THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held in the Collins St. Hall, cnr Collins St & Shaftesbury St. South Perth, Friday 26th August 2011, commencing at **8.00 p.m.**

PATRON: Mr Roy Brown

THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM: NEUTROG PRODUCTS

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SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel 7.30 pm Monday 5th
OSWA Committee 7.30 pm Friday 2nd
General Meeting 8.00 pm Friday 23rd

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O.S.W.A. disclaims all liability for losses that may be attributed to the use of any material mentioned in the Bulletin. Opinions express by various authors in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of O.S.W.A.

Birthdays: August 18th – Tom Dixon 19th – Judith Keogh 26th – Meg Brown September 9th – Nalini Naidu 14th – Bob Longmore

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating Birthdays or Anniverseries. To any member on the sick list, may you soon be well.

New Members: Gillian Marsh & Andrea (Andy) Dyer

Welcome to the Society, we hope you enjoy a long & happy membership.

General News

- The OSWA Bulletin (and other information) is now available at www.orchidsocietywa.net.au
- Thank you to: 1. Trevor & Barbara Burnett for organizing the entertainment at the Casserole Night during the Winter show. The good company and fine food of the evening was complemented by the OrchidWiz slideshow during the meal & the fun & games & merchandising from the Census afterwards.
 - 2. Professor Rottenburg (aka Malcolm Davis) Judy Brabin & John Walton for their terrific presentation at the July meeting
 - 3. All those who helped out with the Inter-society Challenge by bringing in plants & helping to set up & break down the OSWA display.
- August Item: Neutrog representative Brian Klepzig will be at our August meeting to give a
 presentation about Neutrog fertilisers & the Neutrog Pooh Bah club. Word around the traps is that
 the presentation will be excellent. All attendees at the talk will receive a free Neutrog sample box
 valued at \$25, so if you only attend one meeting this year, it will be good to make it the August
 meeting.
- **WAROO** is putting on a display at the World Orchid Conference this November, to advertise the 2012 AOC Conference in Perth. If you are able to contribute cut flowers or old bush camping and mining equipment for the WAROO display in November, please let a Committee member know.
- At the time of writing, Henry Eaton was seriously ill in hospital & Bob Jones was due to go into hospital. We wish them both a speedy recovery.
- Helping out at shows: With extended trading hours it is becoming increasingly difficult for OSWA to find enough members able to supervise our displays & sales table during shows at shopping centres. This problem has become acute recently as some of our members who have been regular "show minders" over the last few years are unable to spend as much time on the job as they have in the past. If you have not been involved in looking after an OSWA display in the past, please consider signing up to help out for a shift or two at the Spring show at Kardinya Thursday 31st August Saturday 3rd September. You don't need to be an orchid expert, there are plenty of information sheets to give away if members of the public ask questions. If you bring in plants for the sales table at shows, please consider helping out with minding the display for a few hours (or more!) when you bring in your plants.
- **Spring show:** Kardinya Shopping Centre, setup Tues. 6-7 pm. Judging will start at 7.15 pm. Plant sales Thurs.- Sat. Breakup Sat. 3 September at 4.30 pm
- Home open: 6th Nov. 2011 at John & Dorothy Walton's home. More particulars available later.
- **Royal Show:** Setup Fri. 30th Sept. 2011 at 11 am. Breakup Sun. 9th Oct. at 8 am. Our display has always been a big hit with the public, so try to bring in as many plants as you can for this. Please give your name to Rosemary if you can cover a 3 hour shift to man the display.
- Potting Workshop: Sun. 16th Oct. 2011 at the Scout & Guide Hall, Pilgrim St. South Perth. Committee to set up at 8 am. Open to the public 10 am to 4 pm. There will be plant sales, talks & potting of plants. We will need members who can help repot orchids, man the door, the kitchen or perhaps give a talk
- From your Committee: Members are requested to wear their name badges when picking up their plants from Shows
 please. Unfortunately there are a few dishonest people in the community and when dismantling a Show there are
 always many members of the public milling around, and since we may not know all members in the Society, this
 will safeguard your plants from being given to the wrong person.

RESULTS OF MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (JULY 2011)

Open Class:

Class 3A(1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen Paph. niveum x sibling

Class 3D (1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen Paph. Liemanii x *Paph. praestans*

Class 4E (2) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen Den. Fire Coral

2. Jack & Betty Rensen Den. Star Dust 'H&R'

Class 5C(1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen Dtps. Hsinying Maki 'Shot Gun'

Class 13A(1) 1. Jack & Betty Rensen Phal. Tsui Yew Beauty x Phal. equestris

POPULAR VOTE: Open – Phal. Tsui Yew Beauty – Jack & Betty Rensen

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011) by Roy Brown

The most important job with our Cymbidiums for the next month will be caring for the flower spikes, training those that need straightening up and seeing they receive the proper shade conditions to bring out the best colour in the blooms.

