

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 2



ISSUE DATE: FEBRUARY 2015

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Collins Street Centre Hall, South Perth, on Friday 27th February 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:

AGM
WINE & CHEESE NIGHT

MARCH MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel	None
OSWA Committee	7.30 pm Fri 6 th March
AGM	7.30 pm Fri 27 th March

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GENERAL NEWS	2
CULTURAL NOTES - CYMBIDIUM	3
CULTURAL NOTES - CATTLEYA	3
CULTURAL NOTES - PAPHIOPEDILUM	3-4
2014 AGM MINUTES	4
ARTICLE – M BAKER	5-6
ORCHIDS IN PARADISE, MACKAY	6
NOMINATION FORMS	6

O.S.W.A. disclaims all liability for losses that may be attributed to the use of any material mentioned in the Bulletin. Opinions expressed by various authors in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of O.S.W.A.

We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin

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

March: 11th Merylyn Brechin, 14th Maree McDonald, 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 we wish you a speedy recovery & may you soon be well.

New Members: Lorraine Stronach, Middle Swan

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:

- **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.
- **Committee Meetings: Please Note:** As from this next meeting, March 6th, future Committee meetings will be held at 2 Morrish Place, Como, starting at 7.30pm. Please park in the drive way or on the front lawn facing the house or in Todd Ave., as there is no parking in Morrish Place.
- **A Home Open visit to be held at the home of John & Dorothy Walton – 29 Menli Place, Orelia, Ph. 9419 6253, on Sunday 29th March 2015.** A sausage sizzle is provided, please bring a salad or sweet to share, BYO drinks, chair & a little something for the raffle. Tea & coffee will be provided. Cost is \$5 per head. Any time from 10.00am onwards, come along & see how someone else grows their orchids, chat, & maybe see a solution to a problem that may work for you too. John will be giving each person who attends a seedling plant & will be demonstrating how to split up a very large Cattleya. Also there will be some plants for sale. So make sure you don't miss this event. If you have a problem plant or any questions you might want answered please come along and we will do our best to help you.
- **General Meeting Sharing Table:** Thanks to Pam Di Giovanni a table is set up at each of the Society's Monthly meetings. Thanks to those who have brought donated items in such as books, magazines, pots, cuttings of their favorite plants, produce (bag of lemons), etc. All donations are most welcome. Please remember to put a small donation in the **Honesty Box** if you take something from the table.
- **Membership subscriptions: 2014/15 subs** were due on the 31st October – so please keep this in mind. Contact Ian Duncan on 9364 5439 re payment. \$26.00 for a Double & \$21.00 for a single membership. **To vote at the AGM all members must be financial.**
- **FEBRUARY 2015 AGM: Election of office bearers at the AGM (February 2015): Please consider nominating for committee or some other role to help OSWA next year. Nomination forms are available (last page of the Bulletin) & we need several Committee Members.**
As Murray will be away for most of 2015 it would be appreciated if someone could offer to stand in as Secretary for the next year. He is happy to pass on any applicable computer files applicable to OSWA. Also we are looking for nominations for Committee – can you all give serious consideration to nominating for any position as every little bit lessens the load for others. Nomination Forms at the end of the Bulletin.
- **January Meeting at Jim & Kaye Baylis' Home:** Once again, many thanks to Kaye & Jim for opening their home to the 29 members who attended, for a social BBQ instead of a formal meeting. This is a very pleasant way to kick off the New Year for OSWA. Two plants were brought in for discussion - Ian Duncan brought in a dendrobium & Peggy & Tom Stacey brought along a vanda. Many comments & suggestions were put forward. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic meal thanks to the members who supplied salads & sweets. A raffle was held & all who attended went home with at least one plant for their collection. It was a great evening where everyone enjoyed each other's company and shared tips for growing their orchids. In 2016 we will have to find another venue for the January Meeting as the Baylis' new house will be under construction.

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
- **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)

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

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION As the meeting in January was a social event, no plants were judged.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015) by Roy Brown

