THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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MONTHLY MEETING

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL, Windsong Court, Christies Downs on TUESDAY JUNE 8 at 8 p m.

PROGRAMME

Monthly plantcompetition:- Student Judges onduty - Associate Judge Jim Cumin, Student Judges Brenda Lynch and Evelyn Cumin.

PIANT AUCTION SALE

To assist Club funds members are requested to donate a plant/plants to the Club and these will be auctioned on the night.

Members are reminded that plants shall be benched by 7.45 p m and all members are requested to vacant the area around the benches so that Judges can perform their tasks.

CONVERSATION DURING MEETINGS.
It is with some regret that it has been commented on by some members that other members see fit to hold a conversation during the progress of a meeting while someone is addressing the meeting. This is not only distracting to other members, but a discourtesy to the speaker.

A 'PIGEON' COMES HOME TO ROOST.
At the April meeting the Club was pleased to see fly home former Club President and current Life Member Les Pool together with his wife Neil. To those members who did not know Les and Neil, Les was not only a keen orchid grower and active member, but also a keen racing pigeon enthusiast. Les and Neil are currently living in Queensland and it was good to see them in good health and to enjoy their fellowship,.

ANOTHER PERPETUAL TROPHY.
Our thanks to Roy Hill for donating to the Club a perpetual trophy to be held by the exhibitor of the best Novelty Cymbidium of the Winter Show. The winner will retain a Club Medallion to mark the award.

SHOW PARTICIPATION - a guide to preparation (continued)
by Gloria Cotton

In our last issue we dealt with the genus Cymbidium. We shall now deal with other genera.

The training of PAPHIOPEDILUMS requires a different technique. Place a cane into the compost behind the flower as near to the stem as possible. Tie the stem neatly to the cane with the final tie just below the flower bud at the top of the stem. After the flower has opened wait about a week until the flower has 'set' then place another tie, almost at the centre of the flower head to raise the head to an upright position. Make sure that you cut the cane at the top, prior to applying the final tie, so that the cane is no higher than a quarter of the way up the dorsal sepal.

CATTLEYAS require a different method of tying. Pseudobulbs should be trained in as vertical position as possible by individually tying to a central cane after they have developed. First of all tie the raffia or twine tightly on to the cane to prevent it slipping at a height level wi the top of the cattleya pseudobulb, then secure round the neck of the pseudobulb. When the flower buds have emerged from their sheaths support their pseudobulb by tying securely to a cane. When the flowers have opened the best method of exhibiting them is by splitting the end of a cane for a short length to form a springy fork. Stick the one end into the compost and secure the stem of the flowerbetween the legs of the fork; the flower head can then be adjusted to show itself to its best advantage by simply raising the cane to the height required

LYCASTE and ANGULOCASTE flowers can be exhibited either with a cane tied behind the flower stem with the final tie at the base of the ovary as with a paphiopedilum, or, in the case of a wayward flower that looks in the wrong direction, with the neck of the flower supported between a split cane as we have just described for exhibiting cattleyas. When turning flowers to face the front, handle very carefully but firmly as once again we have brittle stems to contend with. When you have a large number of Lycaste flowers you must endeavour to display the flowers in such a way that none of the flowers are touching as lycatses bruise very easily and will be quickly ruined in transit.

FINAL PREPARATION

Having enetred your plants correctly they still have to be properly cleaned before the show. All plants must be healthy and completely free from pests - so check for red spider, scale, mealy bugs and slugs. Sponge the leaves so that they are really clean and wash the outside of your pots. Remove weeds. If your leaves have brown tips and unsightly patches, trim them neatly to a 'V'. In the case of cymbidiums and similarly growing plants, dead leaf bracts around the base of the pseudobulb must be removed. Split them down the middle and pull each side out sideways with care to avoid accidentally breaking any new growths that might be hidden in the base. Dead covering on cattleya pseudobulbs should also be removed.

The final question arises - how best to transport your plants? I find the best method is by placing the plants carefully in boxes tightly wedged with crumpled newspaper so that they cannot fall over in transport. Temporary stakes to support arched spikes can be placed in the plant's compost and tied halfway along the arch, but remember to remove it at the show.

