

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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MONTHLY MEETING

Noice is hereby given that the next Monthly Meeting will be held at the Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Court, CHRISTIE DOWNS on Tuesday 13th, March, at 8 p.m.

The main item on the programme will be a movie film "Close Encounters of the Floral Kind" and has been prepared by Mr. & Mrs Don May. We would point out that this is to be a premiere showing of this film which features 48 different kinds of orchids from a collection of each of 8 growers. It sounds exciting and we hope to have an enthusiastic audience captivated in appreciation of the time and care that must have been spent by our fellow members Mr & Mrs May in the preparation of the film. Supper raffle, Trading Table, Plant Cmpetition and commentary will be as usual with the evening concluding as we join the ladies in supper. Members are reminded that Garden Week is fast approaching and The Committee are hoping that some members will be able to indicate at this meeting (March) what orchids could be in flower and available on loan for this event. Easter Monday April 23rd is the day when these plants will be required. The Garden Week Committee have plans for S.C.O.C. to be well in the forefront at this event and do ask for members enthusiastic support.

Apology is made for the lack of colour on this the first page of your club Gazette but because of the change of method made necessary for us to photostat our magazine now, temporarily at least we will not be able to use our usual green printed heading. This matter can possibly be adopted again at a later stage after inquiry into other printing venues.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the Committee has been formed for 1984 with the election at the Annual General Meeting in February of Mr. Malcolm Mangelsdorf as President, Mr. Tony DeInno and Mr. John Nicholls as Committee members. Mr. Harry Viney remains on the Committee as immediate Past President and continuing members are Mr. Geoff Spear and Mr. Terry Howard.

Elected unopposed: Secretary Mrs. Shirley Stirling and Mr Lewis Moore, Treasurer.

At the subsequent Committee meeting in February, Mr. John Leeder was appointed as Senior Vice President and Show Secretary, while Mrs Brenda Lynch was again appointed Junior Vice President.

Continuing as Editor of the Gazette, Mr. Frank Bell.

To those of us who were present at the Annual General Meeting it was refreshing to have our new President introduce himself to the members in such a clear fashion. Thank you Malcolm and we all wish you success in your new position.

Though not an old Orchid Club by any means The South coast Orchid Club has some history. It has much to be thankful for to many fine men and women who have devoted much time and energy over the years. Sadly much of their achievements are not recorded but, as some older copies of the Club Gazette have been retained in our club library it is your current editors hope that a more efficient method can be made up and be available for members to peruse as soon as possible. this subject was discussed briefly at the first committee meeting for 1984 and permission was given that we appeal to any of our members who may still retain older records, particularly old copies of the club Gazette and past Show results that could be used either for copying or outright gift. Our present library has copies of the Gazette from November 1973 (1 only), April, October, November & December for 1974. The year 1975 copies of the March & October months only are held. From the years 1976 & 1977: No copies at all. In 1978 all months are in hand with the exception of February & March. The months of May & December are missing from 1979 issues. The copies of May, July, August, October & December are missing from 1980. During 1981 copies were not retained from February, March, April & December. Since that time all Gazettes have been retained and we are endeavouring to complete as full a record as is possible in hard cover folders that will be able to be borrowed through the club library for members. Should any past or present members be able to help with the missing Gazettes or earlier copies than those quoted above, your editor will be most thankful. If it is necessary I will call at a convenient time to both parties to pick up any old copies. My particulars are, Mr. F. Bell, 28A Tucker Street, SOUTH BRIGHTON, 5048, Phone 296 6968. Your co-operation in this project will be greatly appreciated and possibly an important link that will assist all club members to be more fully acquainted with our history.

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

March. The month of much excitement, well perhaps for those of us who really care about our hobby, because this is the best month for discovery. Discovery? Yes the much sought after results of the last few months and perhaps, years of care and often very hard experience learned in the school of hard knocks and disappointments.

How many spikes have you found for this year's flowers? Before we progress further remember that this month doesn't end it all as later flowering varieties can still appear during April and a few still in May and June. Indications are very evident already that we have been fortunate in the ideal conditions nature has given us this summer for spike initiation. Bright warm days and quite a few cooler nights which keep our plants growing well and more importantly, setting spikes. Don't stop your good care now that things have progressed this far as a lot of attention is still required to bring the emerging raceme into a final state worthy of the show bench or for your Wife, Mother, Girlfriend or whatever.

