

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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MARCH 2020

Due to the COVID-19 situation, general meetings of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) are cancelled until further notice.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

-- CANCELLED --

APRIL MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 3rd

General Meeting -- cancelled --

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Birthdays

March: 4th, Angeline Ngooi, 9th Richard Gordon, 11th Merrill Brechin, 19th John Walton, 24th Raye McIntosh, 25th Lorna Dodd, 26th Kaye Baylis, 26th Peggy Stacy

April: 6th Eva Gani, 7th Rosemary McGrath, 10th Bernadette Campbell, 12th Karen Carless, 24th Rod Pohl, 29th Ian Duncan

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 Member

Welcome to Jason Thomas (Roleystone). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Membership Subscriptions for 2020 are now grossly overdue.

\$26 double, \$21 single. OSWA incurs various costs even when there are no general meetings. Support of the club by members through annual subscriptions is important to the club, and greatly appreciated. For your convenience OSWA accepts payment by direct deposit (preferred method) or cheque. Direct deposit can be made via electronic banking or at any Westpac branch. Unfortunately, payments cannot be made in cash at this time (COVID-19, grrrr).

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. and post them to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd, Leeming 6149.

If you have not paid your 2020 subscription, you should not have received this bulletin by post or email. If you were sent the bulletin by mistake, please stop reading it now and do not look at it again until you have paid your subscription.

What's hapening in OSWA during the COVID-19 lock-down?

In the March bulletin, we usually have a bunch of things to advertise...nursery visits, shed clean-up and BBQ, upcoming shows, home visits... This year was going to be the same, but the coronavirus situation has made a mess of our plans. After careful consideration, the committee decided to cancel general meetings and home visits for the foreseeable future. Other orchid clubs have done the same.

The situation has evolved rapidly. At the time of our last committee meeting things were pretty much "business as usual". Just two weeks later, the government imposed significant restrictions on gatherings of all types and advised that Australians should expect these restrictions to be in place for at least 6 months. The committee has not met since these restrictions were announced, but it seems likely that we will have to cancel the shows, home visits, and nursery visits that were planned. The Perth Garden Festival and the World Orchid Conference (Taiwan) have been postponed. The Intersociety Display and Workshop planned for August will also likely be postponed or cancelled.

OSWA's committee members have already been thinking of what activities OSWA can do this year. This month, instead of the usual plant competition at a general meeting, we will be experimenting with a "virtual" plant competition (see next page). Our Facebook page (coordinated by Kirsty) and the Bulletin will likely take on bigger roles within OSWA in the coming months. Please consider making contributions to either or both of these. If there are other activities that would be permissible under the current restrictions and which you would like to see OSWA involved in this year, please send your ideas to the committee.

Monthly "Virtual" Plant Competition

The coronavirus may have stopped us from having meetings, but it won't stop our orchids from flowering. So that members can still appreciate each other's orchids, this month we will be experimenting with a "virtual" plant competition. You'll be able to show off your orchids without taking them out of the shadehouse. All you need to do is take a photo or two of any orchid you wish to enter, then email the photos, the **name of the orchid, your name** and your status (**novice** or **open** grower) to:

oswa2020@iinet.net.au

Your photos should show the flowers clearly, but if you have any plants that look especially artistic (like Margaret's *Phragmipedium* Calurum from last year), photos of the full plant would also be worthwhile. You can enter as many orchids as you like, but only ones that are in flower now.

Photos will be posted on our Facebook page or our website. Members will be able to vote for their favourite orchids in the novice and open categories by emailing their choices to the same email address.



Phragmipedium Calurum, grown by Margaret Rathbone

OSWA Committee for 2020 (from the AGM)

President: Lina Pacca

Vice President: Kaye Baylis

Secretary: Harry Ashton

Treasurer: Kirsty Bayliss

Immediate Past President: Courtney Rogasch

Ordinary Committee Members: Jacqui Bateman, Rosemary McGrath, Ian Duncan, Lorna Dodd, Richard Gordon, Merril Brechin, Murray Baker (appointed at the March Committee Meeting).

Other Roles in OSWA

Patron: Trevor Burnett

OSWA Registrar: Need replacement -- Committee to discuss.

