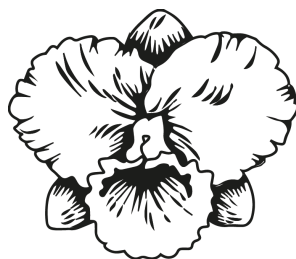


THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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

VOLUME 58 No 2



FEBRUARY 2018

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 23rd February, 2018, commencing at 7.30pm.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT

**MARCH
MEETING DATES:**

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 2nd

General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 23rd
(includes AGM)

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We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin

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Birthdays.

February: 7th Jim Baylis; 11th Nancie Jones.

March: 11th Merylyn Brechin; 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.

February's monthly meeting includes OSWA's 2018 AGM

Please consider nominating for committee or some other role to help OSWA this year. If you would like to nominate for a position but have not lodged a nomination form, do not fret! Nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM if insufficient nominations have been received for a particular position. Nominees are required by WA state law to sign a declaration (included in the nomination forms in the January bulletin). **Minutes from the 2017 AGM and the December 2017 GM** were published in the January bulletin, so there are no minutes in the Bulletin this month.

Also, we will be considering the "New Rules" at this meeting. The new rules were sent to all members in January. If you have not read them, please do so before the meeting. It is not rivetting stuff, but we are required to replace our current constitution with new rules conform to new Associations laws.

As well as the AGM, we will have the usual general meeting activities (monthly plant competition, raffles and such) and wine and cheese at the end of the night.

Membership Subscriptions for 2018 are now overdue.

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

- (a) directly to Kirsty Bayliss at a general 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.

Unfortunately we cannot carry unfinancial members because we need to cover costs (insurance etc.) that are associated with each membership.

Name Badges have Arrived!

Badges have arrived for Silvana, Peter, Helena, Scott, Aaron, Bryan, Amy, and Poh. They will be available at the February general meeting.

Special Request - Orchid Display for an office, ongoing.

We have received a request from a business owner who is setting up an office in Mt Hawthorn. They have asked if a member or two could to provide 3-4 orchids to display in the office, and swap them with new orchids every 2-4 weeks. The business owner will have a some display pots to sit the orchid pots in, and will maintain the orchids while they are in the office. They are hoping to establish a long-term relationship with one or two growers, and will, of course, pay for the service provided.

Any member interested in this opportunity please contact Murray for further details (phone: 9310 2800, email: murray.baker@inet.net.au).

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2018) based on notes from Roy Brown

These are usually 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% 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 the plants free from all insect pests well in advance, so no harm will come to the young flower spikes when they emerge.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2018) based on notes from 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 (FEB-MAR 2018) 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.

What's on happening around OSWA this year?

Nursery Visits

Tropical Colours Nursery Visit #1 - Saturday 5th May

Floraplant Nursery Visit - Saturday 30th June

Tropical Colours Nursery Visit #2 - Saturday 18th August

Shows

Autumn Show (Riverton) - set up 8th May, Show 9th - 12th May

Combined Cymidium Club Display & OSWA Winter Show - Saturday 7th July (at Manning)

Inter Society Display & Workshop - Saturday 4th August - Sunday 5th August

Spring Show (Kardinya) - set up 28th August, show 29th August to 1st September

Neutrog

Neutrog Order (Autumn) - Members order by 23rd March for delivery Tuesday 24th April

Brian Klepzig from Neutrog will be guest speaker at our General Meeting on Friday 24th August

Neutrog Order (Spring) - Members order by 28th September for delivery Friday 19th October

Special Events

Garden Festival - Set up 11th April, Display & Information 12th - 15th April 9 am - 4 pm

Potting Workshop - Sunday 21st October

Home Visits

If you would like to host a Home Visit in 2018 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.

Details about these and other events will be published in future bulletins.