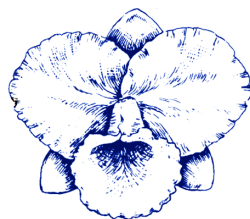


THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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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, 22nd August 2014, commencing at **7.30 p.m.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

ORCHIDS IN TAIWAN

HOWARD TAN & IAN DUNCAN

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 6th October
OSWA Committee **7:30 pm Fri 12th Sept.
General Meeting 7:30 pm Fri 26th Sept.

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Birthdays: August: 26th Meg Brown **September:** 14th Bob Longmore

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery & may you soon be well.

New Members: B & Z Anchugov, E Hastings, G Kenward. Welcome to the Society we hope your stay with us will be both enjoyable & rewarding.

Name Badges: If you haven't a name badge, please see Ian and let him know. Not all of our members are familiar with each other, so it is made easier if you are wearing a badge.

General News:

- **Members to bring in "Sick" plants for discussion to the August Meeting.**
- **Reminder that General Meetings will commence at 7.30pm on the 4th Friday of each month.**
- **Floraplant Visit:** Saturday 23rd August 10.00am 822 Rowley Road, Oakford. All welcome, an event not to be missed.
- **July General Meeting: Casserole Night:** An excellent occasion with good food, good company & lots of laughs during the Auction. Many thanks to Phil Taylor for his auctioneering expertise.
- **Inter Society Challenge:** 2nd & 3rd August. Report by Kaye Baylis: Firstly Congratulations to Northern Districts on the successful 25th Challenge. It was a great weekend & enjoyed by all who attended. Secondly but equally as good were the OSWA Members who attended, supplied plants & helped in any way. **A huge thank you.** OSWA won the Challenge by 2 points for the benched plants entered into the competition. We also won the Best Display. Thanks to Trevor & Barbara Burnett for all the behind the scenes bits & pieces, without your background work & expertise, I would not be able to keep ahead of what I have to do. To John & Karen, Rosemary, Ian, Maxine, Jim, Murray & also the members of OSWA who supplied plants – Jack, Betty, Merril, Howard, Judith, a big thank you from the President, Committee & Members of OSWA. I personally have a big thank you to Jim's & my grandson, Harley for helping to dismantle the Display.
Next year we will be -10 points, so we need the different genera so that we can enter plants in each class. Thank you everyone for your support with this great Social & fun event between Societies
- **Kardinya Spring Show:** We need as many plants as possible to make a really great Show. Set up is on Tuesday 2nd September Entries received 6.00-7.15pm. Plant Sales Wednesday 9.00am to Saturday 3.30pm Take Down of the Show is at 4.30pm As this is the week leading up to Father's Day, we would like a lot of plants on the Sales table. If anyone can assist in manning the Show please contact Rosemary.
- **Royal Show:** 27th September to 4th October Volunteers are required for manning the Display. Please contact Rosemary on 9367 9306, 0401508667 or rosemary.mcgrath71@gmail.com if you able to help even for a short time. I need names as soon as possible.
- **Orchids in Paradise:** Mackay Qld Friday 18th – Wednesday 23rd September 2015 – registration forms available at the August General Meeting,
- **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:

- **Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre** South Street, Kardinya
Setup: Tues 2nd September (6.00-7.15pm) Judging 7.30 – 9.30pm
Show: 3rd – 6th September; Member Plant Sales Wednesday - Saturday

- **Perth Royal Show: Display at Claremont Showgrounds**
Set up 26th September 11 am
Show 27th September to 4th October. Takedown Sunday 5th October am
- **Potting Workshop: Scout & Guide Hall** Pilgrim Street, South Perth Sunday 19th October
Workshop 10.00am until 4.00pm; Plants potted, sales, talks, display. Speakers & helpers needed!

