



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

October 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



**Lucy & Geoff Spear with their trophy for Grand Champion Spring Show 2018
Den. striolatum 'Leedham'**

**DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
25 October and 22 November**

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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:

Registrar	Phil Steer	
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

Wasn't it a relief that we had the opportunity to hold a general meeting last month, albeit at a different location. The Colonel Light Gardens RSL Sub-branch proved to be a very good venue and it was great to see so many faces come along on a warm night and enjoy the meeting and the many plants that you bought in. The photograph below shows the hall and part of the display of plants.

The next meeting will be held at the same venue, with Kevin Western as our Guest Speaker. Kevin is a wealth of knowledge on all things orchids, so come along to hear his presentation.

Our Spring Display and trading table at Seaford Central Shopping Centre has been a great success, with brisk trade across the four days. With the outlook in March of this year it did seem unlikely that we would be able to show the public our wonderful interest and give them opportunity to purchase some orchids. To all members involved with the display and trading table give yourself a pat on the back, you deserve it.

We are sorry that the Southern Region Group is unable to meet until the new year. There will be a meeting on Sunday 17th January 2021. Don't forget the Southern Region Christmas Dinner at the Victor Hotel on Sunday 6th December.

The committee each year steps down from their positions and now is a good time to consider if you are able to spare some of your valuable time as a member of our committee. It is very rewarding and the club cannot function without a good working committee.

We wish all the best to our members who are experiencing difficulties with their health at this time.

Good growing and Showing

Michael Willoughby





ORCHID CALENDAR 2020

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 6th October 2020 8.00 pm.
 RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade Colonel Light Gardens
 Guest Speaker: Kevin Western speaking on snippets covering:

- i Some of the effects of Covid on the Orchid Industry;
- ii Results of ongoing use of clay balls as potting media;
- iii Mini indoor terrariums;
- iv Why some of our threatened terrestrial orchids are in real trouble; and finally
- v What has been happening lately in my Tissue Culture Lab.

DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 8th October 2020 2.00 pm
 Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton
 Guest Speaker: Kevin Trevan speaking on Sarcochilus

SOUTHERN REGION CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday 6th December 2020 at Hotel Victor
 Phone Shirley Greig to Book In 8552 9321

MAIN MEETING CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday 7th December 2020
 (See Page 8 for suggested menu.)

COVID-19 VIRUS MARSHALLS' REPORT.

We know how wonderful it was for you to get together with your Orchid friends. Supper was a great time to chat. That is why we allowed extra time. We had not seen some friends in a long time.

By Law the Club must have Virus Marshalls. The job they have to do can be very difficult at times because we forget the 1.5 metres distancing. The Club could receive a \$5,00.00 fine if the Police pay us a visit and they find we are not complying with the rules. So, let's make the Virus Marshalls' job easier. If they make a request to you, please say sorry and move apart a little.

Anne Steer, Lucy Spear and Craig Humfrey

HELP WANTED

Lucy and Geoff have picked up the Gazettes from the Printers, folded, stamped, labelled, pressed and posted them for the past 30 years. They are unable to continue with this task.

Urgent assistance is needed in this area please. Geoff has a press that you can have to flatten the Gazettes.

Give Lucy a ring on 8381 4420

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Cym. Nancy Maxwell 'Shirley'
Grown By
Marg & Warren Yelland



**Cym. Valley Olympic
'Pink Perfection'**
Grown By Marg & Warren Yelland



Cym. Sundaani's Treasure
Grown By
Marg & Warren Yelland



C. Aloha Case 'Hawaiian Style'
Grown By Rowan Crowhurst



C. Dal's Choice 'Castle Creek'
Grown By Rowan Crowhurst



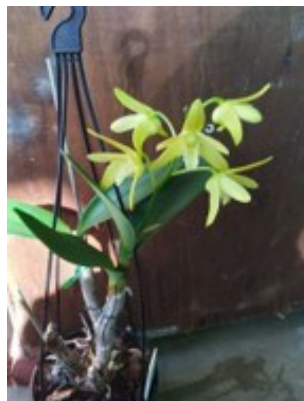
Ctt. Jannine Louise
Grown by Rowan Crowhurst



**Den. (Tyabb x Australian
Rose Beauty)**



**Den. Auscobber
'Babylon Dark Knight'**



**Den. Eclipse
'Buttercup'**



**Galeopetalum Arlene
Armour 'Coching'**

All Dendrobiums and Galeopetalum grown by Rowan Crowhurst

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont...



