



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

# Gazette

February 2023

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC  
President: Michael Willoughby

## AT A GLANCE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 8.00 pm. at RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. Business will include Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2023, and the financial statement for 2022.

The February General Meeting of the Club will follow the Annual General Meeting. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs speaking on the Australian Orchid Conference, Logan Queensland 2022, There will also be the Orchid of the Year Presentation and Voting. The meeting will finish a little later than usual at 10.00pm

**LEARNERS' GROUP:** There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the February Meeting at 7.15pm.

**JUDGING:** Please have your plants benched by 7.40pm so Judging can commence at 7.50pm. If you are running late due to work commitments please phone Phil on 0438 891 612.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February 2023 at 2.00 pm Our Guest Speaker will be Phil Steer who will present the Orchid of the Year Presentaion for members voting and speak on Potting Mediums.

**SOUTHERN REGION:** The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 19th February 2023 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Phil Steer who will present The Orchid of the Year Presentation followed by "Potting Mediums." Learners Group will be held at 1.15 pm.

**LUCKY NAME BADGE:** Make sure you wear your Name Badge to meetings, you may win a prize.

**PUBLIC LIABILITY:** Under Insurance Guidelines all members and Committee attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign and print your name in an Attendance Book.

### **VALE - REG CLIFFORD**

Long time club member, and husband to club stalwart Elsie Clifford, Reg passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Reg had suffered from dementia and was in full time care for some time. Our sincerest condolences to Elsie, her family and all who knew Reg.

**R.I.P.**

**DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES**  
26 February and 26 March

**Website: <http://www.scocsa.net>**  
**E-Mail: [scocsa@outlook.com](mailto:scocsa@outlook.com)**  
**Address: PO Box 314, Oaklands Park SA 5046**  
ABN 83 245 384 076





## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2022

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
<b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Malcolm Mangelsdorf	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Kevin Western	
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Anne Steer	8270 3090
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Oui Ju, Richard Crinion, Christine Robertson, Andrew Dean, Craig Humfrey, Phil Steer, Craig Dicker, Marilyn Buckerfield	

<b>NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:</b>		
<b>Registrar</b>	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
<b>Editor</b>	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
<b>Web Master</b>	Craig Dicker	
<b>Librarian Southern Region</b>	Diane Cawley	
<b>Photographer</b>	Neil Cooper	
<b>Convenor S. R. Group</b>	Chris Heysen	0419 386 769
<b>Convenors Daytime Chapter</b>	Andrew Dean, Patty Abell	
<b>Convenor Main Learners' Group</b>	Craig Humfrey	

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

\* denotes Member who has passed away.

1978 Dulcie Grave *	1986 Harry Viney *	2009 Don Biebrick
1978 Leora Harvey	1986 John Nicholls	2009 Henk Van Leuveren *
1978 L. & H. Poole*	1989 Helen Edwards	2010 Dorothy Carassai
1978 Ellie Shaw*	1990 Dr, Keith Northcote *	2011 John and Bev Gay
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson*	2005 Merve Steele *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson*	2005 Shirley Steele *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	Circa Tony and Toshy Deonno *	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2021 Donna Meeuwssen
	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Subscriptions for 2023 are now due. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2023. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

#### **RATES – One membership covers all groups**

<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>

<b><u>Rural and Interstate Membership</u></b>	
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>

**Account Details: BankSA Glenelg. BSB: 105-145**  
(Use your grower number for Reference)

**Account No.: 545457040**



## President's Annual Report

2022 for The South Coast Orchid Club of SA was a year where all meetings and shows went as we remember pre COVID-19. The Winter Show was held in a new location the Marion Uniting Church Hall. This show was successful as it was a show held over a weekend (first in my memory for the Club). All other shows were well participated in and it was nice to see members showing their plants again.

Our thoughts are with those members that we lost during the year and their families. They will be missed terribly. Our thoughts are also with our members who are unwell and recovering from illnesses.

Many thanks to Andrew Dean for convening the Daytime group in 2022 and ably supported by Patty Abell and Keith and Val Bleechmore. There are always interesting plants that have been benched for us all to enjoy. Thank you to our convenors for all your hard work as some of the older members would never miss this meeting.

The Southern Region Group enjoyed another year of well attended meetings convened by Chris Heysen. (Many thanks and gratitude to Chris). The SRG Winter Show was a great success due to the efforts of many of the Southern Region Group members; it was a credit to you.

Thank you to all the judges, committee and all members for supporting the club throughout the year. To Phil Steer as Registrar in continuing to do great work for the club ably supported and assisted by Vicky Cooper in 2022 during Phil's time away from his role.

