



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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

PATRON: Mr. Bill McCallum.

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET
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Written and Edited by Mrs. Iris Nash.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

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Our next meeting will be our Christmas party and presentation night, to be held at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday December 11th.

You may bring your Orchid plants along for show, but they will not be judged for points, only by Popular Vote.

A licence is being obtained to allow liquor to be consumed, but not sold. You may bring along your own brand of Christmas Cheer and join the merry throng. A small amount of drink will be provided, but we suggest you bring your own glasses, as only a few will be available for use.

Members are requested to bring a basket supper, and also a gift to the value of 50c. suitable for your own sex. You are invited to bring along any guests you wish to have, but so that no one is left out, please see that you bring the appropriate number of 50c. gifts. Boxes will be provided at the door marked HIS and HERS.

Our big prizes won at the Marion Spring Show will be presented and all winners are requested to be present.

The aggregate prizewinners will be announced, and also the winning entrant in our bulletin contest.

There will be plenty of fun and surprises for everyone, and we hope this will be a really enjoyable night to wind up the Club's successful year. We would like to see all members wearing their name card, so that we can all get to know one another by name.

NOTICE BOARD

We hope to put our notice board up again, and any items of interest can be pinned to it. If you have any items for sale etc. etc.

OUR LADIES LUNCH

The Saturday ladies are having their Christmas luncheon on Wednesday 9th. January at the Morphett Arms Hotel, Morphett Road. Any new lady members are welcome to join us for this luncheon if they would like to pay their own way. If you would like to do so, please contact Mrs. Ellie Shaw Ph. 383 3056.

LIBRARY

You are requested to return all outstanding library books at the December meeting. Some members are keeping books far too long and fines will have to be increased. Please give other members a fair chance to see these books.

EXHIBITORS

As mentioned in our September bulletin, anyone going from Novice to OPEN since September 1971 must apply in writing to the Committee if they wish to go back to the newly formed INTERMEDIATE section. Please have these letters in before our next Committee meeting on Tuesday December 18th. A list will be compiled of Novice, Intermediate and Open class members for January. Check with the Show Marshal Mr. Keith Shaw if you have any queries.

1974 Programmes

All suggestions for programmes for our 1974 meetings will be very welcome and carefully considered. If you know any one who would be willing to give us a talk or demonstration on any interesting subject, please contact one of your Committee. Also, by January we will be wanting nominations for the 1974 Committee, and also a list of other members willing to take on jobs at our Monthly meetings or on Sub-committees. With the growth of our club much more help is required, so that it doesn't become a burden to a small number of members.

A further suggestion for 1974 is to have a show of ferns or foliage plants at our monthly meetings, instead of the Indoor flowering plants. We hope this will encourage members to grow suitable foliage plants to enhance our Orchid displays.

November meeting

At our last meeting we had a very helpful talk for new members on Cymbidiums, given by Mr. Ted Work. Ted is quite willing for visitors to call and see his collection at 21, Harcourt Avenue, Clovelly Park. I suggest you ring him on 277 2160 to arrange a suitable time.

We also had an extremely interesting talk and slide show by Barry Modra, who extends an invitation to anyone wishing to visit their place at 138 - 140, Ashley St., Underdale. As well as speaking on the Modra glasshouse, he spoke on heating, mist units, pumps, cooling, light control etc.

We welcomed nine new members and a further five enrolled. As we have had so many recently, I will compile a list of members later on, and let everyone have a copy.

P.3.

We were pleased to see Mr. Martin back after his recent illness, and we hope that Mrs. Aileen Gowling and Mr. Bernie Hansen will be fit for our next meeting.

Our judge for the night was Mr. Wes Harris, assisted by Mr. Claude Hammond. Wes of course is very experienced with all the names, and he has greatly assisted me this month by typing out the correct spellings etc. I apologise for all the mistakes during the year, but I am afraid I am still very dumb as far as names are concerned.