Show Marshall: Lynn Brooks, to replace Kaye Baylis

Show Secretary: Rosemary McGrath, Merril Brechin

Show Committee: Committee Members plus Merril Brechin

Show Sales: Rosemary McGrath, Ian Duncan, Kirsty Bayliss, Lina Pacca, Caterina Ottobriano

Librarian: Margaret Rathbone

Opportunity Table: Rosalie McCallum, Coral Bielby

Bulletin Editor: Murray Baker

Webpage: Murray Baker

Orchids Australia: Trevor Burnett

Facebook: Kirsty Bayliss

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2020) based on notes from Roy Brown

This is the time of the year when the young flower spikes are starting to develop, and so a drop in the temperature during the evening is a vital part of the successful flowering of Cymbidiums. Turning on the overhead sprinklers in the early evening will drop the temperature by quite a few degrees, creating the ideal conditions necessary for the growing and flowering of our plants. Always have a good check of your pots regularly to make sure the drainage is not blocked. Water should pass through the compost freely, not just seep away. Keep the regular fertilizer programme going, as the new seasons growths need to be kept growing at a fast rate, so they will develop sufficiently to produce their flowers when the time comes. If you should be poking about in your plants looking for these early flower spikes during March, do be very careful, they are very easily broken or damaged. Should you have to move a plant that has definite signs of flower spikes showing, be very careful to replace it in the exact same position with the flower spike facing the same direction as before. This will minimise chances of the flower spike and buds twisting as they look for the sun. With the advent of flower spikes showing, it might be a good idea to give the shade house a general clean up, getting rid of all dead leaves, weeds and anything else that might harbour pests. Now is the time to also check that you have a good supply of pots and potting mix ready for those repotting jobs next month.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2020) based on notes from Henry Eaton

Although March is technically the first month of autumn, we can still expect days when the temperature goes quite high and there is little, if any, rain around to increase the humidity. The light may be decreasing slightly, but the heat still requires that you maintain shading as for the summer months. Watering and fertilizing your plants will still follow a summer pattern, unless there is rain, when you can miss a watering if necessary. Cattleyas are plants that revel in a wet/dry cycle, where they like to dry out nearly fully before being watered again. You can gauge this by lifting up the pot after watering when it should feel heavy. The pot loses weight when drying out giving you the signal to re-water. At this time of the year, due to the cooler nights, check your plants after watering to make sure that no water has collected in between the upper leaves. This is essential, as at this time many plants will be producing flowering sheaths and buds and any water retained around them could cause rotting. If water has collected dry it up with a tissue. While attending to your plants also stake the pseudo bulb bearing the buds or sheaths erect, so that when the flowers emerge they will be pointing towards you and not any which way. If you move a plant to a flowering house out of the rain etc., make sure to leave the plant pointing in the same direction in which it was grown, otherwise the buds may open in an unsightly fashion.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (MARCH/APRIL 2020) by Trevor Burnett

Even though summer has officially finished, the summer pattern is still with us. We may still have some hot days over 34 °C to come, so we need to be mindful of this and adjust our watering accordingly. At this time of the year I water three times a week early in the morning with overhead sprinklers, so the plants are well saturated. This will allow time for the plant to dry out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burns. It will also ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. If excessive heat is forecast over consecutive days, you will need to watch plants in small pots and increase the watering as necessary. Watering is highly dependent on the composition of your potting mix and its ability to retain moisture. For beginners, a test pot of just potting mix in the growing area is recommended, until you understand the water holding capacity of your mix. You can empty the pot at any stage to see what water is retained. As the plants are still in active growth, keep a weak fertilizer program going (at ¼ to ½ strength) on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time restraints. Ensure that you flush the mix with water between fertilising. In the glasshouse, the use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels on very hot days. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is essential for the plants health, is available in the glasshouse. At this time of the year the paphiopedilum will have some leaves that have died over the summer months and these should be removed in preparation for the forthcoming flowering season, to prevent any unwanted vermin having an ideal hiding place. I would repot any small plants that are not expected to flower during this period, to ensure they have a nice clean mix before going into winter.

**The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)
Minutes of the General Meeting held on Friday 28 February 2020
The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**

Welcome: 7:31 pm.

Apologies: As per register

- Unfinancial members were reminded that they would have no voting rights in the AGM and that they would be removed from the Bulletin mailing list until 2020 subscriptions were paid.
- Welcome visitors Margaret, Hamish and Chris

Meeting adjourned for AGM at 7:33 pm, reconvened 8:12 pm.

Birthdays:

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

February: 7th Jim Baylis, 11th Nancie Jones

March: 4th, Angeline Ngooi, 9th Richard Gordon, 11th Merril Brechin, 19th John Walton, 24th Raye McIntosh, 25th Lorna Dodd, 26th Kaye Baylis, 26th Peggy Stacy

Minutes: Moved Merril seconded Jenny that the Minutes of the December 2019 meeting be accepted. Carried.

No business arising: Moved Margaret Rathbone, seconded Lynn Brooks that there was no business arising. Carried.

New Member: Jason Thomas (Roleystone).

