

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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MARCH 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 25 March 2022**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

TARA PEETERS

VANDAS

APRIL MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 1st

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 22nd

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OSWA disclaims all liability for losses that may be attributed to the use of any material mentioned in this Bulletin. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of OSWA.

Requirements for Attendance at OSWA Meetings during the time of COVID

- **All attendees will be required to show proof of full vaccination prior to admission to the meeting.** OSWA will retain a register of members who have presented proof of vaccination and the date of validity of the proof, but will not retain any other information.
- **All attendees must register via the SafeWA app or by signing the register at the entrance.**
- **Attendees should use the hand sanitizer upon arrival.**
- **Masks should be worn over the nose, mouth and chin**, throughout the meeting, except while eating, drinking, or if removal of the mask is required for speaking.
- **Physical distancing (> 1.5 m) should be practiced as much as possible.**
- **The kitchen will not be used during meetings.** This change means that supper (tea, coffee, munchies) will not be provided. Members are encouraged to bring their own beverage (tea, coffee, etc.) in their own thermos or keep cup. Please do not bring a plate to share until further notice.
- **Please do not attend meetings if you are feeling unwell or have COVID symptoms** (sore throat, temperature, runny nose...).

As the incidence of COVID in the community is substantial, the State Government and local councils, including the City of South Perth which oversees Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, require us to take a more cautious approach to meetings than we have had to follow for most of the last couple of years. Since most of our members are elderly and therefore at greatest risk of serious COVID infection, it is in our own interest to take all practical precautions.

Proof of vaccination may be presented via the Express Plus Medicare or Service WA mobile apps.

Alternatively, if you have suitable identification, proof of vaccination can be presented as a certificate stored on your smartphone, a hardcopy of your certificate, or a digital or hardcopy of your immunisation history. (Suitable identification includes driver's licence, passport, Medicare, Seniors or Centrelink cards etc.) For further information, see:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-proof-of-covid-19-vaccinations>

Birthdays

March: 2nd Sophie Kostecki; 4th Angeline Ngooi; 9th Richard Gordon; 11th Merrill Brechin; 19th John Walton; 24th Raye McIntosh; 25th Lorna Dodd; 26th Kaye Baylis; 26th Peggy Stacy; 26th Arnold Davies

April 6th Eva Gani; 7th Rosemary McGrath; 10th Bernadette Campbell; 12th Karen Carless; 29th Ian Duncan

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.

Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November

If yours are overdue, you know what you need to do!

Badges for Collectors

Jean Herbert was a long-time life member of OSWA and an orchid judge, and was also an avid collector of badges. Jean's family has kindly offered to donate Jean's collection to OSWA members who share Jean's passion for badges. Anyone interested in acquiring some of Jean's collection should contact Kaye Baylis for further information, on 0400 205 090 or at kayejaybaylis@gmail.com.

Neutrog Store

The Autumn orders are due to be delivered to Murray and Arni's place on 28 March. If you have placed an order, Murray will email you once the shipment arrives to arrange a time for you to collect your order. *If you placed an order and received an email from Neutrog with Order Confirmation S121098, please email Murray.*

New Members: how to get your three free orchids.

New members are eligible to receive three free orchids. 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.

Conditions for granting of 3 free orchids with your first year of membership include, but are not limited to:

- You must contact Courtney several days before the meeting where you want to collect your plants.
- The offer is only available for 12 months from the time you join the club, **or while stocks last.**
- First in best dressed.

Shed Cleanup: Saturday 30th April from 2 pm.

If you're at a loose end on Saturday afternoon, 30th April, why not come along to the annual OSWA shed cleanup? It's about as exciting as it sounds, but it's a necessary job, someone's gotta do it, many hands make light work, etc... Also, the company is good (of course!) and there will be plenty of time for afternoon tea when the job is done. The shed is at Neil McDougal Park, Como. The park provides a pleasant environment for barbecues and the like. Access to the shed is via the driveway opposite number 27 Clydesdale Street. More details at the April general meeting.

OSWA Committee for 2022 (from the AGM)

President: Lina Pacca

Vice President: Lynn Brooks

Secretary: Harry Ashton

Treasurer: Sheelagh Harmon

Immediate Past President: Courtney Rogasch

Ordinary Committee Members: Murray Baker, Maggie Reisenberger, Nantha Lingam, Charmaine Tan, Jacqui Bateman, Kaye Baylis. (Kaye was unable to attend the AGM but was re-appointed as a committee member at the March committee meeting.)

