

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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FEBRUARY 2023

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 24 February, 2023.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WINE AND CHEESE

MARCH MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 3rd

General Meeting: Friday 24th

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

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General News

Birthdays:

February: 7th Jim Baylis; 11th Nancie Jones; 14th Laura Herd

March: 2nd Sophie Kostecki; 4th Angeline Ngooi; 9th Richard Gordon; 11th Merrill Brechin; 19th John Walton; 24th Raye McIntosh; 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.

New Member

Welcome to Judy Gibson (Woodlands). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Thank you to Ray and Peta Taylor

Thank you to Ray and Peta Taylor for kindly hosting us for our traditional January home visit. All who attended enjoyed fine company, a lavish spread of salads and hot food, excellent sausage sizzle, raffle, plant auction, and a chance to see Ray and Peta's impressive new home. There's lots of space for Ray's orchids, so we can expect to see more of Ray's plants at OSWA meetings and shows as he gets his orchid collection reorganised after moving to their new premises. We appreciate Ray and Peta's efforts to make the evening a success.

February's monthly meeting includes OSWA's 2023 AGM

Please consider nominating for Committee or some other role to help OSWA this year. *Ask not what OSWA can do for you – ask what you can do for OSWA!* 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) and wine and cheese at the end of the night. Donations of additional snacks will be well received.

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 nominate for a position and/or vote at the AGM.

OSWA Bulletin

The cost of printing and postage of the bulletin is substantial and for a couple of years now has exceeded the cost of the single membership annual fee. If you receive the bulletin by post but have not paid your 2023 subscription, your bulletin will be cut off soon. Also, in view of the increasing cost of printing and posting the bulletin, the committee has decided that new subscribers will only be able to receive the bulletin in electronic form. Anyone already receiving the bulletin in hardcopy may continue to receive the hard copy, but no new names will be added to the hardcopy mailing list. Of course, if you receive the bulletin in hard copy but would be happy to switch to the electronic version and save OSWA a few bucks, you can do that—just let Murray know and he will make it happen.

OSWA Library

You may be surprised to know that OSWA has a library! Our library includes *Orchids Australia* (6 issues per year, published by the Australian Orchid Council) and *Orchids* (12 issues per year, published by the American Orchid Society). Both magazines have lots of interesting articles for expert and novice orchid growers, and are available for loan. Our library also has numerous books, ranging from generalist books that cover the basics of orchid culture through to detailed volumes on specific genera, orchids from particular regions, miniature orchids, West Australian native orchids, and so on. Some of these books are quite valuable, but nevertheless they are also available for loan. If you didn't know about the library, that might be because the books and magazines are stored in a cupboard in a small room at the back of the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre. Since we don't currently have a librarian, the books and magazines sit in their cupboard, alone, in the dark, neglected, forgotten, keeping all their years or accumulated orchid wisdom to themselves.

If you would like to become more involved in OSWA but feel that the Committee is too much of a commitment, consider volunteering to be the OSWA Librarian. It's not a big job...at each OSWA meeting, just bring a small selection of magazines and books from the cupboard out to display on a table at the far end of the OSWA meeting room, maintain the notebook to record who borrows and returns items, and put the magazines and books back in the cupboard at the end of the meeting. Your efforts will be much appreciated by members, and who knows, you might even find a few volumes that you'd like to borrow yourself!

Plant Auction at the February General Meeting

Some of Caterina's orchids will be up for auction at the February General Meeting. Caterina has not been to meetings for a while, but she is renowned for owning some outstanding orchids, so bring your money with you! Thank you to Lynn Brooks, who has been looking after the orchids over the last month or so.

Proposed order of Pots from Garden City Plastics

Garden City Plastics sells a wide range of plastic pots — see <https://www.gardencityplastics.com>. Unfortunately, Garden City Plastics is a wholesaler and so does not sell pots to the general public. Furthermore, they have a minimum order size for each type of pot, which can be a hundred or more pots. As a club, OSWA is able to buy pots directly from Garden City Plastics (but still have to abide by the minimum order policies). If you would like the club to buy some pots, to be on-sold to members at special prices, please let Harry know the type of pots you want and how many of each type you want, and we will see if a suitable bulk purchase from Garden City Plastics can be arranged.

