

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 2023

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 24 March, 2023.**

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Lina Pacca
Ph. 0419 917 487

SECRETARY

Harry Ashton
harry.ashton@live.com.au
Ph. 0412 403 696

TREASURER

Sheelagh Harman
sheelagh4@bigpond.com

REGISTRAR TEAM

Malcolm Davis, Enid Chelva and
Alan Rowe

BULLETIN EDITOR

Murray Baker

FACEBOOK PAGE

Kirsty Bayliss

POSTAL ADDRESS

58 Gladstone Rd
Leeming 6149

www.orchidsocietywa.net.au

www.facebook.com/orchidsWA

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

ORCHIDS OF MADAGASCAR
AND HARRY'S SHADEHOUSE
PRESENTER: HARRY ASHTON

APRIL MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 7th
General Meeting: Friday 28th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

General News	2-3
General Orchid Culture Notes	4
Cymbidium Culture Notes	4
Cattleya Culture Notes	4-5
Paphiopedilum Culture Notes	5
Minutes	5-6
Monthly Plant Competition	7
From the February General Meeting	7-8

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General News

Birthdays:

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

April 6th Eva Gani; 7th Rosemary McGrath; 10th Bernadette Campbell; 12th Karen Carless; 13th Lynne Guerini; 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 2022

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

At this month's general meeting

Our main speaker this month will be Harry, who will be talking about the orchids of Madagascar and his shade house. There might also be a demonstration of mounting orchids (Harry) and a demonstration of how to straighten up wayward bulbs in cattleyas (Lynn).

Home Visit with Lynn Brooks — Sunday 16 April, from 10 am

Lynn has kindly volunteered to host a home visit for OSWA members. Lynn has an interesting setup and manages to squeeze a large number of orchids (and other plants) into a relatively small place, so it's definitely worth having a look at Lynn's setup. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Lynn has requested visitors to bring a plate of finger food to share, and a chair. The address is Unit 1, 72 Hardey Road, Belmont. There is plenty of on-street parking in the vicinity.

Donations Table

Prior to the pandemic we used to run a donations table, usually set up on the table to the right as you enter the meeting room, where members could bring items to donate to other members. Members who took items from the donations table would, if they so desired, make a small donation to our club. Donations included gardening magazines (sometimes orchid-themed), keikis, unpotted divisions, cuttings of other plants (especially cacti and succulents), seeds, lemons, handy polystyrene boxes, pot trays, and so on. Perhaps it's time to get the Donations Table going again? Donors de-clutter, recipients get cheap or free stuff!

Pleione Orchids

Lynn Brooks has ordered some Pleione bulbs from an online vendor based in Victoria. If you would like to order some as well, and save on some costs (spraying, shipping, etc) by having your order handled with Lynn's, check out the website and chat with Lynn.

See: <http://trainsforthegarden.com.au/Pages/Pleione%20Orchids.html>.



Pleione formosana 'Noojee'

OSWA needs your orchids for shows this year!

This year, for the first time in quite a few years, we will be having an Autumn Show (10-13 May), as well as our traditional Kardinya Spring Show (30 Aug - 2 Sept), and we are hosting the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop (5-6 Aug). You'll see from our Events Calendar (next page) that we will also have at least a couple of displays to do during the year (one at the Koi Show, another being the Late Flowering Orchid Display). As well, you'll see that the Perth Orchid Fair has been scheduled to start on the last day of our Kardinya Spring Show, which means that some members may have to divide their time, effort, and orchids between those two events. So, it is especially important this year that as many members as possible can support our club by bringing their orchids to our shows and displays. Please keep our show dates in mind. Take special care fertilising and nurturing your orchids, protecting them from snails and other pests, to ensure that we will have plenty of orchids in flower to put on some spectacular shows and displays, and share our love of orchids with the community.

Presentation at Bunnings Ellenbrook: Wednesday 5 April from 10 am.

