



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

February 2019

President: Michael Willoughby Patron: Sydney Monkhouse

AT A GLANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at 8.00 pm. at St Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. Business will include Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2019, Voting on changes to the Constitution (as discussed on page 4 of this Gazette), the Popular Vote for the Winning Orchid for 2018, and the presentation of Trophies for the winning Orchid Growers in 2018.

The February General Meeting of the Club will follow the Annual General Meeting. Our Guest Speaker will be Henry Hancock who will talk about his orchid travels in Sabah, Borneo around Mt Kinabalu. Please don't miss this great presentation. The meeting will finish a little later than usual at 10.00pm. **PLEASE BRING A PLATE** for Supper.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: There will be no class in February. The next meeting will be in March.

JUDGING: Please have your plants benched by 7.40pm so Judging can commence at 7.50pm. If you are running late due to work commitments please phone Phil on 0438 891 612.

DAYTIME CHAPTER: The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 14th February 2019 at 2.00 pm. Our Guest Speakers will be Lesley and Robert Gunn talking about the Orchids of Costa Rica.

Daytime Chapter attendees please note that in February and March, if the temperature is above 35 degrees there will be no meeting as there is no air conditioning but only fans in the Lou Kesting Hall.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18th February 2019 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Roger Herraman will be Our Guest Speaker talking about the ANOS Conference [Australian Native Orchid Society]. Roger will be bringing plants for sale.

NEW MEMBER: The club welcomes Shan Wilson as a new member to the Club. We hope you enjoy your time with us and your orchid growing experiences will be memorable.

LUCKY NAME BADGE: Make sure you wear your Name Badge to meetings, you may win a prize.

PUBLIC LIABILITY: Under Insurance Guidelines all members and Committee attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign and print your name on an Attendance Sheet.

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
February 24 and March 24



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OUTGOING COMMITTEE FROM 2018



PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Malcolm Manglesdorf
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear
TREASURER:	Anne Steer
COMMITTEE:	Donna Meeuwsen, Oui Ju, Jim Fogarasi, Christine Robertson, Craig Humfrey, Geoff Spear
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:	
Registrar	Phil Steer
Editor	Christine Robertson
Web Master	Michael Willoughby
Librarians	Raelene Gardner (Main Meeting) Diane Cawley (Southern Region)
Photographers	Neil Cooper, Craig Humfrey
Convenor S. R. Group	Geoff Spear
Convenors Daytime Chapter	Barbara Almond, Patty Abell

LIFE MEMBERS

* denotes Member who has passed away.

1978 Dulcie Grave *	1986 Harry Viney *	2009 Don Biebrick
1978 Leora Harvey	1986 John Nicholls	2009 Henk Van Leuveren*
1978 L. & H. Poole*	1989 Helen Edwards	2010 Dorothy Carassai
1978 Ellie Shaw*	2003 Norman Gitsham	2011 John and Bev Gay
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2005 Merve Steele*	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson*	2005 Shirley Steele	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson*	Circa Tony and Toshie Deonno*	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	This list is still being
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	compiled.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2019 are now due. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

RATES – One membership covers all groups

Family Membership	\$38.00
Single Membership	\$30.00
Junior Membership	\$22.00

Rural and Interstate Membership

Family Membership	\$34.00
Single Membership	\$28.00

HELP WANTED FOR WORKSHOPS IN 2019

We are seeking members with a shed or covered outdoor area to hold workshops for the months of April, June, August, October and December. It is anticipated that workshops would be of two and a half hour duration.

- The first half hour would be for socialising with a cuppa and biscuits.
- The second half hour would be for showing your collection.
- The last hour and a half will be discussing growing orchids, questions and answers and any orchid information.

President's Annual Report



2018 has been a year which presented challenges that were thrown at you, our members. Challenging weather conditions for your plants and flowers again; this maybe the future weather patterns we will be faced with. For the committee, challenges with last minute changes to the Winter show at Colonnades and illness. It proved however, that with a good committee these challenges can be overcome. The success of the Club in 2018 is very heartening to see, so thank you to all the members for making 2018 one of the best years for The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia in recent years.

2018 saw the club host three interstate speakers who managed to have us thinking about our collections and how to manage them and diversify our collections to suit our environment. There were three plant house visits throughout the year and Kevin Western hosted a Sarcophilus day in November that saw our members have the opportunity to mix with members of OCSA who were also invited. All four days were well attended and more are planned for 2019.

