



# *The South Coast Orchid Club Inc. Gazette*

*July 1996*

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**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday July 9th 1996 , Calvary Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale. Benching of plants to be completed by 7-45 pm for judging.  
Meeting commences at 8pm.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Mr Bill Fisher will address the meeting. His subject will be Australian Native Epiphytes.

**MINI AUCTION:**

An auction of Orchid books that have been donated to the Club by Mrs John Leeder will be conducted.

**HALL SET-UP:**

Anyone willing to help set-up please be at the Hall by 7pm.

**SUPPER:**

Tea, coffee, cordial and biscuits will be provided.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:**

2pm. Thursday 11th July 1996 pm. at South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South Brighton. Native Orchids from the Toowoomba ,Queensland area will be the slide program for this meeting.

**COMPETITION:**

It is time to bring your Competition plants in again. Remember there is a prize for the best plants. The plants for competition are Cattleytonia Lavender Maid and Bc. Alex Hawks and several cymbidium mericlones that were given to Members 2 years ago.

**NEXT COMPETITION:**

Buy a cymbidium seedling for \$2 at the July meeting and enter our next plant competition.

## DAYTIME CHAPTER by Ruth Clark & Helen Edwards

(Notes on Native Orchids of Victoria from Australian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group).

On a pleasant afternoon Keith Northcote welcomed Members, with a special welcome for Moss Bray. Moss then proceeded to give us some tips on displaying cymbidium plants for the Shows. He classifies Cymbidiums as having either pendulous, arching or straight spikes and trains his spikes accordingly. You need to start to train spikes early, when just out of the sheath. Don't move the plant excessively as the flowers may look in all directions, chasing the light. Moss likes to 'dehusk' all the spikes. Remember that spikes can only have 1 tie above the bottom flower. If using stakes, and most of us do, green stakes are less obtrusive. When using tools they must be sterilized between each plant. The plant label should be put in a prominent position on the 'show' side of the plant.

The slide program for the afternoon was 'Native Orchids of Victoria' presented by the Australian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group).

Of the approximately 150 species of native orchids that occur in Victoria, a large number are 'cultivable' by regular methods, and the rest are either unreliable in cultivation or apparently completely impossible in the light of known techniques.

The slides in the program ranged over the three categories and showed the great variety and individuality of the native orchids.

*Acianthus caudatus* (The Mayfly Orchid) This 15cm high orchid flowers in August and September in a variety of habitats throughout Victoria. It is particularly common in heath-land. It has a rather foul smell reminiscent of a wet dog and is difficult to cultivate.

*Caladenia menziesii* (The Hare Orchid) is an easy plant to grow as it multiplies readily. However, it is difficult to flower in a pot as it seems to require the stimulus of a bush fire. It is a small, dainty orchid that is widely spread and flowers during September and October. Its height is about 12cm.

*Caladenia congesta*. Flowering in November and December in habitat ranging from semi-swamp to dry, this plant is the tallest of the genus in Victoria. (up to 45cm) It is an interesting orchid but cultivation attempts seem to fail after one season.

*Caladenia tessellata*. This is a colony forming, coastal species up to 30cms high, which flowers profusely in the season after bushfires. Its normal flowering period is September-October and in common with many others in this genus, is difficult to cultivate and does not multiply vegetatively.

*Caladenia reticulata*. Another wide-spread and very attractive *Caladenia* which flowers from September to November. Unfortunately, once again difficult to sustain in cultivation.

*Caleana major* (Flying Duck Orchid). Good specimens, up to 30cms high, can be found flowering from November to January. It is mainly coastal but is also found in inland locations, It is another that does not take kindly to cultivation.

*Calochilus campestris* (Beard Orchid). All members of this genus have defied attempts at cultivation. This particular species may grow to a height of 40cms and carry a spike of 10 flowers is found in a wide range of habitats, but is not common despite its self pollinating characteristics.

*Chiloglottis gunnii* (Bird Orchid). A small plant of 3 to 4 cms. high when in flower. After pollination the stem extends to about 10cms to aid seed dispersal. Flowering plants are less common than the two leaved rosettes that often form mats in high rainfall areas. It is moderately easy to cultivate.

