



September 1998

*The
South
Coast
Orchid
Club
Inc.
Gazette*

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Next Meeting will be held at 8pm on September 8th at the Calvary Lutheran Church Hall, Windsong Crt, Morphett Vale.

The Guest Speaker will be Edda Viskic. Her topic 'Native Orchids of Costa Rica - A Travelogue.'

Anyone willing to help set-up the chairs and trestles please be at the Hall by 7pm.

Members wishing to show plants at the Meeting are reminded that they need to be benched by 7-45, with your name beneath the pot, for judging to commence.

All Members are welcome to show plants.

Daytime Group will meet at 2pm on Thursday 10th September at the South Brighton Community Hall, Dover Square Reserve, Broadway, South Brighton

Spring Shows

South Coast 21st -26th Sept. Marion Shopping Centre.

O.C.S.A. 4th - 12th Sept. Wayville Showgrounds.

Murray Bridge 11th - 13th Sept. Murray Bridge Town Hall.

Orchidaceous 21st - 26th Sept. Burnside Village Shopping Centre.

Gawler 21st - 26th Sept. Elizabeth Shopping Centre.

NEDOS 14th - 19th Sept Marden Shopping Centre.

OS.N.S.W 21st 27th Sept Mt. Druitt Marketown. N.S.W.

Victorian O. C. 18th 20th Sept Going Green Nursery, Burwood Rd. Hawthorn. Vic.

DAYTIME GROUP

On a pleasant Spring day Lesley welcomed 19 members, including a new member Jack Garrick and guest speaker Lyn Collins to the August meeting. 3 apologies for lateness or non-attendance came from the 'Shopping Centre Negotiators' who were 'busy', once again, trying to finalize arrangements for the Spring Show.

Lyn, from the Fern Society, gave an interesting and enlightening talk. She recommended that when buying a fern from the supermarket, repot, removing about half of the root ball, tease out the roots and repot in premium mix. There were 4 plants benched, Jane chose 1st. Cym. Without Peer 'Soft Touch', 2nd. Den. Gulginni x Ellen, 3rd. Den. Sofala 'So Good', 4th. Zygonaria Strand 'Macoy'. Members chose the same plant 1st however, 2nd Den. Sofala, 3rd Den. Gulginni x Ellen and 4th Zygonaria Strand.

The meeting concluded with a cuppa and chat.



GET WELL

Once a gain we have quite a few Members on the sick list. Get well soon, our thoughts and wishes are with you.

SPRING SHOW

The Spring Show will be held in the Westfield Marion Shopping Centre from 21st - 26th September. The Show area will be in the Fashion Mall adjacent to Fletcher Jones, Table Eight etc.(similar area to last year but minus the fork lifts, we hope). Put-in will be on Sunday the 20th between the hours of 9.00 - 10.30am. Entry will be via the door near the Bank of Adelaide. (Same as last year) Judging will commence as near as possible to 10.30. Plants will be Judged before being put in the Display. Typists and as many helpers as possible will be required as we clash with several other Shows so volunteers will be 'light-on'. Take-out will be after 5pm on Saturday the 26th.

Foliage plants will be required please i.e. ferns etc.

ACROSS MY DESK

Another little gem that crossed my desk recently, which in light of all the work some people do to make Clubs (and Shows) successful seemed appropriate.

BE CONSISTENT

*DON'T GROW TIRED OF BEING HELPFUL,
DON'T GET BORED WITH BEING NICE,
DON'T LOSE HEART WITH BEING HELPFUL,
WHEN YOU WANT TO SULK - THINK TWICE.
DON'T LET LITTLE THINGS UPSET YOU,
DON'T BE EASY TO ANNOY,
DON'T BE MISERABLE FOR NOTHING,*

*THERE IS PLENTY TO ENJOY,
GO ON TRYING TO BE DECENT,
GO ON WORKING TO BE KIND,*

*LET THE BLESSINGS OF A LIFETIME TAKE
THE WORRIES OFF YOUR MIND.*

By courtesy of the Yankalilla Newspaper, publisher Paul Jeffs.