The four shows held annually by The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia were a success as they all made a surplus profit, which augurs well for the club's future. The shows brought the Club and growing orchids to the attention of the general public, gaining us new members and stimulating interest in orchids.

Our thoughts are with those members that we have lost during the year and their families. They will be missed terribly. We send our best wishes to our members who are unwell and recovering from illnesses.

Daytime Chapter – Barb Almond-Patty Abell -Lucy Spear. The Daytime Chapter membership has again improved in 2018 which is good to see. Very interesting plants have been benched for us all to enjoy. Thank you to our convenors for all your hard work as some of the older members would never miss this meeting.

Southern Region Group – The Southern Region Group was faced with challenges throughout the year in 2018 and the way in which this group faced them is credit to all members. Up to 40 members look forward each month to their meeting. They all love their orchids and are growing them very well. The Southern Region August Show will have a new home in 2019 and details will be in future gazettes.

A very big thank you to all the judges, committee, and all members for supporting the club throughout the year. Phil Steer as Registrar is continuing to do great work for the club; Christine Robertson our editor, the effort you put into the Gazette is there for all to see; our Treasurer Anne Steer for all the continuing efforts throughout the year; and Craig Humfrey with the setting up of EFTPOS facilities which has been a boon to the club in 2018. My sincere thanks on behalf of the membership. Finally, Lucy, thank you for all your work and great organization in 2018 under great duress particularly from June. I know it was a disappointment for you not to be at the Spring Show.

Thank you to all who gave up their precious time to assist with Shows and meetings. Finally, I wish you all a wonderful 2019. May your hobby give you lots of pleasure.

Successful growing and showing

Michael Willoughby



ORCHID CALENDAR 2019

- AUTUMN SHOW:** Sunday 5th May to 11th May 2019
- S.A.R.O.C. FAIR** The 2019 SAROC Fair will be held at the Torrens Drill Hall,
King William Road, Adelaide on Saturday 15th June
and Sunday 16th June 2019
- WINTER SHOW:** Sunday 28th July to Saturday 3rd August 2019
- SOUTH REGION SHOW:** Thursday 22nd August to Sunday 25th August 2019
- SPRING SHOW:** Sunday 22nd September to Saturday 28th September 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

There have been several occasions in the past couple of years where conflict has arisen within the Club for which our Constitution provides no guidelines for resolution.

The Committee would like to amend the Club Constitution to include the following Clause. This will need to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a. The dispute resolution procedure set out in this clause applies to disputes between a Member and:
 - i. another Member, and/or
 - ii. The Club
- b. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute with fourteen (14) days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.
- c. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within ten (10) days after the scheduled meeting, refer the dispute for resolution to an independent tribunal established by the Australian Orchid Council.
- d. The Committee may prescribe additional grievance procedures in Regulations

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISITED SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB

Our last Main Meeting for the year was our Christmas Dinner and Party. There was Kris Kringle presents, a monster Raffle, and lovely dinner provided by the Texas Bull Machine with fish, ham, turkey and all the trimmings. Deserts were scrumptious (thanks Oui).

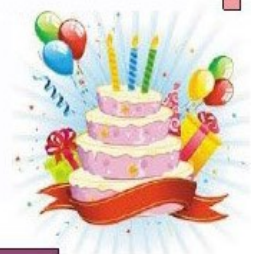
Father Christmas visited and had everyone singing "Rudolph" led by his carefully select-ed choir. A great night with all the Christmas trimmings.



Happy Birthday

**KEVIN WESTERN, LUCY SPEAR, BEV GAY,
ROWAN CROWHURST, GAURI NIROULA,
JANE HIGGS, SUSAN CARTER, SUE RUXTON,
GEORGE ABELL, BERYL WILSON,
SHIRLEY GREIG, REGINA LINGEN,
SUSAN CARTER, ROSETTA SILVESTRI,
BETH STRONACH, BILL TREVASKIS**

Is your name in the Birthday Book ??





December Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

1937	Cym. canaliculatum 'Gladstone'	John & Bev Gay (65)	3
1938	Sarco. hartmannii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
1939	Cym. canaliculatum	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	1

Cymbidium under 60- any other colour

1940	Cym. Cricket 'Maiden Over'	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

1941	Onc. Margarete Holm 'Alpine'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Oncidiinae - Species

1942	Onc. leucochilum 'Seaview'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
1943	Onc. excavatum 'Mem. Merve Steele'	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1949	Phrag. Grande 'Atratum'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
1950	Phrag. Grande	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
1951	Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1952	Chysis limminghei	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
1953	Ddc. longispetalum	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

1954	Chysis limminghei	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Species

1945	Paph. (delenatii fma Album x self) 'Vista'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
1946	Paph. hirsutissimum	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
1947	Paph. delenatii	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	1

Specimen Species or Hybrid

1955	Onc. leucochilum 'Seaview'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

1948	Zga. (Adelaide Parklands x Dynamo)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

1932	Den. fleckeri	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Cymbidium under 60 Red Pink Brown

1933	Cym. Little Beauty 'Sundaani'	George Misirlis (1125)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

1934	Onc. Jungle Monarch 'Pacific Princess'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1935	Phal. Springtime	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
1936	Phal. Octopus	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	2

Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

1925	Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Beverley'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
1926	Ctt. Valentine Day 'March'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2

Laeliinae - Non Standard

1927	C. Angel's Pride x Rth. Hawaiian Chic	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

1928	Mtdm. Melissa Brianne 'Shady Lady'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Oncidiinae - Species

1929	Brs. verrucosa	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1931	Bif. harrisoniae	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

1930	Paph. Unknown	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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PLANT COMMENTARY FOR DECEMBER

There were some really nice plants on display on the Three Division tables, with a total of 29 plants across the 3 divisions. This is really good for our Christmas meeting.

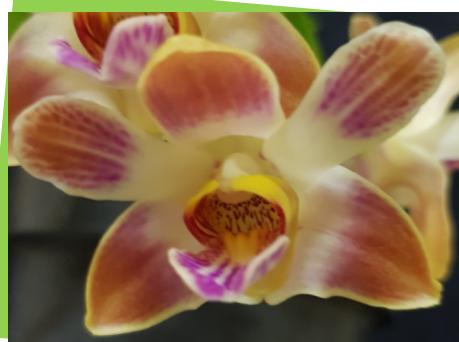
Orchid of the Night and Orchid of Open Division

The plant of Open Division was *Oncidium leucochilum* 'Seaview' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This was a beautifully grown plant with four tall inflorescences each with a profusion of small perfectly rounded flowers. Oui informed us that they grow it cold here in Adelaide. A stunning presentation!!

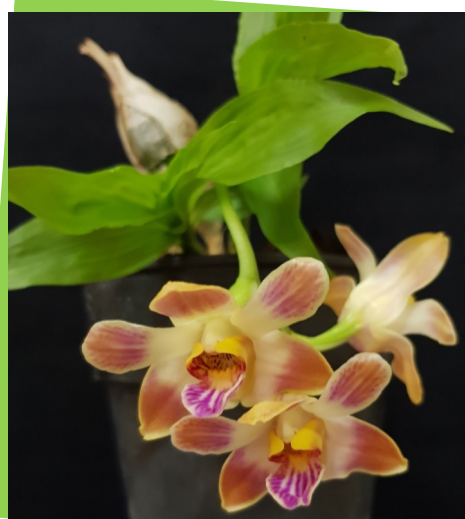
This is a species found in tropical South America across Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and South East Mexico.
Congratulations Michael and Oui.



Orchid of the Night
Orchid of Open Division
Onc. leucochilum 'Seaview'
Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Seedling of the Night
Chysis limminghei
Grown by Geoff & Lucy Spear

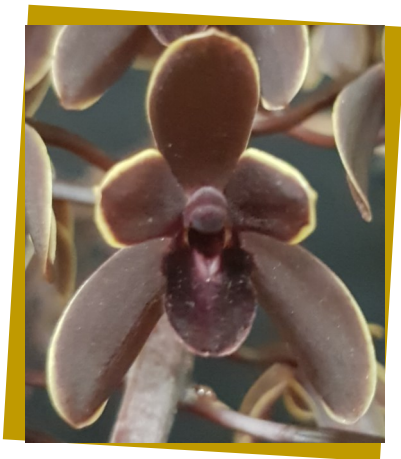


PLANT COMMENTARY FOR DECEMBER cont.

Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by George Misirlis and was a well grown specimen of *Cym. Little Beauty* 'Sundaani'. This is a hybrid has a number of species in its parentage: *Cym. canaliculatum*, *Cym devonianum*, & *Cym madidum*.

