

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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Registered by Australia Post Publication SBH 1617

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ISSUE NO 3

APRIL 1984

MONTHLY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Monthly Meeting will be held at the Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Court, CHRISTIE DOWNS on Tuesday 10th, April, at 8 p.m.

Our speaker for the night will be Mr Arthur Winkler and his subject will be entitled 'Orchids of the Mount Lofty Ranges'. This will include a slide programme and will deal in some depth of both the structure of an orchid flower and give members a very interesting journey into the world of some of our own State native flora. Such opportunities are rare in our club and there will be an exceptionally interesting time for all of us. We thank Mr. Winkler for agreeing to come to us with this 20 or so minute slide programme and the committee are sure that members will be most appreciative.

Trading table of which more is detailed in this month's Gazette, plant competition, supper raffle and the usual friendly get together around the supper table will provide the remainder of the programme.

Once again we are a little concerned that a lack of assistance is being offered to our supper convenor, Mrs Dorothy HOWARD and any help to prepare this as well as assist in the pouring of the tea and coffee and clearing up would be much appreciated. We have also to remind members that the supper is a wholly voluntary one and if all members do not assist in the bringing of a plate of supper it does fall pretty heavily on the few who assist in this way regularly. Your support for this is therefore kindly sought. We are aware that all members do not partake in this supper and trust the above remarks do not provoke anyone to wrath. Thank you all.

HALL PREPARATION AND CLEANING UP:

It has long been a difficult problem to get the necessary trestles and tables set up and taken down before & after meetings each month. The Committee is particularly thankful to all who have given wonderful help with this somewhat onerous task regularly but, as it always seems to fall to the same few each month we are attempting to organise a roster of men who can share this job every cultural meeting. By sharing this task among those healthy men who could assist would greatly reduce the work load on the very few who perform this job now. With this in mind the committee have with much appreciation accepted the services of Mr. John Dudley although only one of our newer members, as the organiser of such duties. We would in thanking John appeal to men to facilitate in every way any help requested in sharing on this roster. By sharing these simple tasks it will bring more of our members into contact and ease the burden on the few willing folk who regularly do this job.

TRADING TABLE AT MONTHLY CULTURAL MEETINGS

As this is such a popular way of both acquiring and sharing different plants members help here too is sought to make it possible for as many members possible to be able to participate equally. Could you please help the convenors by:

Having plants for sale at the table by 7.30 p.m.

Making out and submitting with plants a decently written or printed list of plants put up for sale and including with the plant names, the asking price of each plant. Please do not scribble a list on small scraps of paper but use a decent and legible list, to include your own name as well. It would be a terrific help to other growers who are buying plants to find that the previous owner has attached a label to a leaf of the plant (if not in spike) showing colour, time of flowering and whether a Standard, Intermediate or Minature, with of course the price asked.

Back Bulbs.....It has become necessary also to restrict these to a leaf length of at least six (6) inches for the obvious reason that plants at that stage are usually well established and will give the new owner confidence that a good start has been made in cultivation. Back bulbs with a leaf length of under 6 inches will be put aside and not be sold on the trading table in future. As an added service to newer club members our trading table convenor Terry Howard has offered to try and obtain through the trading table only (not private sales) plants that members could be looking for. i.e. if a newer grower was trying to get a plant of say, Bethlehem 'Early Times' and indicated this to Terry and a plant is brought in for sale that member who is trying to get hold of one would be approached and told that there is a plant offered that night.

Finally, members must realise that those manning this facility of our club would also like to enjoy supper and a chat after the meeting so, will members who have brought in plants for sale please make their way to the trading table at a reasonable time after they have enjoyed their 'cuppa' to collect their money or unsold plants

TRADING TABLECONT....

It is an extra facility offered by S.C.O.C. to have the trading table in operation both before and after the meetings, so your willingness to work in with these volunteers who do a tremendous job each meeting is requested. Thank you all for your co-operation.

Further to my request for old copies of our club Gazette last month there have been three members who have loaned back numbers for the purpose of photocopying namely, Mrs Pat Biddess, Mr. Noel Lothian and Mr Syd Poole. Many thanks for this, and hopefully we will get copies bound for our library in time. It is certainly most interesting to read of the growth of S.C.O.C. from its humble beginnings.

CLUB GAZETTE

After due deliberation & discussion by the Committee at our March meeting it was decided that the Gazette be printed rather than photocopied in future issues. This April Gazette is the first and we hope for a continuation of this style and slightly altered set.

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Continuing on from March notes re the names of orchids winning places on the Show Bench in SOUTH AUSTRALIA's metropolitan area over the last decade, further research has shown that the following cymbidium orchids have been prominent. This of course is a limited selection and covers May meetings only. The reason is to try to find if we can use similar varieties in our collections to give greater depth and perhaps more success in flowering returns from our hoppy. Featuring very prominently still in this month are Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' and it's crossings, as this miniture has proved itself to be a good parent, while much improvement has been made with the addition of Colchichine to the Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' itself. Showing very high on the list of May winners is the recent minature crossing, (pumilum album x Radak) which is now, Morialta Falls, having won in excess of 14 first prizes. The Bethlehem 'Early times' & 'Magi' with the former, way out in front as a tropical collector, have piled up quite a record.

Crossings including Earlyanna were prominent a few years ago, but although still good regular flowering plants, have been passed over by the newer & perhaps better shaped, modern floweers. Earlyanna is still used quite a lot in breeding and the clone Earlyanna x Durham Castle is still well worth a place in a home collection. Generally a large deep pink and has quite long and strong spikes. The recent years have brought out the Luanas and of course these have many varietal names. These have made a big impact, but sadly all varieties are not readily available. They certainly made a big impact when they first appeared and still continue to do so.

S.C.O.C. was fortunate to have the first showing of these in our State due to the foresight and hard work our one of our early club members, Mr. Ross Gowling, although Ross & his wife remain in

membership we seldom see them these days. Ross certainly made a big sweep with his Luanas during June, 1978.

Lustrous Betty is evident in other crossings with the breeder seeking early flowering plants. Clones such as Fred Strwart, Balkis, Sylvania & many others were, and are being used to further the search for extended blooming particularly in regard to the earliers.

Other successful prize winners have been Cym. Flirtation 'Gail', cyms. Geraint, Jill, Moriah, Kalang, Splendour, Melinga, Georgiana, Valley Song & other Valley varieties. the list is very numerous and certainly provides many good choices for orchid growers in this day and age.

Coming back to our own collections and cultural advice for April, we need to make sure that all precautions have been taken in preventing attack by pests now that many spikes are showing. Some of the early flowering plants are making quite rapid growth and constant care must be taken to ensure that a free path of exit is made for each spike. Occasionally emerging reacesmes do get caught against the side of a pot or burrow down into the compost if a barrier is there to clear an unhindered growth.

A reminder to get all your stakes ready, new ones if bamboo are used or metal stakes can be immersed in boiling water for a few minutes. Cleanliness is very important and nobody enjoys putting plants in the incinerator because of virus, caused perhaps, by using infected stakes. A change back to Nitrogen based fertilisers can be recommenced from the middle of April. I personally believe in continuing my fertilising programme all the year through but, reduce the amount to half strength while the plant is in flower.

Some growers leave off fertilising altogether at this time as we are told that if a cymbidium orchid has any 'resting period' it is while they are in flower. Any rain that does come now will bring out all the snails & slugs so, as prevention is better than cure, keep the growing and flowering areas free of any sort of hiding place for these destroyers. Black beetles and cockroaches also live under fallen leaves especially where it is damp and inclined to be humid. We humans admire our flowers for their beauty but these pests unfortunately like them for food.

We here in S.A. seem to be fortunate in our spike initiation this year & flowers should be in abundance IF we keep them protected and cultivated as we should. Good hunting to you all and keep in mind the judging benches at all our shows and cultural meetings.

BARK

An article on Bark was printed in the August & September issues of the 1975 Club Gazette and because of the interest in this product as an orchid compost it is reprinted 9 years later for the benefit of members who would not have seen those articles. Originally the information was provided by Mr. Kym LASSCOCK and presented to the Nurserymens Assoc. 'Considering bark generally, the chemistry varies from bark to bark, Eucalypt to Radiata. Even if you narrow your scope down to Radiata pine bark, the chemistry varies

considerably, depending on the age of the bark. Basically the PH can vary from 4,5 to about 6. As the bark gets older, the PH tends to get higher. this is the PH of the crude bark as it comes off the tree.

Considering the other factors, total soluble salts in the bark are usually very low and it gives tremendous scope for application of fertilizers. There are no problems at all with the salts in the bark. With regards to the basic nutrients, I will get back to this in a comparison to peat and soil later, but basically, the Radiata Pine bark available in this State is pretty good stuff. We sent off a sample to Malkin (Plant soil laboratories) and he was amazed that the bark was so full of nutrients, there is nothing like it in America. Basically, what comes out is about 1/10th ideal quantities of nitrogen & such figures as all potassium needed, half the magnesium, and all the Boron. It is really remarkable material. However there are some materials that are quite low in bark, Phosphorus and Manganese for example, there is virtually none to speak of in it. That is basic chemistry. Overall then the PH can vary according to the age, but is fairly easily adjustable and is all on the acid side, which is good. The salts are low and basic nutrients by the bark itself is pretty good.

Bark as soil in connection with nutrition:

I have quoted some figures e.g. all the Potassium you need is supplied by the bark, and now I'll give a quick comparison to German peat moss. In regard to Nitrogen, peat supplies about 1/8th of the total Nitrogen you need, bark 1/10th, so bark is not going so good. Phosphorous, neither of them supply any significant quantity. Potassium, peat 1/3rd bark supplies all that you need. Magnesium, peat supplies 1/6th, bark supplies half, so what that means is that the fertilising of bark can be pretty cheap if you use the right chemicals, and over all you are better off with bark than peat. You only have to supply nitrogen, phosphorous, magnesium, iron and manganese.

Summary

In summary then, the PH is easily adjustable, and the tannins which can be toxic are rapidly leached away. The quantities of the Phenols are so low that I, personally have not come across any harmful effects from it. As regards nutrition, bark is supplying a good part of the nutrition and the application of fertiliser to bring it up to scratch is fairly easy. The next part of this talk is not particularly scientific, but simply observations I have made on what happens with bark as a soil. Basically, I believe that once the bark has been thoroughly saturated, it undergoes very rapid breakdown initially. This breakdown releases tannins, the tannins are soluble and they are removed quickly. Also in bark there is always a percentage of sawdust, and as you know, the sawdust is going to tie up the Nitrogen more than the bark will. Initially you get a fairly high Nitrogen tie-up that you must overcome by selecting your fertilisers correctly.

Initially when you water your bark in a container, you get large particles on the surface. This occurs for about a week to a fortnight and that can create a watering problem.

BARK Summary.....Cont.....

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For example, something with a very fine root system, tapped very carefully out of a tube and put into a pot. The roots are not that far below the surface, and that top 1" zone of bark is the zone that is susceptible to drying out fairly rapidly in that first two weeks period. After this initial breakdown, fine material appears on the surface and at that time watering requirements of bark drop by about 60%, that is to say you only need to apply about 1/3rd the amount to bark as to peat, and that means about 1/10th you need to apply to natural soil. Speaking of breakdown, I had one figure from Matkin who suggests that the total breakdown per year of Radiata pine bark, would not exceed 7% by volume. In comparison, good german peat moss for example, would experience a 20% volume loss per year. Just a brief summary, overall bark contains some scary chemicals that don't really do any damage, it's PH is easily adjustable, nutrition is pretty good, if you get a good hammer-mil that particle sizes are pretty good, and you've got to be careful initially, but you save money in the long run. That's all the basic facts I have about bark'.

GARDEN WEEK

TUESDAY 24 April - SUNDAY 29 April

'South Coast' has again committed itself to an exhibit for this very well supported function and this time on a larger scale than before. An energetic group of members with plenty of enthusiasm has planned what will be a challenging display - but there is one important aspect which is beyond their control. And that is the supply of plants in bloom to finish the display off.

It is regretted that your Committee has not been able to meet the competition from another Club as despite two requests made in writing to 'Garden Week' this Club has not been privileged to receive a grant of prize money. However let us all remember that the displays are not basically intended to be a series of competitive shows but factually something which is appealing to the General Public. Will all members who will have plants in bloom at that time kindly support the Club with the display.

Some members will be commencing to erect the requirements to support the display during the preceding week - indeed some members are already working quite hard on that - and what we need is flowering plants on Monday the 23rd. - in the morning. It is recognised that not all members will be able to bring their plants to the Show Grounds and all members unable to do so are requested to see that their exhibitors number is marked on the pot and then contact either the Show Secretary on 271-7070 and advice will be given as to how best to cope with the problem.

Additionally there are some days of the function for which we still need helpers and will you please give some thought to this and be ready to volunteer at the April Club meeting.

What is it all about? 1986 marks the 150th anniversary of the occasion when the then Governor of the Colony of South Australia read the Proclamation which heralded the founding of the Colony. Factually the Colony had been established by the Colonization Act of South Australia in 1834 following survey parties had recommended the founding of the Colony.

