

The South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

Gazette

**March
2016**



PRESIDENT: Michael Willoughby

PATRON: Sydney Monkhouse

AT A GLANCE

The meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at 8.00 pm. on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at St Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. The guest speaker will be Kevin Cattermole who will talk on Growing Specimen Orchids.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: Next meeting March 2nd with Geoff Spear discussing Autumn Growing.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday, 10th March 2016 at 1.30 pm. Beginners' Class 1.30 pm. David Williams will show us how to make orchid props from recycled products.

SOUTHERN REGION GROUP

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm. on Sunday 20th March 2016 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Guest speaker will be John Gay speaking on Australian Native Orchids.

JUDGING

Please have plants benched by 7.40 pm so judging can commence at 7.50pm. If you are running late because of work commitments please phone Phil on 0438 891 612

PROMOTIONS

The South Coast Orchid Club is very happy to announce the promotions of these members:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| First Division to Open | - Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju |
| Second Division to First | - Shirley & Don Greig |
| | - Ruth & Kevin Tugwell |

Congratulations to you all. May you have many happy years growing your wonderful orchids.

NEW MEMBERS

The President and Committee of S.C.O.C. welcome the following new members:

Shirley Mickam
Raelene Gardner
John Beckmann

We hope you will have a very rewarding time with our Club.

LUCKY NAME BADGE

Make sure you wear your Name Badge, you may win a prize.

Website: <http://www.scocsa.net>

E-Mail: lucys18@bigpond.com

ABN 83 245 384 076

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CLUB MEETING DATES FOR 2016

March 2016

02 Main Meeting - Kevin Cattermole
09 Committee Meeting
10 Daytime Chapter - David Williams
20 Southern Region Group

April 2016

06 Main Meeting - Trevor Garard on Phalaenopsis
13 Committee Meeting
14 Daytime Chapter - Vicky Cooper
17 Southern Region Group

May 2016

04 Main meeting - Graham Zerbe on the Mackay Conference
11 Committee Meeting
12 Daytime Chapter
15 Southern Region Group

June 2016

01 Main meeting - Workshop
08 Committee Meeting
09 Daytime Chapter
19 Southern Region Group

July 2016

06 Main meeting - Steve Howard on Catacetums
13 Committee Meeting
14 Daytime Chapter
17 Southern Region Group - Peter Hall on Bromeliads

August 2016

03 Main meeting - Lesley Gunn on Thailand
10 Committee Meeting
11 Daytime Chapter
21 Southern Region Group

September 2016

07 Main Meeting - TBA
08 Committee Meeting
14 Daytime Chapter
18 Southern Region Group

October 2016

05 Main meeting-TBA
12 Committee Meeting
13 Daytime Chapter
16 Southern Region Group - George Abel on Sarcs

November 2016

02 Main Meeting-TBA on Sarcs
09 Committee Meeting
10 Daytime Chapter
20 Southern Region Group - Chris & Lyn Heysen on Phalaenopsis

December 2016

07 Main Meeting-TBA
08 Daytime Chapter
18 Southern Region Group - Graham Zerbe

MAIN MEEETING BEGINNERS' GROUP 2016 PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Subject
March 02nd	Geoff Spear	Autumn Growing
April 06th	TBA	TBA
May 04th	TBA	TBA
June 01st	TBA	TBA

SOUTHERN REGION GROUP 2016 PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Subject
March 20th	John Gay	Australian Natives
April 17th	TBA	TBA
May15th	Noel Oliver	TBA
June 19th	TBA	TBA
July 17th	Peter Hall	Bromeliads
August 21st	Jane Higgs	Thailand
September 18th	TBA	TBA
October 16th	George Abel	Sarcochilus
November 20th	Chris & Lyn Heysen	Phalaenopsis
December 18th	Graham Zerbe	TBA

