



# 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

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Our next meeting will be held at the R.S.L. Hall, Morphett Vale at 8 p.m. on Tuesday March 12th.

Mr. Syd Monkhouse (Adelaide Orchids) will give his monthly short talk on growing orchids, and he will also be our judge for the night.

Mr. Merv. Dunn (Valley Orchids) will give us a talk on "Designing an Orchid House".

Merv. Dunn hails from Australia's orchid "Garden of Eden" - the Darling Ranges of W.A. Like Coleridge's Ancient Mariner - the grey beard loon - whom he could be mistaken for, he has been moved by some guiding spirit to change habits every five years until his genie deserted him and left him in the same place doing the same things for 10 years. So five years ago Merv. retired to concentrate on his Aquatic plant nursery which at that time had been a hobby for many years.

Today, Merv. is a Director of Valley Orchids Pty. Ltd., Reynella, which he laid the foundations for, yes, just five years ago. This month he reaches a high peak in orchids by having featured and illustrated in full colour, his pure-colour cymbidiums in the world's leading orchid magazines - the "American Orchid Society Bulletin" and the "Australian Orchid Review".

Merv accepts the ways of Nature and Natural laws as they are but does not accept without question man's customs and practices. In fact, his advice is, "Don't believe anything you hear or read and only hlf of what you see". This philosophy and his knowledge gained as a Nursery man, Navigator, Mathematician and Builder has stood in good stead in designing the "Ritelite" planthouse which he made a world release at the 2nd. Australian Orchid Conference, Melbourne in 1971 and about which we hope to hear something on Tuesday March 12th.

Merv. holds no secrets about his planthouses, or culture of orchids in living humus. His company's show bench records speak volumes for his adherence to Natural laws and his departues from conventions which he considers unsound.

At our last meeting, the Annual General Meeting, our speaker was Mr. Brian Loveys from the C.S.I.R.O., talking on "Plant Physiology". I am afraid part of this talk was a little above my head, but the brainy ones amongst us thoroughly appreciated it.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:-

President:-	Mr. Les. Poole	Committee:-	Mr. Keith Shaw
Vice Pres.:-	Mr. Peter Speer		Mrs. Ellie Shaw
Secretary:-	Mr. Lew. Carr		Mrs. Iris Nash
Treasurer:-	Mr. Harry Nash		Mr. Kevin Lynch
			Mr. Dick Styles

A ballot was taken on the addition of "Commercial Members" to our constitution, and this was passed by 44 votes to 6.

The alteration made to the constitution by adding "Commercial Members" was so that anyone wishing to nominate themselves as commercial growers could do so. It is impossible to define a "Commercial grower", so it is just left to the individual. All this will do, is enable them to exhibit in their trade name and abide by the rules of our club.

However, although the alteration to the Constitution was passed by ballot, the commercial fees recommended by the committee were not discussed, so unless a special meeting can be called to determine these fees, we can only accept ordinary members at the agreed subscription of \$2 per member or \$3 husband and wife.

Unfortunately, owing to alterations being made during this last year to both the constitution and byelaws, and other alterations still to be made to the byelaws, members who have joined during the last year have probably not had a copy, and they may find some of this hard to follow. However we hope it will not be long before this is all completed and we can have these reprinted for all members.

Judging of plants shown at the last meeting was carried out by Mr. Bernie Hansen, our always willing helper and past president. Results were as follows:-

OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	Pat ANN Pipsqueak	Mr. D. Lang	3 pts.
Cattleya	NEW ERA "Gaye"	Mr. W. Harris	3 pts.
	SUMMER STARS	Mr. W. Harris	2 pts.
	Bowringiana x Little Angel	Mr. & Mrs. L. Poole	1 pt.
Paphiopedilum	SARABAND	Mr. & Mrs. L. Poole	3 pts.
Australian Natives	Bulbophyllum 'macphersonii'	Mr. W. Harris	3 pts.
	Calanthe 'veratifolia'	Mr. W. Harris	2 pts.

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Species	Catt. leopoldii	Mr. W. Harris	3 pts.
	Den. fitzgeraldii	Mr. W. Harris	2 pts.
	Epi. ciliare	Mr. W. Harris	1 pt.

Misc.	Onc. SARCODES x leucochilum	Mr. & Mrs. Poole	3 pts.
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Genera

NOVICE SECTION

Cattleya	L.C.BONANZA X BONANZA	Mr. M. Dohnhart	3 pts.
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POPULAR VOTES

Orchids	Pat ANN "Pipsqueak"	Mr. D. Lang	
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Indoor Plants	Maidenhair Fern	Mrs. D. Grave	
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We have several applications for new membership, but due to unforeseen circumstances, they were not presented at the last Committee meeting, and will have to wait for next month. However, these applicants are quite welcome to come along as visitors until their applications are accepted.

TRENDS IN CYMBIDIUM BREEDING. By Mr. Ross Gowling

As we are nearing the Cymbidium flowering season I feel at this stage I would like to express my opinion on early cymbidiums, the parents used and progeny expected.

