



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

March 2025

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

The March General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 8.00 pm. at the Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent. Our Guest Speaker will be Michael Willoughby with a practical demonstration of how to prepare plants for benching at meetings and shows.

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 a held on Thursday 13th March 2025 at Phil and Anne Steer's Shade House for a visit and how they grow their orchids. Members should contact Alan Miller on 0434 052 676 for details of address and time etc.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be Sunday 16th March 2025 2.00 pm at Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Guest Speaker will be Phil Steer with a demonstration of Mounting Orchids. Pauline Hockey will have plants for sale at this meeting including soft cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas. Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums and Sarcophilus plants.

NEUTROG FACTORY TOUR: On Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 10.00 am, members are invited for a tour of the Neutrog Factory at 288 Mine Road Kanmantoo. The tour includes a 45min bus tour around the site, a laboratory tour, a presentation and morning tea. It is essential that you contact Anne Steer to book as numbers are limited by Neutrog. Phone Anne on 0418 840 427.

NEW MEMBERS: The Club would like to welcome a new member Tanis Reeves. 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.

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
23 March and 27 April

Website: <http://www.scocsa.net>
E-Mail: scocsa@outlook.com
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 Deonnio *	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2021 Donna Meeuwssen
	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	2025 Michael Willoughby

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2025 are now due. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2025. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

RATES – One membership covers all groups

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

Rural and Interstate Membership

Family Membership	\$34.00
Single Membership	\$28.00

Account Details: BankSA Glenelg. BSB: 105-145
(Use your grower number for Reference)

Account No.: 545457040



President's Message

Many thanks to Jane Higgs who gave presentations at the Main Group and the Southern Region Group in February and Phil Steer at the Daytime Group. This month the presentation at the main meeting will be a presentation from Michael Willoughby on preparing your plants for presentation for the show bench at meetings and at Shows.

At Southern Region Group Phil Steer will show us how to put orchids onto a mount as we know that many orchids prefer to grow on mounts rather than sitting in a pot, Pauline Hockey will have plants for sale at the meeting also including soft cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas. Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums and Sarcocochilus.

The Daytime Chapter will be venturing to Phil and Anne's for a Shade house visit and to see how they grow their orchids.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners for 2024, with a spread across members and branches of our Club. This month the Orchid of the Year for The South Coast Orchid Club will be announced as the voting has been completed.

On Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 10.00 am, members are invited for a tour of the Neutrog Factory at 288 Mine Road Kanmantoo. The tour includes a 45min bus tour around the site, a laboratory tour, a presentation and morning tea. It is essential that you contact Anne Steer to book as numbers are limited by Neutrog. Phone Anne on 0418 840 427.

On Sunday 29th June 2025, we are planning to have a plant house visit and BBQ at Jane and Don Higgs' property in Myponga (Thank you Jane & Don). It has been a few years since we have held one of these visits. It is a great opportunity for the different Chapters of our club to mix in a social setting. More to come in a later Gazette.

Upcoming events include our Autumn Show being held at the Seaford Central Shopping Centre from Friday 9th of May until Saturday 10th of May, (details will follow re put in and take out times).

Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**NEIL COOPER, JIM FOGARASI,
HELMUT HERMANN, PATTY ABELL,
JOSEPHINE OGROWSKI, PHIL STEER,
SUE DOWLING, IRENE PARISH,
PETER BERRY, VAL PHILLIPS,
RUTH TUGWELL, DUDLEY HUXTABLE,
DIANE CAWLEY**



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



ORCHID CALENDAR 2025

MARCH MAIN MEETING:

Wednesday 5th March 2025 8.00 pm
Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Cnrr of Township Rd and Church Crescent.
Guest Speaker Michael Willoughby A Practical demonstration of how to prepare plants for benching at meetings and shows.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 12th March 2025 7.30 pm
The Southern, South Road, St. Marys

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 13th March 2025
Phil and Anne Steer's Shade House for a visit and how they grow their orchids. Members should contact Alan Miller on 0434 052 676 for details of address and time etc.

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 16th February 2025 2.00 pm
Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor
Guest Speaker: Phil Steer A Demonstration of Mounting Orchids.
Pauline Hockey will bring plants for sale including soft cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas. Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus
Learners' Group Meeting at 1.15 pm

NEUTROG FACTORY TOUR

Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 10.00 am,
Members are invited for a tour of the Neutrog Factory at 288 Mine Road Kanmantoo. The tour includes a 45min bus tour around the site, a laboratory tour, a presentation and morning tea. It is essential that you contact Anne Steer to book as numbers are limited by Neutrog. Phone Anne on 0418 840 427.