Other Roles in OSWA

Patron: Trevor Burnett

OSWA Registrar: Enid Chelva and Malcolm Davis

Show Marshall: Lynn Brooks

Show Secretary: Enid Chelva and Malcolm Davis

Show Committee: Committee Members

Show Sales: To be organised via roster, money managed by the Treasurer

Librarian: Thi Vo

Sales Table: Jenny McLean, Cheryl Compagnone

Bulletin Editor and Webpage: Murray Baker

AOC delegate: Trevor Burnett

Facebook and Instagram: Kirsty Bayliss

Raffle/Door: Ann Davis, Charmaine Tan

Kitchen: On hold due to COVID

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2022) based on notes from Roy Brown

This is the time of the year when the young flower spikes are starting to develop, and so a drop in the temperature during the evening is a vital part of the successful flowering of Cymbidiums. Turning on the overhead sprinklers in the early evening will drop the temperature by quite a few degrees, creating the ideal conditions necessary for the growing and flowering of our plants. Always have a good check of your pots regularly to make sure the drainage is not blocked. Water should pass through the compost freely, not just seep away. Keep the regular fertilizer programme going, as the new seasons growths need to be kept growing at a fast rate, so they will develop sufficiently to produce their flowers when the time comes. Strike Back for Orchids, both liquid and pellet forms, are suitable fertilisers. If you should be poking about in your plants looking for these early flower spikes during March, do be very careful, they are very easily broken or damaged. Should you have to move a plant that has definite signs of flower spikes showing, be very careful to replace it in the exact same position with the flower spike facing the same direction as before. This will minimise chances of the flower spike and buds twisting as they look for the sun. With the advent of flower spikes showing, it might be a good idea to give the shade house a general clean up, getting rid of all dead leaves, weeds and anything else that might harbour pests. Now is the time to also check that you have a good supply of pots and potting mix ready for those repotting jobs next month.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2022) based on notes from Henry Eaton

Although March is technically the first month of autumn, we can still expect days when the temperature goes quite high and there is little, if any, rain around to increase the humidity. The light may be decreasing slightly, but the heat still requires that you maintain shading as for the summer months. Watering and fertilizing your plants will still follow a summer pattern, unless there is rain, when you can miss a watering if necessary. A liquid fertilizer, such as Strike Back for Orchids Liquid, can be advantageous if you are behind on your repotting and your cattleyas have lots of aerial roots growing out of the pot. Cattleyas are plants that revel in a wet/dry cycle, where they like to dry out nearly fully before being watered again. You can gauge this by lifting up the pot after watering when it should feel heavy. The pot loses weight when drying out giving you the signal to re-water. At this time of the year, due to the cooler nights, check your plants after watering to make sure that no water has collected in between the upper leaves. This is essential, as at this time many plants will be producing flowering sheaths and buds and any water retained around them could cause rotting. If water has collected dry it up with a tissue. While attending to your plants also stake the pseudo bulb bearing the buds or sheaths erect, so that when the flowers emerge they will be pointing towards you and not any which way. If you move a plant to a flowering house out of the rain etc., make sure to leave the plant pointing in the same direction in which it was grown, otherwise the buds may open in an unsightly fashion.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2022) by Trevor Burnett

Even though summer has officially finished, the summer pattern is still with us. We may still have some hot days over 34 °C to come, so we need to be mindful of this and adjust our watering accordingly. At this time of the year I water three times a week early in the morning with overhead sprinklers, so the plants are well saturated. This will allow time for the plant to dry out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burns. It will also ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. If excessive heat is forecast over consecutive days, you will need to watch plants in small pots and increase the watering as necessary. 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 is retained. As the plants are still in active growth, keep a weak fertilizer program going with a product such as Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids Liquid on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time constraints. Ensure that you flush the mix with water between fertilizing. In the glasshouse, the

use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels on very hot days. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is essential for the plants health, is available in the glasshouse. At this time of the year the paphiopedilum will have some leaves that have died over the summer months and these should be removed in preparation for the forthcoming flowering season, to prevent any unwanted vermin having an ideal hiding place. I would repot any small plants that are not expected to flower during this period, to ensure they have a nice clean mix before going into winter.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc.), held in the Manning Activity Centre, Manning, on 25 February 2022.

Welcome: 7:38 pm

Minutes: Moved Lynn B seconded Jenny M that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

New member introductions: Nil

Presentation: The general meeting was adjourned and the Annual General Meeting was opened.

