

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL. FOUNDED 1946.

VOLUME 55 No 4



ISSUE DATE: APRIL 2015

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Collins Street Centre Hall, South Perth, on Friday 24th April 2015, commencing at 7.30pm

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Mrs Kaye Baylis
Tel. 9337 6210

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

Mr I. Duncan
Tel. 9364 5439

REGISTRAR

Mr M. Davis
Tel. 9477 4248

BULLETIN EDITOR

Mrs R. McGrath
Tel. 9367 9306

website: www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

FLORAL ART – KAYE BAYLIS
ENTERING SHOW PLANTS – R MCGRATH

MAY MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel July 6th
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Fri 1st May
General Meeting 7.30 pm Fri 22nd May

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We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin

Birthdays: April: 7th Rosemary McGrath, 10th Bernadette Campbell, 12th Karen Carless,
17th Mike Burgess, 29th Ian Duncan

May: 7th Dorothy Walton, 9th Ellen Dixon,

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: Vernon Campbell, Wongan Hills

Welcome & we hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

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:

- **2015 President & Committee Members.**

Patron, Trevor Burnett, President Kaye Baylis, Treasurer Ian Duncan, Secretary Murray Baker, Past President Lorna Dodd, Committee Jim Baylis, Rosemary McGrath, Jack Krishnan, Ian Sutton, Pam Di Giovanni, Rosalie McCallum

- **Home Visits** If you would like to hold a Home Visit in 2015 please contact Kaye Baylis on 93376210 It doesn't seem to matter what time of year that we hold Home Visits, they are always very popular.
- **Home Open visit at the home of John & Dorothy Walton** – What a great day – good company, good food & a lot of information which was very much appreciated (especially by the new members). Many thanks to John & Dorothy for opening their home to us. Every time we have a Home Open members can always learn something new, even the seasoned growers. Thanks so much to John for the seedlings we all took home – a lovely gift.
- **Shed Clean up:** Sunday April 19th at McDougal Park, Como started at 10am followed by a BBQ. By the time this Bulletin is printed this workday would have already been completed. Many thanks to those who lent a helping hand.
- **Show Time: Stocklands Riverton, High Road, Riverton.** We would like to start the year with a beautiful display of orchids. Members please bring in as many plants for judging as possible as there are many prizes to be won in each genera. Even if you don't have a plant suitable for judging we would appreciate you bringing plants in for the Display. A lot of plants make a perfect show. Set up will be Tuesday 5th May with entries received 6.00 to 7.00pm. Plant Sales are from Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th May. If you have any queries please ring Kaye or Rosemary.

The OSWA Bulletin (and other information) is now available at www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

2015 CALENDER of SHOW EVENTS: All dates except Royal Show are confirmed

- **Autumn Show:** Stocklands Riverton 6th – 9th May 2015, Set up Tuesday 5th May
- **Winter Show:** South Perth Scout Hall 18th – 19th July 2015, Set up Saturday 18th July
- **Inter Society Challenge:** Craigie Leisure Centre 1st – 2nd August
- **Spring Show:** Kardinya Park Shopping Centre 2nd – 5th September, Set up Tues 1st September
- **Royal Show:** 26th September – 3rd October 2015, Set up Friday 25th September
- **Potting Workshop:** Scout Hall, South Perth Sunday 18th October 2015 (confirmed)
- **Orchids in Paradise:** Mackay QLD 18th to 23rd September 2015

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MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (March 2015)**OPEN:**

Class 1A (2)	1. Rosemary McGrath 2. Maxine Godbeer	C. bowringiana Brassavola nodosa
Class 1B (1)	1. Ian Duncan	Blc. California Girl "Orchid Library" AM/AOS
Class 1C (2)	1. Peter Kissell 2. Peter Kissell	Ctna. Brandy "O.C" Ctt. Netrasiri Fireball
Class 3B (1)	1. Peter Kissell	Paph. Lynleigh Koopowitz
Class 4D (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Den. Micky Hew
Class 5A (3)	1. Maxine Godbeer 2. Maxine Godbeer 3. Maxine Godbeer	Phal. tetraspis Phal. fasciata Phal. cornv-cervi var. alba
Class 6B (2)	1. Rosemary McGrath 2. Rosemary McGrath	Onc. Unknown Onc. Unknown
Class 6D (1)	1. Peter Kissell	Brs. Eternal Wind
Class 7A (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Angraicum elephantinum
Class 10B (3)	1. Maxine Godbeer 2. Maxine Godbeer 3. Maxine Godbeer	Dendrochilum macranthum Coelogyne ovalis Bulb. dearei

