



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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Our next Club Meeting on Tuesday, 12th October, at the Morphett Vale RSL Hall at 8 p.m. will be our **Club's Spring Festival**. It will again be staged with mosses and ferns and we hope you come forward with all your flowering orchid plants and greenery. Please let Mr Keith Shaw (Tel. 83 3056) know how many plants you will have and the time you will bring them to the hall. The hall will be open from 5 p.m. onwards, but other arrangements can be made with Keith if necessary. **Mr Graham Harvey will demonstrate the repotting of a Cymbidium.**

Mrs Ellie Shaw has purchased hessian, dyed it green and donated it to the Club for use at our Festival displays. Thank you, Ellie!

Prizes to be awarded at our Spring Festival: Both, Open Section and Novice Section will compete for the Grand Champion (Club Trophy) and the Reserve Grand Champion. Separate prizes will be awarded for both Sections for the Best Cymbidium, Best Cattleya, Best Paphiopedilum and Best Miscellaneous Orchid. (If more than three plants are tabled of any one genus in the Miscellaneous Section these may be judged as a separate section at the judges discretion.)

Our Annual Dinner at the Warradale Hotel will definitely be held on **Saturday, 23rd October**, and if you have not paid your \$3.50 per head yet please do so at the beginning of the next meeting. This will be the last date to confirm your booking. If you cannot attend the next meeting (because of the Melbourne Conference) notify Bernie Hansen (Tel. 96 9301) or Don Deal at the above address for confirmation of your booking.

Since our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the November Club Night, **nomination forms** for officers for the committee will be available at the October Meeting. If you wish to nominate your nomination form will have to reach the Secretary before the beginning of the November meeting.

At our Christmas Party on the 14th December meeting we will draw the winner for our **Christmas Hamper** (which will be a mighty one!) and tickets for it will be available from next meeting onwards.

The following plants were awarded points at the last meeting: **NOVICE SECTION**—Cymbidium Regency x Balkis (Mr Styles), 3 points; Cym. Babylon C. H. x Flavian Latour (Mr D. Lang), 2 points; Cym. Spice Islands (Mr Styles), 1 point. Dendrobium *speciosum* (Mrs E. Shaw), 3 points; Dendrobium *falcorostrum* (Mr P. Speer), 2 points; Dendrobium *Gracillimum* (Mr P. Speer), 1 point. Epidendrum *obrieanum* (Mr D. Deal), 3 points; Epi-Cattleya Nebo (Mr D. Deal), 2 points. **OPEN SECTION**—Cymbidium Buxom (Mr C. Chenoweth), 3 points; Cym. Shiraz (Mr C. Chenoweth) (2 points), Brassavola Glauca x Cattleya Amethystaglossa (Mr & Mrs Hofner), 3 points. **THE POPULAR VOTES** went to Cym. Shiraz (Mr C. Chenoweth) and Azalea 'Iceberg' (Mr and Mrs Hayden). **A SPECIAL COMMENDATION FOR CULTURE** was made by the judge to Mrs D. Grave for a beautifully grown Cymbidium Mirella (one of the smaller varieties, not normally eligible for prizes, but grown to perfection).

CULTURAL NOTES by Bernie Hansen — for month of October

Well! One display for Spring is over—that is the stand we put in at the Orchid Club of South Australia's John Martin Show, and while writing these notes, the Club's effort at Hazelgroves is under way. That leaves only our Spring Show at our own Club rooms on the 12th October; so all those plants that were a little late for the previous two shows should be at their best for our own.

TALKING CYMBIDIUMS:

The other day I was asked 'what is a green bulb and growth?' It looks like our cultural lessons have missed out on a little explaining. So here goes:-

Back Bulb: A leafless bulb that can be removed and cleaned by removing the old leaf husks and roots, then planted about 1/3" deep.

Green Bulb: A single green leading bulb that has its own roots and leaves and the new growth (the 'eye') is starting to move.

Green Bulb and Growth: Similar to above but the growth is well away, say approximately 8—12" leaf length.

Culture on Cymbidiums: Watering must be watched a little closer as more sunny days and less rain are experienced. Keep up the fertilizing. I am not a believer in cutting spikes to help the Cymbidiums along as we often hear. A well grown Cymbidium can hold its flowers until they die without any adverse affects on the plant. But as soon as the spikes are removed the plant can be divided or potted on, whichever the case may be. The range of pots I use are 4" pots for back bulbs and smaller seedlings, 6" pots for larger growths, etc. From 6" I plant into 8" and then into 12" pots or 15" square squat tubs. At each of these changes the plants are never allowed to get pot-bound, as the root mass tends to rot in the middle. Also the roots find it hard to break free and get into the new compost.

Following is the 'mixture' as used by Mr Les Poole, who potted on a Cymbidium for us at the last General Meeting, and gave us a talk on his growing techniques: 1 x 4 gall Peat Moss, 2 x 4 gall Rice Husks, 1 x 4 gall Oak Leaves, 1 x 1 gall River Sand, 1 x 4 gall Pine Needles, 1 x 4 gall Tan Bark (soaked), 1 x 4 gall Isolite, 6 x 4 gall Shavings and Fowl Manure composted (serve chilled!).