



# 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. Gray (Mayor of Marion)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET  
Issue No.3. Mar.1975

PRESIDENT:  
Mr. John Leeder,  
54, Austral Terrace,  
MALVERN. 5061.  
Ph. 71 7070

HON. SECRETARY:  
Mr. Lou. Carr,  
89, Sturt St.,  
GRANGE. 5022.  
Ph. 356 4447

HON. TREASURER:  
Mrs. Ida Carr,  
89, Sturt St.,  
GRANGE. 5022.  
Ph. 356 4447

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

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The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held in the R.S.L. Hall, Morphett Vale, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 11th. March.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following two new members are welcomed to the Club.  
Mrs. M. Ryder, 32, English Avenue, Clovelly Park. S.A. 5024.  
Mrs. M. Bampton, 16, Reynold St., Rosewater. S.A. 5013.

Whew :-: We now have a full committee of management as follows:

President	Mr. John Leeder	<u>Committee</u>
Vice Pres.	Mr. Chris Heinrich	Mr. Dick Styles
Secretary	Mr. Lou. Carr	Mrs. Barbara Weller
Treasurer	Mrs. Ida Carr	Mr. George Weller
Past Pres.	Mr. Les. Poole	Mr. Syd. Poole

## Committee appointments

Show Marshall	Mr. Bernie Hansen	Librarian	Mrs. Barbara Weller
Assistants "	Mrs. Ellie Shaw	Plant Steward	Mr. Jack Hoffner
	Mr. Keith Shaw	Auditor	Mr. Mick Chenoweth
	Mr. Lou Carr		
Virus Adjudicators	Mr. Mick Chenoweth		
	Mr. Bernie Hansen		
	Mr. Syd Monkhouse		
Affiliated Societies Representatives		Mr. Chris Heinrich	
		Mr. Lou Carr	

I would like to welcome all the above to their positions, I am sure that the good sturdy and willing stock that they are will help the Club to go on from strength to strength.

Our main attraction for the March meeting will be a movie "Leave them a flower", this runs for 25 minutes and has a sound track.

Our judge for the evening will be Mr. Neil Christoph.

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Bernie Hansen will be discussing Slipper Orchids and their requirements, and Mr. Syd Monkhouse will give his monthly cultural talk.

Results of February meeting are as follows:-

OPEN SECTION

Cattleya	C. Bowringiana x C. Little Angel C. Unnamed	Mr. & Mrs. L. Poole 3pts. Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner 2 pts.
Paphiopedilum	Claire de Lune 'Edgard Van Belle'	Mr. & Mrs. B. Hansen 3 pts.
SPECIES	P. SUKHAKULII P. LIEMIANA P. CURTISII	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner 3 pts. Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner 2 pts. Mr. & Mrs. B. Hansen 1 pt.
Misc.	Epi. RADIATUM x PHOENICEUM Den. SARI MARYJIS	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner 3 pts. Mr. & Mrs. J. Hoffner 2 pts.

Popular Votes

Orchids	CLAIRE DE LUNE 'EDGARD VAN BELLE'	Mr. & Mrs. B. Hansen
Indoor Plants	Nil	

NOVICE SECTION

Come along all you novice growers, you could have won last month, as there was no competition.

1975 CONFERENCE

The Tropical Queensland Orchid Council conference in 1975 will be held on the long week-end in June 1975 at Cairns. Why not arrange your next holidays to be spent at Cairns in June 1975? Cairns has so much to offer to the tourist and if you attend the Conference you will be able to gather with those having the same common interest.

Further information may be obtained from The Secretary, Tropical Queensland Orchid Council, Box 130 P.O. TOWNSVILLE, QLD. 4810.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE

"Orchids in the South Pacific".

Resume:

The Fourth Australian Orchid Conference is to take place in Sydney, N.S.W. 14th to 20th September 1975, under the auspices of the Australian Orchid Council. The Orchid Society of N.S.W. is Host Society. The Show and Conference activities will take place in the world's most exciting and modern Hotel, the Sydney Hilton.

Accommodation:

Sydney Hilton is the official Hotel for the Conference. Sydney abounds in other reasonably priced accommodation within a short distance. There are excellent caravan parks within easy reach of the city.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE cont.

Official Travel Agents:

T.A.A. is the official airline. State Societies will be helped to organise travel groups from their State Capital in order to qualify for travel concessions.

Slide Programme:

A specially prepared slide programme "Scenes and Orchids of Sydney Town" will be available in the New Year. There will be several copies but early booking is essential. Arrange your Society booking now.

Lecture Programme:

The Programme Committee has planned a day's lectures for Thursday 18th September with the accent on the culture of Orchids. Experienced growers will tell how to grow orchids better. Some surprise items are in prospect.

