



# *The South Coast Orchid Club Inc. Gazette*

*March 1996*

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**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 12th March 1996 , Calvery 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 :**

Mr Colin Jennings , Registrar of A.O.C. will address the  
meeting. His subject will be Cool Growing Orchids.

**HALL SET-UP :**

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

**SUPPER:**

Tea, Coffee, Cordial and Biscuits will be provided.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:**

2pm Thursday 14th March 1996 pm. at South Brighton  
Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South  
Brighton. Australian Terrestrial Orchids will again be the topic  
for this meeting. (See note inside)

**VALE:**

It is with regret I inform you of the passing of Mr Ralph Barrett.  
In recent years Ralph came to the Daytime group.  
Only the other day someone said to me "remember that  
beautiful Phalaenopsis that Ralph had at a Meeting". Our  
deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs Barrett and Family on the  
loss of a real gentleman.

"A good New Year of orchid growing" was extended to all members at the Daytime Chapter by Keith Northcote with a special welcome to two new members. Two 'regulars' Glen Gilchrist and Allan Lowe, were both on the sick list and unable to attend.

Native Terrestrial Orchids was the topic for the meeting and Keith had an attractive chart on display showing both flowers and details of many of these little beauties from South Eastern Australia. It was then over to an interesting slide programme as presented by Les Nesbitt at the 1st Australasian Native Orchid Conference held in Wollongong in 1990. The slides showed the great variety in form and colour of a number of different species of which there are many hundreds.

A great favourite is the *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods) which comprise a most distinctive family with the hooded, pointed dorsal & sepals following right through. They are very hardy and easy to grow.

*Thelymitras* (commonly called Sun Orchids because they open only in bright sunlight) are regarded by some as the most beautiful of the Australian terrestrial orchids, with many colour variations of the graceful flower.

*Diuris* usually have two prominent rounded petals on 'short stalks' resembling ears which gives it the common name of Donkey Orchid. These multiply well naturally and hints on how to propagate were also given.

There is a great variety in appearance among the genus *Caladenia* which includes the Spider Orchids and the beautiful Blue Fairies.

*Glossodias* or Waxlip Orchids are not easy to cultivate often rotting in the dormant season. They rank high as one of the most beautiful of the Australian Terrestrial ranging from white to deep purple.

Jane Higgs told the meeting of the many terrestrials found on their property -some quite rare- growing in swampy conditions.

Of the benched orchids Keith chose the *Cymbidium* Minuet - D. and J. Simmons, which was also the choice of members followed by Blc. Ranger Six x C. Angelwalker - H. Edwards and *Phalaenopsis* Puerto Princesa - K. Northcote as third choice.

After the close of the meeting a special afternoon tea (to celebrate the '21st' birthday of the author of this article) and chat were enjoyed by members.

### **DAYTIME PROGRAM Keith Northcote**

During the next few months the Daytime Chapter will be viewing slides of Native Terrestrial Orchids from WA., Tas., Vic., and Queensland and maybe an adventure among orchids in New Guinea. Members who are particularly interested in native orchids should make an effort to attend these Daytime meetings. Visitors from other Clubs are also welcome. Then in October we expect that Bruce Mules of Port Pirie will chat to us about all kinds of Native orchids and the 3rd Australasian Native Orchid Conference that will have recently ended.

### **GET WELL WISHES**

Once again we have several members on the sick list. Our thoughts are with you. Please get well soon.

### **WELCOME**



Welcome to new members Lois Glanfield of Seaview Downs and Alan Jones of Hallett Cove. Happy Orchid Growing.

Your Show number is on the label on the front of this Gazette.

September 25 will see the 3rd Australasian Native Orchid Conference come to Adelaide. It promises to be a great event. Australasian Orchids will obviously be the theme of the conference but it is the intention of the Organising Committee to provide a focus on conservation. Details of this are still being finalised. It will include a gathering of the ANOS conservation officers together with other involved groups. Within the main conference lectures Les Nesbitt will pick up that theme with his paper entitled "Conservation of Orchids on a Bush Block"

In conjunction with the conference a Photographic competition is to held. The only qualification for this is that all photos be of Australasian Native Orchids.

