



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

October 2025

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

The October General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 8.00 pm. at the Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent. Our Guest Speaker will be Oui Ju speaking on Cattleya Care and repotting.

LEARNERS' GROUP: There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the October Meeting at 7.15pm. All members are welcome to attend. Bring your problems/plants for discussion.

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 on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 2.00pm at the Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton. Our Guest Speaker will be Phil Steer talking about Cattleyas and providing a repotting demonstration.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be Sunday 19th October 2025 2.00 pm at Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Trevor Garard speaking on Cymbidiums and providing a repotting demonstration. Learners' Group will start at 1:15pm

NEW MEMBERS: The Club would like to welcome four new members Barb Kirke, Joe and Denise Cassar, and Raymond Huddleston. We hope that your time with the Club will be a happy one and that you learn a lot about the orchids that we all love so much.

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 in an Attendance Book.



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DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
26 October and 23 November

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E-Mails: secretary@SCOCSA.com.au
President@ SCOCSA.com.au
Address: PO Box 1060, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
ABN 83 245 384 076





YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2025

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Alan Miller	
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	0418 840 427
SECRETARY:	Graham Smith	0428 818 586
COMMITTEE:	Oui Ju	
	Richard Crinion	
	Marilyn Buckerfield	
	Phil Steer	
	Carolyn Ponsana	
	Malcolm Mangelsdorf	

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

Registrar	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
Editor	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
Photographer	Neil Cooper	
Convenor S. R. Group	Chris Heysen	0419 386 769
Convenors Daytime Chapter	Alan Miller	0434 052 676
Convenor Main Learners Group	Graham Smith	

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 *	1990 Dr, Keith Northcote *	2011 John and Bev Gay*
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson *	2005 Merve Steele *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson *	2005 Shirley Steele *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	Circa Tony and Toshy Deonno *	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2021 Donna Meeuwsen
	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	2025 Michael Willoughby

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

Account Details: BankSA Glenelg. BSB: 105-145 Account No.: 545457040
 (Use your grower number for Reference)

We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of increases in postage rates, posting out of accounts for membership renewals will be discontinued. A cover letter will be sent with the Gazette at the appropriate time.



President's Message

As the 2025 Spring Show will be held over the weekend of 27th and 28th September, congratulations are to the Grand Champion Grower(s) of our Spring Show and the Divisional winners as well as all other Champion Growers. Full results and photos in the next Gazette. A big thank you to all members who helped in any way to make the Show a success.

Guest Speakers this month include Oui Ju at the Main Meeting speaking on care and repotting Cattleya orchids. Trevor Garrard will talk at the Southern Region Meeting. Trevor is a Past President of OCSA and has for many years been the Co-ordinator of the Orchids in Schools program sponsored by that Club. He will be telling us about Cymbidiums with a short PowerPoint presentation and a practical demonstration. At the Daytime Chapter, Phil Steer will give a short PowerPoint presentation on Cattleyas and a repotting demonstration.

This year's Christmas Dinner will be at the Morphett Arms Hotel, 138 Morphett Rd, Glengowrie at 6.30 pm on Friday December 5th. The menu is A La Carte and you will be able to choose what you like and individually pay for your meal. Please see Anne or myself for an indication of numbers.

We will still have our traditional Christmas meeting on Wednesday 3rd December with a Giant Christmas Raffle, Kris Kringle, a short Guest Speaker presentation and, of course, Supper.

We also extend our heartfelt good wishes to all of our members who are sick or incapacitated in any way.

Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**VICKI COOPER, LEE GRAFTON,
SUZY BRATUZ, ANNE STEER,
TANIS REEVES, CARLENE BUHAGIAR,
PAULINE MCLEAN**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ?? Please see - **Anne Steer**

EDITORS NOTE

Quite a number 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 and additional articles. 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.

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

Mobile: 0438 363 940

Phone: (08) 8536 3948

Mail: PO Box 454, Strathalbyn SA 5255



ORCHID CALENDAR 2025



MAIN MEETING

Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 8.00 pm
Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Cnr of Township Rd and Church Crescent, Marion. Our Guest Speaker: Oui Ju speaking on Cattleya Care and repotting. Learners Group Meeting at 7.15 pm

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th October 2025 7.30 pm
The Southern, South Road, St. Marys

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 9th October 2025 at 2.00pm
Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton.
Guest Speaker: Phil Steer talking about Cattleyas and providing a repotting demonstration.

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 19th October 2025 2.00 pm
Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor Guest Speaker: Trevor Garard speaking on Cymbidiums and providing a repotting demonstration. Learners Group will meet at 1.15pm.

CHRISTMAS MEETING:

Wednesday 3rd Decemember 2025
Christmas Raffle, Kris Kringle, Plant Judging, Short Guest Speaker presentation, and Supper.

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Friday 5th December 5th 2025 at 6.30 pm
Morphett Arms Hotel, 138 Morphett Rd, Glengowrie
See Anne or Michael to register if you intend to attend. More details next month's Gazette,



CHAMPIONS SOUTHERN REGION SHOW :



GRAND CHAMPION CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM

Cym. Kiwi Midnight 'Geyserland'

CHAMPION SECOND DIVISION

Graham & Jeanette Smith (217)

RESERVE CHAMPION CHAMPION FIRST DIVISION CHAMPION LAELIINAE

Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Sunburst'

Eileen Pinnock (519)

CHAMPION PHALAENOPSIS Phal. amabilis 'Lyn's Elegant'

CHAMPION SPECIES
Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)

CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE Den. speciosum 'Larwind'

Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279)

CHAMPION SPECIMEN

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'

Graham & Jeanette Smith (217)

SOUTHERN REGION SHOW RESULTS LIST

FIRST DIVISION

Australian Native epiphyte - Species

Den. speciosum 'Larwind' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Australian Native epiphyte - Hybrid

