



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

March 2021

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

The next General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of SA will be held on Monday 8th March 2021 at the RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs speaking on the 2011 Singapore World Orchid Conference. Don't miss this interesting talk on an actual World Conference.

LEARNERS' GROUP: There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the March Meeting at 7.15pm.

JUDGING: Please have your plants benched by 7.40pm so Judging can commence at 7.50pm. If you are running late due to work commitments please phone Phil on 0438 891 612.

DAYTIME CHAPTER: The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 2.00 pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Malcolm Mangelsdorf speaking on Orchids. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this month.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 21st March 2021 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Dawn Franklin from the Gawler and Districts Orchid Club. Learners Group will be taken by John Gay at 1.15 pm.

NEW MEMBERS: The club welcomes the following new members to our midst: Barb Semmens and Judy King. May your time with us be a happy one and that you enjoy 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.

NOTE: NEW CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS:

The Club now has a new e-mail address for all correspondence. It is **scocsa@outlook.com**

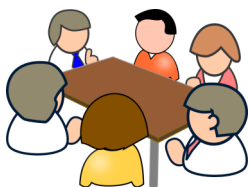
DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
28 March and 25 April

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YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2021

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Malcolm Mangelsdorf	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western	
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	8270 3090
COMMITTEE:	Oui Ju, Richard Crinion, Christine Robertson, Andrew Dean, Craig Humfrey, Phil Steer, Craig Dicker, Marilyn Buckerfield	
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:		
Registrar	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
Editor	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
Web Master	Craig Dicker	
Librarian Southern Region	Diane Cawley	
Photographer	Neil Cooper	
Convenor S. R. Group	Chris Heysen	
Convenors Daytime Chapter	Andrew Dean, Patty Abell	
Convenor Main Learners' Group	Craig Humfrey	

LIFE MEMBERS

* denotes Member who has passed away.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2021 are due now. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2021. 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 and Roger Herraman who gave presentations at the Main Group, and the Southern Region Group respectively. Unfortunately the Hot Weather policy had to be implemented and the Daytime Chapter's February meeting was cancelled. After a relatively normal start to the year (Covid-19 that is) we look forward to many more meetings and shows ahead this year.

Your committee has a different look this year as Lucy Spear after being secretary for 19 years from 2001-2020 has stepped down. Geoff Spear has also stepped down from the committee, he was also our President from 2004-2015. Our newest Life Member Donna Meeuwsen has also stepped down from the committee which she served in different roles from 2006-2020. We thank them for their many years of service to the Club.

Coming events include the SCOCSA Autumn Show (new venue please refer to the Gazette for details), and the Cymbidium Club Show. Check the Bulletin for all Club Show dates and venues.

Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



Thank You

Lucy and Geoff Spear
with the bouquet of flowers
sent to them from the Club
saying Thank you for their
great contributions to the
Club over the past 19 years.



Happy Birthday

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

Is your name in the Birthday Book ??





ORCHID CALENDAR 2021



[These dates are subject to COVID-19 directives]

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 8th March 2021 8.00 pm
RSL Hall 4 Prince George, Parade Colonel Light Gardens
Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs on the 2011 Singapore World Orchid Conference.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 10th March 2021 7.30 pm

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 11th March 2021 2.00 pm
Lou Kesting Hall, Dover Square, Brighton South
Guest Speaker: Malcolm Mangelsdorf "Orchids"

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 21st March 2021 2.00 pm
Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor
Guest Speaker: Dawn Franklin on her growing experiences.

AUTUMN SHOW

Wednesday 5th May to Saturday 8th May 2021
Seaford Central Shopping Centre.

