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 63 NO 9



SEPTEMBER 2023

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 22 September, 2023**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

POTTING / REPOTTING
HARRY AND LINA

OCTOBER MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: Friday 6th

General Meeting: Friday 27th

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General News

Birthdays:

September: 4th Nelia Farquhaison; 14th Bob Longmore; 15th Nantha Lingam; 19th Lilly Collis; 30th

Wanda Frantom

October: 4th Kristene Northover; 4th Katherine Cooper; 9th Tara Peeters; 10th Claudia Rowe; 11th

Enid Chelva; 14th Eric Bateman; 16th Barbara Burnett; 21st Ann Walker; 23rd Joshie

Balgos

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. To any member on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery and may you soon be well.

New Members

Welcome to Jonathon, Shari, and Dawn Thomhon (Caversham), Lisa Robinson (Upper Swan), Lilly Collis (Belmont), Belinda Dawes (Atwell), and Penelope McDonald (Narrogin). We hope you have many enjoyable and rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop — Thanks to the City of South Perth!

OSWA Is based in the City of South Perth. Our monthly meetings, Potting Workshop, and Late Flowering Orchid Show are held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, a facility provided by the City of South Perth. In August, we used another of the City's facilities—the Manning Community Centre—as the venue for our highly successful Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop. The success of the ISODW was due in no small part to strong support from the City of South Perth. The Manning Community Centre was well-suited to our needs. The City of South Perth gave us full access to the venue to allow us to prepare for and run the event. Furthermore, the City of South Perth provided the venue for a very reasonable cost and generously provided us with a grant that greatly assisted advertising and running of the ISODW. The staff of the City of South Perth were most helpful throughout the process of organising and running the event, and the program of talks at the ISODW started with a presentation by the City's Conservation Officer. Put simply, the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop would not have been the success it was without the support of the City of South Perth. We are most grateful fo the City's support of this event!

Quality Plant Auction this month — Masdevallia Fuschia Dawn

Harry is offering *Masdevallia* Fuschia Dawn for auction this month, and wrote this about his orchid:

This is the plant that won the Champion Any Other Genera at the Orchid Society of WA Spring Championship Show. I split this plant last year and have two divisions, so am making one available as a quality plant auction. It is in flower and has had another bloom open since the show.

This plant was purchased as a division at Ezi-Gro Orchids, but originally came from the Orchid Zone in California. It is the fastest growing of all my masdevallias and flowers fairly constantly from August through to November. Most Masdevallias are cool growing cloud forest orchids, but I find this one is very heat tolerant and grows well in shade house conditions in Perth. They are not heavy feeders and should NOT be given ANY slow release fertiliser — this plant gets very dilute (< quarter strength) liquid fertiliser occasionally.

There are three Masdevallia species in this plants parentage — Masdevallia coccinea, Masdevallia infracta and Masdevallia schroederiana. As with all masdevallias, this plant is salt-sensitive and I would recommend watering with rainwater, distilled water or reverse osmosis water.

Quality plant auctions provide a convenient way for local orchid enthusiasts to buy and sell award-quality plants, preferably large specimens. Buyers and sellers do not



need to be members of OSWA. To encourage growers to sell exceptional plants at our Quality Plant Auctions, no commissions are taken — all proceeds go to the seller. Please contact Harry in advance when you intend to offer a plant for auction, and supply pictures and other information (growing conditions, place of origin, how is it currently being grown etc.) that can be used to enthuse prospective buyers. Letting Harry know in advance about plants to be put up for auction will help to ensure that the auction runs smoothly. Also, please note that since OSWA does not take a commission on these sales, payment should be arranged directly between the seller and buyer.

One plant was put up for auction at the August meeting: *Cattleya* Hawaiian Splash 'Lea' BM/JOGA, won by Joshie for \$35.

The OSWA Library

The library has been re-organised, all books and magazines catalogued and a loan book created. A selection of books available for loan will be on display on the tea trolley, at the far end of the hall. If you would like to borrow a book, please see John and he will record it in the loan book.

We are giving away some of the older books and magazines and they will be on the table next to the sales tables. Please help yourself. Thanks.

John (OSWA Librarian)

Kardinya Spring Show ... Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped by bringing in plants for the competition, display, and 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.

