



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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Affiliated with The Australian Orchid Council & The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 8th August 1995, Calvery Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale. Benching of plants to be completed by 7-45pm for judging. Meeting commences at 8-00pm.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr Noel Oliver, who is a member of O.C.S.A., Native Orchid Society, Orchidaceous etc and also a student judge, will speak on Australian Native Epiphyte Orchids.

SUPPER:

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will be provided.

HALL SET-UP:

Those willing to help please be at the Hall by 7.00pm.

DAYTIME CHAPTER:

2pm Thursday 10th August 1995 at South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South Brighton: Gordon Brooks will discuss Australian Native Cymbidiums and their influence in hybridising, producing late flowering hybrids etc.

NEWSFLASH

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Moss Bray who won the Grand Champion Sash at the Winter Show, with a beautiful novelty phalaenopsis.

Congratulations also to Mrs Jean Attenborough who won the Reserve Champion, with a lovely specimen of the Australian Native Species, *Den. teretifolium*.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Ian Attenborough who won the President's Prize with a florists' delight, *Cym. Luana*.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who exhibited at the Show and especially to all who helped in any way including, setting-up, judging, Devonshire tea, security & sales duty.

DAYTIME CHAPTER (June)

by Ruth Clark

Keith Northcote welcomed members to the June meeting with a special mention for Mrs Rosalie Moore, the special speaker for the day. We were also reminded it was time to start preparing plants for the Shows.

Rosalie had brought a number of *Sarcochilus* to show different varieties of growth habit to enhance her talk on species of that genus.

In their natural habitat *Sarcos.* are found right along the eastern coast of Australia from the north of Tasmania to Cape York and nearby Pacific Islands of New Guinea, New Britain and The Solomons. This was at one time a large genus but many species have been transferred to other genera - in particular the Asian and Indonesian species which differ from the Australian. They are small orchids of either epiphytic or lithophytic habit found on trees, or tree ferns and rocks on the banks of streams in gullies or ravines with plenty of shade.

There are about a dozen species and Rosalie went on to talk about a few of these and had slides to illustrate them in flower. The most common in cultivation are :- *Sarcochilus falcatus*, also known as the Orange Blossum Orchid, which has a white fragrant flower. Rosalie had a fine specimen of a number of these growing on a tree trunk - they do not appreciate pot culture, however, other species do well in (or on) squat pots. *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* and *Sarcochilus hartmanni* (both named after the men who discovered) and *Sarcochilus ceciliae* (fairy bells).

From the benched orchids Rosalie chose *Zygopetalum mackayii* - Bill Fisher, *Cymbidium Luana* 'Pink

Showers'- Keith Northcote and *Laelia anceps chamberlainiana* - Bill Fisher and this was also the order in which members gave their preferences.

Before breaking for the usual cuppa and chat, Keith gave a few hints on how to encourage arching of flowers and leaves of cymbidiums.

DAYTIME CHAPTER (JULY)

by RUTH CLARK

Some unusual orchids were among those benched on a blustery afternoon for our July meeting.

After welcoming all present Keith Northcote invited Bill Fisher to give comments on requirements for the Winter Show before presenting his talk on *Sarcochilus* hybrids.

Most of the work in this area has been done over the last few decades- Lorraine Fagg is well known for her successes in this work. *hartmannii* and *fitzgeraldii* crossed with warmer growing *sarcochilus* can be grown cold successfully, but most like it warm and quite humid.

Polda Dot has flowered for Bill three times in one year and is quite tolerant of light. Straight pine bark in pots is a good growing medium with not too much fertilizer - none at all during winter. Bill then showed a number of slides of *sarcochilus* that he has successfully flowered. *Sarco. Melba* (*hartmannii* x *falcatus*) 1966- has been given the title 'Princess of *Sarcochilus*'.

Keith's hint for the month was to be very vigilant for slugs and snails as they love to find the best flowers - particularly just before showtime.

