



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

December 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



John Gay with his *Sarcochilus* Burgundy on Ice 'Australia'

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
24 January and 21 February

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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 Manglesdorf	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western	
SECRETARY:	Lucy Spear	0409 642 352
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	
COMMITTEE:	Donna Meeuwsen, 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 Deonnio *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2020 Malcolm Manglesdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	This list is still being compiled.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2021 are due now. There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2021. 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 Account No.: 545457040
(Use your grower number for Reference)

To Postage Recipients of the Gazette

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage, the Committee has decided that the Gazette will no longer be posted to members who have an email address. Should you not have email access please ring Lucy.

President's Message



On behalf of your Committee, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy 2021. This year has proved to be a year like no other that we have experienced before. May there be an improvement in the current situation in the coming year. This week has shown how very quickly we have to adapt and follow the health directions for all our safety. We can be hopeful in that all club meetings and shows can proceed next year in some form as these were sorely missed by all members this year.

South Coast Orchid Club was able to hold its annual Sarcophilus night and it was once again a great success for the Sarcophilus competition. A great variety of plants were entered across all divisions, a fantastic effort by the members considering that this was an early year for the Sarcs. to flower and the Sarcophilus Show was held a week later than usual. The Champion plant was a Peristerchilus Olive Grace 'Vincent Vista'.

Again we have had a mild November and with experienced eyes on your plants you can be on top of the perennial nasties, i.e. Spider Mites. These thrive in hot dry weather and they can decimate a collection very easily if we do not stay vigilant (as well as all the other nasties that love our prized plants). Last year I tried predatory mites for the first time with success. This is a biological way to control the Spider Mites and the predatory mites can establish a population in your collection and in doing so can provide ongoing control of Spider Mites.

The December meeting is our Christmas meeting, and our patron Coralie Hills will be our guest speaker for the evening. Coralie has wide experience with orchids and I'm sure her presentation will prove to be interesting.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped during the year for a job well done considering the current situation the world is in. Without your help it would not be possible to enjoy the year that we were able to have. I'm sure it is always appreciated by the members and your committee.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Good growing and Showing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**ERNA VAN LEUVEREN,
LEON CROWHURST, CRAIG HUMFREY,
VERA BASTIAN, DONNA MEEUWSEN,
JANET ADAMS, GORDON NINNES,
REG CLIFFORD, MIKE MILICEVIC,
BOB CLAYTON, JOHN GAY**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??



ORCHID CALENDAR 2020/21

[These dates are subject to COVID-19 directives]



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 6.00 pm
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens
[See below for details of menu, payment etc.]

DAYTIME CHAPTER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 10th December 2020 12.30 pm
at the Marion Hotel. Please ring Barbara 8278 3848 to attend

B.B.Q.MEETING

Monday 5th January 2021 6.00 - 8.00 pm
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens
[See page 5 for details of this meeting.]

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 8th February 2021 8.00 pm
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens



CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MEETING - 7th DECEMBER 2020

The Colonel Light Gardens RSL will be providing the following menu for our Club Christmas Dinner. The Dinner will start at 6.00 pm and finish by 7.45 pm so that the Christmas meeting can take place, starting at 8.00 pm. The Dinner must be pre-ordered when paying, and any dietary requirements discussed. Payment must be made prior to the Night. Payment can be made on line [BSB 105-145 Account No. 545457040 Account Name SCOCSA]. Please use your Grower Number plus a X (to advise Xmas Dinner). If paying on line please email Anne with Menu Choices [steera@bigpond.com]

The Dinner will be in the Bar Section or you may go into the Garden Section. There will be no BYO Drinks. **Water will be provided. Drinks may be purchased at the Bar.**

Please put your plants on benches for Judging. There will be Kris Kringle, so bring a gift you would like to receive yourself and please mark your gifts Male or Female. There will be a Monster Raffle. Father Christmas has been invited, and our Patron Coralie Hills has said she would love to come and she will give a small talk.

We hope that you will all be there to round off this very difficult year in style.



MENU

\$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.



B.B.Q. MEETING MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2021

We will have the usual Barbecue at the RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Due to the Corona Virus you may bring your own Salads but No Sharing please. You may eat in the Bar /Dining Area or outside.