ZYGOPETALUM

This interesting genus should be known for more than just a good cool growing companion with your cymbidiums. In the months of April/May we see a number of plants benched at meetings, more often the delightfully fragant Z. mackayii - there are also some very striking improved varieties available.
Two species similar to 'mackaii' are Z. intermedium with tall soft narrow leaves; the flower spike up to 2' tall, has several flowers, green, blotched with purple or brown. It is often mistaken for Z. mackaii. Z. 'crinitum' very similar to the above species, but has a more hairy lip, with denser veining. The flower spike often appears more straggly. There are those who believe that Z.'crinitum' is just a variety of Z. mackaii. Cultivation needs to be just a bit more attentive than with cymbidiums, as the leaves will burn much more readily in strong sunlight. A good compost which is free draining is essential as they dislike continual wet roots. Care in dividing them is repaid in the benefit gained during the period of re-establishment. They re-act strongly to being torn apart like some of our tougher cymbidiums. The roots, if in good condition, are generally quite fleshy and easily broken if handled roughly. Torn and broken roots retard the growth of a plant for some months, so use care. Other general treatment as for cymbidiums, but remember the back bulbs strike from the top of the bulb so plant accordingly.

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POINTERS ON HOW TO GROW PRIZE WINNING CATTLEYAS. by Ernest Hetherington

1. Always remember, the plant you buy may be an outstanding selected variety and one which has won many awards. However, if you do not do a good job of growing it, if the conditions are not right to realise its full potential - you will never see how good it can really be.

2. An average variety, well grown, will give you as good a flower as a fine variety poorly grown.

3. Cattleyas LIKE LIGHT. Always make sure that your house is good and bright if you desire optimum flowers. From 1,500 to 3,500 foot candles are optimum and depending on the time of year and the air temperature in your house. It is the leaf temperature that burns, not the amount of sunlight. Poor light - poor growth - poor flowers.

4. Your plants will flower best when they have been left undisturbed the longest. If plants are growing and flowering well and in apparently good health, do not be too anxious to repot. Do not be afraid to let them develope one - or even two - growths over the edge of the pot. Under these conditions they will flower their best for you.

5. If a plant has grown over and is still to flower, a cultural procedure that pays good dividends is to take a half pot or some of a half container, attach it to the edge of the pot so that the growths over the edge can root into fresh mix. After the plant has flowered, thefront portion can then be severed from the rest. It will be all established!

6. Do not repot too soon before flowering if a plant needs repotting. Typically, if you have winter blooms the best time to repot is in the spring or summer. They will then have the opportunity to be well est-

ablished before they iniatate their buds in the autumn. Allow 2 or 3 months for the plant to develope its buds if you expect good flower quality.

7. For plants grown in fir bark mixes, we recommend feeding with a high nitrogen fertilizer. Every 4th feeding should be a 6-30-30 which is high phosphorus-potassium and low nitrogen. This gives good strong growth and better flower quality. The fertilizer may be applied ½ strength every watering if watered about once a week.

8. A cultural procedure which pays handsome dividends in plant health and better flower quality is to pinch the sheatths out - be sure to kill the dormant bud in the azil of the leaf - ON PLANTS WHICH ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FLOWER WELL. This throws the strength back into the plant for another year and results in a bonus crop the following year.

9. The protective sheathing surrounding the bulbs of new growths will turn from green to black, or light brown on maturity. It may then be removed if dry.

10. Many summer blooming cattleyas will develope a growth in the spring and flower immediately on the matured growth from a green sheath. On others, the growth will mature in summer producing a flower sheath, but will not develope buds until winter-spring.

11. How to develope a specimen plant without disturbing the plant in the pot.
If a plant does have a tendency to develope many leads, you may force portions of the plant with dormant eyes to grow by cutting the rhizome right in the pot - (3-5 bulb divisions). If the back bulbs (rear portions of a plant) still have good leaves and the roots they may be cut away from the front portions of the plant and just left in the pot. At least one or more of the dormant eyes on these portions will start to grow. The rear portions will form flowering size plants with one season's growth.

