



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

September 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



**Vicky Cooper in her
shade house**

**Ctt. Rose Drop
Grand Champion
SC Autumn Show 2018
Vicky & Neil Cooper**



**DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
27 September and 25 October**



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

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2020

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Malcolm Mangelsdorf	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western	
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear	0409 642 352
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	
COMMITTEE:	Donna Meeuwssen, Oui Ju, Christine Robertson, Jim Fogarasi, Craig Humfrey, Geoffrey Spear, Craig Dicker	

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

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Editor	Christine Robertson	
Web Master	Craig Dicker	
Librarians	Vacant (Main Meeting)	
	Diane Cawley (Southern Region)	
Photographer	Neil Cooper	
Convenor S. R. Group	Geoff Spear	
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 Toshy 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

The following sentence appeared in our last Gazette. "The committee are making enquiries to find a different venue that would enable us to meet sooner than next year."

I am happy to confirm we are able to conduct a main meeting in September, as we have secured a venue that is suitable. There will be changes to our usual meeting day, the September meeting will be on Monday 7th of September held at the Colonel Light Gardens Sub Branch of the RSL. The Sub branch is located at 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. It is only 10 minutes further from the St. Bernadette's location if coming from a southerly or westerly direction. A map showing the location of the RSL Hall is provided later in this Gazette.

It goes without saying that we will all have to adhere to the current restrictions that are in place for the safety of all members, so we can conduct further meetings. In addition the Daytime Chapter will resume meetings on 10th September at the Lou Kesting Hall. Further news on when the Southern Region Group can resume meetings will be posted as soon it is known.

More good news is that The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be staging a Spring Display at the Seaford Central Shopping Centre. This will also comprise a trading table, a great opportunity to sell some of your excess plants. Reports are saying that sales have been brisk for other clubs that have had trading tables in recent months. The Display and Trading Table will be staged from Thursday 17th September through to Sunday 20th September. Further details will appear in this Gazette.

Our Vice President, Malcolm Mangelsdorf and his wife Carol, have invited the Club to have a selling stand at Noarlunga Orchids and Roses Open days on Saturday 12th September and 13th September . Come along and join in the fun, and bring your Orchids for sale. You can phone Malcolm on 0431 694 905.

Looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Successful growing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**DOROTHY CARASSI, PETER FLAVEL, OUI JU,
JOHN ROBINSON, MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY,
SUE ZERBE, RICHARD WILSON,
HELEN McINTOSH, DON GREIG, ERICA AUSTIN,
THELMA REGLAR, JOAN McMAHON,
EILEEN PINNOCK, STEVEN DAVEY,
KAY DAVEY, MARG YELLAND**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??

GOOD NEWS GOOD NEWS

The South Coast Orchid Club will be able to meet again, from Monday 7th September 2020 at the R.S.L. Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens at 8.00pm. A map is included on this page.

