

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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JUNE 2019

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 28th June, commencing at 7:30 pm.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

STERILISING AND HYGENE WHEN WORKING
WITH ORCHIDS
KIRSTY BAYLISS

JULY MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 5th
General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 26th

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Birthdays

June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 10th Val Dobrowolski, 17th Maggie Longmore

July: 1st Kevin Butler, 7th Helena Blackley, 9th Stephanie Williamson, 15th Dana Mitchell

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.

(For privacy reasons, birthday announcements will not appear in the Bulletin unless requested. Because the Editor is a bit slow, however, some announcements might have been requested but still don't appear. If you would like to see your birthday mentioned in the Bulletin, please advise/remind the Editor.)

New Members

Welcome to Samandika Hapaurachchi (Willetton), Mellida Frost (Parkwood), Donna Drew (Thornlie), Derek & Daphne Smith (Kardinya), and Karl Lee (East Perth). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Orchids at Bunnings

If you are one of those orchid tragics who trawls the garden sections at Bunnings looking for new plants to add to your collection, you will be pleased to know that orchids in polypaks are back in store, \$8.77. Mostly they are hybrids, but there are occasional species too. Also, Meg Donald reports that Bunnings Belmont now has *Vanilla planifolia* (vanilla bean orchid) in stock. These plants originate from Floraplant Nursery (we have a club visit scheduled there for 10th of August). They are in 11 cm pots, \$17.50 each, and look like very nice plants. The Bulletin Editor can confirm that Melville, Success, Cannington, and Harrisdale Bunnings stores also have the polypaks and vanilla orchids in stock (but he has only bought one of each).

OSWA Library

Our library has a collection of fine books on a range of orchid topics, catering to both novice growers and experts. Kaye has retired from her role looking after our books, and Margaret Rathbone is our new librarian. Why not visit Margaret and the next general meeting and borrow a book or two?

New Pots!

We've made a bulk buy of pots from Garden City Plastic. As well as the usual black plastic pots, we now have clear 150 mm pots (particularly good for vandas), and green 100 mm and 130 mm saucer pots (great for oncidinae). Available at excellent prices for members.

Restoration of an Orchid collection 50 – 75 plants.

A member of the public in the Lesmurdie area needs assistance to clean up her plants. She is able to pay for some assistance. If interested, please contact Courtney.

Christmas in July

This event will be held on Saturday 6 July from 11:30 am, at the home of Trevor and Barbara Burnett, 33 Salisbury Road, Beechboro. There will be a raffle, but no need to bring any donations for the raffle, Trevor's got that covered. Just bring \$5 per person (donation to OSWA) and a plate of vegetables or sweets to share. Come prepared to have some fun. Feel free to wear your Christmas gear. Bring a chair, and BYO drinks.

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

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop is fast approaching. We will need plants for the display and plant competition. Even if you don't plan to make the trip down to Albany, it will be much appreciated if you could keep on the lookout for any of your orchids coming into flower around that time, and let OSWA borrow them for the display over the weekend of the event. Pickup and return of plants to your home can be arranged. More about the ISODW in the July bulletin.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2019) based on notes from Roy Brown

This month, more of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheath on the stem. Once they reach the stage where the flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into a flowering area, where more protection can be given to them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and so leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flowers, and this too will cause a blemish.

Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering area like a glass house, as this could cause bud drop. Give them protection from the heavy winds and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't over crowd your plants; if possible give them plenty of room between each pot.

During July we can expect cold, wet wintry weather. Fertilising can be tapered off to once a fortnight. Watering will also depend on the weather, but don't allow the pots to become dry, particularly those in spike and under cover. Keep the flowering house and shade houses well baited with slug and snail pellets, particularly now that the flower buds are showing.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2019) based on notes from Henry Eaton

With the onset of cold wintry weather, the foremost consideration is adjusting cultural practice to the cold. Orchid growth slows with the cold so the need for watering decreases and the use of fertilisers becomes a minor concern, unless your plants are being grown in a heated greenhouse.

If your plants are grown in an open but covered area to protect them from the rain, all shading, if not removed already, should be removed now. This helps to warm the plants to some degree on sunny days, and helps flowers opening to do so with true colours. Heavily shaded plants appear to open flowers with less brightness in them.

Due to the cold and dampness in the air, flowers are more likely to get infected with botrytis spores, resulting in the appearance of black spots on the petals. This can be averted to some degree by keeping the air moving gently over the plants with the use of a fan, and avoiding crowding plants too close together. If the structure in which you grow your plants permits using hangers, pots hung up give plants better air movement and more space for flowers to open without obstruction.

