

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
FOUNDED 1946. A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL.

VOLUME 59 No 12



DECEMBER 2019

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning**, on **Friday 13th December, 2019**, commencing at **7:30 pm**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

TROPHY PRESENTATIONS
AND
CHRISTMAS PARTY

JANUARY MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee None!

General Meeting 6:00 pm Friday 24th
(NOTE: BBQ at the Burnett Residence!)

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Birthdays

December: 4th Donna Drew, 5th Pauline Chia, Kristyn O'Brien, 6th Val Seaman, 17th, Bridget Seaman, 23rd Cheryl Compagnone, 27th Maxine Godbeer, 31st Peter Blackley, Yvonne King

January: 4th Sandra Hayes, 17th Ann Lam, 23rd Betty Saul, 25th Margaret Rathbone, 31st John Carless

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.

December Meeting - no sales table, but plant competition as usual, and Secret Santa!

The December meeting, our Christmas and Trophy Presentation meeting, will be held on the SECOND Friday (13th December). Please bring a plate to share. Drinks will be provided. Also, please bring a gift (one per person, less than \$20) for the Secret Santa table. On arrival at the meeting, swap your gift for a ticket in the Secret Santa Raffle. If everyone brings a gift, everyone will have something to take home.

Note that there will be no Sales Table at the December meeting, but the monthly plant competition will be running as usual.

Dendrobium bigibbum club plants from November meeting

There are still some *Dendrobium bigibbum* plants available. If you have not received a plant yet and would like one, contact Kirsty asap, and she will bring one for you to the December general meeting. Please note that there are less plants than members, so there is a limit of one plant per OSWA membership. These plants are from Tinonee Orchid Nursery, healthy and near flowering size, \$5 each.

The AGM is approaching...

Our AGM is in February. Please consider nominating for a position. Nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Committee Members should be placed by 28 January 2020 (one month before the AGM). Nominations for the position of secretary will be joyfully received. Nomination forms are included at the end of this bulletin and will be available at the December and January general meetings. Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community. Being a committee member is not an onerous job...just attend 11 meetings a year...and contribute your enthusiasm and ideas to the betterment of our club and our activities. You don't have to be an expert orchid grower to be on the committee (some current committee members are not!).

New Members

Welcome to Rachel Atkinson, Val Gray, Wai Chen and Q Nye, and Kiki Suermondt. We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November 2019.

\$26 double, \$21 single. For your convenience OSWA accepts payment by direct deposit (preferred method), cheque, or cash (paid at a general meeting). If possible, please use direct deposit or cheque, to lessen stress and chaos at the general meetings.

For direct deposit to OSWA's account:

Account name - Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc.

Bank - Westpac Bank, Booragoon, WA

BSB - 036069 Account Number - 457265

Reference - please use your name, to help us identify your payment.

For payment by cheque:

Make cheques payable to The Orchid Society of WA Inc.

Cheques may be brought to a general meeting or posted to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd, Leeming 6149.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our November display. The display (held jointly with the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA and the Australian Native Orchid Society) was an excellent event that was commercially successful and attracted a few new members as well.

At General Meetings, in general ...

Please pay a dollar (per person) when you arrive at the general meeting. This dollar does not go to OSWA. Instead, it goes to the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, to cover the cost of tea/coffee/biscuits that the Centre provides. A condition of our use of the facility is that the Centre is paid a dollar per attendee at each meeting.

Thank you for helping with putting the tables and chairs back in place at the end of the meeting.

Consider bringing something in for "Show and Tell" at a general meeting. If you have an interesting orchid in flower, or an orchid with an interesting pest or problem, or an interesting trick that helps with some aspect of orchid culture, bring it along and tell us about it. If it is interesting or useful to you, chances are it will be interesting and worthwhile for other members too.

January Meeting - BBQ! Sausages! Everyone-gets-a-plant Raffle! And more!

OSWA's January meeting will be a BBQ at the home of Trevor & Barbara Burnett, 33 Salisbury Road, Beechboro 6063. Arrive from 5:30 pm onwards for 6 pm start. More info in the January bulletin.