Jacqui Bateman and Maggie Reisenberger will be doing a presentation on orchids at Bunnings Ellenbrook. They've done presentations at Bunnings before and have had a lot of fun doing them. Members are welcome to attend and join in the fun (in the words of Erin from Bunnings, "the more the merrier"). The talk will no doubt be entertaining and informative, and as a bonus, sometimes Bunnings gives out showbags!

OSWA Committee for 2023 (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, Jacqui Bateman, Kaye Baylis, Lydia Brazzale, Annette Gelfi, Nantha Lingam, Maggie Reisenberger.

Other Roles in OSWA

Patron: Trevor Burnett

OSWA Registrar Team: Malcolm Davis, Enid Chelva and Alan Rowe

Show Marshall: Lynn Brooks

Show Secretary: Merril Brechin (to be confirmed)

Show Committee: Committee Members

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

Librarian: John Cain

Sales Table: Jenny McLean, Betty Saul, Michele Hay

Bulletin Editor and Webpage: Murray Baker

AOC delegate: Trevor Burnett

Social Media: Kirsty Bayliss

Raffle/Door: Ann Davis, Charmaine Tan

ISODW Show Committee: Lynn Brooks, Keng Leow, and Helen Stretch. Maxine Godbeer and Trevor Burnett to assist with selecting plants.

Kitchen: Helen Stretch to coordinate the roster.

Auditor: Optional under new rules. To be determined by committee (if needed).

Events calendar 2023

Presentation at Bunnings Ellenbrook: Wednesday 5 April from 10 am. (Jacqui B and Maggie R)

Lynn Brooks Home Visit: Sunday 16 April from 10 am (see info on page 2).

Flinders Square Autumn Show: 10-13 May, at Flinders Square Shopping Centre, Yokine.

Koi Show: date to be announced. (An interesting event, something different!)

Intersociety Display and Workshop: 4-6 August, at Manning Community Centre.

Kardinya Spring Show: 30 August - 2 September, to be confirmed.

Perth Orchid Fair: 2-3 September (setup on Friday 1 September; at John Septimus Roe School).

Potting Workshop: Sunday 15 October, at MSCAC.

Late Flowering Orchid Display: Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 November, at MSCAC

Bentley Pines Christmas Dinner: date to be determined.

Floraplant Nursery Visit: date to be determined.

December General Meeting: Friday 8 December (two weeks earlier than usual, only date available).

After several years in which the Kardinya Spring Show was OSWA's only show, this year we will also have an Autumn Show, which will be held at Flinders Square Shopping Centre in Yokine. Unfortunately the Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival has been scheduled for the same week as OSWA's Autumn Show, so we will not be involved with the Festival this year.

GENERAL CULTURE NOTES FOR DJERAN (April/May)

Djeran is the Noongar season where we start to see cooler temperatures and higher humidity, which provides some relief for our orchids, many of which can be quite stressed from Perth's hot dry summers. Unfortunately the pleasant weather is also favoured by pests, and a high degree of vigilance must be exercised to ensure outbreaks are proactively managed. Moisture and mold resistant snail pellets (yes, the more expensive ones) should be applied—snail activity increases with rainfall, as developing flower buds are a tasty snack. The milder weather also allows us to remove any 'additional' shade-cloth that may have been added in summer, and as rainfall begins, some protection from rain may be required for orchids coming into flower, and those orchids that require a dry rest through the cooler months. Some orchids slow down growth or go completely dormant as temperatures drop, and for these orchids, frequency of watering and fertilizing should be reduced, but orchids in active growth definitely still need feeding! It is a good time of the year to begin repotting, as the pleasant conditions help plants cope with the stress of being divided or repotted. For more details on particular types of orchids, refer to the culture notes found at http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids.html.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJERAN (April/May)

