

The South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

Gazette

**March
2014**



PRESIDENT: Geoff Spear

PATRON: Sydney Monkhouse

AT A GLANCE

The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at St. Bernadette's Church Hall corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. The guest speaker will be Steve Howard whose subject will be Oncidium Intergeneric you can grow here.

CHANGE OF TIME FOR JUDGING:

**Please have Plants benched by 7.40p.m. so judging can commence 7.50p.m.
If you are going to be late due to work commitments please ring Sue Zerbe on
0411 180 015.**

POSITION VACANT:

We need someone to supervise suppers on main meeting nights. You will not be alone in this task as you will have other members to assist you.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: 7.20p.m. Geoff Spear on Hybridising Cymbidium Orchids.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 13th March 2014 at 2pm. Our Guest Speaker Trevor Jacob speaking on the Botanical Gardens.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Sunday 16th March 2014 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Guest Speaker Les Nesbitt speaking on soft cane Dendrobiums.

YOUR 2014 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Geoffrey Spear

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Donna Meuwesen

VICE PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

Barbara Almond

SECRETARY

Lucy Spear

Dorothy Carasai, Andrew Lutz, Michael Willoughby, Oui Ju, Heather Wright, Susanna Bratuz, Christine Robertson.

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ABN 83 245 384 076

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Affiliated with The Australian Orchid Council & the South Australian Regional Orchid Council

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

2014 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

ORCHID CALENDAR FOR 2014

<u>MAIN GROUP WORKSHOP</u>	HOSTED BY THE LUTZ FAMILY SATURDAY 8th MARCH at 14, York Drive, Pasadena, 5042. Time 2p.m. to 4p.m. Phone 8177 1331. Come along and see how Daniel grows his orchids and bring your questions along.
<u>AUTUMN SHOW</u>	SUNDAY 4th MAY TO SATURDAY 10th MAY at Pasadena Shopping Centre.
<u>S.A.R.O.C. FAIR</u>	SATURDAY 7th JUNE AND SUNDAY 8th JUNE at Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall.
<u>WINTER SHOW</u>	SUNDAY 27th JULY TO SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST at Federation, Arndale.
<u>NORTHERN BUS TRIP</u>	10th AUGUST (TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS).
8.30a.m.	Depart Lou Kesting Hall.
10.00a.m.	Arrive at mystery orchid visit venue. Plants will be available for sale.
11.15a.m.	Depart for Lunch at either an orchid nursery (with plants for sale) or a hotel lunch (at extra cost).
TBA	Depart lunch venue.
2.30p.m.	Arrive Virginia Nursery.
3.30p.m.	Depart Virginia Nursery.
5.00p.m.	Arrive Lou Kesting Hall.
<u>SOUTHERN REGION GROUP SHOW</u>	THURSDAY 28th AUGUST TO SUNDAY 31st AUGUST at R.S.L. Hall, Coral Street, Victor Harbor.
<u>B.B.Q</u>	At Bunning's, Noarlunga, Saturday 6th September.
<u>SPRING SHOW</u>	SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER TO SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER at Colonnades Shopping Centre.
<u>SOUTHERN GROUP WORKSHOP</u>	SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER at Reg and Elsie's home.
<u>MCLAREN VALE DISPLAY AT BONSAI CLUB</u>	18th October, Main St McLaren Vale.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS – MARCH

Patty Abell, Neil Cooper, Reg Clifford, Jim Fogarasi, Joy Grund, Peter Haltis, Helmut Herrmann, Andrew Lutz, Leo Inkenko, Josephine Ogrowsky, Val Phillips, Grace Noll, Ruth Tugwell, Malilyn Jelfs,

BIRTHDAY DRAW

Is your name in the book?

LUCKY NAME BADGE

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

NEW MEMBERS:

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

The Worthing Family and Darryl Jones

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

JUDGES ROSTER 5/03/14

Open Division

Leader: Wendy Lodge, Judy McRedmond. Recorder: Vickie Cooper

First Division

Leader: Noel Oliver, Peter Haltis. Recorder: Graham Zerbe

Second Division

Leader: John Gay, Ian Attenborough. Recorder: Trevor Stutley

Sue Zerbe

Registrar of Judges

Hello, a little about Sue Zerbe

My early years were spent going to a little country school, 1 small class room, containing classes 1 to 7, 1 teacher plus a speaker on the wall also giving us certain lessons.

