flows out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot. As a lot of us place small crock pieces in the base of the pot, we need to ensure that good drainage is maintained and we have not retarded the water flow with crocking of the pots.

With the warmer weather, the fertilizer programme can be increased to weekly or fortnightly, with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths.

When repotting plants from the existing pot, carefully extract all the growing mix with your fingers and remove any dead roots. Care must be taken not to damage live roots when repotting, as paphiopedilums have a limited root system.

Place in the pot with the base of the plant some 15mm below the rim of the pot, and work the mix in and around the roots. Gently bumping the pot on the bench can also assist in the placement of the mix. On top of the mix I spread a small quantity of crushed sea shells or gravel sand, which helps support the plant from moving in the pot which will cause root damage.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth on Friday 24th August 2012

Welcome: The Vice President, Mrs. Lorna Dodd opened the meeting at 8:09pm and welcoming visitors and members.

Apologies: As per the register

Minutes: Moved V. Yates, seconded J. Brabin, that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.
Carried

Business arising:

- The Minutes of 27th July were headed as 27th June – changed and initialed..

Confirmation: Moved M. Perry, seconded F. Herbert, that the Business Arising has been resolved.
Carried

Correspondence:

- South Perth Council re hire of halls for 2013 (to be returned by November)
- Email from Merle Arrah advising about discount parking at Burswood during the conference
- Emails from Merle Arrah about opportunities for clubs to promote themselves at the AOC Conference, & arrangements for displays etc.
- AOC (bill of \$137 for Directors & Officers' Insurance).
- Email exchange with Stephanie Wood (St. Ives Aged Care Facility) to arrange for a member to speak at their facility on Tuesday 25 September
- Thank You card from Ellen Dixon
- Email from Simona Landkroon advising of new area for our display at Royal Show
- Email from Kim Evans to publicise his exhibition "Anthropomoflora"
- Info from Merle Arrah about briefing session for AOC conference on 21 August at Burswood
- Response to 2 emails from members of the public about shows and orchid culture
- Received Society bulletins & junk mail
- St. Georges Cathedral Roses & Raiment, festival of flowers & vestments 9 September

Business Arising:

- Ian Duncan to speak at St. Ives on 25 September
- Royal show display area shown to members – workers needed to man the show
- Conference arrangements discussed under General Business

Confirmation: Moved M. Donald, seconded M. Brechin, that the Correspondence Inward and Correspondence Outward be endorsed. **Carried**

Financial Statement: Ian Duncan presented the Financial Statement and accounts for payment.

Confirmation: Moved M. Brechin, seconded F. Herbert that the Financial Statement be received & accounts for payment be approved. **Carried**

New members: Nil

Reports:

- **OJPWA:** The results of SEOS Show were presented.
-

General Business;**AOC Conference:**

- Plants for display & entry bring on Tuesday 11am. Sales plants, bring them from 8am Wednesday 12th
- Ian Duncan has roster sheets for conference volunteers
- OSWA display area No. 5, OSWA vendor area No. 6
- Tuesday parking need code word Floral to enter through boom gates
- Restock sales area before 9am or after 6pm daily. Sales tickets available
- Next meeting 4 September at Burnetts' home in Beechboro

Kardinya Show: set-up Tuesday 28 August 6 pm, judging 7.30 pm.

- Plants & volunteers are needed
- Entry tickets, schedules & roster on front desk
- Sales tickets available

Royal Show: set-up Friday 28 September 11.30 am

- Volunteers needed ASAP as names need to be rostered so that passes can be obtained

Popular vote: Open: Den. Victorian Yondi 'Rusty bucket' x Jesmond Sparkler 'Greg Hall' – Gillian Marsh

Novice/Junior: Blc. Twenty Four Carat x Blc. Golden Delight – Val Cooper

Raffle: Thanks to Fred Herbert for donating an extra raffle plant.

- Dana Mitchell, Val Yates (took Fred's plant), Trevor Burnett
(raffle plants will be available at the next meeting)

Door Prize: Val Yates

Plant prizes were not available, so are to be received at the July general meeting

Evening's Programme: Trevor Burnett presented a captivating talk on how he grows his Paphs – his growing medium, the types of pots he uses, shade house conditions & tips for successfully growing paphs from de-flasking size to plants in bloom. A talk no-one should have missed.

Meeting closed at 10:12 pm

Little more than a year to go!



**Check the calendar and register to come to the
7th Australasian Native Orchid Society
Conference & Show.**

Held at Strathpine (Queensland, Australia).

Hosted by Kabi Group(Inc).

Full Conference - 22-24th August 2013

Public show days - 23-24th August

ANOS Gen. Meeting for affiliated members 25th Aug

For fuller details see www.ourshopfront.com/kabi

and follow the Conference link.