

# 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 62 No 2



FEBRUARY 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 25 February 2022**.

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## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## MARCH MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 4th

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 25th

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**We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin**

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.
- **All attendees must register via the SafeWA app or by signing the register at the entrance.**
- **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...).

As the incidence of COVID in the community is rising, the State Government and local councils, including the City of South Perth which oversees Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, require us to take a more cautious approach to meetings than we have had to follow for most of the last couple of years. Since most of our members are elderly and therefore at greatest risk of serious COVID infection, it is in our own interest to take all practical precautions.

Proof of vaccination may be presented via the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

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>

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### Birthdays

February: 7th Jim Baylis, 11th Nancie Jones

March: 4th, Angeline Ngooi, 9th Richard Gordon, 11th Merrill Brechin, 19th John Walton, 24th Raye McIntosh, 25th Lorna Dodd, 26th Kaye Baylis, 26th Peggy Stacy, 26th Arnold Davies

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.

### February's monthly meeting includes OSWA's 2022 AGM

Please consider nominating for Committee or some other role to help OSWA this 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. If you would like to nominate but have not lodged a nomination form, do not fret! Nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM if insufficient nominations have been received for a particular position. Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community.

As well as the AGM, this month we will have the usual general meeting activities (monthly plant competition, raffles and such). Unfortunately, however, due to the COVID situation (see above), we will not be having our traditional wine and cheese this year, and the kitchen will not be operating. BYO coffee, tea, or other beverage, but please do not bring a plate to share.

## 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.

*Remember, only financial members can vote at the AGM.*

The cost of printing and postage of the bulletin is substantial and now exceeds the single membership annual fee. If you receive the bulletin by post but have not paid your 2022 subscription, your bulletin will be cut off soon.

## Neutrog Store

- The Neutrog online store is now open until 7 March for OSWA's Autumn bulk order. The delivery date will be announced later. Delivery has been complicated by COVID and the recent floods that washed away parts of the rail line linking South Australia and Western Australia. Collection will be from Murray and Arni's place.
- Neutrog is launching a new product, Popul8, and is offering a free 1 L bottle of Popul8 to OSWA members who are registered with Neutrog's online store.
- If you want to order a free bottle of Popul8, do it via the online store before 7 March. If you cannot see Popul8 listed with the price as \$0 in the catalog, you may be in the wrong part of the store, or your membership might not be correctly activated.
- Membership of the Neutrog online store is not automatic. For privacy reasons, OSWA will only send your details to Neutrog if you ask for it to be done. If you are not a member of the Neutrog online store but wish to join, let Harry know, and the necessary arrangements will be made.
- As of 23 November 2021, about thirty OSWA members had not activated their memberships for the Neutrog store. If you think you are a member of the online store but you cannot log in, you may need to activate your membership. You should have received an email from Neutrog about how to activate your membership. If not, or if you have some other issue with the online store, let Harry know.

## 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.

**“Pests of Orchids (the good, bad and ugly bugs)” by Dr Darryl Hardie (‘Dr Bugalugs’ from ABC Local Radio)****ANOS meeting, Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise Road, Wilson. 7:30 pm, 22 February 2022.**

Hear entomologist Dr Darryl Hardie provide a fascinating insight into the insects that are in our gardens and on our orchids. Dr Hardie has been the expert on pest control at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in Perth for many years. Pest control is as much a process of citizen science and taking action based on what you observe, as it is about control. Don't miss this one!

Dr Hardie is a very entertaining and informative speaker. He will be speaking at the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) WA branch meeting this month, Tuesday 22 February, commencing 7.30 pm at Wilson Community Hall in Braibrise Road, Wilson (just off Manning Road). OSWA members are most welcome to attend.

*Please note that it is a council requirement for hire of the hall that all attendees are required to show proof of vaccination.*

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**CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2022) based on notes from Henry Eaton**

February and March are usually the hottest months in the year for us in the West. This means keeping up with the cultural practices employed in the summer, mainly shading the plants and providing sufficient moisture and fertilizer to them. Beware though, that Cattleyas, by and large, benefit from alternating dry and wet periods. This means not watering them unless loss of weight of the potted plant indicates that water is needed. I was reminded of this when, recently, I had to repot a plant that was growing out of the pot in many spots. Although previously potted in bark of a large size, the mix was wet through and through from the watering I had from the day before. When a plant is growing over the edge of the pot, another technique to use is to place another pot full of mix under the overgrowth, so that roots can establish before repotting in autumn or spring. At this time, also start to look for flowering sheaths or buds appearing on mature, new growths. When spotted, move them into an area free of pests and away from water dripping on them. If moved, make sure the buds point in the same direction they were in before you moved them. Many autumn flowering plants will now be showing buds and sheaths so be on the lookout for them.

