



# *The South Coast Orchid Club Inc. Gazette*

*December 1996*

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## **CHRISTMAS MEETING**

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 10th December 1996, Calvary Lutheran Church Hall,  
Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale.  
Benching of plants to be completed by 7-45 pm for judging.  
Meeting commences at 8pm.

**GUEST SPEAKER &  
ACTIVITIES:**

Mr Vic. Goode will speak on Masdevallias.  
Members are asked to bring a small prize for a Giant Raffle.

**HALL SET-UP:**

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

**SUPPER:**

Tea, coffee, cordial and biscuits, pies, pasties and sausage rolls  
will be provided and Members are asked to please bring a plate  
of Christmas goodies.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:**

2pm Thursday 12th December 1996 at South Brighton  
Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South  
Brighton. Members are asked to please bring a small gift and  
also a plate of Christmas goodies for Afternoon tea.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

There are still a few seats left for the Christmas Dinner at 12  
noon, at the Warradale Hotel, Diagonal Road on the 15th  
December. Cost \$14 per head for the Carvery. Please advise  
Helen Edwards or Graham Shevlin as soon as possible.

After a short delay, due to the absence of a Treasurer who was gallivanting overseas, Keith Northcote welcomed members, including several new ones.

It was one of those days that the Guest Speaker would rather forget, when the slides were loaded incorrectly because 2 projectors had cartridges that went in opposite directions, and you know what happens when you try to fix things in a hurry, they just become worse.

Anyway the slide program gave ME the opportunity to show our slides of South America and the World Orchid Conference in Rio to a captive Audience. Thank you for your patience.

Winners on the Bench were : *Laelia purpurata* x C. Blue Boy and C. Irene Holquin grown by K. Northcote, and *Cymbidium Leroy* x *pumilum* grown by N. Gitsham.

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 1997 Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Inc. will be held on Tuesday February 11th, 1997 commencing at 8.00pm at the Calvary Lutheran Church Hall, Morphett Vale.

At the A.G.M. the election of Officers for 1997 will be held.

The following positions require nominations : President, Vice Presidents (2), Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Committee members (2).

Nominations forms are available from Phil O'Brien on 82983773 or at the next meeting.

All nominations must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary, Phil O'Brien, by no later than the close of the 1996 December meeting on 10th.

Members will also be asked to assist in the positions of-

Show Marshall, Tea Person, Librarian, Editor of Gazette, Trading Table Convenor, Daytime Chapter Chairperson, Registrar of Judges, Publicity Officer, Social/Liaison Officer, Hosts or Hostesses.

**Please** give your consideration to any of the above positions.

You must be a financial member to vote .

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**NEW MEMBERS**

It is with pleasure we welcome to the Club:

Ron Cocks of Marion

Kay Johninke of Ascot Park

Peter Jury of Hackham West and

Graham & Patricia Smith of Hackham West

**WHY DON'T MY *CYMBIDIUMS***

**FLOWER?**

by Peter Chiles

*Cymbidiums* vary a lot in their capacity to flower well with lots of spikes. There are a number of factors involved but once you are aware of them you will be able to get lots of spikes on your plants.

**Is it because the plant variety doesn't grow or flower well?**

I guess that the first thing to get right is the variety (or plant name) of the plants that you grow. Different varieties vary enormously in their ability to flower well so it follows that it is wise to get ones that are free flowering. The better flowering ones will grow well and flower well every year with an increased number of spikes each year. There are a number of varieties that don't grow and flower well and some of these will flower only every second year - or even less often. As a commercial grower I encourage people to go with the easier to flower varieties as they are more rewarding. For new growers I believe that it is essential to start with easy to flower varieties as they will give more flowers. In general many miniature and intermediates have the capacity to grow and flower well as compared to lots of the standard varieties.

Everyone is attracted to different colours and various other features of the plants and flowers, ( size of bloom, flowering time and spike habit, pendulous, straight up or arching) but make sure it is easy to flower. Quite often new varieties flower with good quality show

flowers in an exciting new colour...maybe even a Grand Champion. The plant may even get an award and be highly sought after, *but it may only flower every three years*. Some of these types of plants have even been mericloned and widely distributed before this adverse flowering trait has been noticed. This general problem is not adequately publicised in the orchid press or some *Cymbidium* Catalogues. Despite all this a number of growers persist with plants that don't flower easily because they can still win prizes on the showbench with them.