During July the flower spikes grow rapidly, and by now the majority of the flower buds will be visible. August will see the spikes lengthen further and the flower buds space themselves out on the stem in readiness for flowering. It's from this stage onwards that they have to be watched carefully.

Heavy rain or hail can spoil your flower buds, so the plants will need to be moved into the flowering section where a close watch can be kept on the progress of the spikes. Also watch that the wind doesn't cause the plant leaves to knock, or rub against, the flower buds. This quite often happens and a small mark on a bud at this stage will show up as a bad blemish on the flower sepals later on when it opens.

Plants that are undercover for protection should be watered regularly. If these are allowed to dry out you'll run the risk of bud drop.

Finally this month, make sure you have sufficient flower pots and a good supply of compost on hand ready for the repotting jobs that can be started next month.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011) by Henry Eaton

We are now coming into the blooming season where the last of your plants will complete their annual flowering. To present the flowers well, make sure the pseudo bulbs are tied vertically and the emerging buds face towards the main source of light. Be careful with watering as water remaining on the flowers at nightfall may lead to spotting with Botrytis fungus, ruining your display. If there are any bud sheaths that hold water, peel them open or remove them altogether. To avoid spotting, water them early in the morning on a bright day so they can dry off by nightfall. Good luck with your efforts.

This is also the time to think of repotting. Gather together the pots and potting mix you will require. Your choice of mix should be based on the time you can spare to thoroughly water your plants, thinking especially of summer when it's hot and you would rather stay inside than out. Also think in terms of how long you would like to go between potting. The finer the mix, the faster it tends to break down, and this means more frequent potting. Also small plants will need a finer mix than adult flowering ones. Finer mix also holds more water and less air between the particles. Repotting should start as soon as you see new roots appearing from the pseudo bulbs and before they get longer than 2-3 cm.

Winter Show Results

Grand Champion, Champion Paphiopedilum & Most Pre-eminent Entry:

Paph. Angel Hair – owner Fred Herbert. A well grown plant displaying 4 flowers with 30cm long petals. I think that Jeanie ust be looking down, very proud of her Fred with the way he has grown the Paph.. Congratulations Fred.

Reserve champion & Best of any Other Genera

Zga. Adelaide Meadows x Z. Titanic Montecarlo. – owner Gillian Marsh. The plant had 6 stems with 23 good shaped flowers. These were a beautiful clear green, with dark blotches & a mauve/white lip. Its perfume was very different to a Zygo., being a pleasant, light fragrance, not so heady. Congratulations to Gillian, a new member and first time exhibitor at our show.

Best Laeliinae Alliance

Blc. Hetherington Horace – owner P&S Masters. This very nice Cattleya was a well grown plant with 3 large mauve flowers and 2 buds.

Best Cymbidium

Cym. One Tree Hill 'Beenak' – owner Gillian Marsh. This plant had 2 spikes (19 & 20 flowers) & a third one in bud. An Intermediate sized flower, clear yellow in colour. Well grown by Gillian, great success in her first show with OSWA.

Best Species

Paphiopedilum gratrixianum 'Fine Spots x Paph. gratrixianum 'Geyserland' – owner Phil Taylor. A very tall (around 40 cm) spike with lovely soft colouring. Congratulations Phil.

Best Specimen

Paphiopedilum insigne -owner George price. A very full pot with 10 flowers. Well grown George

Best Seedling other than Paphiopedilum & Best Australian Native Orchid Hybrid

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon 'Spots' x Dendrobium Aussie Victory 'Castle Creek' – owner Phil Taylor.this plant had 2 spikes (14 & 16 flowers) which were yellow with a touch of red. The flowers were very fresh and of a good texture. Well done Phil.

Best Phalaenopsis

Dtps. Sun Jye Diamond 'North Port' – owner Jack & Betty Rensen. Deep purple (under 60mm) good shaped flowers cascaded from 2 stems, one with 9 & the other 5. Congratulations to Jack & Betty on a beautiful plant.

Best Oncidinae

Howeara Mary Eliza – owner Phil Taylor. Fourteen cascading stems of small, delicate flowers, making a very attractive and dainty plant to view. Good work Phil.

Best Vandeae

Angraecum superbum - owner P&S Masters. A very well grown plant exhibiting 4 stems of clean white flowers (between 7 & 14 on each). A good effort as these flowers mark very easily.

Best Novice

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' x Cym. Winter Wonder 'Icicle' – owner Meg Donald. This plant was a seedling, with a single stem of 10 flowers under 60mm, white with a pink blush. Congratulations Meg on your win.

