



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

# Gazette

March 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC  
President: Michael Willoughby

## AT A GLANCE

The next General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at Saint Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St Marys. Our Guest Speaker will be Graham Hazeldine Speaking on Paphiopedilums, **PLEASE BRING A PLATE** for Supper.

**BEGINNERS' GROUP:** The next meeting will be Wednesday 4th 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 12th March 2020 at 2.00 pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Craig Humfrey Speaking on Growing Orchids.

**SOUTHERN REGION:** The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 15th March 2020 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Roger Herraman speaking on Australian Native Orchids. Learners Group will be taken by John Gay.

**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.

### Important Note:

The Secretary's Computer went missing at the last meeting. It was removed from the bag with all the connections. This is valuable to the Club. The Secretary would like it back for running the Club efficiently.

Any Information please ring Lucy phone: 8381 4420 Mobile: 0409 642 352

**DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES**  
22 March and 26 April



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## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2020

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Michael Willoughby</b>	<b>0479 162 527</b>
<b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Malcolm Mangelsdorf</b>	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Kevin Western</b>	
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Lucy Spear</b>	<b>0409 642 352</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Anne Steer</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Donna Meeuwsen, Oui Ju, Jim Fogarasi, Christine Robertson, Craig Humfrey, Geoffrey Spear, Craig Dicker</b>	

### **NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:**

<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Phil Steer</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Christine Robertson</b>
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Craig Dicker</b>
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Vacant (Main Meeting) Diane Cawley (Southern Region)</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Neil Cooper</b>
<b>Convenor S. R. Group</b>	<b>Geoff Spear</b>
<b>Convenors Daytime Chapter</b>	<b>Barbara Almond, Patty Abell</b>
<b>Convenor Main Beginners Gr.</b>	<b>Craig Humfrey</b>



### **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 Toshy Deonno *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	This list is still being compiled.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Subscriptions for 2020 are due now. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2020. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

#### **RATES – One membership covers all groups**

<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>

#### **Rural and Interstate Membership**

<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>

### **HELP WANTED FOR WORKSHOPS IN 2020**

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 Message



Your Committee has already had its first meeting of the year. There are things being planned for later in the year. But we have already started with a good Annual General Meeting at which Malcolm Mangelsdorf was made a Life Member of the Club. Congratulations Malcolm.

Thank you to Kyle Howard on enlightening us with what is on our doorstep in the Mount Lofty Ranges at various times throughout the year. I am sure you will agree it does not need to be big to be beautiful.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners, and also to the Second Division growers who have been promoted to First Division (Promoted through other clubs).

Members please see Lucy if you may have time to host a workshop. We have some planned, however we would like to hold more throughout the year. Workshops are a great way to be involved with other club members and valuable information can always be gleaned.

Coming events include the South Coast Orchid Club of SA Autumn Show. Please refer to the Gazette for details. SAROC Fair (June long weekend) and the Cymbidium Orchid Club Show. Check the Bulletin for all Club Show dates and venues.

Successful growing and showing.

*Michael Willoughby*

### UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH *Prosthechea brassavolae*

A lovely specimen of *Prosthechea brassavolae* was benched by Eileen Pinnock at the Southern Region Meeting this month. This species comes from southern Mexico through central America to Panama, It occurs in wet mountainous forests.

Egg to pear shaped pseudobulbs bear 2 or 3 leathery leaves at the apex of each pseudobulb. Inflorescences arise within the leaves and are up to 55cm long with a stout peduncle. The erect spike can have 3 to 15 Flowers in a simple raceme, each flower with a stout pedicellate ovary that is 2,5 - 3.2 cm long. The flowers have spreading sepal and petals that are pale green, greenish yellow or olive tan. The lip is cream at the base with a mid lobe that is violet-purple. Column is mottled and spotted with purple. The flowers have long

narrow segments with sharply pointed tips. The lip blade is egg shaped with a long narrow projection in the centre that tapers to a sharp pointed tip.