There will be a Popular Vote for Judging of the Plants. Tonight you are the judges, it is a Judges Night Off. Plants may be benched in the hall from 5,45 pm. There will be a charge of 50 cents to bench each plant and the money will then go to the winner or winners of the night. Judging will commence at 8.00 pm.

END OF YEAR BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE:

At the close of the December meeting we need nomination forms filled in by members nominating other members for Committee positions. See page 18 of the November Gazette for a nomination form or pick some up from Lucy at the meeting. Most positions to be vacated can be re-nominated.

CAN YOU HELP YOUR CLUB IN 2021?

November is the time to think about becoming a Committee member. The following Committee positions will become vacant in 2021: 3 Committee members.

Committee members are expected to be committed to the South Coast Orchid Club by assisting the Club to continually grow and to promote orchids. The responsibilities that the Committee members are required to assist with are:

- Being available for the main meeting 1st Tuesday of the month and Committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30 – 9.30pm.
- Remaining after the main meeting to help clean up the hall and kitchen.
- Helping at our Shows by manning the trading table between 7am and 9pm. A responsible person must be in charge at all times during shopping hours e.g. Lucy,
- Assisting in transporting trestles etc. prior to Show to Shopping Centre.
- After judging of the Show, assisting with transporting props/plants to Show location.
- Assisting with putting in and taking out of the Show.
- Having a knowledge of orchids and a rapport with people so that the public can be helped when purchasing from the trading table.

If you are interested in becoming a Committee member or can assist in any way please ring Lucy on 8381 4420.

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



**Sarco. Burgundy on Ice
'Australia'**
Grown By John Gay



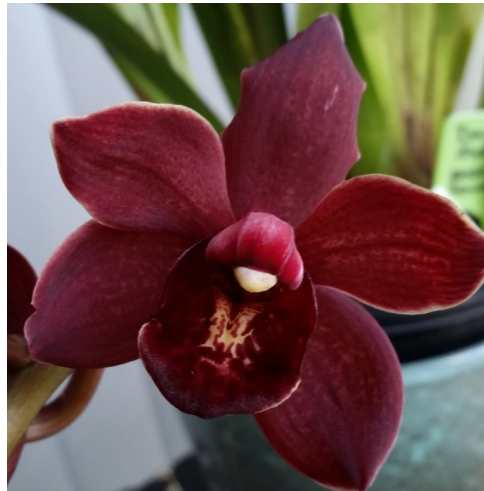
Masd. Copper Angel 'Highland'
AM/AOC
Grown By John Gay



Cym. Francie Porter 'Enid'
Grown By
Marg & Warren Yelland



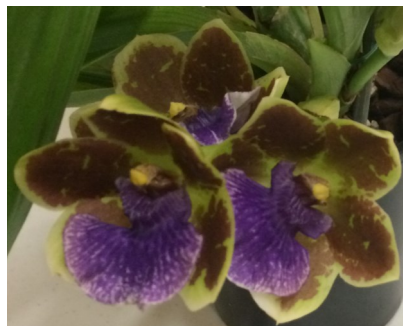
**C. Angel's Pride x Rth. Hawaiian
Chic**
Grown By Sue & Laurie Carter



Den. Unknown
Grown by Van & Charles
Ortlipp



C. Aquifinn 'Nature's Best'
Grown by
Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny



Zba. Dragon Kitten 'Patches'
Grown by Sue & Laurie Carter



Paph. Billy Cordalino
Grown by
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



November Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

Open Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2661 Sarco. [(Heidi x Lorna) x Amber] Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

2662 Cym. Spark Sprite Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

2663 Cym. (Devon Shell x Memoria Amelia Earhart) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Garard / Western Trophy

2673 Cym. (Devon Shell x Memoria Amelia Earhart) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2669 Lyc. Macama 'Atlantis' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

2670 Phrag. caudatum var. Sanderae Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

2671 Cyp. kentuckiense Steve Howard (582) 2

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2672 Sarco. (Heidi x Lorna) x Amber Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

2664 Paph. Billy Cardalino Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

2665 Paph. Ho Chi Minh Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Paphiopedilum - Species

2666 Paph. delenatii fma. alba Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

2667 Paph. wenshanense Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

2668 Paph. hirsutissimum 'Khasia Hills' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2645 Sarco. Nellie 'Red Wine' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2648 Cym. Pearl Dawson 'Royale' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Laeliinae - Non Standard

