

The Orchidaceous Review

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The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.



Affiliated with
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Web Site

www.saorchidsociety.org

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TREASURER

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This photo of Anton Drew and his coelogyne is from May 2017 meeting. (see note Page 2 inside)

Resumption of meetings is dependent on Govt. regulations and venue availability.

Next Meeting WEDNESDAY To be advised.

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Mr. TOM KOUTSANTONIS, THE MEMBER FOR WEST TORRENS..

We are most grateful for this support.

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

2020

PRESIDENT	Mr Trevor Jacob	☎	8346 6155
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mrs Diana Bird and Alan Davies		
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REGISTRAR of JUDGES	Mr. Don Higgs		
SHOW MARSHAL	Mr A Bird		
REVIEW EDITOR	Mr. T. Jacob	☎	8346 6155

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LIFE MEMBERS

1970	Spiro Drikas*	2005	Alan Davies, Iris Davies
1975	Elva Shawyer*, Gordon Shawyer* Edith Halliday*, Mervyn Green*	2013	Margaret Jacob
1976	Trevor Jacob	2014	Brian Brand, Shirley Brand
1977	Jack Moore*, Harold Luckhurst*, Ken Wynes*	2018	Lesley Gunn, Robert Gunn Don Higgs, Jane Higgs Jill Taylor
1986	Kelvin Staples*, Stan Johnston*		
1992	Peter Speer*, Deane Johnston, Frank Neighbour*, Nancy Neighbour*		
1996	Kevin Gurney, Noel Oliver*		

*Denotes deceased member Researched K.G configured P.S 2018.

2020 PROGRAMME

2020 PROGRAMME –meetings are indefinitely suspended, and guest speakers' programme will be determined after COVID-19 viral pandemic regulations are reviewed and revised by National & State Government. authorities.

COVER PHOTO : This photo was from our 2017 May meeting. A number of our members grow unusual dangly orchids which flower at this time of year. From now on we will have in place procedures to collect and bring to you currently blooming plants which you might like to share with other members until we can resume normal activities.

BIRTHDAYS FOR May 2020

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

Patricia Carman Pat. Lampard Pauline Simcock Geoff Spear.

Next Committee Meeting:	Home of Ms J Taylor	To be advised	7.30pm
Next Judges Meeting	Pulteney Grammar School.	To be advised	7.30pm
Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:	Pulteney Grammar School	To be advised	7.30pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The timing of our 'Winter Show' which we had originally arranged for 1st and 2nd August at the Klemzig Community Centre is still unable to be confirmed due to Covid-19 Regulations, and may yet have to be abandoned this year.. Spring show arrangements likewise are still being finalised. Many of our members are in the most vulnerable age group if we are unfortunate enough to become infected, and it would be prudent to minimise the risks if we can. Members will be consulted before we resume normal meetings, even if self quarantining outcomes look promising..

Thank you,

Trevor Jacob (President).

HAVE YOU FLOWERED OR EXPECT TO FLOWER SOME GOOD ORCHIDS BEFORE WE CAN RESUME MEETINGS?

Some members have commented that they have or expect to bloom some nice orchids before it is likely we can resume meetings, so we have been considering how to share your flowers with other members.

The work involved in selecting best plants Division by Division and judging them whilst remaining segregated has been considered not viable due to varying expertise of photographers, size of flowers and plants, and availability of judges to vote and compile results each month before the next month's flowers bloom.

But we can publish some of your best efforts month by month.

We need you to e-mail your photos to Anton Drew each month by the first Wednesday of the month if possible.

Send an e-mail to Anton at

anton.drew@internode.on.net

and send him your photos as an attachment. Don't forget to include your name, the name of your plant and the Division you exhibit in.

Anton will put your photos on a dongle which will be collected by the Editor, processed, selected and put in the Review by the second Wednesday of the month in preparation for publishing in the Review so you can get the results by around the third Wednesday of the month, (taking into account the Post Office's disgraceful time to deliver the mail)

Did you know that in earlier days, there was twice a day letter and postcard delivery in Adelaide? So much for progress!

Are you flowering a seedling?

They are only able to be considered as seedlings in their first year of flowering, so we don't want anyone missing out on the chance to have the Best Seedling. They will be considered differently from other photos.

