



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

February 2026

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby

AT A GLANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 8.00 pm. Marion - Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion. Business will include Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2026, and the financial statement for 2025, and Voting for Life Memberships.

The February Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will follow the AGM. There will be a Presentation and Voting for the Plant of the Year, Presentation of Trophies, and a short question and answer session so bring along your queries for answering..

LEARNERS' GROUP: There will be a Learners' Group Meeting at the February Meeting at 7.15pm. All members are welcome to attend. Bring your problems/plants for discussion.

JUDGING: Please have your plants benched by 7.40pm so Judging can commence at 7.50pm. If you are running late due to work commitments please phone Phil on 0438 891 612.

DAYTIME CHAPTER: The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th February commencing at 2.00pm in our **New Home: the Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park**. Entry is via Mary Street, first left turn off Alawoona Ave after the Marion Road intersection. Our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs sharing her judging knowledge and experiences.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be Sunday 15th February 2026 at 2.00 pm at Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor. Our Guest Speaker will be Ralf Brandt telling us about Controlled Growing Houses. Learners' Group will be held at 1.15 pm.

NEW MEMBERS: The Club would like to welcome a new member Robert Yates. We hope that your time with the Club will be a happy one and that you learn a lot about the orchids that we all love so much.

LUCKY NAME BADGE: Make sure you wear your Name Badge to meetings, you may win a prize.

PUBLIC LIABILITY: Under Insurance Guidelines all members and Committee attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign and print your name in an Attendance Book.

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
22 February and 22 March

Website: <http://www.SCOCSA.com.au>
E-Mails: secretary@SCOCSCA.com.au

President@SCOCSCA.com.au

Address: PO Box 1060, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
ABN 83 245 384 076





YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2025

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Alan Miller	
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	0418 840 427
SECRETARY:	Graham Smith	0428 818 586
COMMITTEE:	Oui Ju Richard Crinion Marilyn Buckerfield Phil Steer Carolyn Ponsana Malcolm Mangelsdorf	

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

Registrar	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
Editor	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
Photographer	Neil Cooper	
Convenor S. R. Group	Chris Heysen	0419 386 769
Convenors Daytime Chapter	Alan Miller	0434 052 676
Convenor Main Learners Group	Graham Smith	

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 *	1990 Dr, Keith Northcote *	2011 John and Bev Gay*
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson *	2005 Merve Steele *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson *	2005 Shirley Steele *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	Circa Tony and Toshy Deonno *	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2021 Donna Meeuwsen
	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	2025 Michael Willoughby

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions are now due for 2026. There will be no changes to the Rates for 2026.

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 **Account No.: 545457040**
 (Use your grower number for Reference)

PLEASE NOTE: Because of increases in postage rates, posting out of accounts for membership renewals has been discontinued. A cover letter was sent with the December Gazette. If you are not sure if you have paid your fees please check with Anne Steer.



President's Annual Report

In 2025 The South Coast Orchid Club committed to changing and upgrading our Club Website, throughout 2025 the club had two websites as we transitioned and tweaked the new website www.scocsa.com.au a process that will ongoing. This new website will be easier to navigate for the members, and I must thank Ralf Brandt for the all the hard work he has done to set up the new website for now and in the future as our club Webmaster.

The Club has settled well into The Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, this being our second year at this venue with both the Winter and Spring Shows being attended well by the public and the Beautiful Displays showed our plants off with many congratulatory comments made. The other South Coast Orchid Club shows were well supported and successful, and it is nice to see members showing their plants again.

Our thoughts are with those members that we lost during the year and their families, they will be missed terribly and our members who are unwell and recovering from illnesses.

Many thanks to Alan Miller for doing a fantastic job convening the Daytime Chapter in 2025: it is greatly appreciated. There are always interesting plants that have been benched for us all to enjoy as well as Guest speakers. Thank you, Alan, for all your hard work as some of the older members would never miss this meeting. In 2026 we welcome a new chapter of the Daytime Chapter as it moves to a new home as the Lou Kesting Hall is no longer available.

The Southern Region Group enjoyed another year of well attended meetings convened by Chris Heysen (Many thanks and gratitude to Chris). The SRG Winter Show was successful due to the efforts of many of the Southern Regional Group members.

Thank you to all the judges, committee and all members for supporting the club throughout the year. To Phil Steer as Registrar in continuing to do great work for the club ably supported and ably assisted by Vicky Cooper when asked.

