

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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AUGUST 2017

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 25th August, 2017, commencing at 7:30 pm.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

FLORAL ART
BY KAYE BAYLIS

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 1st
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 22nd

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Birthdays

August: 30th Kirsty Bayliss, 31st Lynn Brooks. September: 6th Alan Prosser, 14th Bob 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 Val Dobrowolski (Riverton). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Congratulations!

Two OSWA members had plants "on the top table" at WAOS. Rosemary McGrath won the Best Dendrobium Orchid class with her *Dendrobium alexandrae* x *Dendrobium forbesii*. Maxine Godbeer won the Best Specimen Orchid and Champion Miscellaneous classes with her *Dendrochilum wenzelii*. *Cymbidium* Lemon Sorbet "Dancer" exhibited by Ezi-Gro Orchids was Grand Champion Orchid and also won the Best Cymbidium and Best Seedling Orchid classes. (For photos, see back page.)

Tropical Colours Orchid Nursery Visit + Bus Trip + Cannington Spring Show

Tropical Colours Nursery is at 558 Gossage Road, Oldbury. Our visit is on **Saturday 26th August**, starting at around 10 am. We have organised a free bus, which will leave from Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre at 9:30 am. As with our previous visit, the bus will be towing a trailer, so there will be plenty of space for your purchases. Places on the bus are limited — to book a seat, call Rosemary on 0401 508 667, otherwise you can drive or car pool and meet at the Nursery at 10 am. Our previous visit was very successful. Rumour has it that this time, even more orchid genera will be available, so this is an event not to be missed.

As a bonus, on the way home the bus will take a detour to the **Cannington Spring Show**. This show is put on by the Orchid Species Orchid Club of WA, the Paphiopedilum Study Group, the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA, and the Australian Native Orchid Society (WA branch). Admission to the show is \$5 per person (pensioners and children \$3).

Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre, Wednesday 30 August - Saturday 2 September.

Setup Tuesday 29th August, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging starts 7:30 pm.
Open to public Wednesday 30th August to 4.30pm Saturday 2nd September. Plant sales daily (to be confirmed).

Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc available at the August General Meeting. If you don't have perfect plants to enter in the competition, please consider bringing orchids in for the display. If you don't have any plants for display, please consider coming along anyway, to help set up and pack up the display, or look after the display and chat to members of the public.

Do you need new pots?

It's coming up to that time of year when repotting is the first order of business. At general meetings, OSWA offers a variety of sizes and styles of pots to members at exceptionally good prices. Anyone wishing to purchase pots should contact Kirsty Bayliss (0413 599 998 or kirstylbayliss@gmail.com) at least a few days prior to the general meeting so that the pots can be made available at the meeting.

September Meeting: Deflasking

We will be having a demonstration of deflasking of orchid seedlings at the September meeting. Usually, members can purchase a freshly-deflasked seedling on the night, but the seedlings do not survive for very long. This time we plan to have the seedlings housed in a suitable growing room until they are well-established, and then make them available to members. Anyone who has a suitable growing area and would be willing to look after the seedlings for a month or so, please contact Lynn Brooks.

Showing Plants at OSWA Shows and Meetings

We all love to see fine orchids, so members are encouraged to bring orchids in flower to meetings and shows whenever possible. Please note that if you wish to enter an orchid into competition at a show or at

a monthly meeting, you must have owned that orchid for at least 6 months. If you have a special orchid in flower but have not owned it for 6 months, you can still show it off at a monthly meeting or orchid show, but the plant should be labelled "For Display Only" and should not be submitted for judging.

2018 AOC Conference

The next AOC conference will be held in South Windsor, close to the beautiful Blue Mountains, in NSW. See: <http://aocc2018.orchidsocietynsw.com.au>. Register before 31st December 2017 to take advantage of the Early-bird pricing.

The Sales Table at General Meetings and Shows

Recently there has been some confusion at the Sales Table due to special arrangements being made by members when buying or selling items. So that confusion can be avoided in future, please note:

- No credit can be extended to people buying stuff from OSWA or the Sales Table – goods can only be taken after they are paid for in full.
- If a member wishes to make a special arrangement (eg to sell an item to a specific buyer via prior agreement) then the seller should sell the item in a private sale and not through the Sales Table.

The Sales Table will now use an "OSWA members only" price list for general meetings and a "standard" price list at shows and the Potting Workshop. The intent here is to offer our very best prices only to OSWA members (who can buy stuff at general meetings) and offer competitive but slightly higher prices to the general public (who can buy stuff at shows but don't normally attend general meetings). To avoid confusion, at any given event, only the relevant price list will be used, so members wishing to buy stuff at the "OSWA members only" price must do so at a general meeting, since those prices will not be available to anyone, including OSWA members, at Shows or the Potting Workshop.