Den. striolatum 'Tassie Gold'
Grown By Eileen Pinnock



Den. Border Surprise
Grown by Phil & Anne Steer



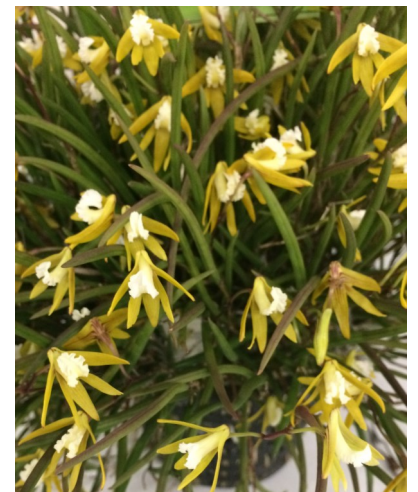
Den. calamiforme
Grown By Rowan Crowhurst



**Den. Newbold Norms
Delight 'Seaview'**
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Masd. Red Hot Chilli 'Beenak'
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Den. striolatum 'Bicheno Gold'
Grown By
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



Happy Birthday

VICKY COOPER, LEE GRAFTON,
KEVIN TREVAN, MALCOLM YOUNG,
SUZY BRATZ, ANNE STEER,
ADRIAN BOCKMANN, ANNE DEWAR,
MONICA SORRELL



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??

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September Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2546	Den. Victorian Splendour 'Ross Watts'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2548	Den. Samford Moonglow	Steve Howard (582)	2
2549	Den. Newbold Norm's Delight 'Seaview'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	1

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

2544	Den. speciosum 'Daylight Moon'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2545	Sarco. aequalis	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2

Australian Native Terrestrial - Hybrid

2553	Calda. Fairy Floss	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

2550	Diuris conspiculata	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
2551	Diuris pardina	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	2
2552	Calda. latifolia	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	1

Chin Yew Lian Trophy

2589	Paph. Norito Hasegawa	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

2594	Cym. [(Aluminataion x Miretta) x Ruth]	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
2595	Cym. Valley Olympic 'Pink Perfection'	Peter Flavel (487)	2
2596	Cym. (Dural Dream x Lancashire Khan)	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	1

Garard / Western Trophy

2588	Cym. (Darch Hero x Kimberley Splash)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2590	Onc. Twinkle 'Red Fantasy'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2584	Phrag. Rouge Bouillon	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
2585	Masd. Red Hot Chilli 'Beenak'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2586	Paph. Norito Hasegawa	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

2591	Paph. Norito Hasegawa	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2592	Paph. Chouvetii 'Van Dyke'	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	2

Paphiopedilum - Species

2593	Paph. villosum var. annamense	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

2587	Den. Victorian Splendor 'Ross Watts'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2540	Den. Australian Artist	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
2541	Den. Border Surprise	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	2
2542	Den. Unknown	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	1

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2574	Cym. Feather Clouds '56'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
2571	Cym. Vanity Fair 'Hollywood'	Graham Fear (576)	3
2576	Cym. (Hot n Spicy x Scott)	Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279)	2

Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

2573	Cym. Kulnara	Adrian Bockmann (278)	2
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Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

2577	Cym. Fatal Beauty 'Rosalie'	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
2578	Cym. Cherry Blossom	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	2

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

2543	C. Mini Song x Rlc. Dal's Charm	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

2554	Brsdm. Pagan Lovesong 'Ruby Charles'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

2555	Paph. British Bulldog 'Personality Peter'	Bill Jayne (1180)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

2579	Den. Border Surprise	Phil and Anne Steer (514)	3
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Points Awarded

September Results List Cont..

Ref. No.

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2569	Den. Unknown	Helen McIntosh (299)	3
2570	Den. gracillimum	Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195)	2
2580	Den. (Victorian Flare x Victorian Stripe)	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	1

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

2568	Den. speciosum	Craig Humfrey (268)	3
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Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

2581	Microtis op	Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195)	3
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Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2566	Cym. Unknown	John Harris (26)	3
2562	Cym. Without Peer 'Soft Touch'	Helen McIntosh (299)	2
2563	Cym. Swan Lake 'Margot'	Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195)	1

Cymbidium over 90mm All colours inc Non-std

2560	Cym. Kiri Te Kanawa 'Moon Maiden'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
2561	Cym. President Wilson	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	2

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

2564	Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'	Van & Charles Ortlipp (528)	3
2567	Cym. Bedivere 'Highbury'	Van & Charles Ortlipp (528)	2

Laeliinae - Cluster

2582	Ctt. Rose Drop	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	3
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Laeliinae - Non Standard

2583	Rlc. Donna Kimura x (Rlc. Budekin Delight x Lc.	Christine Robertson (661)	3
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Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2559	Onc. Twinkle 'Fragrant Fantasy'	Jim Fogarasi (150)	3
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Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2557	Rlc. [Donna Kimura x (Rlc. Budekin Delight x	Christine Robertson (661)	3
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Specimen Species or Hybrid

2558	Den. speciosum 'Larwind'	Craig Humfrey (268)	3
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Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2556	Npp. Mem. Jimmy Lyttle x Z. Unknown	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	3
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CHRISTMAS DINNER 7TH DECEMBER 2020

What would you like to have? A Barbecue or a dinner or something else?

