

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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APRIL 2019

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 26th April, commencing at 7:30 pm.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

KEVIN BUTLER
MERICLONES

MAY MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 3rd
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 24th

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Birthdays

April: 7th Rosemary McGrath, 10th Bernadette Campbell, 12th Karen Carless, 17th Mike Burgess, 29th Ian Duncan.

May: 7th Dorothy Walton, 9th Ellen Dixon.

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.

Shed Cleanup and BBQ – Saturday 27th April

It's that time of year again when we need to start preparing for shows, and the first step is to clean up the shed. Our annual shed clean up day will be on Saturday 27th April, at Neil McDougal Park, Como, starting at 10 am, to be followed by a sausage sizzle supplied by the Society. The park provides a pleasant environment for a BBQ so this will be a nice social activity. Access to the shed is via Clydesdale Street (down a driveway off Clydesdale Street, opposite number 27).

Autumn Show: Stocklands Riverton Shopping Centre, Wednesday 8 May - Saturday 11 May.

Setup Tuesday 7 May, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging starts 7:30 pm. Open to public 9.00 am Wednesday 8 May to 4.30 pm Saturday 11 May. Plant sales daily.

Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc will be available at the April 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. If you plan to sell plants, please ensure that your plants are free of pests and diseases and have a well-established root system. (For further information about selling plants at OSWA shows, see the "Info for Members" page at <http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>.)

New Members

Welcome to Angeline Ngooi (South Fremantle) and Dianne Leggo (Hamilton Hill). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

The Perth Garden Festival

The Perth Garden Festival has come and gone for another year. In terms of positive interactions with the general public, this year's event was a great success. There seemed to be lots of interest in our club, and several perspective new members are likely to be visiting us in the coming months. I want to thank all of our volunteers and helpers. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Brad and Jenny for their assistance in transporting our marquee, setting up, and at the end of the event being there again to take all the stuff back to the shed. Thanks also to Trevor and Barbara and Ann for bringing goodies for the workers to eat.

If we get invited back again next year, there are a couple of administrative things that we need to tidy up. Your committee will be discussing and resolving these issues in the coming month or two.

– Courtney

Seeking Cymbidium Narella 'Jennifer Gail'

Les and Faye Gale were members of the Perth orchid community many years ago. Les bred a pink cymbidium that he named Narella 'Jennifer Gail', in honour of one of his grand-daughters (Narella). Narella's sister Kym is now seeking a piece of that orchid, or a whole plant to buy. If anyone has a piece or a plant they are willing to part with, please contact Kirsty or Murray.

Hygienic Practices to help keep your orchids free of diseases.

Ken Jones has written an informative article about plant hygiene. It includes illustrations of lots of plant problems, discussion of treatments and recommendations for practices to help avoid pests and diseases in your orchid collection. See: http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/Hygienic_Practice.htm
Thank you to Ray Taylor for drawing this article to our attention.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2019) based on notes from Roy Brown

Now that the cooler months are coming, a start can be made on repotting. It's always 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, as well as 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, in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Take care of these new spikes, they are easily damaged, and keep all snails, slugs and insects away from the buds. Use Baysol to keep the snails and slugs away, and for all other biting insects, use a powder form of insecticide on the flower buds. Don't use liquid insecticide or you could cause bud drop or malformed flowers once they finally open. Watering will probably be needed once a day from now on, preferably in the morning depending on weather conditions. The regular feeding programme can be continued with the addition of a little extra potash to help form the newly developing flower spikes.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2019) based on notes from Henry Eaton

We have experienced a long summer, but autumn weather is finally starting to appear. When the true autumn weather arrives it will need a change in culture. As it ought to be cooler and more humid, the frequency of watering can be reduced, as well as stopping any watering in the evenings, so as to allow the plants to dry out before nightfall. The necessity to water a plant can be gauged by lifting up the pot and comparing the weight of a recently watered plant with what it felt before watering. Cattleyas in general do not like to have their roots wet all the time, but prefer a wet/dry cycle. Remember too, that the plant is only as good as its root system. Fertilisation with a high potassium, low nitrogen formulation can be used fortnightly as growth will be slowing down with winter approaching. Mature pseudo bulbs should be staked erect so that any buds or flowers will present well. If you use a malleable stake, take the stake to the errant bulb, rather than the other way round, as the latter could cause the bulb to fracture. Over a couple of days or a week or two, gradually straightening the stake can move a pseudo bulb from almost a flat position to an upright one, without damaging the bulb. If circumstances dictate that a plant has to be moved, try and place it in its new position at the same angle to the brightest light source as it was previously. If the weather turns, becomes more cloudy and there is a decrease in sunlight, you can also think about removing some of the shade applied in summer. Keep a close lookout for pests and deal with them promptly. Any unfinished potting on or repotting should be completed by mid-May.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2019) by Trevor Burnett