NOVICE:

Class 15B (1)	1. Jack Krishnan	Blc. California Girl x Mahaina Yahiro
Class 15F (1)	1. Mal & Ann Davis	C. Chocolate Drop "Kodama"
Class 21A (1)	1. Jack Krishnan	Vanda coerulea

Junior:

Schokman Trophy: C. bowringiana, owner Rosemary McGrath 72 points

POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN: C. bowringiana, owner Rosemary McGrath

Novice: C. Chocolate Drop "Kodama", owner Mal & Ann Davis

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2015) 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 of 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 2015) from notes of the late Henry Eaton

We have experienced a very hot, dry summer and there is very little sign of letup as yet. This should, however, be just around the corner. Until such time 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. 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.

Cattleya Notes (Cont)

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.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2015) 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 ¼ to ½ 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.



ORCHIDS
IN PARADISE

20th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show Incorporating 50th Tropical Orchid Council Conference & Show

Proudly hosted by Mackay and District Orchid Society | PO Box 776 Mackay QLD 4740

Phone: 0428 198 960 | Email: info@orchidsinparadise.com.au

20th Australian Orchid Council Conference Pre and Post Conference Tours

All tours can be booked through the Mackay Visitor Information Centre:

Phone: 1300 130 001

Email: bookings@mackayregion.com

Address: 320 Nebo Road, Mackay, QLD, 4740

The organizing committee is delighted to announce the Pre and Post Conference Tours. We have been working with the Mackay Visitor Information Centre and they will look after any enquiries and bookings.

The **Pre Conference Tour 1** on Friday 18th September will go to local Mackay attractions including the Ken Burgess Orchid House, the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and the Sarina Sugar Shed. Cost is \$80, \$77 Concession

There are 2 post Conference Tours,

Tour 2 on Wednesday 23rd September is a day trip to beautiful rainforest at Eungella national park and the Pioneer Valley.

Cost is \$80, \$77 Concession

Tour 3 is an overnight tour to Whitsunday Gold Coffee, Conway National Park, Airlie Beach and the Whitsunday islands including a boat trip to Whitehaven Beach and fringing coral reef on Hook Island. Cost is \$340 per person.

Full details will be on the Notice Board.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)
Minutes of the General Meeting to be held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,
on 27 March 2015

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

Apologies: As per register.

Guest Speaker: Brian Klepzig (Neutrog). Discussion of Neutrog products and the history of the company. There was much interest in the Neutrog range from members and a lengthy Q&A session at the end of Brian's talk. Brian also kindly provided members with free samples of liquid Strikeback for Orchids, Strikeback for Roses, Seamungus, and additional products as raffle prizes.

Break for tea and popular vote.

Minutes: Moved P DiGiovanni, seconded N Jones that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

Business arising: Nil.

Confirmation: Moved R McCallum, seconded J Krishnan that the business arising has been resolved. **Carried**

Correspondence:

- Suncorp Bank Lend a hand Community Program update
- National Library - info about books: *Little Book of Australian Orchids* and *The Allure of Orchids*
- Card to Trevor Burnett (condolences)
- Card to Arnold Godfrey (thanks for fixing trophy)
- To Anne Gannaway to advise I Duncan and M Godbeer to contact them re a date to visit.
- To Brian Read CPA, thanks for audit of OSWA's books
- Card from I Duncan expressing thanks for messages received from members about passing of Heather.
- Email exchange with Brian Klepzig (Neutrog) to arrange Neutrog presentation at March GM and also his attendance at March committee meeting with colleague Vince Davey to discuss OSWA endorsement of Neutrog products.
- 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 I Sutton seconded P DiGiovanni, that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: prepared by I Duncan, presented by K Baylis.

Confirmation: Moved K Baylis seconded P DiGiovanni, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. **Carried.**

New Members: C Bielby, L Stronach, and P Kissell each received their EziGro letters.

Reports: WAROO (I Duncan): WAROO has decided to pay the expenses of the two visiting speakers at this year's Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop.

General Business:

- Home Open John & Dorothy Walton's **Sunday 29th March 2015** from 11.00 am.
- Shed Cleanup **Sunday 19 April 2015.** BYO thermos of tea/coffee. Sausage sizzle provided. All helpers will be most welcome.
- M Godbeer presented Peter Masters with a certificate from the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) for WA species orchid of the year for 2014.
- Autumn Show: to be held in the lead up to Mothers' Day at Riverton Forum shopping centre. Members were asked to keep the show in mind. We need as many plants as possible for the competition and/or display. There will be plant sales daily.