SOUTHERN REGION SHOW

Wednesday 18th August to Saturday 21 August 2021
Victor Central Shopping Centre

SPRING SHOW

Wednesday 22nd September to Sunday 26th September 2021
Seaford Central Shopping Centre



The Committee of the South Coast Orchid Club of SA for 2021
Photo Neil Cooper

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Rlc. Memoria Helen Brown
Grown By Ruth Tugwell



Onc. Speckled Spire
Grown By Chris & Lyn Heysen



Papilionanda Usha
Grown By Chris & Lyn Heysen



Rlc. Goldenzelle
Grown by
Beth Stronach



Habenaria rhodocheila
Grown by Ruth Tugwell



Psh. radiata
Grown by
Beth Stronach



Phal. Unknown
Grown by
Sue & Laurie Carter



Phal. Tying Shin Blue Jay
Grown By Chris & Lyn Heysen



Alkra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter
Grown by Sue & Laurie Carter



February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

2701	Dienia ophrydis	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

2705	Sngl. woodii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2706	Paph. superbians	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Species

2702	Paph. godefroyae "Vincent Vista"	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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2703	Paph. concolor	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
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2704	Paph. superbians	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	1
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First Division

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2708	Oip. Bartley Schwartz 'Hilander'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

2707	Alcra. Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2710	Phal. Unknown	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2709	Z. (Blue Eyes x maxillaria)	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

2713	Ctt. Valentine Day	John & Rhonda Wainwright (549)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

2714	Psh. radiata	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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2715	Psh. cochleata	Craig Humfrey (268)	2
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Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

2711	Rlc. Goldenzelle	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

2712	C. Harfor	John Harris (26)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2716	Oncsa. Golden Anniversary	John Harris (26)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2717	Angcm. Longiscott 'Hihimanu'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

2718	Maxillaria cucullata	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Seedling of the Night

Paph. superbians

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photo Neil Cooper



PLANT COMMENTARY - FEBRUARY 2021

Being February a much smaller showing of plants across all divisions whilst still maintaining a good standard of quality.

Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division was *Stenoglottis woodii* grown by Jane & Don Higgs. This plant was a standout with 13 spikes of tiny white/ cream progressive flowers. The delicate flowers had faint sprinklings of mauve/ pink on the labellum with all of the flowers well displayed on upright spikes. The plant was well grown with a pot full of shiny foliage.

This species is found in South Africa. This orchid, which is very local, is found in rocky areas up to 1650 ft. (500 m) in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Zimbabwe.

Well Done Jane & Don.

Orchid of Open Division

Orchid of the Night

Sngl. woodii

Grown by Jane & Don Higgs

Photos Neil Cooper





Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Sue & Laurie Carter and was *Phal.* Unknown.

The plant displayed 2 lovely branches with 6 flowers on one and 4 on the other. The plant was nice and healthy with lovely shiny leaves. The flowers were a soft lemon colour with a contrasting red labellum.

Well done Sue & Laurie.

Orchid of First Division

Phal. Unknown

Grown By Laurie & Sue Carter

Photos Neil Cooper



Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely example of *Oncsa* Golden Anniversary 'Enos' grown by John Harris.

This was a smallish plant well grown and displaying a nice tall upright inflorescence with lovely segments of yellow with brown overlays on the petals and sepals. The labellum had a striking overlay of red on the yellow background.

John grows this in his shade house alongside his other collection and he says that it is an easy orchid to grow.

Congratulations John.



Orchid of Second Division

Oncsa. Golden Anniversary

'Enos'

Grown by John Harris

Photos Neil Cooper

Thanks to our Judges, Recorders & Pencillers for all your efforts!

Phil Steer
Registrar



DAYTIME CHAPTER



Hi Everybody,

Unfortunately our last meeting was cancelled because of the hot weather. To ensure clarity of process, members all "singing from the same hymn sheet" and the decision to cancel being brought closer to the meeting time, the following procedure will be adopted with regards to the Hot Weather Policy for the Daytime Chapter.

