

# 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 2025

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 28 February, 2025**.

**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](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au)

[www.facebook.com/orchidsWA](https://www.facebook.com/orchidsWA)

[www.instagram.com/orchidsocietywa](https://www.instagram.com/orchidsocietywa)

## MEETING TOPICS

Annual General Meeting  
and  
Wine and Cheese

## MARCH MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 7 March  
General Meeting: Friday 28 March

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## General News

### Birthdays

February: 8th Antonio Neto; 11th Nancie Jones; 14th Laura Herd

March: 2nd Sophie Kostecki; 4th Angeline Ngooi; 6th Julia Haldoupis; 9th Richard Gordon; 11th Merrill Brechin; 15th Eileen George; 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.

### Thank you to Helen Stretch

Thank you to Helen kindly hosting us for our traditional January home visit this year. All who attended enjoyed plenty of fine food, good company, and a tour of Helen's huge orchid growing area. A couple of brave souls even enjoyed a dip in the pool. Lots of folks participated in the plant swap. Perth experienced a typical January heatwave in the days leading up to the home visit, but Helen organised some very pleasant weather for us on the night. Well done Helen! And Thanks also to Peppe (a.k.a. Malcolm) for doing the barbecuing of the sausages!

### Our February Meeting will be our 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). It is too late to lodge written nominations, but nominations for Committee can be made from the floor at the AGM.

Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community. If you have ideas about where you think OSWA should be headed in the future, what sort of activities it should support, what sorts of club plants it should buy, and so on, the Committee is a good place to begin to make an impact.

Please note that only financial members can vote at the AGM or nominate for any positions. See below about how to pay your annual subscription if you are not financial at this time.

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. Also, see below about the special raffle for bringers of donations for supper.

### Looking for a new Bulletin Editor!

This issue of the bulletin marks the beginning of my 10th year as Editor of OSWA's Bulletin. It's been fun, one of the more enjoyable orchid club tasks that I've been involved with. It's helped me keep up with what's going on in OSWA and the wider orchid community, and it's helped me to get to know a lot of members. Sadly, my circumstances no longer allow me to do justice to the Bulletin, as you may have gathered from the typical lateness of the bulletin and the number of months with no bulletin at all last year. So, OSWA needs a new Bulletin Editor!

The preparing the Bulletin is not a difficult task, all it requires is some time management and some basic word processing skills. I have made a template to simplify formatting the Bulletin in Microsoft Word and much of the content in each issue is simply updated from the same issue of the previous year. Most of the Bulletins are sent by email and just five need to be posted as hard copies. I am more than happy to assist an incoming Editor if need be, and continue to provide some content — there are many stories and articles I would still like to write if I had some more spare time!

If you are interested in trying your hand at the Bulletin, or dobbing someone else in for the job, please let me know ([murray.baker@icloud.com](mailto:murray.baker@icloud.com)). Thanks in advance.

Murray Baker

## 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. 🙄😄😞😄

## Grill'd — Do yourself a favour, and do one for OSWA too!

Grill'd is a chain of restaurants specialising in healthy burgers (and some salads). OSWA's committee members tested the Grill'd restaurant in Applecross last week and can confirm that the burgers are good and tasty, delicious sides are available, and the restaurant is licenced if you care for a drink. The restaurant is promoting OSWA in its "Local Matters" program until the end of the month. Yes, I know, it's almost the end of the month, so apologies for the lateness of this announcement...see above *Looking for new Bulletin Editor*. Anyway, here's the deal...Every customer who buys a meal gets a token. There are three jars for tokens, each labelled for a different worthy cause. After you receive your token you place it in the jar for the most worthy cause (which of course will be OSWA this month). If OSWA's jar has the most tokens at the end of the month our club wins \$300. Grill'd isn't stingy though—if we come in 2nd or 3rd in the token count we will still win \$100. So, if you'd like a decent burger or salad meal (they come with excellent chips too) and a chance to do a favour for OSWA at the same time, get along to Grill'd, 18 Riseley Street in Applecross, before the end of the month. There is plenty of free parking nearby after 6 pm.

