



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

March 2019

President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 8.00 pm at St. Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. Our Guest Speaker will be Paul Dipuglia from Neutrog discussing there latest developments. There will be gifts of Neutrog products. **PLEASE BRING A PLATE** for Supper.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: The next class will be 6th March 2019 at 7.30pm with Geoff Spear.

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 14th March 2019 at 2.00 pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Renate Faast talking about the Burning Issue: Orchid Fire.

Daytime Chapter attendees please note that in March, if the temperature is above 35 degrees there will be no meeting as there is no air conditioning but only fans in the Lou Kesting Hall.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 17th March 2019 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs talking of Terrestrials, Serapias, & Satyrium Orchids.

NEW MEMBERS: The club welcomes Graham Fear and Adrian Bockmann as new members to the Club. We hope you enjoy your time with us and your orchid growing experiences will be memorable.

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 on an Attendance Sheet.

VALE - Geraldine Flavel

Geraldine, (known to many as Jerry) passed away on Sunday 8th February 2019. Peter and Geraldine joined South Coast Orchid Club in 1990. Looking after Peter, family, and Orchids were the loves of her life. Peter and Geraldine were both excellent orchid growers, growing a lot of the rare, hard to grow Orchids, It did not take them very long to become one of our top growers, winning many ribbons, and you will find many of our Trophies bear their name. They both made a great team on out Trading Table. We will all miss you Geraldine.

Rest in Peace .

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
March 24 and April 22



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YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2019



PRESIDENT: Michael Willoughby
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: Malcolm Manglesdorf
VICE PRESIDENT: Kevin Western
SECRETARY: Lucy Spear
TREASURER: Anne Steer
COMMITTEE: Donna Meeuwsen, Oui Ju, Jim Fogarasi,
 Christine Robertson, Craig Humfrey,
 Geoffrey Spear, Craig Dicker

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

Registrar Phil Steer
Editor Christine Robertson
Web Master Michael Willoughby
Librarians Raelene Gardner (Main Meeting)
 Diane Cawley (Southern Region)
Photographers Neil Cooper, Craig Humfrey
Convenor S. R. Group Geoff Spear

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 *	This list is still being
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	compiled.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2019 are now due. 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

HELP WANTED FOR WORKSHOPS IN 2019

We are seeking members with a shed or covered outdoor area to hold workshops for the months of April, June, August, October and December. It is anticipated that workshops would be of two and a half hour duration.

- The first half hour would be for socialising with a cuppa and biscuits.
- The second half hour would be for showing your collection.
- The last hour and a half will be discussing growing orchids, questions and answers and any orchid information.

President's Message



I'm sure you will agree Henry Hancock's presentation was a very interesting insight to some of the variety of plant life in Sabah (Borneo) as well as the conditions faced in going to see this beautiful area of the world.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners and also to Paul & Donja Hayes on being promoted to Open Division and Rowan Crowhurst and Sid James on being promoted to First Division.

With great sadness we said goodbye to Geraldine Flavel in February (Geraldine you will be missed greatly) whilst several of our members are still on the sick list. We are thinking of you and wishing you well.

Members please see Lucy if you may have time to host a workshop. We have some planned, however, we would like to hold more throughout the year. Workshops are a great way to be involved with other club members and valuable information can always be gleaned.

Coming events include a BBQ at Jane and Don Higgs, SCOCSA Autumn Show (new venue will be Hallett Cove Shopping Centre), SAROC Fair, Cym Club Show and the Mystery Bus trip on May 26th. Put the date of this trip in your diary now and participate in what will be a fun day out. This will also be a great opportunity mix with members of the Club socially.

Successful growing and showing

Michael Willoughby

PLANT OF MONTH - *Dendrochilum filiforme*

Dendrochilum filiforme was bought to the Trainee Judges Seminar this month. This is one of more than 400 species in this genus. The species is found on Luzon Island, Philippines on trees to elevations of 660m. It is known as the Golden Chain Orchid or Thread Like Dendrochilum.

