



# South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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

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

Monthly News Sheet  
Issue No.9 Sept.1975

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

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Our next meeting will be held at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall on Tuesday September 9th. at 8 p.m.

All plants for competition have to be tabled by 7.45 p.m.

The first item on the agenda will be "Mr. Dick Styles", who will show us how he divides and conquers his Cymbidiums. Novices should find this segment very interesting, so arm yourself with all your problems and fire away in question time. If Dick cannot answer your problems, I am sure there will be someone who can.

For the main item of the evening Mr. Les. Nesbit will be giving a talk with slides on the growing, showing and judging of Australian Native Terrestrial Orchids. Les is known for his well grown plants of Natives, flowered extremely well and always healthy, personally I have always found these Orchids the hardest to grow of any type, and if you have this problem, this may be the chance to solve it.

## Dates to remember:-

The Orchid Society's Spring Show is being held in Myers from September 15th. to Friday 19th. Proceeds in aid of the Adelaide Childrens Hospital.

The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc. Spring Show being held in the John Martins Auditorium from Sept. 22nd. to 27th. Proceeds in aid of St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Our moss gathering, Sunday September 14th. Leaving the Morphett Vale Hotel at 10 a.m. Hope to see as many of you there as possible, for an enjoyable family day out.

ANNUAL DINNER to be held at the Morphett Arms Hotel on Friday November 14th. Names and numbers must be in, and payment made by our next meeting September 9th., so that final bookings can be made. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please ring Mr. B. Hansen Ph. 296 9301 with your bookings, as the number is limited to 50, NO MORE.

OUR SHOW NOTES

Any member wishing to exhibit in the Floral Art Section must notify Mrs. Ellie Shaw by the 27th. of September.

We have altered two sections in the floral art to help both the exhibitors and the judge.

Inverted crescent using candle holder and mixed flowers

NOW READS

Inverted crescent with candle holder using all orchids or at least One Orchid and other flowers.

MODERN arrangement using Orchids with a magical theme

NOW READS

ARRANGEMENT using Orchids with a Magical theme.

Mrs. Jean Yelland will be demonstrating Floral Art at 11 a.m. on Friday 10th. October.

All lottery books are to be returned at the September meeting so that they can be sold at the show. Of course we hope that all books that are out, have already been sold.

Sale of Plants during Spring Show at Marion

Would all members desirous of selling plants during show week, please conform to the points set out below:-

1. Identification.

Please put your club number on all pots. Also any plant not flowering, mark your labels with plant name and flower colour if possible. This will assist us greatly when selling. A small piece of adhesive tape is ideal for numbering, as the purchaser can remove same easily.

2. Appearance

Try to keep flowers clean and nicely presented, back bulbs cleaned, die back and broken leaves to be trimmed, wipe pots with a damp cloth. A pleasant article to look at is easily sold, especially Orchids.

At present we are negotiating for a lock-up room, but whether we succeed depends on storage needed during our show dates. If we are fortunate enough to secure this room, it will only be big enough to hold about 50 plants at a time, so members are asked to contact Mr. Dick Styles and arrange for deliveries of Orchids on various days, also for any further information required.

We would appreciate as many flowering plants as possible, also large specimens for dividing, with at least one flower spike so that the public and the "potter upper" will know what type of flower the plant will produce.

OUR SHOW NOTES cont.

The Committee has decided on a 50% profit margin for the club, so please ask a 'fair' and reasonable price for your Orchids.

Owing to cost rises in all quarters, the committee has decided upon the following prices for the sale of Corsages and flowers at Marion.

Single Orchid Corsage (Boxed)	\$1.50
Double " " "	\$2.00
Single Shoulder spray	80c.
Double " "	\$1.20
Single flowers	30c.
Spike of flowers	per bloom 25c.

