



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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

PATRON: Mr. L.R. Grey (Mayor of Marion)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET
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Written & Edited by Mrs. Iris Nash

Our next meeting, an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, will be held at the R.S.L. Hall, Morphett Vale, on Tuesday April 9th. at 7.45 p.m.

At our last Committee meeting it was passed that the present Committee should be dissolved, therefore all offices will be vacated at the opening of the meeting and a re-election will take place. Nominations are called for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five Committee members. Nomination forms are enclosed and should be in the hands of the present Secretary, Mr. Lou Carr before the start of the meeting on April 9th.

Our guest speaker for the night will be Mr. Graham Marks from Ansett Pioneer, who will be speaking on 'General Tourism'.

We will have a potting demonstration by Mr. Bernie Hansen, who will also deputise for Mr. Syd Monkhouse this month, giving a short talk on the Culture of Orchids.

Bernie is a very valued member and Past President of our club and recently became a Life Member of the Orchid Club of South Australia. This is the highest honour which a club can give to a member, for the years of service to the club and the Fellowship of Orchid Growers generally.

Our Judge for the night will be Mr. Mick Chenoweth, we are looking forward to seeing him again, as it has been some time since he was able to attend one of our meetings.

The LIBRARY will be open as usual and Mrs. Ellie Shaw, our librarian, has just purchased a new book "Home Orchid Growing". This is now available for members. Ellie is doing a wonderful job for the Club, and members are asked to help by returning books promptly to give others a chance.

TRADING TABLE

This will again be a focal point for our new members. You will have a chance to purchase good plants at reasonable prices, at the same time helping our Club funds. Members are asked to bring along any plants they wish to sell, including foliage plants. Our club will benefit by 20% of all sales made.

All Members should now have their 1974 membership card, and you are requested to wear these at our meetings with your name on the front, so that we can all get to know one another by name.

At our last meeting Mr. Merv. Dunn (Valley Orchids) gave us a talk and demonstration on his RITE LITE Glass houses. This was a very enlightening talk and of special interest to any members contemplating erecting a glass house in the future.

Mr. Syd Monkhouse (Adelaide Orchids) gave a short talk on Orchids, and also carried out the Judging. We apologise to Syd for leaving him without an assistant for this job. It is rather difficult to walk around and judge the plants, giving a commentary at the same time, and also having to write down the names of the plants and their owners.

Judging results were as follows:-

OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	C. MINUET	Mr. & Mrs. Gowling	3 pts.
Cattleya	B.L.C. BUENA VENTURA	Mr. W. Harris	3 pts.
	C. PRISCILLA WARD	Mr. W. Harris	2 pts.
	Pot. TRIPOLI X L.C.ELSTEAD GEM	Mr. B. Hansen	1 pt.
Aus. Natives	Bulbophyllum macphersonii var. burgundy	Mr. W. Harris	3 pts.
	Bulbophyllum macphersonii forma typica	Mr. W. Harris	2 pts.
Phalaenopsis	C. LABIATA	Mr. P. Speer	3 pts.
	P. JAVANICUM	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner	2 pts.
	O. ORNITHORHYNCEUM	Mr. W. Harris	1 pt.
Misc. Genera	D. LIPSTICK	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner	3 pts.
	D. PAULINE	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner	2 pts.

NOVICE SECTION

Cymbidium	C. MINUET	Mr. & Mrs. Weddell	3 pts.
Cattleya	C. loddigesii x L. purpurata	Mr. & Mrs. H. Nash	3 pts.

INDOOR PLANTS

NEPHROLEPIS exaltata (Choice variety)	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner
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NOTE

Regarding the identification of the lovely lace fern at the right end of the table at our March meeting - it is certainly a choice variety of NEPHROLEPIS exaltata. 'Graf's Exotica' lists and shows over forty varieties of N. exaltata, some of which resemble the less interesting sword fern. The one exhibited is one of the six named lacy varieties.

If the owner wishes, the plant could be compared with the illustrations, so that the finer characteristics could be studied. Meantime, it can quite correctly be named:- NEPHROLEPIS EXaltata 'choice variety'.

Wes. Harris.

