



THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SA INC.

Gazette

December 2022

Patron: Coralie Hills FAOC
President: Michael Willoughby



*Happy Christmas and a Prosperous
New Year to all Members of the
South Coast Orchid Club.*



AT A GLANCE

The next General Meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia will be held on Monday 12th December 2022 at 8.00 pm. at RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. This will be preceded by the Christmas Dinner at 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start [See page 4 for details of the Dinner], The meeting will consist of a computer presentation, monster raffle, Kris Kringle and Christmas fun.

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

NOTE: There will be no BBQ held in January because of COVID and other restrictions

DAYTIME CHAPTER: The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th December 2022 at 12.30 pm. This will be our Christmas Lunch at the Warradale Hotel 234 Diagonal Road Warradale. A Kris Kringle will be held.

SOUTHERN REGION: The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18th December 2022 in Carrickalinga House, 17-19 Torrens Street, Victor Harbor. There will be a computer presentation, Kris Kringle and a Christmas Afternoon Tea.

NEW MEMBERS: The Club welcomes Jack Cronshaw and Caroline France as new members to the Club. Jack and Caroline, we hope your stay with us will be a happy time and you will learn more about the orchids that we all love.

LUCKY NAME BADGE: Make sure you wear your Name Badge to meetings, you may win a prize

PUBLIC LIABILITY: Under Insurance Guidelines all members and Committee attending any function or meeting held by the Club must sign and print your name in an Attendance Book.

DEADLINES FOR NEXT GAZETTES
29 January and 26 February

Website: <http://www.scocsa.net>
E-Mail: scocsa@outlook.com
Address: PO Box 314, Oaklands Park SA 5046
ABN 83 245 384 076



Published monthly by South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia





YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2022

PRESIDENT:	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:	Malcolm Mangelsdorf	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Kevin Western	
TREASURER:	Anne Steer	8270 3090
SECRETARY:	Marilyn Buckerfield	
COMMITTEE:	Oui Ju, Richard Crinion, Andrew Dean, Craig Humfrey, Phil Steer, Carolyn Ponsana, Alan Miller	

NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS:		
Registrar	Phil Steer	0438 891 612
Editor	Christine Robertson	0438 363 940
Librarian Southern Region	Diane Cawley	
Photographer	Neil Cooper	
Convenor S. R. Group	Chris Heysen	0419 386 769
Convenors Daytime Chapter	Andrew Dean, Patty Abell	
Convenor Main Learners' Group	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*	1990 Dr, Keith Northcote *	2011 John and Bev Gay
1979 Syd Monkhouse	2003 Norman Gitsham *	2012 Noel Oliver *
1979 Bernie Hanson*	2005 Merve Steele *	2015 Lesley Fenton
1981 Lois Hanson*	2005 Shirley Steele *	2015 Rod McRedmond
1981 John Leeder*	Circa Tony and Toshy De Ionno *	2018 Kevin Western
1985 Brenda Lynch	2007 Ron and Irene Parish	2020 Malcolm Mangelsdorf
1985 Bubs Gready *	2007 Murray Baulderstone *	2021 Donna Meeuwsen
	2008 Geoff and Lucy Spear	

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions for 2023 are shortly to be paid. There will be no changes to the subscriptions for 2023. We do value your membership and seeing you at meetings each month.

RATES – One membership covers all groups

Family Membership	\$38.00
Single Membership	\$30.00
Junior Membership	\$22.00

Rural and Interstate Membership

Family Membership	\$34.00
Single Membership	\$28.00

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

Account No.: 545457040



President's Message



On behalf of your Committee I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy 2023. This year proved to be a year that had its challenges once again and once again we adapted very quickly to what was required. We can be thankful that most club meetings and most shows were able to be held.

I have just got back from a holiday in Malaysia, and have caught the dreadful COVID, so I am in quarantine for a spell. I had to rely on the Editor to prepare my message to you.

The annual Sarcophilus Show and was once again a great success for the South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia. All members are to be congratulated for their support of the Sarcophilus Show, there being a total of 36 plants displayed. A great variety of plants were entered across all divisions, a fantastic effort by the members who put plants into the Show. The Champion plant was *Sarcophilus* Kulnura Rage 'No. 1'. Congratulations to Bill Jayne for his winning plant, and winning the George and Patty Abell Trophy.

Again we have had a mild November (a cooler and wetter Summer is predicted with the La Nina weather pattern declared). This is great news for getting our plants through our summer which can be searingly hot at times.

The December meeting is our Christmas meeting, starting with our Christmas Dinner and then followed by the meeting with a monster Raffle, Kris Kringle, an OSCOV Presentation, and lots of Christmas fun. Hope to see you there.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped during the year for a job well done. 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.



