



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

# Gazette

March 2026

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC  
President: Michael Willoughby

## AT A GLANCE

The February Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 8.00 pm. Marion - Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion. Our Guest Speaker will be Nicky Zurcher from Nicky's Slipper Orchids. Come along and hear all about *Paphiopedilum* orchids.

**LEARNERS' GROUP:** There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the March 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 on Thursday 12th March commencing at 2.00pm in our **New Home: the Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park.** Entry is via Mary Street, first left turn off Alawoona Ave after the Marion Road intersection. Our Guest Speaker will be Kevin Western of Western Orchid Laboratories speaking on Dendrobiums.

**SOUTHERN REGION:** The next meeting will be Sunday 15th March 2026 at 2.00 pm at Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs speaking on Judging Show Bench Plants, Learners' Group will be held at 1.15 pm.

**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.



*Sarcocilus* Burgundy on Ice  
'Australia'

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

**Website:** <http://www.SCOCSA.com.au>  
**E-Mails:** [secretary@SCOCSA.com.au](mailto:secretary@SCOCSA.com.au)  
[President@SCOCSA.com.au](mailto:President@SCOCSA.com.au)  
**Address:** PO Box 1060, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159  
ABN 83 245 384 076

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## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2026

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

### **NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:**

<b>Registrar</b>	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
<b>Editor</b>	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
<b>Photographer</b>	Neil Cooper	
<b>Convenor S. R. Group</b>	Graham Smith	0428 818 586
<b>Convenors Daytime Chapter</b>	Alan Miller	0434 052 676
<b>Convenor Main Learners Group</b>	Graham Smith	0428 818 586

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

\* denotes Member who has passed away.

1978 Dulcie Grave *	1989 Helen Edwards	2011 John and Bev Gay*
1978 Leora Harvey	1990 Dr, Keith Northcote *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1978 L. & H. Poole *	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1978 Ellie Shaw *	2005 Merve Steele *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2005 Shirley Steele *	2018 Kevin Western
1979 Bernie Hanson *	Circa Tony and Toshy Deonnio *	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1981 Lois Hanson *	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2021 Donna Meeuwssen
1981 John Leeder*	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2025 Michael Willoughby
1985 Brenda Lynch*	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	2026 Phil Steer
1985 Bubs Gready *	2009 Don Biebrick *	2026 Christine Robertson
1986 Harry Viney *	2009 Henk Van Leuveren *	
1986 John Nicholls *	2010 Dorothy Carassai	

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

Subscriptions are now due for 2026. There will be no changes to the Rates for 2026.

#### **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)

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are not sure if you have paid your fees please check with Anne Steer.



## President's Message

Many thanks to Jane Higgs who gave a presentation at the Daytime Group on Orchid Judging based on her knowledge and experience over many years at the new home for the group at the Marion Church of Christ Hall. A relatively new member Ralf Brandt shared his knowledge of growing orchids in a controlled growing house with the Southern Region Group.

This month the Guest Speaker at the main meeting will be a presentation from Nicky Zurcher on Paphiopedilums and other genera that he grows. This is always an interesting talk and Nicky will have plants for sale. At the Southern Region group Jane Higgs will give a presentation on Orchid Judging based on her knowledge and experience over many years. The Daytime Chapter will welcome Kevin Western who talk about Dendrobiums.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Christine Robertson and Phil Steer who were bestowed Life Membership of The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia at the AGM last month. It is in recognition of all their work for the Club over many years. Congratulations to the trophy winners for 2025. It was a good spread across members and branches of our Club. This orchid of the year for The South Coast Orchid Club will be announced this month as the voting has now been completed.

Upcoming events include our Autumn show being held at the Seaford Central Shopping Centre from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of May until Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of May, (details will follow re put in and take out times including the Winter and Spring Shows). We have been given a spot to have a Bunnings BBQ (Marion) for fundraising on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, help will be required.

Successful growing & showing

*Michael Willoughby*

### VIRUS TEST KITS AVAILABLE

The Club now has Virus Test Kits available for sale to our members. They cost \$9.00 They will be available at the meetings.