Christine Robertson, our editor, the effort you put into the Gazette is there for all to see and we are most proud of the publication that you deliver for The South Coast Orchid Club of SA. Our Treasurer Anne Steer for your hard work and continuing efforts throughout this year and our Minute Secretary Marilyn Buckerfield, who in her first year did a great job with the minutes and our Committee thank you for all your work and great organization in 2022.

I would like to mention all the members who put time into the many jobs that need to be carried out to enable a meeting to go ahead, These include setting up and putting away the Hall, the trading table for needed items to grow our orchids, selling raffle and lucky square tickets for much needed fund raising so that we can enjoy our meetings, recording the results of the monthly meetings and setting up supper requirements. Thank you all from the Committee and the members.

Finally, I hope that 2023 will be a year that The South Coast Orchid Club can carry on where it left off in 2022, with the members helping and supporting the club as they can. Our club is the members.

May your hobby keep giving you the pleasure that it does me.

*Michael Willoughby*



## ORCHID CALENDAR 2023

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### DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 9th February 2023 2.00 pm  
Lou Kesting Hall , Dover Square, Brighton South  
Guest Speaker: Phil Steer – Orchid of Year Presentation

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th February 2023 8.00 pm.  
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens  
Election of Officers/Committee and Financial Statement for 2022

### MAIN MEETING

Monday 13th February 2023 8.00 pm  
RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens  
Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs speaking on the Australian Orchid Conference Logan Qld 2022

### SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 19th February 2023 2.00 pm  
Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor  
Guest Speaker: Phil Steer with Presentation of Orchid of the Year and Potting Mediums  
Learners Group meeting at 1.15 pm.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023 7.30 pm  
The Southern, South Road, St. Marys.

### NEUTROG FACTORY TOUR

Wednesday 22nd March 2023 10.15 am for 10.30 am start  
Tour includes 45min tour around the site, 20min lab tour, 30min presentation, refreshments. Essential that you contact Anne Steer to book in as numbers are limited.

### AUTUMN SHOW

Wednesday 10th May to Saturday 13th May 2023  
Seaford Central Shopping Centre

### WINTER SHOW

Friday 21st July to Sunday 23rd July 2023  
Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall , Township Road, Marion

### SOUTHERN REGION SHOW

Wednesday 23rd August to Friday 25th August 2023  
Victor Central Shopping Centre

### SPRING SHOW

Friday 22nd September to Sunday 24th September 2023  
Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall , Township Road, Marion



## Happy Birthday .....

**LUCY SPEAR, KEVIN WESTERN, BEV GAY,  
ROWAN CROWHURST, JANE HIGGS, SUE CARTER,  
GRAHAM LAMBERT, ANNE MATTHEWS,  
BERYL WILSON, BETH STRONACH,  
SHIRLEY GRIEG, BILL TREVASKIS**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??



## NEUTROG FACTORY TOUR

A Neutrog Factory Tour has been organized for Wednesday 22nd March 2023 . Members should gather at the Neutrog Factory, 288 Mine Road, Kanmantoo at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. We stress that you be there by 10.15am.

The Tour includes a 45 minute bus trip around their site. This will be followed by a 20 minute laboratory tour and a 30 minute presentation and refreshments

The bus only has 24 seats. Should there be more than 24 interested Club members, a second tour will be booked on another date,

**It is essential that members book with Anne Steer on 0418 840 427.**

## Leafless orchids by Edda Viskic

***Chiloschista phyllorhiza***. Photo: Hadi Sunaryo  
My first encounter with the charming tropical and leafless epiphytes was on Fitzroy Island (via Cairns, Queensland, Australia) near the al fresco bar where the *Chiloschista phyllorhiza* plants had established on a massive tree trunk. The roots entwined in all directions and radiated yellow spicy, fragrant flowers from central points around the whole trunk and up into the branches.

Later at Paluma (via Townsville) in the twiggy forest the *Taeniophyllum macphersoni* was the dainty branch inhabitant sending forth tiny red flowers from bunches of roots. Other Australian and Pacific Island Genera include *Vanilla* and *Microtatorchis*.

These are interesting members of the orchid kingdom that use the roots for the entire photosynthetic process. Many of the roots are grey green and contain the usual mycorrhizal fungi but many specimens also contain a type of algae. The plants use these symbiotic agents as an additional supply of food. So don't use fungicide or algicide if you grow these little beauties.

There are four major classifications of leafless orchids. Some are seasonally deciduous where the leaves last until the cane is mature and drop off for their winter rest when growth stops. *Dendrobium anosmum* and *Den. aphyllum* are examples of this kind. Aphyll means no leaf in species names and can be aphylla or aphyllum. While deciduous in their native habitat *Phalaenopsis lobbii*, *Phal. lowii* and *Phal. parishii* are evergreen in cultivation.