Successful growing & showing

Michael Willoughby



Happy Birthday

**DONNA MEEUWSEN, JOHN GAY,
ERNA VAN LEUVEREN, VERA BASTIAN,
LEON CROWHURST, CRAIG HUMFREY,
RAELENE GARDNER, JANET ADAMS,
GORDON NINNES, MIKE MILICEVIC,
BOB CLAYTON, ROBYN TEMPLAR,
ALAN CLAYTON**

Is your name in the Birthday Book ??





ORCHID CALENDAR 2022

[These dates are subject to COVID-19 directives]



DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 8th December 2022 12.30 pm
Warradale Hotel Diagonal Road. This will be our Christmas Dinner and there will be a Kris Kringle.

MAIN MEETING CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday 12th December 2022 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm
RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens
This will be followed by 8.00 pm Meeting with a monster raffle, Kris Kringle, Christmas fun, and OSCOV Presentation.

SOUTHERN REGION MEETING

Sunday 18th December 2022 2.00 pm
Carrickalinga House, Victor Harbor
Computer presentation followed by Christmas Afternoon Tea.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 11th January 2023 7.30 pm
The Southern, South Road, St Marys

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th February 2023 8.00 pm.
RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens

NOTE:

There will be no BBQ in January because of COVID etc.

CHRISTMAS DINNER 12th DECEMBER 2022

The Colonel Light Gardens RSL is under new management. The RSL will provide the following menu for our Club Christmas Dinner this year, The Dinner will be served at 6.30 pm and finish by 7.45 pm so that the meeting can take place, starting at 8.00 pm. There will be a Kris Kringle, a monster Raffle, some Christmas fun, and an OSCOV presentation.

The Dinner must be pre-ordered when paying, and any dietary requirements discussed. Payment must be made prior to the Night, and prior to Sunday 4th December Payment can be made on line [BSB 105-145 Account No. 545457040 Account Name SCOCSA]. Please use your Grower Number plus an X (to advise Xmas Dinner), or you may pay Anne Steer at the 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 year in style.

MENU

\$25 EACH Main Course

Crumbed Fish with Lemon & Tartare Sauce,
Salad & Chips
Roast Turkey with Rich Gravy, Cranberry
Sauce & Seasonal Vegetables
Chicken Schnitzel with Gravy, Salad & Chips

\$10 each Desert

Christmas Fruit Pudding with Brandied Cus-
tard
Mixed Berry Trifle with Chantilly Cream
(sugar free option)

Vegetarian & Gluten Free options available.
Meals served with a Bread Roll & Butter

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 13 of this gazette for nomination form or pick some up from Anne at the meeting. Most positions to be vacated can be re-nominated.

PERPETUAL TROPHIES :

Please return all Perpetual Trophies to the Secretary as soon as possible.

CAN YOU HELP YOUR CLUB IN 2023?

December is the time to think about becoming a Committee member.

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 2nd Monday 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.
- Assisting in transporting trestles etc. prior to Show to Shopping Centre.
- 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 Anne on 8270 3090 or Michael on 0479 162 527

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

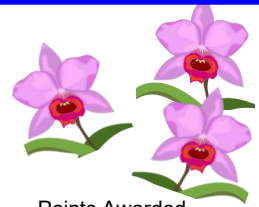
THE GEORGE AND PATTY ABELL TROPHY
Presented to Bill Jayne by Vicky Cooper and Malcolm
Mangelsdorf for the Best Sarcochilus at the Sarcochilus
Show November 2022



Sarco. Kulnura Rage 'No. 1'
Grown by Bill Jayne
Photos by Neil Cooper



Editor's Note: The full Results List for the Sarcochilus Show held at the November Meeting will be printed in the Next Gazette.



Points Awarded

November Results List

Ref. No.

Open Division

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

249 Cym. Koala 'Cutie' Jane & Don Higgs (1302) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

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

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

238 Sarco. Parma Beth Stronach (836) 3

239 Sarco (Fitzhart x Cherie Dawn) Beth Stronach (836) 2

240 Sarco. [(Sweetheart x Zoe) x (Len Evans x Beth Stronach (836) 1

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

243 Cym. Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit' Beth Stronach (836) 3

244 Cym. Kiwi Devonport 'Flying High' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

245 Cym. Francie Porter 'Enid' Bill Jayne (1180) 1

Laeliinae - Non Standard

241 C. Margaret Degenhardt 'Saturn' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

242 L. Mozart 'No 2' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

235 Masd. Rein Stripes' Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

236 Ludisia discolor Beth Stronach (836) 3

Orchid Seedling - any Genera

237 Zga. Zest x Z. Artur Elle Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Paphiopedilum - Non Standard

246 Paph. (Hsinying Cherry x Winston Churchill) Bill Jayne (1180) 3

Paphiopedilum - Species

247 Paph. villosum Bill Jayne (1180) 3

Zygopetalinae - Hybrid

234 Zga. Zest x Z. Artur Elle Laurie & Susan Carter (1303) 3

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

232 Sarco. Heidi Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195) 3

Australian Native Epiphyte - Species

231 Sarco. fitzgeraldii Janet Adams & Gordon Ninnes (1195) 3

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

233 Den Unknown Craig Humfrey (268) 3



Leafless orchids by Edda Viskic [Excerpt]

Dipodium roseum Photo: Nonie

The deciduous terrestrials are seasonally leafless and are pan tropical and the leafless saprophytes are not in cultivation mainly due to mycorrhizal specialities.