SHOW RULES. 1975

1. Members are bound by the Laws and By-laws of the South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.
2. Entries are free but are restricted to financial members of this club and members of Guest Societies.
3. All reasonable care is taken, but the Club accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage of plants or blooms during transportation to or from the Spring Show or during the Spring the Spring Show.
4. Under no circumstances must water contact the floor of the Malls.
5. At the discretion of the Committee further prizes or awards to those published in the schedule may be given.
6. If in the opinion of the Judges an exhibit is not worthy of an award or prize in any specified section, then none shall be given.
7. All staging of exhibits will be under the supervision of the SHOW MARSHALS and their decision on any matter regarding exhibits shall be final and binding. Failure to comply with the instructions or directions of the Show Marshals at the putting in or taking out of displays could result in an exhibitor being debarred from exhibiting, at the discretion of the Show Marshals.
8. LABELLING OF PLANTS AND EXHIBITS. No plants or exhibits are to be labelled except with the official labels supplied by the S.C.O.C. The usual grower's labels may remain in the pot, but they should not be prominent. Show Marshals will remove any unofficial labelling or advertising.
9. Exhibitors must not remove plants before the termination of the Show without the approval of the Show Marshal.

SHOW RULES 1975 cont.

10. The Committee reserves the right to photograph any exhibits and to use such photographs for whatever purpose they shall decide.
11. The decision of the Judges of the Show shall be final and binding and no complaints will be entertained by Committee unless proof is provided that an exhibitor has not adhered to the rules, By-Laws or Show Rules of this Club, in which case any complaint must be lodged with the Registrar of Judges or the Secretary in accordance with By-Law 2 (g).
12. All plants competing for prizes must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the opening of the Show.
13. No plants suspected by the Club Virus Adjudicators of being infected with virus will be eligible for competition and such plants will be completely isolated from all other plants.
14. Exhibits may only be removed on Saturday 11th. October, between 12 noon and 4 p.m.
15. The Marion Shopping Centre will be open from 1 p.m. on Saturday 4th. Oct. for the putting in of displays and all exhibits must be completed by 5 p.m. Commercial Exhibitors by 9 p.m.
16. No plants in flower other than those approved by the Show Marshalls may be exhibited.

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A list of nic-nacs you will find helpful when putting in your exhibit:-  
Crates of various sizes, short planks to 1 metre long, blocks of wood 14c. to 20c. square and varying thicknesses to raise Orchids to right level, Twisties, newspaper, tub to hold water, watering can, stakes, string, snips, knives, Sawdust 3 - 6 wheat bags, moss, bark, foliage plants all sizes, props for theme and last but not least your Orchids. These should be already cleaned by removing dried husks, dead tips from leaves and shining of leaves by rubbing with dry tissues or paper towels and watering thoroughly on Friday or or early Saturday morning so that they can drain.

Well, it's too late for cultural notes to help you for this show, other than to say "keep the Wogs away from your Champion Blooms."

If your flowers open up a little early for the show you can help to hold them by keeping them in a dark cool place. I put bags(hessian) on the floor of the shed, soak them thoroughly, cover them with snail bait then place the Orchid pots on them.(Cyms. of course).

All plants that have finished flowering can either be divided or potted on now, this will give them a good start for 1976. Don't be frightened to add Hoof & Horn or a good slow release to your potting mix, this will help to get them on their way quickly.

I am sorry I have no more cultural advice notes or stories for you, the larder is empty and nobody seems to want to replenish it.

Continuing the article on BARK, as presented by Mr. Kym Lasscock.

Bark as soil in connection with nutrition.

I quoted some figures e.g. all the potassium you need is supplied by bark, and now I'll give a quick comparison to German peat moss. In regard to nitrogen, peat supplies about 1/8th. of the total nitrogen you need, bark 1/10th, so bark is not going so good. Phosphorous, neither of them supply any significant quantity. Potassium, peat  $\frac{1}{3}$ , bark supplies all that you need. Magnesium, peat supplies 1/6th, bark supplies half, so what that means is that the fertilising of bark can be pretty cheap if you use the right chemicals, and over all you are better off with bark than peat. You only have to apply nitrogen, phosphorous, magnesium, iron and manganese.

