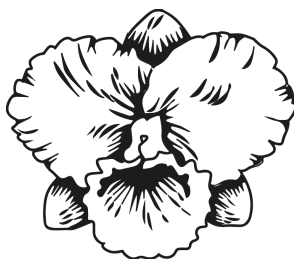


# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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

VOLUME 56 No 11



NOVEMBER 2016

**NEXT MEETING** of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning**, on **Friday 25 November, 2016**, commencing at **7:30 pm**.

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**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:**

CYMBIDIUMS

COURTNEY ROGASCH

**DECEMBER MEETING DATES:**

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 2nd

General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 16th  
(NOTE: It's the third Friday!)

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**Birthdays:**   **November:** 10th George Price, 13th Rosalie McCallum, 18th Trevor Burnett  
                  **December:** 6th Val Seaman, 27th Maxine Godbeer

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.

### **Potting Workshop**

A huge thank you to Lynn Brooks, Lena Pacca, Edna Burgess, Peter Kissell, Jim Baylis, Murray Baker, who worked tirelessly all day potting orchids. The success of the day was mainly due to the potters. Also sincere thanks to all the Presenters, Sales Table workers, Entry Door attendants, & the Kitchen staff. Without your efforts the day would not have been the success it was. — *Rosemary McGrath*

### **Membership Subscriptions for 2017 are now due.**

\$26 double, \$21 single. For your convenience OSWA will accept payment by three methods:

- (a) directly to Kirsty Bayliss at the November meeting;
- (b) by cheque payable to Orchid Society of WA Inc., sent to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd Leeming 6149; or
- (c) by direct debit to OSWA's account:

Account name - Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc.

Bank - Westpac Bank, Booragoon, WA

BSB - 036069

Account Number - 457265

Reference - please use your name, to help us identify your payment.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Our Christmas Dinner will be held at Wings Restaurant, RAAF Bullcreek, on Saturday 3 December. Arrive at 6 pm for 6:30 start, and bring a small gift for the Secret Santa Table. Dinner is \$37 per person, includes soup, roast, and pudding. Payments can be made in person to Kirsty at the November meeting or by cheque or direct debit (see above).

### **November Meeting**

The November meeting will be held on 4th Friday as normal (25th November). In addition to **Courtney's talk about Cymbidiums**, we will also be visited by **Ron Fauntelroy**. Ron has been surveying native terrestrials in the Mandurah area for several years now and will bring along a photo album to show the great variety of species he has seen in flower this season.

### **December Meeting**

The December meeting, our Christmas and Trophy Presentation meeting, will be held on the THIRD Friday (16th December). Please bring a plate to share. Drinks will be provided.

### **Open vs. Novice Growers**

At monthly meetings, benched plants that are judged as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their class score 3 points, 2 points or 1 point respectively. Generally, a grower will be counted as a **Novice** until they have accumulated 100 points, or until 3 years from the date they benched their first plant (whichever happens sooner) and then they are promoted to the **Open** category. Any AOC-accredited judges or growers who compete in the Open category at other clubs are counted as Open growers in OSWA. **Congratulations to Malcolm and Ann Davis, Rod Pohl, Merril Brechin, and Meg Donald, who will be promoted to the Open category from January 2017.**

### **New Members**

Welcome to Paula and Jackie Fox, Harry Ashton and Hayden Shotch, the Willox family, and Helen and Sonya Milas. We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

### **Potting Bark Delivery**

The bulk order of potting bark from Garden City Plastics has been delivered to the Shed. Members who placed orders should contact Rosemary or Kaye to arrange a time to pick up and pay for their bark.

### **Awards Quarterly magazines 1981-2007 still available, free to good home**

Awards Quarterly is produced by the American Orchid Society. It contains information about orchids that receive awards from the AOS, and includes many colour photos. Contact Murray Baker if interested.

**The AGM is approaching...**

Our AGM is in February. As usual, we will be looking for new committee members and other office bearers, especially Secretary and President (Kaye must step down after serving the maximum permitted term of 3 years). Please consider nominating for a position. Nomination forms will be included in the December and January bulletins and will be available at the general meetings.