Due to the construction and renovations happening at Kardinya Shopping Centre this year (including during the setup of our show on Wednesday night!) and a number of changes in staff at the Centre over the last few months, organising and setting up the show this year was a little more challenging than usual. Special thanks must go to Lina, Lynn, and their helpers for their work negotiating with Centre staff before and during setup of our show, and to Centre staff for finding a way to accommodate us this year even with the construction going on.

Results from the show will be published in the October bulletin. Thank you for your patience.

Potting Workshop: Sunday, 15 October, 10 am - 3 pm at MSCAC

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). 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. Murray learnt almost
 all he knows about repotting orchids during his first attendance at this event, about 20 years ago,
 and on that occasion he was put to work repotting too!
- 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 etc will be available at the September general meeting or can be downloaded from www.orchidsocietywa.net.au.

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.

OSWA Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 8 November from 6:30 pm-ish.

Our Christmas Dinner this year will be at Bentley Pines Training Restaurant, Hayman Road, Bentley. The venue is an interesting one — it is part of South Metropolitan TAFE, and staffed mostly by students training to work in the hospitality industry. Our last three Christmas dinners have been at this venue and all who attended were very impressed. The menu is interesting, the food is excellent, and there is ample parking on-site. For a fancy meal with dessert and coffee/tea afterwards, the cost is only \$35 per person. Drinks are not included, but there is a bar where patrons may purchase alcoholic and non-alcoholic

Buffet Menu 31 October to 10 November

Soup Station
Chicken & corn, assorted bread basket

Starter and Salad Station

Japanese kanikama salad, Italian garbanzo salad, Rotini pasta salad, Mini vegetable rolls & samosas, Dipping sauces

Carving Station

Korean BBQ pork belly rasher, Roasted Char Siew glazed pork, Gua Bao

Main Course

Pollo asado al limon, Spanish roasted potatoes, Gnocchi, Spanish beef stew, Red lentil vegetable curry, Tandoori garlic naan, Steamed rice, Yaki seafood udon

Dessert Corner
Tiramisu, Baked chocolate marquise, Mango cheesecake, Seasonal fruit platter,
Cheese platter

Dietary options available

beverages. Payment is due by the October general meeting. More info at the September and October General Meetings. Unfortunately our booking is limited to a maximum of 36 diners, so be quick to secure your place in this event.

Late Flowering Orchid Display: Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 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. In collaboration with the Cymbidium Orchid Club of WA and the Australian Native Orchid Society (ANOS WA), we will be having our third Late Flowering Orchid Display in November to show off our late-flowering orchids. Setup will be in the evening of Friday 11 November, from about 5 pm, 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.

Events calendar 2023

Potting Workshop: Sunday 15 October, at MSCAC.

Late Flowering Orchid Display: Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 November, at MSCAC Bentley Pines Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 8 November; *limited to 36 attendees*.

Floraplant Nursery Visit: date to be determined.

December General Meeting: Friday 8 December (two weeks earlier than usual, only date available).

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR KAMBARANG (APPROX. OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

The Orchid Society of Western Australia would like to acknowledge that our meetings are held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. Unlike the European calendar, the Noongar people describe the climate of West Australia's South West as having six seasons, guided by what is happening and changing around us rather than specific 'dates' on a calendar. This approach to describing Perth's climate is helpful for guiding our orchid related jobs for the year. Kambarang (approx.

October/November) is the season of birth. The worst of the cold weather has past, and the country is bursting into life with wildflowers. This includes many of our native orchid species, which are easy to spot on most wildflower bush walks. Take care when appreciating them though—many of our native reptiles (danger noodles) are also very active this time of year!

