

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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FEBRUARY 2021

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 26 February 2021**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AND

WINE AND CHEESE

MARCH MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 5th

General Meeting: 7:30 pm Friday 26th

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Vale Rod Pohl

Members will be saddened to hear that Rod Pohl passed away on 29 January 2021.

Rod was an active member of OSWA for many years. He contributed many suggestions and ideas over the years, and he was the guy behind the revival of OSWA's website after it had been defunct for quite a while. Rod was a familiar face at general meetings and shows. He did not seem attracted to small plants with intricate flowers. Rather, Rod loved large orchid plants with big showy blooms, the sorts of plants that are difficult to fit in the car and would break bones if dropped on someone's foot. Rod grew them well too, and often brought large plants to the monthly meetings and shows for competitions, displays or the sales table.

In recent years Rod was challenged by ill health and could not come to meetings as often as he used to. Nevertheless, he faced his difficulties with good humour and cheerfulness. He was always up for a chat, freely sharing all he knew about orchids. Many members benefited from his generosity when he sold large healthy plants for much less than they were worth, or simply gave them away.

Due to the COVID lockdown, Rod's passing could only be marked by a small private funeral. It does not seem fair that passing of such a kind, generous, humble human being should happen so quietly, without his many friends being able to pay their last respects. Rod's family has kindly donated Rod's orchids to OSWA, so Rod's generosity lives on. Despite his passing, Rod will live on in our hearts and in our happy memories. His much-loved orchids will become much-loved orchids for others. May those orchids grow and flower for many years to come, and remind us of Rod.

Rest in Peace, Rod.

February's monthly meeting includes OSWA's 2021 AGM

Please consider nominating for Committee or some other role to help OSWA this year. *Ask not what OSWA can do for you – ask what you can do for OSWA!* No special skills are required, just enthusiasm, an interest in the club, and time to attend a committee meeting once a month. If you would like to nominate but have not lodged a nomination form, do not fret! Nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM if insufficient nominations have been received for a particular position. Being involved in the Committee is a great way to help OSWA and get to know more about OSWA and the WA orchid community.



As well as the AGM, this month we will have the usual general meeting activities (monthly plant competition, raffles and such) and wine and cheese at the end of the night. As usual, donations of additional snacks will be well received. There will also be an auction of a few of Ian Duncan's plants – see info later in this bulletin.

Birthdays

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, 26th Arnold Davies

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.

Thank you to ...

Thank you to Trevor and Barbara Burnett for opening up their home for OSWA's traditional January General Meeting/BBQ. All who attended enjoyed good company and fine food (excellent roasts!), and got another chance to peek at Trevor's orchid collection. Barbara organised another quirky quiz. There was also a mini-golf competition with trick golf balls, some of which quietly exploded when hit, adding extra interest. Trevor arranged for some raffle hampers from Garden City Plastics, much appreciated by those lucky enough to win one.

Membership Subscriptions were due on 1 November 2020.

\$26 double, \$21 single. For your convenience OSWA accepts payment by direct deposit (preferred method), cheque, or cash (paid at a general meeting). Direct deposit can be made via electronic banking or at any Westpac branch. If possible, please use direct deposit or cheque, to lessen stress and chaos at the general meetings.

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 in person at a Westpac branch:

Account name - Orchid Society of Western Australia Inc.
Bank - Westpac Bank, Booragoon, WA
BSB - 036069 Account Number - 457265
Just take your cheque to a teller, show the teller the above details, and the teller will take it from there. The tellers are invariably super helpful and happy to have a customer to chat to.

For payment by cheque:

Make cheques payable to The Orchid Society of WA Inc. and bring them to a general meeting or post them to OSWA, 58 Gladstone Rd, Leeming 6149.

If you are unsure whether you have paid your 2021 subs, check with the Treasurer. Last year some members paid twice or even thrice. The Treasurer has promised to accept any additional payments this year as donations to OSWA. Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2021 subs at least once already. Remember, only financial members can vote at the AGM. Judging by the number of payments that have been received in the last couple of weeks, there is a lot of interest in the AGM!

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2021) based on notes from Roy Brown

These are usually very hot months, with the temperatures in the high 30s or low 40s, so regular use of the sprinklers is an absolute must. Create as much humidity as possible, keeping the pots and the area around your plants as damp as possible. It's my opinion the next month or two are the most important ones for the successful flowering of cymbidiums. **THE NEW GROWTHS MUST BE KEPT GROWING, SO THEY WILL BULB UP IN TIME TO PRODUCE THEIR FLOWER SPIKES.** To do this they will need as much light as they can take without actual burning of the leaves, and plenty of fertilizer and water. For those who grow their plants under 50% shade cloth, you will find the plant's leaves have become a yellowy-green colour. This is mainly because of the bright light we experience here in WA, the skies being cloudless during the summer months. Provided the bulbs are nice and plump and the plants are healthy, this yellowing is a good sign that the plants should flower this season. A plant grown under too heavy shade conditions will have dark green, lush foliage and will not produce as many spikes of flowers as one that has been grown under bright sunlight. If you find your plants are troubled with red spider mite, thrips, scale etc. then give them a spray with insecticide. It's during the next couple of months that the flower spikes are produced, and it is a good idea to have the plants free from all insect pests well in advance, so no harm will come to the young flower spikes when they emerge.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2021) based on notes from Henry Eaton

