

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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

**NEXT MEETING** of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning**, on **Friday 25th October, 2019**, 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](mailto:murray.baker@iinet.net.au)

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

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

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:**

ORCHIDS IN ELLIS BROOK  
PAUL ARMSTRONG

**NOVEMBER MEETING DATES:**

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

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**Birthdays**

**October:** 4th, Kristene Northover, 9th Tara Peeters, 11th Enid Chelva, 14<sup>th</sup> Eric Bateman, 16th Barbara Burnett

**November:** 2nd, Aishya Ghose, 18th Trevor Burnett

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.

**Potting Workshop: Sunday 20 October, from 10 am**

The workshop will run from 10 am until 4 pm, at Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, 3 Downey Drive, Manning (where we hold our General Meetings). Plants will be potted, there will be sales of orchids and orchid-related paraphernalia, there will be talks, there will be a display, and there will be scones and other snacks.

Contact Kaye (mobile: 0400 205 090) or Courtney (mobile: 0407 049 717) if you can help with repotting or are willing to give a short talk on the day. Plant sales tags will be available at the general meeting. The Potting Workshop is a highlight of the OSWA calendar and is an excellent event for anyone wishing to learn more about potting and other aspects of orchid culture. And members get in for free! And members might get free scones!

*Speakers, potters & helpers needed, as well as plants for the display and for the sales table.*

Setup will be from around 8 am (but to be confirmed at the September General Meeting).

**November Display -- Saturday 9 November, setup Friday evening, 8 November**

November is traditionally a slack time for shows, which can be disappointing for all those growers who have special orchids that only flower around that time. This year, we've solved that problem! We will be having a Display, joint with the Cymbidium Orchid Club and the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS, WA Branch), on Saturday 9 November at the Manning Senior Citizen's Activity Centre. Setup will be in the evening of Friday 8 November. This will be a Display only, so no plant competition or judging, but there will be plant sales. There should be lots of Australian native cymbidiums and sarcochilus on display. Free entry to members with a badge, and free tea, coffee, and maybe a scone for volunteers. We will need plants for the display and the sales table, and helpers to set up and pack up and present orchid culture talks. We look forward to seeing you there. More info at the October General Meeting.

**OSWA Christmas Dinner - Thursday 14 November from 6:30 pm**

Our Christmas Dinner this year will be at Bentley Pines, Hayman Road, Bentley. For a three-course meal, the cost is only \$25 per person, payment due by the October general meeting. See the advertisement in the September bulletin for further details. Owing to the style of restaurant, we are unable to provide a menu, but all members who have dined there have only glowing reports.

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

Courtney and Val will be hosting a sausage sizzle and home visit — phone Courtney on 0407 049 717 for address details. Courtney has an impressive collection of cymbidiums, including interesting types that we do not often see on the show benches at OSWA, so it's well worth a look. A sausage sizzle will be supplied, but please bring a plate of salad or sweets to share, and if you would like to sit, bring a chair.

Courtney has requested that members *PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE VERGE*, as the concrete work is fragile and gets damaged when vehicles drive over it. There is plenty of parking on the street and in the cul-de-sac around the corner.

**Orchiata Bark**

OSWA has made a bulk purchase of Orchiata bark, which is arguably the best potting bark on the market. It's now available to members for \$23/bag (well below retail), capped at three bags, and payment must accompany the order (sorry, no holds). Pickup from the shed by arrangement. To make an order, contact Kirsty (0413 599 998 or [kirstylbayliss@gmail.com](mailto:kirstylbayliss@gmail.com)).

**It is time to bring the Trophies back!**

Could members who are holding the trophies please return them by the October General Meeting, as they need to be engraved during November, before our Christmas Meeting and presentation night. If you wish to polish them, please use Silvo. Thanks to those who have already returned them.

**Membership Subscriptions are Due on 1 November 2019.**

Since OSWA's financial year runs from 1 November to 31 October the following year, membership subscriptions for 2020 are due on 1 November 2019. Kirsty will be happy to accept subscriptions a few days earlier, at the October general meeting. New members who joined after July 2019 will be counted as paid up until November 2020. Membership renewals are \$26 double or \$21 single. For your convenience OSWA can accept payment by three methods:

- (a) directly to Kirsty Bayliss at a general meeting;
- (b) by cheque payable to Orchid Society of WA Inc., sent to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd Leeming 6149; or
- (c) by direct debit 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.

