

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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DECEMBER 2022

The next meeting of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on **Friday 16 December, 2022.**

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

TROPHY PRESENTATIONS AND
CHRISTMAS PARTY

JANUARY MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: no meeting

General Meeting: ~ 6:00 pm Friday 27th
(at the home of Ray and Peta Taylor)

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General News

Birthdays:

December: 6th Val Seaman; 22nd Howard Tan; 23rd Cheryl Compagnone; 27th Maxine Godbeer

January: 17th Ann Lam; 23rd Betty Saul; 25th Margaret Rathbone; 31st John Carless

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 Eric and Arlene Pereira (Wellard), Annette Gelfi (Cottesloe), Jan Edmunds (Thornlie), and Alex and Maurice Cammack (Lesmurdie). We hope you have many rewarding years ahead with our Society.

Club Plants for sale at the December GM

This month we have another club plant from The Hanging Garden orchid nursery in Victoria. The plant is an Australasian native hybrid, *Dendrobium* Amphion Tisiphone 'Sunny' x *Dendrobium* Comboyne 'Ulations'. It is the result of numerous hybridizations involving *Dendrobium teretifolium*, *Dendrobium pugioniforme*, and *Dendrobium striolatum* (all from the eastern states of Australia) and *Dendrobium caudiculatum* and *Dendrobium fuliginosum* (both from New Guinea and nearby Asian countries). Have a poke around www.orchidroots.com, and you'll be able to figure out the family tree. Anyway, these plants should do well in the shade house, perhaps with a bit of protection from rain in the winter. The plants will be available for purchase by members at the December GM for \$6 each (heavily subsidised by the club), so bring your money with you!



Dendrobium
Amphion Tisiphone 'Sunny'
x Comboyne 'Ulations'
A1717

Vote for theme of ISODW 2023

There will be a secret ballot at this month's general meeting to decide the theme for the displays at the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop 2023. The list of suggestions has been whittled down to the following:

1. Colours
2. Dinner with the orchids
3. Dreaming of orchids
4. Orchids around us
5. Orchids out back
6. Song titles
7. Sustainability
8. Swan River
9. Yesterday ,Today and Tomorrow
10. Orchid Journey

What do you think? What sort of a display could we mount under one of these themes? Have your say and cast your vote on Friday.

January General Meeting - Visit to the home of Ray and Peta Taylor - 27 January 2023

Ray and Peta Taylor have kindly offered to host us for our traditional home visit in January, which takes the place of our meeting at the Manning centre. A barbecue will be supplied and will include sausages and chicken shaslicks. Members are requested to bring a salad or sweets to share, and its BYO drinks, and BYO chair if you wish to sit. Also, please bring a plant to donate for the raffle. More info, and a roster so we can coordinate the salads and sweets, will be available at the December general meeting and in the January bulletin. Address: 8 Kent Road, Maida Vale 6057. Phone: 0415 772 369.

Glasshouse available

Lorraine Gardiner, daughter of Lorna Dodd, posted the following on our Facebook page:

Is there anyone who would like a glass house. They would have to be dismantled. I will be pleased for them to go from my Mum's house (Lorna Dodd). Please contact me if you are interested.

If you are interested but don't know how to contact Lorraine, ask someone who can use Facebook.
(*Editor's note #1: Sorry, can't help you there...*)

GENERAL ORCHID CULTURE NOTES FOR BIRAK (APPROX. DECEMBER/JANUARY)

The Orchid Society of Western Australia acknowledges that our meetings are held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. Unlike the European calendar, the Noongar people describe the climate of Western 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. Birak is the season of the young, and features rising temperatures and decreased rainfall. Easterly winds in the morning can be hot and dry, but the Fremantle Doctor is strongest this time of year, which provides some welcome relief for our orchids in the afternoon.