If the predicted temperature is over 35 degrees, the decision to cancel the SCOCSA Daytime Chapter's Thursday meeting will be based on the preceding Wednesday 7pm forecast ABC TV News bulletin. This is based on the Bureau of Meteorology forecast of 4.15pm. Members may still wish to contact the Convenor if still uncertain, after this cancel action. [Convenor's Mobile 0417 089 240]

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 11th 2021, at 2.00 pm. Once again our Guest Speaker will be our Senior Vice President, Malcolm Mangelsdorf, who will talk on anything to do with Orchids. If the temperature is over 35 degrees the meeting is cancelled.

Hope to see you all there.

Andrew Dean

UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Dienia ophrydis*

Dienia ophrydis is a widespread terrestrial orchid distributed from the Himalayan Region of India, into China, SE Asia, Malaya, Borneo, Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and Australia. It grows in North Queensland rainforests below 310m altitude from tip of Cape York to Townsville.

It is a large terrestrial plant with 3-6 broad, unequal sized leaves that taper to sharply pointed tips. The erect inflorescences 15-35cm long are produced from the apex of the stem.

Flowers are closely spaced on a crowded, slender, cylindrical raceme, with 50 or more flowers per raceme each 0.5-0.6 cm across. The flowers are greenish, yellow greenish or reddish purple in colour.

The sepals are equal and spreading curved and sickle shaped. The petals are bluntly pointed and the lip is egg shaped deeply pouched at the base.

The plant has no known offspring, It has been awarded three times by the American Orchid Society with Cultural Awards.





Malcolm Mangelsdorf, our Senior Vice President, welcomed 22 members, one new member Doreen Smith, our Guest Speaker Jane Higgs and Guest Judge Don Higgs. We had three Covid Marshalls present to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Malcolm welcomed Barb Semmens as a new member, presenting her with her name badge, and a plant. He explained the new committee for the South Coast Orchid Club of SA for 2021. and provided the Show Dates of the shows already organised. The Southern Region Show will be held from Wednesday 18 August to Saturday 21 August at the Victor Central Shopping Centre

Apologies: Lucy & Geoff Spear, Peter & Julie Davidge, and Bev Gay.

Door Prize: Lyn Heysen

Members were asked to vote for a Convenor for the Southern Region Group. The members elected Chris Heysen as Convenor and Chris has agreed to undertake this role.

Our Guest Speaker Jane Higgs spoke on the trip that she and Don made to Taiwan in place of the World Conference that was cancelled at the last minute due to Covid 19. The flowers she showed were fantastic and would have been shown at the Conference. The scenery was terrific but the food was interesting. Thanks Jane for a great presentation.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 21 March when our Guest Speaker will be Dawn Franklin, from the Gawler & Districts Orchid Club. She will tell us of her growing experiences and has some great tips to share. Don't miss this interesting talk. The Learners Group will start at 1.15pm with John Gay.



Help is needed to set the Hall up for the meetings. Shirley and Don Greig arrive about 12.30pm and members arrive about 1.00 pm. It would be helpful to Shirley and Don if someone else could be there to put out chairs, tables, etc. Put away after the meeting seems to be covered well.

Christine Robertson

Popular Vote

Phalaenopsis Unknown

Grown by Lesley & Mike Milicevic

Photo Christine Robertson

February Results List

Ref. No.		Points Awarded
First Division		
Laeliinae - Non Standard		
E. Bees' Knees x Venosum Dark	Eileen Pinnock (519)	3
Laeliinae - Species		
Psh. cochleata	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	3
Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm		
Rlc. Memoria Helen Brown	Ruth Tugwell (613)	2
Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm		
Onc. Speckled Spire 'Whisp'	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid		
Den. Blue Foxtail	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Papilionanda Usha	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	2
Phal. Tying Shin Blue Jay	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	1

Second Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard		
Rlc. Redland Quandry x Brave Warrior	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
C. intermedia x Bc Morning Glory	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
Laeliinae - Species		
Psh. cochleata 'Millie'	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm		
Onc. Sharry Baby	Bob Clayton (143)	3
Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid		
Phal. Unknown 'Princess Leia'	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	3
Phal. Unknown	Alan Clayton (426)	2
Phal. Unknown 'Opal'	Margaret & Warren Yelland (350)	1

Plant Commentary by Phil Steer Registrar.