2646 C. Angel's Pride x Rth. Hawaiian Chic Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Seedling of the Night

2678 Sarco. Highfields x self Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2647 Zba. Dragon Kitten 'Patches' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2652 Sarco. [hartmannii x (Goblin x Marygold)] Beth Stronach (836) 3

2653 Sarco. Kirra Sun Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212) 2

2654 Sarco. (Fitzhart x Cherie Dawn) Beth Stronach (836) 1

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2649 Cym. Music Box Dancer 'Ballerina' Jim Fogarasi (150) 3

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

2655 C. AQUI-Finn 'Natures Best' Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2651 Onc. Unknown Van & Charles Ortlipp (528) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

2650 Ons. Midnight Miracles 'Masai 'Red' Van & Charles Ortlipp (528) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2657 Den. Unknown Van & Charles Ortlipp (528) 3

2658 Phal. Unknown Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212) 2

2659 Phal. Unknown Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212) 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

2660 Den. farmeri Beth Stronach (836) 3

Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2656 Zygo. Unknown Van & Charles Ortlipp (528) 3



Sarcochilus Show Results List

Open Division

Sarcochilus - Specimen

Sarco. Earth Pinks Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii species

Sarco. fitzgeraldii Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Sarcochilus - hartmannii species

Sarco. hartmannii 'Seaview' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Sarco. hartmannii 'Blue Knob' Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 2

Sarco. hartmannii Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

Sarcochilus - Intergeneric

Prschs. Olive Grace 'Vincent Vista' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Plchs. Harlequin x Sarco. (Yvette x Fitzhart) Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

Sarcochilus - Hybrid White/Cream

Sarco. [Fiery Glow x (George Colthup x Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

Sarco. Karen Ann Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Sarco. Dorrigo Kevin Western (155) 1

Sarcochilus - Hybrid Red/Pink

Sarco. Kulnura One Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Sarco. [(Fitzhart x Zoe) x Fiery Glow] Kevin Western (155) 1

BEST INTERGENERIC

Prschs. Olive Grace 'Vincent Vista' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

Sarcochilus - Hybrid White with red

Sarco. Kulnura Phase Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

Sarco. Memoria Neville Roper Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Sarco. (Kulnurara Nifty x Kulnura Absolute) Kevin Western (155) 1

Sarcochilus - Hybrid any other colour

Sarco. Kulnura Gifted Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 2

Sarco. Kulnura One Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 1

BEST SPECIES - Sarcochilus

Sarco. hartmannii 'Seaview' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252) 3

First Division

Sarcochilus - Specimen

Sarco. Unknown Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Sarcochilus - Seedling

Sarco. Highfields x self Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Sarco. (Roberta x Sunny) Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

Sarco. Maria Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 1

Sarcochilus - Hybrid Red/Pink

Sarco. Maria Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Sarcochilus - Hybrid any other colour

Sarco. (Mellow Snow x Snowhart) Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

BEST HYBRID - Sarcochilus

Sarco. (hartmannii x Snowhart) Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

BEST SEEDLING - Sarcochilus

Sarco. Highfields x self Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

BEST SPECIMEN - Sarcochilus

Sarco. Unknown Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Second Division

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii species

Sarco. fitzgeraldii Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnis (1195) 2

Sarcochilus - Intergeneric

Rhincs. Aussie Passion Beth Stronach (836) 2

CHAMPION SARCOCHILUS

Prschs. Olive Grace 'Vincent Vista' Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)

PLANT COMMENTARY - OCTOBER 2020

November being Our Annual *Sarcochilus* competition gave all our members a real treat to an amazing range of colours and sizes from seedlings to Specimen size plants.

This year we saw a few less than last year but that was somewhat expected as our meeting was a week later. All were competing for the George & Patti Abell Trophy for the Champion of the Night. With the additional plants I had to bring in some reinforcements to help with the Judging. Many Thanks to Wendy Lodge, Rayne Riggs and Ron Yates for their invaluable assistance on the night.



