



*Cattleya Suavior v. Aquinii*

# THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

Affiliated with the Orchid Club of South Australia, Inc.  
and with The American Orchid Society, Inc.

## MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

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President:  
G. Harvey, Esq.  
Tel: 81 1573

Hon. Secretary:  
L. Harvey, Mrs  
Tel: 81 1573

Hon. Treasurer:  
C. Hammond, Esq.  
Hindmarsh Tiers 208

The inaugural meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club last month was a success, and we have hopes of going on to become an ever better and bigger Club. Many unusual and beautiful flowering orchid plants were brought along and an interesting commentary on them was given by Mr W. Harris of Christies Beach. Excellent colour slides of the World Orchid Conference were shown by Mr G. Adams of Woodville.

The following financial members of the South Coast Orchid Club have been nominated, seconded, and elected as officers of the Club, and have agreed to carry additional duties as indicated in parenthesis below:

|                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| President (Show Marshal)        | Mr Graham Harvey   | Blaby Street, Morphett Vale (P.O. Box 45, Morphett Vale Central) |
| Immediate Past President        | Mrs E. Tregenza  | 21 Kent Drive, Victor Harbor                                     |
| Senior Vice President           | Mr Bernard Hansen  | 11 Eton Avenue, Warradale  |
| Vice President                  | Mr Wesley Harris   | 19 Lambert Avenue, Christies Beach                               |
| Hon. Secretary (Public Officer) | Mrs Leora Harvey   | Blaby Street, Morphett Vale (P.O. Box 45, Morphett Vale Central) |
| Hon. Treasurer                  | Mr Claude Hammond  | Myponga  |
| Committee Members:              | Mrs O. K. Shaw (Librarian), Mrs M. Hunt, Mrs D. Grave, Mr D. Deal (Plant Steward), Mr J. Hofner (Plant Steward), Mrs A. Hofner (Editor). |  |

The Meeting Dates for 1970 will be: 13th January, 10th February, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th August, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December.

The Meeting Place to be at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall.

Monthly Plant Competitions will be held. The prize will be a plant (or plant voucher) to the minimum value of \$2. The cost of tickets will be 10 cents. You are invited to bring your flowering orchids and/or indoor plants for judging (by popular vote). Winners of the votes for orchids will be awarded with either 1, 2 or 3 points in two sections – an Open Section for the more experienced growers, and a Novice Section for the beginner growers (entries in either section will be left to your discretion). These points will accumulate, and at the end of the year will determine the Club's 1970 aggregate winners in both sections, who will then receive an official acknowledgement by this Club. The combination staging of flowering orchids and indoor plants will not only be a source of appreciation of beauty, but will also give many of our members new ideas for "show staging" for later dates, but remember it is impossible to have a staging without plants – so please help us help you by bringing your plants.

Our guest speaker at the January Meeting will be Mr Colin Jennings, a South Australian teacher in Alotau, New Guinea, who takes "his native boys" on orchid hunting expeditions in the New Guinea Bush. His knowledge of growing and collecting native orchids, and his colour slides should be of tremendous interest to experienced as well as inexperienced growers, and you are certainly welcome to bring guests along to the meeting. (Guests and prospective new Club members will always be welcome at any of our meetings!)

A potting demonstration of a cattleya and an Australian native orchid (pink rock orchid) by Mr Wesley Harris should prove to be another highlight of the evening.

I hope you will get a lot of pleasure and valuable information out of your Membership with our Club, and look forward to seeing you all again on 13th January at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall.

Your Editor.

## CULTURAL NOTES – JANUARY by Wesley Harris

During our hot weather!!! it is impossible to overwater well-drained plants, but replace all fertiliser which has washed away. Flower spikes sometimes start about this time and can still be making an appearance up to June. Some shading of brush or Sarlon cloth will keep away the burns from our really severe sun. Leaves must have this protection for seven or eight months of the year. A little blood and bone or poultry manure can be carefully worked in on the top of compost and covered with sand. Cymbidiums are never dormant and require regular feeding – I suggest a weekly feed programme of a complete fertiliser, as indicated on the pack. In short, keep watering and feeding and enjoy seeing how the plant says 'thank you'.

The perfect drainage you provided should ensure that roots are healthy, unless the compost has broken down into mud. No roots will live if such a state exists. If there is any doubt about this, two things may be done: (1) the pot may be inverted – a second pair of hands to keep the compost together when the edge of the pot is gently tapped – the whole lot usually comes out in one piece; (2) lift the pot, insert a pencil or slightly larger blunt tool in the hole and, with pressure against the crocks, lift the whole compost half an inch. Then, with hose, squirt out a bit of the compost. If mud comes out, your roots are already in trouble. If mud is present in the bottom half of the compost, remove crocks and the muddy portion carefully, replace washed crocks over hole and insert sand or gravel, then sufficient new compost. With such care and a minimum of root disturbance, this treatment is beneficial at any season.