

# THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Monthly meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL Windsong Court CHRISTIE DOWNS on Tuesday 12th July at 8 p.m.

Our speaker for the July Cultural meeting will be Mr. Harry Lambert of Lambert Orchids. We are privileged to have Harry as an S.C.O.C. member and our Registrar of Judges. Our appreciation as fellow members can be shown in a large attendance at this meeting and we record our sincere thanks when such a busy man can give his valuable time and knowledge for us on the subject of "Paphiopedilums".

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## ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW - September 2nd - 10th 1983

Do your grow nice orchids? Do you bring them to the Monthly meetings? Do you show them at the S.C.O.C. shows?

If you don't why not let other orchid growers and the general public see them and share their beauty around.

Opportunity for club members to enter flowering plants in this year's Royal Adelaide Show, September 2 - 10th. Entry is easy, a charge of 40 cents per plant for R.A.H.S. members, or 70 cents per plant for non-members.

Closing date for entries in the orchid section is Thursday 4th August 1983,

Staging is simple, plants being just benched with no additional material of any kind permitted.

The times of benching the exhibits are between 7 am and 11 am on both days that orchids are accepted.

Parking space for exhibitors during these times is provided free and allows easy access and close proximity to the exhibiting area.

Prizemoney:

Realistic prize money for a revised schedule initiated by Syd Monkhouse and the O.C.S.A. committee comes into force this year. Good support from exhibitors will only enhance the club's standing with the R.A.H.S.

CVS	1st	2nd	Third
3	\$25	\$10	Card
2	\$20	\$ 7	Card
1	\$10	\$ 5	Card

Queries, schedules and entry forms available at our July cultural meeting. Questions about entries, staging etc. will be answered at that meeting - Murray Watson.

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CYMBIDIUM NOTES

JULY : Late autumn-winter is a very satisfying time with spokes beginning to lengthen, break out of the sheath and flower. Keep training the lengthening spike upwards and avoid twisted stems, paying special care to the portion holding the buds as any change in light direction can cause buckling. This can be carefully remedied while the raceme is still soft and green, but is impossible to straighten once the spoke has hardened and 'set'.

Very much care must be taken in tying stems as all growers are aware so take the old advice of, hastening-slowly!

Watering habits will change once the plant has been removed to its flowering position, or whatever cover is provided, as we cannot depend on the rain to reach them there. Slightly warmer conditions will dry the pots more rapidly and it is so easy to forget to really check moisture retention if it rains at all. Hand watering becomes essential to avoid wetting blooms that are open.

Keep on your guard against green grubs, slugs and snails who somehow manage to reach your best buds. You will possibly have learned that grubs travel from one bud to the next, eating only the underside and keep out of sight. The best way to avoid this is to prevent them climbing the stems by spraying carefully at the base of the spike and not allowing any liquid to touch the buds and damage them. Running your fingers along the underside of the buds also is a late preventative measure but the damage will probably be commenced by that time. Deposits of black blobs on the foliage is warning that these pests have been busy.

Cold weather slows down the growth of all plants and there is little to be gained by impatience.

How easy it is to think that the buds will never open, but how good it is to find out that they do, when they are ready! Another chore to be considered is how to treat

those plants that did not flower. If they are full pots and large ones then the answer is simple. Divide them and get them moving into growth again. A new start in new compost will perhaps work the trick for next year's flowering season. With everything connected with orchids opinions vary as to what time of the year is best for division of plants. Some hold to the theory that spring is the best time, some say, when full growth is taking place in early summer, or perhaps in February, but cymbidiums have been divided by many growers with little difference in result at almost any time of the year.

Possibly the attention they receive after division is quite important. A good moistening of the compost when they are potted up and restricted watering until strong growth becomes evident. Keep divisions of at least three to four green bulbs and apply a little dusting sulphur to the cut sections of the rizome.

Any plant that has not flowered and has had 2 seasons without repotting is due for a change of compost, if only to pot on into a larger pot providing the existing root ball is in good condition.

Roots should be strong and preferably showing healthy white tips as an indication of good culture. If this is the case continue with the compost you are using, if not decide whether a change would be an advantage.

From many directions growers are using more and more local pine bark with great success, but of course this does not mean that we should discard that which is proving successful to us.