Send a picture of an individual bloom, and another of the whole plant to Anton as above, but identify your plant as a 'seedling'. Anton will forward all the seedling photos to Don Higgs, our Registrar, who will forward them to all our judges for consideration and selection of the Best each month. The result will be sent to the editor for publishing

Don't forget to submit your flowering seedling photos from our

Seedling Competition we started in August 2017. An extra picture of the flower spike will be helpful. They need to be identified separately, because of the special competition for that crossing.

VALE

We have been advised that the mother of Graham Zerbe, Past President of the Australian Orchid Council, and Past Registrar of the SA Regional Judging Panel has passed away. She was aged 102. Graham was in the habit of regularly bringing her along to our Mid year Show at Klemzig, where she showed a keen interest in our displays.

Graham has had a tough time in recent days, and we pass on our condolences to him and his family on her passing.

Rest in Peace.

CLAY BALLS – THE NEW POTTING MEDIUM

Kevin Trevan has been making the most of the Covid-19 lockdown and has taken the trouble to forward me his notes on transferring his sarco's into the 'magic beans' clay balls potting mix which featured in a recent talk from Kevin Western.

'Clay pebbles – the new inert potting medium for sarcochilus, sartylis, cattleya alliance, and if you want to try , any other types of orchids as well. For many years I have used small bark as a potting medium, but I found my sarcs. were not progressing as well as I would like, and after taking plants out of pots, I found that the bark had deteriorated and clogged up the mix. Looking for a

new mix, clay pebbles was the next new thing – a hydroponics potting medium used for special plants.

My sarcs are potted mainly in 100 ml. and 80ml. port pots which have good drainage, air flow, and sarcs. grow well in them. After repotting with clay pebbles, I found I had less losses than a repot into bark, and they have made more growth, and small plants in 80 mm. are also making size.

When repotting 2,500 pots, I spent time washing roots and pots, and repotting in clay pebbles, adding 1 teaspoonful Dynamic Lifterper pot. Out of one 45 litre bag of pebbles I get 110 average pots per bag. But, time will tell at flowering time. I have also experimented using the pebbles with some cattleyas. So time will tell on these, too.



A well grown sarcochilus is a wonderful sight.

TIPS.

Purchase a large plastic saucer to pot in. This will keep any loose balls in the one area, otherwise they will roll around all over the place, and if you step on any you will crush them – no use then.

If you have a loss of a plant, the pebbles from that plant pot can be rinsed out in water, and placed on a tray in the sun to sterilise.

Just be careful when you are potting them on the bench, make sure your area is flat, otherwise you will have pebbles everywhere.

Kevin Trevan

Thank you, Kevin. We will look forward with interest to seeing the results of your experiments. As you say, time will tell. And thank you for taking the time to share your experiences with us *Editor..T J*

PLANTING OUT SEEDLINGS FROM FLASK.

President of the Cymbidium Club, Graham Fear, has written an excellent article, complete with photographs, in the Feb 2020 issue of their Cym. News magazine this year, about his successes with using a commercially available “Seed Raising and Cutting mix” from Osmocote to plant out cymbidium seedlings from flask. It has produced superior results for him, and after seeing his photographs I’m certainly going to try it too. Some of you may know of my infamous results of trying to keep newly planted out community pots in a frying pan. Yep. Fried the lot. Funny thing was, I tried to do it many years

ago as well, with the same results. Moral: grow them in a properly temperature controlled green house, or do it in the warm months of the year.

Anyway, the point is, you can get lots of good advice from members of an orchid club who know what they’re doing.

I’ve been wary of going out and about with the threat of this virus business hanging over our heads, but I sneaked out to Bunnings & got a 25 litre bag of the mix for \$11.87 and I’ll report further on how things turn out

MISSED OUT AGAIN

In our club we have a member who propagates lots of orchids, - his sarcochilus often have flower spikes forming when taken out of the flask, or if they do not, they often form them soon after planting out. Last year I thought about getting 8 for prizes, only I was one month out when I thought about it, but I thought if I held them for a month before the meeting, then the new owners had them for five months, they should still be eligible to enter on the sarc. night. (my care of them for the month would be a disadvantage, not an advantage.) The judges did not agree, The rules are that they must have been owned for six months to be eligible, so it never happened. This year I was ready to ring Kevin Western and place an order about the time all meetings started to get cancelled.