Correspondence:

Directory of Associations, to update our contact details; S Bowman, materials for OrchidsWA meeting; Garden Clubs bulletin; Ken Jones, OrchidsWA accounts for next meeting; Shona Macskasy inviting OSWA to Koi Show (Swan Valley, 7 June, free) (accepted); Leonie Glass, City of South Perth, to update contact details; Paul Goddard, Belmont Library, re donation of books to OSWA.; From OrchidsWA, re proposed rule changes to be voted upon on 23 Feb. (Notice of meetings etc. reduced from 60 to 30 days; rules giving casting vote by Chairperson deleted; other administrative matters; all seem reasonable.); Neutrog re next bulk order.; Brian Newnham re Perth Garden Festival.

Financial Report: presented by K Bayliss.

General Business:

- Certificate for Judges Choice July 2019 presented to Val Cooper
- **Peter Kissell Home Visit, Sunday 19 April** (CANCELLED)
- Book for sale from Meg Donald
- **Plant competition:** Lynn Brooks was the first member to flower the club plant *Dendrobium bigibbum*. Congratulated by acclamation. Prize TBA. Lynn noted that *Den. bigibbum* aka the Cooktown Orchid, was named after Captain Cook and is a species orchid. Received in November, flowered in December. Lynn grows her orchids in a shadehouse under a polycarbonate roof, waters by hand, and gives plants lots of calcium. She will water once every 7-10 days this winter. Kirsty noted that there are several *Dendrobium bigibbum* plants still available, \$5 each.
- **Peter Kissell and Harry Ashton** were awarded Special Recognition badges for services to OSWA.
- **Neutrog order.** Forms and payment due tonight but there is a grace period. To be collected 26 April after Annual Shed Cleanup (or earlier....we are allowing a lot of time so Neutrog can get the order delivered).
- **Perth Garden Festival.** We'll be in it again this year: 30 April - 3 May (setup 29 April). [CANCELLED]
- **Autumn Show:** Forest Lakes Shopping Centre, 7-9 May (setup on 6 May evening). [Likely to be CANCELLED]

Raffle: Betty Saul, Peter Kissell, Ann Lam, Yen Tran. Thank you to Kaye and Jim for Cat Fitz Eugene Dixon donated for raffle. Thanks to Malcolm Davis for Australian Orchid Review donated for raffle.

Popular Vote:

Open: *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop Kodama, owner Malcolm Davis. Needs repotting very badly, but flowers at potting time! Six years since last repotting. Grown in rotted down coconut bark (now looks like sawdust) + perlite, just grows in shadehouse covered with Solarweave. Malcolm kindly donated his prize to Rachel Atkinson.

Novice: Jacqui Bateman, *Dendrobium* unknown. Found in the shadehouse, watered by Eric while Jacqui was sleeping in, travelled to NDOS on Monday night. Receives no fertiliser. Grown in medium bark.

Door Prize: Jacqui Bateman

Plant descriptions:

Dendrobium unknown (Malcolm Davis). From Tropical Colours, grown under the same conditions as *Cattleya* Chocolate Drop Kodama, gets little care because Ann keeps Malcolm too busy. Watered twice a week, misted when extra hot.

Epicattleya Siam Jade AVO (Lynn Brooks). Lynn showed yet again that she has a way of getting the best out of this plant where the original owner had failed. Plant purchased at a potting workshop for \$10, had one flower and was in poor condition. (Original owner disputes the "poor condition" part but agrees that there was only one flower.) The following year had 3 flowers, won best novice in show. This year had 6 flowers.

Next Meeting: General Friday 27 March.[CANCELLED] Committee Friday 6 March 2020.

Meeting Closed at 9:23 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (Feb 2020)

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

OPEN

1B	(1)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cattleya</i> Angel Bells 'Suzie'
1D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
1E	(1)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
4C	(1)	1	Malcolm Davis	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
6D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Brassia</i> Eternal Wind 'Summer's Dream'
11B	(2)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Adelaide Meadows
		2	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Zygopetalum</i> Adelaide Oval

NOVICE

15B	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
15C	(1)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Cattleya</i> Fitz Eugene Dixon
15F	(2)	1	Dawn Fathers	<i>Cattleya</i> unknown
		2	Lynn Brooks	<i>Epicattleya</i> Siam Jade 'Avo'
18B	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
18C	(1)	1	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
20B	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Oncidium</i> unknown
21B	(3)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
		3	Enid Chelva	<i>Vanda</i> unknown
22A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Sarcochilus eriochilus</i>

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN	Mal Davis	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'
NOVICE	Jacqui Bateman	<i>Dendrobium</i> unknown
SCHOKMAN TROPHY (Laeliinae)	Mal Davis	<i>Cattleya</i> Chocolate Drop 'Kodama'

Remember the *Dendrobium bigibbum* plants from Tinonee Orchids that we received in November 2019? Lynn Brooks was the first to get one of them to flower. Here's Lynn at the February meeting, admiring her success.