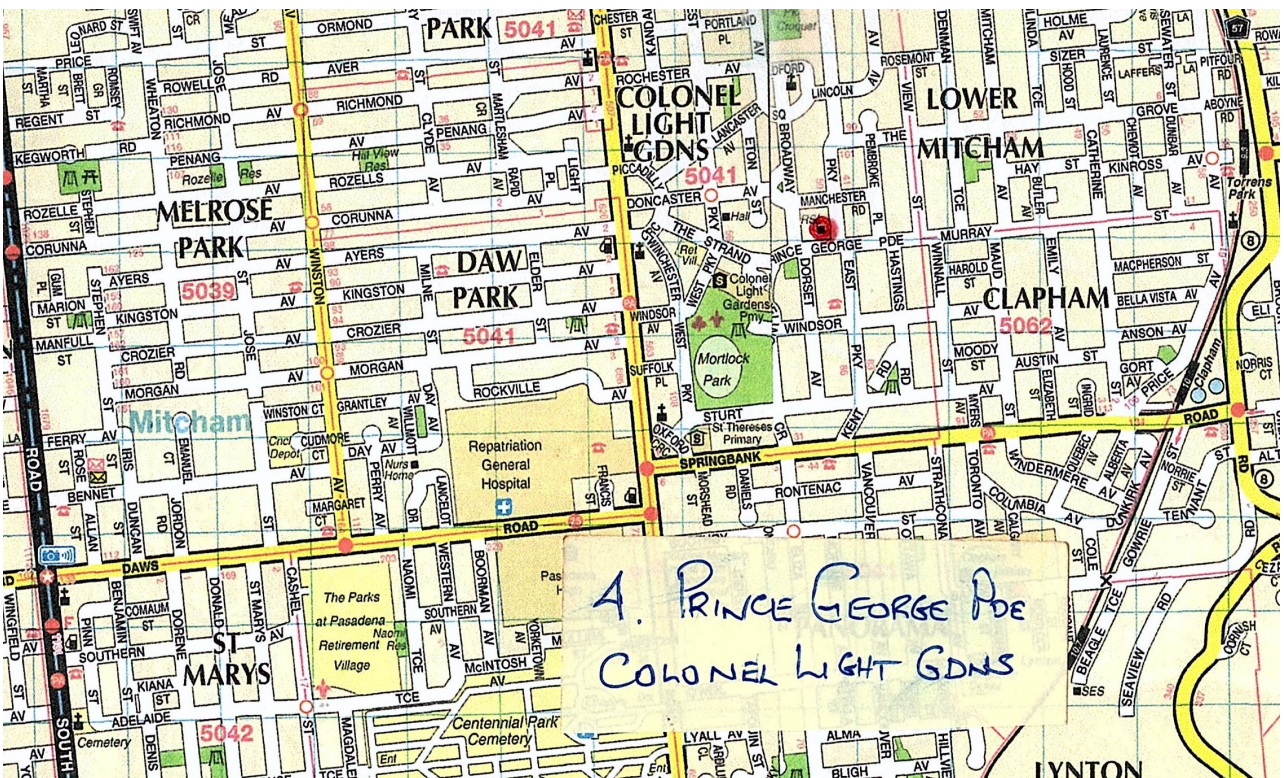


Parking: Car Park holds only 30 cars but parking is available on the street for all other cars.

Guest Speaker: will be Steve Howard speaking on 'How I Grow My Plants at Home'

Learners Group: The next class will be held on Monday 7th September 2020.

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



FURTHER GOOD NEWS

The Daytime Chapter will be able to meet at the Lou Kesting Hall off Broadway, South Brighton on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 2.00 pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Craig Humfrey speaking on general advice on growing orchids. Please bring along any orchid plants you need advice on,

Under COVID-19 regulations:

All members attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign an attendance Book by: Name, Signature, Phone Number, email, date and time of entry and exit from the Hall. Hand sanitizer will be at the door to use as you walk in.





ORCHID CALENDAR 2020

<u>GENERAL MEETING</u>	Monday 7th September 2020 8.00 pm R.S.L. Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens Guest Speaker: Steve Howard "How I grow my Orchids at Home"
<u>DAYTIME CHAPTER</u>	Thursday 10th September 2.00 pm Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton Guest Speaker: Craig Humfrey "How I grow my Orchids"
<u>NOARLUNGA ORCHIDS & ROSES</u>	Saturday 12th September to Sunday 13th September 2020 180 Commercial Road Seaford Meadows South Coast Orchid Club have been invited by Carol and Malcolm, owners of Noarlunga Orchids and Roses, to have a selling stand at their Open Days. Bring along your orchids for Sale. Come join the fun. Phone Malcolm 0431 694 905
<u>SPRING DISPLAY</u>	Thursday 17th September to Sunday 20th September 2020 Seaford Central Shopping Centre, Commercial Rd, Seaford. [See below for information. Times, etc.]
<u>SOUTHERN REGION CHRISTMAS DINNER</u>	Sunday 6th December 2020 at Hotel Victor. Phone Shirley Greig to Book In 8552 9321

SPRING DISPLAY AND TRADING TABLE SEAFORD CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE Wednesday 16th September to Sunday 20th September 2020

Trading Table Set Up: Wednesday 16th September
4.30 pm. Trestles etc. set up
5.00 pm Members bring plants in (no earlier)

Members may bring their plants in then or any time between Thursday and Saturday. Sales times are the Club's bread and butter so please bring along any plants you have. Provide Trading Table plants in good condition. You may bring in plants without flowers but you must include a Photo of the Bloom. Ask for swing tickets and selling sheets.

Trading Table Times: Thursday 17th September to Saturday 19th September
7.00 am - 9.00 pm.
Sunday 20th September 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

Display Put In: 6.30 pm Northern end of Complex, near Woolworths.
Sorry Orchids will NOT be judged because of current COVID-19 conditions.
Plants for Display must have clean black pots. Water plants the date before put in.
Committee will look after your plant's needs while in the Display.

Take Out: Sunday 20th September at 5.00 pm

Assistance Needed Volunteers to help on Trading Table. Please ring Lucy 8381 4420.

Reminder: To sell your plants at the Display you must be a Financial

VICKY COOPER - JUDGE, GROWER, MEMBER

I love all flowers but I especially love orchids. Orchid growing became my hobby when I retired. I started with Cymbidium orchids. It took me several years to get my plants to flower. Once the flowers started to appear I got such a sense of satisfaction. I was thrilled.