Now that worst of the heat has passed, a start can be made on repotting. It's always a good idea to make an early start on the job of repotting, especially if you have a fairly large collection of cymbidiums. A start can be made on small plants and divisions that are not expected to flower this year. Any plants that are already showing signs of flower spikes are better left until after the flowers have been cut off. April is the month when most of the Spring flowering plants send up their spikes. Cymbidium spikes are produced from the base of the pseudo bulb, or sometimes they appear between the lower and second leaves. The early flowering cymbidiums have already produced their spikes and these will continue to grow at a fast rate, and in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Try not to move plants in spike around too much, as flowers orientate themselves in regards to sunlight and moving a plant with buds can result in the flowers opening at 'unnatural' looking angles in their attempt to reorientate themselves. Some cymbidiums benefit from the flower spike being supported with a stake, but care should be taken doing this as new spikes are very brittle (especially when cold) and can snap off very easily. If manipulation of a flower spike is required, ensure this is done in the warmest part of the day when the spike is more pliable. Powder forms of insecticide can be applied to the flower buds, but do not use liquid insecticide or you could cause bud drop or malformed flowers once they finally open. Depending on weather conditions, watering will probably be needed only once or twice a week from now on, preferably in the morning. The regular feeding programme can be continued. Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids fertilisers are a good choice of fertiliser at this time, since they contain a high level of potassium, to help form the newly developing flower spikes.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJERAN (April/May)

Growths on most autumn flowering cattleyas are maturing at this time of the year, and some will already be displaying bulges in the flower sheaths, promising flowers in weeks to come. If not already in a vertical position, pseudobulbs should be staked upright so as to best present the flowers when they emerge. Upright pseudobulbs are also desirable as they take up less bench space, and I can confirm they are easier to transport to OSWA meetings! Manipulation of bulbs should be done in the warmer part of the day as the bulbs can fracture if put under stress in cold conditions. Any significant manipulation should be conducted over a period of days—this can be achieved by using a flexible tie (such as a piece of stocking) and gradually tightening the tie over a period of days so as to straighten the bulb bit by bit. The 'arms' of pot hangers can also be used to separate flowering bulbs so that flowers are suitably spaced from each other. If circumstances dictate that a plant has to be moved, try to place it in its new position at the same angle to the brightest light source as it was previously. Watering can be reduced, with plants being allowed to achieve the usual 'wet/dry' cycle that cattleyas enjoy. Watering at this time of year should occur in the morning on clear days, with the goal of having plants dry by nightfall as water accumulating in developing growths and flower sheaths can result in rot of these structures. Plants in active growth can continue to be fertilized with a product such as Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids (pellet or liquid forms), but orchids showing signs of dormancy or reduced growth should receive less water and fertilizer. Repotting can be commenced for cattleyas that are not about to flower. The best

time to do repotting corresponds with a flush of new roots that will happily secure themselves in the new mix. Any unfinished potting on or repotting should be completed by mid-May.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR DJERAN (April/May) by Trevor Burnett

As the conditions cool, reduced watering will be necessary. Personally, I reduce my watering back to twice a week, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days when watering will need to be monitored. As the plants' growth starts to slow, the fertilizer program needs to be adjusted. If you use Strike Back for Orchids (pellet or liquid forms), reduce the rate of application of fertiliser by about half at this time. Over the past few years I actually cut out all fertilizing for flowering size plants, as I have found that more plants tend to send up flowers if they are not receiving fertilizer in this period. This is also the time of the year that we start to see and enjoy the fruits of our year's growing, with plenty of the early flowers now beginning to appear. As flower spikes appear, mark the pot with a wooden skewer with a piece of foam on the top. The skewer will help keep you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower and the piece of foam will keep you from poking out an eye on a skewer. The skewers with their bits of foam also serve as a reminder to be careful when moving or cleaning nearby plants so as not to knock the valuable, long awaited buds off. Continue to remove any dead leaves from plants and also have a general cleanup of the area. I would ensure that all my small plants that are not expected to flower are repotted to ensure they have a nice clean open mix before going into winter. Winter and wet feet do not mix.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.): Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 24 February 2023

Welcome: 7:34 pm

Apologies and attendance: as per register

Minutes: Moved Enid C, seconded Allan R that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm for the AGM, resumed 8:08 pm following closure of the AGM.

