

The South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

# Gazette

February  
2015



**PRESIDENT: Geoff Spear**

**PATRON: Sydney Monkhouse**

**AT A GLANCE**

**FEBRUARY 2015 CELEBRATING OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR 1965 TO 2015**

**AGM Meeting, Trophy Presentation, Flower of the Night Voting**

The meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at St. Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. The guest speaker will be John Richards who will talk to us about Deal Island. AGM meeting will finish a little later 10p.m.

**BEGINNERS' GROUP:** No meeting until March.

**DAYTIME CHAPTER:** The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 2pm. Our guest speaker will be Geoff Spear and he will talk about looking after your plants in Autumn.

**SOUTHERN REGION GROUP 10<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY YEAR:** The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. The guest speaker will be Kevin Cattermole talking on How to Grow Your Plants on Mounts.

**TO CELEBRATE OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR:** The Committee has ordered hand blown wine glasses, sand blasted with our logo and '50 Year Anniversary 1965 to 2015'. These may be bought by members at our AGM meeting, single glass \$12.50 or box of six \$70. They will then be used for prizes at our monthly judging meetings.

**ANNIVERSARY WINE:** The Committee would like to release bottles of commemorative wine at our birthday meeting. The cost of the Shiraz will be \$13.00 per bottle, Sauvignon Blanc \$13.00 per bottle and Tawny Port \$10.00 per bottle. Heather has designed beautiful labels for the occasion. The President requests that any members wishing to purchase any of the above, order the wine at the February and March meetings.

**VALE**

It is with regret we announce the passing of Ross Watts. Ross joined the Club in the late 70's and was an active member of the Daytime Chapter. We extend condolences to his family. Rest in peace Ross.

**VALE**

Bertie Bower, judge and member of South Coast Orchid Club passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup> after a long illness. We extend condolences to his family. Bertie will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Bertie.

**VALE**

Afternoon member Joy Starkey passed away in October. Joy enjoyed the Afternoon Group and was a loyal member to the end, always talking to the nursing staff about orchids and joining the Club. Condolences to Joy's family.

**JUDGES' ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING**

**OPEN DIVISION & SECOND DIVISION:** Graham Zerbe, John Gay & Vicky Cooper **Recorder:** Trevor Stutley.

**FIRST DIVISION:** Noel Oliver, Rowan Crowhurst & Peter Haltis. **Recorder:** Judy McRedmond

*Sue Zerbe*

Registrar of Judges

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## CLUB MEETING DATES FOR 2015

### February 2015

- 04 AGM then Main Meeting: John Richards on Deal Island orchids
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 12 Daytime Chapter
- 22 Southern Region Group

### March 2015

- 04 Main Meeting: Michael Mathews on "How we grow our Orchids"
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 12 Daytime Chapter
- 15 Southern Region Group

### April 2015

- 01 Main Meeting: Coralie Hills on 2014 World Orchid Conference in Johannesburg
- 08 Committee Meeting
- 09 Daytime Chapter
- 19 Southern Region Group

### May 2015

- 06 Main meeting: TBA
- 13 Committee Meeting
- 14 Daytime Chapter
- 17 Southern Region Group

### June 2015

- 03 Main meeting: Interstate Speaker Steven Stebbings on Species
- 10 Committee Meeting
- 11 Daytime Chapter
- 21 Southern Region Group

### July 2015

- 01 Main meeting: Kevin Western. Reminiscing on 50 years
- 08 Committee Meeting
- 09 Daytime Chapter
- 19 Southern Region Group

### August 2015

- 05 Main meeting: Neutrog
- 12 Committee Meeting
- 13 Daytime Chapter
- 16 Southern Region Group

### September 2015

- 02 Main meeting: Smoults
- 09 Committee Meeting
- 10 Daytime Chapter
- 20 Southern Region Group

### October 2015

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

### November 2015

- 04 Main meeting: Jim Shaughnessy on Sarcs
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 12 Daytime Chapter
- 15 Southern Region Group

### December 2015

- 02 Main meeting: TBA
- 10 Daytime Chapter
- 20 Southern Regional Group

### MAIN MEETING BEGINNERS' GROUP 2015 PROGRAMME

Date	Speaker	Subject
February 4th	Kevin Western	Heat Conditions
March 4th	TBA	TBA
April 1st	Geoff Spear	Shade house maintenance
May 6th	TBA	
June 3rd	John Gay	Cattleyas
July 1st	Noel Oliver	Oncidiinae
August 5th	David Williams	Potting
September 2nd	TBA	TBA
October 7th	Kevin Western	Australian Natives
November 4th	George Abel	Sarcochilis



## **LIFE MEMBERS**

The committee is pleased to announce that another 2 of our members have been approved to go to the members for voting for Life Membership.