Den. Avril's Gold 'Leedham' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Australian Native - Specimen

Den. speciosum 'Larwind' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

BEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE

Den. speciosum 'Larwind' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium over 90mm predominantly Pink

Cym. (Joanstar x Kimberley Lady) Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium over 90mm - any other colour

Cym. (Cinnamon Wall x Strath Beauty) Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 2

Cymbidium - Specimen

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

BEST CYMBIDIUM

Cym. New Century 'Rosie' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm predominantly Brown

Cym. Volcanic Flash 'Tim Tam' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 2

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm predominantly Pink

Cym. New Century 'Rosie' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium under 60mm predominantly

Cym. Chocolate Drop 'Delight' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 3

Cymbidium under 60mm predominantly

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' Dudley & Genny Huxtable (279) 2

Laeliinae Cluster

Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Sunburst' Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

BEST LAELIINAE

Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Sunburst' Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

Phalaenopsis Species

Phal. amabilis 'Lyn's Elegant' Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

BEST PHALAENOPSIS

Phal. amabilis 'Lyn's Elegant' Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

SECOND DIVISION

Cymbidium over 90mm predominantly Green

Cym. Baltic Glacier 'Mint Ice' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 2

Cymbidium over 90mm predominantly Pink

Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

Cymbidium - Specimen

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

BEST CYMBIDIUM

Cym. Kiwi Midnight 'Geyserland' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm predominantly

Cym. Celtic Imp 'Caprice' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 2

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm predominantly Red

Cym. Kiwi Midnight 'Geyserland' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

Cymbidium under 60mm predominantly

Cym. Templestowe Opal 'Hearts on Fire' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 2

Cymbidium under 60mm predominantly

Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

Laeliinae Standard Hybrid over 100mm

C. Cornelis' Love 'Jules' Bob & Robyn Clayton (143) 3

BEST LAELIINAE

C. Cornelis' Love 'Jules' Bob & Robyn Clayton (143) 3

Phalaenopsis Standard

Phal. Silver Light Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

BEST PHALAENOPSIS

Phal. Silver Light Graham & Jeanette Smith (217) 3

SOUTHERN REGION SHOW PHOTOGRAPHS



GRAND CHAMPION
Cym. Kiwi Midnight 'Geyserland'
 Graham & Jeanette Smith
 Photo Phil Steer



RESERVE CHAMPION
Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Sunburst'
 Eileen Pinnock
 Photo Phil Steer

September Results List

Ref. No.



Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

- 394 Den. Issy's Snow 'Seaview'
 395 Den. Lochiel Brimbank
 396 Den. (Victorian Stripe x Victorian Flare)

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

- 392 Den. gracilicaule
 393 Den. teretifolium 'Babylon'

Australian Native Terrestrial - Hybrid

- 399 Ptst. Cucuz

Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

- 397 Diuris conopiallata
 398 Ptst. curta

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

- 405 Cym. Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'
 406 Cym. (Pepper Blaze x Street Tango)
 407 Cym. Valley Inga 'Linda'

Cymbidium over 90mm - Species

- 404 Cym. hookerianum 'Drouin'

Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

- 402 Cym. Green Jewel
 403 Cym. Royale Fare 'No. 5'

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

- 408 Cym. Vincent Pride

Garard / Western Trophy

- 424 Cym. Vincent Pride

Laeliinae - Non Standard

- 400 Rlc. Rosella's Fire Diamond
 401 Ctt. Tutankamen 'Pop'

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

- 409 Gom. Moonshadow 'Tiger Tail'

- 410 Onc. Tsiku Marguerite 'Chian-Tzy Dragon #1'

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

- 418 Den. Lochiel Brimbank
 419 Cym. Vincent Pride
 420 Paph. Fanaticum

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

- 412 Paph. (Hsinying Leopard x Doya You
 413 Paph. Chouvetii 'van Dyke'
 414 Paph. Fanaticum 'Mouliache'

Paphiopedilum - Species

- 415 Paph. primulinum
 416 Paph. venustum
 417 Paph. villosus var. boxalli

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2
 Peter Haltis (442) 1

- Ron & Irene Parish (477) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

- Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

- Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3
 Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 2

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Peter Haltis (442) 2
 Peter Haltis (442) 1

- Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

- Peter Haltis (442) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

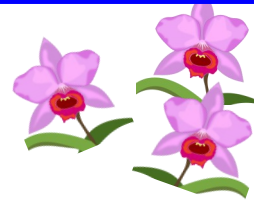
- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

- John Seidel (101) 3
 Peter Haltis (442) 2
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

- Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2
 John Seidel (101) 1



September Results List Cont ..

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Paphiopedilum - Standard

411 Paph. (Hamavin Jewel x Millenium Dream)

John Seidel (101)

3

Specimen Species or Hybrid

421 Den. Issy's Snow 'Seaview'

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)

3

422 Den. gracilicaule

Ron & Irene Parish (477)

2

423 Den. (Victorian Stripe x Victorian Flare)

Peter Haltis (442)

1

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

368 Den. (Touch of Class x Aussie Victory)

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

3

369 Den. Stars and Stripes

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

2

370 Den. Memoria Jack McMillan

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

1

Australian Native Terrestrial - Hybrid

374 Ptst. x ingens

John & Robyn Dunn (600)

3

Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

371 Ptst. curta

John & Robyn Dunn (600)

3

372 Ptst. nutans

John & Robyn Dunn (600)

2

373 Ptst. curta

John & Robyn Dunn (600)

1

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

383 Cym. Templestowe Opal

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

3

384 Cym. Flaming Stardust

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

2

Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

381 Cym. (erythraeum x lowianum)

Michael Gray (135)

3

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

385 Cym. Koala 'Cutie'

Beth Stronach (836)

3

Laeliinae - Cluster

377 Bc. Makai

Michael Gray (135)