**Packing Up at General Meetings**

One of the conditions of OSWA using the meeting facilities at the Manning Senior Citizen's Activity Centre is that we leave the centre as neat and tidy as we found it. If you aren't in a rush to get home at the end of a general meeting, please assist with moving tables and chairs back into place after the meeting.

**Trailer Towing**

We occasionally need to transport props for Shows and Displays by trailer. Richard and Merrill are our regular trailer towing crew, but they are sometimes unavailable for the task. If anyone else is able to tow the trailer and is willing to register as a backup for Richard and Merrill, please contact Courtney (mobile: 0407 049 717). The trailer is modern and reliable. The trailer towing person only needs to tow the trailer, usually only for short trips. Other members are always available to do the packing and unpacking of the trailer.

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**CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) - based on notes from Henry Eaton.**

Now that the shows are over for this year, we will be getting into the season for assessing the needs of our plants to be repotted or potted on. This is the start of the growing season and getting the plants off to a good start will result in better flowering next year.

Plants that will need to be considered for potting will be:

- (a) seedlings that have been more than six months in the pot;
- (b) plants where the front growth is over the edge of the pot, or where the next growth will take it;
- (c) plants showing signs of being unhappy in their current mix;
- (d) plants that need breaking up because of their large size.

When to pot can be largely influenced by the appearance of new roots. When new roots appear, you can be sure they will establish in new mix quite readily. Do not allow new roots to grow more than 2-3 centimetres long before potting as longer roots are more likely to get broken in the process of potting.

When potting on, choose a pot size one step up from the pot you had used till then, e.g., from a 125 mm to a 150 mm pot. The mix you use should fit in with your schedule for having time to water your plants. The coarser the mix, the more frequent the watering will have to be.

At the time of potting place the oldest pseudo bulb against the back wall of the pot and fill in with mix from the front. Push the mix in so that the plant is held firm in the pot. If adequately immobilised, you can usually lift the plant up by its leaves without the plant coming away from the pot. Stake the pseudo bulbs up vertically as far as possible and make sure the front growth cannot move around damaging the emerging new roots.

Place the repotted plant in a shady spot in your growing area for a couple of weeks to counter the shock of replanting. Something like a seaweed solution watered through would also help counter shock. If there is a need to divide a plant, make sure you use a sterilised cutting instrument and do not make a division smaller than 3-4 healthy bulbs.

**PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) by Trevor Burnett**

This month is about getting our newly potted plants into full growth as the growths will need to mature in order to produce flowers next year. With the warmer weather, the fertilizer programme can be increased to weekly or fortnightly at ¼ to ½ strength, with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths.

In our repotting process we usually end up with plants being repotted into larger pots or divided into several pieces, so be very mindful not to cram your plants together like sardines. They still need space between plants for good air movement. If we cram plants together, we provide a wonderful place for all sorts of bugs to hide and also restrict the airflow around plants. Good air movement around the plants is essential for good healthy plants and greatly reduces the problems of disease.

In respect to watering, we must ensure that our plants do not become completely dry, as we have a nice new mix which for the first couple of months will tend to dry out quicker than the old mix we have just replaced. At this time of the year I would water at 7 day intervals, unless the temperature goes above 32 °C for three consecutive days, then I would bring back my watering to every 4 days.

It is also an ideal time to see if that plant you admired from one of the growers has been divided and a piece may be available to purchase. Remember this is the ideal time to reflect on your cultural success and sharing your growing success with friends and club members. Good luck and good growing for the summer months ahead.

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) - based on notes from Roy Brown**

Repotting should be in full swing, but by the middle of November the temperature will be fairly high, so it would be advisable to have all the repotting done by the first week of November at the latest. When dividing your plants, try not to break them up into sections that are too small. A three bulb piece will have a better chance of flowering the following year. Try not to overpot your plant. Select a pot that will hold the plant and its root system and will allow for a further two years growth.