Seedling of the Night

Cym. (Devon Shell x Memoria Amelia Earhart)

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper

Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division was *Lycaste Macama* 'Atlantis' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This plant carried 3 stunning white flowers well spaced around the pot. It was a smallish plant with one green bulb and 3 back bulbs. This is a fourth generation hybrid. This is a genus that we rarely see and are deciduous, and produce large, showy triangular flowers that are waxy and long lasting.

Congratulations Michael and Oui



Orchid of Open Division / Orchid of the Night

Lyc. Macama 'Atlantis'

Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photos Neil Cooper



Orchid of First Division

The plant chosen as Best of First division was *Cym. Pearl Dawson 'Royale'* grown by Laurie & Sue Carter, a lovely Cymbidium with an attractive arching spike. The spike was carrying 11 lovely yellow/green flowers with a dark maroon contrasting labellum. A very well grown plant in a smallish pot.

Well Done Laurie & Sue.



Orchid of Second Division

Den. farmeri

Grown by Beth Stronach

Photo Neil Cooper



Orchid of Second Division.

The plant chosen by the Judges was an outstanding *Den. farmeri* beautifully grown by Beth Stronach. This is a lovely species that originates from Nepal all the way down to Malaya and found at elevations from 300 to 1000 metres. In Malaya the plants grow in primary forests on large trees overhanging rivers.

The plant shown by Beth had 4 inflorescences each carrying multiple flowers. The flowers were all clean and fresh and for the size of the plant well flowered. Beth grows this plant successfully in a cold glasshouse.

Congratulations Beth.

Champion Sarcophilus of the Sarcophilus Show 2020

Drum Roll And the winner is : *Peristerchilus Olive Grace* 'Vincent Vista' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This was a beautifully grown plant with 8 delicate little inflorescences with good shape and consistent colour. They were purple - grey coloured flowers all well displayed.

Michael and Oui have been awarded the George and Patty Abell Trophy for the Champion Sarcophilus of the Night. Congratulations Michael & Oui.



Champion Sarcophilus
Peristerchilus Olive Grace 'Vincent Vista'
Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju
Photos Neil Cooper



Champion Sarcophilus Seedling

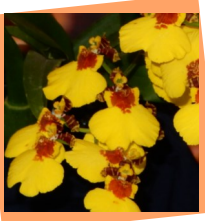
The Champion Sarcophilus Seedling was *Sarco. Highfields* x self grown by Sue & Laurie Carter. This was a pretty little plant with lovely red flowers.

Congratulations Sue and Laurie

Thanks to all our Judges, Pencillers and data entry people for a job well done.

Good Growing and keep looking for that potential winner!

Phil Steer
Registrar



DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 8th October 2020



Hi Everybody,

Our final formal meeting of the year was well attended but unfortunately Patty, George and Trevor were unable to be with us. I must thank Coral and Lucy for the help that they gave me and to all the members who supplied the wonderful plants for the raffle. We are lucky to have so many generous members.

Our December meeting is at the **Marion Hotel** at 12.30pm. Instead of Kris Kringle we are having a secret Santa and members who are attending have drawn a name and will buy a present to the value of \$10.00. There will be a Christmas Sack to put the presents in.

Our Guest Speaker, Kevin Trevan was extremely interesting. Kevin brought along some lovely examples of *Sarcochilus*. During his interesting talk Kevin said that he uses clay balls instead of bark because Sarcs don't like wet feet. On the pups he likes to use Power Feed and on his main plants, a teaspoon of Dynamic Lifter. Thankyou Kevin for giving up your time to come and speak to us.

The Plant of the day was won by David Williams with a magnificent orange *Cattleanthe* [(Litarius x GoldStar) x 'Trick or Treat'].

Our next formal meeting will be on Thursday February 10th 2021. If the temperature is over 35 degrees the meeting is cancelled.

Barb & Patty



David Williams and Geoff Spear
with the Plant of the Day
Catt.[(Litarius x GoldStar) x 'Trick or Treat']



Our Guest Speaker Kevan Trevan with his
beautiful *Sarcochilus* plants
Photos Andrew Dean



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. This of course will be subject to the COVID-19 directives in place at the time. However,, we can only hope and plan.

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.

I have decided to feature one of the members of the Southern Region Group, Helen Humphries, with one of her beautiful plants.

