

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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APRIL 2020

Due to the COVID-19 situation, general meetings of the Orchid Society of Western Australia (Inc.) are cancelled until further notice.

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING

MEETINGS CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

APRIL MEETING DATES

OSWA Committee: 7:30 pm Friday 1st
General Meeting: -- cancelled --

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Birthdays

April 6th Eva Gani, 7th Rosemary McGrath, 10th Bernadette Campbell, 12th Karen Carless, 24th Rod Pohl, 29th Ian Duncan

May: 4th Jacqui Bateman, 7th Dorothy Walton, 9th Ellen Dixon, 10th Colleen Cortenbach

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.

Neutrog

Our Neutrog order has arrived. Please phone Rosemary on 0401 508 667 to arrange pickup, and please observe social distancing measures at pickup.

Floral Art Supplies

OSWA has received a donation of tapes, ribbons, pins etc. for floral art. If you would like some or all of these, contact Harry Ashton (harry.ashton@live.com.au, 0412 403 696).

Monthly "Virtual" Plant Competition

OSWA will continue to have a monthly popular vote! Please remember to submit photos of your orchids in flower to oswa2020@iinet.net.au by the 3rd Friday of the month, and include your name in the email so we know who sent the photos. The photos will be posted on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/orchidswa) before the end of the month. 'Like' your favourite photo in the Open and Novice categories to cast your votes! Voting will be open until the first Friday of the next month (2nd Friday in May for this round while we are getting our act together). Winners will receive a coupon to exchange for a prize when general meetings resume.

Winners for the for the March Virtual Plant Competition:



Novice: *Bulbophyllum sibuyanense*,
grown by Kirsty Bayliss.



Open: *Dendrobium x superbiens*
'Pauline', grown by Murray & Arni Baker

CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2020) based on notes from Roy Brown

Now that the cooler months are coming, a start can be made on repotting. It's always good idea to make an early start on the job of repotting, especially if you have a fairly large collection of cymbidiums. A start can be made on small plants, as well as divisions, that are not expected to flower this year. Any plants

that are already showing signs of flower spikes are better left until after the flowers have been cut off. April is the month when most of the Spring flowering plants send up their spikes. Cymbidium spikes are produced from the base of the pseudo bulb, or sometimes they appear between the lower and second leaves. The early flowering cymbidiums have already produced their spikes and these will continue to grow at a fast rate, in some cases the flower buds can be seen already. Take care of these new spikes, they are easily damaged, and keep all snails, slugs and insects away from the buds. Use Baysol to keep the snails and slugs away, and for all other biting insects, use a powder form of insecticide on the flower buds. Don't use liquid insecticide or you could cause bud drop or malformed flowers once they finally open. Depending on weather conditions, watering will probably be needed only once or twice a week from now on, preferably in the morning. The regular feeding programme can be continued. Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids fertilisers are a good choice of fertiliser at this time, since they contain a high level of potassium, to help form the newly developing flower spikes.

CATTLEYA CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2020) based on notes from Henry Eaton

We have experienced a long summer, but autumn weather is finally starting to appear. When the true autumn weather arrives it will need a change in culture. As it ought to be cooler and more humid, the frequency of watering can be reduced, as well as stopping any watering in the evenings, so as to allow the plants to dry out before nightfall. The necessity to water a plant can be gauged by lifting up the pot and comparing the weight of a recently watered plant with what it felt before watering. Cattleyas in general do not like to have their roots wet all the time, but prefer a wet/dry cycle. Remember too, that the plant is only as good as its root system. Fertilising with a high potassium, fertiliser such as Neutrog's Strike Back for Orchids, can promote flowering, but as the weather cools and growth slows, the amount of fertiliser should be reduced. If you use Strike Back pellets, apply less this month, and if you use Strike Back liquid, reduce the concentration that you apply by half, or apply less frequently. Mature pseudo bulbs should be staked erect so that any buds or flowers will present well. If you use a malleable stake, take the stake to the errant bulb, rather than the other way round, as the latter could cause the bulb to fracture. Over a couple of days or a week or two, gradually straightening the stake can move a pseudo bulb from almost a flat position to an upright one, without damaging the bulb. If circumstances dictate that a plant has to be moved, try and place it in its new position at the same angle to the brightest light source as it was previously. If the weather turns, becomes more cloudy and there is a decrease in sunlight, you can also think about removing some of the shade applied in summer. Keep a close lookout for pests and deal with them promptly. Any unfinished potting on or repotting should be completed by mid-May.

PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURAL NOTES (APRIL/MAY 2020) by Trevor Burnett

With the development of cooler conditions, any summer shading can be gradually removed. As the conditions cool, reduced watering will also be necessary. Personally, I reduce my watering back to twice a week, but am always mindful that we could still get some of those unexpected hot days when watering will need to be monitored. As the plants' growth starts to slow, the fertilizer program needs to be adjusted. If you use Strike Back for Orchids (pellet or liquid forms), reduce the rate of application of fertiliser by about half at this time. Over the past few years I actually cut out all fertilizing for flowering size plants, as I have found that more plants tend to send up flowers if they are not receiving fertilizer in this period. This is also the time of the year that we start to see and enjoy the fruits of our year's growing, with plenty of the early flowers now beginning to appear. As flower spikes appear, mark the pot with a wooden skewer with a piece of foam on the top, so you are aware of all the plants that are going to flower. This also serves as a reminder to be careful when moving or cleaning nearby plants so as not to knock the valuable, long awaited buds off. With buds appearing, this is the time to flush out any snails or slugs that may be in hiding, just waiting for your prize plant to bloom so they can start their festive season with nice flowers to munch. If you do not wish to use chemical based baits, you can simply cut up some lemons and place them around the benches. The lemon does not kill any snails or slugs, but it does attract them. Once you know their whereabouts, you can easily eradicate them with a number 10 shoe, or in my case a number 7. Continue to remove any dead leaves from plants and also have a general cleanup of the area. I would ensure that all my small plants that are not expected to flower are repotted to ensure they have a nice clean open mix before going into winter. Winter and wet feet do not mix.

~~ Orchid Crossword ~~

Across

- 2 Where orchid names are registered
- 5 Cross between two species
- 6 Crucifix orchids belong to this genus
- 8 The flowers of this orchid smell like cinnamon (like, aromatic!)
- 10 Genus of orchids infamous for throwing their pollen caps
- 14 Moth orchid
- 16 Medium that most orchids are grown in
- 17 Makes it difficult to import orchids into Australia
- 20 Orchids that grow in the ground
- 21 Flavour that comes from the seed pod of an orchid
- 24 Common word for "labellum"
- 27 Largest genus of orchids
- 29 Orchid genus named after Englishman William Cattley
- 33 Our national orchid body
- 35 An orchid flower has two of these (three if you count the labellum)
- 39 "The place of orchids"
- 40 These pellets let you take a rest from fertilising
- 43 Dendrobium species that is the floral emblem of Queensland
- 44 Growth habit of vandas
- 45 Famous botanic gardens in England
- 46 Pest that weighs heavily on your orchids
- 47 The "P" in NPK
- 53 Grand champion at OSWA's 2019 Spring Show
- 55 A slipper orchid
- 56 Could these native orchids could have been called ass orchids?
- 58 Should never be grown in the shadehouse with your orchids
- 59 Orchid nursery in Darch

