

# 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 1



JANUARY 2022

Unfortunately, the planned "Twilight at Harry Ashton's Place" which was to be held on **Friday 21 January 2022** has been postponed. There is no general meeting this month.

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**THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

-- CANCELLED --

**FEBRUARY 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**

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## Birthdays

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

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

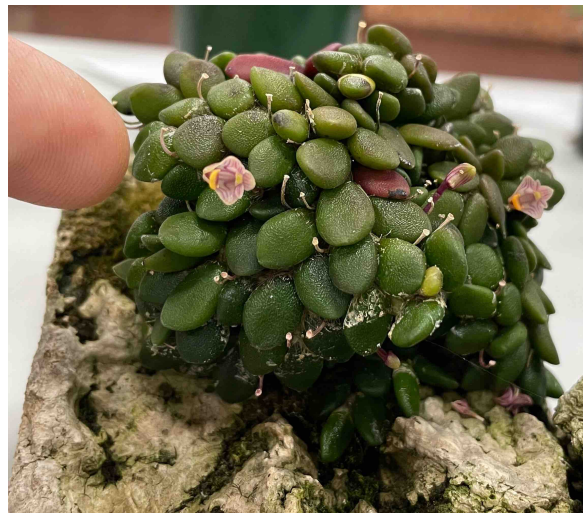
February: 7th Jim Baylis; 11th Nancie Jones

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.

## January General Meeting Cancelled — Twilight at Harry's Place is postponed.

Our usual January get together was to be held this Friday, 21 January, at Harry Ashton's place. Unfortunately, due to the prediction of very hot weather and the uncertain COVID situation, this event has been postponed, so there will be no general meeting or gathering for OSWA members this month. Hopefully Harry will be able to host a home visit at a later date, when the weather is more comfortable and the COVID situation less uncertain.

*Picture at right: Dendrobium lichenastrum*, one of the orchids we won't be able to see this month. Grown by Harry Ashton. Fingertip included in the photo for scale.



## 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.

## Aus-Gro Bark from Ezi-Gro Orchids

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

### **CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JAN-FEB 2021) based on notes from Henry Eaton**

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.

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 of the year, look out for the appearance of cockroaches, grasshoppers, scale insects and other pests and deal with them promptly. Snails and slugs are ever present, but not as many as when the ground is wet in the wintery months.

### **PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JAN-FEB 2021) by Trevor Burnett**

The hot weather will be in full swing during these months, but I still only water 3 times a week. If the forecast is for very hot weather over four days, I will increase the watering to every second day but always in the morning.

Keep your additional shade in place if the plants are showing signs of yellowing, as they are receiving more light than is required. If plants show any signs of burning, add some extra shade for the next few months. Any burning will cause a setback at this stage which will definitely effect our flowering season. If you have a variety of pot sizes, you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out completely between waterings. A simple solution to prevent some pots drying out quicker is to double pot, so the final size pots in the house 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 way all the pots end up drying at the same rate. Paphiopedilum growths should be promoted, so keep the regular fertilizer programme in place to ensure the growths mature ready for the flowering season ahead.

Let's get back to looking after our plants after our Christmas break by:

- checking to ensure good air movement
- misting to assist with maintaining humidity, especially in the glasshouse
- weekly fertilizing with Strike Back for Orchids liquid
- checking to ensure plants are not overcrowded
- checking for pests and treating if necessary
- keeping the area clean of dying leaves or other material
- increasing watering to 3 times a week or more often if plants have dried out
- checking all plants to see if there are any signs of stress
- watering in the early morning before the sun is too high
- watching and control your shading.

### **CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JAN-FEB 2021)**

— based on notes from Courtney Rogasch and Roy Brown

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, and during heat waves, twice a day. My retic is set for 10 minutes per station starting at 6:00 am. 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 enter the flowering process 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.

Make sure there are no holes or tears in your shade cloth. Your plants will quickly suffer sunburn on the leaves if exposed to direct sunlight at this time of the year. Once sunburnt, the leaves become discolored and unsightly.

Summer is also the time when Red Spider Mite and Two Spotted Mite will pose a threat. 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.

These mites love hot dry conditions especially if there is little or no air movement, typical of Perth summer days, so you may have to repeat actions to control them, several times during the summer and autumn months. About every 5-6 weeks is recommended.