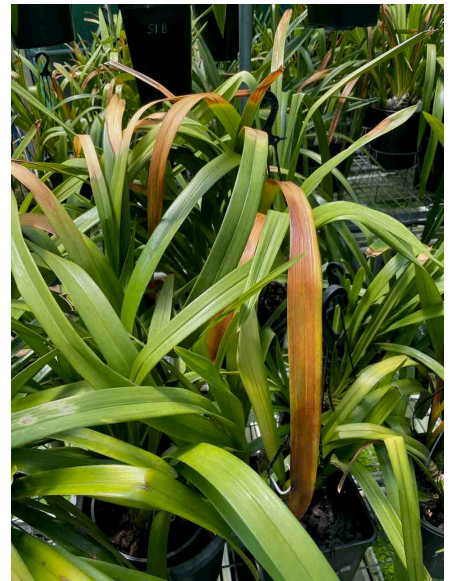
**PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2022) by Trevor Burnett**

These are the months when the weather can usually be expected to have some excessively hot days. At this time of the year I water 3 times a week, early in the morning with overhead sprinklers, so the plants are well saturated. This will allow time for the plants to dry out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burn. This will also ensure the plants are dry before nightfall. Some growers may be tempted to water on hot evenings but I, personally, avoid this at all cost. Water left in the axis of the leaves at night only encourages rot and water borne disease. I find if the plants are watered heavily the next morning, they seem to thrive on the fact they have been forced to dry out somewhat overnight. If excessive heat is forecast over consecutive days, you will need to watch plants in small pots and increase the watering as necessary. Watering is highly dependent on the composition of your potting mix and its ability to retain moisture. For beginners, a test pot of just potting mix in the growing area is recommended, until you understand the water holding capacity of your mix. You can empty the pot at any stage to see what water has been retained. The mix should be just moist throughout the bottom half of the pot. As the plants are still in active growth, keep a weak fertilizing programme going on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time constraints, with a ¼ to ½ strength high nitrogen based fertilizer. This is in order to maximize the new growths before the flowering season. Ensure that you flush the mix with water between fertilizing, which will flush out any excess salts. In the glasshouse on very hot days, the use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is essential for the plants' health, is available in the glasshouse. Do not remove any extra shade that you may have installed over the summer months.

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2022) based on notes from Roy Brown**

These are usually very hot months, with the temperatures in the high 30s or low 40s, so regular use of the sprinklers is an absolute must. Create as much humidity as possible, keeping the pots and the area around your plants as damp as possible. It's my opinion the next month or two are the most important ones for the successful flowering of cymbidiums. THE NEW GROWTHS MUST BE KEPT GROWING, SO THEY WILL BULB UP IN TIME TO PRODUCE THEIR FLOWER SPIKES. To do this they will need as much light as they can take without actual burning of the leaves, and plenty of fertilizer and water. For those who grow their plants under 50% shade cloth, you will find the plant's leaves have become a yellowy-green colour. This is mainly because of the bright light we experience here in WA, the skies being cloudless during the summer months. Provided the bulbs are nice and plump and the plants are healthy, this yellowing is a good sign that the plants should flower this season. A plant grown under too heavy shade conditions will have dark green, lush foliage and will not produce as many spikes of flowers as one that has been grown under bright sunlight. If you find your plants are troubled with red spider mite, thrips, scale etc. then give them a spray with insecticide. It's during the next couple of months that the flower spikes are produced, and it is a good idea to have the plants free from all insect pests well in advance, so no harm will come to the young flower spikes when they emerge.

**Editor's Note:** The cultural notes this month for paphs and cymys both warn about the need for extra shade during our hot weather. These warnings are especially relevant this season, with our record summer heat waves. At least two growers have been caught out by the intense sun and heat over Christmas, finding some burnt leaves on cymbidiums and oncidiums in the shadehouse. Usually, these plants are untroubled by the sun while growing under 70% shadecloth, but not so this year. Even one small *Dendrobium speciosum* that had not been sufficiently hardened against the sun had its leaves scorched in the Editor's shadehouse. Serves him right for enjoying Christmas lunch under the air con while his orchids were left to suffer outside in the heat...

**THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC) AGM****Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), to be held in the Manning Activity Centre, Manning, on 26 February 2021.**

The President Lina Pacca declared the meeting open at 7:34 pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

**Minutes:** Moved, Ray Taylor seconded M Brechin that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted. Carried.

**Business arising from the Minutes:** Nil

**President's Report:** (Lina Pacca)

Firstly, thank you to everyone for attending tonight. I appreciate your support for the Society over the last unusual year. We had a break during lockdown from March through to June last year and missed some of our shows and displays and also the support that we had come to rely on from the friends we have made over the years. I was elected in the February meeting but did not take up the role until June - except for committee meetings via Zoom. We have learnt new skills over the year!