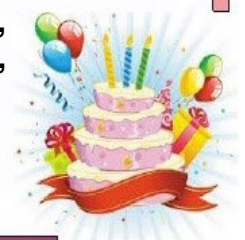
### TRADING TABLE:

The Committee has decided that the commission on plants etc. sold on the trading table for members will now be 15 %.



## Happy Birthday .....

NEIL COOPER, JIM FOGARASSI, JOE CASSAR,  
PETER BERRY, SUE DOWLING, PHIL STEER,  
HELMET HERMANN, JOSEPHINE OGROWSKY,  
PATTY ABELL, IRENE PARISH, VAL PHILLIPS,  
RUTH TUGWELL, DIANE CAWLEY,  
DUDLEY HUXTABLE, MARILYN JELFS



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



## ORCHID CALENDAR 2026



<b><u>MAIN MEETING:</u></b>	Wednesday 4th March, 2026 8.00 pm Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent. Guest Speaker: Nicky Zurcher from Nicky's Slipper Orchids. Learners Group Meeting at 7.15 pm
<b><u>COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b>	Wednesday 11th March, 2026 7.30 pm The Southern, South Road, St. Marys
<b><u>DAYTIME CHAPTER</u></b>	Thursday 12th March, 2026 at 2.00pm Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park. Guest Speaker: Kevin Western from Western Orchid Laboratories. speaking on Dendrobiums.
<b><u>SOUTHERN REGION MEETING</u></b>	Sunday 15th March, 2026 2.00 pm Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs speaking on Judging Show Bench Plants. Learners Group 1.15 pm
<b><u>AUTUMN SHOW</u></b>	Thursday 7th May (Put In) to Saturday 9th May 2026 Seaford Shopping Centre
<b><u>WINTER SHOW</u></b>	Friday 24th July (Put In) to Sunday 26th July 2026 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion
<b><u>SOUTHERN REGION SHOW</u></b>	Wednesday 19th August (Put In) to Friday 21st August 2026 Victor Central Shopping Centre, Victor Harbor
<b><u>SPRING SHOW</u></b>	Friday 25th September (Put In) to Sunday 27th September 2026 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion
<b><u>CHRISTMAS DINNER:</u></b>	Friday 4th December 2026

## Product Program



Neutrog has advised of the online ordering cut off dates for **2026**

### **WINTER 2026**

Cut off for online orders: April 13th 2026 at 8 am.

### **SPRING 2026**

Cut off for online orders July 13th 2026 at 8 am.

### **SUMMER 2026**

Cut off for online orders October 12th 2026 at 8 am.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Phone No.  
8538 3500

email:  
[www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au)

# YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2026



## TROPHY WINNERS FOR 2025



**Michael Willoughby  
& Oui Ju**



**Jane Higgs**



**Gordon Ninnes & Janet Adams  
and Sue & Laurie Carter**

**All Photos on Page  
by Neil Cooper**



## **South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Trophy Winners 2025**

### **SHOW TROPHIES**

#### **W A YOUNG TROPHY**

**Grand Champion Autumn Show 2025**

**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 2025**

**Laurie and Sue Carter**

#### **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 2025**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

#### **ROY HILL TROPHY**

**Best Novelty Cymbidium Winter Show 2025**

**John Seidel**

#### **TONY DE IONNO AND TOSHY TROPHY**

[Donated by Life Member, Tony]

**Grand Champion Spring Show 2025**

**John Seidel**

#### **M NG TROPHY**

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

**Most Floriferous in Spring Show 2025**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

#### **ELSIE CHISHOLM TROPHY**

**Best Novelty Cymbidium Spring Show 2025**

**Laurie and Sue Carter**

#### **NOEL OLIVER TROPHY**

**Best Dendrobium speciosum Spring Show 2025**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

### **ANNUAL TROPHIES**

#### **GEORGE & PATTY ABELL TROPHY**

**Annual Sarcochilus Show 2025**

**Laurie and Sue Carter**

#### **CHIN YEW LIAN TROPHY**

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

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

#### **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]

**Pod Parent**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**Pollen Parent**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