The Sales Table at General Meetings

Caterina Ottobriano has kindly volunteered to manage the Sales Table at general meetings. To minimise chaos during the early parts of general meetings, we ask that members please note:

- The Sales Table will only operate during the Supper Break.
- No plants are to be put aside (i.e., no "dibs") before the break.
- All plants for sale should be labelled with price tags before they are put on the Sales Table and sellers should supply a completed Plant Sales form to Caterina. Tagging should preferably be done at home, before the meeting. Tags and a copy of the Plant Sales form can be collected in advance at a general meeting or downloaded from OSWA's web page.
- OSWA usually receives 10% commission from the sales of plants at the sales table. However, on a trial basis until the end of the year, the **commission will be waived for sellers who have been members of OSWA for 5 years or longer** and who sell up to 10 plants at any given meeting. An eligible member wishing to take advantage of this trial should indicate on the Plant Sales form that they have been in OSWA for 5+ years.
- There is now a "OSWA members only" price list for the Sales Table at General Meetings (see above).

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017) based on notes from Roy Brown

Time is running towards the Spring months, and this means more and more of our Cymbidiums will be opening their flower buds, so see to it the racemes are staked properly and securely. Some varieties need no staking as they have thick, upright stems that are self-supporting, but others will need to be tied to stakes. When doing this, place the stake as near to the flower stem as possible. Tie the stem firmly, but not too tightly as it will continue to lengthen and must not be hindered in its growth.

If the raceme has grown a bit wayward and needs to be pulled back to vertical, this needs to be done gently, and may need to be done in stages, a little each day, to prevent snapping the stem. It is best to do this late in the day, when the stem is most flexible.

If you intend to exhibit the plant in any of the societies' orchid shows, then do not allow the stake to be

higher than the flower stem.

Repotting should now be in full swing. As the early plants finish flowering, a start can be made on dividing and repotting these. This will give the plant the benefit of a full year's growth in the pot, and should enable the plant to make up its new bulbs in time to produce its early flowers again next season. Any plants that are not going to flower this season can also be repotted. This will allow you more time later on in September to repot, as their turn comes, plants that are now in spike.

Keep watch for any insect pests, just one slug, snail or caterpillar can ruin the whole spike and your whole 12 months effort. Baysol is the best remedy for slugs and snails.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017) based on notes from Henry Eaton

We are now coming into the blooming season where the last of your plants will complete their annual flowering. To present the flowers well, make sure the pseudo bulbs are tied vertically and the emerging buds face towards the main source of light.

Be careful with watering, as water remaining on the flowers at nightfall may lead to spotting with *Botrytis* fungus, ruining your display. To avoid flower spotting, water the orchids early in the morning on a bright day, so they can dry off by nightfall. If there are any bud sheaths that hold water, peel them open or remove them altogether. Alternatively, the sheaths can be left in place to provide additional support to the flower stem, and a sterile cutting tool can be used to carefully cut a small hole near the base of the sheath to allow any water to drain out. Good luck with your efforts.

This is also the time to think of repotting. Gather together the pots and potting mix you will require. Your choice of mix should be based on the time you can spare to thoroughly water your plants, thinking especially of summer when it is hot and you would rather stay inside than out.

Also think in terms of how long you would like to go between potting. The finer the mix, the faster it tends to break down, and this means more frequent potting. Also, smaller plants will need a finer mix than adult flowering ones. Finer mix also holds more water and less air between the particles. Repot as soon as you see new roots appearing from the pseudo bulbs and before they get longer than 2-3 cm. If the new roots are allowed to get to long, there is increased risk of damaging them during repotting.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017) by Trevor Burnett

The plants have expended considerable energy in producing and supporting flowers. The early variety flowers will now be coming to an end. It is time now to look towards the task of repotting and replacement of the growing medium for reasons such as:

- a) the plant has grown too large for the existing container;
- b) the potting material has broken down and must be replaced;
- c) the plant has naturally divided into two pieces;
- d) you have purchased plants (from various sources and therefore in various different media) in flower through the flowering season.

Paphiopedilums are repotted in a variety of growing media that are generally based on bark or wood chips. Most plants require repotting every 2nd year for larger pots or more often if in smaller pots. Small plants respond to repotting more frequently with increased growth. The watering habit of the grower will influence mix selection. If you are a compulsive user of water and have difficulty in withholding watering, then you will need a more open mix to allow for plants to dry out a little between watering. On the other hand, someone who is sparing with watering or is away from home for a period, may require a finer mix that is able to retain water longer. A finer mix can be obtained by using the basic bark mix and adding some sphagnum moss to the mix.

My programme comes back to 10 days between watering. My general mix is:

- 4 parts clean bark
- 1 part charcoal
- 1 part polystyrene or perlite

Text books recommend growing the plants in small pots, but I personally do not like bonsai, so I grow my plants in larger pots (130mm or 140mm) and get good results. I believe you obtain larger growths which at the end of the season result in larger and stronger flowers. I also make a habit of repotting any new orchids purchased, swapped etc. into my own medium as soon as possible. A lot of the time members purchase plants from many sources and leave them in existing mix as the mix looks fine. This is a trap, as your watering and fertilizing programme is developed for your mix and conditions. It is extremely hard to manage when you have a variety of mixes in varying degrees of decomposition.

