

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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SEPTEMBER 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 25 September, commencing at 7:30 pm.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

HARRY ASHTON

INATURALIST AND NATIVE TERRESTRIAL
ORCHIDS

OCTOBER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 2nd
General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 23rd

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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.

Vale Edna Burgess

Edna passed away on 4 September. Edna and her husband Mike were members of OSWA for many years and attended meetings regularly until about 2018. Those who knew Edna will remember her cheerful optimism and her love of orchids, especially cattleyas. Edna was always enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge of orchids, often helping out at potting workshops, meetings and other events, giving presentations and repotting. Rest in peace Edna.

Birthdays

September: 14th Bob Longmore, 30th Wanda Frantom

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

New Members

Welcome to Jack Przytula (Salter Point), Calvin Hisco (Mundaring), and Tracy McLaren (Swanbourne). 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.

Spring Show: Kardinya Shopping Centre.

Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing in plants for the competition or display or sales table. Thank you to everyone who helped setting up, packing up, or looking after the display and chatting with visitors. As usual, the display attracted a lot of interest and was much appreciated by the public. Special thank yous to Lynn Brooks and her helpers, who managed to assemble an attractive display with fewer plants than we've had in previous years, and Merril Brechin and her helpers, for coordinating the show.

Potting Workshop: Sunday 11 October, 10 am - 3:30 pm

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

The workshop will be at the 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 coffee, tea, soft drinks and snacks.

We will need:

- Members to help with repotting. Don't worry if you don't know how, the best way to learn is to practice, and you'll get plenty of practice and on-the-job training at this event.
- Helpers willing to give a short talk about some aspect of orchid culture on the day.
- Helpers for the kitchen, entrance table, etc.
- Donations for the kitchen (scones, cake, sandwiches...)
- Plants for the display.
- Plants for the sales table. 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!

Setup will be from around 9 am (to be confirmed at the September General Meeting). For more info, contact Lina or Harry.

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. We are also arranging a bulk purchase of **Orchiata Bark** - see the last page of this bulletin.

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.

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!

OSWA Christmas Dinner

We're working on it...watch this space.

Late Flowering Orchid Display: Saturday 31 October and Sunday 1 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. Last year, in collaboration with the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA, we had a display in November to show off our late-flowering orchids. This year, that event has evolved to become the Late Flowering Orchid Display, and will include the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS WA) as well as OSWA and the Cym Club. Setup will be in the evening of Friday 30 October, and the display will be open to the public over the weekend. 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. More info at upcoming general meetings and in the October Bulletin.

Notes from the August General Meeting

Ray Taylor noted that his very impressive specimen of *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven' is grown in a shadehouse under 50-70% shadecloth, not in a glasshouse (as was incorrectly reported in the August Bulletin). There was some discussion about the use of blood and bone with orchids. Ray noted that it was important to disperse the blood and bone through the potting mix before potting, not just put a spoonful on top of the bark in an established pot. A spoonful of blood and bone left on top of the potting bark will go moldy.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020) based on notes from Roy Brown

We are now (at last! finally!) entering into the spring months, when we see the majority of our cymbidiums flowering once again. Also, these are the months when the orchid societies hold their annual Spring Shows, so give your plants that are in spike that little extra care and attention, then enter them into the shows so that everyone can enjoy them with you. (It's a bit late for our Spring Show, but the Late Flowering Orchid Display is coming soon.) I should start off this month with a few hints on preparing your plants for exhibition. Firstly, give the pots a good clean up. Next, wipe the leaves over with a clean, damp, soft cloth. Trim the ends of the leaves, some may have dead tips and these can look rather unsightly. Always remember to sterilize the cutting instrument after attending to each plant. Then, probably the most important point, make sure that those plants that need it are properly staked, to present their flowers in a proper manner. It doesn't really take long to prepare each plant for a show, but it does make all the difference to the finished product. Finally, on the morning of the day that the Show is to be set up, give your plants a good watering as they may have to be on display for 3 or 4 days. You should already be hard at it with dividing and repotting by now, and by doing each plant in turn after it has flowered, it will save a lot of last minute, hurried work at the end of October. Many cymbidiums will have new growths, so now is a good time to begin increasing the amount of fertiliser you give to your plants after their winter hiatus. Strike Back for Orchids, liquid or pellet forms, would be suitable.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020) based on notes from Henry Eaton

