

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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APRIL 2021

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 23 April 2021**.

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## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

HARRY ASHTON  
SPOTTY CATTLEYAS

## MAY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 7th  
General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 28th

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## Birthdays

April 7th Rosemary McGrath, 12th Karen Carless, 29th Ian Duncan

May: 1st Katia Stefanova, 4<sup>th</sup> Jacqui Bateman, 7th Dorothy Walton, 8th Calvin Hisco, 9th Ellen Dixon

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 Michele Hay (Shenton Park) and James Wong (Willetton). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

New members are eligible to receive three free orchids. If you are a new member, you should receive a letter about how to receive your free orchids. If you have not received your letter, contact Courtney at a meeting or on 0407 049 717.

## The Sales Table is Back!

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, our sales table will be up and running again at the March General Meeting. Any plants offered for sale must have no signs of pests or diseases and should have a healthy root system and be secure in their pots. All plants offered for sale must have an OSWA plant sales tag attached, and to avoid the sales table descending into chaos, members selling plants must complete an OSWA Plant Sales sheet. OSWA will receive a commission of 10% on sales, but as an incentive to maintain membership, the commission will not be collected on sales by long-standing members (>5 years). An information sheet on Selling Plants at OSWA events, plant sales tags, and the OSWA Plant Sales Sheet accompany this bulletin. These items are also available at General Meetings and can be downloaded from [www.orchidsocietywa.net.au](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au).

## Correction — OSWA Registrar

In the last bulletin, the information about the Registrar was incorrect. It should have indicated that Malcolm Davis is Registrar, with Enid Chelva assisting to compile the monthly results. Apologies for any confusion or distress caused to Malcolm and Enid.

## Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival - Thursday 29 April - Sunday 2 May

### (Setup: Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 April)

As in previous years, OSWA will have a stall at the Festival this year. The Festival will have lots of things of interest to members, on all aspects of gardening, including orchids. OSWA will have a limited number of entry passes for members to gain free access to the event on days that they volunteer at the OSWA stall. If you would like to visit the Festival for free, sign up for some shifts in our stall, and you'll be free to wander around the Festival grounds when your shift is over. Members who have been involved in the past have found the experience very rewarding, not only because of the many interesting things to do, but the many interesting orchid enthusiasts they meet.

This year we will be setting up our gazebo and tables on Tuesday 27 April at 10 am. Our stall will include a small display, so members with plants in flower should bring them to the venue on Wednesday 28 April, at about 4 pm. The venue is Langley Park, off Terrace Road, Perth.

Note that if you wish to volunteer, you will need to have a COVID Training Certificate. See Harry's email on this matter. The Certificate is easily obtained online, after you read a few pages of text and answer some straightforward questions. Further information about our arrangements for the Festival and a sign-up sheet for volunteers will be provided at the General Meeting this Friday. If you can't make the meeting, contact Harry for further info.

### **Next Neutrog Bulk Order closes Sunday 2 May.**

OSWA has an arrangement with Neutrog Australia that allows members to purchase products from their extensive range of fertilisers at excellent prices. Many members use a range of Neutrog products—OSWA endorses Strike Back for Orchids Liquid, but many other products, most for non-orchid applications, are also available. Requests for our next bulk order are being accepted now.

The Neutrog online ordering portal is now operational and if you enrolled for the program you should have received an email from Neutrog with instructions on how to activate your account. From now onwards, the Treasurer will not be coordinating orders or collecting Neutrog payments. Instead, whenever OSWA arranges for a bulk order of Neutrog products, members should place their order and make the necessary payment via the portal. Neutrog will then organise for the bulk order to be shipped to a central location, from which members will collect what they bought.

To participate in our next bulk order, members must place their orders via the Neutrog portal by **Sunday 2 May**, and will be able to collect their orders from Rosemary's place from Wednesday 26 May. If you have not registered with Neutrog for their online ordering portal but would like to make an order, you will need to cosy up to another member who *has* registered and grovel to them to place an order on your behalf. If you have not registered and would like to, let Harry know.

