



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

*Published Monthly by the South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.
Affiliated with The Australian Orchid Council & The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.*

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FEBRUARY ISSUE 1995
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

NEXT MEETING: Annual General Meeting. Tuesday 14th February 1995, Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Christie Downs.
Benching of plants to be completed by 7.45pm for judging. Meeting commences at 8.00pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr Gerry Carne will present a programme on 'Pollinators of Orchids'. Sometime ago a member of the Club asked me to write an article on this subject. I have not done so but have gone one better and have got a guest speaker who knows the subject very well.

HALL SET-UP: Would all willing to assist please arrive by 7pm.

SUPPER: Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

DAYTIME CHAPTER: 2pm. Thursday 16th February 1995 at South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South Brighton.
Subject - Australian Native Orchids.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

The **Christmas Meeting** was a fun afternoon. After Keith welcomed members Norm Gitsham and Henry Smith presented an interesting video of past S.C.O.C. Shows. Bill Clark had also bought along a film for us to look at. Thanks to these **three wise men**.

The raffles were then conducted with everyone receiving at least one **pressy**.

Afternoon Tea was a **sight to behold** with savoury platters, christmas cake, and all other kinds of goodies suitable for the diet conscience. Well, the diet was going to commence tomorrow.

A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1994

PETER FLAVEL

This, my second year as President ran far more smoothly than the first, due to the fact I had not only a full committee to work with but also a hard working one as well.

Our Shows, Winter and Spring, held at Marion Recreation Centre were a success thanks to Barry Nurse our Show Marshall and his band of helpers. Floor displays were tried out and proved to be successful.

Rick Pankoke, Registrar of Judges, once again organised the judging at monthly Meetings, also judging of plants at Shows, which ran very smoothly with the help of a number of people namely Judges, Writers, Runners, Recorders and Typists.

Thanks to those who put plants in for sale and manned areas etc.

We had another year of interesting speakers to entertain us thanks to Helen Edwards who also had the job as Editor of our magazine, The Gazette, and Rosalie Moore who posted the Gazette and organised raffle plants etc.

We had trips to Nurseries organised by Leslie Gunn and her helpers which once again proved very popular.

Thanks once again to our Treasurer, Dale Cook who is always on the ball where the Club monies are concerned and has once again done a mighty job.

Paul Hallam, Secretary for this year has done a lot of work getting our Constitution sorted out,

keeping minutes of Meetings and writing and answering letters. It was with regret when he decided to resign from the Club. Phil O'Brien kindly stepped in to finish the 1994 season.

To all Committee Members a thank you for making my job an easy one and to those who helped in setting up for our monthly meetings and stayed back after the meetings to put away trestles. To the Judges who freely gave their time each month to judge our plants, a job well done. The displays of so many variety of plants at monthly meetings and Shows must be pleasing to the Judges as it keeps them on their toes looking up references, etc.

Thanks to our Tea lady Peg Gilchrist who looked after us at the end of monthly meetings and also helped with typing cards at Shows.

To the quiet achiever Norm Gitsham who is at every meeting setting up microphones and projector, not only night-time meetings but Daytime Chapter as well.

A special thank you to our ever reliable Keith Northcote who not only has once again convened the Daytime Chapter but has stepped in and taken the job of Registrar of Judges at monthly meetings when Rick could not attend.

It is good to see so many enthusiastic and friendly members attending the Daytime meetings as they cannot attend the evening ones.

I wish all Members and families a good growing and prosperous 1995.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following :

P. O'Brien and W.& L. Cook who have been promoted from 2nd to 1st Division.

P.& G. Flavel who have been promoted from 1st to Open Division.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1995 are now due. Fees are the same as last year. Joint membership \$20, Single \$15, Junior \$10.

TRADING TABLE

Members putting plants on the Trading Table at meetings are reminded that the Club keeps 10% commission on sales. Members are also asked to fill in a Sales sheet which is available at the table or from the Treasurer.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS for 1995

The following nominations have been received for Committee for 1995:

President

Helen Edwards

Vice President (2 required)

Graeme. Shevlin

Honorary Secretary

Phil O'Brien

Honorary Treasurer

Dale Cook

Committee (2 required)

Brendon Killen- Vice-President for 1994.

