

The South Coast Orchid Club of SA Inc.

Gazette

March
2017



PRESIDENT: Michael Willoughby
PATRON: Sydney Monkhouse

AT A GLANCE

This next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at St Bernadette's Church Hall, corner of Walsh Avenue and South Road, St. Marys. Our Guest Speaker will be Graham Zerbe who will have a presentation of the Singapore Gardens. This will be different to what has been shown before.

BEGINNERS' GROUP: The next class will be 1st March 2017 with Geoff Spear discussing Autumn Growing.

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.

JUDGES ROSTER FOR MARCH:

Open Division: Judges: Noel Oliver, Vicky Cooper Recorder: Beth Stronach
First & Second Divisions: Judges: John Gay, Lesley Gunn Recorder: Helen McIntosh

DAYTIME CHAPTER: The next meeting will be held at Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday, 9th March 2017 at 2.00 pm. Beginners class at 1.30pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Malcolm Manglesdorf. Malcolm was a Past President of our club and is a very knowledgeable man.

Daytime Chapter attendees **please note** that in March, if the temperature is above 37 degrees there will be no meeting as there is no air conditioning but only fans in the Lou Kesting Hall.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 19th March 2017 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. Beginners Class 1.30p.m. Jane Higgs will be our Guest Speaker with a video presentation on Terrestrials. Jane, a very knowledgeable lady, was also a Past President of our club.

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 on an Attendance Sheet,

Website: <http://www.scoca.net>
E-Mail: lucys18@bigpond.com
Phone: Lucy (08) 8381 4420
Address: 6 David Street Happy Valley 5159
ABN 83 245 384 076

UPCOMING CLUB MEETING DATES

MONTH	SPEAKER	TOPIC
March 2017		
01 Main Meeting	Graham Zerbe	Singapore Gardens
08 Committee Meeting		
09 Daytime Chapter	Malcolm Manglesdorf	
19 Southern Region	Jane Higgs	Terrestrial Orchids
April 2017		
05 Main Meeting	Kris Kopicki	Growing Orchids in Hot Climates
08 Workshop	Anne & Phil Steer	
12 Committee Meeting		
13 Daytime Chapter	Kevin Western	Birds and Bees from the Plants' Perspective
16 Southern Region	Noel Oliver	Mounds and Much Much More

ORCHID CALENDAR FOR 2017

AUTUMN SHOW	Sun 7 May to Sat 13 May	Pasadena
S.A.R.O.C. FAIR	Sat 10 & Sun 11 June	Torrens Parade Ground Hall
WINTER SHOW	Sun 23 July to Sat 29 July	Hallett Cove Shopping Centre, Lonsdale Highway, Lonsdale.
SOUTHERN REGION GROUP SHOW	Thu 24 Aug to Sun 27 Aug	R.S.L. Hall, Coral Street, Victor Harbor.
SPRING SHOW	Sun 24 Sept to Sat 30 Sept	Seaford Rise Shopping Centre, Commercial Road, Seaford.

YOUR 2017 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Geoffrey Spear
VICE PRESIDENT:	Donna Meeuwssen
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear
TREASURER:	Anne Steer
COMMITTEE:	Dorothy Carassai, Oui Ju, Heather Wright, Christine Robertson, Shirley Greig, Don Greig, David Hayhurst
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:	
Registrar	Phillip Steer
Editor	Christine Robertson
Web Master	Michael Willoughby
Librarian	Raelene Gardner

CAN YOU HELP YOUR CLUB

Remain after the main meeting to help clean up the hall and kitchen.

Help at our Shows by manning the trading table between 7.00a.m. and 9.00p.m. Dorothy draws up a 3 hourly roster. A responsible person must be in charge at all times during shopping hours e.g. Lucy, Dorothy.

Assist in transporting trestles etc. for judging to Hamilton Secondary College on the Friday prior to the Show.

After judging on the Saturday of the Show, assist with transporting props and plants to Show locations.

Assist with putting in and taking out at the Show.

Have knowledge of orchids and a rapport with people so that the public can be helped when purchasing from the trading table.

It would be appreciated if members who have a **van** could assist with the transporting of equipment and plants.

HELP WANTED FOR WORKSHOPS IN 2017 PLEASE

We seek 6 members with a shed or covered outdoor area to hold workshops for the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. It is anticipated that workshops would be of two and a half hour duration. The first half hour would be for socialising with a cuppa and biscuits.

