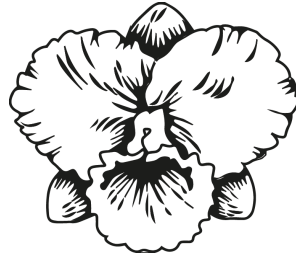


# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
FOUNDED 1946. A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL.

VOLUME 61 No 6



JUNE 2021

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 18 June 2021**.

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## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

PAUL ARMSTRONG

TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS

## JULY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 2nd

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 23rd

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

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## Birthdays

June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 5th Michele Hay, 10th Val Dobrowolski, 17th Maggie Longmore

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

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery & may you soon be well.

## New Members

Welcome to Maggie Reisenberger (Mt Pleasant), Ann Walker (Claremont), Fides Amadure (Forrestfield), Nantha Lingam (Mt Pleasant). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

New members are eligible to receive three free orchids and a welcome pack of fertilisers from Neutrog. If you are a new member, you should receive a letter about how to receive your free orchids. If you have not received your letter, contact Courtney at a meeting or on 0407 049 717. If you would like to receive a welcome pack from Neutrog but have not, let Murray know (murray.baker@iinet.net.au) and confirm that you wish your contact details to be forwarded to Neutrog.

## Thank you Rosemary McGrath

Rosemary has spent decades in dedicated service to OSWA. Her work for our club has included office bearer roles (Secretary, Committee Member, Vice President), Bulletin Editor, and Show Secretary. Behind the scenes, Rosemary worked tirelessly to organise shows at shopping centres, organise trophies, coordinate Neutrog orders, store pallets of Neutrog products in her garage, and a multitude of other tasks, to ensure that our club ran smoothly. Unfortunately, other commitments have forced Rosemary to step back for a while and resign from her official committee role. Thank you Rosemary, for many years of dedication to OSWA. We hope that you enjoy many more years in OSWA, but maybe in a more relaxed way.

## The Sales Table

Our sales table is up and running again. Any plants offered for sale must have no signs of pests or diseases and should have a healthy root system and be secure in their pots. All plants offered for sale must have an OSWA plant sales tag attached, and to avoid the sales table descending into chaos, members selling plants must complete an OSWA Plant Sales sheet. OSWA will receive a commission of 10% on sales, but as an incentive to maintain membership, the commission will not be collected on sales by long-standing members (>5 years). An information sheet on Selling Plants at OSWA events, plant sales tags, and the OSWA Plant Sales Sheet accompany this bulletin. These items are also available at General Meetings and can be downloaded from <http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>. Pots and other orchid essentials (Orchiata bark, labels, Perlite, charcoal, fertiliser, clips, trisodium phosphate, hangers, stakes, books, badges, spoons) can also be purchased, at excellent prices for club members. Orders must be placed with Jacqui Bateman well in advance of the general meeting, to give Jacqui time to collect the ordered items from the Shed. Order forms are available at General Meetings.

## Orchiata Bark has arrived

The second half of our order of Orchiata Bark has arrived. Due to changes by the supplier, the bark is now provided in 35 litre bags (down from 40 litre bags previously). The price for members is \$25 per bag, still much cheaper than retail. So that as many members as possible can benefit, there is a limit of 3 bags per membership. To place an order, contact Jacqui Bateman at a meeting or on 0407 702 879.

## Koi Show

Trevor, Harry, and Murray ventured up to the Swan Valley last weekend to wave the OSWA flag at the annual Koi Show. We managed to put on an interesting display with a good variety of plants and Harry recruited a new member. Thanks to Trevor always having a pen and raffle tickets on hand, we also held a successful raffle!

### June meeting (3rd Friday!): Guest Speaker Paul Armstrong

Due to a temporary unavailability of the venue, **our June meeting will be held a week earlier than usual, on the *third Friday, 18 June***. We have been trying to arrange for Paul Armstrong to speak about terrestrial orchids at an OSWA meeting for over a year now, and Paul has finally been able to make time in his busy schedule to be our guest speaker this month, so we're going to nab him while we can. The silent auction is postponed until July.

### July meeting (4th Friday!): Silent Auction

If you've become so good at growing orchids that your orchid house has become overcrowded, the Silent Auction will be a great opportunity for you to offload some excess plants. If your orchid house is a bit bare because you are just starting out, the Silent Auction will be a great opportunity for you to snap up some bargains to build up your collection. As always, plants offered for sale should be in good condition and have no sign of pests or diseases. More info in the July bulletin.

### Orchid Conservation Symposium (Free!)

A free symposium about orchid conservation is being held online on 22-23 June 2021. The symposium is being run by Australian Network for Plant Conservation and will have presentations from Australian and overseas speakers on many topics in orchid conservation. If interested, you can register for the symposium here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=752183&>, or get more information here: <https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/preventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids/> or here: <https://asn.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=25ed37b67e649fdb73a547ccb&id=521e948572>.