# SARCOCHILUS SHOW NOVEMBER 2022

## CHAMPION SARCOCHILUS

Sarco. Kulnura Rage '#1' Bill Jayne (1180)

## Show Results List

### Open Division

#### Sarcochilus - Seedling

Sarco. (Maria x Kulnura Secure) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3  
Sarco. (Maria x Kulnura Secure) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid White/Cream

Sarco. Racheal Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 2

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid Red/Pink

Sarco. Kulnura One 'Mouliache' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid White with red

Sarco. Memoria Neville Roper 'Mouliache' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3  
Sarco. George Colthup 'Seaview' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid any other colour

Sarco. Gwyneth Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 1

#### BEST SEEDLING - Sarcochilus

Sarco. (Maria x Kulnura Secure) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

### First Division

#### Sarcochilus - Specimen

Sarco. Unknown Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

#### Sarcochilus - Seedling

Sarco. (Rosella x Zoe) Peter Haltis (442) 2

#### Sarcochilus - hartmannii species

Sarco. hartmannii Peter Haltis (442) 2

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid Red/Pink

Sarco. Kulnura Rage '#1' Bill Jayne (1180) 3

Sarco. Berrylicious 'Supersize' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid White with red

Sarco. Lyn Bill Jayne (1180) 1

#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid any other colour

Sarco. (Shimmy x Gerroa) Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Sarco. Myola Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

#### BEST HYBRID - Sarcochilus

Sarco. Kulnura Rage '#1' Bill Jayne (1180) 3

#### BEST SPECIMEN - Sarcochilus

Sarco. Unknown Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

### Second Division

#### Sarcochilus - hartmannii species

Sarco. (hartmannii 'Yellow Snow' x 'Red Snow') Coral Tillmanns (212) 3

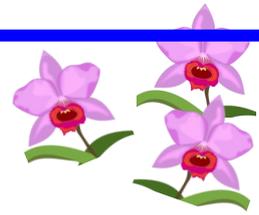
#### Sarcochilus - Hybrid White/Cream

Sarco. Memoria Lyndon Stewart Coral Tillmanns (212) 3

#### BEST SPECIES - Sarcochilus

Sarco. (hartmannii 'Yellow Snow' x 'Red Snow') Coral Tillmanns (212) 3





# December Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

## Open Division

### Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

424 Cym. madidum Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 2

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

427 Phal. Unknown Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 3

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

428 Pholidota chinensis Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

### Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

425 Paph. Mount Toro Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

### Paphiopedilum - Species

426 Paph. hirsutissimum Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

## First Division

### Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

414 Sarco. Sweet Josephine Beth Stronach (836) 3

### Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

417 Cym. Dean Roesler 'Jaffa' Beth Stronach (836) 3

418 Cym. (Parish Laird x Last Tango) Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

### Laeliinae - Non Standard

416 Ctt. Little Hazel 'M' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

### Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

415 C. Unknown Beth Stronach (836) 3

### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

420 Mps. Princess Diana 'Red Baron' Beth Stronach (836) 3

### Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

419 Mps. Darling Blossom Beth Stronach (836) 3

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

422 Coel. mooreana 'Brockhurst' Beth Stronach (836) 3

423 Phal. Unknown Beth Stronach (836) 2

### Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

421 Gptm. Arlene Armour 'Conching' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

## Second Division

### Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

413 C. Unknown Craig Humfrey (268) 3



### ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION *Coel. mooreana* 'Brockhurst'

Grown By  
Beth Stronach  
Photo Neil Cooper



**ORCHID OF OPEN DIVISION  
PLANT OF THE NIGHT**

***Pholidota chinensis***

Grown By

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper

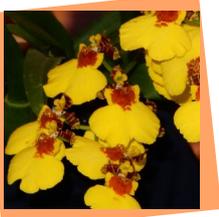


**Orchid of Second Division**

C. Unknown

Grown by Craig Humfrey

Photo Neil Cooper



**DAYTIME CHAPTER**  
**Thursday 8th December, 2022**



Hi everyone,

The December meeting of the Day Time Chapter was held at the Morphett Arms Hotel. The 16 members who attended had a great time.

Andrew Dean and Patty Abell are stepping down from their roles and were thanked for their excellent service and a small gift presented. Thankyou to Andrew for his two years as an excellent convenor, he will be missed.

The Day Time Group will be run by a team this year: Alan Miller, Richard Crinion and Anne Steer. We are planning some great guest speakers. If you have any suggestions please share them.