With the development of cooler conditions, any summer shading can be gradually removed. As the conditions cool, reduced watering will also 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, going on to a fortnightly or monthly basis for small plants, depending on your time constraints, at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ strength. 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, so you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower. This also serves as a reminder to be careful when moving or cleaning nearby plants so as not to knock the valuable, long awaited buds off. With buds appearing, this is the time to flush out any snails or slugs that may be in hiding, just waiting for your prize plant to bloom so they can start their festive season with nice flowers to munch. If you do not wish to use chemical based baits, you can simply cut up some lemons and place them around the benches. The lemon does not kill any snails or slugs, but it does attract them. Once you know their whereabouts, you can easily eradicate them with a number 10 shoe, or in my case a number 7. 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.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Friday 22 March 2019

Welcome: The president Courtney Rogasch opened the meeting at 7:40 pm and welcomed those present.

Apologies: as per register

Minute's silence: George Price

Birthdays Merrill Brechin, Sarah Gazelle, John Walton, Raye McIntosh, Lorna Dodd, Kaye Baylis, Peggy Stacy.

April: Rosemary, Bernadette, Karen Carless, Mike Burgess, Ian Duncan

Meeting Item: Malcolm Davis shared his knowledge about growing phalaenopsis orchids and demonstrated how to repot a phalaenopsis plant and pot a phalaenopsis keiki.

Break for popular vote

Minutes: Moved L Brooks, seconded J McLean, that the Minutes of the February General Meeting be accepted.
Carried.

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- Vic Park Markets, invitation to have a stall (\$55) at Vic Park Farmers Market (12 May, 8 am - noon, John MacMillan Park East Vic Park, day after our Autumn Show finishes)
- From National Library, acknowledging e-deposit of bulletins
- Phone call from Floraplant to move our visit from 8th June to 3rd or 10th August (NB: 3rd is ISODW)
- From garden Clubs, survey forms (members and club as a whole), requested reply by end of April.
- Orchid Mania (and Tony Watkinson) - new flask lists, orders needed by 12 April
- From OrchidsWA (Lina) - minutes of special meeting, notice of another special general meeting, and invite to WOC planning meeting (7 April 9am-12noon Bentley Community Centre)
- Email to DMIRS (ex Kirsty) about incorrect info on their system.
- To Garden Clubs, affiliation registration info sheet
- From Libby Hocking (Albany) re ISODW bus trip
- Responses to general email and Facebook enquiries from members of the public.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Confirmation: Moved M Baker, seconded L Brooks that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

Financial Statement: February report prepared and presented by Kirsty Bayliss.

Confirmation: Moved K Bayliss seconded R Taylor, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment be endorsed. Carried.

New Members: Aishya Ghose, Bob & Noelene Duncan.

Reports:

- **Sausage sizzle at Bunnings Cannington** C Rogasch reported that it was a great effort, excellent camaraderie amongst members who helped. Bunnings very pleased and have invited us back. R Taylor suggested we need a different Bunnings to get higher turnover. C Rogasch suggested we should schedule one at a time that allows us to advertise Potting Workshop, November show, etc.
- **Lynn Brooks Home Open Day.** Excellent effort by Lynn, very interesting setup, lots of activities/demonstrations for members. Lynn thanked by acclamation.

General Business:

- **Xmas in July lunch at Barbara & Trevor Burnet's either 6th or 7th July.** It was noted that the date clashed with a show. Members present equally divided in preference for the Saturday or the Sunday.
- **ISODW in Albany.** C Rogasch noted that we need someone to tow the trailer if we are to have a display. Merrill and Richard offered to do it but can only do so if someone is available to look after her son while he is bed-ridden. General agreement that we should go, members encouraged to book bus tour and/or accommodation asap.
- **November display/show.** MSCC now booked, set up Friday 8th open to public Sat 9th and Sunday 10th. May also involve ANOS, Peel, Cym Club.
- **Neutrog order.** Members told to collect outstanding orders asap.
Has everyone picked up their order from Rosemary.
- **Perth Garden Festival** -- open to public Thursday 11 April - Sunday 14 April, 9 am - 4 pm. Roster circulated.
- **Tropical Colours nursery visit** -- Sat 6 April. Bus leaves MSCAC carpark at 9:30am
- **Shed cleanup + BBQ** (Sat 27 April, see bulletin)
- **Vic Park Markets.** Enough interest for it to be considered by committee.
- **New date for Floraplant visit.** Agreed that we would change it to 10 August.
- **Printing of membership applications** - to be discussed at committee.

Raffle: J Bateman, W Frantom, N Jones, H Stretch, M Donald

Popular Vote:

Open: Cattleya Napoleon, owner C Rogasch. Courtney kindly gave a bloom to Enid.