*Corybas diemenicus* (Slaty Helmet Orchid). Carpets of 3cm leaves lying flat on the ground in heavily shaded areas are typical of all members of this genus. The flower has a very short stem which elongates to approximately 12 cms. for seed dispersal should the flower be pollinated. It is easy to cultivate but the flowers are highly susceptible to damping off.

*Dendrobium striolatum* (Streaked Pencil Orchid). Victoria has only 5 epiphytes and this is one. It grows like a mat on cool, moist rock faces in Eastern Victoria. It is easy to cultivate and plants can usually be seen at the Nossa Spring Show.

The above is a brief description of just some of

(Continued on page 3)

the orchids found in areas of Victoria. So next time you holiday in Victoria watch where you are walking and you might come across some of these little beauties.

*Cymbidium* Via Lunagard 'Reynella' grown by K Northcote won popular vote. 2nd was Bc. Roman Holiday and *Ludisia discolor* grown by Keith and the Fenton's respectively and 3rd another Bc. Roman Holiday grown by Keith. Congratulations to all Members who had plants on the bench. The afternoon concluded with a most enjoyable cuppa and a chat.

## CYMBIDIUMS THE KING OF ORCHIDS

The most commonly grown of all the orchid genera Australia wide.

**WHY** They are the easiest and cheapest to buy and grow, and provide flowers for 10 months of the year, which can last up to 5 months. Hybridizers and nurseries are found in all States where they are grown. Modern hybrids using the Australian species *madidum*, *suave* and *canaliculatum* will provide quality cymbidium flowers 12 months of the year. Species cymbidiums have been in cultivation for over 2500 years naturally occurring in India - China to Japan and south throughout the Malay Archipelago to North Eastern Australia.

"Cribb" 'The Genus *Cymbidium*' lists 44 *Cymbidium* Species, of these 19 are standard size types with 25 intermediate and miniature size types.

These species cymbidiums are in the background of all the modern day hybrids. A number of them being converted to 4n ploidy before successful breeding was possible.

Cymbidiums are available in the spectrum of colour, the only exception being blue. In size from miniature up to super standard. Have you noticed there are few plants in cultivation that have green flowers ?. In cymbidiums green is available from ice green to darkest olive green.

Cymbidiums are terrestrial, lithophytic but are mainly epiphytic, meaning grows on trees. A number of different eucalypts and shea-oaks are host plants to the Australian species.

**GROWING MEDIUMS** Cymbidiums are tolerant to just about any well drained aerated medium that will support the plant and keep it upright, providing it is not too acid or too alkaline. From horse manure in Tasmania to scoria and rockwool in Victoria and the Eric Young Foundation on the Isle of Jersey.

For South Australian conditions where our water is generally alkaline and carrying too many salts,

any medium that retains salts and is not readily 'flushable' will be unsatisfactory for cymbidiums. The growing medium must suit the quality of the available water. The feeding/fertilizing program you supply will determine the growth, vigor, health and ultimate flowering of the plant, providing the other requirements of the plant are met, e.g. light, humidity, air movement, temperature, and not forgetting freedom from pests and diseases.

Thankfully gone are the days of mixing up an inert U.C. mix that had no inbuilt food value, broke down to mud in 2 years or less, leaving a pot full of bulbs but no roots. Large specimen plants of cymbidiums were rare, as they invariably fell in pieces while changing the compost.

With changing to clean composted pinebark, the plant can stay in the pot until the pot is full, - mainly all roots with little or no bark left.

The PH of a bark mix generally is just slightly acid, a PH of 5.5 is ideal for cymbidiums.

The current mix I use is a pinebark mix of 5-18mm size with added dolomite, gypsum and blood and bone to compost it. After composting adding polystyrene foam granules and small marble chips. The completed mix is stored in heavy duty plastic bags to keep it moist and placed in a shady location to keep it cool until use. Preparation, composting and mixing time until use is 6 weeks.

**GROWING CONDITIONS** Cymbidiums do best with strong light, but not direct summer sun, plenty of air movement all around them, over and under them. increased humidity, especially during summer/autumn months, adequate water and fertilizer all year round, and freedom from pests and diseases.

