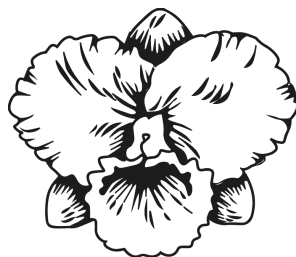


THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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

VOLUME 56 No 6



JUNE 2016

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning**, on **Friday 24 June, 2016**, commencing at **7:30 pm**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

NEUTROG FERTILISERS
BRIAN KLEPZIG

JULY MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 1st
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 22nd

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Birthdays

June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 9th Fred Herbert, Edna Burgess, 17th Maggie Longmore

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

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

Welcome to Rafeeq and Roslyn Mohammad (Boyup Brook), Brian Mahoney (Bull Creek), Pri Finch (Fremantle), and Wanda Frantom (Canning Vale). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Vale Alastair Campbell

Members of the WA orchid community will be saddened to hear of the passing of Alastair Campbell, husband of Bernadette Campbell (long-time member of OSWA and the Margaret River Orchid Society) and brother-in-law of Rosemary McGrath. Our thoughts are with Bernadette at this difficult time.

Winter Show

Manning Senior Citizens Centre. Setup is on **Friday 8 July, from 6:00 pm**. Entries close at 7:15 pm for judging. The show will be open to the public 9:00 am - 4:30 pm the next day (Saturday).

John and Dorothy Walton Home Visit and Orchid Sale

Thank you to John and Dorothy for their hospitality. As with previous visits at the Walton residence, the day was a great success.

July Meeting Topic

Trevor Burnett will be demonstrating how to use a fish tank to create sterile conditions for flasking of orchid seeds.

Plant Sales at General Meetings

Anyone selling plants at general meetings must fill in plant sales slips and attach them to the plants so that the staff at the Sales Table know who the plants belong to.

Also, please note that the Sales Table will only be operating during the supper break.

Inter-Society Workshop and Display (Bunbury, 6-7 August 2016)

- The Inter-Society Workshop and Display will be the biggest orchid event in Western Australia this year, and an opportunity to meet growers from different regions of the state.
- We are putting on a display, so we are going to need plenty of plants. Even if you are not able to attend the event in Bunbury, if you have plants in flower, OSWA can put them to good use, and can arrange for other members to transport them to and from Bunbury. See the July bulletin for details about drop-off points for plants.
- The Workshop Dinner (see page 6 for the menu) will be held at the Bunbury RSL Club on the evening of Saturday 6 August. Cost: \$50. If you plan to attend (and these dinners are always very enjoyable), payment must be made to Kirsty Bayliss at or before OSWA's June general meeting.

Nursery Visits

- **Tropical Colours Nursery:** Saturday 13th August, arriving at Tropical Colours around 10 am. We are endeavouring to hire the South Perth Community Bus for the trip. See the July bulletin for further details.
- **Floraplant Nursery:** Unfortunately, Floraplant is not able to host us this year.

Wanted: *Vanilla planifolia*

Bob Longmore is looking for a cutting or plant of *Vanilla planifolia* to try to grow in Nannup. If you have a plant or a piece to spare, please contact Rosemary McGrath, or Bob at longmore@westnet.com.au.

Royal Show

Unfortunately OSWA will not be putting on a display at the Perth Royal Show this year. Rather than having the orchid display in the usual hall with the district displays, this year the Show organisers required the orchid display to be held in a marquee, which is not suitable for display of orchids over an extended period.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2016) by Roy Brown

This month, more of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheath on the stem. Once they reach the stage where the flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into the flowering section, where more protection can be given to them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and so leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flowers, and this too will cause a blemish.

Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering section like a glass house. This could be the reason for bud drop. Give them protection from the heavy winds and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't over crowd your plants, if possible give them plenty of room between each pot.

During July we can expect cold, wet wintry weather. Fertilising can be tapered off to once a fortnight. Watering will also depend on the weather, but don't allow the pots to become dry, particularly those in spike and under cover. Keep the flowering house and shade houses well baited with slug and snail pellets, particularly now that the flower buds are showing.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2016) from notes of the late Henry Eaton.

With the onset of cold wintry weather, the foremost consideration is adjusting cultural practice to the cold. Orchid growth slows with the cold so the need for watering decreases and the use of fertilisers becomes a minor concern, unless your plants are being grown in a heated greenhouse.

If your plants are grown in an open but covered area to protect them from the rain, all shading, if not removed already, should be removed now. This helps to warm the plants to some degree on sunny days, and helps flowers opening to do so with true colours. Heavily shaded plants appear to open flowers with less brightness in them.

