



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

Published Monthly by the South Coast Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.
Affiliated with The Australian Orchid Council & The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.

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JULY ISSUE 1993**NEXT MEETING:**

8pm. Tuesday 13th July 1993.
Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Christie Downs.
Benching of plants to be completed by 7-45pm for
judging to commence.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr Reg Shooter, a grower of many genera, a member of O.C.S.A. and Native Orchid Society and a Judge, has recently returned from the World Orchid Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Reg is going to share with us some of the highlights of his trip.

SUPPER:

Mrs L. Larsen will be in charge.

HALL SET-UP:

Would all willing to assist please arrive by 7pm.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

2pm. Thursday 15th July 1993.
South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve,
Broadway, South Brighton.
Mr Keith Northcote will give members tips on
preparing plants for a show.

TRADING TABLE:

Mr Denis Daykin will be in charge.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

7.30pm. Tuesday 20th July at the South Brighton
Community Hall.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to two new members :- Gail Westbury of
Marino and Brendan Killen of Belair.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

On a bitterly cold Winter afternoon Keith Northcote welcomed 20plus brave members to the June meeting. Before the meeting could commence Keith had to quell a near riot at the back of the hall where a poor little fan heater was trying its best to take the chill off the air.

The subject for discussion was the Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society & Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Seminar & Show that was held on the 15th and 16th of May at the Frankston High School, Frankston, Victoria.

"The combined Seminar/Show provides information on growing, & an opportunity to exhibit plants competitively. It is also of great benefit in providing a unique opportunity for growers to meet & make friendships, & it is this fraternity & camaradery that truly enriches one's pleasure from this wonderful hobby."

Rosalie Moore then showed slides of the Show, noting the way the displays had been 'built-up' using foam boxes, hessian, black vilene, mallee roots, benches, spagnum moss, round cable drums, benches etc, all things to keep in mind for our own shows.

Rosalie & Helen chose Bill Fisher's Den. Hilda Poxon as their favourite on the display bench with Keith's Cymbidium Valley Crystal a close second.

Members chose their favourites in reverse order with Mrs Roberts' Cymbidium Morialta, Rosalie's Paph *lawrencianum* X *gouldtenianum*, & Keith's Bc. Roman Holiday all coming in third. The afternoon concluded with a welcomed hot cuppa & a biscuit.

VACANCY

It is with regret that the committee accepts the resignation from committee of Bev Carpenter.

We now have a casual vacancy (til the end of 1993). Anyone interested in this position please advise the President either by phone or at the next Meeting.

WINTER SHOW

Members who are able to help with the **setting up** of the show are advised that this will commence at **9.00am on Friday 16th July.**

Put-in time for show plants is from **2.00pm til 6.45pm sharp. ALL PLANTS MUST BE BENCHED BY 6.45pm.**

Cymbidiums may only have 1 tie above the bottom flower. Unlimited numbers of plants will be accepted for the trading table between the hours of 12noon and 7.00pm Friday only.

The Show is open to Members and the Public Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July from 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Take out is Sunday **after 4.00pm.**

As is usual at Marion Recreation Centre all plants must be out of the Hall as soon as possible after this time and the Hall cleaned immediately. All help will be greatly appreciated.

As in previous years we will have a panel of O.C.S.A. Judges as well as our S.C.O.C. Judges, however, we will still be needing helpers because time is **very** limited. If you feel you can help in any way please be at the Hall by 6.45pm. A light supper will be available to Judges and Helpers.

Roster for Devonshire teas :-

Saturday 10 - 1

Peg Gilchrist & Mrs Clark

Saturday 1 - 4

Jane Higgs & Lesley Fenton

Sunday 10 - 1

Trix Anderson & Berna Viney

Sunday 1 - 4

Lesley Fenton & Shirley Steele

If you are unable to attend please ring Helen on 2986689.

