

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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JUNE 2018

NEXT MEETING of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) will be held at the **Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning**, on **Friday 22nd June, 2018**, commencing at **7:30 pm**.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING ITEM:

ORCHIDS NEEDING A DRY WINTER REST
JOHN CARLESS

JULY MEETING DATES:

OSWA Committee 7:30 pm Friday 6th

General Meeting 7:30 pm Friday 27th

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Birthdays

June: 2nd Tom Seaman, 9th Fred Herbert, Edna Burgess, 17th Maggie Longmore

July: 1st Kevin Butler, 15th Dana Mitchell, 16th Maureen Grantham

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.

Waterford Plaza Community Day — Saturday 23 June, 11 am - 2 pm, setup from 8:30 am

OSWA will be running a stand again this year at the Waterford Plaza Community Day. The event is an excellent opportunity for us to raise awareness of OSWA in the local community, attract new members, and raise some money through plant sales. **We need plants for a display and plants to sell on the sales table.** This was a very successful event last year and promises to be the same this year. Helpers will be most welcome. See Kirsty or Lynn or Lina at the June general meeting for more info.

Floraplant Visit - Saturday 30 June.

Our next Floraplant visit will be held on Saturday 30 June. **The bus will leave the Activity Centre no later than 8:30 am, to arrive at Floraplant at 9:00 am.** The nursery is at 822 Rowley Road, Oakford. This nursery is a delight to see as it is fully computerised to obtain optimum growing conditions for the various types of flowering plants, including orchids. Contact Rosemary (0401 508 667 or at the June general meeting) to book a seat on the bus, or find your way to Floraplant by car. An excursion not to be missed, it will be well worth the drive.

OSWA/Cymbidium Club Joint Winter Display. Saturday 7 July 2018 (setup Friday 6 July)

Our winter show this year is being replaced by a display, being held jointly with the Cymbidium Club, at the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre. Setup is from **7 pm on Friday 6 July**, with the display open to the public 9 am - 4 pm on **Saturday 7 July 2018**. There will be demonstrations about growing orchids, and a sales table offering plants and orchid-related paraphernalia (fertilizers, pots, etc.). **We will need plants for the OSWA display, plants for the sales table (sold on 10% commission as usual), and helpers at setup, packup, and throughout Saturday.** Donations of nibblies (scones etc) will be warmly received. Entry for members is free. See Rosemary, Lynn or Courtney for further details.

Christmas in July: Friday 20 July, Chin's restaurant, Leeming.

Jack Krishnan is kindly arranging a "Christmas in July" night at Chin's Restaurant, Shop 3, Farrington Fayre Shopping Centre, 51 Farrington Road, Leeming; **Friday 20 July, starting 6 pm**. The cost will be about \$30-35 per person (depending on numbers) for a set menu banquet. Chin's is an excellent Chinese restaurant — nice ambience, great service, superb food. If you plan to attend, add your name to the list and select your preferred banquet menu at the June general meeting, so that Jack can make the booking.

Home Visit at Ray and Peta Taylor's Property: Saturday 28 July 2018, from 10 am.

The address is 2118 Great Northern Highway, Bullsbrook. There will be plants from Tinonee Orchid Nursery (NSW) for sale, and in case it is cold, there will be a big pot of special home-made soup. Bring a chair if you can.

Do you have these orchids?

We have received an unusual enquiry...a soon-to-be bride in Perth is looking for *Dendrobium* Margaret Alphonso (*Dendrobium* Somsak x *Dendrobium* farmeri) and *Alphonsoara* Gus (*Arachnopsis* Miswadi x *Ascocenda* Memoria Choo Laikeun; now *Trevorara* Gus). These orchids were named after the bride's parents; her father used to be the curator of Singapore Botanic Gardens. If you have one of these orchids and are willing to part with a flower or two for a wedding bouquet, please contact Murray.

For Sale: Eucalyptus oil @ \$3.00 per 100 mL.

Contact Courtney on 0407 049 717 prior to a meeting to arrange purchase.

Benching plants at monthly meetings and shows

All members (and even visitors) are encouraged to display plants at OSWA monthly meetings and shows. Note, however, that you must have owned a plant for 6 months before you can enter it in competition at a monthly meeting or a show. If you have a special plant in flower but have not owned it for 6 months, please still bring it along to display, but mark it with a note as "For Display Only".

Some dates to save...

Tropical Colours Nursery Visit: Saturday 18 August 2018.

