

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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JULY 2022

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 22 July, 2022.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

BRIAN KLEPZIG
NEUTROG FERTILISERS

AUGUST MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 12th
General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 26th

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General News

Suppers are back at General Meetings

Now that public health regulations relating to COVID have been relaxed and attitude of the general public to COVID has become mellow, if not blasé, the kitchen will re-open at General Meetings and suppers will be on again. Donations of snacks for will be gratefully received, and no doubt gratefully consumed.

Because our AGM was held during a period of COVID uncertainty, nobody was tasked with looking after the kitchen at General Meetings. Please could we have a couple of volunteers?

Of course, if you are still concerned about catching COVID, you should do the usual stuff—wear a mask, use hand sanitiser, practice physical distancing, and feel free to BYO tea/coffee/snacks.

Birthdays

July: 1st Kevin Butler; 9th Stephanie Williamson; 15th Dana Mitchell

August: 28th Nyein Su Myat

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.

Plants for the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop — Trevor needs their names!

We need orchids in flower for OSWA's contribution to the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop in Busselton on August 6 and 7. All contributions will be greatly appreciated. If you have plants that you expect to be in flower at that time, please forward a list of the plant names to Trevor (tgburnett@bigpond.com or 0428 570 986) so that he can prepare labels suitable for the plants in the ISODW display. If you have plants that will be in flower at that time but you are not able to go to the ISODW, we can still use them...please contact Harry or Lina to arrange for your plants to be carefully transported to and from Busselton. For more about ISODW, see below.

Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop — 6th and 7th August 2022, in Busselton.

ISODW Venue: Churchill Park Hall, corner of Brown and Adelaide Streets in Busselton

Dinner Venue: RSL Hall, 10 Rosemary Drive, Busselton (Saturday 6th August, drinks from 6:30 pm)

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop will be the biggest event on the WA orchid calendar this year. These events are always good fun and provide an opportunity to see lots of orchids and mingle with lots of other West Australian orchid growers.

There will be a plant competition and a display competition and OSWA will be competing in both. So, we need plants for the competitions and helpers to organise the plants and set up the display.

If you intend to go to Busselton for the ISODW and can help with OSWA's participation, please advise Harry or Lina asap.

If you haven't booked accommodation for this event yet, see the April bulletin for info about the accommodation recommended by Barbara Burnett. Since it is a bit of a drive to Busselton, accommodation for at least the nights of Friday 5th August - Sunday 7th August is recommended.

Kevin Western of Western Orchids in South Australia will be at the ISODW. He has sent an extensive list of flasks and requests anyone interested in ordering flasks for collection at ISODW to place orders by 30 July. More info at the July general meeting.

This month's guest speaker: Brian Klepzig from Neutrog

This year we have managed to time Brian's visit to happen just before our August Neutrog order (the online store for the next order closes on 8 August). Brian always gives an entertaining talk and usually comes bearing free samples of Neutrog products, so this month's meeting is not to be missed.

Orchids for Sale

OSWA members are invited to a home open and orchid sale on Sunday 31st July, at 20 Boronia Crescent, City Beach, from 12 noon to 3 pm. Approximately 70 cattleyas and 30 dendrobiums are for sale, for \$20-\$30 each, cash only please. The orchids belonged to Laurel and Mal Williams, long-time members of OSWA, and the seller (Jenine) would like to see the orchids go to OSWA members. Jenine has compiled a list and provided some photos of the dendrobiums and is working on a list of the cattleyas. From their photos, the dendrobiums look quite nice. More info at Friday's general meeting.

Perth Orchid Fair — Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August

Members who were paying attention at the June general meeting will have heard that the Perth Orchid Fair for this year was cancelled due to unavailability of the venue. That problem has now been solved, so the Perth Orchid Fair is back on again. The dates are unchanged, but the venue is now John Septimus Roe College in Mirrabooka. Since the timing of this event is very close to our Spring Show, OSWA will not be directly involved, but many OSWA members will be at the Fair as members of other clubs. Even if you have no formal involvement with the Fair, it will be worth a visit. For further information contact Bruce Larson on 0417 903 280.

