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Paph rothschildianum winner of last year's Autumn Show for Johnston Orchids

February 2009 meeting to be held on the **THIRD** Wednesday of the Month, at the Adelaide
West Uniting Church Hall,
312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Brooklyn Park.

Next Meeting WEDNESDAY February 18th 2009.

The Executive Committee of the S.A. Orchidaceous Society Inc.

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	Mr. R. McNamee		
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LIFE MEMBERS

Alan & Iris Davies, Kevin Gurney, Trevor Jacob, Deane Johnston, Harold Luckhurst, Nancy Neighbour, Noel Oliver, Elva Shawyer, Kel Staples, and Peter Speer.

**2009 PROGRAMME
February 18th 2009.**

A programme on the local frog population, and how this can give pointers to the health of the environment as it affects us. The talk will be by Mr. Steve Walker, widely acknowledged as a naturalist and a leading expert on frogs in particular.

BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

Happy Birthday to these members who are celebrating their birthdays this month..

Robert Gunn

Rob. McNamee

Carmen Walker-Galpin

Beryl Wilson.

Next Committee Meeting:	Pulteney Grammar School	2 ^{3rd} Feb. 2009	7.30pm
Next Judges Meeting	Pulteney Grammar School	6 th April 2009.	8:00pm
Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:		Monday 16 th March	7:30pm
	Pulteney Grammar School South Tce. Adelaide		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the current temperatures the way they are, I'm hardly able to speak, let alone write a President's Report. However I will give it a go!!

This is the time of year I usually start looking for cymbidium flower spikes, but apart from a quick early morning check and water, I'm certainly not spending a lot of time with the cymbidiums. I know that as long as they are watered regularly (kept moist not wet) they probably have a better chance of surviving 40 degree heat than I do. Remember that if your orchids are in a fully enclosed shade house or glass house, the water restrictions are different as these houses are classed as a room. Although we still need to be mindful of our water usage.

That's all for this month – I am going out to spend some time in the Phragmipedium and Paphiopedilum glass house as that is the only place with an air conditioner!!

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Jane.

LAST MEETING

The record extended heat wave conditions we have been enduring meant that not a lot of our members ventured out to our January meeting, but those who came along were treated to views of a number of high quality blooms which were shown by our members throughout last year.

Don Higgs, our Registrar, gave us the commentary on many fine orchids tabled, and it was gratifying to see the wide range and quality of the orchids which we have grown

Despite the heatwave conditions, we still had some excellent orchids displayed on the show benches, and we thank members who took the trouble to bring along their flowering plants.

THIS MEETING

Wednesday 18th February 2009.

Something different this month, when Mr Steve Walker, an expert on our local frog populations will tell us how they can be an indicator of our environmental conditions. Have you got frogs in your garden? We have, and I hope they don't keep the neighbours awake with their croaking. Most people like frogs, and this will be a programme with a difference this month. But never fear, we haven't forgotten the orchid growers.. The segment before the start of official proceedings at 8pm, at which we have an experienced grower discuss basic culture will be presented at 7.30pm by John Nicholls, and will be about his new cymbidium potting mix, with which he is having a lot of success. Using coconut husk chips, a cheaper alternative to bark, as a basic ingredient, John will demonstrate his success with the medium. Come along early if you want to be in the front row to see his demonstration in the foyer at 7. 30 pm.

Pat Carman, our Librarian, will be available to book library books in and out, seeing that we have been able to organise cupboard space to store our library books. Please make use of this facility. But, do try to bring your books back the following month so that others can borrow them

In addition, please make use of our trading table facility .if you have spare divisions of your plants for sale. It will earn you some cash to buy new plants, and give other members the opportunity to expand their collections Kevin and Jan Whibley, our convenors, will be glad to help you out.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would members please note that subs. for 2009 are now due..

They remain at \$20 for single membership, and \$30 per couple, which we believe is excellent value for 12 meetings, your monthly Review, opportunities to show your plants with a competent AOC judging panel, some subsidised activities and together with organised social outings.

The last time we increased subs was in 2005, and even then it was only a \$2 raise, so we haven't done badly in recent times.

THE EDITE NICHOLLS MEMORIAL TROPHY

At the December 1975 Christmas Social meeting, Mr John Nicholls presented to our Society a beautiful, large silver tray in memory of his late wife, Edite, who also had been a member of our Society

In the January, 1976 issue of our Review, I wrote –“At the December meeting, Mr John Nicholls presented a magnificent silver tray to the Society for perpetual competition in memory of his late wife and former member, Edite, In view of Mrs. Nicholls’ love of beautiful orchids, it is both symbolic and fitting that the trophy be presented each year for the best seedling of any genus presented at our shows and monthly meetings.’

