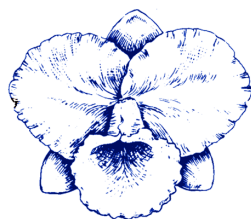


THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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, 26th July 2014, commencing at **7.30 p.m.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

CASSEROLE NIGHT
& PLANT AUCTION

AUGUST MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel Monday 4th August
OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Fri 8th August
General Meeting 7:30 pm Fri 23rd August

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Birthdays: : **July:** 1st Kevin Butler, 15th Dana Mitchell, 16th Maureen Grantham, 18th Roy Brown,

August: 19th Judith Keogh, 26th Meg Brown

Congratulations to Roy Brown who celebrated his 90th Birthday on 18th July. 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: Dr Robert J O Ndong'a

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:

- **NB The August Committee Meeting will be held on Friday 8th August (not the 1st due to the Inter Society Challenge on the 2nd & 3rd).**
- **Reminder that General Meetings will commence at 7.30pm on the 4th Friday of each month.**
- **July General Meeting: Casserole Night:** Please bring along a casserole or sweet to share. Tea & Coffee will be supplied as usual at the end of the meal. Members are welcome to bring along friends.
Plant Auction: Please bring along plants (preferably orchids) to be auctioned throughout the evening.
- **Cottesloe Central:** Orchid Display 10th to 12th July. A huge thank you to all those members who contributed plants to the Display & to those who manned the Sales Table. The Display drew many positive compliments as there were many different genera (103 plants) on display. Congratulations to Howard Tan who took out the Public Popular Vote.
- **Winter Show:** Scout & Guide Hall, Pilgrim St. South Perth 19th & 20th July. The Show would have been held by the time you receive this Bulletin. Hopefully we would have had a very successful Winter Show. Thanks to all those who entered plants & congratulations to all winners
- **Floraplant Visit:** Saturday 23rd August 10.00am 822 Rowley Road, Oakford. All welcome
- **Orchids in Paradise:** Mackay Qld Friday 18th – Wednesday 23rd September 2015 – registration forms available at the July General Meeting,
- **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:

- **Inter Society Challenge:** 2 – 3 August 2014 to be held at the Morley Sport & Recreation Centre, Wellington Road, Morley. Lots of orchids will be on display from many West Australian orchid clubs. Theme for the Challenge is "Silver Anniversary". If you have suitable plants for the Challenge, please let Kaye know at the July Meeting or by phoning 93376210
- **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 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.

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

Class 1B (1)	1. Courtney Rogasch	Blc. Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy"
Class 4C (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Den Dal's Stunner "No. 1" x Den Jack Flash
Class 4D (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Den Chao "Moonlight"
Class 7A (2)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Aerangis biloba
	2. Maxine Godbeer	Jumellea major
Class 7B (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Tuberella Snow Gem
Class 8B (3)	1. Ian Duncan	Den. Hilda Poxon
	2. Ian Duncan	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise
	3. Ian Duncan	Den. Rosalind's Surprise
Class 11A (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice
Class 11B (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Zygo. Redvale

NOVICE:

Class 15B (2)	1. Mal & Ann Davis	C. Pastel Pagent
	2. Jack Kushman	C. Pastoral Innocence
Class 15F (1)	1. Mal & Ann Davis	Blc. Hawaiian Treat "Carmela's Freckles"
Class 22B (1)	1. Mal & Ann Davis	Unknown

Junior:**Schokman Trophy:**

Blc. Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy" 70 Points Owner – Courtney Rogasch

Jim Grantham Memorial Trophy:

Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 70 Points Owner – Maxine Godbeer

POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN: Blc. Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy" Owner – Courtney Rogasch

NOVICE: C. Pastel Pagent Owner – Mal & Ann Davis

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JULY/AUGUST 2014) by Roy Brown

The most important job with our Cymbidiums for the next month will be caring for the flower spikes, training those that need straightening up and seeing they receive the proper shade conditions to bring out the best colour in the blooms.

During July the flower spikes grow rapidly and soon the majority of the flower buds will be visible. August will see the spikes lengthen further, and the flower buds space themselves out on the stem in readiness for flowering. It's from this stage onwards that they have to be watched carefully.

Heavy rain or hail can spoil your flower buds, so the plant will need to be moved into the flowering section where a close watch can be kept on the progress of the spikes. Also watch that the wind doesn't cause the plant's leaves to knock or rub against the flower buds. This quite often happens and a small mark on the buds at this stage will show up as a bad blemish on the flower sepals when it opens.

Plants that are under cover for protection should be watered regularly. If they are allowed to dry out you'll run the risk of bud drop.

