



# *The South Coast Orchid Club Inc. Gazette*

*October 1996*

**PRESIDENT**

H.J. Edwards  
33 Oliphant Ave  
MARION SA 5043  
Phone: 298 6689

**SECRETARY**

P. O'Brien  
6 Culver St  
STURT SA 5047  
Phone: 298 3773

**TREASURER**

G. Shevlin  
22 Australian Ave  
CLOVELLY PARK SA 5042  
Phone 276 7652

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday October 8th 1996, Calvary Lutheran Church Hall,  
Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale. Benching of plants to be  
completed by 7-45pm for judging.  
Meeting commences at 8pm.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Mr Gordon Brooks will address the meeting. His subject will  
be Australian Native Cymbidiums.

**HALL SET-UP:**

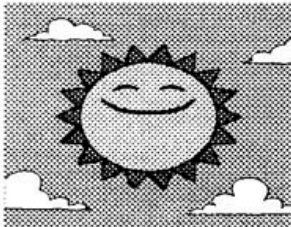
Would all willing to assist please be at the Hall by 7 o'clock.

**SUPPER:**

Tea, Coffee, Cordial and Biscuits will be provided.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:**

2pm Thursday 10th October 1996, at South Brighton  
Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South  
Brighton.



Time to get the *cymbidiums* repotted???

# ADVENTURE AMONG THE ORCHIDS ON MOUNT ALBERT EDWARD, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.

(from notes supplied with the slides from the Australian Orchid Council)

This particular trip was one of a series of excursions into the interior of different parts of the Territory of Papua, New Guinea that was organized by Mrs Andree Millar and other staff members of the University of Papua New Guinea.

In addition, three Australians were invited to join the party, all were very grateful for the opportunity to visit these alpine regions.

Port Moresby is considered the gateway to the Territory of Papua New Guinea. No visit to this city is

considered complete without a visit to the native market at Koki, less than a kilometre from the busy business life. A variety of meats, fish, and all sorts of local produce may be purchased in an 'air conditioned' atmosphere. As well as the beetle nuts, about 15 varieties of bananas were for sale along with many unidentifiable forms of native produce.

While in Port Moresby the group were able to visit various orchid collections and the University at Boroko, where Andree Millar, as curator, was beginning to form a most impressive native orchid collection. More than an acre of ground was being utilised to contain this wonderful project within the campus of the University of PNG.

*Saccolabium rhopalorrhachis* happened to be open. Although this small flowered species flowers for a period of up to 3 or 4 months, only a couple of flowers are open at one time.

*Bulbophyllum grandiflorum* is the largest flowering bulb. in NG. The bulbophyllum genus would be one of the largest members of the orchid kingdom in this country.

One of the gems of the area is *Dendrobium chrysoglossum*. The pink flowers, with orange lip, form in clusters on the leafless stems behind the new lead. Each flower is only 10 - 15mm wide and long.

*Dendrobium johnsonii* is the floral emblem of the Orchid Society of PNG. The flowers are between 65 to 120mm across the petals, snow-white with purple on the inside of the lip.

*Dendrobium lasianthera* 'Sepik Blue', one from the Ceratobium section of Dendrobiums, is a strong growing species with large heads of long lasting flowers. The petals are usually reddish-brown, twisted and very glossy, the sepals are purplish brown, sometimes reddish purple, however the labellum is mostly a rich purple with a distinct blue sheen to it, hence the name.

*Dendrobium macrophyllum* grows in the rain forest

from 600 to 2000metres. The inflorescence can be up to 30cm long topped with up to 20 creamy flowers. These flowers are hairy and spotted with purple on the back. The beautiful frilled labellum is like the *Oncidium*.

*Dendrobium atrovioleaceum* is probably the most famous orchid in Papua New Guinea. The creamy white flowers with purple markings, that face downwards, are very long lasting. Hundreds of plants of this species were taken to England in 1900 and none survived.

