



# THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

Affiliated with the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc. and with The Australian Orchid Council

Patron: Sir Francis Matters

## MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

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Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th March at 8.00 p.m. at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall and will feature the following discussions: 'Cymbidium Cultural Requirements for the Current Month', 'Plant Nutrition and Fertilisers', and, if we are lucky, two short A.O.C. (Australian Orchid Council) Slide Programmes on Cattleyas and ??? Also, you are again invited to bring along your backbulbs for comments and advice, but please have a name tag on them.

Mr Mick Chenoweth was saddled with the task of judging the tabled plants at the January meeting (Mick is a Senior Judge of the Orchid Club of South Australia, Inc.), and the following plants were awarded:

**Open Section**— Cattleya Summer Stars (Wes Harris), 3 points; Cattleya New Era 'Gaye' (Wes Harris), 2 points; Cattleya Valentine Alba (Wes Harris), 1 point. Paphiopedilum St Albans (Graham Harvey), 3 points. Dendrobium Sarie Marijs (Stephanie & Nicky Zurcher), 3 points; Oncidium *ornithorhynchum* (Wes Harris), 2 points; and a reed stemmed Epidendrum (Graham Harvey), 1 point.

**Novice Section**— Epidendrum Obrieanum (Don Deal), 3 points.

(Hurrah, our real Novices are coming!)

**Popular Votes**— **Orchids:** Cattleya *guttata* var. Leopoldii, grown by Mick Chenoweth. **Indoor Plants:** Aechmea *fasciata*, grown by Graham Harvey.

Unfortunately the Award Cards 'were left at home', and they will therefore be issued at the coming meeting.

**P L E A S E :** It is a lot easier for your fellow Club Members to approach you if you wear your membership cards (name tags), please wear them!

I was pleased to hear so many appreciative comments about our last Speaker, Mr David Austin, and his subject. We will always try to arrange for speakers on subjects you are particularly interested in — so please come forward and let us know.

Your Editor.

### CULTURAL NOTES by Bernie Hansen

**POT CHOOSING.** Choosing the right 'POT' (Not 'Marihuana') is often worrying to the novice; so let us take a look at what is available.

The use of 'clay pots' is on the way out, but this is only my idea. The reasons being:

- (1) With our notorious water which will soon have another additive 'Fluoride' (I thought we had everything in it already), we get a build-up of salts in the clay pot itself and after a while this reaches such a high level that the roots, which are in contact with the pot, turn quite brown.
- (2) Algae also clings to the clay pot, and is harder to remove.
- (3) Virus can be transmitted much easier, as it is harder to clean them.
- (4) I believe they are more expensive than plastic.
- (5) I personally like the look of plastic pots better.
- (6) Large clay pots, i.e., 10"—12", etc., are too heavy to handle; as it is, we have enough back troubles just 'Bandicooting' for spikes.

Another side to pot choosing is the size to suit the plant you are potting up. A rule of thumb is to choose a pot which will have enough room to accommodate approximately two years of growth; after this time the plant would need repotting, due to compost break-down, and probably the plant could need dividing.

Careful study of the plant in hand is necessary. Some Cattleyas for instance, have a short rhizome between the pseudo-bulbs and therefore would not need a pot much larger than one which has approximately 2" of space between the leading growth and the edge of the pot. This also applies to Cattleyas which tend to send their new growths in a circular pattern around the pot. A large growing plant which tends to go straight ahead would need a pot which has a good 3" clearance between the rim and leading growth.

The same system applies with Cymbidiums. Study the size of the bulbs and allow for approximately two years growth.

Remember: always try to choose the right 'Pot' — it's the only way to fly!