

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 64 No 6



AUGUST 2024

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 August, 2024, commencing at 7:30 pm.**

PATRON: Mr. Courtney Rogasch

PRESIDENT

Annette Gelfi
auskiwi91@gmail.com
Ph. 0402 659 830

SECRETARY

Harry Ashton
orchidsocietywa@gmail.com
Ph. 0412 403 696

TREASURER

Sheelagh Harman
sheelagh4@bigpond.com

REGISTRAR TEAM

Enid Chelva and Alan Rowe

BULLETIN EDITOR

Murray Baker

SOCIAL MEDIA

Kirsty Bayliss

POSTAL ADDRESS

58 Gladstone Rd
Leeming 6149

www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

www.facebook.com/orchidsWA

www.instagram.com/orchidsocietywa

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

BUYING ORCHIDS – WHAT TO LOOK FOR
PRESENTER: HARRY ASHTON

AUGUST MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 6th
General Meeting: Friday 27th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

General News	2-5
General Culture Notes	4-5
Meeting Notes	5-6
Monthly Plant Competition	6-7
From our July Meeting	7

Vale Glynn Fathers

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Glynn Fathers, on 14 August 2024. Glynn was an active, energetic and positive presence at OSWA meetings who was always happy to help out and never failed to put a smile on our faces. Our thoughts are with Glynn's family, especially his wife Dawn, at this difficult time.

Rest in peace Glynn.

(Glynn's funeral is planned for Monday 26th August at 10.30 am, at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 162 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield.)



President's Corner – August 2024

Growing orchids requires a lot of patience. If, like me, patience isn't one of your virtues, I'm sure you'll agree how hard it can be to 'hurry up and wait' for plants to grow or send out the much yearned-for spikes. The huge dendrobium orchid that I bought earlier this year on Facebook Marketplace (not always a reliable source of quality plants) is laden with flower spikes, which is super-exciting of course, but I want to see those flowers!

Recently I purchased my first orchid flasks, and I'm about to do my first de-flasking. Talk about anxiety! And what an opportunity to practice patience (it's at least a few years until my baby plants will yield flowers, so I'm told). Fingers crossed that they survive my inexperience. Have you ever grown orchids from flasks? Got any tips for a complete beginner?

On 3rd August I had the great pleasure of volunteering at the OSWA stall at the inaugural Garden and Gourmet Market at the Supreme Court Gardens in Perth. It was a gloriously sunny day and approximately 5,000 people attended the market. For me, the most rewarding part of volunteering at events like this is talking to people about OSWA and sharing the joy of growing orchids. We gave out a lot of membership flyers and culture notes, answered many questions, and sold some plants as club fundraising. Janice from Darlington was the lucky winner of our raffle, taking home a basket of orchid-growing supplies and a beautiful white phalaenopsis to look after.

May your garden grow well,

Annette Gelfi – OSWA President



General News

Birthdays

August: 5th Judy Gibson, Shari Thomhon; 28th Nyein Su Myat

September: 4th Nelia Farquhaison; 14th Bob Longmore; 15th Nantha Lingam; 19th Lilly Collis; 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.

New Member

Welcome to Lara Boujis (Scarborough). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

NEWS FLASH! There will be NO JUDGING at the August (Friday 23rd) meeting!

Apologies, but the judging panel will be unavailable for our 23rd August general meeting as they will be busy judging plants for the South Eastern Orchid Society show. We will still hold a popular vote, so please bring your plants along.

OSWA'S SPRING SHOW: will take place at the September General Meeting (Friday 27th)

As you are probably already aware, this year, due to a number of factors, we are unable to stage our Spring Show which in recent years was held at the Kardinya shopping centre. So that members do not miss out on the opportunity to have their plants judged and have prizes awarded, the committee has decided to hold Spring Show judging at the September 27th general meeting. This is also an excellent chance to help set up a show and see up close how shows are run, especially if you haven't been able to help out at a show in the past. The Show will take the place of a speaker presentation on the night.

