



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

May 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



Ctt. Porcia 'Cannizaro' Grown By Helen Humphrys

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
24 May and 21 June



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VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western	
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Convenors Daytime Chapter	Barbara Almond, Patty Abell
Convenor Main Beginners Gr.	Craig Humfrey



LIFE MEMBERS

*** denotes Member who has passed away.**

1978 Dulcie Grave *	1986 Harry Viney *	2009 Don Biebrick
1978 Leora Harvey	1986 John Nicholls	2009 Henk Van Leuveren *
1978 L. & H. Poole*	1989 Helen Edwards	2010 Dorothy Carassai
1978 Ellie Shaw*	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2011 John and Bev Gay
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2005 Merve Steele *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson*	2005 Shirley Steele *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson*	Circa Tony and Toshie Deonno *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	This list is still being compiled.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2020 are due now. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2020. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

RATES – One membership covers all groups

Family Membership	\$38.00
Single Membership	\$30.00
Junior Membership	\$22.00

Rural and Interstate Membership

Family Membership	\$34.00
Single Membership	\$28.00

Account Details: BankSA Glenelg. BSB: 105-145
(Use your grower number for Reference)

Account No.: 545457040

President's Message



I write this as we are about to enjoy more deliveries from upstairs, which has been more than welcome compared to last year as I recorded 10mm in the rain gauge for April 2019. This year there has already been around 49mm. I hope that wherever you are you have received a good drop of rain.

From what I can see, this year promises to be a good flowering year with spikes galore. I do not believe because of the social impositions that we are enduring that our plants should be forgotten. We can practice our presenting skills for our own enjoyment (we should have more time). Also our collections can receive the attention they deserve and do not often receive during a normal Orchid year.

On the note of presentation skills, we can tie this to a popular photograph vote each month through the gazette. You can either vote by email to our Editor Christine Robertson or by ringing Christine or Lucy Spear. See page 7 of this Gazette for details.

Please take time to make the effort to send photos of your flowering plants to Christine as we would love to see what is flowering at any time. This is a great way to show plants that otherwise may not make to any of our meetings.

In addition the Committee has agreed to members advertising their plants for sale, as we cannot sell them through the Show Trading Tables. Thank You to Trevor Stutley for this idea. The first attempt at Plants for Sale is on page 7 of this Gazette.

Successful growing

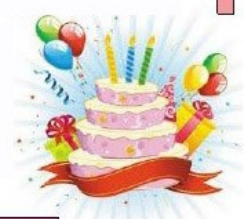
Stay Calm & Keep Safe

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**GEOFF SPEAR, VAN ORTLIPP,
ANITA BUDGEN, PETER DAVIDGE**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??

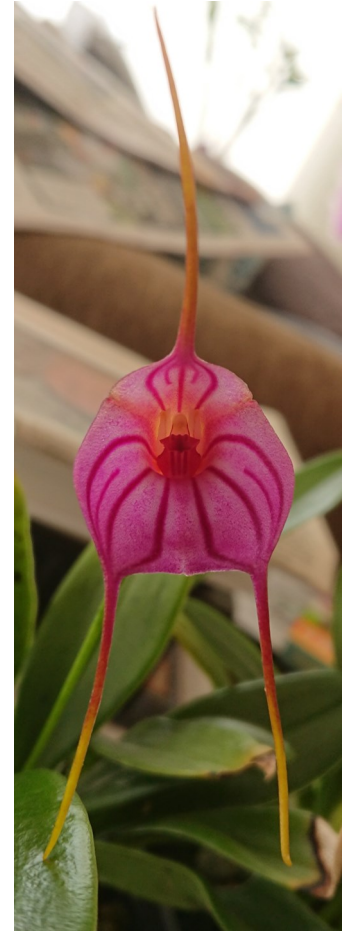
MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Miltonia clowesii
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Vanda vietnamica
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



