Society Beginnings

The January 2015 issue marks the start of the 50th year of publication of our Review. Strictly speaking, the anniversary of the public meeting which led to the establishment of our Society doesn’t occur until October, 2015, but now seems a good time to reflect on the beginnings of our Society.

Back in 1965, there was only one metropolitan orchid club, the Orchid Club of SA, which began in 1939, and which met on the first Thursday of the month at the TPI hall, on South Tce. Adelaide.

For some years, Mr Clarrie Scott, a commercial orchid vendor of Black Forest (principally cymbidiums) and OCSA member, had a dream of forming a suburban orchid club independent from the State body, and had aired this viewpoint for a number of years previously. In this, he had a number of supporters who were not members of OCSA, and others who were, but who would welcome an additional opportunity to exhibit their plants later in each month.

Consequently, Mr Scott called a public meeting for Oct. 29th 1965, at the TPI Building, South Tce. Adelaide, where a Committee was elected, and it was resolved to form the South Australian Orchidaceous Society, to meet monthly on the third Wednesday each month at the Congregational Church hall at Hindmarsh, and to commence operation from January 1966. Mr Scott was nominated as the first President.

At this meeting in January, the Committee was ratified, approx. 30 people signed up and paid their subscription of one pound, and our Society was under way, with the objective to promote the culture and information pertaining to orchids to its members and to the public of SA. Sadly, only two of those inaugural members,
As a new Society in the culture of Orchids we start the year 1966 with great expectations, although only small at present we hope by the end of the year that our numbers have more than doubled, now this is where everyone can help if you know of a friend who is interested in Orchids try to get them to join our Society, if every present member can enrol a new member every two months this will raise our membership to over 100 strong, so please try to help your Society to help you.

The committee is arranging items of interest, and hope that they will be a benefit to all. If any member has any suggestion or items of interest, they think would help other members would you please contact the Secretary, as early as possible, so that they can be arranged for publication in the ‘Review’.

The committee elected at the meeting held in the TPI hall, South Terrace, Adelaide on 29th October 1965 is as follows:

- President: Mr. C. Scott
- Vice President: Mr. J. Moore
- Vice President: Mr. F. Pangally
- Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. K. Panter
- Assistant Secretary: Mrs. D. F
Committee Members  Mr. M. Green, Mr. D. Sharp, and Mrs. D. Sharp, these members to serve for two years.

Mr. G. Shawyer, Mrs. G. Shawyer and Mrs. D. Scott to serve for 12 months only.

The meeting held by the society in the Hindmarsh Conregational Church Hall, Orsmond St, Hindmarsh was an outstanding success, and we hope to make this hall our regular meeting place on the third Wednesday of each month.

We regret to announce the passing of Mrs. Moore, the beloved wife of our Vice-President, and to him and his family our deepest sympathy.

To Mrs. D. Scott, we wish her a speedy recovery, after her recent operation, and is now back home.

As February can be reasonably expected to see a predominance of Cattleyas in flower, your committee would be grateful if you could bring along all that you have in flower for the coming meeting. Do not forget the special prizes at the end of the year for the most points gained.

CUTURAL NOTES

CATTLEYAS: Are coming in to flower now, therefore you must be careful with your watering, avoid if possible any water in or about the sheath, as this will cause rot of the buds, therefore no flowers.

CYPRIPEDIUMS: Some of the early flowering varieties will now be starting to bud, they can be felt coming up the large unflowered growths, if so place a stake in the pot, then after watering you will know the pot, tip on its side for a few moments, and in this way you will drain any water off the plant, and you will save a flower bud.

Misting of this genera at night at this time of year is very beneficial to the plant, they like Grow-More or fowl manure.

DENDROBIUMS: Soft woods will take plenty of water, and feed this time of year, I find sheep manure is very good, vegetative growth producing, it gives them thicker and larger canes.
EPIDENDRUM: This genera is a big feeder, and grows well and the flowers are very long lasting, and there should be one of these in everyones backyard, for they make a fine show.

NATIVE ORCHIDS: These are all growing at there best at this time of year, so keep them growing, they like a weak solution of liquid manure or Aquasol at half strength once a week in the evening, when the sun has gone down. ‘Falcorostrum’, ‘Hartmanni” and ‘Fitzgeraldii’ seem to prefer a weak solution of fowl manure.

CYMBIDIUM: Dust with Metaldehyde every 7 day, for three weeks to make sure you get all slugs and snails, then another dusting a fortnight later, and this should put paid to those pests. Spray with Folidol 50 for the other pests, and you will find that Folidol will clean up Black Spot as well. By now South Australian growers should start to see the early spikes showing up. Keep up your feeding programme, give all plants a good topping of fowl manure, and water it in well while the weather stays warm and hot. Give Cyms, the equivalent to an inch of rain each day.

A member has asked for the treatment of Black Rot or Beetroot Rot, whichever name suits. Tip the plant out of the pot cut away the affected parts, trim the roots by cutting all the damaged ends, dip the plant in a bucket in which a teaspoon of Maneb or Zineb for half an hour, repot in fresh compost, no manure of any kind added, water it well, and place in a shaded position, and mist daily for one week, after then water normally, and in one month start feeding with the rest of the plants.

Your Secretary has advice to hand on the following goods at reduced prices:-

Shade Cloth
Fertilizer and Pots

Contact him or the President.
PAST PRESIDENTS

1966, 1967, 1968  Mr. C. Scott
1969  Mr. J. Moore
1975  Mr. T. Gill
1976  Mr. J.R.M. Tregeagle
1977, 1978  Mr. M.L. Green
1979, 1980  Mr. A.G. Sullivan
1981, 1982  Mr. T.G. Jacob
1983, 1984  Mr. K.J. Staples
1985, 1986  Mr. D. Bettcher
1987, 1988  Mr. D. Johnston
1989, 1990  Mr. T.G. Jacob
1991, 1992  Mrs. S. Hellawell
1993, 1994  Mr. N. Oliver
1995, 1996  Mr. K. Gurney
1997, 1998  Mr. N. Oliver
1999, 2000  Mr. T.G. Jacob
2001, 2002  Mr. A. Davies
2003, 2004  Mr. N. Oliver
2005, 2006  Mr. P. French
2007  No President Elected
2008, 2009  Mrs. J. Higgs
2010, 2011  Ms. J. Taylor
2012 - 2013 - 2014  Mr. K. Gurney
2015  Mr. T. Jacob

INTERESTING FACTS

Over the years the review has been printed in many formats due to the constraints of gestetner etc. however with the advent of personal computers, the current format was designed in 1994 and has been in constant use for the last 20 years.

Around 1978 committee voted a President can not serve for more than 2 years, in 2008-2009 it was amended to 3 years.