

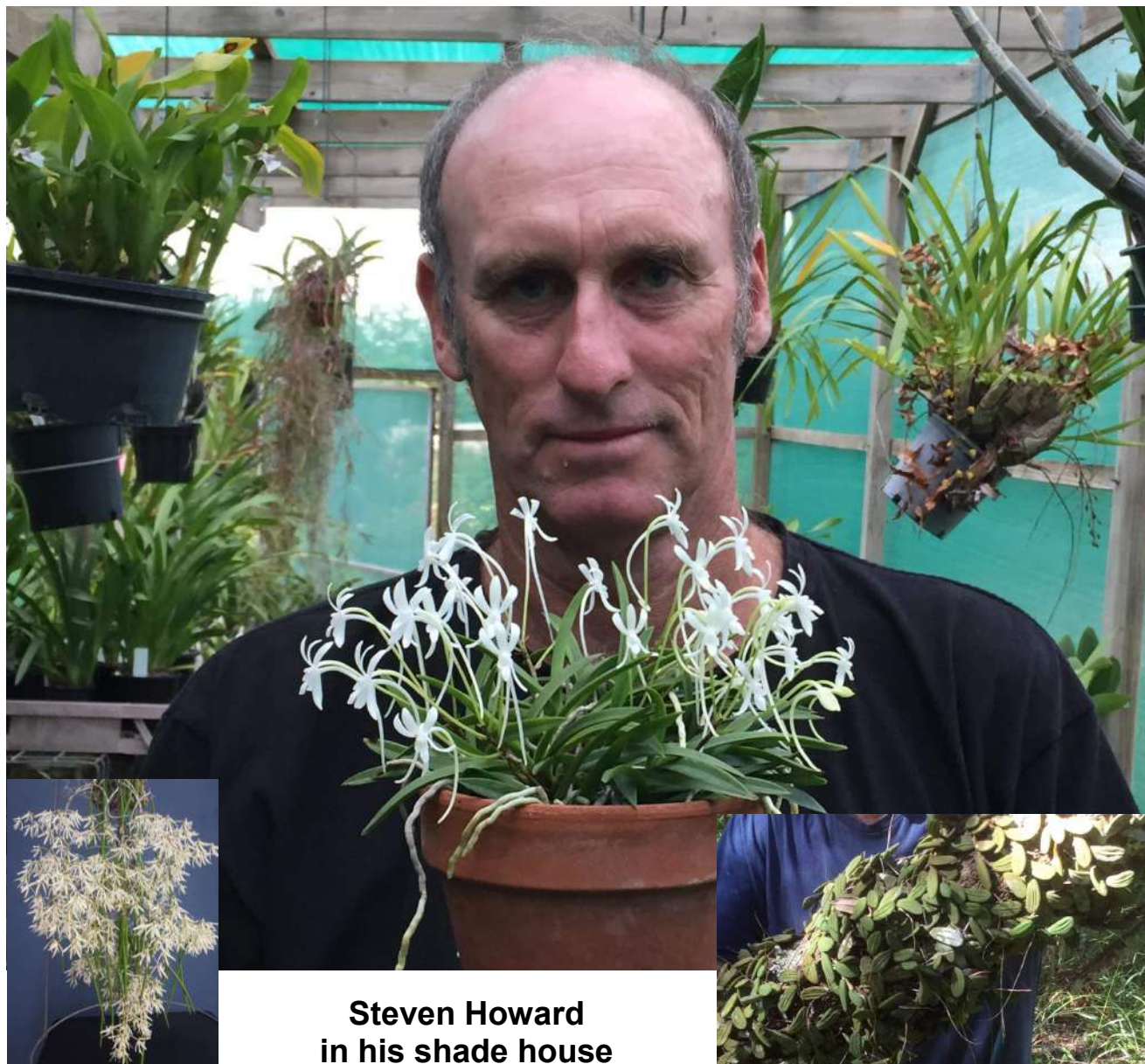


THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

August 2020

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



Steven Howard
in his shade house

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
23 August and 27 September

Website: <http://www.scocsa.net>

E-Mail: 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



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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 Meeuwsen, Oui Ju, Christine Robertson, Jim Fogarasi, Craig Humfrey, Geoffrey Spear, Craig Dicker	
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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 Toshie 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
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President's Message



Your committee were able to meet for the first time upon the recent easing of restrictions since the March commencement of restrictions that curtailed all club activities.

The venue for the main meeting will be able to be used next year. The expensive cost of cleaning is the reason for not being able to hold meetings there this year. For the Daytime Chapter, Lou Kesting Hall can be used with adherence to restrictions. For the Southern Region Group there is hope for October or November resumption, however it maybe not until next year.

The committee are making enquiries to find a different venue that would enable us to meet sooner than next year. Shows are an important club activity and the committee are exploring ideas and options for the possibility of holding shows sometime this year. Unfortunately there will not be a 2020 Winter Show.