OSWA Webpage

We are slowly revising our webpage. Recent additions include a section on conservation and a "Where to buy stuff" page. If you have any suggestions for additions or improvements to our webpage, let Harry or Murray know.

Quality Plant Auctions

The Orchid Society of Western Australia would like to introduce special auctions at our general meetings, for OSWA members only. We hope some of our experienced growers can use these auctions as a venue to make some of the more valuable, high quality mature orchids in their collections available to other OSWA members. Plants considered for these auctions may be:

- Plants that have received Australian Orchid Council or international awards
- Plants that have won Championships at previous Orchid Shows and Events
- Plants of historical value or significance
- Species that are rare or hard to get in Western Australia.

To encourage our experienced growers to consider putting up their plants for auction, no commission on these auction sales will be taken by OSWA. If you would like a plant of yours to be considered for auction, please send the details, including reserve price, to harry.ashton@live.com.au before the first Friday of the month of the relevant general meeting. Where possible please provide photos of the flowers for publication in the bulletin prior to the auction. Plants to be auctioned will be selected by the OSWA Committee. Of course, any plant put up for a Quality Plant Auction must be in very good condition, healthy and disease free.

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR BUNURU (APPROX FEBRUARY/MARCH)

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 West Australia's Southwest 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. Bunuru (approx. February/March) is the hottest time of the year, although those of us who live near the coast may benefit from afternoon sea breezes.

- ✓ Repotting should be complete by this time of year. Unless emergency circumstances require it, any further repotting should be delayed until late March when we are confident the worst of the hot weather has passed. If 'emergency surgery' is required, try to avoid disturbing the root system as much as possible. 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 be burnt.
- ✓ 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 pellets to the surface of the mix where they receive sunlight, but tap the pot so they settle into the mix a little, and avoid placing them where they have the potential to burn a flush of new root tips. Avoid applying fertilizer during heatwaves as many orchids cannot use the nutrients in heat stress conditions.
- ✓ Remember that fertilizer application needs to go hand in hand with increased watering, especially for newly repotted orchids in 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. Spraying under benches can also help raise humidity in the growing environment.

- ✓ 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 arrangement keeps the smaller pot (and the root system of the plant) cool, and slows the rate at which it dries out.
- ✓ 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 let them multiply, which makes the task harder. Cockroaches, grasshoppers and caterpillars can also be a problem.

For detailed notes on culture of Cymbidium, Cattleya, and Paphiopedilum orchids during Bunuru, see the January bulletin.

The minutes for the last general meeting (December 2022) were published in the January 2023 Bulletin. Below are the minutes of our last AGM (February 2022), for approval at our upcoming 2023 AGM.

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 25 February 2022

The President Lina Pacca declared the meeting open at 7:41pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

Acceptance of the 2021 AGM Minutes: Moved Lynn Brooks, seconded Enid Chelva that the 2021 minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil

Presidents Report — Lina Pacca

Welcome everyone to our Annual General Meeting. It's good to see everyone and thank you for your patience with all the COVID requirements. We understand how this is impacting everyone and appreciate everyone's support.

The last year has had challenges for everyone we are fortunate to have come through the year with most of our meetings and events intact. I know some of the other clubs have not.

Thank you to all the committee members who have continued to support myself and the club during the last year. Harry who has been an excellent Secretary while working a busy demanding full-time job. Kaye as Vice President who has continued to attend our Zoom committee meetings although we don't see her or Jim at the GMs as much as Jim has health issues. I'd also like to thank Jacqui for taking on the role of Treasurer with support from Kirsty who is stepping back from the committee but continues to look after our Facebook page and supporting all our endeavours. Kirsty is also working full time. Jacqui as everyone knows has an enormous amount on her plate and will not continue in this role but will continue on the committee.