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**CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (NOV/DEC 2016) - based on notes from Henry Eaton.**

Although this year has seen a late rainy season and cooler temperatures well into November, the heat is now beginning to arrive with a little more consistency. It is now getting too late to do much more dividing of your Cattleyas, but you may still pot some on if they are badly in need of it. They will not be too traumatised provided that the roots are not disturbed too much.

As the weather heats up further, you should assess the degree of shade needed to keep your plants protected. The best indication for this is the colour of the leaves. If the leaves are deep green, then it indicates that they are too shaded, whilst reddening of the leaves means that too much light is hitting the plants. The ideal is to have a greenish yellow leaf colour.

At this time of the year fertilising can be carried out once a week, or every fortnight, with a high nitrogen product. Fertilising is best done the day after the plants have been given a thorough watering to flush out the salts in the mix. Because of the warmth, be on the lookout for caterpillars, scale and mealy bugs that multiply very quickly in these conditions. Treat them as soon as they are identified as this will prevent them causing a big problem.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016) by Trevor Burnett**

The Paphiopedilum growing season will now be fully in progress. The plants should be producing new roots which will support the new growths which should be developing strongly.

As the sun power is increasing towards summer it is time to consider whether you need to increase the shading required to stop any burning. Generally with our hot conditions, plants may appreciate a little additional shading. Passing your hand over the plants on a bright and sunny day can indicate the amount of shading required. The shadow cast should only be faint.

The plants should not be excessively dark green, as this indicates a lack of sufficient light. Bright light produces the best flowering but if too bright, burning will occur and plants will suffer a setback which will be reflected in the flowering results later in the year. It is also very important to keep up good air movement.

As the plants will be growing strongly now, a weekly application of fertiliser at one quarter to one half strength with a high nitrogen base, will promote good development of the new growths. With the warmer days, I increase my watering to twice a week. Do not crowd your plants in the growing area as plenty of fresh air movement is essential for the good health of your plants.

Once again, with the warmer weather, check your plants and the surrounding area for mealy bugs, ants and other bugs that may decide to move into the cooler conditions of a shade or glass house where greater moisture content is available. It is much easier to get rid of the pest when there are only a few and not let them multiply, which makes the task harder.

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (NOV/DEC 2016) - based on notes from Roy Brown**

Most of the dividing and repotting of our Cymbidiums should be completed by now because by the time we reach the middle of November, the weather pattern will have changed from warm Spring days to hot, dry days with easterly winds. These conditions, of course, are not suited to dividing and repotting our plants. Any pots that were not attended to will be better left until next Autumn.

From November on, with the increase in temperatures, we must increase the watering too. Provided the pots have good drainage, the plants will appreciate having the surrounding area nice and damp all through the summer period.

This is the start of the summer culture, and this means added fertilizing: once a week or fortnightly as you prefer. If you are not too certain as to how much fertilizer you should apply, then always err on the lighter side. It's far better to give the plants two applications of half strength fertilizer than one dose that is too strong. Always remember to give the pots a good watering before you apply the fertilizer, then another good, heavy watering several days later. In the meantime of course, if you have fine misting overhead, then use this to keep the plants' leaves, benches and surrounding areas nice and damp.

During November and December, the sun's rays are increasing and shining more directly overhead each day, and if it should shine through a break in the shade cloth the plants beneath will suffer with badly sunburnt leaves. This will affect the efficiency of the plant in producing the necessary plant sugars. Once plant leaves are burnt, they do not repair themselves and the scar will stay there until the leaf eventually dies.

**Minutes of the General Meeting of The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.) held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (Recorded by R McGrath)**

**Welcome:** The President, Mrs Kaye Baylis opened the meeting at 7.30 pm welcoming visitors, members.

**Apologies:** As per register.

**Meeting Item:** Mr Carsten Hammer: "European orchids." Carsten showed photos on screen, a lot of orchids growing in the wild, which are found throughout Europe but are more concentrated in southern Europe & mainly grow in grassy areas. Blooms are small but varied & very attractive. A very interesting presentation.