I know that other Orchid clubs here in the Metropolitan region have had general meetings with them holding shows in August. These can only happen with a COVID-19 safe plan that is approved by the Health Department.

As we all enjoy each other's plants, the best way for us to share our favourite flower or a first flowering plant, whether it be a mericlone, seedling or a recent purchase, take a photo of them and send it to Christine our Editor to include in our Gazette. Thank you to Eileen Pinnock, Vicky and Neil Cooper, Laurie and Sue Carter, Andrew Dean, Oui Ju and Michael Willoughby, Coral Tillmanns, and Christine Robertson, for your beautiful photographs this month. They certainly add to the colour and pleasure of this Gazette.

Missing you all, stay safe.

Successful growing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**JACK CRONSHAW, DONJA HAYES,
GRAHAM ZERBE, HENRY HANCOCK,
CRAIG DICKER,
WALLY WALLOSCHECK (90th Birthday)**



Is your name in the Birthday Book ??

STEVEN HOWARD - HONORARY MEMBER **South Coast Orchid Club of SA**

Like many of us, my orchid growing career started off as a grower of other things and not orchids. Starting with iris and gladiolus then onto fuschia and dahlias, I soon became disillusioned at the losses through summer heat and thrip. It was on a trip to Byron Bay I discovered orchids. Initially it was a Cymbidium, but annual trips to the east coast and bushwalking soon had my interest firmly attached to Australian Natives.

Joining Northern and Eastern Districts Orchid Club [NEDOS] as my first club, I was taken in by the late Don Wells, an accomplished native grower and spent many hours learning about these wonderful locals. Shortly after, I began writing monthly cultural notes for NEDOS and these are still being used today, both local and sometimes appearing in interstate club journals. At an early stage in my development I was already showing the keenness of passing on knowledge.

Once I moved to Craigmore I joined Gawler Districts Orchid Club in 1997. Here I run a successful beginners group and run 2 to 3 workshops each year, and was a committee member for over 20 years and Life Member. I became an orchid judge in 2010.

Memberships to Native Orchid Society of SA [NOSSA] and Orchid Club of SA [OCSA] followed as I sought to increase my exposure at clubs as well as gain valuable judging experience. Many know me through the club presentations I do on a regular basis each year

My block is 1 acre sporting two shade houses and a polycarbonate flowering house that doubles up as an over wintering house as well. I am an open division grower with a collection of 2000 plants. I have approx. 200 species across over 50 genera groups. I have received numerous AOC awards for both quality and culture, won the Les Nesbitt trophy for best native in SA 4 times and SA Orchid of the Year twice, so lady luck has been kind. Married to wife Tracy for nearly 29 years. Two kids, Jenna 26 and Kyle 22.

A recent highlight for me was being granted honorary membership to the South Coast Orchid Club of SA, that I have always held as my sister club. At present I am involved in many social media groups promoting orchids and assisting the novice groups. I am currently on the SARJP training panel.

Bushwalking for native terrestrials for identification and monitoring is a regular weekend past time from April to December each year when I cannot pursue my fishing addiction. I am also actively involved in a native Dendrobium breeding programme doing around 40 crosses per year.

I am very approachable and more than happy to assist any grower, novice or otherwise. Knowledge is something to be shared and with it makes us all better growers.

I thank South Coast for this opportunity to give members some insight into what I am all about. I thank you for the honorary membership and look forward to a long association.



MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Laelia anceps
Grown By Vicky & Neil Cooper



***Laelia anceps* 'Pure Alba'**
Grown By Vicky & Neil Cooper



***Laelia anceps* var. Chamberlain**
Grown By
Vicky & Neil Cooper



Den. teretifolium
Grown by Eileen Pinnock

***Phalaenopsis* Unknown**
Grown By Christine Robertson



***Phalaenopsis* Unknown**
Grown By Christine Robertson

MEMBERS PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Members are asked to select their choice of orchid for the winner of the Members Photograph Competition. This is a popular vote. Choose the orchid you would like to take home.
TO VOTE you can contact the Editor on email:

Or you may phone Lucy on kloval@westnet.com.au
(08) 8381 4420 or
0409 842 352
Or you may phone the Editor on 0438 363 940

MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont...



Dendrobium Australian Tiger
Grown By Sue & Laurie Carter



Rhyconia Pacific Paranoia
'Other Side of Cool'
Grown By Sue & Laurie Carter



Paphiopedilum insigne
Grown by Sue & Laurie Carter



Bratonia Lavender Kiss
'Lavender Taffy'
Grown By Sue & Laurie Carter



Cym. (Ruby Eyes x Red Baron)
Grown By
Andrew Dean



Dendrobium Killen
Grown By
Coral Tillmanns



Den. (Tyabb 'Kings
Park X Tyabb 'Zoe')
Grown By
Coral Tillmanns

Cym. Khan Flame
'Tuscany'
Grown By
Coral Tillmanns



MEMBERS' PHOTOGRAPHS Cont...



Paph. wardii Alba



Cyc. Cryminy



Paph. Saeka Mochizuki



Paph. venustum Album



Rth. Dal's Moon 'Golden Sun'



Paph. tranlienianum

**All Orchids this page
Grown By Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**



Aerides quinquevulnera

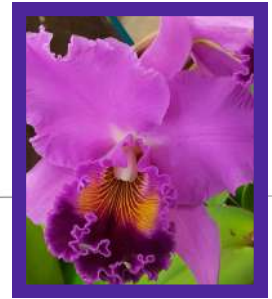


Paph. Fanaticum

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

Essay Competition 2019

Equal 2nd Prize Winner



How do my orchids survive while I'm away from home?

By Janice Heitman

Holidays for my husband Trevor and I are few and far between. We have always been reluctant to leave our orchids for more than a few days at a time for fear they would perish if not watered, fertilised and tended to daily. These past few summers in Queensland, where we live on the Sunshine Coast, have been especially hot and dry. This being not ideal conditions for unattended orchids, we have felt it to be far more beneficial, for our orchids, for us to stay home.

Last year in March however, we had the opportunity to travel with a group of like-minded orchid enthusiasts to exotic Taiwan. Attending the Taiwan International Orchid Show (TIOS 2018) at Taichung was the focus of the trip, and that was a much too exciting opportunity to miss out on. However, as the trip was 3 weeks in length, this posed a problem. How would our orchids survive while we were away from home? We set to thinking of a viable plan.

Even though we live on a small, suburban 600sqm plot, we have a large, mixed collection of orchids, including a large quantity of Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, also Vandas, Bulbophyllums, Phalaenopsis, Phragmipedium, Chysis and an assortment of some strange and unusual orchids due to my husband's eccentric tastes. The plants surround our house and pool area, with all areas open and 70% overhead cover.

Our neighbours had, in the past, watered our plants when we had been away for a couple of days. Although that had worked very well for a short amount of time, we decided against asking them to be responsible for our prized hobby for such an extended time. We did not have any other friends with horticulture experience that were close by and family were some distance away as well. Relying on Mother Nature seemed irresponsible, so it became exceedingly clear that we had to figure out an independent way to care for our orchids for our 3 week holiday.

We decided to construct an automated watering system. We had a small system already set up, but it had just a 20 L capacity. The original set up used bore water with a PH of 4.2. We used a Venture system to inject a concentrated solution of bi-carb soda to adjust the PH to 6.5, which seems to suit our plants. This solution is injected into the bore water with a calibration nozzle in the Venture. In summer when the weather is hot and dry we employ a fogging system at designated times during the day depending on the weather. This works well when we are home, as the reserve only needs filling every few days.



The 20 L supply tank and connections

This new system had to be much larger. Rather than a few days, this time the water reserve would need to hold enough to last almost a month. We didn't know if it was even possible to set up, but we gave it a go.

Being meticulous planners, we decided to err on the side of caution and devise a watering system that would hold enough for up to five weeks. This would mean starting by increasing the container's holding capacity to 150 L, but to still ensure it was compatible with the Venture system.

By switching to holiday mode, it was set to water the orchids for 25 minutes each day, every day we were away, for in excess of 3 weeks.

We set up a fogging system which operated at 1 L per hour per nozzle, where the nozzles were set approximately 900 mm-1200 mm apart, depending on where they were situated in the orchid areas.



The direct on/off power source was controlled by a timer which we programmed to come on at 10.00 am each day. This would allow good spray coverage both under and over the plant leaves and we hoped Mother Nature would assist with some breezes.

Before we could use the system, all the nozzles had to be removed, cleaned and checked. My husband happily chose a hot day to do this, as the only way to ensure the system was working was to check it while in operation. I must say he was rather wet by the time he had finished!

The fogging system at work

And with a sigh of accomplishment, we were ready to start packing our bags. Our system had been planned, checked and rechecked. We were confident we had the correct ratios and all of the best equipment for the job. Time to start our wonderful holiday.

Taiwan is an interesting and exciting country to visit. We travelled with a group of 30 people and made some wonderful friendships over our 3 week journey. The food was probably the most challenging part, and some of the wonderful traditional dishes we saw included steamed lotus stems, fish ball soup and pigs blood rice pudding on a stick with a sweet peanut powder coating.

There were many flower markets, lots of beautiful jade carvings and Taiwan's pride and joy - their 101 building and of course the Orchid Show, simply stunning. Who could forget the sunrise at Alishan, which required getting up at 4:00 am in 0 degrees C and the Cruise across Sun Moon Lake to see the sunset. Our tour coordinator was named Madee and we also had a wonderful and entertaining Taiwanese guide named Simon. In an effort to share between our cultures, of course we taught Simon a little bit of slang, I mean, that is the Aussie thing to do!

While Madee was guiding us on our journey, we barely thought about our beloved orchids, knowing they would be well taken care of by the automated watering system, while we were enjoying our time away. Some group members googled the weather conditions and other updates from home. We learned that there had been one instance of rain, and as far as we knew, there was no news of storms or any other damaging weather types in our area.

All too soon we arrived home, feeling happy and relaxed, but slightly tired after such a long flight. Our first job was, obviously, to check the condition of the orchids. After 3 weeks away, with hot and humid weather, we knew the worst may have happened, but we were hopeful all the same. We both exhaled a long sigh of relief when we saw them. They all looked great – still alive, nice and healthy, beautiful green leaves, even some new flowers!

My husband went to check the water tank. He was eager to see how much water the system had actually used over the 3 week period, and assumed his calculations must have been pretty spot on. His cry of shock startled me and I ran over to see what was wrong. The 150 L tank was still absolutely, completely and utterly full! How could this have possibly happened? He checked over the equipment to try to figure out how on earth this was possible.

The mystery was quickly solved when we discovered that we had managed to leave the automatic timer's switch in the off mode, rather than turning it on. We had literally mucked up the first step of the whole process – **Turn the Machine On.**

The moral of the story is that maybe all of the expensive equipment doesn't really matter. Maybe orchids are hardier than we give them credit for. Maybe they will survive with only Mother Nature's help and finally, most importantly, maybe, just maybe, we can start planning another holiday...

SARCOCHILUS ORCHID CULTURE

by Kevin Western



Most *Sarcochilus* orchids that are sold are hybrids produced by cross pollination of species and/or pre-existing hybrids. As such, they are easier to grow and less fussy about growing conditions than the original wild species plants. They do well in Adelaide & local conditions.

They are found growing along the east coast of Australia from Tasmania up into Queensland. They are outdoor rather than indoor plants. While that region is generally quite humid and generally has reliable summer rainfall, occasionally they may have to survive from one to several years of relative drought. They are related to the 'Moth Orchids' or *Phalaenopsis* that we all see very commonly on sale in outlets such as Bunnings, Woolworths, etc.

Generally, in their native habitat, *Sarcochilus* orchids tend to grow on rocks or on trees from branches, in some cases, to quite tiny twigs as well. They can be found in light levels ranging from quite bright and exposed for some species, to damp, shady and cool for other species. Their roots are designed to be capable of drying out altogether between periods of rainfall or dew and many roots may not be attached to either rocks or branches or twigs.

Sarcochilus hybrids are generally grown in pots. not in soil nor potting soil, but in other potting media that generally suits Cymbidiums and Australian Native Dendrobiums. Mixes such as graded pine bark chunks, perlite, loosely packed sphagnum moss, scoria, shell grit, charcoal, and admixtures of two or more of the above components, are used.

In the southern states of Australia they seem to grow best under 75% shade cloth during about mid March to mid October, sometimes even to mid November but during peak heat and sun, they need to be shifted to deeper shade or have an additional layer of 30% shade cloth over them to avoid burning and UV damage.

Watering frequency depends on time of year, temperature and air movement. Plants grown in a breezy spot will need to be watered more often than the same pot in a protected area. Generally, some air movement is beneficial to *Sarcochilus*. During winter, my orchids are subjected to our natural rainfall which is in the order of a metre a year plus frequent foggy days without ill effects. Watering frequency will vary according to rainfall, air movement and temperature. If it's raining, then there is no need to water.

Sarcochilus are quite fertiliser hungry plants **but it must be dilute** when applied. I use commercial, soluble fertilisers at 1/5 to 1/10 the recommended strength at every watering and even do the odd fertilising in mid-winter when there is really no need to water, just to provide some nutrient for growth. 'Power Feed', and 'Seasol' are great at high dilution and they do really well on that. I also believe that good results are obtained from use of a broader range of fertilisers over a period of time. I use Campbells Black Diamond 19 Carat product available from E E Muir. **It *doesn't* have to be 'orchid fertiliser'** ; Manutec "Bloom Booster" or 'Orchid Food' and their Hydrangea fertiliser too are ok, but **make it up at a just over level teaspoon dissolved in about 9-10 litres of water** and apply any of these at every watering to very good effect. From E E Muir, I also buy Calcium Nitrate & Magnesium Nitrate; mix them 50/50 and use that mix at the rate above every fourth watering for extra good results.

During cooler weather it may only be necessary to water once to twice a week whereas on hot, windy, low humidity, summer days it may be best to water morning and night or the pots can be stood in a shallow tray/dish of water during the hotter months from November through to March and they actually love that as seen by shiny leaves and new growths. Don't leave them standing in water at any other time of year.

They seem to absolutely relish being potted up in just clay balls. If you use Caly Balls, then it seems beneficial to add a few pellets of 'Rapid Raiser' or 'Dynamic Lifter' or Blood N Bone to the pot every 1-2 months.

They generally flower early September to late November with flowers generally lasting about 4 weeks depending on weather. During that time, you may keep them indoors but put them out again as soon as flowers are finished.

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Western Orchids/Laboratories

Email: orchids@westernorchids.com.au



EDITORS NOTE

Quite a considerable numbers of our members receive this Gazette in black and white by mail. Others have elected to have the Gazette directly emailed to them. They receive the Gazette in full colour and have the benefit of beautiful photographs of very colourful orchids. They also receive the Gazette up to a week before the mail can deliver it to you others.

If you would like to have the colourful version emailed to you send me an email so that I receive your correct email address.

Please don't forget that this is your Gazette.

If there is anything you would like to see covered or anything you would like to see changed, please let me know. I especially like photographs to include and details of your successes with your orchids.

You can contact me,

Christine Robertson, by:

Email: kloval@westnet.com.au

Phone: (08) 8536 3948

Mobile: 0438 363 940

Mail: PO Box 454, Strathalbyn SA 5255



DAYTIME CHAPTER



Hi Everybody,

Great plans are being made for your Christmas meeting Thursday 10th December 2020. Self distancing will I feel be here for some time. We can only hope food restrictions are lifted. If not we will have a great party with our Orchids.

Yes it has been a changing world. Our plans are to start 2021 Daytime Chapter. We must abide by all the rules that may still be in place to keep us safe.

My plans for the 2021 Daytime Chapter are Great Speakers, Wonderful Orchids, and friends to chat with face to face. Barb Almond will be sadly retiring from the position of convenor of Daytime Chapter. Patty Abells, Lucy Spear, and Coral Tillmanns will still be there to run the meetings, and keep this happy group together.

Stay Safe.

Regards,

Lucy & Patty

CULTURAL NOTES by Bernie Hansen

POT CHOOSING. Choosing the right 'POT' (Not 'Marihuana') is often worrying to the novice; so let us take a look at what is available.

The use of 'clay pots' is on the way out, but this is only my idea. The reasons being:

- (1) With our notorious water which will soon have another additive 'Fluoride' (I thought we had everything in it already), we get a build-up of salts in the clay pot itself and after a while this reaches such a high level that the roots, which are in contact with the pot, turn quite brown.
- (2) Algae also clings to the clay pot, and is harder to remove.
- (3) Virus can be transmitted much easier, as it is harder to clean them.
- (4) I believe they are more expensive than plastic.
- (5) I personally like the look of plastic pots better.
- (6) Large clay pots, i.e., 10"–12", etc., are too heavy to handle; as it is, we have enough back troubles just 'Bandicooting' for spikes.

Another side to pot choosing is the size to suit the plant you are potting up. A rule of thumb is to choose a pot which will have enough room to accommodate approximately two years of growth; after this time the plant would need repotting, due to compost break-down, and probably the plant could need dividing.

Careful study of the plant in hand is necessary. Some Cattleyas for instance, have a short rhizome between the pseudo-bulbs and therefore would not need a pot much larger than one which has approximately 2" of space between the leading growth and the edge of the pot. This also applies to Cattleyas which tend to send their new growths in a circular pattern around the pot. A large growing plant which tends to go straight ahead would need a pot which has a good 3" clearance between the rim and leading growth.

The same system applies with Cymbidiums. Study the size of the bulbs and allow for approximately two years growth.

Remember: always try to choose the right 'Pot' — it's the only way to fly!

From SCOCSA Gazette March 1971

WHAT IS AN ORCHID by Syd Monkhouse

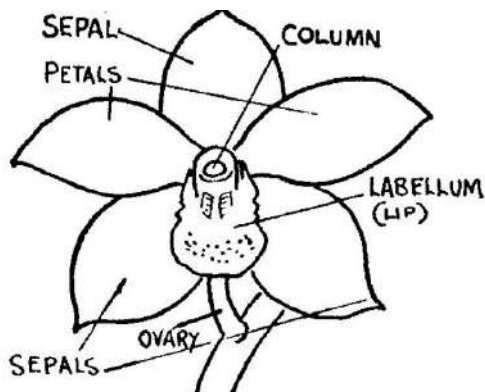
[SCOCSA Gazette November 1971]

The mention of the word "orchid" conjures images of large exotic, fragrant blooms abounding in steaming jungles, with brightly coloured birds fluttering by. How far from the true picture this is!

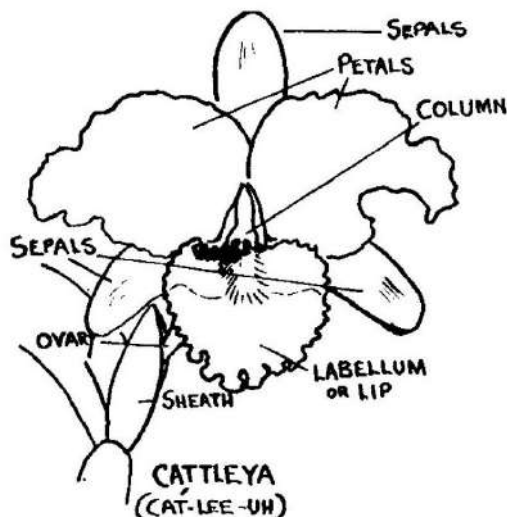
Orchids inhabit every country in the world. There are more than 24,000 different kinds found in nature. Orchids are not generally found in the dense jungle thickets, as they are the "Garbos" of the vegetable kingdom and 'prefer to be alone'. They grow high up in mountains on the fringes of the forests or else up in the uppermost branches of jungle trees. Tropical orchids are generally the largest and most exotic of all orchids, although the showy cymbidiums which make up the greater part of our display here, come from high up in mountainous regions in temperate or subtropical regions.