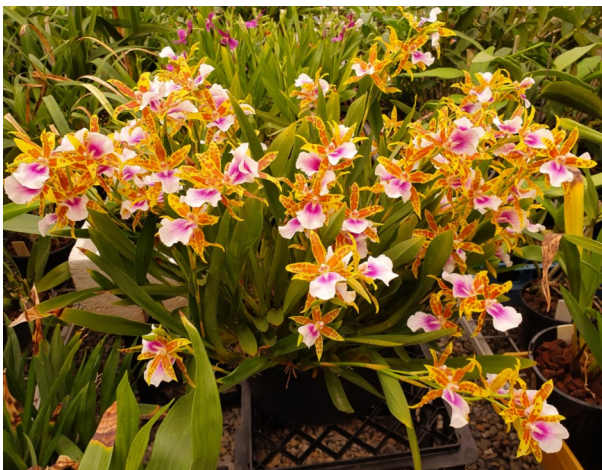
Masdevallia Peppermint Glow
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Cattleya Elisabeth Calov
Grown By
Phil & Anne Steer



Miltonia guanabara
Grown By
Phil & Anne Steer



Miltonia Goodale Moir 'Golden Wonder'
Grown by
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Cymbidium Sundaani Autumn 'Daybreak'
Grown By
Phil & Anne Steer

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont...



***Paphiopedilum henryanum* 'Mouliache' &
Paphiopedilum henryanum 'Seaview'**

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



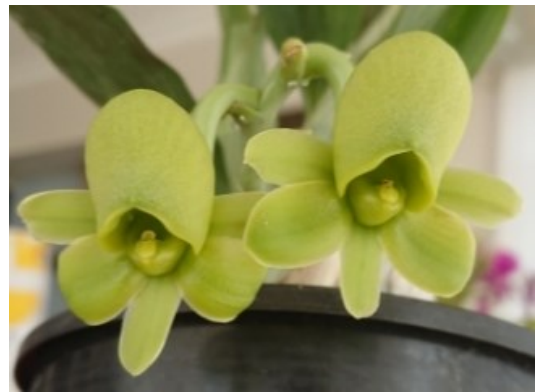
Paphiopedilum purpuratum

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Cattleya Mini Surprise* 'Merrigum'**

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Catasetum Double Down* (female flowers)**

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Cattleya perrinii

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Catasetum Double Down* (Male flowers)**

Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont ...



Cattleya Cornelis' Love 'Jules'

Grown By
Bob Clayton



Aliceara Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy'

Grown By
Laurie & Sue Carter



Cattleya Elisabeth Calov

Grown By
Bill Jayne



Gomesa uniflora

Grown By Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Gomesa Alosuka 'Claire'

Grown by
John & Bev Gay

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont..



This photograph is of
Spathoglottis Unknown
Grown by Bob Clayton.
Does anyone know this plant? Bob
would appreciate a name if possible,



MEMBERS PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Members are asked to select their choice of orchid for the winner of the Members Photograph Competition. This is a popular vote. Choose the orchid you would like to take home.

TO VOTE you can contact the Editor on email: kloval@westnet.com.au
Or you may phone Lucy on (08) 8381 4420 or 0409 842 352
Or you may phone the Editor on 0438 363 940

ORCHIDS FOR SALE

As the Shows and their trading tables have been cancelled, the Committee has decided to allow members to advertise their orchids for sale in the Gazette. Members should provide a photo of the orchid for sale, the cost of the orchid and their details for contact.

Members who wish to purchase an orchid, must make arrangements for payment and collection of the orchid from the member selling the orchid.

The first two orchids for sale are as follows:

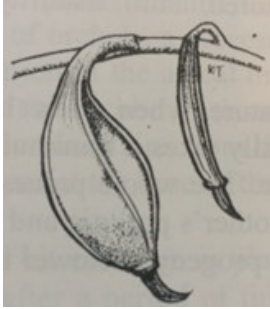


Miltonia cogniauxiae
\$20

Bratonia Estrelita
'Sweet Senorita'
\$25

Seller: Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
Mobile Number: 0479 162 527





SEED CAPSULE MATURITY

(From Australian Orchid Foundation)

Estimating the ripening time of a seed capsule is a difficult task. Many an amateur and professional hybridizer have had the disappointment of finding the seed capsule of that desired cross split and its contents scattered to the wind.

There are many factors that come into play regarding the ripening of a seed capsule, e.g. time of the year, weather conditions during maturation of the capsule, the fertility of the cross, etc.