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

Christine Robertson



**Helen Humphries with her
Cattleya Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'**
Photos Craig Huimfrey

Orchids with balls! By Kevin Western

My decision to try Clay Pellets (Clay Balls) to grow my orchids arose from observing Ron Parish using scoria. I was with him as we both bought some various types and sizes of scoria to evaluate as medium for potting up some specific orchids. I do recall and still have just a few of the lithophytic *Sarcochilus* species in pots of scoria. In my opinion, the scoria with its pits and surface nature held too much water for too long as the roots did not seem to enjoy growing at any real depth in it. Intent on finding some inert material that would hold less water and dry out more quickly, I somehow came upon the option to try Clay Balls.

I tried it on the hybrid *Sarcochilus* Dorrigo (*Sarco.* Melba x *Sarco.* falcatus) = 75% *Sarco.* falcatus & 25% *Sarco.* hartmannii. I did that in the belief that with just 25% *Sarco.* hartmannii present, the *Sarco.* Dorrigo seedlings that I potted up in Clay Balls should survive and grow and would not need to be mounted as I had previously found to be the only sure way to grow *Sarco.* falcatus. Almost immediately, it was very apparent that the *Sarco.* Dorrigo seedlings potted up in the Clay Balls were going to do very well.

Based on that success, I reasoned that the lithophytic *Sarcochilus* such as *Sarco.* ceciliae, *Sarco.* eriochilus and *Sarco.* roseus may do better in Clay Balls than they had done in scoria and I was right. They quickly made decent roots that penetrated down into the Clay Balls without rotting.



Original
Plant;

Removed
from pot,
sphnum
mass
removed;

Repotted
into clay
balls, Rapid
Raiser
added,
plastic dish
ready for
Summer



Based on that, I decided to see if *Sarco. falcatus* – what I had been considering to be an ‘obligate epiphyte’ that would only survive if grown on a mount, would prosper in Clay Balls as well as they had done on mounts and soon saw that they too would grow well potted up in Clay Balls.

I think it worked well for the *Sarcochilus* because, in their natural habitats, they have their roots attached to small twigs, branches and rocks and they are thus accustomed to having their roots entirely dried out for sometimes very considerable periods of time without distress to those roots or to the plant itself.



Very much encouraged by those results, I decided to repot a plant of *Cymbidium* Tethys ‘Black Magic’ into a ‘water well’ type pot using Clay Balls. Over a great many years, I had found that *Cym. Tethys* was very, very prone to root rot which then rapidly lead to loss of the plants and I needed and still need it as a famous and very fertile 2N *Cymbidium* breeding plant. It was fed with quite an amount of Rapid Raiser and watered with dilute soluble fertilisers. It has really prospered and flowers very well in Clay Balls that are perpetually wet in the water well pot situation.

That really spurred me on. Depending on how you use the Clay Balls, they can be highly suitable to grow epiphytes which are accustomed to having mostly aerial roots that expect to dry out by just using net pots or ordinary pots in a free-draining situation to suiting the needs of *Cymbidiums*, *Zygopetalums*, etc. which prefer to always have their roots in a moist medium situation by standing their pot in a tray or shallow dish of water.



I’ve since put just deflasked *Sarcochilus* and Australian *Dendrobium* species and hybrids into Clay Balls with similarly spectacular results. Again I can fertilise with Rapid Raiser and with soluble fertilisers with excellent effect. During the hotter periods of Summer, by standing the pots in shallow water / soluble fertiliser, dry stress is totally avoided and the plants actually thrive on the hot weather. Further, because the Clay Balls are inert and they don’t rot, unlike bark or coconut based potting media which become prone to rot with time, fertiliser and perpetual moisture.

Yes, Clay Balls are more expensive – BUT – it is not necessary to remove them from the roots at repot and one can just 'Pot-on' thus making a saving by not having to discard the old and replace it with new. Used sensibly they can suit plants desiring more dry root environments equally well as those plants desiring permanently moist root environments.



The sequence of repotting in Clay Balls. First take the plant out of the pot; then remove sphagnum moss; thirdly pot into Clay Balls; fourth picture is of roots developed in Clay Balls; then add Fertilizer to Clay Balls; and lastly place on a plastic tray to ensure water is available during Summer.

UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Dendrobium farmeri*

Dendrobium farmeri is widespread in Nepal, Bhutan, NE India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Malaya, occurring from 300-1000m. In Malaya, plants grow in primary forests on large trees that overhang rivers.

The species is a sympodial epiphyte with pseudobulbs 30-45cm long and spindle shaped, usually erect, thickened, and swollen at the base and strongly 4-angled in the upper part. Leathery, evergreen, pointed at the apex, leaves appear at near the top of the pseudobulb.

The inflorescence (20-30cm) is drooping and laxly to densely flowered. 14-35 flowers are loosely arranged on the inflorescence. The sepal and much broader petals are pink, lilac mauve, straw yellow, or white. The large downy lip is nearly rounded, egg yolk or orange yellow and often edged with white.



The species has been used sparingly in hybridising with 19 offspring being recorded. Mostly it has been used as a pollen parent, There have been 42 awards worldwide from Brazil, United States, Germany, Taiwan, and NSW, OSCOV and AOC [1AM, 1HCC, 1ACM]

The Genus *Coelogyne* by David Banks

[Originally published in *Orchids in Victoria* by OSCOV]

*Coelogyne*s have never been a fashionable genus, despite being easy to grow, possibly because of their relatively short-lived flowers. Even the hybridists have largely ignored them, as is emphasised by the low number of registrations. Most growers have the odd basket of *Coel. cristata* or *Coel. flaccida* hanging at the back of their orchid houses (or under trees in the backyard), which no doubt are admired in early spring when they smother themselves in their fragrant flowers.



Coelogyne cristata 'Gard'
CC/OSCOV

The term "Angel Orchid" has been used to describe a couple of the glistening white species, most notably *Coel. cristata*. However, not all *Coelogyne*s have white flowers. Whilst about half a dozen species are commonly grown, many are a bit harder (but worth the effort) to track down. There are many plants in cultivation with incorrect labels, and some well known names have been relegated to synonymy.

HISTORY. Englishman John Lindley (1799 - 1865) founded the genus *Coelogyne* in 1821. He subsequently named a large catalogue of species. It is interesting to note that there is no designated type species for this genus, because a number of species were initially described on the same sheet. However, some texts claim that *Coelogyne punctulata* is the type species. The name *Coelogyne* comes from the Greek *koilos* (hollow) and *gyne* (female), which probably refers to the deeply set stigmatic cavity found in members of the genus.

DISTRIBUTION. *Coelogyne* is a large genus with around 190 species, many of which are unknown in cultivation. Being of Asian origin, *Coelogyne*s are found in Nepal and India east through to China and Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Surprisingly, there are no *Coelogyne* species native to Australia, despite its close links with the floras of neighbouring countries. Other genera related to *Coelogyne* include *Chelonistele*, *Dendrochilum*, *Panisea*, *Pholidota* and *Pleione*.



Coelogyne cristata



Coelogyne flaccida 'Grech' CC/OSCOV



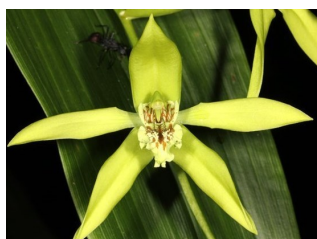
CULTIVATION. Coelogynes are generally plants from mountainous regions, about 80% of the species therefore being suitable for cultivation in cool to intermediate conditions. However there are also species from the monsoonal lowlands. These can be grown outdoors in districts with subtropical and tropical climates but require the luxury of a heated glasshouse (with a minimum temperature of 12°C) in temperate areas. I have found that most species do well in squat black plastic pots in a standard mix of 80% treated pine bark (medium grade), 10% washed river gravel and 10% perlite. Smaller growing species prefer a finer mix, whilst larger growing species, such as *Coel. pandurata*, prefer a coarser medium. Some of the rambling species (such as *Coel. ovalis*) can alternatively be mounted on suitable hosts such as *Cyathea* tree fern, ironbark or hardwood.

Coelogynes come from areas that experience high humidity and unrestricted fresh air circulation, so do not place your plants in a stagnant corner. These epiphytes and lithophytes respond well to filtered light. Between 50% and 70% shade is ideal. Keep the plants moist while they are growing and flowering. In fact I let the plants dry out only during winter, when most species are in a dormant state. A thorough watering every two weeks should suffice in winter. This dormancy helps to induce flowering and should be respected. *Coel. cristata* responds to being kept dry (and pretty cold!) in winter by producing a 'snowstorm' of angelic white flowers in early spring. I have seen exceptional flowerings of this species in Tasmania and southern Victoria.

