



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

April 2026

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

The April Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held on Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 8.00 pm. Marion - Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion. Our Guest Speaker will be Our Patron, Coralie Hills speaking on "Her Life in Orchids".

LEARNERS' GROUP: There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the April 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 9th April commencing at 2.00pm in our **New Home: the Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, Mitchell Park.** . Our Guest Speaker will be Our Patron, Coralie Hills speaking on the Australian Orchids Council and Her Life in Orchids.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be Sunday 19th April 2026 at 2.00 pm at Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speakers will be Chris and Lyn Heysen talking about "Their Journey into Orchids". Pauline Hockey will have a good range of assorted **Plants for Sale** 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.



**Garden City Plastics
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[President@ SCOCSA.com.au](mailto:President@SCOCSA.com.au)
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ABN 83 245 384 076





YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2026

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	
	Ralf Brandt	

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

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

Finally something dropped from the sky that we have not seen for a very long time and those of us that collect rainwater may it not be too long until our tanks are full.

This month we welcome our Patron, Coralie Hills who will be presenting 'Her life in Orchids' at the main meeting and the Daytime group (a busy month for Coralie). I'm sure this will be very interesting to hear as Coralie has had many differing roles over many years in the Orchid World. At the Southern Region group, we continue the theme of 'Life in Orchids' with Chris Heysen giving the members an insight into his Journey into Orchids (with Lyn of course).

On Sunday 15th March at the Southern Region Group, it gave me great pleasure to present Christine Roberston and Phil Steer their well-deserved Life Membership of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia as voted on at the February Annual General Meeting. This is reward for many years of dedicated service to our club, again Congratulations.

Our Autumn Show is upon us, approximately seven weeks away, we will be at the Seaford Central Shopping Centre again this year. Let's wow the public with a fantastic display as they really appreciate the effort we make and they look forward to it each year. If you can help in any way to make it a successful show, please see Anne at the Main April meeting, all help is fully appreciated. The dates and times for put in, judging and the show are given elsewhere in this Gazette.

The Show season starts with the Autumn Show (Fri 8th May) Trophy's that are awarded are W.A. Young Trophy for Champion of Autumn Show, H. & B. Viney Trophy for Best Cattleya at Autumn Show and P.C. Loke Trophy for highest aggregate points at 3 Shows. We need all the flowering plants available to put on a colourful display for the public, more details re the Autumn Show will appear in this Gazette.

The SCOCSA Winter Show is on the weekend of 25th & 26th (put in 24th July) at the Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall. Time to start looking for your potential Prize winners and Champions.

I will be away for the April meeting and leave you in the very capable hands of our Senior Vice President Alan Miller.

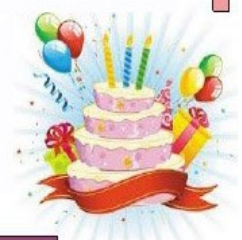
Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**MALCOLM MANGELSDORF, WAH WAH NAW,
TREVOR STUTLEY, LAURIE CARTER,
CORAL TILLMANNS. CHRIS HEYSEN,
JO CULLEN, ROBERT YATES,
MARGIE BROWN, GRAHAM FEAR**



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



ORCHID CALENDAR 2026

<u>MAIN MEETING:</u>	Wednesday 1st April, 2026 8.00 pm Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent. Guest Speaker: Coralie Hills "Her Life in Orchids" Learners Group Meeting at 7.15 pm
<u>COMMITTEE MEETING</u>	Wednesday 8th April, 2026 7.30 pm The Southern, South Road, St. Marys
<u>DAYTIME CHAPTER</u>	Thursday 9th April, 2026 at 2.00pm Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park. Guest Speaker: Coralie Hills speaking on the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) and Her Life in Orchids
<u>SOUTHERN REGION MEETING</u>	Sunday 19th April, 2026 2.00 pm Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Guest Speakers: Chris & Lyn Heysen "Their Journey into Orchids". Learners Group 1.15 pm
<u>AUTUMN SHOW</u>	Thursday 7th May (Put In) to Saturday 9th May 2026 Seaford Shopping Centre
<u>WINTER SHOW</u>	Friday 24th July (Put In) to Sunday 26th July 2026 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion
<u>SOUTHERN REGION SHOW</u>	Wednesday 19th August (Put In) to Friday 21st August 2026 Victor Central Shopping Centre, Victor Harbor
<u>SPRING SHOW</u>	Friday 25th September (Put In) to Sunday 27th September 2026 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion
<u>CHRISTMAS DINNER:</u>	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

ORCHID OF THE YEAR 2025



ORCHID OF THE YEAR
Masd. Copper Angel 'Highland'
Grown by Margaret & Warren Yelland
Photos Jane Higgs



Our President, Michael Willoughby, presented **Margaret Yelland** with the **Trophy for Plant of the Year for 2025** for her beautiful Plant of **Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland'** at the March meeting of the Southern Region Group.

Congratulations Margaret and Warren for growing such an exceptionally beautiful plant.

AUTUMN SHOW

Friday 8th May to Saturday 9th May 2026
SEAFORD CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE

The Committee needs the assistance of the members to volunteer to help on the Trading Table. Sell your surplus plants on the Trading Table, ask Anne for swing tickets and selling sheets.

Reminder: to sell your plants at the Show and to display your plants you must be a financial member and you must have owned your plant for a least 6 months.

PUT IN: Thursday 7th May, 5.00 pm for set up of display area - help is needed.
Plants for Display and Plants for Trading Table when set up is completed.

TAKE OUT: Saturday 9th May at 5.00 pm.

JUDGING: The plants will be judged in-situ in the display.

Please help make our Autumn Show a success by bringing in all your flowering plants. Ribbons and prize money are back.