### **LESLEY FENTON**

Lesley joined South Coast Orchid Club when the Daytime Group first started, attending regularly. For 3 years (1996 to 1998) Lesley was Vice President of the Club and during that time she also conducted the Daytime Group with expertise during 1997 and 1998. She very capably and successfully organized all the Club trips and outings for many years, always making sure that all attending were kept busy with competitions and fun things to do and think about whilst travelling. For over 10 years Lesley has convened the supper duties at meetings and this included purchasing and bringing in all the necessary supplies. As well as preparing suppers, Lesley has assisted with the computing for the prize cards and results at Club Shows and Meetings for the last few years. She has always been a conscientious and loyal member and only missed meetings when she or Peter were not well enough to attend them.

### **ROD McREDMOND**

Rod and his wife Judy joined South Coast Orchid Club in 2004 after moving down to Adelaide from Port Augusta. Rod served on the South Coast Orchid Club Committee from 2010 to 2013 inclusive and has been the Editor of the Club Gazette since July 2009. Rod is now also the Web Master. Rod created our Club's website and also over the years has collected old club Gazettes (starting in 1970) from various sources, scanned them into his computer, cleaned them up and converted them to PDF files. These files are now part of the official Club records as well as being on the Club's website. Once all of the Gazettes have been scanned (August 1986 to December 1989 still to go) he will also give these files to the Mortlock Library (SA State Library) as the Library only has electronic Gazettes from April 2000 onwards. The Library will put these Gazettes into its database so that anyone is able to access them for all time. Rod also maintains the Club data base and computers and updates software, He is also instrumental in printing and laminating show certificates and advertising posters amongst other things.

### **LIFE MEMBERS - \* denotes Member who has passed away.**

1978	Dulcie Graves	Circa	Helen Edwards
	Leora Harvey	Circa	Tony Deonno *
	L. & H. Poole *	Circa	Norman Gitcham
1979	Syd Monkhouse	2007	Murray Baulderstone *
	Bernie Hanson *		Ron and Irene Parish
1980	Lois Hanson *	2008	Geoff and Lucy Spear
1981	John Leeder *	2009	Don Biebrick
1985	Brenda Lynch		Henk Van Leuveran
	Bubs Gready	2010	Dorothy Carassai
1986	Harry Viney *	2011	John and Bev Gay
	John Nichols		
Circa	Mervan Steele* and Shirley Steele		

This list is still being compiled.

### **NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR 2015 COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT:	Geoffrey Spear
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby
VICE PRESIDENT:	Paul Hayes
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear
TREASURER:	Barbara Almond

Dorothy Carassai (2 years), Oui Ju (1 year), Heather Wright (2 years), Donna Meeuwsen, Christine Robertson.

### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES – One membership covers all groups**

Family Membership	\$33.00
Single Membership	\$25.00
Junior Membership	\$17.00
Rural and Interstate Membership	
Family Membership	\$29.00
Single Membership	\$23.00

**2015 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.** We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each

### **2015 NEW YEAR B.B.Q.**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, 42 members attended the BBQ on a very, very humid hot night with a few drops of rain, which did not spoil our night. Thank you to members who brought along tasty salads, cakes and raffle plants.

Paul as always cooked a great BBQ, Dorothy managed a busy kitchen and thank you to all who helped with kitchen duties.

18 beautiful orchids and a pineapple plant were brought in for Popular Vote which Eileen Pinnock won with *Brassia brachiata*. (see Below)

Graham Zerbe showed a Power Point presentation with all the Plants of Division and Plants of the Night for 2014 together with a few jokes and promotion of members. Thank you to all concerned for a great start to 2015.



