

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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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 May 24 2013
Commencing at **8:00 pm**

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lorna Dodd

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:

**NEUTROG PRESENTATION BY BRIAN
KLEPZIG**

JUNE MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 3rd
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 6th
General Meeting 7.30 pm Friday 27th

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Birthdays:

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

June: 2nd – Tom Seaman 9th – Fred Herbert, Edna Burgess 17th – Maggie Longmore, Liu Shea Pohl

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

Vale: Ken Gorey

Ken, passed away 14th May 2013, was an old ex member of OSWA. A real fine gentleman now at rest. Ken was a very knowledgeable and always willing to share what he knew about Orchids. He had a beautiful collection of Orchids and Ken's set up for growing his Orchids was one to be very proud of. Maureen and Ken would always welcome you to their home and were happy to answer questions on Orchids and to show you around the Orchid house. Ken was one of the world's true gentlemen, and will be sadly missed by all his friends in the Orchid World. Ken's many talks at our meetings were very informative and interesting. Our sympathy and prayers are with Maureen and family. Ken having known you we are all better people and Orchid Growers. Thanks Ken.

The President, Committee and Members The Orchid Society of W.A (Inc)

General News:

- **About the May General Meeting:** At the May meeting, we have two important things to deal with: **updating of our constitution** and a presentation by **Brian Klepzig** (Neutrog Australia). Brian always gives an entertaining talk, and will have free samples of Neutrog products, so you won't want to miss this meeting. In a new meeting format, Brian will give his presentation before the tea break. During the tea break, voting for the popular vote will take place as usual, and members will have an opportunity to chat with Brian. General OSWA business, raffles, winners of the popular vote, and so on, will take place after the tea break. The big item of business this month is the updating of our constitution (circulated with last month's bulletin) and we need a quorum, so please come prepared to vote on the changes.
- **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.
- **A fund raising event** will be held at Masters Home Improvement, North Lake Rd, Bibra Lake (opposite Adventure World) on 16 June 2013, 11 am - 2 pm (plus time for setup and pack up). We will need helpers in cooking & selling the sausage sizzle. Further info will be provided at the May general meeting. 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.
- **OSWA Morning Tea:** The next Coffee Morning will be held at the home of Raye McIntosh, 10.30 am, at 39 Hines Rd, O'Connor. All members are welcome to come along for a social morning.

Dates for your Diary**Show dates – 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 Sunday 18 September 2013 at Maxine Godbeer's****Annual Christmas Dinner Saturday 7 December 2013****MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (APRIL 2013)****OPEN:**

Class 4B (1) 1. Ian Duncan	Den. Hot Lips x Den. Kuranda Classic x Den. Asternova Storm
Class 4C(1) 1. Ian Duncan	Den. Taffeta 'KK'
Class 6A (2) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen 2. NAS	<i>Onc. splendidum</i>
Class 6E (1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen	Pps. Butterfly
Class 7A (1) 1. Murray & Arni Baker	<i>Haraella retrocalla</i>
Class 7B (1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen	V. Gordon Dillon x Ascda. Yip Sum Wah
Class 11B (1) 1. Murray & Arni Baker	<i>Ctsm. pileatum</i> x Ctsm. Marsh Hollow
Class 12A (1) 1. Ian Duncan	Blc. California Girl 'Orchidlibrary'

Novice:

Class 15B (3) 1. Val Cooper 2. Val Cooper 3. Gloria Talbot	C. Portiata 'Mel' L. Kalli Blue 'Delft Beauty' Blc. Burdekin Girl
Class 22A (1) 1. Mal & Ann Davis	<i>Den. bigibbum</i> 'Dark Beauty' x <i>Den. bigibbum</i> 'Brian's White'

Schokman Trophy Points: Blc. California Girl 'Orchidlibrary' (73 pts) – Ian Duncan

Popular Vote: Open – *Den. bigibbum* var. *superbum* – Ian Duncan

Novice – Blc. Burdekin Girl – Gloria Talbot

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

During May some of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheaths on the stem. Once they reach the stage where flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into the flowering house, where more protection can be given them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flower and this too will cause a blemish.

Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering house like a glass house. This could be the reason for bud drop. Give them overhead protection from the heavy rain and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't overcrowd your plants, if possible give them plenty of room between each pot.

By the end of May we can expect cold, wet wintery weather. Watering will depend on the weather but don't let the pots become dry, particularly those in spike, and those under cover.

Keep the shade house and flowering house well baited with Baysol pellets for slugs and snails, particularly now that flower buds are showing.

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

Autumnal weather has at last been established with cool nights and warm days. This has meant that plants that flower in the autumn have begun to do so with plenty of blooms. As always, culture of your plants will be dependent on the prevailing weather. Because of the cold there will be a slowing of activity in the plant, so watering needs will lessen and fertilization can be reduced to once a month or so. This is not a good time for repotting unless the mix in the pot has deteriorated badly, or new roots are being formed over the edge of the pot. In the latter instance, an alternative is to place the whole plant in a larger pot without disturbing the mix, and fill the remaining space with moist, fresh mix. Repotting can then be completed in the spring. The other method is to place a pot full of mix beneath the roots spilling over so they can establish themselves and not be air pruned, as would otherwise occur. As the intensity of the sun now declines, all shading can be removed and the plants will benefit from the increased light and warmth.

