

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 61 No 12



DECEMBER 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 17 December 2021**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

TROPHY PRESENTATIONS
AND
CHRISTMAS PARTY

JANUARY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: No meeting.
General Meeting: 6:00 pm Friday 21st
(BBQ at Harry's place, on the 3rd Friday!)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

General News	2-3
Cultural Notes - Cattleya	3
Cultural Notes - Paphiopedilum	3
Cultural Notes - Cymbidium	4
Minutes and Monthly Plant Competition	4-5
Plant Descriptions	6-8
New Life Members	8

We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin

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Birthdays

December: 6th Val Seaman; 22nd Howard Tan; 23rd Cheryl Compagnone; 27th Maxine Godbeer

January: 6th Audrey Greipl; 17th Ann Lam; 23rd Betty Saul; 25th Margaret Rathbone; 31st John Carless

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.

December General Meeting — 17th December, a week earlier than usual

Our Christmas Party will be held as part of our December General Meeting. Please bring a plate to share. Drinks will be provided. *Everyone who attends should also bring a plant or wrapped present (less than \$12) so that we can have a "Secret Santa" with enough gifts for everyone to go home with something.* If you bring a wrapped present that is gender-specific, please label it as male or female as appropriate.

January General Meeting — 21st January, also a week earlier than usual

Our January General Meeting will be an informal gathering at the home of Harry Ashton, 29 Camsell Way, Ferndale, on Friday 21 January from about 6 pm.

- Bring a plate to share (cold meat, rolls, salads, sweets, etc.). No uncooked meat, it's not a BBQ!
- Bring a chair if you want to sit down.
- BYO drinks.
- Please bring a plant or small gift to donate for our traditional January raffle. If everyone brings something for the raffle, then everyone will go home with a raffle prize.

If you've been paying attention at general meetings, you'll know that Harry has a collection of quality, well-grown orchids. The traditional January home visit is a great way to start the OSWA year, and is always very enjoyable, so mark the date.

New Members

Welcome to Philip Todkill (Applecross), Oanh Vo (Nollamara), Sophie KostECKi (Viveash), Glynn Fathers (Murdoch), Nelly Farquhaison (Kewdale), and Mrs Nyein Su Myat (Maddington) . 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.

Aus-Gro Bark from Ezi-Gro Orchids

Some members have been concerned about Orchidata bark being quite dry and hydrophobic (difficult to wet). Orchids potted in this bark can struggle unless they receive frequent heavy waterings. An alternative is Aus-Gro bark, which is available from Ezi-Gro Orchids (76 Evandale Road, Darch, ph. 9343 2761; <http://members.iinet.net.au/~ezi-gro>). Aus-Gro bark is available in 50 litre bags, at \$32 per bag for OSWA members. This price works out cheaper per litre than Orchidata bark, and Aus-Gro bark contains a wetting agent, so it absorbs and retains water more easily than Orchidata bark. Aus-Gro bark is available in small, medium, and large size grades. Since it is a bit of a hike up north to get to Ezi-Gro, you may wish to call ahead to confirm that the size you want is available before making the trip, and note that at this time of year the nursery is closed on Sundays. Take your membership badge to get the special price, otherwise you will have to pay a few bucks more per bag.

Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November!

\$26 double, \$21 single. For your convenience OSWA accepts payment by direct deposit (preferred method), cheque, or cash (paid at a general meeting). Direct deposit can be made via electronic banking or at any Westpac branch using the account information below. *If possible, please use direct deposit or cheque, to lessen stress and chaos at the general meetings.*

For direct deposit into 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 or the first 7 digits of your phone number**, to help us identify your payment.

For payment by cheque:

Make cheques payable to The Orchid Society of WA Inc. and bring them to a general meeting or post them to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd, Leeming 6149.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (DECEMBER/JANUARY) - based on notes from Henry Eaton.

When the summer weather eventually arrives and persists for more than two days at a time, be ready to cope with spells of hot days (over 35 °C) that will undoubtedly occur. These very hot spells will lead to some retarding of growth while they last. To counter these effects, we need to increase the shading if necessary, to about 70%, and maintain an adequate water supply to the plants. This is one time of the year when watering your plants in the evening may be more helpful than during the day, as this will cool the place down and will increase the humidity.

At this time of the year, fertilising your plants can be undertaken if the temperatures are below 35 °C, but above this level, because of the slowing growth, it would be best to withhold the fertiliser until temperatures fall. Because of the dryness and high temperatures, it would be wiser to avoid repotting and so forth unless we experience a cool spell. The only justification for repotting is if the plant being stressed by being in a decaying mix, as shown by shrivelling of the pseudo bulbs and limpness of the leaves.