My collection grew bigger and I became more involved in the orchid world. The orchid judging course was a natural progression for me. I enjoy learning and there is so much to learn about orchids. My Judging experiences have provided me with opportunities to see some of the best orchid plants in South Australia.

A quote from Roger Rankin: *'Some may travel the world to find beauty: Orchid growers fill their lives with it without leaving home.'*



UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Dendrobium spectabile*

Dendrobium spectabile occurs in New Guinea, Bougainville, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, where it grows on trees in swampy lowland forests, lower mountain forests or in planted coconut or Casuarina trees from sea level to 1100m. Plants survive exposure to high light and hot temperatures at lower elevations but are more abundant in cool shady locations at higher elevations.

Plants have large pseudobulbs (30-122cm) with 3-6 long, leathery, suberect, sharply pointed, dark glossy green leaves per growth. Inflorescence 20-40 cm long with 5-20 flowers which are creamy to pale greenish with extensive reddish brown to dark purple mottling, blotching and veining. Crested lip is yellowish with white base. Sharply pointed segments are twisted and curled. These blooms have been described as grotesquely beautiful.

The species has been used considerably in hybridizing with 7 primary hybrids produced and 24 First generation offspring, 12 having been awarded.

The species has been awarded 62 times world wide with 1FCC, 1AM, 4 HCC awarded by the AOC and 1FCC, 2AM, and 1 HCC awarded by the OCNSW.



MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Cattleya Unknown
Grown By
Erica Austin



Den. Rainbow Surprise
Grown By
Sue & Laurie Carter



Cattleya coccinea
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'DJ'
Grown by
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Cym. Forrest Place 'Royale'
Grown by
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



**Masd. Machu Picchu
'Jay Vee'**
Grown by
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Phalaenopsis Unknown
Grown By
Christine Robertson

Members Photographs

Although judging of plants will commence this next month, we would still like to feature photos of members' plants so continue to send them in for inclusion in the Gazette.

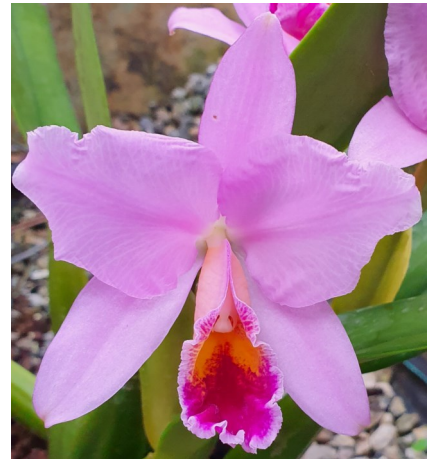
MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont...



Paph. Fanaticum



Den. spectabile



C. percivaliana 'Summit'



Paph. venustum 'Astrid'

All plants on this page grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Paph. sukhakulii

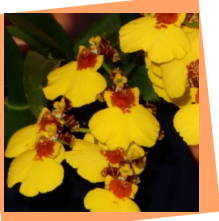
Cym. Regal Princess 'Seaview'



Cym. (Uluru x Kimberley Hawk)



Fdk. Beverley Danielson



DAYTIME CHAPTER



Hi Everybody, **GREAT NEWS, GREAT NEWS, GREAT NEWS**

We can now have a meeting. Strict Rules, social distancing, etc. We will meet on Thursday 10th September 2020 at 2.00 pm at the Lou Kesting Hall, Dover Square, off Broadway, South Brighton.

Craig Humfrey is our COVID-19 Marshall and his position is to make us aware of Coronavirus rules, and to ensure we are social distancing.

Craig will also be our Guest Speaker. Please bring along your plants that you would like information on and any questions to be answered. Craig will discuss his method of growing his plants.

It will be wonderful to see you all again.



Barb & Patty



Hello to all Members

A meeting was held to discuss the re-opening of our Orchid Club Meetings. Much to our disappointment, it is very likely we may have to wait until next year.

Christmas Dinner will be held Sunday 6th December 2020 at the Hotel Victor. Please ring Shirley Greig 8552 9321 to book in. It will be great for us all to catch up again.

Please stay safe and look after yourself in this extremely cold winter.

Lucy Spear

Cymbidium Orchid Culture By Kevin Western



Cymbidiums grown by most hobbyists and on offer in sales are mostly hybrids meaning they have 2 or (most commonly) several species cymbidiums in their ancestry. They have largely been bred and raised in artificial culture over one to as many as 40 generations since the 1890's. In the wild, cymbidium orchids generally grow in decaying heartwood of trees and enjoy breezy locations and good amounts of light. Root systems may penetrate some distance through the tree or branch and roots tend to be protected from drying.

Rainfall may be seasonal with highest falls during the warmer spring, summer and early autumn months. Winter months in their habitat tend to be rather dry. Humidity may also be variable and does not need to be high.