Finally this month, make sure you have sufficient flower pots and a good supply of mix on hand in readiness for the repotting jobs that can be started after the end of next month.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JULY/AUGUST 2014) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

July and August are usually the coldest months of the year. Culture of your cattleyas depends on keeping the plants out of the rain so that the roots are not sitting in a cold wet mix, which if it is maintained for a while, will result in the death of the roots. Watering can be done on a bright day, as early in the day as possible, so the plant can dry out as much as possible before the cold night sets in. Also remember that cattleyas like to dry out between waterings, so they may only need two or three waterings for the month. If fertilizing your plants, this could be done perhaps once in the month, because the cold would induce dormancy at this time.

There still may be some plants that, because of their genetic inheritance, show signs of new growth with the appearance of new roots at this time. If any of these are spotted and they need potting on or repotting, this should be done now, as if left for later they may not form new roots once again. Protect buds and flower sheaths and keep a constant look out for snails and slugs and bait for them.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JULY/AUGUST 2014) by Trevor Burnett

These are the truly wonderful months, and most rewarding for the Paphiopedilum growers, especially of the exhibition type clones. We should be flush with flowers with some of our old favourites flowering again, and some new seedlings we have been eagerly awaiting to flower for several years, finally producing flowers. In many cases for new seedlings, we experience disappointment or indeed sheer joy, at the quality of the flowers.

My watering programme is still at 14 day intervals, but I may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row.

With the flowers now fully in bloom, it is time to re-assess your collection and decide what plants you are going to keep or dispose of as surplus. It is also a good time to work out whether you are short on any particular colour or types, so you can purchase new divisions or seedlings from other growers who are disposing of surplus divisions.

I still will give the flowering plants fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require fertilizer at $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ strength, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, to keep the growth moving forward.

Flowers can be left on 2-3 growth plants without harm, as long as the plants are healthy and showing good, strong growths. With smaller plants flowering for the first time on a single growth, not showing signs of a secondary growth, the quick removal of the flowers will facilitate the best growth. This will promote new growths and ensure strong growth and flowers in future years. The flower can be enjoyed as a cut flower for some time.

TIPS FOR SHOWING PLANTS:

With a great deal of shows around now, you should ensure your plants are free from any bugs, especially mealy bug, before you contemplate getting the plants ready for the various shows. If mealy bugs are detected, they should be treated before entering the plant in a show. Taking some time to prepare your plants will ensure all your growing efforts are presented at their best for judging.

Soft-bodied bugs, such as aphids & mealy bugs:

Straight 70% or 90% alcohol (methylated spirits) – touch the insects with a soaked cotton swab or for larger infestations, spray the entire plant with a 50/50 mix with water, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks.

Ensure that you

- a) present clean pots
- b) remove dead leaves from plants before showing.
- c) clean foliage of any old sprays, dirt or dust. When wiping down leaves, hold the leaf at the base and wipe to the tip. This will prevent leaves being inadvertently pulled off, especially on newer growths.
- d) ensure the plants are correctly labeled and legible
- e) ensure plants are neatly staked without excessive ties.

The above tips also apply to any plants that are presented for sale on the Sales Table

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

**Minutes of the General Meeting to be held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,
on 27 June 2014**

Welcome: The President Mrs K Baylis opened the meeting at 7:30 pm welcoming visitors & members.

Apologies: As per Register

Meeting item: Trevor Burnett – Common Orchid Questions. Trevor presented a slideshow on common questions relating to orchid culture.

Tea Break and Popular Vote

Orchid Discussion: Edna Burgess showed some Laeila hybrids for discussion. Trevor demonstrated use of Orchid Wiz to identify the registered name of one of the crossings.

Minutes: Moved P Di Giovanni seconded J Rensen that the Minutes of the previous May meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

Business arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved P Di Giovanni seconded J Rensen that the Business Arising has been resolved.

Correspondence:

- Cards to N Jones (get well), L Dodd (sympathy), thank you card from L Dodd.
- Thank you letters to R McGrath (for effort in Lotteries Grant application) and J Brabin (for general contributions to OSWA).
- Dept of Consumer Protection re OSWA's proposed new constitution (has been re-submitted without bylaws as requested, and accepted by the Dept on 25/6/14).
- R McGrath lodged Lotteries grant application, No. 421006134. (May take 2 – 4 months); receipt confirmed.
- From Rod Shoesmith, info about 2015 AOC conference.
- From Thea Shaughnessy, email about temporary change to email address for AOC correspondence.
- AOC President's newsletter from Jim Shaughnessy
- From MDOS, Robyn Kyles is now secretary of Mandurah, replacing Bridgett Millar
- Letter from Steve Bowman containing details about Intersociety Challenge.
- Email from Peruflora to advertise plants and flasks that can be ordered and picked up at WOC
- Email requests for cross-advertising of websites
- 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 J Rensen seconded B Rensen that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: K Baylis presented the Financial Statement.