Boisduval scale

The Australian Orchid Nursery's website has an interesting article entitled "Boisduval scale - possibly the world's worst orchid pest." You can find it at <https://tinyurl.com/aonscale>. Boisduval scale seems to infest plants that are weakened in some way, often by some problem with their growing conditions. The article on the website includes a disturbing photo of a cymbidium infested with boisduval scale, nicely illustrating one of the reasons Courtney recommends that we remove the husks of dead leaves from cymbidium bulbs. I am sad to say that I often find outbreaks of this stuff in my collection. To make you feel better about your orchids, here is a photo (taken this morning) of one of my cattleyas. It has been growing in a place that is too hot and dry, and probably is badly in need of repotting and fertilizing. I have been neglecting my orchids a bit lately, so didn't fully appreciate the struggles my orchids were going through. The boisduval scale has taken advantage of the situation.



CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (DEC 2019/JAN 2020) - based on notes from Henry Eaton.

When the summer weather eventually arrives, be ready to cope with the hot days (over 35 °C) that will undoubtedly occur. These very hot spells will lead to some retarding of growth while they last. To counter these effects, we need to increase the shading if necessary, to about 70%, and maintain an adequate water supply to the plants. This is one time of the year when watering your plants in the evening may be more helpful than during the day, as this will cool the place down and will increase the humidity.

At this time of the year, fertilising your plants can be undertaken if the temperatures are below 35 °C, but above this level, because of the slowing growth, it would be best to withhold the fertiliser until temperatures fall. Because of the dryness and high temperatures, it would be wiser to avoid repotting and so forth unless we experience a cool spell. The only justification for repotting is if the plant being stressed by being in a decaying mix, as shown by shrivelling of the pseudo bulbs and limpness of the leaves.

Also be on the lookout for plants that could be sunburnt because of gaps in the shade cloth. These, at first, may show reddening of the leaves. Try to attain a state where the leaves on the plants are not dark green but a yellow/green, which indicates adequate exposure to light.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020) by Trevor Burnett.

We will certainly get some hot weather that may be extended over several days, so we need to monitor the conditions and adjust our watering programme accordingly. Ensure the plants have sufficient shade to prevent any burning, as a setback at this stage will definitely affect our flowering season. If you have a mix of pot sizes you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out completely before watering.

Paphiopedilum development should still be fully in progress with the new growths coming to maturity, ready for the flowering season ahead.

Checklist for this month:

- (a) keep good air movement;
- (b) in the glass house, misting will assist with maintaining humidity;
- (c) weekly fertilizing can continue;
- (d) do not crowd your plants;
- (e) check for pests and treat if necessary;
- (f) keep the growing area clear of dying leaves or other decaying material;
- (g) increase watering to 3 times a week or more often if plants have dried out;
- (h) check all plants to see if there are any signs of stress;
- (i) water in the early morning before the sun is too high.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (DEC 2019/JAN 2020) - based on notes from Roy Brown.

The new seasons leads are well underway now and during the next couple of months the growth will be rapid. Keep your fertilising programs going, either weekly or fortnightly, whichever you prefer. This helps to increase growth and so makes bigger leaf and bulb development, which in turn, will give better flowering next year.

Don't grow your plants under too heavy shade conditions. I recommend that you grow them under 50% shade cloth for flowering size plants. For young seedlings, perhaps a little more shade would suit them better. Allow ample space between pots, don't crowd them all together. Too much shade and overcrowding are probably why some plants don't flower. Overcrowding can also lead to other problems due to restricted air movement, such as fungal outbreaks.

Normally December is too late for dividing and repotting, due to the stress the summer heat will cause to the plants. This year spring has been quite cool, but the summer heat seems to have finally arrived, so any plants that have not been attended to will be better left until next autumn. However, you can always pot on, that is, repot the plant into a larger pot without disturbing the roots. This can be done at any time of the year and won't cause the plant any setback at all.

Always keep a neat and tidy house, free from weeds and dead leaves, and you should have a house free from insect pests.