### **Upcoming Events...**

#### **Koi Show — Sunday 13 June 2021**

OSWA will have a stand at the Koi Show. The venue this year is Elmars in the Swan Valley ([elmars.com.au](http://elmars.com.au)). This event is not your usual orchid event but the koi are pretty interesting and it is fun to see folks as enthusiastic and fussy and nerdy about fish as we are about orchids. Consider making a trip up to the Swan Valley for the day, to spend an hour looking at the koi, some time at the OSWA stand, and maybe lunch at Elmars, sampling the products of their German brewery.

#### **Visit to Floraplant Nursery - Saturday 10 July 2021**

Trevor has arranged for an OSWA visit to Floraplant Nursery on Saturday 10 July, starting at 9 am sharp. The Floraplant people have very few times when they are able to host visitors, so we are very lucky to have this opportunity. Floraplant visits are always popular, so put it in your diary.

#### **Home Visit — John and Karen Carless - Sunday 29 August 2021**

John and Karen have kindly agreed to host an OSWA visit to on Sunday 29 August, from 10 am. An event not to be missed, so put this one in your calendar too. More details to come.

#### **Other events for your calendar — more info later**

- 6 - 8 August:       **Intersociety Display and Workshop**
- 20-22 August:     **Perth Orchid Fair** (No OSWA display due to closeness to Kardinya Show and limited availability of members)
- 1-4 September:   **Kardinya Spring Show** (Setup Tuesday 31 August)
- 17 October:       **Potting Workshop** (Sunday; Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre)
- 9 November:      **Mundaring Garden Club** (Tuesday, Courtney coordinating)
- 13-14 November: **Late Flowering Orchid Display** (Setup Friday 12 November; Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre)
- 24 November:     **Christmas Dinner** (Bentley Pines, Wednesday 24 November from 6:30 pm)
- ?                   **Springfield Nursery Visit** (maybe?)

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2021) based on notes from Roy Brown**

Now that the cooler months are coming, a start can be made on repotting. It's always good idea to make an early start on the job of repotting, especially if you have a fairly large collection of cymbidiums. A start can be made on small plants, as well as divisions, that are not expected to flower this year. Any plants that are already showing signs of flower spikes are better left until after the flowers have been cut off. April is the month when most of the Spring flowering plants send up their spikes. Cymbidium spikes are produced from the base of the pseudo bulb, or sometimes they appear between the lower and second leaves. The early flowering cymbidiums have already produced their spikes and these will continue to grow at a fast rate, in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Take care of these new spikes, they are easily damaged, and keep all snails, slugs and insects away from the buds. Use Baysol to keep the snails and slugs away, and for all other biting insects, use a powder form of insecticide on the flower buds. Don't use liquid insecticide or you could cause bud drop or malformed flowers once they finally open. Depending on weather conditions, watering will probably be needed only once or twice a week from now on, preferably in the morning. The regular feeding programme can be continued. Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids fertilisers are a good choice of fertiliser at this time, since they contain a high level of potassium, to help form the newly developing flower spikes.

**CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2021) based on notes from Henry Eaton**

We have experienced a long summer, but autumn weather is finally starting to appear. When the true autumn weather arrives it will need a change in culture. As it ought to be cooler and more humid, the frequency of watering can be reduced, as well as stopping any watering in the evenings, so as to allow the plants to dry out before nightfall. The necessity to water a plant can be gauged by lifting up the pot and comparing the weight of a recently watered plant with what it felt before watering. Cattleyas in general do not like to have their roots wet all the time, but prefer a wet/dry cycle. Remember too, that the plant is only as good as its root system. Fertilising with a high potassium, fertiliser such as Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids, can promote flowering, but as the weather cools and growth slows, the amount of fertiliser should be reduced. If you use Strike Back pellets, apply less this month, and if you use Strike Back liquid, reduce the concentration that you apply by half, or apply less frequently. Mature pseudo bulbs should be staked erect so that any buds or flowers will present well. If you use a malleable stake, take the stake to the errant bulb, rather than the other way round, as the latter could cause the bulb to fracture. Over a couple of days or a week or two, gradually straightening the stake can move a pseudo bulb from almost a flat position to an upright one, without damaging the bulb. If circumstances dictate that a plant has to be moved, try and place it in its new position at the same angle to the brightest light source as it was previously. If the weather turns, becomes more cloudy and there is a decrease in sunlight, you can also think about removing some of the shade applied in summer. Keep a close lookout for pests and deal with them promptly. Any unfinished potting on or repotting should be completed by mid-May.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2021) by Trevor Burnett**