When repotting, hold the plant firmly in one hand one inch below the top of the pot, then using your fingers work the fresh pine bark between the plants roots. Fill the pot to about a centimetre from the rim, firming the bark in as you go. The plant should now be sitting neatly in the centre of the pot, with the base of the bulb just below the top of the bark.

Give the plant a good watering and place it in a cool, shady position for about a week, until the roots start into active growth again.

When the flower spikes have been cut and the plant repotted, you will find the new season's leads will shoot ahead. Keep them growing strongly by increasing the fertilizing to weekly or fortnightly intervals. In the growing season, Cymbidiums love plenty of light, water and a regular feeding programme.

**From our September meeting****Lynn Brooks - *Pleione* Orchids.**

*Pleiones* are ground orchids, native to the region stretching from the Himalayas through to Taiwan. They are characterised by a large flower that develops very quickly off a stem possessing a single leaf, from a fairly large underground bulb. *Pleiones* need to be treated like a tulip bulb — they need to be stored in fridge so that they experience a cool period. Flower colours range from yellow to white to pink to purple. *Pleiones* can grow in small bark, peat, or coir. They flower for 3-4 weeks during late August to October, then their leaves grow, and they should be fed and watered well while in growth. When growth stops at the end of summer, lift the bulbs, bag them, and put them in the fridge until about July. *Pleiones* can be ordered from growers in Victoria, or by the local vendor "Tulips with a difference" ([www.wabulbs.com](http://www.wabulbs.com)).

Lynn's *Pleione* Noojee is pictured. The single leaf on the stem supporting the flower is barely visible in the background.



### Charly Hartmann - *Bulbophyllum* Orchids

Charly specialises in bulbophyllums and has been growing them for the last few years. He noted that the genus *Bulbophyllum* is the largest orchid genus, with over 2800 valid members in the Kew Gardens list.

Charly demonstrated that bulbophyllums can be fast growers. He showed a specimen of *Bulbophyllum lobii* that he obtained as a seedling from Bunnings in 2015, which had already grown into a large specimen of about 50 bulbs. That plant is already about 30 cm in diameter. He also showed a stunning *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* that had huge leaves. One huge leaf had grown to about a metre in length since first appearing at the end of May. The other huge leaf on this plant grew during summer, so under Charly's growing conditions there seems to be little seasonal variation in leaf growth. A third orchid that Charly showed, *Bulbophyllum cheiri*, had achieved 2 metres of rhizome growth in just 2 years.

Charly's growing techniques run counter to the conventional wisdom relied upon by most orchid growers, and he pays fastidious attention to detail. He claims to have no secrets for his success, but

insists that for good growth, relative humidity must be consistently maintained at  $75\pm 5\%$ , and temperature must be consistently maintained at  $25\pm 8^\circ$ , throughout the year. During a recent trip to see orchids in the wild in Borneo, Charly carried a temperature- and humidity-measuring instrument and verified that these are the conditions that the orchids experience in nature. He has a small hot house fitted with an evaporative air conditioner (controlled by a humidistat), a heater (controlled by a thermostat), and fans, to help maintain humidity and temperature and ensure good air movement. Charly waters only with rainwater at pH 6 to 6.5, adjusting the pH of the rainwater by addition of acid when necessary. He also ensures that the water temperature is  $25-30^\circ$ , and has a kettle set aside especially for heating water on cold mornings when necessary. Interestingly, Charly *waters more in winter than in summer*, because watering with warm water gets warmth into the plants. He applies these techniques to his paphs and dendrobiums too.

Charly turns the fans in the hothouse off at night, to preserve warmth in the hothouse. The heater blows against the lower internal wall of the hothouse, and from there the heat is dispersed evenly through the hothouse, without plants being scorched by being directly in the "firing line" of the heater.

Charly's growing medium is *only* sphagnum moss. The moss maintains water and allows the plants to drink slowly throughout the day. He notes that if he used bark, he would need to water much more frequently during summer. (I have tried growing plants in pure sphagnum moss. I water sparingly in winter to avoid my plants getting fungal problems, and my sphagnum moss invariably dries out and is difficult to re-wet again. My plants kept in sphagnum moss for long periods eventually die. I think the reason for Charly's success may be his attention to keeping his plants warm, so he can keep the sphagnum moss moist throughout the year, and even in winter the roots of his plants don't get cold and wet and die off.)