Our February speaker is Phil Steer. He will present the Flower of the Year Presentation. Members will be able to vote for their favourite. He also will talk on potting medium. Bring along your questions.

Please bring your flowering plants to display for members to enjoy.

Following the meeting stay and share afternoon tea with us.

Being Summer, a reminder that we have a hot weather policy. If the forecast on the 7pm ABC News is for 35 deg and over for the day of the meeting, the meeting is cancelled. The Hall can be very hot. If you are not sure if the meeting is on, phone to check.

Even if you attend the Main or Southern Region meetings the Day Time Guest Speakers are often different. You are most welcome to attend.

Our contact phone numbers are as follows: Alan Miller 0434052676  
 Anne Steer 0418840427



Next Meeting : Guest Speaker: **Phil Steer**  
**Orchid of the year presentation**  
**Potting mediums**  
 Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> – 2pm,  
 Lou Kesting Hall, South Brighton.

*Alan Miller*  
 0434 052 676  
*Anne Steer*  
 0418 840 427



## **SOUTHERN REGION MEETING**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Convenor, Chris Heysen, opened the meeting at 2.05 pm welcoming the 22 members present. **Apologies:** Andrew Craig, Marg and Warren Yelland, Christine Robertson, Janette and Graham Smith.

**Thank you to John Gay** for his always informative presentation to the Learners Group.

**Guest Speaker:** With no guest speaker arranged Phil selected two of the presentations available on our computer. The first, by Maureen Hazeldine on repotting Paphiopedilums, and the second by Ian Kilpatrick on dividing and repotting Cattleyas. Both contained very interesting information and were great examples of the very useful resource that these presentations provide. Members of the club are welcome to borrow them at any time. As they come on a USB stick they should be playable on almost any computer.

**Birthday Prize:** Bob Clayton. And congratulations from all members to John Gay who turned 91 earlier this month.

**Lucky Name Badge:** Val Phillips

**Lucky Door Prize:** Bob Clayton

### **Announcements:**

Apologies to Ruth Tugwell for the error in last month's newsletter which attributed the Plant of the Day and Winner of First Division to Eileen rather than Ruth.

Anne is trying to arrange a possible tour of Neutrog factory at Kanmantoo. If there is enough interest this will be a whole of club event. It will comprise a tour of their production facility followed by a presentation and refreshments. It will be on a weekday some time mid-year - and will probably commence around 10:30am. This would mean leaving Victor Harbor at around 9:00am. Depending on numbers we would need to carpool. Can I get an indication of how many may be interested? Chris suggested that it would be best during daylight saving as the days are longer making travelling easier. At least 12 people showed interest.

**The raffle** was held as usual and Chris thanked all the donors of raffle prizes.

**Judging:** was carried out by Phil Steer, Jane and Don Higgs.

**Judges Commentary:** Jane Higgs.

**Anne's Christmas Quiz:** Once again this year Anne had arranged a quiz with Christmas themed questions – the first person with the correct answer to each question picked a prize from a box of gifts provided by the club. One prize per person. Thank you Anne for arranging this!

**Kris Kringle:** There was a table full of interesting gifts for the Kris Kringle. Well done to all the members who participated!

**Next meeting** – Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Guest speaker, Phil Steer, will conduct a presentation of all the plants eligible for Flower of the Year for 2022 and will also present any trophies won by members for that year. Phil will also talk on Potting Mediums.

This is our last meeting for the year. Many thanks to all our helpers who enable us to run successfully through the year. To Anne and Phil Steer from the main club in Adelaide; to Christine, Dianne, and Elsie for the vital roles they play; and to our judges Don, Jane and John. And thanks too to Shirley and Don, Dudley and the rest of the team who help set up and take down the hall here for each meeting. Thank you all – and Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Let's hope that 2023 is a whole lot better than the year just gone!

The meeting closed at 3:40pm and was followed by everyone joining in to share a cuppa and a great selection of cakes and sandwiches provided by members.

*Chris Heysen*

0419 386 769

## SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY

### Orchid of First Division / Plant of the Day

The plant selected by the Judges was grown and benched by Eileen Pinnock and was *Cym. Kuranda*.

*Cym. Kuranda* comprises two species, *Cym. madidum* and *Cym. suave*. This plant had numerous beautiful inflorescences evenly distributed around the plant. The colour was a subtle orange with a darker red/ brown contrasting labellum.

Congratulations Eileen.

### ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION ORCHID OF THE DAY

*Cym. Kuranda*

Grown By

Eileen Pinnock

Photo Don Higgs



**ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION,  
Rlc. Lim Thing Hin**  
Grown By Margaret & Warren Yelland  
Photo Don Higgs



**POPULAR VOTE**  
**Phal. Unknown**  
Grown By  
Margaret & Warren Yelland  
Photo Don Higgs  
Ruth Tugwell

*Christine Robertson*  
For the Registrar

## December Results List

Ref. No.		Points Awarded
<b>First Division</b>		
<b>Australian Native Epiphyte - Species</b>		
260	Cym. Kuranda	Eileen Pinnock (519) 3
<b>Laeliinae - Cluster</b>		
261	Lc. Trick or Treat	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3
<b>Oncidiinae - Hybrid &lt; 60mm</b>		
262	Wils. Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous'	Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 3
<b>Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid</b>		
263	Den. (Frazer's Red Dragon x canaliculatum)	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3
<b>Specimen Species or Hybrid</b>		
264	Cym. Kuranda	Eileen Pinnock (519) 3
<b>Second Division</b>		
<b>Australian Native Epiphyte - Species</b>		
255	Cym. canaliculatum 'Maitland Downs'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 3
<b>Laeliinae - Non Standard</b>		
256	Rlc. Lim Thing Hin	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3
<b>Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid</b>		
257	Phal. Unknown	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3
258	Phal. Fancy Freckles	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2
259	Phal. Unknown	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 1

## Spots and Speciosum by Gerry Walsh

Leopards have them, dendrobium beetles have them, I had them when I was a teenager. My long departed Auntie Maude had a huge number of spots of endless colouration, God rest her soul. My father is 99 years old and has more spots than a plate full of fairy bread. And Speciosums get spots too. And the older a Speciosum gets then the more spots it gets on its leaves. Just like with my old man, they are unavoidable on our favourite native orchid.

Spots are just a part of Speciosums growing old. Part of their life cycle if you like. No plant lives for ever and as they age, spots will start to invade. They can scare the hell out of a chronic orchid grower when they appear. New chum growers are even worse. If they see spots they assume that a vegetative version of Ebola must be lurking about. They assume that the cause is virus. IT MUST BE VIRUS! is the screech that often echoes through the bush houses of suburbia.

It can be, of course, but with Speciosums it rarely is. I am not going to discuss virus in Speciosums here at the moment. To be honest, I know nearly nothing about it. I have seen plants from time to time that I keep clear of, mostly at shows when judging. Occasional plants have been removed from a show bench if a panel of judges thinks a plant has the pox or whatever. I do not grow non-native species at all. However, it seems that exotic growers are in a continual state of the jitters as so many genera seem susceptible to some virus or other.

BACK TO THE TASK AT HAND ... As a new bulb hardens off it can look, in my eyes, as great as an opening raceme. If all is well there will be four or five perfectly formed leaves with snow white sheaths around big fat bulbs loaded with flowering eyes. As the years go on the eyes give up their treasure and new bulbs replace the old ones spent. But the old ones can hang on for a long time. I have plants with markings made with a texta pen 14 years before the present. Eventually the leaves will wither and fall. Spots and stains and holes and marks of all kinds take over and disfigure the leaves along the way. It cannot be avoided and it is something that just has to be accepted.

If you get spots on new bulbs and leaves there can be many reasons for it. Absolutely any insect at all can be responsible. There is no point in making a list of likely contenders. One thing to be remembered is this. If a bug makes a nick in an immature bulb, when that bulb is mature the nick will be much bigger. Good reason to keep out an eye for any troubling critters at the tender stage. I do not need to give a lecture on watching out for scale and aphids etc. Everyone knows the deal with those pests. Just keep all this in your mind and stay alert. You cannot get lazy about diligence!

As a general rule I can make the following observation. The tropical varieties of Speciosum, when grown in colder climates like Sydney, and no doubt Melbourne, will always get more spots and marks and stains than the more temperate varieties from south of the Tropic of Capricorn. In particular var. *curvicaule* and var. *boreale* will be the most affected. Var. *pedunculatum* does not seem to be as susceptible as the first two. Carnarvonense, Blackdownense and Capricornicum from right on the Tropic line seem free of the scourge.

*curvicaule* plants in my bush house can be recognised without looking at labels just by the spots and dags etc on the older leaves. Even from four or five metres away. *curvicaule* is also more likely to get fine lichen coatings on the leaf surface. I do not let this worry me at all. I live with it. In the wild, *curvicaule* is the carrier of lots of leaf lichen. It seems that in the bush house this is replicated. So all these factors make my curvicaules look the least manicured plants of all the nine varieties – in my set up anyway.

