



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 at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th March. We would like to see as many members there as possible, also all visitors and prospective new members will be very welcome.

Our guest speaker will be Mr Rex Thompson, Past-President of the Orchid Club of South Australia. His talk will be on 'The Art of Clonal Multiplication by Meristem Culture'. I am sure you will all find this a most interesting item, and I hope none of you will miss it.

We will also have a short talk by Graham Harvey on 'Indoor Plants'. This will help you to improve your own decorative display and also help the club displays when all available plants are needed.

As usual, the library will be open and members should make use of some of these books available to them. A lot can be learnt this way, and you will find Orchid Growing becomes more and more interesting as you go. Ellie Shaw is on hand at every meeting to advise you on the books to suit your particular interest. Would members please return books as soon as you have finished with them, to enable other people to see them.

The opportunity table is always worth a visit, you can obtain plants at reasonable prices, at the same time helping your club finances, as they benefit by 20% of all sales made. It is also a place where members can sell any of their surplus plants, giving others a chance to build up their collection of orchids or decorative plants.

Our last meeting was rather disappointing, as Mick Chenoweth was unable to give his talk owing to sickness. However, I am sure Mick will be willing to speak to us at a later date, and we all hope he is now quite fit.

We were shown three films on insects, pesticides, and an English garden. We hope to be able to select other interesting films to show you at a later date. If there is anything you are particularly interested in, please let the committee know. This is YOUR club and the committee wishes to interest you all, so help us to help you.

We were also shown by Bernie Hansen, how to look for the different bloom spikes on Cymbidiums. Bernie also was our judge for the night, and points were awarded as follows:- OPEN SECTION: *Cattleya leopoldii* var. alba (Wes Harris) 3 points, *Lc Oshawa* (W. Harris) 2 points, *Cattleya loddigesii* Stanleys variety (J & A. Hofner) 1 point; *Paphiopedilum* Argus (Bernie Hansen) 3 points; *Oncidium* Lanceanum (W. Harris) 3 points, *Phalaenopsis* Raycraft (M. Dunn) 2 points, *Vanda* Tan Chay Yan (W. Harris) 1 point. NOVICE SECTION: *Coelogyne massangeana* (D. Deal) 3 points. POPULAR VOTES—ORCHIDS: *Vanda* Tan Chay Yan (Wes Harris), INDOOR PLANTS: *Eucomis* 'Pineapple Lily' (Peter Speers).

Our next ladies' spraymaking class will be at Eileen MacKirdy's home at 13 Ian Street, Morphett Vale, on Saturday, 18th March at 2 p.m. We would like to see a few more ladies coming to these classes, as we hope to make an all out effort on practicing spray-making in readiness for our spring display this year, which we hope will be our best yet.

If any members have any suggestions or ideas of interest to our club, please let the committee know. I would also like to have any interesting or amusing items to include in this monthly bulletin, so please help me to make this bulletin an interesting and entertaining one.

Your editor – Iris Nash 70 2194.

CULTURAL NOTES by Graham Harvey

Now is a good time to start thinking of foliage plants for the coming shows. If each member had six suitable plants, this would be ample for our club displays.

Almost any garden tree or shrub grown in a pot or bucket can provide attractive background foliage. Some good ones are pine, willow, brassia (umbrella tree) and ficus (rubber tree) green and variegated. These need to be potted in a good soil, free-draining, and yet retaining ample moisture to sustain these large plants for the duration of the show.

Popular 'filler' plants for hiding pots are aspidistra, sword fern, maiden hair fern and totem ivy. These can be grown in 6" or 7" pots and not allowed to become rootbound, at showtime especially, so they won't dry out too quickly. Other plants to complement the display and yet not detract from the principal members, the orchids, are:-

Warm Growing:- Croton, Rex begonia.

Intermediate or Indoor: Sansevieria (green and variegated), philodendron (cordatum, imbe and panduraforme), coleus and pothos.

Cool growing: Variegated ivy, aralia and aucuba.

Compost for indoor plants should be open and fibrous, with a large humus content to retain moisture without becoming soggy. Old Cymbidium mix with coarse sand added and a little complete fertilizer mixed in at time of potting makes a suitable compost. Do not use a high nitrogen content fertilizer on maiden hair fern as this would be fatal.

Grow your trees and shrubs near your shadehouse so you can fertilize them when you do your orchids.