Iris Freeman and  
Alan Holden at the  
BBQ

### **URGENTLY NEEDED**

We urgently need a member with a van or trailer to take show props i.e. crates, trestles, bollards etc. to shows. Assistance is required at the following times:

<b><u>Autumn Show:</u></b>	Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> May	1 hour	<b><u>Spring Show:</u></b>	Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	1 hour
	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	all day		Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	all day
	Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	after 3pm		Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	after 3pm
<b><u>Winter Show:</u></b>	Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> July	1 hour				
	Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> July	all day				
	Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup> August	after 3pm				

Please telephone Lucy urgently on 8381 4420 if you are able to assist

### **HELP WANTED FOR WORKSHOPS IN 2015 PLEASE**

We seek 6 members with a shed or covered outdoor area to hold workshops for the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. It is anticipated that the 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 showing your collection.

The last hour and a half will be for discussing growing orchids, questions and answers and any orchid information.

### **Farewell to Margaret Wagner**



Left: President Geoff bids a fond farewell to Daytime Chapter member, Margaret Wagner who has left the club due to her moving to Coolumb Beach in Queensland to live with her daughter. Margaret joined the Club in 2005. Good Luck in the future Margaret.

### **Farewell to Gerald Voskamp**

Right: Gerald joined the club in 1996 and has shown plants regularly. He is unable to attend meetings now so has elected to resign from the Club. Good Luck in the future Gerald. Orchid judge Wendy Lodge, Gerald's daughter, shows off his Certificate of Appreciation.



## TREASURER'S REPORT for 2014

2014 has once again been another successful year for the South Coast Orchid Club despite the general down turn in the economy.

Our Shows at Pasadena, Arndale and Colonades were very well patronised. The Unley Library was an excellent Public Relations exercise but the overall takings were relatively small. This also applied to our involvement with the Bonsai Club at McLaren Vale.

In 2014, we had another very successful BBQ at Bunning's, Noarlunga and we are hopeful that we will be invited back again in 2015.

Due to unforeseen expenses at the beginning of the year \$1,000.00 was withdrawn from our Term Deposit and we have since continued to roll over our Term Deposit with Bank SA. Our Term Deposit as at 31<sup>st</sup> December is \$16,322.39.

I must thank the President, Secretary, Committee members and members who have worked hard to make the 2014 activities a success.

I also wish to thank Judy and Rod McRedmond for the assistance that they have given me throughout the year.

The Brighton firm of Accountants, Susan Nash and Associates was asked to audit the books and the Auditors report is attached.

I propose that Susan Nash and Associates once again be asked to audit the Club's books for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

Barbara Almond  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2015

### AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial statements comprising the attached Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statement of Assets of the South Coast Orchid Club of SA Incorporated presents fairly the financial position of the association as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and the results of its operations for the period then ended.

Signed



Date 12/1/15

Ralph Assheton  
Senior Accountant  
Susan Nash & Associates

Susan Nash  
Fellow of NTAA  
Susan Nash & Associates

# SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC

## Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended December 2014

Income		Expenditure	
<b>Balance 1st January 2014</b>	<b>\$2,043.23</b>		
Membership	2,862.00	Storage	100.00
Raffle/Lucky Squares	1,788.90	Hall Hire	1620.00
Social	2,955.70	Insurance	571.25
Trading table	1,517.65	Membership/Affiliation	272.90
Donations	52.35	SAROC Fair	295.85
Bunning's BBQ	2,215.10	Social	4476.80
Floats	700.00	Postage	917.50
Autumn Show	7,076.10	Auditor	150.00
Winter Show	8,805.50	Advertising	368.48
Victor Show	5,049.08	Web Site	167.96
Spring Show	7,862.75	Bunning's BBQ	742.90
Unley Library	814.00	Photocopying	1254.08
McLaren Vale	394.05	Trading Table	1396.76
Bank Interest	10.88	Trophies/Prizes	1585.16
Transfer Term Deposit	1000.00	Computer	923.14
Interest Term Deposit	532.89	Equipment	311.00
SAROC Participation	300.00	Autumn Show	5564.45
Daytime Chapter	363.50	Winter Show	7624.45
Southern Region	931.45	Unley Library	354.75
		Victor Harbor Show	3124.00
		McLaren Vale Show	207.00
		Spring Show	7417.75
		Trans. term deposit interest	532.89
		Autumn Show 2015	10.00
		Honorarium	500.00
		Floats	800.00
		Stationary	118.10
		Gifts/Speaker	871.64
		Australia Post Box	107.00
		Judges	135.53
		Name badges	284.37
		Golden Anniversary	956.00
		Bus Trip Loss	276.49
		<b>Surplus at 31st December 2014</b>	<b>3,235.56</b>
	<b>\$ 47,275.13</b>		<b>\$47,275.13</b>
<b>Investment Account</b>		<b>Reconciliation</b>	
Bank SA Term Deposit	\$16,332.89	Balance as per Bank Statement	3,645.36
3.00% to mature April 29th 2015		Less Cheques not presented	409.80
<b>Floats</b>		Balance as per Cash Journal	<b>\$3,235.56</b>
Treasurer	50.00		
Trading Table	50.00		

**THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF S.A. INC**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS as at December 2014**

**Cash**

Surplus in Bank SA account as per	
Reconciliation for year 2013	3235.56
Bank SA Term Deposit	<u>16332.89</u>
	19568.45

**Plus Assets**

Trading Table stock in hand 977.14

**Plant and Equipment**

Public Address System	1,010.14
BBQ	128.70
Trestle covers	109.80
Cups and Saucers	44.10
Display Stands	421.20
Old laptop computer	693.00
Computer leads	11.70
Computer projector	342.00
Projector	9.00
Dolly	43.20
Small screen	22.50
Large screen	204.30
Books	729.00
Software	95.40
Urn	9.90
Show stands	144.00
TV/DVD	118.80
Screening	47.00
Treasurer's bag	28.00
Power Boards	8.10
Donated secondhand computer	0.00
Laminator	75.60
Trestles	501.63
Bollards	702.00
Computer monitor	24.30
Guillotine	32.40
Plastic folding tables	465.30
Computer Bag	26.10
2 Toshiba laptops	1250.00
Photography backdrop	29.00
Painting backdrop	90.00
Crates	17.00
Sanyo projector	468.90
2 Keyboards	19.00
Colour laser printer	190.90
Meat thermometer	32.90
Storage boxes	41.31
Golden Anniversary purchases	225.00
Table clothes	44.00

**Plant and Equipment acquired during 2014**

Laminator	51.00
Printer	260.00
Club Sign	49.50
Glasses and Mugs	1671.80
	<u>11464.62</u>
	\$ 21,033.07







Plant of the Day & Popular Vote winner  
*Brassia brachiata* grown by Ruth Tugwell