It's too late in the year now for dividing and repotting: any plants that were not attended to will be better left until autumn. However, in an emergency, it is always better to repot at any time of the year, rather than risk losing the plant because of sour or rotten compost.

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

### Minutes of the General Meeting held on Friday 17 December 2021

**Welcome:** 7:35 pm

**Attendance, apologies:** as per attendance register

**Minutes:** Moved Cheryl seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

**Presentations:** Christmas party and trophy presentations. Congratulations to our members who have won awards. These awards are not only a reflection of excellence in the care and cultivation of orchids, but also embody your contribution to the society and the continuation of orchid growing in Western Australia!

*Retiring some of the OSWA trophies to the member who has won them the most times.* Congratulations to Kaye and Jim Baylis (for receiving the W+L Janney Perpetual Trophy for best Pure Colour Cymbidium), Lynn Brooks (Harold Hill Memorial Trophy for Best Phalaenopsis), Howard Tan (Cypripedium Championship Trophy for best Paphiopedilum and the Jim Grantham Memorial Trophy for Best Phragmipedium), Maxine Godbeer (Schockman Trophy for Best Laeliinae), and Ian Duncan, Trevor Burnett and Courtney Rogasch (also received retiring trophies, but unable to attend meeting).

*Judges Choice orchid of each meeting.* Congratulations to Ray Taylor (Judges Choice for October and November), Howard Tan (February, March and June) Kirsty Bayliss (May), Tara Peeters (July) and Courtney (August, September and October). The Judges Choice of the Year (highest quality plant judged at our meetings during the year), was a tie between Courtney Rogasch and Howard Tan. This achievement has been recognised by the Roy Brown Trophy. Congratulations!

Finally, OSWA recognises members who contribute significantly to the club. There are 3 levels of recognition awarded by OSWA committee for contribution to orchid growing in Western Australia—Certificates of Appreciation, Badges of Special Recognition and Life memberships.

**Certificates of Appreciation** awarded to Enid and Laura Chelva, Sheelagh Harman, and Margaret Rathbone.  
**Badges of Special Recognition** awarded to Jacqui and Eric Bateman (these were issued a few years ago but the Batemans never received a badge!) and Mal and Ann Davis.  
**Life memberships** (awarded to Courtney Rogasch and Kirsty Bayliss at our Christmas dinner).

**New Member Introductions:** Philip Todkill, Oanh Vo, Sophie Kostecki, Glynn Fathers, Nelly Farquhaison, and Mrs Nyein Su Myat

**Correspondence:**

- 1/12- received letter from QLD Garden convention inviting us to participate
- 1/12- received email re: new Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species.
- 1/12- emailed Brian N asking for Perth Garden Festival dates
- /12- emailed Shona asking for Koi Society Show dates
- 1/12- emailed Rick asking for ISDW dates
- 1/12- emailed John Carless enquiring as to whether he would like a home visit in 2022
- 2/12- received OWA minutes
- 3/12- received invitation to suggest themes for the Perth International Orchid Conference and Show 2023
- 4/12- received judging panel fee advice (increase)
- 5/12- sent off new member letters
- 6/12- received 40% flask discount from Orchids R Us

**Business arising from correspondence:** Nil

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

**Reports:** Nil

**Financial report:** Presented by J Bateman

**Business arising from the financial report:** Nil

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

**General Business:**

- **January Home Visit:** The January meeting each year is not at the usual venue, but instead a home visit where you get to see how members grow their orchids. This year it will be at Harry's house, on the THIRD Friday (January 21<sup>st</sup>) from 6pm.
- **Harry : New Grower Incentive Scene Participation** – new OSWA members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in the second, third and fourth year as OSWA members collect points from benching plants, and at the end of the year the grower in each year with the most 'points' will be awarded a quality, flowering sized plant from the OSWA stockpile. These are presented at our AGM.
- **Events calendar 2022**  
 Perth Garden Festival – likely May 5 – May 8 – should we be involved again this year?  
 Intersociety Display and Workshop – Aug 6-7 in Busselton. Volunteers to go down for the weekend? It's fun!

