

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER 2023

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre on **Friday 24 November 2023**, from 7:30 pm.
The December meeting will be at the same time and place, on Friday 8 December.

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MEETING ITEMS

NOVEMBER: MAGGIE REISENBERGER
"ORCHIDS OF APOC 2023"

DECEMBER: PRESENTATIONS AND
CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH SECRET SANTA

DECEMBER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 1st

General Meeting: **Friday 8th**

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General News

Birthdays:

November: 2nd Aishya Ghose

December: 6th Val Seaman; 22nd Howard Tan; 23rd Cheryl Compagnone; 27th Maxine Godbeer

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery and may you soon be well.

New Members

Welcome to Janet and Renfry (Bertram), Andrea (Piesse Brook), and Diane and Keith (Bateman). We hope you have many enjoyable and rewarding years ahead with our Society.

This Month's Meeting Item — Maggie on Orchids of APOC 2023 (and afterwards, maybe potting weird things)

A few members made the trip to Singapore in August to see the Asia-Pacific Orchid Conference which was held there this year. Maggie was one of the lucky travellers and will be telling us a bit about the orchids there.

As well, there may be some discussion of repotting weird things. So, if you have a crazy overgrown plant hanging out of its pot or weirdly bent so its racemes point in every direction, bring it along to hear what other growers would try to restore the plant to a more attractive growth habit.

Quality Plant Auction

At the October meeting, one plant was auctioned: *Masdevallia coccinea alba* 'Lemforde' (offered by Harry, bidding won by Glynn for \$30). [Aside: The word *coccinea* comes from the Latin word *coccineus*, which means red or scarlet. The word *alba* is Latin for white. So, the name *Masdevallia coccinea alba* is a bit of a contradiction in terms. *Masdevallia coccinea* has beautiful red/scarlet flowers, while *Masdevallia coccinea alba* has equally beautiful but perfectly white flowers, now Glynn's to enjoy!]

At the time of printing, no plants had been offered for this month, but it is not too late to bring a plant for auction! The "rules" for these auctions: quality plants, preferably large specimens, no commissions taken by OSWA, payment arranged directly between the buyer and the vendor. As we approach summer, it's getting to be too hot for vigorous repotting and dividing of orchids, so you may find you have a large, quality plant that needs repotting that you aren't enthusiastic about working on. If so, consider putting it up for auction and selling the problem to someone else! Please contact Harry in advance when you intend to offer a plant for auction, and supply pictures and other information (growing conditions, place of origin, how is it currently being grown etc.) that can be used to enthuse prospective buyers. Letting Harry know in advance about plants to be put up for auction will help to ensure that the auction runs smoothly.



Photo from https://www.orchid-nord.com/Masdevallia/Masdevallia_coccinea/masd_cc.htm.

The OSWA Library

The library has been re-organised, all books and magazines catalogued and a loan book created. A selection of books available for loan will be on display on the tea trolley, at the far end of the hall. If you would like to borrow a book, please see John and he will record it in the loan book.

We are giving away some of the older books and magazines and they will be on the table next to the sales tables. Please help yourself. Thanks.

John (OSWA Librarian)

There will be club plants for sale at the November Meeting!

There will be two groups of club plants available at the November meeting for \$10 per plant. Plants will be numbered and randomly allocated. As usual, if you would like a plant, you select a number and receive the corresponding plant—to ensure that people at the head of the queue and the tail of the queue have an equal chance of getting the largest or smallest plants on the table, you do not get to select your plant. There is limited number of plants and which might not be sufficient for all members to get one. If anyone misses out/is not able to get their first preference, we will ensure you are given priority for future club plants. The plants on offer are:

Cattleya purpurata alba x *Cattleya* Rosella's Royale

Cattleya Doris & Byron 'Christmas Rose'



Orchids and Orchids Australia magazines

Two of the best reads in the OSWA library are *Orchids*, the monthly magazine from the American Orchid Society, and *Orchids Australia*, the every-second-monthly magazine from the Australian Orchid Council. Both magazines have a good variety of articles ranging from detailed accounts of species and field trips to discussions of pests and diseases and how to treat them, and general interest articles about things like orchids on postage stamps and the history of the vanilla orchid industry. The October issue of *Orchids* comes with a supplement that contains an excellent article about *Dendrobium kingianum*. We receive *Orchids* via surface mail and haven't got the October issue and supplement yet, but keep an eye out for when it hits the Library. Of course, these magazines can be borrowed by members. See John to borrow a magazine or a book to read...you will need something to occupy your time when it gets too hot to go outside.