Down

- 1 Dendrobium royalty.
- 3 It might damage your orchids, but it's not a spider.
- 4 The most common orchid in Perth?
- 7 Natural hybrid of 1 down and 18 down
- 9 Weakly, weekly is a safe approach to
- 11 Bug that makes a meal of your orchids
- 12 The element in NPK fertiliser that encourages leafy growth
- 13 How orchid seedlings are grown in labs
- 15 Orchid that looks more like a monkey than a bat
- 18 Dendrobium known as the rock orchid
- 19 Orchid nursery in Kalamunda
- 22 Shadehouses are always too
- 23 Makes great organic fertilisers from chicken manure
- 25 The "K" in "NPK"
- 26 Growth habit of cattleyas
- 28 Grows on trees (not money!)
- 30 Orchid seedlings in flasks are grown in this medium
- 31 Orchids need more in summer
- 32 Short for Dendrobium
- 34 Most orchids love high
- 36 Leaves that are circular in cross-section
- 37 Spongy coating on orchid roots
- 38 Genus of the Australian native orchids known as "sarcs"
- 41 Destroy any orchid that is infected with it!
- 42 Flowers with a yellow skirt, aka "Dancing Ladies"
- 48 Many orchids practice deception to attract pollinators
- 49 Genus of the sun orchids
- 50 When will OSWA meetings start again?
- 51 Native orchids named after arachnids
- 52 Hawaiian for "baby"
- 54 Queen of, one of the sun orchids
- 57 International treaty that controls import and export of orchids (and other species)

Bonus points for identifying the orchids in the pictures, which are answers to three of the clues.

~~ Solution in the May Bulletin ~~



A crossword puzzle grid with 59 numbered starting points for words. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are as follows:

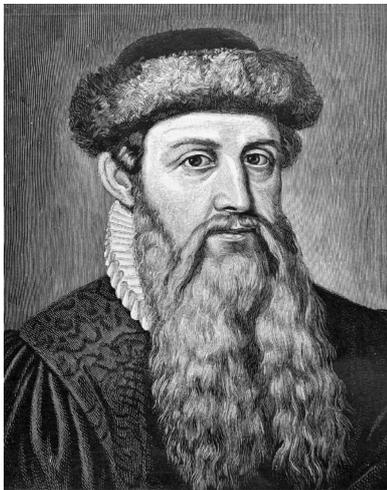
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- 3: 3 letters (vertical)
- 4: 10 letters (vertical)
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- 58: 5 letters (horizontal)
- 59: 10 letters (horizontal)

Gutenberg: From the Printing Press to Free e-Books.

We've probably all heard of the Gutenberg Press, one of the great inventions that helped to bring literature to the masses. The Gutenberg Press was not, however, the first printing press. The earliest printing known is from China. The oldest known printed book is *The Diamond Sutra*, a Buddhist book from Dunhuang, Western China, from about 868 AD. It was printed using hand-carved wooden blocks.

Bi Sheng, who lived in Hubei, China, from about 970 to 1051 AD, invented moveable type printing. In this type of printing (pun intended), the printing elements were carved from clay and baked until hard, and were then arranged into an iron frame in the printing press. Apparently Bi did not like to use wood, because it did not print consistently and was difficult to clean up after use. Bi lived to a ripe old age. I wonder if he would have lived so long if he was born in 1970 rather than 970, since Hubei is the province where the COVID-19 outbreak started late last year.

A magistrate named Wang Chen printed *Nung Shu*, a treatise on farming practices, in 1297 AD. Wang used wooden printing elements (he found a way to make the wood more durable than in Bi Sheng's time), and he invented a revolving table that allowed the typesetters to work more efficiently. *Nung Shu* is considered to be the world's first mass-printed book. It was exported to Europe and, ironically, described many Chinese inventions that were traditionally attributed to Europeans. Perhaps *Nung Shu* included descriptions of printing presses.