Bill's choice of the benched orchids was -

- 1.Z. Titanic - Tony DeIonno
- 2.Paph. *insigne* - Tony DeIonno
- 3.Cym. Kurun x John Fagaragan grown by the hybridist Keith

Northcote and the members weren't far different with Tony's Paph first, Zygopetalum second, and Zygoneria Dynamo, grown by Bill, third.

Members then enjoyed their cuppa and chat to conclude the afternoon.

BUS TRIP



Members wishing to go on the bus trip to Bruce Mules and Kevin Cattermole's (Port Pirie area) on the 3rd of September 1995 are advised that **there are still seats on the bus**. The total cost will be \$20 per head payable at the **August meetings**. This cost will include morning tea. Members are asked to please bring your own lunch. Pick-up times will be as follows:

8.30am Christies Bch. High School
9am. Westfield Tower, Marion Shopping Centre.

NEW MEMBER

It is with pleasure that we welcome to the club Leslie Munt of Oaklands Park.

Good orchid growing Leslie.

OCTOBER DISPLAY

It is envisaged that an orchid display and sale of plants will be held at St. Augustines, Unley Rd, Unley on the 16th - 20th (approx) of October. Further details as they come to hand.

THE CULTURE OF SOFT-CANE DENDROBIUMS (IN SOUTHERN VICTORIA) by Michael Pender who works in the Botant Dept. at La Trobe University. He is renowned for his expert culture of species orchids and for his skill in growing soft-cane dendrobiums. His advice on these so-called

beginners' orchids has helped many growers to flower them successfully after years of frustrating failure.

The soft-cane or *nobile*-type dendrobiums come from the temperate areas of India, China and Malaya. Their range extends from the lower Himalayas in northern India to the western side of the mountain ranges of the Malayan Peninsular, where they are found at altitudes of 1,000 - 1,200 metres.

The species from which many of our modern hybrids have been produced include *Dendrobium nobile*, *virginialis*, *heterocarpum* and *regium*. Among the older hybrids are *Dendrobium Lady Coleman*, *Gatton Monarch* and *Terrence Read*, while the newer ones include *Dendrobium Akatuki Queen*, *Fort Plum* and *Yukidaruma 'The King'*.

In their native habitats these species are exposed to extremes of temperature and rainfall. Summer temperatures may reach 40c, while 0c is not uncommon in Winter.

Bearing these conditions in mind, it can be seen that the area from southern Victoria to northern New South Wales is suitable for growing soft-cane dendrobiums. The usual retort to this statement is that many people are able to grow these plants but few can flower them, and all want to know the magic ingredient for success. As far as I am concerned, there are three magic ingredients, and they are sunshine, more sunshine and even more sunshine!

If you grow soft-cane dendrobiums in shady conditions, you are doomed to disappointment. You will produce lovely tall, green canes which will produce hundred of keikis, but very few flowers. I have tried growing soft-cane dendrobiums under semi-shaded

conditions, and it just does not work. Where I am successful the plants are exposed to light all day long. I am fortunate in working for a large institution in Melbourne which has glass-houses and shade-houses situated in the open, away from the shade of trees and buildings. Under these conditions the canes are short and plump, with a lovely golden-yellow colour. They can't help but flower!

Soft-cane dendrobiums usually flower on canes that are two years old. The new cane grows during the first spring and summer, and then growth stops during winter. It then 'hangs fire' for a year, losing its leaves during the second winter. The flowers usually appear when spring arrives. Occasionally a cane will mature and flower in one year, in which case the flowers appear among the leaves. Here are the details of my particular growing regime:

COMPOST: This usually consists of equal proportions of stone and wood. The stone may be scoria, blue metal or river pebbles, and the wood either pine bark or red gum chips. They may be used in any combination, and are usually about 12mm in size. I make up the mix in brick compost bins on a concrete base, and leave it to weather for as long as possible before use. A rubbish bin of fowl may be added to each cubic metre of mix.

When potting up my plants (usually in summer just after they have flowered), I add Nutricote slow-release fertiliser (8 month, N.P.K.= 13:6:9). Half a teaspoon to a 125mm pot would be sufficient. Plants which are not repotted are given the same treatment. I rarely use liquid fertilisers. Occasionally I may apply potassium ortho-phosphate

solution, at the rate of one teaspoon to 10L water.