MOST IMPORTANT: The Show Marshall will ring any member if for some reason he feels that any plant may be showing signs of distress.

TRADING TABLE: As well as members' plants for sale, we will have a range of Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, and Australian Native Orchids for sale.

AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE 2026

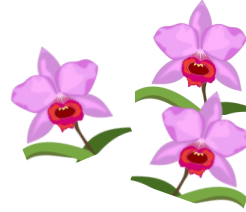
CARD CLASSES NOT FOR PROMOTION – CARD ONLY	PROMOTIONAL CLASS	GENERA & DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS (PRIZE MONEY)
Australian Native. Epiphyte Species. Epiphyte Hybrid. Terrestrial Species. Terrestrial Hybrid. Specimen, Seedling.	Best Australian Native	Champion Australian Native
Cymbidium. Majority of flowers > 90mm. Majority of flowers 60-90mm. Majority of flowers <60mm. Species, Specimen, Seedling.	Best <i>Cymbidium</i>	Champion <i>Cymbidium</i>
Paphiopedilum. Standard. Non Standard. Species, Specimen, Seedling.	Best <i>Paphiopedilum</i>	Champion <i>Paphiopedilum</i>
Laeliinae. Standard >100mm. Standard <100mm. Cluster. Non Standard. Species, Specimen, Seedling.	Best Laeliinae	Champion Laeliinae
Oncidiinae. Oncidium Hybrid <60mm. <i>Oncidium</i> . Hybrid >60mm. Species, Specimen, Seedling.	Best Oncidiinae	Champion Oncidiinae
Zygopetalinae. Zygopetalinae Hybrid. Zygopetalinae Species. Specimen, Seedling.	Best Zygopetalinae	Champion Zygopetalinae
Phalaenopsis. Standard. Non Standard. Species, Seedling.	Best <i>Phalaenopsis</i>	Champion <i>Phalaenopsis</i>
Dendrobium. (other than Aust. Native) Hybrid, Species, Seedling.	Best <i>Dendrobium</i>	Champion Any Other Genus
Vandaeae. Standard. Non Standard. Species, Seedling.	Best Vandaeae	
Any Other Genus. Hybrid. Species, Specimen, Seedling.	Best Any Other Genus	
THE GRAND CHAMPION IS SELECTED FROM GENERA CHAMPIONS		
Trophies :		Champion Seedling
W A Young : Trophy for Grand Champion		Champion Species
H & B Viney : Trophy for Champion Laeliinae		Champion Specimen
P C Loke : Trophy for highest aggregate at 3 Shows		Division Champions

EXHIBITORS' RULES FOR SHOWS

1. All exhibitors must be financial members of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Incorporated, and you must have owned your plant for at least 6 months..
2. Entries are free.
3. Exhibitors are bound by the Constitution, Rules, By-Laws and Special Show Rules of the Club.
4. The opinion of the judges is final and binding and no objections or discussions regarding results will be considered, with one exception, which is an infringement by an Exhibitor of any of the Club's Rules, By-Laws or Show Rules. Any objection in this case must be lodged with the Club Show Marshall/Secretary.
5. The Club accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or infection suffered by any plant or blooms exhibited.
6. The Club reserves the right to photograph any of the exhibits.
7. In all matters regarding the arrangement and conduct of the show (with exception of judging) the Show Marshall/Secretary is the ruling authority.
8. No plants suspected by the Club Virus adjudicators of being infected with virus will be eligible for competition and such plants will be completely isolated from all other plants.
9. The exhibition areas will be closed during the judging. No exhibitors, the public or members other than the Show Marshall/Secretary, Judges of the Club, Associate Judges and other persons appointed to assist in judging will be allowed to remain in the exhibition area during this period.
10. Non-exhibitors are requested not to congregate in the exhibition area prior to judging so that officials can arrange plants and perform other necessary duties.
11. Plants must be labelled with the coloured labels provided by the Club with the exhibitor's number and name of plant. These are available from the Show Marshall/Secretary or his/her nominee.
12. Exhibitors are to ensure that all labelling be neatly and correctly performed in accordance with the procedure laid down on orchid Nomenclature and Registration.
13. All plants benched for judging at the show must be made available to be in the Club display.
14. All exhibits must be benched by the nominated time on the nominated day for judging. The nominated day and time will be published in the Club Gazette in the month prior to the Show.
15. Exhibits must not be removed before nominated time on the nominated day at the end of the Display. The nominated day and time will be published in the Club Gazette in the month prior to the Show.
16. Exhibitors unable to remove their own plants from the show should provide the person so doing with a letter of authorization.
17. Damage caused in transit to the show should be reported to the Show Marshall/Secretary or Registrar of Judges prior to judging.
18. If, in the opinion of the judges, a plant is not worthy of an award or prize in any specified section, then none shall be given.