New member introduction: Judy Gibson

Correspondence: 14/12 from Murray re Neutrog has arrived; 17/12 Urban Bushland Council renewal notice; 18/12 from Bruce re bank details for LFOD payments; 19/12 from Horticultural Council re membership renewal; 22/12 from GCA Christmas message; 30/12 from Bruce re expressions of interest for APOC 2023 conference in Singapore; 9/1 from Glenn confirming bookings for centre; 9/1 from Toni Pooley wanting to buy stanhopea ecornuta; 19/1 from Order of Australia awards re a nomination; 25/1 to/from Flinders shops re arrangements for Autumn Show; 1/2 from Urban Bushland Council re renewal; 4/2 from Trevor re advice regarding consecutive terms of office during COVID-19 period; 5/2 from Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor General regarding award nominations; 6/2 to/from signage companies re quotes for signage; 7/2 from OJPWA re show dates; 8/2 to Neutrog requesting information re cross promoting OSWA and SBFO; 9/2 from Glenn re vaccum cleaner bag roster; 11/2 from Lorna's family re glass houses available; 23/2 from GCA re forms; 23/2 from OWA re papers.

Business arising from correspondence

- Glass house available – free but needs to be dismantled in Manning.
- If anyone wants to sell a plant of stanhopea ecornuta please let Harry know

Moved Harry S, seconded Alan R that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Report: January home visit at Ray Taylor's

Financial report: Presented by Sheelagh Harman

Business arising from the financial report: Nil

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

General Business:

- **Bulletin postage:** Charmaine, John and Trevor ok with being removed from postage list to receive by email instead. If anyone else who receives the bulletin by mail is happy to receive electronically instead, let Harry or Murray know.
- **Garden City Plastics Order:** OSWA is planning to place an order. Feel free to have a look at www.gardencityplastics.com and if you would like to bulk order something, let Harry know by the end of February (their sales are subject to having adequate numbers of orders so no guarantees that they will actually have stock!)

- **Quality plant auctions:** The Orchid Society of Western Australia would like to introduce special auctions at our general meetings, for OSWA members only. We hope some of our experienced growers can use these auctions as a venue to make some of the more valuable, high quality mature orchids in their collections available to other OSWA members. Plants considered for these auctions may be:

- + Plants that have received Australian Orchid Council or international awards
- + Plants that have won Championships at previous Orchid Shows and Events
- + Plants of historical value or significance
- + Species that are rare or hard to get in Western Australia.

To encourage our experienced growers to consider putting up their plants for auction, no commission on these auction sales will be taken by OSWA. If you would like a plant of yours to be considered for auction, please send the details, including reserve price, to harry.ashton@live.com.au before the first Friday of the month of the relevant general meeting. Where possible please provide photos of the flowers for publication in the bulletin prior to the auction. Plants to be auctioned will be selected by the OSWA Committee. Of course, any plant put up for a Quality Plant Auction must be in very good condition, healthy and disease free.

- **Auctions:** Ray kindly auctioned off a piece of Cattleya C. G. Roebling Blue Magic AM AOS. Won by Lydia for \$50. Ray also auctioned off some of plants donated to OSWA by Caterina:

Vananopsis, won by Kim for \$45.