Good roots mean good plants and it is the only basic starting point for successful growth.

Many new growers tend to be concerned at the rapid yellowing of cymbidium leaves at this time of the year. This is a natural reaction of the plants to the colder conditions and will probably occur again as the warm weather arrives in early summer. You will notice that the older leaves yellow and fall off a few inches from the old pseudo bulb. A gathering up of fallen leaves every day or so will tidy up your collection and make it less unsightly.

This condition will often occur also when a change of compost is made, particularly if pine bark is the main ingredient used. A fertilizer fairly strong in nitrogen will eventually correct this occurrence. Cymbidiums are generally hardy and adapt to many changes in their environment forced upon them by us, the 'tetchy growers'. We are hoping that your competitive spirit has been 'fanned up' by the rapidly approaching winter and Spring shows.

One of us has to be the winner of the Champion Bloom!

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AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS : NOTES FOR JULY : BY L.T. NESBITT

EPIPHYTES: July weather is usually cold, dull and damp. Epiphytes come from areas with cool dry winters and don't like our conditions. they react accordingly and growth almost stops. Black spots may appear on leaves and stems. Spray with a fungicide and move affected plants to a drier location.

Buds will begin to develop on the spring flowering species this month. *Dendrobium 'speciosum'* (Sydney rock orchid) should be examined closely to see if the nodules between the leaves are developing into flower spokes. These nodules can exist for years before finally developing into spikes in favourable years. Some years may suit this development others don't. Flowers are still ver scarce among the epiphytes but the situation will improve next month as the Spring flush of blooms approaches.

TERRESTRIALS: July brings the Winter Show. Terrestrials are easily outclassed by the Epiphytes at the autumn show, but are competitive at the winter and spring shows. The winter flowering greenhoods are at their peak on the Adelaide plains and should dominate the benches this month.

*Pterostylis baptistii*, *Longifolia*, *nana*, *nutans*, *scabra* var. *robusta*, *ophioglossa* var. *Collina* and *Vittata* may all be seen. the small mosquito orchids are also flowering now, including late plants of *Acianthus exsertus* and early plants of *Acianthus reniformis*.

There is very little work to do this month so you can spend more time enjoying the flowers. Continue to apply liquid fertilizer fortnightly and also spray for thrip, red spider aphid and citrus white fly. Keep up the war on slugs and snails.

Tiny seedling leaves may be noticed at the end of the month. It is essential that these minute plants are not disturbed by rain or hail. It is too late now to add more pine needles so make a note for next year if this is a problem. A few comments on judging may assist exhibitors at the Winter Show.

the standards used by judges for Terrestrial orchids are slightly different from those used for other orchid sections. The definition of an Australian Native Terrestrial exhibit is; 'Any number of plants of the one species in one container'. This means that several plants are better than one plant. Also the complete plant is judged and not just the flower and its stem as with *Paphiopedilums* or *Cattleyas* for instance. Points are allotted for shape, colour, size, texture, floriferousness and habit of inflorescence. There are no fixed points for size or number of flowers, so different species can be compared on an appreciation basis. The judge asks himself, 'is this *Pterostylis nutans* a better specimen of *Pterostylis nutans* than this *Pterostylis nana* is of its species'

Damaged leaves, stems or flowers, non flowering plants, unopened buds or dead flowers will all detract from an exhibit. You may ask if a large potfull will win over a small potful and I can only reply "that they must be compared side by side".

I know from experience that as the number of plants in a pot increase it becomes difficult to produce undamaged plants with all the flowers out and in peak condition on the night of a meeting. On the other hand a number of small plants make a bitter spectacle than a single plant. Until now 12 inch (300 mm) pots have been the largest seen as these can be handled conveniently. I think it would be a mistake to get too large and a limiting size may be necessary one day if 20 inch (500) or 39 inch (1,000mm) containers begin to appear.

DENDROBIUMS NOBILE TYPE : KNOWN AS SOFT CANE  
notes supplied by John Bisset

Dendrobiums which have been loved by amateurs for over a hundred years are enjoying perhaps their greatest popularity now. The very large number of the genus dendrobium with over 1000 species promises variety both in size and character of their plants and flowers and the manner in which they are produced.