Thank you to Courtney as past president he has supported the committee and working with and for the club generally. But in particular he is the keeper of the stockpile of orchids that the new members benefit from and a font of knowledge. Murray produces our Bulletin which is always highly entertaining. He is our Webmaster and keeper of the photocopier always ready to help. Lynn is a tireless committed member of the committee and the club. Her focus on welcoming new members is fantastic. Trevor is our Patron, and we are missing seeing him at our events as he has had some health challenges over recent months. We are looking forward to seeing him in the future.

I would like to acknowledge all the members who help to make our club and the meetings, shows and displays work. From the front door where Anne and Charmaine are ready with the raffle tickets and the sign in book (have you all done that tonight?) to all the members that are here to set the room up for the meeting and then put it back together at the end of the night. Also, Malcolm and his offsider Enid who organise the nightly competition and do the hard work of keeping track of all the points. Our various speakers who are sharing their experience and knowledge. Margaret Rathbone who looks after our library. Caterina who has manned our sales table with willing helpers and the many helpers in the kitchen. I'm sorry if I haven't named you all -we appreciate your support and we wouldn't have the club we do without you. Particularly great to see the involvement of new members Maggie, Sheelagh, Nantha, Michelle, Charmaine and Ann.

Our year has been pretty full. We had a tent at the Perth Garden Festival which brought us new members. The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop organised by Southeastern Orchid Society was a great success and incidentally we won. Barbara, Trevor, Caterina, Lynn and Jacqui did a great job with our display. Congratulations. And thank you to everyone who contributed such amazing plants for the display and judging.

The next big event was our Kardinya Show. As usual we had fantastic support with members manning an overflowing sales table and a lovely display which was enjoyed by all. A reminder to all that we have increased the prize money for all categories. Thank you to all who turned up to bring plants for judging and for the display and all the willing hands to help Lynn our Show Marshal bring the display together. Thanks to Merrill and Richard and everyone who helped support the competition with set up, plant registration and the judges.

Our Potting Workshop was a great success as usual. Again, thanks to everyone from the very busy potting table - thanks Harry, Murray and Nantha -, the door to the sales tables to the kitchen. We were blessed with great weather this year.

We celebrated our 75th Anniversary on the 11th of September at Chins Noodle House. Hopefully all your special anniversary cattleyas are thriving. We enjoyed a lovely meal and companionship.

Our November Late Flowering orchid display was a big hit and attracting a bigger audience every year. Thanks to our partnering with the Cymbidium Club and ANOS our display was gorgeous. It has proved to be a fabulous weekend. Again, thanks to all our helpers and plant contributions to the display and sales table.

I thought there might be too much of a clash with 2 other events- ferns and cacti groups having events on the same weekend but it seems that there was a good synergy, and we will endeavour to take advantage of this in the future - sharing around brochures etc.

The Christmas Dinner at Bentley Pines was very well attended, and we managed to surprise Courtney Rogasch and Kirsty Bayliss with life memberships. Special Recognition Badges were awarded to Malcolm and Anne Davis and Jacqui and Eric and me! Enid and Laura and Margaret Rathbone received Certificates of Appreciation. It was a great night although a bit of drama at the end - luckily Raye was fine after a night in FSH.

This has been a great year for new members to the club and I hope you have all found something to interest you and encourage you in your orchid growing adventures. I can't begin to name you all - there have been so many.

I have already mentioned Jim and Trevor have been unwell. Ray is also dealing with health problems- we offer them and anyone else our best wishes for their recovery.

I wish you all a safe and happy orchid growing year.

Financial Statement: The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2021 were presented by Jacqui Bateman. Moved Jacqui Bateman, seconded Alan Rowe that the Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

Election of Office Holders: Eric Bateman appointed as Returning Officer.

(Nominations to be received 14 days prior to the AGM. If only one nomination for a position is received, that position is filled – as per the new Rules. If no nominations received, others may nominate from the floor)

President: Call for nominations from the floor. Lina Pacca was nominated for the position of president by Courtney Rogasch, seconded by Charmaine Tan. Elected unopposed.