Success with a monthly plant from 2022!

One of our monthly plants from 2002 was *Cattleya* Hsingying Starlight. Congratulations to Marian for being the first to bench one of these plants in flower, at the October 2023 general meeting. Marian's plant (at right) has an impressive flower size to plant size ratio. Such a strong flowering on such a relatively small plant suggests that we can expect some impressive specimens on the bench at shows and meetings in the future.

Car pooling?

We have a couple of members who would love to come to meetings but are unable to drive at night. If you come to our monthly meetings and your trip takes you near Kardinya or Ardross and you would like to assist another member to attend the meeting, please let Murray know. Conversely, if you need help getting to meetings, let Murray know too. Perhaps we can match drivers with passengers!



Bunnings Willetton and Bunnings East Victoria Park ... Thank you!

A big thank you to Bunnings East Victoria Park and Bunnings Willetton for supporting our Society by generously providing some tables for us to use at our up coming shows. These tables are lighter and easier for our members to handle, and will alleviate some of the hard work that goes into running our events!

We'll be doing Garden Corner presentations on Orchids at Bunnings in the next few months:

- Bunnings O'Connor on November 30th at 10 am
- Bunnings Willetton on December 7th at 10:30am

If you'd like to come along, click on the image or the link ar right to get to the Bunnings website, select WA and the respective store, scroll down to "Find and book a workshop or activity" and book a place under the relevant Adult D.I.Y Garden Corner Workshop :)



<https://www.bunnings.com.au/stores/wa>

We are often approached by Bunnings to do these sorts of workshops. If you'd like to be involved in presenting some time (it is fun and easy to do!) let Harry or Lina know.

Late Flowering Orchid Display ... Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Late Flowering Orchid Display earlier this month. We had a great turnout of helpers throughout the event—thank you all. Special thanks to all who brought food on Friday night—orchid functions with suppers are always great! The display was a bit smaller than usual on account of an unusually small number of our orchids being in flower this season, but, as usual, there was a rush of visitors each morning to snap up quality plants from the sales tables. There was a steady stream of visitors during the mornings to enjoy the sales tables, display, demonstrations, and tea/coffee/snacks. In the afternoons when it was quieter, the helpers had a chance to enjoy chat with members from other clubs and the vendors. Thanks must also go to the commercial vendors who supported our event—David Edmonds from Orchidup and Ray & Charlotte Maisey from Mayflower Orchids.

The December General Meeting - 8 December: Christmas party and Secret Santa

(1) As noted on the cover page of this bulletin, the December meeting is on **Friday 8 December** (so the 2nd Friday, not the 4th, on account of Christmas). Since the 2nd Friday is so early in the month, the December bulletin will not be available before the meeting, so the November bulletin (i.e., this bulletin) is the only notification members will receive prior to the December meeting.

(2) As part of our traditional December meeting, there will be a Secret Santa again this year. For the Secret Santa, please bring a small wrapped gift to the value of about \$10. Everyone who brings a gift will receive a ticket to choose a gift from the pile during the meeting.

(3) Please bring a plate of finger food to share for the party. Soft drinks will be supplied, but if you have exotic tastes, BYO.

(4) Our December meeting will be **A LOUD CLOTHING MEETING!** This was not Murray's idea, but nevertheless he challenges all members to wear louder clothes than he wears. **Lynn may have an advantage, since her wardrobe is obviously already well-stocked with suitable attire.**

Neutrog Summer Orders have Closed

If you placed an order via the online store, Murray will contact you as soon as he has any information about the delivery and collection dates. If you want to be able to order Neutrog products but don't know anything about the Neutrog store and have not received any info from Neutrog, please let Harry know.

January General Meeting: Visit to the home of Ray and Peta Taylor

8 Kent Road, Maida Vale

26 January 2024

Ray and Peta Taylor have kindly offered to host us again for our traditional home visit in January, which takes the place of our meeting at the Manning centre. A barbecue will be supplied. Members are requested to bring a salad or sweets to share, and its BYO drinks, *and BYO chair if you wish to sit!*

It's shaping up to be a hot summer, and so it's likely to be a hot day for this home visit. Ray and Peta invite members to come at around 4 pm with a towel and their swimmers to cool off in the pool. We'll be able to take a look at Ray's orchids fro about 5 pm, and the food will be ready by about 6:30 pm.

Also, please bring a plant to donate for the raffle. More info, and a roster so we can coordinate the salads and sweets, will be available at the November and December general meetings, and in upcoming bulletins.