Ruth Tugwell receiving her prizes from Noel Oliver



Right: Father Christmas  
wishes Lorna Zerbe a merry  
Christmas



Left: Reg Clifford receives a  
hook for his plants from Father  
Christmas



Noel Oliver cuts his 80th birthday cake



Guest Speaker Graham Zerbe in full  
Christmas spirit

# December Results List

Ref. No.	Points Awarded
<b>Open Division</b>	
<b>Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid</b>	
537 Sarc. Shooting Star	Kevin Western (155) 3
<b>Australian Native Epiphyte - Species</b>	
536 Den. cucumerinum	Noel Oliver (102) 3
<b>Laeliinae - Non Standard</b>	
539 Rth. Jungle Jumbalaya	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424) 3
540 Sc. Jungle Gem x Rsc. Little Toshie	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424) 2
<b>Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm</b>	
538 Slc. Pink Doll x Sc. Lana Coryell	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424) 3
<b>Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid</b>	
542 Disa Dororthy Grace Kindred 'Cerise Clone'	Kevin Western (155) 3
543 Disa Unicol 'Illegitimacy'	Kevin Western (155) 2
544 Disa Auratkeu 'Oudepost'	Kevin Western (155) 1
<b>Orchid Seedling - any Genera</b>	
545 Rth. Jungle Jumbalaya	Robert & Lesley Gunn (424) 3
<b>First Division</b>	
<b>Laeliinae - Cluster</b>	
525 Ctt. [Lc.] Chit Chat 'Tangerine'	Eileen Pinnock (519) 3
<b>Laeliinae - Species</b>	
526 C. purpurata Var. Carnea	Rod & Judy McRedmond (1141) 3
527 E. atropurpurea	Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby (1252) 2
<b>Oncidiinae - Hybrid &gt; 60mm</b>	
528 Odm. Marguerite Holm 'Alpine'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
<b>Oncidiinae - Species</b>	
529 Gom. flexuosa	Rod & Judy McRedmond (1141) 3
530 Brs. verrucosa	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2
531 Onc. leucochilum	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1
<b>Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid</b>	
533 Srts. Blue Knob	Dorothy & John Carassai (294) 3
534 Phal. unknown	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2
<b>Orchid Seedling - any Genera</b>	
535 Onc. leucochilum	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3
<b>Paphiopedilum - Non Standard</b>	
532 Paph. Chouvetii 'Van Dyke'	Rod & Judy McRedmond (1141) 3
<b>Second Division</b>	
<b>Australian Native Epiphyte - Species</b>	
548 Den. striolatum	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 3
<b>Laeliinae - Species</b>	
549 Epi. paniculatum	Rowan Crowhurst (763) 3
<b>Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid</b>	
552 Phal. unknown. White	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 3
553 Phal. unknown	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 2
554 Phal. Minh Ho 'Princess'	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 1
<b>Paphiopedilum - Standard</b>	
550 Paph. Pathfinder 'Aloinata'	Bill Jayne (1180) 3
<b>Zygopetalinae - Hybrid</b>	
551 Z. Artur Elle 'Essendon'	Vicky & Neil Cooper (1119) 3

## **December Plant Commentary**

### **ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION AND FLOWER OF THE NIGHT:**

*Sartylis Blue Knob* grown by Dorothy Carassai. Five inflorescences fully open and two to open, averaging 25 flowers each. This crossing is *Rhyncostylis* and *Sarcochilus*, the high flower count, spotting and longer. Inflorescences are from *Rhyncostylis retusa*. The crystal white flowers with a soft magenta labellum and spotting of the segments are from *Sarcochilus hartmannii*.

Congratulations Dorothy what a lovely orchid and one admired by many.



### **OPEN DIVISION:**

*Dendrobium cucumerinum* was grown by Noel Oliver. What a well grown plant with fifteen inflorescences with eight to ten flowers, which resupinate, colour being beige segments, pale red/brown centre and a frilly edge on the labellum because of the shape of the leaves it is commonly called the cucumber orchid.

Thank you Noel what a great specimen.



## **December Plant Commentary (cont.)**

### **SECOND DIVISION:**

*Phalaenopsis* Unknown 'White' was grown by Vicky & Neil Cooper. Having one arching inflorescence and ten large white standard shape flowers, with yellow and red marked keels and side lobes of the labellum. Well done Vicky & Neil. I do think this lovely unknown orchid of yours does deserve a clonal name. Thank you.



### **SEEDLING OF THE NIGHT:**

*Rth.* Jungle Jumbalaya is owned by Lesley & Robert Gunn. This small plant had one inflorescence and three charming flowers. Segments of the flowers were old gold in colour, with the membrane finely lined in purple with some spotting, and a deep purple velvet labellum. Thank you Lesley & Robert a real treasure for everyone to see.



### **POPULAR VOTE WINNER:**

*Oncidium leucochilum* was grown by Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby. My goodness, this great species orchid boasted a five foot plus high multi spiking inflorescence, creamy green flowers, heavy brown markings and a spicy fragrance. Michael & Oui, a truly eye catching orchid.



*Sue Zerbe*

Registrar of Judges

## **Orchid Culture Notes for February**

It's the start of another year in the orchid house. This year we have been dealt with extreme weather ranging from a baking and orchid killing 44C heat event to a tropical week of high humidity and 60mm of rain at my place in January. A normal cycle should start soon and as the saying goes, it will get hot when the kids go back to school. Note that any heat damage will come out over the next few weeks with leaf marks becoming more evident and leaf drop occurring. The recent rains and humidity will create some fungal issues in the shade house as well so keep an eye out for any outbreaks and have some fungicide ready in case. Heat damaged plants with damaged leaves and stress are prime targets for pest and disease attack. The physical side of heat damage is easy to spot but remember that heat also damages the plants roots as well. Black pots exposed to the sun overheat and cook the roots. Whilst the top of the plant may come thru ok, underneath things are not so good. Then sometime later the plant starts to shrivel as they do no longer have a functioning root system. Most of us will put down root loss to poor culture such as over watering or a broken down mix. Just remember, heat can be added to this. Even slugs and snails will be in good numbers awakened by the sudden change in weather. I managed to collect some absolute orchid eating monsters during the rain. Slugzillas.

