

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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AUGUST 2020

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

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**THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

COURTNEY ROGASCH & MURRAY BAKER

PREPARING PLANTS FOR SALE AND

BENCHING PLANTS AT SHOWS

**SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES**

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 11th  
(NOTE: 2ND FRIDAY)

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 25th

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## Notice about General Meetings

Please keep in mind the following special arrangements that we have implemented in order to keep our members safe. **Note #2 (suppers are back) and do not forget #6!**

- (1) **Please do not attend if you are unwell**, or have had respiratory symptoms (including coughing, sneezing, or fever) in the 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- (2) **Please observe physical distancing restrictions.** The centre has space to have 70 people attend the meeting, so we should be able to accommodate everyone! Seating will be arranged to comply with physical distancing restrictions.
- (3) **Suppers will be returning, so donations of snacks will be most welcome!**
- (4) There will be no sales table, but orders for bark, pots etc. can be made using the order form that will be available at general meetings. See details later in the bulletin.
- (5) **Hand sanitizer will available at the entry** — please use it before entering the meeting.
- (6) You do not need to physically sign the attendance register but **please ensure you have your attendance recorded on entry.**
- (7) **Please bring exact change** for the \$1 entry (yes, we are still required to collect it for the venue's insurance purposes) and also bring exact change if you would like to buy raffle tickets. We will not be handling cash to provide change.

We would still love members to bring their plants to display for the monthly plant competition, but please do not crowd around tables.

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## This Month's Meeting

Unfortunately our speaker scheduled for this month had to postpone his presentation due to other commitments. Instead, Courtney and Murray will be speaking about preparing plants for sale and benching plants in shows. The talks are coming at a good time, just before our show at Kardinya Shopping Centre next week, our first for the year. This show will be a great opportunity to sell any excess plants in your collection, and Courtney will be divulging many of his secrets to help you get your plants to look their best on the sales table and attract the best prices. Murray will bumble through the procedure for entering your plants into shows...the procedure is not complicated so the talk will be brief, leaving plenty of time for plant descriptions and other discussion about orchids. If you have any interesting orchids flowering at the moment, or some orchid plants that have some problem you'd like advice on, bring them along to the meeting on Friday.

## Birthdays

September: 14th Bob Longmore, 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 Arnold Davies (Karrinyup) and Natasha Buzzacott (Wembley Downs). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

New members are eligible to receive three free orchids. If you are a new member, you should have received a letter about how to receive your free orchids. If you have not received such a letter, contact Courtney at a meeting or on 0407 049 717.

**Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre, NEXT WEEK!**

Setup Tuesday 1st September, from about 5:30 pm; entries received from 6 pm; judging to start at around 7:15 pm.

Open to public Wednesday 2nd September to 4.30pm Saturday 5th September. Plant sales daily.

For setting up, we have been asked to enter the shopping centre via the door near the liquor store (not the door near Coles). 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.

**Please Return Library Books and other borrowed items.**

Margaret is doing a stocktake of our library and requests that members return any items that they have borrowed. Any member who retains borrowed items can expect to receive a bill!

**Pronunciation.**

Do you have trouble saying orchid names? Lynn Brooks has pointed out that *Orchids* magazine, produced by the American Orchid Society, regularly features a pronunciation guide. The July issue includes *cochleata* (koh-klee-AY-ta), *coerulea* (see-ROO-lee-ah), and *Encyclia* (en-SIK-lee-a). Members may borrow issues of the magazine from the OSWA library. As well as the pronunciation guide (which is informative but, well, a bit dry), the magazine has many interesting articles on orchids, orchid culture, and pests and diseases. It's well worth a look.

**Pots, Labels, Potting Bark, Charcoal, Perlite, Sphagnum Moss...**

Occasionally OSWA makes bulk purchases of orchid-related products, to provide them to OSWA members at special prices. The chart below shows the types of pots and other items currently on sale. Order forms with current prices listed will be available at general meetings. To place an order, check with Kirsty to make sure the items you want are still in stock, place an order and make your payment (cheque or direct deposit into OSWA's account), then collect your items at the next general meeting.

Squat Pots



Clear pots



Black water well pots



Sphagnum



Charcoal and Perlite



Green pots with saucer included



Cym pots - medium



Cym pots - large



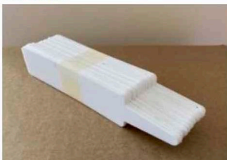
Charcoal and Perlite



Club Spoons



Labels



Clips



Terracotta pots



Club badge



Anniversary badge 2006



## Neutrog Bulk Order

We are due for our next round of OSWA Neutrog orders. Please use the order form that was circulated last month (not for distribution/publication to non-members), and note that Kirsty has requested that all payments be made via bank transfer, **to be received prior to the August general meeting**—details on the form. Completed order forms can be emailed to Kirsty (email address on the form). For members not able to do internet banking, payment can also be made at any Westpac branch by direct deposit into OSWA's account.