Correspondence:

- 3/12- request from Bruce Larson for ideas for Perth International Orchid Fair
- 14/12- from GCA, regarding dividing WA into multiple zones
- 23/1- received notice + agenda of OWA meeting Sunday Feb 27
- 29/1- from RAC re cancellation of trailer insurance
- 30/1- from OWA re some members no longer wishing to participate in face to face meetings
- 4/2- Neutrog reminder that orders close soon
- 4/2- GCA, re: zone coordinator redistribution
- 7/2- Neutrog store dates have been extended to March 7 due to train line flooding in SA
- 17/2- received Copyworld notification that our photocopier is no longer being serviced
- 10/2- received AOC newsletter
- 11/2- email from OWA confirming next meeting 27/2 will be via Zoom
- 17/2- received documented for OWA meeting
- 21/2- received invitation to Perth Orchid Fair 2022 planning meeting
- 23/2- received GCA bulletin

Business arising from correspondence - Nil

Moved Harry Ashton, seconded Lina Pacca that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports - Nil

Financial report: Presented by J Bateman

Business arising from the financial report - Nil

Moved Jacqui Bateman seconded Lynn Brooks that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- **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. The winner of the New Grower Incentive Scheme for 2017 is Tara Peters, who we are pleased to present with *Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' – a lovely bright orange cluster cattleya. The winner of the New Grower Incentive Scheme for 2018 is Betty Saul, who we are please to present with *Dendrobium x suffusum*, a naturally occurring primary hybrid native to the Eastern States of Australia.
- **Courtney** also addressed the meeting, and discussed that he would like to sell some quality, flowering sized plants. Plants start at around \$40, and for the size of the plants, this is less than half the price that these plants would usually sell for in flower at a show.
- **Events calendar 2022**
Perth Garden Festival – May 5th- 8th
Intersociety Display and Workshop – August 6th-7th in Busselton
Kardinya Spring Show Tuesday- planned August 30th – September 3rd
Potting Workshop – planned October 16th
Late Flowering Orchid Display – planned November 9th-13th

Raffle: Maggie, Tara, Nantha, Lynn. We owe prizes to Patricia Lefante and Alan Rowe.

Open popular vote: Maxine Godbeer with a miniature angraecoid species from Madagascar, *Aerangis fuscata*.

It's a very small growing plant, and Maxine tells us that it grows well for her and routinely throws up at least 2 or 3 flower spikes every year. This orchid may be difficult to grow in a shadehouse, Maxine grows this in her climate controlled greenhouse, and aims to maintain a winter minimum of 10-12 degrees, and in summer maximum of 32 degrees- although occasionally exceeds this unintentionally! Maxine used to water this plant with rainwater but lately it has been receiving more scheme water.

Novice popular vote: Alan Rowe with *Brassia* unknown, with very large, starry flowers. Alan tells us this plant is very fuss free, and it gets fertilized with bird seed!

Door Prize: Glynn Fathers

Discussion: Part of the plant discussions this evening involved managing the unusually hot weather we have been experiencing. Some of the strategies discussed include:

- 1) Providing additional shade. The addition of layers of shadecloth helps protect plants from burning in the extremely hot weather we have been experiencing
- 2) Watering + misting. This is especially relevant for small pots that will dry out very quickly. Larger pots require less water, but the plants still benefit from misting to drop the temperature.
- 3) Avoiding fertilizer in very hot weather.
- 4) Providing humidity. Watering the floor of the shadehouse can help with this and rapidly drops the temperature of the growing space. Some growers have polystyrene crates of wet gravel of baby's tears under the benches of their shade house, which helps keep the microclimate cool and humid. Some growers also plant bromeliads under the benches, which also keeps the growing space humid and has the additional benefits of attracting frogs, which help with biological pest control.

Meeting Closed at 9:36 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (FEBRUARY, 2022)

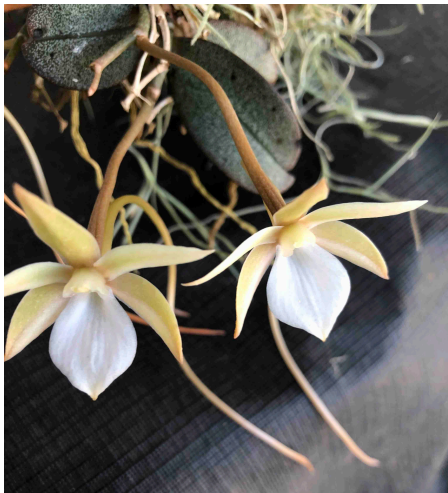
OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Courtney Rogash	<i>Encyclia randii</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
1C	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Katherine Clarkson 'SVO' x <i>Rlc.</i> Sun Spots 'SVO Best'
		2	Courtney Rogash	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> (Waikiki Gold x Lea Cripes)
2A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogash	<i>Cymbidium finlaysonianum</i>
3A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Paphiopedilum niveum</i>
4D	(1)	2	Tara Peeters	<i>Dendrobium</i> Edfrans Gem
5A	(1)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana</i>
6C	(1)	1	Margaret Donald	<i>Oncidium</i> Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'
7A	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda (Neofinetia) falcata</i>
		2	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Aerangis fuscata</i>
		3	Tara Peeters	<i>Vanda (Neofinetia) falcata</i>
7B	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
11A	(1)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Geralda

