

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 2024

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 March, 2024.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

UNDERSTANDING THE AOC MONTHLY
MEETING SCHEDULE

PRESENTER: COURTNEY ROGASCH

APRIL MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 5th

General Meeting: Friday 26th

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General News

Birthdays:

March: 2nd Sophie Kosteck; 4th Angeline Ngooi; 6th Julia Haldoupis; 9th Richard Gordon; 11th Merril Brechin; 15th Eileen George; 19th John Walton; 24th Raye McIntosh; 26th Kaye Baylis; 26th Peggy Stacy; 26th Arnold Davies

April: 6th Eva Gani; 7th Rosemary McGrath; 10th Lisa Robinson; 12th Karen Carless; 13th Lynne Guerini; 27th Dawn Thomhon

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 2023

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

At this month's general meeting

OSWA is affiliated with the Australian Orchid Council (AOC). Our main speaker this month will be Courtney, who will be explaining the ins and outs of the AOC's Monthly Meeting Schedule, and also a bit about the AOC's Show Schedule if time permits. This presentation will be an interactive one, with Courtney asking lots of questions and giving plants and mystery prizes for correct answers.

OSWA Committee for 2024 (from the AGM)

President: Annette Gelfi

Vice President: Nantha Lingam

Secretary: Harry Ashton

Treasurer: Sheelagh Harmon

Immediate Past President: Lina Pacca

Ordinary Committee Members: Murray Baker, Jacqui Bateman, Kaye Baylis, Maggie Reisenberger, Courtney Rogasch.

Other Roles in OSWA for 2024

Patron: Courtney Rogasch

OSWA Registrar Team: Enid Chelva and Alan Rowe

Show Marshalls: Jacqui Bateman and Lina Pacca

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

Bulletin and Webpage: Murray Baker

Social Media: Kirsty Bayliss

Raffle/Door: Ann Davis, Maggie Reisenberger

Kitchen: *volunteer urgently needed!*

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

Events calendar 2024

- **Bunnings Melville (Garden Corner):** Wednesday 17 April, 10-11am
- **Autumn Show Flinders' Square:** Setup Wednesday 8 May, show 9-11 May
- **Perth Orchid Fair:** Setup Friday 6 September, show 7-8 September, OSWA involvement TBC
- **Kardinya Spring Show:** TBC
- **Potting Workshop:** Sunday 13 October
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display:** Setup Friday 8 November, display 9-10 November
- **Floraplant visit?**
- **December General Meeting:** Friday 13 December (early due to Christmas).

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.

Notes of the OSWA General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 23 February 2024

Welcome: 8:48 pm **Apologies and attendance:** as per register.

New member introductions: We did have a few new members late last year! Welcome to Daniel and Christie-Lee, Lisa, Keith and Diane, Janet and Renfry, and Andrea.

Reports

- Bunnings
- Thank you Ray and Peta for hosting the January home visit! We had a wonderful time and are very grateful for you allowing us to visit (and for the delicious food!)

General business

- *Meeting structure:* As we mentioned last year, in response to feedback from our members, we are no longer conducting formal business at general meetings as it is not a requirement of our rules. Formal business will be managed at a committee level. We will still discuss any items relevant to membership at meetings, and if anyone would like a full copy of the correspondence/treasurers report, this will be available upon request.
- *OSWA finances:* OSWA has been doing very well and we would like to let members know some of the ways in which we are investing in the club.
 - 1) There are now DOUBLE the number of raffle prizes at monthly meetings!
 - 2) We will be having a special raffle ticket drawn for people who contribute to supper. We appreciate this very much.
 - 3) The \$1 entry fee at meetings will be covered by the club
- *Quality Plant Auctions:* Please be reminded that if you have a high quality plant you would like considered for auction at an OSWA meeting, let the secretary know prior to the meeting so it can be fit into the agenda. This ensures we have an appropriate number of plants and know who they belong to. This months auction was *Rhyncolaelia digbyana*, won by Alan R for \$55.
- *Events calendar 2024:* see page 2 of this bulletin.