Home visit at John Carless's place: in September 2018 or later, watch this space.

Christmas Dinner: Sunday 11 November 2018, at Itsara Thai Restaurant in Nedlands. The restaurant has excellent food and a special garden area adorned with live orchids. More details later.

Are you planning to sell plants at the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop?

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop will be the biggest orchid show in WA this year, and it will be open to the public on Sunday 5 August. There will be a sales table, with the organising club (the Species Orchid Society of WA) receiving 10% commission on all sales. Proceeds from sales (less the commission) will be credited to sellers in late August or early September, via cheque or electronic funds transfer to each seller's bank account. To assist with organisation of the sales table, any OSWA members planning to sell plants at the sales table should advise Murray or Kirsty as soon as possible.

Are you planning on attending the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop Dinner?

The Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop Dinner will on the evening of Saturday 4 August, at the Western Australian Golf Club 60 Hayes Ave, Yokine. The Intersociety dinners are a great way to get to know orchid growers from other clubs, especially those outside the metro area, and the WA Golf Club is an excellent venue with good food. The cost is \$55 per person, and the menu includes: Amelia Park boneless lamb leg finished with a red current jus *or* grilled barramundi slices with a dill and lemon pepper crust and topped with a white wine beurre blanc; roasted carrots, parsnips, pumpkin, onions and turnips; freshly baked rolls and butter; warm apple, raspberry and white chocolate crumble with a Grand Marnier anglaise; coffee and tea; and drinks from the bar at members' prices. ***For catering purposes, please let Murray know if you are planning to attend the dinner.***

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2018) based on notes from Roy Brown

This month, more of the early flowering Cymbidiums will be in flower. Others will have flower buds showing through the protective sheath on the stem. Once they reach the stage where the flower buds are visible, it's time to move the plants out of the shade house and into a flowering area, where more protection can be given to them. Heavy rain or hail can chip the soft buds and so leave a permanent mark. Also strong winds can cause the leaves to rub on the flowers, and this too will cause a blemish.

Cymbidiums like to grow in a position where there is plenty of free air movement, so don't completely enclose the flowering area like a glass house, as this could cause bud drop. Give them protection from the heavy winds and also close off the sides that face the strongest winds. Don't over crowd your plants; if possible give them plenty of room between each pot.

During July we can expect cold, wet wintry weather. Fertilising can be tapered off to once a fortnight. Watering will also depend on the weather, but don't allow the pots to become dry, particularly those in spike and under cover. Keep the flowering house and shade houses well baited with slug and snail pellets, particularly now that the flower buds are showing.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2018) based on notes from Henry Eaton

With the onset of cold wintry weather, the foremost consideration is adjusting cultural practice to the cold. Orchid growth slows with the cold so the need for watering decreases and the use of fertilisers becomes a minor concern, unless your plants are being grown in a heated greenhouse.

If your plants are grown in an open but covered area to protect them from the rain, all shading, if not removed already, should be removed now. This helps to warm the plants to some degree on sunny days, and helps flowers opening to do so with true colours. Heavily shaded plants appear to open flowers with less brightness in them.

Due to the cold and dampness in the air, flowers are more likely to get infected with botrytis spores, resulting in the appearance of black spots on the petals. This can be averted to some degree by keeping the air moving gently over the plants with the use of a fan, and avoiding crowding plants too close together. If the structure in which you grow your plants permits using hangers, pots hung up give plants better air movement and more space for flowers to open without obstruction.

Flowering plants should also be closely observed for caterpillars and thrips that will damage them if left untreated. Also make sure you have baits spread around to neutralize the snails and slugs that appear with the rain. When watering, choose a day forecasted to be sunny. A sunny day will allow the plants to dry out by nightfall and ensure no water remains in the leaf axils, which could induce rot. It is also probably wise to wait until the sun is shining into your garden before watering, as by then the water in the pipes may have warmed up to some degree. Avoid all potting activities, unless not doing so might kill the plant.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (JUNE/JULY 2018) by Trevor Burnett

With the cooler months upon us, take care with watering, to keep the plants moist but never leave them wet. Always water in the morning to ensure the plants are dry by nightfall. Personally, I reduce my watering back further to once every 14 days, but may give additional watering if the weather is fine and sunny for 6-8 days in a row. Hopefully, a good proportion of our plants will be showing flower spikes. Continue staking plants using wire, meat skewers or small thin bamboo stakes.