The attached menu can be provided by the Colonel Light Gardens RSL

Put your thinking caps on and bring along your ideas for the next meeting.

COLONEL LIGHT GDNS RSL BISTRO MENU SUGGESTIONS For ORCHARD CLUB DINNER.

\$15 each Main Course.

- No 1 • CRUMBED FISH FILLET with lemon & tartare sauce.
- No 2 • BEEF SCHNITZEL with red wine gravy or lemon wedge.
- No 3 • CHICKEN SCHNITZEL with red wine gravy or lemon wedge.
- No 4 • ROAST PORK with crackle and apple sauce.

All served with salad chips/or a baked potato.

\$5 each Desserts

- No 1 • Pavlova with mixed berries and fresh cream.
- NO 2 • Warm Apple strudel with custard & cream.

Vegetarian & gluten free options available. Meals served with a bread roll & butter.

Bar facilities can be provided

Minimum number of people is 35

PLANT COMMENTARY - SEPTEMBER 2020

Well ! what a pleasant way to get out and share our beautiful Orchids. The September meeting was certainly a welcome relief from all of the Covid related issues that we have endured over recent months.

It really was terrific to see so many plants and members turn out for our meeting in our temporary new meeting venue.

There were 64 plants benched with almost even numbers across the 3 divisions. (Open 21; First 20; & Second 23)



Seedling of the Night
Paph. Norito Hasegawa
 Grown by
 Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
 Photo Neil Cooper

Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division was *Den. speciosum* 'Daylight Moon' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This grex of *Den. speciosum* has been used extensively in breeding and it can be seen why.

There were 2 long inflorescences with beautifully presented yellow flowers all of the same size and in an excellent display. It was a real eye catcher for symmetry and presentation. It was not an overly big plant but very well grown.

Congratulations Michael and Oui



Orchid of Open Division / Orchid of the Night
Den. speciosum 'Daylight Moon'
 Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
 Photo Neil Cooper

Orchid of First Division



The plant chosen as Best of First division was a big bold white *Cymbidium*. The plant was *Cym. Vanity Fair 'Hollywood'* grown by Graham Fear. This was a large 90cm + flowers on a nice tall and erect inflorescence. The inflorescence carried 11 lovely flowers that were all clean and displayed well in the inflorescence. It was a well grown plant in an 8 "pot, so not a massive plant.

Well done Graham.



Orchid of First Division
Cym. Vanity Fair 'Hollywood'
Grown By Graham Fear

Photos Neil Cooper

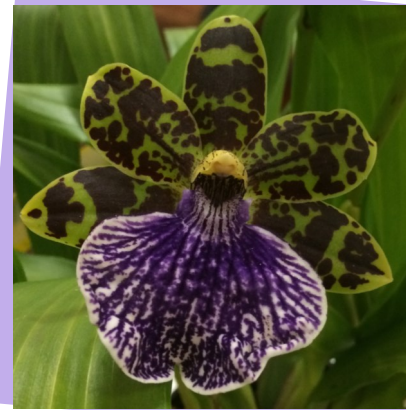


Orchid of Second Division.

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful *Zygopetalum* plant *Npp. Memoria Jimmy Lyttle x Z. Unknown* grown by Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny.

This was a well grown plant with 4 inflorescences carrying lovely bright flowers with distinctive brown & green sepals and petals with a distinctive purple over white labellum. Lovely clean foliage really set off this plant. Coral has shown us that she is a good grower of these lovely *Zygopetalums*.

Congratulations Coral & Trevor.



Orchid of Second Division
Npp. Memoria Jimmy Lyttle x Z. Unknown
Grown by
Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny

Photos Neil Cooper

Thanks you to our Judges, Recorders & Pencillers for all your efforts!

Good Growing !

Phil Steer
Registrar

EDIBLE ORCHIDS:

According to a report released by the Wildlife Conservation Soc. (WCS) some 12 years ago, more than 2.2 million wild orchids are being harvested every year from the “virgin” regions of East Africa, fuelled by a growing demand to use the plants as food. The purpose of this article is to make people aware of the orchid species that are endangered around the world due to human harvesting. To protect them, simply avoid eating dishes containing processed orchids that are harvested from the wild and encourage others to do the same.

In modern times, the name “orchid” derives from the Greek word “Orchis”, which translates to “Testicle” and is based on the fact that many terrestrial orchids have tubers that resemble a pair of testicles.

In the Greek mythology, ORCHIS was the son of a SATYR and a NYNPH. ORCHIS, killed by the BACCHUS supporters for insulting a Bacchus Priestess, turned into a flower that bears his name on the prayers of his father. This and the fact that "Orchis" tubers resemble "Testicles", did lead to the conclusion that the tubers were God’s gift to man to improve his masculinity and were used as an aphrodisiac.

Romans and Greeks used terrestrial orchid tubers to make drinks known under different names such as: “Satyrion”, “Priabiscus”, and “Sahlab”. These drinks were thought to be powerful aphrodisiacs.