This species has only been hybridised three times. It has been awarded 11 times in USA, Germany and New Zealand.





## **ORCHID CALENDAR 2020**

### **MAIN MEETING**

Wednesday 4th March 2020  
Guest Speaker Graham Hazeldine on Paphiopedilums

### **DAYTIME CHAPTER**

Thursday 12th March 2020 Guest Speaker  
Craig Humfrey on Growing Orchids

### **SOUTHERN REGION GROUP**

Sunday 15th March 2020 Guest Speaker  
Roger Herraman on Australian Native Orchids

### **AUTUMN SHOW**

Sunday 3rd May to Saturday 9th May 2020  
Hallett Cove Shopping Centre

### **WINTER SHOW**

Sunday 26th July to Saturday 1st August 2020  
Colonnades Shopping Centre

### **OPEN HOUSE VISIT**

Sunday 9th August 2020  
Malcolm Mangelsdorf, Noarlunga Nursery

### **SOUTHERN REGION SHOW**

Thursday 20th August to Sunday 23rd August 2020

### **SPRING SHOW**

Sunday 13th September to Saturday 19th September 2020  
Seaford Rise Shopping Centre

*Thank  
You*

Thank You very much for the flowers I received, Cards, And all the get well wishes. It made me feel very Special. I am feeling great like my old self. See you all soon .

Regards Lucy



## **Happy Birthday .....**

NEIL COOPER, JIM FOGARASI, JOY GRUND,  
HELMUT HERMANN, JOSEPHINE OGROWSHKI,  
PATTY ABELL, BABARA ALMOND, PHIL STEER,  
TONY GODER, REG CLIFFORD, MARILYN JELFS,  
VAL PHILIPS, RUTH TUGWELL, DUDLEY HUXTABLE,  
DIANE CAWLEY, TONY BUTCHER, MEAGHAN CLAYTON



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??



**South Coast Orchid Club of  
South Australia Trophy  
Winners 2019**



**CHIN YEW LIAN TROPHY**

Donated by Sylvester **Best Seedling of the Year**

**Van & Charles Ortlipp**

**LEWIS MOORE TROPHY**

[Rosalie donated a tray in 1999 in memory of Lewis who died in 1989. With Rosalie, he was on the Committee for many years. Both were judges and Lewis was Treasurer. They both loved SCOCSA and worked very hard for the Club]

**Highest Aggregate Points for Australian  
Epiphytic Species 2019**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**Steven GAMBLE TROPHY**

[Steven, a teenage Member of SCOCSA, loved Australian Native Terrestrials. The Trophy was donated in his name by his parents when he passed away in 1987]

**Highest Aggregate Points for Australian  
Native Terrestrials 2019**

**Jane & Don Higgs**

**JOHN LEEDER TROPHY**

[John for many years held positions of Secretary and President]

**Most points in Oncidinae Alliance**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**GLEN FORREST TROPHY**

[Glen joined RSCOCSA in the very early days, his first love was Cymbidiums, but he also grew other genera]

**Highest Aggregate Points for  
Paphiopedilum Species 2019**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**M. & S. STEELE TROPHY**

[Shirley and Mervyn, both Life Members, joined SCOCSA in the very early days. Both were tireless workers for the Club; nothing was ever too much trouble for Mervyn. Shirley donated the Trophy in 2007]

**Highest Aggregate Points for Paphiopedilums  
1st and 2nd Division 2019**

**Laurie & Sue Carter**

**GARARD and WESTERN HYBRIDISING TROPHY**

[Trevor Garard and Kevin Western donated this trophy to promote hybridising, one trophy going to the Pod Parent and the other to the Pollen Parent]

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**





**South Coast Orchid Club of  
South Australia  
Trophy Winners 2019 cont...**



**W A YOUNG TROPHY**

**Grand Champion Autumn Show 2019**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**P C LOKE TROPHY**

[Donated by Sylvester Ng]

**Highest Aggregate Points at Three Shows 2019    Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**HARRY VINEY TROPHY**

Berna and Harry, both Life Members. Donated by Berna in memory of Harrison. Harry worked tirelessly for the Club over many years holding many positions including President.