After fertilization, seed development can be gauged by the swelling and ripening of the developing seed capsule which may take a few weeks or occasionally as long as a year or more, depending on the genus. As a seed capsule ripens, it changes colour from green to yellow to brown then splits to release the seed into the air. It is recommended that when the seed capsule begins to yellow at one end, it is ripe for harvesting and sending to the seed bank or laboratory.

If you are unsure of how much time is left before the capsule will split, try tying tissue paper or an empty tea bag over the capsule a few weeks beforehand and examine it from day to day.

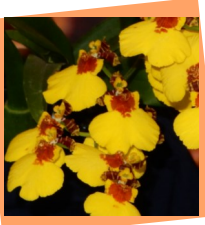
Below is a list of the expected time for ripening of seed capsules. This is an *approximate guide only* and may be of assistance to new growers.

Genus	Approximate days for ripening	Genus	Approximate days for ripening
<i>Ascocentrum</i>	150-170 days	<i>Maxillaria</i>	130-150 days
<i>Bulbophyllum</i>	80-120 days	<i>Miltonia</i>	145-160 days
<i>Cattleya</i>	160-180 days	<i>Oncidium</i>	100-130 days
<i>Cymbidium</i>	250-300 days	<i>Paphiopedilum</i>	150-170 days
<i>Dendrobium</i>	160-180 days	<i>Phalaenopsis</i>	130-140 days
<i>Encyclia</i>	160-180 days	<i>Phragmipedium</i>	180-190 days
<i>Epidendrum</i>	130-145 days	<i>Pleurothallis</i>	45- 50 days
<i>Laelia</i>	140-150 days	<i>Renanthera</i>	180-200 days
<i>Leptotes</i>	120-140 days	<i>Sarcochilus</i>	200-210 days
<i>Masdevallia</i>	100-110 days	<i>Restrepia</i>	50- 80 days



A photograph of a plant with long, slender, upright stems bearing numerous small, light pink flowers. The leaves are broad and green, visible at the base of the stems.





DAYTIME CHAPTER



Hi everyone

We hope you are all keeping well in these difficult times. Because we cannot meet this month, Geoff Spear has produced the following information which he was going to talk about.

Why Won't my Cymbidium Orchids Flower - Check List

Is it too dark?

Cymbidium Orchids need only 50% shade. If your plant has lots of new growth but no flower spikes, this could well be the problem. Also check for over hanging trees.

Are the pots too crowded?

Spread your Cymbidium Orchids out. 10 inches between 10 inch pots; 12 inches between 12 inch pots etc. Jamming your Orchids in your growing area, pot to pot, means they will shade each other.

Are they getting too much nitrogen?

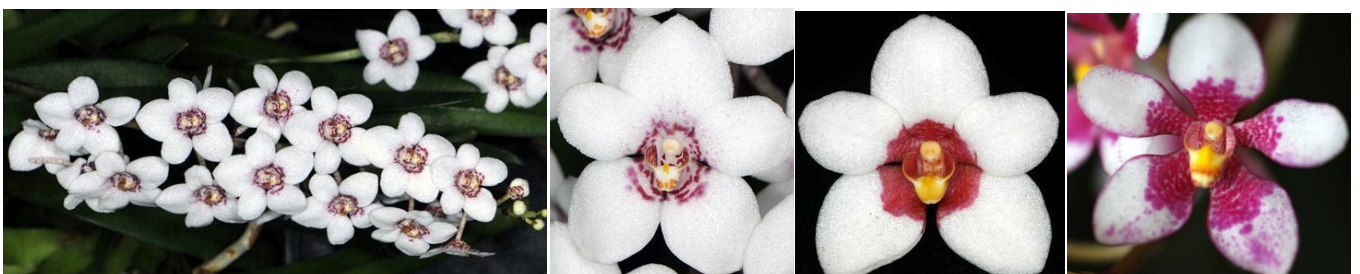
Giving your Cymbidium Orchids high nitrogen fertilizer all year round will cause an abundance of new growths, but no spikes. Switch to a blossom booster in December and continue to use for 6 months.

Cool down your orchids in the summer months.