I know there is always emphasis placed on minimum winter temperatures, but I believe that keeping the plants cool in summer is just as important. Remember, in their native habitats the mountainous types will seldom experience temperatures over 26°C. A quick misting late in the day during summer will certainly be appreciated.

PESTS AND DISEASES. With proper hygiene, Coelogynes are generally free of pests and diseases. Caterpillars can do quite a bit of damage to flowers and buds if left unchecked. Neglected plants can often provide homes for mealy bug and scale insects. If plants are kept dry, red spider mite could become a problem, especially when grown with cymbidiums; hosing under the leaves may help control these pests. Aphids can be a nuisance and may stunt developing growths and inflorescences. I am unaware of virus in Coelogynes; however, its occurrence would not surprise me.

PROPAGATION. Seedlings are surprisingly scarce, and most Coelogynes are divisions of established plants. Divisions of at least three front pseudo-bulbs should be made in spring. Pairs of pseudo-bulbs can be 'started' in a coarse cymbidium mix. Many species look their best when grown as specimen plants in hanging baskets. Suitable plants include *C. cristata*, *C. fimbriata*, *C. flaccida*, *C. lactea*, *C. ovalis*, *C. pulverula*, *C. speciosa*, *C. tomentosa* and the hybrid *C. Unchained Melody*. Back-cutting older sections of the plant will produce more growths and this will mean more flowers, because coelogynes flower only off their new growths. However, well grown plants of the sequentially flowering *C. bilamellata*, *C. schultesii* and *C. speciosa* will continue flowering on last season's growths, whilst flowering off the new.





Orchid Culture Notes for December

Another year has slipped us by. Hopefully this was a better year than last and the coming new year will be even better. This is the key to successful orchid growing and there is the requirement to try and go one up on the previous year. Learning is a never ending process and success is based on lessons learnt.

With the new year beckoning why not try and do something different next year or trying growing a different genera. I picked up an *Aeranthes* at the Festival of Flowers a couple of years ago. No idea about growing it but for \$8 it was worth a try. The books said cooler conditions, lots of shade and humidity. Found that spot in the shade house and presto. It grew and is now in spike. The worst thing that will happen is you will kill it. And if you do, don't give up (mind you its three strikes and out in my shade house). Some orchids are not meant to grow here.

Summer is well upon us and the growth season is away. Obviously feeding and watering are the key requirements but there are many other factors. Light levels are now at their peak, humidity levels at the lowest and there is the usual army of bugs out there feasting on the soft new growths. With rapid growth evident in many genera we need to keep them moving but also take into account that they are generally soft at this stage of growth. So caterpillars find a new growth much more tempting than a matured growth. Heat damage is more noticeable and much more likely to affect a new growth than an old growth.

Hopefully most of our division, etc. has been completed by now but alas with so much to do nowadays this is not always the case so we find more and more growers still dividing this late in the season. As long as these plants are well looked after I can see not too many problems dividing this late but I would not expect a premium flowering next year either. Some of the plants that can be done now are the Cattleyas and the Oncidiums as their new growths have new roots that are not too long and these plants can be divided without too much setback of performance in the flowering stakes. Some of these plants can also be back cut this time of year. Back cutting involves cutting the rhizome of a plant that is intent on growing one forward growth each year and Oncidiums and Cattleyas are classic species that exhibit this behaviour. The cut is made 3 or 4 growths back from the lead with a sterile knife dipped in a fungicide. Then place a plant label in the cut to stop the growth growing back together. The aim is to encourage a dormant eye on the back half of the division to start growing. The plant can then be divided next year and you have two plants.

Zygopetalums are growing fast and most new growths will be showing new roots as well. The key to dividing a plant at any time is do it in active growth. If you divide a plant that is resting you may end up with a dead plant or at least a plant suffering a major setback. The old damaged roots won't absorb water or fertilizer very well and there are no new ones to take over. Even when it finally grows new roots it is that far setback it may be years before it returns to normal. All divided plants should be kept shadier, more humid and misted regularly for a while until they settle down and then returned to their rightful place on the bench. Don't forget a couple of waterings with Seasol to assist the recovery of the orchid and the new roots.