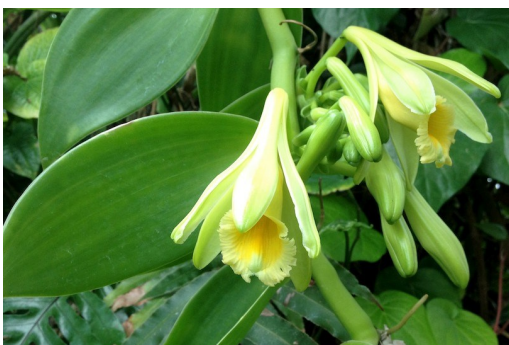
In Crete, Greece, Orchid tubes were boiled in water or fried in olive oil. Cretans were probably the first to fry potatoes in oil based on their experience in frying orchid tubers.

The Chinese were using orchids for medicinal purposes for over 3000 years and continue to do so today. Pharmaceutical companies in China produce medicine predominantly from cultivated orchids.

In Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, etc., orchid flowers and the canes of soft cane Dendrobiums are consumed daily.

All orchids are considered safe for human consumption, something that is not entirely true as many people are allergic and suffer from stomach-ache.

VANILLA: Vanilla is used for flavouring foods and beverages. Centuries ago, when “vanilla” was brought to Europe from America, it was considered to be an aphrodisiac. The general believe was that it also had therapeutic values and could help with digestion and headaches. There is a lot of information available online about Vanilla. Vanilla is being produced commercially and therefore, it is not an endangered species.



SALEP: Salep or saḥlab or Sahlep. **Flour** traditionally made from pounding and grinding dried orchid tubers. Originally, only tubers of the orchid species *Orchis mascula* and *Orchis molitaris* were used; however, as these orchid species did become rare, the exploitation of other orchid species began. Commercially, the tubers are washed and immersed for a short time in boiling water to destroy the vitality of the tuber and remove the bitterness. The outer skins are rubbed off and the tubers are dried either exposed to the sun or in an oven. The dried tubers are ground to powder before using; Salep powder has a yellowish colour. The powder is used to produce beverages and desserts and is available in many Greek, Middle East and Iranian markets. As beverage, salep was very popular in Europe, before coffee and tea were introduced. As desserts we know “salep pudding” and “salep ice cream” which is popular in Greece and Turkey. The ice cream production alone uses a substantial number of tubers (1 tuber = ca 5 gm).

KAIMAKI ICE CREAM: Famous Greek Creamy Ice Cream that contains “Masticha” (Gum Mastic) which gives it the chewing texture and Salep powder as a thickening agent. A similar ice cream called “Dondurma” is produced in Turkey.

CHIKANDA: Popular Zambian dish. A brown jelly, also sold at roadsides by the slice. Prepared by pounding the orchid tubers to remove the skins, then grinding to produce the “yellowish flour” which is then mixed with water, soda, salt to test and peanut flour to adjust the thickness. The mix is poured into a suitable container and left to set and cool. The growing appetite for “Chikanda” had a dramatic impact on orchid populations in the whole of East Africa.

CHINAKA: Malawi delicacy. Used like “Relish”. According to locals, Chinaka is not only a delicacy but also a powerful medicine that protects people from diseases and provides them with energy. *Satyrium cursonii* is the preferred species; however, other species like *Disa englerian*, *Disa robusta*, *Disa zombica*, *Habenaria clavate*, *Satyrium ambylosaccos*, *Satyrium buchani*, etc do the job too.

The tubers are cleaned, pounded in a mortar and cooked preferably with a locally produced “baking powder” called “Chidulo”. If Chidulo is not available, sodium bicarbonate can be used in its place. In a few minutes, a “cake” mix is produced which is poured into a container and left to cool and solidify. To finish, the “cake” is cut into small pieces and cooked with groundnut sauce or tomatoes. Chinaka the “relish” is ready.

OLATSHE: Popular Bhutan dish, part of the local diet. The preferred orchid for this dish is *Cymbidium hookerianum*. The flowers (open or not) are removed from the stalk, washed and boiled in water until soft. After draining the water a mixture of spices, melted cheese and salt are added. After five minutes cooking, the dish is ready. Olatshe can be served with rice, noodles or simply used as a dip. The orchid flowers add bitterness and the additional spices are added to offset that bitterness.



OLACHOTO: Another Bhutan delicacy which uses *Cyclanthera pedata* flowers instead of *Cymbidium* flowers.

DENDROBIUM: Dendrobium orchids are a very common food all over the world but especially in Thailand.

Den. bigibbum hybrid-flowers are sold in USA as edible decorations for food.

Dendrobium flowers are also dipped in batter and deep-fried.

Den. chrysotoxum flowers are dried and consumed as tea.

Den. longicornu flowers are pickled by the “Tamang” people (living in Nepal).