Due to the cold and dampness in the air, flowers are more likely to get infected with botrytis spores, resulting in the appearance of black spots on the petals. This can be averted to some degree by keeping the air moving gently over the plants with the use of a fan, and avoiding crowding plants too close together. If the structure in which you grow your plants permits using hangers, pots hung up give plants better air movement and more space for flowers to open without obstruction.

Flowering plants should also be closely observed for caterpillars and thrips that will damage them if left untreated. Also make sure you have baits spread around to neutralize the snails and slugs that appear with the rain. When watering, choose a day forecasted to be sunny. A sunny day will allow the plants to dry out by nightfall and ensure no water remains in the leaf axils, which could induce rot. It is also probably wise to wait until the sun is shining into your garden before watering, as by then the water in the pipes may have warmed up to some degree. Avoid all potting activities, unless not doing so might kill the plant.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2016) by Trevor Burnett.

With the cooler months upon us, take care with watering, to keep the plants moist but never leave them wet. Always water in the morning to ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. Personally, I reduce my watering back further to once every 14 days, but may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row. Hopefully, a good proportion of our plants will be showing flower spikes. Continue staking plants using wire, meat skewers or small thin bamboo stakes.

This time of the year you start to enjoy the fruits of your previous 12 months work, with some of the early flowers now being fully developed and in full bloom. If you are missing out on a great display starting to appear, now is the time to review your culture over the last 12 months and make any necessary changes to ensure a great show next year. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis — quarter-strength to half-strength to keep the growth moving forward.

If you intend to get the plants ready for the various shows, this is the time to spend cleaning up the plants by removing any dead leaves and cleaning any dust from the leaves. Growers use different methods to make their plant's leaves look fresh and glistening. Some growers use of white oil, but I personally believe a little common milk with water wiped over the leaves does a wonderful job without leaving that oily look.

At this time of the year, most growers do not water plants overhead due to the possibility of marking the flowers. It is sound practice to carefully hand-water, if time permits. I do water overhead, but after watering I ensure the pouch is emptied of water and excess water is not left on the remainder of the plant. This can easily be achieved by gently tapping the flower.

Minutes of the General Meeting of The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.) held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on 27 May 2016

(Recorded by Ian Duncan)

Welcome: Mrs Kaye Baylis opened the meeting at 7.35 pm, welcoming visitors and members.

Apologies: As per register.

Meeting Item: Kevin Butler: 12th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference. Kevin showed a good range of plants and displays together with a very good commentary. The President thanked him on behalf of those present.

Break for tea and popular vote.

Minutes: Moved R. Pohl, seconded M. Brechin that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.

Carried.

Business arising:

The President thanked John & Dorothy Walton for providing a very sociable home visit and thanked Ian Sutton for doing the cooking on the barbeque. A good time was had by all.

Confirmation: Moved P. Masters, seconded N. Jones that the business arising has been resolved.

Carried

Correspondence:

- From American Orchid Society, request to join their Affiliated Societies Facebook page.
- Shona Macskasy, inviting OSWA to set up an info booth/desk at the Annual Koi Show (Canning Vale, Sunday 12 June)
- Neutrog: newsletters and handouts for members, confirmation of Brian Klepzig for June GM.
- From Bunbury Orchid Society, re Inter-Society Display and Workshop, including details for the dinner and accommodation in Busselton.
- From Garden Clubs of Aust.: May Bulletin, details of 2017 Calendar, Convention in November, Annual Photo Competition.
- To Stocklands Riverton, invoice for Autumn Show
- Responses to general email enquiries from members of the public.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Business arising:

- Names and Money for the Dinner at Busselton to be in by June meeting.

Confirmation: Moved M Brechin seconded R Pohl that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: prepared by K Bayliss

Confirmation: Moved K Bayliss, seconded N Jones, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. **Carried.**

New Members: Rafeeq and Roslyn Mohammad (still to be formalised at committee)

Reports: Nil

General Business:

- Autumn Show at Riverton: The President thanked all those that helped at the show.
- Orchid Display & Workshop in August
- No further news about OSWA involvement at Royal Show.
- Saturday 10/9/16, OSWA's 70th anniversary celebrations. Members were reminded to place their names down for the Dinner.
- Trevor Burnett spoke about his Paph.
- Edna Burgess and Peter Kissell both spoke about the flowering of a Brassia.

Raffle: P. Kissell, R. McIntosh, N. Jones.