Perhaps too, this is the time to stocktake a little and consider the reason that, why is it that your plants are not showing spikes this month too. Providing that they are old and mature enough to bloom and of course, if they are early flowering varieties. Not for a moment are we trying to decry any hybridiser or nursery, but in an exercise I have browsed through orchid club magazines for the last few years paying particular attention to the prize results for cymbidiums during the early Autumn and Winter benching, not all Shows, but including cultural meetings. This is only dealing with South Australia in the metropolitan and City areas. The following plants have won prizes during April; Peter Pan 'Greensleaves' in excess of 12 times, Minuet, in excess of 12 times, Crossings using Peter Pan 'Greensleaves', 5 times.

Of course with these earlies, minatures dominate, with a standard or intermediate showing up occasionally in crossings involving in earlier days; Lustrous 'Betty', Melinga, Sleeping Beauty and others, with newer hybrids like Valentines Live, Mimi Splendour, Nonina and Clarendon beginning to make their presence felt on the show benches.

This of course is not a full report of all winners for April meetings over the last few years as I have not access to all these but the pattern that emerges is clear enough to see that if we wish to extend our flowering season to include early blooms he above clones and other newer ones are the ones to do it. Great progress has been made over the last decade in the hybridising of early cymbidiums and the results have thus far seemed to favour the May blooms to be the real start to the cymbidium season in South Australia, then June, July, August, and September showing up as the high or flush period. Naturally we too have many fine plants in flower during October or we would be unable as a club to hold our Spring show generally in that month, while some growers and areas will still have blooms in good condition during November.

CYMBIDIUM NEWS (CONT)

There is the hope that next month we can list the main prize winning clones that were successful in May benching over the last few years and see the pattern that comes through as regards early flowering plants.

When one commences to grow orchids the tendency to buy a plant in flower regardless of the time it blooms or it's flowering habit seems to be to the fore in our thinking, but later as our experience widens we become more selective in our buying. There are a lot of us who would never part with some of the older varieties in our collection, because of various reasons, perhaps in the way they continue to produce spikes regularly each year or for sentimental thoughts of how they were obtained or given, so they are kept.

What is necessary if we would want to extend our flowering season still further is to purchase plants similar to those being produced on the benches at early cultural meetings or Winter Shows. There are certainly enough clones, mericlones and seedlings available locally for each one of us to be tempted and thoughtful consideration will reap rewards to any orchid lover willing to grow and flower plants with the proper care that is required. We surely are advanced enough in our thinking to admit that the days of just leaving your orchids on the ground under a shady tree with an occasional sprinkle is sufficient to produce perfect blooms year after year. It does require a balance of experience, culture and a deal of skill to be able to regularly flower cymbidiums year in and year out particularly if the weather has been a deciding factor against us. Men and women can provide conditions very close to natural cymbidium growing areas with skill, science and ingenuity in the home garden so the actual cultural problems should not be insurmountable, nor as previously said, is the avenue to obtain early flowering plants beyond us. Reverting again to the fact of spikes initiating well this year, it is a pleasant surprise to see many of the mid to late season varieties also showing promise of good things to come, even as early as February spikes are quite evident and quite in abundance.

On the care side of the plants large enough to spike continue with the fertilizer containing more potassium & potash for another month or six weeks before tapering off during the actual flowering period. As we hopefully start to get some rain and conditions become cooler, a watch for the snails and slugs will be necessary. To this end keep the old leaves and weeds etc. well cleaned up around your benches and plants this will deter these pests a little. there are still some slight signs of red spider mite about and this can be cleaned up with another spray. There are still signs also of white scale on the move and there too spraying will be necessary to kill these pests before they settle under the dried husks of the pseudo bulbs for the winter months. Liquid form of white oil or malathion there. With the promise of a good season ahead as things stand now make sure that you don't miss out on good results by lack of care right through to the show bench.

CYMBIDIUM NEWS (CONT)

Remember S.C.O.C. wants to see your plants exhibited before the public and other orchid growers this year at Garden Week, Winter Show, Spring Show, cultural meetings and also if possible at the exhibit that will be arranged in Melbourne in the Spring of 1984.