Rick Pankoke- 1994 Registrar of Judges, organizer of S.C.O.C Judges course.

Merv Steele- long time member of the Club. Also a member of O.C.S.A. and Murray Bridge Orchid Club

Conduct of election.

The Constitution of the Club requires that the election of officers be by ballot. The ballot paper will be distributed on the night of the Annual General Meeting and voting will be conducted during the meeting.

The candidates will be introduced to the meeting prior to the conduct of the ballot.

To cast a valid vote, members should place a cross (x) beside the candidate of their choice.

Eligibility to vote

All financial members of the Club are eligible to vote, i.e all members financial as at the 31st December 1994.

Members unable to attend the meeting may appoint a proxy to vote for them.

Clause 24 of the Constitution defines the requirements that must be met for proxy voting.

That clause reads -

Any member may appoint another member a proxy under the hand of the member and witnessed by another member and every such instrument of proxy whether for a specified meeting or otherwise shall, as nearly as circumstances will admit, be in the form set out below namely :-

I (full name of member) of (full address of member) being a financial member of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Inc. appoint (full name of proxy) of (full address of proxy) my proxy for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the Club to be held on the day of 199 and any adjournment thereof (or at any meeting of the Club that may be held in the year).

As witness my hand this day of 199....

..... Signature of Member

Witness

.....Signature of Witness

The instrument of proxy shall be produced by the proxy at the meeting. Where a member wishes to appoint the Chairperson as his proxy, the name and address of the Chairperson need not be included in the form of proxy but only the word 'Chairperson'.

Other appointments i.e. Show Marshall, Registrar of Judges, Editor of the Gazette, Publicity Officer, Librarian, Daytime Chapter Convenor, Tea Person, Trading Table Convenor, Publicity Officer, Hosts or Hostesses etc are all appointed by the committee.

At the time of writing this Gazette we do not have anyone interested in filling several of the positions above including Librarian or Editor of the Gazette. If YOU can assist in any way please advise the Secretary or a Committee member as soon as possible.

ORCHIDS GROWING IN ROCKWOOL

by Greenaway Orchids, Roockery Farm

Puxton Avon. U.K.

This nursery started growing orchids in Rockwool and course Perlite in 1985. The aim was to devise a means of growing a very wide range of species and hybrids, but growing them all in the same potting material with identical watering and feeding routines. For our purposes it has been successful.

It is not our intention to try and persuade amateur growers to convert to Rockwool culture. These notes are intended as a guide for those who wish to try it. Some who have already tried it are very enthusiastic while others have reported problems or a dislike of the material. Nearly always the problems have arisen due to a lack of understanding of appreciation of the importance of one or more of the items of advice given in these notes.

ADVANTAGES

1. Rockwool lumps contain very little solid matter compared with other materials. Dry water repellent Rockwool flock is over 95% air by volume. The Perlite holds the pieces of flock apart sufficiently to allow easy passage for water to descend through the pot when drenched from the top. The inclusion of a non-ionic wetting agent in the feed water, for the first drenches immediately after initial potting, wets the outer surfaces of the pieces of flock while the centres stay dry. In effect, the plant is then supported by springy wet air bubbles held apart by the Perlite. Immediately after watering/feeding, more liquid can be retained than with bark but there will still be more air present. As the mixture dries, the proportion of air present is even greater. There is evidence that the availability of this extra air is far more important for the health of roots than the quantity of moisture present in such a medium.

2. A Rockwool/Perlite mixture is inert and cannot rot. It is, therefore, not necessary to regularly repot in order to replace a deteriorating compost. It may only be necessary to repot when it becomes desirable to pot on to larger sizes, reposition, divide or remove dead roots.

3. The growing conditions at the roots of all plants in a greenhouse can be identical, which makes decisions on watering/feeding much easier. (With bark mixtures, unless every plant is repotted in the same mixture on the same date, some plants will be in new bark which retains less moisture, has less effect on ph (acidity) and which will take less Nitrogen out of the feed. At the other end of the scale, plants due for re-potting because of well rotted bark will be holding moisture to excess, probably very acid at the bottom of the pot and will be requiring a high Nitrogen feed to leave sufficient Nitrogen for the plants).

