

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 60 No 10



OCTOBER 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 23 October, commencing at 7:30 pm.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

RAY TAYLOR

REPOTTING ORCHIDS

NOVEMBER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 6th

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 27th

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We acknowledge assistance from Lotterywest for the printing of this Bulletin

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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.

Birthdays

October: 4th, Kristene Northover, 9th Tara Peeters, 11th Enid Chelva, 14th Eric Bateman, 16th Barbara Burnett

November: 2nd, Aishya Ghose, 13th, Rosalie McCallum, 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.

Late Flowering Orchid Display — Manning Senior Citizens Activiy Centre

Setup: Friday 30 October from 5 pm, *followed by social night with home made soups and bread!*

Open: Saturday 31 October, 9 am - 4 pm, and Sunday 1 November, 9 am - 3 pm

The Late Flowering Orchid Display, run jointly with the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA (COCWA) and the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS WA), is our chance to show off Australian native cymbidiums, sarcochilus, and other orchids that flower too late for the usual shows. This will be a Display only, so no plant competition or judging, but there will be plant sales, snacks, and the chance to meet members of other clubs.

We'll need plants for the display and for the sales table. Also, we need volunteers to help set up and pack up, manage the entry/raffle table, help in the kitchen and at the sales table, and do walk-around tours of the display for small groups of members of the public. A sign-up roster will be available at the October GM. Please sign up to indicate whether you are coming and where you would like to help. For those kind enough to prepare something for the kitchen, please let us know what you're bringing on the roster too. **Entry is free if your name is on the roster.**

Setup is on Friday 30 October from 5 pm, and will be **followed by a social night with homemade soups and bread provided, so please join in!**

Home visit at the Taylor Residence - Sunday 15 November, from 10 am

Peta and Ray Taylor will be hosting an open day on Sunday 15 November, starting at 10am start, at 2118 Great Northern Highway, Bullsbrook (Taylor's Alpacas). To get there by car, proceed up Great Northern Highway until you see Warbrook Rd on the left. Take the next turn right, and Peta & Ray's place is about 100 metres down the road in on the right. It's easily recognisable by the shadehouse. Ray grows a wide variety of high quality orchids so this will be a home visit not to miss. More info at the October general meeting.

New Members

Welcome to Alan Rowe (Beaconsfield), Sheelagh Harman (Hilton), and Priscilla Cappello (Kalgoorlie). 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 receive a letter about how to receive your free orchids. If you have not received your letter, contact Courtney at a meeting or on 0407 049 717.

Potting Workshop

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the potting workshop. After a hectic start it was a very enjoyable day, and much appreciated by the public.

Neutrog #1: New procedure for future bulk orders.

One of the many benefits of membership of OSWA is access to Neutrog products at excellent prices. Until now, OSWA (usually Kirsty) has collated orders and payments on behalf of Neutrog. The process of ordering has now moved to an online platform called 'Shopify'. This change should ensure a smoother transaction between the OSWA and Neutrog. Also, it will give you more control over your order and take away the need for order forms and money collection. The receiving of payments and collating of orders will now done by Neutrog.

The delivery/collection process will remain the same. You will receive a receipt from Neutrog and you simply bring this receipt to the collection point on the specified date to collect your order. There will be up to four delivery dates per year (actual dates to be arranged), compared to just two currently.

For you to participate, Neutrog needs to know your email address. **If you wish to participate, please let Murray know (murray.baker@iinet.net.au) and he will pass on your details to Neutrog.** Once you are set up in their system, Neutrog will send you a unique activation code that will take you to the member section on their online store. You will then enter a password. This will be your own password, which will allow you to access the store at any time. You can then scroll through all the Neutrog products and make your purchase. The store is always open, so you can order whenever you like. You simply select the drop off point and date, and then collect as normal. As an incentive to join the new system, Neutrog are offering a one off \$20 discount on your first order provided it is over \$40.

If you don't have an email address, you won't be left out, but you will need to 'buddy-up' with someone who does have an email address. OSWA will not be collating orders or collecting payments under the new system.

