



# 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.

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**PRESIDENT**

*K. Northcote*  
4 Eucla Ave  
WARRADALE SA 5046  
Phone: 296 8717

**SECRETARY**

*G. Richardson*  
10 Melton St  
BLACKWOOD SA 5051  
Phone: 278 3978

**TREASURER**

*M. Thompson*  
6 Genesta St  
HALLETT COVE SA 5158  
Phone: 381 6762

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1990 DECEMBER ISSUE : CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all members from your Committee.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday December 11th 1990  
Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Christie Downs  
Benching of plants to be completed by 7.45pm  
for judging.  
Meeting begins at 8.00pm.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Dr K. H. Northcote will address the meeting on the  
13th World orchid Conference that was held in New  
Zealand in September 1990.

**CHRISTMAS SUPPER:**

The Club will provide pies, pasties and sausage  
rolls. Please make it a special supper by providing  
a plate of goodies.

**HALL SET-UP:**

Would all willing to assist please arrive by 7pm.

**DAY-TIME CHAPTER:**

2 pm. Thursday December 13th 1990, South Brighton  
Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway,  
South Brighton.  
Mrs Helen Edwards will demonstrate the division and  
potting of Cattleyas.  
Discussion of orchid growing problems.  
Christmas afternoon tea. Please bring a plate of  
goodies.

**COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Tuesday January 15th 1991, 7.30pm. at the South  
Brighton Community Hall.

The Daytime Chapter meeting was held on 15th November in the South Brighton Community Hall. A lovely mild Spring day and the promise of the filming of the 'Official' video of the 13th World Orchid Conference held in N.Z. ensured an excellent attendance of about 40 members and friends.

I wonder if other members, like me, found this 'official' record of the conference, disappointing. If I may be a trifle fanciful I would say it lacked Soul. I felt that it was filmed by someone with little or no feeling for his subject - no empathy at all. The approach to individual blooms and the choice of background music was inappropriate. I would like to compare it to the video shown at the October meeting, filmed by Dr Keith Northcote, which captured all the excitement and charm of the whole conference, as well as the beauty of the individual displays and outstanding blooms. A classic example of the difference between Art and Craft.

Following the above film we had an opportunity to see some of the lovely countryside of New Zealand in a travel film supplied by Norm Gitsham. Thank you Norm. Thank you also to Ron Parish for the loan of the equipment necessary to show the films.

The table display this month was dominated by a superb display of soft cane dendrobiums. Popular vote awarded first to Mr & Mrs Viney's Den. Hoshumusume Heart' Golden Blossum Sunset' and second to Mr & Mrs Kiley's Den. Peter Pan 'Ace'.

Raffle prizes were supplied by Mills Orchids and a fine plant of a Dendrobium donated by Mr & Mrs Kiley - won by John Lewis - lucky man.

The meeting closed with afternoon tea and a pleasant social half hour.

Members are reminded that the next meeting to be held on 13th of December will be our Christmas meeting and a plate of goodies from each member will be appreciated. Don't forget this Special Meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are required for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Committee members. If you feel you could help in any of these positions, or you know of anyone else who could, please inform the Secretary at the December Meeting. Nominations close at the end of that Meeting. There is extreme urgency to fill these positions as neither the current President nor Secretary is able to carry on for 1991.

#### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE/GIFTS**

As is usual for our December Cultural Meeting we will once again be having our larger-than-usual raffle. Everyone is asked to please bring a gift (plant, wine, or sweets to suggest a few) and these become the prizes for the raffle.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 1991 A.G.M. will be held at the Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Court, Christie Downs, on Tuesday February 12th 1991 at 8pm.

Please remember that this is also Trophy night for Aggregate trophies for 1990.

A trophy for the highest aggregate in the Oncidium - Odontoglossum Alliance will be presented for the first time. It is The John Leeder Trophy and we hope that one (or more) of John's family will be with us for that occasion.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Once again it is with pleasure that we welcome new members to our Club.

R. S. Way of O'Sullivan's Beach  
Glen & Peggy Gilchrist of Brighton South.

**ON THE BENCH** by Brenda Lynch  
Oncidium is a very large & varied genus of over 400 species of epiphytal orchids, found growing throughout the whole of Central America, from Mexico and the West Indies to the Southern parts of Brazil.