(December, January, and February). Drop the Night Temperature rapidly by 10 degrees or so, by spraying your orchids with cool water (out of a hose is fine). Do this on warm Summer evenings.

We hope you continue to keep in good health and hopefully it won't be long before we can get back together again

Barb & Patty





JUST TO SAY HOWDY

Hi to all of our members of the South Coast Orchid Club and more particularly the Southern Region members. Well the dreaded COVID-19 virus or Coronavirus as we generally call it in conversations; has caused quite a disruption in our lives, cancelling sporting fixtures near and afar, closing businesses putting many out of work not to mention the numbers contracting the dreaded virus and of course those who are no longer with us. Worse still it has created a problem for the management committee of our great club, resulting in the cancellation of meetings. As many of us are in that age bracket where we are more susceptible than any other age bracket it has been a wise move. Their wisdom will be justified when everything settles down to normality in time to come, whenever that might be.

I was to have spoken to you on a topic that highlighted my cultural practices, some excellent ideas that I have picked up from other members, some in depth discussion about the species orchids in the background of many of the wonderful Laeliineae family we see benched at our monthly meetings in the past. Then wrapping up the presentation explaining some of the good and bad points that judges look for when judging this group of orchids.

I am starting to have reservations if you will ever get to see this presentation as I was supposed to show it at the December 2019 meeting but a SENIOR'S Moment when packing the car back in December prevented this happening. Then I promised Lucy I would do it in February but someone else already had that spot, so we settled on April 2020 and of course that isn't going to happen.

If you can remember what I said at the end of the March meeting, I said I was going to leave all of the Christmas stuff in it just for a laugh, who knows I may just have to change 2019 to 2020.

It is a shame that we cannot have our April meeting as the cluster type Cattleyas are at the peak flowering time about now so instead of seeing the masses of colour on the show bench at the meeting we will have to be content to admire our own plants and dream of what might have been.

I urge you to all continue to tend to your orchids and plan for the late August Show hopefully. Enjoy your private showings at home in the orchid house.

For those of you that are on the sick list we wish you a speedy recovery, those of you who are recovering from major surgeries we hope all is going to plan

Both Sue and I miss you all terribly. Most of all take care and keep safe until we are together again sometime in the future.

Graham J Zerbe

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

Essay Competition 2014 Special Prize Winner

My Favourite Orchid

By Hayley O'Donnell

For this year's "your favourite orchid" essay competition I have chosen *Bifrenaria harrisoniae*. This plant is a native of Brazil. It grows in rocky areas as well as on rocks and trees in warm, humid rain forests areas. So, in other words, in places like forest and rocky places like rivers and that kind of thing. The *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* is a popular orchid and has been in cultivation for a very long time. It was one of the first orchids introduced to England during the year 1821. It has since been popular with orchid growers all over the world.

It is loved a lot for its wide opening, waxy flowers that are usually the colour of cream with a magenta colour lip. They have a strong fragrance with angular pseudobulbs and large, thick leaves. Bright light and gentle air movement is needed for this specific orchid to grow their flowers. Lots of water is needed, preferably heavy watering. This is needed when the plants are in active growth. Water is needed occasionally after its growth has matured and when cool temperatures are about as well as during the short wintery days.



Right now I can say that orchids can be relatively easy to grow but sometimes are difficult to change from one pot to another. Especially when either they have grown out of their pots or have split or broken the pot due to their root system beginning to break the pot. They can also suffer a setback from the issue of repotting and of course should be repotted only when it is absolutely necessary and not when you want or think you need to change the pot. When you repot you need to change the growing medium. I find that the easiest way to care for orchids is by leaving them in their pots and shifting them around when still in their pots or even when you buy the orchid and plan to leave it in a spot where you will not need to move it.

A little about my experience with Orchids!

