

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 28 March, 2025**.

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## **MEETING TOPICS**

Leaf markings: what do they mean?

Presented by Courtney Rogasch

## **APRIL MEETING DATES**

OSWA Committee: Friday 4

General Meeting: Friday 25

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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.

### New Members

Welcome to Sara Garafallou, Anthony Garafallou, and Rose Gilmore (all from Forrestfield). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

### Gillian Marsh Orchid Auction — Saturday 12 April from 9 am

Some members will know Gillian Marsh, a local orchid enthusiast who was a member of OSWA for at least a few years around 2010. Due to distance reasons, she left OSWA but maintained a strong association with Northern Districts Orchid Society. Gillian was an excellent orchid grower—she was even able to grow masdevalias on her verandah, which is a pretty awesome achievement. Sadly, Gillian is no longer able to take care of orchids, so her family has asked NDOS to arrange for her collection to be auctioned off. See the back of the bulletin for further information. There will be no sales to the general public prior to the auction day.

### Looking for a new Bulletin Editor!

We are now *urgently* looking for a new Bulletin Editor. If you are interested in trying your hand at the Bulletin, please let me know ([murray.baker@icloud.com](mailto:murray.baker@icloud.com)). Thanks in advance — Murray

### Event calendar for 2025 (a work in progress)

- 1) **Autumn Show:** Flinders Square, May 7<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 2) **Bunnings Cockburn:** Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am (confirmed)
- 3) **ISODW:** August 1 - 3
- 4) **Bunnings Melville** – Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 5) **Spring Show:** nothing planned (yet)
- 6) **Potting Workshop:** October 12<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 7) **Late Flowering Orchid Display:** November 14-16 (to be confirmed)
- 8) **December meeting:** December 12<sup>th</sup> (confirmed)
- 9) **Nursery visits?** (???!!!!)
- 10) **Christmas dinner?**

### OSWA Committee for 2025 (from the 2025 AGM)

President:	Annette Gelfi
Vice President:	Nantha Lingam
Secretary:	Harry Ashton
Treasurer:	Sheelagh Harmon
Immediate Past President:	Lina Pacca
Ordinary Committee Members:	Jacqui Bateman, Courtney Rogasch, Nantha Lingam, Kirsty Bayliss, Murray Baker

## **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](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. (Editor's note 1: Take care...at the time of writing this bulletin, the BOM is still forecasting mid-to-high 30s in late March! Editor's note 2: If you are like the editor, you will still have a lot of potting to do!) 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 General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Welcome: 7:45 pm**

**Apologies and attendance:** as per attendance register

The general meeting was adjourned for the AGM at 7:47 pm and resumed at 8:09 pm.

**New member introductions:** Sarah, Anthony and Rose

**Reports:**

- Home Visit at Helen's – we had a very enjoyable time, thank you Helen for hosting us!
- Bunnings Visit- Lina Jacqui and Annette attended Bunnings Garden Corner which was very well received

**General business**

- **New Grower Incentive Scheme**

Congratulations to our new grower incentive scheme winners- these scheme aims to encourage new members in their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year of membership to bench plants- the more plants you bench, the most points you accumulate towards this scheme. Winners receive a \$20 Bunnings voucher, a quality flowering size orchid and bragging rights! Congratulations to our 2025 winners

- Mariam McFetridge
- Nantha Lingham
- Katia Stefanova
- **Club plants.** We have 2 club plants from Kingfisher Orchids, that OSWA is subsidising to \$10 each:
  - *Cattleya* Zip x *Encyclia alata*, an interesting cross between a vibrant red cattleya and a well known encyclia.
  - *Dendrobium* Graham Hewitt (Ellen 'Red' x *speciosum* 'Creek Aureum') – selected as it has very similar parentage to *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon, which seems to win popular vote every year!
- **Grill'd Applecross!** We currently have a Local Matters Jar -thank you to everyone who supported.
- **Entertainment Book.** OSWA is registered for the Entertainment Book, so if you purchase one, please put us as the organisation you are supporting.
- **Quality Plant Auctions.** If you have a high quality plant you would like considered for auction at an OSWA meeting, please let the secretary know prior to the meeting so we can advertise it in the bulletin. This month: *Cymbidium floribundum* 'Tokiwa' grown by Harry. This is a rare variegated form of a species from China and Vietnam. Won by Arnold for \$45; and *Brassavola cordata*, a species from central America with a high flower count and green/white flowers. Won by Arnold for \$42.

**Supper prize:** Jenny L

**Open popular vote:** *Clowesia russeliana* x *Catesetum denticulatum*. Ray Taylor grew this primary hybrid from a small plant from Sunset Valley Orchids, and highlighted some issues with spider mite when growing orchids in this family. Keeping leaves wet/moist when watering can help prevent this.