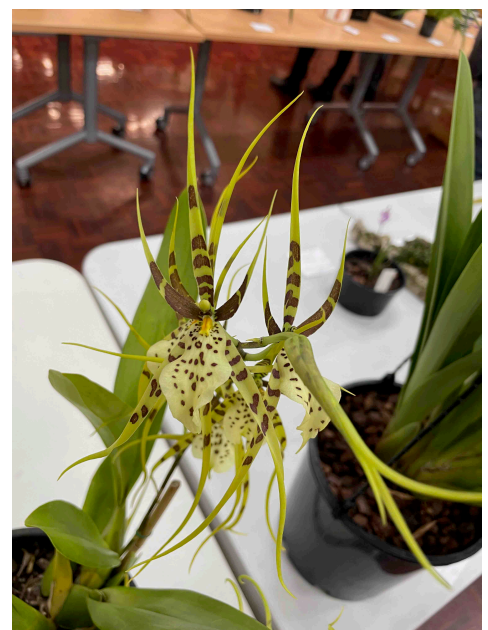
**Raffle:** Murray, Helen, Patricia, Alan, Richard, Margaret. **Door Prize:** Jim Baylis

**Open popular vote:** Helen Stretch with *Laelia purpurata alba*, Grown under 70% shadecloth, this plant is in a waterwell pot. Helen uses bark and perlite, keeps the plants well watered, uses Strike Back for Orchid pellets, and tries to avoid the plants getting too much heat, dropping the plant lower down in the shadehouse in very hot weather.

**Novice popular vote:** Charmaine Tan with *Brassia verrucosa*.  
 Charmaine fertilizes this orchid with water from her fish pond, and Strike Back for orchids!

**Meeting Closed** at 9:43

*Picture at right: Brassia Eternal Wind 'Summer Dream', grown by Merril Brechin*



## MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (DECEMBER 2021)

## OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Laelia purpurata alba</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Laelia purpurata carnea</i>
1F	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Laelia lobata x Laelia purpurata</i>
2B	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Australian Midnight 'Gowrie'
3A	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum praestans</i>
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
3B	(2)	1	K Bayliss	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yellow Tiger ( <i>stonei x praestans</i> )
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng Eagle ( <i>rothschildianum x gigantifolium</i> )
3D	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum sanderianum x Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Isabel
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yang-Ji Apple x <i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
3F	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lady Rothschild
6D	(1)	1	Merril Brechin	<i>Brassia</i> Eternal Wind 'Summer Dream'
7A	(2)	1	Murray & Arni Baker	<i>Renanthera monachica</i>
		1	Harry Ashton	<i>Sarcochilus celilliae</i>
7B	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom
8A	(2)	1	Murray & Arni Baker	<i>Dendrobium discolour</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium lichenastrum</i>
11A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grande 'Chinaman'
12A	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Vanda falcata x Ascocentrum ampullaceum</i>

## NOVICE

15F	(3)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Encyclia</i> Bees' Knees
		2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Encyclia</i> Bees' Knees
			Charmaine Tan	<i>Encyclia</i> Bees' Knees
19D	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
20A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Oncidium flexuosum</i>
20D	(3)	1	Nantha Lingam	<i>Oncidium</i> Pacific Pagans 'Kilauea'
		2	Nantha Lingam	<i>Oncidinae</i> Unknown
		3	Keng Leow	<i>Oncidium sphacelatum</i>
26	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom ( <i>Vanda falcata x Ascocentrum ampullaceum</i> )

**Open Popular Vote:** *Laelia purpurata alba*, grown by Helen Stretch

**Novice Popular Vote:** *Brassia verrucosa* grown by Charmaine Tan

Some of the plants on display in December...



*Brassia verrucosa*  
Grown by Charmaine Tan.  
(Novice Popular Vote)



*Laelia purpurata alba*  
Grown by Helen Stretch.  
(Open Popular Vote)



*Oncidium flexuosum*  
(Margaret Rathbone)