IN SUMMARY ... Do not let spots worry you too much folks. They are a natural part of the life cycle of a Speciosum. Or any living plant really. And if you happen to be the recipient of any of my rock lilies then you may have a spot or two on the older bulbs. If it is the younger, just matured growths which get spots and holes in them, then you better start an investigation quick smart. Something may be wrong. Once again the likely culprits will be insects and/or excessive watering or rain. In winter time in Sydney you should not be watering your larger established Speciosums more than once a week. Even then, only in the mornings after the sun comes up. Never in the late afternoon at all, in winter at least.

Having said all this, there are the hard core top notch growers who steal holy water from the local church just to water with. They play Armenian Folk Music to their plants and consult astrological charts before they will even venture into the bush house. Even they will end up with spots on the older growths eventually.

If you only have a few dozen Speciosums then it may be quite possible to spray with this and that and keep spots at bay for another year. Or go to your herbalist and get an elixir made from Aardvark toe-nail extract to dab on a blemish. That might work as well. Personally, I have more to do in my life than worry about such things. Do not get morbid about your spots people ... just like Aunty Maude and my father, you cannot avoid them. Do not let them rule your life.



In these pics above you will see the ugly scungy marks which often inflict the underside of Speciosum leaves. It is most often seen on the older leaves. However, occasionally I get it on the leaves of bulbs that are not too old at all. And it can also be seen on the top of the leaf as well. A lot depends on the humidity in the your bush house.

At my old address, I built a second bush house with a solid opaque roof. This was done to keep me in control of everything. Rain was not going to wreck the blooms any more! And this very expensive pursuit did the trick all right. I had the best bloomings I have ever had. Then I up and moved house after only 3 spring times. Hmmm. What I did not count on was the drier humidity, so it would seem, caused an outbreak of these scungy marks that I had not ever experienced. Plants left in the shade cloth covered old bush house did not suffer at all and remained normal. I was completely dumbfounded and had not a clue what was happening in the new Hilton Bush House. Was it something terrible? Not far from me lives Allan Merriman who has lived and breathed orchids for all of his life. His nursery is called Miriam Anne Orchids. He is the denizen of wisdom when it comes to orchid disease and condition. I went to see him with evidence in hand. He informed me to my great relief that my problem was *Cercospora dendrobii*. I thought as much!!! Never heard of it naturally. As usual Allan gave me his wisdom and told me it was easily controlled with a few simple precautions. He was firm that prevention is the best possible path to embark on. These are his instructions.

#### **PART ONE:**

- 1: Mix up a lime solution at 250 grams to 50 litres of water.
- 2: Leave overnight to settle out. Next day, do not stir it up. You only want the lime water. The residue is only chalk. It's the water you need to spray.
- 3: So spray every leaf surface both upper and lower. DO ALL YOUR PLANTS. Not just the affected ones. REPEAT EVERY TWO MONTHS.

#### **PART TWO;**

- 1: Twice a year you must sprinkle hydrated lime powder over all the leaves. Leave for two days and then lightly spray off with a fine water mist.
2. Use Ippon Fungicide at the rate of one gram per litre. Separately mix up Mancozeb at 1.5 grams per litre. Mix this in a separate container to the Ippon. If you do not, you will get a sticky lumpy mess like gravy gone wrong and it will not work. Measure out the required amount of water and add the Ippon and then the wetted down Mancozeb as well. Stir it like hell. Then spray it on every surface of every leaf and the bulbs as well. DO THIS FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

This is what Allen told me to do. And YES, it worked. Stopped the plague in its tracks. I have now reached an equilibrium with my Speciosums where *Circospora dendrobii* doesn't seem to be an issue these days. So, naturally, like an idiot, I no longer do it. What with moving house and turning my world upside down 6 months ago, there was no time.

**DO NOT DO WHAT I DO ... DO WHAT ALLAN SAYS, SO IT IS WRITTEN.** There you have it.



## Orchid Culture Notes for February

It's the start of another year in the orchid house. This year we have been dealt very varied weather ranging from baking and orchid killing 40°C plus heat to high humidity and high winds and then cooler days but scant rain. A normal cycle should start soon ?? and as the saying goes, it will get hot when the kids go back to school. Note that any heat damage will come out over the next few weeks with leaf marks becoming more evident and leaf drop occurring. The recent humidity will create some fungal issues in the shade house as well, so keep an eye out for any outbreaks and have some fungicide ready in case. Heat damaged plants with damaged leaves and stress are prime targets for pest and disease attack. The physical side of heat damage is easy to spot but remember that heat also damages the plants roots as well. Black pots exposed to the sun overheat and cook the roots. Whilst the top of the plant may come through ok, underneath things are not so good. Then sometime later the plants start to shrivel as they do no longer have a functioning root system. Most of us will put down root loss to poor culture such as over watering or a broken down mix. Just remember, heat can be added to this. Even slugs and snails will be in good numbers awakened by the sudden change in weather.