Flowering plants should also be closely observed for caterpillars and thrips that will damage them if left untreated. Also make sure you have baits spread around to neutralize the snails and slugs that appear with the rain. When watering, choose a day forecasted to be sunny. A sunny day will allow the plants to dry out by nightfall and ensure no water remains in the leaf axils, which could induce rot. Be diligent in removing spent flowers and sheaths, because water can collect in the dead sheaths and cause rot. It is wise to wait until the sun is shining into your garden before watering, as by then the water in the pipes may have warmed up to some degree. Avoid all potting activities, unless not doing so might kill the plant.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2019) by Trevor Burnett

With the cooler months upon us, take care with watering, to keep the plants moist but never leave them wet. Always water in the morning to ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. Personally, I reduce my watering back further to once every 14 days, but may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row. Hopefully, a good proportion of our plants will be showing flower spikes. Continue staking plants using wire, meat skewers or small thin bamboo stakes.

This time of the year you start to enjoy the fruits of your previous 12 months work, with some of the early flowers now being fully developed and in full bloom. If you are missing out on a great display starting to appear, now is the time to review your culture over the last 12 months and make any necessary changes to ensure a great show next year. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis — quarter-strength to half-strength to keep the growth moving forward.

If you intend to get the plants ready for the various shows, this is the time to spend cleaning up the plants by removing any dead leaves and cleaning any dust from the leaves. Growers use different methods to make their plant's leaves look fresh and glistening. Some growers use of white oil, but I personally believe a little common milk with water wiped over the leaves does a wonderful job without leaving that oily look.

At this time of the year, most growers do not water plants overhead due to the possibility of marking the flowers. It is sound practice to carefully hand-water, if time permits. I do water overhead, but after watering I ensure the pouch is emptied of water and excess water is not left on the remainder of the plant. This can easily be achieved by gently tapping the flower.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre on Friday 24 May 2019

Welcome: 7.34pm

Apologies: As per register

Birthdays in June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 10th Val Dobrowolski, 17th Maggie Longmore

Christmas in July Saturday 6th July at Trevor & Barbara Burnett's home – meat will be supplied, members to bring either a dish to share or a sweet.

Meeting Item: Peter Kissell, focus on a member (with Courtney)

Background: Peter has been growing orchids for 35 years. He has 440 orchids, which include 13 different genera, but favourite are the Oncidiiums. The orchids are grown in several shadehouses, most covered with polycarbonate sheeting and 70% shadecloth. There is also a small glasshouse which has a fan to move the air around, but no heating.

Fertilising & Watering: Strikeback for Orchids pellets are used monthly and watering is done by hand every 4 days in summer and fortnightly in winter.

Successes: 2012 WA Orchid Species of the Year: *Chysis aurea* "Casey Jane" HCC/AOC. Hybridizing of a seed pod on *Chysis aurea* "Casey Jane".

Thanks to Peter with the assistance of Courtney for allowing us to have a sneak look at your very clean and orderly shadehouses full of very healthy orchid plants, with some in bloom. It was a delight to see how you grow your beautiful orchids.

Break for popular vote & Supper

Minutes: Moved R Taylor, seconded M Brechin, that the Minutes of the April General Meeting be accepted. Carried. Previous Minutes Signed by C Rogasch & R McGrath

Business arising: Nil.

Correspondence:

- From Shona Macskasy, inviting us back to the Koi Show
- Invitation to participate in Perth Indoor Jungle Festival at Perth City Farm 26-27 July
- OWA, notice of and items for Special General Meeting (new rules)
- Email and letter from GCA re insurance
- Email exchange with Riverton Forum about the show.
- OJPWA, invoice for judging fees
- Responses to general email and Facebook enquiries from members of the public.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Confirmation: Moved J Bateman, seconded L Pacca, that Correspondence be endorsed. Carried.

Financial Statement: Prepared and presented by Kirsty Bayliss. March report.

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

New Members: Shantelle Papas, Kristyn O'Brien, Yvonne King. (Also, applications have been received from Donna Drew from Thornlie, Samandika Hapuarachchi of Willetton, and Mellida Frost of Parkwood.)

Reports:

- **Autumn Show:** Presentation of prize money for autumn show, and thanks to all who assisted in the set up, entering of plants, and for manning the Show at Stocklands Riverton.
- **East Victoria Park Mother's Day:** Harry co-ordinated an excellent display. A very successful day.
- **Floraplant Nursery Visit:** Saturday August 10th (date changed).