I would like thank Harry as Secretary and Kirsty as Treasurer for their support over the last year. As newly elected President and Secretary Harry and I have relied heavily on the longstanding committee members. Special thanks to Courtney as Past President and Vice President Kaye and Rosemary as fonts of retained knowledge of the Society over many years. Ian and Lorna resigned after many years supporting the Society and are having a well deserved break. Murray as always has continued to write the monthly Bulletin and as the "Keeper of the Photocopier" has made invaluable contributions to the smooth running of the Society. The old saying "if you want something done ask a busy person to do it" certainly applies to Murray. Thank you also to Jacqui, Merrill and Richard for their support and the roles they have played at meetings and Shows and Displays over the year.

We did manage to have our Spring Show at Kardinya and the potting Day in October. This was followed by our late flowering orchid display in November. All of these were highly successful and well supported by volunteers from the Society. These events introduced the wider community to our Society and orchids in general and brought new members to the society. We have continued to grow membership and welcome all new members warmly

hopefully they will continue to attend and support the Society. The events have also brought revenue to the Society. We are in a fortunate financial position - thank you again Kirsty for your governance over the years.

Trevor has continued as our Patron and he and Barbara have opened their home to us as venue for our January get together- great fun as always although a bit quieter this year. Thank you. We had a great day at Ray Taylor's in Bullsbrook last year – informative as always. Thanks to Ray and Peta.

Members have stepped up to help with running of meetings – setting up, kitchen helpers, at the door, cleaning and packing up at the end of the night. Thank you to you all. I'm not going to try to name you individually – I'm sure to miss someone. Over the year we have encouraged members to continue to bench plants for judging and we would like to continue to support everyone in this endeavour. More about that later. Looking forward we have lined up monthly speakers, some home visits and our shows / displays. We also have the Intersociety Challenge this year – hosted by South Eastern OS. The theme is Weekend at the Movies.

Sadly we have lost Rod Pohl who passed away in late January. Rod was an active long time member of the society and will be missed.

**Financial Statement:** Kirsty Bayliss presented the financial statement for the year ended 31st October 2020. Moved Kirsty Bayliss, seconded Ray Taylor that the Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

**Election of Office Holders:** Trevor Burnett appointed as Returning Officer.

**President:** Lina Pacca, Nominated by Rosemary McGrath, seconded by Murray Baker. Elected unopposed.

**Secretary:** Harry Ashton, Nominated by Rosemary McGrath, seconded by Murray Baker. Elected unopposed.

**Treasurer:** Jacqui Bateman, Nominated by Murray Baker, seconded by Harry Ashton. Elected unopposed.

**Vice President:** Kaye Bayliss (1 year remaining)

#### **Ordinary Committee Members:**

*(Elected for two-year terms. Management committee determines size of committee; currently no limit on size of committee.)*

#### **Committee Members Continuing (1 more year to complete term):**

- Kaye Baylis
- Rosemary McGrath
- Merril Brechin
- Richard Gordon
- Murray Baker (filled a casual vacancy on committee subsequent to the 2020 AGM)
- Courtney Rogasch (past president)

#### **Committee Members newly elected: (these members are elected to committee for a two-year term):**

- William Davidson, Nominated by Peter Kissell, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed
- Lynn Brooks, Nominated by Peter Kissell, seconded by William Davidson. Elected unopposed
- Kirsty Bayliss, nominated by Harry Ashton seconded Jacqui Bateman. Elected unopposed.

#### **Positions for which formal nomination not required:**

<b>Patron:</b>	Trevor Burnett
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Courtney Rogasch
<b>OSWA Registrar:</b>	Mal Davis, with assistance from Enid Chelva
<b>Show Marshal:</b>	Lynn Brooks
<b>Show Secretary:</b>	Merril Brechin
<b>Show Committee:</b>	Committee Members
<b>Show Sales:</b>	Organized via roster, money managed by treasurer
<b>Librarian:</b>	Margaret Rathbone
<b>Sales Table:</b>	Caterina Ottobriano, Ray Taylor
<b>Bulletin Editor:</b>	Murray Baker
<b>Webpage:</b>	Murray Baker
<b>AOC delegate:</b>	Trevor Burnett
<b>Facebook/Instagram:</b>	Kirsty Bayliss
<b>Auditor:</b>	Optional under new rules. To be determined by committee (if needed).
<b>Raffle/door:</b>	Jacqui Bateman, Anne Davis, Charmaine Tan
<b>Show committee:</b>	Maxine and Trevor to assist with selecting plants at the ISDW. Caterina Ottobriano, Lina Pacca, Jacqui Bateman, Barbara Burnett, and Alan Rowe to help with display coordination.
<b>Kitchen:</b>	Jenny McLean, Charmaine Tan

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 7:59 pm.