**Champion Laeliinae at Autumn Show 2019**

**Beth Stronach**

**M NG TROPHY**

Sylvester Ng donated this trophy in memory of his brother Michael.

**Most Floriferous in Spring Show 2019**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**H & C EDWARDS CLOCK TROPHY**

[Donated by Helen and Charlie Edwards. Helen is a Life Member and was convenor of the Daytime Chapter. Both worked very hard for the Club]

**Grand Champion Winter Show 2019**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**TONY DE IONNO AND TOSHY TROPHY**

[Donated by Life Member, Tony]

**Grand Champion Spring Show 2019**

**Rowan Crowhurst**

**VICTOR HARBOR TROPHY**

**Grand Champion Spring Show 2019**

**Chris & Lyn Heysen**

**HIGHEST YEARLY AGGREGATE POINT WINNERS**

<b>A O C Award for overall Winner</b>	<b>Michael Willoughby &amp; Oui Ju</b>	<b>316 pts</b>
<b>Open Division:</b>	<b>Michael Willoughby &amp; Oui Ju</b>	<b>316 pts</b>
<b>First Division:</b>	<b>Syd James</b>	<b>146 pts</b>
<b>Second Division:</b>	<b>Laurie &amp; Sue Carter</b>	<b>112 pts</b>

**VICTOR HARBOR AGGREGATES POINTS TROPHY**

**Australian Natives**

**Don & Shirley Greig**

**GRAHAM & SUE ZERBE TROPHY**

**Best Second Division Southern Region**

**Helen Humphrys**

**Congratulations to all of the Trophy Winners for  
2019**



# February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

## Open Division

### Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

2481	Den. biggibum	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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### Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

2482	Dienia ophrydis	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2504	Ons. Catatante 'Kilauea Karma'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2498	Ctsm. Nicole Smile	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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2499	Angcm. Lemforde White Beauty	Peter Flavel (487)	2
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2500	Phrag. Ruby Slippers	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	1
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

2501	Stan. wardii	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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2502	Sngl. woodii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
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### Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2503	Ctsm. Nicole Smile	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2497	Prom. Mike Leaity	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
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## First Division

### Laeliinae - Species

2483	Psh. cochleata	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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2484	Psh. cochleata	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	2
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2485	Oncsa. Cocoa 'Caesar'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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### Oncidiinae - Species

2487	Gom. flexuosa	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2488	Phal. Unknown	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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2489	Phal. Unknown	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
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## Second Division

### Laeliinae - Cluster

2490	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Red'	John & Rhonda Wainwright (549)	3
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### Laeliinae - Non Standard

2491	Lc. Ida Elizabeth 'Enchanting'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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### Laeliinae - Species

2492	Psh. cochleata	Craig Humfrey (268)	3
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2493	Angcm. Longiscott 'Hihimanu'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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2494	Phal. Unknown	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	2
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happy  
birthday!

George and Patty Abell  
cutting the cake to celebrate  
George's 90th Birthday

Photo Oui Ju

## PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY

Being February a much smaller showing of plants across all divisions with 5 in second division, 6 plants in first division, and 9 plants in open division.

### Orchid of the Night and Orchid of Open Division

The plant of Open Division was *Stanhopea wardii* grown by Geoff & Lucy Spear. This species is found through Central America, Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador to Venezuela .

The plant was in a hanging basket as the flowers come out through the bottom of the fibre lining. There were three open flowers with two buds. The flowers open upside down and have a relatively short life.

To photograph these flowers you need to be under them. Geoff grows them in his shade house hanging above his Cymbidiums.

