

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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AUGUST 2019

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 23rd August, commencing at 7:30 pm.

PATRON: Mr. Trevor Burnett

PRESIDENT

Courtney Rogasch
Ph. 0407 049 717

SECRETARY

Murray Baker
Ph. 9310 2800

TREASURER

Kirsty Bayliss
Ph. 0413 599 998

REGISTRAR

Harry Ashton
Ph. 0412 403 696

BULLETIN EDITOR

Murray Baker

**CORRESPONDENCE &
GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

Murray Baker
58 Gladstone Rd
Leeming 6149
Ph. 9310 2800
murray.baker@iinet.net.au

<http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsWA/>

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

NEUTROG FERTILIZERS

BRIAN KLEPZIG

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 6th

General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 27th

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Birthdays

August: 12th Nahiid Stephens, 16th Geoff Braid, 29th Sue Chafer

September: 14th Bob Longmore, Mellida Frost, 18th Ishita Ratnaparkhi, 30th Wanda Frantom

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 Len Atlas (Dianella). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go to Peter Kissell, on the passing of his wife Judy. Peter, we are thinking of you at this difficult time.

Neutrog

This month's visiting speaker is Brian Klepzig, from Neutrog. Brian always gives an entertaining and informative talk and usually brings free samples for members, so Friday's meeting is not one to miss.

Amongst the many benefits OSWA receives from Neutrog is a special deal for new members — new members are eligible to receive a Welcome Pack of Neutrog products (pictured). The pack contains Strike Back for Orchids pellets and liquid, which are excellent orchid fertilizers, and Seamungus pellets and liquid, which are tonics rather than fertilizers, suitable for more delicate orchids (e.g., seedlings), or orchids that need to be nursed back to good health.



We do our best to forward new member details to Neutrog regularly, but the Secretary sometimes gets distracted from this task. If you are a new member (joined within the last six months or so) and you have not received your Welcome Pack, contact Murray.

Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre, Wednesday 29 August - Saturday 1 September.

Setup Tuesday 27th August, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging starts 7:30 pm.

Open to public Wednesday 28th August to 4.30pm Saturday 31st August. Plant sales daily.

Roster, Sales Sheets, Entry Cards etc will be 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.

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

Thank you to everyone who provided plants for our exhibits at ISODW, and thank you to the members who made the trek down to Albany to transport the plants and props for the display, set up the display, and organise our plants for benching. OSWA was successful again this year — we won the perpetual trophy (a special hub cap) for the plant competition, while the Paph Study Group won the Displays competition. Thanks also to our hosts in the Albany Orchid Society for organising such a wonderful event.

Part of the ISODW experience was a bus tour into bushland around Albany, to see local orchids in their natural habitat. The Albany folks were worried that there was not much in flower at the moment and so

included a circuit of local landmarks as part of the bus tour, but it turned out that there was plenty to see in the bush anyway. We saw some spectacular banksias, pitcher plants, helmet orchids, various *Pterostylis* orchids, some Pink Fairy orchids, and even a few Queen of Sheba orchids. (The Queen of Sheba orchids were in an area close to where the accidental bulldozing recently happened — see below.)

Upcoming Orchid Events

Home visit at the Rogasch residence: Sunday 17th November, from 10 am. Watch this space.

Spring Orchid Fair 2019: Aranmore Catholic College Hall, Oxford St, Leederville. Saturday 7 September 9 am - 4 pm and Sunday 8 September 9 am - 3 pm. Entry \$5. Due to this event following close on the heels of our Kardinya show, OSWA is not involved this year.

Orchids in the News

Last Saturday morning, while scoffing down corn on toast for breakfast and reading the ABC news website on my phone, I found a story about a woman in London. She was a refugee from Saddam Hussein's regime, and in 1995 spent her fifth birthday as a refugee in a camp near Zwolle in The Netherlands. While she was in the camp, a man whom she did not know gave her a shiny red bike. That act of kindness had great impact on her life, and this month she used Twitter to track down this unknown man. It turns out that he had been helping refugees for over 25 years. Importantly, and some might say not surprisingly, the story notes that he grows orchids (<https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory1>).

From another story on the ABC news website, members will be saddened to hear that some Queen of Sheba orchids growing in the bush near Albany were recently bulldozed by government workers attempting to close off an illegal trail (<https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory2>).

On a happier note, an Austrian athlete who had been kidnapped and was being held prisoner at her kidnapper's home was freed when she complimented his orchids (<https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory3>). The source of this story (NDTV India, drawing upon Agence France-Presse) also reports the strange case of a woman who inadvertently swiped an orchid, estimated to be worth about \$3 million, from a nursery in China (<https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory4>). The staff at NDTV must really like orchids, because they also report that an orchid in the Singapore Botanic Gardens was named *Dendrobium* Narendra Modi, in honour of the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in 2018 (<https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory5>).