Well !! An Excellent benching of great quality and well flowered Orchids and a good variety of Genera across both divisions. It was quite an eye opener to see a very impressive display of *Phalaenopsis* in a lovely range of colours. (something the Metro Clubs could be quite envious of !!) It was a challenge for the Judges to select the winners. The members of the Southern Region Group have shown us that they are up to the challenge of growing quality Show bench plants. Keep it Up !!

Plant of Second Division

The Plant of Second Division was *Phalaenopsis* Unknown 'Princess Leia' shown by Margaret & Warren Yelland.

It was a multi spiked plant with three good inflorescences with the main one carrying 7 lovely open flowers with 2 buds. The flowers were an attractive gold / yellow with striking contrast in the labellum.

The plant was in excellent health and had another spike on the way.

Well done Margaret & Warren.



**Plant of First Division
and Plant of the Day.**

The plant selected by the Judges was grown and benched by Eileen Pinnock. It was *Encyclia* Bees' Knees x Venosum Dark.

This was a very well grown plant with multitudes of spikes out of lush green foliage in approximately 200 mm pot.

They were delicate flowers of brown and yellow on strong upright spikes.

Congratulations Eileen.

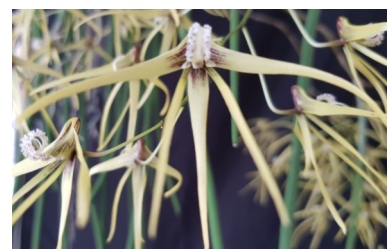
Special Thanks to Christine for the computer recording (I Dropped her in at the deep end and she did a great job !!) Thank You to Don & John for the Judging results. Keep up the Excellent work !



Phil Steer Registrar



**Eileen Pinnock
with some of her beautiful
Native Dendrobiums**



THE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AFRICA by Brian Milligan

[First Published in *Orchids in Victoria* by OSCOV]

According to *Wild Orchids of Southern Africa*, written by Stewart, Linder, Schelpe and Hall in 1982, there were over 400 known orchid species, distributed between 54 different genera, in South Africa at that time. Undoubtedly, more have been discovered and named since then. As is the case with Australian native orchids, terrestrial species outnumber the epiphytes and lithophytes by a considerable margin. And, as also the case in Australia, many of the terrestrials are difficult to procure and cultivate. The species described below are, for the most part, fairly easy to acquire in Victoria. I grow all of them, some more successfully than others.

Disa uniflora is without doubt South Africa's most well known terrestrial orchid. Although fairly widespread in southern Africa, its best-known habitat is Table Mountain, where it grows on sandy stream banks and on mossy rocks beside waterfalls. It has been cultivated in Europe for well over a century and the late Ron Pearce first grew it in Melbourne at least fifty years ago. *Disa uniflora* produces its spectacular red or orange (rarely yellow) flowers in December and January, and is one of the few cool-growing orchid species that reliably provides a colourful Christmas floral display. After experimenting with a variety of potting media for many years, I find that Sphagnum moss



Disa uniflora

produces best results, provided that it is replaced each year. March, when the new growths begin to develop, seems to be the best month for re-potting. The moss should never be allowed to dry out for long. Most of my plants are grown with their pots immersed to a depth of 8-10 mm in a tray containing a weak solution of liquid fertiliser (Peters Professional®, N:P:K = 18:8:15, 200 ppm).

Although there are over 300 other *Disa* species native to Africa, only a few are amenable to cultivation. The only one (apart from *Disa uniflora*) that I have managed to maintain in cultivation for over ten years is the much smaller *Disa tripetaloides*. It usually produces its small white (or pink) flowers in January. Other species that have been used in hybridising include *Disa aurata* (yellow), *Disa cardinalis* (red) and *Disa racemosa* (pink). One other *Disa* species, *Disa bracteata* (once known as *Monadenia bracteata*), is infamous for having been introduced accidentally into Western Australia in the 1940s. This unattractive, self-pollinating species has spread east as far as Victoria, despite all efforts to eradicate it.



