

The Orchidaceous Review

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The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.



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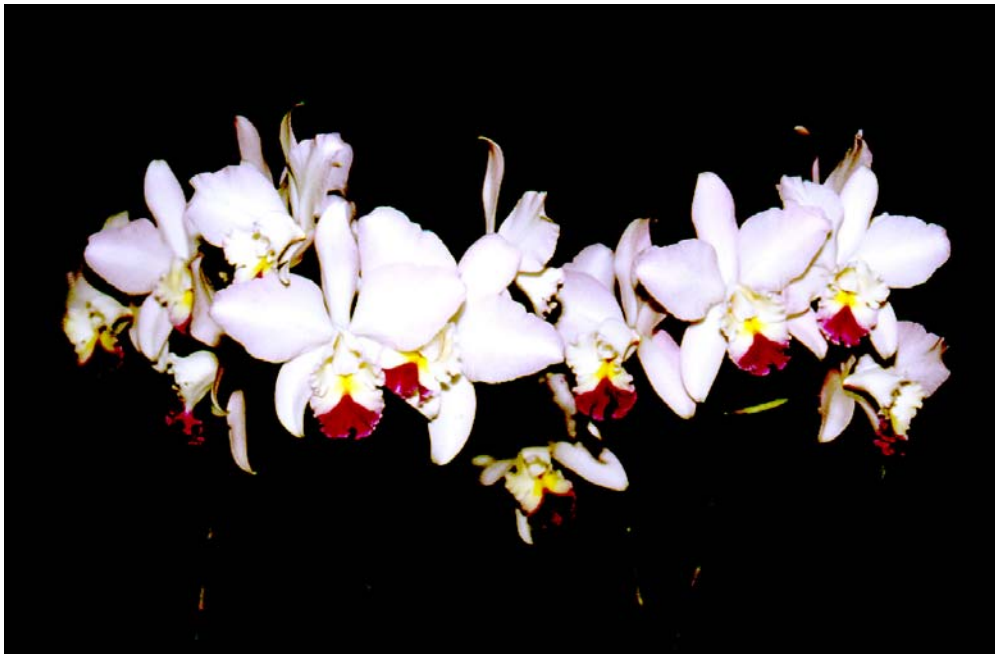
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Lc. Anglehart 'Leslie Ann'
Grand Champion 2003 Autumn Show

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each Month, at the Seniors Community Centre,
on the corner of North Parade and Danby St Torrensville

Next Meeting WEDNESDAY 19th February 2003

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

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VALE

The Gurney family has had more than their share of bereavements over the past year, ending with the passing of Kevin's Dad earlier this month. Our thoughts are with you both at this time, and may you look forward to a happier year ahead, from all your friends in the Society.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would members please note that subs. of \$17 single, \$27 per couple, are now due. This issue will be the last posted out unless you let us know you intend to continue as a member this year.

SOCIAL NEWS

If you've got any good ideas for Society activities please pass them on. We should have a Society dinner but where and when?

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING IS AT THE NEW VENUE

Next Committee Meeting:	D Johnston	26th February 2003	8.00pm
Next Judges Meeting	R McNamee	7th April 2003	8.00pm
Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:		17th March	7:30pm
		176 Tynte St North Adelaide	

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Well, members, what did you think about the new venue for our monthly meetings? I am sure you will agree that once we get used to it, it will be very satisfactory.

For those of you who do not know why we have moved, the West Torrens Council is doing renovations and upgrade of the Auditorium, library and surrounds this year. The alterations are expected to take up to a year to complete, and then we'll need to consider whether we go back. In the interim, the Council has made the Seniors Community Centre at North Parade, Torrensville, available to us.

Last meeting was very good, with our judging registrar, Deane Johnston, showing slides of some of our best orchids shown last year, accompanied by some worthwhile hints on their cultural needs. The excellent slides were taken during the year by John Seidel, whose expertise and knowledge combine to present the blooms at their best angle, and always of high technical quality.

Our guest speaker next meeting will be Thelma Bridle, who will talk about conservation of native orchids, and tell us about the field trips that are organised for the Native Orchid Society. Thelma is a long-serving committee member of the Native Orchid Society, and convenor of their field days. This will be a meeting of special interest to all who love our native orchids, and we hope to see a good attendance at our next meeting, Feb. 19th at North Parade, Torrensville.

Noel Oliver.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

We intend to continue with our present policy of depicting our previous year's show winners on the cover of our Review, subject of course, to the technical suitability of the photos. Those members on the internet can receive their copy via e-mail, and print off their Review in colour if they wish. Just talk to Rob McNamee about it, if you wish to be included.

ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY GOES HI-TECH.

