

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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AUGUST 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 27 August 2021**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

BRIAN KLEPZIG

NEUTROG PRODUCTS

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 3rd
(to be confirmed at July GM!)

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 24th

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*Don't forget the Spring Show,
the Carless Home visit,
and the OSWA 75th anniversary dinner !*

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Birthdays

September: 14th Bob Longmore, 30th Wanda Frantom

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.

Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre, NEXT WEEK!

Setup Tuesday 31st August, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging to start at around 7:15 pm.

Open to public Wednesday 1st September to 4.30pm Saturday 4th September. Plant sales daily.

For setting up, we have been asked to enter the shopping centre via the door near the liquor store (not the door near Coles). Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc will be available at the August General Meeting. If you don't have perfect plants to enter in the competition, please consider bringing orchids in for the display. If you don't have any plants for display, please consider coming along anyway, to help set up and pack up the display, or look after the display and chat to members of the public. Also, please consider signing up for a shift or three in the roster to look after our display. No special skills are required, just enthusiasm for sharing your love of orchids with the public.

Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop

Thank you to all who helped out at the ISOD&W this year. OSWA was successful again, winning both the Best Display as well as winning the benched plants competition. One member of the public was overheard comparing OSWA's display to Kew Garden. Special thanks to Barbara, Lynn, Jacqui and Caterina and their helpers, who set up the display, and Trevor and Maxine, who organised the benched plants. Below: Marion Davey (president of the Australian Orchid Council) with Caterina and Barbara at the OSWA display.



Home Visit — John and Karen Carless - Sunday 29 August 2021, from 10 am

John and Karen Carless invite OSWA members to visit their home at 770 South West Highway, Byford, to see John's orchids and enjoy morning tea. Please bring a plate of nibbles to share. There will be plenty of orchids for sale, so bring plenty of cash if you are looking to buy some quality, easy to grow plants.

John has an excellent setup for his orchids which has been much expanded since the Carless's last home visit in 2018. He specialises in orchids that can be grown in a shadehouse throughout the year in Perth. He is very particular about how he grows his orchids and keeps the nursery and the orchids clean. *Visitors are requested to look but not touch the orchids!*

OSWA 75th Anniversary Dinner - Saturday 11 September

Our 75th Anniversary Dinner will be at Chin's Chinese Restaurant in Leeming, Saturday 11 September, starting at 6:30pm! Please come along, as we have some special 75th Anniversary gifts in store to celebrate and thank you for being part of OSWA. More info at the August General Meeting.

Other events for your calendar — more info later

- 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 (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021) based on notes from Roy Brown

Time is running towards the Spring months, and this means more and more of our Cymbidiums will be opening their flower buds, so see to it the racemes are staked properly and securely. Some varieties need no staking as they have thick, upright stems that are self-supporting, but others will need to be tied to stakes. When doing this, place the stake as near to the flower stem as possible. Tie the stem firmly, but not too tightly as it will continue to lengthen and must not be hindered in its growth.

If the raceme has grown a bit wayward and needs to be pulled back to vertical, this needs to be done gently, and may need to be done in stages, a little each day, to prevent snapping the stem. It is best to do this late in the day, when the stem is most flexible.

If you intend to exhibit the plant in any orchid shows, then do not allow the stake to be higher than the flower stem.

Repotting should now be in full swing. As the early plants finish flowering, a start can be made on dividing and repotting these. This will give the plant the benefit of a full year's growth in the pot, and should enable the plant to make up its new bulbs in time to produce its early flowers again next season. Any plants that are not going to flower this season can also be repotted. This will allow you more time later on in September to repot, as their turn comes, plants that are now in spike.

Keep watch for any insect pests, just one slug, snail or caterpillar can ruin the whole spike and your whole 12 months effort. Baysol is the best remedy for slugs and snails.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021) based on notes from Henry Eaton

We are now coming into the blooming season where the last of your plants will complete their annual flowering. To present the flowers well, make sure the pseudo bulbs are tied vertically and the emerging buds face towards the main source of light.