One hundred and fifty years after Wang Chen's work, the printing press appeared in Europe. Johannes Gutenberg (illustration at left) began experimenting with printing in Strasbourg, France, in 1440, and had perfected the Gutenberg Press for commercial use by 1450. Gutenberg replaced Wang's wooden blocks with blocks of lead, made by pouring molten lead into moulds made of brass. The lead blocks were carefully made so that they printed level lines of letters and consistent columns on flat paper. Gutenberg was a talented inventor—in addition to inventing the printing press (well, the lead blocks that served as the printing elements, at least), Gutenberg invented inks that worked well with the lead blocks, and invented a method for making paper flat. Gutenberg's most famous printing job was the 1300-page Gutenberg Bible, printed in 1452 using money borrowed from Johannes Fust. It is estimated that Gutenberg printed 160 copies of the bible, of which 21 complete copies are still in existence. Sadly for Gutenberg, Fust wanted his money back eventually, and took possession of Gutenberg's equipment after a lawsuit in 1455. Gutenberg managed to continue printing somehow, and is believed to have printed a Latin dictionary in 1460, but he ceased printing after that date.

Why is this tale about printing in OSWA's bulletin, you ask? Well, since COVID-19 is preventing us from having meetings and other social activities, we have lots of time to amuse ourselves, and we can only spend so much time in the shadehouse. It would be nice to find some new things to read, and although Gutenberg (and Wang and Bi before him) paved the way for the printing of many interesting books, we can't get hold of those books to read now, because the libraries are closed. We could go online and buy some e-books, I suppose, but we would have to fork out some money, use a credit card online and that sort of thing, which many members would be reluctant to do (for security reasons, of course). This is where Project Gutenberg comes in.

Project Gutenberg, named after Johannes Gutenberg, was started by Michael Hart. Hart, as well as having outstanding taste in shirts (see picture at right), was the inventor of e-books. In 1971, he was given an operator's account of \$100,000,000 on a Xerox mainframe computer in the University of Illinois. The amount in the operator's account is not as impressive as it sounds—it was just "funny money" that was allocated to Hart so that he could "buy" time to use the computer. It provided Hart with a lot of computer time, however, and with his spare computer time he worked on Project Gutenberg.



The mission of Project Gutenberg is "To encourage the creation and distribution of e-books". One of the ways Project Gutenberg carries out its mission is by making e-books available for free.

Sadly for readers, copyright laws prevent most books from being distributed for free as e-books. Copyright laws ensure that an author can publish their work (and presumably earn money by selling their work), but others cannot publish that work without consent of the author while the work is still under copyright. The Copyright Term Extension Act (a US law, enacted in 1998) dictates that copyright lasts for the life of the author plus 70 years, and for corporate authorship, copyright lasts for 120 years after creation or 95 years after publication, whichever is earlier. The Copyright Term Extension Act extends copyright for far longer than the original US copyright laws. Most countries have copyright laws similar to, but perhaps not as long-lasting as, the US law. While protecting the author's rights, the laws make it difficult for readers to obtain some works, and one wonders how copyright benefits an author 70 years after death, but I digress.

Copyright law has led to some strange things, such as Warner/Chappell Music claiming royalties for use of the song "Happy Birthday to You". Those claims were challenged in the US Supreme Court in 2016, and the court declared that "Happy Birthday to You" was, in fact, in the "public domain". Any creative work that is in the public domain can be used by anyone for any (legal) purpose. Any published creative work that is not under copyright is, by definition, in the public domain.

To avoid falling foul of the copyright laws, Project Gutenberg has been making e-books from works that are in the public domain. In practice, copyright has expired or did not exist for most books published before 1925, and so these books are now in the public domain. Authors of some books published since 1925 were benevolent and did not claim copyright for those books, and so those books are also in the public domain. Project Gutenberg digitises these books, and makes the digital forms available for free, online. The books (now about 60,000 of them) are available in various forms—as PDFs, as HTML documents (webpages), as text documents, as ePUB documents (which can be read on smartphones, iPads and other tablets) and as files for the Kindle e-book reader. The digitisation process is quite remarkable. The electronic files are relatively small, some include high quality illustrations, and the text can be searched and copied.