Even though there has been some miserable cold windy weather over the last week or so, with the increase in daylight hours, there is evidence that spring is here after a winter of cold nights and late winter rains. Your Cattleyas should now be showing signs of recovering from dormancy, by growth buds beginning to enlarge in some and by the appearance of new roots in others. Where you see these signs on plants they provide an indication that those plants are ready to be repotted in new mix if they are growing out of the pot, or if the mix has been there for a long while and is probably going stale and is unlikely to last for another year in good condition. These plants should be inspected to see if they only need transfer to a bigger pot or whether they need to be divided. If division is contemplated, do not go for divisions of less than 4 mature bulbs each. If there appears not to be any new roots on the posterior divisions, the plant could be partially divided at the necessary spot and left for a couple of months to let a new growth appear, when the cut could be completed and the division made. This also reminds me that when thinking of dividing a plant, make sure by removing any old sheaths around it, that there is a viable bud at the point of division. If none is found, do not divide it at that point but seek another spot. When potting on a Cattleya it is worth choosing a mix that will be adaptable to the time you can give to watering your plants. If frequent watering is possible, a coarser, less absorbent mix can be used, while

those people who cannot spare enough time to water the plants should use a smaller sized mix which will hold water for longer. Cattleyas like a wet to nearly dry cycle for best growth. Use a pot size you feel will be adequate to allow at least 2-3 years growth before the need for repotting arises. Do not over-pot. When repotting, hold the plant so that the oldest bulb sits plumb with the back edge of the pot, giving the new growth at least 2 years of growth in front. After filling the pot with your mix, the plant should be anchored firmly enough for you to lift it up by the leaves without separating it from the pot. A stake alongside the foremost growth to which it is tied is also worth considering if there is any doubt about stability. Water the plant well and leave it a shady area of the shadehouse for a couple of weeks before returning it to its normal spot. You can feed the plant with something like Seamungus or a light application of Strikeback for Orchids before commencing its normal feeding after 3-4 weeks.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020) by Trevor Burnett

As I discussed last month you should now be ensuring that, by the end of October, you have completed repotting of the plants that have finished flowering. The plants that did not produce spikes should already have been done. (If you complete your repotting by the end of October, contact Murray, who will allocate you additional repotting duties.) With warmer conditions now gradually becoming the norm during these months, increased attention needs to be given to the watering. As all my plants now have a nice new open mix, I increase my watering programme to once a week, but always in the morning. When you water now, check to ensure that the water freely flows out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot. As a lot of us place small crock pieces in the base of the pot, we need to ensure that good drainage is maintained and we have not retarded the water flow with crocking of the pots. With the warmer weather, the fertilizer programme can be increased to weekly or fortnightly with a high nitrogen based fertilizer to promote good development of the new growths. When repotting plants from the existing pot, carefully extract all the growing mix with your fingers and remove any dead roots. Care must be taken not to damage live roots when repotting as paphiopedilums have a limited root system. Place the plant in the pot, with the base of the plant some 15mm below the rim of the pot, and work the mix in and around the roots. Gently bumping the pot on the bench can also assist in the placement of the mix. On top of the mix I spread a small quantity of crushed sea shells or gravel sand which helps support the plant from moving in the pot, which will cause root damage.

From the Kardinya Show...



Left: *Angraecum sesquipedale*.
Grand Champion, grown by Ian Duncan.

Below: *Cymbidium* Gwen Thomas 'Golden Aura'.
Champion Cymbidium, grown by Helen Stretch.

Photos by Kirsty Bayliss.



MERRIL'S ODE TO AN ORCHID GROWER

Out came the pots on Monday,
I made the mix just fine,
But forgot to thaw dinner,
We went out to dine.

Tuesday is for Cymbidiums,
Some say they are a must,
They are so enchanting,
I forgot to dust.

Wednesday is Aussie Natives day,
They bloom in the sunshine,
All pink, yellow and white,
But the washing isn't on the line.

The Catts are next, on Thursday,
All pretty, floofy and bright,
I am totally enchanted,
But the bed looks a fright.

Friday was the Paphs to pot,
There are so many here too,
It never bothered me at all,
The stuff I didn't do.

Hubby hired a Maid on Saturday,
My week is now complete,
I can be as potty as I like,
The house will be neat.

It's lunchtime on Sunday,
He cannot find the Maid.
Oh No! He can't believe it,
She is in the shed with a spade.

Merril Brechin



Dendrobium x delicatum 'Alba', one of Merrill's many Australian natives.
Photographed at the Kardinya Show.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.) - Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 28 August 2020

Welcome: 7:32

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

Business arising:

- OSWA donation- please take anything you want
- Neutrog orders close today, so please ensure your orders have been submitted and paid for
- Kardinya Spring Show discussion

Moved L Brooks, seconded R Gordon that the business arising has been dealt with. Carried.