Orchids bred in the Singapore Botanic Gardens are often named in honour of dignitaries or celebrities — Michelle and Barack Obama, Margaret Thatcher, and Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull have been similarly honoured, to name a few. A lot of these orchids are on display in the VIP Orchid Garden area of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Anyway, it was Saturday morning and I didn't want to mow the lawn, so I decided to amuse myself a bit by trawling the Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Register, seeing what other famously-named orchids I could find. I discovered that there is a *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Melania Trump (registered by Chadwick and Son Orchids, in the USA), and *Cattleya* Jacqueline Kennedy has been registered twice. Not only is there a *Paphiopedilum* Marilyn Monroe, there is also a *Dendrobium* Marilyn Monroe and an *Oncidium* Marilyn Monroe. Apparently no orchid has been named to honour Donald Trump or Kim Jong Un.

The Orchid Register is at <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp> (or <https://tinyurl.com/orchidstory6>). You too can amuse yourself by typing celebrity names into the "Grex" box near the bottom of that web page to see what famously-named orchids you can find. The Orchid Register is also a good site to consult to check the spelling of orchid names — Harry and I consult it regularly, to assist with deciphering of some difficult-to-read plant entry slips submitted at monthly meetings and shows.

Frangipani cuttings for free

Sufficient in number to start a small forest, these cuttings are freshly removed from a healthy specimen of the common frangipani (fragrant white flowers with yellow centres). Free if you pick them up from Murray and Arni's place in Leeming, or for a gold coin donation to OSWA if you want to collect them at the August General Meeting. Contact Murray if interested (murray.baker@inet.net.au or 9310 2800).

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019) 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 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 2019) 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 too long, there is increased risk of damaging them during repotting.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019) 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.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 26 July 2019

Welcome: 7.34 pm 1 Minute's silence for Hanny Vernon, past member of OSWA.

Apologies: As per Register

Birthdays: July- 1st Kevin Butler, 7th Helena Blackley, 9th Stephanie Williamson, 15th Dana Mitchell,
August- 12th Nahid Stephens, 16th Geoff Braid, 29th Sue Chafer

Sick List: Our thoughts are with Edna & Mike Burgess who are unwell.

Sign-up sheets were circulated or left on front desk: Floraplant Visit, Kardinya Spring Show Roster.

New Members: Adrian & Melanie Elsum; Len Atlas (new member, to be confirmed at next committee meeting)

Meeting Item: **Ray Taylor** – Ray gave a very interesting talk on how he grows various types of orchids in his collection, including what potting mix he uses, his fertilising regime, watering of orchids (most are grown in the open, where they get full rain), the best ways to mount orchids on tree fern especially oncidinae & some dendrobiums. Plants that are transferred from one environment to another may take a while to adjust to the change in conditions.

Break for popular vote & Supper

Minutes: Moved R Taylor, seconded E Chelva, that the Minutes of the June General Meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- Garden Clubs of Australia – notice of AGM, 2018 AGM Minutes & their June Bulletin
- AOC Club membership invoice – already paid
- Editor Garden Clubs of Australia would like a member to write an article on WA Native Orchids for their quarterly magazine
- Little Aussie Directories re OSWA Potting Workshop 20th October
- Peel Region OS advertising their Spring Show 14th & 15th September
- From Libby Hocking and Mary Warnes (Albany Orchid Society) re ISODW updated Show Schedule
- Responses to general email and Facebook enquiries from members of the public.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Confirmation: Moved V Seaman, seconded M Brachin that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

Financial Statement: Prepared by Kirsty Bayliss, presented by R McGrath. June report.

Confirmation: Moved V Seaman, seconded by T Seaman, that the Financial Statement be endorsed. Carried.

Reports:

Autumn Show: Plans for finding alternative venues are still ongoing

Kardinya Spring Show: 28th to 31st August, set up Tuesday 27th August from 5.30pm Entry Cards, Master Sheets & Sales sheets were available at the front desk. Thanks to those Members who have already volunteered to work during the show

Xmas in July was a huge success Many thanks to our Hosts Trevor & Barbara Burnett. Also to Pasquale & Caterina Ottobriano for the variety of different meats & to the Members who brought hot dishes & sweets to share. All proceeds went to OSWA. A great Christmas Dinner to be remembered.

