

The South Coast Orchid Club Gazette

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MONTHLY MEETING CULTURAL SECTION

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL
Windsong Court (formerly Brodie Road), CHRISTIES DOWNS on TUESDAY
JUNE 13 at 8 p. m.

PROGRAMME

Mr. Russell Martin of McBean's Orchids, Victoria, will give a talk on
Cymbidium Hybridising, illustrated with a number of outstanding seed-
ling slides which were flowered for the first time last year. Russell
attended the Bangkok Conference and has slides to show on this. He
will also present some outstanding slides covering Yamamoto's Dendro-
bium Farm in Japan which he also visited.

JUDGES MEETING

The next Meeting of Judges and Associates will be held on TUESDAY
JUNE 27 at the home of Merv Strout 25 Restormel Avenue, Fullarton
at 7.45 p.m. Apologies to Phone 79-5303

The following dates have been established for the remainder of the year.
25 July, 22 August, 24 October and 28 November.

Members are requested to make a note in their diary.

Our Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker, Russell Martin, joined the RAAF at the age of 19 and it was whilst training to be a navigator at Edmonton in Canada he visited nurseries and gardens and his interest in orchids was first aroused. On completion of a tour of operations in 'Lancaster' aircraft with an RAF Bomber Command Squadron he found himself in Southern England and his interest in orchid growing was again aroused by visiting English growers and gardens, England at that time were world leaders in hybridising.

Russell did a rehabilitation course at Burnley Gardens and orchid growing was established as a hobby importing small numbers of seedlings from McBeans, England. He established a landscaping gardening business which incorporated a general nursery and in 1965 an Australian agency for 'McBeans' was secured being a small part of a ten acre general nursery in the Dandenongs. The year 1969 saw the establishment of a company to produce seedlings and mericlones for the Australian market. Orchid growing became the sole activity and the half acre nursery at McKinnon incorporates two laboratories. Additionally a 23 acre development at Somerville on the Mornington Peninsula will eventually have 5 acres under glass.

Russell joined the Victorian Orchid Club in 1946, served on the Committee in excess of 20 years and is now a Past President and Life Member. He has been a member of the Victorian Orchid Club judging panel for 20 years, was Victorian Registrar for 8 years and Registrar General of the Australian Orchid Council for two years.

McBeans have won major prizes at all shows throughout Australia including Gold Medals at three Australian Orchid Council shows for the best commercial exhibits. Last year in Western Australia at the 5th AOC Conference a new seedling Alnwick Castle 'Brentwood' x Cariga 'Canary' gained an HCC and is now registered in the name of 'Sovereign Hill' variety name 'Perth'. Other 1977 successes include at the Melbourne Eastern Orchid Society Spring Show Grand Champion Western Rose 'Perfection' together with five other first prizes. At the Victorian Orchid Club Show Champion of the Show Pink Ice 'Rose Oak' together with three Special Prizes and six other first prizes.

'McBeans' contribution in hybridising includes:--

Greens -- Pearlbell FCC, Miretta McBean FCC

Reds -- Ngaire 'Kuringai' and Hamsey 'The Globe'

Pinks -- Western Rose varieties and Clarisse 'Carlton' clones

Whites -- Mary Ann, Snow Sprite and Pearl Balkis clones

Polychromes -- Astronaut 'Rajah', Magna Carta 'Rajah', Claudonna 'Rajah'.

Editor's Comment:-- The following plants will be prizes at our June meeting raffle:-- Astronaut 'Rajah' and Hamsey 'The Globe' (Mericlones) and a seedling Western Rose x Hamsey. All of these plants have been obtained from 'McBeans'.

Those Blooms

Many of us are aware of the claims that a few drops of Formula 20 in the water will assist in maintaining blooms fresh. Another tip is to remove a fraction of the lower part of the stem every third day thus avoiding 'furring'. With the flush of the flowering season coming on the following advice offered by J.W.Blowers in the Orchid Review :-- 'The long lasting qualities of many orchids is their main attraction but one question I raise is, do we always reap the fullest benefit from it?