Dendrobium canes are stir-fried in many Asian countries and are also used to make sauces. In Singapore and Thailand there are Orchid Cookery Classes, introducing stir-fried orchids and orchid sauces.

Australian aborigines use *Den. kingianum* and *Den. speciosum* as food. Other orchids were also consumed as an emergency “bush food” like *Gastrodia* and *Caladenia* species.

Den. catheratum canes are boiled and consumed as tea.

In Hawaii, locals use orchids to prepare salad dishes, sugar coated candies, and main dishes orchids cooked with scallops.

OTHER USES:

A tea known as “Bourbon tea”, was used 200 years ago as a sedative. It was made out of an infusion of certain fragrant orchids.

In Malawi, the orchid tubers are used to treat coughing, abdominal pains, heart attack, eye sore, ring worm, rheumatism and kidneys problems.

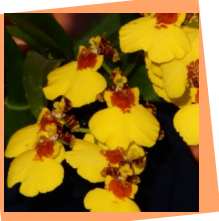
In Japan, sun dried orchid flowers are made into tea.

In China, Orchid Wine is popular and has been noticed in the International Wine Exhibition in Shanghai. Allegedly looks like dark coffee.

Oils from fragrant orchid flowers are being used in the production of hair shampoos, soaps as well as perfumes.

There are many other uses; however, most orchids used, Dendrobiums, *Phalaenopsis*, etc. are commercially produced. The orchids that are in danger of extinction are predominantly Terrestrial orchids and the countries where orchids are being harvested from the wild are predominantly China, Turkey and Tanzania and their neighbouring countries. In China Slippers are used to feed domesticated animals like pigs.

As I understand it, the list of orchid flower importing countries includes all European (especially Germany and England)



DAYTIME CHAPTER
Thursday 10th September 2020



Hi Everybody,

When the time got to 1.50pm, we were beginning to wonder whether we should cancel the meeting as there were only 5 members present and that included the Guest Speaker. But 5 minutes later everyone turned up and we had an amazing meeting.

Unfortunately Patty and George were unable to be with us and were sorely missed. Jossie introduced us to her friend June Cox who became actively involved in the meeting. We were unable to properly celebrate the special birthdays of our two 90 year olds Wally and Peter. We will hopefully celebrate this later in the year.

Wally won the Plant of the Day with a lovely mounted Dendrobium:
Den. falcorostrum.

Our Guest speaker, Craig Humfrey, gave us an interesting insight into how he grows his orchids especially when he was in Darwin and he answered several questions.

Our Christmas meeting was discussed and at this stage we are looking to have our Christmas meeting at a Hotel. We would appreciate it if you let us know at the next meeting so that we can begin to make arrangements.

We would like to thank everyone for social distancing at all times and look forward to seeing you once again. Our next meeting is Thursday 8th October and our Guest Speaker will be Kevin Trevan.

Barb & Patty



Geoff Spear with Wally Walloscheck and his winning Plant of the Day, *Den. falcorostrum*
 Photo Craig Humfrey



Hello to all Members

It has been decided in consultation with the Southern Region Group that there will not be a meeting until next year. The first meeting will be on Sunday 17th January 2021.

Don't forget the Christmas dinner to be held at the Victor Hotel on Sunday 6th December. Please ring Shirley Greig {Phone 8552 9321} to book in. It will be great to catch up with everyone.

Because the Southern Region Group members are so fond of species orchids I have included information on a species of *Spathoglottis* which occurs in Queensland and is a relative of the *Spathoglottis* [Mellow Yellow] that Alan Clayton put in the Gazette earlier this year.

Please stay safe and look after yourself in this extremely variable weather.

Christine Robertson

UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Spathoglottis plicata*

Spathoglottis plicata is widespread from India, through SE Asia, Phillipines, Borneo, Malaysia, Indonesia to New Guinea, Australia and the Pacific Islands. In Australia it is found in NE Queensland from the Jardine River to Cooktown, where it occurs in lowland regions near the coast growing in or near swamps or low-lying areas which are seasonally inundated, or in moist patches close to streams.

The species has ovoid, erect pseudobulbs that wrinkle with age, with deciduous leaves having a prominent longitudinal vein which gives a pleated or fan like appearance. There are 3-5 lanceolate leaves on each pseudobulb. An erect flower spike emerges from the base of a matured pseudobulb. All external parts of the inflorescence are covered with fine white hairs. There are 10 - 30 flowers per inflorescence produced in succession, but 3 - 7 open at one time.

The flowers are 3.5-4 cm. across and generally purple but white are known. Petals and sepals are purple with sepals tipped with white. Purple lip has lateral lobes, white on outside but maroon-purple on inside. Callas and base of midlobe are gold with red purple spots. Column is purple; large wings hood the apical third of the column.

The species has been considerably used in hybridizing with 33 first generation and 20 primary hybrids. There have been 10 awards in Brazil and USA, with 1AM and the rest cultural awards.



