

Gazette

**April
2015**



PRESIDENT: Geoff Spear

PATRON: Sydney Monkhouse

AT A GLANCE

The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at 8 pm. on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at St. Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. The guest speaker will be Coralie Hills whose subject will be The Conference in Sandton Johannesburg, South Africa.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: 7.20 pm. Max Almond will discuss Shade House Maintenance.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 9th April 2015 at 1.30pm. Geoff Spear will do a potting demonstration.

SOUTHERN REGION GROUP

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm. on Sunday 19th April 2015 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Our guest speaker is Graham Zerbe's and his subject will be Zygopetalums.

THE JUDGING PANEL FOR THE APRIL 2015 MEETING IS:

Open Division :	Leader:	John Gay with Lesley Gunn, Trevor Stutley
	Recorder:	Vicky Cooper
First Division:	Leader:	Noel Oliver
	Recorder:	Peter Haltis
Second Division:	Leader:	Lesley Gunn with John Gay and Vicky Cooper
	Recorder:	Trevor Stutley
Plant commentary:	Open Division:	Vicky Cooper
	First Division:	Peter Haltis
	Second Division:	Judy McRedmond
Computer:		Bev Gay and Lesley Fenton



50th ANNIVERSARY



The Committee has further extended the time for the placing of Anniversary Wine orders until the May meeting. Orders may be placed with the Treasurer. It would be appreciated if members could either pay a deposit or pay in full at the time of ordering. Special orchid labels have been designed for each of the bottles. The three Patrilli Wines that have been chosen are:-

A very crisp and slightly fruity **Sauvignon Blanc** at \$13.00 a bottle.

A **Shiraz** that either can be consumed now or put away for a few years at \$13.00 a bottle.

The **Tawny Port** is excellent to drink on a cold night by the fire at \$10.00 a bottle.

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

E-Mail: lucys18@bigpond.com

ABN 83 245 384 076

CLUB MEETING DATES FOR 2015

April 2015

- 01 Main Meeting: Coralie Hills on 2014 World Orchid Conference in Johannesburg
- 08 Committee Meeting
- 09 Daytime Chapter: Geoff Spear– Potting Demo.
- 19 Southern Region Group: Graham Zerbe on Zygotetalums

May 2015

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

June 2015

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

July 2015

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

August 2015

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

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

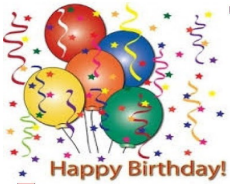
- 04 Main meeting: Jim Shaughnessy on Sarcs
- 11 Committee Meeting
- 12 Daytime Chapter
- 15 Southern Region Group

December 2015

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

MAIN MEEETING BEGINNERS' GROUP 2015 PROGRAMME

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>
April 1 st	Max Almond	Shade House Maintenance
May 6 th	Kevin Trevan	Looking after Sarcocylus in the warmer months
June 3 rd	John Gay	Cattleyas
July 1 st	Noel Oliver	Oncidiinae
August 5 th	David Williams	Potting
September 2 nd	TBA	TBA
October 7 th	Kevin Western	Australian Natives
November 4 th	George Abel	Sarcocylus



Happy Birthday

**PAUL HAYES, TREVOR STUTLEY, RITO SYLVESTRI,
SHIRLEY STEELE, MAX ALMOND, LOUISE MOULDS,
JOHN GOSNELL, JUDY CRAFTER, CHRIS HEYSEN,
CORAL TILLMANN.**



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

BIRTHDAY DRAW

Is your name in the book?

LUCKY NAME BADGE

Make sure you wear your name badge. You may win a prize.

50th BIRTHDAY MEETING 1ST JULY

Special birthday meeting with Kevin Western as guest speaker reminiscing on the past 50 years.

All Past Presidents and Life Members have been invited to share this great evening.

Committee will provide a wonderful supper with platters, cakes etc.

The highlight will be our raffle, a painting by artist Syd Monkhouse. Geoff will show this at our next meeting.

Each membership will receive a top show bench orange mericlone.

Come along and be part of a fun night.

YOUR 2015 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Geoffrey Spear
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby
VICE PRESIDENT:	Paul Hayes
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear
TREASURER:	Barbara Almond
COMMITTEE:	Dorothy Carassai, Oui Ju, Donna Meeuwsen, Heather Wright, Christine Robertson, Shirley Greig, Don Greig.
REGISTRAR:	Judy McRedmond

2015 subscriptions are now due.