Do you want to read bulletins from other clubs?

OSWA shares its bulletin with a number of other orchid clubs, who in turn share their bulletins with OSWA. If you would like to be added to a mailing list to receive bulletins from some other clubs, please contact Harry.

Streamlined Meeting Format and more raffle prizes

Members will be pleased to learn that to make our general meetings more enjoyable, we will no longer be discussing routine correspondence and financial matters that are routinely dealt with by committee. If you are interested in such matters, they will be posted on a noticeboard during meetings for you to inspect. To make general meetings even more enjoyable, we will be making an effort to provide more raffle prizes each month, so be sure to buy your raffle tickets and avoid disappointment.

OSWA Marketplace

If there is any orchid or orchid-related item that you would like to buy or sell, let Murray know and he will include details of your request in the next Bulletin.

Wanted — *Cattleya skinneri* var. *oculata* alba 'Dayana'

If you have this plant or a piece of this plant to spare, please contact Harry Ashton.

Upcoming Events for your Calendar

- **Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop:** 6-7 August in Busselton.
- **Kardinya Spring Show:** Setup, Tue 30 August; Show, Wed 31 August to Sat 3 September.
- **Floraplant Nursery Visit:** Saturday 10 September, starting 9 am sharp.
- **Potting Workshop:** Sunday 16 October
- **Perth Garden Festival:** 27-30 October (setup 25 and 26 October?)
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display:** 12 and 13 November (Saturday and Sunday)
- **Home visits?** Let Harry or Lina know if you would be happy to host a home visit.
- **Christmas Dinner:** Bentley Pines (same as last year), 9 November 2022, from 7 pm.

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR DJILBA (APPROX. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER)**Harry Ashton and Jenny McLean**

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. Djilba (approx. August/September) is known as the 'first spring'. While weather can still be cold and wet, we begin to experience longer hours of daylight and an increasing number of pleasant warm days. The West Australian landscape bursts into life with wildflowers (including our spectacular native terrestrial orchids) and this floral display corresponds with peak flowering season for the orchids we grow. It's a busy time of the year, with many orchid-related shows and events!

- ✓ With many orchids coming into flower, have a think about which plants you can bring to events. In addition to letting others appreciate your plants, orchids brought into OSWA meetings are eligible to win our popular votes (winners receive a prize!) and can be nominated for Australian Orchid Council Awards. Orchids benched at shows may also receive prize money and awards!
- ✓ The large number of events (with the inevitable sales tables) also gives you the opportunity to build your orchid collection. In general it's a good idea to repot newly acquired orchids into a mix that you are familiar with.
- ✓ In addition to repotting newly acquired orchids, think about which of your own orchids need repotting. This is a big job and often takes longer than expected! Reasons to repot include:
 - the plant has grown too large for the existing container;
 - the potting material has broken down and must be replaced (holding too much moisture, not free draining etc);
 - the plant has naturally divided into two pieces (or has rotting bulbs in the centre);
 - you have purchased plants from various sources, and therefore in various different media.
- ✓ The watering habit of the grower will influence potting mix selection. If you are a compulsive user of water and have difficulty holding back, then you will need a more open mix to allow for plants to dry out a little between watering. On the other hand, someone who is sparing with watering or is away from home for a period may require a finer mix that is able to retain water longer (but therefore may need protection from rain to avoid the mix becoming 'too wet' in winter).
- ✓ Watering at this time of the year is best done in the morning, aiming to allow orchids to dry by nightfall. Try to plan watering for clear sunny days.
- ✓ Try to avoid overhead watering/sprinklers at this time of year, as many orchids are in flower, and flowers can easily blemish if water is allowed to splash on the petals.
- ✓ Use rainwater where possible—there's no shortage of it this time of year, orchids love it, and we all have a responsibility to be water-wise gardeners.
- ✓ If you have a solid cover for your shade house, it can stay on until the wet weather has passed. Orchids that require a dry winter rest or have reduced growth during winter should be kept on the dry side, and given minimal (if any) fertilizer.
- ✓ Snails and slugs are still active in the wet weather, so apply pellets to help control populations (use the expensive, moisture resistant ones that do not disintegrate and go mouldy).