It is a small clump-forming epiphyte with elongate egg shaped pseudobulbs covered at the base with a papery sheath. They become grooved with age. A single long stalked, erect leaf comes from the apex of the pseudobulb as well as a long, slender, wiry, arching inflorescence with up to 1000 fragrant flower in 2 ranks on the raceme. The flowers are yellowish white to yellow, with an often golden 3-lobed lip.

The species has not been used in hybridising. This orchid has only been awarded once in Australia with an ACM in 2012. It is well awarded overseas.





ORCHID CALENDAR 2019

AUTUMN SHOW: Sunday 5th May to 11th May 2019
Hallett Cove Shopping Centre

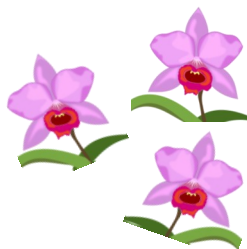
MYSTERY BUS TRIP: Sunday 26th May 2019
[see details below in this Gazette]

S.A.R.O.C. FAIR The 2019 SAROC Fair will be held at the Torrens Drill Hall,
King William Road, Adelaide on Saturday 15th June
and Sunday 16th June 2019

WINTER SHOW: Sunday 28th July to Saturday 3rd August 2019
Colonnades Shopping Centre

SOUTH REGION SHOW: Thursday 22nd August to Sunday 25th August 2019
Victor Central Shopping Centre

SPRING SHOW: Sunday 22nd September to Saturday 28th September 2019
Seaford Shopping Centre



MYSTERY BUS TRIP

A Mystery bus trip will happen on Sunday 26th May 2019. Pick up will be at 9.00 am at Lou Kesting Hall, Dover Square, off Broadway, South Brighton. We will arrive home about 5.00 pm.

Guess where we are going. Each month at the meetings, you will find a box on the Secretary's table. You can place your guesses in this box. On the bus as we depart, the winner will be drawn. First person with correct answer drawn from the Box will receive a voucher to buy an Orchid plant at our destination. **Only clue:** We are heading north.

Other attractions:

- Barbecue for Lunch. Please bring a salad, we will have eskies to put them in.
- The Mangroves. There is a small cost to anyone wanting to walk on the Board Walk.

We need 45 members to keep the cost at the very low price of \$25.00 each. Book now, we will later open the offer to relatives and friends. A Deposit of \$13.00 is required to book your place on the bus. This can be paid to the Treasurer at meetings, or by direct bank deposit to our account: Account Details: BSB: 105145 Acct No. 545457040



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Trophy Winners 2018



ELSIE CHISHOLM TROPHY

[This was our first trophy donated in 1980 for Best Novelty Cymbidium (now 60-90 mm). Elsie's nickname was Chiz. She joined the Club in the late 60s. Chiz passed away whilst looking after her orchids in her flowering house, with her arms around an orchid plant. Her husband, Rod, was a war veteran, and spent his last days in a Nursing Home at Magill.]

Best Cymbidium 60-90mm for 2018

Laurie & Sue Carter

M NG TROPHY

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

Most Floriferous in Spring Show 2018

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

CHIN YEW LIAN TROPHY

Donated by Sylvester Ng

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

ROY HILL TROPHY

[Roy became a member in the late 70s. He loved Cymbidiums and was a very hard worker for the Club]

Best Cymbidium 60-90mm Winter Show 2018

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

H & B VINEY TROPHY

[Berna and Harry, both Life Members. Donated by Berna in memory of Harrison. Harry worked tirelessly for the Club over many years holding many positions including President.]

Champion Cattleya at Autumn Show 2018

Vicky & Neil Cooper

LEWIS MOORE TROPHY

[Rosalie donated a tray in 1999 in memory of Lewis who died in 1989. With Rosalie, he was on the Committee for many years. Both were judges and Lewis was Treasurer. They both loved SCOCSA and worked very hard for the Club]

Highest Aggregate Points for Australian

Epiphytic Species 2018

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

JOHN LEEDER TROPHY

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

**Most points in Odontoglossum and
Oncidinae Alliance Spring Show 2108**

Paul & Donja Hayes

GLEN FOREST TROPHY

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

**Highest Aggregate Points for
Paphiopedilum Species 2018**

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Trophy Winners 2018 cont...