Results were as follows:-

OPEN SECTION

Paphiopedilum	Lathamatum	Wes. Harris	2 pts.
Aust. Natives	Cymbid. suave	Peter Speer	3 pts.
	Dend. fleckeri X D. gracilicaule	Geoff Adams	2 pts.
Phalaenopsis	Valley Queen	Geoff Adams	2 pts.
Species	Dend. pulchellum	Wes Harris	3 pts.
	Dend. arachnitis	" "	2 pts.
	Paph. glaucophyllum	Geoff Adams	1 pt.
Misc. Genera	Arachnides Peach Blossom	Wes Harris	3 pts.
	Catt. forbesii X Epi. Randii	" "	2 pts.
	Cattleytonia Rosy Jewell	" "	1 pt.

NOVICE SECTION

Cymbidium	San Francisco 'Meadow Mist'	Dick Styles	3 pts.
	Mary Ann 'Simplicity'	" "	2 pts.
Cattleya	Lady Veitch X intermedia	Harry Nash	3 pts.
	B.C. Lim Theng Hin	Marjorie Lang	2 pts.
Aust. natives	Cym. canaliculatum var. sparkesii	Marjorie Lang	3 pts.
	Dend. discolor	Jean Tregenza	2 pts.
	Cym. suave	Marjorie Lang	1 pt.
Species	Oncidium sphacelatum	Jean Tregenza	3 pts.
	Dend. loddigesii	Don Deal	2 pts.
Phalaenopsis	Mount Kaala	Merv Dohnhardt	3 pts.
	Show Girl 'Bonsall' A.M. X		
	Ruby Zada 'Bonsall' H.C.C.	Bill Gray	2 pts.
	Star of Rio 'Bracey's' X		
	lueddemannana var. ochracea	" "	1 pt.

Judge's Comments

During the November meeting, several new members were admitted to our Club. This is a very encouraging sign of progress and it is hoped that we may all wear our names on Club labels and get to know each other. The above list of plant names have been carefully perused and a correction was made in the spelling on a label (owner please note). Please study the list. You will notice that some plant names commence with a CAPITAL letter - this is because the plant is a hybrid - and those WITHOUT the capital are species (a species orchid is a wild flower, remember?) Look at the Cattleya which is judged first in the Novice section for further information. C. Lady Veitch (already a hybrid) has been crossed (X) with a species, C.intermedia. There is no obligation for a hybridiser to register and so give the new hybrid a name, but it is highly desirable that it be registered and so become known Internationally. In this regard, our own member, Mr. Merv. Dunn, trading as Valley Orchids, has quite recently registered 54 new Cymbidium hybrids.

New members, and perhaps some older ones, may not know that the true Vanilla essence is obtained from an Orchid species, Vanilla planifolia, from Eastern Mexico, which has been known to have climbing tendencies to about 300 ft. My plant currently has 3 bunches of up to 10 buds each. 2 inch flowers are greenish yellow and the wavy-edged lip almost white with yellow throat. I observed the buds some two months ago and they have grown slowly. Now, we all know that many orchid flowers keep fresh for 2 months; others such as Dendrobium pulchellum and Stanhopea tigrina for only 3 days. It is somewhat a surprise therefore, to know that the Vanilla flower opens for about 3 hours. I might, one day, be lucky enough to self pollenate it.

A thought for the month.

Astrologers probably wouldn't ask your birth month; they might ask your sign of the Zodiac. A question asked recently was, "Under which sign were you conceived?" The reply, believe it or not, was, "Keep off the grass".

Another effort by Mrs. Leora Harvey

THE SATURDAY GIRLS. (MELBOURNE CUP)

Ellie is the first away, wearing a beautiful Orchid spray,
Trimmed with dainty stalks of hay.
Jean is the next one into sight,
She's in a hurry to check on a certain red light.
Next gallups up Aileen, followed by Chris.
This is surely a race that none should miss.
Next up, It's Dulcie we can see,
No, I think she's stopped to make the tea.
Gwenda's not going so well today,
I believe she's going the other way.
Doug is a starter in this race,
But he just can't compete with our feminine grace.

THE SATURDAY GIRLS (MELBOURNE CUP) cont.