Be careful with watering, as water remaining on the flowers at nightfall may lead to spotting with Botrytis fungus, ruining your display. To avoid flower spotting, water the orchids early in the morning on

a bright day, so they can dry off by nightfall. If there are any bud sheaths that hold water, peel them open or remove them altogether. Alternatively, the sheaths can be left in place to provide additional support to the flower stem, and a sterile cutting tool can be used to carefully cut a small hole near the base of the sheath to allow any water to drain out. Good luck with your efforts.

This is also the time to think of repotting. Gather together the pots and potting mix you will require. Your choice of mix should be based on the time you can spare to thoroughly water your plants, thinking especially of summer when it is hot and you would rather stay inside than out.

Also think in terms of how long you would like to go between potting. The finer the mix, the faster it tends to break down, and this means more frequent potting. Also, smaller plants will need a finer mix than adult flowering ones. Finer mix also holds more water and less air between the particles. Repot as soon as you see new roots appearing from the pseudo bulbs and before they get longer than 2-3 cm. If the new roots are allowed to get to long, there is increased risk of damaging them during repotting.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021) by Trevor Burnett

The plants have expended considerable energy in producing and supporting flowers. The early variety flowers will now be coming to an end. It is time now to look towards the task of repotting and replacement of the growing medium for reasons such as:

- a) the plant has grown too large for the existing container;
- b) the potting material has broken down and must be replaced;
- c) the plant has naturally divided into two pieces;
- d) you have purchased plants (from various sources and therefore in various different media) in flower through the flowering season.

Paphiopedilums are repotted in a variety of growing media that are generally based on bark or wood chips. Most plants require repotting every 2nd year for larger pots or more often if in smaller pots. Small plants respond to repotting more frequently with increased growth. The watering habit of the grower will influence mix selection. If you are a compulsive user of water and have difficulty in withholding watering, then you will need a more open mix to allow for plants to dry out a little between watering. On the other hand, someone who is sparing with watering or is away from home for a period, may require a finer mix that is able to retain water longer. A finer mix can be obtained by using the basic bark mix and adding some sphagnum moss to the mix.

My programme comes back to 10 days between watering. My general mix is:

- 4 parts clean bark
- 1 part charcoal
- 1 part polystyrene or perlite

Text books recommend growing the plants in small pots, but I personally do not like bonsai, so I grow my plants in larger pots (130mm or 140mm) and get good results. I believe you obtain larger growths which at the end of the season result in larger and stronger flowers. I also make a habit of repotting any new orchids purchased, swapped etc. into my own medium as soon as possible. A lot of the time members purchase plants from many sources and leave them in existing mix as the mix looks fine. This is a trap, as your watering and fertilizing programme is developed for your mix and conditions. It is extremely hard to manage when you have a variety of mixes in varying degrees of decomposition.

Due to circumstances there are not many photos this month, and if you are searching for the minutes, well, they're are not here either...sorry!

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (JULY 2021)

OPEN

1A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Rhyncholaelia glauca</i>
1C	(1)	1	Robin Dalziel	<i>Cattleya</i> Royal Beau 'Alex L'
1D	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Chief Gem 'Red Jewel'
		2	Tara Peeters	<i>Cattleya</i> Jungle Gem x <i>Cattleya</i> Era Kettle
1F	(1)	2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Hawaiian Splash 'Lea'

3A	(2)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum fairrieianum</i>
		2	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i>
3B	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> LEEANUM (<i>insigne</i> x <i>spicerianum</i>)
3D	(2)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Unknown
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Ky So
3E	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Sandra Howe
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Nora Su
6C	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'
6D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Wilsonara</i> Eye Candy 'Pinky'
8B	(2)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium</i> Colonial Surprise Aussie Springtime x <i>Dendrobium</i> Kim
		2	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium</i> Bellinger Valley x <i>Dendrobium</i> Aussie Victory 'Castle Creek'

NOVICE

15B	(1)	2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i>
15D	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
16B	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cymbidium</i> Unknown
16D	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Cymbidium</i> Gene Siskel "Daddy Long Legs"
16E	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Cymbidium</i> Unknown
20D	(1)	1	Nataliya Kulchytska	<i>Oncidium</i> Unknown
15B	(1)	2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i>
15D	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown

Novice Popular Vote Winner

Oncidium unknown
Grown by Nataliya Kulchytska.

Open Popular Vote Winner

Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Pinky'
Grown by Helen Stretch.