Dipodium roseum is a local Adelaide Hills (South Australia) example of a leafless saprophyte that grows in association with mycorrhiza from the local stringybark tree root

PLANT COMMENTARY – NOVEMBER 2022

ORCHID of OPEN DIVISION PLANT of the NIGHT

The plant chosen by the Judges as the Plant of Open Division and the Plant of the Night was *Phragmipedium caudatum* var. *Sanderae* grown by Jane and Don Higgs.

This orchid is commonly known as the long tailed Phragmipedium because it has extremely long petals that hang down. It was a healthy, lush plant with three evenly sized flowers. The flowers ranged from a lovely greeny yellow to light fawn colouring. The colours of the labellums matched the colouring of the long petals.

Congratulations Jane and Don Higgs for benching and winning with this amazing plant.

**ORCHID OF OPEN DIVISION and
PLANT OF THE NIGHT**
Phrag. caudatum var. *Sanderae*
Grown by Jane & Don Higgs
Photo Neil Cooper



ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION
Paph. villosum
Grown by
Laurie & Sue Carter
Photo Neil Cooper

ORCHID of FIRST DIVISION

The winning plant of First Division was *Paphiopedilum villosum* grown by Laurie & Sue Carter. *Paphiopedilum villosum* is a species paphiopedilum that will grow under shade cloth in the Adelaide climate.

The benched plant had three, well-formed, large flowers. The flowers had a shiny texture. The colouring was green on the top of the dorsal sepal that merged into several different shades of brown ranging from dark brown to fawn. There was a clear line of brown along the petals with two different colour ranges, one on top and the other below. The labellum of each flower was large and well formed.

The plant was a healthy and well grown plant. It was a worthy winner of Plant of First Division.

Well done Laurie and Sue.

ORCHID of SECOND DIVISION

The plant of Second Division was *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* grown by Janet Adams and Gordon Nannes. This Sarcochilus was a small plant. It had thirteen spikes that were evenly distributed around the plant. The spikes did not need staking. They were upright with great substance. The flowers were white with a pretty pink overlay pattern. The labellums were yellow. The contrast between the white and pink colouring of the segments and the yellow labellums were extremely attractive. The flowers were fully open and well displayed along the spikes. Congratulations Janet and Gordon.



ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION

Sarco. fitzgeraldii

Grown by Janet Adams & Gordon Nannes

Photos Neil Cooper

SEEDLING of THE MONTH

The Seedling of the Month was *Zygoneria* Zest x *Z. Artur Elle* that was grown by Laurie and Sue Carter.

It had a single spike with five, nicely shaped, rounded flowers. The flowers were fully open. They were a vivid green colouring with intense, dark brown splotches on each of the segments. The labellums were mainly purple with white edges and columns. An interesting seedling with potential.

Well done Laurie and Sue.

SEEDLING OF THE MONTH

Zga, Zest x Z. Artur Elle

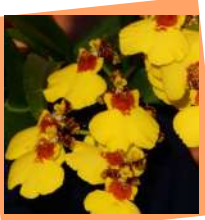
Grown by Laurie & Sue Carter

Photo by Neil Cooper



It was great to see Phil Steer at our meeting once again. Graeme Hazledine visited the Club for the November monthly meeting to assist with the *Sarcochilus* judging. Graeme took part in the judging of the *Sarcochilus* orchids. He gave an interesting and informative commentary about the *Sarcochilus* that were benched at the South Coast meeting. We appreciated Graeme's involvement and assistance. Thank you to our regular judges Jane Higgs, Don Higgs, Peter Haltis and John Harris for a job well done.

Vicky Cooper
Acting Registrar



DAYTIME CHAPTER

Thursday 10th November 2022



Hi everyone,

The November meeting of the Daytime Chapter welcomed our Chapter Convenor, Andrew Dean as our guest speaker. Andrew, after covering the routine agenda for the meeting introduced himself and spoke on part of his recent travels in Europe concentrating on the varied flora of Switzerland and Germany.

The extensive, and expertly captured, slide show presentation covered not only the scenery but the unique array and diversity available in that portion of Europe. The highlight was the walking trail in the Alps with close-up photos of plants. Andrew was even able to discover *Dendrobium* and *Cattleya* orchids in a hot house in the Botanic Gardens in Lausanne, Switzerland. **Keith Bleechmore**



Flower of the Day was won by Peter Flavel with his *Cattleya* Jamaica Red "Kultana".



Anne Steer kindly provided the Plant commentary, in an excellent showing of the members' *Sarcochilus* orchids.