Maybe next year everything will go according to plan and the prizes at the March meeting will be sarcs.

Garry Simcock

CANCELLATIONS.

For the information of members we can advise the following cancellations to the activities of orchid clubs. . In SA we are all bound to follow instructions from the Government about self-distancing whilst the Covid19 virus is still active in the community, and this has required many of our usual activities to be cancelled or deferred..

The SAROC Fair, scheduled for the Queen's Birthday weekend in June at the Torrens parade Ground, Adelaide, has been cancelled.

The Victorian Country Challenge has been cancelled.

At this stage, our Winter Show scheduled for early August cannot be confirmed due to availability of the Klemzig Community Centre being in doubt from the Port Adelaide Council. Even if it were, we need to take note of members' concerns, and those of any visiting members of the public about the .advisability of abandoning safeguards too early and leaving ourselves vulnerable to infection.

Similar concerns are valid for the Spring Show. We have difficulty getting sufficient members to operate the Sales tables in an ordinary year . I could not blame anyone being reluctant to risk exposure to infection, especially when a number of those who sit on the sales table do not themselves have plants to sell.

Monthly meetings cannot proceed at present, and this is the case with other Orchid Clubs' activities, too. We will continue to liaise and advise

our members about when we can resume normal activities.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK.

First and foremost, we must extend our sincere thanks to Tom Koutsantonos and his staff for the continuing printing of our bulletins, etc. This represents a considerable saving to the Society. Thank you all.

In April, we received a questionnaire regarding the 2020 SAROC Fair, which at that stage was only six weeks away. After consulting our SAROC delegate, Alan Davies, and our President, Trevor Jacob, the questionnaire was forwarded on to our committee members, and the very clear result from our members was to postpone/cancel the SAROC Fair. It has now been confirmed that the SAROC Fair will not proceed this year.

Had the committees voted for the SAROC Fair to proceed, it would mean that we had sanctioned the outlay of a considerable amount of money, and if the social isolation rules remain in place, there is no guarantee that these funds could be recouped (we are talking of a sum around \$3,500). As Jill Taylor pointed out, we would not be able to relax and enjoy the flowers, as we would be worrying about who was standing behind us, especially if they cough or sneeze. It would have been a huge job to stock-up for the kitchen, especially as flour is not always available, and food preparation for a crowd is difficult under normal circumstances. Hopefully, SAROC Fair 2021 will make up for the missed year.

Our very strange year is going to seem even more strange without an Adelaide Show. Many orchid growers in S.A. enter plants in this show, resulting in a very attractive display. In past years, the SA Orchidaceous Spring Show has followed the Royal Adelaide Show. Hopefully our Spring Show will be able to go ahead, and we are hoping that we have a really special display. The Winter Show at Klemzig remains 'up in the air' at present, however that is 11 weeks away – surely something will have happened regarding this virus by then. The dates for that show are:

Saturday, 01 and Sunday, 02 August, 2020 at Klemzig Community Centre.

If you happen to have some orchids in flower in your shadehouse, I am sure that Trevor Jacob (Editor of the Bulletin) would love to see some pictures to include in this magazine whilst we do not have any results to include.

Many people with whom I have spoken lately have reported some interesting and varied activities to accommodate our necessary isolation.

Some groups are preparing meals, knitting clothing and blankets, shopping for neighbours, delivering garden flowers to less mobile people.

During a telephone call with my three-years-old grandson, who is the self-appointed Handwashing Mafia in their home, he sang the Handwashing Song to me, as they do each time a tap is turned on at Kindy, (sung to Frer Jacques):-

“Tops and bottoms, in between
Scrub them all together.
Now they're clean,

Squeaky clean.”

I, too, am in favour of creating good hygiene habits.

A number of our members are calling others by telephone for a chat.

As yet, we do not have a clear indication of how long it will be before the restrictions are lifted – I suspect it will be some time yet before social gatherings of any significant number will be permitted. At this point in time, it is really important that we do not become bored or depressed. Pick up the phone and talk to somebody you know – maybe this is a time to speak with people after a long time.