An orchid is really a perennial herb. Its flowers differ, in make-up, from any other bloom. It has six petals - generally comprising three sepals, two petals and a labellum (or lip). The reproductive organs of an orchid are contained in the 'column', above the labellum, and it is this column which represents the big difference between orchids and the lesser flowers. The pollen of an orchid bloom is joined together into sacs and is not loose as generally seen in other flowers. The construction of the pollen sacs and the ingenious contrivances possessed by an orchid, to ensure that only pollen from a like

species fertilises it, are fantastic. When one studies the make-up of the orchid column it is soon realised that here is a bloom superior in design to any other flower and one that has raised itself far above its vegetable kingdom.



● This sketch shows the important parts of a cymbidium orchid flower.



● Above: Diagram of a cattleya bloom.

Roughly, orchids can be classified into two growth types: SYMPODIAL FORM - this group consists of plants that make up a growth completely and then a new growth begins at its base - e.g. Cattleya, Cypripedium, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, etc. MONOPODIAL FORM - this group has no pseudobulb, There is a main axis which grows at its tip, producing new leaves continuously and sending out flower stems from the base of the leaves - e.g, Vandas, Phalaenopsis, etc.

Several fallacies exist regarding orchids – FIRST - Orchids are not generally delicate plants. On the contrary, they are probably the toughest plants in the world. **SECOND** - there is no 'black' orchid. In fact, there is no such thing as a black flower of any type. Deep purples, yes, but black - never!



Hello to all Members

Social Distancing of 1.5metres, I am afraid is here to stay for quite a long time. We are planning to have a Christmas Party Orchid Club Meeting on Sunday 20th December 2020. We have all missed our Orchid Club gatherings. Food I can't promise till further down the track, when we will receive more information from the Government.

I can promise you are great club meeting and you will see the long promised Graham Zerbe's Cattleya Presentation. I will also invite Steve Howard.

2021 will be a wonderful year with Great Guest Speakers and Exciting Orchids. This Pandemic has been a great eye opener to the Orchid World. It has made us take a different view on life as we knew it. Lets start 2021 with a bright new look.

As most of you know Geoff has been very ill. Last visit to the specialist was a good report. He has decided he would now like to attend the meeting as a member sitting in the audience. We now have a much younger member who has accepted the position to present the meeting. You will all be very happy with this choice, a very popular gentleman.

Take Care
Regards

Lucy Spear

UNUSUAL PLANT OF MONTH - *Aerides quinquevulnera*

Michael & Oui have a specimen of *Aerides quinquevulnera* in their photos this month. This species is widely distributed in the Philippines, 300-2000 m, and also found in New Guinea.

It is a monopodial epiphyte with a large pseudobulb, 20-40cm branched, erect to curved stems that are leafy along their length. Numerous strap shaped, leathery, arching, glossy light green leaves, longitudinally folded at the base and unequally bi-lobed at the tip. The arching to sharply pendulous spikes hold to 30 very fragrant flowers arranged in a cylindrical raceme. The flowers are white to cream coloured with purple tips and scattered purple spots. The three lobed lip has a purple band down the centre and has a green horned spur. There are many named colour varieties.

The species has been used as a seed parent in the main in hybridising to create 25 First Generation progeny including 11 primary hybrids. The species has been awarded considerably in USA with 12AM, 1HCC, 1CCE, 1CCM. It has been awarded an HCC in Australia.



©Judith High

REPOTTING KEIKIS by Steve Howard

One of the things I like doing the most in my role as an AOC judge is nurturing the novice growers, whether its by participating at club work shops, social media involvement, conducting club beginner groups or power point presentations on various genera groups throughout the states orchid club network with the focus on culture. Without recruitment our hobby will not survive so by focussing on the novice grower and providing the right information in layman terms we keep them growing and expanding collections, supporting nurseries and giving us judges a job to do!

This is a little tip I've been sharing around, dealing with potting up keikis that grow off at right angles to the parent, but in a way is the same technique I use for all keikis as well as divisions of orchids with little or no root system. The key is to provide an easy, cheap and stable platform for the orchid to develop a decent root system without the risk of damage to sensitive root tips through the action of wind or even watering. When I remove a keiki, I am not one for just ripping keikis off and planting up but prefer to use part of the parent cane for additional support and nutrition. This also prevents leaving a gaping wound at the base of the keiki that could allow an entry point for pathogen transfer. Follow the pics for commentary:

A. A softcane keiki growing at right angles. This habit is quite common and poses a higher level of difficulty than normal. Ideally I like to propagate kieikies as second growth starts and always with a new seasons root system developing for fast establishment. Some growers tend to remove keikies well before they have hardened up or have a decent root system and will face a harder task.