As there has been a lack of early Cymbidiums of quality in latter years I have selected several early and late clones for my breeding programme. Some of the following are. Lunagrad v. 'Elanora' - Fred Stewart - Etta Barlow - Sylvania v. Pink Beauty - Sirius. However before selecting a parent to make a cross, some thought must be given to the Quality and Colour, to fill the gap in early Cymbidiums.

I have chosen Earliana FI "being April flowering", in a wide range of crosses, as it does not fork and has lasting qualities. This clone crossed with a late variety, has already produced some exceptionally good "white" blooms (In May).

Lucens x Lucy Moor crosses were made over the past few years, the resulting cross of 'Angelica' has made its presence felt in the May - June "Yellows".

Lustrous x Henry Davis = Kalang, again some acceptable florists blooms for May - June "Pinks".

For the pastel greens and unusual shades the Bethlehems are well worth their place at the May - June meetings.

Hoping these few notes may benefit the Novice growers in selecting early blooms so as to spread their flowering season over a longer period.

Learning the Pleasure of Growing and Flowering your Orchids by Mr. Ted Work

One of the pleasures of growing Orchids is that they are a rarity to most people and the giving of an Orchid flower or a spray usually brings a look of surprise and pleasure to the person receiving the bloom and this is a very rewarding experience indeed as we who grow Orchids know, and is one of the pleasures that is associated with this fascinating hobby.

Another is the pleasure of sharing with friends pieces of plants you have and can change with others your friends may have to spare. If perhaps two or more persons can get together and buy between them some of the better quality mericlones but each person a different variety, then in a few years each has two or three times his original collection, this helps all concerned and with judicious buying, each gets a very good collection in a shorter period than trying to do it on ones own. We have found this method to work very well over the past few years and as a result have a collection of some of the best mericlones in our collections that we can get in Australia. As these mericlones take a few years to grow and reach flowering size plants, patience and good growing conditions must go hand in hand. This generally is offset by learning to flower what plants you already possess to the best of your ability. This is one of the bigger challenges that face the orchid enthusiast as one can alter the colour completely by wrong lighting and growing conditions so a knowledge of colour assessment is necessary to get the best out of your plants.

In some cases it takes up to three flowerings to learn the correct position in your flowering house in which to flower your favorite orchid, so you can see that patience is one of the essential requirements of an Orchid grower. The pleasures of seeing a well grown and flowered plant is immense and one cannot really describe the pleasure of having grown and flowered a good plant to the best of your ability, and you view it in your show area and find that the judges have recognised your efforts with a winning ticket.

The prize does not really enter into ones thoughts when planning and selecting your plants for competitions, all thoughts are concentrated on growing and flowering your best plants to as near perfection as you can, and while the pleasures and rewards of competition are great so one must give some thought to the grower who has had more than his share of disappointment during the year, and these can be many, for it is so easy to snap off a spike of a plant you had hoped to show, or a snail can have a chew of a tender bud and they do seem to be partial to them and seem to delight in doing just enough damage to ruin your twelve months work and effort in a few moments, and so it calls for unceasing effort on you part to keep these spoilers in check.

Remember that in the growing period a good strong growth means a good flower the following flowering season and so even though you may not have flowers the full twelve months of a year, to see your plants growing to the

Learning the Pleasures of Growing & Flowering your Orchids cont.

maximum of your capacity to grow them gives a mighty lot of pleasure and the rewards of such growing and care are indeed great and are as rewarding as any hobby that I know of.

While our interest over the past few years has been in growing Cymbidiums we had a house full of Cattleya when we first started on our growing careers, also in our collection was a number of Paphiopedilums, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis and various other types. Some were species, others were primary Hybrids but as we had bought most of our plants in 2" or 3" pot size they very soon outgrew the area we had set aside for them and it was only a matter of time before we were forced to make a decision of either build a larger glass house or select one type or the other to grow, meaning we either stayed with hot house plants or we grew Cymbidiums. We selected the latter and we divided our collection of glass house plants between two friends, and so that while we are not growing these plants, we have great pleasure in seeing them when they come to flower, and often have the pleasure of having a Cattleya flower in our home when they are in bloom.

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I would like to thank Ross and Ted for writing the above two articles, I feel sure they will interest our new members and they will both be only too willing to give you any advice you need in starting off your own collections.

This months selection

Did you hear about the hippie who didn't get off the plane in Madrid because the authorities objected to his long hair - The Mane in Spain stays mainly on the Plane.

Newsy Titbits

Congratulations go to our member and Auditor Mr. Mick Chenoweth, who recently became a grandfather. 'Thank heaven for little Girls'.

Cultural notes

All I can say at the moment is continue to water well, while this warm weather lasts.

As Mr. Syd Monkhouse will be speaking at each meeting, I am sure he will be only too pleased to give any advice on growing Orchids, so do not be afraid to ask if you have any difficulties.