Notes Adrian's talk at the November General Meeting:

The addiction of mounting and growing species orchids.**The Adrian Josè method (so not gospel).****WHY?**

Because it's how they naturally grow in the wild, so the question should possibly be Why not? An Epiphyte grows in a tree, so mount it on wood. I've been on many a bush walk and cannot recall seeing too many pots in trees, so remember their natural habitat as epiphytes is growing in a tree, hence mostly they are more at home mounted. I will add to that, because there are a few good reasons why you shouldn't put orchids in pots.

Many plants produce aerial roots, so often we repot and force these roots back below the potting mix to make them look presentable for a show. They don't want to be in a pot, so that's a very good reason to mount.

Another very good reason for mounting is because that's just me doing what I want to do. It's called personal preference, so I would prefer you don't go home and do the same simply because Adrian did.

Advantages

Without pots, you can hang a lot more plants in the same area. We all have space problems.

Drainage is brilliant, so dampness is not a problem.

No potting media required (a big cost saving) if the right mount is used. For this reason, though a number of species grow naturally on it, paper bark it is not always a good choice as it can deteriorate too fast.

If done in the correct manner, a lot less water and fertiliser is wasted, though it takes more time to administer. A pressure sprayer is best because water and fertiliser can be more directed at the roots, hence less water or fertiliser required.

Air circulation can be markedly improved though fans are always recommended.

Not burdened with the added weight of a pot and potting media, your plants can be much easier to move around or relocate if you find the location is not working.

Over-watering becomes almost impossible as the drainage is dramatically increased. I will not go into the details but simply point out that on a number occasions I will repeat the terms misting, fogging, watering etc. I water and mist 12 months of the year and have no problems with rot of any form.

Disadvantages

Often a plant mounted won't be as vigorous as one in a pot, but this disadvantage is outweighed by some of the advantages are listed above and, probably most importantly, you cannot over water and there is no deterioration of potting media.

Attention to loss of moisture as humidity in different methods is a must because there is no almost permanent moisture around the roots provided by a potting media such as pine bark and Perlite.

With orchids being mounted, beware of very consistently hot weather because when mounted, plants dry out much faster if misters or watering is inadequate. Installing a good humidifier can help drop overall temperatures as well as push up the humidity levels.

Transport can be awkward due the rambling root growth not being contained in a pot.

I've had plants I can't move for whatever reason, as the roots can often ramble amongst other plants or even onto structural posts in my enclosure, so it's something to keep an eye on.

Preferred Mounts

Discretion is needed and a wee bit of common sense, but it's your plant, so your call. Old bits of half burnt, washed-out bush wood I love. Tree fern, cork, pond filter matting, bottle brush (I personally don't strip the bark), old fence pickets and in some cases for appearance also mallee roots.

If the plant has very fine roots, in general plant on the pond filter matting, tree fern or cork so the roots can get deeper into the mount to get a strong hold and at the same time search for the minute traces of water contained within the mount itself. If the plant has thicker roots, such as Vandas, the roots seem to love larger chunks of timber and the "velamen" (the spongy outer part of the root) seems to have no problem latching onto some rather smooth surfaces.

Fertilising

You can simply apply by mixing your desired fertiliser into a watering can, but you will find 98% of it runs off quickly onto the ground. I use a 5 litre pressure sprayer, so I wander through the enclosure and spray a small amount directly onto the roots; that will moisten the root slightly, because the roots, when very dry, don't absorb the mix thoroughly. I then go back around a second time within the next 5 to 10 minutes and repeat the process, and find by doing this, the roots, being moist, absorb the

second dose more easily. By using this method I know the water and fertiliser is being absorbed at the required level and not mostly being wasted on the earth below.

DO NOT

Do not necessarily visit another grower's collection and see the manner in which their's grows perfectly and then go home and replicate it. We all have different conditions with regards to humidity, misting, overhead watering, light conditions and air circulation.

Don't place any media such as sphagnum moss or coir between the plant and the mount. You want the roots of the plant to lock onto the mount as quickly as possible, so don't hinder the root's growth path to its new host.