3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

378 Lc. Dorothy Elliot

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

3

379 Rth. Rosella's Diamond

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

2

Laeliinae - Species

380 Psh. cochleata

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

3

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

375 Ctt. Molly Tyler

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

3

376 Rlc. California Girl

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

386 Onc. Twinkle

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

390 Angcm. Veitchii

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

3

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

391 Den. (Touch of Class x Aussie Victory)

Phil and Anne Steer (514)

3

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

387 Paph. [venustum x (Yachiyo Lady x Holdenii)]

Beth Stronach (836)

3

388 Paph. Leeaunum

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

2

Paphiopedilum - Species

389 Paph. villosum

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)

3

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

353 Den. Hunter Gaga

Coral Tillmanns (212)

3

354 Den. Unknown

Graham & Janette Smith (217)

2

355 Den. (Botanic Fireworks x Noah's Ark)

Coral Tillmanns (212)

1

Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

356 Ptst. curta

Coral Tillmanns (212)

3

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

359 Cym. Kiwi Midnight 'Geyserland'

Graham & Janette Smith (217)

3

360 Cym. Gowlings Gem 'Snow Queen'

Helen McIntosh (299)

2

361 Cym. Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'

Jim Fogarasi (150)

1

Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

358 Cym. Lowio-grandiflorum

Helen McIntosh (299)

3

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

362 Cym. Sleeping Sharon 'Caroline'

Helen McIntosh (299)

3

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

357 Rlc. Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel'

Ralf Brandt (159)

3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

363 Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'

Ralf Brandt (159)

3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

367 Den. Dream 'Apollon'

Ralf Brandt (159)

3

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

364 Paph. Leeaunum

Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195)

3

365 Paph. Unknown

Helen McIntosh (299)

2

Phalaenopsis Standard

366 Phal. Unknown

Chen Li (251)

3

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Orchid of Second Division and Plant of the Night

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful *Cymbidium Lowio-grandiflorum* grown by Helen McIntosh.

The plant was carrying two long pendulous inflorescences, both carrying ten flowers and three buds. This crossing (which is a primary hybrid) dates as far back as 1902. The crossing is *Cym. lowianum* and *Cym. grandiflorum* with a massive total progeny of 10,966. The flowers were a lovely 'Apple Green' with the very distinctive lowianum labellum. A real standout !
Congratulations Helen.

**PLANT OF SECOND DIVISION
& PLANT OF THE NIGHT**
Cym. Lowio-grandiflorum
Grown by Helen McIntosh
Photos Neil Cooper



FIRST DIVISION
Ptst. curta
Grown by
John & Robyn Dunn
Photos Neil Cooper

Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by John & Robyn Dunn and was *Ptst. curta* (also known as the Blunt Green Hood), one of the terrific terrestrial orchids that we see growing in the wild and in culture.

The plant was carrying 14 beautiful green flowers with brown striations. *Ptst. curta* has been awarded some 21 times. In its natural state it can be found in Southeast Australia and New Caledonia. In Australia, this orchid is found in southeast Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania commonly found in open forests. A very well grown plant.

Well done John & Robyn

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR SEPTEMBER Cont...

Plant of Open Division

The Plant of Open Division was an fantastic specimen of *Den. Issy's Snow 'Seaview'* grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju.

The plant was a mass of bright yellow flowers standing out from the lush green foliage. I didn't attempt to count the inflorescences but the photo tells the story of the plants size and floriferousness. A terrific specimen.

Congratulations Michael & Oui .

PLANT OF OPEN DIVISION

Den. Issy's Snow 'Seaview'

Grown by

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper



Thank you to our Judges for a job well done!
Good Growing !

Phil Steer

REGISTRAR

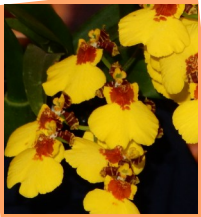


SEEDLING OF THE NIGHT
Den. (Touch of Class x Aussie Victory)

Grown by

Phil & Anne Steer

Photo Neil Cooper



DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 11th September 2025



Hi Everyone,

Our September Daytime Meeting was attended by 17 members who welcomed back our guest speaker Jane Higgs and Don. New member Peter Schammer received his Club name badge, copy of the Club constitution and a welcome gift. Our thoughts are with Richard Wilson who is unwell.

Jane shared photos of her and Don's visit to The Garden of the Sleeping Giant in Fiji. The presentation gave members an insight of the variety and colours of the resilient plants that exist in unusable medium and with little maintenance. Following the presentation Jane answered numerous questions and assisted a member with a plant issue. We thank Jane and Don for their time and wish Jan well with her recovery.

Daytime Members were advised the Club has been informed that after 40 plus years of Daytime and Committee meetings at the Lou Kesting Hall these will conclude in December. The committee has begun searching for a new venue for 2026 to ensure the daytime meetings will continue and grow.



Lucky Name Badge: Jeanette Beck
Door Prize: Tanis Reeves

**Members listening to
Guest Speaker Jane Higgs**

Popular Plant of the Day:
Den. Victorian Splendour
Grown by Josie Ogrowski

Many thanks to Coral and Josie for your valuable assistance and to everyone who donated raffle prizes and delightful afternoon tea.



Next Meeting : Thursday October 9th - 2.00 pm
Lou Kesting Hall, Off Broadway, South Brighton
Guest Speaker: Phil Steer speaking on Cattleya.

Alan Miller
0434 052 676



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING Sunday 21st September 2025

Convenor, Chris Heysen, opened the main meeting at 2:00 pm welcoming the 24 members and 2 visitors present. A special welcome to Yvonne Tuthill and Jo Cullen who are first time visitors and hopefully new members of the club.

Apologies: Warren Yelland who, after having a number of issues with his heart, has now, as of Thursday night, had a Pacemaker inserted and is feeling a whole lot better. We wish him a speedy recovery. Also, Jane Higgs, who was to have been on our discussion panel along with Warren (and Chris and Dudley) had a knee replacement on Tuesday. We wish her well also.