#### **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 2025**

**Genny and Dudley Huxtable**



**South Coast Orchid Club of  
South Australia  
Trophy Winners 2025 cont...**



**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 2025**

**Jane and Don Higgs**

**P C LOKE TROPHY**

[Donated by Sylvester Ng]

**Highest Aggregate Points at Three Shows 2025**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**JOHN LEEDER TROPHY**

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

**Most points in Oncidiniinae Alliance**

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

**GLEN FORREST TROPHY**

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

**Highest Aggregate Points for  
Paphiopedilum Species 2025**

**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 2025**

**Sue and Laurie Carter  
Gordon Innes and Janet Adams**

**HIGHEST YEARLY AGGREGATE POINT WINNERS**

Open Division:

First Division:

Second Division:

**Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju  
Genny & Dudley Huxtable  
Margaret & Warren Yelland**

**SOUTHERN REGION GROUP**

**VICTOR HARBOR TROPHY**

**Grand Champion Spring Show 2025**

**Graham and Janette Smith**

**NOEL OLIVER TROPHY**

**Best Australian Native Southern Region Show 2025**

**Genny & Dudley Huxtable**

**VICTOR HARBOR AGGREGATES POINTS TROPHY**

**Australian Natives**

**Genny & Dudley Huxtable**

**GRAHAM & SUE ZERBE TROPHY**

**Best Second Division Southern Region**

**Margaret & Warren Yelland**

**GRACE NOLL TROPHY**

**Southern Region Aggregate Points for Oncidiniinae**

**Chris and Lyn Heysen**

**SYD JAMES MEMORIAL TROPHY**

**Aggregate points for Cymbidiums**

**Genny and Dudley Huxtable**

## THE LITTLE BLACK ANT, SCALE INSECT, MEALY BUG, APHID ALLIANCE by Ben Wallace



These four groups of insects can work hand-in-glove to make a living at the expense of your orchids. The last three literally suck sap from your plants for their own needs, and produce sugary exudates that ants then feed on. In turn the ants carry the sapsuckers to the choicest localities, such as young emerging leaves, expanding buds or active root tips, where the orchid's nutrient content is at its greatest. Loss of these nutrients from the plant can seriously affect its ability to grow and flower. Worse still, the insects may inject pathogenic viruses into the plant, thereby spelling its doom.

To deal with such a conspiracy requires a multi-pronged response from the grower. First you need to watch where the ants are running to and fro, so that you can discover where their nest is located. If it's in a pot, the nest is easily destroyed. Simply tip the plant and mix onto the soil outside your green house, remove the plant, spread the mix and spray both mix and plant with a mixture of Pest Oil® and pyrethrum. If the ant nest is beneath a concrete slab or in a brick wall, you'll need to use more guile and lay a bait of ant poison. Mortein Ant Sand® is an effective one that has been introduced recently but other types are also available.

Having dealt with the ringleaders, next get the subordinates. Close examination of all plants is important to locate infestations of scale, aphids and mealy bugs. Remember that they often hide in obscure places, such as down in leaf sheath bases, on buried roots and in other hidden spots. Remove all infested plants individually, and spray them with the above-mentioned mix, or use a soft toothbrush to apply it, mixed with detergent. It's important to use some sort of surface-tension breaker (such as a soluble oil, detergent or methylated spirit) to penetrate the waxy coat of some insects. Don't apply more of these chemicals than necessary, as they may damage the plant's softer tissues.

Remember that it's important to deal with all the culprits, not just the sapsuckers doing the immediate damage.

## PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY

A good start to the year considering February traditionally is not a great flowering month. I think the changing seasons are seeing plants coming into bud earlier than usual. We had 36 plants across the Three Divisions.



### Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful *Brsdm.* Gilded Urchin 'Ontaro' grown by Ralf Brandt.

This was a smallish plant and had one tall inflorescence carrying some 11 beautiful starry flowers with green segments overlaid with heavy brown marking with a striking labellum of gold with dark brown splashes.

