

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 at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 26th February, 2016, 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

MINUTES SECRETARY

Mrs R. McGrath
Tel. 9367 9306

REGISTRAR

Mr M. Davis
Tel. 9477 4248

BULLETIN EDITOR

Mr M. Baker

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WINE & CHEESE NIGHT

MARCH MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Fri 4th March
General Meeting 7.30 pm Fri 18th March
(Note: March GM is on the THIRD Friday)

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<http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>

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Birthdays

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

March: 11th Marilyn 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

Jeffery Simper and Angelica Campello. Welcome, and we hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Annual General Meeting (Friday 26 February)

Please consider nominating for committee or some other role to help OSWA over the coming year. Many of the positions are not particularly onerous, and every bit of help lessens the load for others. Being part of the committee is also a good way to get to know the Society and other members better. Nomination forms are on the last page of the Bulletin. See the AGM minutes (pages 4 – 5) for a list of positions.

Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2015/16 were due on the 31st October 2015. If you have not paid, please contact Ian Duncan at the AGM or on 9364 5439 to arrange payment: \$26.00 for a double membership, \$21.00 for a single membership. Only members who are financial may vote at the AGM.

Shed Clean Up Day

Our annual shed clean up day to prepare for the upcoming show season will be on Sunday 17th April, at McDougal Park, Como, starting at 10am. To be followed by a sausage sizzle supplied by the Society. The park provides a pleasant environment for a BBQ so this will be a nice social activity. This event has thoughtfully been scheduled for the same day as the Neutrog orders will be available for collection at nearby Como, so come along, enjoy the BBQ, then collect your Neutrog products after lunch.

Neutrog Bulk Order

It is time to plan for your next order of Neutrog products. Prices available to OSWA members are well below retail prices, and members will have received a price list with this issue of the Bulletin. For additional forms, contact Murray. **Orders must be received, with payment, by 18 March.**

Completed order forms and payment should be sent to Kirsty Bayliss, 33a Swansea Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Alternatively, completed forms can be sent to Kirsty by email (Kirsty.Bayliss@inet.net.au) and payment made by electronic transfer to OSWA's bank account (see order form for details about electronic transfers).

Products will be available for collection from 2 Morrish Place, Como, on Sunday 17 April after 1pm, or call Rosemary on 0401 508 667 or 9367 9306 to make alternative arrangements.

January Meeting at Malcolm and Ann Davis' Home

Many thanks to Malcolm and Ann for opening their home to OSWA members and guests on 22 January, especially since Ann was still recovering from a fall earlier in the month. The January BBQ instead of a formal general meeting is now something of a tradition and the BBQ at the Davis' residence was a lovely way to kick off the New Year for OSWA. It was great to see many new members attending, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

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.

Home Visits

If you would like to hold a Home Visit in 2016 please contact Kaye Baylis on 9337 6210. It doesn't seem to matter what time of year that we hold Home Visits, they are always very popular.

Monthly Plant Competition

As the general meeting in January was a social event, no plants were judged.



Revellers at the January "Australia Day" BBQ at the home of Malcolm and Ann Davis.

2016 CALENDER of SHOWS AND OTHER SOCIETY EVENTS

- **Autumn Show:** Stocklands Riverton Shopping Centre, 4 – 7 May 2016 (set up Tuesday 3 May)
 - **Winter Show:** Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre (MSCAC) Main Hall
Setup: Friday 8 July, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm.
Open to public: Saturday 9 July, 9 am - 4:30 pm
 - **Casserole Night and July GM:** MSCAC Dining Hall and Main Hall Friday 22 July 2016
 - **Intersociety Display and Workshop:** Saturday 6 August – Sunday 7 August (Busselton)
 - **Spring Show:** Kardinya Park Shopping Centre 31 August – 3 September (set up Tues 30 August)
 - **OSWA 70th Anniversary Celebration:** Saturday 10 September, 6:30 pm – midnight, Belmont Tavern, 174 Wright St, Cloverdale; \$40 per person.
 - **Royal Show:** 24 September – 1 October 2015, (set up Friday 23 September)
 - **Potting Workshop:** MSCAC Dining Hall, Sunday 23 October, 9 am – 4:30 pm
-

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016) by Roy Brown

These are very hot months, with the temperatures in the high 30s or low 40s, 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, and 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 2016) 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 2016) 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 on very hot days, the use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is 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.

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC) AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), held in the Collins Street Centre Hall, South Perth, on 27th February 2015.

The President Mrs K Baylis declared the meeting open at 7.42 pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Moved J Walton, seconded J Baylis that the 2014 Minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil.

Financial Statement: Presented By Ian Duncan. The Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2014 were complete. Moved V Cooper, seconded I Duncan that the Audited Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

President's Report: Delivered by Mrs K Baylis.

Election of Office Bearers: T Burnett was appointed as Returning Officer. Nomination and elections proceeded as follows:

Only one nomination each was received for the positions of Patron, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, so the nominees were elected unopposed.

Patron: Trevor Burnett (nominated B Burnett, seconded H Tan).