ORCHID CALENDAR FOR 2016

AUTUMN SHOW S.A.R.O.C. FAIR WINTER SHOW

SOUTHERN REGION GROUP SHOW

SPRING SHOW

SUNDAY 1st MAY TO SATURDAY 7th MAY at Pasadena
SATURDAY 18th and SUNDAY 19th JUNE.
SUNDAY 24th JULY TO SATURDAY 30th JULY at the Hallett
Cove Shopping Centre, Lonsdale Highway, Lonsdale.
THURSDAY 25th AUGUST TO SUNDAY 28th AUGUST at the
R.S.L. Hall, Coral Street, Victor Harbor.
SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER TO SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER
at the Seaford Rise Shopping Centre, Commercial Road,
Seaford

YOUR 2016 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Geoffrey Spear
VICE PRESIDENT:	Donna Meeuwsen
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear
TREASURER:	Barbara Almond
COMMITTEE:	Dorothy Carassai, Oui Ju, Heather Wright, Christine Robertson, Shirley Greig, Don Greig, David Hayhurst
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:	
Registrar	Phillip Steer
Editor	Christine Robertson
Web Master	Michael Willoughby

SUBSCRIPTIONS

2016 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE, if you have not yet paid. 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

LIFE MEMBERS - * denotes Member who has passed away.

1978 Dulcie Grave	2005 Merve Steele*
1978 Leora Harvey	2005 Shirley Steele
1978 L. & H. Poole*	Circa Tony and Toshie Deonnio*
1978 Ellie Shaw*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2007 Murray Baulderstone *
1979 Bernie Hanson*	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear
1981 Lois Hanson*	2009 Don Biebrick
1981 John Leader*	2009 Henk Van Leuveran
1985 Brenda Lynch	2010 Dorothy Carassai
1985 Bubs Gready *	2011 John and Bev Gay
1986 Harry Viney *	2012 Noel Oliver
1986 John Nichols	2015 Lesley Fenton
1989 Helen Edwards	2015 Rod McRedmond
2003 Norman Gitcham	2015 Lesley Fenton
	This list is still being compiled.

BIRTHDAY DRAW

Is your name in the Birthday Book? Please see Heather Wright.



Happy Birthday

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Almond, Patty Abell, Jim Fogarassi, Joy Grund, Peter Haltis, David Hayhurst, Andrew Lutz, Phil Steer, Helmut Hermann, Josephine Ogrowski, David Wallis, Marilyn Jelfs, Grace Noll, Val Phillips, Keven and Ruth Tugwell.

Is your name in the Birthday Book ?? Please see - Heather Wright



INTRODUCING OUR REGISTRAR FOR 2016

PHIL STEER

Phil has recently been appointed to the role of Registrar of the Club. Phil holds a number of Business and Management qualifications and is self-employed.

Phil and his wife Anne re-joined the club last year after being away for a number of years due to work and family commitments. Both Phil and Anne are keen orchid growers (although Phil will profess to being an absolute novice).

Phil began his interest in Orchids back around the time of the club being formed. As a student at Boarding School he would spend his Sundays with his Aunt and Uncle who were seriously into Orchids and avid gardeners. During these years he learnt all about spikes, shade, humidity, the correct potting medium and how to present them for showing.

After leaving school Phil continued his interest in orchids and by default started building his own collection. He recalls his first success at an Orchidaceous Society Spring Show was with a Cymbidium "Iris Gilson" Trim. This was a lovely green with an attractive pendulous spike. Another of his early favourites was a Cymbidium "Anita Pymble".

Today Phil and Anne have a collection that is predominantly Cymbidiums and Australian Natives.

In talking to Phil he admits to starting to step outside his comfort zone and trying his hand with Sarcochilus, some Zygopetalums and a couple of Phalaenopsis and Cattleya.

Phil's other interests include cooking, antiques and woodwork. Both Phil and Anne try to spend as much time as they can with their young grandchildren.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent rains in late January & early February were welcome I'm sure by all as well as much kinder weather compared to recent Summers.

The A.G. M. was well attended and the presentation by John Richards (President of Horsham & District Orchid Society) was very interesting on how he contends with temperatures when either very hot or a very low overnight temperature in the Wimmera (Western Victoria).

We had a surprise visitor, Les Nesbitt who was here to present the Les Nesbitt Trophy to Geoff & Lucy Spear for the best grown Australian native species orchid in South Australia for 2015.

Indications are we are in for an earlier flowering season as the Cyms. are sending up spikes. Fingers crossed that the rest of summer will be kind.