A number of our members may not be aware that our Society now has its own web site on the internet, thanks to the expertise of our committeeman, Colin Tilbrook. This site is linked to the Aust. Orchid Council site, and enables our Society information, photos of monthly and Show winning plants to be accessible to anyone on the internet.

Colin intends to carry on the good work of Graham Holley, who last year took digital photos of plants at meetings, and which enabled us to reproduce them in the Review. Thank you, Colin - your collaboration with Rob. McNamee will ensure that our standards in the Review remain at a high level.

LAST MEETING

Our judging registrar, Deane Johnston showed slides accompanied by a commentary, of seedlings and outstanding plants shown by members at monthly meetings and shows last year.

We certainly had a number of high quality plants on show, and Deane's comments gave us an insight into how we can all grow them.

The alternative venue provided by the West Torrens Council whilst alterations at the Auditorium take place, appears to be satisfactory for our needs. We had no parking problems, but I must admit that attendance was not as high as at some meetings last year, so time will tell.

SUPPER ROSTER

D & J Higgs, M Hazledine

SOCIETY APPOINTMENTS

Your committee have approached members who have assisted in carrying out the many tasks necessary for the smooth operation of our Society last year, and most have offered their services again for 2003. Appointees to this stage include: -

Judging Registrar- Deane Johnston
Vice-Registrar- Kevin Gurney
Trading Table Supervisors- Mr & Mrs Whibley
Projectionist- Mr Kevin Trevan
Show Marshall- Dr. Tony Bourne
Raffle Ticket Sellers- Judith Gardner
Host & Hostess- Mr. & Mrs. Frank and Nancy Neighbour.
Librarian- Margaret Jacob
Photographers- John Seidel and Colin Tilbrook
Review Editors- Trevor Jacob/ Rob McNamee
Social Sub-committee- A Davies/ N Oliver/ T Jacob + everyone who has some ideas.
Supper Convenor- Coralie Hime.

Please don't feel that you must wait to be asked to help with jobs needed to be done - we would like all our members to feel involved.

THIS MEETING Wednesday February 19th.

The sight of native orchids flowering in the bush gladdens the heart of most orchid growers. Our guest speaker this month, Thelma Bridle, has had a long association with our native orchids and their habitats, and she has provided valuable assistance to the work of the Native Orchid Club here in SA.

Trading table and Library will be operating again, and don't forget to fill out your popular vote ticket with your name on the back to be in the prize draw.
Don't miss this month's meeting.

Thelma's talk will surely give us some ideas to help preserve and maintain our native orchid heritage.

Perhaps a field trip later in the year to view and help preserve our terrestrial orchids

could be arranged? Would you consider coming?

CHEERIO'S

Some of our members have been in the wars, lately, but we're pleased to hear that they're on the mend. Bill Fisher, with his shoulder, Coralie Hime with her arm, and Sheila Hellawell, too

SHOW DATES FOR THIS YEAR.

We expect the following dates for our Shows this year-

Autumn Show Wednesday 21st May at our monthly meeting.

Winter Show July 28th to August 2nd incl. at Harts Plaza Findon.

Spring Show To be confirmed.

Our Society will be participating in an exhibition of orchids at the SAROC Orchid Fair in June, too, over the Holiday weekend, June 7th and 8th, so mark these dates in your diary. Iris Davies and her helpers will be again operating the kitchen on behalf of our Society, and I'm sure she will appreciate some help over that weekend. Please give it some consideration.

We intend to mount a Society display at the 16th Aust. Orchid Conference at Wayville, too, - (put in 16th Sept. from 8am, take out after 5pm Sunday 21st Sept.) to enable members not exhibiting via other clubs to participate. The Grand Champion orchid will win \$1500 plus a gold medal and sash - well worth trying for. Qualified judges who are registrants will judge a comprehensive show schedule to AOC standards.

KEL'S CORNER

A new start for the year 2003, in a new location, the hall spacious and nicely appointed and suited for our needs, but with only 37 plants benched for the evening of 15th January.

Some nice plants were featured in Open and First Divs. In 2nd. Div., Keith Sutton was the only exhibitor, with his appealing *Epi. Niven's Special* x Anderson's Special. It had two racemes of large blooms, an unusual orange/red colour on a smallish plant. Just shows that you shouldn't leave your plants at home. It gained Keith the Best of Division prize, as well as Popular Vote, and best Miscellaneous.

First Div had a number of interesting plants. Ron Cocks brought in a species *Cym. aloifolium*, which had two trailing racemes of small 3 cm. pinkish-purple blooms. The fading of some blooms was due to the hot weather we've been experiencing. *Encyclia* Bees Knees from the Speers, had two upright racemes of perky brown blooms with label-lums white faintly lined purple. Blooms were about 3cm wide on 45cm racemes. The encyclias are rewarding, flowering in Dec./January, and are easy to grow into nice specimen plants with many racemes.