Minutes of the OSWA General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 28th July 2017

Benching of competition plants & auction lots set up from 6 pm. **Bidding** during tea/coffee break.

Welcome: Visitors & Members **Casserole Dinner** started at 6.45pm

The President opened the **General Meeting** at 7.35pm

Birthdays: July: 1st Kevin Butler, 15th Dana Mitchell, 16th Maureen Grantham. Best wishes to anyone celebrating birthdays or anniversaries during July & August

Apologies: as per register.

New Member: Welcome to Howard Loosemore (Ardross).

Break for sweets and popular vote: Members given time to place bids for Silent Auction & do Popular Vote

Minutes: Moved L Pacca, seconded C Ottobroni that the Minutes of the previous meeting (June) be accepted. Carried.

Correspondence:

- WAOS 2017 – set up for OSWA 7.30am Friday 4th August
- Neutrog confirmation of speaker for October
- WOC - As we are a founding member of the AOC, OSWA wrote a letter of support for WAROO as the sole bidder from Australia for WOC24.

Confirmation: Moved R Taylor, seconded J Bateman, that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

Financial Statement: presented by K Bayliss,

Confirmation: Moved K Bayliss, seconded J Baylis, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. Carried.

Results of Silent Auction: Highest bid for each lot were announced, & plants collected. \$164 raised.

Reports:

WAOS Display – Kaye Baylis. Everything is organised. Names of plants to R McGrath for printing. Helpers are needed at 7.30am for unloading the trailer & to help set up the Display. K Bayliss has the Sales Table organised. Entry cards & plant sale tickets are available for those wishing to use them

General Business:

- **Bus Trip to Tropical Colours** – Saturday 26th August – list available for those who wish to go on the bus. Bus to depart Manning Activity Centre at 9.30am
- **Spring Show:** Entries received from 6pm Tuesday 29th August at Kardinya Shopping Centre. Judging from 7.30pm. Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc available at August GM. Show Wednesday 30th August to 4.30pm Saturday 2nd September. Plant Sales daily — to be confirmed. Roster available for workers.
- Sales Table: if require pots, etc. at GM please contact Kirsty Bayliss before the meeting.
- Suggestions for talks at General Meetings: Diseases & General Maintenance of plants; Growing Oncidiums

Raffle: Jim Baylis, Val Seaman, Trevor Burnett.

Popular Vote: Open: Den. Colonial Surprise x Den Bicentennial Gini owner Ian Duncan

Novice: Cymbidium Unknown owner Anna Sipieterre

Badge Prize: Nataliya Kulchytska

Light bulb snippets: Courtney Rogasch showed some tips on how to clean up a cymbidium before showing. To clean leaves of scale etc, wipe the leaves with a tissue moistened with a mixture of 500 mL water, 500 mL methylated spirits, and 10 mL eucalyptus oil.

Mini Competition based on entering plants at General Meetings – winners Table 6 (won some Steriprune), runners up Table 5 (won some plant tags).

Next General Meeting: Friday 25th August - Floral Art with Kaye Baylis

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 11th August at 2 Morrish Place

Meeting Closed at 9.31pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (July 2017)

OPEN

8B (1) 1 Ian Duncan *Dendrobium* Colonial Surprise x *Dendrobium* Bicentennial "Gini"

NOVICE

16E (1) 1 Anna Sipieterre *Cymbidium* Unknown

(Yup, only two entries last month...everyone must have been concentrating on making casseroles and thinking about the auction, but how many members were kicking themselves for not bringing in a plant for the competition?!?!)

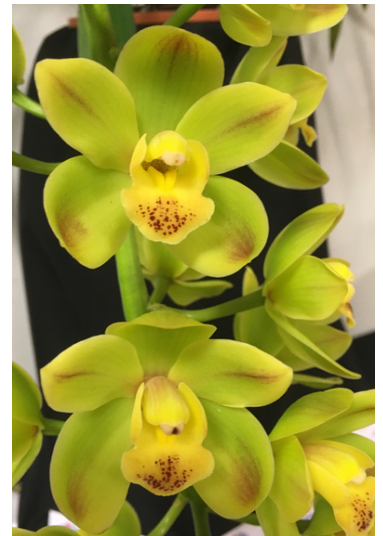
From The Western Australian Orchid Spectacular (WAOS)



Dendrobium alexandrae x *Dendrobium forbesii*
(Best Dendrobium — Rosemary McGrath)



Cymbidium Lemon Sorbet "Dancer"
(Grand Champion, Best Seedling, Best Cymbidium — Ezi-Gro Orchids)



The OSWA Display at WAOS



Dendrochilum wenzelii
(Best Specimen, Best
Miscellaneous —
Maxine Godbeer)