Marie and Neil are beginning to lag. Who will be our Champion Nag?
Leora's creeping along on the outside fence.
This is a horse with not much sense.
Margaret is near the end in this race
Because she's carrying a loaded packing case.
Coming in last I think its Val,
She's not much of a horse, but a lovely gal.
Well racing into place number 3
Is our Speedy Gonzales, Marjorie,
Second in place in the field today
Goes to the stayer, Leila Gray.
But who has won this hectic race?
It's Hazel, showing her form and pace.

Any horses not mentioned were last minute scratchings.

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS (Excerpt from The Orchid Digest)

While Cymbidiums are nice for a starter, there are a number of other orchid species and hybrids that can be grown along with them in the Cymbidium yard or lath house. We find that a number of the bifoliate Cattleya species and hybrids from them, as well as Mexican Laelias, can be grown in with the Cymbidiums using the same watering, shading and other care as the Cymbidiums need. The flowers are smaller than the standard, large Cattleya, but they have more flowers. Grown outside, they have taller stems and more flowers than they did inside the green-house. These are hybrids from Cattleya bowringiana, C.harrisoniana and C.elongata. Also, some of the larger flowering types, the unifoliate species and hybrids, particularly the white Cattleyas, stand the cooler growing very well. We live ten miles inland in northern San Diego County, so I can only speak with certainty about any outdoor growing in equivalent locations.

There are also the Zygopetalums, of which Zygopetalum mackayi is the best known. These plants like the same conditions as Cymbidiums, even the same potting material. They grow very well and put up tall spikes of green and purple flowers that have a marvelous fragrance. The blossoms are about three inches across and very showy; the plant is good looking, even when not in bloom; they flower in January or February.

Many of the Epidendrums will grow well outside - from reed-stem types to the bulbous ones, now called Encyclias. This is a very large plant family with so many different types of plants and flowers - large and small, colorful and inconspicuous - that it is hard to give a brief description of them. Most important is that they are easy to grow. Epidendrum radicans is a reed-stem type and comes in red, orange, yellow, white, lavender and mixed colors. They make a nice hedge where they can have some support to hold them upright, partial shade and no frost. Grown in this way, they become a garden plant.

We set pots of them into a wooden trough and gradually fill it with discarded compost from the *Cattleya* pottings. The *Epidendrums* take hold and grow tall, giving many heads of small, colorful flowers. There are also *Encyclia nemorele* and *Encyclia tampense* that do well on the *Cymbidium* bench. The *Encyclias* are pot plants that do not take as much room as the reed-stem types.

There are cool growing types of *Dendrobiums* that will take outside growing - with variations. They are the deciduous species and differ from the *Cymbidiums* in that they require a resting period in the winter. They can be grown on the *Cymbidium* bench until the new growths are finished (about Nov.) and then should be moved to place where they will have strong light and little water. Sometime in January or February they will commence to swell at the leaf nodes; this is a sign that buds are starting to form. At this point, the plant should be lightly sprayed all over when watering, but not pot watered. Water in the pot will cause the plant to make plantlets at the nodes instead of flowers. When the flower buds are advanced enough so that you can tell they definitely are buds, then the plant can be gradually returned to a regular watering schedule. The group of *Dendrobiums* that take this sort of culture are the so-called nobile types: *Den.nobile*, *Den.chrysotoxum*, *Den.farmeri*, *Denkingianum*, *Den moniliforme*, *Den.thrysiflorum*, *Dendensiflorum*, and *Den.superbum*, just to name a few. Do not try to grow the evergreen types or others that are hybrids from them outside an intermediate greenhouse; these species are: *Den phalaenopsis schroederianum*, *Denveratrifolium*, *Den.gouldi*, *Den.undulatum*, *Denstratiotes*. They will lose all their leaves and finally die.

All of the *Dendrobiums* are worth while, whether the warm or cold growing types. They produce short racemes with three or more flowers at each leaf node and are covered with flowers when well grown. They are commonly called "cane" orchids, many of them producing tall, slender pseudobulbs that require head room. *Dendrobium farmeri* and *Den.kingianum* are dwarf types that will fit into a small area. *Dendrobiums* should be potted in chopped tree fern or fir bark or some other open material suitable for epiphytic orchids. They should be under-potted (i.e., in as small a pot as they can be put into). Then, as they grow, add additional flowerpots (we prefer clay pots) to ballast them, but never give them more room than they really need. They are heavy feeders.

