

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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MONTHLY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next monthly cultural meeting will be held at the Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Court, CHRISTIE DOWNS on Tuesday, 11th October at 8 p.m.

The feature of the programme will be an illustrated talk by Mr. Syd MONKHOUSE on the forthcoming 11th World Orchid Conference to be held in Miami, Florida, March 5th - 12th 1984. The Conference is being hosted by the South Florida Orchid Society Inc. Well known orchid nursery, Jones and Scully of that city have prepared a conference promotional program which will give highlights of the Florida area and wet the appetites of those fortunate enough to be preparing themselves to make this trip. No doubt it will be an evening of great interest to all club members, so come along and enjoy it. If sufficient time is available we may hear and see a little of what happened in TOWNSVILLE also, where some of our club responded so very well in support of our Show Marshalls appeal for blooms. the meeting will end with supper to which all are invited to share, and to assist the ladies who prepare, serve and pour the hot drinks we do remind all members to assist in the provision of a plate of food. It will be of interest to club members to learn that the S.C.O. Club received 3rd prize in the Display Section for Interstate Societies at the recent Townsville Orchid Conference, which is no mean feat for a Club as small as we are and many thanks are extended to John LEEDER who spent much time in preparation on firstly, chasing club members for blooms and the myriad letters, phone calls and driving that went into this fine effort plus the receiving, transporting of the packed boxes in TOWNSVILLE and the very demanding job of arranging the exhibit for the judging.

More will be said about the whole Conference by him at a later date, but the Committee are very grateful to the response from club members who contributed in any way to this wonderful effort, not the least to those who were in any way responsible for the packing and forwarding of many orchids so willingly given. Thank-you to you all. It surely contributes to our very impressive future when we pause and consider just what the S.C.O.C. has contributed to and been involved in during 1983. Garden Week in March, Winter Show in July Townsville Exhibit in September as well as the exhibit provided by us at the Native Orchid Society Show this month and finally our Spring Show during October.

A Committee has been formed for the 1984 Garden Week and announcement concerning this will be made at the October Cultural meeting.

The Treasurer of our club, Mr. Lewis Moore is to be congratulated on his success on taking out the Grand Champion of the show at the Native Orchid Society of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, with his plant "Dendrobium "Bardo Rose Kenna".

Winners also came from our club at the Townsville, 8th Australian Orchid Conference as follows:

Class 4. Best Display by an Interstate Society.
3rd South Coast Orchid Club.

Section 2 Class 7 Cymbidium. Not less than 15 flowers.
1st John Leeder. Cym. Zumma Boyd 'Tetra High'

Intermediate
2nd Glenn Forrest. Cym. 'Winter Fire'

Class 9 Paphiopedilum : Green or yellow
2nd Harry Lambert.

Species Paphiopedilum
1st Harry Lambert

Section 4 Class 17 : Odontoglossum Alliance
1st John Leeder. Vuyl. 'Cambria Plush'

Three commercial orchid nurseries who are in membership with S.C.O.C. also collected prizes. Adelaide Orchids, Lambert Orchids and Valley Orchids.

WARNING ON CYMBIDIUM VIRUS SYMPTOMS.

In our November Gazette 1982 we printed an article on Virus symptoms taken from the Australian Orchid Review. As a followup and to be fair to both sides we here reprint the follow up article which was published in the A.O.R. under the title "Correct use of 'Maxicrop' is vital" The following is only portion of the full article, but as it is the letter of most importance we quote it in full.

"Thank you for bringing to our attention the concern of orchid growers regarding the information published in the A.O.R. (June 1982) concerning the work done by Mr. W.R. JOHNSON with

'Maxicrop' on orchids.

To clarify the matters raised in the report I recently visited Mr. Johnson who kindly gave me a copy of his paper entitled 'A simple liquid nutritional program for orchids' on which the article in the A.O.R. was based. Mr. Johnson informed me that when he fed 'Maxicrop' at monthly intervals, none of the virus like symptoms appeared, and that the monthly applications actually improved the foliage colour, by supplying the orchids with the necessary element iodine.

The problem referred to in the A.O.R. article appears to occur mainly in some cymbidium plants when watered with 'Maxicrop' weekly, and Mr. Johnson therefore writes in his paper that 'Maxicrop!...if used incorrectly would be dangerous to some orchid genera'.