Vanda, won by Donna for \$15

Vanda, won by Alex for \$10

Vanda, won by Enid for \$8

Vanda, won by Charmaine for \$20

Vanda, won by Lydia for \$30

Cymbidium, won by \$15 Nantha

Cattleya, won by Charmaine for \$25

Oncidium- won by Keng for \$10

Oncidium, won by Alan for \$10

Oncidium, won by Kim for \$12

Cattleya, won by Helen for \$18

Shromburgkia, won by Lina for \$25

Oncidium, won by Jenny for \$12

Cattleya, won by Lina for \$18

Encyclia, won by Ray for \$35

- **Flinders Autumn Show:** We are having an autumn show this year at Flinders Square Shopping Centre in Yokine, on 10-13 May. Please keep the dates free, fertilize those autumn flowering orchids and consider what divisions you may have available for the sales table!
- **Kardinya Spring Show:** Perth Orchid Fair has been scheduled for the weekend that we usually hold our Kardinya Spring Orchid Show. We understand that a number of our members may plan on benching plants at Perth Orchid Fair and therefore may not have them available for the Kardinya Show. We do have an excellent relationship with Kardinya who make a generous donation to OSWA for having the show. Options include:
 - 1) Persisting with the event on the same weekend as Perth Orchid Fair (may involve us having less plants than previous years, may compromise show quality)
 - 2) Cancelling the Kardinya Show and joining Perth Orchid Fair (would compromise the positive relationship we have with Kardinya and significant income from the event)
 - 3) Moving the Kardinya Show to a week prior to Perth Orchid Fair (some people are used to the show being the weekend of Fathers Day)
 → For discussion at committee. OSWA membership expressed strong support to continue the Kardinya Show
- **ISODW 2023** – the winning theme is “Yesterday Today and Tomorrow” – more details to come!
- **New Grower Incentive Scene Participation:** New OSWA members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in their 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 2023** – April, Lynn home visit; Flinders’ Autumn Show May 10-13; Koi Show TBC; ISODW August 4-6; Perth Orchid Fair September 1-3 TBC; Kardinya Spring Show August 29- September 3 TBC; Potting Workshop October 15 confirmed; Late Flowering Orchid Display November 11-12 confirmed; Bentley Pines TBC; Flora Plant Visit TBC; December GM December 8 (only date we could get)

Raffle: Noelene, Kim, Richard, Malcolm, Lydia (and a few others a distracted Harry may have missed, apologies)

Open popular vote: Harry Ashton with *Brassavola nodosa* mounted on a piece of cork.

Novice popular vote: No entries.

Door Prize: Bill Davidson

Judges Choice: Harry Ashton with *Brassavola nodosa* 71 points

Best Cymbidium: Nil

Meeting Closed: 9:31 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (FEBRUARY, 2023)

(Note: Plants must have been owned by the grower for at least 6 months prior to entry in Monthly Meetings and Shows)

OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Brassavola nodosa</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Prosthechea cochleata</i> var. 'alba'
1F	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Lulu Land
4D	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium</i> Fran's Gem 'Green Jade'
		2	Tara Peters	<i>Dendrobium</i> Fran's Gem 'Green Jade'
6D	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Odontocidium</i> Catatante 'Kilauea Karma'
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Breathless 'Good Woman'
7B	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> Lou Sneary
		2	Tara Peters	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
10B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrochilum micranthum</i> 'Tinonee'
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Noirmont

Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy): *Brassavola nodosa*, grown by Harry Ashton (72 points).

Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy): no entries.

Open popular vote: *Brassavola nodosa*, grown by Harry Ashton.

Novice popular vote: no entries.

From the February General Meeting...

Open Popular Vote: *Brassavola nodosa*, grown by Harry Ashton. This orchid is known as the 'Lady of the Night' due to its strong, sweet perfume that is only released 'after hours'. Nocturnal fragrance is shared by most *Brassavola* species, and that general trait isn't a coincidence—the night-time perfume helps attract the nocturnal insects that pollinate *Brassavolas* in nature. The white 'glowing' appearance of the flowers also is very obvious to a potential pollinator in the darkness! Harry grows this species mounted on a piece of cork in a shadehouse. It's a very tough, forgiving orchid, so if you're interested in growing orchids mounted on pieces of wood, it's a good candidate. Like any mounted orchids, keeping sunlight off the exposed roots is important; coco fibre is great for this purpose. Harry will try to get a seedpod on the plant so hopefully we'll have some babies in the future! The photo here was taken by Harry in his shadehouse a few days after the February General Meeting. Harry also wrote the description above.



Novice Popular Vote: There were no novice entries! Just think, if you are a novice, you could have brought in any old flowering orchid and won Novice Popular Vote!

The orchids below were presented at our February General Meeting but were not photographed on the night. Kirsty kindly took these photos when the orchids were presented at a meeting of Northern Districts Orchid Society the following week.

At right: *Vanda* unknown, grown by Tara Peeters.

Below left: *Dendrochilum micranthum* 'Tinonee', grown by Ray Taylor.

Below right: *Dendrobium* Fran's Gem 'Green Jade', grown by Tara Peeters.