Due to events which did not turn out as expected I published last month the dates for our Winter & Spring shows prematurely. The corrected dates are:

Winter Show, Colonnades : 30th July - 4th August

Spring Show, Colonnades : 24th Sept - 29th Sept.

A reminder to all club members who will be able to supply flowering plants for GARDEN WEEK, Wayville Showgrounds, APRIL 23rd, EASTER MONDAY is to be the setting up day. The committee are looking for your support again.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE : DIURIS - By Mr. Les Nesbitt S.A. Orchid
Bulletin October, 1979

These attractive, colourful, spring-flowering terrestrial orchids are called 'Donkey Orchids' after their large ear-like petals which stand up on short thin stalks. They are usually coloured yellow or brown but one species *D. punctata*, has purple flowers. There are about 14 species of *Diuris* but many more 'species' have been named which are probable natural hybrids, as hybrid swams are known to occur in many areas. *Diuris* are easily cultivated, although most species are slow to multiply.

Diuris maculata (Leopard Orchid): This is probably the most plentiful *Diuris* in Australia as it is found in all States except W.A. It was named by James Smith in 1804. (*Dendrobium linguiforme* (1800) was the first Australian orchid to be described.

Diuris maculata has two or three grass like leaves up to 150 mm high. the flower spoke, which grows from the centre of the leaves, is up to 300 mm high and carries two to ten flowers. Flowering period is August to October. It is a very variable species in shape, colour and size. The flowers are cream to yellow with many brown spots and splashes, especially on the rear surfaces. The narrow lateral sepals cross over in mature flowers.

D. maculata is a hardy, free flowering species which is easy to cultivate. It increases slowly by tuber multiplication but is easily raised from seed (by scattering the seed on the surface of the pots containing living plants). When grown on the Adelaide Plains *D. maculata* is always out for the Royal Spring Show and some fine specimens have been seen there over the years. Flowering is delayed for a few weeks in Hills districts. It can be seen in flower in all of our local flora reserves. Individual flowers last 10-14 days and flowers progressively open from the bottom of the spike. I am attempting to line-breed this species to produce a wider range of flower types.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE : DIURISCONT

I have selected some clones, such as 'Cheeky' which has very wide lobes on the labellum giving a filled in look; 'Elf' which has pointed petals and sepals; 'Darky' which is very dark brown including the flower stem; 'Yellow' which has no brown spotting; and 'Largissum' which has flowers twice the size of normal clones. *Diuris maculata* hybridises freely with other *Diuris* species. When crossed with *D. longifolia* large robust plants are produced which bear flowers larger than either parent. Second generation hybrids are difficult to make however, as primary hybrids usually refuse to set seed.

CULTURE OF AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS : Report from the Canberra Botanic Gardens by M.A. Clements, A.O.R. Sept. 1977.

Cultivation: In 1976 considerable changes were made in the general methods of cultivation of Australian terrestrial orchids. As previously described (Wrigley CBG 75/19 Dec. 1975) plants were grown in a U.C. mix with the addition of 25% leaf mould. This mix in general was reasonably successful but created several problems, which were difficult to overcome. Liverworts and mosses on top of the soil was one problem creating conditions that ended in the shoots damping off. The mix also set very hard when allowed to dry out in summer, never quite regaining its former porosity when again watered in the next growing season. A new mix was tried in the hope that it would overcome these problems. It comprised 50-60% sharp washed river sand, 20% German Peat and 20-30% partly decayed Eucalyptus leaf litter or sawdust chips. This gave a well drained, reasonably high organic content mix suitable for growing most terrestrials. In previous years the addition of liquid fertilisers, during the growing period, was a standard cultivation practice. The application of rotting eucalyptus leaves in the summer dormant months provided the alternative to liquid fertilizers. Many species were also changed from terra cotta to plastic pots so that a comparison of plant performance in the two pot types could be made. Two sizes of plastic pots were chosen, a 170mm(top), 135mm (bottom), 115mm (deep) and a 90mm x 90mm(top), 70mm(bottom), 85mm(deep). These both gave a good surface area while not being too deep and narrow. Finally the collection was housed in cold frames that were under 60% shade cloth. During the Winter months the frames were covered nightly with glass as protection from the frost. The concept behind these changes was (a) to overcome some of the previous problems, such as damping off etc (b) to permit lower maintenance and the use of readily available local products. (c) to grow some of the more difficult species, because although the U.C. mix plus 25% leaf mould was adequate for many species, it seemed to fail, after a short time, with some of the more difficult species such as *Prasophyllum rufum* and its relatives. (d) to have a well drained mix that could stand overwatering because the natural rainfall was now supplementing artificial water.