AUTUMN SHOW

Thursday (Put In) 8th May to Saturday 10th May 2025
Seaford Shopping Centre

VISIT TO JANE & DON HIGGS ORCHID HOUSE

Sunday 29th June 2025
Visit Jane & Don's Orchid Collection at Myponga and have a club BBQ Lunch. More details in a later Gazette

WINTER SHOW

Friday (Put In) 11th July to Sunday 13th July 2025
Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Township Rd and Church Crescent, Marion.

SOUTHERN REGION SHOW

Wednesday (Put In) 20th August to Friday 22nd August 2025
Victor Central Shopping Centre, Victor Harbor

SPRING SHOW

Friday (Put In) 26th September to Sunday 28 September 2025
Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Township Rd and Church Crescent, Marion.

VIRUS TEST KITS AVAILABLE

The Club now has Virus Test Kits available for sale to our members. They cost \$8.00 They will be available at the meetings.



Product Program

Neutrog has advised of the online ordering cut off dates for **2025**

WINTER 2025

Cut off for online orders: April 14th 2025

SPRING 2025

Cut off for online orders July 14th 2025

SUMMER 2025

Cut off for online orders October 13th 2025

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

Phone No. 8538 3500 email: www.neutrog.com.au

ONCIDIUM PLANTS FOR SALE

Member Ralf Brandt has a number of Oncidium Plants for sale. The plants are of flowering size. They are grown to this size from flask.

The name of the crossing is *Oncidesa Aloha Iwanaga*.

If you would like to purchase these plants please contact Ralf on 0439 433 425 .

Ralf will accept credit card on the phone.



ORCHID SEEDS by Brian Milligan

One of the most characteristic features of orchids is their seeds, which are much smaller and more numerous than those of most (perhaps all) other plants. Orchid seeds usually have a loose, papery coat surrounding a small embryo, and are often spindle-shaped. The orchid embryo is not differentiated into distinct organs, as is the case with many other plants. Only after the seed germinates do the cells begin to differentiate into root cells, leaf cells etc.

Orchid seeds, unlike those of other plants, contain no food source to sustain the growing plants. Therefore, in nature they require the presence of mycorrhizal fungi, usually associated with other plants, to manufacture and provide the nutrients necessary for the growth of the germinated orchid seed. The chances of a seed encountering both a favourable environment and the appropriate mycorrhizal fungus for it to germinate and grow are very low. Nature evens the balance by endowing orchids with the capacity to produce a large number of seeds; many orchid seed capsules contain at least a thousand seeds, and some contain millions.

For many years the best way known to raise orchid seed was to sprinkle it in the pot containing one of its parent plants, because this potting mix was the best source of the correct mycorrhizal fungus to promote growth of the seedlings. Even then, few seedlings germinated and survived to flowering size, and consequently orchid seedlings were expensive. But in 1922 the American scientist Lewis Knudson developed the method of 'flasking', by which orchid seed was raised in a sterile, nutrient-rich gel without any need for mycorrhizal fungi. This method made it possible to raise orchid seedlings in almost unlimited numbers, and they have consequently been available at reasonable cost ever since.

In Nature, most orchid seed is dispersed by the wind. The flower stems of some terrestrial orchids elongate after pollination, so that the seed capsule is raised above the surrounding grasses, and the seed is therefore capable of being dispersed more widely by the wind. Most seed probably settles only a few metres from the parent plant but some seeds, because they are so small and light, may be blown long distances. Some Australian terrestrial orchids have been found in the wild in New Zealand, and it is very likely that these arose from seed carried there from Australia by the prevailing westerly wind.

Scientific studies on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa provide striking evidence for the aerial transport of orchid seed over long distances. Well over a century ago (in 1883) an enormous volcanic explosion destroyed all plant and animal life on Krakatoa. The explosion was so loud that it was heard in northern Australia and the resultant dust cloud circled the earth! Yet 13 years later three orchid species had re-established themselves, and 50 years later there were 35 different orchid species, despite the fact that the nearest land (the island of Java) was 40 km away! All 35 species must have arisen from seed blown from Java or even more distant islands.

