

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 13 December 2024**.

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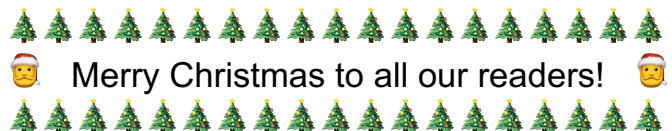
## MEETING TOPICS

Presentations and Christmas Party with  
Secret Santa

## OTHER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: ?

General Meeting: Friday 24 January  
(Home visit at Helen's Place)



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## General News

### Birthdays

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

January: 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.

### The December General Meeting – Friday 13 December: Christmas Party and Secret Santa

- (1) Our December meeting is on **Friday 13 December** (early on account of Christmas).
- (2) As part of our traditional December meeting, there will be a Secret Santa again this year. For the Secret Santa, please bring a small wrapped gift to the value of about \$10. Everyone who brings a gift will receive a Secret Santa ticket from Jacqui Bateman to choose a gift from the pile during the meeting.
- (3) Please bring a plate of finger food to share for the party. Soft drinks will be supplied, but if you have exotic tastes, BYO.
- (4) The dress code for the evening will be 'Bold and Bright', so let's see your boldest, brightest, most colourful outfits!
- (5) Members who wish to sell plants are welcome to bring them along and supervise their sale as usual, but there will be no OSWA sales table for pots, tags, hangers, fertilisers, etc.
- (6) As well as the Secret Santa, there will be the usual raffle, door prize, popular vote, etc.

### January Meeting - Home visit hosted by Helen Stretch - 24 January 2025

Helen has kindly offered to host us for our traditional home visit in January, which takes the place of our meeting at the Manning centre.

- Where: 6 Kestel Place, Kewdale. Phone: 0419 197 043
- If you only want to eat and enjoy the raffles and auctions, arrive from about 6 pm. BBQ to start from around 6:30 pm.
- If you would like a tour of the orchid houses, arrive from about 5 pm.
- If it's hot, bring your bathing suit so you can take a dip in the pool to cool off.
- BBQ will be supplied.
- Bring a salad or sweets to share.
- Bring your own drinks.
- Bring a chair if you want to sit down...there are some, but not enough for everyone.
- Bring a plant or small gift for the raffle. If everyone brings a plant, everyone gets a plant!
- For catering purposes, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the December general meeting and indicate what salad or sweet you can bring to share.
- If you need a lift, contact Murray at [murray.baker@icloud.com](mailto:murray.baker@icloud.com) or 0419 129 322 — we may be able to figure something out.

### What do you do with *Phalaenopsis* spikes after flowering?

There are several possible answers to this question. Keng found an interesting Facebook post on this topic. See: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/orchidstipsandtricks/permalink/3096189790522259/>

## Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November!

Subscriptions are still only \$26 double, \$21 single...crazy that they haven't been increased after all these years! 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.

😊😊😊 Only financial members can nominate for a position and/or vote at the AGM. 😊😊😊

## Flasks from Bushland Beach Orchids

Are you interested in trying your hand at deflasking? If yes, see the flask lists from Bushland Beach Orchids that accompany the emailed version of this bulletin. A few members have purchased flasks from Bushland Beach Orchids recently and have been happy with the results. Orders close on 20 December with expected delivery in the first week of January 2025. Shipping from Townsville is \$19 per carton and each carton can contain up to 3 flasks. If you only want one flask, or even half a flask, there is the possibility of a group order being placed so members can share flasks and save on postage costs. More info at Friday's meeting.

(If you are planning some deflasking for the first time, be aware that January and February are tough months for deflasking in Perth, since the seedlings will struggle in the extremely hot, dry weather if they are just deflasked and stuck in a shadehouse. In my experience, hard cane *Dendrobium* hybrids are amongst the easiest orchids to grow from flask, and there are a few inexpensive flasks of these in the lists. Use of an anti-transpirant like Envy (David Gray) or Drought Shield (Yates) will be helpful. Also, sitting pots of seedlings in a tray above a few centimetres of water in a large plastic tub with loose-fitting lid will help maintain humidity. Ask if in doubt...many members are successful deflaskers!)

