



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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

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ISSUE: May 1987

NEXT MEETING :-

12TH MAY 1987, 8.00 pm.

LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL WINDSONG COURT, CHRISTIE DOWNS.

BENCHING OF PLANTS TO BE COMPLETED BY 7.45 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER:-

SIMON LENKIC WILL GIVE A TALK ON HIS PROGRAMME IN BREEDING
WITH THE 'SCENTED' CYMBIDIUM HIS OBJECTIVE.

THIS SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO ALL.

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SUPPER ROSTER:-

Mrs. S. Nicholls.

Report to 'Trix Anderson'

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LIBRARY:-

THERE HAS BEEN ADDED TO YOUR LIBRARY FOR YOUR USE TWO
BOOKS ON *Phalaenopsis* CULTURE.

IN A RECENT COPY OF THE "ENGLISH ORCHID REVIEW" THERE
WAS PRINTED A VERY INTERESTING ARTICLE ON *Pleione*.

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ROSTER FOR SETTING UP FOR MONTHLY CULTURAL MEETING:-

V. Dudley, Tony DeIunno, J. Nicholls

"Many Hands Make Light Work"

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Problem Corner

How can 'bud-drop' be prevented in Cymbidiums? I have a large plant of Cym. Ensikhan 'Alpha Orient' that produced eight spikes - all but one spike, the last to be produced - have dropped 50-100% of their buds. The last spike hasn't dropped any buds and is still developing well.

Answer offered as cause -

"Most 'bud-drop' occurs in early flowering Cymbidiums, e.g. Cym. Bethlehem 'magii', Ensikhan is a very early (March-April) flowering pink intermediate. So the trouble was probably caused by big temperature variations in late summer or perhaps by being in a very draughty position, exposed to strong Gully Winds."

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Membership News:-

New Members; A warm welcome is extended to the following new Members

Tony Brady

Tom Burian

Mr & Mrs Larsen

Debbie Canino

Bedford Park

Warradale

Hackham

Kurralta Park

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It is with regret that two of our older Members, Mr. & Mrs. Harling, can not continue being members, due to ill health. Mr. Harling was always there, when work had to be done at our Winter and Spring Shows. We wish to thank them, and wish them well for the future.

We are sorry to hear that one of our New Members, Mr. Bert Fletcher has been on the sick list. We hope he is feeling a lot better now.

If any member has any news of a member PLEASE let your Secretary know at the Monthly Cultural Meeting so that we may let other Members know, as your membership of the Club should bring friendship and pleasure as all other members seek the the common interest and hobby-Orchid Growing.

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Your Committee is anxious of gaining new members. Can You Help?

One idea that has been brought forward is:-

Your Committee is always looking for new ideas, to gain New Membership. One idea put forward, is to hold a Daytime Meeting, for those people who are unable, to attend our Normal Night-Time Cultural Meetings.

What do you think of this idea. Let your Committee know your feelings.

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Did you see the plant that Wayne Farquhar had on Open Division?

Renanthera monachia - *Renanthera* an epiphytic genus of showy plants from tropical Asia and some Pacific Islands. Famous for their red brick colours. There are fifteen species in the genera and are closely related to the *Vanda*.

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Roger Rankine has a quote that many of us should remember

"One show success pays for years of failures"

Due to circumstances beyond our control this year our Winter Show will not be held at Colonnades Shopping Centre.

Initially, concern and uncertainty prevailed but as the situation developed it was obvious that what was thought to be misfortune, has turned out to be very advantageous for the advancement of our Club.

The Winter Show is being held in one of the stadiums of the:

Marion Community Recreation Centre,
Oaklands Road,
MORPHETTVILLE. S.A.

The times of set up and public admission are as follows:

Friday	31st July	6.00p.m.	-	8.30p.m.	Members set up.
Saturday	1st August	8.00a.m.	-	10.00p.m.	Show Judging.
		10.00a.m.	-	5.00p.m.	Open to Public.
Sunday	2nd August	10.00a.m.	-	5.00p.m.	Open to Public.
		5.00p.m.	-	5.30p.m.	Plant Removal.

Admission to the Public will be ADULTS \$1.00 and CHILDREN to the age of 12 years accompanied by adults, free. MEMBERS on presentation of card, free.

On both Saturday and Sunday, Devonshire Teas will be available for \$1.50 per serve and a raffle will also be running during the show.