**Floral Art:** Dawn Fathers with a beautiful arrangement featuring roses and orchids and some greenery

**Novice popular vote:** *Cattleya* unknown grown by Linda Gooding – a lovely red/orange mini cluster *cattleya*. I (Harry) suspect this plant is *Volkertara* Samantha Marko

**Door Prize:** Kirsty B

**Raffle:** Mariam M, Courtney R, Dawn F, Keng L, Antonio, Patricia L, Helen S, Linda G, Valerie, Gloria, Mariam M, AJ, Arnold D

**Judges Choice:** *Cymbidium chloranthum* var. *palauense* grown by Helen Stretch – 73 points

**Best Cymbidium:** *Cymbidium chloranthum* var. *palauense* grown by Helen Stretch – 73 points

**Meeting closed at 9:21.**

## Monthly Plant Competition (February 2025)

### Open

1A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Encyclia randii</i>
1F	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya guttata</i> var. <i>leopoldii</i> x <i>Cattleya purpurata</i> 'Sanguinea Mentzii'
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Love Sound 'Dogashima' x <i>Cattleya</i> Cherry Chip 'Blumen Insel'
		3	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Brassocatanthe</i> Hawaiian Treat 'Carmela's Freckles'
2A	(3)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium chloranthum</i> var. <i>palwanese</i>
		2	Helen Stretch	<i>Cymbidium dayanum</i>
		3	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium findlaysonianum</i>
12	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Clowesia russelliana</i> x <i>Catasetum denticulatum</i>

### Novice

15A	(1)	1	Linda Gooding	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
15B	(1)	1	Linda Gooding	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
15C	(2)	1	Alan Rowe	<i>Epidendrum</i> hybrid yellow
		2	Alan Rowe	<i>Epidendrum</i> unknown 'Parchment'
20D	(1)	1	Marian McFetridge	<i>Odontocidium</i> Catatante 'Kilauea Karma'

**Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy):** *Cymbidium chloranthum* var. *palauense* grown by Helen Stretch – 73 points

**Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy):** *Cymbidium chloranthum* var. *palauense* grown by Helen Stretch – 73 points

**Open popular vote:** *Clowesia russelliana* x *Catesetum denticulatum* grown by Ray Taylor

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

### From the February Meeting



Linda's *Cattleya* unknown (seedling)



Linda's other *Cattleya* unknown



Ray's *Clowesia russelliana* x *Catasetum denticulatum*



Alan's *Epidendrum* unknown yellow hybrid



Alan's other *Epidendrum* unknown, 'Parchment'



Courtney's *Encyclia randii*



Courtney's *Cattleya guttata* var. *leopoldii* x *Cattleya purpurata* 'Sanguinea Mentzii'



Marian's *Odontocidium Catantae* 'Kilauea Karma'



Helen's *Cymbidium dayanum*



Helen's *Cymbidium chloranthum*  
var. *palwanese*



Helen's *Cymbidium dayanum*  
var. *alba*

Courtney's *Cymbidium*  
*findlaysonianum*



Courtney's *Brassaeliocattleya*  
Love Sound 'Dogashima' x  
*Cattleya* Cherry Chip 'Blumen  
Insel'



Courtney's *Brassocatanthe*  
Hawaiian Treat 'Carmela's  
Freckles'

## Auction of Gill Marsh's orchid collection.

**When:** Saturday 12th April, viewing from 8.30 am, auction starts at 9.00 am

**Where:** 8 Elia Courtyard, Swan View

Sadly Gillian's health deteriorated significantly in recent times and Gill is now in full-time care. Her son, Paul Marsh, has asked NDOS to arrange an auction to sell off Gill's orchid collection. There are about 350 orchids which have now been sorted into about 80 lots (in plastic trays), and 98% are in very good order, having been watered through summer, and are presently being looked after by Paul, who has also fertilized and applied fungicide from time to time. Some plants have flower spikes (some in flower have recently been sold) and many of the cattleyas have flower sheaths in place. There is no individual plant listing, rather, similar orchids have been grouped into trays with maybe one or two other orchid forms. Some are large specimen plants which will be auctioned on their own. There are many other orchid bits & pieces to be sold including, plastic carry trays, steel stands, wire wall hangers and lots more, including many fabulous potted garden plants. As we all know Gill was an excellent grower who owned some very good quality orchids. Credit Card facilities (NDOS) will be available on the day. Cash is also welcome. Steve Bowman will handle all payments on the day. All intending bidders should register with Chris Jones on arrival at Gill's home and collect a bidding number, which is to be used to indicate your interest in any of the lots being auctioned. Once confirmed as the successful bidder your number/name will be recorded against the lot sold for and the amount. You will be responsible for making payment for that lot and any other successful purchases once you have finished bidding. Bidders are asked to collect their successful lots immediately and place them in a secure place separate from others (or risk having them mistaken as someone else plants). No responsibility will be taken by NDOS and any of the volunteers involved on the day.

For further information contact:

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