The grower can provide those requirements in SA reasonably economically by constructing a tubular frame structure of about 2.5 to 3 metres high, and covering it with 50% or 70% knitted shade cloth, preferably white. Pipeframe benches can be constructed, about 450 to 500mm high,

and covered with weldmesh or ARC fence panels. Failing provision of benches, a thick layer of 15mm diameter gravel will suffice. Totally enclosing the shadehouse will keep out annoying birds and other pests. Installation of an overhead sprinkler system and provision to cover part if not all of the shadehouse in 'Solar Scrim' or similar covering as a flowering house would complete an ideal house and environment for cymbidiums. Remember when building the shadehouse **make it large enough**. History shows that they are **never** large enough particular if you have caught the 'cymbidium bug'.

Cymbidiums need to be spaced for optimum growth and spiking, 2 pot widths apart all round. Space them in sizes, all about the same size together. Remember too close together gives nice leaves but no flowers. Freedom from nearby tall trees is an advantage but most of us in a back yard situation have to compromise and put up with many hours of shade on our plants particularly from autumn to late spring. We can still

however produce well flowered cymbidiums.

**FERTILIZING** There are many differing forms of fertilizing in use from total fertigation to hand applied slow and immediate release types. Fertigation is dilute fertilizing through the watering system generally with every watering. This is the commercial approach and it gives excellent results, however, most nurseries will have on going trials of other slow release types of fertilizer in batches of mericlones aiming for optimum growth and flower production tested against cost. The hobbyist can use fertigation by buying a mixing tank and injector pump. In my case I use only quick acting and slow release types combined in a manual application whenever necessary. Trial and error fertilizing programs produce a system best suited to your mix and environment. Aquasol, Thrive, Nitrophoska, Seasol, Vital, Fish Emulsion, Manutec, Campbells Blue and Yellow are all dissolvable types. Dynamic Lifter, Neutrog, Osmocote, Nutricote, Blood and Bone are some of the slow release types. Cymbidiums are like us, they get tired of the same diet year in year out and seem to appreciate a change of diet with more variety.

**WATERING** Cymbidiums need to be kept moist - not soggy. Depending on your microclimate, the amount of air movement and evaporation from your plants will determine when and how often you water. Generally in summer during excessive heat they may require misting once or twice a day, with a good watering, say late in the afternoon, to cool down the bulbs and compost and aid in setting spikes which occurs generally December to March. Watering is reduced through Autumn, Winter, and Spring when evaporation levels are far less and humidity is increased.

**PESTS AND DISEASES** Red Spider (two

spotted mite), scale, slugs, snails, aphids and caterpillars are the main pests that attack cymbidiums, all of which can be controlled. Weeds that germinate in the compost or between the bulbs are also pests and need removing.

Virus in its various types needs to be watched for - there is no cure for it and the sooner the affected plant is disposed of the better the rest of your collection will be. Virus infection is an interesting subject, not a lot is known about it excepting it is transmitted by sap sucking insects. Most often a 'clean' plant will only show symptoms after it has been broken up and then only one or two divisions may show it. Fungal attack by various fungi can affect cymbidiums. The 1995-96 Summer-Autumn period has been one producing the most fungal rot in cymbidiums that growers can remember.

**STAKING AND TIEING** A cymbidium is only as good as its presentation which should be the best possible. A spike carrying many flowers is quite heavy and will need support to keep it upright or arching when the flowers are fully out. To transport to meetings or shows most intermediate size flowers and larger will require staking and tieing. The stakes should not protrude above the top flower and should be unobtrusive, of aluminium, steel, or bamboo type. The former two can be wound with green florist tape so they are virtually unseen. The number of ties allowed on spikes for the showbench at South Coast is one tie only above the bottom flower.

**GROWING SEEDLINGS** Next years 'Jubilation Geronimo' may be the seedling growing in **your** collection. If you don't grow seedlings you will never have the pleasure of presenting one. Look at Vic. Haskard's

achievements in presenting really outstanding seedling cymbidiums, Ruby Anniversary 'Pink Surprise' and Kelly's Winter 'Patricia' to name just two, but there are many more from his hybridizing.