Hospitality and Tours:

These are being handled by a highly experienced Committee headed by the most experienced hospitality man in the orchid fraternity, Mr.W.(Bill) Smoothery. The Committee is concentrating on fitting the utmost in entertainment into the time available. You will get the benefit of their experience and planning. The programme will revolve around these main items:-

Official Opening; Monday 2.30 p.m.

Cocktail Party: This gay affair will be part of the excellent value you will get for the registration fee. It starts at 6.30.p.m. on Monday Sept.15th. - at the Hilton of course.

Banquet: A tremendous social event to be held on Wednesday 17th September at the Hilton. The cost will include pre-dinner and some table drinks. Major prizes will be presented.

Private Growers List: A list of private growers offering home hospitality will be available to Registrants. Details such as genera grown and other information such as how to contact will be made available.

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Those of you who were at our February meeting would have thoroughly enjoyed the potting demonstration and talk given by Mr. John Maddern on Cattleyas, and I am sure you will all be interested in the following article.

CATTLEYAS

We wish to acknowledge Athol Bell, from the Orchid Society of N.S.W. for reprinting his article on 'Cattleyas' from the "First Australian Orchid Conference".

As most of the orchids we call cattleyas are actually hybrids built up from several species, it is important we gather some knowledge of these species if we aspire to flower our cattleya to award standards.

Some excellent books have been written on the subject of growing these species and hybrid cattleya. Most authors recommend trying to maintain growing conditions which provide night temperature at 55 to 60 degrees, day temperature some 10 degrees hotter, relative humidity of 60 to 65 per cent and light intensity adjusted to admit some 20 to 30 per cent of full sunlight. In addition the plants should receive thorough air exchange. To achieve these conditions, at least in the southern states of Australia, most cattleya growers rely on an enclosed glasshouse equipped with the various mechanical devices necessary.

Over the years I have been growing cattleya, I've been puzzled many times at seeing some of my friends produce entirely different results with the one and same orchid. I've been equally puzzled with my own collection on finding one cattleya growing really well and producing show standard flowers whilst right alongside it another plant is just growing and producing poor flowers. I began to search for a reason for all of this and ended up doing some research into the growing needs and habits of the specie. It appeared to me to be wrong to have B.L.C. Hybrids, L.C. Hybrids, C. Hybrids and Potinara Hybrids all growing in the one set of conditions and to expect them all to produce show quality flowers. (S.L.C. Hybrids) Surely, some of these hybrids would have strong inheritance towards one of the specie in their parentage. Some of the specie Laelia are found in their native habitat at quite high altitudes and prefer cooler growing conditions. The specie sophronitis grows and flowers better in cooler conditions. Yet the specie Dowiana Aurea likes humid hot conditions. A Hybrid having these three specie in its parentage could prefer growing conditions of any one of them.

I grow my cattleya these days in two sets of conditions. A heated glass house equipped with electric element for heating, humidifier for humidity and a fan for air movement serves the purpose for seedling raising and for those plants which like warm humid conditions. A bush house (of the ype used for growing cymbidiums) serves the purpose for those plants which appreciate cooler night temperatures, fresh air and definite rest periods during the year. There are numerous hybrids available today which would grow and flower well under these conditions and mostly they are those which normally make the new lead during mid-summer and mature and flower in early autumn. After flowering they go into rest during the winter months, commencing the growing cycle in the next summer,



CATTLEYS cont.

I always believe the most desirable time to repot a cattleya is when the new roots just appear at the base of the new growth. Two types of potting medium have been used. Either a block of tree fern fibre or a mixture of tan bark and chopped todea fibre in equal parts. Some growers in the Sydney area have been experimenting with the use of bark from our native trees with excellent results. Iron bark and casurina seem to be the most popular but there are no doubt other barks which would prove satisfactory. I prefer the fibre block idea, but should you prefer pot culture, it is best to use some moisture retaining agent on the top of the pot when the plants have growing root action. This serves to retain adequate moisture within the pot. One grower I know uses fresh cow manure for this purpose with outstanding success. With the fibre block, of course, this is not so important for, once it is thoroughly dampened, it will retain internal moisture for longer periods.

During the growing months you should apply water liberally, never forgetting it is summer time with plenty of warm air about. The pots or fibre should never be allowed to dry out to the "bone dry stage". Location within the bush-house is important to ensure the plants receive adequate supplies of moist air, the right light intensity and, above all, protection from over watering. The roof (only) of my bush-house is glassed over as it is in this house that I grow my cymbidiums and, rather than have to move them during the flowering time, I protect them with the glass roof, so over-watering through rain is not a problem. The cattleya plants should have some overhead protection especially during the winter months, and particularly when it can rain non-stop for a couple of weeks and the temperature is in the very low forties. Failure to protect them from this treatment could prove fatal as they would be taking their rest from growing at this time of the year and therefore prefer being kept on the dry side.

