

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 23rd August 2013 Commencing at **8:00 pm**

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lorna Dodd

FORUM ON POTTING MIXES

SECRETARY

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 2nd
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 6th
General Meeting 7.30 pm Friday 27th

TREASURER

Mr. I. Duncan
Tel. 9364 5439

REGISTRAR & BULLETIN EDITOR

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Birthdays:

August: 18th – Tom Dixon **19th** – Judith Keogh **26th** – Meg Brown

September: 14th – Bob Longmore

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list, may you soon be well. Our best wishes go to Roy and Meg Brown who are both currently in hospital.

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

New Members: Chris Sloane, (Carlisle), Samantha Casey, (Tuart Hill), Marie-Louise Malcolm, (Cottesloe)

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:

- **Plant Auction:** an auction of plants from the collection of Roy Brown will be held at 28 Winfield St., Melville, at 10 am on Sunday 25th August.
- **Plant Raffle:** Tom Dixon has kindly donated a large plant of Den. Hilda Poxon, to the Society. This will be raffled, with tickets at \$2.00 ea., being sold at the next two General Meetings (August & September). See the picture at the end of the Bulletin.
- **Spring Show:** to be held at Kardinya Park Shopping Centre. Set-up Tuesday 27th August from 6-7 pm. Break-up Saturday 31st August at 4.30 pm. Plant sales daily.
- **Royal Show:** Set-up Friday 27th September at 11 am. We will need people to man the display from Saturday through to Saturday. Also we will need someone to tow the trailer on Sunday 6th October at 8 am and to help with the dismantling of the display.
- **Potting Workshop:** 20th October at the Scout Hall, Pilgrim St. South Perth. We will need potters, speakers, and helpers for the door and potting money and kitchen helpers.
- **Home Open:** Sunday September 15th at Maxine Godbeer's residence, 2195 Hidden Valley Rd, Parkerville from 11am. All are welcome to attend the Sausage Sizzle at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Oswa will supply sausages, onions & buns, could members please bring a salad or sweet to share. Tea and coffee supplied. Prayers for a fine day would not go astray!!!
- Any Member who has sick or marked plants and would like an opinion on them, is encouraged to bring them in to a meeting and see a committee member.

Dates for your Diary

Annual Christmas Dinner Saturday 7 December 2013 at RAAF Bull Creek

Vale Merle Arrah – 1st August 2013

Bernie and Merle were once members of OSWA. Merle was a very active member of Northern Districts Orchid Society, holding positions at various times as Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Member. Merle loved the Paphiopedilum Group and this showed with the beautiful Paphs. that she grew, showed and with which she won many prizes and awards.

What a great job she did as Secretary for the 19th AOC Orchid Conference held in Perth, in September 2012. With Bernie in hospital at this time, Merle was a busy bee visiting him in hospital and still continuing her activities as Secretary. Such a vibrant, happy, loyal, hard working and lovely lady, who will be missed by all who had any contact with her.

Perhaps Merle, John Fleming, Ken Gorey and Jean Herbert can start a Paphiopedilum Group in Heaven.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernie, Andrew, Matt and families.

Goodbye Merle.

From President, Committee and Members of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

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

Class 1B (1)	1. Phil Taylor	Rlc. Sweet Margaret
Class 1F (1)	1. John & Dorothy Walton	Brassavola David Sander
Class 2C (1)	1. Phil Taylor	Cym. Khan Flame 'Mocca'
Class 4C (2)	1. Ian Duncan	Den. Chela Colors FCA
	2. Ian Duncan	Den. Shavin White x <i>Den. discolor</i>
Class 6E (1)	1. John & Dorothy Walton	Onc. Space Race
Class 10B(5)	1. Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum wenzellii</i>
	2. Ian Duncan	<i>Coelogyne speciosa</i>
	3. Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum tenellum</i>

Schokman Trophy Points: Rlc. Sweet Margaret (80pts) – Phil Taylor

Popular Vote: Open – Brassavola David Sander – John & Dorothy Walton

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013) by Roy Brown

Time is running towards the Spring months, and this means more and more of our Cymbidiums will be opening their flower buds, so see to it the racemes are staked properly and securely. Some varieties need no staking as they have thick, upright stems that are self-supporting, but others will need to be tied to stakes. When doing this, place the stake as near to the flower stem as possible. Tie the stem firmly, but not too tightly as it will continue to lengthen and must not be hindered in its growth. If you intend to exhibit the plant in any of the societies orchid shows, then do not allow the stake to be higher than the flower stem.

Repotting should now be in full swing. As the early plants finish flowering, a start can be made on dividing and repotting these. This will give the plant the benefit of a full years growth in the pot, and should enable the plant to make up its new bulbs in time to produce its early flowers again next season. Any plants that are not going to flower this season can also be repotted. This will allow you more time later on in September to repot, as their turn comes, plants that are now in spike.

Keep watch for any insect pests, just one slug, snail or caterpillar can ruin the whole spike and your whole 12 months effort, Baysol is the best remedy for slugs and snails.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

We are now coming into the blooming season where the last of your plants will complete their annual flowering. To present the flowers well, make sure the pseudo bulbs are tied vertically and the emerging buds face towards the main source of light. Be careful with watering, as water remaining on the flowers at nightfall may lead to spotting with Botrytis fungus, ruining your display. If there are any bud sheaths that hold water, peel them open or remove them altogether. To avoid spotting, water them early in the morning on a bright day, so they can dry off by nightfall. Good luck with your efforts.