12. What is the best method of re-establishing a Cattleya plant after repotting or dividing?
Plants that have been repotted or divided establish more quickly if they are gathered in a warm portion of the house and shaded more heavily. They like high humidity, for they do not have the root system of an established plant. Much of the moisture must be taken in through the leaves. Spray the foliage of the plant and lightly spray the surface of the mix once or twice a day if possible. Continue spraying often enough to prevent excessive shrivelling of the bulbs or wrinkling of the leaves. Until good root action shows do not water. After rooting, resume normal watering and other care. Spraying the leaves once a week with a fertiliser solution is beneficial when the plant is getting established.

13. If a plant is weak should I let it flower?
Do not let a weak plant flower for you unless you wish to see it flower or desire to use the plant for breeding. Taking the sheath out and killing the dormant or just started buds will throw the strength back into the plant for a year and give you better quality for the next year. Some varieties are free blooming and have a tendency to put out many flowers to the spray and many sprays. Taking the buds out of some growths will throw additional strength into those left on and will result in even better quality flowers.

continued page 5 at bottom

NATIVE ORCHIDS IN THE CYMBIDIUM HOUSE.

Dendrobium x gracillimum

This is a man made hybrid that will grow, flower and become an asset to the collection of native orchids in the cymbidium house.
One of the parents is Dendrobium speciosum; it has long parallel canes usually the forest variety, with large racemes of white to yellow flowers, numbering 50-60, depending on the variety. The second parent is Dendrobium gracilicaule which has a long thin stem, usually swollen at the base, constricted for about 5 cm, then paralleling out until the leaves are reached. Flowers are yellow with brown spots on the back of the sepals and petals.
The flowers of Den. gracillimum are usually cream to yellow and a raceme can have 10-12 upwards, some varieties opening more than others. Several racemes can come from the same cane at the same time. The flowers following the Den. speciosim parent have no brown spots.
The cane form follows the parent Den. gracicaule, being swollen at the base, a slight conscriction then parallel. The shape of the cane makes it distinguishable from Den. delicatum which tapers evenly from the base to the leaves.
Den. gracillium is found naturally in rain forest areas, not plentiful, but widespread from approximately the Hawkesbury River to Southern Queensland. It is a strong grower, does not produce keikis but multiplies vegetavely. This is understandable as neither parent produces keikis.
CULTURE:-- It can be either mounted or potted, but as potting is easier and holds moisture longer in the growing season - that is a good method. Hold the plant over a pot or wooden slat basket, fill around the roots with coarse, weathered bark pieces interspersed with large gravel (mostly bark as this plant is a tree dweller) - stake if necessary.
Back cutting is beneficial too, from specimen plants, but only after the plant has established. It may need the back to establish itself. A little blood and bone can be used as a slow release fertiliser, and normal recommended strength can be used in the growing season, after watering only. As both parents enjoy tree top positions and the usual up draught of cool moist air, the position for it is above the cymbidiums under 50-70% shade cloth.
Spring flowering makes it a good plant for shows, exhibitions etc.
Summing up, Den. gracillium is easy to grow, large canes and dark leaves makes it attractive and in spring many sprays of lovely medium size creamy flowers.

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CATTLEYAS - continued from page 4

Be sure to give your plants plenty of water while the buds are developing.

At that time they need more water over a short period than at any other time of the year. The flower stems will be longer, the flowers will be larger and of better quality all round.

What are the benefits of enough light to good cattleya culture?
Many. Here are some of the most important. Cattleyas that receive enough light should have upright growth with sheaths. Those that do not will have floppy growth and do not bloom. With enough light you get more flowers to the spray, larger size, better color and substance.

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OLD IDEAS - GOOD NEWS TODAY!!! Taken from Orchid Review 1897 (reprint 1973)

MANURE FOR ORCHIDS

The important question of manuring orchids which has lately come to the front is not by any means a new one and the following condensed account from 'Orchids for Amateurs' in 1885 may be interesting.