To Christine Robertson, our editor, the effort you put into the Gazette is there for all to see and we are most proud of the publication that you deliver for The South Coast Orchid Club of SA. Our Treasurer Anne Steer for your hard work and continuing efforts throughout this year and our new Secretary Graham Smith who has stepped into the role admirably.

Finally, I would like to mention all the members who put time into the many jobs that need to be carried out to enable meetings and the shows to go ahead. These include setting up and putting away the hall and show display material, the trading tables for needed items to grow our orchids and offering help to customers whether selling or answering cultural questions, selling raffle and lucky square tickets for much needed fund raising so that we can enjoy our meetings, recording the results of the monthly meetings and setting up supper requirements.

2025 saw 20 new memberships of The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia a welcome sign the Club is still growing strongly.

Thank you all, the Committee and the members.

Finally, I hope that 2026 will be a year that The South Coast Orchid Club can carry on where it left off in 2025, with the members helping and supporting the club as they can. As our club is the members. May your hobby keep giving you the pleasure that it does me.

Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



ORCHID CALENDAR 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 4th February 2026 8.00 pm
 Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Corner of Township Road and Church Crescent. Business: Election of Office Bearers & Committee Members, & Presentaion of Financial Statement.

MAIN MEETING

Wednesday 4th February 2026 after the AGM.
 Marion-Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Cnr of Township Rd and Church Crescent, Marion. Presentation and Voting for the Plant of the Year, Trophy Presentations, and a short question and answer session will be held, so bring along your queries.
 Learners Group Meeting at 7.15 pm

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 11th February 2026 7.30 pm
 The Southern, South Road, St. Marys

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 12th February 2026 at 2.00pm
 Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park. Entry is via Mary Street, first left turn off Alawoona Avenue after the Marion Road intersection.
 Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs sharing her judging knowledge and experiences.

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 15th February 2026 2.00 pm
 Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor Guest Speaker: Ralf Brandt speaking on Controlled Growing Houses.
 Learners Group 1.15 pm

AUTUMN SHOW

Thursday 7th May (Put In) to Saturday 9th May 2026
 Seaford Shopping Centre

WINTER SHOW

Friday 24th July (Put In) to Sunday 26th July 2026
 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion

SOUTHERN REGION SHOW

Wednesday 19th August (Put In) to Friday 21st August 2026
 Victor Central Shopping Centre, Victor Harbor

SPRING SHOW

Friday 25th September (Put In) to Sunday 27th September 2026
 Marion Warradale Uniting Church Hall, corner of Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Friday 4th December 2026

VIRUS TEST KITS AVAILABLE

The Club now has Virus Test Kits available for sale to our members. They cost \$9.00 They will be available at the meetings.

TRADING TABLE:

The Committee has decided that the commission on plants etc. sold on the trading table for members will now be 15 %.

NOMINATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

Nomination for Life Membership – Phillip Steer

Phil has been a member of South Coast Orchid Club for quite some years rejoining in 2015. A vacancy arose for the position of Club Registrar of Judges in late 2015 and in March 2016 Phil took on this role.

2016 – present

Registrar of Judges

Coordination of Judges, for meetings and the 5 shows of the club. An administrative role that requires coordination, preparation of documentation and keeping of club competition results this also includes keeping the yearly promotional points register up to date. Monthly plant commentaries and the compilation of reports for the monthly Gazette. Guiding members on appropriate judging categories and offering members advice on plant presentation tips.

2021 to present

Southern Region Group- took on responsibility for the Judging of the Southern region group and in more recent times has taken on the added work of conducting the monthly learners group.

Management Committee - Phil's love of Orchids saw him join the Club's management committee in 2021 a position he holds until now.

Public Officer of the Club

Behind the scenes.

Phil undertook the Australian Orchid Council Judges Course and completed this and was appointed an Australian Orchid Judge in 2021. He has since judged across a number of clubs both locally & interstate.

For many years now Phil has taken on the role of procuring seedlings and other plants for the Club's trading tables at Shows. As well as procuring them we have benefited from the care Phil has given them and potting on as necessary and ensuring they are sale ready.

In recent years the club has been fortunate to have been gifted a volume of orchids from benefactors and the job of rehabilitating a lot of them has been done by Phil.

Phil also has presented many topics to the membership at meetings across the three chapters, most of these are presentations that Phil has put together himself.

Phil has worked tirelessly for the club and always is looking to improve and create a vibrant club that members can enjoy.- A worthy nomination.

South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

Nomination For Life Membership – Dr. Christine Robertson

Christine has been a member of South Coast for a considerable number of years and has held a number of positions within the Club.