Novice: Phragmipedium owner M Rathbone. Margaret grows in one of the cheap Bunnings hothouses in winter and removes plastic over in summer. Sits in 2 cm of water all year.

Badge Prize: N Kulchytska

Special 5 min show and tell: C Rogasch demonstrated how to train spike on a plant that has an upright slower

spike. Explained use of Nico Rolls, great idea but cost \$2 to \$2.50 each. Cheap alternative is a length of hat elastic (elasticised string), wrapped gently around the stem of the plant and then fixed to the top of tall aluminium stake with a peg. Alternatively, can wrap the elastic around the spike and the stake at the same time, again fixing the elastic to the top of the stake by a peg.

Next Committee: Friday 5 Apr

Next General Meeting: Friday 26 Apr

Meeting closed at: 9:45 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (March 2019)

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

OPEN

1B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Magic Meadow 'Napoleon'
1F	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Rhyncovola</i> David Sander
3C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Citron x Hsinying Emma
5C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Ox Happy Girl
10A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i>
11B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Galeopetalum</i> (Giant x Artur Elle) 'Old Port'

NOVICE

15A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i>
15C	(1)	3	Lynn Brooks	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Yen Corona 'Little Spirit'
15D	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> Chief Gem 'Red Jewel'
15F	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Kathryn Clarkson 'SVO' x Sun Spots 'SVO Best'
		3	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
18B	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
19A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis pulchra</i>
20A	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Miltonia clowesii</i>
20D	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Miltonia</i> Guanabara
		2	Lynn Brooks	<i>Miltassia</i> Aztec 'Toni'
25A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Calurum

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Magic Meadow 'Napoleon'
NOVICE	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Calurum

SCHOKMAN TROPHY Courtney Rogasch *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Magic Meadow 'Napoleon' (69 points)
(Laeliinae)

**JIM GRANTHAM
MEMORIAL TROPHY** Margaret Rathbone *Phragmipedium* Calurum (72 points)
(Phragmipedium)

Popular vote winners from our March meeting ...

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Magic Meadow
'Napoleon', grown by Courtney Rogasch.



Phragmipedium Calurum, grown by Margaret Rathbone.

Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop (ISODW) – Albany, 3-4 August.

The 29th annual Inter-Society Orchid Display and Workshop is being held on the 3rd and 4th August 2019 at St Joseph's College Gymnasium, Martin Road, Albany. The Albany Orchid Society is hosting this event.

The program includes floor displays, benching and a floral arrangement competition. The organisers are also intending to have a highly credentialed interstate orchid grower and speaker to attend and run workshops and lectures for club/society members and members of the public during the weekend, along with highly regarded growers and speakers from Perth and locally. A feature of the program will be a bus field trip on Sunday morning to view wildflowers and native orchids in their natural environment lead by local guide David Belfield. The bus trip is already sold out.

Saturday 3rd August is set aside primarily for setting up displays and orchid judging, but there will also be lectures and workshops for club/society members to attend. On Sunday the event is open to the public from 9am to 4pm. There will be a \$5 entry fee for adults with children entering free. Members of clubs/societies who stage a display will gain free entry to all aspects of the event. Participating clubs' members need to wear their badges to gain free entry.

Sunday will provide an opportunity for all participating clubs/societies to sell plants and seek new members. All sales plants will be subject to a 10% sales commission to The Albany Orchid Society to assist with the costs of staging the event.

The annual dinner will be held at Le Grande Motel 479 Albany Highway, Albany at 7pm on Saturday evening. The cost of the 3 course set menu is \$49.50, further details regarding the dinner will be advised closer to the event and bookings will need to be finalised by 30 May.

The Albany Orchid Society has an agreement with Motel Le Grand for special nightly rates for guests involved with the ISODW: Standard Room - queen size bed with ensuite, \$105; Deluxe Room - queen size bed with ensuite, \$118; Twin Room - queen size and single bed with ensuite, \$125; Two Bedroom Unit - queen size bed and two single beds, \$ 148 (2 pax)/\$168 (4 pax); Executive Two Bedroom Suite with separate lounge, \$158 (2 pax)/\$178 (4 pax); Three Bedroom Apartment \$244 (6 pax). Bookings can be made on (08) 9841 3600. Note that if you book via the website, you might not get these special rates.

Apparently there is a lot going on in Albany on the weekend of the ISODW, so if you plan to go, book early. Setup will start early on the Saturday morning, so it would be good to travel down on Friday 2 August and settle in overnight.

The booking form for the dinner is available at orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Info_for_Members.html. Look there for further information too (it will be uploaded as it becomes available), or ask Murray. The bus tour mentioned in the booking form (to see native orchids in the wild) is sold out.