Neutrog will provide instructions about the new process via email. You will be stepped through the process online, but there is a freecall number 1800 656 644 should you need any help, or you can contact Murray and he will pass on your concerns to Neutrog.

TL:DR summary: if you wish to continue purchasing Neutrog products at the special prices available to OSWA members, let Murray know and he will send your contact details to Neutrog.

Neutrog #2: Our latest bulk order has been delivered.

Our latest bulk order from Neutrog has been delivered. If you have not collected your products, please do so as soon as possible...Rosemary needs her garage back.

Orchiata Bark Bulk Order

OSWA has arranged a bulk purchase of orchiata bark, to make it available to members at significantly less than the usual retail price. Delivery to The Shed is expected to be on 26 October. Place your order with Kirsty now, \$23 per bag. Stock is limited and already there are no bags of large grade bark left, so be quick to avoid disappointment. So that all members can benefit from this bulk purchase, there is a limit of 3 bags per membership. Payment in advance, by direct deposit if possible. Check with Kirsty before making any payment to ensure that what you want is still available.

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. We have squat pots, clear pots, green pots with saucers, cym pots, water well pots, terracotta pots, clips, labels, club badges and club spoons. Order forms with current prices 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.

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.

OSWA Christmas Dinner

We're working on it...keep watching this space.

Bring an extra five bucks to the October General Meeting...

...just in case there is something special for sale at the meeting for only \$5.

Cymbidium Flasks

Helen Stretch is keen to promote interest in cymbidiums amongst OSWA members, to give Courtney, Harry, and herself some competition. The gauntlet has been thrown down! Those willing to take up the challenge may consult the illustrated catalog of flasks from Bryants Orchids, <https://tinyurl.com/flasklist>. The flasks are reasonably-priced and include interesting crosses of show- and award-quality cymbidiums. For further info, see Helen. If a few members are interested, we may be able to arrange to purchase a few flasks and have a de-flasking session at a general meeting.

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.

Strike Back for Orchids pellets can be used as a slow-release fertilizer if you don't have time to fertilize regularly, but if you are in the habit of using liquid fertilizers frequently, Strike Back for Orchids liquid can give an immediate boost. In the growing season, Cymbidiums love plenty of light, water and a regular feeding programme.

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 over the edge;
- (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. If you hang your pots, a neat trick is to use the hanger as the stake.

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 solution of Neutrog's Seamungus 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ strength, with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths. Strike Back for Orchids is a good all-round fertilizer that would be suitable.

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.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.) - Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 25 September 2020

Welcome: 7:44 pm. **Apologies and Attendance:** as per register

Minutes: Moved H Stretch, seconded M Brechin that the Minutes of the July 2020 meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: see general business

New Members: Calvin Hisco, Tracy McLaren, Jack Przytula. Welcome!

Key Correspondence:

- 2/9- received Albany Orchid Society Show info
- 4/9/20- received OWA mou - approve in principle subject to EziGrow signing the document
- 9/9/20- received GCA AGM info
- 12/9- emailed some advertising to Perth Garden Festival for posting to facebook
- 12/9- emailed Kardinya shops thank you letter with proposal for 2021 spring show, replied 14/9 indicating it was a pleasure to have us but due to renovations next year cannot confirm dates- they requested we contact them closer to the date to make arrangements
- 14/9- emailed Bentley Pines re: end of year function availability, nothing available. Asked us to organize it by APRIL at the LATEST next year....
- 14/9- emailed Itsara asking for a pricing guide/banquet options for end of year function
- 14/9- received call from June Close asking if we can present on orchid culture
- 15/9- notification of Edna Burgess passing, RIP
- 20/9- received OWA notice of AGM
- 21/9- update from Neutrog on how ordering will work
- 6/9- received email from AOF inviting to AGM, GYG speaking

Moved L Brooks, seconded J Bateman that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports: Spring Show – L Brooks

Financial report:

- Lina presented the prize money for the winners from the show- congratulations!
- Moved R Taylor seconded H Tan that M Brechin/R Gordon be paid \$50 for trailer towing. Carried.
- Moved K Bayliss seconded L Brooks that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- Christmas function- unable to book Bentley Pines. Could go to Itsara, Harry exploring options
 - Ray Taylor has offered to host an open day on November 15th- 10am start.
 - Old orchid journals and old editions of Orchids Australia to be distributed at community street libraries
 - Potting workshop: Sunday October 11th- setup from 8am. Volunteer roster and Food donation log.
- 3) Sales- plants will be available for sale, and if this is anything like the Spring Show, there is huge public demand for plants! Sales process is the same as the Spring Show
- 4) Plant discussions- we will be running a series of talks on orchid culture- if you have a topic of interest and are willing to present on it, please let us know (growing orchids indoors might be a good one for the public?)
- **Late Flowering Orchid Display and Workshop- setup is on Friday October 30th 5pm, followed by a social night with homemade soups and bread provided so please join in** – This is a joint event between the Cym Club and ANOS showcasing some of the more unusual orchids that aren't usually seen throughout the rest of the year. More details will be provided at the October GM, but we have a roster if members would be kind enough to indicate whether they are coming. Free entry if your name is on the roster! For those kind enough to prepare something for the kitchen please let us know what you're bringing on the roster too.

Presentation: Harry presented on i-Naturalist and some of the terrestrial orchids he has seen around Perth. Next year we are considering holding an orchid spotting competition to see who can find the most species!

Break for Popular vote

Raffle: L Brooks (received prize) – we owe prizes for R Gordon x2 (one for door prize one for raffle), H Tan, V Cooper, E Chelva, Nataliya. **Door Prize:** R Gordon

Open popular vote: H Tan with a multifloral paphiopedilum, Paph. Booth St Jewel. This is grown in a greenhouse with foggers to provide ample humidity. The foggers are usually turned off at night. He fertilizers with Thrive or Powerfeed and occasionally uses Seasol and diluted molasses.

Novice popular vote: Valerie with a soft cane dendrobium. Had it for about 2 years, has always flowered off one or two canes, but this year Valerie covered her shadehouse with plastic. This year is its best flowering! This is very characteristic of soft cane dendrobiums. Fed with strike back pellets 2-3 times per year, and foliar feed.

Plant descriptions: Tara Peters presented on Seripias lingua and olblia. There are widespread across Europe and grow in meadows and grasslands. Tara grows these in her shadehouse in a combination of potting mix and fine orchid bark to allow drainage. The plants are potted every 2 years. They are allowed rain and fertilized lightly during the winter growing season and kept drier through summer dormancy.

Harry presented on Rhyncolaelioacattleya Golf Green 'Hair Pig'. This hybrid inherits its beautiful fimbriated lip from one of its parents, Rhyncolaelia digbyana. This is grown in a shadehouse where it gets lots of sun and protection from winter rain.

Meeting closed at: 9:32

From the September General Meeting...

Clockwise from top right:

Novice popular vote winner *Dendrobium* unknown, grown by Valerie Cooper;

Epidendrum unknown, grown by Enid Chelva;

The impressively-red *Vuylstekeara* Fran's Nymph, grown by Ray Taylor;

Open popular vote winner *Paphiopedilum* Booth St Jewel, grown by Howard Tan.



Terrestrial orchids out now...

Two years ago there was quite a variety of terrestrial orchids in flower in the banksia woodlands near the Melville golf course and Murdoch University. This year there were plenty of trigger plants and sundews, but not so many orchids. As usual, the most abundant orchids were *Microtis*. They aren't much to look at until you have a close-up view with a magnifying glass—only then can you see the beauty of the numerous delicate green flowers. *Caladenia flava* was also relatively common. I saw no donkey orchids or spider orchids, but real, weird-looking spiders were abundant, hanging from their webs, well camouflaged against the scrub. My favourite find this year was a purple enamel orchid, *Elythranthera brunonis*, in the banksia woodland at Murdoch University. Apparently the orchids are impressive this year in Kings Park and Wireless Hill, but I haven't had a chance to visit there this season.



Caladenia flava at John Connell Reserve, south of Melville Golf Course.



Above: A stand of *Microtis* sp. at John Connell Reserve, south of Melville Golf Course.

Left: The purple enamel orchid, *Elythranthera brunonis*, in the banksia woodland at Murdoch University.

