



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

Affiliated with the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc. and with The Australian Orchid Council

PATRON: L.R. Grey (Mayor of Marion)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

Issue No.10. Oct. 1974

PRESIDENT:

Mr. Les. Poole,
Sandy Lane,
HACKHAM. 5163.
Ph. 382 3568

HON. SECRETARY:

Mr. Lou. Carr,
89, Sturt St.,
GRANGE. 5022.
Ph. 356 4447

HON. TREASURER:

Mr. John Leeder,
54. Austral Terrace,
MALVERN. 5061.
Ph. 71 7070

Written by Mr. B. Hansen. Printed and Edited by Mrs. I. Nash.

NOTE Tuesday 15th. October is the date for the next meeting, one week later than usual, because of the Show at Marion being held October 6th - 12th.

Mr. Bernie Hansen will be giving a talk on Cymbidiums with a potting demonstration and a little history of the growing of Orchids in South Australia.

Mr. Syd Monkhouse with his normal monthly cultural notes, will include a section especially for novice growers in what is necessary to have and what to look for when starting an Orchid collection.

A critical look at the Spring Show will take place as a discussion.

Notice ANNUAL DINNER payments to be made in full and finalized at the Oct. meeting. The dinner is being held at the Rex Hotel on the 18th. October at \$5.85 per head.

There was a reasonable turn up of members for Moss gathering on Sept. 15th., though I feel a lot more members could have been present. It was a beautiful outing, the forests at Kuitpo are magnificent at this time of the year, abundant fresh air and the kids really enjoyed themselves. The crisp air and the quietness of the forest is really something after the city's noise and smells, so next year remember the club needs the moss and your children get a free days outing on Mother Nature.

Congratulations go to those members who made plants and themselves available for the Orchid Club of S.A. Spring Orchid festival at John Martins, the exhibit was a real credit to their efforts. Les. Poole was as happy as a fire fly on Black Sunday when he found out he won the Grand Champion Cymbidium of the show with Valya Craig "Hackham". Congratulations Les, well done.

I think we all enjoyed Geof. Adams slide programme at the last meeting, his slides as expected were first class, and seeing the latest flowering Cymbidiums interstate, helps us to keep abreast of trends in breeding, and whets our appetite for things to come.

Providing you wear your club badge, floral equipment etc. can be purchased at reduced prices from Mrs. Pawley, Florists Supplies, 95, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville. Ph. 44 3178 or after hours 261 3673.

Well our Spring show is here, the proof of the pudding is now out of the oven, our years efforts can now be put on show, and from the display at the September meeting it should be a good show.

The following is part of an article taken from the papers presented at the Third Australian Orchid Conference held in Adelaide 1973.

COOL GROWING ORCHIDS by Chris Nicholas of Tasmania.

My subject is 'cool growing orchids'. Just what is meant by cool growing I can never establish but taking an average over various publications the answer is a minimum of around 9-11 degrees C. or 48-52 degrees F.

We in Hobart are not fortunate enough to have these conditions. In fact we would sometimes welcome maximum day temperatures of that order. For six months of the year we have minimums considerably below those quoted.

The Orchids I will mention are all grown in our unheated glasshouse at a height of 50 metres or 165 ft. above sea level and approximately 1.5 kilometres, or a little less than a mile, from the river Derwent. These factors help save us from the extremes which occur in the central highlands where nights are consistently below freezing through the colder months of the year. However temperatures below 4 degrees C are not unusual in Hobart and on a few occasions each winter I experience ice on the inside of the glass.

These conditions, coupled with the cold wet southerlies which last for days on end can make culture hazardous, but by paying individual attention to plants and keeping them a little on the dry side many genera can quite successfully be grown without heat, as you will soon see.

I have purposely chosen orchids which are quite well known to the average grower and which in most cases are readily available from your favourite nursery.

One of my first loves in orchid culture was the genus *Dendrobium*, and a typical soft cane hybrid is *Dendrobium Nolan*. Normal fertilizing plus three applications of blood and bone through the growing season will develop canes 1 metre in length. Plenty of light, particularly towards the end of the growing season, then a definite rest period right through till the buds are showing can produce 10.75 cm. blooms.