Summary

In summary then, the Ph. is easily adjustable, and the tannins which can be toxic are rapidly leached away. The quantities of the Phenols are so low that I, personally have not come across any harmful effects from it. As regards nutrition, bark is supplying a good part of the nutrition and the application of fertilizer to bring it up to scratch is fairly easy.

The next part of this talk is not particularly scientific, simply observations I have made on what happens with bark as a soil. Basically, I believe that once the bark has been thoroughly saturated, it undergoes very rapid breakdown initially. This breakdown releases tannins, the tannins are soluble and they are removed quickly. Also in bark there is always a certain percentage of sawdust, and as you know, the sawdust is going to tie up the nitrogen more than bark will. Initially you get a fairly high nitrogen tie-up that you must overcome by selecting your fertilisers CORRECTLY.

Initially when you water your bark in a container, you get large particles on the surface. This occurs for about a week to a fortnight and that can create a watering problem. For example, something with a very fine root system, tapped very carefully out of a tube and put into a pot. The roots are not that far below the surface, and that top 1" zone of bark is the zone that is susceptible to drying out fairly rapidly in that first two weeks period. After this initial breakdown, fine material appears on the surface and at that time watering requirements of bark drop by about 60%, that is to say you only need to apply about 1/3rd the amount of water to bark as to peat, that means about 1/10th you need to apply to a natural soil.

Speaking of breakdown, I had one figure from Matkin who suggests that the total breakdown per year of radiata pine bark, would not exceed 7% by volume. In comparison, a good German peat moss for example, would experience a 20% volume loss per year.

Just a brief summary, overall bark contains some scary chemicals that don't really do any damage, it's Ph. is easily adjustable, nutrition is pretty good, if you get a good hammermill the particle sizes are pretty good, and you've got to be careful initially, but you save money in the long run. That's all the basic facts I have about bark.

The trading table grossed over \$70 at the August meeting, this is a good outlet for excess plants, if you have an odd 1 or 2 in spike, what about bringing them along to the September meeting. The sale of these plants mean 20% to the club and 80% to you the grower.

Judging results for August

OPEN

Cymbidium	SUSSEX DAWN x (JANINE x RAMPUR) SLEEPING DREAM "Goldmine" DORAMA x LUNAGRAD	Mr H.Lambert Valley Orchids Mr. & Mrs.W. Gray	3 pts. 2 pts. 1 pt.
Min. Cyms.	SARAH JEAN Cyzera x Pimilum Pumilum x Nila	Mr. & Mrs.R. Gowling Valley Orchids Mr. & Mrs. W. Gray	3 pts. 2 pts. 1 pt.
Species	Paph. 'Liemiana' Cym. 'traceyanum' Terostylis 'Curtal'	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hofner Mr. P. Speer Mr. & Mrs. J. Hofner	3 pts. 2 pts. 1 pt.
Misc. Gen.	Phal. MAKAHA x Surfrider Epicattleya 'vietchii'	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hofner Mr. & Mrs. J. Hofner	3 pts. 2 pts.

NOVICE

Cymbidium	Wyanga "ELANORA" ALNWICK CASTLE "BRENTWOOD" DAWN LIGHT "STELLA"	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Mrs.Bubs. Gready Owner please notify Secretary	3 pts. 2 pts. 1 pt.
Paph.	SANACEN	Mr. & Mrs. L. Carr	3 pts.
Misc. Gen.	'Zygopetalum' "MACKAYII"	Mr. & Mrs.D'Rosario	3 pts.

POPULAR VOTE

Orchids	Sleeping Dream 'Goldmine'	Valley Orchids
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We all have our problems, Margaret Whitlam has been complaining about the arguments involving her husband in Canberra. She says "He is coming home in such a fever that she's going to bed with a bad Gough".

Hope the "Life o' the party"McKirdy is hopping around again with his broken leg, and Harry Nash is out in sympathy with Mac. by having a bout of pneumonia, so to all the "Old Crocks" please get well, we need you at Marion.