February is usually the hottest month and with it often comes an increase in the intensity of the north winds, so there is much heat left for us yet. In fact you can still have temperatures nudging the old 100 degree mark as late as the equinox. That's March 21 and the long range forecasts are pointing towards an Indian summer.

I said earlier on that prevention is a key if we are to avoid damage to our plants. It's no use after the event. I have learnt from previous heat events those plants that struggle, and I have provided them with the additional support they needed this time round. The result was only a very small number of plants suffered any damage and there were no losses. Same rules apply to pests. Spray when the moths are active for caterpillars for example. By the time their crop of loopers has started chomping on your orchids half the damage has been done. Get them as they hatch. When the rain stops inspect the orchid house and surrounds for slugs and snails. Be prepared for the next heat event. For some of us, be it age, disability, size of orchid house, whatever, we cannot go to extraordinary lengths to save our plants from the heat but there are some ideas that may lessen the damage. Humidity is your ally and keeping it up high will help. Wet the floors as often as you need to on extreme days. We have two large rubbish bins full of grey water for this purpose. Just don't water the orchids with it but using it for splashing on the shade house sides and floor is a better option than tipping it down the drain. Extra shade will help reduce burning caused by intense light. It will not reduce the damage caused by heat. A wet floor or sides of the shade house will evaporate water. With evaporation there is a release of latent heat. The air cools. Wet your hand and blow on it....it feels cool!

Basically, shade reduces damage by light and the humidity reduces damage by heat. For those with 50% shade cloth, especially the white one the damage this year would have been severe. It's looking like the extreme heat we have experienced the past couple of years may be with us for good each summer. A secondary layer of shade we can roll out over the base layer for a few days whilst the heat is at its worst may become a required item. Otherwise we may have to rethink colours. Of course aspect and location will also have a bearing. My area is very open, no trees or neighbours to shade my yard, so I have to make allowances for that.

Another thing is that we may be forced to stop growing genera that can't handle the heat and concentrate on those that are heat tolerant. My hot house for example apart from foggies has nothing to control the temperature so now only the hard cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas and a few of the more tolerant Oncidiums spend summer in there, for everything else it is too hot. I have lost some of the real cool growing stuff that I won't replace until I can provide the artificial conditions to keep the temps below 30 all year round.



## Orchid Culture Notes for February cont..

Enough of the doom and gloom. Autumn is coming! But it is not here yet. The obvious task is to keep plants moist and ensure all pots are checked regularly to make sure all plants are getting enough water. I lift and feel my pots occasionally. With practice you can tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is dry. The old finger in the mix test works to test for moisture and of course we can buy moisture meters. By now many genera are completing their growth stage and will be in the process of maturing their growths. Some in readiness for immediate flowering over the autumn and others for winter and spring. These maturing plants should have their diet changed to one with a higher potassium content to help mature the plant as well as strengthen the raceme and improve the colours.

Might be a good idea to look at the presentation of these plants and start working on them now. For example I have a nice *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song* with several new growths all over the place in the pot. They are in sheath but not yet filling out with buds. If I leave it too long the presentation will be like a dog's breakfast and if I try and fix it too late then there is risk to the blooms so I work on it now to straighten the growths up and get them spaced correctly around the pot.

Spraying with a stress guard type preparation is also beneficial as these products reduce the amount of evaporation through transpiration. You will not stop the damage completely but a bit of forethought and action will lessen the damage.

Lets have a look around and see what's on in the shade house this month. By now our autumn flowering *Laeliniiae* complex (*Cattleyas* and *Laelia*'s) will have rapidly maturing growths and some already showing emerging spikes. Make sure these spikes and growths are well supported with a stake. Keep water out of the sheaths to avoid fungal rots and spots and make sure the snail baits are on the pot. It often rains this month and it will wake up those slimey fellows. Keep well watered so the spikes remain plump. As some of these developing spikes will excrete a sugary substance you will find ants will be attracted to the spike. They can do a lot of damage as they will eat into the developing spike and they usually bring in a few soft scales as well. Extreme weather can cause buds to abort so bring them inside if it gets real hot (or unseasonably cold) at this stage of initiation.