Have you tried pollinating orchid flowers, and then watched the seed capsules develop? The principle is the same for all orchids but it's easier to carry out with those genera with large flowers. Simply break off the pollen cap with a toothpick, remove the pollinia from the pollen cap and transfer one or more of them to the stigma (the sticky cavity a little below the pollen cap). Experiment with a picked flower until you get the knack. Your chances of getting a seed capsule that will grow to maturity will be improved if you take the pollinia from one plant (the pollen parent) and transfer them to the stigma of another flower of the same genus (the pod parent).

Disas are more suitable for impatient hybridisers like me. The pollinia are very large, and are attached to a sticky disc (called a viscidium), so it's easy to remove them. Also, the stigma is fully exposed for all to see, unlike that of many other orchids. Best of all, the seed capsules grow at an incredible rate, and mature in only six weeks. The seed capsules of Australian Native Dendrobiums are intermediate between those of cymbidiums and disas, in that they usually mature in three or four months. Even if you have no intention of raising the resultant seed, it's an interesting experience to watch the seed capsules mature and to marvel at the small size of the resultant seed. Give it a go, it's fun.



Coelogyne flexuosa Seed Pods



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Trophy Winners 2023

SHOW TROPHIES

W A YOUNG TROPHY

Grand Champion Autumn Show 2024

Sue and Laurie Carter

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 2024

Jane and Don Higgs

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 2024

Phil and Anne Steer

ROY HILL TROPHY

Best Novelty Cymbidium Winter Show 2024

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

TONY DE IONNO AND TOSHY TROPHY

[Donated by Life Member, Tony]

Grand Champion Spring Show 2024

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

M NG TROPHY

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

Most Floriferous in Spring Show 2024

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

ELSIE CHISHOLM TROPHY

Best Novelty Cymbidium Spring Show 2024

Jane and Don Higgs

NOEL OLIVER TROPHY

Best Dendrobium speciosum Spring Show 2024

Phil and Anne Steer

ANNUAL TROPHIES

CHIN YEW LIAN TROPHY

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

John Seidel

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 2024**

Genny and Dudley Huxtable

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 2024**

Jane and Don Higgs



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Trophy Winners 2023 cont...

P C LOKE TROPHY

[Donated by Sylvester Ng]

Highest Aggregate Points at Three Shows 2024

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

JOHN LEEDER TROPHY

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

Most points in Oncidiniinae Alliance

Laurie and Sue Carter

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 2024**

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 2024**

Sue and Laurie Carter

GARARD and WESTERN HYBRIDISING TROPHY

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

Pod Parent

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Pollen Parent

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

GEORGE & PATTY ABELL TROPHY

Annual Sarcochilus Show 2024

Peter Haltis

HIGHEST YEARLY AGGREGATE POINT WINNERS

Open Division:	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju	260 pts
First Division:	Genny & Dudley Huxtable	268 pts
Second Division:	Margaret & Warren Yelland	176 pts

VICTOR HARBOR TROPHY

Grand Champion Spring Show 2024

Genny & Dudley Huxtable

NOEL OLIVER TROPHY

Best Australian Native Southern Region Show 2024

Genny & Dudley Huxtable

VICTOR HARBOR AGGREGATES POINTS TROPHY

Australian Natives

Robert and Robyn Clayton

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

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2025



TROPHY WINNERS FOR 2024

4



Peter Haltis



Sue and Laurie Carter



Dudley Huxtable



Margaret Yelland



Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby



Robert Clayton



February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

19	Den. bigibbum	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Laeliinae - Cluster

22	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Osborne'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Laeliinae - Non Standard

23	Rlc. Wainae Leopard 'Ching Hua'	Peter Haltis (442)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

24	C. tigrina var. Leopoldii	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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27	Psh. cochleata	Peter Haltis (442)	2
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Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

20	C. Lana Coryell 'Alex'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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21	Rlc. Rosella's Lollipop	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

26	Gom. Moonshadow 'Tiger Tail'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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25	Brsdm. Golden Gamine 'White Knight'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

31	Phrag. Ackers Beauty	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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32	Phrag. China Dragon	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
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33	Pda. Mick Keith 'Dee Pee'	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	1
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Orchid Seedling - any Genera

39	Paph. Joan Sanders	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

28	Paph. Joan Sanders	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Phalaenopsis Species

30	Phal. fasciata	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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29	Phal. (cornu cervi x cornu cervi 'Dark Red')	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	3
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First Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard

7	Lc. Blue Stage	Bill Jayne (1180)	3
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8	C. Rosella x Hawaiian Wedding Song	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
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Laeliinae - Species

9	E. lancifolia	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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10	Psh. cochleata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
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11	B. cucullata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	1
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Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

6Rth.	Rosella's Cherry Charm 'Splash Devine'	Bill Jayne (1180)	3
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Oncidiinae - Species

12	Ons. Succubus 'Night Shift'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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13	Nhc. Parquet 'Uptown Girl'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
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14	Onc. Space Mine 'Red Rendezvous'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	1
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

17	Den. Unknown 'White Pink Tips'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

18	V. falcata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Species

15	Paph. villosum	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

16	Gtpm. Arlene Armour 'Conching'	John & Robyn Dunn (600)	3
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Second Division

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

4Angcm.	Longiscott 'Hihimanu'	Helen McIntosh (299)	3
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Phalaenopsis Species

1Phal.	Fancy Freckles	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
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Phalaenopsis Standard

2Phal.	Ice Whisper	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	2
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3Phal.	Silver Light	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	1
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

5Phal.	Ice Whisper	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
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PLANT COMMENTARY – FEBRUARY 2025

A good start to the year considering February traditionally is not a great flowering month. I think the very mild summer has seen plants coming into bud earlier than usual. We had 35 plants across the 3 Divisions.

Orchid of Open Division & Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division was *Cattleya tigrina* var. *Leopoldii* grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju.

The plant was carrying two tall inflorescences of clusters of lovely dark purple and pink flowers. This was a lovely plant and the flowers stood above the foliage and gave a very impressive display.

C. tigrina is a species that has been awarded 126 occasions and has been used prolifically in hybridisation with some 2,488 total progeny.

Congratulations Michael & Oui

Orchid of Open Division & Plant of the Night

C. tigrina var. *Leopoldii*

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper



Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful *Angraecum*, *Angcm.* Longiscott 'Hihimanu' grown by Helen McIntosh.

This was a smallish plant and had three beautiful white flowers with yellow green on the throat and spurs.

Angcm. Longiscott 'Hihimanu' is a primary hybrid of *Angcm. Longicalcar* & *Angcm. scottianum*.

Congratulations Helen.

Orchid of Second Division *Angcm. Longiscott* 'Hihimanu'

Grown by Helen McIntosh

Photo by Neil Cooper

PLANT COMMENTARY – FEBRUARY 2025 cont ...

Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by John Dunn and was *Galeopetalum* Arlene Armour 'Conching';..

An attractive plant well grown with four striking inflorescences shadowing the nice clean green foliage. Each spike was carrying 4-5 flowers of dark brown segments outlined with green outer. The labellum was striped pink over white.

Well done John.



Orchid of First Division
Gtgm. Arlene Armour 'Conching'
 Grown by John Dunn
 Photos Neil Cooper

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

Phil Steer Registrar



Seedling of the Night
Paph. Joan Sanders
 Grown By
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
 Photos Neil Cooper



DAYTIME CHAPTER
Thursday 13th February 2025



Hi Everyone,

The 2025 Daytime Meeting reconvened with 14 members attending with a special welcome to new member Tanis Reeves and welcome back to our guest speaker Phil Steer. Phil provided a unique presentation highlighting the benefits of rest periods for orchids, a practice often overlooked by some growers. Judging by the in-depth discussion that followed many members were inspired to reassess the management of their plants and to maximise successful flowering.

Lucky Name Badge: Josie Ogrowsky
Birthday of the Month: Richard Crinion

Lucky Seat Number: Tanis Reeves

Popular Plant of the Day: The extreme weather conditions preceding our meeting unfortunately resulted in no plants to show.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS OF NEXT MONTH'S DAYTIME MEETING:

We are indebted to Phil and Anne Steer for generously offering to host the 13th March Daytime Meeting at their home with a revised starting time of 1.30pm.

Our meeting will follow the regular Daytime Meeting format, so please bring your plants for Plant of the Day viewing and voting, in addition Phil and Anne will showcase their orchid collection and share their knowledge, experiences and successes they have enjoyed.

In the Daytime Meeting tradition members are encouraged to bring a plate for a shared afternoon tea. Please contact me if further information is required.

Next Meeting : Thursday March 13th - 1.30pm

Phil and Anne Steer's Shade House Visit to see how they grow their orchids.