Temperatures may range from below zero °C to the low 40's. It is prudent to avoid frosty locations when choosing the place to grow them. Generally, cymbidiums do well in pots; the size of the pot being in scale with the size of the plant. The pots used may range from cheap, economical, black plastic ones to decorative ones, the key requirement being that the pots drain rapidly and well.

Potting mixes should be well draining and can range from modern potting mixes – not soil – but best mixes are chunky pine bark, chunky coco fibre, mixes with bark &/or coco fibre &/or perlite &/or charcoal, commercial, bagged 'Orchid Mix', scoria, clay balls and many more. In the authors opinion, a simple mix of just good, graded, chunky pine bark seems to work as well and perhaps better than mixes of two or more components. It is preferable to avoid mixing components of dissimilar sizes as smaller particles of one component will fill the air spaces between larger component pieces and keep the mix wetter for longer and thus rot the mix more quickly. Rotted mixes tend to be poorly draining, anaerobic and tend to rot the orchid roots also. Plants with poor root systems are reluctant to flower.

Watering. The author prefers to use coarse pine bark, pots such that the plants has room to grow into it and to water according to the season. In the warmer months – mid September to mid April in the southern states of Australia – it is practical to stand potted cymbidiums in shallow, cheap, plastic trays of water. This avoids water stress during long, hot, dry summer days and, from experience, improves growth and flowering without rotting the plant roots. Always remember to remove the dishes from under the pots at all other times of the year and water according to prevailing weather – probably once to three times a week so as to avoid the roots actually drying out. Although the plants would normally experience dryish winters in their natural habitat, they cope just fine with the rainy winters of Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth, without detriment provided the potting mix is very open, draining and free from rotting mix.

Repotting. Plants usually need to be re-potted about every 2-4 years into fresh potting mix. Very large plants can be broken into several smaller pieces but remember, larger plants tend to produce more spectacular flowering and smaller divisions may take one or more years to recommence flowering. I like a minimum of 4 bulbs to a division to assure good on-going growth and return to flowering. Best time to repot is about the end of August as the plants seem often to make new growths and new roots about then but they can be safely re-potted at any time as long as sensible care is given them. Try to remove as much of the old mix as practical and convenient from the roots. It is prudent to check for and remove any rotting bulbs and/or rotting or dead roots. These orchids will be quite OK even if all roots have been removed.

Fertilising. While cymbidiums will *survive* with almost no fertiliser, good, reliable flowerings are best assured by supplying your plant with sufficient nutrient that it can afford to spend energy on making flowers. The options are extensive but a simple, effective fertilising regimen is all that is needed. As the best cymbidium potting mixes are very open, draining and porous, generally,

not much fertiliser is retained within the pot for the orchid. The orchid roots have a spongy outer layer that absorbs and retains water and any fertiliser it may contain so regular watering with dilute (about 1/4 to 1/10 recommended strength) works rather well for them.

Options are the soluble fertilisers such as Aquasol, Thrive, Peters, Campbells, etc, etc and the best ones also contain Iron and the trace elements. At the dilutions the author recommends, the NPK fertiliser considerations are hardly of consequence. Occasional fertilising with Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts) at the same rate as the commercial powdered fertilisers will provide essential magnesium which is in sadly low levels in most commercial fertiliser brands. Similarly, exactly as with magnesium sulphate, occasional fertilising with Calcium Nitrate, alone, without ANY OTHER fertiliser substance will greatly benefit your plants.

Other options are the coated, spheres of say, 9 month, slow release fertilisers such as Osmocote, Nutricote, etc. that contain trace elements . These can be sprinkled on the top of the medium. Seasol, Power Feed, Hydroponic Fertilisers and fertiliser solutions (at significant dilution) are all OK too. Pelletised Fowl manures such as Rapid Raiser, Dynamic Lifter, etc. also work well when applied lightly. Every 2-3 months works well for me.

Light Requirements. Cymbidiums come from well lite positions up in trees of forests. A reasonable rule of thumb is that they like something approaching full winter sunlight in Adelaide or Melbourne. To achieve this, they can be grown under trees or hanging in trees, outdoor patios etc. in good but indirect light all day. They are definitely not Indoor orchids. Most hobbyist growers keep them under a layer of 50% to 75% shade cloth material and that works very well and reliably all year around. People with limited light due to neighbouring trees, buildings, etc, do best with 50% cloth while those lucky enough to have largely unimpeded sunlight all day do best with 75% cloth.



Flowering. Cymbidiums generally tend to initiate their flower spikes some time well before they become visible. It is found that cool evenings after warm to hot days seems to increase the likelihood these orchids will flower for you. Many growers find that giving them a light watering with tap or rain water of an evening, during hot weather, helps. Plants also tend to flower more reliably when they have good, healthy root systems; hence the need for good quality potting mix, free draining mix, regular repotting and good air movement. They also need adequate light levels to encourage good photosynthesis, good growth and provide sufficient spare energy to encourage flowering.