Also be on the lookout for plants that could be sunburnt because of gaps in the shade cloth. These, at first, may show reddening of the leaves. Try to attain a state where the leaves on the plants are not dark green but a yellow/green, which indicates adequate exposure to light.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (DECEMBER/JANUARY) by Trevor Burnett.

We will certainly get some hot weather that may be extended over several days, so we need to monitor the conditions and adjust our watering programme accordingly. Ensure the plants have sufficient shade to prevent any burning, as a setback at this stage will definitely affect our flowering season. If you have a mix of pot sizes you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out completely before watering.

Paphiopedilum development should still be fully in progress with the new growths coming to maturity, ready for the flowering season ahead.

Checklist for this month:

- (a) keep good air movement;
- (b) in the glass house, misting will assist with maintaining humidity;
- (c) weekly fertilizing can continue;
- (d) do not crowd your plants;
- (e) check for pests and treat if necessary;
- (f) keep the growing area clear of dying leaves or other decaying material;
- (g) increase watering to 3 times a week or more often if plants have dried out;
- (h) check all plants to see if there are any signs of stress;
- (i) water in the early morning before the sun is too high.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (DECEMBER/JANUARY) - based on notes from Roy Brown.

The new seasons leads are well underway now and during the next couple of months the growth will be rapid. Keep your fertilising programs going, either weekly or fortnightly, whichever you prefer. This helps to increase growth and so makes bigger leaf and bulb development, which in turn, will give better flowering next year.

Don't grow your plants under too heavy shade conditions. I recommend that you grow them under 50% shade cloth for flowering size plants. For young seedlings, perhaps a little more shade would suit them better. Allow ample space between pots, don't crowd them all together. Too much shade and overcrowding are probably why some plants don't flower. Overcrowding can also lead to other problems due to restricted air movement, such as fungal outbreaks.

Normally December is too late for dividing and repotting, due to the stress the summer heat will cause to the plants. This year spring has been quite cool, but the summer heat seems to have finally arrived, so any plants that have not been attended to will be better left until next autumn. However, you can always pot on, that is, repot the plant into a larger pot without disturbing the roots. This can be done at any time of the year and won't cause the plant any setback at all.

Always keep a neat and tidy house, free from weeds and dead leaves, and you should have a house free from insect pests.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.): Minutes of the General Meeting held on Friday 22 October 2021

Welcome: 7:40 pm. Due to Lina Pacca being unavailable, Murray Baker chaired the meeting.

Attendance: as per attendance register

Presentation: Harry on Australian Native Cymbidiums

Minutes: Moved Keng seconded Enid that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

New Member Introductions: Donna, Audrey, Katherine, Claudia, Paul, Robyn, Shirley, Philip

Correspondence:

- 25/10- emailed Manning men's shed re wood from OSWA shed (pallets, tables)
- 22/10 and 28/10- received OWA financial reports and correspondence for OWA meeting
- 31/10- emailed COCWA for permission to reproduce their article on Australian Native Cymbidiums
- 1/11- email from Bruce re having found someone to assist a member of the public with repotting
- 1/11 and 23/11 - correspondence with Neturog re: placing orders (delivery is free)
- 7/11- emailed Ezi-Gro re bark. 50L bags can be made available to members for \$32
- 7/11- ordered supplementary raffle prizes for Orchidup
- 10/11- circulated roster/documents for Late Flowering Orchid Display
- 11/11- email from San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, re 'hardy' orchids from our area that they can grow.
- 14/11- requested feedback from COCWA and ANOS for Late Flowering Orchid Display
- 19/11- received email from MSAC re: key inventory check

Business arising from correspondence

- Jacqui update re: Manning mens shed viewing the wood in the shed >still to be organised
- Neutrog online portal is open. If you haven't received a link to this and would to place orders, please let me know ASAP. Orders closed on December 13, for delivery to Murray's address in Leeming on January 14

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

Reports:

- Christmas Dinner – Murray highlighted that this was the biggest Christmas dinner we've ever had, attendance was very good, and we announced our two very special life memberships to Courtney and Kirsty, for their significant contributions to OSWA. Thanks for coming along!
- Late Flowering Orchid Display- despite being very busy on Saturday morning, this was a very well received event. We are collecting feedback to plan what the 2022 event will look like.