NOVICE

15B	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Rhycholaeliocattleya</i> Green Meadow 'Napoleon'
15C	(1)	1	Dawn Fathers	<i>Laelinae Alliance</i> Name Unknown
16A	(1)	2	Charmaine Tan	<i>Cymbidium aloifolium</i>
20D	(2)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Brassia</i> Unknown
		1	Charmaine Tan	<i>Oncidium</i> Ruth's Rainbow 'Over the Rainbow'

Popular vote winners from the February General Meeting



Above left: Open popular vote winner, *Aerangis fuscata*, grown by Maxine Godbeer. Above right, Novice popular vote winner, a hybrid *Brassia* grown by Alan Rowe (photos by Harry Ashton). Brassias are native to Central America, and are commonly known as spider orchids. Their flowers are shaped and coloured to mimic the appearance of spiders living in the orchids' habitat, and the orchids use this mimicry to achieve pollination. Parasitic wasps that normally lay their eggs on the spiders try to lay their eggs on the brassia flowers instead. When a wasp tries to stab the flower with its ovipositor, it gets pollen on its head, and then it carries the pollen off to another brassia flower. Brassia-type spider orchids should not be confused with Australian spider orchids, which are coincidentally also pollinated by wasps. In the Australian case, however, the flowers mimic the scent and appearance of female wasps, and male wasps inadvertently pollinate the flowers when they try to mate with them.

Orchids in Colour: White

Harry Ashton

One of the orchids brought into the February meeting was *Paphiopedilum niveum*, a small-growing species found on cliff faces of the Malay peninsula. Orchid species are often named after distinctive qualities of their flowers or foliage, and many orchid names are derived from Greek and Latin words for colours. Many orchid growers are familiar with the Latin word for white, *albus*. Orchid growers have historically added the word 'variety' *alba* or 'forma' *alba* to describe the white forms of various species—for example *Cattleya purpurata* var. *alba*. While taxonomists don't like the terminology, it provides very useful information, especially for growers buying plants that are not in flower! There are many other words to qualify the colour white.

In the case of *Paphiopedilum niveum*, the name *niveum* comes from the Latin word *niveus*, meaning snowy, snow-white or covered in snow.

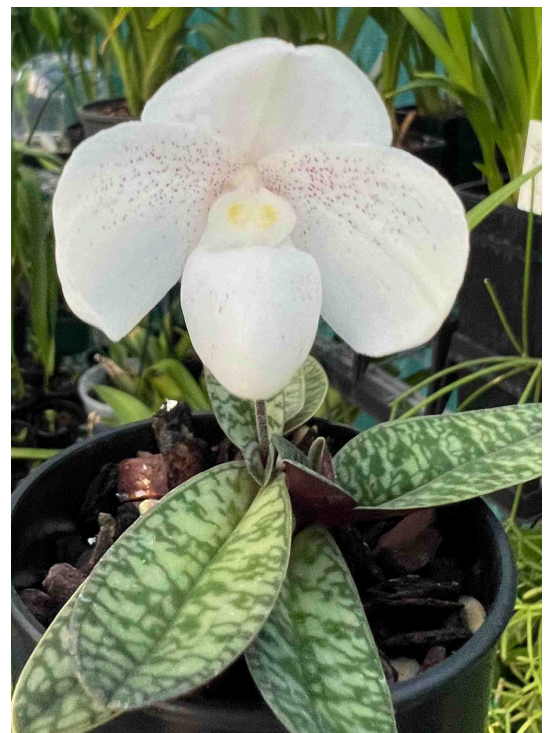
Leukos is the Greek word for white, and appears in the names of orchids such as *Oncidium leucochilum*, the white lipped oncidium. Peter Kissell has a spectacular specimen of this oncidium.

Candidus is a Latin word referring to white with a bright, shining or even transparent quality, as is the case of the flowers of *Stanhopea candida*.

Eburneus is the Latin word describing the colour of ivory, reminiscent of the flowers of several ivory-white orchids such as *Cymbidium eburneum* and *Angraecum eburneum*.

Lacteus is the Latin word for milky, and is used in recognition of the flowers *Coelogyne lactea*.

What orchid species do you have in flower, and where do their names come from?



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"We conducted a trial of Strike Back for Orchids Advanced Biological Formula alongside the original Strike Back for Orchids on the underperforming bromeliads and orchids at the Adelaide Botanic Garden. We saw an improvement from both products, but the Advanced Biological Formula clearly supported a more significant improvement with lots of healthy new growth."

Andy Hart
Senior Horticultural Curator
at the Botanic Gardens
and State Herbarium



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