Again, you ask, "Why is this nonsense in the OSWA Bulletin!?" Here is the answer: *there are some truly wonderful old books about orchids in the public domain*. The books were written in a different era, and they tell some spectacular tales. The style of writing was different back then to what it is today. The way authors deferred to dignitaries of the day is interesting and amusing. The tales of how the old orchid hunters treated the local peoples who helped them during their great orchid hunting expeditions in the Americas and Asia are fascinating and at the same time cringe-inducing. The books tell us of the growing techniques used in the late 19th century (in the UK mostly). Some of those techniques are very different to the techniques we use today. I wonder if some of these old books contain forgotten wisdom that we could use to grow our orchids better? Finally, these books contain wonderful descriptions of orchids as they were known in those times. Many of the orchids' names have changed since then, but the orchids are still recognisable from the beautiful illustrations in the books.

The Orchid Album, Volume 1, published in 1882, is e-book number 55145 in the Gutenberg Project. You can find it (and a few other books about orchids) by searching "orchid" at www.gutenberg.org, or you can go to it directly via www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/55145. The book's section on *Dendrobium bigibbum* is included on the next few pages. Take a look at the photo of Lynn's *Dendrobium bigibbum* from last month's bulletin and you will appreciate the talent of the artist who drew the illustration in Plate 38. The whole book, even the title pages and preface, is very interesting. *And you can download it for free!*

Information used for this article (and lots more interesting stuff) can be found online at:

www.history.com/topics/inventions/printing-press

www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/plaintexthistories.asp?historyid=190

[www.gutenberg.org/wiki:Gutenberg/The History and Philosophy of Project Gutenberg by Michael Hart](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki:Gutenberg/The_History_and_Philosophy_of_Project_Gutenberg_by_Michael_Hart)

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Excerpt From: Thomas Moore. "The Orchid Album, Volume 1 / Comprising Coloured Figures and Descriptions of New, Rare, and Beautiful Orchidaceous Plants."



Plate 38

DENDROBIUM BIGIBBUM.

[Plate 38.]

Native of Tropical North-east Australia.

Epiphytal. *Pseudobulbs* long, slender, erect, fusiform, one to two feet in length, closely invested between the nodes with dry light brown sheaths, the older ones swollen at the very base. *Leaves* oblong-lanceolate, sub-acuminate, five ribbed, of a deep green colour, and a somewhat coriaceous texture, a few only (five or six) being developed towards the extremities of the stems. *Racemes* erect or curving, six to twelve flowered, nearly a foot in length, usually produced from the upper nodes of the old leafless stems, but sometimes from the apex of the younger leafy stems. *Flowers* large, showy, rich rosy purple; *sepals* oblong acute, flat, of a rich purplish magenta, the lateral ones united at the base into a short blunt spur below the setting on of the lip, above which spur is a gibbosity, occasioned by a similar swelling at the base of the lip (whence comes the specific name *bigibbum*); *petals* large, roundish, spreading, recurved, of the same colour as the sepals; *lip* three-lobed, the lateral lobes incurved, the retuse middle lobe somewhat reflexed, rich crimson-purple veined with darker purple, the base decurrent and gibbose, and the disk with three white papillose crests. *Columns* compressed, grooved, the back united with the sepal.

DENDROBIUM BIGIBBUM, *Lindley*, in *Paxton's Flower Garden*, iii, 25, fig. 245; *Hooker*, *Botanical Magazine*, t. 4898; *Walpers' Annales Botanices Systematicæ*, vi., 302; *Warner*, *Select Orchidaceous Plants*, 2 ser. t. 8; *Van Houtte*, *Flore des Serres*, xi., t. 1143; *Bateman*, *Second Century of Orchidaceous Plants*, t. 169; *Williams*, *Orchid Growers' Manual*, 5 ed., 165.

This plant belongs to one of the most noble and popular, one of the most showy and beautiful genera of the whole family of Orchids, and one among the flowers of which nearly every colour occurs—bright yellow, pure white, rich crimson, bright purple, soft mauve, rich orange, nankeen, and many others being found among the many and various habited species of Dendrobes.