I would not recommend mounting plants unless you are prepared to supply at least two of the following. Adequate humidity, daily misting, sufficient watering, and a bit of TLC.

Food for thought ☺

Many Epiphytes in the wild grow on either the North, South, East or West side of a tree for many a varied reason, so keep this in mind at all times. I often find a plant loves to grow on the shaded side of a mount, although in higher light, where not met with the more direct and intense sun's rays, and some love the more direct light. Be ready to face your mounted orchids in positions that suite their requirements.

P.S.

Do what works for you and what you love. What I have done above is what I prefer, so it's a very biased opinion given by someone addicted to mounting orchids. Do I lose some? YES! And that's my fault because I sometimes get it wrong by forcing a plant into conditions that may not be suitable, and so do you by forcing them into a pot, but never give up trying. We often try to replicate what others do, but we should always remember as I stated above to do what works for you.

"Keep Safe"

Adrian ☺

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

Welcome: 7:30 pm. Apologies: As per register.

Birthdays:

November: 2nd, Aishya Ghose, 13th Rosalie McCallum, 18th Trevor Burnett

December: 4th Donna Drew, 5th Pauline Chia, Kristyn O'Brien, 6th Val Seaman, 17th, Bridget Seaman, 23rd Cheryl Compagnone, 27th Maxine Godbeer, 31st Peter Blackley, Yvonne King

New Members: Rosa Stonier, Sandy McEntee, Eva Gani, and Julia Haldoupis.

Meeting Item: Adrian José — Mounted Orchids

don't use bare copper wire (toxic to some plants, esp dendrobiums)

- **Break for popular vote**

- **Show and Tell:** Lynn presented a specimen of *Epicattleya Auramoya* and confessed that she knew nothing about it. Merrill noted that she grows one under 50% shadecloth and it flowers regularly but never during show times! Lynn also brought in three cymbidiums that had been donated the club. Un-named, for free to members, but need quick attention (clean up husks, repotting). Courtney discussed the technique for and benefits of pulling old husks from cymbidium bulbs. Lynn advised that she expects a member to bring in a plant for show and tell next month.

Minutes: Moved R Taylor seconded L Brooks that the Minutes of the September General Meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising. Nil.

Correspondence (on noticeboard)

Highlights of Financial Report and accounts for payment:

- Reimbursements for approval: Brad (\$50) and Merrill & Richard (2 x \$50) for trailer towing. Moved R Taylor, seconded L Pacca. Carried.

Reports:

- **November Combined Display:** Intended to be a display for public of plants not normally seen, by OSWA, Cymbidium Club and ANOS. Special thanks to Helen and Cym Club for their effort with the display, and all helpers who made the event a success. Feedback from the public has been very positive. We are likely to do it again.
- **Christmas Dinner at the Pines.** Brilliant! Lovely food and drinks. Hosts were very accommodating.
- **Rogasch Home Visit.** Kaye thanked Courtney and Val for a fantastic day. Courtney explained his technique of using polystyrene boxes with a hole in the side. Boxes filled with blue metal to height of hole. Water runs into boxes, drains out side-hole when too high. Maintains some humidity. Blue metal prevents mosquitos...if no hole and water just fills box, get mossies. Courtney thanked Malcolm ("Peppe") for running the BBQ

General Business:

- **Slide Scanning Project:** Jenny reported that Trevor had scanned many slides of pictures of WA Native Orchids. We plan a presentation of some of these slides some time in the future.
- **December Meeting:** Trophies Presentation + Christmas Party. Drinks supplied. Bring plate to share. Bring a gift under \$20 for Secret Santa...each gift to be swapped for a ticket for the raffle of Secret Santa gifts. For double membership bring two gifts.
- **Garden Clubs Calendar:** \$10, cash in advance.
- **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle January 2020:** Limited enthusiasm, will not proceed.
- **Club plants (Kirsty):** Plants \$5 each (subsidised by the club), *Dendrobium bigibbum* (species, not hybrid, label is incorrect). First member to flower the plant gets a prize.