Disa tripetaloides

The terrestrial *Pterygodium catholicum* is the only species in this genus of 13 species that I have seen in Victoria. It has small pea-sized tubers that can be cultivated in exactly the same manner as greenhood (*Pterostylis*) species. The small, hooded greenish yellow flowers, 5-8 per inflorescence, usually open in September.



Like most greenhood orchids, they must be allowed to become dormant during summer. Grown in this way, they reproduce rapidly, each tuber giving rise to 3-5 replacement tubers every season. Flowering is sparse unless the dormant tubers are treated with ethylene gas (provided by a banana skin in a plastic bag) for 2-3 weeks during January.



Satyrium carneum
'George' CBM/OSCOV

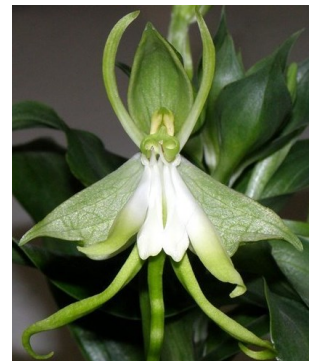


Pterygodium catholicum

Much more satisfying are the flowers of several *Satyrium* species, especially *Satm. carneum* and *Satm. erectum*, which produce a tall spike bearing a succession of white and pink or pink flowers, respectively. Neither of these species is as yet widely available in Victoria but *Satm. candidum*, a species with small greenish white flowers, occasionally appears on our sales benches, no doubt because of its greater rate of multiplication.

Another spectacular South African terrestrial species, which I admire but have yet to acquire, is *Bonatea speciosa*. It can stand up to a metre tall, and bear a cluster of a dozen or more large, spidery green and white flowers.

Bonatea speciosa



Stenoglottis longifolia

One of the most widely grown South African species is *Stenoglottis longifolia*, which produces a tall inflorescence bearing a succession of small pink flowers in late autumn. It grows as a lithophyte in Natal but in cultivation it seems to do well grown under cool conditions in a range of potting media, including pine bark/moss, perlite/sand and various terrestrial mixes. *Stenoglottis woodii* has a smaller plant that flowers in December and January. The white (sometimes pink) flowers (up to 40) are produced successively, a dozen or more being open at the same time. It is native to Natal and Transkei and does slightly better for me when grown with winter warmth.

Stenoglottis fimbriata is the most common of the four known species in nature and is well known in Victorian collections, but not in mine, as I eventually killed the small seedling I acquired several years ago! I also grow *S. zambesiaca* but it is not a native of South African, being found (presumably) in the Zambesi River basin.



Stenoglottis woodii



Stenoglottis fimbriata



Stenoglottis zambesiaca

Most of South Africa's epiphytic orchids seem to grow in the northern provinces of Transvaal and Natal, and many of them are found further to the north in adjoining countries. About ten species of the genus *Polystachya* are found in the Republic of South Africa but over a hundred others are to be found in tropical Africa, while a few species grow in tropical America and Asia. The most commonly grown in Melbourne is *Polystachya pubescens*, which in nature is found on rocks or trees in cool, shady places. Its upright inflorescences bear up to ten yellow flowers, each about 20 mm across. The lateral sepals and labellum often have



Polystachya pubescens

horizontal, orange stripes and the flowers are held with their lips uppermost. I grow this species under intermediate conditions (12°C minimum) and find that it does best in a pot using river pebbles as the potting 'mix'.