LIGHT: I prefer to grow my plants under 30% - 50% shade cloth during summer, so that they are exposed to changes in the weather, which seems to make them grow more robustly. I like them to experience a few cold nights in autumn, which will terminate the growing points and initiate flowering buds. When I see the buds forming I bring the plants into the glasshouse so that I can watch them more closely. If frost is likely, then all the plants are moved under cover. If a plant does not terminate its upward growth in winter, I break off the growing tip to prevent the plant becoming too tall.

A glasshouse is really not necessary. Some of my acquaintances grow their soft-cane dendrobiums in houses with fibre-glass roofs and white shade cloth walls (which provide good light and air circulation). I am fortunate in having the use of heated glass-houses, so I make use of them. During the winter my plants grow under clear glass, while in spring a light coating of whitewash is applied. This helps to increase the size, and intensifies the colour of the flowers. If the plants are to remain under glass during summer, retain this light shading. Plants grown in a heated glasshouse over winter will flower earlier than those grown without heat, and the new growths will 'kick away' sooner. However, I stress that supplementary heat is not essential, I have seen plants well flowered under cool conditions.

It is important that light should reach all parts of the plant, if the maximum number of flowers are to be produced..

If the plants are jammed together, flowers will be

produced only from the top nodes which have received the most light.

WATER: Soft-cane dendrobiums grow rapidly during summer and rest during winter, and should be watered accordingly. Generous amounts of water are needed in the summer, much less in winter. I do not withhold water completely in winter, as I prefer the canes to remain plump. (Some growers don't water in winter). If the canes have received sufficient light in summer, and buds are initiated by cold weather, a little water in winter will not transform those buds into keikis.

PESTS AND DISEASES: I occasionally find the odd plant being attacked by mealy bugs which are easily controlled by spraying with a mixture of Clensel and white oil according to the manufacturers' instructions. If the plants are not watered sufficiently in summer red spider (two spotted mite) may become a problem. The safest way to overcome this problem is to hose the leaves and

maintain a high level of humidity. Predatory mites may also be used to control outbreaks of red spider. If necessary, an insecticide such as Pyrethrum may be used.

Soft-cane dendrobium leaves sometimes develop fungal spots, but this is usually not a problem if the air flow is adequate.

I never use fungicides, relying on good management to keep the fungi at bay.

POTS: Either plastic or terracotta pots may be used. I prefer wide, squat pots to prevent plants falling over or being blown over by the wind.

TO SUM UP: Soft-cane dendrobiums may flower from August to November, depending whether they are grown warm or cool. They are not difficult to flower. All you need is lots of sunshine and that's free.

(I know this info is for Sthn Victoria but it can be adapted for SA. Ed.)

MONTHLY FLORAL COMPETITION : JULY

OPEN DIVISION

		Judge	K.Northcote B.Wyly	
Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon		D. Biebrick	3
	Den. Peter		D. Biebrick	2
	Den. Ellen		D. Biebrick	1
Aust.Nat.Terr:Species	<i>Ptst concinna</i>		D. Biebrick	3
Aust.Nat.Terr:Hybrid	Ptst. Nodding Grace		D. Biebrick	3
	Ptst. xIngens		D. Biebrick	2
Std. Cymbidium	Tracey Reddaway 'Sungold'	M. Bray		3
	White Christmas x Baltic	M. Bray		2
Inter. Cymbidium	Inferno 'Little Tom'	M. Bray		3
	Mini Lady 'Magic Wand'	M. Bray		2
Mini. Cymbidium	Kauilani 'Princess Masako'	H. Gerber		3
	Morialta 'Morialta Falls'	H. Gerber		2