February is usually the hottest month and with it often comes an increase in the intensity of the north winds, so there is much heat left for us yet. In fact you can still have temperatures nudging the old 100 degree mark as late as the equinox. That's March 21 and the long range forecasts are pointing towards an Indian summer.

I said earlier on that prevention is a key if we are to avoid damage to our plants. It's no use after the event. I had learnt from previous heat events those plants that struggle and provided them the additional support they needed this time round. The result was only a very small number of plants suffered any damage and there were no losses. Same rules apply to pests. Spray when the moths are active for caterpillars for example. By the time their crop of loopers has started chomping on your orchids half the damage has been done. Get them as they hatch. When the rain stops inspect the orchid house and surrounds for slugs and snails. Be prepared for the next heat event. For some of us, be it age, disability, size of orchid house, whatever, cannot go to extraordinary lengths to save our plants from the heat but there are some ideas that may lessen the damage. Humidity is your ally and keeping it up high will help. Wet the floors as often as you need to on extreme days. We have two large rubbish bins full of grey water for this purpose. Just don't water the orchids with it but use it for splashing on the shade house sides and floor is a better option than tipping it down the drain. Extra shade will help reduce burning caused by intense light. It will not reduce the damage caused by heat. A wet floor or sides of the shade house will evaporate water. With evaporation there is a release of latent heat. The air cools. Wet you hand and blow on it....it feels cool!

Basically shade reduces damage by light and the humidity reduces damage by heat. For those with 50% shade cloth, especially the white one the damage this year would have been severe. It's looking like the extreme heat we have experienced the past couple of years may be with us for good each summer. A secondary layer of shade we can roll out over the base layer for a few days whilst the heat is at its worst may become a required item. Otherwise we may have to rethink colours. Of course aspect and location will also have a bearing. My area is very open, no trees or neighbours to shade my yard so I have to make allowances for that.

Another thing is that we may be forced to stop growing genera that can't handle the heat and concentrate on those that are heat tolerant. My hot house for example apart from foggers has nothing to control the temperature so now only the hard cane Dendrobiums, Cattleyas and a few of the more tolerant Oncidiums spend summer in there, for everything else it is too hot. I have lost some of the real cool growing stuff that I won't replace until I can provide the artificial conditions to keep the temps below 30 all year round.

Seedlings and recently divided plants will stress more than established counterparts this time of year during heat spikes. They will need extra protection. Under the bench, in the house, the laundry, somewhere, anywhere it's cooler. The heat will pass. My laundry is out of bounds to washing when the heats on. Yep, full of orchids!

Spraying with a stress guard type preparation is also beneficial as these products reduce the amount of evaporation through transpiration. You will not stop the damage completely but a bit of forethought and action will lessen the damage.

Enough of the doom and gloom. Autumn is coming! But it is not here yet. The obvious task is to keep plants moist and ensure all pots are checked regularly to make sure all plants are getting enough water. I lift and feel my pots occasionally. With practice you can tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is dry. The old finger in the mix test works to test for moisture and of course we can buy moisture meters. By now many genera are completing their growth stage and will be in the process of maturing their growths. Some in readiness for

## **Orchid Culture Notes for February (cont.)**

immediate flowering over the autumn and others for winter and spring. These maturing plants should have their diet changed to one with a higher potassium content to help mature the plant as well as strengthen the raceme and improve the colours. Might be a good idea to look at the presentation of these plants and start working on them now. For example I have a nice *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song* with several new growths all over the place in the pot. They are in sheath but not yet filling out with buds. If I leave it too long the presentation will be like a dogs breakfast and if I try and fix it too late then there is risk to the blooms so I work on it now to straighten the growths up and get them spaced correctly around the pot.

