

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
Commencing at **8:00 pm**

PATRON: Mr Trevor Burnett

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:
AGM – WINE & CHEESE NIGHT**

PRESIDENT

Mrs K. Baylis
Tel. 9337 6210

MARCH MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 4th
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 1st
General Meeting 6.30 pm Friday 22nd

SECRETARY

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

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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

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Birthdays:

February: 6th – Maxine Perry 7th – Jim Baylis 11th – Nancie Jones 25th – Betty Rensen

March: 9th – Bob Jones 11th – Merrilyn Brechin 14th – Maree MacDonald 19th – Jack Rensen, John Walton 24th – Raye McIntosh 25th – Lorna Dodd 26th – Kaye Baylis, Peggy Stacy

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. 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: Nil

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.
- **January 2013 General Meeting:** BBQ at Kaye & Jim Baylis' home. A great night was enjoyed by all who attended. This evening was a great way to start the year. Thank you all those who came along.
- **The February Meeting is also our AGM and the election of Office Bearers.** You must be a financial member in order to vote, and now would be a good time to consider nominating someone for a position in the society or consider joining the committee yourself. **We also need a President** so please think about this.
- **The President, Committee & Members of OSWA** would like to wish Merle Arrah all the best in her recovery
- **A Home Open visit** is to be held at the home of Murray & Arni Baker – 58 Gladstone Rd Leeming Ph. 9310 2800, on 17th March. A sausage sizzle is provided, please bring a salad or sweet to share, BYO drinks, chair & a little something for the raffle. Tea & coffee will be provided. Cost is \$5 per head. Any time from 11 am, come along & see how someone else grows their orchids, chat, & maybe see a solution to a problem that may work for you too.
- **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.

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

I hereby nominate

for the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination for the position of

.....

Signed.....Date.....

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:

Home Open 17 March 2013 at Murray & Arni Baker's home

Fund Raiser Sausage Sizzle at Masters 16 June 2013

Casserole Night Saturday 20 July 2013

Annual Christmas Dinner Saturday 7 December 2013

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013) by Roy Brown

These are very hot months, with the temperatures in the high 30's or low 40's, so regular use of the sprinklers are an absolute must. Create as much humidity as possible, keeping the pots and the area around your plants as damp as possible.

It's my opinion the next month or two are the most important ones for the successful flowering of cymbidiums. **THE NEW GROWTHS MUST BE KEPT GROWING, SO THEY WILL BULB UP IN TIME TO PRODUCE THEIR FLOWER SPIKES.** To do this they will need as much light as they can take without actual burning of the leaves, plenty of fertilizer and water.

For those who grow their plants under 50% Sarlon Shade Cloth, you will find the plant's leaves have become a yellowy-green colour. This is mainly because of the bright light we experience here in WA, the skies being cloudless during the summer months. Provided the bulbs are nice and plump and the plants are healthy, this yellowing is a good sign that the plants should flower this season. A plant grown under too heavy shade conditions will have dark green, lush foliage and will not produce as many spikes of flowers as one that has been grown under bright sunlight.

If you find your plants are troubled with red spider mite, thrips, scale etc. then give them a spray with insecticide. It's during the next couple of months that the flower spikes are produced, and it is a good idea to have them free from all insect pests well in advance, so no harm will come to the young flower spikes when they emerge.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

February and March are usually the hottest months in the year for us in the West. This means keeping up with the cultural practices employed in the summer, mainly shading the plants and providing sufficient moisture and fertilizer to them. Beware though, that Cattleyas, by and large, benefit from alternating dry and wet periods. This means not watering them unless loss of weight of the potted plant indicates that water is needed. I was reminded of this when, recently, I had to repot a plant that was growing out of the pot in many spots. Although previously potted in bark of a large size, the mix was wet through and through from the watering I had from the day before. When a plant is growing over the edge of the pot, another technique to use is to place another pot full of mix under the overgrowth, so that roots can establish before repotting in Autumn or Spring.

At this time also start to look for flowering sheaths or buds appearing on mature, new growths. When spotted, move them into an area free of pests and away from water dripping on them. If moved, make sure the buds point in the same direction they were in before you moved them. Many Autumn flowering plants will now be showing buds and sheaths so be on the lookout for them.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013) by Trevor Burnett

These are the months when the weather can usually be expected to have some excessively hot days. At this time of the year I water 3 times a week, early in the morning with overhead sprinklers, so the plants are well saturated. This will allow time for the plants to dry out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burn. This will also ensure the plants are dry before nightfall.