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (May 2014)

OPEN:

Class 1B (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Rlc. Queen Elizabeth
Class 9A (1)	1. Ian Duncan	<i>P. aspera</i>
Class 10A (1)	1. Gillian Marsh	Den Jesmond Sparkler "Greg Hall"
Class 10B (3)	1. Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum. tenellum</i>
	2. Maxine Godbeer	<i>Dendrochilum wenzellii</i>
	3. Maxine Godbeer	<i>Cyroches warscewiczii</i>
Class 12 (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Cym Trinity Hall x Tracey Reddaway

NOVICE:

Class 15B (2)	1. Val Cooper	Blc. Lucky Strike x Tribute "Independence Day"
	2. Val Cooper	Blc. Kum Ma Nee Tong

Junior:

Schokman Trophy:

Blc. Lucky Strike x Tribute "Independence Day" 68 Points Owner – Val Cooper

Jim Grantham Memorial Trophy:

POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN:	Den Jesmond Sparkler "Greg Hall"	Owner – Gillian Marsh
NOVICE:	Blc. Kum Ma Nee Tong	Owner – Val Cooper

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JULY/AUGUST 2014) 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 year's 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 2014) 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 2014) 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 to be held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth, on 25 July 2014

Welcome: The President Mrs K Baylis opened the meeting at 7:39 pm welcoming visitors & members.

Apologies: As per Register

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

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- To Colliers International (invoice) and from Colliers International (payment) for Cottesloe Display
- From Terry the Concierge at Central Park Office Tower, enquiring about an Orchid Display for the building's foyer.
- Email exchange with Paula Fitzgerald, re selling orchids on consignment at OSWA's winter show.

- Email exchange with Jenna Coghill (RAS-WA) re OSWA's Display at Royal Show.
- Email from Paul Somers (Species Club) re Frank Vernon's Australian Native Dendrobium sale.
- Email exchange with Bruce Larson re need for new Intersociety Challenge trophy.
- NDOS: more info about Intersociety Challenge, and dinner tickets.
- Email from Colleen Wagenaar, seeking info and a piece of an orchid bred by Jack Ayres and registered as "Twinkle Toes" (Phalaenopsis?), which was named after her nickname.
- 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 McGrath seconded J Baylis that Correspondence be endorsed.

Carried.

Financial Statement: Provided by I Duncan.

Confirmation: Moved R McGrath seconded J Baylis that the Financial Statement be received.

Carried.

New Members: Nil

Reports:

- Cottesloe Display (K Baylis): The shopping centre was very pleased with our display, which included 103 plants. Thank you to members who brought plants for the display or the sales table, or helped look after the display.
- Winter Show (R McGrath): The show was very successful, with a beautiful display (87 competition entries + 10 for display only). Thank you to all members who helped out over the weekend, or brought plants for the show or the sales table. K Baylis thanked R McGrath for organising the show. I Duncan thanked members who helped at the sales table, and suggested that in future helpers should check with him first, because the sales table at events at the Scout and Guide Hall works differently to the sales table at events in shopping centres.
- Judging (M Godbeer): Recent judging included WJOS Show (Grand Champion Den Sharon Brown, Reserve Champion Blc Dream Trader)

General Business:

- K Baylis advised that plants are needed for the Intersociety Challenge (setup from 9 am, 2nd August, at Morley).
- Kardinya Show 3-6 September.

Meeting item #1: Casserole Night. Fine food and great company was enjoyed by all present. Accompanied by plant descriptions

Break for Popular Vote

Raffle: M Godbeer, R Pohl.

Popular Vote. Open: Den Jesmond Sparkler "Greg Hall" (Owner: G Marsh). **Novice:** C. Kum Ma Nee Tong (Owner: V Cooper)

Door Prize: J Baylis

Meeting item #2: Auction, with auctioneer extraordinaire P Taylor. Some excellent plants were sold at very reasonable prices.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm

Common Orchid Questions- Discussion Topics

(continued from last month)

T G Burnett

THE 10 REASONS WHY YOUR ORCHID WON'T REBLOOM

- #10: Young or Recently Divided Orchid
- #9: Soil is Too "Wet" During Winter
- #8: Certain Pests & Diseases
- #7: Not Enough Humidity
- #6: Overwatering in Cold Temperatures
- #5: Not Enough (or the Wrong) Fertilizer
- #4: Not Giving Your Orchid Enough Water
- #3: Not Giving Your Orchid Enough Light
- #2: LIGHT IS HARD TO MEASURE OBJECTIVELY
- #1: Day to Night Temp Change = Too SMALL!