- ✓ Repotting should be complete by this time of year. Unless emergency circumstances require it, any repotting should be delayed until March. Try not to disturb the root system if performing any 'emergency surgery'. Plants in older mix that probably should have been repotted sooner will benefit from application of dolomite lime to help balance the pH and prevent the decomposing media from becoming too acidic. (*Editor's note #2: There still seems to be unusually cool days deep happening into December this year. I am preparing this bulletin at 11 am on 13 December and it is only 18 °C outside! I'm still doing repotting whenever I have a spare moment, trying to catch up on a decade of neglect of this task. It remains to be seen whether my recently-repotted plants will survive the hotter-than-usual weather expected to come later this summer!*)
- ✓ With increasing temperatures, extra shade cloth may need to be applied. Be guided by the colour of your orchids leaves—plants in ideal light will have light green leaves. Leaves that turn yellow or red are receiving too much light, and plants with dark green leaves are producing more chlorophyll to compensate for insufficient light. Ensure any holes/gaps in shade cloth are addressed or plants are likely to burn. (*Editor's note #3: Definitely I need to add extra shade this year. Several members reported plants getting sunburnt in their normal shade house conditions last summer, and this summer is predicted to be worse.*)
- ✓ Most orchids will have new growths well under way by now, so keeping up the fertilizer regime is important. The 'weakly, weekly' approach is a good guide for liquid fertilizer, where 'weakly' usually means quarter to half strength. Slow release pellets can also be used, but some pellets release their contents in a temperature dependent manner and can 'dump' large amounts of fertilizer on hot days. For this reason, it's best not to just apply them to the surface of the mix where they receive sun—tap the pot so they settle into the mix a little, and avoid placing them where they have the potential to burn a new flush of new root tips. (*Editor's note #4: I am wary of using fertiliser pellets on small plants, especially freshly repotted plants and especially during hot weather. I've had no problems with using dilute liquid fertilisers such as Strike Back for Orchids liquid. Also, I find that I can safely apply small amounts of Seamungus pellets to the top of the mix even for freshly repotted plants. I*

routinely spray a solution of Seamungus liquid with a wetting agent over freshly repotted plants to thoroughly wet the mix. Once the foliage is dry, I spray the foliage thoroughly with Envy (hard to find) or Drought Shield (a Yates product, available in Bunnings etc.) to reduce transpiration and help the plants over the trauma of repotting.)

- ✓ 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. 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 under the orchids— these will absorb any excess fertilizer runoff, help create a frog friendly environment (insect patrol) and improve humidity in the growing space. (*Editor's note #5: Bromeliads are great. Do not grow ferns in your shade house! Even if you only put your ferns below the benches, they will end up growing in every orchid pot, and they will choke your orchids' roots and out-compete your orchids' foliage for space and light.*)
- ✓ If you have a variety of pot sizes, you will need to ensure that the smaller pots do not dry out too quickly. A simple solution is to double pot, so the final size pots are all the same. By this I mean placing the smaller pots into a larger pot which is filled with compost which encircles the smaller pot- this keeps the smaller pot (and the root system of the plant) cool, and slows the rate at which it dries out. (*Editor's note #6: Excellent idea. The larger outer pot also lessens the chance of your orchid toppling over in the shade house.*)
- ✓ With warmer weather, check your plants and the surrounding area for mealy bugs, ants and other bugs that may decide to move into the cooler conditions of a shade or glass house where greater moisture content is available. It is much easier to get rid of the pest when there are only a few, rather than letting them multiply, which makes the task removing them harder. Snails and slugs are less active at this time of year. (*Editor's note #7: Pfffft! If you keep your shade house moist, you will probably still have snail and slug activity, especially at night. I keep a torch handy to check...there are definitely less snails and slugs around now than in September, but I can still find a couple each night. Also, millipedes! I have even seen them eating *Microtis* in the bush at night. Grrrr.*)

For detailed notes on culture of Cymbidium, Cattleya, and Paphiopedilum orchids during Birak, see the November bulletin.

Space Saver

If you've had the good fortune to be able to visit Lynn Brooks' place for a home visit, you will know that Lynn manages to keep an awful lot of orchids in a very small space. Here is one of Lynn's space-saving tricks — a tray for twelve small pots, hung using a four-armed pot hanger. There's space for plants that can get by with less light underneath the tray. These trays are also good for keeping small pots (tube-stock) from toppling over.