Next to the big smoke finishing off primary school then high school, and then the big wide world of the work force, studying some more and then giving more time to be able to go to dances, pictures etc.

28 years ago I met a wonderful butcher called Graham who made the most remarkable father to my beautiful daughter called Sunny.

Then one Saturday we went to an orchid show on our way to the football. A few hours later with a car full of orchids we arrived after half time and from then on we were hooked for ever to this wonderful hobby.

Soon we became members of several orchid clubs and are the owners of 7 club badges all worn with pride.

The knowledge gained and the friendships made is unbelievable and very precious to us both.

Sue Zerbe

Your new Registrar of Judges

Workshop 15 February 2014

Judy and Rod McRedmond hosted the first workshop for 2014 on Saturday 15 February 2014. The weather was kind to us and Judy and Rod passed on a lot of information about things they have put into practice since joining our club 10 years ago.

Morning tea was yummy.

We wandered through their shade house and looked at their hot house and watering system. We saw first hand how they automatically mist their growing areas and saw the pump system used to fertilize their plants using rain water.

Thank you both for the opportunity to visit your garden.



Congratulations

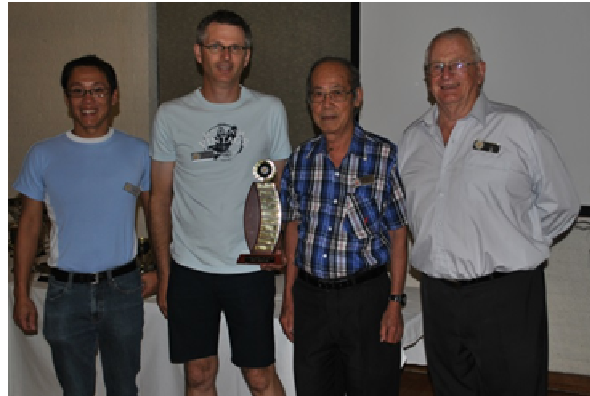
To: Rod and Judy McRedmond for winning South Australian Orchid of the Year awarded by OCSA.

To: Wendy Lodge for winning OCSA's Seedling of the Year.

To: Geoff and Lucy Spear for winning the Les Nesbitt Trophy for the Best Australian Orchid Species grown in South Australia in 2013.



Geoff & Lucy Spear receiving the
Les Nesbitt Trophy, Best Australian
Species for 2013



Oui Ju & Michael Willoughby receiving Chin Yew
Lian Trophy, Best Seedling for 2013

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Hi Everyone,

Our guest speaker today was Mr. John Gay from Murray Bridge who brought with him a great range of ideas and hints on how to grow your orchids a lot better. It is always a pleasure to have John speak to us. He really inspires one to get out in the shade house and try these other ideas. Thanks John, it was a treat to have you here as usual. Thanks also for doing the plant commentary today.

The display table today was not overly full but what was there were all quality plants of mixed genera. All very well presented and beautiful to see. Mr. Peter and Mrs Geraldine Flavel's orchid was voted best on the day in our popular vote segment. This plant was a C. Valentine Day 'Belinda' with two beautiful big heads full of flowers. Very well grown and presented as is usual with their plants. Congratulations and well done to you both.

The beautiful rains were certainly a Godsend after all the heat that we had. I'm sure all the plants really appreciated having such a good drenching and the lawn has started to green up already and the tanks are all full again.

The trip to Haighs Chocolate Factory was great with lots of yummy chocolates to try.

Judy and Rod's plant visit and workshop went down well with those that attended. They had quite a few flowers out to admire. The members sure were quite impressed, thanks to you both.

The meeting was closed after another great afternoon of shared knowledge and friendship.

Thanking all in attendance.

Bye Dorothy,
8277-1793.