These are very hot months, with the temperatures in the high 30's or low 40's, so regular use of the sprinklers are an absolute must. Create as much humidity as possible, keeping the pots and the area around your plants as damp as possible. It's my opinion the next month or two are the most important ones for the successful flowering of cymbidiums. **THE NEW GROWTHS MUST BE KEPT GROWING, SO THEY WILL BULB UP IN TIME TO PRODUCE THEIR FLOWER SPIKES.** To do this they will need as much light as they can take without actual burning of the leaves, plenty of fertilizer and water. For those who grow their plants under 50% Sarlon Shade Cloth, you will find the plant's leaves have become a yellowy-green colour. This is mainly because of the bright light we experience here in WA, the skies being cloudless during the summer months. Provided the bulbs are nice and plump and the plants are healthy, this yellowing is a good sign that the plants should flower this season. A plant grown under too heavy shade conditions will have dark green, lush foliage and will not produce as many spikes of flowers as one that has been grown under bright sunlight. If you find your plants are troubled with red spider mite, thrips, scale etc. then give them a spray with insecticide. It's during the next couple of months that the flower spikes are produced, and it is a good idea to have them free from all insect pests well in advance, so no harm will come to the young flower spikes when they emerge.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015) from notes of the late Henry Eaton
February and March are usually the hottest months in the year for us in the West. This means keeping up with the cultural practices employed in the summer, mainly shading the plants and providing sufficient moisture and fertilizer to them. Beware though, that Cattleyas, by and large, benefit from alternating dry and wet periods. This means not watering them unless loss of weight of the potted plant indicates that water is needed. I was reminded of this when, recently, I had to repot a plant that was growing out of the pot in many spots. Although previously potted in bark of a large size, the mix was wet through and through from the watering I had from the day before. When a plant is growing over the edge of the pot, another technique to use is to place another pot full of mix under the overgrowth, so that roots can establish before repotting in Autumn or Spring. At this time also start to look for flowering sheaths or buds appearing on mature, new growths. When spotted, move them into an area free of pests and away from water dripping on them. If moved, make sure the buds point in the same direction they were in before you moved them. Many Autumn flowering plants will now be showing buds and sheaths so be on the lookout for them.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015) by Trevor Burnett These are the months when the weather can usually be expected to have some excessively hot days. At this time of the year I water 3 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 out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burn. This will also ensure the 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 axis of the 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 has been 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 fertilizing programme going on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time constraints, with a ¼ to ½ strength high nitrogen based fertilizer. This is in order 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, which is essential for the plant's health, is available in the glasshouse. Do not remove any extra shade that you may have installed over the summer months.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), held in the Collins Street Centre Hall, South Perth, on 28th March 2014 (postponed from February).

The President Mrs L Dodd declared the meeting open at 8:04 pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Moved J Baylis, seconded M Brechin that the 2013 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 2013 were complete. Moved M Perry, seconded K Baylis that the Audited Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

President's Report: Received

Election of Office Bearers:

L Dodd was appointed as Returning Officer. Nomination and elections proceeded as follows:

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

President: Mrs Kaye Baylis (nominated by L Dodd, seconded R McGrath. Carried.

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

Secretary: Mr Murray Baker. Nominated by K Baylis, seconded R McGrath. Carried.

Treasurer: No nominations. Mr Ian Duncan agreed to carry on for another month.

Immediate Past President: Mrs L Dodd.

Committee: Ms Rosalie McCallum Nominated by P Di Giovanni, seconded M Baker. Carried.
Ms Pam Di Giovanni. Nominated by R McCallum, seconded M Baker. Carried.

Continuing (1 more year to complete term): Mrs Maxine Godbeer (Committee), Mr Jim Baylis (Committee), Mrs Rosemary McGrath (Committee), Mrs Maxine Perry (Vice President).

Positions for which formal nomination not required:

OSWA Registrar: Unfilled (subsequently filled by Malcom Davis)

Show Marshall: Kaye Baylis

Opportunity Table: Rosemary McGrath

Show Secretary: Rosemary McGrath, Merrilyn Brechin

Librarian: Rosemary McGrath

Show Sales: Rosemary McGrath

Bulletin Editor: Unfilled. (subsequently filled by Rosemary McGrath)

Orchids Australia: Merrilyn Brechin

Show Committee: To be appointed

Auditors: Unfilled. (subsequently filled)

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8:30 pm.

Where did You Get That From? By Murray Baker

We see interesting things in other people's orchid areas that we would find handy. More often than not, it seems these handy things were acquired "from some place in Bentley" that went out of business years ago, or were passed down like family heirlooms from one grower to the next so many times that the source is long forgotten.

Here is a list of some interesting and useful things and where they can be obtained from. The list of suppliers is not exhaustive, nor is it an endorsement of any particular product or supplier. It is just a list of stuff accumulated over the years that might be useful or give ideas to other growers.

Orchid pots, including squat pots; **orchid potting mix; fertilisers; plant tags; plant hangers; orchids:** OSWA Opportunity Table. The prices at OSWA are generally below standard retail prices, and every purchase made at the Opportunity Table helps support OSWA.

Maximum-minimum thermometers and humidity gauges: \$15 - \$200 (depending on the bells and whistles that come with it), from Bunnings, Dick Smith Electronics, Australian Geographic Store.

Shadecloth or solarweave covers made to measure: Jaylon (Malaga). Solarweave is a translucent plastic that is useful for making waterproof covers for hothouses or waterproof covers for shadehouses for winter.

Galvanised pipes; galvanized mesh, pipe fittings etc. for DIY shadehouse projects: for new materials, Midalia Steel (branches all over Perth) or DCW Enterprises (Maddington); for used materials, salvage yards.

Fans & evaporative coolers: misting fans are available all over the place from Bunnings to Homeart. Pedestal fans can be as cheap as \$10 from Mitre 10. Evaporative coolers are available from places like K Mart, Big W, Cash Converters. (These items can often be collected off the verge during suburban junk collections, but this can be risky because their history and current safety condition are not known. Probably safer to buy new ones, but if you do pick some up off a verge, get them checked out by a qualified electrician before you use them).