We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

AUTUMN SHOW

Judging and Put in times: 2nd May at Hamilton Secondary College, 815 Marion Road, Mitchell Park in the Basketball Stadium.

Time: 11.30 to 12.45 pm. Judging 1.00 pm. sharp.

After judging, plants are to be taken to Pasadena Shopping Centre. Please make prior arrangements if you need your plants to be transported.

Trading Table plants: Saturday 2nd May after 4.00 pm. until 5.00 pm. please.

NOTE: Plants cannot be taken into the store before 4.00 pm.

CHANGES TO THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA BY-LAWS

The Committee has approved changes to the By-Laws of our Club. These changes will be available on the Club website and also hard copy is available from Secretary Lucy at the various meetings.

Please refer to Page 14 of this Gazette to see how these changes affect showing your plants.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is over and now we can enjoy the wonderful Autumn conditions. Our cymbidiums once again are showing spikes very early, I hope this is a promise of a great flowering season.

I feel we are very fortunate to have had once again a cooler summer with only a few scorchers. I have not heard of anyone having damaged leaves, most members I have visited have plants looking healthy and are in for a good flowering season.

Our three venues so far this year have had very interesting speakers. Thank you to them all. Thank you to John Richards for sharing his wonderful experiences with us. From Kevin Cattermole we all learnt a lot about mounting our plants, ideas I had never heard of. It was very interesting to hear how Michael Mathews grows his plants, and of course, our own Vicky Cooper. Finally, it is always a treat to hear Noel Oliver talking about Australian Natives.

We all need to pay attention to Second Division growers and encourage them to show. Looking back, I remember how nervous I was the first 3 or 4 times I showed my plants. We do need to help the newer members to bring along their plants. Mostly they worry about whether their plants are good enough and how to prepare them. All flowers have their own beauty and our Associates will help to show new growers how to present the plants. Please bring along all your plants for us to enjoy. Remember the plant you leave at home may be the Champion.

The Autumn Show not far away. Trophy's that are awarded are W.A. Young Trophy for Champion of Autumn Show, H. & B. Viney Trophy for Best Cattleya at Autumn Show and P.C. Loke Trophy for highest aggregate points at 3 Shows.

Each membership will receive an orchid plant as a gift at the Golden Anniversary on 1st July. 'Foxfire Amber 'Dural'. I have been looking after the plants for 2 years and the flowers will be a beautiful golden orange colour. At the July meetings, see our Treasurer at her table, or at Group meetings see Lucy or Dorothy. Happy Birthday. Good growing and showing, Geoff.

Daytime Chapter

Hi Everyone,

We had another great gathering today to hear an excellent discussion on the beautiful Phalaenopsis genera of orchids. Mrs Vicky Cooper, (greatly assisted by her husband Neil), was our guest speaker today. Vicky is a reasonably new (6-7 years) devotee in this wide and varied orchid world. She has really embraced it and gone ahead in leaps and bounds. She is an Associate Judge and doing a great job. Vicky and Neil put together a very interesting Power Point Presentation of the growing conditions at their home and a view of her other orchid genera. Everything looked lovely, very neat and tidy. They also have a table and chair setting out with the orchids where they love to sit and enjoy being amongst them. Vicky gave a potting demonstration and says not to be afraid to do this. She also spoke of what she uses in the way of potting medium and fertilizing. Vicky stressed the importance of air movement as being very important. She pointed out that this discourages mealy bug which none of us really need. She also suggested we try growing some of the smaller table top varieties which are also very beautiful and more compact. Thank you both for making it such a great afternoon, I'm sure we all once again learnt something new to try.

Apologies today from Peter and Geraldine Flavel. They are hoping to return again soon, perhaps in a few months. It was good to see Betty again who looks great after her operation. Our best wishes to George Abell. We missed you and hope you are feeling a lot better.

There was lovely display table today, many mixed genera brought in by the members to share with us all. Lesley and Robert Gunn's plant *Gombrassiltonia* [Gbt.] (syn. *Aliceara*) Pathfinder 'Red Beauty' x *Gomesa* [Gom.] *pratecta* (syn. *Onc. enderianum*) was voted best in display for today. A lovely plant, quite tall with many yellow and brown flowers. Very eye-catching and lovely to see. It's good to be able to enjoy the different genera being grown by other members. Thanks to all who participated. These plants were all very well grown and presented.

Lesley and Vicky did the plant commentary doing a great job and giving Geoff a break. Thank you both. Well done and much appreciated.