There are kinds that give erect or arching sprays of five to twenty flowers, kinds which give drooping sprays of a dozen to a hundred blooms and still others in which almost the entire length of the pseudo bulb bears clusters of flowers at each node.

Many have quite unique and appealing characteristics. The individual flowers are often small, but all are dainty, often of a glistening crystalline texture or velvety softness. The colours are rich ranging from rose to violent tones occassionally almost red, to the most brilliant of yellow gold. Some species are white.

The genus ranges over Eastern Asia and the pacific islands, from the Himalayas through Burma to the Malay regions, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, China, Japan The Phillipines and Fiji. The variety of climatic conditions gives a variety of plant habits and their cultural needs vary accordingly.

All dendrobiums like good light, some requiring about the same amount as cattleyas, others even more.

All thrive with good air circulation.

If some species do not flower, try changing the conditions by moving them to a brighter spot or one that is a bit warmer or cooler than the rest of the greenhouse.

Dendrobiums may be grown in Osmunda, or bark mixture.

They do not need a large pot for their size. Their roots are fine and wiry and they do not grow to any great length. A four or five inch pot should accommodate a plant with four or five leads.

Water abundantly while growing, however new growth on cane types is touchy and may rot if kept wet. Withhold water from the time it starts until new roots develop. In the meantime spray the foliage and the surface of the potting medium using a fine mist.

## BEEMAK BROWNSINGS

The cymbidium hybridist today has a much more complex decision to make when he contemplates the mating of two orchids. The quest is no longer just for larger blooms of better shape; or for colour, as we have achieved most colours within the scope of the genus.

The question now before him is which market place will he sell his product and what will the future market place require. Of course the second question is often influenced by the products available, but the grower by offering new material can create the demand. However there is a constant demand from certain sectors for a particular type of flower. The majority of Cyms grown in Australia are specifically grown for the export flower market.

This market place has its own requirements and they are fairly narrow. For instance; - The European market is now self sufficient in quality flowers from mid-September onward. Think about that. Therefore growers wishing to tap this lucrative sales area must be in full production by mid May to have 3 months of sales. But not only that he must produce flowers of acceptable type and quality to attract buyers.

Whites still dominate throughout the season being perhaps 60% of the market. However countries such as Germany and Switzerland require a vast number of high colour blooms. By this we mean reds, Yellows, and oranges. But this is not all; we still have to consider the number of flowers on the spikes. Below 10 is usually not acceptable; neither is a 20+ spike.

So already we have quite a few guidelines for breeding in one area alone. The hybridist can set to work to produce Cymbidiums likely to perform within this sector, and know where to sell his stock.

The European growers, particularly the Dutch, have progressed by leaps and bounds in the past few years and now produce quality cut flowers 9 MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

As we saw before cut off date for sales is now mid-September so we really have to look to early flowers and the growing conditions to suit them. Growing conditions must obviously be created to produce very vigorous growth that will mature early in the summer and be in condition to produce early spikes. Now, one important fact in spike production is low night temperatures and these are hard to control, you get them or you don't. Up our way we do tend to get cooler nights earlier and therefore spikes appear sooner than in Melbourne proper. However as we get cooler and cooler the progress slows down and the Melbourne growers with their 3 degrees higher average temperature soon jump ahead.

One way to help create lower night temperatures is to water at dusk during hot weather thus cooling the root system.

Good air circulation is of course important at all times and will also help to reduce temperatures. A lot of growers who have plants in relatively open conditions and treat their plants pretty hard often get higher percentages of flowering plants than growers who have more elaborate conditions. However as the colder, wetter season sets in he is likely to lose flowers through lack of protection and the cooler overall temperatures.

For top cut flower production it is necessary to provide a protected environment, and possibly even use some heat to keep early spikes moving. A lot of growers grow plants at very low temperatures with great success but they pay the penalty of fewer flowers per spike often losing 2-3 end blooms.

