

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 at the Collins St. Hall, cnr. Collins & Shaftsbury St. South Perth on Friday April 26th 2013 Commencing at **8:00 pm**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

TONY WATKINSON – WEIRD WAYS TO GROW ORCHIDS

MAY MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel	7.30 pm Monday 6th
OSWA Committee	7.30 pm Friday 3rd
General Meeting	8.00 pm Friday 24th

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Birthdays:

April: 7th – Rosemary McGrath 10th – Bernadette Campbell 12th – Karen Carless 13th – Hector Patfield
17th – Mike Burgess 23rd – Ron Brown 24th – Rod Pohl 29th – Ian Duncan

May: 7th – Dorothy Walton, 9th – Ellen Dixon

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

The **OSWA Bulletin** (including back issues), information about OSWA shows, meetings, and other events, links to selected orchid-related sites, and some culture notes are now available at www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

New Members: Robin Dalziell from West Leederville

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.
- **Shed Clean-up Day** – This is to be held on Sunday 28th April at McDougall Park in Clydesdale St, Como at 10 am. This usually does not take too long so if you can help you will be welcome.
- **OSWA'S Coffee Morning** – The next Morning Tea will be at the home of Raye McIntosh, 39 Hines St, O'Connor at 10.30 am on 10th June 2013
- **A fund raising event** will be held at Masters, North Lake Rd Bibra Lake (opposite Adventure World) on 16 June 2013. We will need helpers in cooking & selling the sausage sizzle. Further info will be in the next Bulletin. Please try & help on this day even if it is only for a couple of hours.
- **The Inter-Society Challenge** will be held in Geraldton this year. For those newer members who do not know what this is – it is a great fun weekend, the first weekend in August, where the different orchid societies compete against each other for a trophy (a Wheel hub!!!). Each society can enter 2 plants in each section of the show and the society who earns most points from the judging gets to take home the trophy. The societies also enter a display. There is usually a dinner held on the Saturday night. A different society holds it each year, and it is a great way to have a fun weekend away if it is held in a country area, as it is this year. If you are interested in going to Geraldton for this year's Challenge, then you may need to start thinking soon about booking accommodation. Plants can be taken up for you to enter for the Challenge or the display. The Challenge is being staged in the QE2 Centre, Durlacher St. Geraldton. More info can be seen on their website:

Geraldtonorchid.webnode.com/wa-inter-society-challenge/

Our hosts at Geraldton Orchid Society have asked to know how many members plan to attend the Dinner (which will be on the Saturday night) by the end of May, so if you intend to go, please advise Murray or Kaye. There is already a list of about 10 members making plans to go to Geraldton. Let Murray or Kaye know if you would like to add your name to the list and be included in any plans for transport (carpooling?) and hotel bookings at Geraldton.

Dates for your Diary:

Show dates – Autumn Show 7-11 May 2013
Winter Show 20-21 July 2013
Inter-Society Challenge 3&4 August 2013
Spring Show 27-31 August 2013
Royal Show Display 27 September – 6 October 2013
Potting Workshop 20 October 2013

Other dates to remember:

Fund Raiser Sausage Sizzle at Masters 16 June 2013
Casserole Night Saturday 20 July 2013
Home Open – Maxine Godbeer's home 15th September 2013
Annual Christmas Dinner Saturday 7 December 2013

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (March 2013)**OPEN:**

Class 1A (1) 1. Ian Duncan	<i>C. bowringiana</i>
Class 1C (2) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen	Blc. Yen Corona 'Green Genius'
2. Jack & Betty Rensen	Slc Dream Cloud x Sl. Orpetii x C. Little Dipper
Class 1F (1) 1. Courtney Rogasch	C. Caudebec x C. Lulu 'Bold Spots'
Class 4C (1) 1. Sharon Lyster	Den. Unknown
Class 5A (1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen	<i>Phal. violacea</i> 'Red Face'
Class 5D (1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen	Phal. Sun Jye Diamond 'North Port'
Class 6B (2) 1. Rosemary McGrath	Onc. Unknown
2. Courtney Rogasch	Onc. Sweet Sugar 'Angel'
Class 8A (1) 1. Ian Duncan	<i>Den. bigibbum</i>
Class 10B(1) 1. Sharon Lyster	<i>Dendrochilum magnum</i>
Class 11B(1) 1. Courtney Rogasch	Zga. Freestyle Meadows

Novice:

Class 15A(1) 1. Meryl Brechin	<i>Enc. radiata</i>
Class 15B(4) 1. Ann & Mal Davis	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'
2. Meryl Brechin	C. Unknown
3. Ann & Mal Davis	C. Unknown
Class 15C(1) 1. Ann & Mal Davis	C. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
Class 20B(1) 1. Meryl Brechin	Onc. Space Race

Junior:

Class 28A(1) 1. Dana Mitchell	<i>C. bowringiana</i>
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Class 28B(2) 1. Dana Mitchell
2. Dana Mitchell

C. Crispin Rosales
Slc. Angel Eyes

Schokman Trophy Points: Blc. Yen Corona 'Green Genius' (76 pts) – Jack & Betty Rensen

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2013) by Roy Brown

Now that the cooler months are coming, a start can be made on repotting. It's always good idea to make an early start on the job o repotting, especially if you have a fairly large collection of cymbidiums. A start can be made on small plants, as well as divisions, that are not expected to flower this year. Any plants that are already showing signs of flower spikes are better left until after the flowers have been cut off.

April is the month when most of the Spring flowering plants send up their spikes. Cymbidium spikes are produced from the base of the pseudo bulb, or sometimes they appear between the lower and second leaves. The early flowering Cymbidiums have already produced their spikes and these will continue to grow at a fast rate, in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Take care of these new spikes, they are easily damaged, and keep all snails, slugs and insects away from the buds. Use Baysol to keep the snails and slugs away, and for all other biting insects, use a powder form of insecticide on the flower buds. Don't use liquid insecticide or you could cause bud drop or malformed flowers once they finally open.

Watering will probably be needed once a day from now on, preferably in the morning depending on weather conditions.

The regular feeding programme can be continued with the addition of a little extra potash to help form the newly developing flower spikes.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2013) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

We have experienced a very hot, dry summer and there is very little sign of letup as yet. This should, however, be just around the corner. Until such time continue with your summer culture.

When the true autumn weather arrives it will need a change in culture. As it ought to be cooler and more humid, the frequency of watering can be reduced, as well as stopping any watering in the evenings, so as to allow the plants to dry out before nightfall. The necessity to water a plant can be gauged by lifting up the pot and comparing the weight of a recently watered plant with what it felt before watering. Cattleyas in general do not like to have their roots wet all the time, but prefer a wet/dry cycle. Remember too, that the plant is only as good as its root system.

Fertilisation with a high Potassium, low Nitrogen formulation can be used fortnightly as growth will be slowing down with Winter approaching.

Mature pseudo bulbs should be staked erect so that any buds or flowers will present well on opening. If you use a malleable stake, take the stake to the errant bulb, rather than the other way round, as the latter could cause the bub to fracture. Over a couple of days or a week or two, gradually straightening the stake can move a pseudo bulb from almost a flat position to an upright one, without damaging the bulb. If circumstances dictate that a plant has to be moved, try and place it in its new position at the same angle to the brightest light source as it was previously. If the weather turns, becomes more cloudy and there is a decrease in sunlight, you can also think about removing some of the shade applied in summer.

Keep a close lookout for pests and deal with them promptly.

Any unfinished potting on or repotting should be completed by mid-May, as growth will be slowing markedly from now on.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2013) by Trevor Burnett

With the development of cooler conditions, any summer shading can be gradually removed.

As the conditions cool, reduced watering will also be necessary. I personally, reduce my watering back to twice a week, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days when watering will need to be monitored.

As the plants growth starts to slow, the fertilizer programme needs to be adjusted, going on to a fortnightly or monthly basis for small plants, depending on your time constraints, at ¼ to ½ strength.

Over the past few years I actually cut out all fertilizing for flowering size plants, as I have found that more plants tend to send up flowers if they are not receiving fertilizer in this period.

This is also the time of the year that we start to see and enjoy the fruits of our years growing, with plenty of the early flowers now beginning to appear. As flower spikes appear, mark the pot with a wooden skewer with a piece of foam on the top, so you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower. This also serves as a reminder to be careful when moving or cleaning nearby plants so as not to knock the valuable, long awaited buds off.

With buds appearing, this is the time to flush out any snails or slugs that may be in hiding, just waiting for your prize plant to bloom so they can start their festive season with nice flowers to munch. If you do not wish to use chemical based baits, you can simply cut up some lemons and place them around the benches. The lemon does not kill any snails or slugs, but it does attract them. Once you know their whereabouts, you can easily eradicate them with a number 10 shoe, or in my case a number 7.

Continue to remove any dead leaves from plants and also have a general cleanup of the area.