Successful growing & showing
Michael

JANUARY SOCIAL MEETING

Wednesday January 20th was a very hot humid night, 39 members arrived at 6.30p.m. for a B.B.Q. cooked by Geoffrey and Michael. Thank you to all members for making the delicious salads and cakes.

10 Orchids were benched for Popular Vote and 27 members voted for Peter and Geraldine Flavel's hard cane Dendrobium 'Impact', certainly a magical plant. Thank you for sharing it with us, congratulations to you both.

8.00p.m. and Graham Zerbe kept us entertained with a couple of very funny jokes, excellent photos of Orchids shown at meetings and shows in 2015, main group and S.R. group. Finishing with Graham's wonderful quotes, thank you Graham and Sue.

Peter and Geraldine Flavel with their hard cane Dendrobium 'Impact'



Members enjoying the Barbeque at the January Fun Night

FEBRUARY MEETING



The Committee for 2016: L to R. David Hayhurst, Don Greig, Barbara Almond, Shirley Greig, Oui Ju, Christine Robertson, Donna Meeuwsen (hiding), Geoff Spear, Lucy Spear, Michael Willoughby, Dorothy Carassai, Heather Wright.



President Michael Willoughby addresses the members.



Geoff Spear presenting the W A Young Trophy for Grand Champion Autumn Show to Paul Hayes.



Les Nesbitt Trophy
for the
Best Australian Orchid Species
Grown in South Australia.

Presented by Les Nesbitt to
Geoff and Lucy Spear
Congratulations Geoff and Lucy

SCOCSA 2015 TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY NAME	CLASS	NAME OF ORCHID	GROWER
Elsie Chisholm	Novelty Cymbidium @ Spring Show	Cym. (Tethys x Pink Freak)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
M G Ng	Most Floriferous @ Spring Show	Den. Delicatum	Michael Wiloughby & Oui Ju
Chin YewLian	Best Seedling overall for the year	Sarco. (Kulnura Dazzel x Sweet-heart)	Kevin Trevan
Garad Western	Best Seedling members Hybrid	Z. (Pine Road x Kosciusko)	Ron & Irene Parish John Dunn
AOC Trophy	Highest Aggregate (Meetings)	1 st Division Growers (361Pts)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
WA Young	Grand Champion - Autumn Show	Paph. (Goultenianum x Hsinying Citron)	Paul & Donja Hayes
H & C Edwards (Clock Trophy)	Grand Champion - Winter Show	Den. teretifolium 'Emily'	Geoff & Lucy Spear
Tony de Ionno & Toshy	Grand Champion – Spring Show	Den. Tyabb 'Young Splendour'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
Harry Viney	Champion Laeliinea – Autumn Show	Pss. cochleata	Paul & Donja Hayes
Roy Hill	Best Novelty Cym. – Winter Show	NO AWARD	
John Leeder	Best Onc. for year (Meetings)	Onc. Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'	Robert & Lesley Gunn
Glenn Forrest	Best Species Paph. (Meetings)	Paph. Insigne	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
PC Loke	Highest Aggregate Pionts 3 Shows	All Sections 3 Shows – 259	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
M & S Steele Trophy	Highest aggregate for <i>Paphiopedilum</i> 1 st & 2 nd Divisions	First Division – 28 points	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
L & R Moore	Highest Aggregate for Australian Native Epiphytes	All Divisions – 31 points	Eileen Pinnock
Steven Gamble	Highest Aggregate fo Australian Native Terrestrials	All Divisiona – 12 points	Kevin Western
Division Aggregates	Highest Aggregate for OPEN, FIRST & SECOND Divisions	Open Division – 137 points First division – 361 points Second Division – 91 points	Robert & Lesley Gunn Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju Ruth & Keven Tugwell

SOUTHERN REGION

Southern Group (Victor Harbor)	Grand Champion – Annual Show	<i>Ptst. curta</i>	Reg and Elsie Clifford
Graham and Sue Zerbe Trophy	Highest Aggregate Points 2nd Division (SRG)	SRG 91 Pts	Ruth and Keven Tugwell
Brian and Moyna Leedham Trophy	Australian Natives (Meetings)	SRG 31 Pts.	Eileen Pinnock