DAY TRIP

The day trip to the Northern Nurseries is on July 25th. The balance of \$10 per head is required at the July meetings please.

The bus will be departing from the Christies Beach High School (opp Colonnades) at 9.00am and Westfield Tower, Marion Shopping Centre, at 9.20am. Expected return is by 5.00pm.

There are still a few seats available on the bus. If you are interested please contact Dale on 296 2456 as soon as possible.

NEW METHODS OF CYMBIDIUM CULTURE OR ARE THEY ? by PETER CHILES

Many of the major Cymbidium suppliers in South Australia have, in recent years, adopted many of the nursery practices described in this article. Some have been tried and tested by research and commercial practice overseas and others have been dictated by local conditions. For example the use of graded bark from *Pinus radiata* (generally supplied as 'Orchid Bark') has provided a very well drained growing medium which is in many ways ideal for Cymbidium growers. To get the best results from our orchids we should try to optimise the factors that affect the growth and flowering of our plants. I believe that these factors are :- **The plants** (their genetic makeup), **Light, Air, Water, Nutrition, Growing Mix, Pot Size, and Pruning.** Most of these factors interact one with the other and successful growers have arrived at a good balance in their selection of plants and cultural practices. Be wary of adopting only one or two ideas from a successful grower and neglecting other areas. Many people are after a single 'Magic Fertiliser' formula which, in isolation, is useless information

unless it is applied as part of an otherwise integrated growing system.

The Plants. It is essential that we select plants that will perform according to the end result that we require. i.e. pot plant trade, cut flower trade, show grand champions or just plain pretty, according to our diverse individual tastes. We all usually select our plants along the above lines, but please check to see that your selection is a good sturdy grower that is genetically disposed to flowering well. **Interrogate the vendor to establish how the proposed purchases will grow and flower** as nothing is quite as useless in an orchid house as plants that don't perform well. If you get one of these lemons don't divide it, sell it or give it to a new orchid grower. Do yourself and someone else a favour, throw it out to make room for a more satisfactory replacement that grows and flowers well.

Light is one of the most important factors for good steady growth and spike initiation in cymbidiums. I have noticed that quite small plants and backbulb propagations will send up spikes if they are grown under well lit conditions. It is essential to allow ample space between adjacent mature flowering size plants. 450mm (18inches) is not too much as the tall leaves on a Cymbidium can easily block out the light to adjacent plants. As an example of interaction of other factors note that the well spaced plants will have better air flow around their leaves, better penetration of water (and maybe nutrients) from any overhead sprinkler system, and be less prone to attack by fungi, rots and scale insects.

At last we have something new in White Shadecloth which is, I believe well on the way to proving itself as a superior shading material for orchid growers. W.A. Young and Co. have supplied me with the following details on Gale 'White Weathashade' :-

'White Weathashade is structured using identical stitch construction to black (70% white provides the same direct sun protection as 70% black) however, there is a substantial increase in the level of scattered white light.

Plants depend on light for cell reproduction and growth. The longer the available light (duration), the longer the growing period each day. Even on dull days in mid-winter when the sky is heavy and overcast, under 'White Weathashade' with Monolon (the white fibre used in this cloth) it is quite bright due to reflection of white scattered light from the atmosphere. This increase in light intensity and duration is responsible for significant acceleration in plant growth rates with improved plant quality and shape.

Air is utilised by plants to supply carbon dioxide to the plants. The Cymbidium also thrives under conditions of high humidity during its normal monsoonal summer growing period in nature. Most species then bloom in the winter and spring which is relatively cool and dry. It follows from this that we should try to maintain humidity and keep the growing area as cool as possible during our hot, dry summers. I like to use sawdust on the ground to maintain coolness and humidity in the growing area where the juvenile plants are grown. As fresh air movement is essential all of our flowering houses have large areas of

shadecloth walling to let in the fresh air. This also assists in naturally cooling the flowering houses in the late spring when we experience many hot, dry days. In Holland where the plants are grown in enclosed controlled growing conditions Carbon Dioxide Enrichment is used to maintain growing conditions. In Adelaide we can use Carbon Dioxide Enrichment in enclosed plastic tunnel houses during the winter months. I have tried this and small plants in community pots will grow quickly if temperature and light are maintained at relatively high levels. The carbon dioxide level in the air should be about 2000 parts per million during daylight hours.