**Break for tea and popular vote.**

**Minutes:** Moved L Brooks, seconded P Kissell that the Minutes of the September meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

**Business arising:** None

**Confirmation:** Moved R Pohl, seconded C Sloan that the business arising has been resolved. **Carried**

**Correspondence:**

- Evette @ Neutrog re order – order delivered – some still to be collected
- Emails to members who ordered Neutrog re pick up
- Membership applications from Workshop – Paula & Jackie Fox, Harry Ashton & Hayden Shotch, Willox family, Helen & Sonya Milas
- From Tony Watkinson, news about WAOS 2017 - more info in the bulletin.
- OSWA's details provided to Consumer Affairs (procedure required for new Associations laws)
- Email from Andy Dolphin re photos of greenhood orchids on Mt Talyuberlup (Stirling Ranges)
- Fleur Hanson, querying our views on the Little Aussie Directory advert
- Email from Stephen Jackson, Yates re making an orchid fertiliser – can't oblige due to Neutrog sponsorship.
- Garden Clubs of Australia – AGM & Agenda
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids etc.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail

**Business arising:** Items were read out & discussed.

**Confirmation:** Moved L Brooks, seconded E Burgess that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

**Financial Statement:** prepared by K Bayliss

**Confirmation:** Moved C Sloan, seconded M Donald that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. **Carried.**

**New Members:** Lee Eveleigh (Attadale), Barbara Foster (Ardross), Dawn Fathers (Murdoch), Liz Gilbert (Kincumber NSW). Also applications from Paula & Jackie Fox, Harry Ashton & Hayden Shotch, Willox family, Helen & Sonya Milas, to be ratified at November Committee Meeting

**Reports:**

**Workshop:** A huge thank you to Lynn Brooks, Lena Pacca, Edna Burgess, Peter Kissell, Jim Baylis, Murray Baker, who worked tirelessly all day potting orchids. The success of the day was mainly due to the potters. Also sincere thanks to all the Presenters, Sales Table workers, Entry Door attendants, & the Kitchen staff- without your efforts the day would not have been the success it was.

**General Business:**

- Trophies – thanks to all those who have returned trophies- only 1 still to come in
- Christmas Dinner – RAAF Bullcreek Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Arrive 6.00pm for 6.30pm start. Gift for the Secret Santa table. Dinner - \$37.00pp for Soup, Roast & Pudding
- AGM February 2017 – please consider nominating for President, Committee, etc.
- Bob Jones' Orchid Books donation – thanks Nancie, the books which we don't have in the Library will now add to OSWA's collection. The other books will be given to new members.
- Lynn Brooks showed a Hydrometer which she can order if members are interested.
- Thanks to Lynn Brooks, Caterina Ottobriano & Brian Mahoney for repotting J & J Wells' orchids – they spent 5 hours on Thursday. Lynn thanked to OSWA for donating 2 bags of bark.

- Interesting Benched Plants: Courtney Rogasch & Trevor Burnett talked about a benched *Dendrochilum*, *Lycaste*, *Bifrenaria* and a beautiful specimen *Sarcochilus*.

**Raffle:** Rosemary McGrath, Gloria Talbot, Graham Esmond, Barbara Foster, Ian Duncan

**Popular Vote: Open:** *Oncidium Tiger Crow "Golden Girl,"* owner Rosemary McGrath

**Novice:** *Brassia Rex,* owner Jack Krishnan

**Badge Prize:** Merril Brechin

**Meeting Closed** at 9.37pm

### MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (October 2016)

#### OPEN

1C	(2)	1	?	<i>Potinara Dal's Nugget</i>
		2	?	<i>Rhyncattleanthe Free Spirit x Cattleyanthe Aussie Sunset</i>
1D	(1)	1	T Burnett	<i>Cattleanthe Roblar</i>
1E	(1)	1	C Rogasch	<i>Cattleanthe Trick or Treat "Orange Magic" AM/AOS</i>
4F	(1)	1	R McGrath	<i>Dendrobium alexandrae x forbesii "J &amp; L"</i>
6C	(1)	1	R McGrath	<i>Oncidium Tiger Crow "Golden Girl"</i>
8A	(1)	1	C Rogasch	<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>
8B	(1)	1	C Rogasch	<i>Sarcochilus Heidi x Sarcochilus weinthalii</i>
10B	(2)	1	T Burnett	<i>Lycaste lasioglossa</i>
		2	C Rogasch	<i>Dendrochilum cobbianum</i>