. Thanks again to Patty for her humour and support as co-convenor, Alan for his work with the trading table, and Val for providing us with the afternoon tea, during the year. Also thanks to all members who provided plants for the raffle.

I take this opportunity to wish all our members good health and a safe and Happy Christmas.

Next Meeting: **CHRISTMAS LUNCH + Kris Kringle**
Thursday December 8th 12.30pm
Warradale Hotel
 234 Diagonal Road Warradale



*Andrew
Dean*



SOUTHERN REGION MEETING Sunday 20th November 2022

Convenor, Chris Heysen, opened the meeting at 2.00 pm welcoming the 24 members present. Special welcome to guest speaker Steve Howard. We all know Steve from his previous visits and presentations. Today he will be talking about Australian Native Epiphytic orchids and hybrids. He also has plants for sale. Special welcome also to Phil Steer, our Registrar, who has been through a pretty rough time for the past 6 months.

Apologies: Julia Mumford, Christine Robertson, and Genny Huxtable.

Thank you to John Gay for his always informative presentation to the Learners Group.

Guest Speaker: Steve Howard gave a very detailed and comprehensive presentation about Australian Native Epiphytes – focussing on those in his extensive collection and those he had seen “in the wild” on his many orchid expeditions. The talk covered both species and hybrids and where hybridisation is heading in terms of improving the quality of flowers and plants. Steve also gave details of cultural requirements for these interesting orchids. Many thanks Steve - as always you present a huge amount of information. We need to hear this talk many times to absorb it all.

Birthday Prize: Julie Davidge **Lucky Name Badge:** Ruth Tugwell.

Door Prize: Robin Templar.

Announcements.

Anne has checked with Council and we are now allowed to have food and drink in this hall – provided, as always, that we clean up afterwards. As our next meeting is only a week before Christmas and that we do not have a guest speaker organised, Chris suggested that we have a short presentation from the many on our computer, followed by a Christmas Afternoon Tea. Could everyone please bring a plate (sandwiches, cake or biscuits). This was agreed by all.

It was also agreed to have a Kris Kringle. All those wishing to be part of this should bring a gift with a value up to \$10.

The plant raffle was held as usual, and Chris thanked all the donors of raffle prizes.

Judging: Phil Steer and John Gay carried out the judging.

Judges Commentary: John Gay.

Next meeting – Sunday 18th December 2022. No guest speaker but a presentation will be selected from the many on our computer. TBA.

The meeting closed at 3:45pm

Chris Heyesen

0419 386 769

SOUTHERN REGION PLANT COMMENTARY

Plant of the Day Orchid of First Division

The Judges chose *Den. densiflorum* as the Plant of First Division and Plant of the Day. This was grown by Eileen Pinnock and was a well grown plant with many lovely inflorescences carrying multiple flowers.

The flowers were pale yellow with a deep orange labellum.

Well done Eileen.

PLANT OF THE DAY ORCHID OF FIRST DIVISION

Den. densiflorum

Grown By Eileen Pinnock

Photo Phil Steer



Orchid of Second Division

The plant selected by the Judges was grown by Genny and Dudley Huxtable and was *Cym. Cricket 'Invincibles'*.

This was a very well grown plant with beautiful numerous inflorescences with multiple flowers. The small flowers were a greenish brown with a darker brown labellum.

Congratulations Genny and Dudley.

ORCHID OF SECOND DIVISION
Cym. Cricket 'Invincibles'
Grown By Genny & Dudley Huxtable

Photo Phil Steer



Christine Robertson

For the Registrar

November Results List

Ref. No.

Points Awarded

First Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

217 Sarco. (Cherie Snow x Kulnura Dazzle) Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 3

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

222 Cym. Black Stump Eileen Pinnock (519) 3

Laeliinae - Standard over 100mm

218 C. Dolosa 'Georgeous' Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

219 Rlc. White Wonder Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 2

Laeliinae - Standard under 100mm

220 Bsn. Sunny Delight Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

221 Epc. Kyoguchi 'Fume' Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 2

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

223 Ons. Warm Memories Shirley & Don Greig (1128) 3

224 Pasr. Chian-Tzy Lovely Ruth Tugwell (613) 2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

225 Phal. Unknown 'Minnamoor Pink' Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 3

226 Phal. unknown Chris and Lyn Heysen (1140) 2

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Species

227 Den. densiflorum Ruth Tugwell (613) 3

Second Division

Australian Native Epiphyte - Hybrid

202 Sarco. Purity 'Titan' Bob & Meaghan Clayton (143) 3

203 Sarco. Fitzhart Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2

Cymbidium 60 - 90mm All colours in Non-std

206 Cym. Doo-Wop 'Kingswood' Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3

207 Cym. (Kiwi Dream x Drama Queen) Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 2

208 Cym. Gordon's Vision Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 1

Cymbidium over 90mm - Species

205 Cym. lowianum Margaret & Warren Yelland (350) 3

Cymbidium under 60 All Colours inc Non-std

209 Cym. Cricket 'Invincibles' Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 3

210 Cym. (Fairy Jewel x canaliculatum) Alan Clayton (426) 2

Laeliinae - Non Standard

204 C. (intermedia x Memoria Robert Strait) Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 3

Oncidiinae - Hybrid < 60mm

211 Onc. Sharry Baby Peter and Julie Davidge (970) 3

212 Ohd. Cherry Fudge Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2

213 Brs. Orange Delight Peter and Julie Davidge (970) 1

Orchid Genera not listed elsewhere - Hybrid

214 Phal. Unknown Alan Clayton (426) 3

215 Phal. Unknown Genny & Dudley Huxtable (279) 2

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 "Marilyn Buckerfield"
Nominations must be received by the close of the December Cultural Meeting