Secretary: Call for nominations from the floor. Harry Ashton was nominated for the position of secretary by Lynn Brooks, seconded by Helen Stretch. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Following resignation of Jacqui Bateman as treasurer, there was a call for nominations from the floor. Sheelagh Harman was nominated for the position of treasurer (and new OSWA bank signatory) by Enid Chelva, seconded by Jenny McLean. Elected unopposed.

Vice President: Call for nominations from the floor. Lynn Brooks nominated for the position of Vice President by Lynn Brooks, seconded by Helen Stretch. Elected unopposed.

Past President: Courtney Rogasch remains on committee as the past President ex-officio with the same rights as the elected members, no nomination required.

Ordinary Committee Members: *(Elected for two-year terms. Management committee determines size of committee, currently no limit on size of committee. Nominees will need to sign declarations)*

Committee Members Continuing (with 1 year remaining on term, nomination not required)

- Lynn Brooks- who has been appointed as Vice President

Committee Members Continuing (expiring term, for re-nomination)

- Nomination form received for Murray Baker.
Nominated by Harry Ashton, seconded by Lina Pacca. Elected unopposed.

Committee Members newly appointed

- Call for nominations from the floor. Maggie Reisenberger nominated for the position of committee member by Michelle Hay, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.
- Call for nominations from the floor. Nantha Lingam was nominated for the position of committee member by Lina Pacca, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.
- Charmaine Tan was nominated for the position of committee member by Lynn Brooks, seconded by Lina Pacca. Elected unopposed.
- Jacqui Bateman was nominated for the position of committee member by Harry Ashton, seconded by Lina Pacca. Elected Unopposed.

Annual general meeting closed 8:05pm.

Occasionally the bulletin editor runs low on material to include in the bulletin. This problem happens especially in January and February, because not much is in flower at this time of year, and we don't have a regular general meeting in January to report on. Fortunately, Harry occasionally sends interesting material for such occasions, and the article below is one of his recent contributions...thank you Harry!

A question of Temperature — Colour variation in flowers of *Phragmipedium* Pink Panther

Here are three photos of the flower of *Phragmipedium* Pink Panther, taken of flowerings of the same plant in three different years. The photo with the darkest flower was taken in June 2019, in winter, when it was, well, cold. The photo with the lightest coloured flower is from April 2021, when it was a bit warmer while the bud was developing. In the last photo, taken in October 2022, the flower is still developing good colour due to the unusually cool weather at that time, but the colour is not quite as dark as for the flower from winter in 2019.

It is interesting to see the impact of temperature on colour, but it is also interesting to see that phrags seem to flower at quite random times of the year.



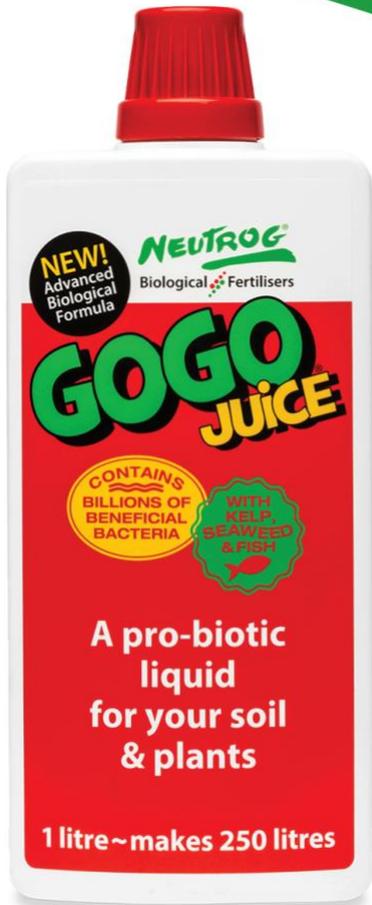
June 2019



April 2021



October 2022



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