Popular Vote:

Open: Den. Colonial Surprise x Den. Jesmond Gold, owner Ian Duncan

Novice: Pptm. Mathina 'Elizabeth', owner Merril Brechin

Badge Prize: Tom Seaman

Meeting Closed at 9.45pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (May 2016)**OPEN**

1A	(1)	1	I Duncan	<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>chamberlainianum</i>
1B	(2)	1	P Kissell	<i>Cattleya</i> Hawaiian Wedding Song
		2	E Burgess	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i> var. <i>sausissine</i> 'Aranbeen' x <i>Cattleya</i> Lynn Spencer 'Real'
3A	(1)	1	T Burnett	<i>Paphiopedilum primulinum</i>
3B	(1)	1	T Burnett	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Avignon (<i>glaucophyllum</i> x <i>victoria-mariae</i>)
3C	(1)	1	T Burnett	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Pepperbell
3D	(1)	1	T Burnett	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> TB Gavin
6D	(2)	1	E Burgess	<i>Oncidium maculatum</i> x <i>Oncidium cordatum</i>
		2	E Burgess	<i>Brassia</i> Rex 'Christine' x <i>Brassia longissima</i>
8A	(1)	1	I Duncan	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>
8B	(1)	1	I Duncan	<i>Dendrobium</i> Colonial Surprise x <i>Dendrobium</i> Jesmond Gold
10B	(1)	1	E Burgess	<i>Zygopetalum mackayii</i>
11B	(1)	1	E Burgess	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Advance Australia 'Dark Lady'

NOVICE

15B	(2)	1	R Pohl	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> (Donna Kimura 'Paradise Tammy' x Spring Dawn 'Top Row')
		2	V Cooper	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Kum Ma Nee Tong
25B	(1)	1	M Brechin	<i>Propetalum</i> Mathina 'Elizabeth'
26?	(1)	1	L Brooks	<i>Dendrobium</i> 'Karen'

JUNIOR

13	(1)	1	D Mitchell	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i> var. <i>sanderae</i>
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POPULAR VOTE

OPEN: I Duncan

Dendrobium Colonial Surprise
x *Dendrobium* Jesmond Gold

NOVICE: M Brechin

Propetalum Mathina 'Elizabeth'**SCHOKMAN TROPHY** P Kissell
(Laelinae)*Cattleya* Hawaiian Wedding Song (72 points)

Dinner at the Inter-Society Workshop and Display (Bunbury, 6-7 August 2016)

- The Workshop Dinner will be held at the Bunbury RSL Club on the evening of Saturday 6 August. Cost: \$50. If you plan to attend (and these dinners are always very enjoyable), payment must be made to Kirsty Bayliss at or before OSWA's June general meeting.

- Workshop Dinner Menu:

Antipasto Platters

Entreé: Cream of vegetable soup finished with cream and served with fresh bread rolls.

Main Course: Breast of chicken filled with herb mousse, oven baked, served with thyme and white wine sauce,
or

Seasoned roast leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic sauce, served with gourmet potatoes and a medley of fresh vegetables.

Dessert: Chocolate and cointreau cheesecake with raspberry sauce and whipped cream,
or

Fresh fruit salad with mini pavlova, whipped cream and passionfruit sauce.

Recycling for Orchid Lovers - Part 1

I would rather spend my money on orchids than gadgets for orchid culture. Whenever I visit a fellow orchid enthusiast's place, I keep an eye out for interesting ways of doing things, especially ways to use recycled objects in the shadehouse. Here are a few things I've found over the years. If you have any hints to share, let me know and I'll include them in future Bulletins.

Hair dye bottles. Fill with cinnamon powder and cut the nozzle so that the hole is large enough for the cinnamon powder to be shaken out. Great for storing cinnamon and dispensing it into the crown of plants affected by rot. (Cinnamon has anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties and can sometimes save an orchid afflicted by crown rot.)

Trigger spray bottles (Windex etc). When carefully rinsed clean, these can be handy for making up small amounts of fungicide, insecticide, liquid fertiliser, etc. Make sure to label them carefully when you put something in them.

Wire coat hangers and Bicycle Spokes. Cut them up and bend them to make simple hooks to hang pots in your shadehouse. The spokes work best — just bending each end with a pair of pliers turns a bicycle spoke into a respectable hook.

Metal tweezers, scissors, etc. These days surgical scissors are so cheap that medical facilities often toss them out after a single use rather than go to the trouble of sterilizing and re-using them. If you have some stitches removed after minor surgery, ask the doctor or nurse if you can have the surgical scissors when the job is done, then sterilize the scissors and use them during repotting. I have a collection of about 10 pairs of old surgical scissors that I have scrounged from various places. Having so many pairs of scissors lets me repot 10 orchids in a sitting, using a different pair of scissors on each plant for trimming dead roots, leaves, etc. Using a different pair for each plant lessens the chance of spreading disease from one plant to the next. After all 10 are used, they go back into a solution of trisodium phosphate in water in a large ice cream container, for at least 30 minutes, then they are ready for use again.

Plastic peanut butter containers. Great for storing solid fertiliser (slow release pellets etc). The containers are robust and stackable (if you pick brands of peanut butter packaged in the same size containers) and you can easily see what's inside.