Contact Alan for information on location, etc.

Alan Miller

0434 052 676

VIRUS TEST KITS AVAILABLE

The Club now has Virus Test Kits available for sale to our members. They cost \$8.00 They will be available at the meetings.





SOUTHERN REGION MEETING Sunday 16th February 2025

Members having voted for the **Flower of the Year**, Convenor, Chris Heysen, opened the main meeting at 2:05 pm welcoming the 21 members present. And welcome to our guest speaker, Jane Higgs. Today Jane will be talking about their recent visit to the Garden of the Sleeping Giant in Fiji.

Apologies: Ruth Tugwell, Di Helier, Alan Clayton, Warren and Marg Yelland. Chris gave a brief update on the health of Marg who has been in hospital for the past 5 weeks but is expected to move to rehab this week.

Guest Speaker: Jane gave a very interesting talk about her and Don's visit last year to the Garden of the Sleeping Giant in Fiji. This garden, in the highlands of Fiji, was originally established by Ray Burr (the Canadian actor best known for his role as Perry Mason) who was an orchid lover. Jane's pictures of this wonderful garden showed a wonderful array of tropical orchids from many parts of the world. For me, this brought back memories from our days in PNG – especially the Vandas and a spectacular *Arachnis* spp. (so named because of its similarity to a spider) It was a similar orchid that I first saw in the Lae Botanical Gardens in 1965 that started me in my journey in orchids some 60 years ago! Thank you, Jane, for sharing your explorations with us.

Birthday Prize: Robyn Clayton **Lucky Name Badge:** Dudley Huxtable.
Lucky Door Prize: Bob Clayton.

Announcements:

- Anne has arranged for us to visit Neutrog again and would like to know numbers to see if this is worthwhile. 7 or 8 people indicated they would be interested. The preferred date was 16th April.
- Jane has once again offered to open her garden for a club visit – the proposed date being Sunday 29th June. More details closer to the date.

Trophy Presentations: Phil Steer presented trophies for the past year of club competition to the various winners – see details elsewhere in this Newsletter. Congratulations to the winners and especially to Dudley and Genny who took out most of the awards. Well done!

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.

Next meeting – Sunday, 16th March. Guest speaker will be Phil Steer who will be demonstrating how to mount orchids as opposed to potting them. Many orchids, including Oncidiums and many Australian natives perform better when mounted so it will be great to learn about how to do this.

Pauline Hockey will have plants for sale at this meeting including soft cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas. Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus plants.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm 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 March 16th

Our Guest Speaker will be Phil Steer with a Demonstration of Mounting Orchids as opposed to potting them..

Pauline Hockey will have plants for sale meeting including soft cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas. Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus.

February Results List

Ref. No.		Points Awarded
First Division		
Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm		
714	Rth. Adelaide Silver	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2
Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid		
712	Den. Fraser's Elite Dragon	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3
713	Den. Jaquelyn Concert x Uniwai Royale	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 2
Second Division		
Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm		
709	Ctt. Rose Drop	Bob Clayton (143) 3
Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm		
710	Milt. Cogniauxiana 'Totenhake'	Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3
Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid		
711	Phal. Unknown	Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3

Editor's Note: Exhibitors are advised to check the list above for their plant names as several of them have been changed.

Exhibitor No 279 Rth. Adelaide Silver
Exhibitor No 1140 Den. (Jaquelyn Concert x Uniwai Royale)

VIRUS TEST KITS AVAILABLE

The Club now has Virus Test Kits available for sale to our members. They cost \$8.00 They will be available at the meetings.

FEBRUARY PLANT COMMENTARY - SOUTHERN REGION

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



Orchid of First Division & Plant of the Day

The plant of First Division was grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen and was *Den. Fraser's Elite Dragon*.

This was a hard cane type *Dendrobium*. A small plant of some seven canes and was carrying three lovely spikes of dark pink / magenta flowers. The larger of the spikes had seven flowers nicely ranked with three buds still to open.

Well done Chris & Lyn.

ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

Den. Fraser's Elite Dragon

Grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen

Photos Don Higgs

Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely *Phalaenopsis* grown by Graham & Jeanette Smith. It was *Phal. Unknown* with a lovely arching raceme of deep pink flowers. There were seven flowers evenly ranked in a small pot and neatly staked to show the flowers at their best. Only a small plant but well flowered. Congratulations Graham & Janette

ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION ***Phal. Unknown***

Grown By Graham & Janette Smith

Photos Don Higgs

Thank you to our Judge, Don. for a job well done and taking care of the photography.