Committee :- Christine Joined the Committee in 2014 and continued as a committee member until 2021 (8 continuous years.)

Editor :- Christine took on the role of Club Editor in 2016 and still holds this important role. Christine produces one of the best Club magazines of any Orchid Club & society in Australia and is always looking for material to keep the membership informed with quality information.

Southern Region Group :- Christine commenced her judges training as a student judge in 2019 and during the years up to 2020 she assisted the judges with the plant Judging. She then took on the role of data entry of the Judging results and printing of the prize cards until her health slowed her down in 2023.

Despite Christine not attending meetings she fulfills an incredibly important role. She takes immense pride in the Club's publication and is always pleased to hear from members and happy to include items of interest in the Gazette.

I hereby Nominate Dr Christine Robertson for Life membership.

Phillip G Steer

Club Registrar & Committee Member

Product Program



Neutrog has advised of the online ordering cut off dates for **2026**

WINTER 2026

Cut off for online orders: April 13th 2026 at 8 am.

SPRING 2026

Cut off for online orders July 13th 2026 at 8 am.

SUMMER 2026

Cut off for online orders October 12th 2026 at 8 am.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Phone No. 8538 3500 email: www.neutrog.com.au



Happy Birthday

JANUARY:

**LUCY SPEAR, KEVIN WESTERN,
ROWAN CROWHURST, JANE HIGGS,
GRAHAM LAMBERT, RALF BRANDT,
MIKE GRAY, LINDA ALMOND,
DENISE CASSAR, JOHN DUNN,
WARREN YELLAND, ROBYN CLAYTON,
BARB KIRKE.**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ?? Please see - Anne Steer



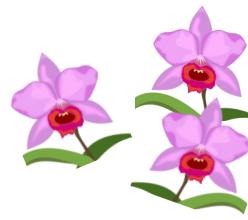
Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY:

**BERYL WILSON, BETH STRONACH,
SUE CARTER, RICHARD CRINION,
SHIRLEY WALLOSCHECK,
ELIZABETH YEATMAN.**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ?? Please see - Anne Steer



Points Awarded

December Results List

Ref. No.

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

594 Sarco. Maria x Kulnura Secure

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

591 Cym. canaliculatum 'Alba'

592 Cym. canaliculatum 'Bil Hone'

593 Cym. canaliculatum var. sparksii 'JR'

Cymbidium over 90mm - Species

596 Cym. lowianum 'Compe de Hemptine'

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

597 Cym. Tennis 'No. 1'

598 Cym. Little Beauty 'Super Sparkles'

Laeliinae - Non Standard

595 Eny. Magic Wand

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

603 Den. chordiforme

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

604 Paph. liemianum 'Z2'

605 Eny. Magic Wand

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

599 Paph. Ho Chi Minh

Paphiopedilum - Species

600 Paph. hirsutissimum var. alba

601 Paph. liemianum 'Z2'

602 Paph. haynaldianum

Specimen Species or Hybrid

606 Cym. Tennis 'No.1'

607 Den. chordiforme

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

John Seidel (101) 3

John Seidel (101) 2

John Seidel (101) 1

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Peter Haltis (442) 2

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

John Seidel (101) 3

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

John Seidel (101) 2

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

574 Sarco. Berrylicious

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

573 Sarco. hartmannii

Laeliinae - Cluster

576 Ctt. Trick or Treat

Laeliinae - Species

577 Epi. elongatum

578 C. intermedia

579 C. gaskelliana

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

575 Ctt. Candy Ball 'Sunlight'

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

585 Den. Bohemian Rhapsody

586 Ledirena Controversy

587 V. Kultana Principle

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

588 Ansellia africana

589 V. tricolor 'RIPA'

Phalaenopsis Standard

583 Phal. Unknown

584 Phal. Dee Jay Soul

Specimen Species or Hybrid

590 Epi. elongatum

Zygotepetalinae - Hybrid

580 Zga. Grenfell's Contrast

581 Z. Blue Lake

582 Z. Debbie De Mellow 'Honolulu Bay'

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston 3

Beth Stronach (836) 2

Michael Gray (135) 1

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Phil and Anne Steer (514) 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

Beth Stronach (836) 1

Phil and Anne Steer (514) 3

Beth Stronach (836) 2

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

Joe & Denise Cassar & Ray Huddleston 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 1