I started growing orchids on the second week of term two being the fifth of February at Willunga High School 2014. I decided to join the Orchid Club because I was interested and wanted to learn about growing orchids and because I liked to do things with my friends. They had decided to join as well. The first time that I saw orchids was out in fields around the area of Willunga High School

reserves. I do not grow any types of orchids at my home as my parents think that they are a pain and are hard to grow. We also have dogs and they like to eat anything so they wouldn't survive in our yard. I am attracted to this particular orchid because of the colorful flowers, light fragrance and the banana bulbs which remind me of my banana palms at home and look cool and interesting. Over the time that I will be at Orchid Club I hopefully will be able to learn some more interesting facts about this specific orchid with my orchid mentor, Trevor Garard. As I mentioned above, this orchid came from and is a native of Brazil. At Willunga High School our orchids are grown in a 50% shade house near the Aboriginal garden where native orchids are also grown with a mixture of other plants. We have our *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* hanging from the roof of our shade house. It is currently growing in a small pot and medium soil. The pot is 120mm and the medium is made of 10mm coconut husk. The Orchid Club at Willunga High School is a lot of fun and has lots of interactive stuff to do which includes cleaning pots in bleach with an apron, gloves and face helmet on. I was the second person to do this job and I didn't want to take off the mask so I wore it until the end of the lesson. We also have the opportunity to care for our own orchids with some people having no flowers and people with some flowers and then me who has lots of flowers. We also water, fertilize and adjust the height of our flowers ourselves while caring for our group plant which is going to orchid shows. Apart from the orchid that I am writing about, I currently have no other favourites but hopefully I will have a lot more favourite orchids that I will like. I would also like to mention that I am happy and excited about the new combination of two plants that we will later hopefully see flower. The Willunga High School Club mentor Trevor Garard has used *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* in a hybridising program. He has put pollen from the *Bifrenaria* onto *Propabstopetalum* Kiwi Sunrise. Our Orchid Club will be getting some of the progeny from this great combination or cross. I have heard that this cross has never been made before and I am looking forward to seeing this great combination towards the end of this year. Lastly I would like to thank Trevor Garard and Mr. Glass [Jeff Glass] for their support through this essay.

[Acknowledgment: Our sincere thanks to Dale Borders for allowing us to use his images to illustrate this article.]

UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Cattleya perrinii*

Cattleya perrinii is one of Michael & Oui's plants for this month. It occurs in coastal mountain forests of Brazil (400-1000m.) where it grows on rocks and trees in moderate shade. Plants are relatively large, sympodial, epiphytes or lithophytes.

Strongly flattened club-like pseudobulbs are narrow at the base and wide in the upper section and are often tinted with purple. A single erect leathery leaf is carried at the top of each pseudobulb, spotted on under side and sometimes the upper surface may be mottled. Inflorescence emerges at the top of recently matured pseudobulb carrying one to three, rarely five flowers, 10-15cm across with long, narrow pointed sepals and petals. Colour is variable, pale rose purple to deep purple, with crystalline texture. Lip is three lobed, 5cm long, creamy white with a velvety, purple band around the apical edges of the side lobes.

C. perrinii was used considerably in breeding early in the twentieth century and has been used again present day. There are 50 primary hybrids and 89 total offspring. This orchid has been awarded 45 times mainly in USA, Brazil, Germany. There has been no award in Australia.



Breeding Hardy Slipper Orchids for Australian Shade House Growing Nicky Zurcher

(Australian Orchid Council Conference Windsor NSW, 2018)

I was introduced to Slipper Orchids by my grandfather when I was a little boy in the Swiss Alps. The yellow and brown scented *Cypripedium calceolus* grew mostly on the sides of steep ravines among spruce trees (*Pinus abies*) on the family farm. That sowed the “Slipper orchid seed” in me for the rest of my life.

I went on to study floriculture and plant propagation, specialising in orchid culture and breeding. For several years I was nursery manager and breeder at a then leading English specialist *Paphiopedilum* nursery before coming to sunny Australia. I divided and repotted *Paph.* Orchilla “Chilton” AM/RHS/GMM when it was only a single plant. Now, there would be hundreds if not thousands in many collections around the world.

My main aims in breeding *Paphs.* have been:

- Hardy *Paphs* for all year-round shade house culture.
- Extending the flowering season of complex, standard hybrids and novelties.
- Producing polyploid breeding plants.



For a long time hobby growers were saying that they could not grow Slipper Orchids because they did not have a heated greenhouse. In those times complex standard hybrids and only a few species were available or in fashion. *P. insigne* was the only exception to grow outside, hence it is now known as the “Common Slipper Orchid”.