Dendrobium thyrsiflorum, a species from the Burma area, requires similar conditions but not to the same extremes. It makes its growths up quickly and must be kept moving whilst in active growth.

Dendrobium victoriae-reginae, a native of the Phillipines, comes very close to the elusive blue orchid hybridists are seeking. I have grown this both with and without heat and find no difference in growth. This is probably due to the fact that it frequents higher elevations in nature.

Stanhopea tigrina stands extreme conditions and suspended from the roof in a hanging basket filled with cymbidium compost will give good results. Personally I find the flower grotesque, I can't stand the smell and for these reasons I do not grow it anymore.

Laelias come in two distinct groups. The Brazilian species such as *crispa* or *perrinii* we grow in the heated section but the Mexicans enjoy the cold. I have aneeps growing on a slab of tree fern approx. 38cm. x 23cm. and 4cm. thick. It is suspended from the roof and the fern has a tilt of about 15 degrees from the horizontal to ensure good drainage, otherwise our local tree fern fibre which is very soft and close quickly becomes toxic to the roots. Grown in this way aneeps can be made into quite a pleasing specimen by judicious back-cutting.

Laelia aneeps has been crossed with *Cattleya intermedia* var. *alba* to produce this cold growing novelty. Growth is very compact in all respects so that quite a large plant can be accommodated in a 15cm. pot. My particular plant, which was hybridised by one of our local members, Michael White, flowers in March.

Bifrenaria harrisoniae is another species that is sadly neglected. The rather short receme does nothing for the flowers and a little training may be necessary to clear the leaves. However the very handsome *Cymbidium*-like blooms are well worth the effort. The plant I have is growing on a slab of tree fern but it is equally at home potted in a coarse *Cymbidium* mixture.

When I commenced growing orchids one of my main ambitions was to have year round blooms. Achieving this I turned to year round flowering within a genus. I chose *Oncidium* as this is a genus which really interests me and many of the species and hybrids are suitable for our cold conditions. I envisage the day when Tasmania will be known as the State of the Dancing Ladies.

Colouring is highly variable but the cooler growing plants tend toward browns and yellows largely because of the influence of parents such as *varicosum* for the yellows and *gardneri* and *crispum* var. *grandiflorum* for the browns.

Oncidium Harry Jensen is a good example of a *varicosum* hybrid.

In a direct contrast *Oncidium gardneri* is a glorious chestnut brown species. Crossed with the darker *crispum* var. *grandiflorum* we finish up with this attractive hybrid, not much different from its parents but very floriferous and easy to grow.

Oncidium sarcodes x *leucochilum* is another primary hybrid which combines the colours in an appealing manner. It blooms in November.

Oncidium marshallianum 'Belmont' gained the late Sir John Hall Best an award in N.S.W. about 1960. It was subsequently selfed and I obtained a seedling. I have one particular spike with in excess of 200 blooms.

All my *oncidiums* are growing on sections of tree branches. This way I can maintain control over their watering and this is very essential for good culture under our conditions.

Zygopetalum mackayi hails from Brazil. The unusual colour combination of green and brown tepals form a strong contrast for the white labellum with its mauve-purple veining. Normally considered a warm grower we find it does quite well cold, apart from an occasional black spotting in the leaves. This black spotting is common to quite a few genera which normally enjoy warmer conditions.

I have to apologise for the small bulletin but please forgive me this is a crazy time of the year for me and most Orchid growers, so please bear with me and I promise to make up for it in the November bulletin.

Did you hear about the two Irishmen talking to each other in jail? The first one asked "How long are you in for", and the reply was " Three years for rape". The other man said "I got twelve years for shoplifting". "Thats a bit hot", replied his cell-mate. "Yes", he said, "I only lifted the shop 12 ft. into the air".

LOTTERY TICKETS

If you have not already returned your ticket butts and money, or any unsold tickets, will you please do so immediately, to Mrs. Iris Nash or any of our workers at the Marion show.

CONGRATULATIONS to Merv. Dunn of Valley Orchids Pty. Ltd. on receiving an award of merit by the Royal Horticultural Society in London for his "Sleeping Dream". May all your dreams come true.

Judging results for the September meeting will be printed in the next bulletin.