## Growing Orchids from Backbulbs

*Laelia anceps* and many of its hybrids have the annoying habit of racing to the edge of the pot and then climbing over the side, leaving roots of the new growth dangling in the air. After repotting one such recalcitrant specimen in September 2020, I had a nice tidy plant in a fresh pot (no doubt already planning its escape its new home), and a cutting of six backbulbs. Some of the newer backbulbs had healthy eyes. I left the cutting in the shadehouse, lying on the bark in the fresh pot alongside the repotted plant. There it received water every day or so, and fertilizer (StrikeBack liquid, of course!) when I thought of it. By December, a root had grown about 2 cm long, from the base of the lead backbulb.

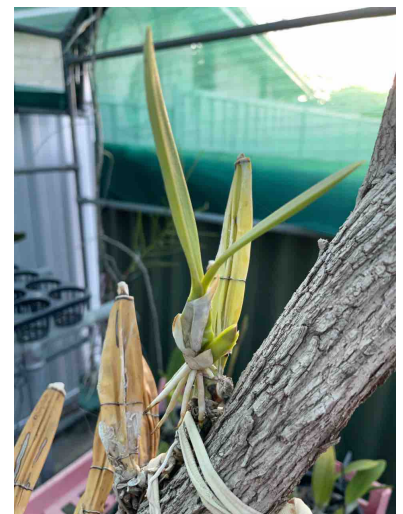
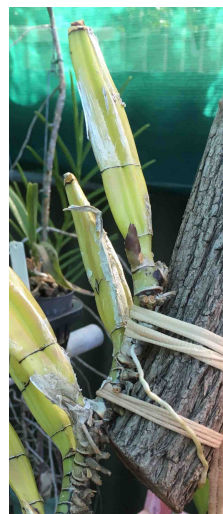


Because of the habit of these laelias to grow out of their pots, I was reluctant to re-pot the cutting. Instead, I decided to mount it on a relatively long, near-vertical mount, to try and mimic the sort of growing situation a laelia might find on a branch in a forest. My intent was to have the laelia grow up the mount like it would grow along a branch,



rather than climb out of a pot like my potted laelias do. I tied the cutting to the base of a piece of bottlebrush branch. Bottlebrush has lots of nooks and crannies in its bark that can hold moisture and give new roots places to attach. Pieces of old stocking are nice and stretchy and are my material of choice for tying orchids to mounts. Compared to wire or fishing line, pieces of stocking are less likely to cause damage to the orchid being mounted, and when they weather a bit they are relatively unobtrusive. I took care to not damage the new root, and tied the cutting so that the older backbulbs were dangling below the mount. Because the older backbulbs had no fresh eyes, they would just shrivel and die as new growth developed from the lead backbulb.

I hung the newly mounted laelia in my shadehouse. It continued to receive water whenever I watered the other orchids, but now that it was hanging up where it was more exposed to wind and light, I made a special effort to ensure that it didn't dry out, and I applied dilute StrikeBack liquid fertilizer more frequently. By February 2021, the one lonely root had grown to about 8 cm in length and was adhering to the mount, and a new growth had emerged from an eye on the lead backbulb.



As summer faded into autumn, the weather became cooler and wetter, and I put the plastic cover over my shadehouse late in April. Now, my mounted laelia did not receive much water or fertiliser, but it continued to develop. By July 2021 the new growth had two leaves but there was still only one root. By February 2022, the first new growth had roots of its own (sadly with burnt tips, a consequence of the extremely hot weather this summer) and a second new growth with its own roots had emerged. Hopefully these new roots will find their way to the mount, so that the plant can grow onward and upward like I'd planned.

**Rick Winch** is one of the well-known orchid growers from down south. He is a longstanding member of the West Australian orchid community and still plays a prominent role in OrchidsWA. Unfortunately he has to downsize his orchid collection and so will be having a sale...details below. OSWA members are welcome to attend.

## **Geographe Orchids – Rick Winch**

*All of my Collection will be sold other than  
some selected Plants that I intend to keep.*

**Prices will range from \$2.00 for 50mm Tubes & 80mm Pots  
\$5.00 for 100mm Pots and \$10.00 for larger plants**

**Sarcochilus Seedlings & Flowered plants  
Dendrobiums etc**

**All must go due to ongoing Medical problems.**

**Sausage Sizzle for all Attendees**

***10 Kelp Place Geographe (Busselton)***

***Turn into Avocet Boulevard, left into Songlark  
Mews, then left into Kelp place.***

***Phone: 0439-522-236 if you get lost!!***

**Sunday the 20th February 2022  
8am to Late**