The meeting was closed, thanking all in attendance. Hope to see you all at Jane and Don's at the weekend. It's usually a great day, good food and company and a chance to catch up with others. Bye, Dorothy, 8277-1793.



Vicky Cooper and Lesley Gunn with Lesley and Robert Gunn's plant *Onc. liceara* Path Finder 'Red Beauty' x *Onc. Enderianum* which was voted best in display.

BBQ AT THE HOME OF DON AND JANE HIGGS ON 22 MARCH 2015

Thirty people enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Jane and Don Higgs on Sunday 22nd March at their beautiful property at Myponga. The weather was perfect and after wandering around the magnificent gardens, we enjoyed a bbq cooked by host, Don Higgs, President Geoff and Max Almond.

Tables and chairs had been set up under a canopy of trees and it was wonderful to be able to relax and enjoy the company, the garden and the fresh air.

Don and Jane grow magnificent orchids and it was a privilege to be able to view their various growing houses. I am sure we all noted new ideas to try.

Thank you Don and Jane for inviting us to visit.



Above & left: Geoff Spear, Don Higgs and Max Almond did an excellent job cooking the bbq.

Above right & right: Members relaxing under the trees.



Above: We certainly enjoyed a magnificent feast.



Right: President Geoff thanking our hosts Don & Jane Higgs for a wonderful afternoon at their picturesque property.

EXHIBITORS' RULES FOR SHOWS

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

PREPARING ORCHIDS FOR SALE

Select the plants that you want to let go.

- Obtain plant sheets and plant price tags from Lucy in the weeks prior to the sale.
- Clean all pots. Wipe them over with a damp cloth to remove all white residue of salt. If these pots have been recycled from somewhere else, please make sure all advertising and price stickers are removed.
- Check all stakes. Add more if needed and re-tie if necessary.
- Remove old brown husks from bulbs.
- Remove weeds, snails, scale etc.
- Remove all dry ends on the leaves and shape to a point.
- Wipe leaves over with a mixture of milk and water (1 part milk to 10 parts water). Do not add extra milk as the fat in the milk will clog the pores in the leaves which will cause them to yellow and die.
- Water all plants 2 – 3 days before taking them in for sale. PLEASE DO NOT water them on the day you are bringing them in as the water really makes a mess on clothing and everywhere else, eg the floor.

The sales sheets: These have a carbonless copy. Please use both sheets together. Press down firmly on a hard surface to imprint on the second page.

- Print your name in the top left hand corner
- Print your club member number in the top right hand corner
- Rule a narrow column down the left hand side of the page. This column is for plant number from 1 – 30. Please use consecutive numbering for additional sheets ie 31 – 60 for page 2 etc.
- A slightly wider column on the right hand side is for the selling price of the plant.
- Be reasonable, not greedy. Either you want to sell it or not. If you are not sure, ask someone. Take into consideration number of spikes and condition of the plant.
- The centre section is for the description eg Cym. Den Cat etc and the name of your plant and colour. Ie Without Peer 'Soft Touch' (pink).

Price tags.

- Member number in top left hand corner.
- Circle the plant number in the right hand top corner.
- Price underneath.

It is a good idea to write this information on both sides of the tag.

Make sure that the tag on the plant matches the information on your sales sheet.

These plant price tags need to be checked off on your sheet by another person when you bring them in. You can help by reading out the numbers and price on the tag with the other person checking off the list. If this does not correspond, it needs to be attended to.

Give both copies of the sheet to the person checking the plants off.

If you need a copy take a third copy for yourself. However, in most cases, you will be given one sheet back with your cheque.

We hope that these notes help you. Lucy and I are always around to assist you further if needed. So just ask for help should you need it.

Dorothy



SOUTHERN REGION GROUP MEETING SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2015

Beginners Group: Geoff spear hosted the Beginners' Group prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Meeting: President Geoff opened the meeting at 2 pm. and welcomed all members and congratulated them on the excellent orchids on the bench. He welcomed mother and son visitors Kay and Steven Davey and guest speaker, Noel Oliver. Bev Gay was also welcomed on her return to the Club after her protracted recovery. Geoff introduced the new Club Registrar, Judy McRedmond and husband Rod who is the Club Editor and Webmaster. Geoff advised members that due to events outside our control we will need to find another venue for the Christmas dinner. Some suggestions were made by members and are being looked into.

Apologies: Val Phillips, Keith and Rus Sutton, Kevan Tugwell, and Lorna Zerbe.

Plant and name badge: Ruth Tugwell received husband Keith's plant and name badge whilst Bev Shean and Lyn Waterman also received their plants and name badges.

