



# New Member Information

SOUTH EASTERN ORCHID SOCIETY  
of W.A. (Inc.)

Web site: [www.southeasternorchidsociety.com](http://www.southeasternorchidsociety.com)

# SOUTH EASTERN ORCHID SOCIETY of W.A. (Inc.)

The President and Members welcome you to South Eastern Orchid Society of W.A. Inc. (SEOS) and we hope our association will be a mutually pleasant and rewarding experience.

The information contained in this package is designed to familiarize you with much of the standard everyday terminology used within the Society and by orchid growers generally.

Being a new member in any organization can be a harrowing experience and quite often very bewildering. This introduction, we hope, will not only provide explanations but also help you to 'blend in' as quickly as possible.

Please take time to read the Society's Rules of Incorporated Association. It is the source of our legal obligations as members of an incorporated body. The SEOS Rules and By-Laws, as devised by the membership over time, govern the general conduct of the Society.

The Society has some broad aims, namely:

- to promote the cultivation of orchids both as a hobbyist and a conservationist,
- to hold shows and displays in order to promote orchids as well as achieving a degree of personal fulfillment,
- to provide education and knowledge for all Members regarding the general and specific aspects of orchid culture, and
- to provide from time to time, social events for the enjoyment of all Members.

Members have a like responsibility to support the above activities and the Society as far as is practicable.

SEOS was formed in 1987 to cover the South Eastern corridor, i.e., 'South of the River' to Serpentine, bounded East by the Darling Scarp and West to what is now the Kwinana Freeway.

The Society's meetings and shows began in Kelmscott, moved to Gosnells and are now held in the Cannington Horticultural Centre.

The Society's foundation is attributable to the late Mrs Ethel McDougall and Mrs Betty Rensen who were made Life Members of SEOS at the Society's 10th Anniversary Dinner.

Our Patron over this period was the late Mr. Harry Lodge, a Fellow of the Australian Orchid Society and Life Member of SEOS. On Harry's death Mrs McDougall became our Patron and remained in this position until her death. Mr. Frank Vernon then became Patron until he retired in 2019. Mr John Steele is our current Patron.

The Society's Floral Emblem is Cymbidium Arcadian Sunrise 'Golden Fleece', a strong yellow standard cymbidium.

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**Monthly meeting:** Third Tuesday of the month (due to Christmas, the December meeting is always on the second Tuesday depending on the availability of the meeting venue).

**Commencement:** 7.30 p.m.

**Conclusion:** Approximately 9.30 p.m.

**Format includes:** Financial and general business, guest speaker, orchid education by senior members, trading table, supper, 'seedling' plant competitions, raffle and monthly show bench.

At the monthly meeting there are a number of tasks to be done such as setting up and putting away chairs and benches, kitchen duties, etc. Some tasks require specific knowledge, others just a helping hand.

**Fees:** Are currently \$8.00 for a junior, \$10.00 for a single adult and \$15.00 per couple. These are reviewed annually by the committee.

**Gazette:** The Society publishes a monthly gazette which is available for viewing on the web site. An email is sent to members advising them that the gazette and photo gallery have been updated.

**Monthly Show Bench:** Members bring in orchids for display and judging to a set format by accredited Orchid Judges of W.A. Judging is carried out whilst the formal part of the meeting is being conducted.

For the purposes of competition on the SEOS monthly Show Bench, members are classified into four levels. Junior (under 16 years), Beginner, Novice and Open growers.

*'Beginner' is a SEOS classification and is not recognized by other Societies for show and judging purposes.*

There are orchids in bloom every month of the year and this is evidenced by the different types on the monthly show bench. You may only be familiar with winter and spring time orchids as this is the time of year that most shows and displays are held.

We hope that as your knowledge increases, you too will join the challenge that different genera bring. Year round beauty in the shade house and in your home, is truly a gift of nature. Sharing orchids with family, friends and visitors is truly a joy, but to share them with other members of the Society and receive their acknowledgement, is true fulfilment indeed.

**Monthly raffles:** At the monthly meeting there is a raffle at a cost of 50c per ticket. The prizes are orchids and can be of any genera. Through these raffles, the Society seeks to encourage members to grow different types of orchids which are suitable to our climate. Raffles (after the cost of plants) help support the Society financially. Contributions to the raffle from members will be appreciated.

**Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting is held after the October General Meeting. Fees are due before the end of September to be eligible to vote at the AGM and remain a financial member. The Secretary/Treasurer will send Members a reminder when the fees are due. If fees are not paid before the end of December, of the calendar year, the Society will consider the member to have 'resigned'.

The Election of Office Bearers for the coming year takes place at the Annual General Meeting and only through the generosity of members are the various positions filled.

Members are encouraged to volunteer for any vacancies that would benefit from their skills. Efficiency is the keynote to a successful and well-run Society.

**Op Table:** Members may buy and sell plants and purchase various other items necessary for good orchid culture, e.g. pots, plant name tags, fertiliser, bark, etc. Please feel free to browse and see what is available. A Society commission is usual from plant sales and a small profit is made on other items which helps defray Society costs so that fees remain low.

**Plant Sales:** Members are encouraged to bring plants to sell at meetings. Please ensure that plants are healthy and free of pests, diseases and weeds and that they are labelled and priced. If plants have come directly out of a glass house or tunnel house they should be labelled as such. The Society does not take a commission for plants sold at General Meetings. However, we would be most appreciative if those participating would contribute something to the raffle. Cuttings and free plants are also available from time to time.

**Benching of Plants:** This is a term used to indicate plants that are being placed on the Show Bench for judging at the monthly meeting. There is a list of ‘classes’ that classify plants into groups for ‘like to like’ judging. There is a monthly meeting schedule which classifies plants for judging as an Open or Novice grower. Junior and Beginner growers bench against each other in a single class until promoted.

Plants are benched using an entry slip which shows:

- the grower’s classification (Beginner, Novice or Open),
- the plant name and class (by letter and number from the schedule),
- the Member’s Identity Number, which you will have been given with this package, and finally,
- Entry Number Card (available from the Registrar).

All of the above are attached together and placed with your plant on ‘the bench’.

The SEOS Registrar’s table is situated at the rear of the hall. The Registrar or other Members will assist you with any problems, however, as a Junior or Beginner you will only be required to enter your plant by Grower Class, Plant Name and Membership Number. These are then attached to a numbered entry card and placed with your plant in the appropriate Grower Classification area of the bench. (The card number is important for another monthly meeting activity, namely the ‘popular vote’). A similar process is used to enter plants in an ‘open’ show such as the SEOS Annual Show.

Other Societies or Clubs hold shows throughout the year, some as many as four per annum. As a member of SEOS you are entitled to enter such shows to compete for prizes or winners purses as the case may be.

Benching is a process that new (and old) members often have difficulty with, but one we all have to learn if we wish to show off our orchid growing achievements.

**The Popular Vote:** This is the Members chance to say what they think is the best/most appealing plant on the bench. The Registrar has slips for popular votes and during the supper break you are invited to wander and admire the bench, as well as choose your ‘best’. The Entry Card numbers (1-200) placed near the plant base, are used to indicate the number for the plant that you wish to vote for as ‘the best’.

**OWA and the AOC:** These are acronyms for the controlling orchid bodies in Western Australia and Australia. OWA (Orchids Western Australia) is the controlling body for orchid societies in Western Australian and AOC (Australian Orchid Council) to which all Western Australian Orchid Societies are affiliated.

SEOS is a directly represented member of OWA and through OWA has a represented voice on the AOC. A very small part of your annual membership fees go to these bodies.

Plants given special awards by the judges do so in the name of the AOC and these awards are recognized internationally. Plant names followed by such terms as FCC/AOC indicate plants of quality and are sought after by growers and breeders alike. Full descriptions of the various awards are available on the AOC web site ([www.orchidsaustralia.com.au](http://www.orchidsaustralia.com.au)) under judging and awards.

**Ownership/Restrictions:** Members must have grown and owned a plant for six months before they are permitted to enter the plant on a bench other than for display purposes. They must be marked 'for display only' if they are brought to a monthly meeting before time.

**Do not handle plants that are not your own.** This is a rule that you must follow, unless the owner gives permission for you to handle (any part of) the plant, pot or tag. Plant diseases are easily passed from plant to plant, precautions are taken to avoid spreading them wherever possible. The entry tag has all the plant details written on it so you are permitted to look at this.