Dendrobium bigibbum, the subject of our plate, is a species of a remarkably beautiful and showy character, which, until within the last few years, has been somewhat rare. In 1876, however, we received a large consignment from our collector, Mr. Goldie, who was then on his way to New Guinea, and who met with it growing on an island in Torres Straits, it having hitherto, we believe, been found only on the mainland of Australia. These plants were very fine, some of the specimens being of enormous dimensions, with stems quite two feet long, and from one and a-half to two inches in circumference. The specimens from which our figure of one of the most charming forms of this species which we have yet seen, was prepared, were kindly sent to us from the fine collection of the Marquess of Lothian, at Newbattle Abbey, Dalkeith, where it bloomed in September last in full beauty, amongst many other notable Orchids which are well cultivated by the intelligent gardener, Mr. Priest, who takes great delight in the careful management of his plants.

This species of *Dendrobium* is partially deciduous, the fully ripened stems sometimes losing the whole of their foliage, while the young growths retain their leaves until the following year. It grows from one to two feet in height, and produces its racemes of flowers sometimes from the top of the young growths, and sometimes from the old stems, in the latter case often bearing many spikes on the same stem. The flowers are of a rich rosy purple, and last in perfection for a considerable period. It is a most useful subject for associating with a button-hole bouquet, single flowers being shown off to great advantage by placing a light-looking fern frond behind them. The racemes of flowers last a long time after being cut if placed in water, and are most useful in all floral decorations. By growing several plants, successional blooms may be had at different periods.

This Tropical Australian species is best grown in a warm house, as the plants require a good amount of heat—70° to 80° while growing—and plenty of light, but the burning rays of the sun must be kept from them. They thrive best when planted in pans or baskets amongst rough fibrous peat and sphagnum moss, and suspended from the roof of the Orchid house. During the summer season they require a liberal supply of water, but in winter should have only sufficient to keep the stems plump. The plant will also succeed on blocks of wood, but, if grown in this way, it will in hot weather need watering twice a day, and once a day at other times. Some cultivators have been unsuccessful with this species, but we have found it to thrive well in a house where Crotons, Dipladenias, Stephanotis, etc., are grown; the

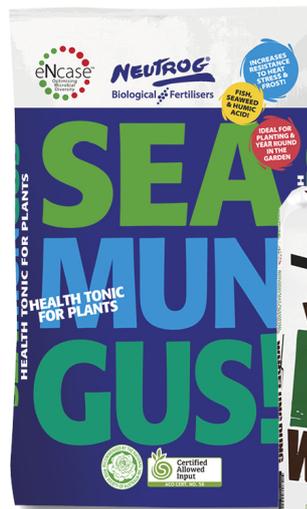
Dendrobies seem to enjoy the moisture transmitted to them by the stove plants which are generally syringed in warm weather, and the dew arising from this operation appears to suit the Orchid. The syringe is also useful in subduing the red spider, which will sometimes attack the young growth. Insects often infest those kinds of Dendrobium that are grown in strong heat, but they must by this and other means be kept under.

Such treatment suits almost all the popular Dendrobies, namely, *D. Devonianum*, *D. Wardianum superbum*, *D. chrysanthum*, *D. superbum (macrophyllum)*, *D. crassinode*, etc.; and the plants are found to be much stronger by reason of hanging near the glass well exposed to light, in which position they can be syringed on warm days—this moistening not only invigorating their growth, but being also a means of keeping insects under control.

Feed & protect in winter for a head start in...

Spring!

Seamungus rejuvenates soils, boosts plant health, increases root development, strengthens extreme temperature resistance and is ideal for establishing new and bare-rooted plants ... all year round



Whoflungdung Super Mulch

A biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbent, super mulch that introduces a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria to the soil.



Year round
fertilising for
year round
health



NEUTROG
Biological Fertilisers