## Our February Meeting (28/2/2025, at the Manning Centre) will be our AGM.

Please consider nominating for Committee or some other role to help OSWA this coming year. No special skills are required, just enthusiasm, an interest in the club, and time to attend a committee meeting once a month (usually via Zoom). Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community. See Kaye's article in the November 2024 bulletin for her perspective after over 50 years of service in OSWA's committee and office-bearer positions.

As well as the AGM, the February meeting will have the usual general meeting activities (monthly plant competition, raffles and such) and wine and cheese at the end of the night. Donations of additional snacks will be well received.

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## GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

The Orchid Society of Western Australia acknowledges 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. Birak is the season of the young, and features rising temperatures and decreased rainfall. Easterly winds in the morning can be hot and dry, but the Fremantle Doctor is strongest this time of year, which provides some welcome relief for our orchids in the afternoon.

- ✓ Repotting should be complete by this time of year. Unless emergency circumstances require it, any repotting should be delayed until March. (*Editor's note #1: I am trying to catch up with repotting, something that I neglected for many years. To help me keep track, anything I repotted in two years up to January 2024 has a red tag in the pot. When I find a dead plant in a pot with a red tag, more often than not it was a plant that I repotted in December or January.*) Try not to disturb the root system if performing any 'emergency surgery'. Plants in older mix that probably should have been repotted sooner will benefit from application of dolomite lime to help balance the pH and prevent the decomposing media from becoming too acidic.
- ✓ With increasing temperatures, extra shade cloth may need to be applied. Be guided by the colour of your orchids leaves—plants in ideal light will have light green leaves. Leaves that turn yellow or red are receiving too much light, and plants with dark green leaves are producing more chlorophyll to compensate for insufficient light. Ensure any holes/gaps in shade cloth are addressed or plants are likely to burn. (*Editor's note #2: Several members reported plants getting sunburnt in their normal shade house conditions over the last two summers, and this summer is predicted to be worse. I have already put a second layer of 75% shade cloth over my most exposed shade house, and plan to do the same for my more protected shade houses soon.*)
- ✓ Most orchids will have new growths well under way by now, so keeping up the fertilizer regime is important. The 'weakly, weekly' approach is a good guide for liquid fertilizer, where 'weakly' usually means quarter to half strength. Slow release pellets can also be used, but some pellets release their contents in a temperature dependent manner and can 'dump' large amounts of fertilizer on hot days. For this reason, it's best not to just apply them to the surface of the mix where they receive sun—tap the pot so they settle into the mix a little, and avoid placing them where they have the potential to burn a new flush of new root tips. (*Editor's note #3: I am wary of using fertiliser pellets on small plants, especially freshly repotted plants and especially during hot weather. I've had no problems with using dilute liquid fertilisers such as Strike Back for Orchids liquid. Also, I find that I can safely apply small amounts of Seamungus pellets to the top of the mix even for freshly repotted plants. I routinely spray a solution of Seamungus liquid with a wetting agent over freshly repotted plants to thoroughly wet the mix. Once the foliage is dry, I spray the foliage thoroughly with Envy (hard to find) or Drought Shield (a Yates product, available in Bunnings etc.) to reduce transpiration and help the plants over the trauma of repotting.*)
- ✓ Remember that fertilizer application needs to go hand in hand with increased watering, especially for newly repotted orchids that have a fresh, free draining mix that doesn't hold as much moisture as older mix. Remember to water orchids heavily- water should run through the bottom of the pot to flush out any excess salts. Try to grow plants like bromeliads and groundcovers under the orchids—these will absorb any excess fertilizer runoff, help create a frog friendly environment (insect patrol) and improve humidity in the growing space. (*Editor's note #4: Bromeliads are great. Do not grow ferns in your shade house! Even if you only put your ferns below the benches, they will end up growing in every orchid pot, and they will choke your orchids' roots and out-compete your orchids' foliage for space and light.*)
- ✓ If you have a variety of pot sizes, you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out too quickly. A simple solution is to double pot, so the final size pots are all the same. By this I mean placing the smaller pots into a larger pot which is filled with compost which encircles the smaller pot—this keeps the smaller pot (and the root system of the plant) cool, and slows the rate at which it dries out. (*Editor's note #5: Excellent idea. The larger outer pot also lessens the chance of your orchid toppling over in the shade house.*)
- ✓ With warmer weather, check your plants and the surrounding area for mealy bugs, ants and other bugs that may decide to move into the cooler conditions of a shade or glass house where greater moisture content is available. It is much easier to get rid of the pest when there are only a few, rather than letting them multiply, which makes the task removing them harder. Snails and slugs are less

active at this time of year. (Editor's note #6: Pfffft! If you keep your shade house moist, you will probably still have snail and slug activity, especially at night. I keep a torch handy to check...there are definitely less snails and slugs around now than in September, but I can still find a couple each night. Also, Portuguese millipedes...I have even seen those nasties eating *Microtis* orchids in the bush at night. Grrrr.)