Flinders University will provide the venue for the conference. It would be difficult to imagine a better setting. It allows all functions associated with the conference to be held within a compact area and in addition provides a picturesque location with views of the hills and coast line.

**Registration fee is \$100 if paid before 31st March.**

Here's just a few of the 20 speakers that you can hear if you attend the 3rd Australasian Native Orchid Conference to be held in Adelaide SA in September 1996.

**Lorraine Fagg** Subject: Line breeding  
*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*

Lorraine first became interested in *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* about 31 years ago when she accompanied her Father and a friend for a walk in the Bellingen- Dorrigo area. Lorraine says, "after walking for about 1 1/2 hours with ticks, leaches etc I saw my first *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*. I knew this was what I wanted to grow, this was for me."

Lorraine has been hybridizing for about 10 years attempting to gain additional size and colour. Some of the species she has given cultivar names to include- *Sarco fitzgeraldii* 'Red Eye', 'Cara', & 'The Clown'.

**Ted Gregory** Hybridising with  
Dendrobium Willowie Gold.

Ted operates Merrellen Nursery in the beautiful Mount Tambourine (Qld) area. He has a wide knowledge of NSW and Qld Dendrobiums and is a very entertaining speaker.

**Walter Upton** Hybridising with the  
genus *Dendrobium* in Australian

Wal came to Australia from England in 1950. He is a well known hybridizer of Australian native *Dendrobiums*. With his wife Jill he owns Double U Orchids. He is the author of *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*, and a great little book on *Sarcochilus*.

**Ron Heberle** Caladenias of Western  
Australia

Ron is coming over from Western Australia. He has done considerable work with WA native orchids in particular the Caladenias.

**Wayne Harris** The evolution and  
distribution of the Australasian Orchids.

A former South Australian, is coming down from Queensland. This should prove a very interesting topic.

**Mark Clements** A u s t r a l i a n  
*Dendrobium* Taxonomy.

How many times have we cursed the 'new names' that we have to learn for our species? Well now we can hear the whys and wherefores from the person who knows all the answers.

**Don Gowanlock** Virus in Australian  
Native Orchids.

That dreadful word VIRUS is also going to raise its ugly head. Don has been out in the field

again and has some news that we may or may-not like to hear.

### **Malcolm Campbell** Hybridising between Australian and New Zealand Genera.

The New Zealand Native Orchids get a mention too with Malcolm venturing over from the Land of the Long White Cloud.

### **Geoff Stocker & Neville Howcroft**

These gentlemen will represent Papua New Guinea on the speakers program. Geoff will speak on selected Papua New Guinea species while Neville will provide the conference registrants with "An introduction to Papuan Spathoglottis".

More details of the conference can be obtained by writing to Conference Organising Committee, Box 565 UNLEY, SA 5061 or ringing Gerry Carne telephone 08 3327730.

### **"NOT TONIGHT DEAR"....**

**By Jeff Knowles Editor of The Townsville Orchid Society Inc. Bulletin.**

Have your orchids ever said to you "Not tonight dear, I'm not feeling too well",? If they have, then maybe the answer is to give them an aspirin.

This may not seem as far fetched as first appears, as scientists have found the salicylic acid - the active component of aspirin - triggers a plant's defences against disease.

"The discovery raises the possibility of protecting plants from fungal, bacterial and viral infections by activating a plant's natural defences. It also suggests that salicylic acid behaves like a hormone, and may trigger other processes inside plants."

So far the research has discovered:-

(a) plants have long been known to make their own aspirin.

(b) synthetic aspirin can cause plants to open pores in their leaves, leak nutrients from their roots, grow leaves and sometimes flower etc.

(c) the voodoo lily, *Sauromatum guttatum*, produces a surge of salicylic acid (over 100 times), the day before flowering.

(d) tobacco mosaic viruses were prevented from multiplying by injecting the tobacco plants with aspirin.

(e) the amount of salicylic acid in tobacco

plants surged five-fold before any signs of infection of the tobacco mosaic virus were in evidence. This surge then set off the manufacture of disease fighting proteins.

(f) similar conclusions have been found for the triggering of disease resistance in cucumber plants.

(g) tentative evidence exists that salicylic acid prepares plant defences against physical stress.

For orchid growers this raises all sorts of questions.