#### NOVICE

15B	(2)	1	R Pohl	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya Amy Wakasugi "Yamanashi" (Cattleya Bonanza (Bracey) x Rhyncholaeliocattleya Herons Ghyll)</i>
		2	C Sloan	<i>Cattleanthe Chit Chat</i>
15E	(1)	1	J Krishnan	<i>Cattleanthe Trick or Treat</i>
18E	(3)	1	No award	
		2	E Burgess	<i>Dendrobium Fort Noble "Yoto Beta" x Dendrobium Snowflake x Dendrobium Jade Delight</i>
		3	E Burgess	<i>Dendrobium Fort Noble "Yoto Beta" x Dendrobium Snowflake x Dendrobium Jade Delight</i>
20D	(1)	1	J Krishnan	<i>Brassia Rex</i>
22B	(1)	1	G Talbot	<i>Sarcochilus unknown</i>
25B	(1)	1	G Talbot	<i>Bifrenaria harrisoniae</i>

#### POPULAR VOTE

OPEN: R McGrath

*Oncidium Tiger Crow "Golden Girl"*

NOVICE: J Krishnan

*Brassia Rex*

**SCHOKMAN TROPHY**  
(*Laelinae*)

T Burnett

*Cattleanthe Roblar* (72 points)**RICHARD NICHOLS  
TROPHY** (*Lycaste*)

T Burnett

*Lycaste lasioglossa* (74 points)

Please take care in filling out plant entry cards. Illegible cards make it difficult for the Judges, Registrar, Show Marshall, and Bulletin Editor to correctly record and acknowledge the results of judging. If uncertain of a name, try checking it at the RHS Orchid Register:

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>

### Companion plants for orchids.

Like most orchid enthusiasts, I find lots of plants interesting, and occasionally non-orchidaceous plants end up in my shade house. Here are some examples.

#### Bromeliads

Apparently bromeliads like a lot of light, but many orchid growers have bromeliads in the shadehouse under the benches. They can survive there quite happily, with minimal maintenance, and flower occasionally. They require little attention, they just sit patiently and collect fertilizer and moisture that drips off the orchids during watering. As a bonus, the reservoir of water that pools in the crown of each bromeliad helps to maintain humidity in the shadehouse.



*Bromeliads minding their own business under the benches in the shadehouse.*

#### Zygocactus

Zygocactus (genus *Schlumbergera*) grow nicely in hanging baskets in well-shaded areas, including below the benches in the shadehouse. Like bromeliads, they require little attention, just occasional fertilizing, although at flowering time I move them out of the shadehouse and hang them up under the eaves near the back door, to show off the blooms.

#### Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*).

Spanish moss (like other “air ferns”) is actually a bromeliad, but it has a different growth habit to the more familiar crown type structure of typical bromeliads. In the shadehouse it grows well hanging from wires or sticks, or simply draped over pots. All it needs is regular watering and occasional liquid fertilizer. I have been told (by Fred Herbert?) that if you can grow Spanish moss in your shadehouse, you have good conditions for orchids. If your Spanish moss gets a bit out of control, just gather it up, bag it, and sell it at an OSWA meeting or show—it is usually quickly snapped up by members of the public.

*This vanda hybrid is growing in a hanging basket, in large bark. Spanish moss draped over the bark provides a humid environment for the vanda's roots. The Spanish moss doesn't have roots of its own, so the medium stays loose and the vanda's roots are healthy.*



## Carnivorous plants.

Carnivorous plants are amongst the weirdest members of the plant kingdom. I once had a dream of scattering carnivorous plants throughout my orchid collection, so that they would eat all the bugs and my orchids would be pest free.