### **Do you look out for plants that are easy to flower?**

To compound this problem a number of these varieties are harder to grow well. It is only the best growers (often the best showbench growers) that ever flower and show these plants. But when they win again on the showbench this creates more demand for the plant. The most notorious plants that I know

of for poor growth (and subsequently poor flowering) are some of the best reds, dark colours and most of the pure colours. The main reason that these plants don't grow well is that they often drop their leaves and go to backbulbs and they can't keep enough green leaves on the plants to do well. This is a strong genetic trait that has been bred along in some breeding lines.

### **Is the location and spacing of my plants incorrect?**

The next most important factor is to grow your plants in a location where they get full sunlight via shade cloth for most of the day if possible. In this regard about 50% to 70% shade cloth is suitable. White 70% shade cloth is very good as it scatters more light from the sky and gives better, and much brighter, growing conditions for the whole year including a degree of protection from light frosts.

Perhaps one of the easiest things to get right is the spacing of the plants and the basic rule here is to space them well apart so that the leaves from adjacent plants do not overlap to a great degree. For smaller flowering sized plants this usually means a full pot width between adjacent pots. Even more is required between pots that carry large specimen plants. With average sized plants in 8" pots this equates to about 4 or 5 pots across a 6 foot wide bench.

*Spacing is crucial. I have seen flowering severely reduced by plants being too close together.* Even if everything else is right you can get a lot less flowers! (Smaller plants that are not up to flowering size are often grown closer for space considerations and this seems to work out fairly well.) Lots of commercial growers, ourselves included, space their plants in the Spring before they are going to flower and this ensures a good first flowering with lots of the

better varieties giving an average of three or four spikes depending entirely on the variety if all other factors are right.

### **Is my fertiliser program timing incorrect?**

Assuming that you have good free draining potting mix that grows the plants well then you are on the right track. But, all other factors being equal, you can get more spikes by starving mature plants after Christmas until the flower spikes appear. This is the response of the plants to the extra stress. It follows that the quality and number of flowers will be down but it is a sure way to get flowers.

*If the strength or application rate of a high nitrogen fertiliser is increased after Christmas you will get less spikes and a tendency for more growth shoots.* I know because one year we used extra high nitrogen fertiliser after Christmas and we only got about 20% of our normal spikes. It must be noted that to get spikes in the first place the plants must generally have gotten up to a good size. As I mentioned before some varieties that are poor growers make this hard to achieve.

### **Is it because I don't prune them?**

Leopard Lady 'Mary Smith' is about average with its flowering. I have seen two spikes to a bulb on well grown plants. I reckon that it needs good spacing to do well as I have seen a batch flowering that hadn't been spaced out and only half of them flowered even though they were up to flowering size. Only a few varieties will flower when closely spaced. Leopard Lady 'Mary Smith' does have one tendency that may reduce or stop flowering and this is its tendency to produce two leads from every bulb each year. What I am going to say also applies to many other plants. This production of multiple growth shoots means that

the plant has to grow more mature bulbs. The plant is referred to as a good grower. However if the plant is not grown very well there is a tendency for the plant to produce smaller bulbs that do not necessarily flower.

### **Why not try pruning those excess shoots?**

There is an easy way to fix this problem. *Prune off the excess shoots!* For a start the bulbs can be limited to one shoot per bulb. To prune the shoots uses a newly sterilised knife for each plant to prevent the spread of virus. Try to remove the whole shoot. If you leave a little of the shoot base it may easily reshoot. The time to prune excess shoots to promote bigger bulbs and better flowering is in January or when the new shoots have reached a reasonable size. The effect of the pruning is to guide more energy into the remaining shoots that will therefore develop into bigger bulbs that will be much more likely to flower for you. An easy guide as to whether any plant needs this treatment is to look at the size of the bulbs. If you have purchased a flowering sized plant then after a year or so the new bulb size should be similar to the bulbs already on the plant. If they are smaller pruning can help increase the size.

### **Why not try a few experiments?**

Assuming that you have some good named plants there are a few drastic experiments that you might like to try for this coming flowering season. Try putting a few plants in full sun anywhere in your backyard - it may burn the leaves but it should give you lots of spikes. Try pruning a few plants of any excess shoots, try starving any big plants that haven't flowered previously and try giving your plants lots of space in between. These are drastic steps.