This is also the time to think of repotting. Gather together the pots and potting mix you will require. Your choice of mix should be based on the time you can spare to thoroughly water your plants, thinking especially of summer when it is hot and you would rather stay inside than out. Also think in terms of how long you would like to go between potting. The finer the mix it tends to break down faster and this means more frequent potting. Also smaller plants will need a finer mix than adult flowering ones. Finer mix also holds more water and less air between the particles. Repotting should start as soon as you see new roots appearing from the pseudo bulbs and before they get longer than 2-3 cm.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013) by Trevor Burnett

The plants have expended considerable energy in producing and supporting flowers. The early variety flowers will now be coming to an end. It is time now to look towards the task of repotting and replacement of the growing medium for the following reasons:

- a) The plant has grown too large for the existing container
- b) Potting material has broken down and must be replaced
- c) Plant has naturally divided into two pieces
- d) Have purchased plants (from various sources) in flower through the flowering season

Paphiopedilum are repotted in a variety of growing medium that are generally bark or wood chip based. Most plants require repotting every 2nd year for larger pots or more often if in smaller pots. Small plants respond to repotting more frequently with increased growth.

The watering habit of the grower will influence mix selection. If you are a compulsive user of water and have difficulty in withholding watering, then you will need a more open mix to allow for plants to dry out a little between watering. On the other hand, someone who is sparing with watering or is away from home for a period, may require a finer mix that is able to retain water longer. A finer mix can be obtained by using the basic bark mix and adding some sphagnum moss to the mix.

My programme comes back to 10 days between watering.

My general mix that I use is:

- a) 4 parts clean bark
- b) 1 part charcoal
- c) 1 part polystyrene or perlite

Text books recommend growing the plants in small pots but I, personally, do not like bonsai, so I grow my plants in larger pots (130mm or 140mm) and get good results. I believe you obtain larger growths which at the end of the season results in larger and stronger flowers.

I also make a habit of repotting any new orchids purchased, swapped etc. into my own medium as soon as possible. A lot of the time members purchase plants from many sources and leave them in existing mix as the mix looks fine. This is a trap, as your watering and fertilizing programme is developed for your mix and conditions. It is extremely hard to manage when you have a variety of mixes in varying degrees of decomposition.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth on 26 July 2013

Welcome: Open 8.05 pm. Welcome to members and visitors.

Apologies: As per register

Minutes: Moved k. Baylis, seconded J. Walton that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried**

Business Arising:

- Winter Show had lots of beautiful flowers but attendance by the public was low.
- Casserole night was tremendous and enjoyed by all who attended, including four new members.

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

Key Correspondence: (list placed on Notice Board)

- From AOC: Agenda for AGM and related papers, and invoice for affiliation fees
- Thank you card from Ellen Dixon
- Email from Quokka/West Australian about advertising for OSWA
- Email exchange with Garden Clubs about our contact details
- Email exchange with AOS about our contact and other details
- From Geraldton Orchid Society, info about the Intersociety Challenge
- From City of South Perth, re hire of venues for meetings and shows
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids ec.
- Received: Society Bulletins & junk mail

Business Arising: Nil

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

Financial Statement: On Notice Board also summarised by I. Duncan

Confirmation: Moved I. Duncan, seconded P. Taylor that the Financial Statement be endorsed. **Carried**

New Members: Mrs. Margaret Bower (Melville), Mrs. Helen Reynolds (Kardinya) and Mrs. Pam DiGiovanni (Applecross) were welcomed to the society and received their Ezi-Gro vouchers

Reports:

- T. Burnett gave a brief report on judging matters and noted that a South Eastern Orchid Society show was scheduled for the night of our August GM

General Business:

- **OSWA Constitution: Motion:** That the proposed changes to the Constitution (outlined in May Bulletin) be passed in full. Moved R. McGrath, seconded K. Baylis. For: 18 Against:1. A count confirmed that the meeting was quorate (20 members in attendance and signed in register) and the changes were approved by over 75% of members present. **Carried**
- **Upcoming Shows:** Kardinya 28-31 August; Royal Show 28 Sept.-5 October. Members were urged to prepare for the shows and sign up on the roster of times to look after the displays
- **Intersociety Challenge:** K.Baylis outlined plans for the upcoming Challenge at Geraldton
- **Morning Tea:** to be held at the Burnett residence, as in Bulletin
- **Winter Show:** Prize money was given to award winners.

- H. Reynolds asked whether OSWA had considered giving information about growing orchids and other plants to schools. Item to be revisited for discussion in the future.

Raffle: J. Baylis, R. McIntosh.

Door Prize: D. Walton

Popular Vote: J&D Walton, Brassavola David Sander. John described this plant as the most difficult seedling he's ever grown, from a flask obtained 5 years ago. Only 5% of the plantlets survived. This specimen had a single striking flower. John fertilizes it twice a week while in flower, but will then switch to high N later, then back to high K fertilizer in February.

Special Raffle (thanks to Rod Pohl for his generous donation of plants): J. Krishnan (x2), P. Taylor (kindly donated plant to Helen Reynolds) M. baker (kindly donated plant to Margaret Bower), I. Duncan, P. DiGiovanni

Evenings Programme: Auction.

Thanks to members who brought in plants on a night of inclement weather, especially Rod Pohl for his generous donation of Dendrobium orchids and cacti, and thanks also to T. Burnett our auctioneer, K. Baylis his assistant, and I. Duncan recorder of winning bids.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Tom Dixon's Dendrobium Hilda Poxon "Freckles", to be raffled at the September GM. Tickets \$2 each, during August and September.