February Results List

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

396	Sarco. (Velvet x Cindy)	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	3
397	Sarco. Janice	Kevin Western (155)	2

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

393	Sarco. eriochilus	Kevin Western (155)	3
394	Sarco. hirticalcar	Kevin Western (155)	2
395	Sarco. ceciliae	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	1

Chin Yew Iian Trophy

413	Sarco. Belmont Rose	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	3
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Cymbidium under 60 Species

392	Cym. suavissimum 'Keith Andrew'	Kevin Western (155)	3
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Laeliinae - Cluster

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

401	Rth. Jungle Jumbalaya	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424)	3
402	Rlc. Creation 'Sakura Candy'	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	2
403	C. (Frenchie's Cheek x pumila)	John & Bev Gay (65)	1

Laeliinae - Species

404	Enc. alata 'Marion' HCC/AOC	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424)	3
405	Psh. brassovola	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	2

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

398	C. Mini Purple 'Tamami'	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424)	3
399	C. Mini Purple 'Dendi'	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424)	2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

389	Oncda. Charlesworthia 'Mishima'	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
388	Onc. Speckled Spire 'Whisp'	Pauline & Mark Hockey (1556)	2
390	Onc. Space Mine 'Red Shot'	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424)	1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

382	Den. Impact	Peter & Geraldine Flavel (487)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

383	Stan. nigrovolacea	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
384	Sngl. sp. aff. woodii	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	2
385	Max. cucullata	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	1

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

386	Sarco. (Velvet x Cindy)	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

391	Paph. Limidollii	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

387	Sarco. eriochilus	Kevin Western (155)	3
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Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

372	Den. Desmond Dazzler	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	3
373	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	2

Laeliinae - Cluster

375	Ctt. Valentine Day	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

378	E. alata [belizensis]	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

381	Iono Popcorn Horin	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

376	Gga. galeata	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

377	E. alata [belizensis]	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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February Results List

Points Awarded

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

372	Den. Jesmond Dazzler	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	3
373	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	2

Laeliinae - Cluster

375	Ctt. Valentine Day	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Laeliinae - Species

378	E. alata [belizensis]	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

381	Iono Popcorn Horin	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

376	Gga. galeata	Shirley & Don Greig (1128)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

377	E. alata [belizensis]	Paul & Donja Hayes (1129)	3
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Second Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard

380	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'	Vera Bastian (978)	3
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INTRODUCING OUR NEW EDITOR

CHRISTINE ROBERTSON

This edition of the Gazette is the first one for our new Editor Christine Robertson, so we hope you will forgive any little errors that might have crept in. With February being a short month the deadlines have been very tight.

Christine lives on a property near Woodchester where she conducts the Strathalbyn Boarding Kennels, looking after a range of dogs and cats for people who are going away. In addition she breeds Welsh Corgi Pembrokes and Swedish Vallhunds.

She has two very large plant tunnels where she grows her orchids. She has mainly Cymbidiums (the usual starting out orchids) but she is now branching out into Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, and a very few terrestrial orchids. You are very welcome to visit her if you are in the Strathalbyn area. At the moment she is busy dealing with fruit from her "Fruit Salad" Orchard and hopes to have some lovely apples and pears for us all in the near future.

This is your Gazette so you are welcome to contribute items of news, information on orchid culture, knowledge of any interesting upcoming events, etc. etc. You can send any items to Christine by email on: kloval@westnet.com.au or mail to: P O Box 454 Strathalbyn SA 5255 or Phone: 8536 3948