Second Division

Laeliinae - Non Standard

566 C. Louise Georgianna

567 Lc. Aqui-Finn 'Natures Best'

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

565 Rlc. Rungnapha Fancy 'Warm Welcome'

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

568 Mps. Princess Diana 'Red'

569 Br. Gilded Urchin 'Ontario'

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

572 Bulbo. facetum

Phalaenopsis Standard

570 Phal. Silver Light

571 Phal. Unknown

Dora Schrapel (200) 3

Coral Tillmanns (212) 2

Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3

Ralf Brandt (159) 3

Ralf Brandt (159) 2

Ralf Brandt (159) 3

Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3

Graham & Janette Smith (217) 2

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR DECEMBER

The meeting had a terrific number of plants benched for this time of the year'

Orchid of Second Division

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely *Miltoniopsis* grown by Ralf Brandt. It was *Mps. Princess Diana 'Red'*.

A very compact plant carrying 16 beautiful 'pansy shaped' flowers with. sepals and petals magenta, margins white; lip white, blushed and veined magenta, waterfall burgundy. A very colourful and attractive plant.

Congratulations Ralf.

PLANT OF SECOND DIVISION

Mps. Princess Diana 'Red'

Grown by Ralf Brandt

Photo Neil Cooper



Plant of First Division

The plant of First Division was grown by Laurie & Sue Carter and was a lovely *Sarcochilus*, *Sarco. Berrylicious*.

Not an overly big plant but it carried the wow factor with four lovely inflorescences of pink and white striped flowers. Certainly a worthy winner.

Well done Laurie & Sue.

PLANT OF FIRST DIVISION

Sarco. Berrylicious

Grown by Laurie and Sue Carter

Photos Neil Cooper

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR DECEMBER Cont...

Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant that was selected for Open Division was *Paph. hirsutissimum* var *alba* grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju.

The plant was carrying three single flowers all standing tall of the lush green foliage. The flowers were a lovely bright green with contrasting white tips on the lateral sepals. Truly an eye catching plant very well grown.

This species is found in Northeastern India and Burma and generally found growing in thick humus at the base of trees, on moss covered rocks & cliff faces.

The notation "alba" indicates that there is no red pigment in the flower.

Well done Michael & Oui.

Thank you to our Judges for a job well done.

Good Growing !

Phil Steer
REGISTRAR



PLANT OF OPEN DIVISION And PLANT OF THE NIGHT *Paph. hirsutissimum* var. *alba*

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
Photo Neil Cooper



SEEDLING OF THE NIGHT
Paph. liemianum 'Z2'
Grown by John Seidel
Photo Neil Cooper



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DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 11th December 2025



Hi Everyone,

Sixteen Daytime members celebrated Christmas, enjoying an extensive festive menu and sharing Kris Kringle gifts in a private dining room at the Morphett Arms Hotel, closing off another great Daytime year of Orchid appreciation and social interaction.

Many thanks to all our guest speakers for your time sharing your vast knowledge with us. Thank you to the enthusiastic members for your support throughout the year.



The 2026 Daytime meetings commence on Thursday 12th February at 2.00pm at the **New Venue**. This is the Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner of Marion Road and Allawoona Avenue Mitchell Park. Entry is via Mary Street, first left turn off Allawoona Avenue after the Marion Road intersection. Car park and entrance is off Mary Street with directional signage in the reception area.

Next Meeting : Thursday February 12th - 2.00 pm

Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs sharing her judging knowledge and experiences.

Alan Miller
0434 052 676



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING
Sunday 21st December 2025

The afternoon started with a Christmas luncheon and a Kris Kringle. Everyone enjoyed the luncheon and the anticipation of Christmas only 4 days away.

Chris Heysen welcomed everyone to this his last meeting as Co-Ordinator. Everyone thanks Chris for his efforts for the Southern Region Group. Graham Smith presented Chris with a Certificate in thanks for his time as Co-ordinator.

Guest Speaker: Jane Higgs was the Guest Speaker for the afternoon. Jane provided a demonstration of repotting of Terrestrial orchids and answered questions from the members. Terrestrials are quite different from the epiphytes that we usually deal with.

Many thanks Jane for sharing your experiences with us.

The raffle was held as usual and Chris thanked the donors of raffle prizes.



Graham Smith presents Chris Heysen with a Certificate thanking Chris for his service as Co-ordinator to the Southern Region Group over the past few years.

Announcements:

The new Co-Ordinator for the Southern Regional Group for 2026 will be Graham Smith (Phone Number: 0428 818 586)

Judging: was carried out by Don Higgs and Phil Steer. **Judges Commentary:** Phil Steer

NEXT MEETING – Sunday, 15th February

Guest speaker: Ralf Brandt speaking on Controlled Growing Houses.