## Event calendar for 2025 (a work in progress)

- 1) Autumn Show- Flinders' Square, May 7<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 2) Spring Show- nothing planned (yet)
- 3) Potting Workshop- October 12<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 4) Late Flowering Orchid Display- November 7/8/9 (confirmed)
- 5) December meeting- December 12<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 6) Nursery visits? (???)
- 7) Christmas dinner?

## 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 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. 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 past. 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.
- ✓ General culture notes for various genera are available at [http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing\\_Orchids.html](http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html). See below for Culture Notes specific to the current season for Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, and Paphiopedilums.

### **CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR BUNURU (APPROX FEBRUARY/MARCH)**

Summer is a time of year when there are not a lot of cymbidiums in flower here in Perth. Those that are in flower tend to be the starchy pendulous flower type. Some say these are an acquired taste, however they do break the monotony of nothing but green leaves.

Now that we are into the summer months, we can expect hot days and evenings, coupled with hot dry easterly winds. Don't allow the cymbidiums to dry out under any circumstances. The plants should be watered every day. If necessary (depending on the temperature during the day) I will hand water again in the late afternoon. This also allows me to apply a very weak application of Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids liquid fertilizer. If you don't have time to apply weak fertilizer frequently, consider using some slow release fertilizer, such as the pellet form of Strike Back. The new leads on your plants are in a rapid growth phase at this time, therefore regular and frequent fertilizing with high nitrogen fertilizer helps your plants grow sufficiently for some of them to flower this season, rather than next season. During summer some cymbidium growers like to water the shade house with a fine spray in the early evening. This is a

good time to water as there is less water loss through evaporation, and it also helps to keep the evening temperature down. The initiation of new flower spikes occurs during cool nights, so cool night temperatures are vital if we want our cymbidiums to flower in the coming season.

The increase in water and humidity can sometimes cause or contribute to an increase in fungal problems such as bulb rot. If this occurs, remove the affected bulbs immediately. If you leave the rotten bulbs in the pot, the problem can spread to other bulbs and destroy the whole plant. Mancozeb Plus and or Fongarid can help control fungal problems.

Summer is also the time when Red Spider Mite and Two Spotted Mite will pose a threat to cymbidiums—they love hot dry conditions with little air movement. The actual mites are very small and hard to see without a good magnifying glass or microscope. Watch for evidence of mites on the underside of the leaves of your cymbidiums. It will look like a very fine spider's web all over the underside of the leaf, but it won't come off if you rub it. If it is at all possible, ensure the undersides of the leaves get thoroughly wet when you water your plants. It may be necessary to increase the space between pots to allow this to happen. There are lots of miticide sprays available. Most are 'kill on contact' sprays that need to be applied once to kill the adult mites, then again 10 days or so later to kill any newly hatched mites. It is imperative to read and follow the instructions on the pack, and follow all the safety precautions. Otherwise it won't just be the mites that are feeling crook.

### **CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES FOR BUNURU (APPROX FEBRUARY/MARCH)**

Some hot weather has finally arrived. With the onset of hot dry conditions, examination of your plants will show the development of new growths which will elongate quickly. Increase shading if necessary and the use of fans to cool the growing area is called for. Because of the dryness, watering frequency will need to be increased as the mix dries out sooner. Correct watering will help with enlargement of the new growths. Damping down of the growing area by watering or misting beneath the benches will help with raising 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. A fertilizer programme will also be needed to provide sufficient nitrogen (N) for growth as well as potassium (K) for maturing those growths. Strike Back for Orchids liquid is a good all-round fertiliser to meet these requirements. The aim should be to produce big fat bulbs without inducing the appearance of further weak new growths. New growths should be watched and trained into an erect position before they mature off, so that when flowers appear, they are well displayed.

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 FOR BUNURU (APPROX FEBRUARY/MARCH)**

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, but may increase in heatwave conditions. 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. Some growers may recommend watering on hot evenings, but I avoid this for paphiopedilum orchids. Water left in the axil 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.

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 1/4 to 1/2 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. 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.

**THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC) AGM****Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

The President Lina Pacca declared the meeting open at 7:40 pm, welcoming members & visitors present.

**Acceptance of the previous AGM Minutes:**

Moved Ray T, seconded Nantha L the 2023 AGM minutes be accepted. Carried.