(1) Do orchid plants produce salicylic acid? If so for what purpose.

(2) Can salicylic acid be sprayed on to orchids and will they absorb it? Will it do any good if they do?

(3) Is anyone using this method of disease control with orchids?

(4) Will applications control flowering in orchids?

(5) How much and how often is useful?  
etc., etc., etc.,

Maybe by feeding your orchids an aspirin, they will become happy little plants and never, never, never say those dreaded words - "Not tonight dear."

For more information see-  
Simons, Paul, "Aspirin Helps the Garden Grow".  
New Scientist, 5 January 1991.

## SPECIES

It is interesting to see where the species orchids that we saw on the bench at the February meeting actually grow in the wild.

Name	Country of Origin	Conditions preferred
<i>Aeranthus grandiflorum</i>	Madagascar	Warm
<i>Cattleya forbesii</i>	Brazil	Intermediate
<i>Cattleya bicolor</i>	Brazil	Intermediate
<i>Cattleya guttata</i>	Brazil	Intermediate
<i>Epidendrum cochleatum</i>	Central America	Cool - Inter
<i>Epidendrum radiatum</i>	Florida - Brazil	Cool - Inter
<i>Grammatophyllum scriptum</i>	Papua,NG, Phillipines,Borneo,Celebus	Warm - Hot
<i>Laelia flava</i>	Brazil	Warm
<i>Laelia xanthina</i>	Brazil	Warm
<i>Sarcochilus ceciliae</i>	Australia	Cool

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Usually at the night-time cultural meeting members are advised that our Secretary, Phil, has pinned some interesting catalogues or notes to the notice board at the front of the Hall, well, let me tell you they are often worth a perusal.

From the notices to go on the board this month we have already placed an order for a plant we have not seen advertised anywhere else. Costly little exercise though.

## ORCHIDS AUSTRALIA

The most informative magazine Orchids Australia is available for \$6-50 at both our meetings. The February issue has a very interesting article on Virus written by Don Gowanlock from the University of Queensland.

Also in that issue is something about surfing. I didn't quite 'get it' all myself, in fact I didn't 'get' too much of it at all, but it has something to do with the InterNet for those who are interested.

## GLASS-HOUSE HUMIDITY

**Charlie Edwards**

At this time of the year it's always difficult to maintain the humidity in the hot house. There are lots of ways people go about lifting the humidity. The simplest would be watering the floor at intervals during the day. This process can be automated by fitting sprays under the benches and connecting them via an automated control system.

From experience I have found that humidifiers that put out a very fine water vapour that hangs in the air to be the best method. The improvement in plant growth is quite noticeable.

Do I have a humidifier now? No! The unit I did have did not stand up to Adelaide's water and was quite expensive. There are now other units on the market that are excellent but the price is out-side of my range.

What is the answer? The other night at the cultural meeting Richard Wilson had a very fine mister jet. It is designed to keep chook houses cool. The mist is not as fine as that provided by humidifiers but it's getting close to it. After having a play with the jet Richard lent me I raced off to RM Plastics and bought a couple for my self. My first attempt to install them was with the poly pipe run already existing in the glass house. All I had to do was block up the existing spray jet holes and install the two misters. Then the big test. I turned on the tap, stood back to admire my handy work when it went of like a shot gun. One of the joints did not stand up to the pressure. I reassembled that joint checked all the others and tried again. Another deafening bang as another joint gave way.

Back to the drawing board. I have now installed a run of high pressure PVC pipe along the length of the glass house ready to try again when the joints have set. I'll let you know the results **when** it is working.