### Upcoming Events...

#### Visit to Floraplant Nursery - Saturday 10 July 2021

Trevor has arranged for an OSWA visit to Floraplant Nursery on Saturday 10 July, starting at 9 am sharp. The Floraplant people have very few times when they are able to host visitors, so we are very lucky to have this opportunity. Floraplant visits are always popular, so put it in your diary.

#### Home Visit — John and Karen Carless - Sunday 29 August 2021

John and Karen have kindly agreed to host an OSWA visit to on Sunday 29 August, from 10 am. An event not to be missed, so put this one in your calendar too. More details to come.

#### Other events for your calendar — more info later

- 6 - 8 August:           **Intersociety Display and Workshop** (Kelmescott Hall, Kelmescott)
- 20-22 August:       **Perth Orchid Fair** (No OSWA display due to closeness to Kardinya Show and limited availability of members)
- 1-4 September:      **Kardinya Spring Show** (Setup Tuesday 31 August)
- 17 October:           **Potting Workshop** (Sunday; Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre)
- 9 November:         **Mundaring Garden Club** (Tuesday, Courtney coordinating)
- 13-14 November:   **Late Flowering Orchid Display** (Setup Friday 12 November; Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre)
- 24 November:        **Christmas Dinner** (Bentley Pines, Wednesday 24 November from 6:30 pm)
- ?
- Springfield Nursery Visit** (maybe?)

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2021) based on notes from Roy Brown**

This month, more of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheath on the stem. Once they reach the stage where the flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into a flowering area, where more protection can be given to them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and so leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flowers, and this too will cause a blemish.

Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering area like a glass house, as this could cause bud drop. Give them protection from the heavy winds and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't over crowd your plants; if possible give them plenty of room between each pot.

During July we can expect cold, wet wintry weather. Fertilising with a liquid fertiliser such as Strike Back for Orchids Liquid can be tapered off to once a fortnight, or if you use Strike Back for Orchids pellets, reduce the rate of application by about half from last month. Watering will also depend on the weather, but don't allow the pots to become dry, particularly those in spike and under cover. Keep the flowering house and shade houses well baited with slug and snail pellets, particularly now that the flower buds are showing.

**CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2021) based on notes from Henry Eaton**

With the onset of cold wintry weather, the foremost consideration is adjusting cultural practice to the cold. Orchid growth slows with the cold so the need for watering decreases and the use of fertilisers becomes a minor concern. The exception here is if your plants are being grown in a heated greenhouse — in this situation, you could fertilise with Strike Back for Orchids liquid at about a quarter of the rate you use in summer, or consider an application of Seamungus liquid or Gogo Juice.

If your plants are grown in an open but covered area to protect them from the rain, all shading, if not removed already, should be removed now. This helps to warm the plants to some degree on sunny days, and helps flowers opening to do so with true colours. Heavily shaded plants appear to open flowers with less brightness in them.

Due to the cold and dampness in the air, flowers are more likely to get infected with botrytis spores, resulting in the appearance of black spots on the petals. This can be averted to some degree by keeping the air moving gently over the plants with the use of a fan, and avoiding crowding plants too close together. If the structure in which you grow your plants permits using hangers, pots hung up give plants better air movement and more space for flowers to open without obstruction.

Flowering plants should also be closely observed for caterpillars and thrips that will damage them if left untreated. Also make sure you have baits spread around to neutralize the snails and slugs that appear with the rain. When watering, choose a day forecasted to be sunny. A sunny day will allow the plants to dry out by nightfall and ensure no water remains in the leaf axils, which could induce rot. Be diligent in removing spent flowers and sheaths, because water can collect in the dead sheaths and cause rot. It is wise to wait until the sun is shining into your garden before watering, as by then the water in the pipes may have warmed up to some degree. Avoid all potting activities, unless not doing so might kill the plant.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2021) by Trevor Burnett**

With the cooler months upon us, take care with watering, to keep the plants moist but never leave them wet. Always water in the morning to ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. Personally, I reduce my watering back further to once every 14 days, but may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row. Hopefully, a good proportion of our plants will be showing flower spikes. Continue staking plants using wire, meat skewers or small thin bamboo stakes.

This time of the year you start to enjoy the fruits of your previous 12 months work, with some of the early flowers now being fully developed and in full bloom. If you are missing out on a great display starting to appear, now is the time to review your culture over the last 12 months and make any necessary changes to ensure a great show next year. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis — quarter-strength to half-strength Strike Back for Orchids Liquid may be a fertiliser that could be used to keep the growth moving forward.