With the development of cooler conditions, any summer shading can be gradually removed. As the conditions cool, reduced watering will also be necessary. Personally, I reduce my watering back to twice a week, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days when watering will need to be monitored. As the plants' growth starts to slow, the fertilizer program needs to be adjusted. If you use Strike Back for Orchids (pellet or liquid forms), reduce the rate of application of fertiliser by about half at this time. Over the past few years I actually cut out all fertilizing for flowering size plants, as I have found that more plants tend to send up flowers if they are not receiving fertilizer in this period. This is also the time of the year that we start to see and enjoy the fruits of our year's growing, with plenty of the early flowers now beginning to appear. As flower spikes appear, mark the pot with a wooden skewer with a piece of foam on the top, so you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower. This also serves as a reminder to be careful when moving or cleaning nearby plants so as not to knock the valuable, long awaited buds off. With buds appearing, this is the time to flush out any snails or slugs that may be in hiding, just waiting for your prize plant to bloom so they can start their festive season with nice flowers to munch. If you do not wish to use chemical based baits, you can simply cut

up some lemons and place them around the benches. The lemon does not kill any snails or slugs, but it does attract them. Once you know their whereabouts, you can easily eradicate them with a number 10 shoe, or in my case a number 7. Continue to remove any dead leaves from plants and also have a general cleanup of the area. I would ensure that all my small plants that are not expected to flower are repotted to ensure they have a nice clean open mix before going into winter. Winter and wet feet do not mix.

### **The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**

#### **Agenda of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

#### **Welcome: 7:33 pm**

**Presentation:** Charly on greenhouse automation, and provided a valuable description how he overcomes the challenges associated with greenhouse culture.

**Minutes:** Moved L Brooks, seconded C Ottobriano that the Minutes of the previous GM be accepted. Carried.

#### **Business arising:**

- Perth Orchid Fair. Helen presented on the Perth Orchid Fair 2021; a number of clubs involved; clubs may contribute seed funding (\$100/share) to share in profits. Clubs involved may participate by benching plants which go into a combined display, OR a club may decide to set up a display representing their club. We had an interactive discussion of what capacity we would be involved in as a club, and most members noted that they will already be involved with another orchid club. It was agreed that we can support the event by volunteering and bringing in plants for the competition and combined display, but will not be able to stage an individual OSWA display.

**New Members:** Charmaine Tan

#### **Correspondence:**

- GCA forms for insurance/contact details
- Confirmed attendance at Mundaring Garden Club (has a large membership, loves to purchase plants)
- OWA Meeting date
- Helen re: presentation on growing cymbidiums, and regarding suggestions for our next OSWA club plant. Helen kindly offered to scope plants for OSWA when she visits Barrita Orchids next month
- Manning Markets regarding setting up a stall to promote OSWA. They are happy to have us there promoting the society but will not allow us to sell plants/raffle at this stage.
- Trevor indicating that some plants from Rod Pohl's collection had been divided
- John Carless re home visits dates - John will have lots of plants for sale! Confirmed 29<sup>th</sup> August.
- Booked Bentley Pines for Wednesday Nov 24<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas dinner
- Emailed Perth Garden Festival confirming we still had our booking
- From Garden City Plastics: OSWA medium bark order has arrived
- From the Perth Orchid Fair 2021 Committee detailing how the event is to be run
- Provided email addresses to Neutrog for the setup of the online ordering portal

**Business arising from correspondence:** Neutrog online ordering portal- emails have been submitted. Moved Harry Ashton seconded M Brechin that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

#### **Reports: Nil**

**Financial report:** Presented by J Bateman. Moved J Bateman seconded L Brooks that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

#### **General Business:**

- **Shed Cleanup Day: Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **OSWA Auction:** Auction at our June meeting? Expression of interest and who has plants to sell?
- **Garden City Plastics order:** The society if due to order more pots/hangers/orchid growing equipment. What we DON'T want is for all of our stock to be ordered by one person! So if you are likely to buy a large quantity of one item, please let us know and we can discuss ordering a larger quantity for you
- **Harry: New Grower Incentive Scene Participation**
- **Perth Garden Festival:** Roster circulated, arrangements for entry/passes discussed.
- **Event calendar for 2020**
  - 1) Perth Garden Festival (confirmed 29/4/21 – 2/5/21)