In conjunction with the Show, we would like to make the evening a Soup Night, so that we can share a meal together. Further details of this and logistics for the Spring Show will be communicated to members soon.

OSWA MEMBERSHIP AMNESTY: ARE YOU A CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBER?

We want OSWA membership to be a rewarding, educational and enjoyable experience for all members. So that we can continue to provide presentations, resources, raffle prizes, club plants, shows and other activities for the benefit of members, not to mention pay for essential things like insurance and hall hire, we need all members to pay their membership fees on time. Annual membership subscriptions are due on 1st November every year, however a significant number of members still haven't paid their fees for this year, and risk removal from the membership register. Are you one of them?

To avoid the potential embarrassment of being asked to pay a \$2 fee to attend a club meeting as a non-financial member (something that was mentioned in the May/June 2024 Bulletin) and no longer receiving club Bulletins, we will have a list of current financial members available at the August general meeting, to make it easy for you to check if you are paid up or not. If you won't be at the meeting please email our Treasurer Sheelagh at sheelagh4@bigpond.com and she can advise you of your status.

Garden and Gourmet Market at the Supreme Court Gardens

Thank you to Annette, Harry, Murray, and Kirsty for representing OSWA at the the inaugural Garden and Gourmet Market at the Supreme Court Gardens on Saturday 3rd August. Thanks also to Courtney for loaning some plants for our display. Approximately 5,000 people attended the market, which was many more than the expected 2,000 – 3,000. We were able to drop off our gear close to where our stall was to be set up. Setting up was pretty quick and straightforward. The weather was perfect and our stall was close to a coffee truck and the Orchidup stall! The Tibetan food stall was excellent! Food and drink stalls outnumbered garden stalls, which worked in our favour as we stood out from the crowd. Our display drew a lot of attention. We gave out a lot of membership flyers, culture notes, colouring pages and orchid stickers throughout the day, and sold most of the plants on our sales table. We would have sold many more plants if we had more in flower to sell. The organizers have announced that they will stage another Garden and Gourmet Market on Saturday 30th November. Consider helping out at the OSWA stall, or just going along for fun, it's a nice event to while away a few hours.

Quality Plant Auctions

At the time of printing, no plants had been offered for auction this month, but it is not too late to bring a plant for auction! The "rules" for these auctions: quality plants, preferably large specimens, no commissions taken by OSWA, payment arranged directly between the buyer and the vendor. Please advise Harry before the start of the meeting if you will offer a plant for auction. At the July meeting, *Cattleya* Golf Green 'Hair Pig' (offered by Harry) was won by Patricia for \$40.

Courtney's Orchid Sale

The sale includes Brassia, Cattleya, Coilostylus, Cymbidium, Dendrochilum, Dendrobium, Oncidium, Oncidinae, Sarcophilus, and Zygo orchids. These plants are well-established and actively growing. Many are large enough to split into 3 or 4 pieces. Enquires: call 9495 1522 to arrange an appointment to view the plants, or alternatively, SMS Courtney's mobile 0407 049 717. Be sure to include your name in the message. Courtney does not answer calls on his mobile from unknown callers.

OSWA Events Calendar 2024

- **OSWA Spring Show Judging at our September General Meeting—Confirmed, details TBA**
- **Potting Workshop:** Sunday 13 October
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display:** Setup Friday 8 November, display 9-10 November
- **Floraplant visit? Tropical Colours visit?**
- **Christmas Dinner:** Wednesday 9 October, at Bentley Pines Restaurant (very early this year due to the restaurant closing for renovations from November).
- **December General Meeting:** Friday 13 December (early due to Christmas).

Other upcoming Orchid Events (not OSWA, but still good! 😊)

South Eastern Orchid Society Annual Show – Cannington Exhibition Centre, Gate 1, corner of Albany Highway and Station Street, Cannington. 9 am - 4 pm Saturday 24 August and 9 am - 3 pm Sunday 25 August. Entry \$5.

Info: jayeness3@bigpond.com or find South Eastern Orchid Society on Facebook.