Two species of the African genus *Cyrtorchis* are fairly common in the Republic of South Africa. *Cyrtorchis praetermissa* is usually found in the upper branches of shady trees near rivers, while *Cyrtcs. arcuata* is also found on boulders and rock faces. The flowers are white or cream, those of *Cyrtcs. arcuata* turning orange as they age. These species have few roots but they are extremely thick, being designed to cope with the "hostile" environment in which they grow – it's said that the temperature may often range from freezing to 38°C on the same day.



Cyrtorchis arcuata



Cyrtorchis praetermissa

In addition to these species, I also grow two African bulbophyllums, although only one (*Bulbophyllum scaberulum*) is found in South Africa. The other (*Bulb. maximum*) is native to tropical Africa. Both are members of the section Megaclinium, which is characterised by furrowed pseudo-bulbs widely-spaced along the rhizome. The small flowers are distributed alternately on either side of the flattened inflorescence and open sequentially over several weeks or longer. They are grown for the novelty of their plants and flowers, not for their beauty or perfume.



Bulbophyllum scaberulum

Other South African epiphytic species in cultivation in Melbourne include *Ansellia africana*, *Mystacidium capense*, *Aerangis mystacidii* and *Jumellea filicornoides*. Although I grow the latter, it has yet to flower. Nevertheless I feel confident in recommending it on the basis of my experience with other *Jumellea* species (from Madagascar), which grow rapidly and produce their fragrant, white flowers several times each year.



Ansellia africana



Mystacidium capense



Aerangis mystacidii

STANHOPEAS by Bill Mather

[First Published in *Orchids in Victoria* by OSCOV]

There are approximately sixty species in the genus Stanhopea, all native to central America from Mexico south to Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. They are mainly found growing on steep mountain sides, trees and rocks but there are also a few terrestrial species. Although some of these species grow near sea level, others are found at altitudes up to 5000 m, so by no means are they all warm growers and some thrive in Melbourne in conditions suited ideally for cymbidiums. My Stanhopeas grow in baskets lined with paperbark and are suspended about 500 mm below the shade cloth roof (50% shade factor) of my cymbidium house during both summer and winter.

Stanhopeas grown in shade houses generally flower in summer or autumn. Usually the first flower 'spears' (flower spikes) emerge from beneath the basket in late spring and take about two months to develop fully. Flowering is spectacular – the flower 'spears' emerge from the base of the mature pseudobulbs, pierce the liner of the basket and eventually the buds burst open (sometimes with an audible pop) in early morning. A heavy, sweet fragrance is immediately released. The flowers last for only three days, which in nature gives the pollinator (a bee) little time to have his wicked way. The grower faces the same time constraint to show his plant at an orchid meeting!

Transporting your plant to a meeting is not difficult, although it requires some ingenuity. Select a deep box or bucket which is a little wider than your basket and thrust two stakes horizontally through it just below the rim. These stakes will support the basket so that the inflorescence will dangle safely within the box or bucket. Some fore-thought is also necessary as to how your exhibit will be displayed – either on your own stand or by propping the basket on its side on the bench.

The genus *Stanhopea* was founded on *Stanhopea insignis* when that flamboyant orchid flowered at Kew Gardens in 1828-1829, and there are about sixty other species. Natural hybrids are rare because, although different *Stanhopea* species may flower side by side, each has its own perfume which attracts a different species of bee. Also the precise dimensions of the fertilisation path that the bee follows down the lip limits the size of the bee and the pollen mass that the bee can carry away.



***Stanhopea
insignis***



**Left:
*Stanhopea
tigrina***

**Right:
*Stanhopea
wardii***

Some *Stanhopea* species are quite variable in colour and markings. The species most commonly benched in Melbourne are *Stan. nigroviolacea* [This species is now considered synonymous with *Stan. tigrina*], *Stan. tigrina* and *Stan. wardii*. The flowers of *Stan. tigrina* are larger and the tiger stripes are made up of an aggregation of red spots. The red spots on the flowers of *Stan. nigroviolacea* are randomly distributed on the sepals and the base of these cream-coloured segments is covered by an intense “bull’s-blood” red. *S. wardii* has 5-10 medium-sized, golden flowers covered with fine red spots with a conspicuous eye spot at the base of the lip.