PREPARING ORCHIDS FOR SALE

1. Select the plants that you want to let go.
2. Clean all pots. Wipe them over with a damp cloth to remove all white residue or salt from the pots. If these pots have been recycled from somewhere else, please make sure all advertising and price stickers are all cleaned off.
3. Check all stakes and add more if necessary and re-tie.
4. Remove old brown husks from bulbs and remove weeds, snails, scale etc.
5. Remove all dry ends on the leaves and shape to a point.
6. Wipe leaves over with a mixture of milk and water (1 part milk to 10 parts water). Do not overdo the milk by adding extra as the fat in the milk will clog the pores in the leaves which will then yellow off and die.
7. Water all plants 2-3 days before, not on the morning that you are bringing them in. This water really makes a mess on our clothes, tablecloths and the floor.
8. Get plant sales sheets and plant price tags from Treasurer before hand. The sales sheet is a carbonless duplicated sheet, so both sheets are to be used together. Press down firmly on a hard surface to imprint on the second page. The original and duplicated sheets must be lodged with plants. On the top left hand corner of the page, print your name. On the right hand side write in your club member number, Rule a narrow column down the left side of the page. This column is for the plant number 1-30. On the right hand side you need a column a bit wider for the selling price of the plant. The centre section is for the name and colour eg *Cym. Without Peer 'Soft Touch' (pink)*. Be reasonable with the pricing, not greedy. Either you want to sell it or you don't. Take into account the number of spikes and condition of the plant. If you are not sure of pricing, ask some one.
9. Next write your labels. It's a good idea to do both sides of the tag. Your member number goes on the left hand side and the plant number on the right hand side. Circle the plant number. Write your price under these numbers. As you put your tags on the plants, double check that the prices and numbers on the tags match those on your sales sheets.
10. When you bring your plants in, they must be checked off by another person against what you have written on your sheets. You will be given one sheet back along with payment for sales but you may wish to write out another copy for yourself to keep in the meantime. You can help with the checking off by reading out the numbers and price while the person checking checks this information off against what is on your sheets. If there is a discrepancy, it needs to be attended to and another ticket written out if need be.



March Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

683	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Lisa'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
684	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Osborne'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
685	Ctt. Gone Fishing 'Zodiac'	John Seidel (101)	1

Laeliinae - Non Standard

686	Pcv. Golden Peacock	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
687	C. Fair Jewel	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2

Laeliinae - Species

688	E. alata 'Marion'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
689	B. nodosa	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
690	C. harrisoniae	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	1

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

681	C. Margret Thomas	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
682	C. Mini Purple 'Lea'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

691	Brs. Rex 'Sakata'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

702	Aer. krabiense x V. Peggy Foo	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

703	Sngl. macloughlinii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
704	Stan. tigrina 'Light Red'	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	2
705	Sngl. macloughlinii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	1

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

706	Paph. liemianum 'Z2'	John Seidel (101)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

693	Paph. Limidolli	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
694	Paph. Nathaniel's Kunzite	John Seidel (101)	2
695	Paph. Ethel 'The Aardvark'	John Seidel (101)	1

Paphiopedilum - Species

696	Paph. concolor	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
697	Paph. liemianum 'Z2'	John Seidel (101)	2
698	Paph. parishii	Ron & Irene Parish (477)	1

Paphiopedilum - Standard

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

701	Phal. fasciata	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

707	Sngl. macloughlinii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
708	Sngl. macloughlinii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2

Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

699	Z. Artur Elle 'Tombstone'	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119)	3
700	Gptm. Arlene Armour 'Conching'	John Seidel (101)	2

First Division

Cymbidium under 60 Species

670	Cym. dayanum	Michael Gray (135)	3
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Laeliinae - Cluster

664	Ctt. Valentine Day	Michael Gray (135)	3
665	Ctt. Kew	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	2
666	Ctt. Kew	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	1

Laeliinae - Non Standard

667	Ctt. Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flair'	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	3
668	C. (Unknown x Hawaiian Wedding Song)	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
669	Ctt. Ratsima Spot	Michael Gray (135)	1

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

662	Rlc. Toshie's Magic 'Hsinying'	Bill Jayne (1180)	3
663	Rlc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

672	Onc. Ruth's Rainbow 'Over the Rainbow'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
673	Onc. Aka Baby	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

671	Milt. Cogniauxiae	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

678	Den. L. D. Red	Michael Gray (135)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

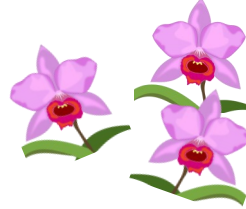
679	V. falcata	Michael Gray (135)	3
680	B. cuculata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2

Phalaenopsis Standard

677	Phal. Timberline	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

674	Gptm. Arlene Armour 'Conching'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
675	Gptm. Starburst 'Parkside'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
676	Z. Iron Baron	Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston	1



March Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

657 Ctt. Valentine Day 'Red'

Margie Brown (59)

3

658 Ctt. Meadii

Pauline McLean (1053)

2

Laeliinae - Non Standard

659 Laecholaelia Sea Urchin

Dora Schrapel (200)

3

660 C. Topaz Pennymezzy 'Freckles'

Ralf Brandt (159)

2

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

656 Rlc. Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel'

Ralf Brandt (159)

3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

661 Gongora galeata

Pauline McLean (1053)

3

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR MARCH

A good start to the year with increasing plant numbers. I think the very mild summer has seen plants coming into bud earlier than usual.

Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division was *Ctt.* Valentine Day 'Lisa' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju.

A stunning plant with a tall inflorescence with a mass of flowers making the cluster. The flower colour was a deep red with a lighter pink over white labellum.

Congratulations Michael & Oui.



PLANT OF OPEN DIVISION

PLANT OF THE NIGHT

***Ctt.* Valentine Day 'Lisa'**

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR MARCH Cont...

Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely *Cattleya*, *Rlc. Bernadine Kennedy* 'White Jewel' grown by Ralf Brandt.

This was a smallish plant carrying four lovely white flowers (somewhat shaded by the foliage). The centre of the labellum had a lovely contrasting splash of soft yellow.

Congratulations Ralf.

PLANT OF SECOND DIVISION
Rlc. Bernadine Kennedy 'White Jewel'
 Grown by Ralf Brandt
 Photo Neil Cooper



Plant of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Michael Gray and was *Den. L.D. Red*.

Two tall inflorescences coming off a single cane. It was a small plant with just two canes. The flowers were an intense cerise colour and were a striking appearance.