Ralf grows quality orchids in his own controlled growing house, so his talk should be very interesting.

December Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

First Division

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

787 Cym. Kuranda Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

785 Bc. Lim Theng Him Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

786 Bc. Memoria Shirley's Joy Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2

790 Den Unknown Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 3

788 Phal Unknown 'Minna Moora' Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

789 Phal. Belladonna Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 2

Second Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

781 Ctt. Trick or Treat Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

782 Epi. Bees Knees x Psh. pastoris Bob Clayton (143) 3

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

780 Rth. Shinfong Little Sun 'Young Min' Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

784 Alcra. Marfitch Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

783 Phal. unknown Graham & Janette Smith (217) 3

SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY

ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION

The plant chosen by the Judges was a lovely Encyclia hybrid, (E. Bees Knees x Psh. *pastoris*) grown by Bob & Robyn Clayton. (The plant was labelled differently)

The plant had six lovely spikes of brown tones over a lighter shade of tan on the segments with a light brown labellum. The flowers were of a starry shape on the long inflorescences. The flower shape had more influence from the Bee's Knees parent than the *pastoris*. Well grown and flowered.

Congratulations Bob & Robyn.



ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION

Grown by Bob & Robyn Clayton

Photos Jane Higgs



ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

The plant of First Division was grown by Eileen Pinnock and was an outstanding example of *Cym. Kuranda*. with seven long pendulous inflorescences each carrying 24 plus flowers. The flowers were brownish yellow with a brighter yellow labellum with a reddish throat.

Cym. Kuranda is a primary hybrid of the Australian species, *Cym. madidum* & *Cym. suave*. The colours of the flowers can vary from a green variety through to a brown depending in the parentage and habitat of each parent. A lovely pendulous miniature and a great plant to have in your collection, being a late flowering Cymbidium.

Well done Eileen.



ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION & PLANT OF THE DAY

Cym. Kuranda

Grown By Eileen Pinnock

Photos Jane Higgs

Phil Steer
REGISTRAR

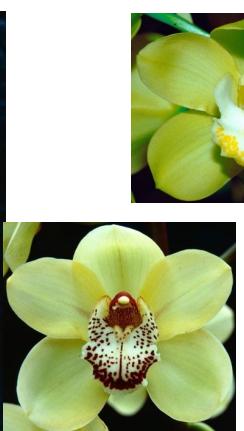


CYMBIDIUMS FOR BEGINNERS by Brian Milligan

Few of those who grow orchids in Victoria appreciate how lucky we are compared with most European and North American growers, for whom an expensive heated glass-house is essential during winter. In Melbourne we can grow many orchids quite well in a semi-shaded corner of the garden, although a shade house generally provides better results. Cymbidiums are the most popular orchids because they are hardy and easy to grow and flower. There are more than 100 different species in the genus *Cymbidium*. From these species many thousands of different cymbidium hybrids have been bred and an incredible variety of colours is now available. Flowers vary in size from miniatures barely 50 mm across to monsters that span almost 150 mm. Most hybrids have upright flower spikes, some carrying as many as 20 blooms; others with pendulous inflorescences are best grown in hanging baskets. Depending on their parentage some hybrids flower as early in the year as March, while some late-flowering hybrids may retain their blooms until Christmas. Most produce their flowers between July & October.



Cymbidium Kimberley Winter
'Sunbound' AM/OSCOV



Cymbidium One Tree Hill
'John's Quest' AM/OSCOV



Cymbidium Careless Heart
'Cutie Pie' HCC/OSCOV
CC/OSCOV

Beginners are advised to buy plants in flower. By all means choose the colours you like best but also make sure that the plant has healthy foliage and large pseudo-bulbs (the bulbous growths at the base of the foliage). A plant with lots of leafless pseudo-bulbs (back-bulbs) has probably led a hard life and may need to be re-potted immediately. Place the plant in your garden where it will receive dappled sunlight throughout the day. A totally shaded area is unacceptable – the plant will continue to grow but it is unlikely to flower again! The ideal situation is a sunny spot covered with shade cloth (shade factor 50%). Keen growers usually have a shade house fitted with a clear fibreglass or polycarbonate roof to protect their plants from frost and wet, wintry conditions. Although this roof prevents the flowers from being damaged by rain or hail, it obliges the grower to water throughout the year. Most growers fit a shade-cloth cover above the roof between September and late April but remove it during winter so that their plants receive as much light as possible at that time.