Pest and Diseases. Orchids, like all garden plants, occasionally suffer from some disease or another. Usual offenders are: Mealy Bugs, Red Spider and other Spider Mites, Leaf and bulb scale and some plant viruses. As growers we just need to keep an eye out for signs of infestation and then refer to your garden centre for advice on treatment. It is wise to check orchid purchases or gifts for signs of these diseases and pests.

Viruses are a major issue. Check the internet for pictures of virused orchids. Virus infected orchids **cannot be cured and MUST BE TERMINATED.**

Kevin Western

Orchids as Bonsai by Itaru Tsuchiya

(This article first appeared in the February 1960 American Orchid Society Bulletin. Orchids as Bonsai are still rare although many miniature species would make spectacular specimens. - Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education, 2009.)



Sedirea japonica



Dendrobium monoliforme

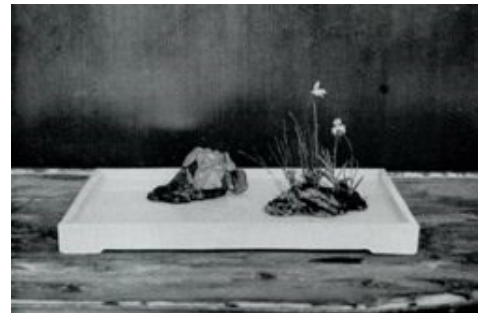
In Japan, the art of Bonsai has been prevalent among aged persons for hundreds of years. They have tried many kinds of plants for the purpose. Not only trees, but also herbaceous plants like Chrysanthemum or reed have been grown as Bonsai.

There are many dainty little wild orchids growing in Japan. However, it has been very seldom that these orchids were used for Bonsai because orchids cannot be trained to form a desired composition. The photos are a few examples of Bonsai orchids grown by one of the sergeants of Kyoto University. He provides these Bonsai for the decoration of the main office of the university. Every visitor, especially overseas, seems to appreciate them very much and the old sergeant is always content with it.

Botanical Institute, Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.



Habenaria radiata

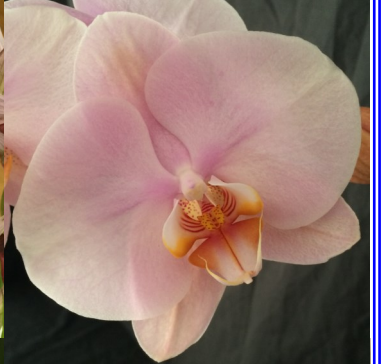


Neofinetia falcata

Other Bonsai Orchids were found occurring on the Web. Phalaenopsis are often used but there was also a Paphiopedilum, and a Cattleya.



Orchids of September 2019



POTTING PHALAENOPSIS: A NEW IDEA by Rex Johnson

[Originally published in Orchids in Victoria by The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc.]

When I began growing *Phalaenopsis* orchids about twelve years ago, I was very particular about watering, always making sure that all the water was directed into the potting mix and that none fell into the crown of leaves. If by chance any did so, it was immediately removed with a paper tissue to minimise the likelihood of crown rot. The first few years were very successful, resulting in some beautiful flower spikes. However, as my orchid collection grew I became less careful with my watering practices and sometimes neglected to remove any water that lodged in the crowns of my *Phalaenopsis* plants. I live in a cold climate, where the temperature on some winter nights falls as low as -5°C , requiring my *Phalaenopsis* house to be securely closed to maintain the desired minimum temperature of 16°C for up to 16 hours per day. The lack of fresh air during this time meant that any water on the foliage had little chance to evaporate. Inevitably this led to crown rot and the loss of some plants.