A large trading table will be operating during both days, so Members start to prepare now to bring along Plants and struck back Bulbs for the trading table. Remember to a very large degree the financial success of your Club depends on the results of the trading table at the two Club shows.

MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

At the next cultural meeting an exhibitors book will be passed round asking for the approximate number of plants each Member will be benching at the Winter Show. So go out into your shadehouses and glasshouses and make up an approximate list so that on the night of the cultural meeting you are able to put down a fairly accurate number.

As this is the first time for a good number of years that the Club has put on an Orchid Show outside of Colonnades, it would be tremendous if all Club Members got behind this Winter Show. Your support by either benching as many plants as possible or assisting in the set up, trading table, admission area or Devonshire Teas will ensure that the South Coast Orchid Club will achieve the public recognition that it truly deserves.

Thats all for the moment, more information as it comes to hand.

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If every thing that you hear from our members is correct then we should be in for a bumper year, spikes everywhere, let's hope this is right and show the rest by making our shows something to talk about.

Care should be exercised now with sprays as malformation to your flowers may result with the buds being wet down with the spray.

Care should be taken when staking your spikes, don't be in a hurry straighten the spike gradually a little at a time and only during the warmest part of the day or by warming the part that you are working on with your hands otherwise you may finish with your prize spike snapped off in your hands.

Red Spider, Snails and Slugs are all on the war path, look out and take the necessary preventitive action to keep them at bay.

Use a Low Nitrogen High in Phosphorus and Potash fertilizer and it should be necessary for you to water less and when it is necessary for you to do so do so early in the morning except when it is frosty and overcast.

Good Luck With Your Flowering.

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Taking orchid seedlings out of the flask is quite simple if you follow a few simple rules. The following is my way of de-flasking, derived from trial and error over a 20 year period for *Dendrobium*, *Sarcochilus*, *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis* and most genera except *Cymbidium*.

The best time to de-flask is Spring and Autumn. It helps if the flask or flasks are placed in the growing tank for a couple of weeks prior to de-flasking, this acclimatizes the plants to the new environment.

Step 1. Preparing pots and medium.

Wash punnets or pots in a weak solution of Milton or Dettol, about 1/2 strength mixed with hot water from the tap (not boiling) and lightly scrub clean. Allow to drip dry on newspaper. I use Reko 14 cm x 8 cm seedling punnets, white in colour. The potting mix is

- 2 parts American Sequoia bark, fine
- 1 part charcoal, fine
- 1 part Casuarina bark (Australian), fine
- 1 part Perlite.

All the above are pre-sieved through 2 sieves, 8 mm (3/8"), then 3 mm (1/8"), keeping what stays in the 3 mm sieve. The individual mediums, once the required parts are obtained, are to be dust free. These are then combined and placed in a large pot (10" or 12"). A second 10" pot is prepared with large bark pieces 12 mm (1/2") to 18 mm (3/4"), this is used as drainage in the punnet. I then mix up a 10 litre bucket of Formula 20 (4 times stronger than label) with hot water from the tap, making sure that the Formula 20 is mixed well with the water. I slowly pour the water over the potting mix which is allowed to cool. Quarter fill the punnets with large bark and top with fine bark and allow to drain. One should make sure that the holes in the pot do not clog. When the mix cools it retains about the right moisture to pot the seedlings.

Step 2. Growing Area.

The growing area I use is a large fish tank 1/2 filled with water and placed indoors. The water is treated with Fongarid, and a tropical fish tank heating element is fitted. A shelf made of wire mesh or a sheet of glass is fitted in the tank, suspended on upended glass jars or pots about 25 mm (1") above the water surface. The tank should be placed in good light as far away from the outside elements as possible, yet still getting fairly good air movement. The reason for this is to minimise damage by small insects and to maintain an even temperature. My tanks are near a window which is painted with white water paint to screen the sunlight, also the inside room temperature is much more even.

Step 3. De-flasking.

Remove the lid from the flask and shake out the contents onto newspaper. If the contents will not come out, break the flask with a hammer. Wash the agar off under a slow running cold tap (if water is very cold, add a little hot), being very careful not to separate plants any more than necessary or to break or damage the roots or foliage.

Once washed clean, the seedlings can then be rinsed in a weak solution of fungicide solution, about 1/2 strength. My first preference is Previcure N by Schering A.G., second preference Fongarid by Ciba Geigy. I like using an old ice cream container to do this in. Always wear rubber gloves when using these chemicals.