B. In this case I will need a wider pot due to the nature of the growth. Generally square deep tree pots I find the best for normal vertical growing keikies.



C. I've cut the parent stem so it's slightly longer than the pot is wide.

D. Cut two slots like this. No..I did not use the saw to cut the orchid!. That I reserve for *Den. speciosum* dividing.



E. I sit the stem and keikie in like this. It's more stable this way plus means I can get the mix to the right level. Plus the growth is vertical.



F. Place a block of polystyrene foam at base of pot and stake the keiki. Make sure it's firmly staked with no movement.



G. Most important advice is to pack the mix very tight around the sides of the foam block to lock it in secure. If not then this technique will not work. Once locked in add the rest of the medium so it's at the base of the growth like this.

H. The acid test for stability. With no roots I can still lift plant up like this and it won't fall off. This technique works well with most repotted orchids with little or no roots. If the pot falls off then you are not stable enough so try again.

There are many other ways to lock in divisions but for something quick and easy I find this very effective. With a stable platform and no movement this will establish fast. Of course time this in conjunction with the orchids growing season.

Happy propagating!



Steve Howard

***Miltoniopsis* by Ron McHatton**

[First printed by the Gawler Districts Orchid Club]

Miltoniopsis are commonly known as 'pansy orchids' because of the similarity of the flowers to pansies. As with many orchids, the genus name has led a confused life. Although given generic recognition in 1889 when Alexandre Godefroy-Lebeuf described *M. vexillaria*, most botanists continued to lump *Miltonia* with *Miltoniopsis* until the mid 1970's. Yet the differences between the two genera are distinctive despite the historical confusion.

Miltoniopsis have but one leaf at the apex of the pseudobulb whereas *Miltonia* have two; the pseudobulbs of *Miltoniopsis* are rounded, laterally compressed, and clustered tightly together whereas *Miltonia* pseudobulbs are more elongate and more widely spaced. In addition, the pseudobulbs and foliage of most species of *Miltoniopsis* are a rather gray-green while those of *Miltonia* are a most typical yellow-green to mid-green. There are also differences in the column of the two genera. Another major difference is that *Miltonia* are found in Brazil while *Miltoniopsis* range from Costa Rica to Ecuador and Venezuela.



Miltoniopsis Jean Carlson.
Grown & Photo by
David Judge

The genus is closely allied to *Brassia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*, and the plants when not in flower are often difficult to distinguish. In cool and intermediate greenhouses *M. phalaenopsis*, *M. roezlii* and *M. vexillaria* are popular species.



Miltoniopsis Nancy Binks
'Star Struck'. Grown &
Photo by
David Judge

It is critically important to know the background of your hybrid *Miltoniopsis* to determine proper culture.

--- C U L T U R E ---

Temperature: Intermediate to cool temperatures. Daytime highs should not exceed around 26C.

Light: Bright intermediate light (1800-2500 foot candles or about 75% shade).

Water-Humidity: While having pseudobulbs, plants do not like to dry out completely for extended lengths of time. They benefit from 40-60% humidity, and excellent air movement. One unmistakable sign of insufficient watering is horizontal, accordion-like pleating of the developing new growth.

Fertilizer: Use a balanced fertilizer applied at half strength every other watering or a good timed-release product.

Potting: The roots of *Miltoniopsis* are fine, requiring a fine potting mix. Many growers use a mix of fine bark, perlite and charcoal although any good fine-grade epiphytic mix should be adequate.



Orchid Culture Notes for August

The last month of Winter is already on our doorstep and the Spring shows not that far away. August weather is still cold but we seem to get enough 20° to remind us that Winter is starting to lose its hold. After a very cold and wet July this is surely a positive to look forward to.

We are nearing the peak months of our flowering season especially for those with collections dominated by natives and cymbidiums. This year displays have seen quite a high percentage of plants showing the effects of cold and exposure. Even when grown under cover effects of botrytis are apparent and although we will soon enter a drying phase, most of our flowering plants will still suffer the effects. The only way to combat this is to remove plants to an area under cover where the air is quite dry. That is why I test the boundaries at home and load up my laundry. Even though I have an 8 x 3 flowering house outside, I too cannot escape the marking of the flowers that is so bad this year. The laundry will provide me the dryness I need: I can always hang my clothes in the flowering house!

Very soon it will be time to look at the annual task of re-potting and division. Whilst still a couple of months away, now is a good time to take stock of the numbers of plants that need work so we can stock up on pots, mix, etc. I usually start looking at the seedling catalogues about now to get my orders in to coincide with Spring. No point really subjecting little plants to our cold Winter unless you have the right protection, so getting them at a time of year with the weather warming and the plants entering new growth is a sound decision if we are to get them underway.

