

The Orchidaceous Review

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The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.



Affiliated with
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Ang. girymae
AUTUMN SHOW CHAMPION 2003

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 17th February 2004

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please remember your subs for 2004 are now due. Single membership is \$18, and joint membership is \$28 per annum.

Just another reminder that we have available a number of Society metal membership badges, and a number of embroidered cloth badges they will be available for your inspection at the meeting, if you are interested.

NEW JUDGING APPOINTMENT

We welcome Colin Tilbrook's appointment as a qualified Judge of our Society, after having completed the training course. Colin will be a valued acquisition to our judging ranks. Congratulations, Colin.

BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

Robert Gunn
Don Marsh

Rob McNamee
Beryl Wilson

Dawn Vogler

Happy Birthday to these members.

Next Committee Meeting:	P Speer	24th February 2004	8.00pm
Next Judges Meeting	A Davies	5th April 2004	8.00pm
Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:		15th March 2004	7:30pm
		176 Tynte St North Adelaide	

PRESIDENTS PIECE

Well, what a great night to start the year off. An excellent show of many different orchid genera from all Divisions. Two guest speakers for the night was certainly a bonus. Sue Hogan from SA Water gave us a talk on water restrictions, when and how to water our beloved plants. I am sure that those who attended found this very informative. Our second guest speaker for the evening was our own Registrar of Judging, Deane Johnston, who gave us a commentary with the aid of slides on previous winners and seedlings shown last year at our meetings and shows. Our official photographer, John Seidel, took the photographs and I'm sure you will all agree they were of excellent quality. This certainly made it easy to point out different aspects of particular orchids. Thanks, Deane, for presenting our Year in Review.

This meeting we will be hearing from one of our judges, Tony Bourne, and I am sure the show will be of interest to all, so hope to see you all at our February meeting.

Good growing for 2004.

Noel Oliver

THIS MEETING Wednesday 18th February.

Wednesday, 18th February. Will feature a talk from our member and judge, Dr. Tony Bourne. Tony is now well known and in keen demand as an excellent speaker who carefully and thoroughly researches his topics, and you will learn lots by listening to him this month. The air conditioning will be working, so you can escape the hot weather we're finally getting.

Our regular monthly features like library, plant raffle, birthday draw, lucky badge winner, trading table, popular vote draw, and cuppa at the conclusion of the meeting will all be operating.

Our raffle for an orchid plate commenced last meeting, with a good number of tickets sold. - (Tickets at \$1 each.) We'll be drawing the winning ticket at the end of this meeting after everyone has been given the opportunity to get tickets. Bring along your ticket. You will need it if your number is drawn. The winning number will also be published in next month's Review

Don't forget to wear your name badge to the meeting - you will be in the draw for a small prize.

LAST MEETING

The lovely slides of plants featured last year at our meetings and shows photographed by John Seidel were expertly commented on by our Registrar, Deane Johnston. They give us some clues about the types and quality that the judges seem to be looking for, and a guide to the sorts of seedling crossings that are producing the best blooms.

We were also given a short talk by Sue Hogan, from SA Water, about our responsibilities regarding conserving water. We thank Sue for giving her time so that members are aware of the rules.

Raffle tickets for a display plate featuring native orchids sold well at \$1 each, and the winner will be drawn this month after members have been given the opportunity to buy any further tickets if they wish.

FERTILISER

Peter Speer can still provide Neutrog Rapid Raiser and 10kg tubs of Sudden Impact for roses through our Society - part proceeds go to the club. See Peter next meeting for your needs.

SUPPER ROSTER

S Hellowell & Miles Harper

KEL'S CORNER

The meeting night of 21st January 2004 saw quite a number of plants that flower at this time of year, Brassias, Encyclias and Stanhopeas, particularly the species *tigrina*, also the small flowered Promenaeas and the novelty type Paphiopedilums, together with a few early Hilda Poxon natives.

On the Open bench G & C. Hime had *Brassia brachiata* in a 25cm pot. The plant carried 7 racemes each with around 10 flowers which were spidery types of pale green and covered with brown spots, a reliable plant, one for every collection.

The Himes also benched a *Promenaea* (*xanthina* x Norman Grant 'Leopard') growing in a small pot with a bark mixture. The plants had small bulbs with 2 and 3 flowers on each raceme of 5 - 6 cm in size of yellow/green and having fine brown spots in the labellum. Attractive flowers on small compact plants and they need to be kept reasonably moist at all times, more so during the growing season.