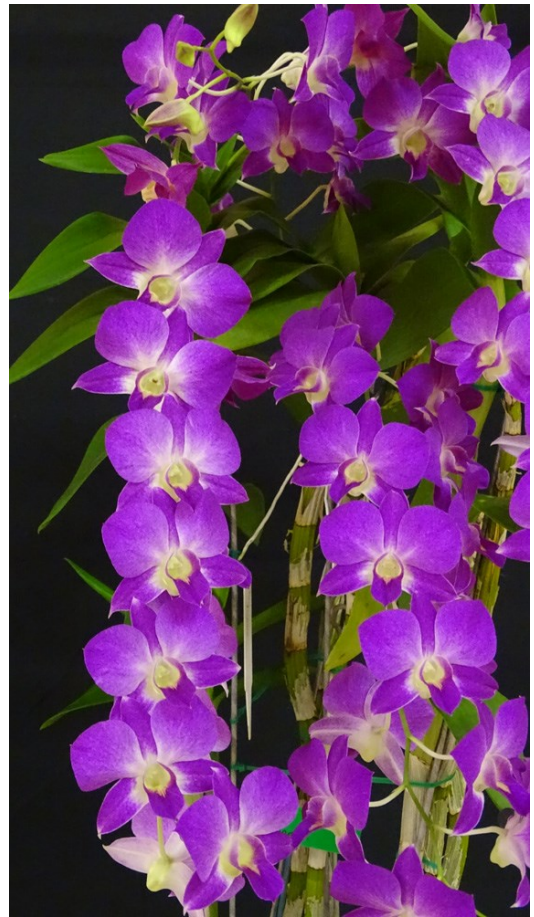
February Plant Commentary

ORCHID OF OPEN DIVISION AND

FLOWER OF THE NIGHT:

The plant chosen by the Judges AS Orchid of Open Division and Flower of the Night was Den Impact grown by Peter & Geraldine Flavel. Noel Oliver gave the commentary on this plant.

The plant had 3 beautiful arching spikes of vibrant lilac flowers. A very well grown plant that had great appeal.



FIRST DIVISION

The plant of First Division was grown by Paul & Donja Hayes and was a striking Ctt. Valentine Day. Whilst this orchid was first registered in 1988 it is still a very popular plant in most collections. The flowers were highly glossy and formed an attractive cluster.

SECOND DIVISION

The plant of Second Division of which John Gay gave the commentary was Cat Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' grown by Vera Bastian. This was a beautifully presented plant with 2 spikes of pristine white flowers. A very attractive plant. Well Done to Vera as this was her first Plant shown at a meeting.

Registrar Phil Steer





Seedling of the Night was Sarco (Velvet x Cindy) presented by Oui Ju and Michael Willoughby

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to 2016, wishing you all a happy growing and flowering season, you just need to be consistent and persistent with your daily Orchid management. Reward for effort.

Our meeting today was great (as usual) lots of happy smiling faces everyone having a good time. Geoff Spear was our Guest Speaker, doing a great job, we had a couple of our newer members there as well which was great. Geoff is a very good grower and has a fantastic back yard full of Orchids (all Mixed Genera, but mainly Cyms, his first love) during the flowering season its quite a picture, really beautiful, so I think he really knows what he is talking about, (what seems to work for him, all conditions for others could vary a bit, but his knowledge is a very good starting point) he also learnt by trial and error, as we all do, but things do get better. Thank you Geoff, the talk was much appreciated, always something else to learn.

Apologies today from Josephine, Betty, Coral and Trevor, thanks also Bill for your phone call pleased you were able to make it okay. Take care all, hope to see you again soon.

Our Display Table today had a lovely mix of assorted Genera, many Oncidiums, Cattleya, Stenoglosses (a very small dainty white flowering one) and a very unusual dark, almost black flowered plant, a very exotic one (Sorry Lesley didn't get the name) from Lesley Gunn's various Genera Collection, this was really unusual, lovely to see, thanks Lesley for bringing it in to share with us, hope to see more flowerings later on. Geoff and Lucy's ONCDA Chadsworthia 'Mishima' 4N a beautiful flowered plant with many red/orange bronze flowers, Lucy says it's been flowering for ages, one set dies off, then another spike or 2 returns, sounds a good deal to me. Congratulations and well done to you both.

The meeting was closed, thanking all in attendance, great to see you all again.

Bye for now,
Dorothy,
8277-1793.



SOUTHERN REGION GROUP MEETING
SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

The Southern Region Convenor, Geoff Spear, opened the meeting at 2 pm. welcoming 32 members. Geoff thanked Helen Humphries and Ruth Tugwell for agreeing to have plant house visits later this year on Saturday 13th August 2016.