Mr. Peter and Mrs Geraldine Flavel with their popular
vote winner Cat. Valentine Day 'Belinda'



John Gay deep into his talk on hints
how to grow your orchids a lot better.



SOUTHERN REGION GROUP MEETING SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY

Beginner's Group: 1.30p.m. John Gay discussed mixed genera.

The President opened the meeting at 2p.m. and wished us all a very happy new year. There were 31 members in attendance. Geoff spoke about the heatwave and how he looked after his plants during this time. He also advised members that there is a wonderful range of guest speakers organised for this year.

Dates for our Show: Thursday 28th August to Sunday 31st August 2014. Our Workshop on Friday 17th October 2014. Geoff also let us know how very welcome we are to attend any meeting and also show our plants at any S.C.O.C. meeting, shows etc. He then gave an informative talk on cymbidiums.

Guest speaker next meeting will be Les Nesbitt talking on soft cane Dendrobiums.

New Members: Welcome to the Worthing Family and Darryl Jones.

Apologies: Judy Crafter

Judging: John Gay, Noel Oliver and Graham Zerbe.

Plant of the Day: : *Epi. Boundii* benched by Reg & Elsie Clifford.

Popular Vote: *Neofinetia falcata* benched by Ruth Tugwell.

SRG February Results List

Ref.No.

Points Awarded

Second Division

Cymbidim – less than 56 mm (all colours)

312	Cym. Valentine Day 'Diane'	Keith & Russ Sutton	3
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Laeliinae – Non Standard Cluster

317	Epi. Boundii	Reg & Elsie Clifford	3
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Laeliinae – Species

313	Enc. cochleata	Eileen Pinnock	3
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314	Enc. cochleata	J & M Sorrell & A Gate	2
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Laeliinae – Standard over 100 mm

315	.C. Coshehs Genesis	Val Phillips	3
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316	.C. (Summer Stars x forbesii)	Keith & Russ Sutton	2
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

318	Neofinetia falcata	Ruth Tugwell	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere – Hybrid

319	Phal. unknown 'Sophie's Choice'	Joan McMahon	3
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320	Phal. unknown 'Maxamillion'	Joan McMahon	2
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Flower of the Day: *Epi. Boundii* grown by Reg & Elsie Clifford

Reg Clifford receiving his prize cup from Noel Oliver

February Plant Commentary

Members were to be congratulated on the display considering the extremely hot weather that Mother Nature has tested us with. There were 18 plants on the Open benches, just the one on First Division and 10 on the Second Division bench. Although the numbers were down, the quality was of a high standard.

Flower of Open Division and Flower of the Night came from the Gay stable. A well grown species plant of *Prosthechea* [*Encyclia*] *cochleata*. This well grown species boasted fourteen inflorescences each carrying 2-4 typical flowers with a number of buds still to come. The species is a progressive flowerer with the cockleshell shaped flowers with the petals and sepals hanging down from it. This species is a very rewarding plant to have in one's collection and will grow out with the cymbidiums.

Well done John & Bev for producing such a quality plant on the night.



Flower of First Division grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju was a small but well grown and flowered *Phalaenopsis* unknown carrying ten standard shape pink flowers on an arching inflorescence. The flower was almost white radiating out to the soft pink at the outer extremities of the segments. The labellum was a hot pink colour with yellow keels and hot pink spots the base of the labellum.

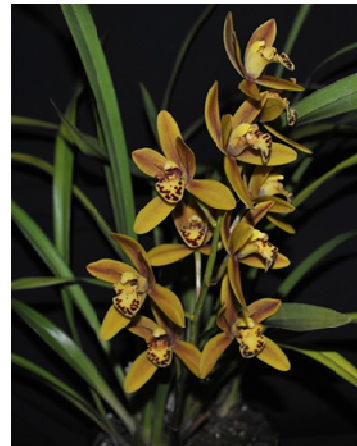
Well done Michael & Oui . You are showing your talents with a number of genera and growing them very well.



February Plant Commentary (cont.)

