



The South Coast Orchid Club Inc. Gazette

May 1997

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**Next meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday the 13th May 1997, Calvary Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale.
Dinner prior to the meeting will commence at 7pm.**



The Guest speaker will be Mr Glenn Heylen. His topic, 'Cymbidiums as Pot Plants'.

Daytime Group will meet at 2pm. Thursday 15th May 1997 at South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South Brighton. Mrs Thelma O'Neill will be the Guest speaker. For anyone interested in Craft and Orchids this meeting is must.

Autumn Show

Members who wish to Show plants at the Autumn Show are reminded that they must be financial Members of the Club.

The Show schedule will be the same as for Monthly Meetings except, there will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion not Divisional winners, 1st and 2nd prize-cards and a Trophy for the Best Cattleya.

Plants will be taken from the May meeting to the Show for you , or they can be delivered to Colonnades Shopping centre between 6 - 8 AM. Wednesday May 14.

Take-out will be Saturday after 4 PM.

Judging commences Wednesday 9AM sharp.

DAYTIME GROUP



On an absolutely superb Autumn day Lesley Fenton welcomed about 30 members to the Meeting. At the conclusion of the general business it was over to Dean Roesler whose subject was, '**Cymbidiums - The King of Orchids.**' (Notes from Dean's Slide Program.)

Cymbidiums have been grown in cultivation for many centuries. In China for instance, they have been grown for 2000 or more years, indeed, *cymbidiums* have been significant in the culture & ethnic history of this country & their cultivation has been linked with the Elite. They have come to epitomise such human qualities as Elegance, Refinement & Nobility.

They are some 44 species *cymbidiums* - of which only a handful have made any significant contribution to the hybrids of today. These include: *Cymbidium insigne*, *tracyanum*, *lowianum* (usually the green form), *lowianum* 'Concolour', *erythrostylum*, *parishii* (*sanderiae*), & *grandiflorum* (*hookerianum*).

There are, of course, a number of other species that have played an important role in producing the beautiful hybrids of today - in the miniature and intermediate breeding. Species such as *Cymbidium pumilum* & *devonianum* have been most influential.

However let's take a look at the Species that have played the most important role in the development of Ultra-early Cymbidiums.

Cym. ensifolium Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'
(Miretta x *ensifolium*)

Mesa Zia Summer Pearl

Wild Colonial Boy Willunga 'Eyecatcher'

Peter Fire Sweet Treat

Many Peter Pan Hybrids display unslightly black leaf ticking.

2nd generation Peter Pan hybrids include :-

Sue Guest Sue x Wallacia

Stan Porter Wild Colonial Boy x

Sue x Snow Eagle Maureen Grapes

Another Stud plant that has contributed a great deal to the early intermediate breeding program (especially in South Australia) is Pendragon 'Broadmoor':-

Pendragon 'Broadmoor' Bridal Choice

Veronica Hoffman Without Peer

Artistic Impression (Pendragon x Arafair)

Australia once had a very successful & financially rewarding Cymbidium Cut Flower Industry - especially within the Sydney area. (Cecil Park Orchids about 500,000 & Glynnedale Park 250,000.) Today Schaefer's is the largest with about 500,000, Bryants Orchids

and to a lesser degree Doug and Judy Reah who grow only white standards for the U.S.A. market. Alvin Bryant began a breeding program in the 1960s to upgrade early white cut flower cymbidiums.

It's hard to imagine that the orchid he chose as the corner stone of this program was Early Bird 'Pacific'. When Early Bird 'Pacific' was shown for the first time, by the Dos Pueblos Orchid Co. of Sydney, it created a great deal of interest when displayed in a wire cage, complete with padlock. This orchid heralded a quantum leap forward, for it was a white tetraploid flowering in June.

The late Dr. Miles Seton did significant work using the Australian Native Cymbidium *suave*.

Suave's hybrids include:-

Bunyip (Carisona x *suave*) Piccaninny (*suave* x Tethys)

Anne Grieves Koala

Princess of Wales Jumbuck

Dean Roesler Koala 'Cuddles'

Several South Australian Nurseries are growing cymbidiums for the Pot Plant Industry. These include :-

Valley Orchids, Easy Orchids and Kiran Orchids.