Charly fertilizes at least weekly. He uses Strike Back Liquid, calcium nitrate, CALiMAGic 1-0-0, Ezi-Root, Polyfeed, Epsom Salt, Growth Technologies, and Bill's Best Plant Encourager, cycling through the list at a rate of one fertilizer per week. He reasons that if a particular fertilizer is missing some element that his orchids need, that element will be in one of the other fertilizers.

Charly's methods are unorthodox, but his success is obvious. In 2017 Charly's *Bulbophyllum* Krairit Vejvarut 'Gerda' was awarded an FCC, the highest award in the Australian Orchid Council's award system.



From left: Charly Hartmann, *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*, *Bulbophyllum lobii* (in the pot), and *Bulbophyllum cheiri*.



*Bulbophyllum* Krairit Vejvarut 'Gerda'. Photo by Tony Budrovich

**The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**

**Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 20 September 2019**

**Welcome: 7:37 pm.**

**Apologies:** As per register

**Birthdays:** Sept: 14th Bob Longmore, Mellida Frost, 18th Ishita Ratnaparkhi, 30th Wanda Frantom. Oct: 4th, Kristene Northover, 9th Tara Peeters, 11th Enid Chelva, 14<sup>th</sup> Eric Bateman, 16th Barbara Burnett

**New Members:** Ling Zhao and Tony Purchase

**Meeting Item:** Charly Hartmann *Bulbophyllums*

**Show and Tell:** *Pleiones*, presented by Lynn Brooks. At the conclusion of her presentation, Lynn asked members for ideas for show and tell, and for volunteers to do their own presentation for show and tell.

**Minutes:** Moved J Bateman seconded M Brechin, that the Minutes of the July General Meeting (in bulletin) be accepted. Carried.

**Correspondence:** posted on noticeboard.

- From Garden Clubs of Australia, re OSWA's affiliation with GCA
- To David Edmonds, invitation to our November Display
- From OrchidsWA, AGM Minutes
- From Trevor Burnett and others. Emails discussing matters relating to the OrchidsWA situation of no permanent office bearers being appointed at AGM
- Request from Neutrog for stories about how members use Neutrog products (noticeboard).
- From Neutrog, new product endorsement agreement (contract)

**Financial Report:** prepared by K Bayliss and posted on Notice Board. No accounts for payment.

**Reports:**

- **Spring Show.** K Bayliss presented prize money to winners at our Spring Show. Members were reminded that sales master sheets, sales tickets etc need to be filled out legibly with members name, and need to be signed off by the sales table staff, to avoid confusion.

**General Business:**

- **Christmas Dinner:** Will be held at Bentley Pines, Hayman Road, Bentley, Thursday 14 November, from 6:30 pm. For a three-course meal, the cost is only \$25 per person, payment due by the October general meeting.
- **Neutrog order.** Forms were distributed with bulletin, some available at the meeting. Due to Kirsty with payments by Friday 27 September. To be delivered in October.
- **Courtney & Val Rogasch home visit.** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00am. All welcome. MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO PLEASE NOT PARK ON VERGE, PARK IN CULDESAC AROUND THE CORNER OR ON STREET. Bring chair and a plate to share. A sausage sizzle will be supplied.
- **October Potting Workshop.** Volunteers for talks on orchid culture were requested.
- **November Display:** Setup Friday 8 November from 6 pm, open Saturday 9th from 9 am. Volunteers needed as usual. Joint with Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA. Opportunity to show off plants that flower at this time when there are not many shows. e.g.: Australian native cymbidiums, *sarcochilus*. Free entry to members with a badge, free tea, coffee, maybe a scone for volunteers. Sales table, display (need plants for display), orchid culture talks. We look forward to seeing you there.
- **Pack trailer for workshop:** Sunday 13 October from 1 pm.
- **Succession planning.** We need lots of members trained to do various essential jobs, especially towing and stowing the trailer. Members requested to volunteer for various tasks.
- **Give back to members.** OSWA's committee is keen to hear members' ideas on how to improve the club and attract and retain new members. As a not-for-profit club, there are restrictions on what we are able to do, but feedback from members is always welcome and appreciated.