By using species from the higher elevations of the foothills of the Himalayas, like *P. spicerianum*, *P. charlesworthii*, *P. venustum*, *P. fairrieianum*, *P. hirsutissimum*, *P. villosum*, *P. insigne* and more recently from the *Parvisepalum* group, *P. armeniacum*, *P. micranthum*, *P. malipoense*, *P. vietnamense*, and *P. emersonii*, I was able to introduce cold and heat tolerant genes into new hybrids. Some of the early resulting hardy hybrids are *P. Pepperpuddle* (*F.C. Puddle FCC/RHS* x *P. spicerianum*), *P. Schaetzchen* (*Maudiae* 4n x *P. charlesworthii*), *P. Deedmannianum* (*P. spicerianum* x *P. liemianum*), *P. Dora Crawshaw* (*P. bellatulum* x *P. charlesworthii*), *P. Venushold* (*venustum* x *Holdeni*), *P. Crossianum* (*venustum forma album* x *insigne forma album*), etc. and many more unregistered crosses.

I tested these for several years in my shade house, covered with only **three** layers of 70 % shade cloth in Summer and two layers in Winter. This gives protection from strong winds but it is exposed to rain when we are lucky enough to get any. The ambient temperature outside ranges from a minimum of 2 degrees in Winter to a maximum of 46 degrees in Summer. The humidity can be very low for several days at a time during long heat waves due to northerly arid zone winds. By keeping the area wet, including pots and leaves, I have never lost any plants during extremely hot weather. Please note that it is the **radiation** and not the **heat** that does the damage to plants !!

By using my recently developed 4n forms of *P. spicerianum*, *P. villosum*, etc., the future for the hardy slippers looks interesting. Much stronger, even more robust and larger flowers will result from these 4n clones as has been observed in the native arctic flora.

My approach to breeding some difficult sections of *Paphiopedilum*.

Breeding *Paphs*. can be very frustrating due to low fertility. This is mostly due to varying chromosome numbers, incompatibility, and sterility especially in distantly related species and many hybrids. The highest diploid numbers (2n) are almost as high as the lowest tetraploid (4n) numbers and many in between.

The magnificent, large, tall Maudiae “Magnificum” FCC/RHS, Alma Gavaert “Madame Maurice Metrens” AM/RHS and Claire de Lune “Edgar van Belle” AM/RHS, which are all about 100 years old, are typical examples. They are so tempting to be used for further breeding, that just about every breeder around the world has had a “good go” at using them. During so many years, I have never been aware of anyone ever having had any tangible success. Sometimes they produce fairly large pods containing lots of infertile seed.



Paph. Maudiae
‘World Leader’ 4n
(‘Los Osos’ x ‘Commander’)

I figured out that, if I could pollinate them with tetraploid (4n) pollen, it may work. But where could I get the pollen from, since there were no 4n plants in this type Of albino *Paph*. As the saying goes “Where there is a will, there is a way” even if it turns out to be a long one. I set out to produce some myself, by doubling the chromosome numbers of a high quality flower. This took many years but my long-term experience with producing 4n *Cymbidiums* was a help, although it was much more delicate. I chose the perfectly shaped *Paph* Holdenii AM/AOC and mericlone it.

This was a process considered impossible thirty years ago or even now. As there was no scientific literature on cloning *Paphs*. I had to spend many hours experimenting in my lab. When I finally succeeded, I treated the small mericlone plantlets (like small seedlings) with a very toxic chemical called Colchicine and hoped for the best that some would turn out to be tetraploid. Indeed, a few plantlets had thicker leaves and roots and eventually producing stronger flower stems. The flowers were not that much larger but the segments were thicker and fleshier.

Over the years I mericlone several more, including species and hybrids of various colours . Upon measuring the stomata cells (breathing cells from the underside of a leaf) under a microscope, it confirmed the double ploidy. Now that I had the precious 4n pollen, I used it on the aforementioned “sterile’ flowers with reasonable success. The mating of *Paph* Maudiae “Magnificum” with the new 4n Holdenii “Tetra Queen” produced the outstandingly large *Paph* Warden. Although a triploid (3n), I have been getting some seedlings in the following generation. In the future, I am hoping to develop a fertile “race” of these large albino Maudiae types. I have also used similar tactics with others. I now have not only 2n and 4n forms but by crossing the two together, also 3n clones , which are usually the largest. Similar results have been observed in *Cymbidium* breeding.



