

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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MAY 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 28 May 2021**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

HELEN STRETCH

CYMBIDIUMS

JUNE MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 4th

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 18th

NOTE: JUNE MEETING IS ON THE 3RD FRIDAY!

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Birthdays

May: 1st Katia Stefanova, 4th Jacqui Bateman, 7th Dorothy Walton, 8th Calvin Hisco, 9th Ellen Dixon, 10th Colleen Cortenbach

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

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 Thu Vu (Stirling). 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.

The Sales Table is Back!

After yet another a hiatus due to the pandemic, our sales table will be up and running again at the May General Meeting. 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>.

June meeting (3rd Friday!) and Silent Auction

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**. As well as being special on account of it being on the 3rd Friday, the June meeting will be special because it will include a **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 enhance 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 June bulletin.

Rod Pohl's Orchids

Rod Pohl's family kindly donated Rod's orchids to OSWA, and Trevor Burnett has kindly taken care of them and nursed them back to good health over the last few months. Rod's orchids will be available to purchase from the Sales Table at general meetings and at the Silent Auction during the June general meeting.

Thank you

Thank you to all who helped set up, pack up, and do shifts at our stall at the Perth Garden and Outdoor Living Festival this year. As in previous years, our stall drew a lot of interest from members of the public, our raffle was very successful and we picked up some new members. Aaaaand we only had to wear masks some of the time!

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>.

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.

Surplus wood

OSWA has nine rolls of treated pine garden edging (pictured at right) and a couple of pallets that are surplus to requirements. Available free to members (but a small donation to the club would be appreciated), first in best dressed. Contact Harry at a meeting or on 0412 403 696 to arrange a time to collect them from the shed.



Do you have cut flowers to sell?

Christina of The Flower Kitchen is looking for cut flowers. Her usual supplier does not have much out at the moment, so Christina is looking for alternatives. If you have plenty of orchids in flower and would be willing to sell your blooms as cut flowers, Christina can be contacted at 0400 801 764 or on Instagram - @flower_kitchen2015

Upcoming Events...

Koi Show — Sunday 13 June 2021

OSWA will have a stand at the Koi Show. The venue this year is Elmars in the Swan Valley (elmars.com.au). This event is not your usual orchid event but the koi are pretty interesting and it is fun to see folks as enthusiastic and fussy and nerdy about fish as we are about orchids. Consider making a trip up to the Swan Valley for the day, to spend an hour looking at the koi, some time at the OSWA stand, and maybe lunch at Elmars, sampling the products of their German brewery.

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**
- 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 (MAY/JUNE 2021) based on notes from Roy Brown

During May some of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheaths on the stem. Once they reach the stage where flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into the flowering house, where more protection can be given them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flower 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 house like a glass house. This could be the reason for bud drop. Give them overhead protection from the heavy rain and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't overcrowd your plants, if possible give them plenty of room between each pot. By the end of May we can expect cold, wet wintery weather. Watering will depend on the weather but don't let the pots become dry, particularly those in spike and those under cover. Keep the shade house and flowering house well baited with Baysol pellets for slugs and snails, particularly now that flower buds are showing. If you are using Strike Back for Orchids pellets or liquid, continue your regular feeding program for your cymbidiums, but reduce the rate and frequency of application, because the plants are growing more slowly as the weather gets colder. If you have been using a high nitrogen fertiliser, you should now switch to a high potassium fertiliser (such as Strike Back for Orchids) to encourage strong flowering.

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

Autumn weather has at last been established with cool nights and warm days. This has meant that plants that flower in the autumn have begun to do so with plenty of blooms. As always, culture of your plants will be dependent on the prevailing weather. Because of the cold there will be a slowing of activity in the plant, so watering needs will lessen and fertilising can be further reduced from last month. The Strike Back for Orchids fertilisers (pellets or liquid versions) are good choices because their high potassium content will encourage strong flowering.

Now is not a good time for repotting unless the mix in the pot has deteriorated badly, or new roots are being formed over the edge of the pot. In the latter instance, an alternative is to place the whole plant in a larger pot without disturbing the mix, and fill the remaining space with moist, fresh mix. Repotting can then be completed in the spring. The other method is to place a pot full of mix beneath the roots spilling over so they can establish themselves and not be air pruned, as would otherwise occur. As the intensity of the sun now declines, all shading can be removed and the plants will benefit from the increased light and warmth. To protect the flowers from spotting with Botrytis, try and maintain a good flow of air around the plants by hanging them up or having a fan blowing gently over them. The flowers also need protection from snails and slugs by placing baits in the pots and near the flower sheath. Also keep water off the flowers by hand watering into the pot and growing the flowering plants where they are out of reach of the rain. After flowering, plants can be grown in an area where they can experience a rest period during which they receive little or no water, until they show signs of activity again with the appearance of new roots or a swelling of the bud at the base of the pseudo bulb.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (MAY/JUNE 2021) by Trevor Burnett