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

New Members: Robert Ndong'a

Reports: WAROO. Members were advised of a proposal to use WAROO conference funds to pay costs for speakers at the Intersociety Challenge. There was no support from OSWA members for this proposal. Members did support a proposal that up to \$500 from WAROO funds be used to cover hall hire costs for the challenge.

General Business:

- K Baylis outlined arrangements for the **Cottesloe Display**, the **Winter Show**, and the **Casserole Night** (to be combined with the August GM, sit-down eating of casseroles, to be followed by Auction).
- K Baylis showed off the new case that Malcolm Davis made for the Intersociety Challenge Trophy, and thanked Malcolm for his fine work.

Raffle: M Bower, R McGrath

Popular Vote. Open: Blc. Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy" (Owner: C Rogasch).

Novice: Blc. Pastel Pageant (Owners: M&A Davis)

Door Prize: R McGrath

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Financial Statement: Please refer to the Notice Board at General Meetings as this will be posted each month for your perusal prior to the meeting.

AOC Magazine: Members are encouraged to subscribe to this very informative publication – for further information go to the AOC website.

Common Orchid Questions- Discussion Topics

T G Burnett

TIME TO REPOT YOUR ORCHID

- 1.) The roots are overflowing over the edges of your plant's container
- 2.) You've noticed that the potting mix no longer drains properly. In other words, the potting mix stays really soggy.
- 3.) The orchid itself has grown over the edge of the pot.
- 4.) The plants growths getting smaller, leaves limp, or yellow.

WHAT TIME OF YEAR IS BEST TO REPOT

Most orchids should be repotted in the *spring* months once the plant starts to produce new growth (signs include when you start to see new roots or a new shoot begin to creep out.)

At the same time, however, you should also DEFINITELY wait until your orchid has finished flowering before repotting

Cattleyas

- 1) Shortly after they've flowered,
- 2) Once the plant has reached the edge of the pot, and
- 3) Only after the new roots are *at least* 1 inch long.

When it comes to deciding when to repot your plant, here's something else to consider:

While spring is typically the best time of year to repot, never wait TOO long to repot your plant.

Repotting an OVERGROWN orchid is going to be more difficult for you, because when working with a plant that is much too large for its pot, you have to be EXTRA careful not to break off roots and new growth when you remove the plant from its current pot.

So if you have a plant on your hands that's EXTREMELY overgrown (as long as it's not currently in bloom) I usually recommend repotting immediately even if Spring is still a long way away.

Cymbidiums

- Usually after they have finished flowering in the spring.

Paphiopedilum

- I usually repot all the small plants in March before winter with the larger pots that are flowering size after the flowering season from June to end of September.
Paphiopedilums really can be repotted into new mix any time as it will produce a growth spurt.
- Why? Improves aeration of mix, allow mix to drain better, mix dry quicker

BLOOMING: How often? & How long?

- Naturally, the answer to both of these questions depends on the type of orchid you're growing. Let's look at the differences between common varieties – Cattleyas, Vanda, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums.
- Cattleyas (Laelinae), in spite of their popularity typically only bloom once a year, during either Spring or Autumn, and usually only for 7-12 days each time.
- Vandas, by contrast will bloom 2-3 times a year, in all seasons, and usually 30-90+ days each time!
- Cymbidiums Typically bloom once a year and the flower last for 6 to 12 weeks.
- Paphiopedilums Typically once a year with flowers lasting about 6 weeks

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!

#10: Young or Recently Divided Orchid

- If your orchid is not yet mature, or has been recently propagated (e.g. from cuttings, bulbs, etc.), there might not be anything wrong at all with your plant... You've just got to be a bit patient, and be willing to wait for your plant to reach blooming maturity.
Orchids take around 4 years to flower after germination from seed

#9: Soil is Too "Wet" During Winter

- Several orchid varieties - most notably Dendrobiums - require an extended dry period during the winter months.

Here's why: In their natural habitat, Dendrobiums experience a dry period during the winter months lasting up to several weeks. And in fact, this dry period is actually necessary to TRIGGER new flower buds to form!

So what does this mean for you?

If you're growing a Dendrobium, then you want to recreate this "dry period" for your orchid during the winter months by giving very little water to your plants.