The plant displayed a nice stem arrangement with good brown colour and had a deep maroon lip with white edges. There were 5 inflorescences with an average of 58 flowers on each spike making it quite a spectacle. A nice clean and well grown plant. George really does grow these showy small dangling Cymbidiums very well. Congratulations George.



Orchid of First Division
Cym. Little Beauty 'Sundaani'
Grown by George Misirlis

Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a well grown plant of *Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze* 'Beverley' grown by Laurie and Sue Carter. The plant had 4 spikes in full flower with 2 others still to open. The spikes displayed a really good flower count with good solid colour. This is a very interesting hybrid with 6 species in the background, the main being *C. intermedia* and *C. cinnabarina*.

Great growing Laurie and Sue.



Orchid of Second Division
Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Beverley'
Grown by Laurie & Sue Carter



A big Thank you to our Judges, Recorders & Pencillers for all your efforts!
Looking forward to a fantastic 2019.
Good Growing .

Phil Steer Registrar



DAYTIME CHAPTER Thursday 13th December 2018



Hi Everyone,

At our Christmas meeting there was much fun and hilarity. We had a visit from two Father Christmases (1 traditional the other was an Australian), both of which gave the members a laugh. Our members were very knowledgeable about Christmas for the quiz and there was much stealing of presents during Kris Kringle. It seemed that everyone wanted a particular bottle of wine and a fluffy Christmas puppy.

It was lovely to see many of our guest speakers attend the meeting to celebrate Christmas. Dorothy Carrasai won the plant of the day with her *Maxillaria tenuifolia* also known as the Coconut smelling orchid.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe New Year and we hope to see you all again on 14th February 2019. Don't forget if it's over 35 degrees the meeting will be cancelled.

Patty & Barbara

JANUARY BARBECUE

The January Barbecue was held on Wednesday 9th with very pleasant January weather. We had 37 members attend with 5 apologies. The members enjoyed a well cooked BBQ by Chef Geoff ably assisted by Andrew Dean & Craig Dicker. The members supplied a great range of salads to complement the meat, however the desserts were not to be outdone with a terrific selection.

The members enjoyed the social get together followed by a presentation of the 2018 winning plants from the shows and monthly meetings, ably presented by Graham Zerbe.

The feature of the night was the plant competition decided by the members with a popular vote. Members benched 22 plants. The voting was very competitive with a tied vote for first. A team of 3 non judges were assembled to select the best which was a stunning little *Phragmipedium* Rose Buillon shown by Jane & Don Higgs.

Jane told me afterwards that this is a seedling with another bud still to open. The plants displayed were a very good selection for this time of year. Well done to those members who competed for Best Plant of the Night.





SOUTHERN REGION MEETING **Sunday 16th December 2018**

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year for 2019. Our Christmas meeting was full of surprises. Geoff was fine when he left home at Happy Valley but on the way to Victor Harbor he was not feeling too good. We now needed someone to chair the meeting. John Gay was very happy to take on the job and of course we needed a Santa Claus and Don Greig happily took on the job.

John Gay opened the meeting, wishing every one a Happy Christmas and a Great New Year. John then gave a report on Bev' progress. 23 members attended the meeting and there were 11 apologies. Lucy presented John with a gift for all the wonderful work he has done with the Learners Group.

Birthday: Bob Clayton

Door Prize: Graham Zerbe

Lucky Badge: Grace Noll

Our guest speaker for the day was Graham Zerbe, who provided an entertaining and informative talk on orchids and interspersed with jokes, cartoons and Christmas items. Thank you Graham for a wonderful talk.

- **Plant of the Day and Plant of First Division:**

Pasr. Chian-Tzy Lovely 'CT Goldmine' Grown by Ruth Tugwell

- **Plant of Second Division and Popular Vote:**

Phaius tankervilleae 'Adelaide Alive' Grown by Reg & Elsie Clifford

Judging: Thank you to our judge Graham Zerbe & Associate judge, Christine Robertson. Thank you also to data collector Sue Zerbe for a very good job. Graham gave a judges commentary on all of the plants benched ably assisted by Christine Robertson.

Kris Kringle, Santa's Visit and a monster Raffle completed the afternoon followed by a lovely Christmas Afternoon Tea.

Next Meeting: Sunday 17th February 2019 at 2.00 pm. Learners' Group 1.15 pm with John Gay. Our Guest Speaker will be Roger Herraman who will tell us about the ANOS Conference. [That is short for Australian Native Orchid Society.] Roger is very interested in Native Australian plants and will be bringing some plants for us to purchase.