Good Growing !

Phil Steer - Registrar



THE CULTIVATION OF ZYGOPETALUMS by Alan Hope

These cool-growing and highly perfumed orchids grow and flower in roughly the same conditions as cymbidiums. The *Zygopetalum* species (numbering about sixteen) come chiefly from Brazil and neighbouring South American countries. Most can be recognised by their distinctive green and brown petals and sepals and their striking mauve to purplish pink, striped lips. *Zygopetalums* have a delightful perfume which can fill a shadehouse on a warm day. Most carry four to eight large flowers on a long raceme. These are often produced twice each year and are long-lasting; some keep quite well as cut flowers.

Zygopetalum Species. The more commonly grown species are *Zygopetalum maculatum* [Syn *Z. mackayi*, Syn *Z. intermedium*], *Z. crinitum* and *Z. maxillare*. All have been used in hybridising and a number of lovely varieties have been produced. *Z. maculatum* is a cool grower which flowers from early autumn through to winter. It produces a strong upright spike with large and prominent flowers. *Z. crinitum* is a smaller plant with smaller flowers that tend towards dark brown with considerable blotching on the sepals and petals, while the lip has purplish blue tonings. *Z. crinitum* flowers in early to mid-autumn. *Z. maxillare* differs from the previous species in requiring warmer growing conditions. It has medium-sized flowers with dark brown sepals and petals and a striking pink to mauve lip. For this reason it has been used in a number of the more recent hybrids.



Zygopetalum maculatum



Zygopetalum crinitum



Zygopetalum maxillare

Zygopetalum Hybrids. Until recently there were few hybrid *zygopetalums*, reflecting a relative lack of interest by early growers in what is a truly beautiful genus. The first registered hybrid (1894) was *Z. Perrenoudii*, made from *Z. intermedium* and *Z. maxillare*. A number of new hybrids have been produced in the last 20 years and some to look out for include *Z. Blue Lake*, *Z. Titanic*, *Z. Helen-Ku*, *Z. Warringal Wonder*, *Z. John Banks*, *Z. Artur Elle*, *Z. Kiwi Choice* and some of the crosses made using *Z. maxillare*, such as *Z. Sedenii* and *Z. Yolande*. Some of the intergeneric hybrids such as *Zygocaste* (*Zygopetalum* x *Lycaste*) are also worth trying.

Cultural Requirements. *Zygopetalums* prefer a cool, moist environment, similar to that enjoyed by cymbidiums. An open potting mix of well-weathered medium size pine bark is suitable, as is also any well draining and open cymbidium mix. While *Zygopetalums* tolerate low temperatures they appreciate some protection from the cold, wet days of winter. Provide a covering and keep the plants on the dry side over winter, as this approximates the rest period (time of least growth) in their natural habitat.

Zygopetalums require bright light (50% shade cloth) but not strong sunshine, otherwise their leaves will burn. They also do well in an open, airy position, which reflects their natural epiphytic habit, growing either on tree branches or attached to ferns. They should be watered well during their active growth period in summer and appreciate small and frequent applications of liquid fertiliser.

*Zygopetalum Artur Elle**Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice**Zygopetalum Blue Lake*

Leaf Spotting. One of the problems encountered with *Zygopetalums* is the tendency for the leaves to develop spots, while the foliage of other orchid genera grown side-by-side with them remain quite clean. These spots are difficult to avoid, although keeping the plants in an open, airy position and drier over winter may reduce the problem.

Propagation. You can expand your collection by dividing larger plants or by striking backbulbs, either in normal potting mix or in a sealed plastic bag containing a little moist Sphagnum moss. However, single backbulbs are more difficult to strike than those of cymbidiums and as with lycastes, success is more likely using a clump of 2-3 backbulbs

*Zygopetalum Titanic*
'Marlene' HCC/OSCOV

BULBOPHYLLUMS AND CIRRHOPETALUMS by Brian Milligan

Botanists at various times have recognised both these genera but it seems that most botanists at the present time regard them all as bulbophyllums. The main difference between the two groups is that most bulbophyllums carry single flowers while those once described as cirrhopetalums carry a number of flowers grouped together on a single stem in an arrangement called an umbel, in which the flowers are grouped together on one side of the arrangement like fingers on a hand. *Bulbophyllum* is a widely variable genus in many respects. It includes some of the smallest species in the orchid world and some of the largest. These species are to be found in Africa, throughout India, Southeast Asia, the Philippines and Australia; one species is even found in New Zealand. Most require intermediate or warm conditions of culture but a few will grow under shade-house conditions in Melbourne.