Hopefully, by the time this Bulletin is circulated, most of us will have had our annual 'flu shots. I was speaking to a general practitioner from the Northern suburbs, and he was predicting that the 'flu vaccines may become very short once we get into the 'flu season proper. I guess that the Corona virus has raised out awareness of the need to be diligent about vaccinations, even though we are aware that the 'Flu vaccination does not affect the Corona virus.

Keep up the contact telephone calls to our friends, and to those who we know are lonely.

Keep safe till we can all meet together again.

Pauline Simcock

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS.

It's often the way that we flower some of our best orchids when there's no meeting to show them off. Here's some lovely blooms which Diana Bird has kindly shared with us this month. We will have other members' efforts to share until we can resume meetings.



C Hawaiian Wedding Song 'Virgin' (16 blooms)



C Little Fairy.



Epi radicans (very pregnant)



C Kew (10 blooms)



Psh cochleata from T Jacob.

COMPETITION RESULTS

January 2020

SPECIES CYMBIDIUM

Open Div

1st *Cym canaliculatum* 'Return to Alice'
Max & Ellen Hume

SPECIES LAELIINAE

Open Div.

1st *C tigrinum var Leopoldii* R & B Wilson

Second Div

1st *Epi radicans* 'Red' D Bird

STANDARD PHALAENOPSIS

First Div

1st Sin Yuan 'Golden Beauty' A Drew

2nd Vivaldi A Drew

3rd Seabreeze A Drew

ONCIDIINAE SPECIES

Open Div

1st *Brassia longissima* M & E Hume

ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS

Second Div

1st *Brassia* Rex C Macdonald

OTHER GENERA SPECIES

Open Div

1st *Mystacidium capense* M & E Hume

OTHER GENERA HYBRIDS

Open Div

1st *Phrag* Ruby Slippers D & J Higgs

First Div

1st *Vanda* Lou Sneary A Drew

ZYGOPETALINAE HYBRIDS

Open Div

1st *Zygonesia* Cynosure 'Blue Water
Sailing'
M & E Hume

AUST. NATIVE EPIPHYTE HYBRIDS

Open Div

1st *Den* Hilda Poxon x Pinterry M & E Hume

AUST NATIVE EPIPHYTE SPECIES

Open Div

1st *Sarcochilus ceciliae* No 2 M & E Hume

2nd *Sarcochilus ceciliae* No 3 M & E Hume

3rd *Sarcochilus ceciliae* M & E Hume

SEEDLINGS

Open Div

1st *Sarco ceciliae (palest x Snowball) No 1*
M & E Hume

2nd *Sarco ceciliae (palest x Snowball) No 2*
M & E Hume

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div

1st *Phrag* Ruby Slippers J & D Higgs

2nd *C tigrinum var Leopoldii* R & B Wilson

3rd *Sarcochilus ceciliae* M & E Hume

First Div

1st Sin Yuan 'Golden Beauty' A Drew

2nd Vivaldi A Drew

3rd *Vanda* Lou Sneary A Drew

Second Div.

1st *Brassia* Rex Colin Macdonald

2nd *Epidendrum radicans* 'Red' D Bird

Open Division

Phragmipedium 'Ruby Slippers'

Jane & Don Higgs



Phragmipedium Ruby Slippers

BEST ORCHID IN DIVISION

First Division

Vanda Lou Sneary

Anton Drew



Vanda Lou Sneary

Grows well in warm, humid conditions
Just look how the 'Old Man's beard'
(*Tillandsia*) is thriving amongst the roots
of the orchid in the shadehouse.

Second Division

Epidendrum radicans 'Red'

Diana Bird

The reedstem epidendrums grow easily in our local conditions, and thrive if given adequate water and feed. This species, brick red in colour, and native to Central America, can be grown as a hedge in Queensland. Keep the frost off it in winter – the centre of the growths from where the flower racemes emerge can freeze and destroy the top of the long reedy stems in cold wintry conditions. Grows well in an open cym mix.

REGISTRAR'S CHOICE

Phragmipedium
'Ruby Slippers.'

Jane & Don Higgs

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