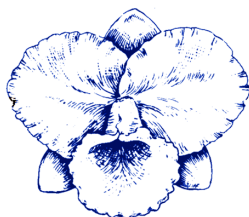


THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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 & Shaftebury St. South Perth, Friday, 28 February, commencing at **8.00 p.m.**

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WINE
AND CHEESE NIGHT

MARCH MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel	No Meeting
OSWA Committee	7:30 pm Friday 7th
General Meeting	8:00 pm Friday 28th

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Birthdays:

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

March: 11th – Merrilyn Brechin 14th – Maree MacDonald 19th – Jack Rensen & John Walton 24th – Raye McIntosh 25th – Lorna Dodd 26th – Kaye Baylis & Peggy Stacey

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

New Members:

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:

January Meeting: Once again, many thanks to Kaye & Jim for opening their home to members for a social BBQ instead of a formal meeting. This is a very pleasant way to kick off the new year for OSWA, and those who attended spent a lovely balmy evening enjoying each others company.

AGM: please don't forget that the February General Meeting also includes the AGM. It is up to you all to elect the Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year, maybe even become one yourself.

Show Dates for 2014:

Autumn Show: **Stocklands Riverton Shopping Centre** Cnr High Road & Willeri Drive
Set up Tues 6th May (6.00-7.30pm) Judging 7.30 – 9.30pm
Show 7th – 10th May; Member Plant Sales daily

Winter Show: **Scout & Guide Hall** Pilgrim Street, South Perth
Set up Sat. 19th July (8.00 – 9.30am) – Judging 9.30 -11.30am
Show 19th – 20th July; Member Plant Sales daily

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

RESULTS OF MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION – None held in January**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014) by Roy Brown**

This is the time of the year when the young flower spikes are starting to develop, and so a drop in the temperature in the evening is a very vital part of the successful flowering of Cymbidiums. By turning the overhead sprinklers on in the early evening, the temperature in the shade house will drop quite a few degrees and this will create the ideal conditions necessary for the growing and flowering of our plants.

Always have a good check over of your pots regularly, to make sure the drainage is not blocked. Water should pass through the compost freely, not just seep away.

Keep the regular fertilizer programme going as the new seasons growths still need to be kept growing at a fast rate, so they will develop sufficiently to produce their flowers when the time comes.

If you should be poking about your plants looking for these early flowering spikes during March, do be very careful as they are easily broken or damaged. Should you have to remove a pot that has definite signs of flower spikes emerging, be very careful to replace it in the exact same position with the flower spike facing the same direction as before.

With the advent of flower spikes showing, it might be a good idea to give the shade house a good clean up, getting rid of all dead leaves, weeds and anything else that could harbor pests.

It would also be a good idea during the next month to make sure you have a good supply of pots and compost ready for those repotting jobs next month.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

The summer heat has not let up as yet, so the measures advocated last month should still be followed – namely the use of fans, extra shade cloth if needed, frequent watering of the floor to create increased humidity and more frequent watering if indicated.

Try not to repot or pot on plants at this time because they would be exposed to heat stress. If, however, you cannot avoid it and otherwise risk losing the plant, try and keep the plant in a dry, shaded location and use Seasol to reduce stress in the plant.

At this time some plants will be showing signs of flowering with the appearance of buds or sheaths. Tie the pseudo bulbs up vertically so the flowers will display well when they open. If buds alone appear in the depths of the leaf axil, they are very prone to rot if water collects around them. This means moving them from near an overhead sprinkler and checking regularly that the problem has been controlled. Any residual water can be removed using some water absorbent tissues.

Fertilisation using a product high in potash is beneficial at this time to promote flowering and strengthen cell walls before winter.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014) by Trevor Burnett

These are months when the weather can usually be expected to have some excessively hot days. At this time of the year, I water three 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 off before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burn. This will also ensure that 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 axils of 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 is 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 fertilizer programme going with a high nitrogen based fertilizer, at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ strength, on a weekly or fortnightly basis depending on your time constraints. This is 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, essential for the plants health, is available in the glasshouse.

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

This interesting article appeared on a web page recently.

Paris: A virus that typically infects plants was found in honey bees and could help explain their decline, researchers in the US and China wrote in a study in the American Society of Microbiology's online journal *mBio*.

Routine screening of bees for frequent and rare viruses turned up the tobacco ringspot virus, or TRSV, prompting the researchers to investigate whether the plant pathogen could infect bees, the society said in an online statement.

"The results of our study provide the first evidence that honey bees exposed to virus-contaminated pollen can also be infected and that the infection becomes widespread in their bodies" said the study's lead author, Jilian Li of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science in Beijing.

Honey bees which pollinate many plants, have been affected by a sudden decline in recent years. The loss of honey bees could have dramatic consequences for food production.

About 5% of known plant viruses are pollen transmitted and therefore potential sources of host-jumping viruses, according to the report. "Toxic viral cocktails" appear to have a strong link with honey bee colony collapse disorder, the society wrote.

The finding of TRSV in bees was "a serendipitous detection" said Yang Ping Chen at the Agricultural Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture's lab in Beltsville, Maryland.

The researchers studied bee colonies classified as either strong or weak, and found viruses, including tobacco ringspot, were more common in the weak groups. Colonies with high levels of multiple viral infections started failing in late autumn and perished before February, while hives with fewer infections survived the entire cold winter months, according to the report.

TRSV was also found in varroa mites, a parasite that transmits viruses between bees while feeding on their blood.

"The increasing prevalence of TRSV in conjunction with other bee viruses is associated with a gradual decline of host population and supports the view that viral infections have a significant negative impact on colony survival" the researchers wrote.

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC) AGM (February 2013)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), held in the Collins Street Centre Hall, South Perth, on 22nd February 2013.

The President declared the meeting open at 8:58 pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Moved J Baylis, seconded B Burnett that the 2012 Minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: None

Financial Statement: Presented By Ian Duncan

The Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2012 were complete. Moved R McGrath, seconded E Dixon that the Audited Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

President's Report: Delivered by Kaye Baylis

Election of Office Bearers:

K Baylis was appointed as Returning Officer. Nomination and elections proceeded as follows:

Patron: Nomination: Trevor Burnett (nominated B Burnett, seconded J Smith). No other nominations, T Burnett elected unopposed.

The following were elected, after being nominated from the floor and being the only nominations.

President: Mrs Lorna Dodd. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded M Baker. Carried.

Vice-President: Mrs Maxine Perry. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded M Baker. Carried.

Secretary: Mr Murray Baker. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded I Duncan. Carried.

Treasurer: Mr Ian Duncan. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded J Walton. Carried.

Immediate Past President: Mrs Kaye Baylis.

Committee: Mrs Maxine Godbeer. Nominated by T Burnett, seconded E Dixon. Carried.

Mr Jim Baylis. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded M Perry. Carried.

Mrs Rosemary McGrath. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded I Duncan. Carried.

Continuing on Committee (1 more year to complete term): Mrs Judith Brabin, Mr Roy Brown

OSWA Registrar: Mrs Maxine Godbeer. Nominated by T Burnett, seconded J Baylis. Carried.

The following positions were also (formal nomination not required):

Show Marshall: Kaye Baylis

Opportunity Table: Rosemary McGrath

Show Secretary: Rosemary McGrath

Librarian: Rosemary McGrath

Show Sales: Rosemary McGrath

Bulletin Editor: Mrs Maxine Godbeer

Orchids Australia: Mrs Barbara Burnett

Show Committee: To be appointed

Auditors: Mr David Gardiner

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.15 pm.