Many of the Orchids of New Guinea are known from the district of collection until such time that they are recorded through the process of classification. Many years will be needed for this to occur. Schlechter and J.J. Smith did comprehensive work in the early years.

*Dendrobium lineale* was one of the earliest of Papua New Guinea orchids to be taken overseas and used in hybridising. It was previously known as *D. veratrifolium*. Some consider this prolific *Dendrobium*, from the ceratobium section, to be the most beautiful and the commonest within the section. It is often found growing on trees overhanging salt water, but may also be found in tall forest trees up to 4000metres. In Bougainville, the form there is known as 'Bougainville White', in NG and New Ireland as 'Morobe Shower' or the Bridal Orchid. It is often used for bridal bouquets.

*Dendrobium antennatum*, one of my favourites. Although the racemes are relatively short the flowers are usually beautifully spaced, sitting erect on both sides of the stem. The green and white flowers have erect green sepals that are only slightly twisted.

*Dendrobium mirbelianum* is quite variable and often self-pollinating. The yellow green flowers

(Continued on page 3)

are quite common but not the loveliest of the NG ceratobiums.

Prior to leaving Port Moresby for Mount Albert Edward some of the party were advised to visit mountain areas, that were accessible by road, to become acclimatised. About an hour along the road (track) some of the party, who had been looking for orchids, returned to the vehicle laden with plants. Among the orchids found in the Wariata Range area were *Bulbophyllum fletcherianum* and *Vandopsis warocqueanum*. The latter grows very freely and can reach immense proportions.

Mount Albert Edward is one of the higher peaks in the Owen Stanley Range and about 60 miles north of Port Moresby. Access to the mountain is by air to the patrol post of Woitape situated at the foot of the mountain. The 'airstrip' at Tapini is probably typical of mountain airstrips where experienced pilots land their small craft whilst interested local people look on. At the end of this strip is a 1000foot drop into a valley below.

On arrival at Woitape the group was fortunate enough to hire the local tractor and trailer to tow the

camping equipment. At about 7000 feet the Swiss Catholic Missionaries had been active cutting a walkers' track up the mountain through Murray Pass between two of the peaks to permit access to areas on the eastern side of the mountain. Quite a number of orchid species were collected on the walk from 6000 to 8000 feet. On to 10,000 feet where more orchids were collected. The weather there was cold, near freezing in fact, and very wet. The popular belief that NG is hot and humid is soon dispelled at this altitude.

The dwarf growing *Dendrobium pseudo-frigidum* is in flower for most of the year. The sepals and petals are a creamy yellow but the lip is a bright orange.

The tiny brilliant orange *Dendrobium oreocharis* also flowers for many months of the year. This plant forms a mat along the branches of the host tree.

*Dendrobium flammula* is also found at around 10,000 feet. Plants of this species are found growing on mossy rocks.

*Dendrobium sophronites* according to Andree Millar 'is one of the most coveted orchids in the world. It is found only in the moss and cloud forests above 2,000metres.' The orchid with the largest flower in relation to the size of the plant, has pseudobulbs that scarcely rise above the moss, and the huge, stemless, psychedelic flowers seem to be just stuck on.

This is just a sample of the many species found during this exciting excursion.

After spending many days at the 10,000 feet camp many species of orchids had been collected, most were not readily identified.

More *dendrobiums*, *bulbophyllums*, *erias*, and

*phreatias* all made up the collection.

Movement to many parts of Papua, New Guinea can only be achieved by air. Many of the strips are only capable of accommodating small aircraft. Many areas would be isolated without these communications.

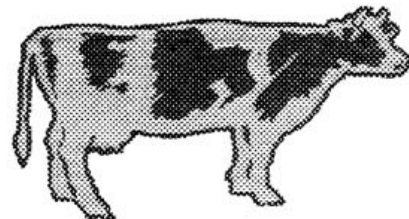
This exciting adventure was full of interest to Orchid Lovers. The participants acknowledged the wonderful help that made it possible for them to participate.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RARE ORCHID - KILL OR CURE

(This article is from a Native Orchid Society of South Australia Journal who credited it to the Wellington Orchid Society Journal, March 1995, taken originally from an article in The New Zealand Herald)

In what seems a direct contradiction, the trampling feet of beef cattle may be used to help preserve a rare native orchid.