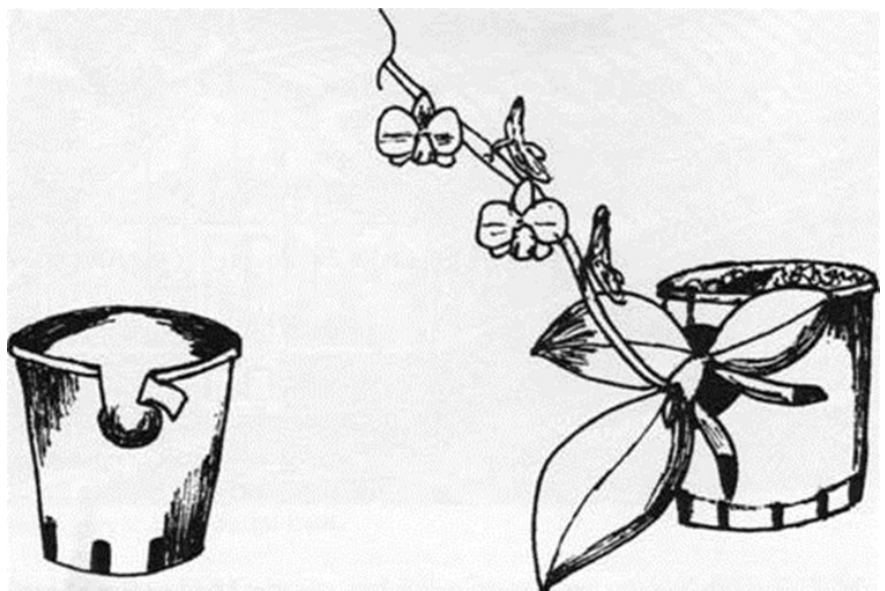
Recently a friend in Ballarat showed me how he partly tipped his *Phalaenopsis* pots on their sides, so that any water remaining on the leaves of his plants after watering could drain naturally, thus allowing the foliage to dry quickly. This led to my new idea: I would pot my *Phalaenopsis* plants on their sides, just as they grow on a tree branch in their natural habitat.

And so, using a hole saw, I cut a 40 mm diameter hole in the side of a conventional plastic pot about a third of the way from the top. Then, with a strong pair of scissors I made a cut from the rim of the pot to one side of the hole (see sketch). This left a flap across the top of the pot that can be opened to insert the plant when re-potting, and then closed again to retain some potting mix above the plant.

At the time of writing (November) my plants have been planted in this manner for only about three months but already new leaves and roots are evident. I can now water overhead as often as I like with little risk of crown rot. I'm so pleased with the idea that I'm about to buy more *Phalaenopsis* plants to replace my earlier losses!



Phalaenopsis Champion Lightning
'Splash' HCC/OSCOV



Dendrobium Red Bull . A Mutation. By Seong Cheng [Hongyi Toh Gardens, Singapore]

Recently, we observed again a peculiar anomaly in our nursery. The very same plant constantly produces fasciated orchid flowers. It has flowered for the 3rd or 4th time already, producing similar flowers. We also have another orchid plant that produces fasciated flowers, sort of "orchid within an orchid", unfortunately difficult to photograph it due to its shape.

Dendrobium flowers traditionally, have 2 petals, 3 sepals and 1 lip (actually a modified petal). Anatomically speaking, a flower is enclosed by 3 sepals (within a flower bud); and through the process of flowering, the inner surface of the Sepal is showcased together with the enclosed petals and lip. Our Dendrobium Red Bull flower looks like a peculiar "rose". We can see the fusion of at least 3 sets of flowers, into one single "rose-like" entity (see photos).

The plant shows that a certain degree of anatomical integrity has been maintained, whereby the flower bud still involves the enclosure of floral parts within 3 Sepals. It is only upon flowering, that fasciation can be observed. It was most fortunate that such a rare sight for us has been captured on camera.

Deformed-looking flowers ("fasciations" or "mutations") are not uncommon and in Asia, orchids that show fasciation are highly valued when judging.



Dendrobium Red Bull



Phragmipedium kovachii, Beyond Discovery by Alfredo Manrique

[from Gawler Districts Orchid Club]



After years of rumours about a new *Phragmipedium* species seen on the eastern slopes of the Andes in the remote highland jungle in northern Peru, *Phragmipedium kovachii* was finally described in June of 2002. The species is found as endemic in the district of Pardo Miguel, Province of Rioja, San Martin, Peru. This part of the country is well known about its richness in orchids much of them not yet identified.

Phragmipedium kovachii grows in populations usually of less than 2500 adult plants, at altitudes from 1600 to 1900 meters above sea level. The weather conditions in the area are: warm days at (24°C) cool nights(10°C). Air humidity over 85%, rains almost daily in low intensity in the winter and in high intensity in the summer, which coincides with the peak flower season, main reason for the late discovery of this amazing species with purple flowers and with a petal span up to 23cm.

To understand the growing habits of the species a full study of the soil and tissues was undergone. Two soil samples were taken from two of the three habitats.

Hábitat 2	1.7	1.9	60	85%	0.41	7.9
Hábitat 3	1.7	1.7	185	53.8%	0.19	7.99
	OM	P K	CaCO ₃	EC	dS/m	pH

OM: Organic matter EC: Electric conductivity

A foliar analysis of developed leaves was carried out, producing the following results:

N	P	K	Ca	Mg	Fe
0.72	0.08%	0.49%	2.34%	0.50%	179ppm

According to the results, *Phragmipedium kovachii* grows in an alkaline soil, with ample drainage, low in nutrients, with high consumption of Calcium, Magnesium, as well as Iron.

