



# 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, 11th April 1972, at the Morphett Vale RSL hall at 8 p.m. Our speakers will be **Mr Syd Monkhouse on glasshouses and the judging of Slipper Orchids, and Mr Mick Chenoweth on the judging of Cattleyas.**

We hope to see all members present at our future meetings, as there is a lot to be learnt about the presentation of orchids and complementing plants, in readiness for our Spring Festival to be held from 2nd–7th October. Verbal agreement has been reached to hold this show at the Marion Shopping Centre. This will be the biggest thing our club has yet attempted and we feel sure that with the full support of all our members, we can make it a huge success.

Fuller details of this show will be given at our meetings, when we want to assess the numbers of plants that will be available and also any other help that can be given in arranging or manning this large project.

Our ladies will also be needed for spraymaking and floral arrangements and you are urged to practice these arts, and to try and attend the spraymaking classes—the next one will be held at Mrs Dulcie Grave's house, States Road, Reynella, on Saturday, 15th April at 2 p.m.

At our last General Meeting we had an extremely interesting talk and demonstration on Clonal Multiplication by meristem technique and also green pod culture and flasking of seeds. We very much appreciate this demonstration by Mr Rex Thompson, and thank him for his time and effort put into a most informative evening.

We also had a short talk by Mr Graham Harvey on Indoor Plants, and hope you will all now try and grow a few to help enhance any display of orchids. These will be needed for our Spring Festival as well as orchid plants. We would also like to see them entered for the popular votes at the monthly meetings, we did not have one at the March meeting.

Judging was carried out by Mr Bernie Hansen and results were as follows:- **Open Section:** *Cattleya* Louise Georgiana (Wesley Harris) 3 points, *Brassavola digbyana* var. Chase (J & A. Hofner) 2 points, *Cattleya*—name unknown (J. & A. Hofner) 1 point. *Paphiopedilum* Triumphans (Wesley Harris) 3 points, *Paph. callosum* (Mick Chenoweth) 2 points, *Paph. sukhakulii* (J. & A. Hofner) 1 point, *Oncidium (aloiisii x stentotes) x Miltonia warscewiczii* (Mick Chenoweth) 3 points, *Zygopetalum wendlandii x Pescentoria cerina* (Claude Hammond) 2 points, *Epidendrum tampense* (Wesley Harris) 1 point.

The popular votes went to Mick Chenoweth's *Oncidium (aloiisii x stentotes) x Miltonia warscewiczii*.

## PAPHIOPEDILUM GROWING by Syd. Monkhouse

Slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilums*, formerly called *Cypripediums*) are a very easy genus to grow, as long as one understands their requirements.

They usually inhabit fringe areas in forests, where they make their root growth in the dry leaves on the ground. It is interesting to note that their main root growth is just under the newly fallen dry leaves in the section where the leaves have not yet broken down. Of course, many grow on limestone cliffs in their native habits and often in plain soil. Many of the species from which the present-day hybrids have been developed grow at considerable altitudes and thus do not require a great amount of heat.

This characteristic is inherited by all plain green leafed types and, generally, only the mottled leafed varieties require artificial heat in Southern Australia.

Slippers need more shade than most other orchids and require continual dampness in their compost—THIS DOES NOT MEAN WETNESS. Use tank water where available.

A good, long lasting, open potting medium which will retain some moisture is needed, and a mixture of 4 parts of Fir Bark, 2 parts of Isolite and a little shellgrit is what we use.

Grow your 'slippers' in a cool glassed-in area, or even in a sun-room window. If growing this genus in a window make sure that the plants receive adequate moisture by standing the pots above a tray of dampened marble chips or gravel, or a tropical fish pond. Do not allow the pots to stand in water or else roots will rot off.

Slipper orchids can be grown in a shadehouse but, unless the plants are protected from rain or overhead watering during Autumn and Winter, the young buds may rot off in their early stage and, of course, no flowers will result.

The plants must have more shade than cymbidiums, and a good place to grow them is on the bench under the shade of the cymbidium leaves.

You can feed your slipper orchids every fortnight with a ½ strength solution of Peters 30-10-10 or 18-18-18. They are not gross feeders and therefore cannot be fed heavily.

The beauty of the *paphiopedilum* is in the very long lasting quality of its blooms. A good healthy plant will carry a bloom for 8 to 12 weeks.

Mealy bug can attack 'slipper' orchids, but a spraying of Rogor 40 will safeguard against these.