We must not overlook the *Odontoglossums* when talking of outdoor type orchids. They come from high altitudes in Mexico, Central America, Columbia and other parts of South America where there are mountainous areas where they can get high enough to find a climate cool and damp enough for them. They like cool, moist locations with a good ground breeze. Air movement is very important to them. *Odontoglossum insleayi*, *O.pulchellum*, *O grande*, *O.williamsianum*, *O.cervantesi*, and *O. bictoniense* are a few that should do well on the *Cymbidium* bench the year round. They will require more shading than the *Cymbidiums*, but otherwise anything that is good for the *Cymbidiums* will be all right for them. Since they do like good air movement, they can be elevated on hangers or on a shelf if convenient. *Odontoglossums* can be potted in fir bark chopped for orchid potting. They like to be kept damp and well fed.

Another orchid that can be grown along with the Cymbidiums and Odontoglossums is the *Oncidium*. There is a very large family of these. As in other orchid families, not all of them require the same growing, but there are members of this family that do well enough outside, such as *Oncidium incurvum*, *Onc. sphacelatum*, *Onc. bicallosum*, *Onc. leucochilum* and a number of others that come from high altitudes.

Here, I should mention that the names of orchids raise a mental block in many beginners. Perhaps a little of the history of orchids will explain the complexity of orchid names. Of course, in their native places, there is a name for them but in the language of the country and usually a common or descriptive name not known to us. When orchids first began to appear in the collections of tropical plants in England and on the continent, they were a puzzle to gardeners who submitted them to botanists for identification. Sometimes they were given the name of the grower or collector who had found them, usually with an "iae", "ae", or "i" ending, but more often they were given a name derived from Latin or Greek and botanically descriptive of either the plant or the flower. This is why the orchids do not have common names that our tongues can handle but have instead double-jointed names that frustrate the beginner. However, we must remember that any subject we may pursue will have a language of its own which must be mastered in order to understand the terms used in discussing it. Thus, it becomes necessary to learn the language that goes with the subject in order to understand what we learn.

Add, the orchid family is one of the most numerous plant families in the world plus that it has been a very complex exercise to classify and name them, and we get some idea of the problems faced by taxonomists trying to arrange them into families where they belong. In the process of doing this, some plants have been placed into a succession of families until they finally come to rest under a reasonable heading. Recently the *Cypripediums*, the type we usually grow, have been moved from the *Cypripedium* designation to one called *Paphiopedilum*. These are tropical plants from the Eastern hemisphere and differ from the South American and North American species which have different names. Confusing - but valid!

When orchids were first discovered growing on trees in jungles, they were thought to be parasites, and the word went out that was what they were. We still find people who insist that they are a parasitic plant. Yet, in the 1920s, tests were made, and it was proven that they are not plants that feed on a host plant as parasites do. The orchid clings to a tree to get up into the light, or to get off the forest floor. It does not feed on that host. There are a great many such plants in tropical areas, and they are all grouped together as epiphytes (tree perching plants).

In the process of proving what orchids are, Dr. Charles Knudsen grew a *Cattleya* plant in a large bottle in a nutrient agar jell for seven years from seedling to bloom. This proved the orchid did not need a host plant to feed upon in order to survive. He also pioneered the way to grow orchid seed in laboratories instead of having to collect all plants in the wild. This has contributed greatly to the reduced prices of orchid plants and their consequent popularity as a hobby.

Editors Note

I hope the above article does not take you so long to read as it took me to type it. It is headed "Hints for Beginners", but I feel you might need a little clarification from some of our experienced members, who I feel sure will be only too pleased to answer any questions you care to ask them.

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of Mr. David Austin, supervisor of the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife and family.

We would like to advise members to lock their cars before coming into our meetings, we understand that a few articles disappeared whilst we were holding our last meeting.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS