

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

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

Patron: Sir Francis Matters

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET

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The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be on Tuesday, 9th November, at 8 p.m. at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall, and will be our Annual General Meeting. Our Guest Speaker will be Mr Rex Thompson, President of the Orchid Club of South Australia, Inc. He will give a talk on the recent Australian Orchid Conference in Melbourne and will show us slides. Following this talk our Mr Mick Chenoweth will demonstrate the repotting of a Cattleya. Can you afford to miss this very promising meeting?

Annual General Meeting: All nominations for positions of office bearers and committee must be in the hands of the Secretary before the Start of the November Meeting. They must be duly proposed and seconded and signed by the nominee.

RESULTS OF OUR 1971 SPRING ORCHID FESTIVAL:

Grand Champion: Cymbidium Balkis Luath x Sensation 'Vieux Rose', grown by Mr C. Chenoweth.

Reserve Champion: Brasso-Cattleya The Globe 'Mrs Simon Gay', grown by Mr W. Harris.

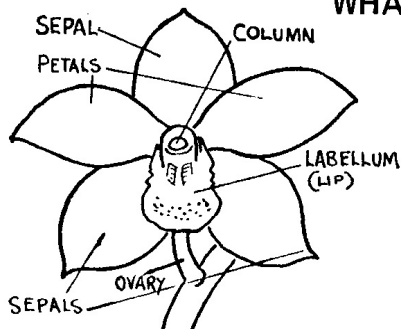
Points awarded—Open Section: Cymbidiums—Balkis Luath x Sensation 'Vieux Rose', 3 points (C. Chenoweth); Cym. Burgundian Chateau (2 points, E. Work), Cym. San Francisco 'The Beat' (1 point, E. Work). Cattleyas—BC The Globe 'Mrs Simon Gay' (3 points, W. Harris), BC Alexandrina (2 points, W. Harris); C. Loddigesii (1 point, C. Chenoweth). Paphiopedilums—Paph, name unknown (3 points, L. Poole); Paph. Maudiae Magnificum (2 points, Mick Chenoweth), Paph Lathameanum (1 point, W. Harris). Australian Natives: Dendrobium speciosum (3 points, G. Harvey); Dendrobium kingeanum (2 points, W. Harris); Dendrobium Broomfieldii (1 point, W. Harris). Miscellaneous Genera—Angulocaste 'Olympus' (3 points, Mick Chenoweth); Dendrobium regium x Den. Sir F. Moore (2 points, J & A Hofner); Epidendrum (1 point, B. Hansen).

Points awarded—Novice Section: Cymbidiums—Jason Dorset x Balkis 'Silver Orb' (3 points, Mr Styles); Cym. La Novia 'Mona Vale' (2 points, Mr Styles), Cym. (name unknown) (1 point, Mrs D. Graves). Cattleyas—C. Undine (3 points, J. Maddern); C. Mossiae wagneri x BC Langleganis (2 points, D. Deal). Australian Natives—Dendrobium lingueforme (3 points, P. Summers); Dendrobium speciosum (2 points, P. Summers); Dendrobium baileyi (1 point, L. Carr).

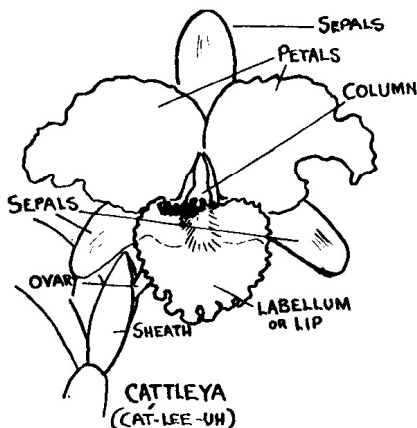
Another magnificent Club effort, and congratulations must go to our exhibitors and Show Marshals!

Club's Christmas Party—December Meeting: Members are reminded to bring along a little wrapped gift to the value of approximately 50c to be pooled. Men please bring for men and ladies please for ladies. We also hope to have a backbulb again for everybody attending and also a little gift for everyone from the ladies of our Spraymaking Classes. I understand the ladies are already hard at work!

WHAT IS AN ORCHID? – by Syd Monkhouse



- This sketch shows the important parts of a cymbidium orchid flower.



- Above: Diagram of a cattleya bloom.

The mention of the word 'orchid' often conjures images of large exotic, fragrant blooms abounding in steaming jungles, with brightly coloured birds fluttering by. How far from the true picture this is!

Orchids inhabit every country in the world. There are more than 24,000 different kinds found in nature. Orchids are not generally found in the dense jungle thickets, as they are the 'Garbos' of the vegetable kingdom and 'prefer to be alone'. They grow high up in mountains on the fringes of the forests or else up in the uppermost branches of jungle trees. Tropical orchids are generally the largest and most exotic of all orchids, although the showy cymbidiums which make up the greater part of our display here, come from high up in mountainous regions in temperate or subtropical regions.

An orchid is really a perennial herb. Its flowers differ, in make-up, from any other bloom. It has six petals—generally comprising three sepals, two petals and a labellum (or lip). The reproductive organs of an orchid are contained in the 'column', above the labellum, and it is this column which represents the big difference between orchids and the lesser flowers. The pollen of an orchid bloom is joined together into sacs and is not loose as generally seen in other flowers. The construction of the pollen sacs and the ingenious contrivances possessed by an orchid, to ensure that only pollen from a like species fertilises it, are fantastic. When one studies the make-up of the orchid column it is soon realised that here is a bloom superior in design to any other flower and one that has raised itself far above its vegetable kingdom.

Roughly, orchids can be classified into two growth types: SYMPODIAL FORM—this group consists of plants that make up a growth completely and then a new growth begins at its base—e.g., Cattleya, Cyripedium, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, etc. MONOPODIAL FORM—this group has no pseudobulb. There is a main axis which grows at its tip, producing new leaves continuously and sending out flower stems from the base of the leaves—e.g., Vandas, Phalaenopses, etc.

Several fallacies exist regarding orchids—FIRST—orchids are not generally delicate plants. On the contrary, they are probably the toughest plants in the world. **SECOND—**there is no 'black' orchid. In fact, there is no such thing as a black flower of any type. Deep purples, yes, but black—never!