Congratulations Ralf.



**PLANT OF SECOND DIVISION**  
***Brsdm.* Gilded Urchin 'Ontaro'**  
Grown by Ralf Brandt  
Photos Neil Cooper

## PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY Cont...

### Plant of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Phil & Anne Steer and was *Onc. Unknown*.

A smallish plant carrying three inflorescences of small gold and white flowers. One inflorescence was quite a bit taller than the other two. The flowers were of the typical 'Dancing Lady' shape and had yellow segments overlaid with brown stripes. The labellum was a contrasting white with brown markings.

Well done Phil & Anne.

#### PLANT OF FIRST DIVISION

##### *Onc. Unknown*

Grown by Phil & Anne Steer

Photos Neil Cooper



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

The plant of Open Division was *Paph. tigrinum* grown by Ron & Irene Parish.

The plant was carrying two tall flowers. This was a lovely plant and the flowers stood above the foliage and gave a very impressive display. The flower colours were the dorsal having a light olive green with brown striping with the laterals being purple ends over olive green with brown striping. The pouch was a purplish brown.

In its native habitat it is found in extreme western Yunnan Province of China in damp and slightly shady locations on shrubby or thinly wooded slopes as an epiphyte on trees at elevations of 1400 to 2200 metres. *Paph. tigrinum* is a species that has been awarded on 60 occasions.

Congratulations Ron & Irene



#### PLANT OF OPEN DIVISION And PLANT OF THE NIGHT

##### *Paph. tigrinum*

Grown by Ron & Irene Parish

Photo Neil Cooper



#### SEEDLING OF THE NIGHT

##### *Paph. Godfrey Papilio*

Grown by John Seidel

Photo Neil Cooper

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

*Phil Steer*  
REGISTRAR



# February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

## Open Division

### Laeliinae - Cluster

631	Cty. Burdekin Honey 'Shona'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
632	Pcv. Golden Peacock	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

### Laeliinae - Non Standard

633	Cty. El Cind x E. steinbachii	John Seidel (101)	3
634	Psh. Green Hornet	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

### Laeliinae - Species

635	Psh. cochleata	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

630	C. Cherry Sundae 'Seaview'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

637	Onc. Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
638	Onc. Aka Baby	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2

### Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

636	Bcd. Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze'	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

647	Lyc. deppei	John Seidel (101)	3
648	Sngl. woodii	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

### Orchid Seedling - any Genera

649	Paph. Godfrey Papilio	John Seidel (101)	3
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### Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

640	Paph. Recovery	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
641	Paph. Ethel 'The Aardvark'	John Seidel (101)	2

### Paphiopedilum - Species

642	Paph. tigrinum	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	3
643	Paph. superbians	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
644	Paph. superbians 'Mouliache'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	1

### Paphiopedilum - Standard

639	Paph. Magic Lantern	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Phalaenopsis Species

646	Phal. lueddemanniana	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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### Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

645	Gpt. Starburst 'Parkside'	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119)	3
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## First Division

### Laeliinae - Non Standard

621	Rby. Copper Queen	Michael Gray (135)	3
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### Laeliinae - Species

622	Psh. cochleata var. cochleata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
623	Psh. cochleata	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	2

### Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

619	Rlc. Ports of Paradise 'Green Ching Hua'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

620	C. (Rosella's Tune x Hawaiian Wedding Song)	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

624	Onc. Unknown	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
625	Ons. Succubus 'Night Shift'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

628	Den. Yaya Victoria	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	3
629	Bulb. Memoria Richard Mizuta	Beth Stronach (836)	2

### Phalaenopsis Standard

626	Phal. Unknown	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
627	Phal. Timberline	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	2

## Second Division

### Laeliinae - Cluster

613	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Rachael'	Dora Schrapel (200)	2
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

615	Brsdm. Gilded Urchin 'Ontaro'	Ralf Brandt (159)	3
616	Onc. Aka Baby	Josephine Ogrowsky (394)	2
617	Alcra. Hawaiian Nights	Ralf Brandt (159)	1

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

618	Den. Unknown	Ralf Brandt (159)	3
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**DAYTIME CHAPTER**  
**Thursday 12th February 2026**



**Hi Everyone,**

14 members attended the first Daytime Meeting for 2026 at the new Church of Christ, Mitchell Park venue and welcomed back our guest speaker Jane Higgs and Don. Some initial juggling with the new venue space and layout didn't take away from the modern technology available for all presentations and not having to set up or pack up, the biggest highlight!