THIS IS YOUR (ORCHID) LIFE HENK van LEUVERAN

How long have you been growing orchids Henk?

About 14 years. Bubs Greedy gave me the first plant, a Cymbidium Kiata 'Nightshade' and I still have 1 plant of it. (Not for sale).

What genera do you grow now?

Mainly Cymbidiums but I also have Cattleyas, Zygopetalums and Sarcophilus.

What conditions do you have for them?

They all grow under the same conditions - 70 % green shadecloth - outside.

How often do you water them?

At least twice a week in Summer and once a week in Winter, if we haven't had any rain.

Which fertiliser do you use?

Any fertiliser, the cheapest.

Do you use any insecticide or fungicide?

Only sparingly. I use white oil for scale as required.

Any special recipe for potting mix?

I use plain medium bark for all. They all get the same treatment. The Sarcophilus go between the Cymbidiums.

What do you do with the excess flowers Henk?

The neighbours often get the flowers although I occasionally sell flowering plants from home.

Is Erna interested in the orchid plants.

She likes the flowers and puts them inside.

Have you got a favourite?

(Continued on page 3)

Yes , a standard , Cymbidium Kiri Te Kanawa 'Princess' registered by Andy Easton of New Zealand in 1983.

Thanks Henk.
TIPS.

If you are potting on Cymbidiums (not repotting) do it in April - May when the plants are in a growing mode.

Flush plants fortnightly with water.

ORCHIDS IN HAWAII

The Windward Orchid Society held it's Show in April this year. The show chairman was Walter Hiraishi, an orchid hybridist and grower. His speciality is crossing orchid plants between related families. The Oncidium genus includes about 600 species, and his crosses are among those species.

Oncidiums (dancing ladies) are usually small yellow/brown or occasionally lavender/white flowers, however, Hiraishi looks for mutants, i.e. 'a sudden variation in inherited characteristics that differ from the parent plants.'

His collection is housed in two shadehouses. One covered with 30% shade cloth, where the epidendrums, vandas and cymbidiums live, and the other covered in 70% where the oncidiums and seedlings grow. The wind sweeps through the houses and supplies excellent air movement.

Hiraishi considers that "orchids, like rock stars, go in and out of popularity. For a while everybody loved lady slipper orchids, then vandas etc". "But now, everybody wants smaller plants".

This Hawaiian gentleman recommends "that orchids be potbound and that transplanting them to larger pots should be done infrequently." "Some growers say that about every 3 years is about right, at the time when the new roots begin to sprout, usually in Spring or Summer".

Hiraishi uses a potting mix of bark, perlite and cinders, for fertilising he uses Nutricote on the mature plants.

Interesting info from Lois Taylor of Hawaii via Pam and John Beasley.

BASIC CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CULTURE

Thoral Tormet

From a 1991 Gazette

Many people consider that orchids ARE cymbidiums - probably the most widely cultivated of orchids. They are the easiest to grow and flower, readily available and inexpensive. The species originate in

the Himalayan region of northern India at fairly high altitudes with warm days and cool nights during summer and dry, cool conditions in winter. Hybrids inherit similar preferences.

Ideally, the temperature range should be 18-27c for growing and 13-22c for flowering. A shade house permits greater control over temperature and light, simulating the cymbidium's natural habitat. However, cymbidiums don't require expensive housing and can be grown successfully even in the shade of a peach, plum or apricot tree (on the northern side). It is almost impossible to kill cymbidiums. However, they will not grow successfully on a verandah or in the shade of a heavily foliated tree as plants will not get enough light and the leaves will become weak and floppy. Protection from heavy frosts is necessary.

There are three general types :

Standards-

Largest plants
largest flowers

Intermediates and Miniatures-

.smallest flowers
.usually smaller plants
.many more flowers
.early flowering
.like slightly warmer conditions

Growing requirements are identical for the three types and every collection needs some of each. Although there is a general belief that orchids are hard to grow, anyone in the Adelaide area should be able to grow them well.