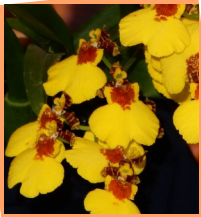
Well done Michael.



PLANT OF FIRST DIVISION
Den. L. D. Red
 Grown by Michael Gray
 Photos Neil Cooper

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

Phil Steer
 REGISTRAR



DAYTIME CHAPTER
Thursday 12th March 2026



Hi Everyone,

Fourteen members attending the Daytime Meeting extended a warm welcome to guest speaker Kevin Western and Jo.

Members greatly appreciated Kevin's presentation including a demonstration of the different potting methods and medium he uses for the variety of species he has amassed over many years. Kevin freely shared his vast experiences in seedling propagation. Many questions followed Kevin's presentation and well into the afternoon tea chat. Thankyou Kevin for another great presentation.

Lucky Name Badge / Lucky Door Prize: Kevin and Jo
Birthday of the Month: Josie Ogrowski

Many thanks to our generous members providing items for the raffle table and afternoon tea.

Next Meeting :

Thursday April 9th - 2.00 pm

**Guest Speaker: Our Patron, Coralie Hills speaking
 on the Auatralian Orchid Council (AOC)**

Alan Miller

0434 052 676

NOARLUNGA ORCHIDS AND ROSE NURSERY
180 Commercial Road Seaford Meadows
Phone: 0431 694 905.



Carol and Malcolm have a fantastic collection of roses and orchids, especially Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus. They are very knowledgable and helpful. Visit them for your orchid and rose needs.



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING Sunday 15th March 2026

The meeting was opened at 2pm to a much smaller than usual group with quite a few off sick or otherwise engaged. Apologies from Bob and Robyn Clayton, Heather McDonald, Ruth Creedy, and Genny Huxtable.

Presentations: Our President, Michael Willoughby presented Margaret and Warren Yelland with the Trophy for the Plant of the Year for 2025. The plant was *Masdevallia* Copper Angel 'Highland' Congratulations to Margaret and Warren on this great achievement. Michael also presented Life Membership Certificates and Badges to Phil Steer and Christine Robertson, for their long and very valuable contributions to the South Coast Orchid Club.

Guest Speaker: Our speaker this month was Jane Higgs who gave a really engaging presentation about how the judges credit each plant displayed at the club meetings and how members should be presenting their plants for best merit. So much goes into the process and it was fascinating to hear and learn what to do and what not to do when displaying your plants. Jane also took us through a slide show of various orchid flowers to show in detail how the judges look and rate each specimen. Some of the plants she showed were quite rare for these parts and it was nice to see some of the more unusual varieties. A fabulous and well received presentation and many thanks to Jane for the time she took to put this together.

Birthday draw: Di Cawley.

Lucky Name Badge: Marg Yelland.

Popular vote for today went to *Paph.* (Warden 'Sara' x Holdenii 'TQ') grown by Janette and Graham Smith.

Announcements:

- Next meeting will be on the 19th April where our guest speaker will be Chris Heysen who will be taking us through a presentation of his journey into the orchid world.
- Next Meeting Pauline Hockey will be bringing a good range of assorted **Plants for Sale** so bring your money to purchase plants

Judging was carried out by Jane and Don Higgs **Plant Commentary** Phil Steer.

Meeting closed at 3 pm.

Graham Smith

0428 818 586

NEXT MEETING – Sunday, 19th April 2026 at 2.00 pm

Guest speaker: Chris and Lyn Heysen "Our Journey into Orchids"

PAULINE HOCKEY will be bringing PLANTS FOR SALE so bring your pennies to spend

March Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

First Division

Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

812	Den. bigibbum var. compactum	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm			
813	Rlc. White Wonder	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm			
814	Rlc. Lady Gaga 'Alejandro'	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid			
816	V. Boonyarit Beauty	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3
Paphiopedilum - Non Standard			
815	Paph. Hamana Holden	Graham & Janette Smith (217)	3

Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

809	Ctt. Unknown	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
810	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Red'	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	2

SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY- MARCH

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 Graham and Janette Smith. The plant was *Paph. Hamana Holden* (*Paph. Warden 'Sara' x Paph. Holdenii*).

A tall single flower above the striking mottled green foliage. The wide dorsal was predominantly white with green veining above a lovely slender green pouch with the laterals a wavy green. An attractive flower. On researching this plant I think it is *Paph* (*Warden x Holdenii* var. *album*) hence the green and no evidence of red pigment. This crossing is registered as *Paph. Hamana Holden*.

Well done Graham & Janette.

ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

Paph. Hamana Holden

Grown by Graham & Janette Smith
Photos Jane Higgs



ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION Ctt, Unknown

Grown by

Margaret & Warren Yelland
Photos Jane Higgs



ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION

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

This was a lovely plant, with eight flowers standing above the foliage. The flowers were a distinct contrast between the creamy dorsal and lateral sepals, and petals to the bright labellum which was wide carrying a purple skirt in front of white background.

Congratulations Margaret & Warren.

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

Good Growing

Phil Steer
REGISTRAR



Michael Willoughby presents Margaret Yelland with the Trophy for Plant of the Year for 2025 for her beautiful Plant of *Masdevallia* Copper Angel 'Highland' (see page 5 for photos)



Michael presents Phil Steer with his Life Membership Certificate and Badge.



Michael presents Christine Robertson with her Life Membership Certificate and Badge.

Photos by
Jane Higgs

RECOMMENDED ORCHID CARE IN SPHAGNUM MOSS.

We deflask/plant our seedlings in Sphagnum moss at first to give them a good start. Like bark and other orchid-specific potting mixes, sphagnum moss is OK outdoors or under cover during wet periods. Plants in sphagnum moss must not be allowed to dry out.

