



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

# Gazette

November 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC  
President: Michael Willoughby



## November

is our **Sarcochilus** feature evening with the George and Patty Abell Perpetual Trophy being competed for. Bring all your flowering *Sarcochilus* to put on a wonderful display.


***Sarcochilus falcatus***  
Grown by Kevin Western.

**DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES**  
22 November and 24 January

**Website:** <http://www.scocsa.net>  
**E-Mail:** [lucys18@bigpond.com](mailto:lucys18@bigpond.com)  
**Phone:** Lucy (08) 8381 4420  
**Mobile:** Lucy 0409 642 352  
**Address:** 6 David Street Happy Valley 5159  
ABN 83 245 384 076



## YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2020

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Michael Willoughby</b>	<b>0479 162 527</b>
<b>SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Malcolm Mangelsdorf</b>	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Kevin Western</b>	
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Lucy Spear</b>	<b>0409 642 352</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Anne Steer</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Donna Meeuwssen, Oui Ju, Christine Robertson, Jim Fogarasi, Craig Humfrey, Geoffrey Spear, Craig Dicker</b>	
		
<b>NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:</b>		
<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Phil Steer</b>	
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Christine Robertson</b>	
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Craig Dicker</b>	
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>Vacant (Main Meeting) Diane Cawley (Southern Region)</b>	
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Neil Cooper</b>	
<b>Convenor S. R. Group</b>	<b>Geoff Spear</b>	
<b>Convenors Daytime Chapter</b>	<b>Barbara Almond, Patty Abell</b>	
<b>Convenor Main Beginners Gr.</b>	<b>Craig Humfrey</b>	

### **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 Mangelsdorf
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**

<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>

#### **Rural and Interstate Membership**

<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>

**Account Details: BankSA Glenelg. BSB: 105-145**  
(Use your grower number for Reference)

**Account No.: 545457040**

### **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



November 2020 is here and so is our **Sarcochilus** feature evening with the George and Patty Abell Perpetual Trophy being awarded. Please bring in all your flowering Sarcos to put on a fantastic display for the members. The Sarcos are looking great this year. To complement this we have Steve Howard who will be taking a look at the Sarcinanthe group in nature, I'm sure this will prove to be very interesting and may help understand how best to grow our Sarcos. Steve always gives an interesting and complete presentation not one to miss. The regular monthly competition is as usual so please bring in your other flowering orchids for the members to admire.

As we have had a very welcome wetter than in previous years spring with milder temperatures, the nasties that love the new growths, spikes and emerging buds are slugs, snails and earwigs (which love the current conditions). A product Steve Howard mentioned that is useful is 'Lawn Grub, Lawn Beetle Grubs & Slater Killer' and it can be found in Foodland Supermarkets. This is a busy time for all of us as we prepare our collections for the coming year. The work we do now will give us reward next flowering season.

Red Spider mite (I hear wettable sulphur can be used to control them) will take full advantage of the drier weather so be on the lookout. For those who do not particularly like to use chemicals in the garden and have a larger collection to care for, an alternative control of Spider Mites is biological control with predatory mites, these love to feed on the spider mites and can if the conditions are right colonise in your collection keeping the nasties under control. As well do not forget the other pests such as Mealy bug and Scale that love our precious plants.

A reminder that any member that is planning to come along to the December meeting and having a meal, that this will need to be paid for at the November meeting. Further details are on page 4 of the Gazette.

It is the time to be thinking about who will be running your Club in 2021!

Good growing and showing

*Michael Willoughby*



## Happy Birthday .....

**LESLEY FENTON, TREVOR GARARD,,  
BILL JAYNE, CHRISTINE ROBERTSON,  
DON HIGGS, JOHN SORRELL,  
GENNY HUXTABLE, JULIE DAVIDGE,  
DAVID WILLIAMS**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??





## ORCHID CALENDAR 2020

### GENERAL MEETING

Monday 9th November 2020 8.00 pm.  
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade Colonel Light Gardens  
Guest Speaker: Steven Howard speaking on Sarcochilus

### DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 12th November 2020 2.00 pm  
Lou Kesting Hall, off Broadway, South Brighton  
Guest Speaker: Kevin Trevan 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 6.00 pm  
RSL Hall 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens  
[See below for details of menu, payment etc.]  
Meeting after Dinner at 8.00pm with Kris Kringle & Monster Raffle

### DAYTIME CHAPTER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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

## **CHRISTMAS DINNER 7th DECEMBER 2020**

The Colonel Light Gardens RSL will provide the following menu for our Club Christmas Dinner provided we can get a minimum of 35 people attending. The Dinner will start at 6.00 pm and finish by 7.45 pm so that the meeting can take place, starting at 8.00 pm. There will be Kris Kringle, a Monster Raffle and a Guest Speaker.

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). Or you may pay Anne Steer, the Treasurer, at the November Meeting. If paying on line please email Anne with Menu Choices [steera@bigpond.com]

There will be no BYO Drinks. **Water will be provided.** Drinks may be purchased at the Bar.

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.**



# MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



***Den. linquiforme* 'Wayne'**



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



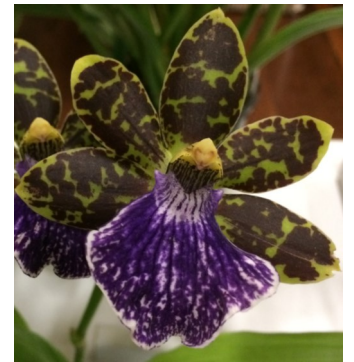
***Cym. Narela* 'Jennifer Gail'**  
Grown By  
Marg & Warren Yelland



***Masd. Ferris Wheel* 'Pink Passion'**  
Grown By  
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Phal. Unknown* 'Princess Leia'**  
Grown By Marg & Warren Yelland



***Zga. Zest x Zba. Kiwi***  
Grown by  
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Gomesa croesus***  
Grown By  
Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju



***Den. x delicatum* 'Apple Blossom'**  
Grown by Richard Crinion &  
Marilyn Buckerfield



***Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze* 'Beverley'**  
Grown by Coral Tillsmann &  
Trevor Kenny



# October Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

## Open Division

### Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2601	Sarco. Melba	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
2602	Den. Stephen	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	2

### Australian Native Terrestrial - Species

2603	Caledonia tentaculata	Jane & Don Higgs (1302)	3
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### Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2606	Cym. (Foxfire Amber x Foxfire Crush) 'Vista 1'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
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### Cymbidium over 90mm - Species

2605	Cym. lowianum 'Compte de Hemptine'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

2607	Cym. Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2608	Cym. (Devon Shell x Mem. Amelia Earhart)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
2609	Cym. (Devon Shell x Mem. Amelia Earhart)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	1

### Garard / Western Trophy

2630	Cym. (Devon Shell x Mem. Amelia Earhart)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Laeliinae - Non Standard

2604	Psh. Sunburst	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2
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### Oncidiinae - Hybrid > 60mm

2610	Onc. Guann Shin Coffee	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Oncidiinae - Species

2611	Gom. croesus	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2612	Brs. aurantiaca	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2626	Masd. Copper Sun 'Fluoro Orange'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2627	Masd. Ferris Wheel 'Pink Passion'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

### Orchid Seedling - any Genera

2628	Cym. (Devon Shell x Mem. Amelia Earhart)	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

2614	Paph. Chouvetii 'van Dyke'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Paphiopedilum - Species

2615	Paph. villosum var annamense	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Paphiopedilum - Standard

2613	Paph. Magic Lantern 'GBE'	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
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### Specimen Species or Hybrid

2629	Den. Stephen	Geoff & Lucy Spear (5)	3
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### Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

2624	Fsh. Mellow x Pbt. Zodiac	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	3
2625	Zga. Zest x Zba. Kiwi	Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju (1252)	2

## First Division

### Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2636	Den. Unknown	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

2635	Sarco. falcatus 'Dingo Tops'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

2638	Cym. Celtic Imp 'Caprice'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Laeliinae - Species

2637	L. anceps 'Rosey Tiger'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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### Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

2639	Den. Doug's Spots 'Dark'	Laurie & Susan Carter (1303)	3
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## END OF YEAR BUSINESS

### TROPHIES AND LIBRARY BOOKS:

Please return all trophies and library books to the Secretary at the November meeting or as soon as possible.





Points Awarded

## October Results List Cont..

Ref. No.

### Second Division

#### Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

2618	Den. (Suzanne x Ellen)	Richard Crinion & Marilyn Buckerf (309)	3
2619	Den. x delicat um 'Apple Blossom'	Richard Crinion & Marilyn Buckerf (309)	2
2620	Den. x delicatum	Helen McIntosh (299)	1

#### Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

2616	Den. striolatum	Helen McIntosh (299)	3
2617	Sarc. hartmannii 'Red Heart'	Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195)	2

#### Cymbidium 60 - 90mm - Species

2632	Cym. lowianum	Colin, Judy, Alex MacDonald (202)	2
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#### Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

2631	Cym. One Tree Hill 'Solstice Gold'	John & Rhonda Wainwright (549)	3
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#### Laeliinae - Cluster

2622	[(L. Icarus x Gold Star) x Ctt. Trick or Treat]	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	3
2623	Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Beverley'	Coral Tillmanns & Trevor Kenny (212)	2

#### Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

2621	L. Aussie Sunset 'Mildred Rivers'	Vera Bastian (978)	3
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#### Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

2633	Ohd. Cherry Fudge 'Carmela'	Beth Stronach (836)	3
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#### Specimen Species or Hybrid

2634	Den x delicatum 'Apple Blossom'	Richard Crinion & Marilyn Buckerf (309)	3
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## 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 this gazette for 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 7.00 – 10.30pm.
- 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.**

## PLANT COMMENTARY - OCTOBER 2020

The plant numbers were down on the previous month but there were still quite a number of quality plants across the 3 divisions.

### Orchid of Open Division and Plant of the Night

The plant of Open Division and Plant of the Night was *Cym. lowianum* 'Compte de Hemptime' grown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju. This was the green form of *Cym. lowianum* and an excellent example of this species. It was very attractive carrying 20 plus flowers on a graceful arching inflorescence. The striking red labellum is a real standout and this trait carries through to its progeny.

It's natural habitat is found in northern and eastern Burma, northern Thailand, and southern Yunnan Province of China. These plants are found on trees in damp, shaded



evergreen or mixed forest. Because of heavy collection pressure, *Cym. lowianum* is now very rare in Thailand and is found on only a few inaccessible mountains.

The species is extensively used in breeding and has some 16,000 progeny,

Congratulations Michael and Oui



### **Orchid of Open Division / Orchid of the Night**

*Cym. lowianum* 'Compte de Hemptime'  
Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju

Photo Neil Cooper





### Orchid of First Division

The plant chosen as Best of First division was *Laelia anceps* 'Rosey Tiger' grown by Sue and Laurie Carter. (Laurie says that he only grows Cymbidiums and Sue grows the rest !) The plant was well grown in a mesh basket with bright clean foliage. There were 4 inflorescences with 3 buds still to open. The flower judged was a lovely pink and had a lovely balanced shape. The labellum was a dark pink with a striking yellow throat.

This species originated from Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. In Mexico, plants are found in the mountains on the Gulf of Mexico. They normally grow in warm oak forests



with tropical deciduous trees, however the habitat is varied, and plants may grow somewhat higher or lower in cooler or hotter climates in both shady and sunny locations. The varied habitat indicates an adaptability that explains why plants are usually considered easy to cultivate.

*Laelia anceps* have been used quite a lot in hybridisation with some 788 total progeny and has been awarded 242 times. Well done Laurie & Sue..

**Orchid of First Division**  
*Laelia anceps* 'Rosey Tiger'  
Grown By Sue & Laurie  
Carter  
Photos Neil Cooper



**Orchid of Second Division**  
*Den. striolatum*  
Grown by Helen McIntosh  
Photos Neil Cooper



### Orchid of Second Division.

The plant chosen by the Judges was a beautiful *Den. striolatum* grown by Helen McIntosh. This was a lovely specimen plant evenly growing in almost a ball.

The tiny cream and white flowers were evenly distributed all over the plant which was displayed on a tall timber stand.

This species is found in north-eastern Tasmania and up the east coast from east of Melbourne to the Hunter Valley in NSW. This species is particularly popular with Australian Native growers and a well grown plant always rewards with a nice display. They like dappled light to bright indirect light conditions. *Den. striolatum* has been awarded on 39 occasions and has been used in 116 progeny.

Congratulations Helen.

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

Good Growing.

*Phil Steer*  
Registrar

## WHY WON'T IT FLOWER? by Brian Milligan

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

Many of us have orchids that we've seldom, if ever, flowered. I have lots and therefore consider myself eminently qualified to write about this topic! There are many reasons why an orchid won't flower but most can be summarised under the single heading – poor culture.

The question most often asked by visitors to our orchid shows in winter and spring is “why won't my cymbidium flower?” If you then ask “Are its leaves nice and green?”, the most common reply is “Yes, they're a nice deep green”. That reply provides the clue that the orchid is being grown in too much shade. It often transpires that it is growing in the dense shade of a tree or under a veranda with a heavily tinted fibreglass roof. To flower well, cymbidiums need full sun throughout the entire day during the winter months and no more than 50% shade for the remainder of the year. When grown under these conditions, their leaves will be yellowish green rather than deep green.

Of course, there's more to flowering cymbidiums than providing them with good light. They also need regular (frequent) watering and fertilising, so that they produce large pseudo-bulbs. As a general rule, the larger the bulbs, the more flower spikes they will produce. Low night temperatures during summer encourage the development of flower spikes – some growers cool their cymbidiums during hot summer weather by watering at night.

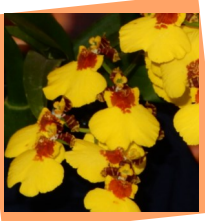
However, lack of light or irregular watering and fertilising does not explain why an orchid will flower reliably each year, while its neighbour seldom does, even though it receives the same treatment. It's a fact of life that some cymbidium hybrids flower more regularly than others, no matter how well they are grown. Some seedlings never develop large pseudo-bulbs due to a genetic problem and there is no point in persisting with these plants when you could be growing a more productive plant in its place.

Some Australian native dendrobium hybrids flower at a much earlier age than others. Those bred to produce pink flowers tend to grow faster and flower much sooner than those bred for yellow flowers. In general, hybrids of *Dendrobium speciosum* seem to take longer to flower than almost all others, especially if its pod or pollen parent also has *D. speciosum* in its ancestry. After ten years, I'm still waiting for some *D. (speciosum x Sunsprite)* seedlings to flower! The secret to flowering Australian dendrobiums well is to provide the plants with good light, to hang them where they receive good air movement and to apply a potassium-rich liquid fertiliser regularly.

The above discussion relates to orchids grown in a 'cosy' shade-house. There are additional reasons why those grown in the glasshouse won't flower, depending on the conditions under which they grow in nature. For example, you can't expect most vandas to flower for you if the temperature in your glasshouse consistently falls below 15°C and you cover it with shade cloth throughout the year (*Vanda coerulea* is an exception, being tolerant to quite low temperatures in winter, although it still needs high light). Cattleyas don't need such a high minimum temperature but they do need more light than many other orchids if you hope to flower them well.

Paphiopedilums, masdevallias and other pleurothallids need much less light than cattleyas and vandas, so don't expect to be able to grow and flower all of them together under the same conditions. My advice is to find out which genera grow best under your conditions and then to concentrate on those.





**DAYTIME CHAPTER**  
**Thursday 8th October 2020**



Hi Everybody,

It was lovely to welcome Richard and Beryl Wilkens and new member Allen Miller to our meeting, we hope that we will see them again. George and Trevor were unable to be with us and we hope to see them soon.

Geoff gave a fantastic and humorous demonstration on repotting orchids and the new members to the Club asked some very interesting questions. Thank you Geoff for all the time that you willingly give to the Club we really appreciate it.

As we had a lovely display of orchids, Geoff was called upon to give a short talk on each plant. David Williams won Plant of the Day with Sarah Jean "Ice Cascade".

Instead of having a meeting in December we have decided to have a Christmas Lunch at the Marion Hotel at 12.30pm. As we can only have 20 people could anyone who was not at the meeting let Barb know on 82783848 if they want to attend.

Thank you to everyone who donated plants for the raffle and for everyone keeping social distancing.

Our next meeting is Thursday November 12th our Guest Speaker will be Kevin Trevan speaking on Sarcochilus.

*Barb & Patty*



**Plant of the Day**  
**Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade**  
 Grown by David Williams  
 seen together with Geoff Spear  
 Photo Andrew Dean



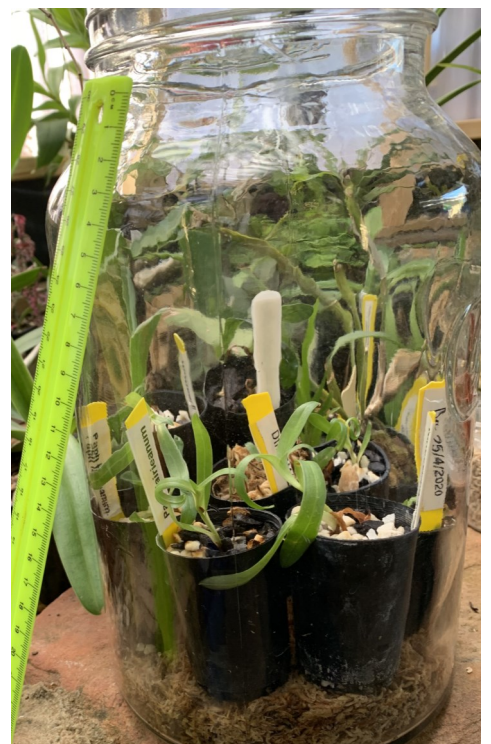
Our Guest Speaker, Geoff Spear  
 preparing to repot a large  
 Cymbidium Orchid  
 Photo Andrew Dean



## MINI INDOOR TERRARIUMS by Kevin Western

This idea was one that came to me from Ron Parish. He had come across some appealing, modest volume, aesthetically pleasing glass jars and pondered how well they might support warm preferring, miniature or seedling orchids. Graciously, he gave one or two of them to me to try.

I had a flask of the Jewel Orchid, *Macodes petola*, that became contaminated shortly after replate so I decided to give a few tiny bits to Ron to try out. He placed about 2-3cm of Sphagnum Moss at first covered by a layer of living bush moss and twiddled the bits of *Macodes* into it using long tweezers. He put a cheap, 240 Volt LED downlight over the jar and a plastic sheet over the opening and kept it in his kitchen – **WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS**. They just took off and reached saleable size in a quite short time period.



Photos by Ron Parish

Enthused by Ron's success, I had a flask of *Lepanthes* relatives that contaminated so I reckoned that laboratory temperatures and light levels should suit them and I put them in exactly the same set up jar as Ron had used and they were so happy, they flowered and grew nicely. Soon after that, I knocked flasks of *Paphiopedilum rothchildianum* and of Prince Edward of York off the light rack and smashed them. Placed in similar, large, lidded, glass jars and kept under lights in the laboratory, they too have prospered and never looked back.



I've since found it possible to put 25-40mm of Clay Balls and dilute soluble fertiliser in those same jars and things like *Bulbophyllum*, *Vanda*, *Phalaenopsis*, etc and they are doing well in the laboratory too.

Ron's success has been so rewarding that he now has many a similar set up maintained indoors and light with banks of LEDs with quite an array of miniature orchids and deflasked orchid seedlings growing in them. This is a great way to extend the range of plants we can keep because we maintain our houses at very comfortable temperatures for ourselves and, thus, at the same time, provide ideal conditions for many touchy or baby orchids.

It's rewarding and novel and I thoroughly recommend it to anyone looking for a bit of a change.

*Kevin Western*



Hello to all Members

Hope you are all keeping well and coping with the COVID restrictions. We hope to meet in the New Year and it will be good to see everyone. Don't forget the Christmas Dinner on the 6th December at Hotel Victor. I hope to see you there. Ring Shirley Greig on 8552 9321 to register.

Thanks to Eileen Pinnock and Marg and Warren Yelland for their photos for the Gazette on Page 5. It is good to see the lovely plants that some of you have flowering.

*Christine Robertson*



## THE CULTIVATION OF SARCOCHILUS SPECIES AND HYBRIDS by Alan Hope

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

These readily available orchids are easy to grow in Melbourne's mediterranean climate and, once mature, flower regularly each year. A judicious choice of species and hybrids can extend the flowering period from spring to midsummer.

*Sarcochilus hartmannii* is one of the most popular species in cultivation. Its range extends from central New South Wales to Queensland, where it is usually found growing at medium altitudes in lightly shaded areas. It is therefore well adapted to shade house cultivation in Melbourne. Like many other *Sarcochilus* species, it grows amongst leaf litter in a variety of locations, or as a lithophyte on rocks. Although it can be grown on a slab of wood or tree fern, I prefer pot culture, using a mix of pine bark and small pebbles to ensure good drainage. *Sarcochilus hartmannii* tolerates higher light levels than some species and grows and flowers well under 50% shade cloth. Plants hung high in the shade house during winter benefit from the slightly warmer and brighter conditions. The better forms of *Sarco. hartmannii*, especially those originally collected from Blue Nob in the Nightcap Ranges, south of Murwillumbah in northern NSW, produce glistening white, shapely flowers on a semi-upright inflorescence.



***Sarcochilus hartmannii* 'Anurat'**  
CC/OSCOV

*Sarcochilus aequalis*, known as the southern form of *Sarco. hartmannii* before it was recently accorded separate species status, flowers in early spring and produces smaller, cream-coloured flowers on crowded, pendulous spikes. It grows well in Melbourne and eventually develops into a spectacular specimen plant. [*Sarco. aequalis* is considered as a synonym of *Sarco. hartmannii* now - Editor]

*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*, sometimes called the 'ravine orchid', has white or cream flowers with a central red blotch or spots. It flowers in the spring and grows well in Melbourne. As its common name suggests, it is found in ravines and moist gullies, enjoying much more shade than *Sarco. hartmannii*. Its main requirement is a cool, airy spot with 70-80% shade and plenty of water during its active growing period. Most growers choose a wide, shallow pot to accommodate its extensive root system and use a coarse mixture of bark chunks and pieces of sandstone or river pebbles as potting mix. *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* tends to grow in a creeping fashion, its leaves flattened and curved inwards, rather than following the more upright growth habit of *Sarco. hartmannii*. While there are many attractive cultivars, the eye-catching flowers of *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* '50 cents' are noteworthy for their large size and deep red centre.



***Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Magic'**  
HCC/OSCOV



*Sarcochilus falcatus* is another cool-growing species suited to Melbourne's climate, although some growers find it is a difficult species to grow well. Commonly known as 'the orange blossom orchid', its white sepals and petals and yellow-margined labellum make *Sarcochilus falcatus* a most attractive orchid. Its range extends from eastern Victoria to Queensland, the flowers differing in size, petal shape and lip markings at various locations, although their overall colour remains constant. *Sarco. falcatus* grows well when mounted on a weathered slab, tree branch, tree fern or natural cork. Small terracotta pots with an open mix have also proved to be successful in starting a plant in cultivation.



***Sarcochilus falcatus* 'Jacki'**  
AM/OSCOV



***Sarcochilus ceciliae* 'Ngaire'**  
CC/NZOS

*Sarcochilus ceciliae* grows on rocky outcrops in the mountains of northern Queensland. It has beautiful pink flowers carried on upright inflorescences, however the growth tends to be sparse and straggly, and its narrow leaves give the impression that the plant is 'on its last legs'. This is generally not the case, as it is a tenacious orchid, well adapted to surviving long dry spells. Shallow pots should be used, as *Sarco. ceciliae* is basically surface-rooting. A potting mix of small rocks (scoria, sandstone, limestone) and larger bark chunks is suitable. It is essential that the roots not be covered by the potting mix

when transplanting; simply place the plant on top of the potting mix and secure it with fishing line or wire pegs. Some *Sarco. ceciliae* hybrids, such as *Sarco. Lois*, also seem to grow better if potted in this way.

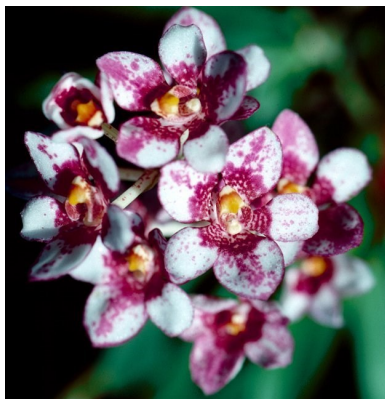
While there are several other *Sarcochilus* species, most are poor growers outside their natural habitat. You will occasionally see the lovely green flowers of *Sarcochilus olivaceous* or the small pink flowers of *Sarco. hillii* on the show bench, but many of the others, such as *Sarco. australis*, native of the Otways and wet bushland areas of Gippsland, are difficult to cultivate. Some growers have kept these species going on their natural bush mounts and have used them in hybridising.

### ***Sarcochilus* Hybrids.**

One of the first hybrids, produced in 1963, was *Sarco. Fitzhart*, bred from *Sarco. hartmannii* and *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*. Its flowers are usually white to pink with solid or spotted centres, and held on upright inflorescences. Over recent years, as better 'line-bred' cultivars of *Sarco. hartmannii* and *Sarco. fitzgeraldii* have become available, *Sarco. Fitzhart* has been re-made many times, with consequent improvement in flower shape, colour and size.



***Sarcochilus Fitzhart* 'Gardiner'**  
CC/OSCOV



**Sarco. Fitzhart  
'Bleeding Hart'  
HCC/OSCOV**



**Sarco. Fitzhart 'Ruby'  
AD/OSCOV**



**Sarco. Fitzhart 'The Don'  
HCC/OSCOV**

Other common hybrids include *Sarco. Heidi* (*Sarco. Fitzhart* x *Sarco. hartmannii*), *Sarco. Melba* (*Sarco. hartmannii* x *Sarco. falcatus*), *Sarco. Lois* (*Sarco. hartmannii* x *Sarco. ceciliae*), *Sarco. Mavis* (*Sarco. ceciliae* x *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*), *Sarco. Pinky* (*Sarco. Mavis* x *Sarco. hartmannii*) and *Sarco. Bongeem* (*Sarco. Mavis* x *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*), to name a few.

Recent hybrids include *Sarco. Rosalie*, *Sarco. Powder Puff*, *Sarco. Colonial Rose*, *Sarco. Penny Ann*, *Sarco. First Light*, *Sarco. Otways*, *Sarco. Pink Blossom*, *Sarco. Selina*, *Sarco. Lone Star*, *Sarco. Peach Spot*, *Sarco. Sun Spot*, *Sarco. Jewell*, *Sarco. Wandjina* and *Sarco. James Woolf*. You should look out for these more recent hybrids as most have superior colour, shape or character.

## UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Gomesa croesus*

The plants originally described as *Oncidium croesus* were from the wet coastal mountains near Rio De Janeiro and the nearby Organ Mountains in Brazil.

An attractive dwarf species with growths to 18 cm tall. Small egg shaped-oblong pseudobulbs, laterally compressed and in clusters of 3-4 spaced on a slightly ascending rhizome that is as thick as a pencil. 1-2 glossy green, slightly leathery leaves at apex of each pseudobulb. Erect 15cm long inflorescence emerges from the base of the pseudobulb and has a zig zag stem. Each flower carried on a pedicellate ovary up to 3cm long. 1-5 glossy long lasting flowers with dark brownish purple sepals and petals and a golden yellow lip with a brownish purple to velvety black band along the crest. The crest which is a fleshy oblong disk is covered with numerous small wart-like projections and has two prominent teeth in the front. Small column

has a pair of very narrow wings on the apex. The strap shaped sepals have wavy margins and pointed tips.

This species has not been used very much in hybridising with only 3 offspring recorded. It has been awarded considerably in Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, and United States with 3 HCC, 2AM and numerous cultural awards. No awards in Australia.





## Orchid Culture Notes for November

November is the start of the dry months, temperatures are generally warm with the odd hot day but heatwaves are uncommon. Light levels are reaching their maximum intensity towards month end and humidity levels decrease. Plants as a rule are in rapid growth phase. It is also the time to take great care in protecting these vital new growths as without these there will be fewer flowers. Damage to these growths comes from many different quarters. Insect damage to soft chewable growths is common with caterpillars and aphids high on the most wanted list. Water lodging in the growths will rot leaves and take out the developing flower nodes in some varieties. Thrips abound in the dryness that November offers. These tiny sap sucking insects will retard a new growth the same as they damage flowers. *Sarcochilus* are prone to attack and November is a prime month. Distorted flowers and browning of the edges are signs of thrip.

Fertiliser will also burn out these growths and the burn marks leave the plant open to fungal infection as well as being unsightly. A couple of stray slow release fertiliser pellets will do this. Then of course with the repotting and division that takes up a lot of time at this time of the year it is the common factor of human error that will knock off a growth.

Some growths get caught up in sheaths as they grow and must be helped along a bit and others come out looking like one of those brown wrinkly dogs. This is called accordion pleating and is usually a sign of dryness. Once this occurs it cannot be reversed. If one of your growths start growing at a weird angle they will require some training to get them growing upright and this also assists in keeping the plant neat and improves the flowering display.

Inspect those plants that suffered heat damage last year as I feel this year we are heading for another extreme Summer. These plants should be grouped together if possible so they can be moved if the weather turns very hot. No point leaving them where they burnt last year. As a last effort you may need to bring them inside or somewhere cool. It's a small chore but worth it for your plants sake.

Division of most plants should be completed by now and our main focus now is on providing our plants with the assistance they need during this rapid growth phase. Feeding should be mostly high nitrogen for the Oncidiums, Cattleyas, Zygopetalums, Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums. Native orchids still preferring low nitrogen feeds to avoid sappy, fungal prone poor flowering canes. Always water plants prior to feeding, adhering to the golden rule of never feeding a dry orchid. Try to give plants a good flush weekly as well and if possible use rainwater. Soluble fertilisers contain salts and when the water evaporates it leaves these salts behind. Too much can be harmful to the roots and consequently the plant. Check the surface of the mix or the drain holes of your pots. That white stuff is salt!

Not every plant in a collection will receive the same amount of water. Some will be covered by another plants leaves and receive very little. Feel the weight of a few pots and if they are light due to missing out on water, move them so they don't miss out. Dry thirsty plants won't flower well and will soon be attacked by every mite and scale you have in the shade house.





## Orchid Culture Notes for November Cont...

My watering ritual is a good drenching late afternoon but with enough left in the day so most plants are dry overnight. I will do a light misting first thing in the morning when I do my daily inspection. Mounted epiphytes may get an extra watering during the day if very hot. Remember some pots will dry out faster than others, as will some mixes. Placement will also be a factor with hanging plants drying out at a much faster rate. The rule here is not to water every plant the same amount every day. What might be enough for one will flood another. This is particularly important when growing a large number of different genera.

Foliar feeding is also recommended during the growth season. This is particularly important to mounted plants. I tend to balance my feeding with organic and inorganic fertiliser and tend to be weaker in the feeding strength than those in pots. Many of these plants are species orchids and as such are a little more sensitive. When foliar feeding, don't forget the undersides of leaves as this is where their stomata are (breathing pores). Fertiliser is absorbed via these pores. That's one reason why we water first. The plants when watered open up these pores.

After flowering we find our terrestrial orchids will be drying out. Watering will be reduced to an occasional mist to keep the mix just slightly moist. It will soon be time to start thinking about repotting them but I leave that until January. Any later and they are usually on the move again and I do not want to damage any developing shoots.

On the subject of avoiding damage, if you have to divide a Cattleya or an Oncidium, now is a great time to do it. The new growths will be well under way and should be showing new roots. When divided now these roots will continue to grow into the mix and feed the plant without too much setback unless your division was too small. If you leave it too late these roots will grow too long and will most likely be damaged in the process. If damaged then they won't feed the plant as well and it will suffer. So much so flowering could be a non-event for this season.

That will do for November. It is hard to believe another year is nearing the end!

*Steve Howard*

### **SCOCSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOMINATION FORM**

Please use this form to nominate new committee members.

**Nominee's Name** .....

**Proposed by** .....

**Seconded by** .....

**Position Nominated for** .....

**Nominee Accepted** .....

**Please complete and hand to Secretary "Lucy Spear."  
Nominations must be received by the close of the December Cultural Meeting**

## **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. [This is in abeyance for the present time]

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** meets at 8pm in The Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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If unclaimed please return to  
P.O. Box 314 Oaklands Park S.A. 5046



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**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.**