



# THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

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

Patron: Sir Francis Matters

## MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

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Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th June, 1971, at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall, at 8 p.m. We will have a most interesting and educational programme for you—Nicky Zurcher will demonstrate how to **groom a Slipper plant for the Winter Show** and Syd Monkhouse will give a talk on **Cymbidiums — from habitat to export**. I'm sure none of us can afford to miss this meeting.

Merv Dunn has kindly donated two Seedlings—one Phalaenopsis and one Cattleya—for the monthly plant competition. Thanks Merv, they are very much appreciated, especially since we do not expect any income from our Spring Show at the Christies Hotel this year.

It is planned to hold an 'Annual Dinner for Club Members' at one of the Hotels in the southern suburbs, where a five-course dinner and a floor show will be provided at approximately \$4.50 per head (wines not included). A preliminary count of members who intend to come will be taken at the next meeting. If, for some reason, you can not attend the next meeting please let any of the Committee Members know how many of your group will come so that a tentative booking can be made at the hotel.

Mr Beal's excellent talk on 'electric gear and cost' for plant houses was much appreciated, and on top of it he has promised to make literature on such gear, as it becomes available to him, available to us for the Club library. Do not hesitate to ask Ellie Shaw, our librarian, for any topical literature—if we do not already have it she will try to get it for you!

No indoor plants and no orchids in the Novice Section were tabled at the last meeting, and the Intermediate Section Winners were as follows: Cattleya Barbara, 3 points; Cattleya Esther Larsen, 2 points; a Cattleya Seedling; 1 point; Paphiopedilum Triumphans, 3 points; Paphiopedilum Ethel, 2 points (the forementioned 4 plants were exhibited by Wesley Harris); Paphiopedilum *fairreanum* (Bernie Hansen); Dendrobium Pakarena, 3 points (Wesley Harris), *Catasetum fimbriatum*, 2 points (Bernie Hansen) and *Zygopetalum mackayii*, 1 point (Ted Work).

The Popular Votes went to Cattleya Barbara grown and exhibited by Wesley Harris.

An oil heater is in the process of being installed in the hall to provide warmer conditions, but it may be wise to bring a blanket with you in case it has not been connected yet.

### CULTURAL NOTES FOR JUNE — by Bernie Hansen

Well, the weather has broken and we have had a few warm days. Surprisingly enough the Cymbidiums in the shade-house needed watering; so on the long weekend they received watering with fertilizer.

As the Cymbidium spikes are lengthening, staking and snail-baiting are the orders of the day. My usual procedure is to weed, clean, stake, sprinkle with snail pellets, then dust with a mixture of 1/3% Metaldehyde and 2/3% Folidust, then place the plants in the glasshouse. Provided the buds are not showing, a spray of 'Kelthane' or 'Rogor 40' can be given to knock red spider, mealy bug or aphid.

The best pick-me-up for a Cymbidium grower at this time of the year, if the weather or lack of spikes may be causing depression, is to lash out and buy a plant or two, or three, or four seedlings. If you do this, in a few years you will have approximately the same amount of seedlings flowering as you buy each year. This is where most of the fun of growing orchids is: the flowering of new seedlings. If this sounds like a good idea, then buy say three seedlings: one that will flower early in the season, one mid-season and one late. Or if you would rather have mericlones or a piece of a flowered plant, there is a wonderful range of local, interstate and overseas mericlones available. Those of you who accepted the invitation of the Orchidaceous Society's offer to see the slides and hear the talk by Russell Martin on McBean's Orchids will have some idea what is available from England, also from Australia and America.

For the 'Odd' growers, or should I say the growers of odd things (Miscellaneous Genera), there is a lot of interest in the warm house with various species flowering at this time of the year: hard cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Paphiopedilums, *Catasetums*, *Lycastes*, *Angreacums*, and many more.