More important than flower count, size or colour, the shape of the lip is the main basis on which taxonomists separate the *Stanhopea* species. The lip is considered in three obvious sections – the hypochile (the bulky perfumed part at the top where the lip meets the base of the column), the mesochile (the short middle section which carries the horns) and the epichile (the piece at the end, which is more or less heart-shaped). The hypochile is the source of the perfume which attracts the pollinator, a particular species of bee. Having invaded the hypochile, drunk the nectar and over-indulged, the bee slides down the chute formed by the horns of the mesochile to the epichile, in the process having the pollinia attached to its metathorax by a sticky glue.

SEEDLINGS AND MERICLONES by Julian Coker

[First Published in *Orchids in Victoria* by OSCOV]

So often people are confused with the difference between a seedling and a mericlone. A **seedling** is a plant resulting from the growth of a single orchid seed, formed by the union of a male pollen grain with a female ovum. It is a uniquely new plant that has inherited various features from both of its parents. Even when an orchid is crossed with itself (selfing), or where two plants of the same species are crossed with each other, variation is obvious in the resultant seedlings. A **mericlone** on the other hand is a plant that results from the multiplication of tissue from the meristematic area of a single plant. All resulting plants have an exactly identical makeup and barring mutation, will all be identical.

A six to nine month period from pollination to harvesting of the seed, followed by a nine to twelve month period in tissue culture to produce a viable plant for the outside environment, followed by three to five years to produce a flowering plant, gives a five to seven year generation time, so growing seedlings, where there is no guarantee of a desirable result, is generally for the commercial grower or the genuine devotee. It is however, almost invariably through seedlings that advances in cymbidiums appear.

Advances may take the form of a show champion, a new shape or colour, or some other outstanding feature. The chances of achieving this is small, perhaps one in a hundred or one in a thousand, but with the constant improvement in genetic material available in parents and the increasing knowledge possessed by hybridisers, the chances are improving and the satisfaction is great when the exceptional seedling appears.

Many avenues are now available in cymbidium breeding lines and rewards are available in all of them. Most hybrids are produced with commercial benefit paramount but for some hybridisers the show bench orchid is more appealing and many seedlings are also produced with this end in view. In addition, seedlings with the potential to provide new shapes and colours and colour combinations are becoming more available, as well as those with extended flowering times, perfumes, warmth tolerance, super-productivity and other desirable features.

All good collections contain a number of seedlings, and it is best to add to these regularly. With small collections, a few may be purchased each year from the various catalogues available. Bear in mind that accompanying descriptions describe expectations and that hybridisers are great optimists. With larger collections, more seedlings or a few community pots comprising a number of seedlings from the same grex may be grown.

You are never too old or too young to start growing seedlings. Once a collection has become established over a period of time, there is the constant excitement of seeing what unique flowers appear each year. Be part of the excitement and the future of the cymbidium. You may be the lucky one!





Orchid Culture Notes for March

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Orchid Culture Notes for March (cont.)

For the new chum it would be advisable to speak to those growers who show *Oncidium*'s to get some ideas. My best *Oncidium*'s grow on a mount and are hung above the cyms. 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: Whilst COVID restrictions are in place the Club meets on the Second Monday of the month at RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. at 8.00p.m.

THE DAYTIME CHAPTER: meets at the Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00p.m.

THE SOUTHERN REGION: meets at Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor at 2.00p.m. on the 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.

NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY: meets in St. Philip's Church Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Adelaide West Uniting Church Hall, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park from 7.30p.m. on the 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.

Our Affiliated Clubs:

The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.

The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.



AFFILIATED CLUBS

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

If unclaimed please return to
P.O. Box 314 Oaklands Park S.A. 5046



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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.
E. & O. E.**