If you intend to get the plants ready for the various shows, this is the time to spend cleaning up the plants by removing any dead leaves and cleaning any dust from the leaves. Growers use different methods to make their plant's leaves look fresh and glistening. Some growers use of white oil, but I personally believe a little common milk with water wiped over the leaves does a wonderful job without leaving that oily look.

At this time of the year, most growers do not water plants overhead due to the possibility of marking the flowers. It is sound practice to carefully hand-water, if time permits. I do water overhead, but after watering I ensure the pouch is emptied of water and excess water is not left on the remainder of the plant. This can easily be achieved by gently tapping the flower.

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**The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.): Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Welcome:** 7:34 pm. **Apologies and attendance:** per attendance register

**Presentation:** Helen Stretch on Cymbidiums

**Minutes:** Moved H Ashton, seconded H Stretch that the Minutes of the previous general meeting be accepted. Carried.

**Business arising:**

- Lina: Neutrog-orders have arrived! If you haven't already, please contact Rosemary to collect your order. Moved L Brooks, seconded E Bateman that the business arising has been dealt with. Carried.

**New Members:** Thu Vu, + Fides Amadure to be approved at June committee meeting

**Correspondence:**

- Koi Society re show at Elmars in the Swan Valley. They would charge us \$100 if we sold plants
- received judging fee invoice
- Neutrog re online portal
- OWA agenda + reports, notably the motion for OWA to take on the challenge of staging a World Orchid Event in 2023
- Perth Garden Festival setup information provided
- received Australian Orchid Foundation letter re: purpose of organisation and project funding etc
- emailed Kevin asking about possibility of ordering port pots from him, replied with price list, committee to place order
- confirmed GCP bark prices (noting price increase), agreed that these would be for sale for \$25 for members
- Trevor report on OWA activity: AOC conference in Qld rescheduled for 2022; WOC 2024 will be in Taiwan; Spring Orchid Fair renamed Perth Orchid Fair; Orchidhub project not approved; OSWA will be paid \$250 for having a display at ISDW
- emailed Orchidup ordering \$80 worth of plants for raffles
- emailed Norm asking if he would present on Aussie natives at the September GM, confirmed
- received GCA insurance certificate of currency (thanks Eric!)
- emailed Water Corp asking if they would be able to present on water wise growing, unfortunately unable to attend
- received invoice for ISDW participation
- received email on the Orchid Conservation Symposium
- thank you email to Perth Garden Festival for having us

**Business arising from correspondence** - See general business

Moved Arnold, seconded Enid that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

**Reports:**

- Shed cleanup- thank you all for your hard work, a very productive day!
- Perth Garden Festival: well attended, and we gained new members! Thank you to everyone who helped support the event

**Financial report:**

- Presented by J Bateman. Moved J Bateman seconded L Brooks that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

**General Business:**

- **Harry : New Grower Incentive Scene Participation** – new members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in the second, third and fourth year as members collect points for benching plants, and at the end of the year the grower in each year with the most 'points' wins a quality, flowering sized plant from the OSWA stockpile.
- **Harry : OSWA Trophy changes + Show Prizes** – OSWA general membership were presented with the plan to retire a number of the OSWA trophies, standardise and increase the value of show prizes, and no longer offer replica trophies. The general membership voted in favour for the retiring of the historical trophies with none opposed. Discussion also led to the need to reach out to previous trophy donors to see whether they would like the trophy returned to them- if not, trophies can be retired to the member who has won the trophy on the most occasions.
- **Lina: Koi Society Show-** Elmar's in the Swan Valley. We usually put on a small display, so please come along for the day and bring some plants.
- **Harry: OSWA Auction:** We are looking at having an auction at our June or July meeting (to be confirmed!), so please start cleaning up plants that you would like to sell!
- **Lina: Orchid Bark-** orchid bark has arrived. We'll send out details shortly for orders!
- **Event calendar for 2020**