A group of *Paphiopedilum* mericlones including *Paph. Orchilla* 'Chilton'



Paph (Karat Gold Sunlight x *armeniacum*) "Eclipse 99"

Extending the flowering season.

This has been a dream of breeders, especially in large commercial productions. *Cymbidium* breeders have tried combining very early and late flowering species with standard large flowering hybrids for a long time with mixed results. With *Paphs.*, I am lucky that there are several consistently Summer-flowering species. Some are in the sequential, multifloral and *Brachypetalum* (*Paphs. bellatulum, niveum, concolor*) sections.

Many years ago, I crossed *Paph primulinum* with *Paph armeniacum* to make *Paph* Golddollar which flowers at almost any time of year but more often in Summer. By turning it into a tetraploid (4n), it gave me that most important and exclusive stud plant. *Paph* Golddollar is a rather shy breeder, scoring only 14 hybrid registrations in thirty years! I successfully made at least four times as many with the very fertile 4n version in a much shorter time. These contain and pass on double the number of "long day flowering genes. Mating them with large, complex Winter flowering types, proved my theory. Seedlings with *Paph. Verde Oro*, *Paph. Pavaday*, *Paph. rothschildianum*, etc. all flower during the late Spring, Summer and Autumn periods. Some of these are almost as large as the complex standard hybrids which have never been seen in Summer before. They have mostly been bright yellow but I am working on other colours as well. I can now put up a colourful show any time of year. What is more, *Paph* Golddollar 4n is so dominant in its colour inheritance in *Paph* Hatsue Otsuka that it wiped out almost all the dark brown from the other parent *Paph rothschildianum* which of course is a diploid (2n).



A group of Summer-flowering Hybrids



Paph. primulinum with 2nd and 3rd generation hybrids



Orchid Culture Notes for May

May usually sees the true break in season when the warm balmy days of autumn are replaced by the cold of winter. Weather can be erratic this month with temperatures up in the high 20's down to the low teens. Usually the first frosts happen this month especially if the air remains dry. I do remember one May where we had an exceptional run of days over 25 °C with light winds but in general May is the one month where the north westerlies increase and rainfall becomes more reliable towards the end of the month. This means provision of additional cover should now be a consideration. Ideally most enclosures for our plants should have a section with a hard roof to keep plants dry or at least some plastic sheeting to provide some level of cover. I opt for the opal colour polycarbonate sheet that provides 55% shade cover as the next few months sees the sun low in the sky and light levels need to be maximised for most genera this time of year. Solar weave is a useful temporary cover as well.

Another recommendation for the cover is that many of our plants are now in or about to go into spike. Wet developing flower heads will mark or be affected with various fungal problems so that little extra cover will make all the difference and you have the added bonus that you can work with your plants even if it is raining.

Also inspect your plants and make adjustments to those that are unstable as we do not want that nice specimen covered in flower spikes falling over during the next gale do we? Check hanging plants next time you water or it rains and take notice where the water drips down as you do not want it dripping onto another plant below or eroding the soil based mix that homes the terrestrials. Even dew condensing off a hard roof can cause issues for the unfortunate plants below it.

Watering should be reduced now as the cooler weather and higher humidity means our pots do not dry out so fast and secondly many plants are now entering a rest phase. Typical genera that require resting periods are the native epiphytes, Cattleyas and Oncidiums. Many other genera continue to grow, albeit a little more slowly, and these include Cyms, Zygoes, Sarcochilus and Paphiopedilums to name a few. Resting plants should receive little or no water for long periods during their rest, depending on the genera, and no fertiliser as they will not use it. If anything, feeding a resting plant may prove a disaster to the root system so when the plant breaks dormancy in spring it uses up all energy into replacing the lost root system at the expense of strong new growth.

You will find many resting plants bulbs and canes will shrivel, some quite markedly. This is quite normal. Some lose their leaves entirely. For example Catasetums and some Lycastes. These stay fully dry as they grow a new root system every year.