# MONTHLY FLORAL COMPETITION RESULTS

## OPEN DIVISION

**Judge:**

**K. Northcote**

**P. Rankin**

**G. Brooks**

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Sarco. ceciliae</i> 'Cleveland Bay'	R. Moore	3
Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon	D. Biebrick	2
Inter. Cymbidium	Peggy Sue 'Five'	M.& R. Bray	3
	Willunga 'Eyecatcher'	M.& R. Bray	2
	Mini Lady 'Magic Wand'	M.& R. Bray	1
Std. Cattleya	Blc. Ranger Six x C. Angelwalker	C.& H.Edwards	3
	C. <i>schroederae</i> x Cherry Chip	C.& H. Edwards	1
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Valentine Day 'Leanne'	T. DeIonno	3
Nov. Cattleya	C.( <i>guttata</i> x <i>bicolor</i> )	P.& G. Flavel	3
	Bc. Jackson Majewski	R.& B. Wilson	2
	C. Penny Kuroda x Little Dipper	R.& B.Anderson	1
Cocktail Cattleya	C(Candy tuft x Angelwalker)	C.& H. Edwards	3
	C. Lana Coryell	R.& B. Anderson	2
Other Laeliinae	<b>*Ctna. Lavender Maid</b>	P.& G. Flavel	3
	Lctna. Tina	R.& B. Wilson	2
Dendrobium	Kanbull's Gold	J. Nicholls	3
Phalaenopsis	Dtps. Coral Gleam x Malibu Queen	M. & R. Bray	2
	(Wataboushi x Yukimai) x (Dawn Hunter x George Remaly)	M. & R. Bray	1
Std. Paphiopedilum	Amanda 'Madge'	R. & B. Wilson	2
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Harrisianum 'Black Knight'	D. Biebrick	3
	Redstart x St. Swithin	D. Biebrick	2
	<i>haynaldianum</i> x Heartease	D. Biebrick	1
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	<i>Milt regnellii</i> x <i>spectabilis</i> .	R. & B. Wilson	3
Species	<i>Grammatophyllum scriptum</i>	J. Nicholls	3
	<i>Epidendrum cochleatum</i>	T. DeIonno	2
	<i>Cymbidium suavissimum</i>	R. Moore	1
Vandaceous	T.M.A.	J. Nicholls	3
	Jennifer Tokuno 'Blue'	R.& B.Anderson	2

**\*New registration**

### FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:

***Cattleya Valentine Day 'Leanne' grown by Tony DeIonno***

**FIRST DIVISION**

**Judges:** **K.H. Northcote**  
**P. Rankin**  
**G. Brooks**

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Den. prenticei</i>	M. Tiggeman	3
	<i>Sarco. ceciliae</i>	M. Cunningham	2
	<i>Bulb. schillerianum</i>	M. Cunningham	1
Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Parachilus (Sarco.Pinkhart x Pt. <i>hirticalcar</i> )	B. Fisher	3
	Parachilus Polka Dot	B. Fisher	2
	(Francis x <i>Sarco. fitzgeraldii</i> ) 'Red Strand'	B. Fisher	1
Std. Cattleya	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song	W.& D.Cook	3
	C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn'	C. Amee	2
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Valentine Day	C. Amee	3
	Pot. Hoku Gem	C. Amee	2
	C.Chocolate Drop x Bl. Richard Mueller	C. Amee	1
Dendrobium	Golden Sands x <i>canaliculatum</i>	C. Amee	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Helvetia	C. Amee	3
	Transvaal	R.& I.Parish	2
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>hirsutissimum</i>	R.& I.Parish	3
Species	<i>Aeranthes grandiflorum</i>	R.& I.Parish	3
	<i>Epidendrum radiatum</i>	A.& M.Moffatt	2
	<i>Laelia xanthina</i>	R.& I.Parish	1

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**

***C. Valentine Day* grown by Chas Amee**

**SECOND DIVISION**

**Judges:** **G.Brooks**  
**K. Northcote**  
**P. Rankin**

Novelty Cattleya	C. (Summer Stars x <i>forbesii</i> )	N. Gitsham	3
	C. (Summer Stars x <i>forbesii</i> )	N. Gitsham	2
Other Laeliinae	<i>L. flava</i> x <i>B. glauca</i>	J. Dudley	3
Miscellaneous	Epi. Boundii	W. & R. Clark	3
	Epi. Andersons Special	N. Gitsham	2
Phalaenopsis	Plantation Moonglow	W.& R. Clark	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Berenice	G. Richardson	3
	Harrisianum 'Black Knight'	J.& P.Beasley	2
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>glaucophyllum</i>	G. Richardson	3
Odont/Oncidium	Miltonia Yvonne	?	3
Alliance			
Species	Gongora galeata	P. & L. Fenton	3
Zygopetalum	Unknown	J. Kelly	3

**FLOWER OF THE DIVISION:**

***Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum* grown by Geoff Richardson**