Some of the new cymbidium hybrids that are rather eye-catching are :-

Willunga Royal 'Orange Delight'

Red Valley 'Rembrandt'

Second Renaissance 'Jenny Wren'

Valley Legend 'Eternity'

Rotorua 'Rose' 4n

Para Wirra

Dead Mans Curve x Erna Turner

Valley Princess 'Sugar Baby'

Mini Claret 'Royal Reserve'

Irish Cream 'Banksia Park'

Loch Lomond 'Mem J.B. Russon' 4n

Cora Paddison 'Waikanae'

Julie Hawkes 'Parfait'

& many of the Red Beauty hybrids.

Dean is sure after seeing such an array of colours, diversity of shape & sizes we would agree that **Cymbidiums are truly The King of Orchids.**

On the bench Keith Northcote's 'blue' Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn was a favourite, with Dean and Members. Also to 'pole' well was Tony's C. Bactia 'Forever Yours', Keith's Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales 'No 2' and C. Meadii 'Eucla' and Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice.

The lucky 'door' prize was won by Lois Glanfield.

The meeting closed with a cuppa.

THE ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA **by Roger Herriman**

The Alliance or group itself is surprisingly easy to grow here in South Australia & very rewarding too. They don't require any artificial heating during the cooler months of the year & with a bit of ingenuity they can be kept a little cooler over summer.

There are many different genera making up the Odontoglossum Alliance & for the most part, they interbreed quite freely. Some of the more commonly grown ones are *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Miltonia*, *Brassia*, *Cochlioda*, and to a lesser extent *Aspasia* and *Ada*.

The Growing Area

It doesn't need to be too elaborate. I believe it should have a section with a fibreglass roof (mainly for the protection of flowering plants & young seedlings). The remaining roof area may be of about 50% or 70% shadecloth (it doesn't seem to make much difference). If possible, use a weatherproof material on the southern and western walls (I have fibreglass but you can just as effectively use a polyscrim or any other waterproof material). During the summer a piece of 75% cloth should be fixed to the fibreglass roof to protect any summer flowering plants. During heatwave conditions it may be necessary to temporarily fit an extra layer of shadecloth over the roof area to prevent any scorching. I

haven't had to do this for a number of years because in Adelaide we only seem to get an occasional day over 40 degrees when the extra shading is beneficial.

You might notice that what I have described is little different from a Cymbidium or Australian Native orchid house. Odont. require very similar conditions.

Watering

Watering doesn't need to be any more regular for Odont. than most other orchid genera. I water mine at the same time as all other plants including Cym & Native epiphytes. One minor variation is that I dampen down the whole growing area early in the morning on hot summer days. I'm not keen on a lot of misting because of fungal problems associated with a very moist atmosphere. I think the damping down allows the rising moisture from the floor to increase the humidity.

Winter is always a problem time for watering, trying to work out whether to water or not. I think you can only go by the appearance of the potting medium. If it looks dry & the pot feels light then give it a drink. I regularly go for periods of up to three weeks without watering them especially during last winter when we had so much rain & cold weather.

Fertilizing

I believe in the old saying of 'a little used often' especially when it comes to Odont. They are not heavy feeders so apply fertilizers fairly sparingly. I think about quarter strength every week or so throughout the year using a variety of popular brands is probably the best routine to follow. They don't appreciate a lot of high nitrogen fertilizer so try to use a fairly even NPK ratio if you can. I regularly use one formulated for African Violets - they seem to do a great job.

Potting Medium

I know this is always a contentious subject, however, I think that simplicity is the key. The ingredients should, of course, be free draining as with all orchid mixes, but there are two other important considerations for me: Firstly, the ingredients must be readily available at all times of the year. Secondly, the quality should be uniformly consistent.