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

The Orchid Society of Western Australia acknowledges that our meetings are held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. Unlike the European calendar, the Noongar people describe the climate of Western Australia's South West as having six seasons, guided by what is happening and changing around us, rather than specific 'dates' on a calendar. This approach to describing Perth's climate is helpful for guiding our orchid related jobs for the year. Birak is the season of the young, and features rising temperatures and decreased rainfall. Easterly winds in the morning can be hot and dry, but the Fremantle Doctor is strongest this time of year, which provides some welcome relief for our orchids in the afternoon.

- ✓ Repotting should be complete by this time of year. Unless emergency circumstances require it, any repotting should be delayed until March. Try not to disturb the root system if performing any 'emergency surgery'. Plants in older mix that probably should have been repotted sooner will benefit from application of dolomite lime to help balance the pH and prevent the decomposing media from becoming too acidic. [*Editors note: When I go through my shadehouse to admire the results of my hard work repotting last season, I am often disheartened to see a plant that I repotted now very much dead. When I check the tag I invariably find that the dead plant was repotted in December 2022 or January 2023. The plants I repotted in November and earlier have fared much better. It really **is** bad to be repotting during the heat of summer!*]
- ✓ With increasing temperatures, extra shade cloth may need to be applied. Be guided by the colour of your orchids leaves—plants in ideal light will have light green leaves. Leaves that turn yellow or red are receiving too much light, and plants with dark green leaves are producing more chlorophyll to compensate for insufficient light. Ensure any holes/gaps in shade cloth are addressed or plants are likely to burn.
- ✓ Most orchids will have new growths well under way by now, so keeping up the fertilizer regime is important. The 'weakly, weekly' approach is a good guide for liquid fertilizer, where 'weakly' usually means quarter to half strength. Slow release pellets can also be used, but some pellets release their contents in a temperature dependent manner and can 'dump' large amounts of fertilizer on hot days. For this reason, it's best not to just apply them to the surface of the mix where they receive sun—tap the pot so they settle into the mix a little, and avoid placing them where they have the potential to burn a new flush of new root tips.
- ✓ Remember that fertilizer application needs to go hand in hand with increased watering, especially for newly repotted orchids that have a fresh, free draining mix that doesn't hold as much moisture as older mix. Remember to water orchids heavily- water should run through the bottom of the pot to flush out any excess salts. Try to grow plants like bromeliads and groundcovers under the orchids—these will absorb any excess fertilizer runoff, help create a frog friendly environment (insect patrol) and improve humidity in the growing space.

- ✓ If you have a variety of pot sizes, you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out too quickly. A simple solution is to double pot, so the final size pots are all the same. By this I mean placing the smaller pots into a larger pot which is filled with compost which encircles the smaller pot—this keeps the smaller pot (and the root system of the plant) cool, and slows the rate at which it dries out.
- ✓ With warmer weather, check your plants and the surrounding area for mealy bugs, ants and other bugs that may decide to move into the cooler conditions of a shade or glass house where greater moisture content is available. It is much easier to get rid of the pest when there are only a few, rather than letting them multiply, which makes the task removing them harder. Snails and slugs are less active at this time of year.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

The new seasons leads are well underway now and during the next couple of months the growth will be rapid. Regular fertilizing will help push these growths along, remembering that cymbidiums are heavier feeders than most other orchids. Liquid fertilizing once a week or once a fortnight with a product such as Strike Back for Orchids is ideal. If you are not sure how much fertilizer you should apply, then always err on the lighter side. It's far better to give the plants two applications of half strength fertilizer than one dose that is too strong. Slow release pellets, such as Strike Back for Orchids pellets, can be applied when there is not enough time for regular liquid fertilizing. Increased fertilizing goes hand in hand with increased watering, and cymbidiums should not be allowed to dry out under any circumstances. Plants in free draining bark mix should be watered every day, and during heat waves, twice a day. Cymbidium flower spike development is triggered by nocturnal drops in temperature (a drop of at least 13 °C is ideal), so many excellent cymbidium growers water or mist their plants in the evening through summer to help drop the temperature.

This is a time of year when there are not a lot of cymbidiums in flower in Perth. Those that are in flower tend to have small pendulous flowers, including our Australian native cymbidiums and their hybrids. Pendulous cymbidiums are difficult to transport, but see the photo for a tip from Lynn—there is no excuse to not bring these beauties to a meeting!