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJILBA (APPROX. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER) (Acknowledgement to Roy Brown)

More and more of our Cymbidiums will be opening their flower buds, so ensure the racemes of 'upright' cymbidiums are staked properly and securely. Some varieties need no staking as they have thick, upright stems that are self-supporting, but others will need to be tied to stakes. When doing this, place the stake as near to the flower stem as possible. Tie the stem firmly, but not too tightly as it will continue to lengthen and must not be hindered in its growth. If the raceme has grown a bit wayward and needs to be pulled back to vertical, this needs to be done gently, and may need to be done in stages, a little each day, to prevent snapping the stem. It is best to do this in the warmest part of the day, when the stem is most flexible. Do not stake cymbidiums that have naturally pendulous or cascading flower spikes—these look best if allowed to hang, but plants may need to be raised to prevent spikes from hitting benches and the floor.

Here are a few hints on preparing your plants for exhibition. Firstly, give the pots a good clean up. Next, wipe the leaves over with a clean, damp, soft cloth. Trim the ends of the leaves—some may have dead tips and these can look rather unsightly. Always remember to sterilize the cutting instrument after attending to each plant. Then, probably the most important point, make sure that those plants that need it are properly staked, to present their flowers in a proper manner. Do not allow the stake to be higher than the flower spike. It doesn't really take long to prepare each plant for a show, but it does make all the difference to the finished product. Finally, on the morning *before* the day that the show is to be set up, give your plants a good watering as they may be on display for a few days.



Repotting should now be in full swing. Do not repot plants that are in bud or flower—make a start on the plants that have finished flowering first. Some growers cut cymbidium flower spikes off to allow the plant to put more energy into producing new growths for next year. Cymbidiums make exquisite and long lasting cut flowers, and look beautiful arranged with some ferns or Geraldton wax. Many cymbidiums will have new growths, so now is a good time to begin increasing the amount of fertiliser you give to your plants after their winter hiatus. Strike Back for Orchids, liquid or pellet forms, are suitable. Cymbidium orchids are heavier feeders than many other orchids!

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJILBA (APPROX. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER) (Acknowledgement to Henry Eaton)

The majority of cattleyas will complete their flowering within the next few months. To present the flowers well, make sure the pseudo bulbs are tied vertically and the emerging buds face towards the main source of light. If there are any bud sheaths that hold water, peel them open or remove them altogether. Alternatively, the sheaths can be left in place to provide additional support to the flower stem, and a sterile cutting tool can be used to carefully cut a small hole near the base of the sheath to allow any water to drain out. (See the June bulletin for more about sheaths.) Keep an eye out for plants in the shadehouse that have spent flowers. Spent flowers and flower sheaths should be removed with scissors or secateurs that are sterilised before use on each plant. At this time of year in particular, water that collects in old flower sheaths and stagnates can lead to rot that will result in loss of the pseudobulb. (To see what the picture at right is all about, read on to the next page.)



Signs of active growth (flushes of roots, new developing pseudobulbs) signal that it's time to begin fertilizing again, and Strike Back for Orchids pellets can be applied to any plants with signs of growth. Strike Back for Orchids liquid can be applied at quarter to half strength on a weekly basis. It's a good idea to tie together all the 'old' pseudobulbs, as demonstrated in the photo at the bottom of the previous page. This procedure keeps the plant upright and tidy, and gives new developing growths plenty of light. New growths that do not get sufficient light will be tempted to grow horizontally instead of vertically. If this occurs, a PVC pipe cut longitudinally can be used to help 'guide' the pseudobulb into an upright position, as shown at right.