The brew that I use is simply medium grade Debco bark and marble chips or river gravel for the larger plants & the fine grade bark with

smaller size marble for seedlings & small plants. The proportions of each don't seem to matter too much but probably about 80% bark to 20% marble is a good starting point. I find the addition of marble chips to the bark helps to anchor the plant in the pot & keep it more stable until it re-establishes itself again. Large granules of polystyrene foam in the bottom of the pot keeps the root system clean & I have also found it deters slugs & other creepies from entering the pot through the drainage holes.

Potting isn't really a seasonal job with the Odonts because it depends more on the stage of the new growth. When the new lead is about 3 to 4 inches high is the ideal time to re-pot and this, of course, can be at any time of the year because they are not seasonal growers like cymms & the like. So potting can be undertaken throughout the year but obviously avoid very hot weather.

Odonts. love a fresh potting mix, so repot fairly regularly in preference to potting on - at least every two years if you can.

In general, I find the intergeneric hybrids are, by far, the easiest to grow rather than the straight *Odontoglossum* species & hybrids - with one or two exceptions.

The very large & filled in shapes that you see on the showbench today are derived from a relatively few species in South America. Some of these species, like *Odontoglossum crispum*, *harryanum*, & *pescatoria* come from an area in Columbia, high up in the Andes Mountains where there is a very narrow temperature range - I believe it ranges from a minimum of about 10 degrees at night to nothing more than 18 degrees during the day, and that exists throughout the year. We can't hope to match those conditions here unless we go to considerable effort & expense.

The Central American species of the alliance seem to tolerate a much wider range of temperatures, so, when these are bred with the large Columbian species, we get hybrids that are much more warmth tolerant &, in the main, grow quite successfully in our climate here. Two examples of these hardier intergenerics are *Wilsonaras* and *Odontocidiums*.

Most of the intergenerics that contain the genus *Brassia* are also very heat tolerant & generally have a vigorous growth habit producing large bulbs. Examples of these include *Miltassia*, *Brassidium*, *Macllenara*, *Aliceara*, and *Beallara*.

I believe that one species alone has done more to make this whole alliance of orchids far easier to grow in our climate & helps to produce plants that are hardy, floriferous, with long lasting flowers & infinite variations in colour & shape. The species I refer to is *Oncidium tigrinum* (or more correctly *Oncidium tigrinum* var. *Unguiculatum*). Taken on its own, it has an attractive but not spectacular flower, small & not very colourful. I think there are many other *Oncidium* species that most of us would consider much more desirable.

However, when this species is combined with the large, well rounded & colourful *Oodontiodas*, it produces *Wilsonaras* that generally carry most of the colour of the parent *Odontioda* but with long, often branching spikes & flowers around 3 to 3.5 inches across that will last in good condition for up to 6 to 8 weeks in cooler months of the year. So, if you are looking for a starting point in this type of orchid I don't think you could go wrong with anything that has *Oncidium tigrinum* as a parent.

Another important feature of the *Wilsonaras* is the variety of markings they produce that are not always the same from one flowering to the next.

A few tips from 20 odd years of growing *Odontoglossums*:-

1. If you are a beginner try to obtain plants in 3" or 4" pots.
2. Use rainwater as much as possible.
3. Never allow a very small or sick plant to flower. The energy required to produce a spike will most likely kill the plant.
4. Odonts. love fresh air movement.
5. Don't leave a flower spike on a plant for too long during the Summer months.
6. Try to repot when the new growth is about 3" to 4" high.
7. Always use new mix when repotting.
8. Be extra careful when watering in Winter to avoid rot in the crown of new leads.
9. Don't overdo the fertilizing.
10. Damping down can be beneficial in hot weather but only if there is plenty of air movement.

I hope these few tips will help you to grow your Odonts a little better & maybe encourage a few others to purchase a couple of plants & try your hand with them.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Stanhopea wardii grown by Chas Amee

Stanhopeas.



Most of this epiphytic, bizarre, grotesque genus comes from Central and South America, i.e. Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. There are between 20 and 50 species, depending on the reference material used. The genus was named in honour of the Right Hon. Philip Henry Stanhope who was President of the London Medico-Botanical Society from 1829 - 1837.