Other members hybridize and grow batches of seedlings, Keith Northcote, Helmuth Gerber, Moss Bray and Gordon Brooks come to mind. Growing seedlings is a challenge which really gets the adrenalin flowing as the seedlings flower.

**SHOWING AND EXHIBITING** This is the showcase for our individual cultural and presentation skills, where we put on view for the rest of the orchid world to see well grown older varieties, and new locally raised cultivars which we hope will be champions of tomorrow.

Many lasting friendships are made from encounters at orchid shows particularly with interstate growers and exhibitors. We are all wanting to improve our collections and by exchanging plants we enable it to happen.

**by Murray Weston**

## FOR SALE

**Complete** set of Sanders up to and including the 1985-90 book. Price to be negotiated

Laminor Flow Cabinet (for the budding hybridist) Including U.V. light, fluoro, is stainless steel on own stand. Price to be negotiated.

Contact: Christopher Sutton phone.326 0607

## WINTER SHOW

The Winter Show will be held at the Pioneer Hall on the corner of Morphet and Sturt Roads Seacombe Gardens..

Set-up will be on Friday 19th July from 9am..

Show open to the public 9 - 5 Saturday.

10 - 4 Sunday

There will be a miscellaneous table as well as a plant trading table.

Plenty of close parking available.

Help required on Friday morning and Friday evening **please.**

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## MONTHLY FLORAL COMPETITION RESULTS

**FLOWER OF THE NIGHT** was the delightful small plant of *Howeara Mini Primi* grown by Peter and Geraldine Flavel. The plant has small growth habit coming from the species in its background i.e. *Leucochilum*, *Oncidium*, and *Rodriguezia*.

*Howeara Mini Primi* displayed 14 flowering spikes, seven fully open and 7 open with branching stems still to open, the flower spikes were varying in length.

The flowers with their reddish brown sepals and petals enhanced by the labellum with its yellow and red/brown to the centre, sometimes spotting occurs, the white cream pollen cap completes the flower.

A plus is the flowers are quite long lasting on their pendulous spikes and will grow well in a cold glasshouse in a bark mix. Mini Primi will enjoy a little fertilizer in the growing season and is easy to grow and soon makes a specimen plant which is delightful to have in the glasshouse. **by R. Moore**

### SECOND DIVISION

**Judges:** G. Brooks  
B. Wyly  
K. Northcote

Inter. Cymbidium	Willunga Eyecatcher 'Fairy Floss'	D. & J. Higgs	3
Species. Paphiopedilum	<i>insigne</i>	W. & R. Clark	3
Species	<i>Stenoglottis longifolia</i>	Joan Kelly	3

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**  
*Stenoglottis longifolia* grown by Joan Kelly

### *Stenoglottis longifolia*

The Flower of Division in 2nd Division, *Stenoglottis longifolia* had lovely little pink flowers on tall stems. These plants grow as terrestrial herbs, but occasionally epiphytes, in Southern Africa. There are 3 species, *S. frimbriata*, *S. woodii* and the one we are familiar with, *S. longifolia*.

Thick root tubers bear a basal rosette of leaves each year, the leaves are elongated and bright green in color. The inflorescences are tall and the flowers continue to open over a couple of months as the flower spike elongates.

The flowers are pale pink and when you take a close look at these small flowers you can see mauve spotting. The small petals enclose the column, however, the elongated spotted lip is the striking feature.

*Stenoglottis longifolia* grows very easily here in South Australia. The foliage dies off after flowering as our native terrestrials do, this is the period the plants need the short dry rest time. Once the bulbs start to show signs of leaves commence feeding with a dilute fertilizer. Place in an area with semi-shade, cool to intermediate temperatures, good air movement and moderate humidity.

Good clones grow vigorously and have good colour. They easily grow into specimens.