Shadehouses and shelving (if you are not a DIY person): Chris Wardley (Kalamunda) ph. 9291 7131.

Misters (foggers): Inexpensive (\$20 - \$30) pre-fabricated kits suitable for fixing to a pergola and running from a tap are available from reticulation and hardware stores. More sophisticated components, such as Netafim misters (which can be used with black PVC pipe and tap water) make a nice mist but are harder to find...only stocked at a few reticulation stores, but many stores will order them in for you.

Temperature controllers (things that can turn off or turn on a heater or fan or sprinkler when the temperature rises or falls to a particular value): <http://aussieponics.com> (look for "Grow Lush Thermal Controller" under "Accessories"; prices vary from \$60 - \$90 for no apparent reason). In one of the glasshouses at EziGro Orchids there are similar devices in use to control fans, and they are branded "Growth Technology", so perhaps Growth Technology (O'Connor) sells them too. Cheaper versions that require a licenced electrician to set up can be obtained from places like RS Components.

Heat pads (small, electrically heated pads for keeping trays of seedlings a little bit warm); Hydroponic stores (several in various parts of Perth)

pH meters and standard pH solutions, electrical conductivity meters, etc. (to test water for pH and salt content): Hydroponic stores, maybe pool shops, and <http://aussieponics.com>. Alternatively, a number of OSWA members have these meters and can do water testing for you – just ask around.

Float valves: small float valves are useful for fitting to evaporative air conditioners when these are to be incorporated into automatic humidification/cooling systems attached directly to a tap. These float valves are hard to find!!! Metal ones can sometimes be obtained from plumbing suppliers. Plastic ones designed to fit into pet water bowls, but easily adapted to other uses, can be obtained from the hardware store on Thomas Road (go south on Kwinana Freeway, turn left at the Thomas Road exit, and the hardware store is on the right side of Thomas Road when you are headed east. Sorry, can't remember the name of the store!)

Galvanised wire clips and clipping tool: Great for fixing shadecloth or Solarweave to galvanised mesh, or fixing bits of small gauge mesh together. If you have seen a shadehouse built out of galvanized mesh, that shadehouse is probably held together by these sorts of wire clips. Bunnings sells small clips

and a small clipping tool (red handle). Hardware stores tending towards more agricultural users, sell larger clips and a larger clipping tool (green handle). There is one such hardware store in the Spearwood area (sorry, can't remember the name of this store either).

General recycled stuff: Freecycle Perth (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycleperth/>). Freecycle is designed to encourage people to pass their "still good but no longer needed" things on to others rather than send them to landfill. Members can post messages to ask for specific items, or to offer unwanted items to be given away. It is all free – no for sale stuff here. This site has everything, from pavers and concrete slabs to fans, evaporative coolers, plants (but I've never seen any orchids advertised), TVs, computer gear, books, furniture, old Hills hoists (great source of galvanized pipe and wire)... You need to register for a Yahoo account first (which is also free).

If all else fails do a search online

If you have any favourite gadgets that you find really useful for orchid growing, please let us know!

Orchids in Paradise

**20th Australian Orchid Conference & Show, 18-23 September 2015
Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre, Alfred St, Mackay, Queensland**

Welcome to 2015! This is a huge year for us. We are only months away from Mackay hosting the Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show.

Remember, the early bird discount ends on 1st February. Don't miss your chance to save!

NEWS JUST IN. We are delighted to announce that the show schedule has been approved by the AOC. In addition to our local experts, International speaker Fred Clarke has confirmed his attendance at the conference and will be joined by 5 other internationally acclaimed experts at our conference.

The full schedule is available for viewing on our website.

To keep to date with our latest news like us on Facebook.

We hope to see your beautiful Orchids on display at our event and remind you that we need to know how much room you'll need so they will look their very best. We await your correspondence regarding your specifications. [options - under 1m² table top, 1-3m², 3-9m², over 9m²].

If you are unfamiliar with Mackay, Queensland and the accommodation available, Mackay Tourism has all of the information on places to stay. There is plenty available from Caravan/Camping style, right up to 4.5 stars.

The Quest on Gordon and the Quest Mackay have a great deal for those of you who mention our event!

If you have any questions, require information that you can't locate on our website, or would just like to talk Orchids. Drop us a line, anytime!

We look forward to seeing you in September!

www.orchidsinparadise.com.au | for our full schedule | on line registration form

info@orchidsinparadise.com.au | display specifications

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchids-in-Paradise/682457278534230?ref=ts&fref=ts> | latest news

Copies of the Registration forms will be available at the AGM

Nomination Forms

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc)

I hereby nominate.....

For the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination for the position of

.....

Signed.....Date.....

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc)

I hereby nominate.....

For the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination for the position of

.....

Signed.....Date.....