For detailed notes on culture of *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya*, and *Paphiopedilum* orchids during Birak, see the November bulletin. For additional culture notes for these and a few other genera, or go to [www.orchidsocietywa.net.au](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au).

### MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (NOVEMBER 2024)

#### OPEN

1A	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>
		2	Tara Peters	<i>Cattleya purpurata</i>
		3	Helen Stretch	<i>Cattleya purpurata</i> var. <i>Roxo-violetta</i>
1E	(1)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Enanthleya</i> Pixie Charm
1F	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassanthe</i> Sunny Delight
2A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium crassifolium</i>
2B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kintoki ( <i>C. canaliculatum</i> x <i>C. aloifolium</i> )
2E	(2)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Francie Porter 'Enid'
		2	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Penny Serenade
4A	(2)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Dendrobium amabile</i>
		2	Helen Stretch	<i>Dendrobium lodigessii</i>
6C	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Tolumnia</i> unknown
11B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Freestyle Meadows
NOVICE				
15B	(1)	1	Leo Waters	<i>Cattleya</i> Gessy Doering 'Anugo Emperor' x <i>Cattleya</i> Canhamiana <i>Coerulea</i> 'Azure Sky'
15E	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Epidendrum</i> unknown
19B	(1)	2	Dawn Fathers	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
19C	(3)	1	Linda Gooding	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
		2	John Cain	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
		3	Linda Gooding	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
19D	1	1	Linda Gooding	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
19E	(1)	1	Linda Gooding	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
20	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Oncidium</i> unknown
22B	(2)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Cymbidium</i> 'Helen Bannerman' Black Magic' ( <i>canaliculatum</i> x <i>madidum</i> )
		2	Alan Rowe	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sun of Midnight

**Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy):** *Cattleya* Gessy Doering 'Anugo Emperor' x *Cattleya* Canhamiana  
*Coerulea* 'Azure Sky' grown by Leo Waters, 74 Points

**Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy):** *Cymbidium* Kintoki (*Cymbidium canaliculatum* x *Cymbidium aloifolium*)  
grown by Courtney Rogasch, 72 Points

**Open popular vote:** *Dendrobium amabile* grown by Tara Peters

**Novice popular vote:** *Phalaenopsis* unknown grown by Linda Gooding



## Notes of OSWA's General Meeting, Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Friday 22 November 2024

**Presentations/demos:** Shadehouse Structures (Murray Baker). Slides used in this talk are available in the "info for Members" section at [www.orchidsocietywa.net.au](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au).

### New member introductions

**Reports:** *Late Flowering Orchid Display*. As a thank you for our volunteers, there were extra prizes for a special volunteer raffle – won by Annette, Laura, Betty, Keng, Eileen

### General business

- *December meeting*. December 13<sup>th</sup> (early due to Christmas). Please bring a gift or plant to the value of \$10 for the Secret Santa, and bring a plate of food to share
- *Bunnings O'Connor display*. We'll be attending a Bunnings Christmas event at Bunnings O'Connor on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30pm. We'll have a small display, some information on the club and Bunnings has indicated we are able to sell plants- please come join if available!

**Novice popular vote:** Linda G with a spectacularly grown phalaenopsis hybrid.

**Open popular vote:** Tara Peters with *Dendrobium amabile*

**Floral Art:** No entries      **Supper prize:** Kate R      **Door Prize:** Courtney R

**Raffle:** Nantha, Betty, Lily, Philip, Mariam, Donna, Patricia L

**Judges Choice:** Cattleya Gessy Doering 'Anugo Emperor' x Canhamiana 'Azure Sky' (Leo Waters)

**Best Cymbidium:** Cymbidium Kintoki (Courtney R) 72 points

### From the November General Meeting



Winner of the Novice Popular Vote.  
*Phalaenopsis* unknown  
grown by Linda Gooding



Winner of the Open Popular Vote  
*Dendrobium amabile*  
Grown by Tara Peeters.