



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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

PATRON: Mr. L.R. Grey (Mayor of Marion)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET
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Written by Mr. B. Hansen. Printed and Edited by Mrs. I. Nash.

Tuesday August 13th. is the date for our next meeting in the R.S.L. Hall Morphett Vale, beginning at 8.00 p.m. Members are asked to have plants tabled by 7.45 p.m. for competition.

The next meeting should be a good one, our speaker will be Mr. Rex Thompson talking on Meristem tissue culture. Many of you know Rex and as he is a leading authority in South Australia on raising Meristems and Seedlings in flask, I am sure the talk will interest everybody.

Mr. Syd Monkhouse will give his monthly cultural advice, and members are asked to bring along their problems and not be afraid to ask questions.

Unfortunately Mr. Ross Gowling is extremely busy, but he is going to write us an article on his method of seedling raising and tent culture, also Ross has offered to make up two stands to hold the flood lights we have purchased from the Orchid Club of S.A. We are lucky we have such multi-talented members in the club.

Yours truly will also be doing a potting demonstration for the beginners but I am afraid the "Oldies" will have to put up with it also.

Unbeknown to Mick Chenoweth at time of going to print, he is judging our monthly competition plants. Always a welcome are Mick's light hearted quips and helpful growing hints.

NEW MEMBERS - Our welcome goes to the following new members:-
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lambert, 53, Wattle Avenue, Hove.
Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Anderson, Galway Avenue,)'Sullivan's Beach

The Committee has decided to hold it's Annual dinner at the Rex Hotel on Friday October 18th. We would appreciate it if members could signify at the next meeting if they are able or willing to go. A deposit of \$2.50 per head will be required, the price per head is \$5.85. Help us to make a good evening, and bring along your friends.

OBITUARY

Committee and Members were saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Claude Hammond. Claude was a foundation member of the club which held its first inaugural meeting in July 1965 at the Old District Council of Encounter Bay Offices, Victor Harbour. Claude held the positions of President, treasurer, and was a willing worker on Committee. He was respected and liked by every member who knew him.

When the Club shifted to Morphett Vale in December 1969, Claude was on the Special Committee of transfer with the job of getting the Club off to a new start. I am sure his efforts have been rewarded and it is up to us to carry on his good work.

To his family goes our sincere sympathy.

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The committee has decided to set up tables for monthly competition similar to the winter show.

HANSEN'S HELPFUL HINTS.

Hansens Hints to Hopefully Have a Harmonious Happening without Harass at our Spring Festival.

FIRSTLY try undulating the floor of the exhibit, raise the background plants to add height, and vary the plant heights so that it forms an interesting line.

Natural embellishments or props include pools, rocks, a bough of a tree (to use to put small orchids in), wooden stepping stones, old posts etc.

With artificial props care must be taken not to overdo these, as large props are hard to blend in with the theme in a small exhibit. Gawdy props stand out like a sore thumb, so steer clear of bright baubles.

Thought of a theme yet? Try, - if you decide on one early, as you move around and give it thought, you come up with bright ideas and see things to compliment it so go to it, become artistic, get with it, let it all hang out, use your artistic ideas to the fullest.

Following are a few ideas, perhaps they will help:-

Japanese Garden theme requires bamboos, pools, stones, willow trees, set out sparsely.

Bush Scene(Australian) requires 'yaccas', gum leaves, shrubby background.

Formal Garden setting, as the heading states but perhaps you could use a fountain to add a little colour.

Aboriginal, requirement one whirlygig (home made), a fire (extinguished of course), a didgeridoo, couple of spears and a nulla nulla.

Perhaps you can pick out who you are going to exhibit with, if so, get together talk about a theme and see what you can make or come up with.

Following is the preliminary Prize schedule for our Spring Show. If anybody has any suggestions we would appreciate it if they wrote them out and handed them to Mr. Peter Summers, the Show Marshall.

Grand Champion Bloom of the Festival \$50
Reserve Champion Bloom of the Festival \$30

The above plants will be chosen out of all sections.

OPEN SECTION

Champion Cymbidium	\$50
Reserve Champion Cymbidium	30
Best White Cymbidium	10
" Red "	10
" Green "	10
" Pink "	10
" Brown "	10
" Yellow "	10
" Pure Colour "	10
" Any other colour "	10
" Decorative "	10
" Export "	10
" Seedling "	10
" Specimen Std. Cym. 5 or more spikes	10
" Min. Cym	10
" Novelty Cym.	10
" Min. or Novelty Specimen 8 or more spikes	10
Best Cattleya	10
" Paphiopedilum	10
" Phalaenopsis	10
" Species (Not Aus. Native)	10
" Dendrobium Hybrid	10
" Aus. Native	10
" " " Hybrid	10
" Miscellaneous Orchid	10