4. The amount of water retention can be controlled by three methods.

a. Inclusion of a measured small quantity of non-ionic wetting agent.(Initially or occasionally.)

b. The quantity of Perlite included in the mix. (More Perlite increases the quantity of water retained.)

c. The size of Rockwool lumps. The centres of the larger lumps tend to stay dry and act as air bubbles, provided water is only applied from the top.

5. The medium is easily re-wetted even if allowed to become completely dry (unlike peat or bark).

6. When watered from above, the whole of the top surface is wetted and then only the passages between the lumps down through the pot. This results in more moisture being held initially at the top of the pot than the rest of the pot. When the top begins to look 'nearly dry' it is ready for watering. (Bark can be bone dry for the top inch and still be soaking wet at the bottom.)

7. Rockwool is easily penetrated by roots which can enjoy unobstructed development without constantly having to change direction round solids.

8. Repotting is easier as the Rockwool can be stripped away without damaging the roots.

9. Potting is easier as the soft texture of the mixture can be pushed in round the roots without damaging them. This is particularly true of seedlings just out of the flask. It is important NOT TO COMPRESS the mixture when potting as this will reduce the amount of air retained. It is surprising how well a plant is held firm in a very loose mixture after it has been watered.

10. The mixture, when packed in gently round the roots and watered, forms a cohesive mass after two or three weeks. This does not fall apart if the plant is inverted and the pot lifted off to examine the roots.

This is so easy and useful that we now regularly lift off the pots to see how the roots are responding to feed programmes etc. We also lift off pots to show roots to potential purchasers!

11. The use of a totally inert mixture allows complete and exact control of the balance and strength of nutrients at the roots at all times,

without any unreasonable and unknown contribution from the compost.

POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES.

1. The constantly moist surface of the mixture containing nutrients provides a perfect environment for the growth of algae. This does not directly harm any surface roots but can be unsightly and can eventually develop into a green or black slime which can inhibit free passage of air and water. Algicides should not be used to control algae growth as they will damage the plants. With many mature plants, the leaves reduce the amount of light reaching the top surface, considerably reducing the growth of algae. We are experimenting with surface materials and mosses intended to prevent light reaching the moist surface.

2. Special liquid feeds are essential which contain all feed elements (except Calcium) and trace elements in the right proportion for orchid growth, as nothing is supplied in the potting medium. The optimum level of some of these minor and trace elements are very much higher than are supplied by the usual fertilizers which claim to include trace elements.

In organic composts most of the plants' requirements for both Calcium and trace elements have to be obtained from compost ingredients and/or from mains water.

3. The availability of Calcium becomes a particular problem with Rockwool culture. The importance of this element for the growth of plants is not generally realised. While Hydrogen, Oxygen and carbon are supplied by air and water, the remaining necessary elements have to be supplied in a soluble form dissolved in water.

Calcium is the third largest ingredient required, coming next after Nitrogen and Potassium. Unfortunately it is very difficult to include Calcium in a soluble form in any balanced fertilizer which of necessity contains Phosphates and Sulphates. Except in the very greatest dilution (such as in strengths used when finally applied to the plants) Calcium will react with the Phosphates and Sulphates to precipitate as solid Calcium Phosphate and Calcium Sulphate. As such it will be made unavailable to the plants before final dilution is achieved. Fortunately, soluble Calcium is available in sufficient quantity in most supplies of mains water and it is also made available gradually from soils and decomposing organic composts.

4. Water takes longer to drain through Rockwool than through Bark, therefore more time is required to ensure adequate drenching to prevent build up of salts.

Continued page 8

DECEMBER COMPETITION RESULTS

FLOWER OF THE MONTH- DENDROBIUM ADASTRA grown by ROSALIE MOORE

SECOND DIVISION RESULTS

JUDGES T. TORMET
R. MOORE

Standard Cattleya	Unknown	N. Gitsham	3
Dendrobium	<i>Den. aggregatum</i>	G. Richardson	3
Novelty Paphiopedilum	Paphiopedilum Claire de Lune	G. Richardson	3
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>Paphiopedilum haynaldianum</i>	G. Richardson	3
	<i>Paphiopedilum hennisianum</i>	M. Stahl	2
	<i>Paphiopedilum niveum</i>	M. Stahl	1
Species	<i>Bifrenaria harrisoniae</i>	N. Gitsham	3