Well done Geoff & Lucy



### **Orchid of the Night Orchid of Open Division**

*Stanhopea wardii*

Grown by Geoff & Lucy Spear

Photos Neil Cooper



### **Seedling of the Night**

*Ctsm.* Nicole Smile

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper





## PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY Cont...

### Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Phil & Anne Steer and was *Oncsa*. Cocoa 'Ceasar'. This is a crossing of *Onc.* Sharry Baby & *Gom. marshalliana*. There were 28 flowers and 4 buds.

The flowers were fresh and even with a nice white skirt and yellow tips to the Petals. This plant hangs on the western wall of the patio and gets good light morning through to mid-afternoon.

Well done Phil & Anne



**Orchid of First Division**  
*Oncsa* Cocoa 'Caesar'  
 Grown by Phil & Anne Steer  
 Photos Neil Cooper



### Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful little plant of *Angraecum* Longiscott 'Hihimanu', grown by Beth Stronach. This little plant is generally found in Africa and Madagascar. This plant is a hybrid of *Angcm. longicalcar* x *Angcm. scottianum* and was registered in 1982.

This little plant had 2 flowers of lovely shape with a beautiful waxy texture and pristine white in colour. Beth grows this in a cold glass house.

Congratulations Beth.

**Orchid of Second Division**  
*Angraecum* Longiscott 'Hihimanu'  
 Grown by Beth Stronach  
 Photo Neil Cooper

Thanks to our Judges, Recorders & Pencillers for all your efforts.  
 Good Growing.

*Phil Steer*  
*Registrar*



## DAYTIME CHAPTER

### Thursday 13th February 2020

20



Hi Everybody

It was great seeing everyone again after the Christmas break and it was a pleasure to see so many members at the first meeting of the year. We celebrated George Abell's 90th Birthday in fine style. It was lovely to see him enjoying himself.

Geoff was asked to convey our best wishes to Lucy and we hope that she will soon be back on deck.

Malcolm Mangelsdorf was our Guest Speaker. He gave an entertaining talk on Roses and Orchids that was both informative and full of anecdotes that have happened to him over the years that he has been involved with orchids and roses. The members have expressed a wish for us to ask Malcolm to speak again with a longer time limit.

Coral Tillmann's *Gongora galeata* which is a native of Mexico was chosen as the Plant of the Day.

Thank you to everybody who helped too make it a special day. Our next meeting will be on the 13th March and Craig Humfrey will be our Guest Speaker.

*Barb & Patty*



Coral Tillmanns, Geoff Spear and Patty Abell with  
Coral's Plant of the Day *Gongora galeata*

Photo Andrew Dean

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**New Member:** Alan Clayton    **Apologies:** Peter & Julie Davidge, Lyn Heysen  
**Door Prize:** Meaghan Clayton    **Badge:** Lesley & Mike Milicevic

We send a big cheerio to Lyn Heysen who has been in hospital for a short time.

- **Plant of the Day, Plant of Second Division, Popular Vote:**  
*Onc.* Aka Baby Grown by Gary Clark

- **Plant of First Division :**  
*Psh. brassovola* Grown by Eileen Pinnock

- Syd James with 146 points won the First Division Aggregate Trophy for South Coast Orchid Club of SA.
- Chris & Lyn Heysen won Victor Harbor Trophy for Grand Champion Winter Show.
- Helen Humphrys won the Graham & Sue Zerbe Trophy for Highest aggregate in Second Division.
- Shirley & Don Greig won the Australian Native Orchids Aggregate Trophy Donated by Brian & Moyna Leedham
- Shirley & Don Greig won the Noel Oliver Memorial Trophy for Aggregate Points for Australian Native Hybrids.



**Next Meeting:**

Sunday 15th March 2020 at 2.00 pm. Learners' Group 1.15 pm with John Gay.  
Our Guest Speaker will be Roger Herraman speaking on Australian Native Orchids.