We have arranged for the Neutrog order to be placed earlier than usual this year, to give Neutrog enough time to arrange for delivery in October, in time for members to collect on October 11th, the day of our Potting Workshop.

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## CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020) 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 2020) 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 to long, there is increased risk of damaging them during repotting.

### PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020) 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 24 July 2020

**Welcome: 7:32**

**Apologies:** as per register.

**Minutes:** Moved M Rathbone, seconded M Baker that the Minutes of the June 2020 meeting be accepted. Carried.

**Presentation:** Brian from Neutrog on new fertilizers, and discussed Neutrog's aim to transition to an online ordering system.

**Business arising:**

- Congratulations to our online popular vote winners- Kirsty Bayliss and Murray Baker for March, Valerie Cooper and Rosemary McGrath for April, and Murray Baker and Val Cooper for May. We owe you some prizes and hope to see them in flower soon!
- OSWA donation- please take anything you want, Harry will continue to bring in parts of the donation over the next few meetings
- Kardinya Spring Show discussion! Setup is Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm, packing up September 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. A roster, show schedule and plant entry cards were circulated at the meeting and will be available at the August general meeting too. Members encouraged to have these cards filled at home prior to bringing plants in.

We also require a show secretary- this involves helping organise the entries for judging, certificates and things! If you would like to help please get in touch. Rosemary has volunteered to run through it.

**New Members:** Arnold and Tash

**Correspondence:**

- OWA seeking approval to apply for an ABN to run a biosecurity containment/quarantine facility
- SEOS announcing their Annual Show, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of August

- Flora plant via T Burnett organising our annual visit
  - P Armstrong confirming presentation on natives at our August GM
  - Springfield Orchid Nursery regarding a visit and presentation on cymbidiums- politely declined
  - Tulips with a difference enquiring about presenting on pleiones-declined as they no longer grow them
  - Have a go news with details re: advertising
  - Albany Orchid Society re cancellation of their winter show
  - Kardinya Shopping centre confirming Spring Show and related paperwork
- Moved L Brooks, seconded J Bateman that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

**Reports:**

- Rosemary re: uncollected Neutrog orders – H Turner, Samandeeka, S Chafer have uncollected Neutrog orders
- Big thank you to Malcolm for making feet for our Pickett fence to help make our shows and displays safer- it's very much appreciated!

**Financial report:**

- Moved K Bayliss moved seconded J Bateman that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

**General Business:**

- Going cashless – K Bayliss presented on our new order form and highlighted the need for us to transition towards a cashless system. Requested that members place orders via bank transfer or deposit at a branch into OSWA accounts, and discussed the societies goal to provide electronic payment/Eftpos systems.
- Flora Plant Nursery visit is arranged for 9am on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Details are in the bulletin- unfortunately there will be no bus provided so please arrange your own transport. Sales will be available on a cash only basis- please remember that Flora does a big favour by allowing us to visit, and charges very reasonable prices for us- so please be respectful and do not haggle or attempt to negotiate further discounts. Non members and non financial members will be welcome without written permission from the committee. Please register your attendance via the circulated log or email Harry at [harry.ashton@live.com.au](mailto:harry.ashton@live.com.au).
- Neutrog order- forms available now! Please return these to Kirsty and ensure you have paid by the August general meeting. Kirsty has requested that all payments be made via bank transfer- details are on the order form. These discounted products are available to members only so please do not circulate the order form.
- L Brooks presented regarding pronunciation of orchid names
- H Ashton reminded members of our popular voting system and reminded members that this is an honour based system, and not to move around the popsticks! Please also ensure that entries on the judging table are printed legibly
- M Baker gave H Ashton shed keys- given to M Brechin for the Karidnya show

**Raffle:** N Duncan, T Peters, L Nichols, Val, N Kulchytska, N Duncan

**Open popular vote:** M Godbeer with a spectacular specimen of *Dendrochilum wenzelii*- this grows in Maxine's greenhouse (although she mentioned it can grow in a shadehouse). This plant was awarded a cultural award at the meeting.

**Novice popular vote:** H Ashton with a polypack *Tolumnia* from Bunnings. Harry grows this in sphagnum moss that is allowed to dry completely before watering again.