SPECIES RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR STANDARD CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

by Julian Coker and Brian Milligan
[First published in *Orchids in Victoria* By OSCOV]

The majority of the standard (large-flowered) cymbidiums that we grow today were derived from only eight cymbidium species, most of them native to the southern or western slopes of the Himalayas. Some of these species were and still are rare in Nature and uncommon in cultivation but others, especially *Cymbidium lowianum*, are quite widespread in Victoria today. The eight species are described in the order in which they were first introduced to cultivation in Britain.

1. ***Cymbidium iridioides*** (then known as *Cymbidium giganteum*) was first collected in Nepal in 1821 but was not introduced into cultivation until 1837, when John Gibson collected it in the Khasia Hills (northern India) for his employer, the sixth Duke of Devonshire. The fragrant flowers (75-100 mm across) have brown-and-yellow-striped petals that do not reflex and a white, non-hirsute labellum with red spots around its margin and a yellow centre. These features help distinguish it from *Cymbidium tracyanum*, with which it is frequently confused. Its colours are dull and the species has never been popular with hybridists. The species name *giganteum* referred to the size of the plants, not the flowers.



2. ***Cymbidium eburneum*** was also found in the Khasia Hills at an altitude of about 1500 m. It first flowered in Loddiges nursery in 1847. The flowers, white with yellow-banded lips, are 80-120 mm across. Each pseudobulb usually carries two inflorescences (sometimes more) but there are only one or two flowers per inflorescence. This species has been widely used to confer large size and white colour to its hybrids; unfortunately, it also conferred a low flower count to its early progeny.



3. ***Cymbidium hookerianum*** (syn. *Cymbidium grandiflorum*) has large green flowers, up to 125 mm across, on a pendulous inflorescence. Introduced to cultivation in 1851, it confers large size and a clear green colour to its hybrids, especially the early flowering greens. The flowers of both it and its progeny are prone to fall at high temperatures. Some growers find it difficult to flower every year.



4. ***Cymbidium sanderae*** was found in Vietnam by Wilhelm Micholitz in 1904 and introduced into cultivation by Frederick Sander. It carries 10-15 pristine white flowers per inflorescence during winter. The labellum is marked with heavy red bands and the flowers have heavy substance and are heat tolerant. These features are transferred to its progeny. Mrs. Emma Menninger colchicine-converted the diploid form to make the tetraploid generally referred to as *Cymbidium sanderae* 'Emma Menninger'. This is the form most commonly used in hybridising and is being used by Andy Easton to produce heat-tolerant hybrids suitable for warm climates. The most noteworthy hybrid produced to date is *Cymbidium Anna Szabo* 'Geyserland'.



5. ***Cymbidium lowianum* var. *lowianum***, first collected in Burma in 1877, is one of the most popular species because it is easy to grow and flower. Also its inflorescences can carry as many as 35 flowers with remarkable keeping qualities, a trait conferred to many of its hybrids. The green flower is 75-100 mm across. Its labellum has a characteristic red V-shaped marking that is conferred to its progeny, even to modern-day hybrids. There are two other important varieties. *Cymbidium lowianum* var. *concolor*, which has green sepals and petals and a yellow V-shaped lip marking, has been widely used in breeding pure-colour, large-flowered cymbidium hybrids. The other variety is *Cymbidium lowianum* var. *i'ansonii*, which has yellow-orange sepals and petals with an orange V-shaped lip marking. This variety has been useful in breeding standard cymbidiums with orange and red flowers.



6. The first cultivated plant of ***Cymbidium tracyanum*** flowered in the nursery of Mr. H.A. Tracy in England in 1890. It was a pleasant surprise for Mr. Tracy, who had purchased the plant as one of a batch of *Cymbidium lowianum* plants collected in Burma. The flowers are different to those of *Cymbidium lowianum* in a number of respects. *Cymbidium lowianum* flowers in late spring and has long-lasting flowers, whereas *Cymbidium tracyanum* flowers in winter and its flowers are short-lived when cut. At first *Cymbidium tracyanum* was very expensive but today both species are modestly priced and are common in Melbourne. *Cymbidium tracyanum* is useful in hybridising for conferring early flowering, brown & yellow colours and (occasionally) perfume to its progeny.



7. The most important of all cymbidium species used to produce large flowered hybrids, ***Cymbidium insigne*** has variously coloured flowers measuring 75-100 mm across. The lip is patterned with crimson/purple and there are usually 12-25 flowers per inflorescence. Micholitz first collected it for Sander and Sons in Vietnam in 1904. He found it growing at an altitude of 100-1500 m in company with *Cymbidium lowianum* and *Cymbidium eburneum*. There is also an album variety that (with *Cymbidium lowianum* var. *concolor*) has been very important in developing pure-colour cymbidiums. *Cymbidium insigne* has been widely used by hybridists. Without this species cymbidium hybrids would never have reached the stage of development and popularity that they currently enjoy.