The orchid, known only from New Zealand's Central North Island region, requires disturbed ground to seed and regenerate successfully, and conservationists are considering using cattle to open up and turn over the swampy ground where it grows. But, because the orchid is rare, there is also the danger that the cattle could destroy the few remaining plants.

The orchid *Prasophyllum* aff. *patens* is high on

the country's list of endangered plants. In the Turangi Pukeora, in the Southern King Country, up to 1,000 of the orchids are growing in a patch of swamp, but at other sites in the Central North Island there fewer than 10 plants and their existence is precarious. This New Zealand plant prefers a water-logged growing area. Very few orchids anywhere in the world have such a preference.

The orchids can grow to almost a metre in height, although it is often smaller. It has a multiple flower head, with tiny, dark brown, white frilled flowers, about 1cm long. It is not scented.

The orchid had been doing well at the Tangiawai site with population increases recently, but this year it is not so good and the flowers appear to be smaller. It is not known whether this is just a bad year or whether the foliage in the swamp is getting too thick since the area was fenced off to keep the cattle out. It may be necessary to let the cattle back from about May to December.

Helping the orchid to recover is needed to maintain the biodiversity of both the central North Island and the country.

Bob Bates from N.O.S.S.A. suggests that we have the same trouble in South Australia - if stock is removed from swamps they become overgrown and the orchids disappear. However, a far better solution is to slash or mow the swamps every 2 to 3 years. This disturbance coupled with small burns provides ideal orchid habitat.

The S.C.O.C. Members who visited the Higgs' property at Myponga earlier in the year will be interested in the above comments. Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO EXHIBITED AT THE SPRING SHOW

CHAMPION	PLANT	EXHIBITOR
<b>GRAND CHAMPION</b>	Den. speciosum 'Biernan's Glory'	Mr. D. Biebrick
<b>RESERVE CHAMPION</b>	Milt. Limelight 'Imugene Smith'	Mr. & Mrs. M. Bray
<b>CHAMPION OPEN DIVISION</b>	Den. speciosum 'Biernan's Glory'	Mr. D. Biebrick
<b>CHAMPION 1ST DIVISION</b>	Paph. Hainanensis	Mr. & Mrs. R. Parish
<b>CHAMPION 2ND DIVISION</b>	Cattleya Malworth 'Orchidglade'	I. & D. Attenborough
Champion Standard. Cymbidium	Breakaway 'Ste-Per'	M. J. B. Steele
Champion Intermediate Cymbidium	Mimi x Pearly Queen 'Aurora'	Mr. H. Gerber
Champion Miniature Cymbidium	Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	G. Shevlin
Champion Paphiopedilum	Hainanensis	R. & I. Parish
Champion Odont/Oncidium	Milt. Limelight 'Imugene Smith'	M. Bray
Champion Phalaenopsis	Machitch 'June'x	Mr. & Mrs. M. Bray
Champion Cattleya	Malworth 'Orchidglade'	I. & D. Attenborough
Champion Aust. Native	Den. speciosum 'Biernan's Glory'	D. Biebrick
Champion genera not otherwise classified	Sth. African Native	Mr. A. DeIonno
Champion Species	Den. speciosum 'Biernan's Glory'	D. Biebrick
Champion Seedling	Phal. Machitch x Devontena	Mr. & Mrs. M. Bray
Champion Zygopetalum	Kiwi Choice	P. O'Brien
Vice Presidents' Prize	Oda. Lincade x crispum	G. Richardson
<b>CHAMPION DENDROBIUM</b>	Yodogimi 'No. 1'	D. & J. Higgs