If the moss does happen to get dried out without killing the plant, simply sit the pot in water for a day to re-wet it and the plant should be ok and the moss should wet easily when watered.

During warmer to hot and dry weather, (October to end of March in South Australia) simply stand the pot in a shallow dish (2-4cm deep) of water or dilute fertiliser and the plant will not become stressed even on our hottest days. Fertilise weekly with fern strength Seasol & / or Power Feed or other very dilute liquid fertiliser. Plants may be allowed to stand in fertiliser October to March.

Maintain the plant in 50 to 75% shade. Repot into a commercial orchid growing medium during spring of the next year.

Good growing.

Kevin Western

Western Orchids / Laboratories.

Email :- orchids@westernorchids.com.au

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 %.

COOL-GROWING MINI CATTLEYS by Richard Salvado

I began growing mini-cattleyas because they are less demanding than many other orchids during the warmer weather. I'm often away from home for extended periods, and I find that mini-cattleyas can cope quite well without water for a day or two if necessary. In addition they reward growers with very pretty, long-lasting, colourful flowers that are quite large for their relatively small plants. Mini-cattleyas take up much less space in the orchid house than their larger-growing cattleya cousins.

Generally speaking, most cattleyas of the bifoliate type (two leaves per pseudobulb) are easier to grow in cool conditions than the unifoliate type (one leaf per pseudobulb), which often grow better with heat. Plants with a smaller growth habit are usually easier to grow than the taller ones, which often need heat.

All cattleya hybrids will grow and flower better with a minimum temperature of 6-8°C; however, most mini-cattleyas can be grown successfully in Melbourne without artificial heat. In my experience, the minimum requirements for their cultivation are a shade house with a solid roof and provision of fairly good light. You can always bring the plants indoors in very cold weather, and certainly bring them inside and enjoy them whilst they are in flower.

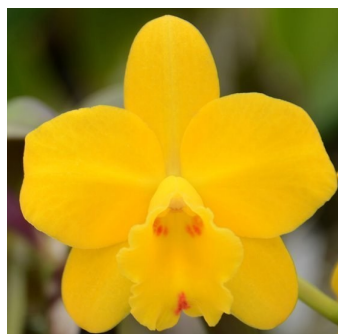
Depending on the character of the potting mix, watering may be carried out as infrequently as once a week during cooler weather but watch your mini-cattleyas carefully and if the plants appear dry, give them a drink. In warm weather you may need to water every day or two. Repot in the warmer weather when the new growths are at least 25 mm tall. Take care, as the new growths are very brittle and are easily broken. I use any available fertiliser and in addition use Seasol® frequently.

Mini-cattleyas don't like to be cold and wet in the cooler months and a cool, damp atmosphere will cause spotting of light-coloured flowers. As with your other orchids, you should keep a keen eye open for pests, particularly scale, slugs, snails and caterpillars. Few orchids will tolerate direct contact with frost, and mini-cattleyas are no exception. However, they cope with extremely cold conditions better if their potting mix is on the dry side.

With regard to potting mixes, these depend very much on your growing conditions – if your plant isn't looking healthy, try a different potting mix. My favourite mix is 75% coarse Perlite / 25% chopped sphagnum moss. In my conditions this seems the best mix and has wide acceptance Australia-wide. I am also currently using 50% coconut fibre/ 25% coarse Perlite / 25% pine bark and have found that larger plants grow well in this mix; however, seedlings dislike this mix, and become very stunted. Three other mixes that I have used (50% pine bark / 50% Absorba-Stone, 100% pine bark and 100% moss) do not suit my conditions.



Cattleya Mini Purple 'Sato'
HCC/OSCOV



Cattleya Beaufort



Cattleya Mango Spice 'Stone'
HCC/OSCOV



Cattleya coccinea 'Sophie'
HCC/OSCOV
(Formerly *Sophranitis coccinea*)



Laelia pumila 'Dedante'
HCC/OSCOV



Cattleya orpetii 'Dittman'
CC/OSCOV

Some cool-growing mini-cattleyas and two of the species used to breed them are: *Cattleya coccinea* (red flowers), *Laelia pumila* (mauve flowers with darker lip), *Cattleya Orpetii* (red flowers), *Cattleya Jungle Beau* (yellow flowers with purple lips), *Cattleya Beaufort* (red, orange and yellow flowers), *Cattleya Seagulls Mini Catt Heaven* (orange to red flowers) and *Cattleya Mini Purple* (purple or mauve flowers). Mini-cattleyas are very rewarding orchids, and are not as difficult to grow as many people think. So why not buy a plant or two and give them a go!



***Cattleya Jungle Beau* 'Castle Creek' HCC/OSCOV**



***Cattleya Seagulls Mini Catt Heaven* 'Glow'**



Cattleya Mini Purple

MY CYMBIDIUM MIX by Rex Johnson

I am now convinced that horse manure, meadow mayonnaise or recycled grass (call it what you will) is the best potting mix for my cymbidiums in northern Tasmania. Years ago, when I was given a couple of cymbidium plants that my children bought at a weekend market, I knew nothing at all about orchids. They were kicked around the veranda and seldom watered, and a year later were in a very unhappy state. In desperation I took them to a neighbouring acquaintance, who said that we should re-pot them. Of course I had no potting mix, so my neighbour said "let's use some of mine – horse manure".