Note: At the Southern Region Meeting in August 2018, when Angus Irwin from Neutrog was our Guest Speaker, 28 members were promised Neutrog products. These gifts have now arrived and will be distributed to members at the February 2019 meeting. Sorry for the delay. Please see Lucy or Geoff.



**Orchid of First Division and
Plant of the Day**

Pasr. Chian-Tzy Lovely 'CT Goldmine'
Grown by Ruth Tugwell



**Orchid of Second Division and
Popular Vote**

Phaius tankervilleae 'Adelaide Alive'
Grown by Reg & Elsie Clifford

Southern Region December Results List



First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

1426 Den. monophyllum Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

1427 Mtssa. Florida Pink Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

1428 Pasr. Chian-Tzy Lovely 'CT Goldmine' Ruth Tugwell (613) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1429 Chy. limminghei Ruth Tugwell (613) 3

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

1417 Cym. canaliculatum 'Alpha South 50' Sid James (170) 3

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm White Cream Yellow Green

1419 Cym. One Tree Hill 'Doris' Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium under 60- any other colour

1420 Cym. Spark Sprite 'Sparkey' Sid James (170) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

1418 Bc. Alexandrina Gary Clark (224) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

1421 Gom. (Splinter x sphacelatum) Val Phillips (947) 3

1422 Alcra. Lawrose Electric 'Holly' Sid James (170) 2

1423 Milt. Bartley Schwarz Meaghan Clayton (142) 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1424 Phal. Unknown 'Beauty' Joan McMahon (778) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1425 Phaius tankervilleae 'Adelaide Alive' Reg & Elsie Clifford (567) 3

PLANT OF MONTH - *Cypripedium kentuckiense*

Cypripedium kentuckiense was bought to the Trainee Judges Seminar late last year by Steve Howard. This is one of more than 75 species in this genus. The species is found in USA and Canada but is named for the state of Kentucky where it grows well.

It is a large sized, cold growing terrestrial species with broad ovate, twisted leaves with a narrow apex. It blooms in late Spring and carries a solitary flower to 12cm on each inflorescence. The species has been widely used in hybridizing, with 24 first generation

offspring recorded and total progeny of 35. The species has been awarded 10 times in America with AM, HCC, and various cultural awards.

This orchid is rarely seen in Australian so congratulations to Steve Howard for growing such a beautiful unusual plant. It has not been awarded in Australia so maybe Steve will have a first one day.

Steve reports that when the plants go into their dormant period, he stores the tubers in the fridge bringing them out in early Spring to regrow.



Stanhopea nigroviolacea



This lovely *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* plant is grown by Lucy and Geoff Spear and is in flower at present.

This species grows in Mexico on oak trees in well watered thick forests on the eastern slope of the Mexican Plateau up to 2000m elevation.

The species is a sympodial epiphyte with numerous whitish green roots which are twisted but not branched. The wide, rigid, erect leaves occur at the apex of the pseudobulbs.

The slightly curved pendulous inflorescences are 14-27 cm long, smooth and green covered by light yellowish brown sheathing bracts marked with fine lines. There are 3 to 10 large flowers on an inflorescence and they are extremely fragrant. The flowers are yellow orange with wine red blotches heaviest near the base



EDITORS NOTE

Quite a considerable numbers of our members receive this Gazette in black and white by mail. Others have elected to have the Gazette directly emailed to them. They receive the Gazette in full colour and have the benefit of beautiful photographs of very colourful orchids. They also receive the Gazette up to a week before the mail can deliver it to you others.

If you would like to have the colourful version emailed to you send me an email so that I receive your correct email address.

Please don't forget that this is your Gazette. If there is anything you would like to see covered or anything you would like to see changed, please let me know. I especially like photographs to include and details of your successes with your orchids.