Flower of Second Division grown by Daniel & Andy Lutz. *Cymbidium* Sundaani 'Autumn Sunset' was an an early flowering complex hybrid. The plant was quite small with one inflorescence carrying ten under 60mm flowers, which were in the shades of autumn. The flowers were of a good shape for an early flowering plant. The labellum was highlighted with burgundy blotches to give the flower character.

This plant was hybridized by one of our members, Pauline Hockey using her own stock plants and pollen. Congratulations Daniel & Andy you are growing your plants very well.



Seedlings

There were seedlings eligible for both of the trophies; all in all there were six seedlings for the Judges to look at on the night, three for the Garard Western and three for the Chin Yew Lian trophies. Both of the successful plants had the influence of epidendrums in there ancestry.

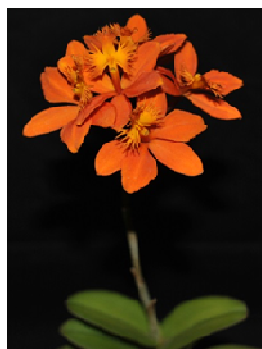
The best in the Garard Western Trophy was a hybrid of one of the type epidendrums that we have been seeing on the benches for the past couple of years.

The plant grown and hybridised by Pauline & Mark Hockey was *Epi.* [Gold Valley x (Orange Blaze x Joseph Lii) x Pacific Glory]. A bright orange almost filled in flower with a golden yellow fimbriated labellum. Pauline told me that the plant was only twelve months out of the flask.

This appears to be a change in your hybridising plans we have only seen cymbidiums in the past. Well done Pauline & Mark keep up the good work.

The best in the Chin Yew Lian Trophy was *Epc.* (El Hatillo x Burdekin Bumble Bee) also grown by Pauline & Mark Hockey this small plant had one inflorescence carrying three attractive flowers and one bud. The flowers were creamy white and brushed with mauve toward the ends of the segments and of good texture and substance. The labellum was slightly darker mauve and veined.

This plant was judged seedling of the night by the judges. Once again well done Pauline and Mark and thank you for sharing these little treasures with us.



Epi. [Gold Valley x (Orange Blaze x Joseph Lii) x Pacific Glory] is a contender for the Garard Western Trophy.

Epc. (El Hatillo x Burdekin Bumble Bee) is a contender for the Chin Yew Lian Trophy & also was seedling of the night.

Orchid Culture Notes for March

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

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

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

Closer observations will reveal many orchids have a flush of new or additional root growth this month. This is obviously to pick up more moisture and nutrients to store away for the rest periods ahead. This applies to many different species and in particular natives and the *Cattleya/Laeliinae* group. Native epiphytes will be maturing and hardening off growths now. It will still be a bit early for any spike initiation for most growers but for me March reveals how good my *Den. bigibbum* collection will perform in the autumn months as these are the first of the native epiphytes to show spikes. These too are showing a flush of new roots. They will all stay in the shade house until the spikes get long and the buds show. Once nights start to dip towards single digits, they will be moved back indoors for the winter and with some luck give me about 3 to 4 months of indoor flowering depending on the species.

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

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

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

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

Orchid Culture Notes for March (cont.)

For the new chum it would be advisable to speak to those growers who show *Oncidium's* to get some ideas. My best *Oncidium's* grow on a mount and are hung above the cym's. They are watered daily in summer and fed often and preferably in the morning. They get minimal attention during their resting period and are kept on the dry side. They reward me with numerous spikes every year and are a good indicator to the general health of the collection and the conditions I try to provide.

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

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

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

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

Steve Howard

ORCHID CLUBS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA – General Meeting Times

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Bernadette's Church Hall corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Mary's. Beginners Class starts at 7.15p.m., meeting at 8.00p.m.

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

THE SOUTHERN 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.

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

PUBLIC LIABILITY

Under insurance guidelines all members attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign an attendance sheet.

Current Sponsors for our Club

We wish to thank the following persons who have supported us and our shows with donations etc. Members are requested to keep these people in mind when purchasing orchids and supplies.

Federation Management
Coast FM
Cobb & Co.
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John & Bev Gay

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