Now, all horse manure is not the same. It may be derived from several different sources, and it's important to choose the right one. Hungry horses will eat any vegetation they can find, and seldom chew their food thoroughly. Therefore many seeds pass through their gut without being digested. If horse manure collected in the field is used as potting mix, many 'companion' plants will soon keep your cymbidiums company – docks, grass, blackberries, thistles, ferns, to name just a few! To avoid this problem, I used to collect my ingredients from a stable where racehorses were trained. These horses were housed in stables or small day yards, and fed only on pre-mixed foods such as crushed grains. Unfortunately, the resultant manure also contained stable straw or wood shavings used for bedding. This mix required aging in a bin or heap for several months to promote decomposition before it was suitable as potting mix. If this step was omitted, the plants sunk down in their pots during the next few months as the straw or wood shavings decomposed.

Cymbidiums planted in the above mix are usually watered with a drip system operating for half an hour every day. I used this system very successfully for twelve or thirteen years before deciding to change to bark as a potting medium, because most growers use it and generally they have fewer 'companion' plants than I have. And so, two years ago I made the monumental mistake of transferring all my cymbidiums to a bark 'mix'. I solved the weed problem and my flower problem all in one go – no weeds, and few flowers to worry about! I couldn't even grow good roots on the plants, so after twelve months' misery I'm back to growing my cymbidiums in horse manure again!

Now I'm composting the stable mix longer (nine months) and mixing it with an equal proportion of shredded dry bracken fern. I gather dead bracken fern and put it through my garden shredder before mixing it with the horse manure. Dried tree fern fronds do the same job but break down more quickly. A further change is that I now hand water every three or four days, instead of using a drip system. Root development is fantastic and I'm now seeing flower spikes again! Using this mix, I never have to re-pot. As the mix sinks in the pot, I simply knock the plant out of its pot, put a handful or two of fresh mix in the bottom and then return the plant to its pot. To "pot on", I simply transfer the plant and accompanying mix to a larger pot and fill in with fresh mix. The roots are undisturbed and therefore undamaged, and the plant doesn't even realise that it has been re-potted! There are no setbacks when re-potting in horse manure, the magic mix for cymbidiums!

PAHIOPEDILUMS AND THEIR CULTIVATION by Stephen Early

Introduction. Paphiopedilums, sometimes referred to as slipper orchids, are often regarded as the true aristocrats of the orchid world. They grow in Asia at a range of altitudes and are often found in Nature growing on the forest floor in leaf litter or on mossy limestone rocks, generally where the plants are continuously wet. They are usually exposed to bright light, rather than full sunlight or deep shade, which provides a good indication of how to grow these orchids, namely, to provide good light and plenty of water to plants grown in well-drained pots.

Growing Media. I grow my plants in a bark-based mix containing 17% Canunda shell and 9% granite chips (by volume). I use 3-5 mm bark for pots up to 100 mm diameter and 5-10 mm bark for larger pots. The shell and granite fulfil two functions. They help to create similar conditions to those in Nature and to keep the mix 'sweet' by neutralising any acidity that develops. Using this mix, I find few plants with unhealthy root systems.

Watering and Fertilising. I water my plants when they need it, usually daily in summer and weekly in winter. The plants are also fertilised during four out of every five waterings, using liquid fertilisers; I never use slow-release fertiliser in the mix. On the only occasion I used a slow-release fertiliser the plants suffered marked root loss.

Growing Conditions. My plants are grown in an aluminium-framed glasshouse heated to a minimum temperature of 12°C, lined with Marix cloth and covered with 50% shade cloth. Smaller plants are grown on a wet bench and larger ones on wire mesh benches with water-filled corrugated fibreglass trays below to provide a high level of humidity, similar conditions to those that the plants experience in Nature.

Before we acquired a glasshouse all our paphiopedilums were grown on our dining room table, where the light in this rather bright room was filtered by thin nylon curtains. The plants were placed on saucers containing small stones, which retained water when the plants were watered, thus helping to maintain a local humid atmosphere. When the water evaporated from the saucers, it was time to water again. It's important not to place the plants near a heater, because this will lower the humidity too much. When growing slippers indoors I was still able to win the occasional show ribbon.

Types of Paphiopedilums. Paphiopedilums can be divided into a number of different groups. Taxonomists have had great fun dividing the genus into sub-genera, then into species and then dividing these species into new species. You can divide most paphiopedilums into several different groups. One group contains the multi-flowered slippers that bear a number of flowers at the same time – two beautiful examples are *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* and *Paph. philippinense*. They generally need heat and like good light.



Paph. rothschildianum

Paph. philippinense



Sequential flowering paphiopedilums have many flowers on an inflorescence but usually as each new flower opens, the older one dies. These slippers may flower for more than a year from the same inflorescence; *Paph. primulinum* is a good example. Other single-flowered paphiopedilum species may be divided into various sub-groups, such as the brachypetalums, the Maudiae-type species, the Chinese species etc.

Paph. Primulinum



On the show bench we divide paphiopedilums into a number of groups. Species are usually given their own class but the hybrids are divided further into several classes. One class is for exhibition-type paphiopedilums, which are my favourites. These are highly developed hybrids carrying large, round, well filled-in flowers. They are the end result of breeding programs that have stood the test of time. In large shows the exhibition type hybrids are often divided further into colour classes.

The other classical group of hybrids are the Maudiae-type paphiopedilums, which are similar in shape to *Paph. Maudiae*, a cross between *Paph. callosum* and *Paph. lawrenceanum*. Each flower has a large, round, striped dorsal sepal and down-swept petals. Many orchids do not quite fit this class – sometimes these are judged as Maudiae-type hybrids and at other times as novelty hybrids. The main rule in judging any orchid is for the judge to assess the orchid in the class where it will do best.



Paph. callosum



Paph. lawrenceanum



Paph. Maudiae

The third group includes primary hybrids (crosses between different species) other than *Paph. Maudiae*. Some excellent primary hybrids include *Paph. St. Swithin*, *Paph. Gold Dollar* and *Paph. lantha* Stage. However, not all primary hybrids result in worthwhile improvements on the parent species.