NOVICE SECTION

Champion	\$50
Reserve Champion	\$30
Best White Cymbidium	\$10
" Red "	10
" Green "	10
" Pink "	10
" Yellow "	10
" Any other colour "	10
" Decorative Cymbidium	10
" Export "	10
" Seedling "	10
" Specimen Std. Cym. 4 or more spikes	10
" Miniature Cymbidium	10
" Novelty "	10
" Specimen Min. or novelty 6 or more spikes	10
" Cattleya	10
" Paphiopedilum	10
" Phalaenopsis	10
" Species (Not Aus. native)	10
" " (Aus. Native)	10
" Miscellaneous	10

DISPLAY PRIZES (Excluding Commercial Growers)

Best Exhibit 1st Prize	\$50
2nd "	\$30
3rd. "	\$20
4th. "	\$10

DISPLAY PRIZES (Commercial Growers)

Best Exhibit 1st.Prize	\$50
2nd. "	\$30
3rd.	\$20

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FLORAL ART

The following are suggested classes, but are open for discussion by the ladies concerned.

Arrangement with Orchid Flowers to stay for duration of show (From Monday A.M. to Sat. Noon)

1st. Prize	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
\$20	\$12	\$8	\$6	\$4

Shoulder Spray from Monday A.M. to Wednesday P.M.

1st. Prize	2nd.	3rd.
\$10	\$6	\$4

Posie Natural from Monday A.M. to Wednesday P.M.

1st. Prize	2nd	3rd.
\$10	\$6	\$4

All arrangements must be tabled by 9.55 A.M. Judging to commence at 10 A.M. on Monday 7th. October.

Vase of flowers from Thursday A.M. to Saturday Noon

1st. Prize	2nd.	3rd.
\$10	\$6	\$4

Arrangement of One Orchid flower and any live foliage from Thursday A.M. to Sat. Noon.

1st. Prize	2nd.	3rd.
\$10	\$6	\$4

Judging for these two sections will start at 10 A.M. Thursday 10th. October. Show rules and Regulations will be printed in the Bulletin with the final prize list.

WINTER SHOW Competition results.

The Committees congratulations go to all prize winners and thanks to all entrants who helped to make our Winter Show such a success.

Grand Champion	Paph.BETTY BRACEY 'SPRINGTIME'	ADELAIDE ORCHIDS
Open "	" " " "	" "
Novice "	Mini.Cym. PUTANA 'SHOWPIECE'	Mr. & Mrs. Traeger
<u>OPEN SECTION</u>		
Cymbidium	1. LUNAGRAD 'ELANORA'	B. Hansen
	2. " " "	R. & A. Gowling
	3. PHARAOH SEEDLING	" "
Mini. Cym.	1. PALOMAR X pumilum	D. Lang
	2. ALICE WILLIAMS 'CAMDEN'	B. & L. Gray
	3. LANCELOT 'PARAMOUR'	D. Lang
Cattleya	1. L. TARTARIN X C. LYKAS	B. Hansen
	2. Blc. NORMAN'S BAY 'REGAL' X Blc.CRISPIN ROSALES 'CARLEEN'	M. Chenoweth

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Paphiopedilum	1.BETTY BRACEY 'SPRINGTIME'	Adelaide Orchids
	2.AMANDA 'ROSSIA'	" "
	3.F.C. PUDDLE FCC. RHS.	" "
Paph. species	1.P.sukhakulii	" "
	2.P. charlesworthii	" "
Phalaenopsis	1.MT. KAALA X DEBBIE MARTIN	Valley Orchids
MISC. species.	1.EUANTHE sanderana (old terminology VANDA sanderiana)	M. Chenoweth
	2.ANGRAECUM eburneum	Adelaide Orchids
Misc. Hybrids	1. " VEITCHII	" "
Best Seedling	1.P.DENA X DRAMATIC 'GILDA'	" "

NOVICE SECTION

Cymbidium	1.FRED STEWART 'PYMBLE' X SIRIUS	R. Styles
Mini. Cym	1.PUTANA 'SHOWPIECE'	Mr. & Mrs. Traeger
Aust. Native	1.PTEROSTYLIS nana	R. Hargraves
Species	1.ZYGOPETALUM mackayi	M. Donhardt
Best Seedling	1.FRED STEWART 'PYMBLE' X SIRIUS	R. Styles

LADIES FLORAL ART

Corsage sect.	1.Val Deal	Posy Sect.	1. Leora Harvey
	2.Hazel Chenoweth		2. Barbara Weller
	3.Gwenda Lang		3. Val Deal
Floral Art Sec.	1.Hazel Chenoweth	Special 3rd (No Orchid)	Margaret Campbell
	2.Leora Harvey		
	3.Leora Harvey		

The Ladies section was judged by Mrs. Jean Yelland, who we thank very much for coming along and judging for us.

The Committee & members thanks go to Colin Jennings and Neil Christoph for their efforts in judging our show.

PLASTIC POTS.

The use of plastic materials in the production of moulded plastic pots is a new and interesting application. Plastic moulding companies have looked for a means of disposing of their mixed colour reclaim. It is now used to economically produce plastic pots which are of diversified yet attractive colours. The pots have great interest to orchid growers.

Not all plastics are suitable; however, polystyrene is a much used plastic which is completely inert to water, quite non-toxic to plant life, so that it is an excellent material for the production of plastic containers for cultivation of orchids and house plants.