And when spring arrives, you should reintroduce a "normal" watering schedule to your dendrobium.

After your artificial dry period during the winter has triggered new bud formation in your orchid, introducing a normal watering schedule when spring arrives will mimic the spring rains that dendrobiums experience in their natural habitat.

And doing this will cause the buds on your orchid to swell and produce new flowers - just in time for spring :-)

#8: Certain Pests & Diseases

- If your orchid is plagued with any sort of pest or disease, then you have what we call a "stressed" plant on your hands. And just like when you or your family gets sick, your orchid is using EVERY LAST OUNCE of energy to fight off those foreign bugs!...
(It simply has NO energy left to produce flowers...) So to get your orchid to bloom again, the first thing you need to do is nurse your plant back to health

A few signs to watch out for:

- Yellow spots, holes, or "nibble marks" on the leaves or flowers
- Dark, soft, and rotting bulb/roots

Orchid pests come in many shapes and sizes. And some of the more common problems include Aphids, Thrips, Mealy Bugs, & Spider Mites - just to name a few...

#7: Not Enough Humidity

- Most orchids thrive only when maintained in HIGH humidity conditions - think 50% relative humidity or higher - with some varieties preferring levels as high as 60-80%!
But here's the problem: Most homes typically have a relative humidity level in the neighbourhood of 10-20%....

So how do you raise the humidity?

#A: Humidifier Your first option is to use a household humidifier, and run it in the room where you keep your orchids.

#B: Misting As an alternative, if you're around your plants all day long, you can also produce a similar effect by lightly misting them several times a day.

#C: Humidity Tray One of the best, low-cost ways to raise the humidity level of your orchid's environment is to grow your plants over what's called a "humidity tray". A Humidity Tray is something you can either make yourself, or purchase. One of the main benefits of using a humidity tray is that you can increase the humidity directly around your orchid – while keeping the rest of your home at normal levels :-)

#6: Overwatering in Cold Temperatures

But it's also something that can catch you by surprise if you're not careful.

If you're like me, you like to keep things as simple as possible, and get into a regular watering schedule with your orchids every 2 days etc...

But one thing that's tough to remember is that as temperatures drop, the rate that water evaporates from your plants ALSO slows down.

So what that means, is this:

You need to SCALE BACK your watering during those cooler months a bit.

Otherwise you run the risk of OVERWATERING your orchid -- And overwatering can lead to all sorts of problems, including an orchid that simply will NOT be able to produce flowers for you (no matter how nicely you say 'please'... :-)

#5: Not Enough (or the Wrong) Fertilizer

If you can't get your orchid to bloom, it might be because it hasn't been properly fertilized. ...You ARE using fertilizer, right?? Because if you haven't been, and you can't get your orchid to bloom... this might just be the reason why!

Orchids don't necessarily require specialized "Orchid fertilizer", but there are certain things you should be looking out for when choosing a fertilizer for your plant.

Here's a simple "Orchid Fertilizer Checklist" that I like to use.

- MY ORCHID FERTILIZER CHECKLIST
 1. Nitrogen - Total amount is 20% or less.
 2. The source of nitrogen must be "Nitrate Nitrogen" or "Ammoniacal Nitrogen" (NOT Urea - because orchids cannot access the Nitrogen locked up in Urea)
 3. Phosphorus - Any amount > 0%
 4. Contains Supplementary Calcium (up to 15%)
 5. Contains Magnesium (up to 8%)
 6. Should also contain trace elements like Sodium, Iron, Copper, etc.

- NEVER**
1. Apply more fertilizer than the dose recommended on the packaging. For generic fertilizers (not Orchid-specific), I usually like to play it safe and use about half the recommended dose.
 2. Fertilize orchids that are in sick or in poor condition. Nurse them back to full health first, and once they appear fully healthy again, THEN you can begin reintroducing fertilizer.
 3. Fertilize orchids with root damage. This is LITERALLY like pouring salt in your orchid's wound. Ouch!
 4. Apply fertilizer to dry potting matter. You should always ensure your potting matter is thoroughly soaked before applying fertilizer

A FEW MORE FERTILIZER TIPS

ALWAYS Fertilize orchids when they're in "active" growth stages. Remove excess salts left by fertilizers: Drench your potting material with a thorough rinsing of water every two weeks to wash out excess fertilizer minerals. (This process is often called "leaching.")

(The second half of the discussion will be in next month's Bulletin)

NB: Please take note that the following plant sold at an OSWA Auction labelled

L. Anceps x Schomburgia Superbians var. Quesneliana is registered & is now named as L Nemesis