New Members: Arnold Davies and Tash Buzzacott, Calvin and Jack to be approved at committee meeting

Correspondence:

- 17/8- sent invitation to Orchidup to our Late Flowering Display
- 17/8- sent thank you to Richard for allowing us to visit Flora Plant
- 17/8- email exchange with T Burnett re supply OSWA with a monthly club plant.
- 17/8- emailed T Burnett enquiring as to what the agreement with Flora Plant was for phals for Spring Show
- 18/8- sent membership approval letters to Natasha and Arnold
- 18/8- received email from L Brooks indicating P Kissell is unwell in hospital
- 27/8- received info on grant from AOF for struggling orchid societies

Moved L Brooks, seconded M Brechin that the correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Report: Flora Plant visit, membership happy with event and timing- July/early August seems best

Financial report: August financial report to be presented at September meeting

General Business:

- **Old orchid journals and community libraries (Harry)** – old journals with an OSWA membership flyer stapled to the front were distributed to membership to put in public community libraries around Perth to promote orchid culture
- **Potting workshop coming up and late flowering orchid display** – Harry and Helen to work on advertising for distribution at the Spring Fair

Presentation: Courtney presented about the process for selling plants at the Spring Show, and provided some advice as to how to clean plants up for the show to improve sales. Murray presented on how to enter plants on the judging table. In particular it is very important to give your plants a good water > 24 hours before the show to ensure the plant does not become dehydrated. Please do not water on the day of the show as this makes a mess! Murray also discussed the benefits of staking plants in preparation for the show.

Break for popular vote.

Raffle: Daphne, Tara

Open popular vote: Ray Taylor with *Paphiopedilum* Hsinying Rainbow x Red Czar! Grown in a glass house.

Grown in 2 parts bark, 1 part perlite and some gravel and charcoal. Small amount of blood and bone mixed through the media. Breeding from Taiwan.

Novice popular vote: J Bateman with an Australian native dendrobium, which she grows on her patio. She doesn't fertilize it very much!

Door Prize: Val Gray

Plant descriptions:

Ray also had a paph awarded by the AOC judging panel with an Award of Merit. This is grown in his shadehouse cold, Ray mentioned that growing plants cold helps keep the plants in flowers longer.

Harry presented on *Rhyncolaelia glauca*, a highly fragrant species native to central America. This is grown in a protected shadehouse, in medium pine bark.

Tara presented on *Maxillaria densa*, a very interesting species not often seen in Perth! This species has a musty fragrance/smell. Tara grows this in medium pine bark.

Lynn Brooks presented on flame sterilisation techniques and the importance of maintaining plant hygiene.

Meeting Closed at 9:30



Paphiopedilum Darch Ray 'Peta', grown by Ray Taylor and awarded an AM (Award of Merit) by judges at the August general meeting. This paph was also Reserve Champion at our Spring Show.

Results of the OSWA Spring Show, Kardinya Park Shopping Centre, September 2020.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Champion Cymbidium | <i>Cymbidium</i> Gwen Thomas 'Golden Aura' | Helen Stretch |
| Best Laeliinae Alliance | <i>Rhyncholaelia glauca</i> | Courtney Rogasch |
| Best Paphiopedilum | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Darch Ray 'Peta' | Ray Taylor |
| Best Dendrobeae | <i>Dendrobium</i> (Australian Ginger x <i>convolutum</i>) x <i>Dendrobium</i> (<i>mortii</i> x <i>teretifolia</i>) | Ray Taylor |
| Best Australian Native | <i>Dendrobium</i> Sun Venture 'Gold Star' | Ray Taylor |
| Best Oncidinae | <i>Wilsonara</i> Eye Candy 'Penny Candy' | Helen Stretch |
| Best Vandeae | <i>Angraceum sesquipedale</i> | Ian Duncan |
| Best Any Other Genera | <i>Zygopetalum crinitum</i> | Courtney Rogasch |
| Grand Champion | <i>Angraceum sesquipedale</i> | Ian Duncan |
| Reserve Champion | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Darch Ray 'Peta' | Ray Taylor |
| Best Species | <i>Angraceum sesquipedale</i> | Ian Duncan |
| Best Australian Native Species Bill Murdoch Trophy | <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> | Valerie Cooper |
| Best Australian Native Hybrid Ira Butler Trophy | <i>Dendrobium</i> Sun Venture 'Gold Star' | Ray Taylor |
| Best Specimen | <i>Angraceum sesquipedale</i> | Ian Duncan |
| Best Specimen Australian Native J & C Sullivan Trophy | <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> | Valerie Cooper |
| Best Seedling | <i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Cocoa Pride x Cocoa Lovely Oliver) | Ray Taylor |
| Best Pure Colour Cymbidium W & N L Janney Trophy | <i>Cymbidium</i> One Tree Hill "John's Quest" | Harry Ashton |
| Best Novice Entry | <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> | Valerie Cooper |
| Best Floral Art Entry | | Meg Donald |
| Most plants entered - Open Section | | Helen Stretch |
| Most plants entered - Novice Section | | Jacqui Bateman and Harry Ashton (equal) |

Stop Press: Orchia bark now available to order.

Orchia bark is arguably the best potting bark on the market. Repotting season is rapidly approaching so OSWA is arranging a bulk purchase of orchia bark, to make it available to members at significantly less than the usual retail price. Place your order with Kirsty now. 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.