Best floral Item

Owner Meg Donald. An Arrangement using Wood this was a miniature pink/brown orchid spraying across the wood with Asparagus Meyeri (Foxtail) fern following the line of the wood. A lovely arrangement, well done Meg.

Winner of the door prize was Yellow ticket 079, M. Lawson. The winner came & picked up the orchid from my house.

Congratulations to all members who entered plants, as you are all winners to me, helping to make the show a success and showing our beautiful orchids to the public.

Kaye Baylis, President.

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth, on Friday 22 July 2011

Welcome: the president, Mrs. K Baylis, opened the meeting at 8:00 pm and welcomed those present.

Attendance & apologies: as per register.

Minutes: Moved E. Dixon, seconded T. Dixon that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried**

Business Arising: Nil (Intersociety Challenge & Winter Show discussed under General business).

Confirmation: Moved E. Dixon, seconded B. Rensen that the Business Arising has been resolved.

Correspondence Inward:

- Thank you card from Ken Rex's family
- Sue Pearson more info about the Intersociety Challenge.
- Coralie Hills (AOC) bill for OSWA membership fees
- Society Newsletters

Correspondence Outward:

- Email to various local newspapers and Derryn Thorpe (Habitat) to advertise our Winter Show
- Email to F. Hunt re availability of orchids for purchase and Winter Show details
- Letter to Bankwest to close our cheque account there.
- To sue Pearson re Intersociety Challenge
- WA Floral Art Society re Floral Art Championship in October
- · Cards to L. Dodd, M. Brechin

Business Arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved J. Walton, seconded V. seaman that Correspondence Inward and Correspondence Outward be endorsed. **Carried**

Financial Statement: The Treasurer I. Duncan presented a summary of inwards & outwards transactions, current balances, and a summary of accounts for payment. He also noted that the Society's cheque account at Bank West had been closed (moved to Westpac). Moved T. Seaman, seconded P. Taylor, that accounts for payment be approved. **Carried**

Application for membership: Gillian Marsh and Andrea (Andy) Dyer.

Reports:

• **Judging** (R. Brown): Mandurah Winter show (Warnbro 6/7/11) Grand Champion – Paph. gratrixianum, owners T&S Howe: Reserve Champion - Blc. George King 'Serendipity x Horace Maxima, owner B&N Millar. OSWA Winter Show (South Perth Scout Hall 16/7/11): Grand Champion - Paph. Angels Hair, owner F. Herbert: Reserve Champion – Zga. Adelaide Meadows x Z. Titanic Monte Carlo, owner Gillian Marsh.

General Business:

- K. Baylis outlined arrangements for the Intersociety Challenge
- K. Baylis gave a wrap up of the Winter Show and noted that it was the most successful for many years. Thanks were given to all those who assisted with the display, kitchen and other aspects of the show. Special thanks (and applause) were given to Trevor and Barbara for their great work in organising the entertainment at the Casserole Night, which was enjoyed immensely by those who attended. Prizes for the Winter show were given out.
- The possibility of doing a display at Cottesloe S/C was discussed but the consensus was that the amount offered by the Centre did not justify the effort required to mount such a display.
- G. Marsh received her new member free orchid book.

Popular vote:

Phal. Tsui Yew Beauty x *equestris*, owners J&B Rensen.

Raffle: J. Brabin, J. Walton, E. Burgess

Door prize: P. Taylor

Evening's Programme:

Professor Malcolm Rottenburg (aka Malcolm Davis) gave a remarkable presentation during which he demonstrated '**How To Remove A Rotten Bulb From A Cymbidium**" His method involves wrapping the leaves in a sheath to keep them out of the way, carefully cutting around the rotten bulb with a sharp knife, pulling out the bulb, treating the wound with Steri-prune and fungicide, then filling the hole with some bark.

J. Brabin and **J. Walton** gave an interesting presentation about Eco products, including C-weed, Neem, Aminogro, fungicide, Eco oil and wetting agent, as well as Bactivate soil conditioner and Searle products. It was agreed that a large package of Eco C-weed (about \$200, but much cheaper per gram than the smaller packages that are available) would be repackaged into smaller units for sale to members in the future.

Meeting closed at 9:40 pm

Something of interest: Did you think that July was a long month? Same amount of days (31) but we had 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays. This is supposed to happen once every 823 years. We do get 5 of Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays. Or Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. Or Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays this year, so I don't know how the 5 Friday, Saturday, Sundays doesn't come around more often than 823 years.

We have some unusual dates this year: 1/1/11, 11/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/11/11

Now if you take the last two digits of the year in which you were born, then add the age you will be this year, the results add up to 111. This works for everyone in the whole world.