After the seedlings are rinsed, place on newspaper and allow to dry for about 2 hours, this is very important. The seedlings are then potted up in the punnet. If the seedlings stick

together do not try to separate them, just put the pea sized potting media around them as best you can. I find tilting the punnet on its side about 45° and gently sprinkling the media around the seedlings is the best way. Be careful not to damage the roots, bury the seedlings or get potting media in the apex of the growths. Do not worry if the seedlings stick together or there is any multiplication of growth, they will grow apart and separate very easily when potted on at a later date.

Step 4

Place the punnet in tank and do not water for the next 2 days. (the seedlings have to dehydrate slightly so as to seal the pores of the plant, in other words, to harden it for the elements)

Step 5.

The morning of the third day, using a watering can, not a fine mister, water well using a light fertilizer. I use Thrive and Fongarid 1/2 strength. A watering can is used to drench the potting mix, not wet the plants, a mister only wets the plants, allowing foliage problems to occur. Existing roots should not die but the ends should start to grow within a week or two and new roots appear.

Water, feed and fungicide every 2-3 days as for normal plants. You will find the biggest problem is with thrips, a small fly which lays its eggs at the bottom of the seedlings, a small caterpillar, about 1 mm long, then eats into the base of the seedlings, quickly turning into a fly and flying away before you know it. A rot then sets in at the damaged point and you lose the seedling. If you are not quick enough to remove the seedling the rot will spread. If I find this happening I allow the seedlings to dry out a little and spray with Lanes House Plant Spray, aerosol insecticide. If this is not available use a pressure pack that contains Pyrethrin. If the problem continues, remove seedlings from punnet and wash clean, then repot in new materials and treat as de-flasked seedlings.

Note:

- Allow the seedlings to dry for two days when you first de-flask
- Use watering can when watering at all times
- Rain water is better than tap water, but not essential
- Check that the tank is not too full so that the water is away from the bottom of the punnet

Step 6.

When the seedlings show new growths and roots they can then be put with your other plants.

Author's Footnote:

Sometimes plants in purchased flasks are disturbed in transit, allowing infection to enter. Remove the lid and pour in a solution of fungicide. Let stand for about 1 hour then remove plants from the flask. Remove any mould from the seedlings, discarding any rotten or damaged plants. The remainder are allowed to dry on newspaper for 24 hours then potted as suggested above. This method has given me good results.

Good luck



C. Minerva 'Highercombe' is another of the beautiful hybrids with *C. howringiana* as a parent. This hybrid, the result of *C. howringiana* crossed with *C. loddigesii*, was exhibited on the Open Division bench by L & R Moore, and won for them the Registrar's Choice Flower of the Month.

The plant was very large and had four tall flowering growths, each with a large cluster of flowers. The flowers were pale lavender with a deeper lavender lip, and were all very fresh, and presented themselves well.

C. howringiana is a native of Guatemala and Belize in Central America, and is found growing exposed to open sun on rocks and cliffs in ravens along streams. The flowers are rose-purple, with a much darker lip, and are borne 5-20 on tall stems (plants have been known to carry as many as 47 flowers on one inflorescence, but the number is usually up to 20). There are several varieties, Var *splendens* has larger and more richly coloured flowers than norm.

C. loddigesii comes from South Brazil and usually bears 2-7 pale lilac-rose flowers with yellowish throats. *C. loddigesii* was the first *Cattleya* to be introduced to Europe. It was known as *Epidendrum violaceum* until later, when it and other species were reclassified as *Cattleyas*.

C. Minerva has inherited the flower count from *C. howringiana*, and the growth habit and colouring is similar to both species. The plant always flowers very freely as do all *C. howringiana* progeny and is worth a place in any collection.

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The A.B.C. of DENDROBIUMS

by Reg Shooter

Den. aemulum has not been used much by hybridists to date. In 1966 the late Ira Butler, the man who created many of the fine native hybrids of today, particularly within the genus *Sarcochilus*, and whose memory is perpetuated by awarding of the Ira Butler Trophy for the most outstanding native hybrid exhibited each year, did cross *Den. aemulum* with *Den. kingianum*, the well known little pink to red flowered species which often the first native orchid acquired by the novice grower. The progeny of the cross was named *Den. Emmy*, a neat compact plant with pale pink to purple, starry flowers, unfortunately not seen much these days. with the increase interest by Australian hybridists perhaps *Den. aemulum* will be used more even if it is only to produce earlier flowering hybrids.

