



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 February at 8 p.m., at the Morphett Vale RSL hall. Visitors and new members will be very welcome. Our speaker will be **Mr Mick Chenoweth on 'Judging of Cattleyas'**. This should be very interesting, to learn what is looked for in a good bloom, especially to any new growers. We will also be showing a film.

The Opportunity Table and Library will be operating as usual. The club benefits by 20% on any sales made on the opportunity table, so bring along any surplus plants that might be of interest to other members.

We had a smaller than usual attendance at the January meeting, probably due to the unseasonal wet weather and the holidays. However, we enjoyed the talk given by Mr Harry Badenoch and hope he is now feeling better than he was on that particular evening. We were also given a demonstration by Mr Wes Harris on repotting a Brasso-Cattleya.

Judging of the plants exhibited was carried out by Mr Mick Chenoweth and points awarded as follows: **NOVICE SECTION**—Miscellaneous Genera, *Epidendrum boundii* (D. Lang) 3 points, *Cymbidium suave* (P. Speer) 3 points. **OPEN SECTION**—*Cattleya* Angel Bells 'Susie' (M. Chenoweth) 3 points, *Cattleya* New Era 'Gaye' (W. Harris) 2 points, *Cattleya* Claeaseana 'Gaye' (W. Harris) 1 point; *Paphiopedilum callosum* (W. Harris) 3 points, *Paph. barbatum* (G. Harvey) 2 points, *Paph. argus* (B. Hansen) 1 point; Miscellaneous Genera: *Aerides multiflorum* (W. Harris) 3 points, *Calanthe veratrifolia* (J. & A. Hofner) 2 points, *Rodriguezia* Burgundy (W. Harris) 1 point.

POPULAR VOTES: **Orchid**—*Cattleya* Angel Bells 'Susie' (M. Chenoweth), **Indoor Plant**—Bromeliad (Wes Harris).

Our club finances have increased recently by the following amounts: Profit from Christmas hamper raffle: \$46.40; Sale of Queensland Orchids (donated by Mr Harry Badenoch): \$23; Commission on sales made at the ladies' fashion afternoon: \$4.80; Sale of table decoration made at Spraymaking Class: \$2.

The next spraymaking class will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 12th February at Mrs Anna Hofner's home at 8 Amanda Way, Reynella South. Any new ladies would also be very welcome to these afternoons, usually held on the Saturday following the monthly meeting. There is no limit to what you can learn at these afternoons, besides spraymaking.

CULTURAL NOTES by Bernie Hansen

Well holidays are over so it's head down and so forth into the business of Orchid Growing. New growers are often dissatisfied with their efforts, especially when they visit an established grower, or when they see large well grown plants with lots of flowers tabled at our monthly meetings. Well unless you can afford an 'Instant Orchid Collection' you, like most of us, must be content to buy seedlings and small divisions of choice titbits and grow them on, remembering that large plants may have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for four or five years—so the password is: **PATIENCE**. This is a must for all orchid growers. The first thing to do is to learn to grow your plants well and then you won't try your patience too much.

At the time of writing this article the warm weather is starting to set in, so careful growing techniques are required. **Firstly: SHADEHOUSE CULTURE:**

Cymbidiums, Zygopetalums, Lycastes, Australian Natives, etc.: I water and fertilize through a tank with a pump set-up. The plants in the shadehouse, which range from seedlings to large plants, all receive the same treatment, which is a heavy watering with fertilizer once per week by hand, for the rest they rely on overhead spraying daily. This does both, lightly watering the plants and wetting down the whole growing area.

This is a good time to start cleaning up the collection, i.e., shift plants out of corners, weed and clean plants. Any sign of red spider can be cleaned up by a spraying of Kelthane followed by a second spraying in 7–14 days. Snails can be chased, stamped upon, or slowly poisoned to death by the proprietary snail killing lines available.

GLASSHOUSE CARE:

Keep damping down under the benches and along paths. On hot days I spray over the plants in the evening so they may recuperate fully during the night. The glasshouse plants also get a thorough watering with fertilizer once per week plus one or two waterings per week depending on the plants. My glasshouse stays very humid as there are no vents opened and the door is only left open 1"; the air-conditioner, an evaporative type, runs all day. Similar spraying as for the shadehouse is required, with the inclusion of a fungicidal spray occasionally. I have found that 'Benlate' or 'Natriphene' will do the job without any adverse affects.

For those growers who like to brag: a careful study of your early flowering Cymbidiums should reveal a few spikes on the move. Cym. Lustrous Betty x Henry Davis always shows up on Christmas day for me; a worthy acquisition to any collection, as, with heat, it can be flowered mid-April or, cold, April-May. For South Coast 'Eskimos' this plant would probably flower mid to late May.

Cymbidium fertilizers should have, at this time of the year, a lower Nitrogen ratio to help mature the bulbs and set spikes. A ratio of somewhere in the vicinity of 10-30-20 would be quite acceptable. Ferns, etc., should be growing at full blast, excess fertilizer from the orchids can be used on these fill-in plants for our Orchid Show.

Any new or old member who would like to have a look at my set-up is always welcome. Please ring 96 9301 to make sure we are home.