President: Kaye Baylis (nominated by R McGrath, seconded I Duncan).

Vice President: Malcolm Davis (nominated by R McGrath, seconded K Baylis).

Secretary: Murray Baker (nominated by K Baylis, seconded R McGrath).

Treasurer: Ian Duncan (nominated by K Baylis, seconded L Dodd).

Immediate Past President: Mrs L Dodd.

Committee: Mr Jim Baylis (nominated by K Baylis, seconded R McGrath; carried).

Ms Rosemary McGrath (nominated by K Baylis, seconded L Dodd; carried).

Jack Krishnan (nominated from the floor; carried).

Ian Sutton (nominated from the floor; carried).

Ms Rosalie McCallum (continuing 1 more year to complete term)

Ms Pam Di Giovanni (continuing 1 more year to complete term)

Positions for which formal nomination not required:

OSWA Registrar: Malcolm Davis

Show Marshall: Kaye Baylis

Opportunity Table: To be appointed

Show Secretary: Rosemary McGrath, Merrilyn Brechin

Librarian: Kirsty Bayliss

Show Sales: Rosemary McGrath, Ian Duncan

Bulletin Editor: Rosemary McGrath

Orchids Australia: Kirsty Bayliss

Show Committee: To be appointed

Auditor: Brian Read CPA

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.04 pm.



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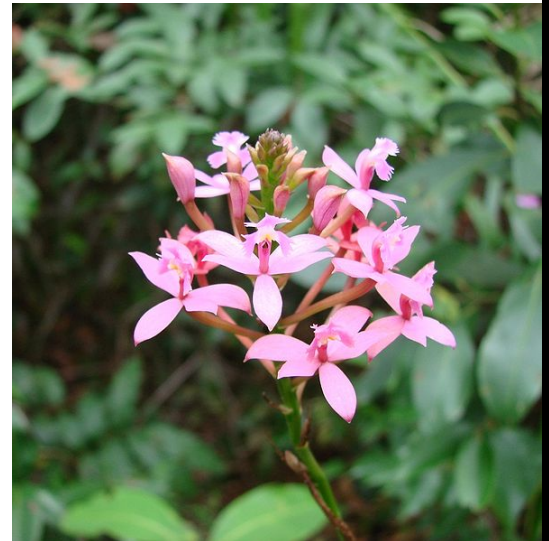
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Epidendrum elongatum

Epidendrum elongatum is one of the "crucifix" orchids (but to me the flowers look like little clowns with funny collars, not crucifixes). It is native to central America and the northern parts of South America, but it grows well in the shadehouse in Perth. It has mauve flowers, and flowers progressively (the flowers at the base of the raceme die off while new ones grow and open at the top). The inflorescence is vaguely cylindrical, with individual flowers pointing out from the main stem. Apparently the plant can grow up to 120 cm tall, but the specimens on display at meetings and shows in Perth are typically very compact and less than 40 cm tall.



Orchids have fascinated botanists and collectors for more than two centuries. The names of orchids can date back hundreds of years and they often carry information about the of the orchid.

The name *Epidendrum elongatum* is written in italics, which tells us that the name corresponds to a species orchid, rather than a hybrid. "*Epidendrum*" is the generic name, the name of the genus to which the orchid belongs. The word "*Epidendrum*" was coined by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). It is derived from the ancient Greek words "epi" (on) and "dendron" (tree), so it carries some information about the habit of the orchid -- it suggests that the orchid grows on trees (epiphytic). Sometimes, however, the orchid grows on the ground (terrestrial), so the name isn't perfect. The "*elongatum*" part of the name is the specific epithet, the part of the name that identifies the actual species of the orchid being named. The word "*elongatum*" comes from the Latin word "elongatus" (elongated). One of the common names for *Epidendrum elongatum* is "the elongated lip orchid", so it may be that "*elongatum*" is a reference to the elongated "lip" of the flower. *Epidendrum elongatum* is remarkable because its seeds are the longest of any orchid (~ 6 mm), which might also account for the name "*elongatum*".

Over the years, there have been many cases where a particular species of orchid has been described by a botanist and named, and then another botanist, unaware of the previous work, has unwittingly described that same species again, and given it a different name. The orchid *Epidendrum elongatum* is a case in point, and it is more commonly known as *Epidendrum secundum*. The specific epithet "*secundum*" is derived from the Latin word "secundus", which means "blooming one-sided, the flowers all pointing in one direction". This seems to be a poor choice of name, because it does not describe the orchid's inflorescence at all.

Information for this article came from: "*Orchid Names and their Meanings*", by Hubert Mayr (ARG Gantner Verlag K-G, Vaduz, 1998); Kevin Butler's "Plant Kingdom Notes" (in the OSWA Bulletin from December 2014); "*Flora's Orchids*" (ABC Books, Ultimo, 2005); The Wikipedia article https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidendrum_secundum. The photo of *Epidendrum elongatum* was taken by João de Deus Medeiros (<http://flickr.com/photos/43216777@N04/4223461434>).

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.....

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I hereby nominate.....

For the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination for the position of

.....

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