



# THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

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

Patron: Sir Francis Matters

## MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

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The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be on Tuesday, 14th April, at 8.00 p.m. at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall, and in keeping up the high standards of the Club we have been able to get another excellent guest speaker,

**Mr Nicky Zurcher, on 'ORCHID GROWING in EUROPE'.**

His talk will be accompanied by slides, and will be on general orchid growing and comparative orchid problems for the hobbyist (amateur). (Having studied Horticulture in Switzerland (his homeland), and used his knowledge extensively in various famous orchid nurseries on the Continent and in England Nicky is now on the way to becoming a 'dinkum Aussie'!).

**Our President, Mr G. Harvey, will then give a demonstration on training cymbidium spikes.**

Our entries in the **Plant Exhibitions** are increasing rapidly, and we are very grateful to the exhibitors – seeing is appreciating – and what beauty in those plants – fit for connoisseurs – but what a task for an orchid judge!

In the **Novice Section** all points were awarded to plants exhibited by Mr Les Poole. 3 points – *Paphiopedilum Ethel*; 2 points – *Vuykstekeara Rutilant v. Colombia*; 1 point – *Dendrobium bigibbum*.

In the **Open Section** the judge awarded 3 points to *Brasso-Laelia-Cattleya Carol Adam* (grown by Mr M. Dunn); 2 points to *Paphiopedilum callosum* (Mr W. Harris) and 1 point to *Laelia-Cattleya Grande x Brasso-Laelia-Cattleya Jane Helton* (Mr W. Harris).

The **Popular Vote for Orchids** went to an unnamed white *Brasso-Cattleya* (Mr & Mrs Hofner) and for **Indoor Plants** to *Hoya bella* (Mr Les Poole).

A good start has been made with the **Opportunity Table**. Please keep bringing plants for this table (20% profit to the Club funds), but make sure your plants are accompanied by a complete list of plants and suggested retail prices.

Our **Monthly Plant Competition**, with quality seedlings as prizes, is a real help towards offsetting the cost of the hire of the hall.

**Members interested in bulk buying of peat moss:** Orders will be taken at the coming meeting. If you should be unable to attend you are welcome to telephone your order to the Secretary.

Mr Rex Thompson's most interesting talk and demonstration on Seedling Raising has been so well received that, I understand, most of our Club members intend to be guests at the next Orchid Club of S.A. meeting at the Auditorium, Master Builders' Association, South Terrace, on Thursday, 2nd April, at 8.00 p.m. for a 'repeat performance'. This prompts me to remind you all – **guests and prospective new members are also always welcome at our meetings.**

Your Editor.

## ORCHIDS ALL THE YEAR FROM THE CATTLEYA 'ALLIANCE' – Wesley Harris, Christies Beach, Tel: 822459.

There are six large tribes (C. H. Curtis) in the great botanical family of Orchidaceae, and when we delve into one—the Tribe Epidendreae—and then to one of its eight sub-tribes, the Laeliae, we find all the eleven genera of the above 'alliance'. The quite fantastic feature which prompted the term 'alliance' is that each genus is compatible with one or more in hybridising. Let me list these eleven genera: *Barkeria*, *Brassavola*, *Broughtonia*, *Cattleya*, *Diacrium*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia*, *Laelopsis*, *Schomburgkia*, *Sophranitis* and *Tetramicra*.

Three are rare, and are not, to my knowledge seen here—they are: *Barkeria*, *Laeliopsis* and *Tetramicra*.

Most of their specific species are also seen in a variety of colours—indeed, with regard to *Cattleya trianaei*, although forms are similar, the extreme variation in color led to the naming of an almost incredible number of varieties. *Laelia purpurata* also has many varieties. With perhaps the exception of the Mexican *Laelias*, most are found in more southern regions, with a very high percentage in equatorial South America. Because they occur well up the mountains of the Andes, their climatic environment is vastly different from steamy tropical rain forests. Temperatures there are often in the 50°s(F).

Man has made many thousand of bi, tri and quadrigenic hybrids from these species and thus has added many improvements in colour and form. Flowering periods are extended particularly in our sub-tropical zones where our daylength is much more pronounced in our summer and we experience longer winter nights – near the equator temperature and light are more equable the year around. If grown here in a well attended and equipped glasshouse (or other suitable place) in temperatures between 88°F maximum and 55°F minimum, they will thrive and there will be two peak flowering periods—autumn and spring—with a lean period in early summer, usually. To attempt to grow these, the 'Queens of Orchids', without winter warmth would give extremely poor results and many disappointments and I doubt if many would make winter growth to flower in spring.

**CYMBIDIUM CULTURAL NOTES – April:** Flower spike should be showing at base of outside leaf. (Spikes do show from January to June.) Watering can be reduced to about three times weekly. Still further reduce shade. Damp down on bright days. Even monthly dry or liquid NPK feeding. Insecticide & Fungicide. Dust plants in spike, otherwise ugly flowers will result.