Paph. Saint Swithin 'Gregarius'
AM/OSCOV



Paph. lantha Stage

Novelty Hybrids are those crosses made using a species as one parent (and a hybrid as the other) while Developmental Hybrids are those that don't fit any of the above classes. It's common for novelty and developmental hybrids to be lumped together.

Paphiopedilum Propagation. Paphiopedilums can be grown from seed in the same way as most orchids and most experienced paphiopedilum growers will have raised a number of seedlings from flask. Flasks are readily available, the price depending on how hard it is to get seed and the rarity of the parents. Chinese slipper seedlings tend to be expensive because these paphiopedilums seldom produce much seed. The other way to obtain plants is to purchase divisions from other growers. Unfortunately paphiopedilums are not amenable to mericloning, so the only way to obtain a top-class paphiopedilum is to buy a division. Consequently, divisions of awarded plants are highly sought after and are therefore expensive; fortunately, most retain their value well.

Preparing Plants for Show. Paphiopedilums need little work to prepare them for showing. As for most other genera, this statement is especially true of the better clones. Most inflorescences will need to be staked. Folded tissue paper can be used to force protruding petals back, as can also twistie-ties, cotton buds or foam wedges. We prefer to arrange our plants in baskets, partly because this is an easy way to transport them. Baskets topped with coconut fibre serve to hide ugly plastic pots, while allowing a

FACT OR FICTION by Brian Milligan

Over the years, many articles have been written about the early orchid collectors, the nurserymen who employed them, and the orchid species that these nurserymen introduced to cultivation. They were exciting times, particularly the second half of the nineteenth century, when orchid growing was largely confined to the wealthy British upper classes. New orchids were being discovered every month, the more spectacular examples being reported in the major newspapers of the day. The occasional death of an orchid's collector due to misadventure or some exotic tropical disease just added spice to the story!

Gradually I have come to realise that some of the colourful accounts that appeared in those times should be taken with the proverbial 'grain of salt'. Yes, the orchid's features – its colour, shape and size – could be taken at face value but details as to how and where it was found were, for various reasons, not always true. It was not in the best interests of a collector or his employer to reveal the source of any spectacular discovery. To do so would enable rival collectors to procure what was otherwise an exclusive valuable resource. It was not easy to conceal such information, as many collectors resorted to industrial espionage, by bribing their rival's bearers to reveal the route followed or by following their rival's footsteps.

Back in Britain, some nurserymen deliberately provided misinformation as to where their more spectacular orchids were found. For example, Frederick Sander let it be known that his collectors had found the magnificent *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* in New Guinea, a myth that was perpetuated for many years thereafter. Its true source was eventually revealed as the island of Borneo, in particular Mount Kinabalu and its surroundings.



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum

Unfortunately, few orchid collectors of those times wrote about their travels – some because they were not sufficiently literate, others because they died before they had a chance to do so! Most were urged to write frequent letters to their employers but, in Frederick Sander's opinion, few provided sufficient detail. The nurserymen then used such information to publicise their new orchids. Not surprisingly, it was sometimes embellished in the hope of inciting greater interest and therefore higher prices! Journalists and other writers also used this information, .

often with further embellishment, for their articles in magazines such as the Gardener's Chronicle or the regular daily newspapers

One of the most prolific British orchid journalists of the day was Frederick Boyle. His articles were published in the popular press, and later released in book form, the most well known being "About Orchids: A Chat" (1893). Unfortunately Boyle was prone to exaggeration, if not fabrication, and it is now known that some of the material in his stories was pure invention. For example, in an article (The Lost Orchid) about *Cattleya labiata*, discovered by William Swainson in 1817 or 1818, he wrote "The orchids fell in his way – possibly collected in distant parts by some poor fellow who died at Rio. Swainson picked them up, and used them to pack his lichens". Thus the myth arose that *Cattleya labiata* reached William Cattley (after whom the genus was named) as packing material for a box of ferns. In fact, William Cattley was an accomplished orchid grower known to Swainson, who had deliberately sent the orchid to Cattley (via the Glasgow Botanic Gardens).



Cattleya labiata

The source of *Cattleya labiata* was a mystery for many years. Although Swainson discovered it during his journey through Brazil in 1817-1818, its source was not revealed at the time. George Gardner thought that he had rediscovered it growing near Rio de Janeiro in 1836, but that species was eventually identified as *C. lobata*. It was not until 1900, when Swainson's account of his journey (written in 1846) was rediscovered, that the true source of *C. labiata* was revealed as the Brazilian state of Pernambuco, over 1500 km from Rio de Janeiro!

Another myth, which I was once guilty of helping to propagate, concerns the origins of *Vanda* Miss Joaquim. In his book "A Joy Forever" (1982), which celebrates the adoption of *Vanda* Miss Joaquim as the national flower of Singapore, Teoh Eng Soon concluded that the orchid was a natural hybrid found by Miss Joaquim in a clump of bamboo in her father's garden. In reality, the respected botanist Henry Ridley, one time Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, had written in the Gardener's Chronicle for 1892: "A few years ago, Miss Joaquim, a lady residing in Singapore, well-known for her success as a horticulturalist, succeeded in crossing *Vanda* Hookeriana Rchb.f. and *V. teres*." It seems clear from this statement that *Vanda* Miss Joaquim was intentionally made and that it was not a natural hybrid.



Papilionanthe (syn Vanda) Miss Joaquim

I conclude with a warning: remember that not all you read is true, perhaps not even in *Orchids in Victoria Revisited*!