Culture:

In May 2003, 5 adult plants of *Phragmipedium kovachii* were collected and brought into cultivation in Lima, Peru. Lima has a mild climate, the maximum temperature is 30°C and the minimum is 11°C, the relative humidity is usually, over 80% year round. Skies are usually overcast in the winter. The plants were grown under medium light with no direct sunlight at any time. In a shade house without heating. Wire Baskets of 12-inch diameter lined with a fine plastic mesh were chosen as containers as the collected plants carried at minimum 15 growths each. After trying several soil mixtures, the best results were found using the following materials:

Crushed stones, particles of 0.8cm 40% Fine fir bark 30% Charcoal 15%
Coarse Perlite 10% Fine ground Oyster shells 5%

To have a continuous calcium source, 20% of the stones in the soil mixture are limestone rocks, while the rest is granite. As in the habitat, a thin layer of Sphagnum moss is placed on top of the soil mix. Watering must be done with water with a low content of total dissolve salts, fewer than 60 ppm is well advised. The plant should be fertilized once a week or every two waterings, using a total solution of 350 ppm of a 15-5-15 fertilizer that carries 8% of Calcium, 2% of Magnesium and micro elements such as Zn, Mn, Fe and B. Additional applications of Ca and Magnesium are advised.

The species is able to flower year around, under cultivation. However, is advised to manage to avoid flowers in the hot months of the year as the flowers tend to show deformations and without full development of the flower parts.

Propagation:

The in vitro procedures require of the use of germination media with a pH over 7 and a TDS no higher than 1500ppm. The room temperature is advised to be kept around the 22°C. The success in the in vitro procedure, lays mainly in a frequent replating and the addition of Calcium and Magnesium in the media formula. After 8 to 14 months after sowing the seedlings, they should be ready to be put in the nursery in what we call the deflasking process. The key for a high rate of survival is a high humidity environment for no less than 4 weeks with a gradual reduction to the air humidity until reach the nursery air humidity.

An application of Silicon and daily feedings in the first month showed to be very important for the seedlings to adapt to their new growing conditions. Day temperatures at this stage must be around 26°C and night temperatures around 18°C.



Orchid Plants without leaves.

This is a species of one of the genera that do not have leaves.

Chiloschista segawai

Chiloschista is a genus of epiphytes found in India, S.E. Asia, Indonesia, and Australia. All grow well in warm areas and love humidity and shade. These plants fill at home when mounted on wood or cork.



Chiloschista orchids are known as “plants without leaves” because this genus consists mainly of a root system and the stem is either very short or absent. The presence of leaves is very rare.

When you grow Chiloschista orchids, the first thing you notice is the green colour of the roots. That is because in the absence of leaves the roots take over the functions of the leaves. The roots are strong, 2 - 4 mm thick, and in my collection up to 15 cm long.

I purchased a flask, about 45 seedlings and mounted them all on cork that was 3 years ago. Today there are about 8 alive. I cannot be certain but it appears to me that the plants may have a limited life span, maybe 5 years? When the time comes to die, the roots start to dry out and you can clearly see the end is near (see below).

The plants flower almost every year from early September to late October. The inflorescence can be up to 15 cm long and support 5 - 15 pale yellow to yellow to pale yellow-green flowers. Two or more inflorescences per plant are common. The flowers are strong, last a few weeks and the flower size is consistent.

I disagree with those that suggest the “roots like to dry out between watering”. When wet, the roots are very green and look very healthy. Sometimes I let the cork float on water for days. In fact, I was advised to keep the plants “horizontal” and not vertical (hanging) in order to keep them moist longer.

Dr. George Tsambourakis



Orchid Culture Notes for September

Spring at last! This Winter gone was a cold one. It was great for the fruit trees but not that flash for humans and orchids alike. The extra warmth in the sun and the ever increasing fine days remind us that the busiest time of the year is now upon us. We have the Spring shows, we have lots of flowers and of course it will soon be time for the important maintenance of our collection. Question, where to start! Whilst it is nice to view the Spring flush it is also the time of year that we need to plan for the year ahead. What plants will we cull, pot on or divide? Pest problems also build up as do fungal problems. I still sit back and wonder why subject myself to all of this. When I sit down in the shade house after a hard week of work surrounded by a heap of flowers and all the wonderful fragrances it is not a hard question to answer.

September weather is quite changeable, and this gets worse over the next two months as the seasons change. It can range from freezing cold to stinking hot in a short space of time, even this early in the season.

There will be many plants that did not flower so questions must be asked. Where did I go wrong? What made this plant flower well yet the other one did not. Was it the season? Here I was early in the year suggesting that this year would be a great one for the natives, how wrong I was, but good to know I was not alone. I suppose the relentless heatwaves of Summer past had something to do with it.