NEEDS FOR SUCCESSFUL CULTIVATION

.maximum sunlight good air circulation
.ample water .cool summer nights

AIR CIRCULATION

Good air circulation is essential for good plant growth, supplying oxygen and carbon dioxide and promoting the quick drying off of leaves thus preventing fungal, bacterial and red spider problems. The air surrounding the orchids must be moist. Bad ventilation causes poor growth and immature buds to yellow and drop off.

SHADE HOUSE

A shade house gives better control over light, air movement, watering and pests. It should be where the cymbidiums will receive the most sunlit hours during the whole day with no shade from a house, shed, fences, trees or anything else. If a choice has to be made an aspect receiving the most morning sun is best. Allow for good air movement. Do not make your shadehouse too small, allow for future expansion. Galvanised water pipe is best for the frame work of your shade house. Timber will rot with the continuous moisture. Height should be at

least 8ft (2.4 meters) and a gable will allow for future plastic cladding to be added to create a flowering area. Shadecloth should be rated at either 50 or 70 per cent of black, green or white.

FLOOR COVER

In the summer months additional humidity must be provided. Lay down black plastic sheeting and cover with moisture holding materials such as wood chips, gravel or bark. Beside suppressing weeds, this will look neater and retain moisture, creating humidity.

BENCHING

It is advisable to grow cymbidiums on benches to avoid slugs, snails, ants, insect pests and fungal disease. Besides preventing back problems for the grower and giving easier access to the plants, benches also provide additional ventilation and assist with drainage of pots. The ideal bench would be made of galvanised water pipe and galvanised 50mm mesh - strong enough to carry the weight of a good number of heavy pots. A width of no more than 3ft would enable the grower to reach any pot. The bench should not be too high so that the humidity from the ground cover is not lost but at the same time it is still possible to clean underneath.

SPACING

Plants should be grouped on benches by pot size. Small pots in between larger ones will not receive their fair share of water, fertilisers and light, so keep the same size pots together. If pots are also kept in lines it will facilitate watering, fertilising, spraying and also air movement. Do not overcrowd. Allow one pot space between all pots. For plants to receive maximum light, benches should ideally run north to south. Plants may also be hung in wire baskets from the roof of the shadehouse, but do not overdo this as lower plants will lose light.

COMPOST

There are dozens of recipes for compost. Beginners and growers with fairly small collections would be better advised to use a commercial mix throughout their collection. All pots should contain the same mix because they are all growing under the same conditions and watering, fertilising, etc. can then be standardised. If you do mix your own compost keep accurate records of the recipe for future reference

Compost should:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| be slightly acid | be open & drain freely |
| remain moist but not wet when conditions are hot & dry | not be toxic to roots |
| remain open & free draining | not sour for at least 3 years |
| be heavy enough so that pots will stand upright on the bench even in quite windy weather. | |

The ingredients for the compost should be readily available and could include some of the following-

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| pine bark | hardwood shavings | tan bark | buzzer chips |
| peat moss | washed sand | shellgrit | rice hulls |
| gravel | peanut shells | scoria | charcoal |
| oak leaves | sheoak needles | river pebbles | marble chips |
| isolite | sawdust (breaks down too quickly) | | |

These would not produce any food for the plant and this would have to be considered in your fertilising program. If using charcoal ensure that it has not come from timber that has been treated with preservatives.

An organic compost, by a slow decaying process, produces plant food on which the orchid could feed. If using animal manures, be aware that fresh fowl manure will burn the roots ; cow manure should be old and broken down into chunks ; sheep manure should also be old and will need gravel to balance its fineness as it breaks down.

In our own collection, we are now using straight pine bark which is cured with blood and bone and stood for 3 to 4 weeks.

WATERING

Most plant losses are caused by watering problems, however no one can tell another grower how often he should be watering. It must be a personal decision, dictated by many factors, such as

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| type of compost used | its condition |
| amount of sun & shade | size of pot |
| air circulation | prevailing weather conditions |

With experience a grower learns to judge from the weight of the pot whether it is dry and in need of water. Alternatively, by poking into the compost with a finger, it can be judged if it is dry or moist, remembering that deeper in the pot will probably be even moister. But do remember the golden rule of watering - IF IN DOUBT, DON'T WATER. Instead the foliage and ground surface could be lightly misted.

