

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Affiliated with the Orchid Club of S.A. Inc. & the Australian Orchid Council

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MONTHLY NEWS SHEET  
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Written and edited by Mrs. Iris Nash.

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Our next meeting, an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, will be at the R.S.L. Hall, Morphett Vale, on Tuesday May 8th. at 7.30. p.m. Please note the earlier starting time. I hope you have all returned your postal votes to Mr. Peter Summers.

The Amended Constitution will be discussed at this meeting.

Our speaker will be Mr. Kel Staples, who will talk on "Growing Cattleyas", and our judge for night will be Mr. Colin Jennings. Also, we will be showing a few selected slides on Orchid shows and displays.

We will be pleased to have any problems for discussion. Don't be shy, our experts can make startling discoveries for you, as one of our lady members may remember, when it was found that the reason for her Orchid not growing, was due to the fact that her son had knocked it over, and refilled the pot with ordinary garden soil. This Orchid has now made an amazing recovery since being repotted in the proper brew.

At our last meeting held on Tuesday April 10th, we welcomed Mr. Claude Hammond back from his trip. He gave us an unscheduled talk on his visit to Papua New Guinea, where he found things still very primitive, but saw a fantastic collection of Orchids, some growing at altitudes of 11-12000 ft. and probably never been seen before. We found this a most interesting item, and he has written an article which will be published in our next bulletin, for the benefit of any of you who were not present.

One new member was announced, Mick Ryan Orchids, from Enfield.

A steel cupboard has been purchased and will be kept at the R.S.L. hall to store our library books etc.

We have managed to persuade Mr. Syd Monkhouse to judge at our winter show in July. We hope that you will all bring along as many blooms as possible. It is so seldom we see Syd at our meetings, let us all make an effort to give him a worthwhile task. After visiting his new nursery at O'Halloran Hill, it is obvious he has worked very hard to achieve the most delightful setting which he now has. He also has a lot more hard work in front of him, but we wish him great success.

We had quite an interesting talk by Mr. Rex Thompson, on "Twenty years of *Cymbidium* growing". It is somewhat encouraging to know that an experienced grower started off in a very simple way, the same as most of us start, but he seems to have had more than his share of bad luck at first. His first Orchid was a back bulb from Woolworths, then his first big start was 100 back bulbs purchased from Victoria. After carefully growing on to 4 gal bucket size he discovered that all but two of the 100 had virus.

He then became interested in seed raising, but only had poor flowering from his seedlings, & now recommends that to raise seedlings, growers should only hybridise from good parentage.

Clonal multiplication has been Rex's biggest thrill, & he has now produced several Champions, & is a far wiser man as far as Orchids are concerned, after his 20 years experience.

Our judge for the night was Nicky Zurcher, I am sure we all appreciated his comments, & it was nice to see him again after being unable to attend our meetings for sometime.

Results were as follows:-

#### OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	<i>Cyperorchis elegans</i> x <i>pumilum</i> Album	Valley Orchids	3 pts.
Cattleya	<i>C.</i> (rot x <i>forbesii</i> ) x <i>luteola</i>	Mick Chenoweth	3 pts.
	<i>C. bowringiana</i> x Little Angel	Bernie Hansen	2 pts.
	<i>L. purpurata</i> var. <i>Werkhauseri</i> x <i>C. Olivia</i> "Blue Boy"	Mick Chenoweth	1 pt.
Paphiopedilum	Farnost Read	Les Poole	3 pts.
	Ethel	Wes Harris	2 pts.
	Rosy Dawn	Wes Harris	1 pt.
Australian Natives	<i>Dend. phalaenopsis</i>	John Maddren	3 pts
	<i>Liparis reflexa</i>	Wes Harris	2 pts
	<i>Bulbophyllum macphersonii</i>	Wes Harris	1 pt.
Species	<i>Cattleya trianae</i> "Lachousianum"	Geoff Adams	3 pts.
	<i>Paph. charlesworthii</i>	Bernie Hansen	2 pts.
Misc. Genera	<i>Oncid. Aloisii</i> x <i>Stentotes</i> x		
	<i>Milt. wonsceniczii</i>	Mick Chenoweth	3 pts
	Un-named Green Antelope <i>Dend.</i>	Mick Chenoweth	2 pts
	<i>Dend. Pauline</i> "Limberlost"	Wes Harris	1 pt.