**Business arising from the Minutes: Nil****President's Report:** Lina Pacca

Welcome all to our AGM. This is a great turnout considering the dreadful weather this week. I hope everyone and their plants have survived in some shape or form!!!

What a busy year we have had. We started last year with a BBQ at Ray and Peta's always enjoyed by all. Not only did we reintroduce a winter show -at Flinders Square - but we took on the Intersociety Display and Workshop, soon after that our Kardinya show and rolled right along to the Potting Workshop and the Late Flowering Orchid show. We didn't have a presence at the Perth Garden show last year as it was clashing with the Flinders Show. A huge thank you to all the members who stepped up to set up and then man the events and then break down at the end of the events.

The Flinders Show was a learning curve. The ISDW was an amazing effort and was very well attended- largest number of displays and the Display was won by the Cymbidium club on their first participation in the ISDW. The events could not happen without the hard work of our committee and the support of all of you. Our committee has some new members with lots of enthusiasm and new ideas. Fresh eyes on issues are always welcome. This is my last year as President - usually only 2 years but COVID interrupted the first year and there was an extra year allowed. Just as well as we committed to taking on the ISDW and leaving that for a new President would have been a bit cruel!

I would like to acknowledge all the committee members.

Lynn as Vice President and Show Marshal and new member greeter and tireless worker for the club. She will be missed as she is embarking on a major travelling adventure.

Harry is a fantastic Secretary- not least because he understands technology and agendas and minutes!!! He's also very good at spotting a good deal online and has ordered and looked after club plants which is a great service for members.

Sheelagh continues to juggle all the different aspects of the treasurer's role and while not relishing the position has done a fabulous job keeping everything working like clock work. Even keeping track of all the various "tins" at all our events is a major undertaking.

Murray is our bulletin editor and manages the Website. He is also the one who gets tasked with "Murray can you just send out an email about..." several times in a committee meeting and also other random times. Thank you for your good humour and hard work.

We almost lost Courtney off the committee as he thought that he could step down when I was no longer president. Wrong. We haven't let him. Courtney is a valuable member of the Society - he had our new member stockpile, a wealth of knowledge and we would miss him at the committee meetings.

Kaye has had a very tough 2023 and we are grateful for her remaining on Committee despite losing Jim after a long hard battle with illness and health issues of her own.

Jacqui is staying with the committee too - thank you. Jacqui always has her hand up for any jobs. The rest of us haven't worked out how to have a 36 hour day but Jacqui must have as she fits so much into it!!

Nantha has brought a questioning mind and his business background is encouraging us to look at our "usual" practices in a new light. He is also always ready to support all our endeavours.

Maggie is a breath of fresh air and her infectious laugh is fabulous. Maggie is also very keen to support all our endeavours.

Annette as our newest committee member has pitched in all year and even enlisted the help of her daughter Brianna for the ISDW.

Once again we have had lots of new members this last year as always we welcome and encourage our new members to ask questions and remember we all started somewhere . We hope you all have found something to keep you engaged and committed for years to come.

Jim Baylis was a life member of our society, on committee and a judge and an enormous support in all aspects of OSWA. He drove the trailer and supported Kaye in all her endeavours. He is sorely missed.

We have all been saddened at the loss of Trevor Burnett who as an extraordinary orchid grower, a judge and AOC delegate and very long time member of the society and Patron is missed by all. His font of knowledge and "can do" attitude was well known and appreciated. Our thoughts are with Barbara.

I wish you all a safe and happy orchid growing year. Best wishes to the new President.

Lina Pacca

**Financial Statement:** Presented by Sheelagh H

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2023 were presented.  
Moved Sheelagh H, seconded Arnold D that the Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

**Election of Office Holders:** Nantha L 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 (1 year term) :** One nomination received for Annette Gelfi.

- Nominated by Lina Pacca, seconded by Nantha Lingham. Elected unopposed.

**Secretary (1 year term) :** One nomination received for Harry Ashton

- Nominated by Lina Pacca, seconded by Nantha Lingham. Elected unopposed.

**Treasurer (1 year term) :** One nomination received for Sheelagh Harman

- Nominated by Courtney Rogasch, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.