(Continued rear page)

## MONTHLY COMPETITION

JUNE 1983

## OPEN DIVISION

Cymbidiums	Luana 'Pink Champagne'	Deane & Trisch Mills	3
	Luana 'Exquisite'	" "	2
	Tracey 'Jane'	" "	1
Mini Cyms.	Sarah Jean 'Susie'	K Northcote	3
Cattleya	Portia	Tom Burian Orchids	3
Dendrobiums	Impact	W J Nicholls	3
	Limberlost Beauty x Sensation	"	2
Miscellaneous	Vanda Josephine Eisenhower x Yellowbird	"	3
P halaenopsis	Doritis Pulcherrima	Tom Burian Orchids	3
Paphiopedilum	Haynaldianum x chamberlanianum	W J Nicholls	3
	Smith Hepworth x Desert Song	"	2
Novelty Paph.	callosum x lawrencianum	G Forrest	3
	victoria gegina x primulinium	"	2
Division Flower of Month Cym	Luana 'Pink Champagne'	D & T Mills	

## FIRST DIVISION

Aust. Native Epiphyte	Den. Hilda Poxon 'Heather'	L & R Moore	3
	" " "Crozier"	"	2
	" "	"	1
Aust, Native Terres.	Ptst. vittata	"	3
	Ptst. concirra	"	2
	Ptst. oxtoveyano	"	1
Cymbidiums	Bethlehem Early Times	G & L Spear	3
	" "	H & B Viney	2
	Luana 'Pink Mist'	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	1
Mini Cyms.	(pumilum x Radak) "Morialta Falls	L & R Moore	3
	" "	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	2
Novelty Cyms.	Oiso x Egret x Studley	H & B Viney	3
Cattleyas	C. Bob Betts x Bl Mt Hood	J Leeder	3
	C Minerva 'Highercombe'	L & R Moore	2
	Lc Anna Maria x C loddigessi	J Leeder	1
Paphiopedilum	F C Puddle	Ron Parish	3
	Anita 'Compacta'	H & B Viney	2
Novelty Paph.	niveum x chamberlianum	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	3
Species Paph.	villosum	Ron Parish	3
	"	D & J May	2
	fairrieianum	Ron Parish	1
Species	Laelia anceps	L & R Moore	3
	Zygo. mackayii	"	2
	Zygo John Banks	G & L Spear	1
Division Flower of Month Cym	Behtlemen ' Early Times'	G & L Spear	

## SECOND DIVISION

Aust. Native Epi,	Liparis Reflexa	H H Pankoke	2
	" "	R van der Wilk	1
	Den. Hilda Poxon	D Biebrick	3
Cymbidiums	Luana 'Arctic Snow'	Ray Goodall	3
	Bethlemen 'Early Times'	"	2
	Luana 'Pink Champagne'	"	1

MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS (Contd) June 1983

Mini Cyms.	(Radak x pumilum) Morialta Falls	A R & M Moffatt	3
	Karoonda	S A Nicholls	2
	Alice Williamson	H H Pankoke	1
Novelty Cyms.	Pendragon 'Broad Moor'	J & E Cuming	3
Cattleyas	Lc Dec Dec x Lc Drumbeat	C C Burfield	3
	C Portiata	Doug Cuthbert	2
	Unknown	C C Burfield	1
Paphiopedilum	barbatum x nigrescens	M J Cunningham	3
	Phips	N Waahington	2
	Anita 'Compactum'	C C Burfield	1
Species Paph.	villosum	C C Burfield	3
	"	F Bell	2
	insigne	D Biebrick	1
Species.	Zygo mackyii	H H Pankoke	3
	Epi. kings red	D Biebrick	2
Division Flower of Month	(pumilum x Radak) Morialta Falls	A R & M Moffatt	
President's Flower of Month	Cym Bethlemen 'Early Times'	G & L Spear.	

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BEEMAK BROWSINGS (continued from page 6)

On a large scale this can add up to a big loss of income. Some varieties are more prone to this than others and this is where careful selection and culling is the way to success.

Many orchids have been sold as cut flower type just because they fall in one category, say, early flowering white, but it is still may have too many inherited faults to be a worthy candidate. For instance it may have a long thin spike with 20 odd flowers. Just being an early white won't sell it.

A new trend is in compact growth plants, that produce 2 spikes per bulb with very strong stems that don't need staking, a very time consuming job. Production is higher per square foot and labour is reduced. So we can see from all this that the hybridist's job today is not as straight forward as might have been thought, and his selection of parent plants must be very thorough. So must his knowledge of the traits of his selected breeders be considered in detail.

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