Peel Region Orchid Society Annual Show – Halls Head Parade Community and Sports Facility. 12 noon - 5 pm Saturday 31 August and 9 am - 4 pm Sunday 1 September. Entry \$5.

Info: peelregionorchidsociety@gmail.com or find Peel Region Orchid Society on Facebook

Special presentation by Tom Mirenda and John Varigos – Monday 2 September from 7 pm, New Agricultural Pavilion, Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds, corner of Albany Highway & Station Streets, Cannington. *Tom Mirenda* is a Trustee of the American Orchid Society. He was the Smithsonian Garden's orchid collection specialist for more than 15 years. Now residing in Hawaii, Tom is in WA for the International Orchid Conservation Conference and OrchidsWA has managed to secure an evening with him to present to us. This is a rare opportunity to hear from someone with Tom's practical knowledge of orchid culture. *John Varigos* as Co-Chair of the Australian Orchid Foundation will give a brief outline of the Foundation and what it does. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a plate of food to share for supper. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Diane Gilbert 0417 925 522 / secretary@orchidswa.org.au, but if you forget to RSVP, come along anyway!

Perth Orchid Fair – John Septimus Roe School, corner of Mirrabooka Ave and Boyare Ave, Mirrabooka. 9 am - 4 pm Saturday 7 September and 9 am - 3 pm Sunday 8 September. Entry \$5, concession \$3.

Info: Bruce Larson: 0417 903 280

Free Trestle Tables and Photocopier

OSWA has a number of our old trestle tables that need new homes. These are the tables we used to set up benching of plants and the sales table at shows. They are sturdy and in quite good condition. If you would like some please get in touch with a member of the committee. The OSWA photocopier (needs a service) is also available for free to any member who wants it—contact Murray if interested.

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR DJILBA (APPROX. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER)

The Orchid Society of Western Australia would like to acknowledge that our meetings are held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. Unlike the European calendar, the Noongar people describe the climate of Western Australia's South West as having six seasons guided by what is happening and

changing around us, rather than specific 'dates' on a calendar. This approach to describing Perth's climate is helpful for guiding our orchid related jobs for the year. Djilba (approx. August/September) is known as the 'first spring'. While weather can still be cold and wet, we begin to experience longer hours of daylight and an increasing number of pleasant warm days. The West Australian landscape bursts into life with wildflowers (including our spectacular native terrestrial orchids) and this floral display corresponds with peak flowering season for the orchids we grow. It's a busy time of the year, with many orchid-related shows and events!

- ✓ With many orchids coming into flower, have a think about which plants you can bring to events. In addition to letting others appreciate your plants, orchids brought into OSWA meetings are eligible to win our popular votes (winners receive a prize!) and can be nominated for Australian Orchid Council Awards. Orchids benched at shows may also receive prize money and awards!
- ✓ The large number of events (with the inevitable sales tables) also gives you the opportunity to build your orchid collection. In general it's a good idea to repot newly acquired orchids into a mix that you are familiar with.
- ✓ In addition to repotting newly acquired orchids, think about which of your own orchids need repotting. This is a big job and often takes longer than expected! Reasons to repot include:
 - the plant has grown too large for the existing container;
 - the potting material has broken down and must be replaced (holding too much moisture, not free draining etc);
 - the plant has naturally divided into two pieces (or has rotting bulbs in the centre);
 - you have purchased plants from various sources, and therefore in various different media.
- ✓ The watering habit of the grower will influence potting mix selection. If you are a compulsive user of water and have difficulty holding back, 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 (but therefore may need protection from rain to avoid the mix becoming 'too wet' in winter).
- ✓ Watering at this time of the year is best done in the morning, aiming to allow orchids to dry by nightfall. Try to plan watering for clear sunny days.
- ✓ Try to avoid overhead watering/sprinklers at this time of year, as many orchids are in flower, and flowers can easily blemish if water is allowed to splash on the petals.
- ✓ Use rainwater where possible—there's no shortage of it this time of year, orchids love it, and we all have a responsibility to be water-wise gardeners.
- ✓ If you have a solid cover for your shade house, it can stay on until the wet weather has passed. Orchids that require a dry winter rest or have reduced growth during winter should be kept on the dry side, and given minimal (if any) fertilizer.
- ✓ Snails and slugs are still active in the wet weather, so apply pellets to help control populations (use the expensive, moisture resistant ones that do not disintegrate and go mouldy).

