

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

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A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID COUNCIL. FOUNDED 1946.

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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, on 24th October 2014, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

MURRAY BAKER

KEIKIS

NOVEMBER MEETING DATES:

Judging Panel	November 3 rd AGM
OSWA Committee	7:30 pm Fri 7 th Nov.
General Meeting	7.30 pm Fri 28 th Nov.

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Birthdays: October: 5th Nathan Carless, 16th Barbara Burnett
November: 10th George Price, 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.

New Members: Michael Usher, Vera Isdale Welcome & we hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Name Badges: If you haven't a name badge, please see Ian and let him know. Not all of our members are familiar with each other, so it is made easier if you are wearing a badge.

General News:

- **Please bring Perpetual Trophies to the October Meeting & give to Murray or Kaye**
- **This month's Meeting Item will be a discussion about keikis.** Keikis are those little plantlets that sprout on from old canes or flower spikes. If you have any plants with keikis and you would like to know what to do with them, bring them in for discussion.
- **General Meetings: As from February 2015 the Collins Street Centre Hall has been booked from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on the 3rd Sunday of the Month, instead of Friday nights.** Hopefully this time & day suits members better as indicated on the Survey slips. Closer to **February** we will know exactly what time we can start set up of the Hall.
- **Perth Royal Show: 27th Sept to 4th October** The Display was excellent & the Floriculture Committee congratulated us on the work we put into it. Thank you to all who volunteered to help set up & man the Display.
- **Potting Workshop:** Scout & Guide Hall, Pilgrim St. South Perth (behind South Perth Community Hospital), on **Sunday 19th October**. At the time of printing this Bulletin the Workshop was still to be held. The Committee appreciates those who have volunteered to help & talk to the public.
- **Home Open: A day not to be missed** 26th October at John & Karen Carless' home, 770 South West Highway, Byford (phone 9526 2283) commencing at 11.00am. Members \$5.00 to cover costs & please bring a salad or sweet to share. BYO drinks. Tea & Coffee available.
- **General Meeting Sharing Table:** A table was set up at each of the Society's September meeting. Thanks to those who brought donated items in such as books, magazines, pots, cuttings of your favourite plant, produce (bag of lemons), etc. All donations are most welcome. Please remember to put a small donation in the **Honesty Box** if you take something from the table.
- **Membership subscriptions: 2014/15 subs** will be due on the 31st October – so please keep this in mind. Contact Ian Duncan on 9364 5439 re payment. \$26.00 for a Double & \$21.00 for a single membership.
- **Postage Price Increase:** If at all possible we would appreciate more members receiving their Bulletin by Email. If members would prefer to receive their Bulletin electronically then please contact Murray with your Email address, to save costs. Thank you to those members who have already changed to Email.
- **Annual Christmas Dinner:** Saturday 6th December at the RAAF Bull Creek – more details at the October Meeting. Keep this date in mind.
- **December Christmas Meeting: Friday 12th December** (2nd Friday) at 7.30pm
- **January General Meeting:** Will be held on Friday 23rd January 2015 at 6.00 pm. This meeting is a social evening with a BBQ. BYO meat, chair, drinks & a salad or sweet (to share). We do have at least 22 chairs so if you forget yours we won't be short. This meeting will be held at Jim & Kaye Baylis' home, 18 Wheyland St (cnr Caple St.) Willagee. Bring along any problem plants, or anything special or simply one you need advice on how to grow. There is no Monthly Plant competition. This is a great social evening and a great way to start the year.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (September 2014)**OPEN:**

Class 1A (2)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Leptotes bicolor
	2. Maxine Godbeer	C. amethystoglossa
Class 1B (1)	1. Howard Tan	Rlc. Sak's Triumph
Class 2A (1)	1. Courtney Rogasch	Cym. lowianum
Class 3A (1)	1. Howard Tan	Paph. sukhakulii
Class 3B (2)	1. Howard Tan	Paph. Dollgoldi
	2. Howard Tan	Paph. Lola Bird
Class 3C (2)	1. Howard Tan	Paph. Hsin Ying Leopard
	2. Howard Tan	Miao Hua Ruby Apple
Class 5A (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Phal. Mannii
Class 7A (1)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Aerangis citrate
Class 10B (3)	1. Maxine Godbeer	Gongora histrionica
	2. Maxine Godbeer	Bulb. Basisetum
	3. Maxine Godbeer	Promeneia Xanthina

NOVICE:

Class 16D (1)	1. Meg Donald	Cym. Bullbarrow "Will Stutley"
Class 18 (1)	1. Rod Pohl	Den. Unknown
Class 23 (1)	1. Rod Pohl	Den. Wesley Rose x speciosum

Junior:

Schokman Trophy: Rlc. Sak's Triumph 71 Points Owner – Howard Tan

POPULAR VOTE:

OPEN: Paph. Dollgoldi Owner: H Tan

NOVICE: Den. unknown Owner: R Pohl

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014) by 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 over pot 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 ½ inch 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 seasons leads will shoot ahead. Keep them growing strongly by increasing the fertilizing to weekly or fortnightly intervals. In the growing season, Cymbidiums love plenty of light, water and a regular feeding programme.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014) from notes of the late 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
- 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 cms long before potting as longer roots are more likely to get broken in the process of potting.

When potting, choose a pot size one step up from the pot you had used till then, e.g from a 125mm to a 150mm 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.

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 a seaweed solution 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 2014) 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.