The species *Den. bigibbum* belongs to the subgenus *Eudendrobium*. The subgenus is further subdivided into a number of sections and *Den. bigibbum* belongs to the subsections *Phalaenanth*. Other species in that section are *Den. dicuphum*, *Den. phalaenopsis* & *Den. williamsianum*. All are from Timor, Torres Strait, New Guinea, and Cape York Peninsular regions.

Den. bigibbum was described by John Lindley in 1853, from plants collected on Mount Adolphus Island in Torres Strait. They were sent to London where they were grown and flowered.

For more than 100 years confusion has existed over the names *Den. bigibbum*, *Den. phalaenopsis* and *Den. schroederianum*. In 1880 Robert Fitzgerald, the noted Australian amateur botanist, published description of *Den. phalaenopsis* based on a plant which was apparently collected near Cooktown. In 1885 the English botanist, Joseph Hooker, identified some plants from the Tanimbar Islands as *Den. phalaenopsis*. Since that time no plants corresponding to Fitzgerald have been found in Australia. It is now considered that the plant from near Cooktown was in fact a cultivated plant from elsewhere.

The difference between *Den. bigibbum* and *Den. Phalaenopsis* is not immediately obvious, therefore it became quite common to identify *Den. bigibbum* as *Den. phalaenopsis*.

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Every orchid grower was once a rank beginner.

Roger Rankine. quote.

SECOND DIVISION

Aus Native Epi	Den. Chiano	M & R van der Wilk	3
Inter Cym	Pendragon 'Broadmoor' X Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'	Mr & Mrs Hoeck	3
	Sirido	B Clark	2
Cattleya	C. Minerva 'Highercombe'	C Ameer	3
	Blc Toshie Aoki 'Pokai'	C Ameer	2
Dendrobiums	Den (Doreen x Hickham 'Deb')	R Barrett	3
Miscellaneous	Z. John Banks	D Carty	3

DIVISION FLOWER OF MONTH: C Minerva 'Highercombe' C Ameer

FIRST DIVISION

Aus Native Epi	<i>Liparis reflexa</i>	H H Pankoke	3
	<i>Liparis reflexa</i>	R Goodall	2
Mini Cym	Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'	V Rogers	3
Inter Cym	Valentine's Love 'Audrey'	D Biebrick	3
Cattleya	C. Kew	C C Burfield	3
	C. Kew	R Goodall	2
	C. Intermediette x Chocolate Drop 'Kadoma'	D Biebrick	1
Miscellaneous	Mtssa Charles Fitch	R Parish	3
	Milt Anne Warne	R Parish	2
	Epi Sunray King	B Anderson	1
Phalaenopsis	Carnival X Malibu Girl	B Anderson	3
Species Paph	<i>chamberlainianum</i> subsp. <i>liemiana</i>	R Parish	3
	<i>curtisii</i>	R Parish	2
	<i>moquetteanum</i>	R Parish	1
Species	<i>C. bicolor</i>	R Parish	3

DIVISION FLOWER OF MONTH: C. Kew C C Burfield.

OPEN DIVISION

Aus Native Epi	Den Hilda Poxon 'Kenna'	L & R Moore	3
	<i>Den bigibbum</i> Var. <i>compactum</i>	J R Nicholls	2
Mini Cym	Mini Splendour 'Dawn'	K H Northcote	3
Inter Cym	Dr Sharon Conrow 'Harcourt'	I & A O'Daniel	3
	Mary Pinchess 'Delray'	J R Nicholls	2
Cattleya	C. Minerva 'Highercombe'	L & R Moore	3
	C. Minerva 'Easter Bouquet'	K H Northcote	2
	Blc Waikiki 'Gold' X <i>C. guttata</i> Var. <i>Alba</i>	Noarlunga Orchids	1
Miscellaneous	Onc. Milky Way 'Yellow Bird'	L & R Moore	3
	Epi. Blood Red X Coral King	J R Nicholls	2
	V. (Princess Blue X Ann)	J R Nicholls	1
Species Paph.	<i>godefroyae</i>	W Farquhar	3
	<i>spicerianum</i>	J R Nicholls	2
Species	<i>C leopoldii</i>	K & B Lynch	3
	<i>Ren. monachica</i>	W Farquhar	2
	<i>Trichocentrum tigrinum</i>	J R Nicholls	1

DIVISION FLOWER OF MONTH: C. Minerva 'Highercombe' L & R Moore

REGISTRAR'S CHOICE April 1987

C. Minerva 'Highercombe' L & R Moore