CULTURE OF AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS (cont.)

RESULTS (1)

Liverwort problem. The most obvious feature over the past twelve months was the total absence of liverworts from any of the pots with the new mix. Moss occurred in very small amounts in some pots but was never a problem and was usually an indication of too much peat moss in that pot.

(2) The Porosity Problem. Once again the results were extremely good with little or no problems in this area. Difficulties can occur if the sharp river sand, peat and sawdust mix was sieved to a uniform size. In this case it seemed to pack down and not drain well.

(3) Growth. The results were very encouraging both above & below ground. Many species flowered for the first time & many were seen to improve markedly in leaf size; particularly over the latter part of the season. Many new plants were collected over the twelve month period & on examination of those pots recently it was found that almost all had formed new tubers ready for next season. Tuber & rhizome growth in most species was noted to be both larger and greater in number than previous seasons.

(4) Pot types. A comparison of plant size, number of flowering plant, tuber size and number of live plants at the end of the season showed conclusively in this situation that plastic pots were much more satisfactory containers.

(5) Housing area. Although not totally satisfactory for all species, due probably to the lower temperatures than the plants would normally experience in their place of origin, the use of cold frames proved to have more advantages than disadvantages and will continue to be used.

The article continues with more specific information on genera and species that would be beyond most of our members to attempt to handle but, the above information is very interesting and useful (Ed

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITIONDECEMBER MEETINGOPEN DIVISION

Minature Cym	Pat Ann 'Pipsqueak'	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	3
Cattleyas	C. Suavior Agini x BIC. Herons Ghyll	J Nicholls	3
	C. Forbesii x C. Bowringiana X C. Amethyctoolossa	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	2
Dendrobiums	Halawa Beauty	J Nicholls	3
Miscellaneous	V. Kalama O'Mavi V'Bill Sutton'	J Nicholls	3
Phalaenopsis	Penang x Mariae Dobkin	K Northcote	3
	Jean Dunn	K Northcote	2
	Sandy MxLane X Ambuinensis	J Nicholls	1
Novelty Paph.	Paph. Maudiae	G Forrest	3
Species Paph.	Paph. Concolor	K Northcote	3
Species	Enc. Cocklecta	J Nicholls	3
	Phaius Mishmensis	J Nicholls	2

Division Flower & Presidents Choice of the Month : Den. Halaway
Beauty : J Nicholls

FIRST DIVISION

Cattleyas	Lc. Issy	Mr & Mrs T Howard	3
	C. Mary Jane 'Prucastle'	Mr & Mrs T Howard	2
Novelty Paph.	Paph. Primulinum var. flavum 'Goldfinch x Paph.hennisianum	J. Leeder	3
Species Paph.	Paph. parishii	R Parish	3
	Paph. Aliolare	R Parish	2
	Paph. fowleii	R Parish	1

Division Flower of the month Lc. Issy Mr & Mrs T. Howard

SECOND DIVISION

Aust. Native			
Epiphyte	Chiano 'Discolor x Dicuphum	Mr & Mrs Van der Wilk	3
Minature Cym	Minuet	G. McMartin	3
Cattleyas	C. Forbesii x C.Aurantiaca	C Burfield	3
	Summerstar x Forbesii	M & S Steele	2
	" x "	S & I Nicholls	1
Miscellaneous	Epd. 'King Lavender'	Ian O'Daniel	3
	Epidendrum 'Red'	M & W Vaughan	2
Species Paph.	Paph. urbanianum	N Washington	3

Division Flower of the month Paph.urbanianum : N Washington

Popular Vote Orchid : C. Summerstar x Forbesii : M & S Steele

NEW MEMBERS:

The Club welcomes with much pleasure the following folk who
joined S.C.O.C. at the February Cultural Meeting.

Mr. N (Norm) Gitsham, 7 Lavinia St., HOVE.

Mr. & Mrs. E (Errna) & H (Henk) Van Leuveren,
156 Winstone Avenue, EDWARDSTOWN