- ✓ With rising temperatures and longer days, many orchids will be showing signs of new growth. Actively growing orchids are in the perfect stage of their growth cycle to take up fertilizer, so application of slow release pellets and liquid feeds is highly beneficial. Be excited by the new growths—they are the 'solar panels' that will fuel the sprays of spectacular flowers next year!
- ✓ Some fertilizer pellets release their contents in a temperature-dependent manner. For this reason, it's best not to just apply the pellets to the surface of the mix where they receive full sun—tap the pot so the pellets settle into the mix a little.
- ✓ Remember that fertilizer application needs to go hand in hand with increased watering, especially for newly repotted orchids that have a fresh, free draining mix that doesn't hold as much moisture as older mix. If you have an irrigation system, it may be time to start using it in the next few weeks. Remember to water orchids heavily—water should run through the bottom of the pot to flush out any excess salts. Try to grow plants like bromeliads and groundcovers (but not ferns!) under the orchids, as these will absorb any excess fertilizer runoff, help create a frog friendly environment (insect patrol) and improve humidity in the growing space.
- ✓ If overhead watering, remember that new orchid growths can be soft and delicate, and if water is accumulating in developing leaf axils there is a risk of rot. Try to angle and position plants to face directions where this risk if reduced.
- ✓ Growers that having solarweave/plastic covers for their shade house can remove them at this time of year—it can get very hot under a solarweave roof! Consider applying an additional layer of shadecloth as temperatures rise, especially into November.
- ✓ Repotting should be well underway, and some general tips were included in previous months' culture notes. Repotting can be stressful for orchids, especially in warmer weather, so it's a good idea to keep the plants in a cooler, shadier location for a week or two after repotting to help them cope with any stress.
- ✓ Insects such as scale, aphids and mealy bugs become more active as it warms up (and are enticed by the irresistibly lush new growth on our plants!) so vigilance is required. Managing ants is critical to prevent them from 'farming' and spreading scale. Large caterpillars can also be a problem. Try to identify signs of infestation early to minimize damage.

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR KAMBARANG (APPROX. OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

Most cymbidiums have finished flowering by this time of the year, and any remaining flower spikes are best cut off to allow the plant to redirect energy into new growth. The exception to this is our Australian native cymbidiums and their hybrids, which flower well into November and December, and make an excellent addition to any orchid collection!

New growths will be developing rapidly at this time of the year. These growths will support next years flowers, so keep them growing by increasing the quantity and frequency of fertilizer application. Cymbidiums are heavy feeders compared to most other orchids. Strike Back for Orchids pellets and liquid can be used in combination, with the diluted liquid best being applied on a weekly basis. Water heavily in between fertilizing, allowing water to flow through the bottom of the pot to flush out any excess salts that might accumulate.

Repotting should be in full swing, aiming to have all the cymbidiums 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 be secure). 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.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES FOR KAMBARANG (APPROX. OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

Many cattleyas will be putting up new growths at this time of year. If repotting is required, it is best to time this activity with the appearance of a flush of new roots (2-3 cm long) that will establish themselves in the new potting mix. Try to repot before roots get any longer than 3 cm, or the roots are likely to be snapped in the repotting process. When dividing, aim for each division to have more than 4 bulbs for best chances of flowering next year. 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.

As new growths mature, liquid fertilising can be carried out once a week with Strike Back for Orchids liquid or a high nitrogen product. Strike Back pellets can be sprinkled over the potting medium as a slow-release fertiliser, but take care not to apply the pellets directly to the 'flush' of new root tips as this can burn them.

Some cattleyas have an inconvenient growth habit of developing horizontally instead of vertically. For these orchids, try and stake the pseudobulbs upright—this position will be ideal for presenting the flowers when they open. Staking is best done as the bulbs develop, as the bulbs can be difficult to manipulate once mature. More information on growing cattleyas can be found in our updated culture notes at:

http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids_files/new%20Cattleya%20Culture%20Notes%20July%202022 1.pdf

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES FOR KAMBARANG (APPROX. OCTOBER/NOVEMBER)

By the end of October, repotting of the plants that have finished flowering should be complete. 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.) 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 15 mm 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 and thus helps to avoid root damage.

With warmer conditions now gradually becoming the norm during these months, plants are actively growing and increased attention needs to be given to the watering. Remember that paphs do not have 'bulbs' to store water, and so need to be kept moist. 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, and increase the frequency of watering if temperatures are consistently above 30 °C. The 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.

Remember that paphs are lower light orchids than cymbidiums and cattleyas, and appreciate a cooler, shadier position in the shadehouse. More information on growing paphs can be found on our updated culture notes at

http://www.orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Growing_Orchids_files/New%20Paph%20culture%20notes%20July%202022_1.pdf

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday 25 August 2023

Welcome: 7:36 pm. Apologies and attendance: as per register.