Cymbidiums should be watered throughout the year. Provided their potting mix is in good condition, they benefit from being watered on every sunny day during the summer months. Much less water is necessary during winter, once or twice each week being sufficient. Liquid fertilizers should be applied weekly in summer, monthly in winter. Slow-release fertilizer may also be applied after the plants have flowered. Cymbidiums should be re-potted every two or three years, whether they have outgrown their pots or not. The weathered pine bark sold as potting mix for orchids in Victoria continues to break down over time, eventually becoming undesirably acidic and also producing a sludge that limits the free drainage necessary for healthy root growth. The orchid should therefore be removed from its pot, and the roots freed from old potting mix. Remove any soft, decayed roots and leafless pseudo-bulbs before re-potting the plant in fresh mix. Never re-use old potting mix, as it may transfer disease from one plant to another. For the same reason, wash your hands before re-potting another orchid, and never re-use old pots unless you first sterilize them chemically.

Having successfully grown and flowered your mature cymbidiums, try growing some small seedlings and mericlones. The latter are exact replicas of prize-winning plants, and although a little dearer than un-flowered seedlings, they guarantee a flower that will be true to description. Young seedlings or mericlones may take a few years to flower, but when they do, you have the right to call yourself an accomplished cymbidium grower.

Cymbidium suave

by David Allen and Noe & Rob Smith



Cymbidium suave

Cymbidium suave, one of the three unique Australian Cymbidium species, is possibly the most demanding for an orchid grower to maintain in culture. Some understanding of where and how *Cym. suave* grows in the wild will help understand its particular requirements.

Cymbidium suave is found growing on the east coast of Australia, extending north from southern New South Wales at around latitude 35 to latitude 25 in Queensland, north of Brisbane. The climate range is from moist temperate to moist sub-tropical.

Cym. suave grows in holes and fissures in eucalypt trees, with its root system extending down into rotting heart wood of trees (living or dead). It can also be found growing in cavities in fallen trees, or even in eucalypt fence posts and stumps of felled trees. The root system of established plants may extend down into the heart of trees for many metres. New plants will form from stolon growths along the root system where holes or fissures allow the plantlets to emerge. It is the very particular requirements in regard to its growing conditions which makes this species such a challenge for many growers. Hopefully, by providing the views

and methods of several growers who successfully grow *Cym. suave*, others will be able to maintain this unique and beautiful species as well.

Most growers agree that the specific conditions necessary for the species to grow in nature need to be replicated as closely as possible in culture if the plants are to survive for any length of time. Unlike many Cymbidium species and most hybrids, which only require a potting

medium to provide a suitable degree of moisture retention and the addition of fertilizers, etcetera, to provide nutrients and an acceptable pH level, *Cym. suave* seems to have more specific requirements. Growing the plants in rotting eucalypt heart wood as found in nature is generally reported as producing better results than the use of a typical Cymbidium medium.

With pH levels being recorded at between 4 and 4.5 in nature and in tests on this medium in culture, it may well be that pH is a critical factor in the successful maintenance of *Cym. suave*. While the pH level of other forms of potting media could be adjusted to replicate those found in rotting eucalypt heart wood, it may well be that *Cym. suave* also obtains required nutrients from the process of decomposition and those nutrients, in a particular balance as produced in the process, may be critical to the plants' growth.

Many growers also believe that the conditions in nature provide a degree of insulation to the plants' root system and a control of moisture levels necessary to the plants health. As a result, many growers either grow *Cym. suave* in lengths of eucalypt with rotting hearts, or find sections of suitable hollow logs and fill them with rotting heart wood and plant *Cym. suave* in those. Other containers such as lengths of clay sewerage pipes have also been used with reports of good results when filled with rotting eucalypt heart wood.

Some growers believe that the extra depth provided by length of pipe (or logs) provides the sort of root run *Cym. suave* prefers. Larger, well-established plants will also grow happily in the same medium when potted in large "normal" Cymbidium pots, but not for very many years before needing to be repotted. As *Cym. suave* resents being disturbed, most growers try to avoid repotting unless absolutely necessary.



Suitable logs for *Cym. suave*

Our (Noe and Rob) own experiences with *Cym. suave* over some fifteen years has seen us grow (or attempt to grow) this species in a variety of mixes and containers. Mixes have ranged from traditional Cymbidium mixes made up of pine bark with various other materials added such as canunda shell, marble chips, rice hulls or coir in combinations, to similar mixes with proportions of eucalypt chips, or rotting eucalypt added and rotting eucalypt alone. Certainly the use of rotting eucalypt alone, or in fairly high proportions within a mix has provided the best results under our climatic and cultural conditions.