Cattleya love host foliage near them. Even in the glass-house, crotons and foliage plants seem to please them. In the bush-house live foliage can be used to adjust light intensity.

An application of dilute fertilizer is helpful, but only during the growing months. Should you decide to use fertilizer, make sure you cease doing so prior to autumn so that the pots can be thoroughly leached out prior to winter time.

The plants require the normal general care that good growers give to all their orchids. A regular spray routine should be maintained with a good fungicide and insecticide. On hot dry days, hosing down foliage plants, pathways and benches is beneficial. Above all, do not overlook protection from the marauding snail or slug. Once one of these fellows devours the root tips from the leading bulb (which is caviare to them) the growth of the plant will be set back considerably. With seedlings, snails and slugs can do irreparable damage. As a control, I use straight metaldehyde dusted on the surface of the fibre blocks, on the pots and around the benches. Sometimes the bark, especially tan bark, within the pot is attacked by a white grub which is the larvae of a small brown moth. These eat the bark and reduce it back to almost soil in appearance. They are best controlled by immersing the pot in a weak solution of D.D.T.

CATTLEYAS cont.

Good flowers come from good plants and good plants are those with healthy root action under every bulb - not only under the leading bulb. I always move my plants into cool, very shady conditions just after the flowers have opened. At this time the flowers are usually quite limp and are easy to stake and tie so that they display themselves attractively. Also the flower segments have less tendency to twist and furl. Over a three day period the flowers gradually harden and set and are then ready for the show bench.

It is my belief that every orchid grower should grow a few cattleya orchids. Unless you live in some of Australia's extreme climatic areas, it is quite possible for you to flower them without indulging in expensive houses and equipment. If you are not growing cattleya now, then I recommend you obtain some and allow yourself the joy and rewarding pleasure of having these exquisite flowers around you.

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At our last meeting it was decided that our subscriptions would remain at \$3 for husband and wife, or \$2 single. Fees were due on January 1st.

We also received the resignation of Mr. Wesley Harris, one of our well known members. I am sure we will all miss the many plants he used to bring along to our meetings and give us such a spectacular show, especially when the majority of members had nothing much in flower. We send our best wishes to Wesley and his wife, hoping they will both now relax and enjoy their travels.

We wish a speedy return to good health to Bernie Hansen (our Jack of all trades), who is at present in hospital. (Latest news - he is out again.)

CONGRATULATIONS

To Peter and Stella Summers on the birth of a son. (A day too late for our last bulletin)

To Cyril Chenoweth on his "Little bit of Luck".

To Ellie Shaw on being made a Life Member of our Club.

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A further news item has just arrived from the Committee, about the alteration of one of our Bye-Laws. (See next page).

P.7.

It was the considered opinion of Committee, and subsequently passed unanimously that Bye-Law 1.(b)(ii) relating to Novice exhibitors shall now read:-

"Novice Exhibitor" shall mean an exhibitor who has not won TEN major prizes (champion or reserve champion) or TEN first placings for any section (including those for colour, specimen plants etc.) at any show conducted by the Club. The highest yearly aggregate of points allotted by club judges to Orchids displayed at club meetings shall count as ONE Major prize. This does not include 'popular vote' points. The above limit does not include multiple first prizes won by the one plant, therefore a plant winning more than one first prize at any one time will only count as one first prize in the exhibitors classification. A Novice exhibitor shall remain a **novice** until the end of the financial year following that in which he gains his initial major prizes or first placings.

Committee's decision for this amendment was based on three main factors, these being:-

- (1) Lack of competition among existing Novice growers, created by Clause 1 (b) (ii) of the Club Bye-laws, as it was drawn up.
- (2) The Open exhibitors although only representing Approx. 22% of Club membership, would have approx. 85% of all flowering sized plants owned by all Club members, thereby justifying the alteration to the above mentioned Bye-law.
- (3) This new amendment will enable the newer grower that has been penalised by the former Bye-law, to compete in a class more equal than having to show against large growers, including the Commercial exhibitors.

It is suggested that any open growers who consider themselves eligible to show Novice, shall make application in writing to the Secretary of the Club, for consideration by the Committee.

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Please give the above your careful consideration, as your opinions will be appreciated when this is discussed at the next meeting.

NOVICE GROWERS

This affects YOU, so please have your say.

This month's Selection

A wise judge, noted for his modern views, was sentencing the defendant.

"Im going to give you the maximum punishment", he said. "I'm not going to put you in our nice comfortable jail. I'm going to let you go free and worry about taxes, politics, strikes, high prices and cyclones - just like the rest of us".