**Raffle:** L Brooks, Charmaine, T Burnett, M Rathbone.

**Open popular vote:** Howard Tan with Paphiopedilum (sanderianum x anitum).

**Novice popular vote:** Jacqui Bateman with Paphiopedilum insigne with 9 spikes!!

**Door Prize:** Helen Stretch

**Plant descriptions**

**Meeting closed at: 9:20**

## Plants on Display at our May General Meeting

### Plant descriptions (recorded by Harry)

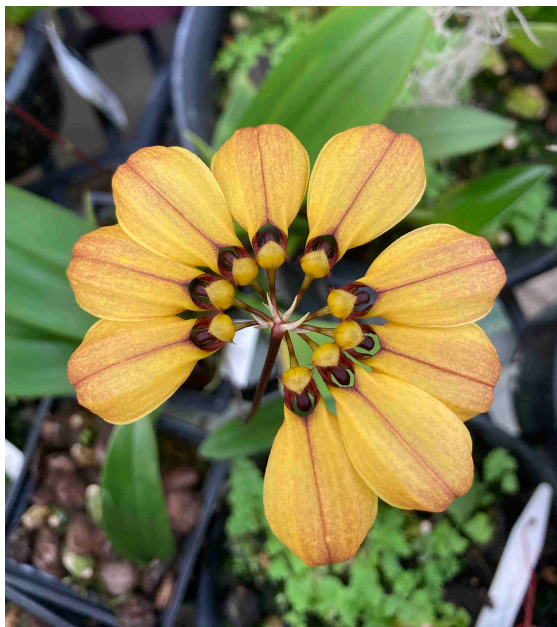
**Novice popular vote:** *Paphiopedilum insigne* (with 9 spikes!), grown by Jacqui Bateman (below left). This plant had been repotted around 6 months ago, and was dropped face first on the floor shortly after! Despite this mishap, the plant recovered well and flowered beautifully, but we do not recommend routinely dropping your plants to improve flowering.

**Open popular vote:** *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* x *Paphiopedilum anitum*, grown by Howard Tan (below right). This plant is a primary hybrid multifloral paphiopedilum. Howard talked about the rarity of *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* in nature, as the species is vulnerable to illegal collection. *Paphiopedilum anitum* is from the Philippines and contributes a very dark colour.



Kirsty Bayliss presented on *Bulbophyllum mastersianum* (below left, photo by Kirsty) from Borneo and surrounding regions. *Bulbophyllums* LOVE moisture, and Kirsty waters this one every day. She grows this orchid sandwiched between layers of bark and sphagnum moss, and grows it in a hot house that does not drop below 15 °C at night. There is also a humidifier that keeps humidity at around 60% or higher. The flower looks like a little umbrella!

Alan Rowe presented on beautifully grown *Dagarmoara* Olympia 'Jacqui Louise' (below right). It grows outside in his garden. It gets regularly fertilized with Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids pellets and gets watered twice a week (or when it rains).



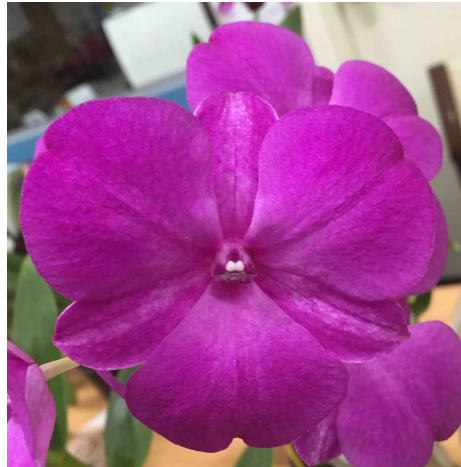
Courtney presented on a petal peloric *Cymbidium* Butterfly Kisses 'Viridiun' (below left). (A petal peloric flower is one where some of the petals take on characteristics of the labellum.) This is a plant from Springfield Orchids. Courtney expressed difficulty with mosquitos pollinating the flowers (which causes the flowers to change colour and die off prematurely).

Harry presented on *Zelenkoa onusta* (below right), a desert growing epiphytic species from harsh dry forests of Ecuador and Peru. This is grown on a piece of fish filter. Harry highlighted the importance of keeping the leaves in bright light but protecting the developing root system in the shade, or the sunlight burns and desiccates the roots.

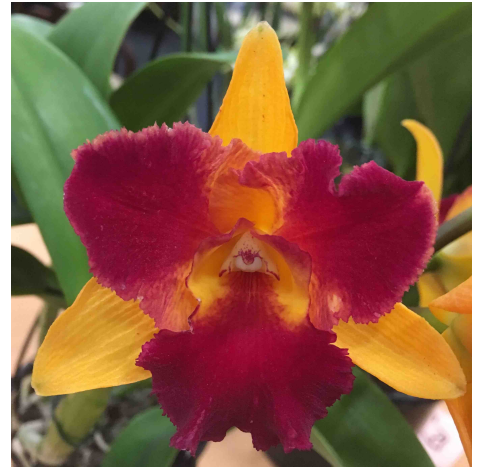




*Zygonia Freestyle Meadows*  
grown by Courtney Rogasch



*Dendrobium (Hot Lips x Murute Classic)*  
grown by Malcolm Davis



*Cattleya unknown*  
grown by Helen Stretch



*Oncidium unknown*  
grown by Jacqui Bateman



*Dendrochilum cobbianum*  
grown by Maxine Godbeer



*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*  
grown by Howard Tan



Helen Stretch attracted a large audience to her talk on Cymbidiums at OSWA's May general meeting.