

# 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 in the Collins St. Hall, cnr Collins St & Shaftesbury St. South Perth, Friday, 25 April 2014, commencing at **8:00 p.m.**

**PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett**

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs Kaye Baylis  
Tel. 9337 6210

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Tel. 9295 5448

**BULLETIN EDITOR**

Mrs R. McGrath  
Tel. 9367 9306

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:**

PREPARING PLANTS FOR ENTRY INTO  
SHOWS

**MAY MEETING DATES:**

Judging Panel  
OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 2nd  
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 23rd

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**website: [www.orchidsocietywa.net.au](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au)**

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## Birthdays:

**April:** –(Sorry but these were not listed in last month's Bulletin )

7<sup>th</sup> Rosemary McGrath, 10<sup>th</sup> Bernadette Campbell, 12<sup>th</sup> Karen Carless, 17<sup>th</sup> Mike Burgess, 24<sup>th</sup> Rod Pohl, 29<sup>th</sup> Ian Duncan

**May:** 7<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Walton, 9<sup>th</sup> Ellen Dixon,

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

**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:

- **Home Visit:** Many thanks to Murray & Arni Baker for opening their house to members. It was a very enjoyable day. We were very fortunate to learn how to test our pots for the correct PH level. These Home Open days are certainly not days to be missed. Thanks again Murray & Arni.
- **Shed Cleanup Day:** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at the OSWA shed in McDougal Park, on Clydesdale St., starting at 10am. Many hands make light work so please come along. Afterwards we will have a sausage sizzle lunch. Hope to see you there.
- **Autumn Show:** Stocklands Riverton. 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May. Set up is from 6.00 to 7.15pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, with judging to commence at 7.30pm. We would like members to endeavour to have at least 1 plant entered or a plant on display if you wish to sell plants on the Sales Table. Member Plant Sales are daily. We will need helpers to man the display. Entry tickets, Schedules & Sales Tickets will be available at the April Meeting. Dismantling of the show is Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm. **Please be aware that the Sales Table will finish at 3.30pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May.** If you can help out with manning the Show please ring Rosemary on 93679306.
- **Membership subscriptions: 2014 subs are now well overdue.** If you have not already done so please contact Ian Duncan on 9364 5439 re payment. \$26.00 for a Double & \$21.00 for a single membership.
- **Postage Price Increase:** If at all possible we would appreciate more members receiving their Bulletin by Email. If members would prefer to receive their Bulletin electronically then please contact Murray with your Email address, to save costs.

## Show Dates for 2014:

- **Autumn Show: Stocklands Riverton Shopping Centre** Cnr High Road & Willeri Drive  
Set up Tues 6<sup>th</sup> May (6.00-7.30pm) Judging 7.30 – 9.30pm  
Show 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May; Member Plant Sales daily
- **Winter Show: Scout & Guide Hall** Pilgrim Street, South Perth  
Set up Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> July (8.00 – 9.30am) – Judging 9.30 -11.30am  
Show 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July; Member Plant Sales daily
- **Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre** South Street, Kardinya  
Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> September, (6.00-7.30pm) Judging 7.30 – 9.30pm  
Show 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September; Member Plant Sales Thursday - Saturday
- **Perth Royal Show: Display at Claremont Showgrounds**  
Set up 26<sup>th</sup> September 11 am  
Show 27<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. Takedown Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October am
- **Potting Workshop: Scout & Guide Hall** Pilgrim Street, South Perth Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Workshop 10.00am until 4.00pm; Plants potted, sales, talks, display.

**MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (March 2014)****OPEN:**

Class 1A (1)	1. Ian Duncan	<i>Gur. bowringiana</i>
Class 1C (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Ctna. Maui Maid x C. Penny Kuroda
Class 6A (1)	1. Murray & Arni Baker	Psychopsis papilio
Class 8A (1)	1. Ian Duncan	<i>D. bigibbum</i>
Class 11B (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Z. Arthur Elle "Essendon"

**Novice:**

Class 15A(3)	1. Chris Sloan	<i>C. bowringiana</i>
	2. Merrilyn Brechin	<i>Enc. Radiata</i>
	3. Merrilyn Brechin	<i>C. bowringiana</i>
Class 20D(1)	1. Merrilyn Brechin	Oncidium Unknown
Class 25A(1)	1. Rod Pohl	Phrag. Longueville x Hanne Popow "Pink Daisy"

**Junior:**

Class 13B(1)	1. Dana Mitchell	C. Unknown
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Schokman Trophy Points: *Gur. bowringiana* (71 points) - Ian Duncan

**POPULAR VOTE**

<b>OPEN:</b>	Psychopsis Papilio	Murray & Arni Baker
<b>NOVICE:</b>	<i>C. bowringiana</i>	Chris Sloan

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2014)** 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 2014)** from notes of the late Henry Eaton

We have experienced a very hot, dry summer but now there may be some signs of a letup in those conditions. However until it does, you should 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 bulb 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 2014)** 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.

**The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**  
**Minutes of the General Meeting to be held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,**  
**on 28 March 2014**

**Welcome:** The President Mrs L Dodd opened the meeting at 8.04 pm welcoming visitors & members.

**Apologies:** As per Register

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8.05 pm for the AGM, reconvened at 8.45 pm with K Baylis as President.

**Minutes:** Moved N Jones seconded R McCallum that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

**Business arising:** Nil.

**Correspondence:**

- From Garden Clubs of Australia, advice about insurance premium
- Margaret River Orchid Society (info about 2014 office bearers)
- Australian Orchid Foundation info about publications
- From Steve Beere, offering 25 free cymbidiums
- From Courtney Rogasch, submission for next Bulletin re "Membership Drive Stockpile Process"
- OSNSW re their bid for WOC 2020
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids, show and meeting dates, etc.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

**Business arising:** Nil

**Confirmation:** Moved R Pohl seconded R McGrath that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

**Financial Statement:** I Duncan presented the Financial Statement.

**Confirmation:** Moved P Di Giovanni seconded M Brechin that the Financial Statement be received. Carried.

**New Members:** Nil

**Reports:**

- Judges Panel and WAROO: I Duncan updated members on the splitting off of the Bunbury judges from the judging panel and possible implications for the attendance of clubs at the Intersociety Challenge. He also noted that the shield for the Intersociety Challenge was full so a new one is required.

**General Business:**

- OSWA Constitution needs to be ratified again (at the April GM)
- Membership Drive Stockpile Process (C Rogasch): All orchid clubs have declining membership. In most clubs a handful of stalwarts to the bulk of the work but clubs cannot rely on them forever. Therefore, OSWA will be having a membership drive to recruit new members and get them involved in the club. There will be flyers to advertise that new members will receive three free orchids and the knowledge to grow them. Plants will come from a stockpile of donations from members. Courtney will maintain the records for the stockpile, but plants will remain at the donor's place until required. Any questions, donations of plants etc, should be directed to Courtney.
- Shed Cleanup in April (details in the Bulletin)
- Home visit at the Bakers' place, this Sunday (details in the Bulletin)

**Popular Vote:**

**Open:** *Psychopsis papilio*, owners M & A Baker.

**Novice:** *Cattleya bowringiana*, owner C Sloan.

**Raffle:** C Sloan, R Pohl.

**Door Prize:** R McCallum, who kindly donated her prize to our guest M Bright.

**Evening's Program:** Plant descriptions

**Meeting closed at 9:30 pm**