This time of the year you start to enjoy the fruits of your previous 12 months work, with some of the early flowers now being fully developed and in full bloom. If you are missing out on a great display starting to appear, now is the time to review your culture over the last 12 months and make any necessary changes to ensure a great show next year. The smaller, un-flowered plants will still require a fertilizer on a fortnightly or monthly basis — quarter-strength to half-strength to keep the growth moving forward.

If you intend to get the plants ready for the various shows, this is the time to spend cleaning up the plants by removing any dead leaves and cleaning any dust from the leaves. Growers use different methods to make their plant's leaves look fresh and glistening. Some growers use of white oil, but I personally believe a little common milk with water wiped over the leaves does a wonderful job without leaving that oily look.

At this time of the year, most growers do not water plants overhead due to the possibility of marking the flowers. It is sound practice to carefully hand-water, if time permits. I do water overhead, but after watering I ensure the pouch is emptied of water and excess water is not left on the remainder of the plant. This can easily be achieved by gently tapping the flower.

PEATS AND ORCHIDS

One of the least understood ecosystem types in Western Australia are the peat lands of the high rainfall zones in southern WA. The Walpole Wilderness Area is home to a large number of these peat systems, most of which have yet to be mapped, documented or even discovered. Unfortunately, these systems are under threat from a drying climate, pigs and fire (the effects of which are exacerbated by a drying climate).

Volunteers from the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association (WNNPA) have been working on a project to map and describe the known peatlands and explore the wilderness to discover new systems. They have been motivated by events over the last few years where prescribed burns have caused the peats to catch fire (peats can burn for many months) causing significant loss of substrate and potentially the collapse of the whole peat system. Current prescribed burning programs are carried out on large forest blocks based on the best available knowledge but given that many peats remain undocumented, they are often not burnt appropriately. Feral pigs love peats as they remain moist for most of the year and are a great source of food (such as frogs, insects and tubers). Pig damage in peats is catastrophic as it destroys the integrity of the substrate and prevents the regeneration of plants. The WNNPA hopes that by documenting the peats, they will be accommodated within the burning program and a greater effort will go towards management of feral pigs.

Peats are very important as they can act as "islands" within a larger ecosystem. Under ideal circumstances, they remain wet all year round and support many plants and animals, some of which are only found in peats and are often relictual species (those plants or animals that have persisted from an

era when the climate and ecology were vastly different – eg Gondwana). The Sunset Frog (*Spicospina flammocaerulea*) is one such species. Discovered in the mid 1990s this frog is only known from about 25 peatlands in the Walpole Wilderness and on an evolutionary scale, it is distinctively different from any other known frog species.

Peats also support an array of plants, including orchids. The South Coast Mignonette Orchid, *Microtis globula* (Figure 1) is a very rare orchid known from only about 6 locations on the south coast. In 2014 the orchid was discovered at 2 new locations near Walpole. The orchid only flowers after fire and was last seen early in the 1990s.

In May this year, volunteers were searching for new peats in a recently burnt area when they stumbled across a small, but interesting orchid. The helmet orchid (Figures 2 & 3) has never been seen or recorded before and is completely new to science. This is a new species and will be monitored and more information recorded over the next few years before it gets formally named, but for the moment it is known as *Corybas* sp 'Peat'.



Figure 1: *Microtis globula*



Figure 2: *Corybas* sp 'Peat'

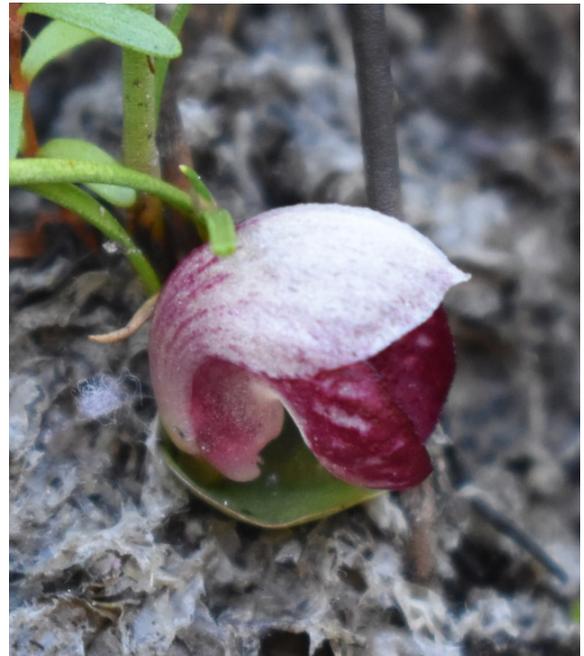


Figure 3: *Corybas* sp 'Peat'

The discovery of a completely new species is an amazing outcome from the Peat Project and proof that there are so many areas in the Walpole Wilderness that need to be explored with a great potential for discovery of new species.