February and March are usually the hottest months in the year for us in the West. This means keeping up with the cultural practices employed in the summer, mainly shading the plants and providing sufficient moisture and fertilizer to them. Beware though, that Cattleyas, by and large, benefit from alternating dry and wet periods. This means not watering them unless loss of weight of the potted plant indicates that water is needed. I was reminded of this when, recently, I had to repot a plant that was growing out of the pot in many spots. Although previously potted in bark of a large size, the mix was wet through and

through from the watering I had from the day before. When a plant is growing over the edge of the pot, another technique to use is to place another pot full of mix under the overgrowth, so that roots can establish before repotting in autumn or spring. At this time, also start to look for flowering sheaths or buds appearing on mature, new growths. When spotted, move them into an area free of pests and away from water dripping on them. If moved, make sure the buds point in the same direction they were in before you moved them. Many autumn flowering plants will now be showing buds and sheaths so be on the lookout for them.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (FEB-MAR 2021) by Trevor Burnett

These are the months when the weather can usually be expected to have some excessively hot days. At this time of the year I water 3 times a week, early in the morning with overhead sprinklers, so the plants are well saturated. This will allow time for the plants to dry out before the sun gets too high and will prevent any possibility of water burn. This will also ensure the plants are dry before nightfall. Some growers may be tempted to water on hot evenings but I, personally, avoid this at all cost. Water left in the axis of the leaves at night only encourages rot and water borne disease. I find if the plants are watered heavily the next morning, they seem to thrive on the fact they have been forced to dry out somewhat overnight. 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 has been retained. The mix should be just moist throughout the bottom half of the pot. As the plants are still in active growth, keep a weak fertilizing programme going on a weekly or fortnightly basis, depending on your time constraints, with a ¼ to ½ strength high nitrogen based fertilizer. This is in order to maximize the new growths before the flowering season. Ensure that you flush the mix with water between fertilizing, which will flush out any excess salts. In the glasshouse on very hot days, the use of misting sprays under the benches will be beneficial by increasing the humidity levels. It is equally important that plenty of fresh air, which is essential for the plants' health, is available in the glasshouse. Do not remove any extra shade that you may have installed over the summer months.

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC) AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Orchid Society of WA (Inc), to be held in the Manning Activity Centre, Manning, on 28 February 2020.

The President Mr Courtney Rogasch declared the meeting open at 7:33 pm, welcoming members & visitors.

Acceptance of the 2019 AGM Minutes: Moved Peter Kissell, seconded Val Seaman that the 2019 minutes be accepted. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes:

President's Report (summarized): Mr Courtney Rogasch presented his report. Highlights included recognition of our 50 year members Kaye Baylis, Jim Baylis, Trevor Burnett, and 29 new members signed up during the year. Thank you to all our volunteers over the last 3 years (apologies for any omissions). Thank you to our kitchen helpers (Lorna, Raye, Barb, Jackie, Eric, Anne, Ellen, Pauline), Lynn, Caterina, Lina (all-round helpers), Kaye, Rosemary, Helen and Merrill (our very experienced people, show-builders, etc), Harry, Ian, Ray, and Tara (working at meetings to keep the plant displays and competition running smoothly), Kirsty (treasurer and big helper with Rosemary for bark and Neutrog orders, important tasks for the club), all helpers who load and unload trailer and tow trailer or drive bus (Merril and Richard, Brad and Jenny, and Tom Stacy). Murray (secretary, bulletin editor, printer/copier, gopher, night owl). Harry (another very capable person, easily able to manage any task asked of him). Management committee, especially Jenny and Lynn, who have made significant contributions to committee over the years and contributed ideas and stuck by their opinions. We have a busy program this year, starting with Perth Garden Festival in late April followed by Autumn Show in May, Winter show in July, Intersociety Challenge in August, Spring Show at Kardinya, Potting Workshop (October) and late-flowering orchid display in November. Thank you to the helpers from ANOS and COCWA who helped with the 2019 November display. New members, we hope you stay with us. I wish the incoming committee and President every success. I am really looking forward now to retiring to the back bench and becoming one of the hecklers rather than the heckles. I must thank Kirsty and Murray who encouraged me during my tenure, and Val, my lovely wife.

Financial Statement:

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2019 were presented by Kirsty Bayliss.

Moved Kirsty Bayliss, seconded Ray Taylor that the Financial Statement be accepted. Carried.

Ray Taylor moved a motion of thanks to committee for the way the 50 year members were acknowledged.

Election of Office Holders: Murray Baker was appointed as Returning Officer.

(Nominations to be received 14 days prior to the AGM. If only one nomination for a position is received, that position is filled – as per the new Rules. If no nominations received, others may nominate from the floor.)

President: Lina Pacca (Nominated by Jacqui Bateman, seconded by Harry Ashton. Elected unopposed.)