**Orchid of Second Division, Plant of the Day  
and Popular Vote**

*Onc. Aka Baby*  
Grown By Gary Clark  
Photos Christine Robertson



**Orchid of First Division**

*Psh. brassovola*  
Grown By Eileen Pinnock  
Photos Christine Robertson





### **AGGREGATE WINNERS FOR SOUTHERN REGION YEAR 2019**

<b>GENUS</b>	<b>FIRST</b>		<b>SECOND</b>	
Aust Native Terrestrial & Epiphyte	Don & Shirley Grieg	21	Marilyn Jelfs	15
	Eileen Pinnock	19	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	10
	Ruth Tugwell	8	Garry Clark	10
Laeliinae	Eileen Pinnock	12	Helen Humphrys	30
	Ruth Tugwell	12	Bob Clayton	21
	Chris & Lyn Heysen	11	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	20
	Shirley & Don Grieg	11		
Cymbidium > 90	Sid James	36	Margaret & Warren Yelland	11
			Helen Humphrys	10
			Genny & Dudley Huxtable	9
Cymbidium 60-90	Sid James	58	Helen Humphrys	16
			Marilyn Jelfs	12
			Margaret & Warren Yelland	10
Cymbidium < 60	Sid James	36	Helen Humphrys	21
	Ruth Tugwell	12	Marilyn Jelfs	8
	Eileen Pinnock	6	Bob Clayton	7
			Margaret & Warren Yelland	7
Oncidiinae	Eileen Pinnock	21	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	14
	Chris & Lyn Heysen	18	Garry Clark	11
	Shirley & Don Grieg	12	Bob Clayton	5
			Helen Humphrys	5
Paphiopedilum	Shirley & Don Grieg	8	N/A	
	Sid James	6		
	Chris & Lyn Heysen	2		
Zygopetalinae	N/A		Marilyn Jelfs	14
			Garry Clark	3
			Reg & Elsie Clifford	3
Any Other Genus	Chris & Lyn Heysen	39	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	26
	Eileen Pinnock	8	Helen Humphrys	9
	Ruth Tugwell	8	Garry Clark	5
<b>Divisional Pts. Winners Top 3 Only</b>	Sid James	146	Helen Humphrys	100
	Shirley & Don Grieg	71	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	88
	Chris & Lyn Heysen	70	Marilyn Jelfs	62

**Aggregate Points Winner First Division Sid James 146 Points.**

**Aggregate Points Winner Second Division Helen Humphrys 100 Points.**

❖ The shaded areas on the above table represent or indicate that the winners in these sections did not receive a promotional point even though they received a prize card.

# Southern Region February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

## First Division

### Laeliinae - Cluster

Ctt. Valentine Day 'Chloe'

Shirley &amp; Don Greig (1128)

3

Epi. Corona 21 'Seiki'

Ruth Tugwell (613)

2

### Laeliinae - Species

Psh. brassovola

Eileen Pinnock (519)

3

### Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

Ctt. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'

Shirley &amp; Don Greig (1128)

2

### Oncidiinae - Species

Gom. flexuosa

Eileen Pinnock (519)

3

### Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

Paph. Yi Ying Tricolor 'Crystal'

Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)

3

## Second Division

### Laeliinae - Species

Psh. cochleata 'Millie'

Margaret &amp; Warren Yelland (350)

3

Psh. cochleata

Genny &amp; Dudley Huxtable (279)

2

### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

Onc. Aka Baby

Gary Clark (224)

3

Onc. Sunny Days 'Hilo Bay'

Margaret &amp; Warren Yelland (350)

2

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

Phal. Unknown

Lesley &amp; Mike Milicevic (254)

3

Phal. Unknown

Lesley &amp; Mike Milicevic (254)

2

## Vale Peter Hills

Our Patron Coralie Hills' Father passed away early January. Peter was a man who cared about others. He was a hard worker in all things he belonged to and was described by his daughter as an interesting combination of a man.

Condolences to Coralie and her family

**RIP**

## Vale Shirley Monkhouse

Shirley and Syd were proprietors of Adelaide Orchids at O'Halloran Hill. This was a large part of Shirley's life travelling to many overseas countries to visit Orchid Conferences, etc. Shirley had a very bright and bubbly personality and a laugh you will always remember. She loved being a Mum and a Grandma.