Summer is also the time when Red Spider Mite and Two Spotted Mite will pose a threat. These mites love hot, dry conditions, especially if there is little or no air movement. Controlling mites is important because these pests can spread pathogens through an orchid collection. The actual mites are very small and hard to see without a good magnifying glass or microscope. Watch for evidence of mites on the underside of the leaves of your cymbidiums. It will look like a very fine spider's web all over the underside of the leaf, but it won't come off if you rub it. If possible, ensure the undersides of the leaves get thoroughly wet when you water your plants. It may be necessary to increase the space between pots to allow this to happen. There are lots of miticide sprays available. Most are 'kill on contact' sprays that need to be applied once to kill the adult mites, then again 10 days or so later to kill any newly hatched mites. It is imperative to read and follow the instructions on the pack, and follow all the safety precautions, otherwise it won't just be the mites that are feeling crook.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

Some hot weather has finally arrived. With the onset of hot dry conditions, examination of your plants will show the development of new growths, which will elongate quickly. A fertilizer programme will be beneficial to push these growths along. Quarter or half strength Strike Back for Orchids liquid applied weekly is a good all-round fertiliser to meet these requirements, or the Strike Back for Orchids pellets applied 4 to 6 weekly if you don't have the time to liquid feed. The aim should be to produce big fat bulbs without inducing the appearance of further weak new growths. Cattleya orchids become stressed and stop growing in heatwave conditions (consecutive days above 35 °C), so in these conditions it is best to withhold fertilizer. Adding shade cloth layers and misting the floor of the shade house to drop temperature and increase humidity are good strategies to help plants cope in these hot, dry conditions. New growths should be watched and trained into an erect position before they mature off, so that when flowers appear, they are well displayed.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

The Paphiopedilum growing season will now be fully in progress. The plants should be producing new roots that will support the new growths, which should be developing strongly. Remember that paphiopedilums like lower light than other orchids, and enjoy humid conditions with good airflow. Additional shade cloth and misting the floor of the shadehouse in hot conditions can help keep plants happy in the heat.

Paphiopedilums are often in smaller pots than other orchids, and these can dry out very quickly. Paphs do not have bulbs to store moisture, and cannot afford to dry completely in hot conditions. Let's look after our plants over our Christmas break by:

- checking to ensure good air movement
- misting to assist with maintaining humidity, especially in the glasshouse
- weekly fertilizing with a dilute liquid fertilizer, such as Strike back for Orchids liquid
- checking to ensure plants are not overcrowded
- checking for pests and treating if necessary
- keeping the area clean of dying leaves or other detritus
- checking all plants to see if there are any signs of stress
- increasing watering to prevent paphs from drying out
- watering in the early morning before the sun is too high
- watching and controlling your shading.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Friday 27/10/2023

Welcome: 7:36 pm. **Apologies and attendance:** asc per attendance register.

Minutes: Moved Keng L seconded Nantha L that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentations/demos: Tara on *Sarcochilus* orchids and preparing orchids for summer

New member introductions: Andrea, Janet, Renfry

Correspondence:

3/10- from Urban Bushland Council Re: submissions for Roe8/9 corridor. 5/10- request from Data Diction WA for updated details .5/10- from GCA : re new forms. 5/10- from Horticultural Council re; National Rose Convention. 7/10- to Bunnings re: potential for sponsorship for new trestle tables. 17/10- from Bunnings Inaloo re: Night Market. 17/10- from Orchids WA papers. 20/10- from Rosella re: invoice for order. 20/10- from OWA re: more papers. 23/10- from Mayflower Orchids asking to be a vendor at LFOD. 24/10- from City of South Perth acknowledging receipt of grant acquittal form (and noting the photos of the event look fantastic!)

Business arising from correspondence

- The OSWA trestle tables that use for shows are in poor condition (heavy, rusty, some of them broken) and we would like to replace them. I approached Bunnings to ask for subsidy in buying some new ones, and they indicated they would donate some in exchange for a Garden Corner workshop- Jacqui, Maggie, Shari/Dawn/Jonathon, Jenny, Lina, Jenny, Alan kindly indicated they would help support these if available
- Moved Harry A seconded Nantha L that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports: Potting Workshop- successful event well supported by members- discussion from membership that we are happy to continue in future years.

