



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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

PATRON: Mr. Bill McCallum.

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET
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Written & Edited by Mrs. Iris Nash.

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R .

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 8th. at the R.S.L.Hall, Morphett Vale at 8 p.m. We hope to see quite a lot of you present, in spite of holidays.

To date, I have not received confirmation on our speaker or judge for the night, but remember we will be having a section for ferns and foliage plants in place of the indoor plants. We hope this will encourage all our members to grow some of their own, to help with staging our larger Spring and Winter shows.

At the moment, we have not compiled the list showing the class in which each member should exhibit in, but hope this will be completed in time to go out with next months bulletin.

New members should note that we have quite an extensive library open to all members. No charge is made for these books, but we ask you to return them as soon as possible, and a small fine is imposed if these are not returned the following month.

Trading table

This will also operate each month. and all members can bring along their surplus Orchids or other plants to sell at reasonable prices. The club benefits by 20% of all sales, and new members have the opportunity to purchase good divisions etc. with the helpful guidance of our Plant Stewards.

Notice Board

Members are also reminded that they can use the notice board for any items of interest to others. Perhaps anyone willing to show new members their collections of Orchids, will put their name and address on the board.

Our last meeting, the Christmas party, was a most successful evening. We had quite a large number of members and friends present, including Santa Claus himself, and I feel sure that everyone enjoyed themselves. If not, why not ?

Prizes were presented for the Spring show at Marion, also other prizes as follows:-

Highest Aggregate 1973 OPEN Section	Mr. Wes. Harris
" " " NOVICE "	Mrs. Jean Tregenza
Prize for a constant supply of short items for our 1973 bulletins.	Mrs. Leora Harvey

I would like to thank the members who sent in some very good articles for publication during the year. These are a great help to me, and make interesting reading for most of our members. I hope you will continue to do this next year for whoever has the job as Editor.

Two of our Spring show prizewinners did not collect their prizes in December, and we hope to see them on January 8th. The money's here, come and get it !

The supper raffle proved very successful and we would like to thank the ladies who provided all the table decorations which were given as extra prizes.

We also had a special raffle for new members only, and we have Mrs. Jean Tregenza to thank for the prizes given in this section.

Being a very hot night, the liquid refreshment was most welcome and a very enjoyable supper was provided by members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions for 1974 are due in January, with the exception of new members who have joined since October 1st. 1973. The fees remain the same for single members \$2 and husband and wife \$3, but the Commercial growers must join as a company, instead of as individual members, and the fee for this is \$5.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday February 12th. Nomination forms are enclosed with this bulletin and vacancies to be filled are President, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer, plus four Committee members.

I hope you will all give this election much thought. Our club is growing very quickly and we need a strong committee to carry out the duties entailed. We would like to see some of our newer or younger members put up for election. Would you please hand your nominations in at the January meeting, or submit to the Secretary Mr. Peter Summers, 26, Truscott Ave., Seacombe Heights, by Tuesday January 15th.

LADIES LUNCH

The Saturday ladies are holding their annual luncheon on Wednesday January 9th. at the Morphett Arms Hotel, Morphett Road, at 12 noon. If anyone else wishes to attend, please contact Mrs. Ellie Shaw, Ph.383 3056 so that additional bookings can be made.

This months selection.

Many a man of 60 looks 40, feels like 30, and can see plenty of opportunities walking along the street he overlooked at 20.

Doctor: "I can't find any cause for your complaining; I think it's due to drinking."

Patient: "OKay, I'll come back sometime when you're sober."

Newsy Titbits

Santa Claus reports that it was not he who mixed up the presents, but the Ladies in their wild anticipation, who placed the presents in the wrong box.

The following notes are written by Mr. Ted Work and I feel sure that they will be of interest to our many new members.

My Adventures into Growing Orchids.

I write these notes in the hope that they may be of some help and assistance to those folk who have recently joined our club and may think the art of growing Orchids is perhaps a more complicated hobby than they at first thought; it aims to set out our own experiences when we were in much the same position some years ago.

Around 1958 we had put up a bush house on a frame covered with brush and had embarked on a programme of growing ferns, azaleas and tuberous begonias. Mixed up with these were a few of the hardier angel wing begonias. We had at this time no knowledge or thoughts of growing orchids, in fact, apart from having seen them on boxes of chocolates or in some books, we had never seen one in flower.

Then someone told us of a show of Orchids that was coming from the Eastern states to be staged at John Martins, and so we went along to have a look, and so began our involvement in this most fascinating of all hobbies that has lasted for some 15 years and is becoming more exciting as the years go flying by.

Following our first viewing of Cymbidiums in flower my wife and I decided we would like to try our hand at trying to grow some if they could be purchased, so having made enquiries, we found they were to be sold on the following Monday, so we ventured forth and bought a selection of Green bulbs

---- to the value of £10 and took them home to set about the task of growing them. Our only knowledge was that they required to be grown in a Compost and would be suitable to be grown in pots and in a bush house under similar conditions to those we had at home, and so we started our career as Orchid growers.

Our first compost we collected from an area opposite to where Chryslers are now, and consisted of Olive and Gum leaves. Some were composted down, others were as they had fallen from the trees, and for pots we used cut off oil drums, and so we started to grow our first Orchids.

At first, in our search for knowledge we went to the public library and got whatever books we could on the subject of Orchids. We found that the more we read on the subject the more we became confused, as most of these books were written for conditions in U.S.A. or England and they seemed entirely different to those experienced here, and so we learned our first lesson and one which has stood us in good stead over the years. That is that while you can compare your own conditions with others, the final answer is that it is your own personal attitude and your own knowledge of the conditions you have created that makes you a really good grower of Orchids or not.

Our first flower came after a wait of 4 years and as none of the plants we had bought had names, we called this one "Patience" because of our long wait. The next year we flowered two more and so we were bitten with that notorious bug called the "Orchid Bug" and we still have a piece of our first flowering plant.

During this period we met my showing partner and enthusiast Cliff George and Mr. Syd Monkhouse, and became a member of the Orchid club of S.A. and so began a period where we started to meet people who were growing Orchids in our own State and we started to enlarge our collections with some plants that as we developed our knowledge, we soon discarded in favor of better clones.

We considered ourselves very lucky indeed at this time to acquire a back bulb of Balkis 'Luath'. I was also able to help Mr. Monkhouse in his nursery for a few hours a day at this time and when Mericlones were just coming on to the market, and was able to secure some, and so we were able to lay the foundations of our collection that we have today. Also I learned enough about growing Orchids during these days that has been of great benefit to myself and which I would be quite happy to pass on to anyone who may be interested.

We hope to print a further article by Mr. Ted Work in our next issue.