Apologies: Bruce Kirk, Peter and Julie Davidge, Judy Crafter, and Keven Tugwell

Birthday Draw: January—Bev Gay; February - Shirley Greig

Lucky name-badge: Marilyn Jelfs

Door Prize: Shirley Greig

Guest Speaker: Graham Zerbe gave an excellent and very interesting presentation on the 2015 Mackay Orchid Conference. He covered the Show and the orchids that were presented, and he gave colourful views of the scenery, and environs of Mackay and the sugarcane. Thank you Graham for sharing with us your wonderful time in Mackay.

Judging: Noel Oliver, Graham Zerbe and John Gay. Noel did the commentary.

Plant of the day: .

Popular vote: .

Next meeting: Sunday 20th March 2016, time 1.30p.m. Guest speaker will be John Gay speaking on Australian Natives. Beginners' Class: Geoff Spear.

SRG February Results List

Second Division

Points Awarded

Laeliinae – Cluster

852	C. Valentine Day 'Kodama'	Helen Humphrys	3
853	Epi. (Salmon King x Coral King)	Marilyn Jelfs	2
854	C. Valentine Day 'March'	Marilyn Jelfs	1

Laeliinae – Non Standard

855	C. Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday'	Helen Humphrys	3
856	Lc. Intercepts	Helen Humphys	2

Laeliinae - species

857	C. Ioddigesii	Helen Humphys	3
858	Enc. Cochleata	Reg & Elsie Clifford	2

SRG February Results List

Points Awarded

First Division

Oncidiinae – Hybrid < 60 mm

861 Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'

Shirley & Don Greig 3

Oncidiinae – Hybrid > 60 mm

859 Odna. Tropical Heatwave 'Everglades'

Ruth & Keven Tugwell 3

860 Aliceara unknown

Shirley & Don Greig 2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere – Hybrid

862 Vanda (J.V.B. x Dr. Aneic)

Chris & Lyn Heysen 3

863 Phal. Tinney Honey

Chris & Lyn Heysen 2

864 Phal. Balden's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure'

Chris & Lyn Heysen 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

865 Gongora galeata

Ruth & Keven Tugwell 3

866 Phal. pulchra

Shirley & Don Greig 2

Oncidiinae – Species

867 Ornithophora radicans

Ruth & Keven Tugwell 3

868 Pschopsis papilio

Chris & Lyn Heysen 2



First Division

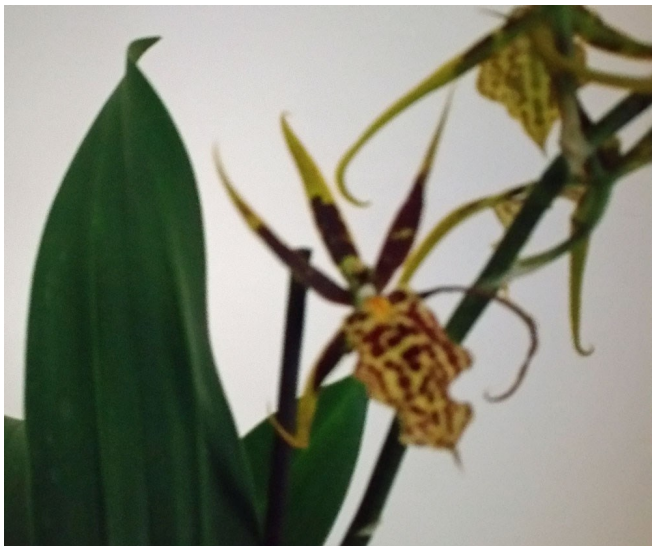
Ornithophora Radicans -
Ruth and Keven Tugwell





Best Orchid of Second Division

Catt. Valentino Day 'Kadama' shown by Helen Humphrys



Orchid Culture Notes for March

March sees activity increase in the shade house. After the heat of summer, autumn greets us with some cooler nights but the days remain fairly hot until about the equinox. It usually remains quite dry as well although all it takes is one cyclone to move south as a low pressure system to deliver a nice drop. In most years though, we have to wait to April and sometimes later before the first rains of the new season.