These steps should all be tried soon as the spike initiation period is during the next few months for most early varieties. This will give you a month or so for these steps to take effect. Ideally these measures can be applied from Spring when their effect will be greater and the plants will not get many burnt leaves as the leaves will have acclimatised to the hot days.

Many of my customers who have had poor flowering have reported lots of flowers when their plants have grown in full sun or in much brighter locations. One of the main problems is that people, after admiring the beautiful flowers, assume that the plants are tender and they then grow them in a shaded and sheltered situation with ferns.

I hope that these notes and observations will help you to get better results from your plants.

Peter Chiles

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Blc's Cyn

Lead me gently to that place where your prized orchids grow  
There teach me as your Cultivar to let all Species know  
It is not I who does the work or tends each shooting lead  
My hands are yours and yours are mine the outcome good in deed.

Yet if the others never know this is how it's done  
Quietly I'll tend the racemes reaching towards the sun  
Caring not that they don't see just whose plan's entrenched  
For you and I know who they are as champions are benched.

Which in time will blossom forth and bear new life released  
As gardeners everywhere like us learn their toil has ceased  
For every type of grower here at once will find such might  
When each serves as a cultivator who found You through the light.

As by your sun they walk with You where gardens are no-more  
Beyond the valley fertile here outside my shade-house door  
As One they'll bloom forever way past infinity  
A glass-house rich with love's own seed and known as Trinity.

Adapted: GARDEN. (C) 1985 John Wood, Words of Praise Vol 2.  
Pub. 1986. American Poetry Association .ISBN 0-88147-018-x

**CATTLEYA BOW BELLS : FLOWER OF THE MONTH**  
**grown by Graham and Wendy Shevlin.**

*Cattleya* Bow Bells was registered by Black and Flory of England in 1948. It is a crossing between Edithiae and Suzanne Hye. Between 1959 and 1960 this beautiful white dominated the American Orchid Society awards with 49 honors.

In later years one of its famous off-spring *Cattleya* Bob Betts followed its parent with 66 awards in 1952. Several other Bow Bells hybrids also 'did well', including C. Pearl Harbor, C. Empress Bells and C. Mary Lynn Mckenzie.

Shevlin's specimen plant of *Cattleya* Bow Bells was a sight to behold. It's many large pristine white flowers would have been a joy to many a florist and probably to many brides as well.

Congratulations.

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**MONTHLY FLORAL COMPETITION RESULTS**

**SECOND DIVISION**

**Judges: G. Brooks  
K. Northcote  
R. Moore**

Aust. Nat. Epi: Species	<i>Sarco. ceciliae</i>	H. Herrmann	3
	<i>Den. kingianum</i>	H. Herrmann	2
Inter. Cymbidium	Mimi x Rincon	D. & J. Higgs	3
Std. Cattleya	Bc. Moroniae	G. & M. Voskamp	3
Novelty Cattleya	Lc. Chicanery x Jalapa	J. Dudley	3
	Summer Stars	N. Gitsham	2
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Chicanery x Slc. Tangerine Jewel	D. & J. Higgs	3
	C. Unknown	N. Gitsham	2
Other Laeliinae	Epc. Siam Jade	H. Herrmann	3
Miscellaneous	Epi. Lavender Lady	W. & R. Clark	3
Phalaenopsis	Chia Yi Spot x <i>stuartiana</i>	H. Herrmann	3
Odont./onc. Alliance	Oda Mary's Peak x Odcm. Sunie Valley	H. Herrmann	3
	Oda. Statelight Perfection	H. Herrmann	2
	Odcdm. Artur Elle x Oda. Lincade	H. Herrmann	1
Species	<i>Bif. harrisoniae</i>	N. Gitsham	3
	<i>Bif. harrisoniae</i>	W. & R. Clark	2
	<i>Bif. harrisoniae</i>	G. & M. Voskamp	1
Zygopetalum	Blue Lake x Grand Prix	N. Woodend	3
	Agwa. Kiwi Sunrise	D. & J. Higgs	2