The potting mixture is medium bark but rice hulls can be added or even cymbidium mix used.

by Rosalie Moore

#### FIRST DIVISION

Judge:

**K. Northcote**  
**B. Wyly**  
**G. Brooks**

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Liparis reflexa</i>	M. Tiggeman	3
Aust.Nat.Terr:Species	<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	M. Tiggeman	3
Inter. Cymbidium	Cherry Cola 'Geyserland'	G. & W. Shevlin	3
	Pumisan x Mesa Zia	G. & W. Shevlin	2
Std. Cattleya	Bc. Mt. Anderson x Donna Kimura	C. Ameer	3
	Lc. Prism Palette 'Rainbow'	C. Ameer	2
	Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales		
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Adelaide Ablaze	H.H. Pankoke	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Maudiae 'Magnificum'	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>stoneii</i> x <i>sukhakulii</i>	R. & I. Parish	2
	Maudiae	R. & I. Parish	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>wardii</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>insigne</i>	C. Ameer	2
	<i>villosum</i>	R. & I. Parish	1
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Oda Strawberry x City of Bradford	H.H. Pankoke	3
	Onc. Lynette Banks x ( <i>crispin</i> x Yurla)	H.H. Pankoke	2
	McIna. Pagan Lovesong 'Ruby Charles'	H. & B. Viney	1
Species	<i>L. crispilabia</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>C. loddigesii</i>	C. Ameer	2

#### **FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**

***Lc. Adelaide Ablaze* grown by Rick Pankoke**

**OPEN DIVISION****Judges:****H. Pankoke**

Aust. Nat. Epi: Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon	D. Biebrick	3
	Den. Virginia Jupp x Racemosum	D. Biebrick	2
	Den. Hilda Poxon	P. & G. Flavel	1
Aust. Nat. Terr: Species	<i>Liparis reflexa</i>	D. Biebrick	3
Aust. Nat. Terr: Hybrid	Ptst. x furcillata	P. & G. Flavel	3
Std. Cymbidium	Via Lunagrad	K. Northcote	3
	Tracy Reddaway	M. & R. Bray	2
Inter. Cymbidium	One Tree Hill	M. & R. Bray	3
	Aussie Rules	M. & R. Bray	2
	(Arkaroola x Peter Pan) 'Bronze Leopard'	H. Gerber	1
Mini. Cymbidium	Kauilani 'Mayfair'	H. Gerber	3
	Kauilani 'Irma'	H. Gerber	2
Std. Cattleya	Bc. Pastoral 'Innocence'	R. & B. Wilson	3
Cluster Cattleya	C. Portia 'Monty'	K. Northcote	3
Nov. Cattleya	Blc. Makaha Gold x C. Chocolate Drop	B. Wyly	3
	Bc. Roman Holiday	K. Northcote	2
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Valentine Day 'Cardinal Velvet'	R. & B. Wilson	3
Cocktail Cattleya	Sc. Fairyland 'Crystal'	B. Wyly	3
	Lc. Mini Purple	D. Biebrick	2
Other Laeliinae	Epicat. Viola 'Susan'	B. Wyly	3
Miscellaneous	Epi. Lavender Lady	D. Biebrick	3
Phalaenopsis	Carmela's Stripes x Bavarian Princess	M. & R. Bray	3
	Happy Valentine x (Lucky Pink x Carmela's Stripes)	M. & R. Bray	2
	Zuma Urchin x Dtps. Amdur Rojo	M. & R. Bray	1
Std. Paphiopedilum	Battle of Egypt x Paeony	D. Biebrick	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	( <i>sukhakulii</i> x <i>acmodontum</i> ) x <i>curtisii</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	<i>tonsum</i> x Pop Monkhouse	P. & G. Flavel	2
	Harrisanium 'Black Knight'	D. Biebrick	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>insigne</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	<i>fairieanum</i>	D. Biebrick	2
	<i>insigne</i>	T. DeIonno	1
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Howeara Mini Primi	P. & G. Flavel	3
	McIna. Pagan Lovesong	B. Wyly	2
	Bgra. Living Fire	B. Wyly	1
Species	<i>L. anceps</i>	P. & G. Flavel	3
	<i>Z. mackayii</i>	T. DeIonno	2
Zygopetalum	Kiwi Choice 'Ryan'	B. Wyly	3

***FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:******Howeara Mini Primi* grown by Peter & Geraldine Flavel**

**Are YOU having trouble keeping names on your plant labels? Well John Nicholls has been doing a little experimentation and he tells me that ARTLINE GARDEN MARKER does the job very well. Thanks John**