David Edmonds

To learn more about this and other projects in the Walpole Wilderness Area you can join the WNNPA. Annual memberships are \$15. Contact David at jacksplace@westnet.com.au for details.

(David and Liz Edmonds are owners of Orchidup orchid nursery (www.orchidup.com.au) at Walpole. They have been popular guests at a couple of OSWA meetings and Orchidup has been a vendor at many orchid events in Perth. Orchidup will be at the Intersociety Orchid Display and Workshop in August, and the nursery in Walpole will have its annual open day on 27th and 28th October 2018.)

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION (May 2018)

(Note: Plants must have been owned by the grower for at least 6 months prior to entry in Monthly Meetings and Shows)

OPEN

1A	(4)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>chamberlainianum</i>
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Cattleya percivaliana</i>
		3	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Laelia anceps</i> "Pure Alba" x <i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>lineata</i> "Eleanor"
1B	(5)	1	Howard Tan	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Donna Kimura "Robinson Height"
		2	Howard tan	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Drumbeat Triumph
		3	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Hawaiian Trader
1F	(1)	1	Tara Peeters	<i>Brassavola</i> David Sandler
3A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i> "Darch" x <i>Paphiopedilum spicerianum</i> "My Best"
3C	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Gothic Garden x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Gavotte
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Art Pie x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Laserlight
6A	(1)	1	Mal Davis	<i>Oncidium flexuosum</i>
6D	(1)	1	Helen Stretch	<i>Oncidium</i> Space Mine "Red Rendezvous"
8B	(1)	1	Mal Davis	<i>Dendrobium</i> Star of Gold x <i>Dendrobium fleckeri</i> x <i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>
11A	(1)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Fritz Schomburg (Phrag. <i>kovachii</i> x Phrag. <i>besseae</i>)
11B	(1)	1	Maxine Godbeer	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Meen Mellow Moon
12	(2)	1	Ray Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower (<i>Phragmipedium dalessandroi</i> x <i>Phragmipedium longifolium</i>)
		2	Ray Taylor	<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Hsinying Art Pie x <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Laserlight

NOVICE

15B	(3)	1	Graham Esmond	<i>Cattleya</i> Orglades Grand "Yow Chang Beauty"
		2	Enid Chelva	<i>Cattleya</i> Ruth Gee Old Whitey Mi Empress "Estelle Diane" (?)
		3	Graham Esmond	<i>Cattleya</i> George Lay x <i>Cattleya digbyana</i>
21B	(1)	1	Harry Ashton	<i>Vanda</i> Unknown

POPULAR VOTE

OPEN	M Godbeer	<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>chamberlainianum</i>
SCHOKMAN TROPHY (Laelinae)	M Godbeer	<i>Laelia anceps</i> var. <i>chamberlainianum</i> (73 points)
JIM GRANTHAM MEMORIAL TROPHY (Phragmipedium)	R Taylor	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Nicholle Tower (72 points)

The Orchid Society of WA (Inc.)**Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Manning Senior Citizens Activity Centre, Manning, on Friday
25th May 2018****Welcome:** 7.34pm**Apologies:** As per Register**Birthdays in May:** 7th Dorothy Walton, 9th Ellen Dixon, 22nd Malcolm Davis. **June:** 2nd Tom Seaman, 9th Fred

Herbert, Edna Burgess, 17th Maggie Longmore

Meeting Item #1: Kirsty Bayliss (background is in Plant Pathology) – Diseases in Orchids

For diseases to develop, you need a pathogen, a susceptible host & a favourable environment, with time for all three to interact. Pathogens can include fungi, bacteria or viruses.

Diagnosis is extremely difficult & the only true way is through Laboratory Testing.

We need to check plants frequently for signs of the pathogens such as spores or fungal threads (use a hand lens), and for symptoms on the plant such as leaf spots or wilting.

Disease control can be through chemical application, biological control, good culture (cleanliness of plants, testing of water & adding nutrients which are deficient) and host resistance.