Discussion Panel: In place of our normal Guest Speaker we today have a discussion panel to answer your questions. Chris started by explaining that our weather conditions here on the South Coast are quite different from on the other side of the range where most of our guest speakers come from. Our temperature extremes are not as high or low but generally the weather is cooler for longer and the heat when it comes is not as extended. This means we need to modify our culture of our orchids to account for this. A good current example is that the Yelland's currently have a *Masdevallia* coming into flower with multiple stems – few growers in Adelaide are able to flower these plants as it's too warm.

Dudley then showed us how to cross pollinate a *Cymbidium* using the pollen cap from his Grand Champion *Cym.* Death Wish, followed by demonstrations of how he pots-on the resulting seedlings after deflasking and how he breaks up and re-pots an older *Cymbidium*.

Chris followed by discussing issues with a *Phalaenopsis* brought in by Yvonne which had been potted into Sphagnum Moss in a pot with no drainage holes. In fact this plant was in remarkably good condition with quite healthy roots – showing that despite the lack of drainage it had not been overwatered. Chris repotted the plant and provided some advice on its future care.

Thankyou to Dudley and Chris.

Birthday Prize: Marg Yelland. **Lucky Name Badge:** Marg Yelland.
Lucky Door Prize: Graham Smith.

Announcements:

Our Southern Region Show last month was a great success with some 42 plants in the wonderful looking display. Congratulations to all the winners and particularly to Graham and Jeanette who won Grand Champion and to Eileen who won Reserve Champion.

The sales desk was a bit slower than for the last couple of years - perhaps the cost of living "crisis" we hear about on the news every day is having some effect. There were certainly fewer people in the shopping centre than previously. Never-the-less we made enough money to more than cover costs and to provide some profit for the running of the club.

Next weekend is the Spring Show. Details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The raffle was held as usual and Chris thanked the donors of raffle prizes.

Judging: was carried out by Phil Steer and Don Higgs. **Judges Commentary:** Phil Steer.

The meeting closed at 3:35 pm and was followed by everyone joining in to share a cuppa and a selection of cakes and biscuits.

Chris Heysen 0419 386 769

NEXT MEETING – Sunday 19th October. Guest speaker will be **Trevor Garrard** – a regular speaker for the past few years. He will be talking about Cymbidiums and will also do a repotting demonstration.

Southern Region September Results List

Ref. No.

Points Aw

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

720	Den. Regal Gillieston	Eileen Pinnock (519)	3
721	Den. Gracillimum 'Dashwood'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
722	Den. Sheena 'Gorgeous'	Eileen Pinnock (519)	1

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

717	Den. speciosum	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
718	Den. speciosum (Elegance x Orange)	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
719	Den. speciosum (Henk Vandenberg x Ivory)	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	1

Cymbidium over 90mm - Species

713	Cym. lowianum	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
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Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

712	Cym. Morisset	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
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Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

714	Cym. Sarah Jean 'Soft Lips'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
715	Cym. Street Tango 'Desire'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
716	Cym. Volcanic Flash 'Tim Tam'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

724	Phal. Unknown	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
725	Phal. (Durin x Kulnura)	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

723	Phal. amabilis	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
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Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

705	Den. (speciosum x Kayla)	Bob Clayton (143)	3
706	Den Unknown	Heather & Ruth McDonald & Creedy (300)	2
707	Den Unknown	Heather & Ruth McDonald & Creedy (300)	1

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

710	Cym. (Devon Shell 'No 2' x Street Tango)	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
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Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

708	Cym. Kimberley Splash 'Teepee'	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
709	Cym. Sleeping Nymph 'Glacier'	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

733	Den. Spring Dream 'Apollon'	Diane Cawley (798)	3
729	Phal. Unknown	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
711	V. Unknown	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	2
732	Phal. Unknown	Fran Harlow (378)	2

SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY

This month we saw a terrific benching with 37 plants, 16 for Second Division and 21 for First. A good mix of Australian Natives, Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis. Well done to all who bought in plants. It was also pleasing to see some of the newer members entering plants.

ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

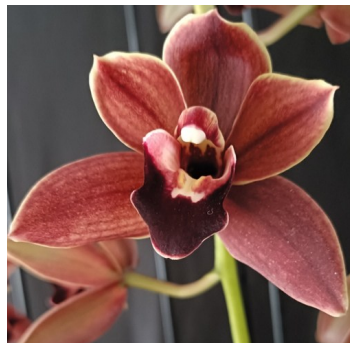
The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely 60-90mm Cymbidium and was Cym. (Devon Shell 'No2' x Street Tango) grown by Graham and Jeanette Smith.

It was carrying two long pendulous inflorescences each carrying 12 flowers. It was a lovely dark shade of brown.

Congratulations Graham & Jeanette



**ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION
& PLANT OF THE DAY**
Cym. (Devon Shell 'No2' x Street Tango)
Grown by Graham & Jeanette Smith
Photos Don Higgs

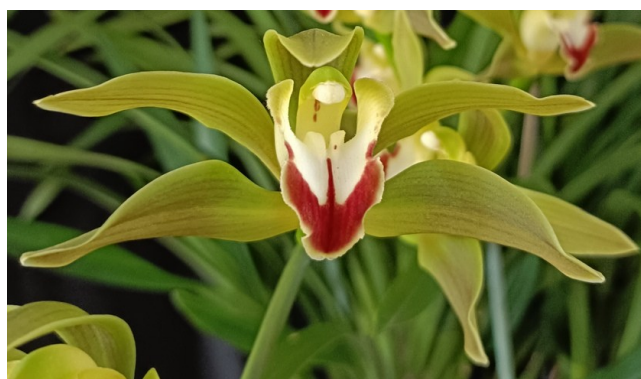


ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION

The plant of First Division grown by Genny & Dudley Huxtable was an outstanding example of Cym. *lowianum*, a much sought after species that carries the highly distinctive pointed red labellum.