General Business:

- **ISDOW:** Meeting at OSWA shed Wednesday 31st July to load props. Several Members have volunteered to take down plants for entry & display. Members need to advise Trevor of names of plants that are in flower so he can print labels.
- **Floraplant Visit 10th August:** Bus to leave Manning SCAC at 9am bus is limited to 18 including driver.
- Graham Esmond has donated a DVD “Orchids Made Easy” to the Library. Although it is American, if you adjust the seasons there is a lot of useful information on the DVD. Thanks Graham.
- **Plant Discussion:** Margaret Rathbone showed her pretty pink well-shaped Unknown Phalaenopsis.
Lina Pacca - Banfieldara Gilded Tower “Sunburst”, hanging basket, fed once a week, pot-bound.
Ian Duncan – Fred Clark After Dark SVO Black Pearl Catasetum crossing, almost black flowers.

Raffle: Lorna Dodd, Tara Peters

Popular Vote Open: Den. Hilda Poxon “Wondawest” owner Ray Taylor

Novice: Cym. Gene Siskell “Daddy Long Legs” owner Enid Chelva

Both plants were spectacular in the number of racemes & flowers that they carried

Badge Prize: Ann Lam

Meeting closed at 9.28 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (July 2019)

OPEN

1A	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Laelia anceps</i>
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Brassavola nedosa</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i>
1B	(4)	1	Rosemary McGrath	<i>Cattleya</i> Pastoral Innocence
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Dream Trader
		3	Malcolm Davis	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
2D	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Valley Olympic "Pink Perfection"
2E	(1)			No award
3A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>
3C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Citron x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Emma
3D	(5)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Winston Churchill x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Thunder Cat
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Lippewunder x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Tangold
		3	Rosemary McGrath	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> TB Rosemarie
8A	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium tetragonum</i>
8B	(4)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium</i> Splash x <i>Dendrobium</i> Rockstar
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon
		3	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Hilda Poxon "Wondawest"
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower "Delightful"
11B	(1)	1	Ian Duncan	<i>Fredclarkeara</i> After Dark SVO Black Pearl FCC/AOS

NOVICE

15C	(1)	1	Valerie Cooper	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy"
16D	(2)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cymbidium</i> Mini Mint
		2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown.
16E	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Cymbidium</i> Gene Siskell "Daddy Longlegs"
19B	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
20D	(1)	1	Lina Pacca	<i>Banfieldara</i> Gilded Tower "Sunburst"
26	(1)	1	Nataliya Kulchytska	<i>Dendrobium</i> Cobber x <i>Dendrobium</i> Australian Crack Purple Paddle

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN Ray Taylor *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon "Wondawest"

NOVICE Enid Chelva *Cymbidium* Gene Siskell "Daddy Longlegs"

SCHOKMAN TROPHY Val Cooper *Brassolaeliocattleya* Momilani Rainbow "The Gypsy" (75 points)
(Laeliinae)

JIM GRANTHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY Ray Taylor *Phragmipedium* Nicholle Tower "Delightful" (72 points)
(Phragmipedium)

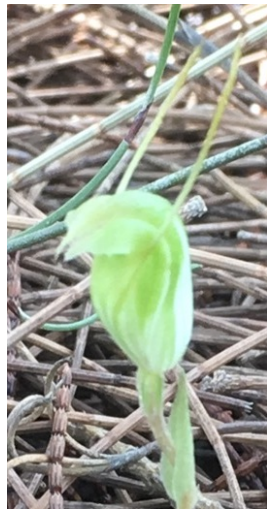
Correction

In the monthly results section in the July Bulletin, *Dendrobium bigibbum* 'alba' x self and *Dendrobium* (Star of Gold x *fleckeri*) x *bigibbum*, were incorrectly attributed to Ray Taylor. These plants were actually grown by Malcolm Davis. Apologies to Malcolm and Ray for the error.

Some orchids seen on the ISODW bus trip.



Jug orchid
(*Pterostylis recurva*)



A snail orchid
(*Pterostylis* sp.)



Queen of Sheba orchid (*Thelymitra* sp.).
A complete plant is shown below. Note the characteristic curly leaf at the base of the stem.

Helmet orchid
(*Corybas* sp.)



Pink Fairy orchid
(*Caladenia reptans*)

This orchid was seen during the bus tour, but this specimen was actually photographed at the Williams Conservation Reserve, on the drive home to Perth.



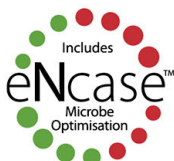


Get ready for a Giant **Spring** with GYGANIC for Veggies, Fruit & Citrus

Gyganic has been specifically developed to enhance the yield, quality and taste of your fruit, citrus and veggies.

It is a premium organic based, chemically boosted complete fertiliser with the full range of nutrients in an organic form, coupled with boosted levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and magnesium. Gyganic's unique organic base of manure, humates and rock phosphate is composted and blended with the biologically-active GOGO Juice (containing kelp and seaweed). This produces a very nutritious organic base product high in organic carbon.

Following extensive trials by members, Gyganic for Fruit and Citrus is now recommended by the Rare Fruit Society.



Freecall 1800 65 66 44 www.neutrog.com.au