Raffle: E Burgess, J Krishnan

Popular Vote: Open: *Cattleya* (now *Guarianthe*) *bowringiana*, owned by R McGrath

Novice/Junior: *Cattleya* (now *Cattlianthe*) Chocolate Drop 'Kodama', owned by M & A Davis.

Door Prize: Peter Masters

Descriptions of interesting benched plants: M Godbeer spoke about her *Dendrochilum* and *Bulbophyllum* orchids, I Duncan spoke about his *Miltonia* and *Dendrobium* orchids

Meeting Closed at 9:28 pm

New Library Books

The Little Book of Australian Orchids An anthology of poems about Australian Native orchids published by the National Library of Australia

The Allure of Orchids author Mark A Clements a beautifully illustrated book about Australian Orchids

Magazines: AOC Orchids Australia
AOS American Orchid Magazine
Orchid Review

AOC Presidents Newsletter

Once again time seems to get away and it is time I sent a newsletter out to you all. After a hip replacement late last year, I am now almost back to full strength, and Thea and I are have started visiting clubs again. Whilst I was on the sick list, thanks to Coralie Hills, the Council was kept going with many phone calls and emails between us, and I must thank her for all the work she has done. Talking of the Council, following the change to the smaller size page for 'Orchids Australia' and the consequent reduction in the cost of printing of it, our finances have improved considerably. Thanks to all those clubs who made donations to assist in the cost of running the Council and made suggestions for the financial improvement, some of which have been implemented.

With the end of the financial year not too far away, I guess this is a timely reminder that nominations for Officers of Council are due to the Secretary by June 30th 2015. We welcome all nominations for the various positions. Any motions that you wish to put forward need to be sent to the Secretary by that date as well. The Annual General Meeting and the Board of Management Meeting will be held at the AOC Conference and Show in Mackay in September. Because the this is about a month earlier than usual, the Agendas and reports for the AGM will need to be sent out very promptly so that you can vote and get your responses to your ARO meeting so that your delegate may be informed of your decisions.

Talking of the Conference in Mackay, in my last talk with the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, everything is coming together very well; tours have been arranged, and there is a very good number of registrants so far. All of the information about the conference can be found on the website www.orchidsinparadise.com.au – it is certainly not too late to register. We are looking forward immensely to the conference, and hope to meet many of you there.

As we will be travelling to the conference by caravan, before long we will be in touch with the clubs along the way with the aim of attending your meetings if possible, or at least meeting some of your members. When the time draws closer we will give you an approximate date that we will be in your area. It is so helpful to know when and where you meet; thank you to those clubs who have sent in Contact Forms this year. It is not too late to send the completed form to us if you haven't already done so this year.

The comments that we have received about the new size of the magazine have been quite favourable; some people didn't notice any difference!

The Registrar General of Judging, John Rees, has finalised the voting for Orchid Awards of the Year quite a lot earlier than usual, and the result will be published in the next issue of 'Orchids Australia'.

At last year's Board of Management Meeting, the Delegate from Queensland, Les Vickers made the suggestion that the AOC have a guest speaker list on the AOC website (www.orchidsaustralia.com) so that it would be available to all clubs. As a starter, I would appreciate from you a list of guest speakers whom you would recommend, plus some way of contacting them – an email address would be preferable, or else a phone number. This list would be confidential until we have the speakers' permission to publish their details. Please note that we do not want to push speakers into travelling further or more often than they wish. We would ask the guest speakers for information such as the topic(s) they speak about, any equipment the club needs to provide, the distance they are prepared to travel, what times are convenient, what sort of accommodation they would prefer (if needed), and whether they have a fee for speaking or wish reimbursement for fuel or accommodation.

Until next time, good orchid growing,

Jim Shaughnessy, AOC President

ORCHID PERFUME AND POLLINATORS

by David Harmer, *Orchid Club of South Australia*

Most orchid flowers have a scent or are perfumed. Of course, they are not scented to please us but the scent is designed to attract pollinators, whose attentions ultimately lead to fertilization and seed production. The vast majority of orchid flowers are pollinated by insects; however, a few non-scented orchid flowers are pollinated by humming birds and sunbirds during their search for nectar.