There was only one inflorescence but it was clean and fresh with 10 lovely flowers.

Well done Genny & Dudley.



ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

Cym. *lowianum*
Grown By Genny & Dudley Huxtable
Photos Don Higgs

Good Growing.

Phil Steer
REGISTRAR

WHAT A GREAT DISPLAY AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING



TROPHY WINNERS SOUTHERN REGION SHOW

All Photos
Don Higgs



GRAND CHAMPION
Graham Smith



RESERVE CHAMPION
Eileen Pinnock



CHAMPION AUST NATIVE
Dudley Huxtable

SOFT-CANE DENDROBIUMS by Alan Hope

The cool-growing soft-cane dendrobiums are typified by *Dendrobium nobile*, the 'noble' dendrobium, which is found in northern India, southern China and the hilly areas of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Burma. It has pink petals, pink sepals and a creamy yellow labellum with a distinctive purple throat. The list of soft-cane dendrobium hybrids is quite extensive but they can be classified into two types, the 'English' and the 'Japanese'. The early English hybrids, such as *Den. Lady Colman*, *Den. Felicity* and *Den. Cybele*, were bred mainly from *Den. nobile*, *Den. nobile* var. *virginialis* and *Den. findlayanum*, another attractive cool growing species. These hybrids have mostly pink or mauve flowers, although some are cream, yellow or white.



Dendrobium nobile

The 'Japanese' hybrids, developed by Yamamoto in Japan, tend to have larger, more colourful flowers, often with a plain labellum and without the characteristic 'eye' of *Den. nobile*. These hybrids, a further development of the earlier English types, incorporate genes from *Den. regium*, a species with pink to rose purple petals and a cream labellum.

Some of the proven Japanese hybrids are *Den.* Malones 'Okayama', 'Fantasy' and 'Emperor', *Den.* Golden Blossom 'Kagame' and 'Sunset', *Den.* Atatuki Queen and *Den.* Yukidaruma 'The King'.

Growing Conditions. A warm, sunny spot facing north is probably the best location. The plants require bright light over summer to develop and mature the new season's canes, and then a definite rest over winter to promote flowering. As with many of the orchids from southern and eastern Asia, their growth and flowering habit reflect the monsoon influence, which produces strong growth in the warm-wet season, followed by



Dendrobium regium

flower production during the cooler-dry season. If the plants are kept wet during winter, the flower buds are likely to produce 'keikis' (Hawaiian for babies) rather than flowers.

Soft-cane dendrobiums should be shaded during the summer months (50% shade cloth) but need maximum light during autumn and winter. Some growers hang their plants outdoors in a sunny spot during autumn to mature the canes. Under these conditions the leaves become yellow-green with cessation of growth being indicated by the development of a small two-leaf growth at the tip of the cane. Removal of these leaves sometimes stimulates flowering.

The plants can be grown in a pot, on a slab of wood or tree fern, or in a basket. They require excellent drainage and will "sulk" in a wet, soggy compost. If they are grown in pots, root problems due to a wet, soggy compost can be avoided by 'under-potting'. I prefer small pots and a potting mix of medium-sized pine bark and washed river pebbles/coarse gravel. However, the composition of the mix is not critical, provided that it is open and long-lasting, so that mature plants can be left undisturbed for three or four years.

During summer and autumn water the plants regularly and thoroughly. Potassium-rich fertilisers can also be applied at this time but discontinue their use and limit watering as soon as the canes begin to mature in late autumn. Repotting is best carried out after flowering, usually in late spring or early summer. If there are any keikis with well developed roots present, these can be removed with a sharp, sterile knife and potted up separately.

Flowering. Soft-cane dendrobiums flower from nodes on the mature canes. Frequently the older canes lose their leaves prior to flowering but this is no cause for alarm, however if the canes begin to shrivel during winter, then the plant should be watered. A short inflorescence carrying a cluster of three to five flowers is usually produced from each flowering node. The attractive, colourful flowers sometimes last as long as two months if the plants are kept on the dry side. Cut flowers also keep well and can be used effectively in flower arrangements. Once a cane has flowered it will produce new canes from the base, eventually leading to the development of a specimen plant.



Den. White Pearl 'Jenny Eckles'
HCC/OSCOV CC/OSCOV

CULTIVATING THE GENUS *Pterostylis* by Rex Johnson

Commonly known as greenhoods, rusty hoods or maroon hoods, members of the genus *Pterostylis* seem to be the unlikeliest flowers to be called orchids, but orchids they are. There are more than 120 species in Australia, more than 60 of them in Victoria and 37 in Tasmania, although many are common to both states. A peculiar characteristic of *Pterostylis* is the fused lateral sepals that rise from the base of the flower before separating to form two tails above a dorsal sepal. Together they form a hood (botanically known as a galea) above the column and lateral sepals.

Depending upon the species, the genus *Pterostylis* can be found in nature from sea level to alpine areas and in all types of terrain and climates. Most species have only one flower per stem but some multi-flowered species have as many as 24. Although they are commonly known as greenhoods, the colour of the flowers may range from green to brown, some species having reddish brown or maroon flowers. Green is by far the most common colour, although it may vary from light to dark green, often with white or translucent stripes. Flower size may vary from quite small {e.g. *Ptst. parviflora*} to relatively large {e.g. *Ptst. baptistii*}. All are terrestrial orchids that become deciduous each year, usually in summer.