Mr. Johnson has shown by 'in vitro' experiments that using 2.232 ml Maxicrop/l (which is more than double the recommended rate for orchids) can induce virus like symptoms. I therefore believe that it is important for growers not to exceed the recommended rate of 1.1000 (that is 1ml/l) for orchids, and I believe that this rate applied every 14 days is safe. However, in the light of the observation that cymbidiums appear to be more susceptible to the virus like symptoms described by Mr. Johnson care should be taken that the rate of 1.1000 is not exceeded with this genus. Should any plants develop the symptoms, Mr. Johnson advises withholding 'Maxicrop' until the symptoms disappear and increasing the iron and magnesium levels for several weeks until the symptoms disappear. thereafter 'Maxicrop' can again be applied at less frequent intervals. The dilution rate we recommend for orchids is 1/1000, and this supplies the orchids with 1ppm of iodine - the ideal level according to Mr. Johnson's research. Mr. Johnson has established beyond doubt that orchids need iodine, and 'Maxicrop' is the only readily available fertiliser that contains this essential element, and this is no doubt why Maxicrop has become so widely used by orchid growers over the past 10 years with good results. We would also like to point out that 'Maxicrop' is not a 'complete' fertiliser for orchids, as the major elements are present in rather small amounts. these should be, therefore provided from other sources, or the grower may wish to use 'Maxicrop' Indoor Plant Food which contains additional NPK, giving 11ppm N, 4.3ppm P, and 12 ppm K, when used at the recommended rate of 1:1000. Used at that rate it will also supply the orchid with close to the ideal level of iodine. Every orchid needs iodine. Maxicrop is the only readily available fertiliser to contain this element, and when used as directed supplies this element at the ideal level for orchids, so the question is, which orchid grower can afford not to use 'Maxicrop'? Signed Peter Abetz. B. Agr. Sci. (Hons)/M.A.I.A.S.

NEW MEMBERS

John & Christine McGrath, 30 Valley Fair Rd, Hackham West.

Mr. K. & Margaret Luce, 8 Brendon St. Christie Downs.

A big welcome is extended to you new people and together may we share many happy times with talk, pictures and the many activities that bring orchid people together.

SOFT CANE DENDROBIUMS

4

Many orchid growers when first seeking to select genera to expand their collections seem to find it difficult to differentiate between soft and hard cane dendrobiums. This fact is not helped when one reads through many orchid publications and finds wonderful pictures of *Dendrobium* 'so & so', featured in all their flowering glory, but nothing to indicate whether they are soft or hard cane species. Not to decry this practise and perhaps rob ourselves of these glorious photographs, but even as we drool over them and wish they were our own, it would indeed help to know in which class they belong.

To deal, in this article with the soft cane variety, first of all it is fitting if we take the orchid that can, with correct care be successfully grown and flowered in Southern Australia, temperate conditions. The well known *Dendrobium nobile* with its ability to contend with our rather dry atmosphere particularly in the hot months of the year.

As in its natural habitat, which extends from as far North as Sikkim in Northern India to as far South as Upper Burma and Vietnam, and its height above sea level, approx 800-2000 metres, we see that to grow and flower these plants at all we must try to emulate their natural conditions as much as we can. Like most epiphytic orchids (that is plants that are found in nature clinging to tree trunks or branches) air circulation, alternating periods of heat, cold, wet and dry conditions are particularly important for their existence.

The particular species *Den. nobile* and its hybrids are quite easy to grow here if basic conditions are applied.

Firstly, don't overpot them, they do much better if allowed to become 'pot bound' and left undisturbed for several years. A 5" (12cm) pot is quite sufficient to hold and flower an adult plant for at least three years. Returning again to climatic conditions we quote an extract of local regions where these orchids thrive. "Mountainous country, climatic conditions; Typical monsoon, with four months of completely dry weather, from November to January when temperatures drop down to freezing point in the higher mountains, a hot season from March to June when the temperatures can rise to 125 degrees F. in the plains and a rainy season from June to October when everything is damp and humid".

It has been written that the most showy of the flowering *Dendrobiums* are discovered on the higher elevations which should be a guide to us that these are the conditions which we must strive to produce.

A little change of climatic times is indicated. Our local weather ofcourse generally exceeds four months of dry weather. October - March, if not more is the usual pattern. the following four months can be cold, but ofcourse these are the months when we should receive our greatest rainfall, but this is virtually when soft cane *Dendrobiums* need to be 'rested' in Southern Australia.

SOFT CANE DENDROBIUMS.....(cont)

The only really successful way to flower them is to strictly follow a set growing and rest period.

Like most epiphytic orchids they are very tolerant of open type compost be it medium size bark or cymbidium mix which is free draining.