Both recently celebrated their 91st Birthdays.

Condolences to Syd and family

**RIP**



Shirley Greig with her two trophies



## Vale Reg Shooter

Reg was a valued member of our Club, a judge and a member of the Species Group

Condolences to Jill and family

**RIP**





## **Orchid Culture Notes for March**

March sees activity increase in the shade house. After the relentless heat of the summer of 2014, autumn will finally greet us with some cooler nights but the days can still remain hot until about the equinox and most likely it will remain dry. Most years we have to wait to April or later before the first rains of the new season finally signal the end of the dry.

March is generally a maturity month in the orchid house. In the main most orchids would have completed their summer growing season and are in the maturation stage. Already some have pseudobulbs filling out and spike initiation has commenced. Natives have canes that are hardening off and the new growths on *Zygopetalums* herald the flowering season to come. Autumn flowering *Cattleyas* and *Laeliinae* will already have buds bursting. For those with *cymbidiums* the early ones are already spiking and the later ones won't be far off by month's end. Autumn is when things start to move.

Keep up the watering and feeding and be vigilant for the nasties that want to ruin your flowers. This year my problems are in the form of hungry and aggressive bull ants. Super hot ground and a lack of natural food have these critters stripping flower spikes on the early *Laeliinae* in the much friendlier confines of my shade house. If they are not eating the flower buds they are chewing into the growths and sheaths as well as the root tips. I think I'll need a couple of echidnas as a form of natural ant control. The smaller black ants will also be moving soft scale around so keep an eye out if numbers increase.

Closer observations will reveal many orchids have a flush of new or additional root growth this month. This is obviously to pick up more moisture and nutrients to store away for the rest periods ahead. This applies to many different species and in particular natives and the *Cattleya/Laeliinae* group.

Native epiphytes will be maturing and hardening off growths now. It will still be a bit early for any spike initiation for most growers but for me March reveals how good my *Den. bigibbum* collection will perform in the autumn months as these are the first of the native epiphytes to show spikes. These too are showing a flush of new roots. They will all stay in the shade house until the spikes get long and the buds show. Once nights start to dip towards single digits, they will be moved back indoors for the winter and with some luck give me about 3 to 4 months of indoor flowering depending on the species.

*Sarcophilus* will also show new roots as they emerge from summer semi dormancy. They will look stressed in many cases but the emergence of new roots and the cooler nights will soon have them looking good again. Many will have scorched leaves and in some cases centre growths rotted out, a combination of the heat and too much water in the crowns over nite. Most plants will initiate side shoots but good flowering will be delayed. Late March to the end of May is a good time to attend to this genus if you want to divide them. On the terrestrial scene the first few will start popping up now. These are mostly the varieties that show flowers first and the leaves come a bit later. As they do slowly increase the water they receive. For those not showing yet make sure pots are kept cool and slightly moist with moderate shade.

Autumn is the month we see many of the *Laeliinae* complex on the show bench. Many of these are the cluster type, many with *G. bowringiana* as one of the parents. Most are relatively easy to grow here in shade house conditions. Growths develop rapidly over the summer with the sheaths showing as soon as the leaves open. These sheaths fill rapidly with developing flowers. Many are rather heavy and should be staked. Watch out for water based rots affecting the sheaths and also watch out for ants. The honeydew excreted by these orchids attracts them like moths to a flame. They will also eat out the buds and you will lose the years flowers. Hanging plants are not immune to ant attack. Keep well watered and feed with a blossom booster. These plants too show a new crop of roots as the growths mature. Of course it's not only the cluster type cats that are out. There are also a few of the larger exhibition types as well as the mini cats and splash petals. Most of these autumn flowering plants do well in basic shade house conditions and only require to be kept on the dry side and protected from winter rains. They require a very open free draining mix.