There are several significant facts to be said for plastic ~~over~~ terra cotta for pots. Plastic pots filled with a normal moist compost are actually warmer than terra cotta pots, as the former are dry on the surface, which is thus at the temperature of the dry bulb, while the latter, being moist, are that of the wet bulb. The difference can be over ten degrees.

PLASTIC POTS cont.

Most of us know of the Coolgardie safe, which keeps butter remarkably cool so long as the container is kept wet. Terra cotta pots operate exactly the same way, so that the compost is kept degrees cooler than the surrounding conditions.

The above mentioned cooling effect is due to the evaporation of water from the moist surface of the permeable ceramic pot. Thus there is a constant migration of water from the compost through the walls of the pot to the outside, where the water evaporates; so that soluble materials, including salts, gradually concentrate and crystallise. they build up and react with one another to produce insoluble salts. Over a time these build up to produce the white efflorescence which is often seen on terra cotta pots, particularly those which have been in use for some time. Any build up of salts is highly undesirable for plants. They require salts in the correct concentration, absorbing some, excreting others.

Growers have various means of ensuring the correct concentration such as regular watering and fertilizing; however, it is important that some latent outside influence such as evaporation on the surface of the terra cotta pots does not impose conditions which can be beyond the grower's skill to control.

Plastic pots have no permeability at all so that the condition of salt build up does not occur. It is thus much easier to maintain controlled conditions in the growing medium.

The weight of plastic pots is much less than that of terra cotta pots; this facilitates their handling and storage.

Their gay, unusual and abstract colours of windswept design can greatly add to the attraction of orchids and of indoor plants. So many variations in colour are available that growers are free to use their artistic skill in having a suitable pot for the plant it holds, or making an attractive ensemble of plants for display or indoor attraction.

At the nursery we have carried out some interesting experimental work by placing plants in identical compost and conditions in terra cotta and in plastic pots. The following advantages have been found:

1. Plastic pots remain clean and free of algae or of white efflorescence, while terra cotta pots soon become unsightly.
2. The growth of plants in plastic pots is noticeably superior to that in terra cotta pots. After several months identical growing in the same compost, the plants were taken out of the two kinds of containers to find that the root system was almost twice as extensive in the plastic pots compared with those in the terra cotta pots. It was noted that the roots in the plastic pots were pure white, whereas those in the terra cotta pots were blackened, particularly where they came into contact with the sides of the pot. This was probably due to the high concentration of salts which builds up on terra cotta pots, as mentioned above. The root growth of the plants in plastic pots was noticeably more uniform than in the terra cotta pots. This is probably attributable to the uniform concentration of the plant material which occurs in a container which is not permeable and thus not subject to continuous evaporation in one place.

PLASTIC POTS cont.

In plastic pots the only surface for evaporation is the surface of the soil itself as this is the area which is regularly subjected to watering; minimum build-up of salts occurs on the surface.

We believe that plastic pots will greatly benefit growers in exercising their skill in cultivating not only orchids but other container grown plants as they impose minimum conditions which are outside the control of the cultivator. However, it is noteworthy that it is preferable to water any pot from the top rather than to supply its water requirements by filling a saucer and allowing the water to soak up to the surface. Surface build up of salts would be the result; this is undesirable.

This very good article, written at the time plastic pots were first introduced, answers many of the queries directed to me about the use of plastic pots for orchid cultivation.

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The above article was submitted by Mr. Les. Poole. We would appreciate any interesting items that members can supply for use in our bulletin.

For a difference, "Last Months Pun" - by Bernie Hansen

"A funny thing happened to us at the last meeting"

After most people had gone home, Mrs. Ellie Shaw came in and told us that there were two chappies sleeping in the small ante-room at the back of the kitchen. Wondering on whose authority they were there, the President, "Black Les" said "I'll get to the bottom of this" and then turned to Peter Summers and myself and said, "You fellows will back me up, won't you?" Being gentlemen we let Ellie go first and bravely stomped into the room, and sure enough two forms were duly laying on the floor covered with rugs. Then very tentatively "Little Black Les" crept forward and said in a strained high pitched voice, "Err - excuse me" on receiving no answer Les bolstered up his courage with our backing of course, and said louder, "Excuse me", still no answer. At this point doubts were starting to creep in, and on closer inspection it was found that evidently the St. John's Ambulance Brigade had been holding first aid lessons in the hall, because there were two very passive dummies lying on the floor covered with rugs. With a sickly smile on our faces, the other four Dummies retired and locked up the hall.

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Owing to a lack of records, the committee would like members to fill in the details as listed below, we wish to have a membership record book for further reference. Your help would be appreciated.

Name

Address

Month and Year of joining (if possible)

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It looks as though our bulletin will change over to monthly medical reports.

The following members have been on the sick list but all are now recovering and I am sure the members send their best wishes for a speedy return to good health.

Mr. Bill Gray, Mr. Keith Shaw and also Mr. Grave (Dulcie' husband).

Trusting all other members are evading the claws of the Flu virus.