**Vice President (2 year term):** No nominations. Call for nominations from the floor.

- Nomination received for Nantha L.  
Nominated by Lina P seconded Jenny M. Elected unopposed

**Past President:** Lina Pacca 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)**

- Kaye Baylis

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

- Nomination received for Murray Baker  
Nominated by Annette Gelfi, seconded by Lina Pacca. Elected unopposed.
- Nomination received for Jacqui Bateman  
Nominated by Lina Pacca, seconded by Annette Gelfi. Elected unopposed.
- Nomination received for Maggie Reisenberger  
Nominated by Annette Gelfi seconded by Courtney Rogasch. Elected unopposed
- Nomination received for Courtney Rogasch  
Nominated by Sheelagh Harman, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed

**Committee Members newly appointed**

- Call for nominations from the floor. (Crickets...)

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

|                        |  |                            |                  |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Patron:</b>         | Courtney R   | <b>Librarian:</b>          | John             |
| <b>OSWA Registrar:</b> | Enid Chelva and Alan Rowe  | <b>Sales Table:</b>        | Jenny M, Betty S |
| <b>Show Marshall:</b>  | TBA  | <b>Bulletin Editor:</b>    | Murray Baker     |
| <b>Show Secretary:</b> | Merril Brechin   | <b>Webpage:</b>            | Murray Baker     |
| <b>Show Committee:</b> | Committee Members  | <b>Kitchen:</b>            | TBA              |
| <b>Raffle/door:</b>    | Anne, Maggie R   | <b>Facebook/Instagram:</b> | Kirsty Bayliss   |
| <b>Auditor:</b>        | Optional under our rules. To be determined by committee (if needed). |                            |                  |

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8:02 pm.

### Recent photos from around OSWA

Here are some photos taken over the last few months...some from the December and January meetings, some from members' homes. Captions are provided on the page after the photos. For any enthusiastic new members (anyone who joined in 2024), there will be a nice, well-established orchid seedling as a prize for the first who correctly matches the captions to the photos. (Email answers to the Bulletin Editor.)







**Captions:**

- (1) Keng's Phalanopsis orchids during the December heatwave, loving growing in the house.
- (2) Murray's *Cattleya purpurata* in full bloom in mid-January. During hot summer weather this plant is watered every morning and misted for 10 seconds every 20 minutes between 11 am and 6 pm. Its display would have been nicer if Murray had paid attention and staked it properly!
- (3) Malcolm the BBQ King at Helen's home visit in January.
- (4) Leo's *Cattleya purpurata*, Judges' Choice and winner of the Novice Popular Vote at our December meeting.
- (5) Betty's *Encyclia* Bees' Knees at our December meeting.
- (6) Katia's *Oncidium varicosum* at our December meeting.
- (7) Plants benched at our December meeting. Not a bad haul for the Christmas meeting!
- (8) Jenny's *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinitia falcata*) at our December meeting.
- (9) Keng's Phalaenopsis unknown at our December meeting.
- (10) Ray's *Vanda* Beauty March at our December meeting.
- (11) Courtney's *Cattleya digbyana* at our December meeting. This species grows easily in Perth and has a nice citrusy fragrance.
- (12) Courtney's *Miltoniopsis* Breathless, winner of the Open Popular Vote at our December meeting.
- (13) Our very brightly-clad president Annette presenting Helen with her Judges' Choice Certificate.
- (14) Ray, winner of the Tom Dixon Trophy (best Cymbidium) and the George Marshall Trophy (most points by an Open grower for the year). Ray also received a Badge of Special Recognition.
- (15) Courtney receiving one of his Judges' Choice Certificates.
- (16) Malcolm receiving his Judges' Choice Certificates.
- (17) Harry receiving the Roy Brown Trophy (for the grower of the orchid that scored the highest points of the year).
- (18) Enid receiving the Vera Kennedy Trophy (for most points by a Novice grower for the year).
- (19) Betty receiving her Badge of Special Recognition.
- (20) John our Librarian receiving his Certificate of Appreciation.
- (21) Marian receiving her Certificate of Appreciation.
- (22) Tara receiving her Certificate of Appreciation.
- (23) Our registrars Enid and Alan adding up the popular votes at the December 2024 meeting.
- (24) Alan's *Brassia caudata* at our December meeting.
- (25) Harry's *Cymbidium* Australian Midnight at our December meeting.

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