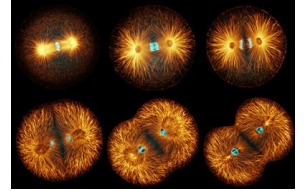
8. ***Cymbidium erythrostylum*** is another rare orchid collected in Vietnam by Micholitz for Sander and Sons. The white flowers, ten or twelve per inflorescence, have unusual forward-swept petals, down-swept lateral sepals and a small labellum, characteristics that are conferred to many of its hybrids. The shape and size of the petals and lip were a disadvantage to its early hybrids but the early-flowering time, pristine white colour and down-swept lateral sepals are useful characteristics that have proved especially useful in breeding early-flowered white and coloured cymbidiums of high quality.

At the next orchid show you attend, marvel at the wide colour range available in standard cymbidiums and give thanks for the eight species that made virtually all of these colourful hybrids possible.



COLCHICINE CONVERSION by Julian Coker

[First published in *Orchids in Victoria* By OSCOV]



Recently the orchid world lost one of its great gentlemen and gentle men in the passing of Don Wimber. [Don Wimber passed away in 1997- Editor] Don was involved in many of the most notable scientific innovations related to orchids. He was the father of colchicine conversion of diploids to tetraploids in a number of genera, especially *Cymbidium*, *Phragmipedium* and *Odontoglossum*, which led to great advances in hybridising. Being such a modest man and not one who sought the headlines, his contribution to clonal propagation was understated. While Morel is generally credited with the development of clonal propagation, there are those who consider Don's contribution was of equal if not greater importance. Much of Don Wimber's early work was carried out in USA and involved *Cymbidiums*. Later this work was extended to chromosome counting and colchicine conversion, especially involving *Odontoglossum* and *Phragmipedium*, for the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. He spent a considerable amount of his later time in Sydney with his wife who was working at Sydney University.

Wimber's earliest work with colchicine involved many different plants, but fortunately for us he did a considerable amount of work with diploid cymbidiums. This involved both large-flowered cymbidiums, leading in considerable part to the development of our quality cymbidiums of today, and especially small-flowered cymbidiums that in the diploid state were impossible or difficult to use as parents for further breeding. Most notable was the conversion of *Cymbidium* Peter Pan 'Greensleeves' from the diploid to the tetraploid state.

Colchicine, an alkaloid derived from the autumn crocus, has the ability to prevent the dividing cell wall from forming during cell division. During mitotic division the chromosomes are duplicated and drawn to opposite poles prior to the formation of the cell wall that will divide them. However, under the influence of colchicine this cell wall does not form and thus the chromosome number doubles. As these newly doubled cells continue to divide in the absence of colchicine, a plaque of cells forms; if the initial shoot develops from within this plaque then a plant with double the initial chromosome count results. Generally this represents a conversion from the diploid to the tetraploid state, but it can equally apply to triploids, converting them to hexaploids, or tetraploids to octaploids. These are generally of little use because of their undesirable growth habit.

In colchicine conversion, actively growing protocorms are exposed to a liquid or solid medium containing colchicine for a period of time, before being returned to a normal culture medium. It is a random exercise, with some protocorms having converted areas on their epithelium, and others none, while some are killed by the treatment. As the protocorms develop into plants, the trained eye can identify the converted clones by the nature of their growth and these can then be individually selected and grown on into mature plants. The ultimate test is chromosome counting, but stomatal guard cell size or visual observation will generally suffice to distinguish tetraploids from diploids.

Colchicine conversion is equally applicable to mericlones or seedlings. With our considerable bank of converted clones, together with chance tetraploids that sporadically occur, and their progeny, we now have an excellent base of vigorously growing, free-flowering, quality clones for future breeding. We owe Don Wimber a considerable debt of gratitude for his worthy contribution to improving the quality of flowers in converted clones, and in expanding the numbers of breeding parents, past, present and future.



Orchid Culture Notes for October

With the shows almost over we return back to our orchid enclosures and commence one of the most important periods in the orchid calendar. It is called maintenance and whether we like it or not, it is an important factor in the upkeep of our collections. Repotting, potting on, dividing and feeding marks what I call the busiest time of the year.

After flowering many of our plants commence a new season growth. This growth can be retarded somewhat if the flowers are left on too long, especially with orchids that hold their flowers for a long time. So the decision is do we cut them off after displays, etc.? This is a personal choice. Some will say in nature they don't get cut off. True. But how many grow here and how many are so far removed from their original parentage that they don't know what they are anymore. My preference is that short lived flowers such as the natives stay on until they drop but those that stay on longer such as the Cymbidiums get about four weeks before I cut them and bring them inside. Other even longer lasting orchids like the Paphiopedilums seem to do okay regardless of how long they stay in flower. Only experience with your orchid in your environment will answer this question correctly.

