

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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

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APRIL 2022

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 22 April 2022**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

ADRIAN JOSÉ
SPECIES ORCHIDS

MAY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 6th
General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 27th

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OSWA disclaims all liability for losses that may be attributed to the use of any material mentioned in this Bulletin. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of OSWA.

Requirements for Attendance at OSWA Meetings during the time of COVID

- **All attendees will be required to show proof of full vaccination prior to admission to the meeting.** OSWA will retain a register of members who have presented proof of vaccination and the date of validity of the proof, but will not retain any other information.
- **Attendees should use the hand sanitizer upon arrival.**
- **Masks should be worn over the nose, mouth and chin**, throughout the meeting, except while eating, drinking, or if removal of the mask is required for speaking.
- **Physical distancing (> 1.5 m) should be practiced as much as possible.**
- **The kitchen will not be used during meetings.** This change means that supper (tea, coffee, munchies) will not be provided. Members are encouraged to bring their own beverage (tea, coffee, etc.) in their own thermos or keep cup. Please do not bring a plate to share until further notice.
- **Please do not attend meetings if you are feeling unwell or have COVID symptoms** (sore throat, temperature, runny nose...).

Proof of vaccination may be presented via the Express Plus Medicare or Service WA mobile apps.

Alternatively, if you have suitable identification, proof of vaccination can be presented as a certificate stored on your smartphone, a hardcopy of your certificate, or a digital or hardcopy of your immunisation history. (Suitable identification includes driver's licence, passport, Medicare, Seniors or Centrelink cards etc.) For further information, see:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-proof-of-covid-19-vaccinations>

Birthdays

April 6th Eva Gani; 7th Rosemary McGrath; 10th Bernadette Campbell; 12th Karen Carless; 29th Ian Duncan

May: 1st Katia Stefanova; 4th Jacqui Bateman; 7th Dorothy Walton; 8th Calvin Hisco; 9th Ellen Dixon; 10th Colleen Cortenbach

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.

Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November

If yours are *still* overdue, you know what you need to do, or there will be no more Neutrog for you!

Neutrog Store

The Autumn orders arrived only one day late, a remarkable effort from Neutrog given the difficulties with freight over the last few months. For those who only ordered a bottle of Popul8 or some other small item, you may collect it at the April General Meeting. *Any bottles not collected at the meeting will be at risk of becoming lost in Murray's stash of Neutrog products.*

For the remainder of the year, Neutrog Store dates are as follows:

	Winter	Spring	Summer
Online store opens	7 March	6 June	5 September
Online store closes	9 May	8 August	7 November
Anticipated Delivery Date	~ 3 June	~ 2 September	~ 2 December

Remember, to obtain Neutrog products at special club rates, you need to be registered with the Neutrog Online Store (not just the Poo Bah Club) and your membership of OSWA needs to be current.

New Members

Welcome to Linda Gooding (Kardinya), Marian McFetidge (Ferndale) and Karina Wheelock (Riverton). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

New Members: how to get your three free orchids.

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.

Conditions for granting of 3 free orchids with your first year of membership include, but are not limited to:

- You must contact Courtney several days before the meeting where you want to collect your plants.
- The offer is only available for 12 months from the time you join the club, **or while stocks last.**
- First in best dressed.

Shed Cleanup: Saturday 30th April from 2 pm.

If you're at a loose end on Saturday afternoon, 30th April, why not come along to the annual OSWA shed cleanup? It's about as exciting as it sounds, but it's a necessary job, someone's gotta do it, many hands make light work, etc... Also, the company will be good (of course!) and there will be plenty of time for afternoon tea when the job is done. The shed is at Neil McDougal Park, Como. The park provides a pleasant environment for barbecues and the like. *Access to the shed is via the driveway opposite number 27 Clydesdale Street.* More details at the April general meeting.

Vale Rita Ellis

Long-time members will be saddened to know that Rita Ellis passed away earlier this month. Although not a member of OSWA, Rita was a regular visitor to OSWA's meetings and shows as one of the members of the Orchid Judging Panel of WA. Rita was forced to curtail her judging due to ill health some time ago, but those who knew her will always remember her love of orchids and her cheerful, bubbly personality. Rest in peace Rita.

Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival Postponed

For the last few years, OSWA has had a stall at the Perth Garden Festival. To members who signed up for the roster to help out at the OSWA stall again this year, note that covid-related uncertainties have caused the organisers to postpone the Festival to 27-30 October 2022. <https://perthgardenfestival.com>

Upcoming Events for your Calendar

- **Koi Society Show:** Will be a Sunday in early June. There may be an OSWA sales table.
- **Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop:** 6-7 August in Busselton.
- **Kardinya Spring Show:** Setup, Tue 30 August; Show, Wed 31 August to Sat 3 September.
- **Potting Workshop:** Sunday 16 October
- **Perth Garden Festival:** 27-30 October (setup 25 and 26 October?)
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display:** Some time in November
- **Home visits?** Let Harry or Lina know if you would be happy to host a home visit.
- **Nursery visits?** Watch this space.

Correction

In the March Bulletin, photos of Maxine Godbeer's *Aerangis fusca* and Alan Rowe's hybrid *Brassia* were incorrectly attributed to Harry Ashton. These excellent photos were actually taken by Maxine and Alan, who forwarded them to Harry, who in turn forwarded them to the Bulletin Editor. The Editor apologises profusely to all involved for any inconvenience or embarrassment caused. Thank you for the photos Maxine and Alan!

Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop will be the biggest event on the WA orchid calendar this year. It will be held in Busselton on the first weekend in August. These events are always good fun and provide an opportunity to see lots of orchids and mingle with lots of other West Australian orchid growers. Barbara Burnett has already investigated the accommodation situation in Busselton at about that time and has been kind enough to pass on her findings. Barbara recommends we all stay at the Bayview Geograph Resort, Busselton (go to <https://bgr.bayviewhotels.com> or phone them on 08 9755 4166). The following info is partially paraphrased from Barbara's email, for accommodation for 3 nights, arriving Friday 5 August and checking out on Monday 8 August 2022:

Bayview Geograph Resort Busselton seemed to be very reasonable and lots of units. All ground floor. If we say we are with OSWA when we book, hopefully they will put us all grouped together. Can request queen bed or twin beds at time of booking.

If you are happy to pay in advance — Pay now and Non refundable price (Price is per villa for 3 nights.)

- *Studio Villa (kitchenette) \$495 (2 people)*
- *Executive Villa (full kitchen) \$576 (2 people)*
- *2 bed 1 bathroom (full kitchen) \$657 (4 people)*
- *3 bedroom standard spa villa (share kitchen living area with tv plus each bedroom has own en-suite and tv) \$837 (6 people)*

If you don't want to pay in advance — Best flexible rate - free cancellation by 3rd August 2022. Payable on arrival for each unit. (Price is per villa for 3 nights)

- *Studio villa \$550*
- *Executive Villa \$640*
- *2 bed 1 bathroom \$730*
- *3 bedroom standard spa villa \$930*

Each of you will need to book according to your requirements ie sharing or by yourself.

Thanks Barbara!

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2022) based on notes from Roy Brown

Now that the cooler months are coming, a start can be made on repotting. It's always a 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 and 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, and in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Take care of these new spikes as 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 2022) 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 to 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 2022) 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. The skewer will help keep you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower and the piece of foam will keep you from poking out an eye on a skewer. The skewers with their bits of foam also serve 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.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc.), held in the Manning Activity Centre, Manning, on 25 March 2022.

Welcome: 7:36 pm

Attendance: as per attendance register.

Business arising from the previous minutes:

Harry would like to acknowledge that he was wrongly credited with photography for the popular vote winners last month. Thanks to Alan Rowe and Maxine Godbeer for the lovely photos!

Minutes: Moved Nantha L seconded Lynn B that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentation: Tara Peeters on Vanda Culture

Correspondence:

- 25/-2- email from Neutrog re: trading arrangement changes – unclear if anything required from us
- 27/2- emailed various potential speakers for future presentations (Dr Bugalugs, Adrian José on Species etc)
- 1/3- report from T Burnett re: OWA, appointment of new secretary, report on the Perth International Conference

(suggestion from organisers that this be delayed), and that further meetings will be via Zoom.