Once again Jane shared her knowledge of and expertise from her many years as a well-respected judge. Members gained an insight into judging criteria and how best to present plants for judging and photographing. Many thanks to Jane and Don for another great presentation that may lead to more members participating in showing their plants.

**Lucky Door Prize:** Bev Mitchell

**Lucky Name Badge:** Dorothy Berry

**Birthday of the Month:** Richard Crinion

Many thanks to our generous members providing items for the raffle table, to Coral and Josie for their valuable assistance.

Our next meeting is Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026. We welcome back our guest speaker Kevin Western with another interesting and educational presentation.



**Popular Plant of the Day:**  
***Onc.* Aka Baby 'Raspberry  
 Chocolate'**

Grown by Josie Ogrowsky

*Alan Miller*

0434 052 676

**Next Meeting :**

**Thursday March 12th - 2.00 pm**

**Guest Speaker: Kevin Western**

**Speaking on Dendrobiums.**



## SOUTHERN REGION MEETING Sunday 15th February 2026

The meeting was opened at 2pm by Convenor Graham Smith to a very good roll up for the new year. It was good to see Rob Yates back who has now joined the club and was presented with a new member pack, as was returning member who has been away for some time, Elizabeth Yeatman. A very warm welcome to both of you and we hope you enjoy the meetings. Mary Todd has also joined the club but was away today due to the unexpected death of her beloved dog. Sympathies to you Mary and hope to see you next meeting. Apologies from Mary Todd and Genny Huxtable.

**Guest Speaker:** Our speaker this month is one of the clubs members, Dr. Ralf Brandt. When not performing oncology research he has a passion for orchids and has a controlled growing house set up in his garden where he grows various varieties of orchids and also clones several species. His growing house is set up to completely monitor all of the parameters of air circulation, misting and fogging, air exchange, humidity and temperature. He can monitor and control all of these settings from an app on his phone which is very handy for when going on holiday or away for work. I am envious of this ability as we like to go away whenever possible and we cannot convince our sons, who are left to care for our plants, that less water is better than more water!!

Ralf took us through an excellent presentation by powerpoint to show us all of the regulating systems and basically how the inside is set up and how the control systems work. This included fogging (rather than misting) using reverse osmosis water. It was a truly interesting and straight to the point presentation and we thank Ralf very much for the effort he put into bringing this to us. I may convince him to show the other group meetings at some point.

**Birthday draws:** Two this month, one for January - Warren Yelland and one for February - Elizabeth Yeatman.

**Lucky name badge** went to yours truly. Good thing I had it on!

**Judging** was carried out by Jane and Don Higgs with plant commentary by the club registrar Phil Steer.

**Popular vote** for today went to *Den*. Blue Foxtail grown by Chris and Lyn Heysen.  
Meeting closed at 3 pm.

*Graham Smith*

0438 818 586

**NEXT MEETING – Sunday, 15th March 2026 at 2.00 pm**

**Guest speaker: Jane Higgs talking about judging show bench plants.**

# February Results List

Ref. No. Points Awarded

## First Division

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

804	Den. Blue Foxtail	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
802	Phal. Timberline	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
805	Den. Unknown	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
803	Phal. Snakeskin	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	2

## Second Division

### Laeliinae - Cluster

797	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Rachel'	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
798	Ctt. Rose Drop	Bob Clayton (143)	2

### Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

794	Rlc. (Redland Quandry x Brave Warrior)	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
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### Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

796	C. Unknown	Bob Clayton (143)	3
795	Gct. [(Tokyo Magic x Cherry Chip) x Grt. Why Not]	Heather & Ruth McDonald & Creedy (300)	2

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

799	Phal. unknown	Heather & Ruth McDonald & Creedy (300)	3
800	Phal. unknown	Heather & Ruth McDonald & Creedy (300)	2
801	Phal. [Hsinying x (Hsinying City x Hsinying Red Lip)]	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	1

## SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY

There were only a few plants benched, but they were however good quality.

### ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely *Cattlianthe* Valentine Day 'Rachel' grown by Margaret & Warren Yelland.

This was a lovely plant, well grown with two tall inflorescences of reddish/ purple flowers in well displayed clusters. The flowers were highlighted with a labellum of white with a dark purple skirt.

Congratulations Margaret & Warren.



### ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

**Ctt. Valentine Day 'Rachel'**

Grown by

Margaret & Warren Yelland

Photos Jane Higgs

### ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION

The plant of First Division was grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen and was *Den. Blue Foxtail*.

This was a hard cane type *Dendrobium*. The plant was carrying four inflorescences of lovely light purple flowers with the backing of the flowers being white. The parents originate from Java and enjoy good light and tolerate warmer temperatures. All of the flower segments reflex making the quite attractive.

Well done Chris & Lyn.



Thank you to our Judges Jane and Don for a job well!

Good Growing

**Phil Steer**  
REGISTRAR

**ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION**  
*Den. Foxtail*  
Grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen  
Photos Jane Higgs

### TROPHY WINNERS FOR 2025



**Chris & Lyn Heysen**



**Margaret & Warren Yelland**



**Dudley Huxtable**

Photos by  
Jane Higgs

## MANAGING A MIXED COLLECTION by Brian Milligan

I'm occasionally asked the question "How do you water a mixed collection of orchids?" Thoughtfully is the simple answer! Sprinkler systems water all orchids within their reach uniformly, regardless of their needs. Unless you have several shade-houses or glasshouses that you can devote to different groups of orchids, watering by auto-matic sprinkler systems will not give best results (besides being illegal in this time of drought).

Hand watering is much more selective, provided that the grower recognises those orchids that need more frequent watering than others. The period between watering depends not only on the orchid genus concerned but also on the nature of the potting mix and the time of year. Cattleyas and some other orchids with thick roots like to dry out before being watered again, whereas others with fine roots, such as odonto-glossums and masdevallias, prefer to be kept uniformly moist. Orchids potted in open bark mixes need to be watered twice as often as those grown in sphagnum moss. And many orchids (but certainly not all) need a comparatively dry 'resting period' during winter.

To succeed with a mixed collection you must recognise the individual requirements of your orchids and group them accordingly. For a start, group all those orchids potted in moss separately, so that they can be watered less often than the others. Then the cattleyas should be grouped together, so that they can be allowed to dry out before they are watered again.

The cattleyas should be hung near the roof, or placed where they receive more light than most other orchids. One end of my glasshouse is covered with a second layer of shade cloth during summer, so that I can grow cattleyas and other light-loving orchids at one end, and odontoglossums and masdevallias at the other (shadier) end.

Contrary to most advice, I grow a few plants beneath the benches in my glasshouse, and find that some seedlings do well there, especially in summer. If you grow orchids beneath your benches, you will need to install a 'drip tray' immediately below the top bench to prevent water falling on the plants below. A small fan to provide air circulation beneath the bench is also recommended. Do not place flowering plants beneath the benches, because their flower stems invariably elongate and twist as they search for more light.

Watering in summer is easier to manage than it is in winter. Most orchids need frequent and regular watering in summer, the main growing season. It is difficult to over-water them, provided that the potting mix is free draining. Watering in winter is another matter, and for success you really need to know the conditions under which the various genera live in nature. Some orchids, like *Laelia anceps*, receive little or no rain during winter in their native Mexican mountains, although the weather is sometimes foggy. On the other hand, orchids growing on mountains in the Philippines receive rain nearly every day, summer and winter.