Viruses cannot be treated & plants should be appropriately disposed of. Only spray chemicals if required and you know what you are treating.

Members asked several questions and we wish to thank Kirsty for her very informative talk

Break for popular vote

Minutes: Moved L Brooks, seconded J Bateman, that the Minutes of the April General Meeting be accepted.

Carried.

Business arising: Nil

Correspondence:

- WAROO Minutes of 22 April 2018 & draft of their New Rules
- Graham Bowden cheque & registration for ISDW
- T Watkinson/ K Bayliss re site wanted for ISDW
- C Rogasch to H Stretch re OSWA/COCWA joint Display
- K Jones re WAROO Affiliation Fees
- Narelle Sisley requesting Shows at Dianella and/or Vic Park (declined)
- Responses to email enquiries from members of the public about where to buy orchids, show and meeting dates, etc.
- Received: Society Bulletins and junk mail.

Business arising: 2018 ISDW Walter Rd, Morley

Confirmation: Moved J Bayliss, seconded M Brechin, that Correspondence be endorsed. **Carried.**

Financial Statement: Prepared and presented by K Bayliss.

Confirmation: Moved K Bayliss seconded M Rathbone, that the Financial Statement and Accounts for Payment endorsed. Carried.

New Members: Marjorie & Phillip Howden welcome to the Orchid Society of WA

Reports:

- **WAROO:** Are in the process of registering the name Orchids Western Australia & the Draft New Rules to be discussed at the next WAROO Meeting
- **Autumn Show** Prizes were presented. Thanks to those who volunteered to work both with set up & the Sales Table. Thanks to all who entered plants or displayed plants

General Business:

- **Koi Show:** 10am – 2pm Sunday 27th Need plants for Display & raffle prize (Thanks to J Bayliss & G Esmond for donated plants)
- **Bus Trip to Floraplant June 30:** Saturday Bus to leave Manning Seniors at 8.30am sharp
- **Combined Orchid display July 7:** K Bayliss, H Stretch & R McGrath to meet to discuss Display area
- **2018 "Christmas" Dinner at Itsara** (H Ashton). Sunday 11 November – should be plenty of orchids in flower in the Restaurant. 7pm start
- **Ray Taylor Open House:** Saturday 28 July. 2118 Great Northern H'way 10.00am start.
- **Raffle Plants:** Perhaps members could donate extra plants for raffles at each General Meeting – many thanks to those who have done so in the past
- **Trailer Towing:** R Gordon & M Brechin have kindly offered to tow the trailer for the time being. Petrol money to be reimbursed

Raffle: L Brooks, L Chelva, J Krishnan, H Stretch, L Pacca, B Rowles, M Brechin, S Chafer, R McCallum, V Seaman, E Chelva, A Chia, P Chia, C Rogasch. Thanks to G Esmond, M Brechin & C Rogasch for donating extra Raffle prizes.

Popular Vote:

Open: L. anceps var. chamberlainianum owner Maxine Godbeer. The plant had 13 racemes of beautifully presented flowers. Very easy to grow & doesn't require a lot of attention, flowering every year. Originates from Mexico.

Badge Prize: M Davis

Unusual Plants: H Stretch showed her peloric cymbidium which originated from Thailand, came in a flask & was the only one that had the peloric tendency. Grown under shade cloth & when flowering kept out of the rain – beautifully presented pale green with red spotting on two of the petals.

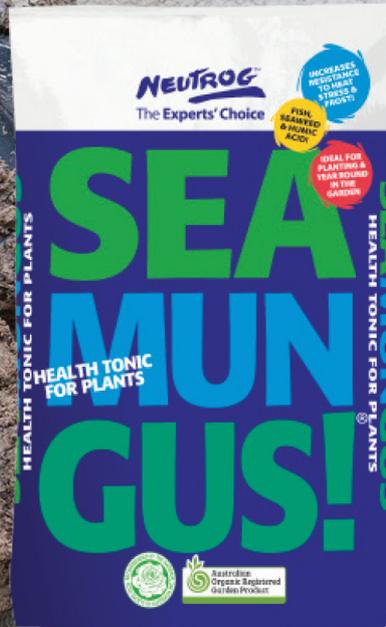
Next Committee: Friday 1st June. **Next General Meeting:** Friday 22nd June (John Carless – Orchids which need a dry Winter rest)

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

SEAMUNGUS IN WINTER FOR A HEAD START TO *Spring*



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