The flowers of the different species vary greatly in size, shape, and colour. Some are borne in profusion on long branched scapes, others 2-3 on short stems. Colours in the main, are yellow and brown, although some species are white or rose coloured. Some are fragrant. The size varies from very small to very large. In the greater number of species the growth and habit is very similar to that of Odontoglossums to which they are closely related, and with which they have been interbred, producing many hybrids.

*Oncidium sphacelatum* was first sent to London from Mexico in 1840. It has pseudobulbs 10-15cms, leaves 40-60cms long, with flower scapes 1-2 metres, branched and many flowered. The flowers are about 3cms across, sepals and petals dark chestnut brown barred with yellow, yellow on the reflexed tips, lip golden yellow, with a reddish band in front of the crest.

The very fine specimen plant in the 2nd Division Bench, grown by Richard Wilson, was named Registrar's Choice, Flower of the Month, for November. The four sub-erect, branched flower scapes bore scores of well-formed, brightly coloured, brown barred with yellow flowers. All flowers were fresh and in A1 condition.

#### **CULTIVATION OF THE ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE IN ADELAIDE**

by Roger Herraman

The Odontoglossum Alliance is a surprisingly easy & rewarding group of orchids to grow. They require NO heating during the colder months of the year & with a

bit of inventiveness can be kept a little cooler over summer.

The alliance itself contains many genera which, for the most part, interbreed quite freely. Some of the more commonly grown ones are *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Miltonia*, & *Brassia*.

The growing area does not need to be elaborate. A fibreglass or glass roofed enclosure with some weather-proof material on the southern side & perhaps the western walls, & 50% shadecloth on the other 2 sides is a good starting point. During the summer a piece of 50% shadecloth should be put over the roof. This can be removed around Easter & refitted about late September/early October. During periods of extreme heat in summer, extra shading may be required to help keep the plants cooler, together with damping down of the whole growing area.

Watering need not be more regular for Odonts. than most other orchid genera. Mine are watered at the same time as all other plants including Cyms. & Native Epiphytes. I like to dampen down the whole growing house early in the morning on very hot summer days. I'm not keen on misting because of fungal problems associated with a saturated atmosphere. I would rather rely on rising moisture from the floor for extra humidity required on hot days. During winter I prefer to water either by dipping the pots into water or gently using a watering can so as not to wet the leaves, thus minimising rot & fungal problems. For the rest of the year the hose is used. I use rainwater as much as possible.

For fertilising I believe in the old adage of 'a little used often'. A variety of diet seems to suit them well & always apply at a lesser strength than recommend. Odonts. are not heavy feeders. I use fairly even N-P-K ratio fertilisers with an occasional

high nitrogen brand perhaps every 4th or 5th time I feed.

Potting medium is always a contentious subject, however I think simplicity is the key. The ingredients should be of a free draining nature, consistent in quality & readily available. My mix is simply fine & medium grade pine bark, charcoal & rice hulls. I use the same mix for all size plants except for the very large mature plants where I add extra medium bark. In the bottom of the pot I put a handful of foam pieces to aid drainage & keep the roots clean & healthy. Potting is done throughout the year except during the hottest part of summer. The ideal time to re-pot is when the new growths are about 3-4 inches high. At this stage the growths will be starting their new root system & will establish in the new medium fairly quickly.

Before preparing the potting mixture for use I firstly soak the bark in boiling water to which is added a little lime-sulphur fungicide & urea. This is left for a couple of days, then drained & rinsed. The lime-sulphur usually fixes any unknown nasties in the bark & the urea adds a little nitrogen to the brew right from the start.

I have found over the years that the intergeneric hybrids are generally a little easier to grow than the straight *Odontoglossums* in Adelaide. The very large, filled-in & rounded type of *Odont.* seen today are derived from several very cool growing species from Columbia in South America. The most commonly used species has been *Odont. crispin* which, in its natural habitat, has a very narrow temperature range. This range is only possible here with the aid of a controlled environment house. The Central American species tolerate a far greater range of temperatures & are quite easily grown here. *Odontiodas*, which are a hybrid between *Odontoglossum* & *Cochlioda*, are a more warmth

tolerant group & can withstand our summers fairly well. Even more hardy in our conditions are the *Wilsonaras* which combine 3 genera; *Odontoglossum*, *Cochlioda* & *Oncidium* - & *Odontocidiums* which are *Oncidium* & *Odontoglossum*.