The second half hour would be for showing your collection.

The last hour and a half will be discussing growing orchids, questions and answers and any

STOP PRESS - THE FIRST WORKSHOP

Date:	Saturday 8th April 2017
Location:	Anne and Phil Steer's Residence 11 Blueberry Court, Flagstaff Hill
Time Schedule:	1.15 pm Participants arrive 1.30pm sharp Start of proceedings Guest Speakers (more information at March Meeting) 3.30pm Afternoon Tea Geoff's scones and Phil makes a great muffin
Bookings:	Please book in at the Treasurer's desk at meeting or Phone Lucy 8381 4420

S.A.R.O.C. FAIR

The S.A.R.O.C. Fair will be held in the Drill Hall at the Torrens Parade Grounds, Adelaide.

Dates and Opening Times: Saturday: 10th June 9.00am to 5.00pm
Sunday: 11th June 10.00am to 4.00 pm

Parking: Free Parking is available both days within the Parade Grounds.

Saturday Night Dinner: This will be held in the Drill Hall with the Orchid Displays, and will be catered for by the Texas Bull Machine
Cost of Dinner and Dessert in \$25.00
BYO Drinks - We have obtained a Licence.
A deposit is required please and full payment by the May meeting.



APOLOGY: David Williams

David, please accept our apology that your plant *Cymbidium* Snow Pearl was not put in the Gazette or Flower of the Year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2017 are now due. 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

<u>Rural and Interstate Membership</u>	
Family Membership	\$34.00
Single Membership	\$28.00

Please note that there has been no increase in membership fees for 2017.

LIFE MEMBERS

* denotes Member who has passed away.

1978 Dulcie Grave	1986 Harry Viney *	2009 Don Biebrick
1978 Leora Harvey	1986 John Nichols	2009 Henk Van Leuveran
1978 L. & H. Poole*	1989 Helen Edwards	2010 Dorothy Carassai
1978 Ellie Shaw*	2003 Norman Gitcam	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 Toshy Deonno*	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leader*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Murray Boulderstone *	This list is still being
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	compiled.

President's Message



Thank you members as the A.G.M. was well attended, and the presentation by Stephen Monkhouse on dividing and potting of the Cattleya alliance was very informative.

Congratulations to Peter & Geraldine Flavel on their plant (*Den. Impact*) being chosen by you to be the South Coast Orchid Club Flower of 2016.

Congratulations to all the Trophy recipients for 2016 and to Vicky & Neil Cooper on being promoted to Open Division.

Our thoughts are with those members who are on the sick list and wish them all a speedy recovery.

Coming events include the Bunnings (Noarlunga) fundraising BBQ on Sat. 11th March, SAROC Fair in June and Cym. Club Show as well as our Autumn Show at Pasadena Green Shopping Centre. Check the Gazette for dates of Club Shows. These are always a great opportunity to meet with Club members and members from other clubs, all who share a common interest.

Indications are we are in for a good growing and flowering season as the weather has been kind to us (*I am writing this during a heatwave*) in general and it is very unusual to have full rainwater tanks in February. The Daytime Chapter was cancelled on the 9th February due to the extreme heat (41C forecast).

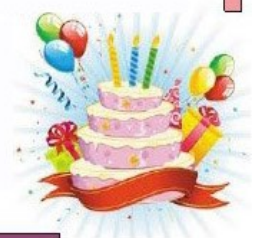
Successful growing & showing

Michael



Happy Birthday

**Neil Cooper, Jim Fogarassi, Joy Grund,
Peter Haltis, Helmut Hermann,
Josephine Ogrowski, Patty Abell,
Barbara Almond, Davis Wallis,
David Hayhurst, Phil Steer, Andrew Lutz**



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



South Coast Orchid Club Flower of 2016

Dendrobium Impact

Congratulations to
Peter & Geraldine Flavel



WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIBRARIAN RAELENE GARDNER

With my love of books no way could I refuse when Lucy asked me to be the Club's Librarian. My partner and I have lived at Willunga for 20 years. I have three daughters, one loves plants and lives in London and 2 grandchildren, a boy and a girl, and an elderly mother 97 years old.



I belong to the McLaren Vale Garden Club. I have a large garden and willow trees which make gardening difficult. Since joining SCOCSA I have learnt so many things about orchids. Thank you to John's and Geoff's Beginners' Groups and Steve Howard's Monthly Cultural Notes. Please come and have a chat at the Library Section with me.