Water and Nutrition are essential for plant growth. As Adelaide water is quite saline it is important to water copiously so that some water escapes from the holes at the bottom of the pots every time that we water. Most orchids can be classified as acid loving plants and I believe that their nutrition and natural disease and pest resistance is enhanced by adjusting the acidity of all water and fertiliser solutions applied to the plants. These practices combined with Fertigation (fertiliser application with each and every watering) will stop the build-up of harmful salts and result in strong sturdy plants with no 'leaf tip die back' which is common in Cymbidiums grown under stressful conditions. The trouble with all other systems of fertiliser application is that they are stop-start methods and we don't know exactly how much fertiliser is available to the plants at any given time. Slow release forms do not have an even release of their contents over time and periodical applications can often leach from the root

growing zone before the next application. In contrast fertigation supplies an accurate, very low measure of fertiliser at each and every irrigation and this accounts for its wide spread use in the container plant industry. If applied by overhead sprinklers this system will also Foliar Feed our plants and further enhance the uptake of minerals by the plants.

Get your sprinklers right. After many years of trying to get our sprinklers right we have finally come up with what we think is a good system. We now have four times as many sprinklers as we had previously. We have used the green jet Copland rotary sprays as they are cheap, have a very low flow rate and a very even coverage combined with a large coverage area. They are 1.4 metres apart on rows 2.7 metres apart. This works very well as each and every pot is watered by at least 12 sprinklers. This ensures that there are no watering 'shadows' and all plants get the water from every point of the compass. Lots of extra sprinklers are always required to ensure even coverage around the

perimeter of any sprinkler installation.

The growing mix should simulate the plant's natural root zone conditions as much as possible. Cymbidiums require a very free draining mix and many growers use straight 'Orchid Bark' which has excellent drainage and lasts for many years. While this is in many ways ideal we find that it has two disadvantages. One is that the roots stick to it and make a solid mass making the dividing of plants very difficult. The second is that there is plenty of room for slugs and small 'garlic snails' that can eat roots and flowers in their season. We use fine marble chips and white isolite foam in our bark and the mix then falls away easily when repotting and impedes slugs and snails. In addition we believe that this mix makes calcium and magnesium available to the plants. These are two essential elements for plant growth. The foam makes this sharp gravelly mix easier on the hands when repotting. To be continued.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH :-V.WOODLAWN GLORY X ASCDA.PEGGY FOO -R. & B.ANDERSON

OPEN DIVISION

Judge Syd Monkhouse
 Jim Shaughnessy

Aust. Nat. Epi:Species	Den. compactum	R. & B.Anderson	2
Aust. Nat. Terr:Hybrid	Ptst. Toveyana	R. & B.Anderson	3
Intermediate Cymbidium	Kauilani 'Mayfair'	H. Gerber	3
	Kauilani 'Concordia'	H.Gerber	2
	Valley Crystal	K.H.Northcote	1
Novelty Cattleya	C. Lulu x C. Lulu	R. Moore	3
	C. Chocolate Drop	R. & B.Anderson	2
Nov.Cluster Cattleya	Bc. Roman Holiday	K.H.Northcote	3