Terrestrials are now in the shed stored in a cool shady place. Next month will see the annual task of repotting. There are a couple of evergreen terrestrials we can grow here and as long as you have some cover they won't need too much heat over Winter. These are *Phaius tankervilleae* (aka the Swamp Orchid) and *Calanthe triplicata* (aka the Christmas Orchid). Both are grown under 55% shade at my place and under cover all year in a deep pot with a rich peaty compost. They both have soft wide leaves and look good even out of flower. Caterpillars and scale love them! Both flowers mark badly if they get wet, particularly the Calanthe that turns black. It would pay to keep the atmosphere and the plant very dry when flowering. The Phaius is out in November and funnily enough the Calanthe flowers in December.



Orchid Culture Notes for December cont...

Keep up the humidity this time of year as it is your ally when conditions get hot. There are many ways to increase humidity. In my shade house I hang old man's beard everywhere, baby's tears grows under the benches and along the paths, I have some containers of water under the benches and even a few foliage plants scattered around the place. The floor is bark chip that holds moisture. All of these factors improve the humidity. Provide some extra shade if you can when temperatures go through the roof and remove it when conditions cool down. We installed foggers under the covered section and these are very effective at bumping up the humidity and bringing the temperatures down on those extreme days. Avoid spraying for pests when temperatures are high. Learn to read the signs of heat and light damage. Die back, pitting, sun burn or scald marks and excessive yellowing of the leaves are clear signs. I also test a few plants leaves and feel how hot they are and if they are I'll try to get the temp down.

Inspect those orchids that do not have pseudobulbs to tide them over the summer. *Paphiopedilums* and *Sarcochilus* come to mind so make sure they are kept evenly moist. They also will show up heat damage via pitting of the leaves and once creamed by the heat will die a slow death. Inspect the roots anytime you feel the plant is struggling. Lifting the plant partly out of the pot and back in won't harm it but if the roots have no growth tips then something is wrong and action needs to be taken now. Not later.

Paphiopedilums are very sensitive to salt, especially some of the species and regular flushing is essential to remove it. This is why a well-drained mix is a must, not only to get valuable air to the roots but to enable a regular flushing. If water drains out slowly then it is unlikely your conditions are very favourable and problems will soon occur if not already evident. *Paphs* also have low fertilizer requirements.

Pests are plenty and the green loopers are rife. A month ago I couldn't walk outside at night under the street lights because of a moth plague and when there is a moth plague there is a looper plague behind it. Fortunately I was prepared and I have a few pots of sacrificial foliage plants under the benches and sure enough they are covered in loopers that are easily removed by hand but the orchids apart from my soft leaved *Zygopetalums* and *Lycastes* are untouched. I would still keep an eye out for scale and mites as conditions become drier.

December starts the Summer season and there are still plenty that flower this time of year. Many people won't grow Summer flowering orchids, maybe it's because there are no shows or club meetings are recessed until the new year. I don't know but I make sure I am not in that minority. *Brassia verrucosa* and *Brassia brachiata* are now out, the spidery flowers making a wonderful display even if their smell leaves much to be desired. There are always a few Summer flowering mini *Cattleyas* and *Oncidiums* adding colour. I have always loved the *Oncidiinae* complex. Like the *Laeliinae* group a well thought out collection can usually have at least one member from the group or intergenerics bred from them that flower every month of the year. I have *Encyclias*, Native *Dendrobiums* (yes, even in Summer, but they only last a few days), always *Zygos* spot flowering, *Sartylis*, *Neofinetia*, *Biffrenaria*, Native *Cymbidiums* (*madidum*, *canaliculatum* and *suave*) and their hybrids all providing summer colour.

2020 is about to bite the dust and 2021 awaits us. Most of these notes are for the learners in the clubs and I hope that these and the beginners' group meetings have been useful in helping you understand and improve your culture.

For the rest of the growers I hope they have been helpful even in a small way. We are all into this together and we all need to interact, share ideas and dare to try something different. All the best for Christmas and may Santa bring you many seedlings.

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.**