- 12/3- Information on Weedsan Project from GCA — just need smartphone to register
- 14/3- Neutrog update re latest bulk order
- 18/3- received email from Neutrog re: possible investment opportunities > replied with expression of interest and request for more info
- 22/3- received request from Neutrog to sign a credit application form > no action taken

Business arising from correspondence

- Neutrog investment — members agreed the committee should explore options available but the matter is to be brought back to a general meeting before a final decision is made, bearing in mind \$5000 is a large investment that would represent 15% of our clubs assets.

Moved Harry, seconded Alan that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports: Nil

Financial report: Deferred to April meeting

Business arising from the financial report: Nil (since report deferred).

General Business:

- **Perth Garden Festival** – Scheduled for early May. Roster for OSWA stall was circulated. Details not received from organisers yet, but we expect to be provided with free entry passes for all volunteers signing up for a shift.
- **Shed cleanup-** Planned for April 30th at 2pm. More details at the April GM!
- **Intersociety Display and Workshop in Busselton-** We will be participating in the ISDW which will take place in Busselton this year. We will be booking accommodation soon so if you are interested in sharing accommodation near Busselton for Friday 5th /Saturday 6th/ Sunday 7th August, please let Harry know ASAP so we can try and secure a suitable sized ?AIR BNB.
- **Harry : New Grower Incentive Scene Participation** – new OSWA members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in the second, third and fourth year as OSWA members collect points from benching plants, and at the end of the year the grower in each year with the most 'points' will be awarded a quality, flowering sized plant from the OSWA stockpile.
- **Events calendar 2022:** Perth Garden Festival – May 5th- 8th; Koi Society Show- will be a Sunday in June; Intersociety Display and Workshop – August 6th-7th in Busselton; Kardinya Spring Show Tuesday- planned August 30th – September 3rd; Potting Workshop – planned October 16th; Late Flowering Orchid Display – planned November 9th-13th

Raffle: Patricia Lefante, Cheryl Compagnone, Murray Baker, Maggie Reisenberger, Margaret Armstrong, Alan Rowe, Tara Peeters, and Glynn Fathers. Alan, Tara, and Glynn to receive their plant prize next month. Also, Patricia Lefante and Alan Rowe received their prizes from the February meeting.

Open popular vote: Howard Tan with *Paphiopedilum* Shinyi Prince.

Novice popular vote: Alan Rowe with *Degamoara* unknown.

Door Prize: Lina Pacca

Plant discussions: Lynn Brooks presented on *Procatavola* Golden Peacock; Helen Stretch presented on *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Village Chief North 'Green Genius'

Meeting Closed at 10:00 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (MARCH 2022)

OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Epidendrum diffusum</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
1C	(3)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Village Chief North 'Green Genius'
		2	Helen Stretch	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Little Mermaid
		3	Valerie Cooper	<i>Cattelya</i> Unknown
2A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium dayanum</i>
3D	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Ky So (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Prime Child x <i>Paphiopedilum tigrinum</i>)
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Shin-Yi Prince (<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Prince Edward of York x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> x <i>sandrianum</i>)
4D	(1)	2	Tara Peeters	<i>Dendrobium</i> Petite Bouquet
11A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sorcerer's Apprentice

NOVICE

15A	(2)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cattleya purpurata</i>
		2	Betty Saul	<i>Cattleya bowringiana</i>
15B	(3)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Cattleya bowringiana</i> x <i>Cattleya</i> Potencia
		2	Lyn Brooks	<i>Procatavola</i> ?
		3	Lyn Brooks	<i>Procatavola</i> Golden Peacock
15C	(1)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Brassocatanthe</i> Little Mermaid 'Janet'
18B	(1)		Margaret Rathbone	<i>Dendrobium</i> Unknown
20D	(2)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Degamoara</i> Unknown
		2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Oncidium</i> Unknown

Discussion from the March General Meeting**Tara Peeters on Vanda Culture**

Tara presented on culture of Vanda orchids in Perth. Her presentation discussed the diversity of vandaceous orchids and highlighted that vandaceous genera (such as *Vanda*, *Ascocentrum*, *Aerides*, *Arachnis*, *Angraecum* etc) can be crossed to produce very interesting hybrids. Tara grows these plants outdoors in her backyard, under a solid roof that provides some shelter from rain in winter.