#4: Not Giving Your Orchid Enough Water

- **UNDER-watering**
- your orchid can also be a reason why you might be having trouble getting blooms on your plant
- A quick and easy way to tell if you're under-watering is to gently remove your plant from the pot and take a look at the roots. Simply take a knife and gently scrape around the edges of the potting matter, put your hand over the potting matter, turn the pot over, and remove the plant. If you see dry and shriveled roots if your plant is not getting enough water. The potting material will be bone dry, and potentially even rock hard. Depending on the severity of the problem, you may need to remove some of the roots, and repot the plant in new potting matter, or you can try placing the plant back in the pot as is, and increase your watering schedule.

#3: Not Giving Your Orchid Enough Light

- How much LIGHT does your orchid need?" Let me start by saying that the bottom line is this: Orchids need light to thrive! So here's the next question for you: How do you know if you're giving your orchids ENOUGH light??" For many of us, when we bring a new orchid into our home, we tend to choose a spot where we can admire its blooms (and of course, show it off to our guests, right?). But when it comes to choosing a location for your plant (unless you plan on using artificial growing lights) finding a spot with adequate natural light should be one of your primary considerations. So, now that I've hopefully convinced you that proper light is critical to your orchid's development, we'll start by talking about why light can be a confusing topic and then, I'll go over few tips on how to avoid this confusion for good, and how you can make the question of "how much light?" easy as 1-2-3... But first, there are two reasons why the topic of light tends to be a bit confusing:

REASON #1: VAGUE TERMINOLOGY

- As I'm sure you already know - when you read about how much light ANY houseplant needs, typically you'll see books use terms like "bright light" or "partial shade"... and this is where the confusion starts, because let me ask you something: What does "partial shade" mean to YOU? Think about it for a minute. How many hours of shade every day? Morning or afternoon light? I bet if I asked that same question of 20 people, we'd get 20 different answers (and probably a couple blank stares...)
- VAGUE TERMINOLOGY** Because part of the problem is that sources that stick to these terms without further explanation can be confusing... (after all, how the heck are you supposed to know how bright is "bright"??)
- And terms like "partial shade" can be interpreted to mean any one of a hundred things. If only you had a *simple scale* that was completely simple... and which you and I could use to

speaking the same "language of light"...But that leads us to our second challenge when it comes to light, and that is...

#2: LIGHT IS HARD TO MEASURE OBJECTIVELY!

Light is not like water, for example, which we can easily measure in objective terms - like say cups or milliliters or temperature, which we can measure in degrees Fahrenheit, or Celsius.

And that's why we resort to using descriptive terminology when it comes to light.

With water, all we need is a simple measuring cup, if I say "2 cups" then you know EXACTLY what I'm talking about (unless you're using the metric system, but that's another issue)

However, when it comes to light, unless you own a device known as a "photometer" (which I'm going to venture and say you don't) then it's difficult to measure light intensity with the same precision that we can measure water or temperature.