Practically ammonia salts are the main source of nitrogen to the great majorityof plants. Every gallon of rain water contains about a grain of ammonia salts and the great agricultural chemist, Liebig, calculated that this quantity per gallon is sufficient to nourish a forest of oaks or any other forest tree. No doubt orchids watered with pure rain water would grow and flourish for years, but I doubt whether the supply of ammonia is sufficient for the full developement of their powers of growth.

Every cultivator knows the advantage of giving potted plants some form or other of artificial manure, but with epiphytes much difference of opinion prevails with regard to its use.

Of course where the sweetness and open-ness of the compost is of first consideration, the addition of manure or decomposing material in any form is entirely out of the question, so that all epithytes have a very meagre diet. It is clear that manure must not be recklessly supplied as these plants are verydelicate feeders.

We all know how much flowering exhausts the plants, and the production of fine flowers is the main object of the horticulturist. There are two methods by which orchids may be stimulated to growth and flowering by artificial manures, and the longer I grow these plants the more convinced I become that a due supply ofmanure is essential to their well being. There is a danger in giving too great a diet, You easily destroy the plants by an excess of manure in any form, but the plants will certainly deteriorate ultimately die with too little.

How can nitrogen, the essential element of all manures be supplied safely and supplied in sufficient quantities to get the most vigorous growth? I believe all the most successful growers know this necessity; many have their secrets which they do not publish to the world. Others tell all they know and their advice is disregarded. What it was - in reality it is well known, only a few practise it or recognise its utility.

It consists simply in placing a few pieces of carbonate of ammonia on the piers supporting the pipes (hot house). Not on the pipes themselves, but near them. The carbonate of ammonia slowly evaporates and is absorbed by the moisture in the pots or on the leavesof the plants. I am convinced of its utility, not only on scientific grounds, but from observation. Whenever I have neglected it, the flowers are less developed, poorer in size and cloour and the plants are less vigorous.

The manner in which the roots of the plants cling to charcoal, which has a special tendency to absorb the vapour of ammonia, suggests the advantage of feeding the plants in this manner. The quality of ammonia dose generally one or two fragments the size of a walnut or somewhat larger, does not produce a perceptible odour of ammonia, but is enough to give the plants the extra stimulus they require to grow them vigorously. It was also pointed out that common salt might be applied as an aerial manure, as it evaporates in the presence of moisture and certain orchids which grow near the sea were believed to like it.

Count de Buyson had adopted the practise of syringing his plants once or twice a week, or more often when growing vigorously, with a water containing guano or ammonia at the rate of 15 grains to the litre ($1\frac{3}{4}$ pts)

of water and the writer had used it in smaller quantities, and also for watering Slipper orchids with beneficial results. The guano (bird or fowl manure) was placed in a muslin bag and soaked in rain water for 24 hours.

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AMMONIA FOR ORCHIDS Orchid Review 1973.

The subject has interested me for several years and I have made many experiments to satisfy myself if stimulus was beneficial or prejudical to the growth of an orchid.

I have tried manures, both in a liquid form and solid, for epithytes and terrestrial orchids, but have never found any lasting benefit to result from the application, but usually the reverse effect, by the way of decaying roots and the general ill-health of the plants. I have, however, for upwards of six years treated my plants to atmospheric stimulant in the form of ammonical vapour, with the most beneficial results, not only as shown in the increased vigour of the plants, but also in respect to the improved colour of the leaves of all orchids which have been subjected to this vapour.

During this period all my orchids have been treated to an ammonial vapour bath on every Monday and Thursday night, after the houses have been thoroughly damped on floor and stages and all ventilators tightly closed. Soot and lime are the two substances used for the production of the ammonical vapour, but instead of mixing these two ingredients together and using the mixture dry, as some do, I prefer to have the ammonia in solution, as I have found there is much less risk of injury to the leaves by the use of the liquid solution than of the solid mixture. The liquid can be spread more evenly over the cinder covered stages, and gives off its ammonia more slowly with less risk to the plants.

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Interesting ideas from way back. Are these ideas gone like the soot? Perhaps we get it too easy these days with our sophisticated fertilizers.