Many orchids are still resting and a keen eye will already see the commencement of new shoots to herald the start of a new season. It is hard to believe but by the end of August we have already put nearly 90 minutes of extra daylight onto the Winter solstice. This is plenty of daylight increase to tell the plants it is time to start moving again soon.

Not all plants rest over winter. Zygopetalums are one orchid that do not appear to have a resting period, as are the cymbidiums. Sure they slow up but never really go dormant. With weather still cool and the humidity high, watering is still infrequent and should be applied only when the plants are dry and ideally left to the warmer days. Zygopetalum new growths should be well advanced so stick with the higher nitrogen to balanced feeds until they bulb up later on.

Those looper caterpillars are quite bad this year and have been all over Winter so regular inspection of any chewing activity under the leaves is a must. The cold and wet of this winter has also taken toll on some of the new growths and they have rotted out or at best lost a few leaves. Either way this growth will be severely restricted and will not build up a new bulb, if it even does so and unlikely to produce a new growth big enough to flower off next year.

Now is the time to reduce the watering on the natives and dry them out somewhat. In the eastern states the Spring months are the driest part of the year and this is where most, if not all our Australian natives come from. Watch out for aphids on the new spikes and keep dry. One cold, wet episode will have buds dropping like flies. If you can, try to maximise light levels as the natives flower to bring out the colour.

Cattleyas will soon show new growth eyes developing from the base of the previous years canes and the sheaths of the spring flowering species and hybrids will start to fill out. If these sheaths show any sign of fungal spots I would be peeling them back to expose the buds and keep the buds dry. Leaving the spots to enlarge will invariably mark or even rot out the buds. A Cattleya will only flower once off a pseudobulb. Watch out for any fungal problems near the growth buds. This is usually indicated by the presence of black sheaths. Preventative sprays of fungicides can certainly reduce this somewhat.



Orchid Culture Notes for August cont..

Oncidium have now finished their flowering and are generally resting. Those in active growth are only watered if conditions are very dry or the plant grown under cover. Feeding is monthly at my place for these as the cool temperatures slow down the plants metabolism and their need for supplementary feeding. I only feed Oncidium that show active roots.

Even though the Oncidium have largely finished there are plenty of Oncidiinae intergenerics around that will grow cold and provide colour for much of the year. Colmanaras, Beallaras, Odontocidium (now Oncidium) and Vuylstekearas are just a few of the complex that are quite happy here grown above the Cymbidium. I also find that these intergenerics are quite variable in their flowering times as well and even have the luxury of sporting a second spike after the first one has died down. A little more cover over Winter will improve your results as these do mark easily.

The majority of the terrestrials we see benched will begin flowering from now on. Starting off with the greenhoods (*Pterostylis*) and later on the donkey orchids (*Diuris*) and the sun orchids (*Thelymytra*). Keep evenly moist and try to keep the light levels up. Weak feeds of organic based feeds like seaweed and fish emulsions will assist growth. Avoid chemical fertilisers. Pull out weeds as they appear and remove any plants that show signs of virus or fungal problems. This is usually identified by odd markings and yellowing of the leaves. Fungus affected plants literally fall out of the pot when you lift up a leaf. Virus in *Diuris* shows up with brown markings.

Paphiopedilums are well into their flowering season and like many genera are easy to grow once the culture and correct conditions are provided. The large standard Paphiopedilums (standard referring to shape) usually peak this time of year with the smaller novelties later on as the weather warms. The trick with Paphiopedilums is to keep them evenly moist and moving. They don't mind being grown close together and take up little space and are a low light orchid. So for those that have a shady section in the shade house a small collection of cool growing Paphiopedilums is worth a try. They are not a hungry feeder, little and often is the key.

A new crop of Spring and Summer weeds will soon show up and should be removed as soon as they appear. Continue to treat for slugs and snails as many genera are now in flower and these new soft spikes make good tucker. Wrapping some copper strip or even cotton wool around the base of the spikes will deter them. Please remove the cotton wool before you show your orchid. We judges want to judge an orchid and not a poodle.

Observe for any fungal problems. With warming weather this will become a bigger problem over the next few months. Remove dead leaves and flowers as soon as you can as these when wet will attract fungal problems overnight. Some plants that do show signs of rot may be telling you something about your culture as well. Factors such as: I am too wet, too cold, lack of air movement, my mix has broken down, I have been damaged, are just some of the many causes of fungal attack. I have been on many orchid walks in the wild yet have never seen the fungal problems there that we have in our collections. So it is clear that these problems are our doing and we must be able to identify why and act accordingly. It is what makes us a better grower, the ability to observe and act. We will never eradicate these problems given that the majority of the genera we grow are so far removed from the species that make up their background that their own natural defences will not work. The best offence to defence is good culture.

The key to August is to provide flowering and near flowering plants with the cover they need to avoid environmental damage. Pest numbers are still down but it won't be long before their numbers increase. Observe plant resting periods and keep an eye out for any developing problems with fungal issues. September is on our doorstep and with it another growing season ready to begin.

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

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E. & O. E.**