Members may be interested in how the `best seedling` is selected each year.

At each meeting and Show, the judges scan all the tabled plants for any labelled `seedling`. The best seedling from each Division is taken, and the total judging panel vote on show of hands to select the best seedling of the night. Each judge secretly allocates a point score (judging by AOC standards) to this plant, records his result, plant name and with his name and date, folds his paper and hands it to the Registrar, who collects all sheets and seals them unopened until the November judging meeting. This procedure is also followed at each of our Shows. At the November meeting, the judges’ papers are opened, points tallied, and an average determined for each plant. If a judge’s points are outside 5% of the average that judge’s vote is disregarded

The orchid with the highest average point score becomes the Seedling of the year, and recipient of the Edite Nicholls Trophy for the ensuing year.

Seedlings are very important in the orchid world, and the Seedling Champion is highly regarded. A Seedling is defined as a plant grown from seed, and flowering in its very first season of flowering, on the complete, undivided plant.

Mericlone plants are not seedlings.

Trevor Jacob-



Tony Bourne’s seedling *Paph. malipoense*

Seedling of the Year 2008

CULTURAL AWARD

My copy of Orchids Australia arrived the other day, and I was pleased to find that Peter & Shirley French’s large plant of *Den speciosum*, which they submitted for a cultural award last year was recognised in the Awards list of the Aust. Orchid Council, gaining an ACC with 75.7 points. A photo accompanies the description. For members’ benefit, the plant had 55 inflorescences averaging about 120 blooms on each (about 6050 flowers), each raceme 59 cm in length. The two-toned yellow flowers were 4.4 cm long by 2.8 cm wide.

Congratulations Peter & Shirley.

I was pleased the other day to participate in the awarding of the largest flowering Stanhopea plant I have encountered. Stanhopea flowers do not last long and although 2 spikes had gone past their best and had been removed, it still had 26 inflorescences, mostly open, with a few just passing their best, and some still to come. In my opinion, it was well worthy of an award, and I hope to see the verdict shortly. I thought I’d share with you a view of the plant, *Stanhopea wardii*. Stanhopeas are easily cultivated without heat, but require an open potting medium in a basket or other container which allows the flower spikes to emerge through the bottom of the container. The lips are large and waxy, but the flowers fade and wither quickly. Many of the species are heavily perfumed



Stanhopea wardii



Rsc Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'



Regional Judging Registrar and member, Roger Rankin with *Stanhopea wardii*.



First Div. champ.-*Enc. cordigera* hybrid



Bc Praetii- the cattleya with the fringe on top.



Encyclia cochleata

KEL'S CORNER

As we start a new year, we all hope for a good flowering, and new growth on all of our plants, but as I write this report, the temperature has climbed to over 40 degrees. We all know days like this do more harm than good.

At our last meeting, there were not a great number of plants benched, but some very attractive ones were seen.

On the Open Div bench A & M Phillips' Bc Mt Eldorado x C. Belvedere was growing in a 17 cm pot with 3 large pink flowers on one raceme. The blooms were typical of the Bc open type flowers, but nevertheless, a very attractive head of flowers.

Enc. El Halillo `Pinta` belonging to R & B Wilson was a plant that caught the eye and warranted a close look. The pristine white flowers of 6-9 cm had lovely contrasting bright pink at the front of the lips. There were 6 stems of blooms, each with 4 flowers, - most attractive. They also had the species, *Enc. cordigera* filling a 20cm pot. It had 2 racemes of 3 cm blooms of brown with yellow labellums, with a cloud of 24 flowers in all - a species prominent in breeding hardy plants of this type.

G & C Himes dendrobium Fire Coral in a 20 cm pot is a regular on the show benches each year and very attractive. A strong growing plant with canes 35 cm long which hold their leaves well. There were 3 racemes of blooms 10 cm across, white with orange coloured labellums.

On First Div. A & I Davies had a very tough growing plant with a lot of *Enc. cordigera*, an easily grown type, in its background. It will require repotting soon, but this time of year is not good for dividing plants. It had 10 blooms, purple in colour with purple lips, it would be a good type for those without a heated greenhouse.

The 2nd Div. was well represented by James Argent. His Best of Div. was Emnc. Cochleate had 5 racemes, well staked to show off the blooms. The flowers are upside down, pale green, with dark brown and purplish lips of a shell like shape. He also had Bc Praetii, an open shaped cattleya type with intriguing lips. When introduced by the

American company Stewart Orchids many years ago, it was called the "cattleya with the fringe on top". A nice miniature *Promonaea* Florafest Cheetah `Titan` was in a 7 cm pot, with several bulbs and small leaves with one pale lemon flower with spotted brown lips.