Minutes: Moved Lynn B seconded Nantha L that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentation: Growing Orchids Indoors, by Julie

New member introductions: Joshua Balgos, Lisa Robinson

Correspondence

Multiple correspondence in/out re ISODW planning and related advertising. 3/8 from Urban Bushland Council re Save the Brixton St Wetlands; 8/8 from Lyn and B Harwood, appreciation for hosting ISODW; 21/8 from GCA re

bulletin; 21/8 from Bunnings Innaloo re Fathers Day Family event and Christmas Night Market.

Business arising from correspondence

The Urban Bushland Council is encouraging members to make submissions to City of Gosnells to Save the Brixton St Wetlands. If anyone lives in the City of Gosnells and is willing to make a submission please let Harry know. There are many orchids species in this wetland including *Thelymitra benthemiana* (the Leopard Orchid) and *Thelymitra crinita* (the Blue Lady sun orchid).

Moved Harry A seconded Ray T that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Report: ISODW 2023 – Lina gave a very big thanks to all who helped to making this a highly successful event. OSWA tied for first place in the benched plant competition, and congratulations to the Cymbidium Club for winning the best display! We also owe a special thank you to Trevor and family for making the event happen. We miss Trevor very much and his contribution towards this being such a successful event cannot be forgotten.

Financial report and accounts for payment: Presented by Sheelagh. Moved Ray T seconded Alan R that we reimbursement of Paul F for towing the trailer. Carried. Moved Sheelagh H seconded Ray T that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- Quality Plant Auctions Members were reminded of the process. One plant for auction this month: Cattleya Hawaiian Splash 'Lea' BM/JOGA won by Josh for \$35.
- Kardinya Spring Show 2023 Setup from 5pm on Wednesday. Please bring plants for benching by 6:45 pm at the latest so judging can commence ASAP. We increased our prize money and number of prizes available last year. Volunteers on the roster also get a raffle ticket written out for them (and we have extra special raffle prizes at the meeting following the event). This event is also very good for plant sales.

Raffle: Ray T, Tommy W, Joshie, Julia, Julie, Chris, Jacqui B, Julia, Chris, Ray T, Julia

Open popular vote: Ray Taylor with Dendrobium Warringah 'Purple Heaven'.

Novice popular vote: Dawn F won the novice popular vote with a yellow Cymbidium unknown

Floral Art: Joshie with a lovely piece of floral art inspired by Avatar Kyoshi from the cartoon series Avatar.

Judges Choice and Best Cymbidium were not judged. Door Prize: Sheelagh. Meeting Closed at 9:30 pm.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (August, 2023)

(Due to all judges being occupied with show judging at another venue, there was no judging of plants benched at this meeting, so plants recorded below in each class are listed in no particular order. Members still recorded a popular vote on the night.)

OPEN

2E	(4)	Helen Stretch Helen Stretch Helen Stretch Ray Taylor	Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ford Cascade' Cymbidium New Century 'Rosie' Cymbidium Luck Gloria 'Fukunokami' Cymbidium Dr. Len 'Ruby Sunset'		
3E	(1)	Ray Taylor	Paphiopedilum Cocoa Elect x Paphiopedilum Enzan Rose Crown		
4A	(1)	Harry Ashton	Dendrobium kingianum		
8A	(3)	Tara Peeters Tara Peeters Tara Peeters	Dendrobium speciosum Dendrobium speciosum Dendrobium speciosum		
8B	(1)	Ray Taylor	Dendrobium Warringah 'Purple Heaven' (biggibum x speciosum)		
10B	(1)	Harry Ashton	Serapias lingua		
11B	(2)	Ray Taylor Ray Taylor	Galeopetalum Arlene Armour 'Conching' Zygopetalum Aranel (= Zygopetalum Artur Elle 'Aranel' ?)		
NOVICE					
15	(1)	Tommy Widjaja	Brassolaeliocattleya Dean's Star		
16	(2)	Joshua Balgos Jacqui Bateman	Cymbidium Valley Conquest 'Lavender' Cymbidium unknown		
16C	(1)	Marian McFetridge	Cymbidium Desirable		
16D	(3)	Dawn Fathers Enid Chelva Marian McFetridge	Cymbidium unknown Cymbidium Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon' Cymbidium Willunga Regal 'Midnight'		