- 2) Koi Society Show- June 13<sup>th</sup> at Elmar's in the Swan Valley
- 3) Flora Plant nursery visit (July 10th- 9am sharp)
- 4) Intersociety Display and Workshop (confirmed 6/8/21- 8/8/21)
- 5) John Carless Home visit (29/8/21)
- 6) OSWA Spring Show (confirmed 31/8/21 - 4/9/21)
- 7) Late Flowering Orchid Display (confirmed November 12/11/21 - 14/11/21)
- 8) Christmas dinner at Bentley Pines (24/11/21 6:30pm)
- 9) +/- Springfield Orchid's visit?

**BREAK FOR PLANT JUDGING****Raffle:** Arnold Davies, Helen Stretch**Open popular vote:** Helen Stretch **Novice popular vote:** Lynn Brooks**Door Prize:** Catarina Ottobriano

**Plant descriptions:** Jacqui Bateman presented on her *Dendrochilum*, said it very rarely gets fertilized and does it's own thing! Ray Taylor described his *Coelogyne* - generally a cold growing genus, these are usually best grown close to the ground in Perth. Ray notes that this plant is an exception; he grows this plant high up. This cross was made by David Banks cross, and named after his wife, Janine Banks.

**Meeting closed at: 9:22 pm****MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (MARCH, 2021)**

(Note: Plants must have been owned by the grower for at least 6 months prior to entry in Monthly Meetings and Shows)

**OPEN**

1A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Epidendrum diffusum</i>
1C	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
1D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
1E	(1)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop Kodama
1F	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Jennifer Margaret
		2	Tara Peeters	<i>Cattleya</i> Gene May x <i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Maikai
3B	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Isabel ( <i>stonei</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i> )
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Alexia Pynes ( <i>supardii</i> x <i>Victoria-mariae</i> )
3C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Citron
3D	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Transvaal x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> liemianum
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Pinocchio x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> helenae
4D	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Gloucester Charm
		2	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium</i> Unknown
5E	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
6D	(3)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Oncidium</i> Aka Baby (Raspberry Chocolate)
		2	Merril Brechin	<i>Brassia</i> Eternal Wind (Summer Dream)
		3	Ray Taylor	<i>Odontocidium</i> Everglades Elegance Nancy Lee
7A	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Aeranthus</i> ramosa
7B	(1)	1	Murray and Arni Baker	<i>Vanda</i> Josephine van Brero x <i>Vanda</i> miniatum
8A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium</i> schneiderae
11A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sorcerer's Apprentice
11B	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Coelogyne</i> Jannine Banks
		2	Murray and Arni Baker	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Redvale 'Sweet Wine' x <i>Zygopetalum</i> River Murray 'Kiwi'

**NOVICE**

15A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cattleya Banningiana</i>
15B	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya C G Roebling Blue Indigo x Cattleya gaskelliana x Laelia purpurata</i>
15C	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Cattleya Call Me Terrific</i>
15F	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Encyclia Verano</i>
17B	(1)	1	Kirsty Bayliss	<i>Paphiopedilum Henrietta Fujiwara</i>
18F	(1)	2	Enid Chelva	<i>Dendrobium Jade</i>
20D	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Oncidium Unknown</i>
24B	(2)	1	Kirsty Bayliss	<i>Bulbophyllum lepidum</i>
		1	Anonymous (!)	<i>Dendrochilum latifolium var. macranthum</i>

**POPULAR VOTE**

<b>OPEN</b>	Helen Stretch	<i>Oncidium Aka Baby (Raspberry Chocolate)</i>
<b>NOVICE</b>	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya C G Roebling Blue Magic x Cattleya gaskelliana x Laelia purpurata</i>
<b>SCHOKMAN TROPHY</b> (Laeliinae)	Helen Stretch	<i>Cattleya Unknown</i>
<b>JIM GRANTHAM TROPHY</b> (Phragmipedium)	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>



Open Popular Vote Winner  
*Oncidium Aka Baby (Raspberry Chocolate)*  
Grown by Helen Stretch



Novice Popular Vote Winner  
*Cattleya C G Roebling Blue Indigo x Cattleya gaskelliana x Laelia purpurata*  
Grown by Lynn Brooks