Intergeneric hybrids containing *Brassia* are also very hardy & usually have a vigorous growth habit producing very large bulbs. Examples of this group include *Miltassia*, *Brassidium*, *Odontobrassia* & *MacLellenara*.

I believe that one species alone has done more to make this whole alliance of orchids far easier to grow in our climate & helped to produce plants which are hardy, floriferous with long lasting flowers & infinite variations in colour & shape- than any other single species. That orchid is *Oncidium tigrinum* (or more accurately *Oncidium tigrinum* var. *unguiculatum*). Taken on its own it is an attractive if not a particularly spectacular flower, smallish & not very colourful. There are certainly many *Oncidium* species which, in my view, are infinitely more desirable. However, when this species is combined with large, well rounded & brightly coloured *Odontiodas*, it produces *Wilsonaras* which generally have most the colour of the *Odontioda*, long often branching spikes, flowers around 3 to 3.5 inches across which will last in good condition for up to 10 weeks during the cooler months of the year. So, if you are looking for a suitable starting point in growing these plants keep an eye out for anything with *Onc. tigrinum* as a parent or grandparent & you should have no trouble.

Good luck & every success.

#### NOTE

If anyone is interested a new society has been formed called Australian *Odontoglossum* Alliance Society, enquiries to K. Hipkins 12 Alison Ave, Condell Pk. 2200

NOVEMBER 1990 MONTHLY COMPETITION.

**Oncidium sphacelatum**  
 Registrar's choice for flower  
 of the month.  
 Congratulations to Richard Wilson.



*O. sphacelatum*

DIVISION:	OPEN	Judge		
		J. Gay		
		R. Pankoke		
		B. Bower		
Aust.Nat.Epi :Species	Cym. canaliculatum	B. Wyly		3
	Sarc. hartmanii 'Iron Knob'	J. Nicholls		2
	Den. rigidum	J. Nicholls		1
Aust.Nat.Epi :Hybrid	Sarc. Fitzhart 'Ben'	R. Moore		3
	Sarc. Melba	R. Moore		2
	Sarc. Melba	R. Moore		1
Aust.Nat.Terr :Species	Ptst. biseta	R. Moore		3
Miniature Cymbidium	Cricket	J.& J.Jacobsen		3
	Cricket	T. DeIonno		2
	Bunyip	R. Moore		1
Standard Cattleya	Lc. Irene Finney	B. Wyly		3
	Blc. Rio's Green Magic	R.& B.Anderson		2
	Lc. Jalapa X Pot. Lemon Tree	K.H. Northcote		1
Novelty Cattleya	Lc. Golden Girl 'Miami'	R. Moore		3
	C. Wolteriana	K. Northcote		2
	Lc. El-Cerrito's Summer Bouquet	B. Wyly		1
	X Slc. Rajah's Ruby			
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Chit Chat 'Mandarine Mousse'	K.& B.Lynch		3
	C. Louise 'Georgianna'	K. Northcote		2
	Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade'	T. DeIonno		1
Cocktail Cattleya	Slc. Orglade's Early Harvest	T. DeIonno		3
Dendrobium	Adam Lewis X lasianthera	J. Nicholls		3
	Myeelah	J. Nicholls		2
	Adastra	R. Moore		1
Miscellaneous	Epi. Raitea	B. Wyly		3
	Zygo. mackayii X B.G. White	J. Nicholls		2
	Zygo. Helen-Ku	J.& J.Jacobsen		1
Phalaenopsis	Stellar Beauty X George Vasquez	J. Nicholls		3
	Antartic 'Blancheriuue' X self	K. Northcote		2
	Desert Song X Spica	J. Nicholls		1
Novelty Paphiopedilum	victoria-marie X moquettianum	R. Moore		3
Species Paphiopedilum	hirsutissimum 'Lovely Lady'	K. & B. Lynch		3
	haynaldianum	J. Nicholls		2
	tonsum	R. Moore		1

Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Onc. Cheers	T. DeIonno	3
	Odcdm. Tigerson 'Nugget'	K. & B. Lynch	2
	Oda. Tullamarine	K. & B. Lynch	1
Species	C. skinneri 'Alba'	K. Northcote	3
	Chysis. bractescens	R. Moore	2
	Malaxis latifolia	J. Nicholls	1
Catt. & Allied Genera	Ctna. Maui Maid	R. & B. Anderson	3
	Low. Spitfire 'Red Hot'	R. Moore	2
Vandaceous	Ascda. Peggy Foo	J. Nicholls	3