Thanks

Raelene

NOTICE BOARD

SILENT AUCTION

The beautiful painting by our Patron Syd Monkhouse, shown below, is going to be auctioned. This will be a Silent Auction. You should place your bids in writing to Geoff Spear or Dorothy Carassai at the Main Meetings or to Shirley Greig at Southern Region Meetings. Bids will be accepted until 3rd July and the winner will be announced at the Birthday Meeting on 5th July 2017.



SUPPERS AT MEETINGS

Members are asked to bring a plate (of food) for supper at our meetings.

VIRUS TEST KITS

The Club has the opportunity to purchase Virus Test Kits for sale to its members. These have a long life and cost \$6.00 each. Please contact Geoff Spear for more information or to place an order.



FOR SALE

The Club has Steel Bollards For Sale. There are 5 sets as pictured. The price is \$200. If you are interested please contact Lucy Spear at meetings or phone 8381 4420



2016 END OF YEAR TROPHIES



TROPHY NAME

GROWER

Elsie Chisholm

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

M Ng

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

Chin Yew Lian

Kevin Western *Sarco*. Fizzy Melody

Garard Western

Pauline and Mark Hockey

AOC Trophy

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

WA Young

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

H. & C. Edwards (Clock Trophy)

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

Tony de Ionno & Toshy

Geoff and Lucy Spear

Harry Viney

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

Roy Hill

not awarded

John Leeder

Paul and Donja Hayes

Glenn Forest

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

PC Loke

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju

M & S. Steele

Gary Clark

L & R Moore

Shirley and Don Grieg

Steven Gamble

Reg and Elsie Clifford

Division Aggregates:

Open

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju 207 pts.

First

Paul and Donja Hayes 85 pts.

Second

Sid James 152 pts.

Congratulations to all of the Trophy Winners for 2016

Very Well Done

2016 TROPHY WINNERS



Kevin Western



Pauline & Mark Hockey



Michael Willoughby and
Oui Ju with Graham Zerbe



Geoff and Lucy Spear



Paul Hayes receiving Trophy
for himself and Donja



Shirley Greig

FEBRUARY MAIN MEETING AND AGM



Guest Speaker Steven Monkhouse who gave an interesting and informative presentation on Cattleyas.
Thank you Steven

The Executive of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia for 2017



The full Management Committee for the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia for 2017

February Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

807 Cym. Little Black Sambo 'The Prince' Noel Oliver (102) 3

Chin Yew Iian Trophy

829 Rlc. Stippled Sunset Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Laeliinae - Cluster

810 Epi. Pacific Sizzle John & Bev Gay (65) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

811 Psh. Green Hornet Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 3

812 E. Bees' Knees John & Bev Gay (65) 2

813 Rlc. Stippled Sunset Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

808 Slc. Lana Coryell 'David' John & Bev Gay (65) 3

809 Rth. Burana Angel 'Hsinying' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

814 Onc. Sunny Daze 'Hilo Day' Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 2

Oncidiinae - Species

815 Gom. flexuosa Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

820 Phrag. Perseus 'Highclere' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

821 Phal. Unknown Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 2

822 Angcm. Lemforde White Beauty Peter & Geraldine Flavel (487) 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

823 Phal. pulcherrima 'Red Giant' Peter & Geraldine Flavel (487) 3

824 Sngls. woodii Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 2

825 Vanda [Neofinetia] falcata Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 1

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

826 Rlc. Stippled Sunset Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Specimen Species or Hybrid

828 Psh. Green Hornet Geoff & Lucy Spear (5) 3

First Division

Laeliinae - Cluster

800 Ctt. Valentine Day Paul & Donja Hayes (1129) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

801 E. (Bees' Knees x venosa) Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

802 E. Unknown Paul & Donja Hayes (1129) 2

803 Lc. Interceps 'Hindmarsh' Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 1

Laeliinae - Species

804 Psh. cochleata Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

805 Onc. Guann Shin Coffee Paul & Donja Hayes (1129) 3

806 Ons. Wildcat Paul & Donja Hayes (1129) 2

Second Division

Laeliinae - Species

795 Psh. cochleata Sid James (170) 3

796 Psh. cochleata Phil and Anne Steer (514) 2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

797 Onc. Unknown Sid James (170) 3

798 Onc. Unknown Phil and Anne Steer (514) 2

799 Ons. Wildcat Sid James (170) 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

816 Phal. Chin-Lih Girl 'Picotee' Beth Stronach (836) 3

817 Den. Mingles Sapphire Sid James (170) 2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

818 Max. cuculata Helen McIntosh (299) 3

Specimen Species or Hybrid

819 Onc. Unknown Phil and Anne Steer (514) 3

PLANT COMMENTARY FOR FEBRUARY

Orchid of the Night and Orchid of Open Division

Prosthecha Green Hornet
Grown by Geoff and Lucy Spear



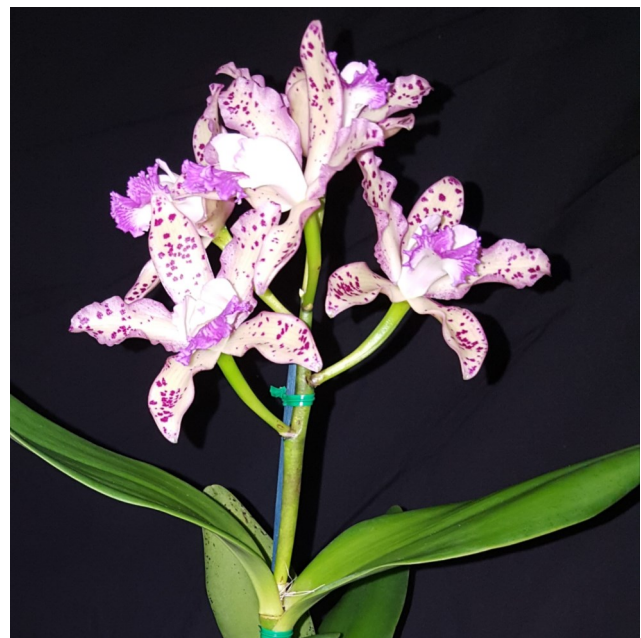
This orchid is *Psh. cochleata* x *Psh trulla*. It used to be called *Epidendrum*. These species originate in the forests of Central America.

The plant has 10 spikes with up to 14 flowers on each, and is progressively flowering. The flowers appear to be upside down

This orchid has received three awards in the past. The genus is easy to grow in with the Cymbidiums and very rewarding.

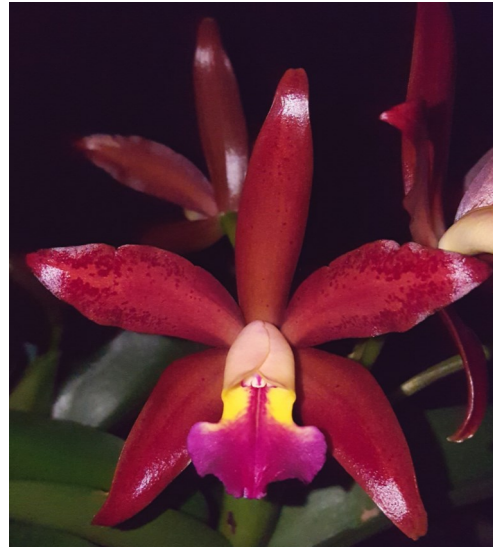
Seedling of the Night

Rlc. Stippled Sunset
Grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju



Orchid of First Division

Ctt. Valentine Day
Grown by Donja and Paul Hayes

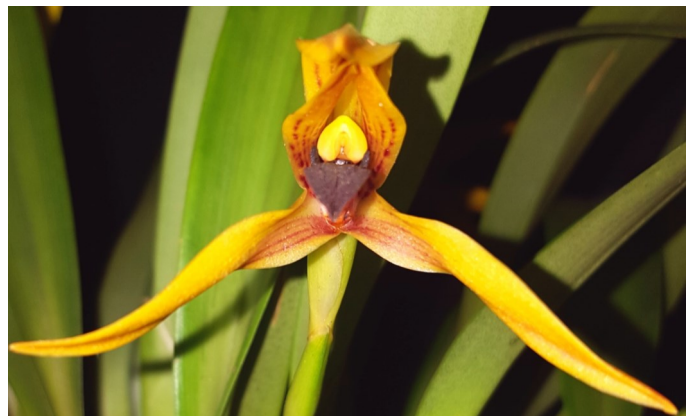


This orchid is *C. intermediette* x *Cattlianthe* Chocolate Drop registered in 1988 by Adelaide Orchids.