**Door Prize:** B Duncan

**Plant descriptions:** R Taylor presented *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven' – Ray grows this in his shadehouse hanging up, 4 feet from the roof. He waters regularly during summer months, which has resulted in the plant growing very large for a 3 year old plant. He uses Strike Back for orchids and grows in a mix of perlite, bark, gravel and polystyrene. Ray treats his plants with a copper based fungicide periodically.

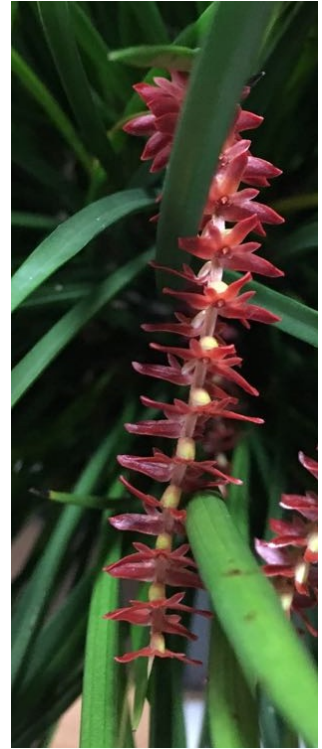
**REMINDER:** please help pack up the tables and put chairs away neatly

**Meeting closed at: 10:32**



### Monthly Plant Competition

*Popular Vote - Open: Dendrochilum wenzelii*, grown by Maxine Godbeer. This magnificent specimen won a culture award at the July general meeting.



*Popular Vote - Novice: Tolumnia hybrid*, grown by Harry Ashton.

*Paphiopedilum spiceranium* grown by Ray Taylor





*Ludisia discolor*, grown by Tara Peeters. This orchid is commonly known as the Jewel Orchid. It is often grown for its attractive foliage, which some might argue is more impressive than its flowers. *Ludisia discolor* is native to South East Asia, from northeast India through Myanmar, Thailand, southern China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.



Ray Taylor showing off his *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven', a hybrid of *Dendrobium bigibbum* and *Dendrobium speciosum*. This orchid has thrived under Ray's growing conditions. It is only three years old but is already huge. Ray grows it high up in his glasshouse where it receives lots of light and protection from the winter rains. Ray fertilises the orchid with Strike Back for Orchids Liquid and uses copper oxychloride as fungicide.





Two *Phalaenopsis* hybrids of unknown identity but still beautiful, grown by Lauren Nicholls.



*Paphiopedilum* Leeanum, grown by Tara Peeters



*Cattleya* unknown grown by Lauren Nicholls



*Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon 'Wondawest' and *Rhyncostylis gigantea* 4N x self, both grown by Ray Taylor.



## SELLING PLANTS AT OSWA SHOWS AND POTTING WORKSHOPS

What you need to do to sell plants:

1. Fill out and attach an OSWA plant sales tag to each plant you want to sell. Do not use tags from other clubs.
2. Fill out an OSWA Master Sales Sheet, and make sure the information matches what you wrote on the sales tags.
3. Bring your tagged plants and Master Sales Sheet to the sales table coordinator (or their representative), so that the paperwork can be checked. The plants will be made available for sale if the paperwork is correct and the plants are of a suitable standard, free of pests and diseases.

What else you need to know:

4. OSWA will not be held liable for any loss you incur if you supply plants to sell without first checking with the sales table coordinator to ensure paperwork is correct and plants are suitable for sale.
5. All plants exhibiting signs or symptoms of any pests or diseases will be removed from the sales table. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule. The plants will be quarantined out of sight. If there is a serious pest infestation, the plants may be removed from the venue entirely.
6. All plants must have a healthy root system and be secure in their pots, not wobbling or unsupported or in a pot of sludge. If the plant is presented in such a poor manner that you would not buy it yourself, don't try to put it on the sales table, because it will not be accepted.
7. There is a limit on the number of plants that can be sold – no more than 15 plants per member at any one time. Plants may be replaced as they are sold, provided the replacement plants meet all relevant criteria set out above.
8. Additional conditions may be imposed by venues and must be adhered to (e.g., some venues might limit the number of orchids that can be sold per day).
9. Orchids have priority for sale. If you wish to sell other plants, please note that these may be placed off display until space is available on the sales table.
10. OSWA will retain 10% of every sale as a commission at shows and potting days.
11. Proceeds of sales will not be paid to sellers until at least the general meeting following the sales event.

OSWA sales tags and OSWA Master Sales Sheets are available at general meetings or can be downloaded from the "Info for Members" section at <http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au>.