Humidity and Airflow

Tara highlights the importance of maintaining high humidity, and describes how she grows her plants quite close to a capillary mat that provides extra humidity. Other members report using 'Old man's beard' or Spanish moss around the root system to create a humid microclimate around the root system. (One of the consequences of having insufficient humidity around vandas is that the plants tend to lose their lower leaves so that they end up as an unsightly stalk with a few leaves at the top, whereas with high humidity the leaves will remain on the whole length of the stem for many years. See also the comments about repotting below.)

Watering

Members prone to over watering need to be particularly careful with vandas, and can compensate for this by using larger more free draining media, a smaller pot, and ensuring good air circulation to help dry the plant after watering. Tara actually uses waterwell pots for her vanda orchids, but a VERY large bark size is required to achieve success with this method. Watering plants should be done thoroughly until water runs out the bottom of the pot — this practice helps flush out any excess salts and fertilizer that has accumulated.

Light

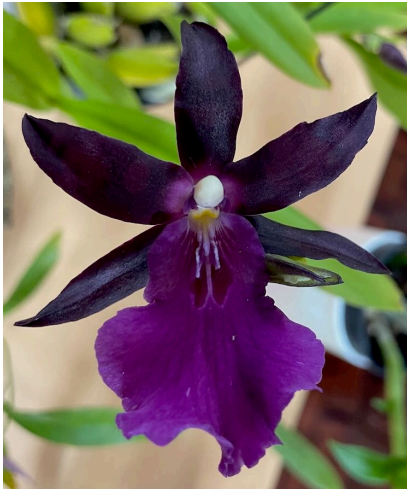
Vandas are often very bright growing orchids, and will tolerate high light levels (although certainly not full sun in the height of summer), so 50% shade cloth should be adequate year-round. One of the problems with growing vandas in Perth is that achieving high light levels is very difficult without compromising humidity and temperature (positions with high light are often too hot and dry).

Repotting

Tara also discussed how to repot vandas, noting how they often become quite 'top heavy', dropping their lower leaves. Vanda divisions should not be done the heat of summer, and Tara notes that before cutting a piece off a vanda, you need to ensure that the division has at least 5 large/good roots to help support the plant through the stressful experience.

Popular vote winners

Howard Tan won the Open Popular Vote with ***Paphiopedilum Shiny Prince*** (pictured at right), a multifloral paph hybrid. This is a cross between *Paphiopedilum Prince Edward of York* and *Paphiopedilum sanderianum*. Howard complains that the petals should be even longer, and that it's a first flowering seedling with more potential! Howard grows this plant in his hot house which gets protected with some extra shade in the summer months. Howard's hot house is large and has an evaporative cooler, 3 fans and multiple fogging systems to assist with humidity!



Alan Rowe won the Novice Popular Vote with ***Degamoara unknown*** (pictured at left), a beautiful dark purple oncidium hybrid. Alan purchased this plant at an orchid show a few years ago, and has grown it in the same pot ever since! Alan fertilizes this orchid occasionally and waters twice a week. The plant came to

Alan labelled as *Degamoara Winter Wonderland* x *Degamoara White Fairy*, but since both of those *Degamoaras* are predominantly white with no hints of purple, that label was probably incorrect, and *Degamoara unknown* is probably a safer label to use. The flowers look

very much like those of some forms of *Miltonia* x *bluntii* that sometimes appear on benches at shows around Perth. *Miltonia* x *bluntii* is a natural hybrid of *Miltonia spectabilis* and *Miltonia clowesii*, and *Degamoara* is a genus comprised of hybrids between orchids of the genera *Miltonia*, *Brassia*, and *Odontoglossum*. Since *Odontoglossum* has now been merged with the genus *Oncidium*, *Degamoara* is apparently now considered to be equivalent to another genus, *Aliceara*. So now you know.



Plant discussions

Lynn Brooks presented on ***Procatavola Golden Peacock*** (below left), a lovely bright orange cattleya hybrid. Lynn gives this fairly standard care, fertilizes with Strike Back for Orchids and liquid fertilizers once or twice a week.

Helen Stretch presented on ***Rhyncholaeliocattleya Village Chief North 'Green Genius'*** (below right), a lovely cluster cattleya hybrid from Tinonee Orchid Nursery (which unfortunately no longer sends orchids to WA). This plant is growing in a water well pot. Helen fertilizes this orchid with Strike Back for Orchids pellets twice a year.