Cocktail Cattleya	Lc. Mini Purple	R. Moore	3
	Slc. Hazel Boyd	T. DeIonno	2
	Slc. Bright Angel	R. & B. Anderson	1
Miscellaneous	Z. Titanic	T. DeIonno	3
	Z. B.G. White	R. Moore	2
	Hwra. Mini Primi	J. & J. Jacobsen	1
Novelty Paphiopedilum	lawrenceanum x goultenianum	R. Moore	3
	crossianum	R. Moore	2
Species Paphiopedilum	insigne	T. DeIonno	3
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Mclna Pagan Lovesong	J. & J. Jacobsen	3
	Onc. Nonamyre x Karu Diane	R. Moore	2
Species	Laelia gouldiana	R. Moore	3
Cattleya & Mis. Genera	Ctna. Hanabu Fairly Flare	R. Moore	3
Vandaceous	Vanda Woodlawn Glory x	R. & B. Anderson	3
	Ascda. Peggy Foo		
	Asda. Caroline Kathleen	R. & B. Anderson	2

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION

VANDA WOODLAWN GLORY X ASCDA. PEGGY FOO GROWN BY R. & B. ANDERSON

FIRST DIVISION

Judges S. Monkhouse
K. Northcote

Standard Cymbidium	Tintana	H. & B. Viney	3
Standard Cattleya	Blc. Mem. Crispin Rosales	R. & B. Wilson	3
	x Lucky Strike		
Novelty Cattleya	Blc. Adelaide Silver	R. & B. Wilson	3
	Blc. Adelaide Silver	Rick Pankoke	2
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Porcia x Chocolate Drop	N. Wolfendale	3
Cocktail Cattleya	Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Sunset'	C. Ameer	3
	Slc. Wendy Valentine	C. Ameer	2
Miscellaneous	Z. Titanic 'Hove'	K. & L. Larsen	3
	Hwra. Mini Primi	B. & R. Nurse	2
	Z. Kiwi Choice 'Roxy'	W. & M. Vaughan	1
Species Paphiopedilum	wardii	R. Parish	3
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Miltassia Estrelita	B. & R. Nurse	3
Species	Laelia anceps	A. & M. Moffatt	3

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION : Z. TITANIC 'HOVE' GROWN BY K. & L. LARSEN

SECOND DIVISION

Judges A. Sullivan
H. Edwards

Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon	P. & G. Flavel	3
Standard Cymbidium	Kalang Ruby Luana 'Pink Champagne'	Mr & Mrs C.Cramer Bob Smith	3 2
Intermediate Cymbidium	Pendragon 'Broadmoor' Sylvania x Peter Pan Pendragon 'Broadmoor"	P. Hallam J. & M. Cunningham L. Gunn	3 2 1
Miniature Cymbidium	Mimi Lucifer	Phil O'Brien	3
Standard Cattleya	Lc. Fires of Spring x Blc. Sylvia Fry	Mr & Mrs C.Cramer	3
Novelty Cattleya	Lc. Mari Reyes 'Polido' Lc. French's Cheek-la x L. pumila	L. Gunn L & W. Cook	3 2
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	C. Chocolate Drop	R. & J. Kelly	3
Zygopedium	Z. Kiwi Choice Z. Blue Lake X Z. Kiwi Choice	D. Daykin D. Daykin L. Gunn	3 2 1
Standard Paphiopedilum	charlesworthii x Gigi Gigi x charlesworthii	P. & G. Flavel L. & W. Cook	3 2
Novelty Paphiopedilum	Edwardii charlesworthii x purpuratum charlesworthii x purpuratum	G. Richardson N.G. Andrew B. Woods	3 2 1
Species Paphiopedilum	sukhakulii insigne insigne	L. & W. Cook B. Woods N.G. Andrew	3 2 1
Odont/Oncidium Alliance	Milkyway 'Yellow Bird'	M. Tiggeman	3
Species	Z. mackayii Z. mackayii Z. mackayii	P. & G. Flavel M. Tiggeman Unknown	3 2
Miscellaneous	Phrag. Schroederiae Phrag. Sedenii	G. Richardson G. Richardson	3 2

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION : PHRAG. SCHROEDERAE GROWN BY G. RICHARDSON