Raffle: Lauren, Tara, Lynn

Popular Vote:

Open: Paph Yang Ji Apple x Paph rothschildianum, owner H Tan. Grown in a hot house, receives some heating in winter and evaporative cooling and fogger for humidity in summer. Howard kindly donated his prize to new member Eva.

Novice: Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Penny Candy' (ex Ray Taylor), owner J McLean. Impressive specimen, three spikes, growing very well, under moist, light conditions, occasional fertiliser, singing (and that's not a typo).

Badge Prize: Noelene Duncan. **Special Raffle Prize:** Yvonne King

Next Committee: Friday 6 Dec **Next General Meeting:** Friday 13 Dec

Meeting closed at: 9:36 pm.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (November 2019)

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

OPEN

1A	(3)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Encyclia candollii</i>
		2	Tara Peters	<i>Coliostylis falcata</i>
		3	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>
2B	(1)	1	Merrill Brechin	<i>Cymbidium</i> Australian Midnight x <i>Cymbidium</i> atropurpureum
2E	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Francie Porter 'Enid'
3A	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
3B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum liemianum</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum henianum</i>
3C	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yang Ji Apple x <i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
		2	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Transvaal No 3 x Lien Globus
3E	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum philippense</i> x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hung Sheng 'Eagle'
4D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Gloucester Charm
7A	(1)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Renanthera monachica</i>
7B	(1)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Renanthera monachica</i> x <i>Renanthera citrina</i>
11A	(3)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Grande 'Chinaman'
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium vittatum</i> x <i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i>
		3	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower 'Delightful'

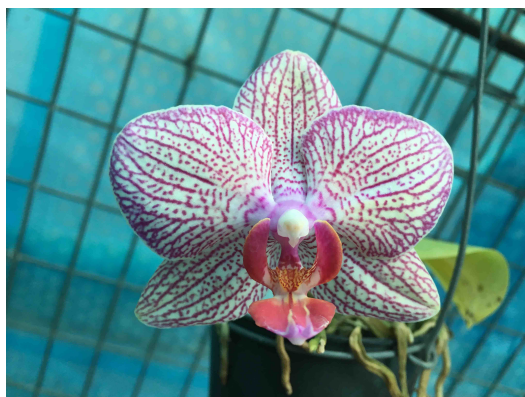
NOVICE

15F	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Epicattleya Auromoya</i>
20A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Brassia cochleata</i>
20D	(2)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'</i>
		2	Jenny McLean	<i>Oncidinae D</i>

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum Yang Ji Apple x Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>
NOVICE	Jenny McLean	<i>Wilsonara Eye Candy 'Penny Candy'</i>

(Unfortunately, results for the Schokman and Jim Grantham Memorial Trophies were not recorded.)



Phalaenopsis Brother Girl.

This orchid originated from Brother Orchid Nursery in Taiwan (which in part accounts for its incongruous name) and was registered in 1988. According to www.orchids.org, *Phalaenopsis* Brother Girl is the result of extensive hybridizing, involving nine *Phalaenopsis* species: *amabilis*, *gigantea*, *aphrodite*, *rimestadiana*, *fasciata*, *lueddemanniana*, *equestris*, *amboinensis*, and *hieroglyphica*.

The specimen pictured was obtained from a flask purchased in Singapore. It was deflasked in 2009 and grown in a plastic hothouse since then. It is a small plant with a surprisingly large flower. This is its first flowering. Probably it has not received enough fertilizer or humidity and it is probably long overdue for repotting.

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

I hereby nominate

for the position of.....

Nominator.....

Secunder.....

I hereby accept nomination & declare that I have not breached any of the 4 conditions (listed below) under the New Act

Signed.....

Date.....

Under the New Law a person is excluded from being on the Committee if they:

1. Are bankrupt or their affairs are under insolvency laws;
2. Have been convicted of an indictable offence in relation to the formation or management of a body corporate in the last 5 years;
3. Have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, punishable by at least 3 months imprisonment in the last 5 years;
4. Have been convicted of an offence under the Act, where a person has allowed an association to operate while insolvent in the past 5 years.

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