P C LOKE TROPHY

[Donated by Sylvester Ng]

Highest Aggregate Points at Three Shows 2018 Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

M & S. STEELE TROPHY

[Shirley and Mervyn, both Life Members, joined SCOCSA in the very early days. Both were tireless workers for the Club; nothing was ever too much trouble for Mervyn. Shirley donated the Trophy in 2007]

**Highest Aggregate Points for Paphiopedilums
1st and 2nd Division 2018**

Christine Robertson

STEVEN GAMBLE TROPHY

[Steven, a teenage Member of SCOCSA, loved Australian Native Terrestrials. The Trophy was donated in his name by his parents when he passed away in 1987]

**Highest Aggregate Points for Australian
Native Terrestrials 2018**

Jane & Don Higgs

A.O.C.TROPHY

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

GARARD and WESTERN HYBRIDISING TROPHY

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

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

W A YOUNG TROPHY

Champion Autumn Show 2018

Vicky & Neil Cooper

CLOCK TROPHY

[Donated by Helen and Charlie Edwards. Helen is a Life Member and was convenor of the Daytime Chapter. Both worked very hard for the Club]

Champion Winter Show 2018

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

TONY DEIONNO AND TOSHIE TROPHY

[Donated by Life Member, Tony]

Champion Spring Show 2018

Geoff & Lucy Spear

HIGHEST YEARLY AGGREGATE POINT WINNERS

Overall Winner:	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju	287 pts
Open Division:	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju	287 pts
First Division:	Phi & Anne Steer	114 pts
Second Division:	Helen Humphrys	143 pts

Congratulations to all of the Trophy Winners for 2018

Very Well Done

TROPHY WINNERS FOR 2018



Laurie & Sue Carter
Elsie Chisholm Trophy



Geoff & Lucy Spear
Tony de Ionno & Toshie Trophy



Jane Higgs (& Don)
Steven Gamble Trophy

Photos by
Neil Cooper



Neil & Vicky Cooper
One of their 2 Trophies



Anne & Phil Steer
First Division
Aggregate Trophy



Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
With some of their many trophies



Christine Robertson
M & S Steele Trophy

February Results List

Ref. No.



Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

1964	Sarco. Belmont Rose	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
1965	Sarco. Belmont Rose 'Embers'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

Laeliinae - Cluster

1966	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Dorothy'	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119)	3
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Laeliinae - Non Standard

1967	Psh. Green Hornet	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

1968	Encyclia alata	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

1974	Gom. Alosuka 'Clair'	John & Bev Gay (65)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1977	Den. Sonia 'Earsakul'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1978	Sngl. sp. aff. woodii	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Orchid Seedling - any Genera

1979	Phrag. Rouge Bouillon	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Species

1975	Paph. godefroyae var. leucochilum 'Mouliache'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

1981	Psh. Green Hornet	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

1976	Zga. (Freestyle Meadows x Holdfast Bay)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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First Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard

1969	Lc. Intercepts 'Henk's Choice'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

1970	Psh. cochleata 'Millie'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

1971	Oncsa. Sweet Sugar	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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1972	Onc. (Pacific Space Lustre x Issaku Negata)	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	2
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1973	Phal. Happy Carol	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Second Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard

1961	Lc. Ida Elizabeth 'Enchanting'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1962	Stan. (oculata x nigroviolacea)	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

1963	V. falcata	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Happy Birthday

NEIL COPPER, JIM FOGARASI, JOY GRUND,
HELMUT HERMANN. JOSEPHINE OGROWSKI,
BARBARA ALMOND, PATTY ABELL, PHIL STEER,
TONY GODER, REG CLIFFORD, MARILYN JELFS,
GRACE NOLL, VAL PHILIPS, RUTH TUGWELL,
DUDLEY HUXTABLE, DIANE CAWLEY,
TONY BUTCHER, MEAGAN CLAYTON



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY

Being February there was a much smaller showing of plants across all divisions, with three in Second Division, six plants in First Division, and eleven plants in Open Division.