Although our plants of *Cym. suave* grow in the same orchid houses as our other Cyms and are watered at the same rate and frequency, they receive less fertilizer and what they do receive is always a balanced type, rather than a high nitrogen type as commonly used for Cymbidiums for at least part of the year. We do not add slow-release type fertilizers to the mix for *Cym. suave* and only fertilize at about one-quarter strength or weaker. Tests on rotting eucalypt heart wood in our pots of vigorously growing plants of *Cym. suave* have given pH results of around 4.5 and we try to keep the pH at that level as the plants seem to be happy.

We wouldn't be surprised if the pH factor isn't more important than the actual medium and perhaps someone reading this article who has done tests with *Cym. suave* will be able to share their experiences with us all. To date we haven't done any tests along these lines, mainly because we don't want to kill any plants. *Cym. suave* can be very difficult to re-establish once the plants begin to go backwards, especially if they loose their root systems.

Rob & Noe Smith

David Allen describes his experiences growing *Cym. suave* as follows: I decided to grow a couple of plants of *Cym. suave* about five years ago and have found the plants to be quite hardy; they grow, flower and thrive under the conditions I have provided for them. After a little research, I found that the natural habitat of *Cym. suave* covers a wide region from southern NSW (almost to the Victorian border) to Cairns in northern Queensland. While this species can be found growing on a number of hosts, it seems to establish and grow best when its roots can penetrate rotting heartwood in live eucalypt trees, where it will form large clumps.

Cymbidium suave produces a large number of roots which will travel long distances into the rotting wood. In order to reproduce this sort of environment under culture, I have planted my *Cym. suave* in old hollow eucalypt logs. I use a potting mix of 50% composted pine bark and 50% rotten eucalypt heartwood; to every litre of this mix I add one cup of charcoal.

The plants are grown in my main growing shade house, under 50% shade cloth, along with the rest of my *Cymbidium* collection. They are placed in the brightest area of the house. I was told by an experienced *Cym. suave* grower that these plants like a lower pH than other *Cymbidiums*, somewhere in the 4.5 to 5 range. To achieve this level I water the plants once a week (in the growing season, but not in winter) with a solution of water and lemon juice at the rate 10ml. of lemon juice per litre of water. The plants are fertilised with crushed Dynamic Lifter pellets at the rate of one table spoon per plant at the beginning of spring and summer.

The plants seem to be very hardy once established, but I make sure they get some protection against extreme weather conditions, such as frost in winter and hot northerly winds in summer. Given these conditions and culture, the plants reward with excellent floral displays in late spring. I'm not quite sure what I will do once they out grow their existing logs; probably go forest hunting for some larger logs and pot them on, if that's the right word?!



Orchid Culture Notes for February



It's the start of another year in the orchid house. This year we have been dealt very varied weather ranging from baking and orchid killing 40°C plus heat to high humidity and high winds and then cooler days but scant rain. A normal cycle should start soon ?? and as the saying goes, it will get hot when the kids go back to school. Note that any heat damage will come out over the next few weeks with leaf marks becoming more evident and leaf drop occurring. The recent humidity will create some fungal issues in the shade house as well, so keep an eye out for any outbreaks and have some fungicide ready in case. Heat damaged plants with damaged leaves and stress are prime targets for pest and disease attack. The physical side of heat damage is easy to spot but remember that heat also damages the plants roots as well. Black pots exposed to the sun overheat and cook the roots. Whilst the top of the plant may come through ok, underneath things are not so good. Then sometime later the plants start to shrivel as they do no longer have a functioning root system. Most of us will put down root loss to poor culture such as over watering or a broken down mix. Just remember, heat can be added to this. Even slugs and snails will be in good numbers awokened by the sudden change in weather.

February is usually the hottest month and with it often comes an increase in the intensity of the north winds, so there is much heat left for us yet. In fact you can still have temperatures nudging the old 100 degree mark as late as the equinox.

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

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

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

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



Orchid Culture Notes for February cont..

process of maturing their growths. Some in readiness for immediate flowering over the autumn and others for winter and spring. These maturing plants should have their diet changed to one with a higher potassium content to help mature the plant as well as strengthen the raceme and improve the colours.

Might be a good idea to look at the presentation of these plants and start working on them now. For example I have a nice *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song* with several new growths all over the place in the pot. They are in sheath but not yet filling out with buds. If I leave it too long the presentation will be like a dog's breakfast and if I try and fix it too late then there is risk to the blooms so I work on it now to straighten the growths up and get them spaced correctly around the pot.