Financial report: Presented by J Bateman

Business arising from the financial report: Nil

Moved J Bateman seconded Enid that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- **Life membership to Courtney and Kirsty**
- **Christmas/December meeting:** will be held on December 17. We do a Secret Santa, so please bring a plant or wrapped present to the value of \$10. Please bring a plate to share!
- **January Home Visit:** The January meeting each year is not at the usual venue, but instead a home visit

where you get to see how members grow their orchids. This year it will be at Harry's house.

- **Auction: Orchid Prints + Jewellery** 4 orchid prints auctioned off by Lynn Brooks. Prints won by for \$65 to Arnold. Orchid Set of epidendrum earrings and necklace – won by for \$32 by Claudia.
- **Harry : New Grower Incentive Scene Participation**
- **De Greenhouse** Just a reminder we now have access to this wholesale outlet- details in the bulletin

Raffle: Lien, Alan R. Owe plants for: Helen S, J Bateman, Nantha L, Keng L, Alan R

Open popular vote: Helen with *Oncidium phymatochilum*

Novice popular vote: Alan Rowe with Wilsonara Pacific Panache.

Door Prize: Kirsty

Meeting closed at 9:51 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (NOVEMBER 2021)

OPEN

1A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogash	<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>
1B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogash	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Magic Meadow 'Napoleon'
3A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum praestans</i>
3D	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> St Lowii (<i>lowii</i> x <i>St Swithin</i>)
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Isabel x <i>Paphiopedilum adductum</i>
5A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis japonica</i>
6A	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Oncidium phymatochilum</i>
8A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Sarcochilus celiliae</i>
		1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i> forma <i>viridiflorum</i>
8B	(3)	?	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium Australian Midnight</i> 'Tinonee'
		?	Courtney Rogash	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda 'Arthur Dawson' (<i>maddidum</i> x <i>suave</i>)
		?	Harry Ashton	<i>Peristerchilus</i> Olive Grace
11A	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grande 'Chinaman'
		2	Murray & Arni Baker	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Schroederiae

NOVICE

15F	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cattleya</i> 'Aura Maya'
17A	(1)	1	Karl Khlee	<i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i>
18F	(1)	2	Lyn Brooks	<i>Dendrobium</i> Genting Lipstick
19B	(1)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
19C	(1)	2	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
20C	(2)	1	Karl Khlee	<i>Tolumnia</i> White Spotted
		2	Enid Chelva	<i>Brassia</i> Unknown
20D	(1)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Wilsonaria</i> Pacific Panache 'Dorothy Jean'

Open popular vote: *Oncidium phymatochilum*, grown by Helen Stretch.

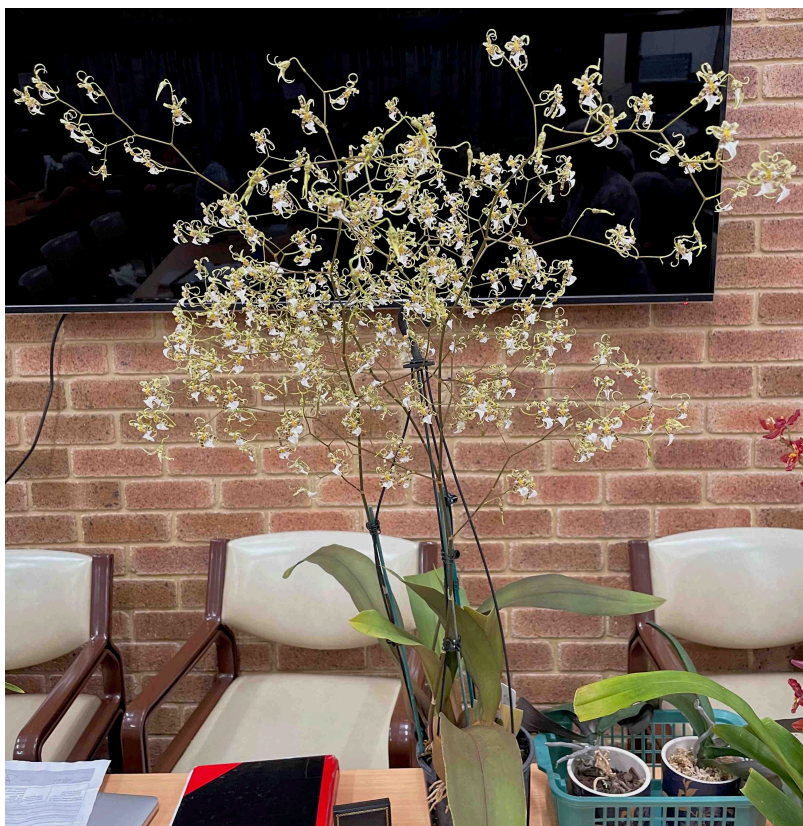
Novice popular vote: *Wilsonara* Pacific Panache 'Dorothy Jean' grown by Alan Rowe.