In the book *The Scent of Orchids* (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1993), Roman Kaiser classifies orchids into various groups, based upon the nature of their pollinators. The moth-pollinated, night-scented group of orchids, predominantly from Africa and Madagascar, give off scents reminiscent of jasmine, honeysuckle, tuberose and gardenia, which are released predominantly in the evening and at night. Most of these flowers are white, providing an additional visual guide for the moths. About 8% of all orchids are believed to be moth-pollinated. *Angraecum sesquipedale* is probably the best known, being pollinated by a hawk moth with a proboscis over 300mm long, as postulated by Charles Darwin in the nineteenth century. But certain American orchids, also with white flowers, such as *Brassavola* species, are also moth pollinated.

In contrast to these sweet-smelling orchids, there are fly-pollinated orchid flowers, mostly red or brown in colour, whose scent can resemble the smell of rotting flesh. Many *Bulbophyllum*s, especially those in the section *Cirrhopetalum*, are of this type. The prime example is the evil-smelling *Bulbophyllum robustum* of Papua New Guinea. Bee-pollinated orchids produce a wide range of scents, resembling those of the rose, violet, lily-of-the valley, hyacinth and sweet pea. The honey bees, and presumably most other bees, have a different sensitivity to colour than humans; in they cannot perceive the colour red but can see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to us. There are a few bee-pollinated red flowers but all of these flowers also reflect ultraviolet light, which makes them visible to bees. Many orchid flowers have ultraviolet guide lines that direct bees to the nectar-producing glands concealed within the corolla tube, where the pollinia and stigma are also located. Most bee-pollinated flowers rely solely on attracting the bees by their perfume and leave the business of pollen transfer to and from the pollinator to chance.

But others have a more specific mechanism; for example European terrestrial orchids of the genus *Ophrys*, whose perfume closely resembles the sex attractant of certain female bees. Pollen is transferred from one flower to another when a male bee attempts to mate with a succession of flowers, whose labellum closely resembles a female bee in shape, colour and scent.

Butterfly-pollinated flowers are less common but most of us are familiar with the prime example, *Disa uniflora*, from South Africa. The pollinia of this species, being among the largest of all orchids, need quite a large pollinator to carry them from flower to flower.

Most bird-pollinated flowers are red or orange, because birds are more sensitive to this end of the visible spectrum. They are also scentless, because birds have almost no sense of smell. Some species of the American genera *Masdevallia*, *Cattleya*, *Epidendrum*, *Cochlioda*, *Compartmentia* and *Laelia* are pollinated by humming birds. In PNG and Malaysia many *Dendrobium*s are pollinated by sunbirds. However, bees and other insects are the main pollinators of orchids, only 3% being pollinated by birds.

An amazing facet of orchid pollination is that in some cases a particular orchid species is pollinated by only a single insect species. In other words, each of these orchids has its own pollinator, thus ensuring that no cross-pollination with related orchid species occurs. But that's another remarkable system of protection by nature.

This article was first published in the April 2015 issue of the South Australian Orchid Bulletin and has been reproduced with permission of the author.

26th Inter-Society Orchid Display & Workshop 2015

The 26th annual Inter-Society Orchid Display & Workshop (formally the ISC) is being held 1-2 August 2015 at the Craigie Leisure Centre, Craigie and on behalf of the Wanneroo/Joondalup Orchid Society (host club) and WAROO.

Not only will there be the standard displays and individual flower & floral art competitions we are also intending to have two highly credentialed orchid growers & speakers to attend and run workshops/lectures for all club/society members and the public during the weekend of the ISODW. More details on who the speakers will be are to follow.

Your club/society does not have to be a member of WAROO to participate; however, I do extend an invitation to join.

Although Saturday 1 August is primarily set aside for set up and judging, there will also be workshops/lectures for club/society members while Sunday will be open to the public 9am until 3pm. There will be a \$5 entry fee for members of the public with children able to enter free.

Members of clubs/societies who stage a display will gain free entry to all aspects of the event. Participating clubs are asked to ensure all members wear their club name badges for free entry.

Sunday will provide an opportunity for all participating clubs/societies (with a display) to sell plants and seek new members. Sale plants should be presented tagged and recorded as per clubs/societies normal process and be presented to the central sales area coordinator for checking before being staged in the sales area. All sales plants will be subject to a 10% sales commission to the WJOS to assist with the costs associated with staging the event.

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday 1st August 2015 at the Western Australian Golf Club in Hayes Ave, Yokine, starting at 7pm. The cost is: \$50.00 person. For catering purposes please advise numbers attending the dinner no later than 10th July 2015.

Specifications and Judging criteria notes will be available at the General Meeting for those wishing to enter their own Display.