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

Lets have a look around and see what's on in the shade house this month. By now our autumn flowering *Laeliinae* complex (Cattleyas and *Laelia*'s) will have rapidly maturing growths and some already showing emerging spikes. Make sure these spikes and growths are well supported with a stake. Keep water out of the sheaths to avoid fungal rots and spots and make sure the snail baits are on the pot. It often rains this month and it will wake up those slimy fellows. Keep well watered so the spikes remain plump. As some of these developing spikes will excrete a sugary substance you will find ants will be attracted to the spike. They can do a lot of damage as they will eat into the developing spike and they usually bring in a few soft scales as well. Extreme weather can cause buds to abort so bring them inside if it gets real hot (or unseasonably cold) at this stage of initiation.

Oncidiums as a rule will be filling out their pseudobulbs and the odd spike or two will be starting to show. Similar culture to the *Laeliinae* complex should apply. For those with terrestrials this is the last month for re potting. Still aim to keep them on the dry side after re potting as the disturbance of re potting plus being too eager with hose will have them out too early. Wait till the cooler weather in April for this although there will be early varieties flowering in March. Like any orchid, a knowledge of the species itself or that in the hybrid is important when determining what needs to be done and when.

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

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

Keep *Paphiopedilums* moist and keep an eye out for mealy bugs. High humidity and fresh air movement is important this time of year. Keep light levels fairly low. As a rule hold your hand about 12 inches above the plant and you should only just see a slight shadow. Full shadow too much light, no shadow a bit dark. This is only a rule of thumb for newer growers of this genus. Feeding is usually a balanced feed at half or less of the manufacturer's recommendations. If you can, try and flush your Paphs out occasionally with rainwater to remove salt build up from

Orchid Culture Notes for February cont..



tap water and fertiliser. Adelaide water is loaded with extra salt over the summer. They will love you for it. A flush is usually two or three waters say an hour apart. The first softens and dissolves some of the salts, the second and third gets the rest. Collect the waste water and use that to wet your floors later when it's hot.

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

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

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

Steve Howard

Leafless orchids by Edda Viskic

Rhizanthella gardneri

(Photo: Jean and Fred Hort)

The most unusual leafless orchids grow underground as obligate mycotrophic plants. The two *Rhizanthella* species, *gardneri* and *slateri* from Western Australia and N.S.W. Instead of being powered by sugars made by photosynthesis, they live in a symbiotic energy exchange with fungal hyphae that live with the roots of teatree *Leptospermum uncinatum* (W.A.)



Dipodium roseum

(Photo: Nonie)

The deciduous terrestrials are seasonally leafless and are pan tropical and the leafless saprophytes are not in cultivation mainly due to mycorrhizal specialities. *Dipodium roseum* is a local Adelaide Hills (South Australia) example of a leafless saprophyte that grows in association with mycorrhiza from the local stringybark tree roots.

The worldwide distribution of Vanilla Genus with 186 species is pantropical and not all are leafless. Those that are photosynthesize through their stems not their roots. These include *Van. aphylla*, *Van. decaryana*, which is used as an aphrodisiac by the local Madagascan, *Van. roscheri* and *Van. barbellata*. The Madagascan species have thick corrugated stems that climb tree trunks with ease and spread through the branches producing fragrant, large, creamy flowers as seen in the dry monsoonal forest of Zombitse.

Africa and Madagascar have seven Genera of leafless orchids in *Chaulidion*, *Microcoelia*, *Solenangis*, *Taeniorhiza*, *Taeniophyllum*, *Mystacidium* as well as *Vanilla*.



ORCHID CLUBS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

General Meeting Times

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: The Club meets at the Marion - Warradale Uniting Church Hall, Cnr. Township Road and Church Crescent, Marion. at 8.00p.m. on the first Wednesday of the Month

THE DAYTIME CHAPTER: meets at the Lounge Hall, Marion Church of Christ, corner Marion Road and Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park. 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.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY: Meets at the Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street, Plympton 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, Tusmore on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

THE GAWLER DISTRICTS ORCHID CLUB: meets at the Elderly Centre 37 Fourteenth Street, Gawler at 8 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the Month.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ORCHID COUNCIL: Represents all clubs in South Australia on the Australian Orchid Council. Meets three or four times a year, at which meetings all clubs are represented by a delegate or a proxy delegate. SAROC conducts the **SA Orchid Fair** in June each year.



**If unclaimed please return to
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