The easiest carnivorous plants to grow, at least for me, are the pitcher plants (genus *Nepenthes*). They grow nicely in the shadehouse in a pot or hanging basket, but they require occasional care, for removal of dead pitchers and leaves. Pitcher plants have a growth habit like a vine and can ramble a long way from the pot, draping pitchers over the orchids. It is *extremely* satisfying to find a dead cockroach or other pests dissolving in the liquid at the base of a pitcher. I have heard of an orchid grower who once found a dead mouse in a pitcher.

In nature, carnivorous plants usually grow in impoverished soils where there is not much nutrition for the plant, and the plants compensate for a lack of nutrient uptake by the roots by eating insects and other small animals. Indeed, most carnivorous plants seem to do best with minimal nutrition and do not tolerate fertilizing well. In my shadehouse, the pitcher plants do not seem to mind occasional splashes of liquid fertilizer, but I do not deliberately fertilise them. On the other hand, Venus flytraps (*Dionaea muscipula*) and sundews (genus *Drosera*) are very sensitive to fertilizer. While these sensitive plants will grow well in the shadehouse, they die if they receive the same sort of fertilisers as my orchids, and so I got into the habit of moving them out of the shadehouse before fertilizing the orchids, and moving them back afterwards. Because of my penchant for scattering my carnivorous plants among the orchids, moving them became too much of a hassle. I still love my sundews and Venus flytraps, but I keep them in trays outside the shadehouse now, and water them only with distilled water. They do very well in full sun even in the middle of summer, provided that their pots are sitting in a pool of water.

## Pandan (*Pandanus amaryllifolius*)

Pandan is related to the Pandanus trees that are common on Pacific islands. I did not set out to grow pandan as a companion plant for orchids. Being a tropical plant, pandan does not do well during Perth's cold wet winters, but my mother-in-law likes pandan, so I allow her to grow it in a corner of the shadehouse that I cover during winter. This is a symbiotic arrangement—the pandan grows happily and in return for shadehouse space for the pandan, my mother-in-law occasionally provides Arni and me with tasty Indonesian food flavoured with pandan leaves.

## Ferns ☠☠☠☠

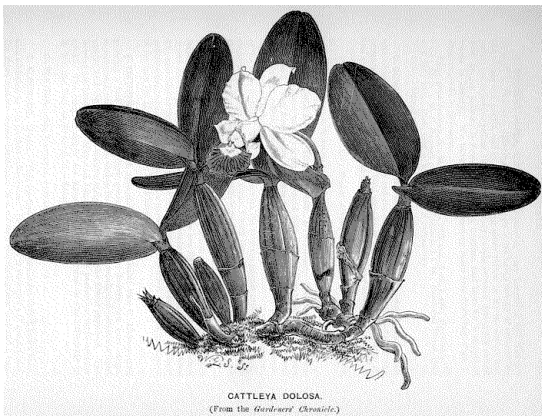


Ferns grow well in the shadehouse under the benches. They grow so well, in fact, that they will produce many millions of spores, and the spores will blow around the shadehouse, and soon the ferns will be growing below the benches, on top of the benches, in hanging pots, out of cracks in the floor of the shadehouse, out of cracks in any solid walls, between bits of shadecloth, even out of leaf axils in orchids. The ferns also send long rhizomes (“runners”) out of the holes at the base of the pots and from the top of the pot, seeking new areas to colonise. I was once warned by Peter Masters never to let ferns into the shadehouse. Although I never deliberately took ferns into my shadehouse, they got in there anyway. I was not vigilant in removing these ferns, and now they are invading many orchid pots. Some pots contain not just one but several species of ferns. The fibrous roots of the ferns clog up the potting mix and choke the orchid roots, and the fast-growing fronds crowd the slower-growing orchid foliage. Heed Peter Masters' advice—**most ferns are not suitable companion plants for orchids!**

*A herringbone fern choking an intermediate Dendrobium hybrid in a hanging basket. Note the fern's runners growing through the holes at the bottom of the pot. The runners extend for over half a metre and readily invade pots on the bench below.*

Crossword Solution - by Trevor Burnett

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A sympodial orchid - new growths emerge from a more-or-less horizontal runner known as a rhizome.



A monopodial orchid - grows as a single, upright stem. (Monopodial = "one-footed".)