Orchid of the Night and Orchid of Open Division

The plant of Open Division was *Paphiopedilum godefroyae* var. *leucochilum* 'Mouliache' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This was a seedling and we have now seen a couple of this plant's siblings and it continues to impress. This species is found in Peninsula Thailand at elevations of less than 50 feet above sea level on limestone cliffs in leaf matter or moss or tree roots. *Paph. godefroyae* has been used quite extensively in hybridizing and has been used as a parent plant for 184 first generation offspring. It has been awarded on 125 occasions.

Congratulations Michael and Oui



Orchid of the Night
Orchid of Open Division
Paph. godefroyae var. *leucochilum*
 'Mouliache'
 Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
 Photos Neil Cooper



Seedling of the Night
Phrag. Rouge Bouillon
 Grown by Jane & Don Higgs
 Photo Neil Cooper

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY cont.

Orchid of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Anne Steer and was *Phalaenopsis* Happy Carol. There were 8 flowers of good shape, evenly displayed on one inflorescence. The colour was a pinky orange with a nice contrasting lip of magenta.

Congratulations Anne.



Orchid of First Division

Phal. Happy Carol

Grown by Anne & Phil Steer

Photos Neil Cooper

Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful little plant of *Vanda [Neofinitia] falcata*, grown by Sue & Laurie Carter. This little plant generally grows naturally at an angle so water does not collect at the base of the plant. This species is native to Japan and likes high light conditions and a temperature range of 36°C down to -7°C. This plant had 5 flowers that were all very petite. A well grown small plant.

Well done Sue & Laurie.

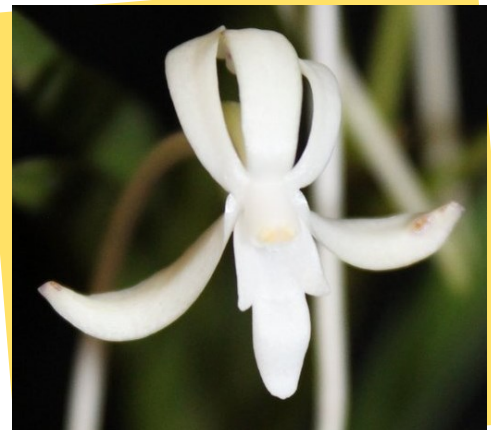


Orchid of Second Division

V. falcata

Grown by Laurie & Sue Carter

Photos Neil Cooper



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

Good Growing .

Phil Steer Registrar



DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 14th February 2019



Hi Everyone,

Although everybody was looking forward to the coming year after having a good Christmas, it was unfortunately a sad beginning because of the passing of our dear friend Geraldine Flavel. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter at this time.

During the meeting we had fun with Valentine's Day and the Year of the Pig. Trevor Kenny won a prize for being born in the year of the pig but we won't divulge what year. We discussed an article that was in the Advertiser on how 8 rare orchids had been saved from extinction by fire. The members have asked Lucy to see if she can find a speaker who might have been involved in the project to speak at our next meeting. (let's hope)

Lesley Gunn with the help of Rob gave us the most wonderful talk on Costa Rica, her talk was on the fabulous Flora and Fauna of the area. It really whetted our appetites to see the magnificent scenery, the grandeur of the volcanoes and the wow of orchids. Many of the photos that Lesley showed were of beautifully coloured orchids that are rarely seen in Australia it made us all very envious. Once again thank you Lesley, the little sloth was cute.

Lesley won the Plant of the Day with a very pretty pink *Oncidodia* 'Possum Wolf'. Lucy spoke on the Mystery Bus trip in May and several members indicated their interest.

Our next meeting is on the 14th March and if the temperature is 35 degrees or over the meeting will be cancelled. As it was Valentine's Day we had a delicious afternoon tea that was enjoyed by all.



