

# 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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JANUARY 2025

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at 6 Kestel Place, Kewdale, on **Friday 24 January, 2025.**

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## MEETING TOPICS

Traditional January home visit, kindly hosted by Helen Stretch

## OTHER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 7 February

General Meeting: Friday 28 February

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## General News

### President's Corner

Hi friends,

2025 is here, there's a new calendar on the wall and new growth popping up in my shade house. How are your plants doing this summer? I've learned a hard lesson about diligently watering my seedlings, losing a couple of trays of baby plants that I deflasked last October. It occurs to me that being a new grower is a bit like being a new parent: there are lots of different opinions on how to do it well, the advice you receive can be conflicting and leave you feeling very confused until you gain experience and figure out what works for you and the 'little ones' you are caring for. I'm still learning, and I'll probably lose plenty more plants as I go (my kids are doing fine so far, by the way).

May your garden grow well,

Annette Gelfi – OSWA President

### Birthdays

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

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

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

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

- Where: 6 Kestral Place, Kewdale. Phone: 0419 197 043
- If you only want to eat and enjoy the raffles and auctions, arrive from about 6 pm. BBQ to start from around 6:30 pm.
- If you would like a tour of the orchid houses, arrive from about 5 pm.
- If it's hot (forecast maximum for the day is 37°C!) , bring your bathing suit so you can take a dip in the pool to cool off.
- BBQ will be supplied.
- Bring a salad or sweets to share.
- Some soft drinks will be supplied but BYO alcoholic or other exotic drinks.
- Bring one chair per couple if you want to sit down...Helen has chairs, but not enough for everyone.
- **Bring a plant or small gift for the raffle. If everyone brings a plant, everyone gets a plant!**
- If you need a lift, contact Murray at [murray.baker@icloud.com](mailto:murray.baker@icloud.com) or 0419 129 322 — we may be able to figure something out.

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

Please consider nominating for Committee or some other role to help OSWA this 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). A nomination form is on the back page of this bulletin and forms will be available at the January home visit hosted by Helen Stretch. 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, 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.

## Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November!

\$26 double, \$21 single. Thank you to all who have paid their 2025 subs already. If you still need to pay your 2025 subs, 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. 🙄🙄🙄

## Australian Orchid Council International Conference and Show 2025

1-5 October 2025, Woolgoolga NSW

The next AOC conference will be held from 1-5 October 2025 and will be hosted by Woolgoolga District Orchid Society. By all accounts, the hosts are very enthusiastic. The Woolgoolga district has a climate well-suited to orchid growing so there should be an excellent display of orchids. National and international vendors will be in attendance. For more info, see <https://www.aoc2025.org.au>.



## 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 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.

## 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.

**Notes of the OSWA General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Welcome: 7:45**

**Apologies and attendance:** as per attendance register

**Presentations/demos:** Christmas Party!

**New member introductions**

**Reports:** Bunnings

**General business**

- **Judges Choice of the Monthly Awards**

November- Helen with *Cattleya purpurata* Yugorama Red

December- Harry with *Cattleya purpurata* (Roxo-violetta x *werkhauseri*) (pictured at right)

February- Ray with *Vanda Beauty*

March- Courtney with *Cattleya intermedia*

April AND May is Mal with *Dendrobium Rungroj Splash*

June- Harry with *Cattleya Siam Jade*

July- Courtney with *Dendrobium Hilda Poxon*

October – Ray Taylor with *Cymbidium Kuranda*

- **Trophy Awards**

The Roy Brown Trophy awarded to the highest pointed orchid in the year goes to Harry, with *Cattleya purpurata* Roxo-violetta x *werkhauseri* with 77 points (pictured above)

The Vera Kennedy Trophy (awarded for most points in Novice is awarded to Enid Chelva

The George Marshall Trophy (awarded for most points in Open) is awarded to Ray Taylor

The Tom Dixon Trophy awarded to the highest pointed *Cymbidium* in the year goes to Ray Taylor with *Cymbidium Kuranda Chu Ka-Wai*- 74 points

- **Certificates of Appreciation**

John Cain- for enthusiastic support of the society Library

Tara Peters – for generously sharing her extensive orchid knowledge

Mariam- for diving in the deep end in enthusiastic pursuit of the goals of the society

- **Badges of Special Recognition**

Ray Taylor for his support in improving availability of high quality plants at OSWA events

Betty Saul- for being a positive and consistent presence and support of almost all OSWA events

- **Quality Plant Auctions** – Please be reminded that if you have a high quality plant you would like considered for auction at an OSWA meeting, please let the secretary know prior to the meeting so we can advertise it in the bulletin. One auction plant- *Cymbidium* Helen Bannerman won by Maggie for \$50.

- **January home visit-** Helen advises there's plenty of street parking. Please bring a chair if you have one and remember to bring a salad or sweet.