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* grown by Geoff Richardson

FIRST DIVISION RESULTS

JUDGES

R. PANKOKE
R. MOORE

Aust.Nat. Epi: Species	<i>Den canaliculatum</i>	H. Pankoke	3
Miniature Cymbidium	Cricket	M. Tiggeman	3
Cocktail Cattleya	Slc. Wendy's Valentine	C. Ameer	3
Phalaenopsis	Dpts. Hama Kita x Mt. Kaala	C. Ameer	3
Novelty Paphiopedilum	<i>cilliolare x barbatum</i>	R. Parish	3
	Dellaina	C.Ameer	2
	<i>cilliolare x barbatum</i>	R. Parish	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>delenatii</i>	R. Parish	3
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Odscm. Crowborough x Launtana	J. Lewis	3
Species	<i>Bifrenaria harrisoniae</i>	J. Lewis	3
	<i>C. forbesii</i>	R.& B. Wilson	2
	<i>Cym. lowianum</i>	M. Tiggeman	1
Vandaceous	Ascofinetia Cherry Blossom	W.& M. Vaughan	3

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: *Paphiopedilum cilliolare x barbatum* grown by Ron Parish

OPEN DIVISION RESULTS

JUDGE: H.J.EDWARDS

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Den. cucumerinum</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	<i>Den. monophyllum</i>	D. Biebrick	2
Aust Nat. Epi:Hybrid	Sarco. Pink Heart x <i>fitzgeraldii</i>	R. Moore	3
	Sarco. Pink Heart x <i>ceciliae</i>	D. Biebrick	2
	Sarco. Pinky	D. Biebrick	1
Standard Cymbidium	Levis Duke	M. Bray	3
Miniature Cymbidium	Little Beauty	R. Moore	3
Dendrobium	Adastra	R. Moore	3
	Margaret Fell x <i>canaliculatum</i>	J. Nicholls	2
Species	<i>Den. chrysotoxum</i>	T. DeIonno	3
	<i>L. lobata</i>	J. Nicholls	2
Phalaenopsis	Sa's Red Lip x Dpts. Amour Rojo	M. Bray	3
	Marg Chagall x Drizaba x Asparas	M. Bray	2
	Marg Chagall x Drizaba x Asparas	M. Bray	1
Novelty Paphiopedilum	<i>barbatum x sukhakulii</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	Via Prokuli	R. Moore	2
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Onc. Hawaii	T. DeIonno	3
	Wils. Zoe Stephenson	R. Moore	2
	Beal. Tohoma Glacier	R. Moore	1

Miscellaneous

Gramm. *tigrinum x elegans*
Gramm. Tigers Paw
Disa Veitchii

J. Nicholls
J. Nicholls
R. Moore

3
2
1

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: DENDROBIUM ADASTRA grown by Rosalie Moore

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc

I have audited the financial report of The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc for the year ended 31 December 1994. The members of the committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.

My Audit had been conducted in accordance with Australian Audit Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc's financial position and the results of its operations.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report represents fairly the financial position of The South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc as at 31 December 1994 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

17 January 1995.

Brian Walker A.C.A.
41 Wattle Crescent
Tea Tree Gully

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF S.A. INC

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF S.A. INC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1994

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

Current Assets	
Cash at Bank	10,448.62
Stock on Hand	2,788.34
	13,236.96
Non Current Assets	
Plant & Equipment at written down value	2,873.50
Total Assets	<u>16,110.46</u>
Members Funds	<u>16,110.46</u>

Income		
Subscriptions		1,870.00
Club Income		1,142.20
Sales		1,367.25
Show Income		11,079.00
Interest		222.11
Other Income		<u>2,556.60</u>
		18,237.16
Expenses		
Club Expenses	5,270.37	
Genials	1,252.23	
Purchases	1,523.87	
Show Expenses	8,300.14	
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,230.61	
Depreciation	<u>91.30</u>	
		17,668.72
Profit for Year		568.44
Members Funds at 31/12/93		<u>15,542.02</u>
Members Funds at 31/12/94		<u>16,110.46</u>