THE AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION

Essay Competition 2017 1st Prize Winner

by Jan Robinson

"Orchid Ailments And Their Management"

The majority of the health problems we have are caused by one thing and one thing only--That Woman. "We" are a small collection of orchids doing our best to survive in a suburb of Sydney, but we are constantly under threat by the actions of That Woman. What have we done to deserve this? Some of us come from the tropical jungles of the Americas, or the cool rainforests of Asia, or, at the very least, the prime conditions of commercial orchid nurseries. To our horror, we have been plucked out of these wonderful environments and somehow ended up here with That Woman, fearing for our survival on a daily basis. Here are some examples of the numerous maladies that we have had to endure due to the irrational, illogical, insensitive and uninformed actions of That Woman.

MALNUTRITION. Initially when That Woman first became interested in orchids, she had no clue about feeding us. Water and the odd bit of foliar feed once in awhile was all we got. Please note that when there are hardly any new growths on your orchids, or the new growths are smaller than the old growths, then your orchids are starving and you need to do something about it!! Luckily That Woman attended a New Grower's class and learned about the benefits of fertilisers---but then the pendulum swung to the other extreme!

OBESITY. For a while, That Woman fed us with a hand sprayer, one of those pump up ones. She had heard the phrase "weekly weakly" in the New Grower's class and tried to follow that rule with her hand sprayer. We were much happier, much less hungry, and our growth habits were much improved. But then That Woman's hubby rigged up a bulk spraying system, one where she could mix up 100 litres of fertiliser at a time and totally saturate us, which she did with great enthusiasm and appalling regularity. No thought was given to the fact that we are a varied collection of orchids, ranging from large specimen-size plants to tiny seedlings just out of flask, or that we have different feeding requirements. Nor was there any consideration given to the impact of complete "saturation" of our potting media with fertilisers versus the previous light spraying technique. It was only when symptoms of obesity such as horribly swollen pseudobulbs, new leaves not unfurling properly because they were too fat, and mutated labellums began to appear that That Woman realised we had a problem with excessive food intake. Please don't overfeed your orchids!! In the wild, we rely on slowly decaying organic matter for our nutrition--don't try to supersize us with commercial products. Forget about trying to "hurry us along" to flowering size by feeding us too often. Think carefully about your fertilising regime and the possible consequences of what you are doing, particularly before making any major changes. Trust me, it takes a long time to recover from the effects of obesity.

DEHYDRATION. Lack of water at our location is caused by one thing -- That Woman being too lazy or "busy" to turn the watering system on frequently enough when it hasn't rained for awhile. If your orchids have a good root system and the "drought" doesn't last too long, they will usually spring back to life after a few good drinks. However, if your orchids are totally dehydrated because they have no roots and cannot absorb any water or nutrition, then you have a real problem. Shrivelled pseudobulbs can be a symptom of root ailments. There is only one way to tell for sure--take your orchid out of the pot and have a look at its root system. If there are only old dried up roots and no new healthy ones, then some first aid is required! That Woman is having some success with sphagnum moss as a remedy for this, especially for genera such as oncidiums, coelogynes, lyncastes and anguloas. Cut off all the old dead roots and firmly pack the shrivelled pseudobulb and any live roots with sphagnum moss in a pot barely big enough to hold the bulb. Be patient, it takes time to recuperate from severe dehydration, sometimes years! When you see the

pseudobulbs start to fatten up and a new growth develops, you have succeeded in treating your plant for dehydration.

ROOT ROT. The other extreme from being dehydrated is getting so much water that the potting mix stays too wet and the roots of your orchids rot. Root rot is bad news and the mortality rate is very high for plants that succumb to this ailment. That Woman is an expert at causing root rot, especially in her glass house. When her columnar oscillating fan stopped working, she foolishly replaced it with just a small fan that only blew air in one direction. Without considering the effect that this change of air flow might have on us, That Woman also decided not to repot any of her paphs that live in the glass house that same spring and left us all in a mix of over 50% cocochip. How stupid was that?!! If the amount of your air flow changes for any reason, think about the impact on your orchids and make adjustments accordingly. Don't wait until your plants start to die to make a change. Treatment for root rot includes repotting your plant in fresh mix after cutting off all the rotted roots, giving it a good dose of Seasol or Auxinone, reducing watering for several weeks, and crossing your fingers that your plant pulls through this crisis. Repot your orchids on a regular basis, don't wait until your potting mix has broken down to a gluggy mess and rotted all the roots of your plants to take some action. Yes, it is a big job to repot your entire collection every few years. Yes, it may cost you a few dollars to buy new potting mix. Yes, it is a pain to wash and sterilise your old pots before reusing them by soaking them in bleach. But we're worth all the work and expense and we will reward you with fantastic flowers if you treat us right.