September will see more and more plants emerge out of dormancy. There will be new growth starting to show and new green tips emerging from white roots that sealed off some time ago. Don't be in a big rush to hit them with gallons of water and fertiliser. Changes of seasons happen gradually and not overnight. This is so easy to do when you hit that first warm day. Gradually increase the water and feeding as they grow and the seasons change. Try and water late morning or early afternoon at the warmest part of the day so plants are dry by nightfall. Tap water is still very cold and you can still get frosts for at least another month yet.

Damping off new growths is common this time of year and water is usually the culprit. If you can, try and water the pot not the plant. This is easy with a small collection and very hard with a large collection. If you do get water into a new growth, try to dry it. Blowing through a straw or using tissue paper whilst fiddly, may save a growth. By month's end the sun will be on the south side of the equator and with the closeness comes the intensity of heat. Plants in full sunlight over Winter will be moved under 50% shade, those hung high in the shade house are lowered and those that prefer shade are moved accordingly. The sun will rise in a more easterly aspect and set in the west and soon rise in the SE and set in the SW. The change in aspect will also mean plants in Winter shade can be exposed to Spring and Summer sun and this will burn them.

Pests will abound overnight. New crops of caterpillars and aphids are lining up for the new seasons growth. Slugs and snails continue to feast so they can fatten up before Summer dormancy. This year botrytis has been bad, a week of cloud and drizzle in July setting up a bad infestation. Soon rust will be on the increase, whilst not a huge problem with orchids, it can cause problems. Scale will start their breeding season. The juvenile nymphs are quite mobile and are looking for new growths. They suck out the goodness from the plants leaves and leave marks. Any marks on the new growths will be exaggerated as they grow larger.



Orchid Culture Notes for September cont..

Summer weeds will soon increase, its oxalis time! Pull these out when small and when repotting or dividing make sure all weeds are removed.

Start dividing your plants soon after flowering. I would wait until later in the month when the warmer weather has arrived, but if potting on, you can do this anytime as the plants root system suffers little from the disturbance. Remove flower spikes from weak plants or those you intend to bust up. Weak plants need all the help they can get and maintaining a flower produced in a stress related situation will not help them recover. With plants you will divide, I work on the theory of the longer growing season they have the better they will be, so why leave a spike on for ages when that extra time may give them a good chance to establish to flowering size next year.

Native Epiphytes have had another strange year with many plants in active growth all year. They are now in flowering mode and those of you who grow *Sarcochilus* should have spikes lengthening. At the same time I have single growth plants that have lost the main growth throwing out numerous side shoots. Some of these plants can be quite shy at doing this and removing a primary growing tip is a practice recommended for the experienced or the brave but when nature dishes this treatment out you take your chances. I'll get a few specimens out of this! Watering is when they need it and generally subject to the weather for plants in the open and those under cover are watered and fed weekly. If it remains dry then give them a drink, but if the weather remains wet, then they won't need any additional water.

Natives respond well to a drink of limewater this month at the rate of 1 gram per litre for those grown in bark. Fungicides sprayed on the new growths help stop spotting and damping off due to botrytis. Watering for plants that were dormant should be gradual over this month. Look for signs of movement such as new growths and roots. A few pellets of rapid raiser or blood and bone on the surface of the natives works well. Don't overdo as they will break down and form sludge in the mix that accelerates breakdown.

Keep feeding Zygopetalums with high nitrogen feed until the new growths bulb up and observe for any papery marks on the leaves that will have a looper caterpillar chewing away happily underneath! Cut off old flower spikes and try and finish any division this month. Oncidiums and Cattleyas will show new root growth and growth nodes. Gradually increase watering and start feeding when the roots show growth tips. At the moment I am just misting the roots. These two species will sprout roots from the tips of the old roots, the sides of the old roots as well as the old and new growths. Try and hang all Oncidiums above the Cymbidiums as they love stronger light and air movement. It is still a bit early to attempt any division of these two genera.

For those who grow terrestrials September and October are peak months. Keep moist and give them a weak feed with an organic feed. Two spotted mites have been bad this year so if your flowers are slightly distorted or the leaves looking a bit brown on the edges, there is a good chance that the mites have found them. Once they have finished flowering you can slowly dry off the plants. Keep an eye out for rot in the leaves caused by being too wet. Remove them and spray with a fungicide. If the rot gets into the tubers it usually spells the end of that plant.

Next month is October and is a very busy month as we strive to finish repotting and division so as to give our plants time to settle down before the heat of Summer. We will spend some time next month with some useful tips on how to repot, divide and how to look after them.

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.
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Items must be delivered to the Editor by the second Thursday of each month.
E. & O. E.**