The growing conditions this month are similar to last month, and as the conditions cool, reduced watering will be necessary. I personally reduce my watering further to once every 10 days, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days, when watering may have to be adjusted. We would need to get 3-4 hot days in a row before I would adjust my watering programme. We should be seeing a good proportion of our plants now producing spikes. The early flowering types will be well advanced and should be staked to prevent twisting and breakage, as the spikes will be soft and not fully set to support the flower. The plant's growth will have started to slow considerably on the flowering plants, as all the effort is now being channelled into supporting the flowers. If you have been using a high nitrogen fertiliser to encourage plant growth, you will need to switch to a fertiliser with less nitrogen and more phosphorus and potassium, to improve the strength and quality of the flowers. If you routinely use Strike Back for Orchids (pellets or liquid), just keep fertilising as you did last month, since Strike Back has a relatively high levels of phosphorus and potassium. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertiliser at one quarter or half strength, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, to keep the growth moving forward. With more buds appearing weekly, continue staking plants using meat skewers, wire stakes or thin bamboo canes. If you decide to use wire, ensure the top is turned over to help protect your eyes from getting poked when working with the plants. If you are moving plants to a different area to flower, ensure they are returned to the same orientation to the light source as in the original location. Turning plants can cause flower stems to become twisted, spoiling the effect if you wish to enter them in the various shows. My tip for the month is: if you are growing the plants without heat during the winter (as I do), keep the plants drier than usual, as wet, cold conditions are often fatal to roots.

ONLINE MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (APRIL, 2021)

On account of the cancellation of our April meeting due to the COVID scare, the plant competition for April was held online. The photos here were submitted by members and were posted on OSWA's Facebook page. The orchids whose photos received the most likes on Facebook were the popular vote winners.



Open Popular Vote: *Brassocattleya* Marg Putman,
grown by Courtney Rogasch



Novice Popular Vote: *Bulbophyllum lepidum*,
grown by Kirsty Bayliss

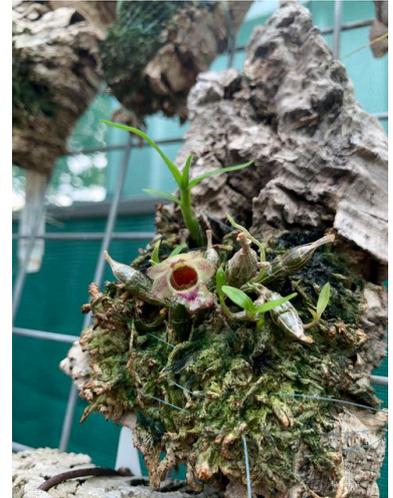
OPEN ENTRIES



Dendrobium schneiderae
grown by Harry Ashton



Bulbophyllum weinthalii
grown by Harry Ashton



Dendrobium hekouense
grown by Harry Ashton



Dendrobium bigibbum
grown by Valerie Cooper



Miltonia (?)
grown by Courtney Rogasch



Dendrobium bigibbum
grown by Courtney Rogasch



Dendrobium bigibbum
grown by Harry Ashton (?)



Dendrobium bigibbum
grown by Harry Ashton (?)



Cattleya cernua
grown by Harry Ashton

NOVICE ENTRIES



Cattleya unknown
grown by Charmaine Tan



Paphiopedilum gratixianum
grown by Charmaine Tan



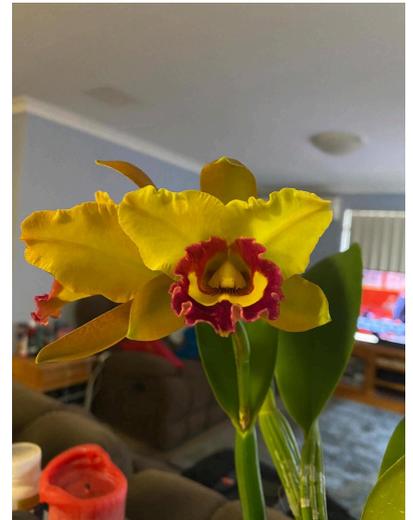
Miltonia Aztec 'Toni'
grown by Leo Waters



Phalaenopsis unknown
grown by Charmaine Tan



Prosthechea cochleata
grown by Lynn Brooks



Rhyncattleanthe Duh's Festival
grown by Charmaine Tan

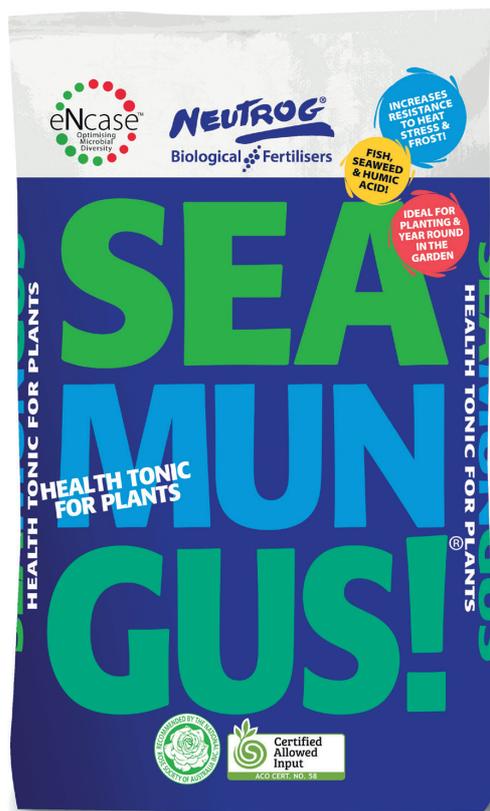


Catyclia Burdekin Emerald x Laelianthe Aurantibescent
grown by Lynn Brooks



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Caricia en Paraiso
grown by Leo Waters

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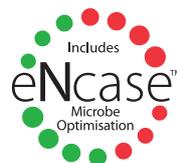


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