Some growers may be tempted to water on hot evenings but I, personally, avoid this at all cost. Water left in the axis of the leaves at night only encourages rot and water borne disease. I find if the plants are watered heavily the next morning, they seem to thrive on the fact they have been forced to dry out somewhat overnight.

If excessive heat is forecast over consecutive days, you will need to watch plants in small pots and increase the watering as necessary. Watering is highly dependent on the composition of your potting mix and its ability to retain moisture. For beginners, a test pot of just potting mix in the growing area is recommended, until you understand the water holding capacity of your mix. You can empty the pot at any stage to see what water has been retained. The mix should be just moist throughout the bottom half of the pot.

As the plants are still in active growth, keep a weak fertilizing programme going on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time constraints, with a ¼ to ½ strength high nitrogen based fertilizer. This is in order to maximize the new growths before the flowering season. Ensure that you flush the mix with water between fertilizing, which will flush out any excess salts.

In the glasshouse, the use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels, on very hot days. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is essential for the plant's health, is available in the glasshouse.

Do not remove any extra shade that you may have installed over the summer months.

Little more than half 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.

Monthly Competition Winners - 2012

Nov.- P. Taylor - Psychopsis papilio x Kalihi 'Green Valley
 Dec. M.Brechin - Lc.Dellensis 'Eloquere' x L. purpurata var. shusteriana
 Jan.- no competition
 Feb. - H. Tan - Paph. It's Doll 'HT'
 Mar. - M. Brechin - Enc. radiata
 April - J&K Carless - Z. Kiwi Choice x Hmwsa. Oakbank
 May - I. Duncan - Den. Madame Udomsri
 June - P&S Masters - Blc. Honolulu Lulu
 July - M. Godbeer - Dendrochilum tenellum
 Aug. - G. Marsh - Den. Jesmond Sparler x Greg Hall
 Sept. - J&B Rensen - Dpts. Mount Lip
 Oct. - C. Rogasch - Cym. Peewee

Trophy Winners - 2012

The Lester Schokman Memorial Trophy. (Cattleya - most points awarded throughout the year)
 A & O'Callaghan L. purpurata 74 points
 Harold Hill Memorial Trophy (Best Phalaenopsis - Spring Show)
 J & B Rensen Phal. Orchid World "Bonnie Vasquez"
 Cypripedium Championship Perpetual Trophy (Best Paphiopedilum -Winter Show)
 M Godbeer. Paph. Fanaticum
 Vera Kennedy Perpetual Trophy (Novice Aggregate Points for the Year)
 M & A Davis. 27 points
 Vicki Browne MBE Perpetual Trophy (Champion Terrestrial Species or Hybrid - Spring Show)
 G Marsh. Pterostylis barbata
 Cymbidium Championship Perpetual Trophy (Champion Cymbidium - Spring Show)
 G Marsh. Cym. Darcy Hero
 J & C Sullivan Trophy (Best Specimen Plant Australian Native Hybrid or Species - Spring Show)
 P Taylor. Den. Moondarra x Den. speciosum var. curvicaulie
 George Marshall Trophy (Open Aggregate Points for the Year)
 M Godbeer. 108 points
 W & L Janney Perpetual Trophy (Best Pure Colour Cymbidium - Spring Show)
 P Taylor. Cym. (Pure Ransom x Pure Destiny) x Mem Merv Dunn No. 8
 Jim Grantham Memorial Trophy. (Best Phragmipedium of the Year)
 M Godbeer. Phragmipedium. Grande 74 points
 Ken Rex Memorial Trophy. (Highest Aggregate Points - Novice Section Spring Show)
 M Donald
 Judges Choice Plant of the Month - Overall Winner at General Meetings
 H Tan Paph. It's Doll HT 81 points
 Junior (Most Points for the Year)
 D Mitchell. 9 points
 AOC Most Pre Eminent Entry at the Autumn Show
 P & S Masters Onc. Yurla x (Hamilton Gold x Crispum)
 AOC Most Pre Eminent Entry at the Winter Show
 M Godbeer. Den. tenellum
 AOC Most Pre Eminent Entry at the Spring Show
 G Marsh. Den. Moondarra x Den. speciosum var. curvicaulie