Growing *Pterostylis* species or hybrids is so easy that many growers don't consider it to be sufficiently challenging. However, there are so many greenhoods that one could make an extensive collection of this genus alone. Many books and orchid society bulletins provide recipes for special terrestrial orchid potting mixes but some growers have excellent results using general potting mixes from their local nursery. Greenhoods are unsuitable for indoor culture but grow happily outdoors under shade cloth, preferably with a wire netting cover to keep blackbirds from digging out the plants in their search for worms.

Greenhoods commence growth from a subterranean tuber, usually in late winter, in many cases producing a rosette of leaves from which the flower stem emerges. In some cases the flower stem emerges beside the leaf rosette, while in a few cases the rosette withers before the flower buds open. All species may be propagated from seed but many also develop extra tubers, and thus form large colonies. If undisturbed, ten or a dozen tubers in a six-inch pot may multiply to a crowded potful within a few years.

When grown outdoors the plants need little more water than provided by general rainfall, except in periods of drought. The plants should be kept quite dry during the dormant period. Fertiliser should be used sparingly and only when the leaf rosettes are developing.

The easiest species for the beginner to grow are *Pterostylis curta*, *P. nana* and *P. pedunculata*, while the most attractive, easily grown hybrids are *P. Cutie*, *P. Ingens* and *P. Jack Warcup*.



Pterostylis baptista Bunne'
HCC/OSCOV



Pterostylis curta 'Betty'
HCC/OSCOV CC/OSCOV



Pterostylis pedunculata

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHIDS – AN OVERVIEW

by Julian Coker

Australia is relatively rich in its native orchid population with over 750 different species. Two thirds of these grow in the ground – the terrestrials, and one third on trees or rocks – the epiphytes or lithophytes. The major populations occur along the eastern seaboard in New South Wales and Queensland, in Victoria and south-eastern South Australia and in the south-western corner of Western Australia. Some species extend across northern Australia and others to the west of the Great Dividing Range but few are found where the rainfall is below 400 mm per year.

A strong Asian and New Guinean influence is found in the orchids of northern Queensland. This decreases as we move south and is totally absent in southwest Western Australia. Between southeast Australia and Tasmania there is a similarity with species found in New Zealand. Many terrestrial species and in some cases whole genera are endemic to Australia. Many terrestrials grow with a specific fungus in a shared relationship. This is referred to as symbiosis. If that particular fungus is lost, the orchid dies, which explains why so many terrestrials are difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.

Flower size is generally small (commonly 50 to 200 mm across) compared to the commonly seen exotic orchids, such as *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Phalaenopsis* etc. However this is adequately compensated by their great diversity in shape, colour and delicate perfume. Every colour is represented in the terrestrials including black and blue, and their diversity in shape is incredible. Flower count varies from one in some species to over one hundred per stem and many thousands per specimen plant. The smallest of all flowers is found in the genus *Bulbophyllum*, where the whole flower of some species is only a few millimetres across. The majority of native orchids flower in spring. However, there are many that flower at other times and some flower more than once a year. Flowering time depends on latitude for widely dispersed species, being earlier in the north and at lower altitudes.

Although common names are frequently used by the layperson or orchid-newcomer, the botanical name is to be preferred. Initially this often appears daunting but once mastered the botanical name is totally specific, compared with a common name, which may describe different orchids in different areas. Thus the term spider orchid is commonly applied to many different orchids throughout the world, but if we mean the particular spider orchids that grow across southern Australia we use the name *Caladenia*.

This is equivalent to our surname, and to distinguish between the various spider orchids we use a further name equivalent to our given names, e.g., *Caladenia dilatata*, *Caladenia carnea* etc. Other examples include the donkey orchid – *Diuris*, the greenhood – *Pterostylis*, the waxlip orchid – *Glossodia*, etc.

The terrestrials are found especially in the southern states, including Tasmania, but also extend up the eastern seaboard. Moisture and sunlight are the most critical factors governing their growth and flowering, so that they are usually found in open forests, natural grasslands, coastal heaths and swamplands. They are generally found in poorer soils, because the undergrowth and trees commonly overgrow them in richer soils. Areas with a rainfall of at least 750 – 1000 mm per year are preferred, although some species are found in the Mallee and the alpine areas. The terrestrials grow from a fleshy tuber and have a definite annual cycle, controlled mainly by soil moisture. Following a dry period, generally the summer, and under the stimulation of increased soil moisture, a shoot forms, grows through the surface of the soil and develops leaves and commonly a flower stem and flower, prior to dying back in the late spring.

If fertilization occurs this process is extended whilst seed is produced and dispersed. Prior to dying back, the next season's tuber is produced, and with colony orchids several tubers are produced. These colony-forming orchids, such as *Pterostylis*, *Diuris*, *Chiloglottis*, etc., are those most easily introduced into cultivation. They may be grown in shallow containers in a mixture of equal parts of well-decayed humus, coarse river sand, and friable bush loam. The tubers are planted (preferably during the resting phase) to a depth of 30 – 50 mm and the surface covered with coarse sand or *Casuarina* needles. Enough water is provided during the resting stage to prevent desiccation, and this is increased during the growing stage. Perfect drainage is essential and nylon fly wire placed in the bottom of the pot helps to prevent pests entering and damaging the roots and tubers.

Tubers may be lifted each year or left undisturbed. They may only be collected from their natural habitat on private property, with the owner's permission. It is generally best to remove the natural soil and replant them in the suggested mix. The species most suitable for hobby cultivation are *Pterostylis nutans*, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, *Pterostylis curta*, *Diuris pedunculata*, *Diuris maculata*, and *Chiloglottis gunnii*. With more experience, other species from these genera and also *Spiranthes*, *Thelymitra*, and *Caladenia* may be attempted. Do not attempt to grow *Caladenia*, *Glossodia* or *Prasophyllum* species or *Dipodium punctatum*, as they are all difficult or impossible to maintain in cultivation.