You can contact me, Christine Robertson,
by:

Email: kloval@westnet.com.au Phone: (08) 8536 3948
Mail: PO Box 454,
Strathalbyn SA 5255

Orchid Culture Notes for February



It's the start of another year in the orchid house. This year we have been dealt very varied weather ranging from baking and orchid killing 40°C plus heat to high humidity and high winds and then cooler days but scant rain. A normal cycle should start soon ?? and as the saying goes, it will get hot when the kids go back to school. Note that any heat damage will come out over the next few weeks with leaf marks becoming more evident and leaf drop occurring. The recent humidity will create some fungal issues in the shade house as well, so keep an eye out for any outbreaks and have some fungicide ready in case. Heat damaged plants with damaged leaves and stress are prime targets for pest and disease attack. The physical side of heat damage is easy to spot but remember that heat also damages the plants roots as well. Black pots exposed to the sun overheat and cook the roots. Whilst the top of the plant may come through ok, underneath things are not so good. Then sometime later the plants start to shrivel as they do no longer have a functioning root system. Most of us will put down root loss to poor culture such as over watering or a broken down mix. Just remember, heat can be added to this. Even slugs and snails will be in good numbers awakened by the sudden change in weather.

February is usually the hottest month and with it often comes an increase in the intensity of the north winds, so there is much heat left for us yet. In fact you can still have temperatures nudging the old 100 degree mark as late as the equinox. That's March 21 and the long range forecasts are pointing towards an Indian summer.

I said earlier on that prevention is a key if we are to avoid damage to our plants. It's no use after the event. I have learnt from previous heat events those plants that struggle, and I have provided them with the additional support they needed this time round. The result was only a very small number of plants suffered any damage and there were no losses. Same rules apply to pests. Spray when the moths are active for caterpillars for example. By the time their crop of loopers has started chomping on your orchids half the damage has been done. Get them as they hatch. When the rain stops inspect the orchid house and surrounds for slugs and snails. Be prepared for the next heat event. For some of us, be it age, disability, size of orchid house, whatever, we cannot go to extraordinary lengths to save our plants from the heat but there are some ideas that may lessen the damage. Humidity is your ally and keeping it up high will help. Wet the floors as often as you need to on extreme days. We have two large rubbish bins full of grey water for this purpose. Just don't water the orchids with it but using it for splashing on the shade house sides and floor is a better option than tipping it down the drain. Extra shade will help reduce burning caused by intense light. It will not reduce the damage caused by heat. A wet floor or sides of the shade house will evaporate water. With evaporation there is a release of latent heat. The air cools. Wet your hand and blow on it....it feels cool!

Basically, shade reduces damage by light and the humidity reduces damage by heat. For those with 50% shade cloth, especially the white one the damage this year would have been severe. It's looking like the extreme heat we have experienced the past couple of years may be with us for good each summer. A secondary layer of shade we can roll out over the base layer for a few days whilst the heat is at its worst may become a required item. Otherwise we may have to rethink colours. Of course aspect and location will also have a bearing. My area is very open, no trees or neighbours to shade my yard, so I have to make allowances for that.

Another thing is that we may be forced to stop growing genera that can't handle the heat and concentrate on those that are heat tolerant. My hot house for example apart from foggies has nothing to control the temperature so now only the hard cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas and a few of the more tolerant Oncidiums spend summer in there, for everything else it is too hot. I have lost some of the real cool growing stuff that I won't replace until I can provide the artificial conditions to keep the temps below 30 all year round.

Seedlings and recently divided plants will stress more than established counterparts this time of year during heat spikes. They will need extra protection. Under the bench, in the house, the laundry, somewhere, anywhere it's cooler. The heat will pass. My laundry is out of bounds to washing when the heat's on. Yep, full of orchids!

Spraying with a stress guard type preparation is also beneficial as these products reduce the amount of evaporation through transpiration. You will not stop the damage completely but a bit of forethought and action will lessen the damage.

Enough of the doom and gloom. Autumn is coming! But it is not here yet. The obvious task is to keep plants moist and ensure all pots are checked regularly to make sure all plants are getting enough water. I lift and feel my pots occasionally. With practice you can tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is dry. The old finger in the mix test works to test for moisture and of course we can buy moisture meters. By now many genera are completing their growth stage and will be in the process of maturing their growths. Some in readiness for immediate flowering over the autumn and others for winter and spring. These maturing plants should have their diet changed to one with a higher potassium content to help mature the plant as well as strengthen the raceme and improve the colours.

Might be a good idea to look at the presentation of these plans and start working on them now. For example I have a nice *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song* with several new growths all over the place in the pot. They are in sheath but not yet filling out with buds. If I leave it too long the presentation will be like a dog's breakfast and if I try and fix it too late then there is risk to the blooms so I work on it now to straighten the growths and get them spaced correctly around the pot.