The time of cutting is, perhaps, the most important. If spikes are cut too soon, before the flowers are set, disappointment is bound to follow; after a few days the flowers will flop and nothing will restore them to their former glory. Most orchids develop slowly and time should be allowed for all the flowers on a spike to open and gain their full substance before cutting the spike. Each bloom will attain a certain substance (stiffness) which is a measure of its ability to last. When this has developed flower parts will feel more like stiff paper as opposed to being soft and rag-like. For most kinds it will require up to ten days for the last blossom on the spike to make it fit for cutting. This should be the test - the condition of the last flower and not the first to open. Now to the manner of cutting. Apart from using care, so that no part of a plant is damaged, this step may be accomplished without difficulty. Leave very little 'stub' or stem attached to the plant, not only for the sake of neatness, but to minimise the risk of wet-rot setting in. I think it is always worth the little trouble involved to dust the cut surfaces with sulphur powder, remembering the old adage, "prevention is easier than a cure."

To enjoy the longest pleasure of the flowers, the bases of the spikes should be cut again with the ends held under water. Without this treatment the spikes are airlocked, i.e. the stem cells are filled with water and unable to efficiently draw supplies for the flowers. Do not use scissors for cutting as these may squeeze and squash the cells at the spike ends."

To the above comments perhaps we can well say that a well 'cleaned up' plant prepared as for the show bench with the leaves nice and clean and placed in an attractive container always looks glamorous. The opportunity is thus presented to allow the stem to remain on the plant for an adequate time before removing.

Judging Panel

The Committee is pleased to announce the following appointments:--

Registrar of Judges:-- G.C. (Bill) White

Deputy Registrar of Judges:-- M.J. (Merv) Donhardt

Judges Assisting:-- G.C.F. (Gordon) Cottle, Bernie Hansen, H.F.(Harry) Lambert, S.M. (Syd) Monkhouse, P.L. (Peter) Speer

Associate Judges:-- Mrs. F.S. (Bubs) Gready, Messrs R.W.Kiely, Tom Burian, Merv Strout, John Leeder and Mrs Claire Strout.

Monthly Competition

OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	Earlyana 'White Mountain'	D. May	3
Min Cym.	Pumilum x Lustrous Betty	L. & N. Poole	3
	Peter Pan 'Greensleaves'	D. May	2
Cattleya	Bc. Languedoc 'Singapore Welcome'	L. & N. Poole	3
	" " "	R. W. Kiely	2
	C. Hertha x C. Elisa	B. Hansen	1
Paphiopedilum	Tearlath v Victor	L. & N. Poole	3
	F.C. Puddles FCC	G. C. White	2
	Maudiae Magnificia	G. C. White	1
Species	Paph. Charlesworthii	G. C. White	3
	Paph. Insigne	R. W. Kiely	2
	Zygopetalum Mackayi	L. & N. Poole	1

1ST DIVISION

Cymbidium	Luana 'Arctic Snow'	R. & A. Gowling	3
	Luana 'Aurora'	R. & A. Gowling	2
	Bethlehem 'Magie'	R. & A. Gowling	1
Cattleya	Bc. Languedoc 'Deelie'	Mr & Mrs C. C. Grey	3
	C. Bowringiana x L. Anceps	M. & C. Strout	2
	LC Masterpiece v Renaissance	Mr & Mrs C. C. Grey	1
AUS. NATIVES	Liparis v Reflexa"	W. L. Anderson	3
	Liparis v 'Reflexa'	W. L. Anderson	2
	Pterostylis Scaba 'Robusta'	W. L. Anderson	1
SPECIES	Gongora 'Galata'	Mr & Mrs J. Nicholls	3
	Paph. 'Venustem'	Mr & Mrs J. Nicholls	2
	Epi. Fragrans	R. Hill	1
Min Cyms.	Geraint 'Malibu'	Mr & Mrs C. C. Grey	3
	Ensikhan 'Alpha Orient'	M. & C. Strout	2
	Peter Pan Greensleeves'	R. & A. Gowling	1
Misc. Gen	Oncidium 'Kaulanii'	M. & C. Strout	3
	Den. 'Maui Beauty'	M. & C. Strout	2
	Miltassia 'Estalita'	M. & C. Strout	1

2ND DIVISION

Cymbidium	Bethlehem 'Early Times'	K. H. Northcote	3
	Kalang 'Red'	K. H. Northcote	2
Cattleya	Bc. Languedoc 'Singapore Welcome'	Mr & Mrs O. Rogers	3
	Blue Lake	R. & E. Chisholm	2
Paphiopedilum	Crossianum	B. & G. Weller	3
	Rosy Dawn	H. & T. Tormet	2
	Gigas	C. & B. Jonsson	1
Min Cym	Peter Pan Greensleeves	K. H. Northcote	3
Species	Rossioglossum 'Grande'	J. E. Leeder	3
	Paph. Callosum	H. & T. Tormet	2
	Warszwiczella Discolor	H. & T. Tormet	1
Aus. Natives	Acianthus Exsertus	H. & T. Tormet	3
	Pterostylis Vittata	T. A. Jones	2
	Liparis Reflexa Parviflora	K. H. Northcote	1
Misc Genera	Lyc Lucianii	H. & T. Totmet	3
	Phal. Jersey x Ella Freed	K. H. Northcote	2
	Oncid. Nona	L. J. Chambers	1