Sprinkler systems do not always distribute water equally, so it pays to hand water twice a week in summer. You can get to know your plants that way. Water over the full surface of the compost and until the water runs freely

from the drainage holes. Watering should leach out the fertiliser salts that accumulate in the bottom of the pot, damaging the tender young roots. Root loss and bulb shrivelling are caused more by over watering than anything else. Never stand pots in saucers of water. Do not, however, allow plants to dry out completely as the root tips will seal off and it is difficult to get them growing again.

Cymbidiums love overhead watering during summer and early autumn, but never in the middle of the day on hot days or the leaves will burn and you may cause rot. It is best to overhead water late in the afternoon or early evening when the sun has gone from the plants. Such watering washes dust and dirt from the leaves and allows the plant to take in moisture through the leaves. Do not overhead water or mist in cold or wet winter weather. Water early in the morning in winter so plants can dry out. In winter it is better to under rather than over water.

Cool summer night temperatures

As mentioned earlier this is an essential requirement for flower initiation. There needs to be a temperature drop to around 13 degrees on summer nights. This does not happen naturally in our climate, but may be brought about for the plants by sprinkling or misting over the whole plant for at least 10 minutes in the early evening when the sun has left the plants.

FERTILISING

Plants growing in pots cannot be expected to flower, much less flower every year, if not fed. When the plants are actively growing, from September through to mid December, they must have an NPK fertiliser high in nitrogen to stimulate growth. From mid December, when flower spikes initiate, flowering should be encouraged by the use of a fertiliser high in phosphorous and potash. These assist in the formation of flower spikes, ensuring that the flowers will be bigger and stronger and firm up the leaves thus avoiding soft growth. Fortnightly fertilising using half recommended strength is advisable. You may prefer to fertilise at quarter strength every week. Do not believe, however, that doubling the dose of fertiliser will give twice the benefits. The results will be just the opposite. It is important to always give the plants a good watering BEFORE fertilising, otherwise the roots will burn.

In early September and again in Autumn, a dose of iron chelates is beneficial. Also, each month during Summer, apply magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts), one teaspoonful spread around the top of the pot.

Some growers use slow release fertilisers, but in our experience you do not have any control over the amount of actual food that is released to the plant at one time and roots can be burned by a flush of fertilisers suddenly released.

Cymbidiums need trace elements, particularly iron, manganese, molybdenum and boron. Commercial fertilisers usually list the contents on the packaging. I would refer you to Australian Orchid Growing, Volume No. 1- Cymbidiums- for fertiliser programs.

AUGUST FLORAL COMPETITION

FIRST DIVISION

Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Lustrous x Vivid	D. & I. Attenborough	3
	Den. Zip x Ellewong	B. Fisher	2
	Den. Aussie Child x <i>speciosum</i>	B. Fisher	1
Aust.Nat. Terr:Species	<i>Ptst. pedunculata</i>	D. & J. Higgs	3
	<i>Ptst. concinna</i>	D. & J. Higgs	2
Aust.Nat. Terr:Hybrid	Ptst. Hoodwink	D. & J. Higgs	3
	Ptst. Pioneer 'Big Ears'	D. & J. Higgs	2
Inter. Cymbidium	Kurun Magi x Ruby Eyes	H. Herrmann	3
	Without Peer	H. & B. Viney	2
Std. Cattleya	C. (Moroniae x Dundas) 'Tom's Pride'	H. Herrmann	3
Std. Paphiopedilum	Blagrose x Craig Hanes	H. Herrmann	3
	Invincible	H. Herrmann	2
Nov. Paphiopedilum	Summer Isles	H. Herrmann	1
Species Paphiopedilum	<i>venustum</i>	H. Herrmann	3