Phil. Canala tabled *Ctna. Capri 'Lea'*, a plant with six growths, and on one, six mauve blooms with paler centres. Blooms were shapely and approx 7 cm in size. The Cattletonia is a man made crossing of a Broughtonia with a cattleya. The broughtonias are not widely distributed in nature, found in the West Indies in varying colours, but all have rounded, well filled in blooms.

On the Open bench, we saw another encyclia, this time a beautiful plant of *Enc. radiata*, having two racemes of 8 pale lemon blooms flowering 'upside down'. The label-lums were white with radiating lines of brown. The plant was in a 15cm pot, and belonged to the Hazledines. The Higgs' presented a nice *Phragmipedium Calurum*, on the 8th flowering bud of the raceme in shades of pink/brown and white. The phragmipediums do well for the Higgs, needing a shady, humid location, and being grown in water well pots. Some grow them in a saucer containing water, especially during the hotter weather.

Congratulations to all growers who benched such a nice group of plants for members to see, especially as the weather has been so trying for us and our plants lately.

Kel Staples

A BOOK FOR ORCHID LOVERS "THE ORCHID THIEF".

Looking for a present for the orchid nut in your life?

A book called "The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean and published by Random House would make a much appreciated present. My copy came from our local library. The author does not grow orchids but became intrigued by the activities of an orchid rogue who was prosecuted for stealing orchids from the Florida Everglades. She links many anecdotes and events from orchid history together with contemporary events of Florida orchid growing to make a thoroughly enjoyable book.

Did you know, for instance, why the notable names amongst early orchid growers were all men? Women in Victorian times were forbidden to own orchids because the shapes of the flowers were too sexually suggestive for ladies' gentle sensibilities. English women and orchids for many years had an uneasy relationship, and in fact, in 1912, suffragettes broke in and destroyed many of the specimen plants at Kew Gardens.

Queen Victoria liked them, though. She and the Prince Consort once were invited to one of the Duke of Devonshire's glasshouse at night in 1843. She was able to be driven into it in her horse and carriage, and 12000 lamps lighted the glasshouse. It happened to be a glasshouse built by the famous grower, Joseph Paxton, 300ft long by 100ft wide.

The man who invented the game of Monopoly retired at 46 with his monopoly money to cultivate and breed wild orchids!

These and many other intriguing little insights makes for a fascinating read. Perhaps we can persuade the Society to add a copy to our library?

GENETIC IDENTIFICATION the "Brave New World"

I guess we've all heard about genetic identification in some form or another, whereby parentage of children, or identification of people can be established, but did you know that the same principles can be applied to identify inter-relationships within the plant world, too?

The techniques require the matching of DNA banding patterns to identify similarities and thus establish the relationship between two samples. The DNA bands look like sets of little ladders, and experts can easily tell the genetic relationships if they exist between the two samples.

For technical details, see the AOS Orchid magazine Aug 2002 page 732, but the reason I point this out is to let you know that plant relationships can be easily determined, too. So what! you may ask. Well, that's the reason the botanists are seen to be rearranging so many of our orchids from one genus to another. In the past, they've needed to rely on similarities of physical appearances to group orchids within families, but now it's so much easier and accurate. Taxonomists have hassled orchid growers for years with their ever changing renaming and revision of the various genera, but now there's a more definitive and accurate way of determining plant genetic relationships.

The technique can be also be used to compare two clones of orchids, ferns, lilliums or whatever, to see if they're the same, - very valuable in the case of patented varieties of plant tissue. Mericlones who lose the labels can now compare and identify plantlets back with their original plants.

These DNA fingerprinting techniques are now an effective tool for plant breeders to accurately identify specific cultivars.

SPECIES ORCHIDS REFERENCE BOOK

At a recent judges' meeting, Len Brombal tabled a lovely little *Angraecum* species whose label didn't quite add up with the appearance of the plant presented, but no one could supply a definitive alternative. Until, that is, Noel

Oliver came over the next day with his copy of a newish publication listing over 1200 species and some hybrids, and called Botanica's Pocket Orchids. Now, to carry it in your pocket, you'd need a pair of cargo pants that the kids wear nowadays with those very large pockets at the knees, and you'd probably end up with bow legs or a hernia carrying it around, but-- it's a great 'smallish' publication, with lots of excellent pictures and descriptions. Species lovers (and judges) should consider obtaining a copy for its comprehensive coverage of many species commonly grown, and of some that aren't.

Oh, incidentally, we decided that the photo and description indicated that the Brombals have a very fine plant of the African species *Angraecum compactum*.