Pterostylis nutans



Pterostylis curta



Diuris maculata

Terrestrials may be grown without any heat in all states, all the year, either in the garden or in a bush house. They prefer 50% shade, adequate air movement and a weak fertiliser during the growing season. Avoid frost and be on constant watch for snails, slugs and aphids.

The epiphytes and lithophytes are found mainly in the tropical rainforests of northern Queensland and from southern Queensland to northern and mid New South Wales. Only five species extend into eastern Victoria, two into Tasmania and three across to northern Western Australia. Some, such as *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*, are found in relatively confined areas around the Queensland/New South Wales border. Others such as *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Cymbidium suave* extend along the full eastern seaboard, while *Cymbidium canaliculatum* extends across northern Australia. Mean temperature is the main determining factor that controls their range. True epiphytes use the trees or rocks simply for support and gain their nutrition from the humus that collects about their roots or from minerals dissolved in the water that passes over them. They are the native orchids most amenable to cultivation, especially *Dendrobium*, *Cymbidium* and *Sarcochilus* species.

Dendrobium is the major Australian epiphytic genus with over 50 species. Within this there are two major groups. The warm growing includes *Dendrobium bigibbum* (the Cooktown Orchid) and *Dendrobium discolor* (the Antelope Orchid), while the cool-growing group includes *Dendrobium kingianum* (the Rock Orchid), *Dendrobium speciosum* (the King Orchid) and the fleshy-leaved variety *Dockrillia teretifolia* (syn. *Dendrobium teretifolium*, the Bridal Veil Orchid). The warm-growing varieties require a heated glasshouse during the winter in the southern states, whilst the cool growing species may be grown in a shade house.



Dendrobium teretifolia



Dendrobium discolor



Dendrobium bigibbum



Dendrobium kingianum



Dendrobium speciosum

Epiphytes may be grown either on a slab or in a suitable potting mix. Some may be grown either way. With slab culture a stable surface must be provided. Thus well-weathered hardwood or tree fern, cork or various stable fissured barks such as Casuarina or Melaleuca may be used. If a plant is not already established, it must be fastened to a suitable slab with nylon cord or galvanised staples. The root area should be covered with a wad of Sphagnum moss during the initial stages. It is essential that the plant be firmly secured at this stage so that movement cannot damage the root tips before the roots have had time to adhere to the slab. The slab is then hung in a well-ventilated area with 30 – 50% shade, and watered and fertilised during the growing season. At this time water should be applied copiously and then the root area allowed to partially dry before the next watering. During the cooler months watering should be decreased in proportion to the activity of the plant.

Container culture is more appropriate for cooler-growing dendrobiums and their hybrids. Terracotta saucers with holes added, squat plastic pots, baskets and even hollow logs are appropriate, provided drainage is adequate. A suitable compost is made from 3 parts of 5 – 8 mm weathered pine bark and 1 part of coarse river sand. Re-potting should be done in the warmer months after flowering, when active new growth begins. Provide 30 – 50% shade together with adequate air movement. Regular fertilising with a balanced fertiliser provides for optimum culture. As with slab culture, water copiously during the growing season and taper this off during the cooler months.

Rapid development is occurring in hybridizing programmes involving native dendrobiums and excellent results are being achieved. Older hybrids are being re-made with superior parents and new hybrids are being developed between the *Dendrocoryne* and *Phalaenanthus* groups. These are yielding cooler growing plants that have larger flowers and a wider colour range. These hybrids provide an exciting challenge for those willing to try to grow them. The native cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus* are amenable to culture but are generally not as easy to maintain in cultivation. Of these *Sarcochilus hartmannii* is probably the best one to try first. With *Sarcochilus* hybrids, the use of the totally purple-red cultivar *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' and species such as *Sarcochilus hirticalcar* are opening new horizons.

As well as the above type of culture, dendrobiums especially may be grown in the garden in specially prepared beds, or on rocks, stumps or trees. Those suitable for garden culture include *Dendrobium kingianum*, *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Dendrobium falcorostrum* and many of the hybrids between them, such as *Den.* Bardo Rose, *Den.* Delicatum and *Den.* Hilda Poxon. They require a position that provides morning and early afternoon sun, with protection from the hot afternoon sun, drying winds and frost. In time these plants will grow to specimen size and provide dramatic displays during the flowering season.

Some species are threatened with extinction due to man's encroachment into their natural habitats. Hopefully, adequate nature reserves will be established for their preservation. Where appropriate, the collection and cultivation of some of these unique gems may be necessary if they are to survive and be enjoyed. Selected outcrossing of choice clones is also very appropriate and superior clones are resulting from this approach. Native orchids are part of our natural heritage and together with recent advances in hybridisation for colour, shape and multiple flowering time, combined with their delicate perfumes and massed flowering displays, they provide a most desirable addition to any collection.



Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Rolled Gold' HCC/OSCOV



Cymbidium canaliculatum 'J.G.C.' HCC/OSCOV CC/OSCOV



Cymbidium suave 'Stuart' CC/OSCOV



Orchid Culture Notes for October

With the shows almost over we return back to our orchid enclosures and commence one of the most important periods in the orchid calendar. It is called maintenance and whether we like it or not, it is an important factor in the upkeep of our collections. Repotting, potting on, dividing and feeding marks what I call the busiest time of the year.

After flowering many of our plants commence a new season growth. This growth can be retarded somewhat if the flowers are left on too long, especially with orchids that hold their flowers for a long time. So the decision is do we cut them off after displays, etc.? This is a personal choice. Some will say in nature they don't get cut off. True. But how many grow here and how many are so far removed from their original parentage that they don't know what they are anymore. My preference is that short lived flowers such as the natives stay on until they drop but those that stay on longer such as the Cymbidiums get about four weeks before I cut them and bring them inside. Other even longer lasting orchids like the Paphiopedilums seem to do okay regardless of how long they stay in flower. Only experience with your orchid in your environment will answer this question correctly.