Odont/Oncidium Alliance	<i>Odm (luteo-purpureum x Mack) x Fire Flower</i>	H. Hermann	3
	<i>Onc. Kaulani</i>	D. & J.Higgs	2
	<i>Onc. Aloha Iwanaga</i>	D. & J.Higgs	1
Species	<i>Serapius lingua</i>	D. & J.Higgs	3
	<i>Osmoglossum pulchellum</i>	H. Herrmann	2
	<i>Osmoglossum pulchellum</i>	D. & J.Higgs	1

FLOWER OF FIRST DIVISION:

***Dendrobium Lustrous x Vivid* grown by Ian and Denise Attenborough**

SECOND DIVISION

Aust.Nat.Terr.Species	<i>Ptst. curta</i>	P.& L. Fenton	3
	<i>Ptst. pedunculata</i>	W.& R. Clark	2
Aust.Nat.Epi:Hybrid	Den. Ellen x Bardo Rose	D. Cammack	3
	Den. Kim Heinz	G.& M.Voskamp	2
	Den. Sunglow x Ellen	D. & L.Williams	1
Aust. Nat. Terr.Hybrid	Ptst. Nodding Grace	G.& M.Voskamp	3
Std. Cymbidium	Red Bill	S. Ng	3
	Sylvan Clarisse x Cronulla	S.Ng	2
	Via Rincon	N. Woodend	1
Inter. Cymbidium	One Tree Hill	S. Ng	3
	Show Off x Ruby Eyes	S. Ng	2
	Celtic Imp x Sharon	D.& L.Williams	1
Mini. Cymbidium	Fire Baron	S. Ng	3
	Wilpena	G.& P. Gilchrist	2
	Hot Dog	M. Smith	1
Std Cattleya	Bc. Marcella Koss	G.& M.Voskamp	3
Nov. Cattleya	Adelaide Silver	G.& M.Voskamp	2
Std Paphiopedilum	Hellas x Winston Churchill x Wenbourne	G.& M.Voskamp	3
	Chief Eagle	M. Baulderstone	2
Zygopetalum	Titanic	M. Baulderstone	3

FLOWER OF SECOND DIVISION:

***Cymbidium One Tree Hill 'Doris'* grown by Silvester Ng.**

OPEN DIVISION

Aust.Nat.Epi:Species	<i>Den. speciosum</i>	H. Gerber	3
	<i>Den. speciosum</i>	H. Gerber	2
	<i>Bulb. schillerianum</i>	M. Tiggeman	1
Aust.Nat.Terr:Species	<i>Ptst. curta</i>	M. Tiggeman	3
	<i>Diuris brevifolia</i>	M. Tiggeman	2
	<i>Chiloglottis formicifera</i>	M. Tiggeman	1
Aust.Nat.Terr:Hybrid	Ptst. Dusky Duke	M. Tiggeman	3
	Ptst. Elegance	M. Tiggeman	2
	Ptst. Joseph Arthur	P. & G. Flavel	1
Inter. Cymbidium	Valentines Love	M. Tiggeman	3
Mini. Cymbidium	Tepko Freckles	P. & G. Flavel	3
Std. Cattleya	Blc. Lucky Man	R. & B. Wilson	3
	Blc. Dundas	R. & B. Wilson	2
Nov. Cattleya	Blc. Oriental Sunshine	R. & B. Wilson	3
	Blc. Golden Shrine	T. DeIonno	2
	C. Valentine Day	T. DeIonno	1
Nov. Cluster Cattleya	Lc. Happy Valley	P.& G. Flavel	3
Cocktail Cattleya	Slc. Hazel Boyd	P. & G. Flavel	3
Nov. Paphiopedilum	<i>tonsum</i> x Pop Monkhouse	P. & G. Flavel	3
Onc./Odont Alliance	Wils. Salana	T. DeIonno	3
	Onc. Milky Way	M. Tiggeman	2
Zygopetalum	Titanic x John Banks	M. Tiggeman	3
Species	<i>L. gloedeniana</i>	R. & B. Wilson	3
	<i>Pleurothallis restrepioides</i>	P.& G. Flavel	2
	<i>L. superbiens</i>	R. Moore	1

FLOWER OF THE DIVISION and of the NIGHT:
Blc. Oriental Sunshine grown by Richard and Beryl Wilson