



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, 13th April, 1971, at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall at 8 p.m. and you can't afford to miss this one! Mr A. R. Ninnes, B.A., with Diplomas in Education, Technology and Agricultural Science, will give an illustrated lecture on 'FACTORS INFLUENCING THE LIFE CYCLE OF PLANTS'.

At the last meeting no plants were tabled in the Novice Class and our Wesley Harris judged the Open Class and results are as follows: CATTLEYAS: *Cattleya bowringiana* x C. Little Angel, 3 points (Bernie Hansen), Epi-Cattleya (name unknown), 2 points, (Bernie Hansen), and Brasso-Cattleya Mme Hye, 1 point (Wesley Harris). SPECIES: *Oncidium Dr Schragen*, 3 points (Wesley Harris), *Oncidium flexuosum*, 2 points (Wesley Harris), and *Epidendrum ciliare*, 1 point (Wesley Harris). MISCELLANEOUS GENERA: *Vanda Tan Chay Yan*, 3 points (Wesley Harris).

THE POPULAR VOTES for Orchids went to *Cattleya bowringiana* x *Cattleya Little Angel*, grown by Bernie Hansen, and the Votes for Indoor Plants went to *Anthurium wavocqueanum*, grown by Wesley Harris.

In May our Speaker will be Mr Gordon Beal from the Electricity Trust of South Australia. Anybody with queries on running costs of electrical heating, etc., in connection with plant houses, is kindly asked to hand in those queries at the next meeting to our Secretary, Mr Peter Summers.

In September this year our Spring Festival will be staged at the Christies Hotel. Further details will be discussed at the meetings as they come to hand. Our Show Marshal is Mr Keith Shaw. Our Deputy Show Marshals are Mrs Ellie Shaw and Mrs Mollie Hunt.

As from next meeting there will be a 'Wanted and For Sale' (and other items of interest) Notice Board available to the members who wish to make use of it. The Notice Board will be located on the Librarian's table.

URGENT — Interested in ordering peat moss at approximately \$5.25 per bale? (Delivery in May.) Contact the Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS — by Harold Goldsack

A slow but definite trend has been seen in the growing of Australian native orchids, but unless we in South Australia are fortunate enough to have a heated glasshouse it would be advisable to omit such lovely species as the Cooktown Orchid (*Dendrobium bigibbum*) and the Antelope Orchid (*Dendrobium canaliculatum*.) These and other tropical Queensland orchids need a winter temperature of over 60°F and special care if they are to flourish. However, there are many others from temperate areas which are much easier to grow in a cold glasshouse or even a snug bush house, and these will give unfailing pleasure as they open their sprays of dainty flowers often sweetly perfumed. Despite their wide range of habitat our orchids can be grouped roughly into three cultivation groups.

Firstly, the tree orchids or epiphytes. These can be grown on tree fern slabs or short pieces of ti-tree stem. Light shading for most through the summer with frequent waterings and dilute foliar manuring to promote vigorous growth is necessary. Then in the autumn they require greater exposure to sunlight and through the winter drier conditions to ripen the new growths. Spring should give a plentiful crop of flowers. Some recommended species are the Ironbark Orchid (*Dendrobium aemulum*), Beech Orchid (*Dendrobium falcorostum*), which have sprays of creamy white sweet-scented flowers, and Tongue Orchid (*Dendrobium lingueforme*) which is very floriferous and perfumed. The Orange Blossom Orchid (*Sarcochilus falcatus*) prefers moss covered wood in a moist, shady place in the glasshouse.

Then we have the semi-epiphytes growing on rock or in rock crevices. Most of these can be grown in well-crocked pots, using a commercial cymbidium mixture opened up with charcoal and crushed brick. This group is easy to grow and contains some of our most popular natives. Spectacular is a well-grown Rock Lily (*Dendrobium speciosum*). This species needs ample sunlight. The Pink Rock Lily (*Dendrobium kingeanum*) has flowers ranging from white to deep red on different plants. *Dendrobium delicatum* and *Sarcochilus hartmanii* are others that will be appreciated.

The third group, the terrestrials, can be grown in pots containing, on top of crocking, coarse sand mixed with a little peat moss or hardwood sawdust and covered with leaf mould or rotted down sawdust. Regular waterings during growth, occasional doses of very weak liquid manure and dry conditions while dormant are their general requirements. In this group we have many species not yet available from nurseries but well worth growing. Greenhoods (*Pterostylis*), Donkey Orchids (*Diuris*), Spiders (*Caladenia*), a rather tricky genus this one, Beardies (*Calochilus*), the tall and handsome Sun Orchids (*Thelmytra*) and many others.

Beautiful, quaint, bizarre, but always interesting, are our Australian Native Orchids.