In cultivation the plants need to be grown in baskets, wire or wooden slats, that will allow the inflorescences to emerge, usually from the bottom.

The baskets can be lined with sphagnum moss or coconut fibre to hold the bark mix, although we find the birds love the fibre and we are forever replacing it.

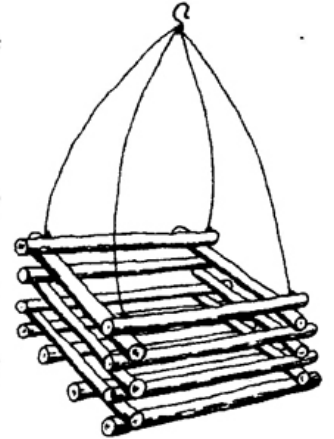
Stanhopeas can be infested with spidermite and are subject to fungal disease on the leaves if good air movement is not maintained. Watering should be done frequently when the temperature is high.

They seem to prefer to be hung up high reasonably close to the shade cloth.

We don't see them on the show-bench very often as the flowers are only open for a few days.

You always know when there is a *Stanhopea* open as their perfume is quite strong.

Congratulations to Chas for not only flowering the plant well but having it out for a meeting.



Flower of First Division

Laelia autumnalis grown by Ron & Irene Parish

This autumn flowering epiphytic/lithophytic herb can grow up to a metre in height.

It is native to Mexico and grows in the highlands, often in full sun.

Like many of the *Laelias* the flowers are mauve/purple in colour but the inflorescence can carry 5 to 10 flowers. It was first reported in cultivation way back 1836 near Liverpool, England.

In Mexico it is called *Flor de Todos los Santos* or All Saints' Flower as it flowers in that area in October.

Laelia autumnalis has not been used very much in hybridizing and we do not see it very often on the show-bench.

Congratulations Ron and Irene.

Flower of Second Division

Lc. Angel Heart grown by Helmut Herrmann

Laeliocattleya Angel Heart is a crossing between Lc. Puppy Love and C. Penny Kuroda.

Puppy Love is a hybrid of the very pale pink C. Dubiosa and *Laelia anceps*.

C. Penny Kuroda's parents are Summer Snow and *guttata*.

What a mix!

A very pale pink crossed with a mauve (probably), crossed with Summer Snow (I think a white), crossed with *guttata* which can best be described as a green flower with maroon measles and tepals like leather.

However, the result is a delightful pale flower with plenty of substance that would look lovely in corsages, wedding bouquets or anywhere else you would like to display it.

Congratulations Helmut.

ORCHIDS AUSTRALIA APRIL 1997 PRICE \$6-50

by G. Shevlin

April edition of Orchids Australia should be a must for every member, in this issue 10 pages are devoted to 'FUNGAL DISEASE OF ORCHIDS' by Helen Ogle, Department of Agriculture, University of Queensland, Brisbane.

This article, with its text backed up by clear, sharp, photographs illustrating many forms of fungi

should be a part of every orchid growers arsenal along with the usual fungicides.

Last year a reprint of 'Virus, disease of orchids' from the publication Orchids Australia was given to every member, we have some left over and a copy of this invaluable leaflet will be given with each copy sold.

This months Magazine along with its usual articles, cultural notes, etc does present good value, one Orchid plant saved would be well worth the \$6.50.

Available at the Treasurer's desk.

MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS

SECOND DIVISION

Inter. Cymbidium	Arkaroola x Peter Pan	S. Ng	3
Std. Cattleya	Blc Tribute 'Independance'	H. Herrmann	3
	Bc. Languedoc	A. & V. Thompson	2
	Lc. Fortune Bowl	J. Dudley	1
Nov. Cattleya	Lc. Angel Heart	H. Herrmann	3
	C. Gene May	H. Herrmann	2
	Blc. Mem Crispin Rosales x <i>C. bowringiana</i>	A. & V. Thompson	1
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Chocolate Drop	J. Dudley	3
	<i>C. bowringiana</i> x C. Doris Schindel	H. Herrmann	2
	C. Lulu	W. & R. Clark	1
Miscellaneous	<i>Epi. cinnabarinum</i>	N. Gitsham	3
	Epi. Lilac Queen	N. Gitsham	2
Novelty Paphiopedilum	<i>praestons</i> x <i>primulinum</i>	H. Herrmann	3
	<i>charlesworthii</i> x <i>superbiens</i>	H. Herrmann	2
Species	<i>C. mendelii</i>	H. Herrmann	3
Zygopetalum	John Banks 'Purple Lips'	M. Baulderstone	3
	<i>moseniacium</i> x Artur Elle	N. Woodend	2
	Blue Lake	M. Baulderstone	1

FLOWER OF SECOND DIVISION:
***Lc. Angel Heart* grown by Helmut Herrmann**

FIRST DIVISION

Std. Cattleya	Lc. Ovation	R. & I. Parish	3
Note name change	Blc. Bingham Vick (Oconee x Toshie Aoki)	R. & I. Parish	2
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Papa Robi	R. & I. Parish	3
	Bar-Maud x <i>purpuratum</i>	R. & I. Parish	2
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>amabile</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
Species	<i>L. autumnalis</i>	R. & I. Parish	3
	<i>Enc. cochleata</i>	R. & I. Parish	2
	<i>L. pumila</i>	R. & I. Parish	1
Zygopetalum	Titanic 'Maytime'	D. & J. Higgs	3

**FLOWER OF FIRST DIVISION:
Laelia autumnalis grown by Ron and Irene Parish**

OPEN DIVISION

Aust. Nat. Terr: Species	<i>Ptst. fischii</i>	R. & B. Anderson	3
	<i>Ptst. obtusa</i>	M. Tiggeman	2
	<i>Ptst. obtusa</i>	D. Biebrick	1
Inter. Cymbidium	Arkaroola x Peter Pan 'Green Vale'	H. Gerber	3
	Mini Lady 'Sweet Tina'	H. Gerber	2
Miniature Cymbidium	Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'	H. Gerber	3
	Minuet	M. Tiggeman	2
Std. Cattleya	Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales 'No 2'	K. Northcote	3
	Pot. Congaree 'Mendenhall'	R. & B. Wilson	2
	C. Fabingiana x Blc. Bryce Canyon	C. & H. Edwards	1
Cluster Cattleya	C. Minerva 'Highercombe'	C. Ameer	3
	C. Minerva 'Easter Bouquet'	K. Northcote	2
Novelty Cattleya	Lc. Gold Digger x Slc. Hazel Boyd	C. & H. Edwards	3
	Bc. Island Charm	C. Ameer	2
	Lc. Mini Purple x C. Chocolate Drop	R. Moore	1
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Blc. Makaha Gold x C. Chocolate Drop	B. Wyly	3
	Lc. Mary Elizabeth Bohn	K. Northcote	2
Other Laeliinae	Epi. Edith Arakwa	M. Tiggeman	3
Dendrobium	Lucky Stripe 'Kathy'	C. Ameer	3
	Alan Umaki 'Miya'	C. Ameer	2
Miscellaneous	Epi. Lavender Lady	D. Biebrick	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	<i>barbatum x philippinense</i>	R. & B. Anderson	3
	Helvetia 'Harcourt'	R. Moore	2
	Vangard	B. Wyly	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>spicerianum</i>	C. & H. Edwards	3
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Hwra. Mary Eliza	B. Wyly	3
Species	<i>Stan. wardii</i>	C. Ameer	3
	<i>Brs. longissima</i>	B. Wyly	2
	<i>Lembo. bictoniense</i>	B. Wyly	1
Zygopetalum	Kiwi Choice x Zgna. Dynamo	B. Wyly	3
	Artur Elle 'Stonehirst'	R. Moore	2
Note name change	Z. Pinnaroo (Blue Lake x Titanic)	P. & G. Flavel	1

**FLOWER OF OPEN DIVISION:
Stanhopea wardii grown by Chas Ameer**