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16E	(3)	Marian McFetridge Marian McFetridge Enid Chelva	Cymbidium unknown Cymbidium Pharaoh's Dream Cymbidium Gene Siskel 'Daddy Longlegs'	
17	(1)	Jacqui Bateman	Paphiopedilum Papyrus x Paphiopedilum Wyld Court	
18	(1)	Jenny McLean	Dendrobium Esme Doulton x Dendrobium speciosum 'Windermere'	
19A	(3)	Julie Jayatilaka Julie Jayatilaka Julie Jayatilaka	Phalaenopsis equestris Phalaenopsis shilleriana Phalaenopsis stuartiana	
20D	(1)	Julie Jayatilaka	Miltonidium Hawaiian Sunset	
22	(4)	Alan Rowe Linda Gooding Linda Gooding Alan Rowe	Dentrobium teretifolium Dentrobium unknown Dentrobium Angel Glow Dentrobium unknown	
22B	(1)	Enid Chelva	Dendrobium aemulum	
24B	(1)	Julie Jayatilaka	Ludisia discolor	
Floral Art				
	(2)	Joshua Balgos Linda Gooding		

Open popular vote: Dendrobium Warringah 'Purple Heaven', grown by Ray Taylor.

Novice popular vote: *Cymbidium* unknown, grown by Dawn Fathers.

Floral Art popular vote: Arrangement by Joshua Balgos.

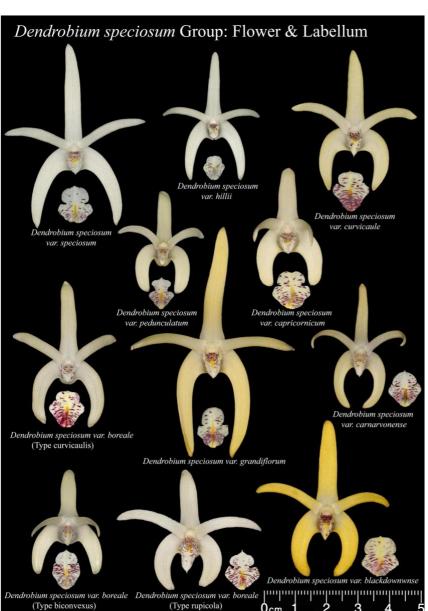
From the August General Meeting (Comments by Harry, Floral Art photos by Harry, all other photos by Alan Rowe.)

Phalaenopsis stuartiana (left) and Phalaenopsis equestris (right), both grown by Julie Jaytilaka.





Open Popular Vote: Ray Taylor won the open popular vote with *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven' (picture by Alan at right), a very famous *Dendrobium* hybrid that was awarded an FCC from the Australian Orchid Council. Ray highlighted the importance of keeping the flowers dry — if the flowers get wet they often distort and mark very easily. Warringah is a primary hybrid of two very famous Australian species, *Dendrobium speciosum* (below right, grown by Tara) and *Dendrobium bigibbum*. Both of these famous Aussie species have a number of varieties. Varieties of *Dendrobium speciosum* are shown in the chart below (by Jon Cara, and used with his permission). I wonder how different Warringah flowers look depending on which variety of speciosum is used?







Novice Popular Vote: Dawn Fathers won the novice popular vote with a lovely yellow *Cymbidium* hybrid (sorry, no photo). Dawn grows this cym under a veranda roof where it gets small amounts of sun at different times of the day. Dawn says she was focusing on getting cattleyas to flower this year, so was very surprised her cymbidiums are doing so well! It's been getting fertilizer on a "weekly, weakly approach". Very nicely grown!

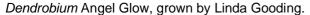
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Floral Art: Joshie won the Floral Art category with a lovely piece (below right) inspired by Avatar Kyoshi (below left) from the cartoon series Avatar, in which four nations (the Water Tribe, Air Nomads, Fire Nation and Earth Kingdom) have the power to manipulate or 'bend' the element of their nation. The Avatar, a world leader with the ability to master all four elements, is destined to maintain balance and peace between the four nations. Avatar Kyoshi was born in the Earth Kingdom, with a character and costume design is influenced by an earthern colour palette emulated in Joshie's artwork and choice of green and brown Cymbidium flowers. Also featuring in Joshie's art are fans. Steel war fans were stylized during Kyoshi's reign as Avatar, and used to improve her control of the elements, famously being used to separate her home island from the mainland to escape invasion. This link leads to a short clip for anyone who might appreciate the nerdiness: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAfNyb20OCq











Dendrobium teretifolium_grown by Alan Rowe.