Supper prize: Arnold D

Open popular vote: Harry Ashton with Cattleya Chief Gem 'Red Jewel' - this is a sophonitis hybrid from EziGro. It is quite intolerant of hot temperatures, so is kept in a shady protected position through summer.

Novice popular vote: Linda Gooding with a dendrobium with a beautiful dark purple flower. Murray convinced Linda to buy it! This is the second time it's flowered. Linda grows them outside on her patio under alsynite, with excellent results!

Door Prize: oops didn't record

Raffle: Maggie R, Tara P, Patricia Lefante, Courtney R, John, James, Maggie R, Andrea, Tara P, Val

Judges Choice: Vanda Beauty Ray Taylor (74 pts). **Best Cymbidium:** Cymbidium aloifolium (71 pts).

Meeting closed.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (FEBRUARY, 2024)

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

OPEN

1D	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Chief Gem 'Red Jewel'
1F	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Brassocatanthe</i> Hawaiian Treat 'Carmela's Freckles'
2A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> <i>aloifolium</i>
5A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> <i>equestris</i>
7B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Vanda</i> Beauty March 15
11B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Zygopetalum</i> <i>Freestyle Meadows</i>

NOVICE

15	(1)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Guarianthe</i> <i>bowringiana</i>
15F	(1)	1	Julie Jayatilaka	<i>Laeliocattleya</i> Yellow Bird

Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy): *Vanda* Beauty March 15 grown by Ray Taylor, 74 Points

Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy): *Cymbidium* *aloifolium* grown by Courtney Rogasch, 71 Points

Open popular vote: *Cattleya* Chief Gem 'Red Jewel' grown by Harry Ashton

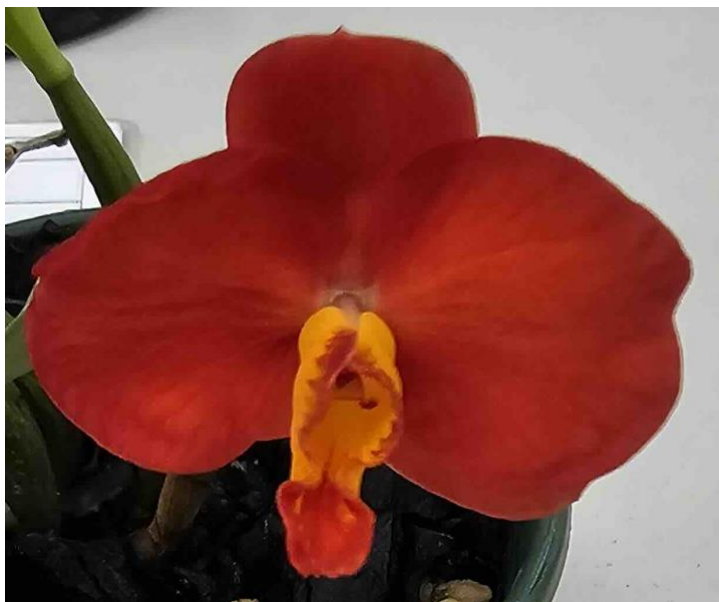
Novice popular vote: *Dendrobium* unknown grown by Linda Gooding

Floral popular vote: No entries

From the February General Meeting...

Open Popular Vote: *Cattleya* Chief Gem 'Red Jewel' (below) grown by Harry Ashton

Novice Popular Vote: *Dendrobium* unknown (at right) grown by Linda Gooding





Brassocatanthe Hawaiian Treat
'Carmela's Freckles',
grown by Courtney Rogasch



Vanda Beauty March 15, grown by Ray Taylor



Cymbidium aloifolium,
grown by Courtney Rogasch



Guarianthe bowringiana, grown by Alan Rowe