CROWN ROT. Not only has That Woman been known to rot our feet, she has also rotted some of our heads! Crown rot happens when water stands too long in the top of your orchid before evaporating or being absorbed. If this happens during the summer, the water may heat up and literally cook the top of your plant. If it happens during the winter, your plants won't be happy, either. At least this orchid ailment is a bit easier to spot than root rot, as you don't have to take the plant out of its pot to see what the problem is. Brown soggy leaves around the top of your plant are symptomatic of crown rot. If you're lucky, your plant will recover and put out a new growth. More than likely though, your plant is a dead duck. Crown rot, or "damping off," is also deadly for developing buds. If water stands in the sheaf of your paphs where the buds are forming, they will go black and not mature--and you will have to wait another whole year for the chance of getting a flower. Some growers apparently use hydrogen peroxide to treat crown rot. Don't tell That Woman, we don't want to have all our heads drenched in that mixture!! Check your orchids a few hours after watering them. If water is standing in the top of a plant, drain it by tilting the plant on its side until the water runs off. Or soak up the water by dabbing it with a piece of paper towel. Sometimes That Woman puts a few stones between a pot and the tray it is standing in so that the pot sits at an angle and water can drain naturally out of the top of the plant. Sometimes you have to think outside the square to solve an orchid problem.

SUN BURN. Now this is a good one! What person in their right mind decides to move several trays of *Cattleya* seedlings from their usual spot of nicely filtered light into an area of much brighter sunlight ---the day before temperatures are tipped to reach the high 40's? THAT WOMAN, of course! For once, the weather forecast was right and for the three days that temperatures hovered around 47.5 degrees, That Woman sat in front of a fan inside the house drinking cold drinks without even a thought about her poor *Cattleya* seedlings. Didn't she get a severe shock when she saw those seedlings, hardly recognizable and covered in third degree burns! Their lovely fat green leaves had turned pitch black. Several days later, the black leaves fell off the plants, revealing burned black pseudobulbs as well. What is the treatment for sun burn? Move your plant into a shadier spot, give it a big drink, and hope for the best. But beware, leaves with sunburn spots can become susceptible to fungal infections and other nasty ailments. So if the leaves of your burned plant don't actually fall off, try cutting off the damaged bit (with sterilised secateurs of course). And next time, pay attention to the weather forecast and move your plants **out** of the sun on hot days, not **into** the sun! Wet the floor under your benches and move plants that normally hang up high in your bush house to down lower. Even orchids that are used to growing in the direct sun (*Dendrobium fimbriatum* and some cymbidiums here at our place) can get sunburned in days of extreme heat. It only takes a few minutes to move your plants into a temporary shadier spot---it may take years for them to recover if you don't, if they recover at all.

HYPOTHERMIA. This is another orchid ailment that is directly attributable to That Woman. We get hypothermia when we are simultaneously too cold and too wet. This is easily preventable by (1) providing us with cover (maybe even a bit of heat) during the winter, and (2) being careful how you water us during cold periods. Only water on a sunny day; water before midday so our leaves have time to dry off before the sun goes down; and don't water us too frequently. Make sure there is good air circulation around us to dry off our foliage after watering. Remember, many of us require dry winters to initiate flower spikes in the spring. Most of us orchids have a much better chance of surviving in winter if we are cold and dry rather than cold and wet. Symptoms of mild hypothermia include leaf spotting and plant rot. Mild hypothermia may cause your orchids to be susceptible to fungal attacks. Severe hypothermia causes death. Spray with a fungicide if you must, but it's much better to just keep us dry during cold periods.

ALCOHOLISM AND BUG INFESTATIONS. That Woman hates insects. One of her favourite evening activities is to creep around the bush houses with a torch, hoping to find some unsuspecting grasshopper or slug to squish with great gusto. She does not like to spray with insecticides as a preventative method, she waits until she sees actual damage before taking any action. Somewhere That Woman read that methylated spirits is a good remedy for all types of scale on orchids, especially since its use is non carcinogenic to the grower, and it supposedly kills scale on contact. In typical unthinking style, That Woman got an old toothbrush, dipped it in some straight metho, and launched into a vigorous scale eradication program. The mature cattleyas didn't mind too much, as removal of all the old bracts around the pseudobulbs with the toothbrush revealed quite a few hidden nasties that were sucking the life out of the plants. When no more scale was visible, That Woman then gave the cattleyas a thorough rinse with clean water. After waiting all of 24 hours and seeing no ill effects on these few trial plants, That Woman then proceeded to give the metho treatment to any and all of the rest of us that had even one spot of scale. In her tooth brushing enthusiasm, That Woman slackened off with the rinsing procedure after applying the straight metho--and guess what happened? Yes, she burned the soft leaves of young cymbidiums, oncidiums and lyncastes. They literally turned brown in a few hours after receiving the metho treatment. The treatment was worse than the original ailment!! Please think about the possible impact of any new procedures/chemicals/insecticides before adopting them for your entire collection, and wait at least several weeks if not several months to see what the effect has been before deciding to apply it to all your orchids.