Sources:

- Chadwick, A.A., *Orchids* (Journal of the American Orchid Society), 2003, 38-47.
- Swinson, Frederick Sander: *The Orchid King*, Hodder & Staughton, 1970.
- Boyle, *About Orchids: A Chat*, 1893.
- Teoh Eng Soon, *A Joy Forever – Vanda Miss Joaquim*, Times Books Int., 1982.
- Nadia Wright, www.amassia.com.au



Orchid Culture Notes for April

Autumn is still a growth time in the orchid house except unlike Spring where many of our plants are commencing growth we are now at maturity for many. The days still remain warm and the humidity increases but the colder evenings remind us that Winter is not far away. Many of our plants will mature this month, some in readiness for flowering in the next month or so and others that will go into a rest phase until the lengthening days of Spring stir them into action. An important factor for these flowering and resting plants is a general reduction in water and increase in light. This means we remove additional shading provided to combat the fierce Summer sun, raise our plants off the ground and provide cover to keep out the cold Winter rain.

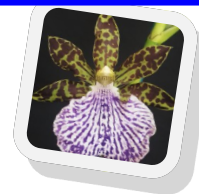
Some orchids can handle exposure to winter rain without too much trouble with the humble *Cymbidiums* and *Zygopetalums* not requiring much protection from the elements of winter unless they are in spike when some supplementary cover would be advantageous. However, there are some orchids which will certainly struggle, if not die when confronted with single digit minimums and wet roots over Winter. Many of our *Cattleyas*, *Oncidiums* and even the hot/cold *Dendrobiums* have a distinct dislike of these conditions and whilst they will not kill the plant, it will turn their roots into a brown/green soggy mess. Come Spring the poor old plant has to start all over again and direct energies to grow new roots at the expense of the new growth. This is a common cause of that orchid you grow that gets smaller every year.

Most of our **Terrestrials** will be up and away this month and even the first *Pterostylis* from the Cauline group will be in flower. Increase watering gradually and pull out small weeds as they appear. Make sure toppings remain in place and watch out for any erosion of the pots caused by rain dripping from above.

Native **Dendrobiums** will all start to show signs of Spring flowers as the flowering nodes split open later this month. If you have a few hot/cold hybrids then you, like me, will be looking at the first early flowers already. I love the hot/cold hybrids. The flowers are larger, certainly more colourful and best of all they last a long time compared to the Spring natives. Treat like your normal native epiphytes except keep a bit drier over winter and hang them when they get to flowering size and you will have good success. Watering in April can still be weekly for your Australian native epiphytes and keep feeding them as well. I do give them some liquid potash this time of year as well as some liquid dolomite to sweeten the mix. Given some of my natives spend a long time in their pots, after a while the mixes break down and become acidic and the dolomite helps neutralise this acidity.

When **feeding your orchids**, water first and then a little later on the same day or the next you can fertilize. Feeding a dry plant is not usually recommended as the fertilizer can damage roots. Keep an eye out for aphids and looped caterpillars this month. There are still plenty of plants in new growth and the tender new leaves are great bug tucker. These same leaves are susceptible to fungal problems from now as well. Warmth and increasing humidity are key factors in the development of fungal problems this month. A precautionary fungicide treatment about now and a morning watering plan as opposed to late afternoon will keep these problems to a minimum.

April should see those with a few **Zygopetalums** in their collections looking at a forest of spikes emerging from new growths. Don't let them dry out, keep protected with a fungicide now and follow the morning watering ritual. Throw a few snail pellets in each pot as well. Feeding wise should be one that is high potash based. This has two benefits, improves the flower colour but also aids in the strengthening of the plant leaves cell walls which in turn gives more protection against fungal attack which will become more prevalent once the rains start.



Orchid Culture Notes for April cont...

I let my **Oncidiums** tell me what they are up to. If they have green tips then they still require moisture and feeding. Some will seal off later this month as they enter their resting stage and these will be kept drier. I find the varicosum type, those ones with the big yellow skirts follow this trend and will suffer root loss if kept wet over winter. Knowing the plants origins are a distinct advantage. Oncidiums for example can grow in deserts, humid jungles or high up in the mountains. That's a huge variance in temperature, humidity, light and even seasonal factors. This means you cannot keep all Oncidiums dry over Winter. Sure that applies to some but not all. This is where some reading up of the species involved is required to work out how they need to be cultivated.

This year our Autumn flowering **Laeliinae** group have been earlier than normal, possibly spurred on by a cooler than normal January. Once flowering has finished they will appreciate a rest but for now keep moist and fed with a potash based feed. Some even sprout new roots now to absorb some moisture and nutrition prior to dormancy. If this is the case keep watering. If the roots seal then start reducing it. Spring flowering plants will be in active growth heading towards maturity as well. These usually require protection over Winter and slightly warmer temperatures to perform well. Feeding would still be along the lines of high potassium. Again, the plants roots are a giveaway as to what the plant requires. Green or red tips indicate they are growing, sealed tips mean they are resting or a slug got you!

Steve Howard



Grammatophyllum speciosum

The heaviest orchid *Grammatophyllum speciosum* is capable of attaining the weight of 2000 pounds (900 kg). In Nature the orchid can produce up to 10,000 flowers. It is found in Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Borneo and the Philippines with distribution extending through Sumatra, Java, and the rest of Indonesia to as far eastward as New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Plants grow in wetter, non-seasonal lowlands throughout the range at 2950 ft. (50-900 m). Plants are most frequently found in the first fork of trees which have a light canopy. While rather common through most of its range, this orchid is now considered rare in Java, probably because of habitat destruction.

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 3rd Sunday of the month.

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

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

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

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street, Plympton from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

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

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

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

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



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



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