There's a further indication of the range of species depicted in the book. A couple of weekends ago, we visited the Schomburgk glasshouse at the Botanic Gardens to check what was in flower. At first glance it wasn't so spectacular, but when we began to look closely we spotted many in bloom, and decided to write down their names. Almost all of the fifteen that we saw in flower at the Gardens were shown in Noel's book.

For those interested in species orchids, they included *Ceratostylis rubra*, *Epi. parkinsonianum*, *Epi. ciliare*, *Paph. concolor*, *Stenocoryne secunda* (very showy bright orange), *Galeandra baueri*, *Grammatophyllum papuanum*, *Spathoglottis parsonii*, *Den. moschatum*, *Phal. cornu-cervi*, *Phrag. caudatum*, *Encyclia cochleatum*, *Neobenthamia gracilis*, *Bulb. affine*, *Epi. secundum*.

There were many others in bud and lots more just growing, too. I'm happy to report that the plants are looking much healthier now, as well, and a visit to the Gardens for a look at the orchids as well as the other plants is a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

As a special treat, the giant waterlily, *Victoria amazonica*, for which the Schomburgk House was originally constructed in 1868, is growing strongly, and is about to flower.

COMPETITION RESULTS JANUARY 2003

SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div
1st *Paph. primulinum* D & J Higgs

SPECIES

Open Div
1st *Enc. radiata* G & M Hazledine
2nd *Enc. cordigera* A Bourne

First Div
1st *Brassia gireoudiana* P & V Speer
2nd *Enc. cochleata* M Boulderstone
3rd *Enc. cochleata* M Boulderstone

DENDROBIUM

First Div
1st *Den. Nora Tokunaga* P & V Speer

MILTONIA/ONCIDIUM/ODONTOGLOSSUM

Open Div
1st *Onc. Makalii 'Gotoh'* G & C Hime
2nd *Onc. Sarcatum* N Oliver
3rd *Onc. Splinter x sphacelatum* G & C Hime

First Div
1st *Onc. Schimmi* M & M Page
2nd *Onc. Contex Mikkagi* M & M Page
3rd *Colm. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'* P & S French

MISCELLANEOUS

Open Div
1st *Phrag. Calurum* D & J Higgs
2nd *Lyc. Groganii* B & R Wilson
3rd *Prom. Crawshayana* G & C Hime

First Div
1st *Enc. Bees Knees* P & V Speer

SEEDLING

Open Div
1st *Paph. primulinum* D & J
2nd *Lc. Irene Finney x C. Angelwalker* G & M Haz
3rd *Lc. Mari's Song x Sc. Beaufort* S & B Hudd
First Div
1st *Paph. Gull Rock* M & M

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div
1st *Slc. Quantum Leap 'Volcano'* G & M Haz
2nd *Enc. radiata* G & M Haz
3rd *Phrag. Calurum* D & J

First Div
1st *Ctna. Capri 'Lea'* P C
2nd *Colm. Wildcat 'Bloodshot'* P & S F
3rd *Brassia gireoudiana* P & V

Second Div
1st *Epi. Niven's Special x Anderson's Special* K S

BEST IN DIVISION

Open Div
Slc. Quantum Leap 'Volcano' G & M Haz

First Div
Ctna. Capri 'Lea' P C

Second Div
Epi. Niven's Special x Anderson's Special K S

Registra's Choice

Slc. Quantum Leap 'Volcano' G & M Hazledine

Registrations

Lc. Mari's Song x Sc. Beaufort = *Slc. Mari's Beat*

CYMBIDIUM 60MM – 90MM

First Div
1st *Cym. O'Halloran Hill 'Apache'* R Cocks

STANDARD CATTLEYA

Open Div
1st *Lc. Irene Finney x C. Angelwalker* G & M Hazledine
2nd *Bc. Lim Theng Hin* K & G Staples

NOVELTY CATTLEYA

Open Div
1st *Lc. Mari's Song* S & B Huddleston
2nd *Slc. Mari's Beat* S & B Huddleston
3rd *C. Gene May x Cherrie Poole* S & B Huddleston

First Div
1st *Sc. Cherry Bee* M & M Page

COCKTAIL CATTLEYA

Open Div
1st *Slc. Quantum Leap 'Volcano'* G & M Hazledine

CATTLEYA & ALLIED GENERA

Open Div
1st *Epc. Pink Jewel x Enc. cordigera* K & G Staples

First Div
1st *Ctna. Capri 'Lea'* P Canala

Second Div
1st *Epi. Niven's Special x Anderson's Special* K Sutton

NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div
1st *Paph. Port Elliot* A Bourne
2nd *Paph. Woomera* K & G Staples
3rd *Paph. curtisii x praestans* K & G Staples

First Div
1st *Paph. Gull Rock* M & M Page