Other factors to take into account are the size of your plants. A large and well grown plant can support large or multiple racemes but what of a small first flowering seedling or a plant stressed from the previous year division, flowering in a last effort to reproduce and survive. It is best to remove these flower spikes early rather than subject the plant to too much added stress. Some Oncidium seedlings come to mind here, literally flowering themselves to death as a first flowering plant. What about those plants stressed after being in a shopping centre or the show for days on end. I find it best to give these plants a rest and remove the inflorescences. Again I stress, this is my personal choice and it is up to the individual to do what they wish with their plants.

Native Dendrobiums should have flowers cut once they start to droop and lose substance. Spent flowers that drop onto leaves and new growths, etc. soon go mouldy and attract fungal problems. One little insect bite or a damaged leaf will provide the perfect entry point for fungus and in the warmth and moisture of October this spreads rapidly. Now is also a good time to pot on and divide Native Dendrobiums as they commence new growth and re-establish quickly. Look for the commencement of new root growth with the new canes. Don't over pot natives and allow enough for two years growth. This is a good rule of thumb.

Always inspect the roots to see how your culture has been. The pots should have roots growing round and round the inside edge of the pot. They should be white and firm with many growing tips. The centre of the plant has fewer roots and most of these will be previous roots, brown and dead looking. If your roots are sparse all through the mix or rotted then you have a cultural problem. There could be many reasons for this. Too much water, the mix has broken down and become acidic, over fertilising or feeding when the plant is dormant or the plant being cold and wet when it should be cold and dry. This applies especially to the hot/colds. For the newer growers a hot/cold Dendrobium is a hybrid where a cool grower such as *Den. speciosum* is crossed with a warmer grower such as *Den. bigibbum*. It gives you a plant that often flowers earlier or later than most natives. The flowers last longer are usually larger and more colourful than the cooler growers. These are rapidly gaining in popularity. Treat them the same as the normal cool growers during the growing season but keep a little drier in winter and provide them with more light.



Zygopetalums should just about be finished flowering now and large plants can be split. As with most orchids it pays to keep your divisions to a good size of three or four growths as a minimum to ensure flowering next season. Keep an eye out for the Spring looper caterpillars under the leaves from now. They are fond of the soft new leaves of your Zygoes and one or two loopers will make a mess of new growths overnight. Spray with Mancozeb every two months to keep fungal problems to a minimum. Keep water and fertiliser out of the new growths. With fungal problems rife in October your Zygopetalum will be the first to lose growths through rot. At worst it will keep 2 or 3 leaves and will be severely set back, so much so, it may not even produce a worthwhile back bulb, let alone anything strong enough to support a strong growth next year with a flower spike.

Native terrestrials start to look a little sick from now as they begin to yellow and enter summer dormancy. Reduce the watering as they enter dormancy.

New growths on the Cattleyas and Oncidiums start to move now and many will show new roots starting to appear. This tells you they are becoming more receptive to feeding and watering. Aquasol, Thrive and any feed with a high nitrogen component will suffice at this time. With the new roots forming tells you it is also a good time to divide and repot these two genera. The new roots continue to grow to support the division, often with very little set back. Do this at the wrong time and watch your plant wither and struggle.

If you decide to break up an Oncidium or Cattleya/Laeliinae do this before the roots get too long and are easily broken. Secondly if they grow long they become accustomed to an aerial existence and will rot off when placed into the damp confines of a potting mix. Make sure your division is securely positioned in the pot until it establishes.

Sarcochilus will rapidly be showing their flower spikes now as well and it won't be long before we see plenty of flowers. These are one orchid that likes a very weak fertiliser as the roots are highly sensitive. If you see them lose their green tips shortly after a feed then that's the sign that says oops...too strong or I have some micro slugs in the mix. Don't worry, they'll find your flowers sooner or later if you don't bait them now! Keep them moist also as they do not have any pseudobulbs to fall back upon in times of dryness. Rainwater is best if you can provide it and look at increasing the shade levels as well as the sun's intensity rapidly increases this month.

For those that fancy growing orchids on mounts, spring is a good time to start them off as they readily establish when new roots become evident. A good lesson here is to observe the roots. If they touch the mount and die or brown off then they are saying that host is unsuitable. Orchids are wonderful plants. They tell you when something is not to their liking. Learn to observe these signs and you are well on your way to mastering them. Overlook them and your plant will struggle and even die.

Other chores this month involve moving your plants around as the seasons change. I love moving my plants around as I strive to find the sweet spots in my shade house. I provide high light for those that like it, cool shady spots for those that hate the heat and the harsh Adelaide sun. I observe the changing microclimates and most of all make sure I don't grow the orchid that didn't flower this year in the same spot with the same treatment. Plants hung high should be lowered a little as the sun's intensity increases dramatically this month and temperatures rise. Remember these exposed plants will need water more often. With November nearly on our doorstep we need little reminding that a hot and stressful Summer is just around the corner.

Steve Howard

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

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: In 2024, the Club will meet at the Marion - Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Cnr. Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion. at 8.00p.m. on the first Wednesday of the Month

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.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street, Plympton 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.

THE GAWLER DISTRICTS ORCHID CLUB: meets at the Elderly Centre 37 Fourteenth Street, Gawler at 8 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the Month.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ORCHID COUNCIL: Represents all clubs in South Australia on the Australian Orchid Council. Meets three or four times a year, at which meetings all clubs are represented by a delegate or a proxy delegate. SAROC conducts the **SA Orchid Fair** in June each year.



**If unclaimed please return to
P.O. Box 1060 Flagstaff Hill S.A. 5159**



**People who submit articles to the Club for inclusion in our Gazette express
opinions which are not necessarily those of the Club.
No guarantee is provided to anyone using the ideas & opinions expressed in
these articles.
Items must be delivered to the Editor by the second Thursday of each month.**