A nice Ascda. was presented by R. & B. Wilson. The plant growing in a 16cm pot, the medium covered with green moss. The plant was only about 20cm tall, having 1 raceme which carried 17, 10cm bright purple shapely flowers, a lovely plant and flowers.
Ascda = Ascocentrum X Vanda.

D. & J. Measday brought along a *Stanhopea tigrina* complete with a stand especially made to carry the plant. The flowers emerge from the bottom of the container, so transport is often a problem. The plant carried 6 flowers and 2 buds of yellow, orange and red combination, the perfume can be a bit overpowering and is not particularly pleasant. The basket holding the plant was coconut fibre, I have found that if packed too tightly, the fibre may not allow the spikes to come through too well. Lining the basket with paper bark or sphagnum moss seems to be a better material.

Of the 40 plants on the Open Division a nice display was made.

On the First Division benches a number of Brassias and Encyclias were seen, one (*Encyclia* Bees Knees x *atropurpureum*) brought in by P. & S. French was growing in

a 20cm pot well filled with bulbs. The plant was carrying 4 racemes with many 7/8cm flowers of brown with a nice purple labellum. These are easily grown and rewarding at this time of year and earlier in December. The long racemes do need some support, as the stem is fairly thin.

Ron Cocks brought in a *Cymbidium* Angie, early, and with 2 racemes the flowers 8 to 9 cm in size of pure yellow colouration. *Cymbidium* blooms at this time of year are not usually very good, being affected by the hot weather, not like the Australian native *Cymbidiums*, some of which naturally flower December / January.

The Second Division was not well represented, but Sheila Hellawell had a nice *Brassia brachiata* growing in a 20cm pot with 8 very nice racemes of brown and yellow colouration, a well presented plant.

Keith Sutton also had a *Cattleya Bc.* Lim Theng Hin, which had 2 nice pink flowers. One problem with this plant is the long ovary part or pedicel (the bit which joins the bloom to the main flower stem) which needs supporting to hold the flower upright. However this is not allowed for judging purposes, only the main stem may be supported.

For a January meeting there were a nice lot of flowers for members to view, thanks to all who brought plants to the venue. Keep up the good work next month.

Kel Staples

SOCIAL NEWS

We intend to have a visit to the Netherhill Strawberry Farm near Lobethal on Sunday, 21st March. They have a fern garden walk, picnic areas on the lawns or seating areas undercover, a barbecue is available for hire, and they even have emus to feed if you wish. Produce is available to buy. Some of our members have already been there, and report that it is a delightful picnic venue, so do try to come along if you can. We'll have a map in the next Review, and we'll need to get approximate numbers of folk attending next month. The Woodside Melba's Chocolate factory is not far away, and they have a large

craft shop there too, so we can really make a day of it. If you haven't transport, let someone on the committee know, and we'll see what we can arrange.

Judges always seem to be looking for the biggest, roundest, and the best, and it seems like Iris and Alan Davies, both National Orchid Judges, have extended this philosophy to raising family. Their son and daughter in law have just produced a new baby girl, Tayla Rose, who weighed **11 pound 3 1/2 oz.** All are doing fine, especially the grandparents - just ask Iris to show you the photos.

The SAROC Orchid Fair will be held over the long weekend in June again this year (12th - 13th June) and is expected to be even bigger and better. One important feature is the Saturday night dinner, which will again be held at the Royal Coach motel. It's a great opportunity to mix with orchid growers from all around our State, and is very popular. If you intend going, you'll need to book. Peter French is our man to advise.

The Victorian Country Orchid Challenge will be on in Ararat in the first week of July (2nd - 4th). I know some of our members are going again this year to participate in a really good weekend of social activities and orchids.

EASY TO GROW

Bifrenaria harrisoniae

Hooray!! I've just had a late Christmas present. Our President, Noel Oliver has given me a couple of new articles for our Review.

Bifrenaria harrisoniae flowers in early summer, so it is appropriate to discuss this easy to grow orchid now.

"This species is recommended for beginners as it is fairly common in orchid collections in Adelaide. It comes from Brazil and is very hardy. It has fat, four sided pseudobulbs which resemble halves of bananas sticking up through the compost. Each bulb is topped with a wide, rather leathery leaf, which is subject to sunburn from direct sun on hot days. The leaves eventually drop off leaving a circular scar on top of the bulb. This species can be rather difficult to bring into flower, and the usual recommendation is to

let the plant get pot bound to make it flower. In my experience a pot bound plant grows poorly, and sometimes still does not bloom.

This species has thick, fleshy roots that are prone to root rot if over watered. I grow my plant in a coarse bark mix. The plant is growing out with the cymbidiums, and gets the same treatment. The large white fragrant flowers are borne in ones and twos on very short stems that grow from the base of the pseudobulbs. The lip is purple and covered with short, fuzzy hair, and overall the flowers are somewhat reminiscent of heavy textured cymbidium blooms. Flowering time is late spring to summer. New growths appear in spring, and develop over the summer. The plant is virtually dormant in winter. It can be grown from back bulb propagations or by back cutting the plant. "

Noel Oliver.

Stanhopea tigrina

We are indebted to Doug and Jean Measday for bringing along their spectacular and unusual *Stanhopea tigrina* for members to see last meeting. Firstly, the plant is difficult to transport. You may have noticed how the flower spikes grow down through the bottom of the potting basket (never grow mature plants in pots), consequently are hard to carry without bruising the flowers. Doug's patented carrying frame enabled him to bring the plant all the way from Wallaroo without damaging the six blooms. The plant has had sixteen flowers this season. Well done, and thanks for making the effort!!

Plant growth habit is somewhat similar to that of the bifrenaria that Noel Oliver has written about above, with shadehouse culture really suitable for this orchid. It needs hanging space, and to be grown in a hanging basket lined with sphagnum or other easily penetrated liner. The flower spikes are quite pointed and sharp when they first appear through the bottom of the basket, and fatten up dramatically as the buds develop. The blooms are very dramatic looking when they open, and from looking at the heavy, waxy looking columns, you would think they'd last for weeks. Not so, as the flowers begin to fade and wither after only a few days, which is why we don't see them more often at

meeting nights early in the year. The heavy, honey smelling 'perfume' is almost overpowering, attracting the pollinating bees before the flowers collapse in their native Mexico to Brazil habitats.

There are a number of species all very similar in growth habit, with short sturdy pseudobulbs each topped with a large leathery leaf. Our shadehouse conditions in this genus, often means that the leaves get somewhat scruffy and sunburnt looking, as good light is required to build the plants to induce good flowering results. They are intriguing and rewarding plants to grow, even if you can often be disappointed because they flower between meeting nights.

ORCHID of the NIGHT ***Brassia brachiata***

Congratulations to Sheila Hellawell, who won the Registrar's Choice for Orchid of the Night last meeting for her specimen size plant of the spidery flowered *Brassia brachiata*. This orchid is also a cool glasshouse/shadehouse grower, reputed to be easy to grow, although I've not had success in growing this Central American genus. The spidery looking blooms are another example on the wonderful variety in flower shape and size found in the orchid family of plants.

Whilst musing about the diversity within the orchid blooms I must mention the lovely sight last meeting as Dr. R & B. Wilson were taking their plants from their car into the meeting hall. The sun was shining on two beautifully coloured orchids, which really glowed in the late afternoon sunlight. The first was a lovely, shapely *Ascocenda Marilyn Farwell* 'Brighton', an awarded and beautiful mericloned plant which had brilliant purple coloured blooms. The blue colour tones are rather scarce among orchids, and members of the vanda tribe are particularly coveted for their lovely blooms in this colour range.

Their second plant was a strongly growing bifoliate cattleya, which had the most brilliant, glowing golden blooms in the sunlight. It was a hybrid between *S/c. Makaha Red* and *C. Chocolate Drop*, and had large and shapely blooms for a *C. Chocolate Drop* cross. The

solid golden colour was outstanding, and a most intriguing breeding result from the reddish purple and popular *Chocolate Drop*

If only all our orchids could be viewed under natural light conditions - fluorescent lights mute the colours of many of our deeper coloured plants.