This is also the time to think of repotting. The best time to repot a cattleya is when a new flush of roots is emerging from the newest growth, like in the photo in the June 2022 bulletin. These roots will establish themselves in the new mix. It's important to repot before the new roots get more than 2-3 cm long—if the new roots are allowed to get longer, they are likely to be snapped off in the repotting process. Plants should be inspected to see if they only need transfer to a bigger pot or whether they need to be divided. If division is contemplated, do not go for divisions of less than 4 mature bulbs each.

Use a pot size you feel will be adequate to allow at least 2-3 years growth before the need for repotting arises. Do not over-pot. When repotting, hold the plant so that the oldest bulb sits pressed against the back edge of the pot, giving the new growth at least 2 years of growth in front. After filling the pot with your mix, the plant should be anchored firmly enough for you to lift it up by the leaves without separating it from the pot. A stake alongside the foremost growth to which it is tied is also worth considering if there is any doubt about stability. See the updated Cattleya culture sheet on the OSWA website for more information on repotting.

http://orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html



PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJILBA (APPROX. AUGUST/SEPTEMBER) (Acknowledgement to Trevor Burnett)

As plants finish flowering, it is time to look at the task of repotting. Unlike many other orchids, paphiopedilums enjoy frequent repotting. Paphiopedilums are repotted in a variety of growing media that usually have a foundation of small aged pine bark chips. Most plants require repotting every 2nd year for larger pots or more often if in smaller pots. Small plants respond to repotting with increased growth. My general mix is: 4 parts clean bark, 1 part charcoal, 1 part polystyrene or perlite. Text books recommend growing the plants in small pots, but I personally do not like bonsai, so I grow my plants in larger pots (130mm or 140mm) and get good results. I believe that with larger pots you obtain larger growths, which at the end of the season result in larger and stronger flowers.

My watering programme is still at 10 to 14 day intervals, but I may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row. I still will give the flowering plants fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require fertilizer at one-quarter to one-half strength, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, to keep the growth moving forward.

See the updated Paphiopedilum culture sheet on the OSWA website for more information on repotting.

http://orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)
Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre,
Manning, on Friday 24th June

Welcome: 7:32 pm

Apologies and attendance: as per attendance register

Minutes: Moved Arnold D, Keng L seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentation: Thelymitras by Karl Lee

Correspondence:

23/5- from community papers confirming advertising arrangements; 27/5- from GCA bulletin; 29/5- from WA Horticultural Council minutes; 30/5- from Tropical Colours re: stakes availability; 31/5- from EzFlo confirming presentation for October; 1/6 – from WA Horticultural Council re: invitation to Garden Clubs and Societies Fair; 8/6- from Alan R re OSWA VCR tape update; 10/6- from Neutrog (update on investment offer); 10/6- Orchids WA documents (all 12 attachments!); 10/6- from Albany Orchid Society requesting OSWA bulletins; 11/6- from Darling Scarp Gardening Group requesting a speaker; 19/6- from Barrita orchids confirmation of order; 21/6- From Dr Bose (South African researcher) request for epidendrum ibaguense root samples; 21/6- from OWA minutes of meeting; 22/6- from Mallmanager re: confirmation of Kardinya Spring Show booking; 22/6- from Murray/Enid re: apologies for confusion about Dendrobium bigibbum alba in the bulletin; 22/6- from Audrey G re: exploring options for selling orchid collection.

Business arising from correspondence

- Maggie interested in speaking to Darling Scarp Gardening Group, dates or times not provided, so yet so tbc.
- Nobody was ablt to help Dr Bose.

Moved Harry A, seconded Lynn B that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports: Koi Society Show

Financial report: Presented by Sheelagh Harman

Business arising from the financial report: Nil.