*Oncidiums* as a rule will be filling out their pseudobulbs and the odd spike or two will be starting to show. Similar culture to the *Laeliniiae* complex should apply. For those with terrestrials this is the last month for re potting. Still aim to keep them on the dry side after re potting as the disturbance of re potting plus being too eager with hose will have them out too early. Wait till the cooler weather in April for this although there will be early varieties flowering in March. Like any orchid, a knowledge of the species itself or that in the hybrid is important when determining what needs to be done and when.

Native epiphyte growths as usual are all over the place. I even had 2 *Den. speciosum* flower in January. (note *Den. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* can flower very early in the year but these are not that variety) Some are maturing yet others are only buds. As a rule keep the water and feeding up. Watch out for caterpillars as they love new soft growths. Many will have a burnt leaf tip or spot. Leave them until the leaf matures before trimming them. Inspect the new growths and if they are floppy then some part of your culture is not quite right. Too much shade and high nitrogen in the feed are the two main culprits. Don't move them yet to a brighter place as they will burn. Leave that to April. They still may flower in spring.

*Zygopetalums* will have new growths maturing and evidence of new growths will be evident from the base of these maturing ones signal the start of a new flowering season. Keep moist, feed with a balanced to high potassium based feed and watch out for loopers, especially



## Orchid Culture Notes for February cont..

on the undersides of the leaves. They don't eat through, rather they skeletonise the leaf and when that dries looks rather unsightly. A spotted, half eaten Zygo on the show bench doesn't have that appeal. Again place a few snail pellets on the surface of the pot.

Keep Paphiopedilums moist and keep an eye out for mealy bugs. High humidity and fresh air movement is important this time of year. Keep light levels fairly low. As a rule hold your hand about 12 inches above the plant and you should only just see a slight shadow. Full shadow too much light, no shadow a bit dark. This is only a rule of thumb for newer growers of this genus. Feeding is usually a balanced feed at half or less of the manufacturer's recommendations. If you can, try and flush your Paphs out occasionally with rainwater to remove salt build up from tap water and fertiliser. Adelaide water is loaded with extra salt over the summer. They will love you for it. A flush is usually two or three waters say an hour apart. The first softens and dissolves some of the salts, the second and third gets the rest. Collect the waste water and use that to wet your floors later when it's hot.

For other genera it's a matter of treating them in accordance with their growth habits although in most cases they will be in a growth mode.

February is a dry month on the show bench and apart from a few plants there won't be much else out. Even with my collection, finding enough to show will be difficult, even more with many that have flowered showing the affects of the heat. Bring in what you can. If it has a burn or a spot I am sure your plant won't be alone.

February will end and the extreme heat of summer maybe a couple of weeks later. March will be upon us and with it those cooler nights. Most of our plants will survive this summer and we need to be a little more caring to see them through it and help in the recovery stakes.

*Steve Howard*

### EDITORS NOTE

Quite a considerable number of our members receive this Gazette in black and white by mail. Others have elected to have the Gazette directly emailed to them. They receive the Gazette in full colour and have the benefit of beautiful photographs of very colourful orchids. They also receive the Gazette up to a week before the mail can deliver it to you others. If you would like to have the colourful version emailed to you send me an email so that I receive your correct email address.

**Please don't forget that this is your Gazette.** If there is anything you would like to see covered or anything you would like to see changed, please let me know. I especially like photographs to include and details of your successes with your orchids.

You can contact me,

**Christine Robertson**, by:

Email: [kloval@westnet.com.au](mailto:kloval@westnet.com.au)

Phone: (08) 8536 3948

Mobile: 0438 363 940

Mail: PO Box 454, Strathalbyn SA 5255

## **ORCHID CLUBS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA** **General Meeting Times**

**THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Whilst COVID restrictions are in place the Club meets on the Second Monday of the month at RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. at 8.00p.m.

**THE DAYTIME CHAPTER:** meets at the Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00p.m.

**THE SOUTHERN REGION:** meets at Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor at 2.00p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** meets at 8pm in The Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month.

**Daytime Group:** meets from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. in the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.

**THE MURRAY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT ORCHID CLUB:** meets at 1.45pm in the Seventh Day Adventist Hall, corner Myall Avenue and Standen Street, Murray Bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

**NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY:** meets in St. Philip's Church Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview from 7.30p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

**THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY:** Meets at the Adelaide West Uniting Church Hall, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park from 7.30p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** meets at 7.30p.m. at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**THE CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Meets at 7.30p.m. at Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

### **Our Affiliated Clubs:**

**The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.**

**The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.**



**AFFILIATED CLUBS**

Murray Bridge and District Orchid Club Inc.  
Orchid Club of South Australia

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If unclaimed please return to  
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opinions which are not necessarily those of the Club.  
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Items must be delivered to the Editor by the second Thursday of each month.  
E. & O. E.**