Financial report: Presented by Sheelagh

Moved Sheelagh H seconded Ray T that the financial report be accepted

General Business:

- **December meeting-** December meeting is EARLY due to Christmas, will be December 8th
- **Ray Taylor home visit** – Please remember the January meeting is NOT at the Manning hall- it's a home visit at the residence of Ray Taylor who has generously offered to have us- more details to come!
- **Trophies** – please return the OSWA trophies, we'll need them for our presentation in December!
- **OSWA Dinner** –Bentley Pines, coming up soon- details in bulletin, tonight is the last night to register and pay!
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display** – roster circulating, this is a super fun event, setup on the Friday night is followed by soup/sweets! Please bring sales plants and anything in flower for the display.
- **Quality Plant Auctions** –Masdevallia coccinea alba 'Lemforde' (offered by Harry, won by Glynn for \$30)
- **Events calendar 2023**

Late Flowering Orchid Display November 11-12th

Christmas Dinner Bentley Pines – 8th November 2023

December meeting date 8th of December (only date we could get)

Raffle: Alan R, Andrea M, Enid, Penny, Andrea, Alan R, Laura, Tara, Chris, Sheelagh H, Katia S, Glynn, Tara P.

Open popular vote: Ray Taylor with an elegant *Paphiopedilum lowii*, a species from South East Asia.

Novice popular vote: Marian M with a spectacular *Cattleya intermedia* alba in a large coco fibre basket in a mix of bark and perlite. Marian has grown this plant for the last 5 years. It gets regular fertilizer and worm 'tea'.

Flora Art: Won by Joshie with a spooky Halloween themed floral art piece, put together for under \$15!

Door Prize: Richard Gordon

Judges Choice: Marian M *Cattleya intermedia* alba, with 74 points

Best Cymbidium: Harry Ashton with *Cymbidium* Kuranda Chu Ka Wai 73 points

Meeting Closed at 9:37 pm.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (October, 2023)

OPEN

1A	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya aurantiaca</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Encyclia alata</i> var. <i>majus</i>
		3	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>
2A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>
2E	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Cricket
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Pee Wee 'Fire Fly'
3A	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum lowii</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum philippinense roebelenii</i>
3C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Charly Web
4A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium aberrans</i>
5A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis japonica</i>
5D	(2)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown 'White'
		2	Tara Peeters	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown 'Pink'
6B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Oncidium</i> Gower Ramsey 'Sunkiss'
7A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Vanda merrillii</i>
8B	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda 'Chu Ka-wai'
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda 'Chu Ka-wai'
		3	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda
11B	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Coelogyne</i> Janine Banks
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Adelaide Meadows 'Pure Jade' x <i>Zygopetalum</i> Dynamite 'Green Jelly'

NOVICE

15C	(2)	1	Marian McFetridge	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i> var. <i>alba</i>
		2	Marian McFetridge	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Hsinying Starlight 'Pink Lady'
15F	(2)	1	Julie Jayatilake	<i>Encyclia</i> Bees' Knees
		1	Enid Chelva	<i>Epidendrum</i> unknown
17A	(2)	1	Lisa Robinson	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
		2	Lisa Robinson	<i>Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum</i> var. <i>esquirolei</i>
18E	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown (Nobile kind, Soft Cane)
19C	(1)	1	Lisa Robinson	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
20D	(1)	1	Joshua Balgos	<i>Oncidium</i> Pacific Pagan 'Kilauea'

FLORAL ART

(2)	Joshua Balgos	JB's Halloween
	Keng Leow	Sweet Memory

Judges' choice (Roy Brown Trophy):

Cattleya intermedia var. *alba* grown by Marian McFetridge, 74 Points

Best cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy):

Cymbidium Kuranda 'Chu Ka-wai' grown by Harry Ashton, 73 Points

Open popular vote: *Paphiopedilum lowii* grown by Ray Taylor

Novice popular vote: *Cattleya intermedia* var. *alba* grown by Marian McFetridge

Floral popular vote: Arrangement 'JB's Halloween' by Joshua Balgos

From the October General Meeting

(Photos by Harry unless indicated otherwise)

Open Popular Vote: *Paphiopedilum lowii*, grown by Ray Taylor (photo by Tay Taylor). This species is native to South East Asia. Unfortunately the plant was not photographed on the night, but Ray kindly provided this photo taken in his shadehouse.



Novice Popular Vote and Judges Choice: *Cattleya intermedia* var. *alba* grown by Marian McFetridge. This spectacular plant is growing in a large coco fibre basket in a mix of bark and perlite. Marian has grown it for the last 5 years. It gets regular fertilizer and worm 'tea'.



Best cymbidium: *Cymbidium Kuranda* 'Chu Ka-wai' grown by Harry Ashton



Floral popular vote: Arrangement 'JB's Halloween' by Joshua Balgos

