

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, 27th September 2013, commencing at 8.00 pm

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lorna Dodd

**DE-FLASKING OF ORCHIDS – JOHN
WALTON**

SECRETARY

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

OCTOBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 7th
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 11th
General Meeting 8.00 pm Friday 25th

TREASURER

Mr. I. Duncan
Tel. 9364 5439

REGISTRAR & BULLETIN EDITOR

Mrs. M. Godbeer
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Birthdays:

September: 14th – Bob Longmore **October: 5th** – Nathan Carless 16th – Barbara Burnett

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: Lutetia Daniel (Willagee), Joyce Tan (Kardinya)

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 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).
- **Spring Show:** I would like to thank all members who helped with the setting up, manning the show and dismantling it. A special thank you to Rosemary and Ian for the great job they did on the Plant Sales Table. The Show was a little smaller than usual, but well received by the public and the shopping centre. Congratulations to all those who exhibited and also to those who won prizes.
- **Royal Show:** We will need helpers to man the display. Entry tickets are available to those who give 3 hours of their time. Plants to be at the Centennial Building at **11 am on Friday 27th September. Dismantling of the show is Sunday 6th October at 8 am.** If you can help out with towing the trailer on Sunday 6th October at 8 am, Please let Kaye know 9337 6210. If you need help getting plants to or from the show, please contact Murray 9310 2800.
- **Do you have vanilla orchids to spare?** OSWA regularly receives enquiries from members of the public wishing to purchase vanilla orchids. If you have a vanilla orchid or a division that you are willing to part with, let Murray know, 9310 2800.
- **Potting Workshop: 20th October 2013** at the Scout Hall, Pilgrim St. South Perth. Set-up 8 am, open to the public 10am – 4 pm. We will need helpers to collect money at the door, potters, speakers, kitchen workers and a money collector for potted plants. Members please offer your time to help the society. Refreshments available. **Plant sales** from 10 am to 4 pm Sunday 20th October.
- **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 & your chair. Tea and coffee supplied. This event will be over by the time you receive your Bulletins
- **Christmas Meeting will be on the 2nd Friday, 13th December at 8 pm.** Presentation of trophies and Christmas Festivities. Members to bring a plate of finger food to share. Drinks are supplied by OSWA.
- **Annual Christmas Dinner Saturday 7 December 2013 at RAAF Bull Creek. Further information will be in the next Bulletin.**
- **January General Meeting: Will be held on Friday 24th January 2014 at 6.30 pm.** This meeting is a **BBQ, BYO meat, chair, drinks & a salad or sweet.** This meeting will be held at Jim & Kaye Baylis' home, 18 Wheyland St (cnr Caple St.) Willagee. Bring along any problem plants, or anything special or simply one you need advice on how to grow. There is no Monthly Plant competition.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (August 2013)

Novice Class

Class 15? (1)	1. Rod Pohl	C. Unknown
Class 16? (1)	1. Rod Pohl	Cym. Unknown

Schokman Trophy points: C. Unknown (58 pts) – Rod Pohl

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

We are now entering into the Spring months when we see the majority of our Cymbidiums flowering once again. Also these are the months when the orchid societies hold their annual Spring Shows, so give your plants that are in spike that little extra care and attention, then enter them into the shows so that 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 up. Next, wipe the leaves over with a clean, damp, soft cloth. Trim 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 that those plants that need it are properly staked, so presenting 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 that the Show is to be set up, give your plants a good water as they may have to be on display for 3 or 4 days.

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

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013) from notes of the late 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 by 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 transfer to a bigger pot or whether they need to be divided. If division is contemplated, do not go for divisions of less than 4 mature bulbs each. If there appears not to be any new roots on the posterior divisions, the plant could be partially divided 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 a shady area of the shadehouse for a couple of weeks before returning it to its normal spot. You can fertilise the plant with something like Seasol before commencing its normal feeding after 3-4 weeks.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER) Trevor Burnett

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

23 August 2013

Welcome: Open 8.07 pm. Welcome to members and visitors.

Minutes Silence – Merle Arrah

Apologies: As per register

Evening's Programme: forum on Potting Mixes (Trevor Burnett. Many thanks to Trevor for showing and speaking about the various types of potting mixes currently used in Perth. John Walton also discussed the mix that he prefers to use. Regardless of the mix, it must be free draining and usually includes a medium like perlite to absorb moisture and to help keep the

roots cool and damp. New members were treated to potting a small plant. A very interesting evenings programme.

Intermission/Tea Break

Minutes: Moved P. Di Giovanni, seconded R. Pohl that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried**

Business Arising: None

Confirmation: Moved J. Walton, seconded H. Reynolds that the Business Arising has been resolved. **Carried**

Key Correspondence: (list placed on Notice Board)

- Orchid seed pods sent to Dr. Rami Arafeh (Palestine Polytechnic University)
- Email from Dog Swamp Shopping Centre, asking for info about our Shows (sent reply by email)
- Email exchange with American Orchid Society to provide info about OSWA's services to members
- Cards sent to Bernie Arrah and Fran & John Gilbertson
- From AOC (Jim Shaughnessy) advising Darwin AOC Conference dates moved to 1-6 July 2015
- Dept. Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs advising that our grant application was not successful (no useful info provided)
- Email exchanges with members of the public on miscellaneous matters of orchid identification, culture and sourcing.
- Received: Society Bulletins & junk mail

Confirmation: Moved R. Pohl, seconded J. Walton that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried**

Financial Statement: On Notice Board

Confirmation: Moved K. Baylis, seconded R. McCallum that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment be endorsed. **Carried**

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

Reports:

- Inter-Society Challenge – congratulations and thanks to all those who supplied and transported plants to Geraldton. Members who went had a great time. OSWA achieved First Overall. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of the Challenge and will be hosted by NDOS.

General Business:

- Roy Brown's plant auction this Sunday 25th August.
- Spring Show – helpers are still required. Entry cards, Schedules and Plant Sales tickets were available.

- Royal Show set-up is on the day of the September GM, 27th September at 11 am. Members are still needed to work at the Show, an Entry ticket is supplied. We need as many plants as possible for the Display to make a showcase display. Also we need a member to take the trailer on the Sunday for the take-down. Please contact Kaye 93376210
- Open House at Maxine Godbeer's home in Parkerville 15th September – details in the August Bulletin

Raffle: P. Di Giovanni, D. Walton, R. McGrath, S. Casey

Door Prize: R. Pohl who donated the prize to new member R. West. Prize Plants will be available at the next meeting.

Popular Vote: None due to lack of plants tabled.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm



Raffle plant of Den. Hilda Poxon - donated by Tom Dixon