Plant Descriptions from the November Meeting

Open popular vote

Oncidium phymatochilum,
grown by Helen Stretch.

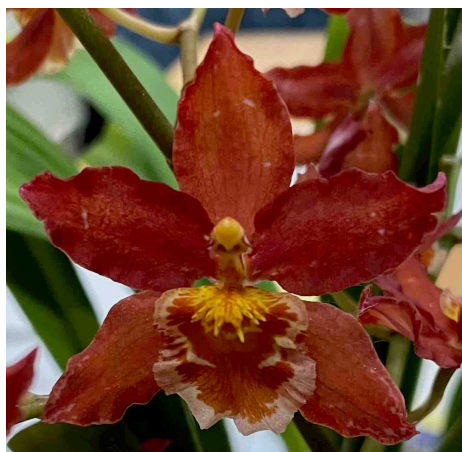
Helen grows this orchid in her shadehouse (unprotected from rain all year) in bark and perlite in an antispiral pot. These pots allow lots of air movement to the root system. Helen reports that this is the best flowering she has had from this plant. She fertilises with Strike Back for Orchids.



Novice popular vote

Wilsonaria Pacific Panache 'Dorothy Jean',
grown by Alan Rowe.

Alan grows this orchid outside on an open pergola in Fremantle. He waters twice a week, and keeps the plant out of direct sunlight.



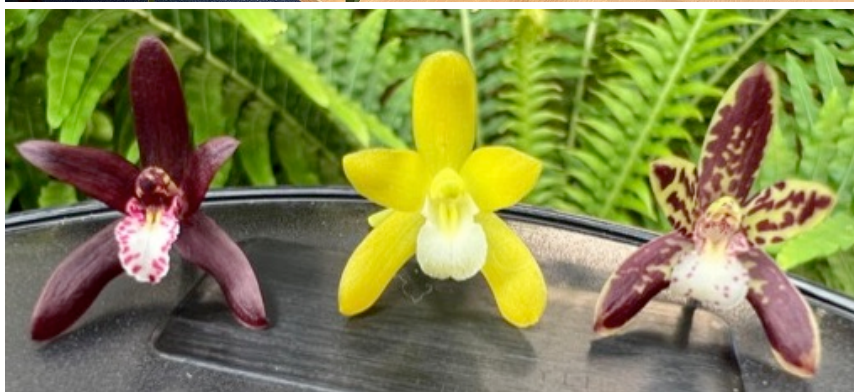
Two spectacularly grown plants received Australian Orchid Council (AOC) awards from the Judging Panel at our November meeting. Here's some information from the growers!

Shannon Smoker presented on *Epidendrum falcatum*, a species native to Mexico. This plant was purchased from Chris Cabassi at a show in Albany. Since then it has grown in Shannon's care for 2 years. Strangely, it has two separate growths and two heads of flowers, one leaf per growth on one side of the plant, two leaves per growth on the other side of the plant. There is less room for flowers on the two-leaf side! This plant grows at eye-height in good shade (from an overhead tree) in Shannon's polyhouse. The location gets morning sun and warms up quite quickly — up to 32 °C in the morning at this time of the year — but drops down to mid-to high 20s when the sun gets behind the shade of trees. It's growing in a mix of bark/perlite/charcoal. Shannon uses Peters CalMag fertiliser. The plant gets watered two days per week, but more if needed on hot days. The plant is heavily perfumed at night, a characteristic that usually indicates the flowers are pollinated by moths in nature. (Many species with night-time fragrance and white flowers are moth pollinated — the pale colour makes them easier to find in the dark!)



Courtney presented on *Cymbidium canaliculatum* var *canaliculatum*, which was not open enough to be displayed at the Late Flowering Orchid Show. This plant must have been a challenge to transport, with 24 racemes, and around 1200 flowers.