Further information about cymbidiums, cattleyas, and paphiopedilums and other types of orchids can always be found at http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html.

**Notes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre,
Manning, on Friday 26 July 2024**

Welcome: 7:30 pm

Apologies and attendance: as per attendance register

Presentations/demos: Brian Klepzig, Neutrog

General business

- **Trestle tables surplus to requirements** –If you would like some, contact a committee member.
- **Quality Plant Auctions** – Cattleya Golf Green 'Hair Pig' won by Patricia for \$40
- **Shirt order**
- **Events calendar 2024**

Supper prize: Enid C **Door Prize:** Helen S **Floral Art:** Nil

Novice popular vote: Jacqui Bateman with Paphiopedilum Dark Matter. Jacqui bought this plant from Trevor at a South Eastern Orchid Society Show about 3 years ago, and flowers frequently. Jacqui waters and fertilizers this plant frequently.

Raffle: Betty, Margaret, John, Courtney, R (kindly donated his ticket). Helen S.

We owe prizes to Jacqui Bateman, Ray Taylor, Chris, Ray T, John, Sugandika.

Open popular vote: Ray Taylor with Dendrobium Warringah 'Purple Heaven'. This is a very highly awarded Australian native dendrobium- we had this as a club plant in 2023 and so many of our members should have one. We hope to see more in flower in coming years!

Judges Choice: Courtney R with Dendrobium Hilda Poxon 72 points

Best Cymbidium: Jacqui B with Cymbidium unknown 68 points

Meeting closed: 9:14 pm.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (JULY, 2024)

OPEN

1A	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Brassavola cordata</i>
1C	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Momilani Rainbow 'The Gypsy'
1F	(2)	1	Valerie Cooper	<i>Cattleya</i> (Hadvai Delight x Srisil Gold)
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Hawaiian Splash 'Lea'
3A	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>
3B	(2)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Leeannum (<i>insigne</i> x <i>spicerianum</i>)
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Wossner Vollmond (<i>armeniacum</i> x <i>niveum</i>)
3D	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> unknown
4D	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium</i> Fran's Gen 'Green Jade'
4F	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium caudiculatum</i> x <i>Dendrobium fuliginosa</i>
6B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Oncidesa</i> Gower Ramsey 'Sunkist'
6D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Oncidium</i> Heaven Scent 'Redolence'
7A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Angraecum eburneum</i>
7B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Angraecum</i> Veitchii
8B	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Warringah 'Purple Heaven'
		3	Merril Brechin	<i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Goldrush
11B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Adelaide Oval

NOVICE

15B	(1)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Dream Trader
15C	(1)	1	Marian McFetridge	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Chan Hsiu Jewel 'Shang Mei'
15E	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Epidendrum</i> unknown
16E	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown

17E	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Dark Matter
20D	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Oncidium</i> Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'
21B	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Angraecum</i> unknown
22B	(1)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Dendrobium</i> Colonial Surprise x <i>Dendrobium</i> Aussie Springtime x <i>Dendrobium</i> Kim

Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy): *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, grown by Courtney Rogasch, 72 Points

Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy): *Cymbidium* unknown, grown by Jacqui Bateman, 68 Points

Open popular vote: *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven', grown by Ray Taylor

Novice popular vote: *Paphiopedilum* Dark Matter, grown by Jacqui Bateman

Floral popular vote: No entries

From our July Meeting



Clockwise from bottom left:

Paphiopedilum Dark Matter (Jacqui);

Cattleya Hadvai Delight x *Cattleya* Srisil Gold (Valerie Cooper);

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Dream Trader (Keng);

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon (Courtney);

Cymbidium unknown (Jacqui); and

Dendrobium Warringah 'Purple Heaven' (Ray)