This is a well grown plant with 3 inflorescences with a total of 16 flowers of reddish brown colour with some spotting. The flowers are very clean and spaced around the plant.

Orchid of Second Division

Maxillaria cucullata
Grown by Helen McIntosh



This species of orchid originates in Central America, where it grows in wet forests at high altitudes.

This well grown plant has 6 open flowers, each on a single inflorescence with two inflorescences still to open. The leaves are not blemished.

This orchid grows well in a shadehouse where it likes to be hanging. It is very rewarding to grow.



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING **SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2017**

Geoff Spear, Senior Vice President, opened the meeting at 2 pm. welcoming Members, New Members, Visitors and Graham Zerbe, our Guest Speaker. John Gay was thanked for his very interesting Beginners Group.

What a start for the beginning of the year. Many things went wrong, even the computer did not want to work. But things got better. Heather Wright came down to catalogue the library books. Thank you Heather. Craig Humfreys came to take the photographs since Garaham was so busy and Christine Robertson, our Gazette Editor, came to get information for the Gazette which goes to the Printers tonight.

Apologies: Bruce Kirk, and Dorothy Carassai.

Birthday Draw: January - Bev Gay; February - Shirley Greig

Lucky Name Badge: Jan Saxon

Door Prize: Joan McMahon

Trophy Presentation: Congratulations are extended to Sid James, Shirley and Don Greig, Gary Clark, and Elsie and Reg Clifford for being the winners of Club Trophies for 2016.



Sid James



Elsie and Reg Clifford



Gary Clark

Guest Speaker: Graham Zerbe. Thank you Graham for a very informative presentation. All members were very interested and it was ideal for the new members.

Judges: Noel Oliver, Graham Zerbe, and John Gay

Forthcoming Event: 28th May 2017

Val and Ken Phillips have invited us to visit their home for a plant house visit. We will have morning tea at Val and Ken's, then we will go over to Murray Bridge and Districts Orchid Club meeting. Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Murray Bridge have a special day once a year when Riverland Orchid Society visits them and they have an interstate speaker. Southern Region are invited. What a great day. Please book in at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Sunday 19 April 2017 when our Guest Speaker will be Jane Higgs speaking on Terrestrial Orchids.

SRG February Results List

Ref. No.			Points Awarded
First Division			
Laeliinae - Non Standard			
800	C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Laeliinae - Species			
799	Psh. cochleata	Eileen Pinnock (519)	3
Oncidiinae - Species			
798	Pyp. papilio	Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140)	3
Second Division			
Laeliinae - Species			
795	Psh. cochleata	Sid James (170)	3
Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm			
795	Rlc. (Queen Elizabeth x King Richard)	Gary Clark (224)	3
Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm			
797	Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	Sid James (170)	3



Popular Vote

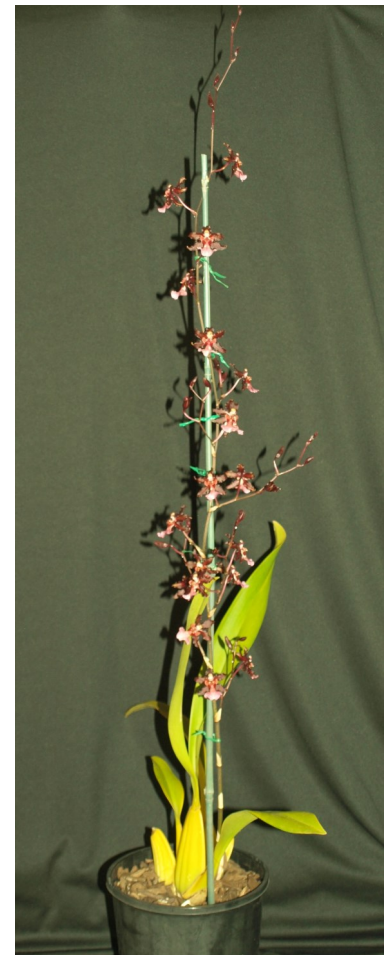
C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'

Grown By Chris and Lyn Heysen



**Orchid of the Day and
Orchid of First Division**

Psychopsis papilio
Grown by Chris & Lyn Heysen



Orchid of Second Division

Onc. Sharry Baby
'Sweet Fragrance'
Grown By Sid James

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. bowringiana* 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 cyma. 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 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.**