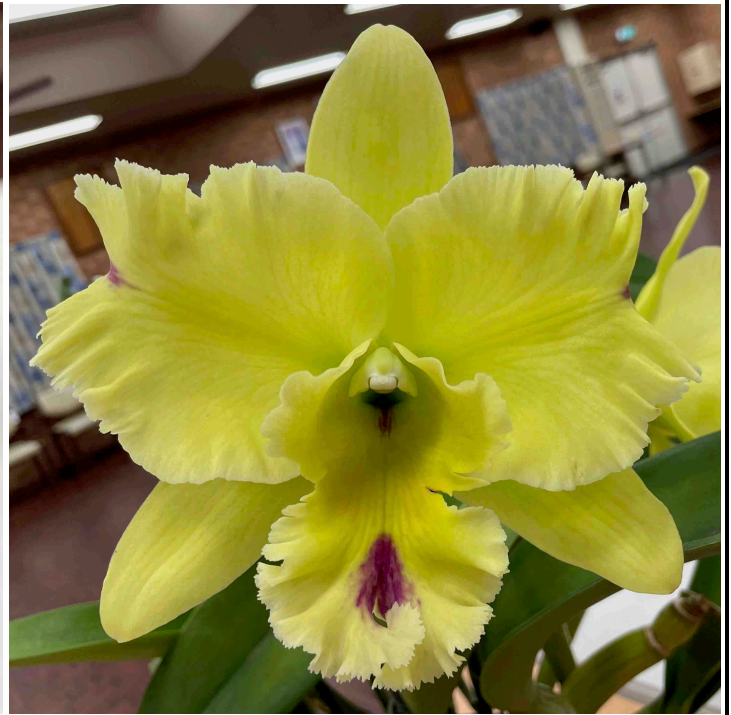
Cymbidium canaliculatum is one of the three Australian Native cymbidium species. The leaves are very sharp and dangerous and have been known to take eyes out. Courtney has three varieties, pictured side by side below. *Cymbidium canaliculatum* var *canaliculatum* is the flower on the right.



Courtney fertilises these cymbidiums with *everything*, on a rotational basis, and grows them up in the apex part of his patio under Laserlight. They receive very little (if any) water through the cooler months.



Tolumnia White Spotted, grown by Karl Khlee. There are not many white spots on this orchid, but it is still impressive, producing these flowers from a relatively small plant.



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Magic Meadow 'Napoleon', grown by Helen Stretch. This orchid is a hybrid of *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Memoria Helen Brown* and *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*. The flower mostly takes after *Memoria Helen Brown*, with the little bit of frilliness probably inherited from *digbyana*.

Congratulations to our two new Life Members — Courtney Rogasch and Kirsty Bayliss!

In recognition of their many contributions to our Society, Courtney and Kirsty were awarded Life Membership of OSWA at our Christmas Dinner on 24 November.

Courtney is a past president of OSWA and has introduced a number of innovations, including the stockpile of plants for new members. Kirsty has served as OSWA Treasurer and currently maintains our Facebook page. Kirsty and Courtney have made many other contributions to OSWA (too many to mention here), and are members of the Orchid Judging Panel.



The AGM is approaching...

Our AGM is in February. Please consider nominating for a position.

Not long after I joined OSWA, Tom Dixon, a much beloved Life Member of OSWA, told me "You've got to be involved!". I tentatively heeded his advice and joined the Committee, then became involved in potting workshops and shows, and served a stint as Secretary. Each of these activities, but especially the Committee and Secretary roles, have been very rewarding. They helped me to learn more about growing orchids and how OSWA works, and helped me get to know OSWA members and the wider orchid community better. My increased enjoyment of my orchid hobby more than justified the time that I devoted to Committee and secretarial work for OSWA. I encourage all members to consider nominating for Committee or some other position in OSWA.

Even if you are new to OSWA, in fact *especially* if you are new to OSWA, you can make valuable contributions and bring new ideas to the Society. Nomination forms are included below and will be available at the December and January general meetings. Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community. Being a committee member is not an onerous job — just attend 11 meetings a year (usually via Zoom), and contribute your enthusiasm and ideas to the betterment of our club and our activities. You don't have to be an expert orchid grower to be on the committee (some current committee members are not!).

Nominations should be lodged by 25 January 2022 (one month before the AGM). If no nominations for a particular position are received, nominations may be sought from the floor during the AGM.

Murray Baker

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

I hereby nominate

for the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination & declare that I have not breached any of the 4 conditions (listed below) under the New Act

Signed.....

Date.....

Under the New Law a person is excluded from being on the Committee if they:

- 1. Are bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws;
- 2. Have been convicted of an indictable offence in relation to the formation or management of a body corporate in the last 5 years;
- 3. Have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, punishable by at least 3 months imprisonment in the last 5 years;
- 4. Have been convicted of an offence under the Act, where a person has allowed an association to operate while insolvent in the past 5 years.

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