POPULAR VOTE

Orchid	Lc Masterpiece 'Renaissance	Mr & Mrs C. C. Grey
Indoor Plant	Begonia	R. & A. Gowling
INDOOR PLANTS	JUDGES PLACINGS	
1. Hares Foot Fern		Mr & Mrs C. Strout
2. Begonia		R. & A. Gowling
3. Cissus Rhomboidea		C. & B. Jonsson

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

In each Division a plant has been selected to be the plant/flower of the Month and to encourage other members to cultivate these plants as far as is practicable the grower will be invited to place on record something about the plant and its growing conditions. Members are requested to co-operate in supplying information.

OPEN DIVISION

Grower G. C. White A species Paphiopedilum 'Charlesworthii'
Country of origin Northern Burma. Bill grows the plant in a heated glasshouse. Fertilises lightly weekly in growing season and uses shade in the flowering period. The plant is grown in a mixture of Bark with isolite and shellgrit. From June to Sept the plant is rested but kept moist

1ST DIVISION

Grower Mr & Mrs M. C. Strout Oncidium 'Kaulanii'
A sub-tropical plant grown in a greenhouse using a kero heater as required at night. The compost is fir bark only. Plants not readily available.

2ND DIVISION

Grower B. & G. Weller A primary hybrid 'Insigne x Venustum'
Hybridised in 1873. Grown cold in a shadehouse with a fibre-glass roof. Compost consists of bark only fertilized with fish emulsion. This plant was awarded the plant of the month.

The attention of Members is drawn to the fact that Monthly Shows are under the control of the Show Marshall who shall have complete control of the arranging of the plants. Members exhibiting plants are requested to place same on the bench with their name on a piece of paper placed under. The Show Marshall will attend to correctly placing them.

We welcome the following new members:--

Mrs Eileen T. White 4 Orana Ave, North Glenelg 5045
Mrs I. Rosewarne 40 St Lawrence Ave, Edwardstown
Mr & Mrs W. R. Barrett 36 St Georges Ave, Glandore 5037

Spice Up With Zesty Zygopetalums

The genus *Zygopetalum* offers many delightful species and hybrids for orchid growers looking for both beauty and fragrance to spice up their collections. These natives of Brazil, where they grow mostly as terrestrials in fields or at the forest edges, are quite easily grown, and anyone who has good results with *Cymbidiums* should also do well with most of the *Zygopetalums*. Many of the species and hybrids in this genus are quite receptive to *Cymbidium*-type temperature and light requirements and grow well in most standard *Cymbidium* mixes, though there are a few that do require warmer greenhouse conditions. The *Zygopetalum* species are quite variable in colour, shape and habit of growth.

Zygopetalum mackayii would probably be regarded as the most commonly grown and most seen of the species in the genus. The sepals and petals of *Z. mackayii* have rich brown blotching overlaid on a greenish background, but the really outstanding part of the flower would have to be the large, broad, boldly displayed velvety lip, which is white and heavily veined with royal purple. *Z. mackayii* carries from five to seven 2½ to 3 inch flowers per stem, and can be most impressive when developed into a specimen plant.

The flowering habit of *Z. mackayii* is quite distinct and interesting. The new growths begin to appear in the autumn and after the growth reaches about two inches the flower spike comes from the side of the growth bract and advances quickly while the growth makes only modest advances. By May or June the flowers are open and they last from 4 to 5 weeks. Most of the *Zygopetalums* have the added bonus of being delightfully fragrant, and the scent is very appealing and intense over the many weeks in bloom.

Of the many *Zygopetalum* hybrids that were made in the late 1800's and early 1900's, *Z. Blackii* is one of the few still found in collections today. This cross (*crinitum* x *Perrinoudii*) was registered by Black & Flory in 1914, and it produced some very dark varieties. *Z. Blackii* 'Negus' is one of the most startling of the *Zygopetalum* group. We often see this primary hybrid flowering during early Summer and also Winter.