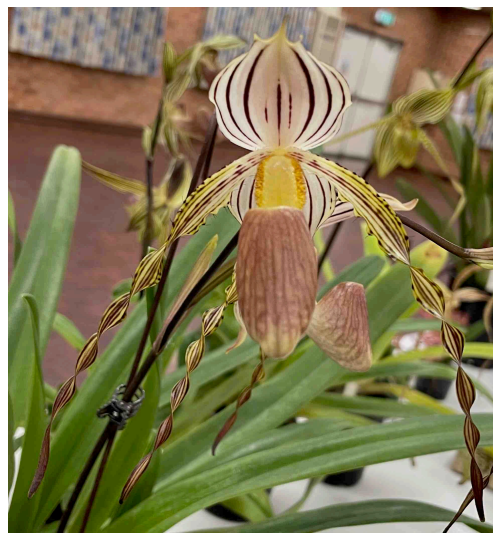
*Oncidium Pacific Pagans 'Kilauea'*  
(Nantha Lingam)



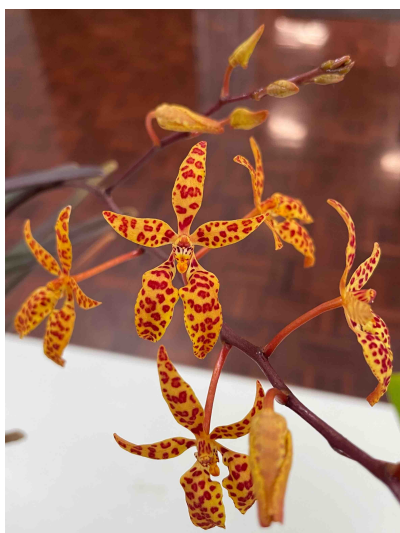
*Oncidium sphacelatum*  
(Keng Leow)



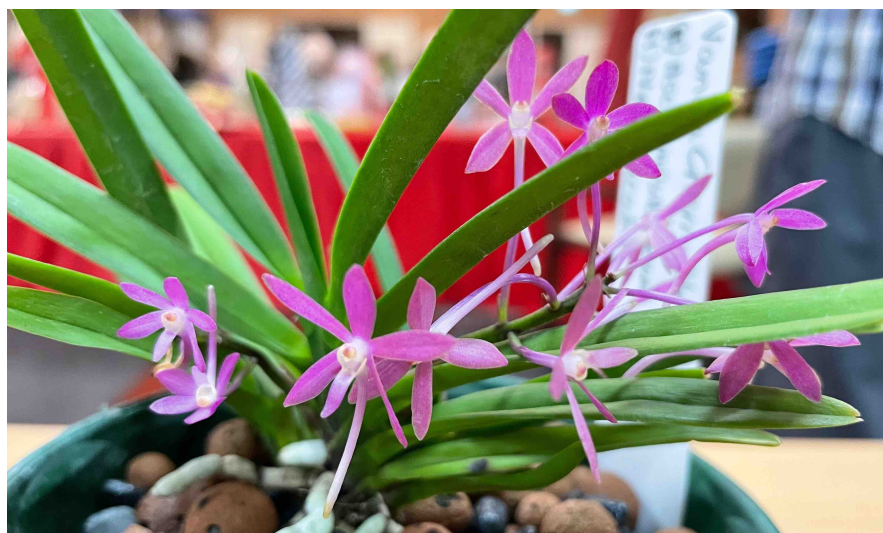
*Paphiopedilum praestans*  
(Howard Tan)



*Paphiopedilum Yellow Tiger*  
(*Paph. stonei* x *Paph. praestans*, Kirsty Bayliss)



*Renanthera manachica*  
(Murray and Arni Baker)



*Vanda Cherry Blossom*  
(Lynn Brooks)



*Sarcochilus celiliae*  
(Harry Ashton)



*Encyclia Bees' Knees*  
(Enid Chelva)



*Laelia lobata* x *Laelia purpurata*  
(Tara Peeters)



From the December General Meeting...



OSWA President Lina Pacca presented Howard Tan with the Roy Brown Perpetual Trophy for Judges Choice of the Year (shared with Courtney Rogasch.)



Margaret Rathbone received a Certificate of Appreciation for her invaluable services in maintaining and operating the OSWA library.



Enid and Laura Chelva with their Certificates of Appreciation for their willingness to help out at many OSWA activities.



Sheelagh Harman received a Certificate of Appreciation for her creativity and willingness to help out at many OSWA activities.

**The AGM is approaching...**

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

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

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

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

Murray Baker

**THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)**

I hereby nominate .....

for the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

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

Signed.....

Date.....

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

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

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