INFECTIONS. That Woman is a master at encouraging infections, especially fungal ones. The worst example of fungal contamination happened last summer when That Woman overwatered all her *Sarcochilus* collection during a bout of hot, humid days. She did not realise she had a problem until leaves started falling off her sarcs by the handfuls. That Woman found out later she had caused a catastrophic case of the dreaded fusarium fungus! This horrible malady invades our roots first, causing severe rot before destroying stems, leaves, and everything else in its path. CPR is immediately required if your plants become infected with the fusarium fungus: **C**arefully take the plant out of its potting medium ("carefully" because you don't want to damage what few roots there may be left); **P**run the rotted roots, leaving only the healthy ones; and **R**inse all the old potting mix off your plant. Then soak it in a bit of anti-fungal solution such as Mancozeb before repotting in fresh mix. Give your plant a drink of Seasol or Auxinone to stimulate new root growth, and once again hope for the best. There are many other varieties of fungal infections besides fusarium that are detrimental to your orchid collection. Glomerella is a common one that creates horrible brown and black lesions on orchid leaves. Botrytis is another one, it attacks the actual flowers of your plants. Once again, this is a case of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Don't overwater your orchids, especially when the natural humidity is already high. Proper air movement is critical to keeping fungal infections at bay. If something is preventing good ventilation, like the neighbour's new garage blocking off one side of your bush house, invest in a cheap fan or two. Never be tempted to buy plants that do not look healthy, no matter how cheap their price may be! Bringing new fungal-infected orchids into your collection is a recipe for disaster. Keep dead leaves and pseudobulbs trimmed off your orchids, they are great places for fungal diseases to incubate.

The 'V' word. The 'V' word throws That Woman into an absolute panic attack. She has no quarantine area and believes in immediate euthanasia of any orchid that shows even the slightest sign of unusual ring spotting on the leaves. Goodness knows how many

perfectly good orchids That Woman has sealed in a plastic bag and dumped unceremoniously into the rubbish bin, fearing they were infected with a virus. (She would never put a sus plant into the green waste bin, in case the bin contents get mulched and distributed and thereby transmitting the virus to other plants and gardens.) She has never sent a leaf to a lab for a proper scientific diagnosis. "If in doubt, throw it out" is her motto. That Woman is a stickler for soaking her secateurs in bleach after every use, and she never ever reuses any potting mix. One reason she hates insects in her collection so much is because they have been known to transmit viruses. Over-the-top behaviour? Perhaps. But at least we haven't been wiped out by any virus like so many other orchid collections over the years.

That Woman, what a menace. Luckily she is going on holidays soon so we can have some well-deserved respite. We hope you never make any of these same mistakes with your own orchids. If you do, at least don't publicly admit it--to do so can be very embarrassing.