If I do water any of the resting plants I will give them a little drink and only in the mornings on a rising temperature. The bulbs and canes fill out quite quickly again. In nature despite enduring up to 6 months without any rain they do experience heavy dews at night that moistens the bark and mosses they attach to so they never really go totally without a drink. Those plants that are always on the move can continue to be fed and watered at a reduced rate to that which applies during the main growing season.



Slugs and snails are now on the move so particular attention to a baiting programme should now be in place especially for those pots full of spikes. Use the blue pellets as they last longer and do not turn into a hairy monster within a few days. There is usually an autumn flush of looper caterpillars as well so ensure you have some Dipel at hand if their numbers are out of hand, otherwise learn to observe the damage they cause to the under-sides of the plants leaves and squish them. Soft leaved plants such as *Zygopetalums* and *Phaius* are prone to attack. I have heard that it is best to spray Dipel in the evenings as the grubs continue to feed at night and the spray stays wet much longer giving a more effective result. Ensure both sides of the leaves are covered. If the solution will not stick because the plants leaves have a waxy coating then add a few drops of dishwashing detergent as a wetting agent. Keep an eye out for any ant movements now as well. These little up to no good critters are most likely introducing some unwanted pests into our collection. Soft scale is one which can be fixed up with Malathion and white oil or a product called Malascale cleans them up nicely. Spray the Cymys now before the spikes emerge from their protective sheaths for those that flower for the spring shows.

Mealy bugs are the other problem that once in the collection are very hard to eradicate as apart from living in the leaves and bracts they also move into the potting mix where they avoid sprays. Confidor will clean them up. If you have mealies then I suggest you keep the plants isolated from the rest of the collection and very clean; meaning ensure all leaf bracts are inspected and persistent leaf bases are removed as these are prime hiding places. In severe cases of infestation it is easier to ditch the whole plant rather than try and control it and have it transfer to other plants in the collection. Other chores for May are the cleaning up of our plants and weeding. I find after a rain, removal of leaf bracts from my *Cymbidiums* and *Zygopetalums* is much easier. Be careful you do not damage the new growths that start showing this time of year.

Many flowering plants now needing staking but ensure they are not tightly tied to the stakes as the spikes are usually growing quickly and need not be fully restricted by ties. Also once staked in position it is important not to move the plants around as the spikes will twist and contort trying to follow the sun if they keep getting moved around. A spray with Mancozeb is always a good bet this time of year to help eliminate some fungal problems associated with this time of year and don't forget foliar feeding either. Even though a plant's roots have gone into dormancy, the plant will still accept nourishment via its leaves.

It is now time to inspect the natives. Most of them will now begin to show the start of their flowering buds. It is certainly a time of year I get excited. Remove any dead leaves and hang them high and dry.

Many plants will shed a few leaves and *Cymbidiums* are no exception. Mostly it is the odd leaf on an old matured growth. If there are many yellowing leaves on the one plant it would pay to feel the bulb. Bulb rot has been common this year given the heat of summer and the extended Indian Summer of March and April. A soft bulb is a dead give away of bulb rot and more often than not it is fatal, especially on smaller plants. It would pay to dispose of any plants where the rot is significant unless it is a prized plant in which case you do what you can to save it. Place the pot and the mix into the rubbish and not the compost heap, otherwise the problem will spread. Spread the plants out and spray with a preventative fungicide, plants, pots and benches in the immediate area where the infection was noticed. Poor air movement from overcrowding is a common cause of this problem.

Steve Howard

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

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

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

THE SOUTHERN REGION: meets at Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor at 2.00p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

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

Daytime Group: meets from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. in the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 2nd Friday of the month.

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

NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY: meets in St. Philip's Church Hall, Galway Avenue, Broadview from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Adelaide West Uniting Church Hall, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Brooklyn Park from 7.30p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: meets at 7.30p.m. at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

THE CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Meets at 7.30p.m. at Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Our Affiliated Clubs:

The Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club.

The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.



AFFILIATED CLUBS

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

If unclaimed please return to
P.O. Box 314 Oaklands Park S.A. 5046



**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.**