Lucky name-badge: Marilyn Jelfs.

Birthday draw: Ruth Tugwell.

Door prize: Elsie Clifford.

Guest speaker: Noel Oliver spoke about his beloved Australian Native Orchids and how much pleasure he derives from them. He has been growing natives for 40 years. His favourite is *Den. speciosum*. Thankyou Noel, we all learnt a lot from your talk.

Next meeting: Sunday 19th April when Graham Zerbe will give a talk on Zygotetalums.

Plant of the Day: *Onc.* Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' grown by Ruth Tugwell.

Popular Vote: *Den.* Blue Foxtail grown by Chris & Lynn Heysen.



Above: Guest speaker Noel Oliver answering members' questions about Australian Native Orchids and right: receiving his gift from President Geoff.





Left: Flower of the Day winner Ruth Tugwell receiving her glass from judge Noel Oliver.



Above: Popular vote winner *Den.* Blue Foxtail grown by Chris & Lynn Heysen.



Above: Popular vote winner Chris Heysen receiving his glass from judge Noel Oliver.

March Plant Commentary

FROM THE REGISTRAR

At our March meeting 33 plants were brought in for judging, the majority being from 1st Division growers (25). I challenge the 2nd Division growers to endeavour to have more plants on the bench than 1st Division for the April meeting. However, the 33 plants presented at our March meeting provided a wonderful display and included many quality plants.

Orchid of First Division and Orchid of the Night



Above: Ctt. Valentine Day 'Suzie' grown by Rito and Rosetta Silvestri was chosen by the Judging Panel to be orchid of the night.

Rowan Crowhurst presented the commentary pointing out that this well grown orchid boasted 2 inflorescences with a total of 22 flowers. Rowan also mentioned that this type of cattleya, which has two leaves with long canes is what is referred to as a cluster type flower. The large flowers had a waxy, glossy, purplish red colour with a long trumpet like labellum which flared out. This hybrid is a crossing between *Cattlianthe Chocolate Drop* and *Cattleya Intermediette*. The high flower count and glassy sheen comes from *Gurianthe aurantiaca* and the other cattleya species in the plant's background increase the flower size.

Congratulations Rito and Rosetta. Thank you for sharing yet another remarkable plant with us.

Orchid of Open Division



Above: Encyclia alata grown by Robert and Lesley Gunn was the winner of Open Division.

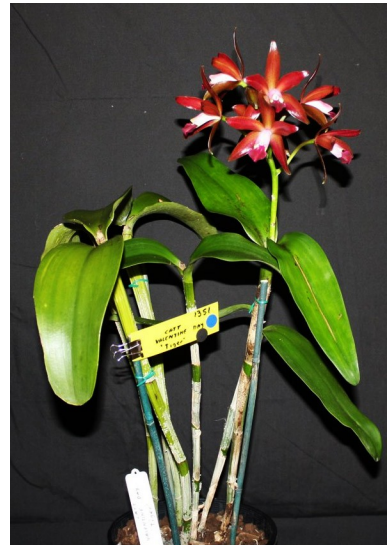
The commentary was presented by Peter Haltis who mentioned that this species formerly called *Epidendrum belizense* is commonly known as 'the winged one'. The plant is found growing naturally in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Belize. It is a cool to warm grower, an epiphyte found in tropical semi-deciduous forest up to 1300 metres in elevation.

Robert and Lesley's plant boasted a long arching inflorescence with 16 flowers nicely arranged and a smaller one with 9 flowers. The flowers were of a consistent colour and shape with nice texture and excellent substance enabling the erect flowers to create such a beautiful display.

Congratulations Robert and Lesley and thank you for sharing this eye catching plant with us.

March Plant Commentary (cont.)

Orchid of Second Division



Ctt. Valentine Day 'Tiger' grown by David Williams was the winner of Second Division.

The commentary for this Division was carried out by Vicky Cooper who explained that the name of the plant has changed from *Cattleya* (*C.*) to *Cattlianthe* (*Ctt.*). Vicki pointed out that this plant had one upright stem with 7 well presented, open flowers and one bud. The flowers were of consistent colour with a contrasting labellum with a waxy, shiny texture. Vicki went on to say that these plants from South America will grow and flower at this time of the year in South Australia.

Congratulations David. This is a magnificent plant and a worthy winner.

Thank you to the Judging Panel and to our photographer, Neil Cooper and to Lesley Fenton and Michael Willoughby for producing the certificates.