Lets have a look around and see what's on in the shade house this month. By now our autumn flowering *Laeliniiae* complex ( *Cattleyas* and *Laelia's*) will have rapidly maturing growths and some already showing emerging spikes. Make sure these spikes and growths are well supported with a stake. Keep water out of the sheaths to avoid fungal rots and spots and make sure the snail baits are on the pot. It often rains this month and it will wake up those slimy fellows. Keep well watered so the spikes remain plump. As some of these developing spikes will excrete a sugary substance you will find ants will be attracted to the spike. They can do a lot of damage as they will eat into the developing spike and they usually bring in a few soft scales as well. Extreme weather can cause buds to abort so bring them inside if it gets real hot ( or unseasonably cold) at this stage of initiation. *Oncidiums* as a rule will be filling out their pseudobulbs and the odd spike or two will be starting to show. Similar culture to the *Laeliniiae* complex should apply. For those with terrestrials this is the last month for re potting. Still aim to keep them on the dry side after re potting as the disturbance of re potting plus being too eager with hose will have them out too early. Wait till the cooler weather in April for this although there will be early varieties flowering in March. Like any orchid, a knowledge of the species itself or that in the hybrid is important when determining what needs to be done and when.

Native epiphyte growths as usual are all over the place. I even had 2 *Den. Speciosum* flower in January. ( note *Den. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* can flower very early in the year but these are not that variety) Some are maturing yet others are only buds. As a rule keep the water and feeding up. Watch out for caterpillars as they love new soft growths. Many will have a burnt leaf tip or spot. Leave them until the leaf matures before trimming them. Inspect the new growths and if they are floppy then some part of your culture is not quite right. Too much shade and high nitrogen in the feed are the two main culprits. Don't move them yet to a brighter place as they will burn. Leave that to April. They still may flower in spring.

*Zygopetalums* will have new growths maturing and evidence of new growths will be evident from the base of these maturing ones signal the start of a new flowering season. Keep moist, feed with a balanced to high potassium based feed and watch out for loopers, especially on the undersides of the leaves. They don't eat through, rather they skeletonise the leaf and when that dries looks rather unsightly. A spotted, half eaten zygo on the show bench doesn't have that appeal. Again place a few snail pellets on the surface of the pot.

Keep *Paphiopedilums* moist and keep an eye out of mealy bugs. High humidity and fresh air movement is important this time of year. Keep light levels fairly low. As a rule hold your hand about 12 inches above the plant and you should only just see a slight shadow. Full shadow too much light, no shadow a bit dark. This is only a rule of thumb for newer growers of this genus. Feeding is usually a balanced feed at half or less of the manufacturers recommendations. If you can try and flush your paphs out occasionally with rainwater to remove salt build up from tap water and fertiliser. Adelaide water is loaded with extra salt over the summer. They will love you for it. A flush is usually two or three waters say an hour apart. The first softens and dissolves some of the salts, the second and third gets the rest. Collect the waste water and use that to wet your floors later when it's hot.

For other genera it's a matter of treating them in accordance with their growth habits although in most cases they will be in a growth mode.

February is a dry month on the show bench and apart from a few plants there won't be much else out. Even with my collection finding enough to show will be difficult, even more with many that have flowered showing the affects of the heat. Bring in what you can. If it has a burn or a spot I am sure your plant won't be alone.

February will end and the extreme heat of summer maybe a couple of weeks later. March will be upon us and with it those cooler nights. Most of our plants will survive this summer and we need to be a little more caring to see them through it and help in the recovery stakes.

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. Marys. Beginners' Class starts at 7.15 pm. Meeting at 8.00 pm.

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

**THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL GROUP:** meets at Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor at 2.00 pm. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

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

**THE DAYTIME GROUP:** meets from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.

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

**NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY:** meets in St. Philip's Church Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview from 7.30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7.30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** meets at 7.30 pm at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**THE CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Meets at 7.30 pm at Burnside Community Centre, 401, Greenhill Road, Tusmore on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

### **Our Affiliated Clubs:**

**The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.**

**The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.**

**People who submit articles to the Club for inclusion in our Gazette express opinions which are not necessarily those of the Club.**

**No guarantee is provided to anyone using the ideas & opinions expressed in these articles.**

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

**E. & O. E.**

**EDITOR: Rod McRedmond Ph 08 8293 3545**

**AFFILIATED CLUBS**

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

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