**Raffle, including Special Mystery Raffle:** J McLean, N Jones, P Armstrong, S Chafer, G Esmond, T Peeters, T Burnett.

**Popular Vote**

**Open:** *Odontocidium* Sunlight 'Pesky Panther', owner Peter Kissell. Peter obtained this orchid from from Dave Edmonds (Orchidup), grows it in plastic house, waters with bore water fortnightly in winter, every 3rd or 4th day in summer, applied Strike Back for Orchids pellets monthly.

**Novice:** *Cattleya* Orglade's Grand "Yow Chang Beauty", owner Graham Esmond. Graham grows this orchid in a mix of medium bark, charcoal, blue metal, and perlite. Fertilises with Strike Back for Orchids and Nutricote. He does not let the plant dry out, waters twice weekly in summer, fortnightly in winter. He has owned the plant since 2011, split it in April, and it's flowering again already!

**Plant discussion:** Two highly fragrant orchids: *Rhyncholaelia glauca* and *Dendrochilum cobbianum*.

**Badge Prize:** L Pacca

**Meeting closed at: 9:29**

## MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (SEPTEMBER)

## OPEN

1A	(1)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Cattleya intermedia</i>
1B	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Brassolaeliocattleya</i> Sweet Margaret
		2	Peter Kissell	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Brunswick Delight
1D	(1)	1	Tara Peters	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> Shinfong Little Cat 'Harvest'
2B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Cymbidium</i> Pee Wee
3B	(1)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Norito Hasegawa
3C	(3)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Translie
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yi-Ying Morning Sun 'Red'
		3	Peter Kissell	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Enzan Williams x Yi-Ying Violet Crown
6D	(1)	1	Peter Kissell	<i>Odontocidium</i> Sunlight 'Pesky Panther'
8A	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Sarcochilus weinthalii</i>
		2	Meg Donald	<i>Dendrobium falcorostrum</i>
		3	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrobium striolatum</i>
8B	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium X delicatum</i>
10B	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Dendrochilum cobbianum</i>
		2	Tara Peters	<i>Coelogyne lactea</i>
		3	Tara Peters	<i>Coelogyne flaccida</i>
11A	(2)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sorcerer's Apprentice
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower 'Delightful'
12	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Art Pie x Laserlight 'Delightful'

## NOVICE

15A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Rhyncholaelia glauca</i>
15B	(1)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Cattleya</i> Orglade's Grand 'Yow Chang Beauty'
15C	(1)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Mahina Yashiro x White Diamond
15D	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cattleya</i> Hawaiian Splash 'Lea'
15F	(1)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Cattleanthe</i> Catherine Digwood x Aussie Sunset
16E	(2)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown
		2	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown
18E	(1)	1	Betty Saul	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
19E	(3)	1	Nataliya Kulchytska	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
		2	Yen Tran	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
		3	Yen Tran	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
19D	(1)	1	Yen Tran	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown
20A	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Oncidium flexuosum</i>
21B	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
22B	(2)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Dendrobium x delicatum</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium x delicatum</i>
24B	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Maxillaria porphyrostele</i>
25B	(1)	1	Margaret Rathbone	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Tropic Queen

Yen Tran's *Phalaenopsis*

**POPULAR VOTE**

<b>OPEN</b>	Peter Kissell	<i>Odontocidium</i> Sunlight 'Pesky Panther'
<b>NOVICE</b>	Graham Esmond	<i>Cattleya</i> Orglade's Grand 'Yow Chang Beauty'
<b>SCHOKMAN TROPHY</b> (Laeliinae)	Ray Taylor	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Drumbeat Triumph 72 points
<b>JIM GRANTHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY</b> (Phragmipedium)	Howard Tan	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Sorcerer's Apprentice 74 points



Peter Kissell's *Odontocidium* Sunlight 'Pesky Panther'



Graham Esmond's *Cattleya* Orglade's Grand 'Yow Chang Beauty'

Howard Tan's *Paphiopedilum* Norito Hasegawa

Jenny McLean's *Cymbidium*