	Kauilani 'Gus Harano'	H. Gerber	1
Other Laeliinae	Osmentara (Liponia Kingston x Ctna. Keith Roth)	B. Wylly	3
Phalaenopsis	Zuma Firefly x Double Delight	M. Bray	3
Std. Paphiopedilum	Redstart x W.N. Evans	D. Biebrick	3
Novelty Paphiopedilum	<i>acmodontum</i> x <i>phillipinense</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	Prelude	D. Biebrick	2
	<i>fairianum</i> x Enchantress	D. Biebrick	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>insigne</i>	D. Biebrick	3
	<i>insigne</i>	D. Biebrick	2
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Oda. Red Gum	M. Bray	3
Zygopetalum	Titanic	R. Moore	3
	Artur Elle	R. Moore	2

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: CYM. TRACEY REDDAWAY grown by Moss Bray

FIRST DIVISION

Aust.Nat. Epi:Species	<i>Bulb. schillerianum</i>	M.Cunningham	3
	<i>Bulb. aurantiacum</i>	M. Tiggeman	2
Aust.Nat.Terr:Species	<i>Corybos dilatatus</i>	M. Tiggeman	3
Inter. Cymbidium	Winter Court	J. Lewis	3
Mini. Cymbidium	Wilpena 'Erna'	J. Lewis	3
Std. Cattleya	South Ghyl Orchid Glades	C. Ameer	3
	Pamela Hetherington	C. Ameer	2
	Sally Taylor	C. Ameer	1
Nov. Cattleya	Pot. Amagi 'Orchidglade'	R. Wilson	3
	Slc. Tangerine Jewel x Penny Kuroda	C.Ameer	2
	Blc. Dragon Jade	F. Bell	1
Cocktail Cattleya	Slc. Golden Wax	R. Wilson	3
	Frenchy's Cheekla x <i>L.pumila</i>	C. Ameer	2
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Leeanum	J. Lewis	3
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>sukakulii</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>insigne</i>	J. Lewis	2
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Mclna. Pagan Love Song	J. Lewis	3

Species	<i>L. anceps</i>	R. Wilson	3
	<i>Z. mackayii</i>	M. Cunningham	2

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: MCLNA PAGAN LOVE SONG grown by Jack Lewis

SECOND DIVISION

Judge: G. Brooks

Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon	J. Attenborough	3
	Den. Aussie Charm	C. Anderson	2
Std. Cymbidium	Via Lunagrad	G. Shevlin	3
	Palace Court	G. Shevlin	2
Inter.Cymbidium	Peter Pan x Mary Ann	G. Shevlin	3
	Marroong	N. Gitsham	2
Mini. Cymbidium	Mini Mint	J. & M. Cunningham	3
	Mini Mint	D. & I Attenborough	2
Cluster Cattleya	C. Blue Boy x C.harrisoniana	J. Dudley	3
Other Laeliinae	Epidendrum	N. Gitsham	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Leeanum	C. Anderson	3
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>villosum</i>	J. Attenborough	3
	<i>insigne</i>	D. & I. Attenborough	2

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION: CYM.MINI MINT 'MAXINE' grown by J. & M. Cunningham

WINTER SHOW

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

GRAND CHAMPION	Mr & Mrs Moss Bray
RESERVE CHAMPION	Mrs Jean Attenborough
Champion Open Division	Mr & Mrs Moss Bray
Champion First Division	Mr Phil O'Brien
Champion Second Division	Mrs Jean Attenborough
Champion Standard Cym.	Mr & Mrs W. Cuming
Champion Miniature Cym.	Mr & Mrs Attenborough
Champion Odont/Oncidium	Mrs R. Moore
Champion Cattleya	Dr & Mrs Wilson
Champion Australian Nat.	Mrs J. Attenborough
Champion Species	Mrs J. Attenborough
Champion Zygopetalum	Mr T. DeIonno
Champion Intermediate Cym.	Mr W. Fisher
Champion Paphiopedilum	Mr P. O'Brien
Champion Phalaenopsis	Mr & Mrs M. Bray
Champion Dendrobium	Mr & Miss Beasley
Champion Genera Not Yet Listed	Mr & Mrs W. Nicholls
Champion Seedling	Mr P. O'Brien