#### NOVICE SECTION

Cattleya	<i>C. Blue Boy</i>	Mrs Tregenza	3 pts.
	<i>C. loddigesii</i> x <i>L. purpurata</i>	Harry Nash	2 pts.
	<i>C. Nellie Roberts</i> x		
	<i>L.C. Edgar</i> "Bell Renton"	Mrs Tregenza	1 pt.

We would like to see more entries from our Novice growers, starting with a back bulb from Woolworths could give you a chance of success, be assured, not everyone has to wait twenty years.

Our prize list for our Spring show at Marion is enclosed with this bulletin, and also a copy of our conditions for the Commercial Growers. These conditions may possibly be slightly altered or added to before the date that entries are due.

We will have further details of the show later, but in the meantime will you all start thinking about the number of plants you will have to exhibit. We would like to have a rough idea by June 19th, if possible, before our plan is worked out to submit to Marion Shopping Centre.

Greatly improved lighting will be installed this year, and everything points to it being a really wonderful show. Come on members, let us make it the best in Australia.

### LADIES

Owing to several of our members being on holiday, the next ladies meeting will be held a week later than usual. It will be at Margaret Campbell's home, 43, Ringwood Road, Morphett Vale, on Saturday May 19th, at 2 p.m.

Remember to bring along your attempt at Ikebana.

### NEWSY TITBITS

We all know how quickly children associate things with people that they are closely connected with. This was brought home recently to one of our members when his child was asked at school to draw a Litter-bug. This was done, and the name GRAHAM was given to it. Who is the offending father?

Early to bed, Early to rise. One of our lady members must take this old saying seriously, as she apparently retires when the Channel 10 announcer says "Goodnight boys & girls".

Goodnight Marjorie.

### THIS MONTH'S SELECTION.

Sometimes children can give their parents heart failure. Take the case of ten-year-old Sarah, who was telling her Mother about an adventure on the school bus. "A boy asked me if I was a boy or a girl", she said breathlessly, "and when I said 'I'm a girl', he said 'Prove it', and I did."

"How did you prove it?" her Mother gasped.

"Why," answered Sarah logically, "I showed him my Girl Guide badge!"

How about some more items for our competition? All entries are given a chance of the prize at the end of the year, whether they have been printed in the bulletin or not. Any items of interest, jokes, hints on Orchid growing, etc.

Cultural notes for May ~ See page 4.

CULTURAL NOTES FOR MAY - by Bernie Hansen

**CYMBIDIUMS:** With the advent of wet weather outside waterings can drop off, but don't let the plants get really dry. Autumn and winter can be tricky by being cold and dry, and often plants can dry out. So each week-end check thoroughly. Fertilising can be kept up with your favourite fertilizer. Our winters are reasonably mild and Cymbidiums keep growing all the year round; so there is no need to stop feeding them. Any grower who has early spikes and is contemplating moving them into a flowering house should first clean up the plant, i.e., weed and clean away old husks, trim leaves (remember to sterilise tools between each plant). Each plant should be thoroughly sprayed for Red Spider, slugs, snails and fungi. I would suggest Kelthane or Rogor 40 for Red Spider, Arsenate of lead for slugs & snails. For fungi - Benlate, Panodrench, or any recognised brand on the market. When spraying with an insecticide make sure you do not get any spray on the buds, as this will distort the flowers. After installation sprinkle plenty of snail baits around and on the plants. Stake and tie each spike in a natural upright position. Do not tie the twisty too tightly, as the spike is growing rapidly and must not be choked. Use a figure 8 when tying to stake.

**CATTLEYAS:** Cattleyas should be just about in full bloom, as autumn is the main flowering season for Cattleyas. Because of the multi generic breeding varying flowering times of Cattleyas, most Cattleyas do not stick to specific flowering times, and when well grown, they can flower three or more times in two years. Should any of your Cattleyas be in a potting material that is breaking down, it would be advisable to re-pot immediately as later you could most probably loose the roots due to cold weather. If you cannot re-pot make sure you keep your plants on the dry side. If your glasshouse is heated you can re-pot practically anytime.

**PAPHIOPEDILUMS:** Buds of winter flowering varieties should be showing. Be careful not to water overhead as occasionally water will lodge around the bud, which will help to induce bud rot. This would be most disappointing when you have been waiting for 12 months to see a flower. Feeding of Paphiopedilums can practically stop. Being light feeders and slow growers they just about stop growing through the winter months unless you have them in a house which has a minimum temperature of say 60 degrees (16 Celcius). Water - down to a minimum, just keeping the plants damp. There should soon be enough rain to use a little rainwater on the plants.