Over 1200 different species are now recognised, a vast increase on the 80 bulbophyllums and 20 cirrhopetalums known to exist in 1890, according to Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants. In Australia there are now 26 known bulbophyllums, all found in New South Wales and Queensland. They include *Bulb. globuliforme* and *Bulb. minutissimum*, contenders for the smallest orchids in the world; their pseudobulbs measure no more than 2 mm across! Over 600 different species are to be found in Papua New Guinea and many others throughout the warmer parts of Asia.



***Bulbophyllum
globuliforme***



***Bulbophyllum
minutissimum***

One of the most attractive species, possibly the most widely grown, is *Bulb. lobbii*. Its large flower, measuring up to 100 mm across, is carried singly on a stem about 150 mm tall. The colour varies from ochre to yellow with red or brown veins. In common with virtually all bulbophyllums, its lip is delicately balanced so that it sways up and down in the gentlest breeze. It's believed that this movement is designed to catch the attention of the flower's pollinator, thus encouraging it to land. A widespread orchid, *Bulb. lobbii* is found from north-east India to south-east Asia and the Philippines.



Bulbophyllum lobbii

Another widespread species, of the cirrhopetalum type, is *Bulb. longiflorum*. It is found in northeast Queensland, Africa, Indonesia and Fiji, an enormous geographical range. Its picture adorns the dust cover of Jones' Native Orchids of Australia. I successfully grow and flower both this orchid and *Bulb. lobbii* in my glasshouse, which is maintained at a minimum temperature of 12° C. However, this is the bare minimum and I'm sure both orchids would grow and flower better under warmer, more humid conditions.



Bulbophyllum longiflorum

Two of the most unusual bulbophyllums that I grow are *Bulb. maximum* and *Bulb. scaberulum*, both natives of Africa and members of the section Megaclinium. *Bulb. maximum* has unusual four-sided, scalloped pseudobulbs but the most unusual feature is the purplish rachis, shaped like a knife blade. This rachis bears two rows of tiny curved buds, one on each side, which open successively over a couple of months to produce tiny yellowish flowers bearing brown stripes. Each flower lasts only a week and then the next bud opens. The flowering stem and rachis of my plant, which flowers in summer, is only about 300 mm long but the flower stems of well grown plants of this species can reach a length of 900 mm. *Bulb. scaberulum* is a similar species but its plant and rachis are smaller than those of *Bulb. maximum*.



Bulbophyllum maximum



Bulbophyllum scaberulum



Probably the largest of all bulbophyllums, insofar as its plant is concerned, is *Bulb. beccarii*. Its pendant leaves can reach a length of 600 mm. However its flowers are only 10 mm across and they smell of rotten meat, so I would not recommend you try to grow this species.

A year or two ago Bill Miles of Kingston flowered a newly imported plant of *Bulb. echinolabium*. The long tails on the sepals of this species measure at least 250 mm from tip to tip, making it one of the largest-flowered species in the genus. It is rare and expensive. More readily obtainable species that I recommend are *Bulb. guttulatum* and *Bulb. rothschildianum*, both native to India. Each produces its flowers in an umbel, those of the latter species being especially attractive, although they last only a week in good condition. Both prefer intermediate conditions.

Bulbophyllum beccarii



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum



Bulbophyllum guttulatum



***Bulbophyllum levyae* 'Gowrie'
CBM/OSCOV**

***Bulbophyllum echinolabium*
HCC/OSCOV**



Orchid Culture Notes for March

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

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

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

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

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

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 nite. Most plants will initiate side shoots but good flowering will be delayed. Late March to the end of May is a good time to attend to this genus if you want to divide them. On the terrestrial scene the first few will start popping up now. These are mostly the varieties that show flowers first and the leaves come a bit later. As they do slowly increase the water they receive. For those not showing yet make sure pots are kept cool and slightly moist with moderate shade.

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

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

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



Orchid Culture Notes for March (cont.)

For the new chum it would be advisable to speak to those growers who show Oncidium's to get some ideas. My best Oncidium's grow on a mount and are hung above the cym's. 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: 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.

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