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION : CYMBIDIUM CRICKET grown by J. & J. JACOBSEN  
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DIVISION :	FIRST	Judge	K. Northcote H. Edwards
Aust. Nat. Epi: Species	Cym. canaliculatum		D. Biebrick 3
Standard Cymbidium	Sabre Dance 'Warlord'		H. Gerber 3
	Burgundian 'Sydney'		H. Gerber 2
	Suva X Khyber Pass		H. & B. Viney 1
Miniature Cymbidium	Pee Wee 'Brownoy'		H. Gerber 3
Standard Cattleya	Bc. Lim Theng Hin		F. Bell 3
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Kingaroy		C. & H. Edwards 3
	Lc. Trick or Treat X		C. & H. Edwards 2
	Lc. Fire Island		
	Lc. Rojo 'Firey'		J. Lewis 1
Dendrobium	Hoshimusume X Golden Blossum		H. & B. Viney 3
	Shogun 'KK'		W. R. Barrett 2
	Merlin 'Ann Maree'		T. & M. Richardson 1
Phalaenopsis	Paifang's Queen X		R. & I. Goodall 3
	Ella Danseuse		
	Golden Duplicate X		R. & I. Goodall 2
	Liu Tuen-Shen		
	Jo Buddha X		R. & I. Goodall 1
	Hsinying Stripe		
Standard Paphiopedilum	Novenka 'Pacific Ocean'		R. & I. Goodall 3
Novelty Paphiopedilum	Maudiae X Henneseyanum		D. Biebrick 3
	X Turpe		
	victoria-marie X moquettianum		D. Biebrick 2
	Maudiae X Henneseyanum		D. Biebrick 1
	X Turpe		
Species Paphiopedilum	primulinum		R. Parish 3
	hirsutissimum		D. Biebrick 2
	urbanianum		R. Parish 1

Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Wils. Kendrick Williams	R. & I. Goodall	3
	Vyls. Cambria X	R. & I. Goodall	2
	Oda. Caribbean Holiday		
	Onc. Deluxe Pink	W.R. Barrett	1
Species	Den. thyrsiflorum	T. & M. Richardson	3
	Cym. lowianum	H. Gerber	2
	Phal. leuddemanniana	R. & I. Goodall	1
Catt. & Allied Genera	C. Penny Kuroda X	W.R. Barrett	3
	Bro. sanguinea		
	Dial. Snowflake X	W.R. Barrett	2
	L. rupestris		

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: DENDROBIUM thyrsiflorum grown by T. & M. Richardson  
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DIVISION:	SECOND	Judge	B. Wyly R. Moore
Aust. Nat. Epi: Species	Den discolor		R Wilson 3
	Den. adae		B. & R. Nurse 2
Aust. Nat. Epi: Hybrid	Sarc. Bongen		M. Cunningham 3
Standard Cymbidium	Unknown		J. & M. Cunningham 3
	Unknown		N. Andrews 2
Intermediate Cymbidium	Winter Fire 'Luke'		J. & M. Cunningham 3
Miniature Cymbidium	Mad Magic		R. Wilson 3
Standard Cattleya	Blc. Sylvia Fry 'Olga'		R. Wilson 3
	Lc. Elizabeth 'Betty'		N. Wolfendale 2
	Blc. Orange Glory 'Empress'		B. & R. Nurse 1
Dendrobium	Yukidaruma 'King'		M. Siviour 3
	Super Star 'Champion'		R. Wilson 2
Phalaenopsis	Schneewittchen X Hermosa		J. Attenborough 3
	Radiant Moon X Nancy Lockett		T. Hennig 3
	X Hermosa		
Novelty Paphiopedilum	New Era		M. & E. Gale 3
Species Paphiopedilum	urbanianum		G. Richardson 3
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Wils. Salgrin 'Purple Splash'		K. & L. Larsen 3
	Wils. Shirley Monkhouse		M. & E. Gale 2
	Onc. Mexico 'Shirleybird'		M. & E. Gale 1
Species	Onc. sphacelatum		R. Wilson 3
	C. mendelii		N. Wolfendale 2
	Aslla. chetah		N. Andrew 1
	Den. nobile		N. Wolfendale 1

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION : Oncidium sphacelatum grown by R. Wilson  
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Best  
Wishes  
at  
CHRISTMAS



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