Lets have a look around and see what's on in the shade house this month. By now our autumn flowering *Laeliniiae* complex (*Cattleyas* and *Laelia*'s) will have rapidly maturing growths and some already showing emerging spikes. Make sure these spikes and growths are well supported with a stake. Keep water out of the sheaths to avoid fungal rots and spots and make sure the snail baits are on the pot. It often rains this month and it will wake up those slimy fellows. Keep well watered so the spikes remain plump. As some of these developing spikes will excrete a sugary substance you will find ants will be attracted to the spike. They can do a lot of damage as they will eat into the developing spike and they usually bring in a few soft scales as well. Extreme weather can cause buds to abort so bring them inside if it gets real hot (or unseasonably cold) at this stage of initiation. *Oncidium*s as a rule will be filling out their pseudobulbs and the odd spike or two will be starting to show. Similar culture to the *Laeliniiae* complex should apply. For those with terrestrials this is the last month for re potting. Still aim to keep them on the dry side after re potting as the disturbance of re potting plus being too eager with hose will have them out too early. Wait till the cooler weather in April for this although there will be early varieties flowering in March. Like any orchid, a knowledge of the species itself or that in the hybrid is important when determining what needs to be done and when.

Native epiphyte growths as usual are all over the place. I even had 2 *Den. speciosum* flower in January. (note *Den. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* can flower very early in the year but these are not that variety) Some are maturing yet others are only buds. As a rule keep the water and feeding up. Watch out for caterpillars as they love new soft growths. Many will have a burnt leaf tip or spot. Leave them until the leaf matures before trimming them. Inspect the new growths and if they are floppy then some part of your culture is not quite right. Too much shade and high nitrogen in the feed are the two main culprits. Don't move them yet to a brighter place as they will burn. Leave that to April. They still may flower in spring.

Zygopetalums will have new growths maturing and evidence of new growths will be evident from the base of these maturing ones signal the start of a new flowering season. Keep moist, feed with a balanced to high potassium based feed and watch out for loopers, especially on the under-sides of the leaves. They don't eat through, rather they skeletonise the leaf and when that dries looks rather unsightly. A spotted, half eaten zygo on the show bench doesn't have that appeal. Again place a few snail pellets on the surface of the pot.

Keep *Paphiopedilums* moist and keep an eye out of mealy bugs. High humidity and fresh air movement is important this time of year. Keep light levels fairly low. As a rule hold your hand about 12 inches above the plant and you should only just see a slight shadow. Full shadow

too much light, no shadow a bit dark. This is only a rule of thumb for newer growers of this genus. Feeding is usually a balanced feed at half or less of the manufacturer's recommendations. If you can, try and flush your Paphs out occasionally with rainwater to remove salt build up from tap water and fertiliser. Adelaide water is loaded with extra salt over the summer. They will love you for it. A flush is usually two or three waters say an hour apart. The first softens and dissolves some of the salts, the second and third gets the rest. Collect the waste water and use that to wet your floors later when it's hot.

For other genera it's a matter of treating them in accordance with their growth habits although in most cases they will be in a growth mode.

February is a dry month on the show bench and apart from a few plants there won't be much else out. Even with my collection, finding enough to show will be difficult, even more with many that have flowered showing the affects of the heat. Bring in what you can. If it has a burn or a spot I am sure your plant won't be alone.

February will end and the extreme heat of summer maybe a couple of weeks later. March will be upon us and with it those cooler nights. Most of our plants will survive this summer and we need to be a little more caring to see them through it and help in the recovery stakes.

Steve Howard

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THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Bernadette's Church Hall corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Mary's. Beginners Class starts at 7.15p.m., meeting at 8.00p.m.

THE DAYTIME CHAPTER: meets at the Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00p.m.

THE SOUTHERN REGION: meets at Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor at 2.00p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: meets at 8pm in The Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Daytime Group: meets from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. in the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 2nd Friday of the month.

THE MURRAY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT ORCHID CLUB: meets at 1.45pm in the Seventh Day Adventist Hall, corner Myall Avenue and Standen Street, Murray Bridge on the 4th Sunday of the month.

NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY: meets in St. Philip's Church Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Adelaide West Uniting Church Hall, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: meets at 7.30p.m. at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

THE CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Meets at 7.30p.m. at Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Our Affiliated Clubs:

The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.

The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.



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opinions which are not necessarily those of the Club.**

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these articles.**

**Items must be delivered to the Editor by the second Thursday of each month.
E. & O. E.**