Moved Sheelagh H seconded Lynn B that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- **OSWA Bulletin Culture Notes:** We have amended the format of the culture notes in the bulletin. If anyone has any feedback on this please let us know.
- **Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop in Busselton:** We will be participating in the ISDW which will take place in Busselton this year. We are planning on staying at Bayview Geographe Resort Busselton. If you say you're with OSWA when booking, hopefully they will put us close together.
- **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.
- **Events calendar 2022**

BREAK FOR PLANT JUDGING

Raffle: Alan R, Lina P, Merril B, Marian M, Alan R, Ray T, Karina, W

Open popular vote: Cattleya Aussie Sunset. Helen grows this in an antispiral pot. These plants are originally from Tropical Colours Nursery.

Novice popular vote: Dendrobium Hilda Poxon. Betty has had this plant for a few years. Betty describes how Den Hilda Poxon is very hardy, partly due to it's parentage, being a primary hybrid of two Australian Native species: *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Dendrobium tetragonum*. Betty grows this under Alsynite and shadecloth.

Door Prize: Linda G

Meeting Closed at 9:45 pm.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (JUNE 2022)

OPEN

1C	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cattlianthe Aussie Sunset</i>
1F	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Epicattleya Siam Jade 'Ontario'</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya Hawaiian Splash 'Lea'</i>
2A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium erythrostylum</i>
3A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphilopedilum spicerianum</i>
3D	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphilopedilum Translie 'Rock'n Roll'</i>
3E	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphilopedilum Lippewunder x Paphilopedilum Magic Mood</i>
11B	(2)	1	Murray and Arni Baker	<i>Zygopetalum Freestyle Meadows</i>
		2	Murray and Arni Baker	<i>Zygopetalum Syd Monkhouse</i>

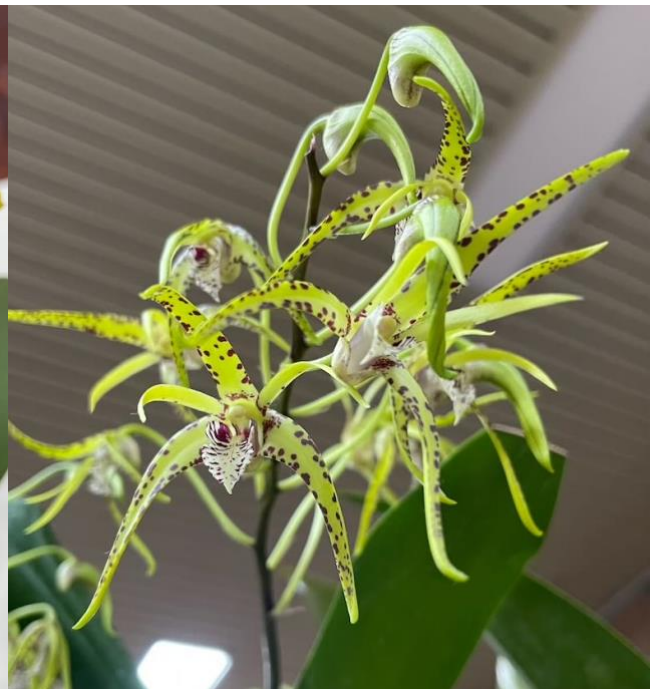
NOVICE

15F	(1)	2	Marian McFetidge	<i>Potinara Burana Beauty</i>
22B	(2)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Dendrobium Hilda Poxon</i>
		2	Maggie Reisenberger	<i>Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory</i>



Open Popular Vote

Cattlianthe Aussie Sunset
Grown by Helen Stretch



Novice Popular Vote

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon
Grown by Betty Saul

The photo does not do justice to Betty's *Dendrobium Hilda Poxon*. *Hilda Poxons* are notorious for partially closing their flowers at night. Its flowers look much better during the bright light of the day time.