The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)
Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on
Friday 25 November 2022

Welcome: 7:40

Apologies and attendance: as per register

Minutes: Moved Keng L, Ray T, seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

Presentations/demos:

This months topic was an interactive discussion on Water Quality facilitated by Lynn. Lynn discussed various sources of water (bore water, rain water, scheme water, reverse osmosis water)- which differ in terms of their pH and salt content, and we tested water samples brought in by members. Some key points below!

- Most tap water in Perth is okay for *most* orchids, providing fertilizer is used at dilute rates, and pots are watered heavily so as to flush out any salts that accumulate in the pot.
- The quest for better water is for people interesting in growing orchids with exceptional results, or growing salt intolerant orchids such as phragmipediums or masdevallias
- Taking measurements to get an idea of your water quality is fine, but don't obsess over numbers! Be guided by your plant health and results. If you're happy with how everything is growing, there's no need to change anything.
- Rainwater is best. It's what orchids receive naturally, has a perfect pH, and low in salt! It's also a waterwise gardening practice, and contributes towards maintaining sustainability of our water supply

For further reading, please see articles below from the St Augustine Orchid Society who have some fantastic resources on the subject.

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/SolubleSaltsbySueBottom.pdf>

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/ArepHChecksNecessarybyHarryMcElroy.pdf>

Below are some results of water testing we conducted. I hope I transcribed the results correctly—some were more legible than others!

Tap water Kensington ppm 4.3, pH 6.9

Rainwater Kensington ppm 0 pH 7.6

Kensington tap water PPM 6.9 pH 4.3

Tap water Mount Pleasant EC ppm pH 7.5

Hilton ppm 150, pH 7.6

Bassendean tap ppm 380 pH 7

Bassendean bore ppm 160 pH 5.8

Leeming tap water ppm 100 pH 7.1

Deionised water ppm 0, pH 6.7

Riverton bore water ppm 170 pH 7.7

Riverton Tap water ppm 0 pH 7.4

North Perth tap water ppm 310 pH 7.8

Rainwater (Marian) ppm 0 pH 8.6

Hilton ppm 0 pH 7.6

Belmont tap water ppm 230 pH 7.2

Waterford tap water ppm 100 pH 6.6

Keng Waterford (Strikeback in filtered tap water) ppm 470 pH 6.3

Keng Waterford 'new' filter system ppm 0 pH 7.2

Subiaco tap ppm 210 pH 7.0

Katia ppm 290 pH 7.7

New member introductions: Alex and Maurice Cammack, Eric and Arlene Pereira, Jan Edmunds, and from previous month John Cain, Bev Ruello, Laura Herd, Lydia Brazzale, Siew Kee.

Correspondence:

- 27/10- from Urban Bushland Council re: Understanding the EP Act to save urban bushland

- 27/10- from LINC'S WA request to update details
- 31/10- from OWA re: AOC Board of management Queensland minutes
- 2/11- from Manning Centre newsletter
- 6/11- received soft cane dendrobium flask list
- 8/11- to/from Bunnings re: presentations on Orchids
- 8/11- Associations newsletter scam alerts
- 21/11- from GCA forms
- 21/11- from GCA photo competition
- 24/11- from Neutrog re: delay of delivery

Business arising from correspondence

- The Neutrog order has been delayed, apologies for any inconvenience!

Moved Harry A, seconded Arnold that the business arising from correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Reports:

- Bunnings Visits
- Late Flowering Display
- Perth Garden Festival

Financial report: Presented by Sheelagh Harman

Business arising from the financial report: nil.

Moved Sheelagh H seconded Jacqui B that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

General Business:

- **ISODW 2023** – suggestion of theme! Please put forward suggestions as we will be putting these to a vote at the December GM
- **General Meeting - 16th December: Christmas party and Secret Santa**
As part of our traditional December meeting, there will be a Secret Santa again this year. Please bring a plate of finger food to share for the party. For the Secret Santa, please bring a small wrapped gift to the value of about \$10. Everyone who brings a gift will receive a ticket to choose a gift from the pile during the meeting. Also, please note that to avoid being too close to the Christmas rush period, our December meeting will be a week earlier than usual, on **Friday 16 December**.
- **January General Meeting - Visit to the home of Ray and Peta Taylor - 27 January 2023**
Ray and Peta Taylor have kindly offered to host us for our traditional home visit in January, which takes the place of our meeting at the Manning centre. A barbecue will be supplied. Members are requested to bring a salad or sweets to share, and its BYO drinks, and BYO chair if you wish to sit. Also, please bring a plant to donate for the raffle. More info, and a roster so we can coordinate the salads and sweets, will be available at the December general meeting, and in upcoming bulletins.
- **New Grower Incentive Scene Participation** – new OSWA members are encouraged to bench plants at our monthly meetings. Members in the second, third and fourth year as OSWA members collect points from benching plants, and at the end of the year the grower in each year with the most 'points' will be awarded a quality, flowering sized plant from the OSWA stockpile.
- **Events calendar 2023:** TBA!

Raffle: Betty S, Alan R, Jack K, Lynn B, Bill, Ray T, Merril B, Ray T, Murray B, Kim J

Open popular vote: Harry A with *Phalaenopsis japonica*. (*Editor's note #6:* Harry gave an entertaining spiel about this orchid, also known as *Sedirea japonica*. Apparently it is highly prized in Japan, where there are clubs dedicated solely to the culture of this species. Harry's specimen is unusually large and impressive for its species.)

Novice popular vote: *Brassidium* Golden Gamine 'White Knight' - Jenny bought this plant from Ray Taylor last year, and grows it hanging in the back of her greenhouse.

Door Prize: Jenny McClean

Meeting Closed at 9:36 pm

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (NOVEMBER 2022)

OPEN

1A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Prosthechea cochleata</i>
2E	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Cymbidium</i> Little Beauty Cricket x <i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>
3A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum delenatii</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum philippinse</i> 'Bulli'
3C	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> (Green Grixes x Hsinying Foam)
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Yi-Ying 'Morning Sun'
4A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Dendrobium aberrans</i>
4D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Dendrobium</i> Gloucester Charm 'Keith'
5A	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Phalaenopsis japonica</i>
6C	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Tolumnia</i> No 10
6D	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Odontocidium</i> Succubus 'Night shift'
8A	(2)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>
8B	(3)	1	Courtney Rogasch	<i>Cymbidium</i> Helen Bannerman* 'Black Magic'
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Kuranda "Arthur Dawson"
		3	Harry Ashton	<i>Cymbidium</i> Helen Bannerman*
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower
11B	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Coelogyne</i> Jannine Banks
		2	Harry Ashton	<i>Masdevallia</i> Fuchsia Dawn

* *Cymbidium* Helen Bannerman was formerly known as *Cymbidium* Little Black Sambo. See OSWA's December 2020 Bulletin, http://orchidsocietywa.net.au/OSWA/Bulletins_files/OSWA-2020-December%20v14.pdf

NOVICE

15C	(1)	1	Lynn Brooks	<i>Cattleya</i> Unknown
15F	(1)	1	Enid Chelva	<i>Epidendrum</i> Unknown
19B	(1)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
19D	(1)	1	Keng Leow	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown
20B	(1)	2	Enid Chelva	<i>Brassia</i> Unknown
20D	(1)	1	Jenny McLean	<i>Brassidium</i> Golden Gamine 'White Knight'

Judge's choice (Roy Brown Trophy): *Phalaenopsis japonica* grown by Harry Ashton, 73 Points

Best Cymbidium (Tom Dixon Trophy): *Cymbidium* unknown grown by Betty Saul, 72 Points

Open popular vote: *Phalaenopsis japonica* grown by Harry Ashton

Novice popular vote: *Brassidium* Golden Gamine 'White Knight' grown by Jenny McLean



Above: Open Popular Vote: *Phalaenopsis japonica*, grown by Harry Ashton.



Left. Novice Popular Vote: *Brassidium* Golden Gamine 'White Knight' grown by Jenny McLean.

Below: *Epidendrum* unknown, grown by Enid Chelva.

Bottom left: *Coelogyne* Jannine Banks, grown by Ray Taylor

Bottom Right: *Phalaenopsis* unknown, grown by Keng Leow.

Merry Christmas to
all our readers!