1986 is intended to be a year in which the people of South Australia will be seen to be commemorating the efforts of the pioneers and giving recognition to their endeavours whether successful or otherwise in establishing a society of which we are today members and enjoying so many benefits.

And what is happening in the Orchid World?

The Winter Show of the South Coast Club and also the Spring Show have both been registered as official functions contributing to the years events. Likewise the Australian Orchid Council are holding a Conference in the Month of September and have delegated the running of the Conference to the Orchid Club of South Australia. Such a Conference requires financial capital from which to operate and Clubs affiliated with the Orchid Club of South Australia are being given the opportunity to become 'partners' financially in the event. Your Committee is desirous of being so involved and now appeals to the members to assist in raising the money so that 'South Coast' will be so involved. An appeal is being made to all members to donate two (2) flowering sized plants - preferably in spike - so that the Committee can dispose of them at the Winter Show and so raise the money. This money will be made available on the basis of sharing in the profit or loss of the Conference (no Conference has ever been run at a loss) and the money being returned to the Club when available.

Your Committee has further recommended that all money so raised will become a beneficial gift as enumerated below to signify this Club's contribution to the Celebrations in a practical manner. Will you give this matter serious consideration and be ready to indicate your attitude at the April meeting.

Proposed distribution of monies so raised on return from the Conference Committee:-

Australian Orchid Foundation	50%
Cancer Research Foundation	25%
Landlords of the Hall in which the Club meets	25%

It is common knowledge that the 'Landlords' are the Lutheran Community and rather than be specific, your Committee takes the view that it would be preferable to allow them to decide the most needful body within their organization at the time of distribution. The intention is that the Club will be seen to be making a gesture of appreciation to those who were responsible in erecting the building in which we meet.

MONTHLY PLANT COMPETITION

MARCH 1984

OPEN DIVISION

Aust. Native Epi.	Den. Compactum 'hartleys' x Compactum 'Sunshine'	W J Nicholls	3
Mini Cym.	Cym Sue	B Bailey	3
	Cym. Ides of March	Mr & Mrs Pollitt	2
	Cym Minuet	L & R Moore	1
Cattleyas	Bc Mount Anderson	W J Nicholls	3
Dendrobiums	Den. Caesar x Jaq. Hawaii	W J Nicholls	3
Miscellaneous.	Asc. Peggy Foo	W J Nicholls	3
	Milt. Reg Nelli x(Cogeniauxiae x M Minas)	W J Nicholls	2
	Zyg. B G White	K Northcote	1
Phalaenopsis	P. Hymen x Barbara Moller	W J Nicholls	3
Species	V. roebliangiawa	W J Nicholls	3
	Gongora galata	W J Nicholls	2
	Phaius mishmensis	W J Nicholls	1
Division Flower Of Month	Asc. Peggy Foo	W J Nicholls	

1ST DIVISION

Mini Cym.	Cym. Minuet	Don Gray	3
	Cym. Minuet	Geoff Spear	2
Intermediate Cym	Cym. Sue 'Easter Bonnet'	D & J May	3
	Cym. Peter Pan x Matana	D & J May	2
Cattleyas	C. Browniae	R W & M Kiely	3
	C. Kew	D & J May	2
Species Paph.	Paph. concolor	D & J May	3
Division Flower of Month	Paph. concolor	D & J May	

2ND DIVISION

Mini Cym	Cym Minuet	A R Moffatt	3
	"	V J Rogers	2
	"	"	1
Cattleyas	C. Kew	C C Burfield	3
	Unknown	"	2
	C. h rrisiOniae x B Digbyana	"	1
Dendrobiums	Den Densiflorum	John & Bev Gay	3
Miscellaneous	Epi. Boundii	D Biebrick	3
	Epi. King Red	"	2
Paphiopedilum	P. Turpe	Neale Washington	3
Odontoglossum	Onc. confetti	Ian O'Daniel	3
	O. harryanum x (phaeuse x glenroy)	"	2
Division flower of Month	P. Turpe	Neale Washington	
Presidents Flower of Month	"	"	

SOME NOTES ON BRINGING YOUR PLANTS TO THE MONTHLY MEETING.

- Rule 1. Plants move independently of the vehicle transporting them and in the direction of greatest hazard.
- Rule 2. Transport motion causes plants to gain height creating negative head room
Corollary:- Height gained is greater if buds or flowers are present
- Rule 3. The probability of emergency braking occurring is directly proportional to the value, desirability, and rarity of the plants being transported.
Corollary 1. Probability further increased by non-ownership of plants