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 restricts 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 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 to be held in the Collins Street Hall, South Perth,
on 26 September 2014

Welcome: The President Mrs K Baylis could not attend on account of duties at the Royal Show. Meeting chaired by Mrs R McGrath, who opened the meeting at 7:40 pm welcoming visitors & members.

Apologies: As per Register

Meeting item: Tending Sick Orchids (Dr Rottenbulb aka Malcolm Davis).

Break for tea and popular vote.

Minutes: Moved R Pohl, seconded R McCallum that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried.**

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- From Metway Real Estate, notification of payment for Kardinya Show
- To Lotteries Commission, to amend our grant application (delete laptop which has already been purchased)
- To Bartel Calendars, order of Garden Clubs Calendars for OSWA.
- From Garden Clubs, 2015 Calendar for sale; info about AM and photography competition; info about upcoming direct debits for re-affiliation, insurance, etc; annual report.
- To Richard Dekkers, email thanking for hosting OSWA's visit to Floraplast
- PROS, invitation to their Spring Show 13/14 September
- Email exchange with City of Cockburn, updating OSWA's details in their community database
- From City of South Perth, re booking of venues for 2015
- From Bob Bates, re orchid tours of PNG
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to obtain orchids, show and meeting dates, etc.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Business arising: Nil

Confirmation: Moved R Pohl seconded M Perry that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: Not available due to I Duncan being away this month.

New Members: Linda Cao, Rochelle Trezise, Hellen Carpenter, Bradley and Madeline Burrell.

Reports:

- Spring Show (R McGrath): Congratulations to prize winners and thanks to all who helped with the display and the sales table.
- Royal Show (R McGrath): Thank you to those who supplied plants and/or came to the Showgrounds to assist with setup, especially C Rogasch, G Talbot, V Cooper, M Brechin, J Baylis. Not as many plants this year, but the display is excellent and all the plants were easy to see.

General Business:

- Home visit at the home of John and Karen Carless to start at 11 am (26 October).
- J Walton advised that there was some difficulty getting orchid bark from South Australia and so Ezi-Gro was currently not selling potting bark. Bark (from an alternative source) was still available from Garden City Plastics or Masters
- M Davis offered to purchase some trisodium phosphate for the club (agreed by members).

- Christmas Dinner at the RAAF club in Bull Creek will be on 6 December this year. Price to be advised.
- Potting workshop: setup 8:30 am, potting from 10 am - 3:30 pm, pack up to be completed by 4 pm. R Pohl, M Perry, J Carless had already volunteered to assist on the day.
- M Davis advised that at the Registrar's meeting it was noted that during judging at shows, only judges should be in the judging area. There should be no "runners" to collect judging sheets, just a tray where the sheets can be placed when completed by judges.

Raffle: J Krishnan, J Walton.

Popular Vote. Open: Paph. Dollgoldi (Owner: H Tan). **Novice:** Den. unknown (Owner: R Pohl)

Door Prize: H Tan. Howard kindly donated his popular vote and door prize plants to V Cooper and J Krishnan.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Popular vote winners this month.

Novice: *Dendrobium* unknown, owned by R Pohl. This plant was a soft cane dendrobium with dark pink flowers and maroon highlight on the labellum. Rod noted that the plant had not flowered for the last few years, and also that this type of dendrobium flowers on the old leafless canes.

Open: *Paphiopedilum* Dollgoldi, owned by H Tan. This orchid is a primary hybrid (a hybrid of two species), in this case a hybrid of *Paph. rothschildianum* and *Paph. armeniacum*. The colour of the flowers of *Paph. Dollgoldi* comes from *Paph. armeniacum*, while the multifloral character comes from *Paph. rothschildianum*. Howard grows this paph in a plastic house to ensure that it has sufficient humidity (>50%). The potting medium is just pine bark with a bit of limestone added. The limestone gives gentle slow release of calcium; dolomite also supplies calcium, but it is more expensive than limestone and gives a rush of calcium. Howard adds chunks of polystyrene in larger pots to keep the mix open. He used a range of fertilisers, including CCS (from Growth Technology), Powerfeed, Seasol, foliar feeding during winter when the roots are dormant, and in summer some Aquasol.

Notes from the talk by Dr Rottenbulb (aka Malcolm Davis)

The doctor demonstrated how to remove a rotten bulb from a cymbidium without removing the cymbidium from the pot, using a sharp knife.

- Factors that lead to rot include too much water, potting mix too fine, and not repotting frequently enough (potting mix breaks down).
- Rot is caused by various bacteria and fungi, that can controlled by treatment with copper oxychloride (maximum twice per year), Mancozeb, wettable sulfur, Alginox, etc. Alginox can be applied to plants monthly and also can be sprayed under benches (at concentrations higher than used on plants).
- After rotten parts are removed, the cut part of the plant can be treated with Steriprune (a tar-like product), Mercurochrome, Betadine, to prevent bacteria and fungus entering the plant.
- As the weather gets warmer, be vigilant for things like two-spotted mite (very hard to see, but they makes leaves white underneath). Treatment is with Rogor (care: toxic!), Confidor not so useful. Two-spotted mite likes azaleas too.
- If an orchid pot gets too dry, it might get infested by ants. Stick the pot in a bucket of water to get the ants out.
- Sterilize cutting tools with trisodium phosphate. Conveniently-sized packages are available from the opportunity table.

For further info, contact Dr Rottenbulb.