Vice President: Kaye Baylis (Nominated by Rosemary McGrath, seconded Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.)

No nominations prior to meeting so nominations from the floor were called for.

Secretary: Harry Ashton (Nominated by Ray Taylor, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.) No nominations prior to meeting; Harry was nominated from the floor.

Treasurer: Kirsty Bayliss (Nominated by Ray Taylor, seconded by Margaret Rathbone. Elected unopposed.) No nominations prior to meeting: Kirsty was nominated from the floor.

Ordinary Committee Members: *(Elected for two-year terms. Management committee determines size of committee; currently no limit on size of committee. Jenny McLean, Harry Ashton, Ian Duncan, Lynn Brooks have just completed two-year terms. Lynn and Jenny are not standing for re-election. Lina Pacca not to complete the 2nd year of her term due to taking up role of President.)*

Committee Member Continuing (1 more year to complete term):

Jacqui Bateman

Committee Members *(these members are elected to committee for a two-year term):*

Rosemary McGrath (Nominated by Jacqui Bateman, seconded by Harry Ashton. Elected unopposed.)

Ian Duncan (Nominated by Richard Gordon, seconded by Valerie Cooper. Elected unopposed.)

Lorna Dodd (Nominated by Courtney Rogasch, seconded by Lynn Brooks. Elected unopposed.)

Richard Gordon (Nominated by Merrill Brechin, seconded by Margaret Rathbone. Elected unopposed.)

Merril Brechin (Nominated by Richard Gordon, seconded by Enid Chelva. Elected unopposed.)

It was suggested that Murray Baker should be nominated for committee. It was noted that Murray could not be nominated due to serving as Returning Officer, but that the Committee could appoint additional committee members as needed. Murray indicated that he would be happy to be appointed at the next committee meeting.

Positions for which formal nomination not required:

Patron: Trevor Burnett

Immediate Past President: Mr Courtney Rogasch

OSWA Registrar: Need replacement -- Committee to discuss.

Show Marshall: Lynn Brooks, to replace Kaye Baylis

Show Secretary: Rosemary McGrath, Merrill Brechin

Show Committee: Committee Members plus Merrill 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

Auditor: Optional under new rules. To be determined by committee (if needed).

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8:12 pm.

Auction of a few of Ian Duncan's Orchids

Ian's *Dendrobium speciosum* orchids will be well known to many members. These speciosums have featured prominently amongst the prize-winners at our Spring Show over the years. Four of these speciosums are being made available to OSWA members via auction at the February general Meeting. The plants are large and not conveniently transported to a meeting, and Ian and his family are not in a position to auction the plants on-site. Instead, photos and brief details on the plants are provided below, to give members an idea of the size and quality of the plants should they want to put in a bid.

The photos were taken when the plants were in flower last August/September. Each of the plants is large, healthy, and due for repotting in the spring. All are large enough to be divided into several large divisions, and as such are quite valuable, so there will be reserve prices.

Lot 1: *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* ('Kroombit Gold' x 'Mt Larcom Gold').

Large plant, golden flowers, 37 cm pot, 17 growths.



Lot 2: *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* ('Kroombit Gold' x 'GAFF')
Huge specimen, 40 cm pot, 29 growths.



Lot 3: *Dendrobium speciosum*

Large plant, very pale flowers, 33 cm pot, 35 growths.



Lot 4: *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *grandiflorum*

Large plant, golden flowers, 30 cm pot, 18 growths. (Unfortunately the flowers suffered snail damage before the photos were taken.)



Possible Bonus Lot: *Cattleya unknown*. Large magenta flowers, just opening when photographed last week.



Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop 2021.

Host: South Eastern Orchid Society of WA (Inc)

Venue: Kelmscott Hall.
60 River Road Kelmscott WA 6111.

Setup: Friday, 6th August 2021
From 12 noon till 6.30pm

Judging: Friday 6th August 2021
7.30 pm – 10.30 pm

Display and Workshop: Saturday, 7th August 2021.
Sunday, 8th August 2021.
Tea, coffee & cake will be available all day.

Theme: "Weekend at the Movies"

Dinner: Saturday, 7th August 2021, at the venue, from 7 pm. Cost \$50

Enquiries: Sue Pearson (Show Marshall). Email: jayenss3@bigpond.com

Snail Mail: 3 Ash Court
Armadale WA 6112

Phone: 0407718377

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop will be the biggest orchid event in WA this year. The dinners at these events are always very enjoyable and provide an opportunity to meet orchid enthusiasts from elsewhere in WA. (Should be worth the fifty bucks.) More information about the event (the whole event, not just the dinner) will be provided in the Bulletin and at General Meetings as organisation of the event progresses. If you are impatient, contact Sue Pearson to get further info sooner.

22nd Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show

For members looking for an orchid event even bigger than Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop, there is the 22nd Australian Orchid Council Conference and Show. This national meeting will be in Queensland and was due to be held this year, but has been postponed until 31 August - 4 September 2022 on account of the pandemic. Further info is available at <https://www.aocc2021.org>.