March is generally an orchid maturity month. In the main many of our orchids would have completed their summer growing season this month and are in the maturation stage. This does not mean stop watering and feeding, far from it, but there will be some changes to our programmes. At this stage of the year some will flower straight away and the proliferation of the Laeliinae group on the show benches over the next couple of months supports this. Closer observations will reveal many plants have another 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 and flowering periods ahead. Each genera will behave in its own particular way and it is this knowledge that will determine the next aspect of culture.

Native epiphytes will be maturing and hardening growths now, these too showing a flush of new roots. *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. Late March to the end of May is a good time to attend to this genus if you are wanting to re pot or divide them. On the terrestrial scene the first few early ones will start popping up now and some will even flower. 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. By the end of the month there should be plenty of signs of new growth. Remove any weeds as soon as they appear.

Autumn is the month we see many of the Laeliinae complex on the show bench. Many of these are the cluster type, many with *Gtt. 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, ideally before any buds emerge from the sheaths and be damaged in the process. 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. They have been a real problem this year. One grower suggested the use of molasses as a natural insecticide that also gives your plant a boost at the same time. Strange that something sweet that would attract them will kill them. I'll give it a try and report back.

Hanging plants are not immune to ants attack either. Keep hangers well watered and feed with a blossom booster feed. Most of my hangers are mounted plants, *Oncidiums*, *Laelia's* and the late flowering mini *Cymbidiums*. Many of these plants also show a new crop of roots as the growths mature. Of course it's not only the cluster type *Cattleyas* that are out. There are also a few of the larger exhibition types as well as the single mini cats and splash petal type.

Most of these autumn flowering plants do well in basic shade house conditions and they only require to be kept on the drier side and protected from winter rains. They require a very open free draining mix. If you do over water them over winter you will find that by spring, these plants will be quite shrivelled and stressed due to root loss. They will recover in spring but you will lose the next flowering and it may be another full season or more to get them back in order.

Autumn also sees the *Oncidium* tribe with increasing numbers of plants on the show bench. Many will have maturing growths as well and once this is completed spike initiation is not far away. Of course the *Oncidium* tribe is very extensive but as a rule anything of the "varicosum" type will be showing spikes very soon. In other words we are looking at *Oncidiums* with big showy yellow skirts. These are 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 half strength until flowering is completed. They are not a hungry genus and can be sensitive to high concentrations of fertiliser salts. Many will require a dry rest after flowering. For the new chum it would be advisable to speak to those growers who show *Oncidiums* to get some ideas. My best *Oncidium* grows on a stick and is hung above the *Cymbidiums*. It is watered daily in summer and fed weekly. It gets nothing except what falls from the sky in winter and if that is too much, it is moved under cover. Yet this same plant will reward me with nearly 20 spikes this year as it does every year. A nice reward for very little care but also shows how important it is to have the right conditions as well. Orchid growing is all about getting the conditions right first.

Your *Zygopetalums* and relations will be showing plenty of new growths and often when these growths are only a couple of inches high out will come 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

Orchid Culture Notes for March (cont.)

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 years flowering stakes. Slugs and caterpillars will be on the increase this month if it rains so take precautions. Spray every 6 weeks with a fungicide to keep spotting down. Some varieties are more prone than the others so if despite heavy treatment with fungicides the plants still mark heavily they might be better off removed from the collection. Modern breeding is helping reduce this factor.

With the cooler months nearly upon us *Paphiopedilums* 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 should mist our *Cymbidiums* at night in December and January and why I put my *Phalaenopsis* outside for a few nights later this month when the nights get down to 11 or 12. My *Paphiopedilum* 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 near the end of the month we now start searching for the sun again, 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 it, like rearranging the furniture. But the method of my madness has a reason. Plants are moved to get full or brighter sun, to stay dry, to get more air movement or whatever the move entails. After a few years of observations I now have 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 grow well over 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's origins and if you cannot provide it with care in an outside situation then you can improvise. In my case the plants when moved inside are resting anyway and not in active growth. Most need very little or no water and despite the lower light levels, the leaves have matured anyway and do not go soft. Some are deciduous anyway such as *Calanthe vestita* and the *Catasetinae* group.

April is soon upon us. Usually a warm month with cool nites 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 as the flowering season ramps up again.

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 REGIONAL GROUP: 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.

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