Patty & Barbara



Lesley Gunn with Patty Abell showing her
Plant of the Day
Oncidodia 'Possum Wolf'



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING **Sunday 17th February 2019**

For a first meeting of the new year, this meeting was a great start to the year. Geoff Spear opened the meeting and welcomed everyone especially our Guest Speaker, Roger Herraman. Geoff thanked John Gay for the wonderful job he does each month with the Learners Group.

Apologies: Kay Davey, Elsie Clifford, Lorna Zerbe, Regina Lingen, Margaret Yelland.

Graham Zerbe introduced a new Trophy for competition of the Southern Region Group Members named the Noel Oliver Memorial Trophy for the Best Australian Native Dendrobium Orchid. He presented this trophy to its first recipient: Eileen Pinnock. Graham also presented Eileen with the Trophy donated by the Onkaparinga Council for Best Australian Native.

The Graham & Sue Zerbe Trophy Winner was not present, Helen Humphrys, so she will receive her Trophy next meeting.

Our guest speaker for the day was Roger Herraman, who gave a brilliant talk on Dockrillia (This genus is included in the genus Dendrobium by the registering body). His presentation was very well accepted. Roger had plants for sale and not many went home with him Thank You Roger.

Judging: Thank you to our judge John Gay & Associate judge, Christine Robertson. Thank you also to data collector Sue Zerbe for a very good job. Graham gave a judges commentary on all of the plants benched ably assisted by John Gay.

- **Plant of the Day and Plant of Second Division:**
Phal. Unknown Grown by Genny & Dudley Huxtable
- **Plant of First Division and Popular Vote:**
Den. (Jaquelyn Concert x Uniwai Royale) Grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen

NOTICES:

A Plant House Visit is being arranged in October to Jane & Don Higgs. Date next month.

SAROC Fair is the same time as Southern Region Meeting in June. Lucy will try to swap dates with another club so that meeting could be on 9th June.

Southern Region Show is booked at the Victor Central Shopping Centre 22nd-25th August 2019. at top of travellator. More details later.



Next Meeting: Sunday 17th March 2019 at 2.00 pm.

Learners' Group 1.15 pm with John Gay. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs talking on Terrestrial, Serapias and Satyrium Orchids.

Southern Region February Results

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

First Division

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

1445	Epi. (Bees Knees x Venosum)	Eileen Pinnock (519)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1442	Den. (Jaquelyn Concert x Uniwai Royale)	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
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1443	Den. Blue Foxtale	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	2
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1444	V. (J& B x Te Anek)	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	1
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Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

1437	Ctt. Valentine Day 'Ren'	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

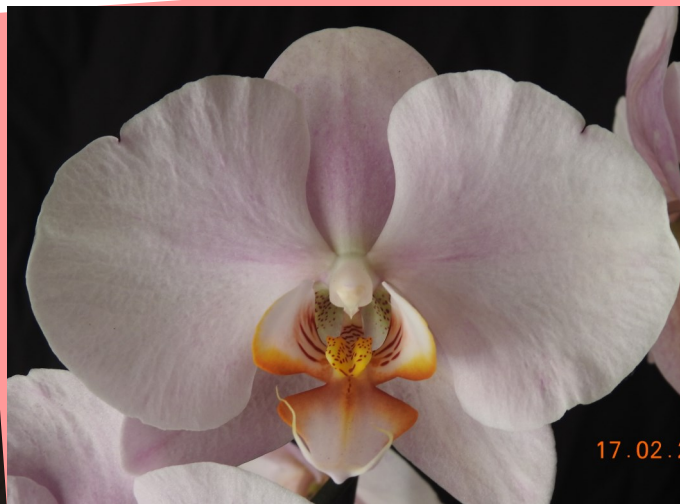
1438	Milt. Bert Field	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

1439	Phal. Unknown	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	3
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1440	Phal. Noid	Lesley & Mike Milicevic (254)	2
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1441	Phal. Unknown	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	1
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Orchid of Second Division and Plant of the Day

Phal. Unknown

Grown by Genny & Dudley Huxtable



**Orchid of First Division
and Popular Vote**

Den. (Jaquelyn Concert x Uniwai Royale)
Grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen



**SOUTHERN REGION GROUP
TROPHIES 2018**



VICTOR HARBOR TROPHY

(Grand Champion of SRG SHOW)

Ruth Tugwell

AGGREGATES POINTS TROPHY

(Aust. Natives Orchids)

Eileen Pinnock

GRAHAM AND SUE ZERBE TROPHY

(SRG Best in Second Division)

Helen Humphrys

NOEL OLIVER MEMORIAL TROPHY

(Aust Native Orchids Aggregate)

Eileen Pinnock

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL TROPHY WINNERS



Eileen Pinnock
receives her
Trophies from
Graham Zerbe

Photos Craig Humfrey





Orchid Culture Notes for March

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

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

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

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

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

Sarcochilus will also show new roots as they emerge from summer semi dormancy. They will look stressed in many cases but the emergence of new roots and the cooler nights will soon have them looking good again. Many will have scorched leaves and in some cases centre growths rotted out, a combination of the heat and too much water in the crowns over 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 cym's. They are watered daily in summer and fed often and preferably in the morning. They get minimal attention during their resting period and are kept on the dry side. They reward me with numerous spikes every year and are a good indicator to the general health of the collection and the conditions I try to provide.

Your *Zygopetalum*'s and their relations will be showing plenty of new growths and often when these growths are only a couple of inches high will come out the new flower spikes. They are fragile at this stage and susceptible to insect attack. Keep moist and feed with a balanced or bloom booster type feed. Make sure you keep water away from these new growths as well as fertiliser. A couple of pellets of slow release in the crown of a new growth is the best way to rot out most of the new leaves. Try it! I made the mistake last season by getting lazy and broadcasting some of the fertiliser instead of placing it strategically on each pot and I lost a lot of leaves. It won't kill them but the set back resulting from the loss of leaves won't help next year's flowering stakes. The new growth minus most of their leaves will struggle to develop anything even remotely the size of the previous year's pseudobulb. With some luck the plant may initiate a second dormant shoot. Slugs and caterpillars will be on the increase this month so take precautions as they love juicy zygo spikes. Most of them will be hiding under bricks or pots if you have them on the ground. As the older growths mature leaf spotting can become more prevalent. You could try a monthly fungicidal spray to reduce the effects. There is a school of thought as to what causes this, ranging from fungal issues to the weather, light and temperature and an argument I stay away from. Modern breeding is helping reduce this factor and provide cleaner plants. Spotty plants are hard to show and harder to sell.

With the cooler months nearly upon us *Paphiopedilum*'s will be looking for a boost to assist them with flowering. Like many genera it is a temperature drop that often initiates spikes. This is why we spray our cymbidiums at night in December and January and why I put my *Phalaenopsis* outside for a few nights late this month when the nights get down to 11 or 12. Basically my *Paphiopedilum*'s also get a spray at night and the feeding changes to one of higher P & K but taking into account their sensitivity to salts in the fertiliser I make sure they are adequately flushed from time to time as well.

March will also see a significant shortening of the days, this too is another signal to our plants of the changing of the season. As the sun retreats to the northern hemisphere we now start searching for the sun, the same sun that only three months earlier burnt the living daylight out of our plants. I am and always have been an advocate of moving my plants around in tune with the seasons. I enjoy this plant shuffle. To me it's like rearranging the furniture. But the method of my madness has a reason. Plants are moved to get full sun, to stay dry, to get more air or whatever the move entails. A few years of observations has plants that have their own reserved spot each year and why not. If it grows good there why move it unless you think you might do better. Soon my lounge and family room will be full of the tropical species that spend summer in the shade house but would surely die if left out there in winter. This is another example of knowing some back ground about your plant and if you cannot provide it with care in an outside situation then you can improvise.

April is soon upon us. It is a warm month with cool nights and maybe a little more rain. The amount of effort in watering and feeding our orchids starts to reduce now but on the other hand protection and preparation for flowering takes centre stage.



Steve Howard

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

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Bernadette's Church Hall corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Mary's. Beginners Class starts at 7.15p.m., meeting 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
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E. & O. E.**