In summary, the best way to manage a mixed collection of orchids is to learn their individual requirements, group them accordingly, and then treat each group separately. In practice it's easier said than done, especially when it comes to hybrids between species or genera with different requirements. No doubt you will have to compromise but take heart from the fact that orchids growing in nature regularly experience droughts, floods, heat waves, cold spells and attacks by pests and diseases, yet still survive. If you get things right, you should be able to grow them better than they usually do in the wild!



**Laelia anceps**

## REJUVENATING ORCHIDS by Alan Hope

Orchid growers often need to attend to an orchid that is old, pot-bound or shows signs of decline. Previous re-potting may have been neglected or the plant, having been recently acquired at an orchid auction, nursery or as a gift, is in poor condition. Damage to the plant by frost, sunburn, insect bites or various rots and fungal attacks may also require remedial action. Signs that an orchid requires attention include weak and straggly growth, moss on the surface of the mix, dieback, rot and poor flowering.

Plants that have overgrown their pots may also need attention. However, first assess whether you wish to keep the plant, as space and resources are scarce and your effort may be better spent on other plants. Typically, friends and relatives may have unknowingly donated diseased plants, more often than not cymbidiums that have belonged to the family for some time. It is probably in the best interests of your collection to discard such family heirlooms. Re-potting requires the complete removal of the old orchid mix and replacement with new mix in a new or sterilized pot of an appropriate size. Any dead portions of plant should be removed with sterilized secateurs and the plant sprayed for pests such as scale. The re-potted plant should also have some long-life fertilizer scratched in around the edge of the pot, and then watered well and placed in a protected area off the ground to re-establish.

Highly valued plants that would be difficult and/or costly to replace present a greater challenge. In many cases only a small part of the plant may survive, perhaps a single pseudobulb, cane or growth. For cymbidiums and other orchids with bulbs, cleaning up the back-bulb and placing it with fresh sphagnum moss in an inflated plastic bag, offers a good chance of new growth being generated. Some genera, such as *Lycastes*, will often produce a new growth only if two or more joined pseudobulbs are used. Orchids with bare canes (e.g. *Dendrobiums*), a creeping growth habit (e.g. *Bulbophyllums*) or ones with no roots (all genera) are best tackled during the growing season (spring-summer-early autumn). The best option is to find a piece of the plant with a leading growth, as this is the most vigorous. However leafless canes, as is the case with many *Dendrobiums*, may be all that is left to work with. If so, the canes can be cleaned and cut into sections containing two or three nodes. Each section should then be placed horizontally on a bed of live sphagnum moss and pinned down with small pieces of bent wire. It may take some time for the nodes to produce new growths.

Orchids with a creeping growth habit, such as *Bulbophyllums* and *Epidendrums*, should be re-started by attachment to a mount. Placing fresh sphagnum moss around (but not under) the growth helps to retain moisture and allows the emerging roots to attach themselves to the mount. Both the growth and surrounding moss should be fastened firmly to the mount with twisty-tie, and the plant then regular misted, especially during hot, dry weather. Root loss is a serious problem and *paphiopedilums* are among those orchids that can lose all their roots. I have had best results re-planting these plants in fresh sphagnum moss in a small pot. Secure the plant with a small wooden skewer to avoid movement and place it in a sheltered, shady position to recover. Once again patience is required as it can take many months for some *paphiopedilum* plants to re-grow roots, if ever!

Finally, how do you rejuvenate plants devastated by rot or fungal attack? The rot may move so quickly that the whole plant is at risk and remedial action is required without delay. The affected section of plant should be removed with a sterilized knife, razor blade or scissors and appropriate fungicidal sprays or sealants then applied to minimize further outbreak.

## 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 March

March sees activity increase in the shade house. After the relentless heat of the summer, 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.

*Sarcochilus* 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 night. 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 cymms. 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:** The Club meets 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 Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park. 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.

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

**THE GAWLER DISTRICTS ORCHID CLUB:** meets at the Elderly Centre 37 Fourteenth Street, Gawler at 8 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



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**If unclaimed please return to  
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Items must be delivered to the Editor by the second Thursday of each month.**