**Supper prize:** Betty S

**Open popular vote:** Courtney Rogasch with *Miltoniopsis Breathless*. Courtney grows this plant in an area between his garden shed and his house under 70% wheat coloured shade-cloth. Courtney exclusively waters this plant with rainwater. Courtney grows this plant quite bright through winter, but in hot summers months drops it down lower in a location where his *zyopetalums* grow.

**Floral Art:** no entries

**Novice popular vote:** Leo Walters with *Cattleya purpurata* (var *Flamea* CW #8' x *Rosada* 'Dark Hsinying'). Leo grows orchids on steel Bunnings shelves. In winter they get pushed up against eaves for protection from rainfall, and in spring get pushed out into a position where they get more light. The plant is in bark/perlite/shells.

**Door Prize:** Ann Davis

**Raffle:** Harry couldn't keep track! Apologies

**Judges Choice:** Leo W with *Cattleya purpurata* var. *flamea* (CW #8 x var. *Rosada* 'Dark Hsinying' 74 points

**Best *Cymbidium*:** Harry Ashton with *Cymbidium Australian Midnight* 70 points

**Meeting closed at 9:40**



**MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (DECEMBER 2024)****OPEN**

1A	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya purpurata alba</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya purpurata</i>
		3	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya forbesii</i>
2B	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium Australian Midnight</i>
6B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Oncidium (floridanum x maculatum)</i>
6D	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Miltoniopsis Breathless</i>
7BC	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Vanda Beauty March</i>

**NOVICE**

15A	(2)	1	Leo Waters	<i>Cattleya purpurata</i> (var. Flaming 'CW #8 x var. rosada 'Dark Hsinying')
		2	Enid Chelva	
15B	(1)	1	Leo Waters	<i>Ryncholaeliocattleya Nakornchaisri Delight</i>
15F	(3)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Encyclia venosa</i> (hybrid?)
		2	Betty Saul	<i>Encyclia Bees' Knees</i>
		3	Enid Chelva	<i>Encyclia Bees' Knees</i>
19C	(1)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis unknown</i>
19D	(2)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis unknown</i>
		2	John Cain	<i>Phalaenopsis unknown</i>
20B	(3)	1	Katia Stefanova	<i>Oncidium varicosum</i>
		2	Enid Chelva	<i>Oncidium unknown</i>
		3	Jenny McLean	<i>Oncidium (maculatum x floridanum)</i>
20D	(1)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Brassia caudata</i>

**Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy):**

*Cattleya purpurata* (var. Flaming 'CW #8 x var. rosada 'Dark Hsinying'), grown by Leo Waters, 74 Points

**Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy):**

*Cymbidium Australian Midnight 'Gowrie'*, grown by Harry Ashton, 70 Points

**Open popular vote:**

*Miltoniopsis Breathless* grown by Courtney Rogash

**Novice popular vote:**

*Cattleya purpurata* (var. Flaming 'CW #8 x var. rosada 'Dark Hsinying'), grown by Leo Waters

**Floral art popular vote:** no entries

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So that this bulletin is not more obscenely late than it already is, pictures from our December meeting have will be included in the next bulletin.

**A word from Kaye Baylis**

Hi, my name is Kaye (Baylis), a life member of our Society. I joined this great club with my late husband Jim (also a Life Member) in March 1969. Our daughter was 1 year old at the time, and our son was born in 1970, so we had a very young family, but we wanted to know how to get my late Father's orchids to flower.

We both have had a lot of enjoyment learning and making lifetime friendships from being in OSWA.

OSWA was founded in September 1946, so it has been a strong Society in the WA community for 78 years.

I have been continually on the Committee since 1973, when I became Treasurer for 20 years. I have had several stints as the President and am now still serving as a Committee Member. It has been 51 years of pleasure to be on the Committee. The Committee is a very important part of the running of a Society. We are always looking for new blood, to bring new ideas of how to help our members, and to have a great friendly Society.

Jim and myself loved being on the Committee, helping the Society the best we could...being Show Marshall, towing and packing the trailer, helping with the set up/break down of the displays/shows. Jim was also an Orchid Judge for the WA division of the Australian Orchid Council. We have learnt a lot being involved and made a lot of lifetime friends, from all over Australia and some from overseas.

I must add that we were members of a couple of other Societies.

So PLEASE members, think seriously about joining the Committee, as we need your input to help keep this great Society running for the next 100 odd years.

Sorry I don't get to a lot of meetings or functions in later years, so many of you will not know who I am, but please rest assured that my heart is with the Society and all its members.

Thank you all for allowing me to write this for the Bulletin.

Kaye



**Nomination Form – The Orchid Society of WA (Inc)**

<p>I hereby nominate .....</p> <p>for the position of.....</p> <p>Nominator.....</p> <p>Secunder.....</p> <p>I hereby accept nomination &amp; declare that I have not breached any of the 4 conditions (listed at right) under the relevant WA Act</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	<p>Under WA Law a person is excluded from being on the Committee if they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws;</li> <li>2. Have been convicted of an indictable offence in relation to the formation or management of a body corporate in the last 5 years;</li> <li>3. Have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, punishable by at least 3 months imprisonment in the last 5 years;</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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