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LYCASTES Central and South America

This easily grown genus, supposedly named after a young Sicilian beauty, is mainly epiphytic. It has shiny green, ovoid pseudobulbs, 1 - 3" high and topped by one to four fairly large, plicated leaves on short stems. The leaves are anything from 1" - 4" wide, extending to 18" high and very fleshy. They abhor water on them.

The flowers are glorious, and are produced singularly from the base of the pseudobulbs on short stems with small leaf-like bracts, and can be white, yellow, pink or green. They are very showy and last for up to five weeks; eight to ten single stems can show on a small plant in winter and spring. Coming from fairly high,cool altitudes, Lycastes need a temperature of 60F (17C) in a shady moist position. New growths develop in the spring, when frequent watering with weak fertilizer should be given. come late autumn and many of the leaves will turn brown and drop, when less water should be given. The flower spikes develope at about this time and care should be taken in order to avoid damping off, not to wet the buds.

Plants can be grown into large specimens and do well indoors. This genus has been used to create the beautiful Angulocastes, 'Apollo' and 'Auburn'.

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MONTHLY COMPETITION MAY MEETING

Cymbidium	Luminya 'Mother's Day'	Adelaide Orchids	3
Cattleya	Slc Little Beamche x Ctna Keith Roth	Adelaide Orchids	3
Miscellaneous	Masdevallia Falcata	Adelaide Orchids	3
Paphiopedilum	Silvara 'Vista'	Adelaide Orchids	3
	Diny Sable	Lambert Orchids	2
	Beedon x Copperware	Lambert Orchids	1
Nov. Paph.	Deceptionll 'Snowmist'	Adelaide Orchids	3
	Clare De Lune	Adelaide Orchids	2

Division Flower of Month and Presidents Flower of Month
Deception ll 'Snowmist Adelaide Orchids

An almost pure white paphiopedilum growing in a small pot. A crossing made by Adelaide Orchids between two species 'niveum and delenatii'
A most attractive flower and a plant which will attract attention on the show bench for a long time

1STDIVISION

Aust. Native	Den. Hilda Poxom	W L & R Moore	3
	Den. Liparis Reflexa	G Spear	2
	De. Hilda Poxom	M & C Strout	1
Cymbidium	Bethlehem 'Early Times'	G Spear	3
Mini Cym	Balan	D & J May	3
Nov. Cyms.	Peter Pan 'Greensleaves'	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	3
	Aypko Tanaka	D & J May	2
Cattleyas	C. Browniae	W L & R Moore	3
	C. loddigesii x Lc Herth	P T Barnes	2
	C. Cynosure	P T Barnes	1
Miscellaneous.	Z. B G White	G Spear	3
	Z. Blackii Negus	W L & R Moore	2
	Onc. Kaulanii	M & C Strout	1
Phalaenopsis	Oasis x Zirconia	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	3
	Malibu River x Alice Gloria	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	2
Paphiopedilum	fairieanum x flavum	P T Barnes	3
	harrisanum	D & J May	2
	Gigi x Redstart	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	1
Species Paph.	fairieanum	D & J May	3
	sukhakulii	P T Barnes	2
	javanicum	P T Barnes	1

Division Flower of Month C.Browniae W L & R Moore

C. Browniae is a crossing of harrisoniana and bowringiana. The plant was growing in a 5 pint pot and the potting mix was ½" pine bark with a small amount of isolite. Four pseudobulbs each carried floresence of 6 flowers. Grown in sarlon shadehouse with similar treatment to cymbidiums.

2ND DIVISION

Aust. Native.	Den. Liparis Reflexa	S MacKirdy	3
Cymbidium	Luana 'Aurora'	M S Steele	3
Mini Cym	Splendour 'May Time'	J & E Cuming	3
	Radak x pumilum	A R & J Moffatt	2
Miscellaneous	Onc. Splendor x OncSarcodse	F R Bell	3
Paphiopedilum	Kitty	Don Biebrick	3
Species Paph.	villosum	F R Bell	3
Species	Onc. crispum	F & I Wilson	3

Division Flower of Month Mini Cym. Splendour J & E Cuming