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**

***Oda. Mary's Peak x Odcdm. Sunie Valley grown by Helmut Herrmann***

# FIRST DIVISION

**Judge: K. Northcote  
G. Brooks  
R. Moore**

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Sarco. hartmanni</i> 'Wendy'	B. Fisher	3
Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	<i>Sarco. Melba</i>	B. Fisher	2
	<i>Sarco. Fitzhart</i>	B. Fisher	2
	<i>Sarco. Melba</i>	B. Fisher	1
Std. Cymbidium	Chocolada 'Christine'	G. & D. McMartin	3
	Hamsey 'The Globe'	M. Tiggeman	2
Inter. Cymbidium	Tiger Tail	M. Tiggeman	3
Mini. Cymbidium	Bunyip	M. Tiggeman	3
	<i>pumilum</i> x Canaro	M. Tiggeman	2
	Bedevere	M. Tiggeman	1
Std. Cattleya	C. Bow Bells	G. & W. Shevlin	3
	Lc. Aquí Finn	C. Ameer	2
	Blc. Blumen Insel	C. Ameer	1
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Pipsqueak 'Angel Wings'	J. Lewis	3
	C. Guatemalensis	R. & I. Parish	2
Dendrobium	(Doreen x N24) x (Anduk x Sagarik)	C. Ameer	3
	Pale Doreen	C. Ameer	2
	Jiad Gold	C. Ameer	1
Std. Paphiopedilum	Roger x Gigi	R. & I. Parish	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Treasure Island x Maudiae	R. & I. Parish	3
	Callo Day x <i>sukhakulii</i>	R. & I. Parish	2
	Maudiae coloratum	R. & I. Parish	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>lawrenceanum</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>hirsutissimum</i>	R. & I. Parish	2
	<i>barbatum</i>	R. & I. Parish	1
Species	<i>Onc. papilio</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>C. loddigesii</i>	M. Tiggeman	2
	<i>Onc. urophyllum</i>	R. & I. Parish	1
Zygopetalum Alliance	Kiwi Choice	M. Tiggeman	3
	Adelaide Meadows	R. & I. Parish	2

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**  
***Cattleya Bow Bells* grown by Wendy & Graham Shevlin**

# OPEN DIVISION

**Judges:** K. Northcote  
R. Moore  
G. Brooks

Aust. Nat. Epi: Species	<i>Sarco. fitzgeraldi</i>	R. Moore	3
	<i>Sarco. hartmanni</i>	R. Moore	2
	<i>Den. discolor</i>	B. Wyly	1
Aust. Nat. Epi: Hybrid	<i>Sarco. Melba</i>	R. Moore	3
	<i>Sarco. Pinkhart</i> x <i>Empress</i>	K. Northcote	2
Aust. Nat. Terr: Hybrid	<i>Diuris sulphurea</i> x <i>brevifolia</i>	D. Biebrick	3
Intermediate Cymbidium	<i>Peter Piper</i> x <i>Sensation</i>	K. Northcote	3
	Hearts of Gold 'Enfield'	H. Gerber	2
Mini. Cymbidium	Mad Magic 'Amber'	H. Gerber	3
	Pee Wee 'Brownray'	H. Gerber	2
	Sunshine Falls 'Green Fantasy'	H. Gerber	1
Std. Cattleya	<i>C. Irene Holguin</i> 'Sweet Spring'	K. Northcote	3
	<i>L. purpurata</i> x <i>C. Olivia</i>	K. Northcote	2
Nov. Cattleya	Blc. Adelaide Silver	P. & G. Flavel	3
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Trick or Treat x Lc. Rojo	B. Wyly	3
	Bc. Maikai	K. Northcote	2
Other Laeliinae	Lctna. Tina	B. Wyly	3
	<i>L. anceps</i> x <i>Ctna. Keith Roth</i>	B. Wyly	2
	Lctna. Tina	B. Wyly	1
Dendrobium	Yodogimi 'No 1'	P. & G. Flavel	3
Phalaenopsis	Dtps. Praslin x Zuma White Puff	M. & R. Bray	3
	Dtps. Praslin x Zuma White Puff	M. & R. Bray	2
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Meon	P. & G. Flavel	3
	Pop Monkhouse	D. Biebrick	2
	<i>boxalii</i> x Radiant Tiger	D. Biebrick	1
Species	<i>L. sincorana</i>	R. & B. Wilson	3
Zygopetalum Alliance	Titanic	T. DeLonno	3

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**  
***Sarco. fitzgeraldii* grown by Rosalie Moore**