A widely distributed *Zygopetalum* hybrid is the crossing *Blackii* x *mackayii*. A plant flowered in 1964 was entered in the San Diego Show and received an HCC/AOS. At the following years show the same plant was entered and it had three spikes of 13 flowers and two buds, and it was then that it received its AM/AOS. This hybrid makes an excellent and impressive specimen plant, and in the 1973 San Diego Show a plant shown by an exhibitor had 7 spikes and 31 flowers. *Zygopetalums* are indeed a worthwhile group of orchids, and their ease of culture and outstanding characteristics rank them among the most rewarding of all plants. Those who have not yet tried them are sure to find *Zygopetalums* a refreshing addition to any orchid collection. Plants of all those mentioned are available from local nurseries.

Presentation in Floral Art

In presenting your spray for judging, remember it is judged on staging and design before being handled by the judge. Correct placement to create rhythm, balance and harmony with suitable draping (if used) is important. The same principles and elements of design apply to wire-work as in all other floral art.

Remember it is important to stage your work so as to enable easy removal and replacement by the Judge. Length of spray must not exceed 7 ins. (approx.)

ASSEMBLING

Here are a few rules to assist you when assembling your Shoulder Spray, DON'T FORGET YOUR WINTER SHOW.

1. Good design, color and gradation is essential.
2. Finished article must be well balanced when held in hand.
3. NO wires to be twisted in assembling.
4. All wires to be neatly taped (stretching tape for neatness).
5. Obtain third dimension by in and out placement of material.
6. Avoid stemmy look from side view.
7. Use only materials that have known keeping qualities.
8. Gauge of wire determined by weight of materials used. (Flowers should stand firm when held near lower end of wire) If necessary reinforce with extra wire.
9. Ribbons to tone with materials, must be neatly pressed and tied.
10. Don't forget the focal area.
11. Spray should be light and dainty and back as flat as possible.
12. Width of ribbon determined by size of spray and materials used.

FOCAL AREA.

The focal area is above the start of the 'handle' with some material angled back from it.

Foliage suitable for orchid sprays:--

Nandina (matured leaves), Tropics Hibiscus, Ivy, Thriptomeme in green bud stage, or any small suitable leaves from shrubs or trees which have good keeping qualities.

Memo:-- For the purposes of the Winter Show, Thriptomeme in flower will be accepted.

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Field Day

A Field Day has been arranged for Sunday June 11 when visits will be made to five members living in the Hackham District. Members intending to participate are requested to assemble in the car park of the Morphett Vale Hotel at 2 p.m. An interesting day is assured.

floral art

LIAISON MEMBER TO GENERAL COMMITTEE:-- MRS LOIS HANSEN

INSTRUCTOR:-- MRS MAVIS HEINJUS.

MONTHLY MEETING:-- FLORAL ART GROUP

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN HALL, CHRISTIES DOWNS on TUESDAY JUNE 6 at 7.45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

HOMEWORK FROM MAY MEETING:-- Horizontal arrangement.

NEW TOPIC:-- SHOULDER SPRAY-- HOW TO PRESENT.

Material to bring:--

Cymbidium Flower or Flowers 22 or 26 guage wire

Hares foot fern or Thriptomeme -- 5 or 6 pieces

Ribbon Parafilm Wire cutters

Material to stage Shoulder Spray on -- say chiffon scarf -- enough to feature the exhibit. Remember the Shoulder Spray cannot lay on bare table.

See article on Presentation elsewhere in this issue.

Future activity:--

July 4 Small Show in preparation for Winter Show on 11 July.
 Mavis will bring along some home made containers.

July 11 Winter Show Schedule:
 1. Modern arrangement
 2. Featuring Driftwood.
 3. Shoulder Spray.

Judge for Winter Show:-- Mrs Iris Hutchins.

August 1. Arrangement using home made container (Revision of Topic of own choice).

AT ALL MEETINGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTION IN BASIC LINES, PRINCIPLES AND GROUND WORK ANY MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE USED. IN CLUB COMPETITION ONLY ORCHIDS WILL BE USED. MEMBERS WILL BE BRINGING AND DOING.

GROUP MEETS FIRST TUESDAY IN EACH MONTH

7. 45 P. M.

LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN HALL BRODIE ROAD CHRISTIES DOWNS.

Affiliated with:-- S.A. Judges School for Floral Art Inc.

BRODIE ROAD is now known as WINDSONG COURT