Other factors to take into account are the size of your plants. A large and well grown plant can support large or multiple racemes but what of a small first flowering seedling or a plant stressed from the previous year division, flowering in a last effort to reproduce and survive. It is best to remove these flower spikes early rather than subject the plant to too much added stress. Some Oncidium seedlings come to mind here, literally flowering themselves to death as a first flowering plant. What about those plants stressed after being in a shopping centre or the show for days on end. I find it best to give these plants a rest and remove the inflorescences. Again I stress, this is my personal choice and it is up to the individual to do what they wish with their plants.

Native Dendrobiums should have flowers cut once they start to droop and lose substance. Spent flowers that drop onto leaves and new growths, etc. soon go mouldy and attract fungal problems. One little insect bite or a damaged leaf will provide the perfect entry point for fungus and in the warmth and moisture of October this spreads rapidly. Now is also a good time to pot on and divide Native Dendrobiums as they commence new growth and re-establish quickly. Look for the commencement of new root growth with the new canes. Don't over pot natives and allow enough for two years growth. This is a good rule of thumb.

Always inspect the roots to see how your culture has been. The pots should have roots growing round and round the inside edge of the pot. They should be white and firm with many growing tips. The centre of the plant has fewer roots and most of these will be previous roots, brown and dead looking. If your roots are sparse all through the mix or rotted then you have a cultural problem. There could be many reasons for this. Too much water, the mix has broken down and become acidic, over fertilising or feeding when the plant is dormant or the plant being cold and wet when it should be cold and dry. This applies especially to the hot/colds. For the newer growers a hot/cold Dendrobium is a hybrid where a cool grower such as *Den. speciosum* is crossed with a warmer grower such as *Den. bigibbum*. It gives you a plant that often flowers earlier or later than most natives. The flowers last longer are usually larger and more colourful than the cooler growers. These are rapidly gaining in popularity. Treat them the same as the normal cool growers during the growing season but keep a little drier in winter and provide them with more light



Zygopetalums should just about be finished flowering now and large plants can be split. As with most orchids it pays to keep your divisions to a good size of three or four growths as a minimum to ensure flowering next season. Keep an eye out for the Spring looper caterpillars under the leaves from now. They are fond of the soft new leaves of your Zygoes and one or two loopers will make a mess of new growths overnight. Spray with Mancozeb every two months to keep fungal problems to a minimum. Keep water and fertiliser out of the new growths. With fungal problems rife in October your Zygopetalum will be the first to lose growths through rot. At worst it will keep 2 or 3 leaves and will be severely set back, so much so, it may not even produce a worthwhile back bulb, let alone anything strong enough to support a strong growth next year with a flower spike.

Native terrestrials start to look a little sick from now as they begin to yellow and enter summer dormancy. Reduce the watering as they enter dormancy.

New growths on the Cattleyas and Oncidiums start to move now and many will show new roots starting to appear. This tells you they are becoming more receptive to feeding and watering. Aquasol, Thrive and any feed with a high nitrogen component will suffice at this time. With the new roots forming tells you it is also a good time to divide and repot these two genera. The new roots continue to grow to support the division, often with very little set back. Do this at the wrong time and watch your plant wither and struggle.

If you decide to break up an Oncidium or Cattleya/Laeliinae do this before the roots get too long and are easily broken. Secondly if they grow long they become accustomed to an aerial existence and will rot off when placed into the damp confines of a potting mix. Make sure your division is securely positioned in the pot until it establishes.

Sarcochilus will rapidly be showing their flower spikes now as well and it won't be long before we see plenty of flowers. These are one orchid that likes a very weak fertiliser as the roots are highly sensitive. If you see them lose their green tips shortly after a feed then that's the sign that says oops...too strong or I have some micro slugs in the mix. Don't worry, they'll find your flowers sooner or later if you don't bait them now! Keep them moist also as they do not have any pseudobulbs to fall back upon in times of dryness. Rainwater is best if you can provide it and look at increasing the shade levels as well as the sun's intensity rapidly increases this month.

For those that fancy growing orchids on mounts, spring is a good time to start them off as they readily establish when new roots become evident. A good lesson here is to observe the roots. If they touch the mount and die or brown off then they are saying that host is unsuitable. Orchids are wonderful plants. They tell you when something is not to their liking. Learn to observe these signs and you are well on your way to mastering them. Overlook them and your plant will struggle and even die.

Other chores this month involve moving your plants around as the seasons change. I love moving my plants around as I strive to find the sweet spots in my shade house. I provide high light for those that like it, cool shady spots for those that hate the heat and the harsh Adelaide sun. I observe the changing microclimates and most of all make sure I don't grow the orchid that didn't flower this year in the same spot with the same treatment. Plants hung high should be lowered a little as the sun's intensity increases dramatically this month and temperatures rise. Remember these exposed plants will need water more often. With November nearly on our doorstep we need little reminding that a hot and stressful Summer is just around the corner.

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.**