Figure 1 dehydration

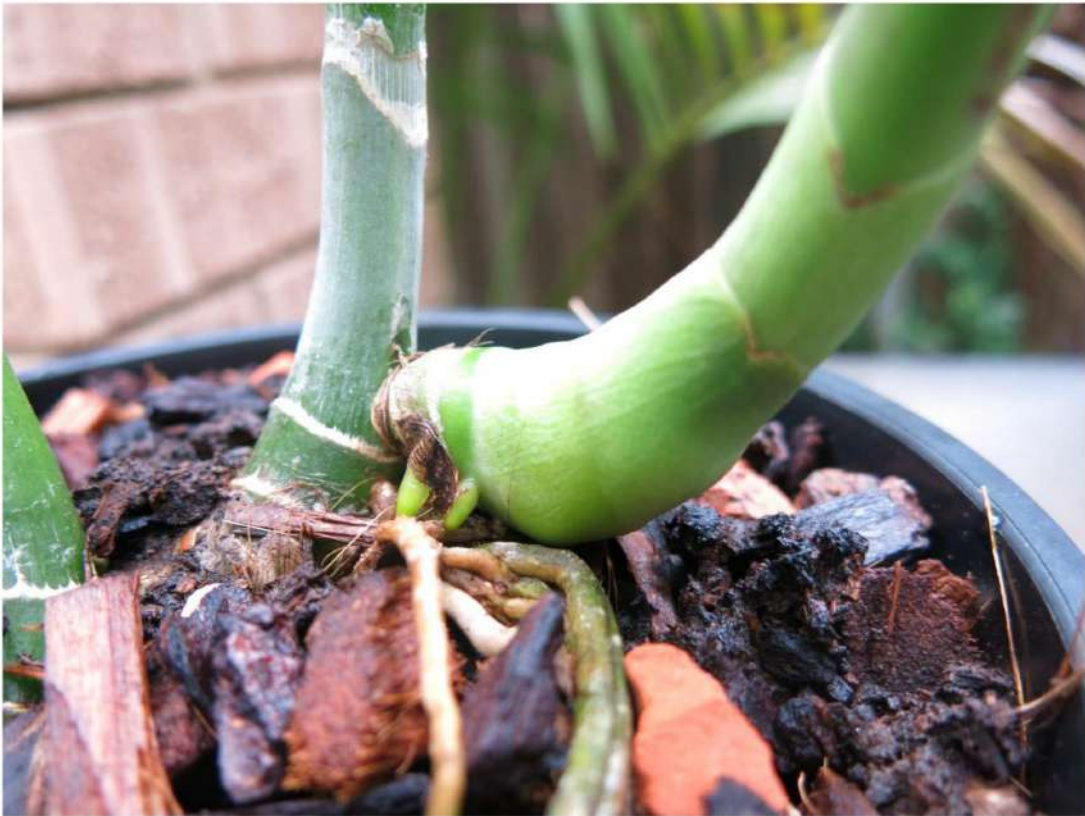


Figure 2 obesity

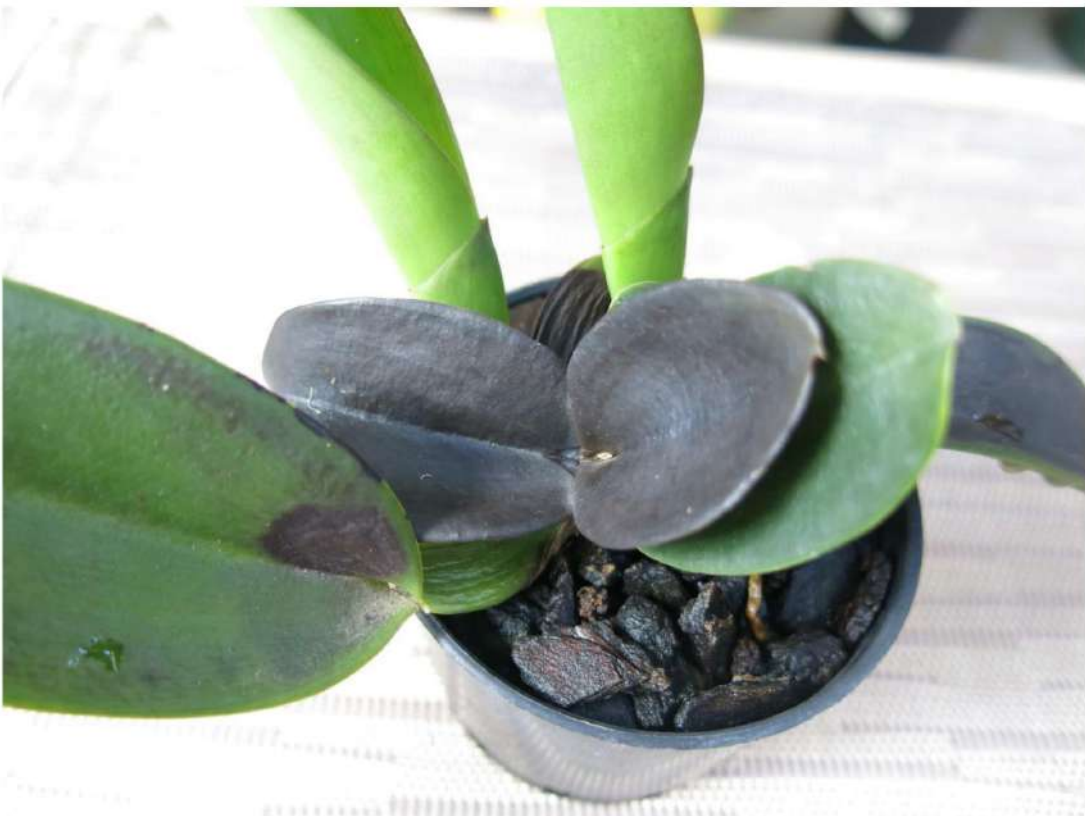


Figure 3 sunburn



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 tankervilliae* (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*, *Bifrenaria*, Native *Cymbidiums* (*madidum*, *canaliculatum* and *suave*) and their hybrids all providing summer colour.

2021 is about to bite the dust and 2022 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: Whilst COVID restrictions are in place the Club meets on the Second Monday of the month at RSL Hall, 4 Prince George Parade, Colonel Light Gardens. 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 Plympton Community Centre, 34 Long Street, Plympton 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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