A SELECTION OF PAST PHOTOS



COMPETITION RESULTS JANUARY 2004

CYMBIDIUM 60MM – 90MM

Open Div
 2nd *Cym. Angie* R Cocks

STANDARD CATTLEYA

Open Div
 1st *Lc. Rosies Surprise* T & D Vogler
 2nd *C. Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin'* K & G Staples
 Second Div
 1st *Blc. Lim Theng Hin* K Sutton

NOVELTY CATTLEYA

Open Div
 1st *Slc. Dream Cloud* G & M Hazledine
 2nd *C. Lulu x Landate* G & M Hazledine
 3rd *Lc. Mari's Song* S & B Huddleston
 First Div
 1st *Lc. Intercepts* A & M Sim
 2nd *Lc. Intercepts* A & M Sim

CLUSTER CATTLEYA

Open Div
 1st *Slc. Makaha Gold x C. Chocolate Drop* R & B Wilson

CATTLEYA & ALLIED GENERA

Open Div
 1st *Ctna. Why Not x self'* R & B Wilson
 2nd *Eplc. Orange Pixie* S & B Huddleston
 3rd *Epc. Jean* K & G Staples

NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div
 1st *Paph. Joyce Hagegawa* G & M Hazledine
 2nd *Paph. Charles Sladden 'Adelaide'* K & H Gurney
 3rd *Paph. Woomera* K & G Staples

SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div
 1st *Paph. lowii* K & H Gurney
 2nd *Paph. tonsum* K & H Gurney
 3rd *Paph. fowleii* K & H Gurney

SPECIES

Open Div
 1st *Brs. brachiata* G & C Hime
 2nd *Enc. radiata* G & M Hazledine
 3rd *Enc. cochleata* D & J Measday
 First Div
 1st *Coelogyne massamgeana* R & L Gunn
 2nd *Brassia verrucosa* P & V Speer
 3rd *Brassia brachiata* A & I Davies
 Second Div
 1st *Brassia brachiata* S Hellawell
 2nd *Brassia brachiata* K Trevan

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE EPIPHYTE SPECIES

First Div
 1st *Cym. madidum* A & I Davies

MILTONIA/ONCIDIUM/ODONTOGLOSSUM

Open Div
 1st *Onc. Golden Anniversary 'Emas'* S & B Huddleston
 2nd *Mclna. Hansuedi Isler* S & B Huddleston
 3rd *Howeara Mary Eliza* D & J Higgs
 First Div
Onc. Schimmi M & M Page

MISCELLANEOUS

Open Div
 1st *Asco. Marilyn Farwell 'Brighton'* R & B Wilson
 2nd *Promenaea xanthina x Norman Grant* G & C Hime
 3rd *Sartylis blue Knob 'Oliver's Gem'* N Oliver
 First Div
 1st *Epi. Bees Knees x Epi. atropurpureum* P & S French
 2nd *Epi. Bees Knees* P & V Speer
 3rd *Prom. xanthina x Dinah Albright* A & I Davies
 Second Div
 1st *Prom. Florafest Sparkler* K Trevan
 2nd *Agwa. Kiwi Sunrise 'Pimpala'* K Trevan
 3rd

SEEDLING

Open Div.
 1st *Hmwlsa. Aussie Quest* G & C Hime
 2nd *C. Lulu x Landate* G & M Hazledine
 First Div
 1st *Prom. xanthina x Dinah Albright* A & I Davies
 Second Div
 1st *Prom. Florafest Sparkler* K Trevan

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div
 1st *Stanhopea tigrina* D & J Measday
 2nd *Asco. Marilyn Farwell 'Brighton'* R & B Wilson
 3rd *Brs. brachiata* G & C Hime
 First Div
 1st *Epi. Bees Knees x Enc. atropurpureum* P & S French
 2nd *Onc. Schimmi* M & M Page
 3rd *Lc. Intercepts* A & M Sim
 Second Div
 1st *Brassia brachiata* S Hellawell
 2nd *Blc. Lim Theng Hin* K Sutton
 3rd *Agwa. Kiwi Sunrise 'Pimpala'* K Trevan

BEST IN DIVISION

Open Div

Asco. Marilyn Farwell 'Brighton'

grown by **R & B Wilson**

First Div

**Epi. Bees Knees x
Enc. Atropurpureum**

grown by **P & S French**

Second Div

Brassia brachiata

grown by **S Hellowell**

Registrar's Choice

Brassia brachiata

grown by **S Hellowell**

REGISTRATIONS

Lc. Jungle Elf x *Epi. vitellinum* = *Eplc. Orange Pixie*

C. Priscilla Ward x *Epi. tampense* = *Epc. Jean*