General Business:

- A request for empty Neutrog packaging was made.
- June meeting not feasible for Silent Auction & Casserole Night.
- Purchase Draw for Sarcophilus Kulnara Dragonfly seedlings.

Show and Tell 5 or 6 mins each.

- Lynn Brooks, on hooks. As Lynn uses a mesh frame to display her orchids she has designed various stands made from wire to enable her to hang her orchids. Thanks Lynn.

Raffle: Coral Bielby, Eric Bateman.

Popular Vote: Open: *Zelenkocidium* Calico Gem, owner Ray Taylor.

Novice: *Aliceara* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream', owner Jacqui Bateman

Badge Prize: Tom Stacey

Plant Descriptions: *Coelogyne* Jannine Banks, shown by Ray Taylor – a spectacular plant with 3 beautiful racemes. *Cymbidium dayanum*, shown by Graham Esmond – several cascading racemes of beautiful flowers.

Meeting closed at: 9.34pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (May 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	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Cattleya gaskelliana</i> var. <i>alba</i>
3A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i> var. <i>sanderæ</i>
3C	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Imperial Jade x Gold Dollar Teteray
4B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Jade Junior 'Sawadee'
4D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Gloucester Charm
6D	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Zelenkocidium</i> Calico Gem
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Oncidium</i> unknown
10B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Bulbophyllum auratum</i>
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower
11B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Coelogyne</i> Jannine Banks
12	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Vanda</i> Bitz (Orange Delight x Lenaleamolphum) (<i>sic</i>)
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Saeka Mochizoki [<i>malipoense</i> x (<i>micranthum</i> x <i>emersonii</i>)]

NOVICE

15B	(1)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Donna Kimura 'Robinson Heights'
15D	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Chief Gem 'Red Jewel'
15F	(1)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Stockton Sunrise
16A	(1)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Cymbidium</i> <i>dayanum</i>
18C	(2)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Dendrobium</i> Glory White
		2	Graham Esmond	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
20D	(1)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Ionemsa</i> Popcorn
		1 (<i>sic</i>)	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Aliceara</i> Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN

Ray Taylor *Coelogyne* Jannine Banks

NOVICE

Jacqui Bateman *Aliceara* Marfitch 'Howard's Dream'

SCHOKMAN TROPHY (Laeliinae)

Harry Ashton *Cattleya* Chief Gem 'Red Jewel' (70 points)

JIM GRANTHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY (Phragmipedium)

Ray Taylor *Phragmipedium* Nicholle Tower (72 points)

Results of the OSWA Autumn Show, Stockland Riverton Shopping Centre, May 2019.

Champion Laeliinae Alliance	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Yellow Bird	Harry Ashton
Best Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium dayanum</i>	Helen Stretch
Best Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i>	Maxine Godbeer
Best Dendrobium (Excl. Aust. Natives)	<i>Dendrobium</i> (Dal's Stunner x Jack Flash)	Ian Duncan
Best Australian Native	<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	Ian Duncan
Best Oncidinae	<i>Oncidium</i> Aka Baby "Raspberry Chocolate"	Harry Ashton
Best Vandeae	<i>Aerides quinquevulnera</i>	Ray Taylor
Best Phalaenopsis	<i>Phalaenopsis fasciata</i>	Maxine Godbeer
Best Any Other Genera	<i>Catasetum pileatum alba</i> "P.T."	Ray Taylor
Grand Champion	<i>Catasetum pileatum alba</i> "P.T."	Ray Taylor
Reserve Champion	<i>Aerides quinquevulnera</i>	Ray Taylor
Best Species	<i>Catasetum pileatum alba</i> "P.T."	Ray Taylor
Best Specimen	<i>Dendrochilum cobbianum</i>	Maxine Godbeer
Best Seedling	<i>Laelia perrenii</i> "Autumn Rose" x "Royale"	John Carless
Best Novice Entry	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Yellow Bird	Harry Ashton
Best Floral Entry	Arrangement in a container	Meg Donald
Schokman Trophy (Laeliinae)	<i>Brassocattleya</i> Yellow Bird (74.88 points)	Harry Ashton
Jim Grantham Trophy (Phragmipedium)	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower (<i>d'alessandroi</i> x <i>longifolium</i>) (74.0 points)	Ray Taylor
Most plants entered in show	J&K Baylis (open), H Ashton (Novice)	

From the Autumn Show...

Left: *Brassavola nodosa*, grown by Harry Ashton.

Middle: *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*, grown by Maxine Godbeer.

Right: *Catasetum pileatum alba* "P.T.", grown by Ray Taylor (photo by Kirsty Bayliss).