Registrar of Judges Roger Rankin and his wife, Pauline, attended our meeting to present two awards. Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju received an ACM/AOC for their magnificent *Dendrobium* Victorian Splendour 'Watts' and Michael and Bernadette Matthews were awarded an FCC/AOC for their *Paph. micranthum*. Congratulations.

Members should be aware that changes to our Club's By-Laws now provide for you to bench your plants at Main Group and Southern Region Group. From time to time we have plants which may not fully be open for a meeting and the blooms may be spoiled by the next meeting. This change to the By-Laws will give all members more of an opportunity to show plants at their optimum flowering time. However, you should be aware that you can only bench the plant once in any one month ie either at Main Group or Southern Region Group. All points earned from benching plants at Main Group and Southern Region Group now contribute towards your annual aggregate points.

Members, please note the following name changes on your plant labels:

Cattlianthe [*Ctt.*] (syn. *Cattleya* or *C.*) Valentine Day
Neopabstopetalum [*Npp.*] Beverley Lou
Cattleya [*C.*] (syn. *Laeliocattleya* or *LC.*) Jungle Elf
Oncostele [*Ons.*] (syn. *Colmanara* or *Colm.*) Wildcat
Rhyncattleanthe [*Rth.*] (syn. *Potinara* or *Pot.*) Burana Angel
Gomesa [*Gom.*] *flexuosa* (syn. *Oncidium flexuosum*)
Oncostele [*Ons.*] (syn. *Odontocidium* or *Odcdm.*) Everglades Elegance

Don't forget that our Autumn Show will be held on 2nd May, 2015 and you should be preparing your plants now.

Our weather has been unusual and some of our plants seem confused but we look forward to seeing your lovely plants on the show bench at our April meetings and at our Autumn Show.

Judy McRedmond - Registrar of Judges

Orchid Culture Notes for April

Autumn is still a growth time in the orchid house except unlike spring where many of our plants are commencing growth we are now at maturity for many. The days still remain warm and the humidity increases but the colder evenings remind us that winter is not far away. Many of our plants will mature this month, some in readiness for flowering in the next month or so and others that will go into a rest phase until the lengthening days of spring stir them into action. An important factor for these flowering and resting plants is a general reduction in water and increase in light. This means we remove additional shading provided to combat the fierce summer sun, raise our plants off the ground and provide cover to keep out the cold winter rain. Some orchids can handle exposure to winter rain without too much trouble with the humble *Cymbidiums* and *Zygopetalums* not requiring much protection from the elements of winter unless they are in spike when some supplementary cover would be advantageous. However, there are some orchids that will certainly struggle, if not die when confronted with single digit minimums and wet roots over winter. Many of our *Cattleyas*, *Oncidiums* and even the hot/cold *Dendrobiums* have a distinct dislike to these conditions and whilst won't kill the plant, it will turn their roots into a brown/green soggy mess. Come spring the poor old plant has to start all over again and direct energies to grow new roots at the expense of the new growth. This is a common cause of that orchid you grow that gets smaller every year.

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

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

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

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

I let my *Oncidiums* tell me what they are up to. If they have green tips then they still require moisture and feeding. Some will seal off later this month as they enter their resting stage and these will be kept drier.

I find the *varicosum* type, those ones with the big yellow skirts follow this trend and will suffer root loss if kept wet over winter. Knowing the plants origins are a distinct advantage. *Oncidiums* for example can grow in deserts, humid jungles and high up in the mountains. That's a huge variance in temperature, humidity, light and even seasonal factors. This means you cannot say keep all *Oncidiums* dry over winter. Sure, that applies to some but not all. This is where some reading up of the species involved is required to work out how they need to be cultivated.

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

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 3rd Sunday of the month.

THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Due to renovations at the Enfield Community Centre, Monthly Meetings will held at Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on the 1st Thursday of April, May and June 2015. The next meeting will be on 2nd April at 8 pm.

THE DAYTIME GROUP: Due to renovations at the Enfield Community Centre. Monthly Daytime meetings will be held at Clearview Hall, 11 Clearview Crescent, Clearview on the 2nd Friday of April, May and June 2015 at 2 pm. The Next meeting will be on 10th April.

In July we return to the Enfield Community Centre for all meetings and shows.

The Festival of Flowers will be a special event held at St. Paul's School Gym, 792 Grand Junction Rd. Gilles Plains from Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm.

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 4th 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 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 7.30 pm on the 3rd 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 4th 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 4th 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.

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E. & O. E.

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Orchid Club of South Australia

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