They do much better in hanging pots in light airy conditions during the hotter months of the year and will stand copious watering with regular half strength fertiliser weekly.

During the latter half of April taper off watering and fertiliser until the beginning of May when their rest period begins.

NO WATER AT ALL must be given for at least three months, unless severe pseudo bulb shrivelling begins. the pseudo bulbs will show a little wrinkling during this period, but that is to be expected and natural.

A light misting over the whole plant can be given if drastic shrivelling develops, but this should not occur during these colder months in our climate. Evidence of flower initiation will begin on mature canes in early August, but DO NOT begin watering again until buds have actually made up into recognisable flower buds. This must be done as water given too soon will surely cause all shoots on the nodes to form ki ki's which will develop into little plantlets and eventually produce aerial roots.

Once the flower buds are recognisable watering can again be commenced following the pattern used before the middle of April and needs to be maintained right through the months until resting time comes round again in May.

During these months of growth new canes will appear and grow vigorously with bright shiny light green colouring and matching unevenly spaced leaves. Growths can be quite long and upright, to 18" (46cm) or more.

Some support needs to be supplied or plants will straggle untidily and bend sideways.

These new growths or pseudo bulbs will be the flowering canes for the following year, so good strong growth is the aim.

Dendrobium nobile and its hybrids will not flower on current years growth, so until your plant has reached maturity and cast most of its leaves, buds will not be initiated. In some cases mature canes will throw an odd bud or two the year following its initial flowering if left on an undisturbed plant; Light is particularly important at all times except when flowers begin to 'puff' and open when shade is necessary to prolong flower colour. Plants will remain in peak condition in flower for some weeks and are a fitting reward for good culture.

By light it is meant filtered sunlight during the summer months, 50-70% shade cloth, but as much humidity as can be managed during this period. Increased light during the resting months will be an advantage if the position understandably is completely dry.

As it is comparatively rare to see many fully flowered *Dendrobium nobile* species or hybrids on Adelaide showbenches, it is a challenge to be able to present one for show. Accept the challenge and grow one to a good flowering specimen and show orchid people that they can be grown and flowered successfully in SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CYMBIDIUM NOTES FOR OCTOBER

Now that most of the local Spring Shows are over for 1983 and many of our spikes taken from the plants it is time to evaluate our cymbidiums.

To obtain maximum growth in preparation for 1984 flowering season an early start must be made on those plants that are in need of, dividing, repotting or potting on.

Make a start before the warm weather comes in, upon the largest of your orchids that need division. You should by now, if you have been following the monthly cultural notes, have all the necessary materials to hand. Remember cleanliness is essential. Clean or use new pots, compost damp, labels, pencil and sterilised cutting tools (if used). Make the position that you do your work as comfortable as possible, as it is a very back-breaking job, if one has to bend to the ground when dividing or working with plants. Clean bench tops with disinfectant (White King or similar) and ideally keep it clean before commencing work on another plant. A few minutes spent on such precautions can save a lot of heartbreak later if a plant has to be dumped into the incinerator because of virus, contamination during division. Carefully examine each plant before dividing or repotting for any infection, rotting bulbs or dried portions within the clump.

If any, they must be removed, and all wet black areas cut out together with dead roots.

Sprinkle all cut areas with dusting sulphur, which of course will include the ends of rizomes originally holding the plant together before division. the base of the bulbs need to be approximately an inch or two below the top of the pot to allow for correct watering and growth. All divisions must be quite firm in the pot, temporary staking until strong root action has occurred. Don't forget to make your plant name labels as you finish each plant, and do include this on your saved backbulbs as well.

Our aim in these next few months is to produce strong healthy growth so return to a regular fertilisation program without overdoing it. Over fertilisation will cause sloppy and soft growth which is completely incorrect and undesirable to any plant.

MONTHLY COMPETITION (Cont)

Species Paph.	Appletonianum	N. Washington	3
Division Flower of the Month	Narella 'Jennifer Gail'	J & P Lewis	
President's Flower of the Month	Highland Mist 'Dillabirra'	D & T Mills	
Indoor Plant	Sansivaria.	A Harling.	

MONTHLY COMPETITION AUGUST

Editor apologises for the non appearance of the Cymbidium Section in second division.

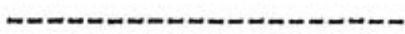
Cymbidiums	Log Fire	J & D Lewis	3
	Unknown	H H Pankokes	2
	Preview x San miguel 'Limelight'	S & I Nicholls	1

CYMBIDIUM NOTES FOR OCTOBER.....(Cont)

Many of us have picked out the new plants that we would like to have in our collection, that is if you are a real orchid 'buff' and never visit a show or nursery without a pen and little note book!

The hot summer months are not kind to little orchids, so if buying very small plants prepare a good position for them where a constant watch can be kept on their progress and health.

Tiny pots do dry out much quicker than big ones and several days of parched compost can kill off little plants. Reflect back on all your results gained during 1983 flowering season, and see if any improvement can be made in your cultureor, production and even your growing area. Share your love of orchids with folk who may as yet not be smitten with the 'orchid disease', by so doing you could possibly drastically brighten another person.



From the American Orchid Society Bulletin of March 1969 we find this report that has fully justified the writer's opinion over many years.

.....1958 Santa Barbara Show.....

Cymbidium Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos' AM/AOS, SM/CSA (Alexanderi 'Westonbirt' x Eagle 'Mt. Shasta' :- With a first-blooming seedling, dos Pueblos Orchid Company took Best of Show at the Santa Barbara Show in 1958.

Cymbidium Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos' received an Award of Merit and a Silver Medal and clearly set itself as one of the most outstanding of all cymbidium blooms. Its perfect form, its good size and its colour were the best in every respect. The lip with very few dots, has some attractive pink suffusion. The flower measures 4½" across with 13/8" petals, and eleven flowers on the spike. This plant continues today to be one of the outstanding show plants among cymbidiums.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITIONSEPTEMBER MEETING

Open Division			
Cymbidium:	Highland Mist "Dillabirra"	D & T Mills	3
	Magna Charter "Dell Park"	W.J. Nicholls	2
	Highland Mist "Valda Davey"	K H Northcote	1
Intermediate	Oriental Legend "Samari"	K H Northcote	3
Dendrobiums	Den. "Ellen"	W J Nicholls	3
Miscellaneous	Acanthephippium	W J Nicholls	3
	V. 'Lilaciana'	W J Nicholls	2
Novelty Phal	Ludemannia x Ambeinensis	W J Nicholls	3
Species Paph.	Appletonianum	W J Nicholls	3

Division Flower of the Month Highland Mist "Dillabirra" D & T Mills

1st DIVISION

Aust Native Epi.	Den. Tetragonum 'Giganteum'	L & R Moore	3
	Den. 'Ellen'	L & R Moore	2
	Den. Aemulum	R Parish	1
Aust. Native Ter.	Ptst. Curta	L Spear	3
	Caladenia Major	L Spear	2
	Ptst. Curta	L & R Moore	1
Cymbidiums	Fort William 'Hamsey'	G & L Spear	3
	Mem Robert Casamajor 'Delmac'	K & B Lynch	2
	Big Chief "Dr Keith Armstrong"	M. Mangelsdorf	1
Mini Cyms	Rouge 'Cherry Wine'	K & B Lynch	3
Cattleyas	B.C. Lanquedoc 'Singapore Welcome'	H & B Viney	3
Paphiopedilum	Paph. Alfred Dimmock	H & V Viney	3
Species Paph.	Appletonianum	R Parish	3
	Sukkakulu	R Parish	2

Division Flower of the Month Fort William 'Hamsey' G & L Spear.

2nd Division

Aust. Native Epi.	Den. Speciosum	A DeIonno	3
" "	Species Sarc. Falcatus	A R & MJ. Moffatt	2
" "	Epi. Den. Speciosum	D & I Attenborough	1
" "	Ter. Ptst. Ingens	I O'Daniel	3
	Ptst. Curta	I O'Daniel	2
Cymbidiums	Narella 'Jennifer Gail'	J & P Lewis	3
	" " "	J & P Lewis	2
	Khyber Pass x Vieux Rose	V J Rogers	1
Mini Cyms	Summer Cloud 'Gowandale'	V J robers	3
	Tommy Amy	D & I Attenborough	2
	" "	M S Steele	1
Intermediate	Oriental Legend 'Samari'	J & P Lewis	3
Cyms	" " "	Peter Lawry	2
	" " " 'Cinnamon'	H. Rozario	1
Cattleyas	Bob Betts x Estelle Alba	C C Burfield	3
	Harrisonia x Digbyana	C C Burfield	2
Dendrobiums	American Beauty	T & d Howard	3
Aust Native	Den. Gracilium	G F Peters	3
Hybrid	Den. Wonga	F R Bell	2
	Den. Wonga	D. Biebrick	1
Paphiopedilum	Ayot x Winston Churchill	T & D Howard	3
	Unknown	M & S Steele	2

Cont.....