Autumn also sees the *Oncidium* tribe presenting spikes with increasing numbers of plants on the show bench as the weather cools. Many will have maturing growths as well and once this happens, spike initiation is not far away. Of course the *Oncidium* tribe is very extensive but as a rule anything of the showy "crispum type" or "varicosum" type will be showing spikes very soon.

Again a rather easy genus to grow in shade house conditions if the right selection is made. The wrong decision will result in disappointment. Keep them moist and always feed at low strength. They are not a hungry genus and can be sensitive to high concentrations of fertiliser salts. Many will require a dry rest after flowering and are one species that struggle with wet and cold winters.





## Orchid Culture Notes for March (cont.)

For the new chum it would be advisable to speak to those growers who show *Oncidium*'s to get some ideas. My best *Oncidium*'s grow on a mount and are hung above the cymbs. They are watered daily in summer and fed often and preferably in the morning. They get minimal attention during their resting period and are kept on the dry side. They reward me with numerous spikes every year and are a good indicator to the general health of the collection and the conditions I try to provide.

Your *Zygopetalum*'s and their relations will be showing plenty of new growths and often when these growths are only a couple of inches high will come out the new flower spikes. They are fragile at this stage and susceptible to insect attack. Keep moist and feed with a balanced or bloom booster type feed. Make sure you keep water away from these new growths as well as fertiliser. A couple of pellets of slow release in the crown of a new growth is the best way to rot out most of the new leaves. Try it! I made the mistake last season by getting lazy and broadcasting some of the fertiliser instead of placing it strategically on each pot and I lost a lot of leaves. It won't kill them but the set back resulting from the loss of leaves won't help next year's flowering stakes. The new growth minus most of their leaves will struggle to develop anything even remotely the size of the previous year's pseudobulb. With some luck the plant may initiate a second dormant shoot. Slugs and caterpillars will be on the increase this month so take precautions as they love juicy zygo spikes. Most of them will be hiding under bricks or pots if you have them on the ground. As the older growths mature leaf spotting can become more prevalent. You could try a monthly fungicidal spray to reduce the effects. There is a school of thought as to what causes this, ranging from fungal issues to the weather, light and temperature and an argument I stay away from. Modern breeding is helping reduce this factor and provide cleaner plants. Spotty plants are hard to show and harder to sell.

With the cooler months nearly upon us *Paphiopedilum*'s will be looking for a boost to assist them with flowering. Like many genera it is a temperature drop that often initiates spikes. This is why we spray our cymbidiums at night in December and January and why I put my *Phalaenopsis* outside for a few nights late this month when the nights get down to 11 or 12. Basically my *Paphiopedilum*'s also get a spray at night and the feeding changes to one of higher P & K but taking into account their sensitivity to salts in the fertiliser I make sure they are adequately flushed from time to time as well.

March will also see a significant shortening of the days, this too is another signal to our plants of the changing of the season. As the sun retreats to the northern hemisphere we now start searching for the sun, the same sun that only three months earlier burnt the living daylight out of our plants. I am and always have been an advocate of moving my plants around in tune with the seasons. I enjoy this plant shuffle. To me it's like rearranging the furniture. But the method of my madness has a reason. Plants are moved to get full sun, to stay dry, to get more air or whatever the move entails. A few years of observations has plants that have their own reserved spot each year and why not. If it grows good there why move it unless you think you might do better. Soon my lounge and family room will be full of the tropical species that spend summer in the shade house but would surely die if left out there in winter. This is another example of knowing some back ground about your plant and if you cannot provide it with care in an outside situation then you can improvise.

April is soon upon us. It is a warm month with cool nights and maybe a little more rain. The amount of effort in watering and feeding our orchids starts to reduce now but on the other hand protection and preparation for flowering takes centre stage.



*Steve Howard*



## **ORCHID CLUBS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA** **General Meeting Times**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** meets at 8pm in The Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

### **Our Affiliated Clubs:**

**The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.**

**The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.**



**AFFILIATED CLUBS**

Murray Bridge and District Orchid Club Inc.  
Orchid Club of South Australia

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