All in all, nicely presented plants, but reduced in numbers this month due to the adverse conditions for all pot plants.

Whilst writing in the heat, I am reminded of my experiences in my younger days, when the heatwave of 1939 produced similar temperatures, with one day reaching the record of 117 degrees Fahrenheit.

My Dad was away from home fighting bushfires. As there was a danger that our property, south of Mt. Pleasant, was in danger from fire, my mother suggested that I, with the help of a sheepdog, bring one flock of sheep home for safety, and then get the cattle in.

When I think back to those days, we had no electricity, no mains water on tap, no air conditioners etc. Whew! I think I'll go and get a nice cold drink of water from the fridge.

Keep cool. .

Kel Staples

18th AOC CONFERENCE 2009-

Are you considering going to the next AOC Conference south of Melbourne, next 8th - 13th September.? Conference lectures will be held at the Tattersall's Performing Arts Centre in Werribee.

The latest Orchids Australia lists the programme of speakers at the Conference, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th September. A really good cross section of speakers, talking on a lot of very interesting subjects, will encourage a number of orchid growers to Register. Early Bird registrations close 31st March..

SUPPER ROSTER

Members who have volunteered to help serve our post-meeting cup of tea or coffee at the February meeting are :-

VAL SPEER and PAULINE SIMCOCK

Thank you, ladies!! We still have spaces on our annual roster of helpers, members.

COMPETITION RESULTS JANUARY 2009

STANDARD LAELIINAE 80MM & OVER

Open Div		
1st	<i>Bc.</i> Erin Kobayashi x <i>C.walkeriana</i>	S & B Huddleston
2nd	<i>Bc.</i> Mount Eldorado x <i>C. Belvedere</i>	A & M Philips

STANDARD LAELIINAE UNDER 80MM

Open Div		
1st	Rsc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'	R & B Wilson

NON STANDARD LAELIINAE

Open Div		
1st	<i>Enc.</i> El Hatillo 'Pinta'	R & B Wilson
2nd	<i>Gsl.</i> Mary Elizabeth Bohn	R & B Wilson
First Div		
1st	<i>Enc.</i> (<i>radiata</i> x <i>codigera</i>) x Prolific	A & I Davies
2nd	<i>Enc.</i> Bees Knees x <i>venosa</i>	P & V Speer
Second Div		
1st	<i>Bc.</i> Praetii	James Argent

NON STANDARD CLUSTER LAELIINAE

Open Div		
1st	<i>Epi.</i> Pretty Princess 'Yellow Butterfly'	G & C Hime

NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div		
1st	<i>Paph.</i> Curtophyllum	T Bourne

SPECIES

Open Div		
1st	<i>L. xanthina</i>	R & B Wilson
2nd	<i>Enc.cordigera</i>	T Bourne
3rd	<i>C. loddigesii</i>	R & B Wilson
Second Div		
1st	<i>Enc. cochleata</i>	James Argent

DENDROBIUM

Open Div		
1st	<i>Den.</i> Fire Coral	G & C Hime

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE EPIPHYTE HYBRID

Second Div		
1st	<i>Sarc.</i> (<i>Dove</i> x <i>hriticalcar</i>)	James Argent

MILT/ONCID/ODONT.

Open Div		
1st	<i>Odcdm.</i> Bitter Sweet 'Roll of Honour'	T Bourne

MISCELLANEOUS

Second Div		
1st	<i>Prom.</i> Florafest Cheetah 'Titan'	James Argent

SEEDLING

Second Div		
1st	<i>Sarc.</i> (<i>Dove</i> x <i>hriticalcar</i>)	James Argent

ZYGOPETALUM

Open Div		
2nd	<i>Zga</i> Pine Road x <i>Z. Helen Ku</i>	T. Bourne

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div		
1st	<i>Enc.</i> El Hatillo 'Pinta'	R & B Wilson
2nd	Rsc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'	R & B Wilson
3rd	<i>Den.</i> Fire Coral	G & C Hime
First Div		
1st	<i>Enc.</i> (<i>radiata</i> x <i>cordigera</i>) x Prolific	A & I Davies
2nd	<i>Enc.</i> Bees Knees x <i>venosa</i>	P & V Spee
Second Div		
1st	<i>Enc. cochleata</i>	James Argent
2nd	<i>Bc.</i> Praetii	James Argent
3rd	<i>Prom.</i> Florafest Cheetah 'Titan'	James Argent

BEST IN DIVISION

Open Division

Enc. El Hatillo 'Pinta' R & B Wilson

First Division

Enc. (*radiata* x *cordigera*) x
Epi Prolific A & I Davies

Second Division

Enc. cochleata James Argent

REGISTRAR'S CHOICE

Enc. El Hatillo 'Pinta' R & B Wilson