I would ensure that all my small plants that are not expected to flower are repotted to ensure they have a nice clean open mix before going into winter. Winter and wet feet do not mix.

Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth on 22 March 2013

Welcome: The President Mrs Lorna Dodd opened the meeting at 8.05 pm welcoming visitors & members.

Apologies: As per Register

Minutes: Moved M Davis seconded V Seaman that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: Nil.

Confirmation: Moved E Dixon seconded R McGrath that the Business Arising has been resolved. Carried.

Correspondence:

- Email exchange with City of Cockburn, to provide our details for their database.
- From Garden Clubs of Australia: invoice for insurance premium (\$180 for 91-120 members); info about our insurance policy with LTM Risk Partners (potting mix and repackaged garden products not covered!); and info about their biennial convention (Ballarat, 15-18 Sept 2013)
- Email exchange with Carolyn Langdon, Shawford Lodge (aged care facility) regarding speaker for 15 May
- From Australian Orchid Foundation (info about the Foundation, how to make tax-deductible donations, Essay Prize for 2013 (Topic: "How I became interested in orchids"), publications for sale.
- From WAROO, generic (WAROO policy-type) info about Intersociety Challenge
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids, etc.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Business arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved T Seaman seconded T Burnett that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

Financial Statement: I Duncan presented the Financial Statement.

Accounts for Payment: Copyworld \$16.79; L Dodd \$27.09.

Confirmation: Moved B Burnett seconded E Burgess that the Financial Statement be received and Accounts for Payment be endorsed. Carried.

New Member: Robin Dalziell was welcomed back to OSWA after a long absence.

Reports:

- **OJPWA** (T Burnett): New schedule for monthly meetings and shows OJPWA meeting until next February.
- **Open Day** (K Baylis): The Open Day at Murray and Arni's place went exceptionally well and raised \$169. New members were especially encouraged to come along to Open Days, to see how others grow their orchids and enjoy the good company of fellow OSWA members.
- **WAROO** (T Burnett): At the recent WAROO meeting, payment of 1991 conference funds (in two cheques) to WAROO was acknowledged and the minutes of the previous WAROO meeting are to be corrected accordingly. The AOC Conference audit report was tabled but not accepted due to some anomalies and GST having not yet been paid. WAROO is now seeking ideas for ways to use the accumulated conference funds (return to the member orchid clubs is not permitted). It was suggested that funds may be able to be used to subsidize costs of the Intersociety Challenge, or to cover the costs of the OJPWA.

Confirmation: Moved B Burnett seconded S Lyster that the Reports be received. Carried.

General Business:

- **Shed Cleanup Day and Sausage Sizzle:** Sunday 28 April from 10 am. "McDougall Park" Clydesdale St, Como
- **OSWA Constitution** (M Baker, T Burnett). Our Constitution is in need of thorough revision. T Burnett and I Duncan have produced a draft of a new constitution, which, along with the old constitution, will be distributed to financial members for consideration at least 30 days prior to the May GM.
- **Intersociety Challenge** (B Burnett): The Challenge will be held in Geraldton on the first weekend in August (Sat 3 and Sun 4 August). This will be another great social event with some orchids included for good measure. Setup on Saturday morning, judging on Saturday afternoon, Challenge dinner (\$35-40, at the Wintersun Hotel) Saturday night. Geraldton Orchid Society has arranged for discount rates at several hotels.
- Members were saddened to hear from B Rensen that **Ken Gorey** is in hospital again and that his condition has worsened.
- **Autumn Show:** Volunteers were called for to man our display at Stockland Riverton, 8-11 May.
- **Little Aussie Directory:** L Dodd noted that it was great to see OSWA's entry in the latest Directory and K Baylis thanked M Baker for arranging the entry on short notice. Two visitors learnt of OSWA from the Directory and attended tonight's meeting.
- L Dodd thanked the **Ladies in the Kitchen** who had prepared tea and coffee and brought hot crossed buns for supper.

Popular Vote:

Open: Blc Yen Corona 'Green Genius', owners J & B Rensen

Novice/Junior: Cym. Chocolate Drop 'Kodama', owners M & A Davis.

Raffle: L Dodd, Pam Digiovanni (visitor)

Door Prize: B Burnett.

(Plants not available--to be presented to winners at the April meeting)

Evening's Program: Natural Remedies for Orchids: Trevor Burnett. Trevor gave a fantastic presentation on simple remedies mostly using common household products to treat a range of orchid pests and diseases. There was something for everyone and the presentation was appreciated by novices and experts alike.

Meeting closed at 9:55 pm