A FEW SIMPLE TIPS

- Because while yes, it's true that light intensity can be difficult to measure without expensive scientific equipment... I however have several "home-made" ways you can measure light intensity yourself - using simple household items that you've probably have lying around the house right now. Super simple method - what I call the "quick and dirty" way to measure light. For our purposes, orchids typically fall into 3 broad categories for light: Low, Medium, and Bright light. Low light orchid examples include most Phalaenopsis (Moth) orchids and some Paphiopedilum (Slipper) orchids. Medium light examples include most Cattleya varieties and some Cymbidiums. Bright light orchids include Vandas and most Dendrobiums. Well, this is where our home-made light **measuring** techniques come in!
- THE "SHADOW TEST" FOR LIGHT...Here's what you need to do: Hold your hand 1 foot (30 cm) above your orchid's leaves, or the surface where your orchid will sit. Now take note of the shadow that's produced by your hand.
 - "Low" light shadow test: *No shadow* will be visible when you hold your hand 1 foot above the orchid's leaves or surface where the orchid will sit
 - "Medium" light shadow test: A *light grey shadow will be slightly visible* when you hold your hand 1 foot above the orchid's leaves or surface.
 - "Bright" light shadow test: A *dark grey shadow will be clearly visible* when you hold your hand 1 foot above the orchid's leaves or surface.
 Pretty simple, right? Now, you'll want to take a few "readings" at different times of the day - morning, mid-day, and late-afternoon - just to make sure you get a complete picture of your particular light conditions.

A FEW FINAL TIPS...Even for orchids that require "bright light", you should never place your orchids directly under hot, direct sun. This is because hot temperature levels (especially in the summer, or for extended periods) can potentially kill your plant.

And finally, remember that there is typically a significant reduction in light from the summer to winter seasons. So, you'll want to accommodate for this seasonal reduction in natural light by finding a brighter location in your home, or supplementing with artificial light during the darker winter months.

#2: Wrong Temperature (Too hot? Too cold?)

- Simply put: Orchids will ONLY rebloom when they are maintained in their preferred temperature range... Getting the temperature just right for your orchids can still sometimes be a challenge -- especially in parts of the world with extreme temperature fluctuations during the year.

- 3 TEMPERATURE CATEGORIES...When you're choosing an orchid for yourself, it's important to understand that orchids can be divided into three temperature categories, which we'll broadly define as: Cool, Intermediate, and Warm. The *night-time* temperatures that correspond with each of these categories are:
 - **Temperature (Too hot? Too cold?)**
 - Cool = (45-55F/7-13C)
 - Intermediate = (55-60F/13-16C), and
 - Warm = (65F/18C or higher)
- *Remember, we're talking about *night-time* temperatures here, keep that detail in mind for now.

COOL, MEDIUM, & WARM VARIETIES...

Cool orchid examples include most Cymbidiums and Dendrobiums.

Intermediate examples include Paphiopediliums and Oncidiums.

Warm examples include Phalaenopsis and Vandas.

Be sure to consult a temperature chart for YOUR particular variety.

Temperature (Too hot? Too cold?)

Once you've determined the optimal temperature range for your orchid, the next step is to evaluate the temperature conditions in your home. When you do this, I have a few tips for you.

First, you'll want to use a "maximum/minimum thermometer" to get an accurate reading of the high & low temperatures throughout the day & night. For a little as under \$20, you can pick one up at your local hardware store.

#1: Day to Night Temp Change = Too SMALL!

One of the most unique temperature requirements of orchids is that they require a significant fluctuation between their daytime and night-time temperatures in order to thrive -- and rebloom!

In fact, this is by far the most overlooked reason why newbie (and experienced) orchid growers can't get their orchids to bloom, or experience shorter-than-average blooming periods.

Daytime temperatures should be 15F/9C warmer than the ideal night-time temperature for your particular variety.

If you're talking to an experienced grower or consulting a temperature chart, be sure to confirm whether the temperatures quoted are for night time or daytime - this one little step can save a lot of frustration down the road!

Day to Night Temp Change = Too SMALL!

We also talked about the importance of using a max/min thermometer.

That'll be your easiest (and cheapest) way to measure the daily temperature fluctuation in your orchid house. Be sure to take readings at several times during the day, from early morning to late evening, and several times in between.

After taking your max/min temperature readings in several locations within your home, you may discover a spot that is perfect for your plant... or you may need to get a little creative in modifying the environment a bit.

But either way.... with these tips, a little up-front planning can yield you an orchid that will generate gorgeous blooms, for years and years to come!