PATRON

Our new Patron will be Mrs. L.R. Grey, Mayor of Marion, who has expressed his wish to attend some of our meetings. A special invitation will be sent to him and his wife to attend our winter show to be held on Tuesday July 9th. Mr. Grey has sent us a donation of \$10 and the Committee has decided to purchase a book for the library.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have been accepted and will be presented with their badges and membership cards at the next meeting.

Mr. & Mrs. C. Mills, Box 94, NOARLUNGA. 5168.

Mr. R. Hargreaves, 1, Halmor Ave., EVERARD PARK. 5035.

Mr. & Mrs. V.L. Connell, 52, Wilson Terrace, GLENELG EAST. 5045.

Mr. D. Forwood, 29, Avenel Road, MEDINDIE. 5081.

Mr. G. Shurven, 25, Uxbridge St., KENSINGTON PARK. 5068.

CULTURAL NOTES & Ramblin'

By Mr. Bernie Hansen

First of all I will do a bit of ramblin'. If you have been buying seedlings over the last two or more years I will presume you have been looking over these trying to determine whether you have spikes or growths coming away. In most cases "not all" spikes tend to be a little rounder or they come up through the bottom leaf brack, but in some cases even the more knowledgable growers have to wait a little while before they can tell.

There is still plenty of time for spikes to show, but most should be discernable by the end of April, an odd one or two may still show up after this. to me this is an exciting time as I find quite a few first flowering seedlings and these are where ones own speculations are starting to come to fruition and we see if we made a wise choice in our selections of crossings available to us from the various Commercial establishments.

To all new growers I would advise them to buy 5 or 6 seedlings at least each year so that at a later date you will enjoy the thrill of flowering new seedlings each year, remember this is where the new Champions come from, and the smallest of grower can fluke the best one.

Second to seedlings come Mericlones, with these you are usually sure of good quality blooms, but don't expect show bench Champions if you buy what the trade calls Export Quality Mericlones.

A lot has been written by various people about showbench and Export type blooms, perhaps I will try to explain briefly the difference.

Showbench types

The Grand Champion bloom will be the bloom the judge deems to be the closest to a round well filled in flower with good colour, be it white or any other colour or mixture of colours with anywhere from 7 or more florets. All flowers should be fully open should the plant only carry 7 flowers, naturally the more flowers the better but this is not paramount. In these observations I am speaking as a judge of the Orchid Club of South Australia and my own personal views as a grower. Size of flower is naturally important, a top quality showbench flower should be well over 4" across the visible limits of the petals, I personally like to see flowers of this category at least 4½" to 5" across.

Export types

Here we have a real contentious subject and I feel that to appreciate good export flowers one has not only to grow cymbidiums for export, but to actually be exporting, because until you see the monetary returns for your blooms, how can you possibly assess the American market by looking at standards set by Judges who in some cases only grow a few cymbidiums for show purposes.

So again these are my observations from working in a firm that exports blooms to various countries.

Any Cymbidium spike that carries 10 or more florets fully opened without any blemishes is a good spike, it is preferable that the spike carries 14 or 16 flowers because of the fact that it takes practically no longer to pack a spike with 16 flowers than a ten flowered spike.

The way we pack, it is also preferable that the spike habit be straight or slightly arched.

Colour of the flowers should be clear and glistening. Bicolours and deep colours also have their place in export. Contrasting or lips that blend in with the colour of the flower or concolour lips are all acceptable. In generalization no colour is better than the next. It is no good saying that white is the best colour if the customer wants a deep green shoulder spray.

The general consensus of opinion is that white should make up the bulk of an export order, but I am sure that other exporters like ourselves send what we have.

One of the main requirements is that the flower should hold well, as not all are sold and the importers have to hold some flowers for one or two weeks, so a flower that collapses quickly is virtually useless, of course culture comes in to this aspect, a healthy vigorous growing Cymbidium will throw in most cases a strong spike.

So what it all boils down to when I am looking for an export flower in a show, is this. The spike should be strong, carrying a good number of 4½" or over flowers of clear colour, the flower should be reasonably flat in profile, have loads of texture and without blemishes.