To protect the flowers from spotting with Botrytis, try and maintain a good flow of air around the plants by hanging them up or having a fan blowing gently over them. The flowers also need protection from snails and slugs by placing baits in the pots and near the flower sheath. Also keep water off the flowers by hand watering into the pot and growing the flowering plants where they are out of reach of the rain.

After flowering, plants can be grown in an area where they can experience a rest period during which they receive little or no water, until they show signs of activity again with the appearance of new roots or a swelling of the bud at the base of the pseudo bulb.

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

Similar growing conditions as last month and as the conditions cool, reduced watering will be necessary. I personally, reduce my watering further to once every 10 days, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days, when watering may have to be adjusted. We would need to get 3-4 hot days in a row before I would adjust my watering programme.

We should be seeing a good proportion of our plants now producing spikes. The early flowering types will be well advanced and should be staked to prevent twisting and breakage, as the spikes will be soft and not fully set to support the flower.

The plant's growth will have started to slow considerably on the flowering plants, as all the effort is now being channeled into supporting the flowers. Fertiliser programmes need to be adjusted to a fertilizer with less Nitrogen and more Phosphate and Potassium, to improve the strength and quality of the flowers.

The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer at 1/4 to ½ strength, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, to keep the growth moving forward.

With more buds appearing weekly, continue staking plants using meat skewers, wire stakes or thin bamboo canes. If you decide to use wire, ensure the top is turned over to help protect your eyes from getting poked when working with the plants.

If you are moving plants to a different area to flower, ensure they are returned to the same orientation to the previous light source. Turning plants can cause flower stems to become twisted, spoiling the effect if you wish to enter them in the various shows.

My tip for the month is: If you are growing the plants without heat during the winter (as I do), keep the plants drier than usual as wet, cold conditions are often fatal to roots.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

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

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

Apologies: As per register

Minute's silence for Ron Brown: L. Dodd noted with sadness the passing of long-time member Ron Brown and said she was honoured to have represented OSWA at his funeral.

Minutes: Moved B. Rensen, seconded F. Herbert that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried

Business Arising: Nil

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

Correspondence:

- To Crown Content, update of OSWA details for their Association database
- From Garden City Plastics, their new contact details
- Email exchange with Neutrog, confirming Brian Klepzig to talk at the May GM (with free samples for all who attend)
- Email exchange with Carolyn Langdon, Shawford Lodge, (aged care facility) regarding a Speaker for 15th May (and apparently willing to pay)
- From Margaret River Orchid Society, info about their Committee and Annual Show
- From Geraldton Orchid Society, info about Inter-Society Challenge. Venue: Queen Elizabeth Centre, cnr Maitland & Durlacher Sts, Geraldton. Theme: Orchid Gateway
- From National Library of Australia, requesting a November 2012 Bulletin (copy sent by email)
- Email exchange with Garden Clubs of Australia, info about insurance and affiliation fees
- From Garden Clubs, info about their Biennial Convention (Ballarat)
- Card to Ken Gorey
- Email to Nado Lenkic, requesting his services as a Speaker at a GM
- Information from the Australian Orchid Foundation about the Foundation, its aims, publications, and ways to help the Foundation
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids, etc.

- Received: Society Bulletins & junk mail

Business Arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved R. Pohl, seconded F. Herbert that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried

Financial Statement: I Duncan presented the Financial Statement

Accounts for payment: Nil

Confirmation: Moved R. McGrath, seconded M. Perry that the Financial Statement be received. Carried

New Members: Nil

Reports: Nil**General Business:**

- **Inter-Society Challenge:** K. Baylis advised rates for some hotels in Geraldton and indicated there would likely be a booking made at the Wintersun Hotel on behalf of those OSWA members who had indicated they would be going to Geraldton. Members interested in going were advised to add their name to Kaye's list.
- **Shed Cleanup & sausage sizzle:** Sunday 28th April from 10 am, at McDougall Park, Clydesdale St, Como
- **Riverton Show:** K. Baylis & R. McGrath outlined the arrangements for the show.
- **OSWA Constitution:** L. Dodd reminded members that the Constitution is to be discussed at the May Meeting and asked that members read the proposed constitution and consider the proposed changes prior to that meeting.

Popular vote:

Open: *Den. Bigibbum var. superbum*, owner I Duncan. Ian grows this orchid in a glasshouse, in a mix of bark & bluemetal with a bit of charcoal. It receives frequent fertilizing in summer (a bit of slow release and then occasional high N fertilizer in early summer, switching to high K in Jan/Feb.)

Novice/Junior: *Brassolaeliocattleya Burdekin Girl*, owner G. Talbot. Gloria grows this orchid under shadecloth, and achieves success by fertilizing with lots of worm juice.

Raffle: M, Davis, R. McGrath.

Door Prize: I. Duncan

Winners from the March GM were also given their plants

Evening's programme: Tony Watkinson gave a fascinating demonstration of some of the unusual ways he grows orchids, including on wood and cork mounts, on cork floor tiles, on bits of gutter-guard mesh with bits of sponge to hold moisture, and in old shoes. He showed how Vandas can be grown with their roots kept in a large plastic bag - water in the bag keeps the humidity high around the roots. He also demonstrated growing many genera in various glass flasks (conical flasks, vodka bottles, jars etc.) with orchid roots quite happily growing into the water collecting in the bottom in small conical flasks. Tony has much success using this method to revive dehydrated and neglected orchids, and finds that algae growing in the water is not a problem.

Meeting closed at 9:59 pm.