

# *The Orchidaceous Review*

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**The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.**

Affiliated with  
Australian Orchid Council  
South Australian Regional Orchid Council

[www.saorchidsociety.org](http://www.saorchidsociety.org)



**PRESIDENT**

Mr. Trevor Jacob  
8346 6155

**SECRETARY**

Mrs Pauline Simcock  
8390 2212

**TREASURER**

Mr Garry Simcock  
8390 2212

PO Box 526 Montacute SA 5134



View of our display at the recent SAROC Fair. Well done to all who participated. Other clubs' displays were very good, too

**August meeting** on the **THIRD** Wednesday of the month August 18th at the Adelaide West Uniting Church hall. 312 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Brooklyn Park.

This meeting, subject to Covid 19 requirements, we hope to have a preliminary dinner, 6pm for 6.30pm start. Please read Garry Simcock's notes, specially about notifying of your attendance. If you're not attending the dinner, the normal meeting starts at 8pm..Mr **Kieran Brewer** will talk about endangered native orchids. He is an experienced professional environmentalist involved with endangered plants.

**Our PO BOX. is now PO BOX 526 MONTACUTE SA 5134.**

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

2021

PRESIDENT	Mr Trevor Jacob	☎	8346 6155
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mrs Diana Bird and Mr Alan Davies		
Im PAST PRESIDENT	Mr Deane Johnston.		
SECRETARY	Mrs Pauline Simcock	☎	8390 2212
TREASURER	Mr G Simcock	P.O. Box 161 Brooklyn Park S.A. 5032 8390 2212	
COMMITTEE	Mrs J Higgs Mr A Bird Mr R Edwards	Ms J Taylor Mr A Bird Mrs Iris Davies	
REGISTRAR of JUDGES	Mr. Don Higgs		
SHOW MARSHAL	Mr A Davies		
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*	2021	Dr. Tony Bourne
1992	Peter Speer*, Deane Johnston, Frank Neighbour*, Nancy Neighbour*		
1996	Kevin Gurney, Noel Oliver*		

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

## 2021 PROGRAMME August 18th. 2021.

We hope to have a dinner (6pm for 6.30 pm) before our regular meeting start at 8pm this month. If you are coming, you must advise Garry Simcock by Friday August 13<sup>th</sup>.so we can arrange the catering requirements. Cost will be \$5 per head for members, and will be payable even if you advise you are attending and then don't turn up.

## SPRING SHOW DATES 2021

Show is at Gilles Plains Shopping Centre, opposite Holden Hill Police Station on North East Rd. Put in Wed Sept 8<sup>th</sup> after 5pm. followed by judging. Open to public shopping hours Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. to Sat 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. We must be out by 5pm

## Birthdays for July and August

**July** Robyn Dunn    Mark Hockey    Pauline Hockey    Trevor Jacob    Rayne Riggs

**August** Tony Bourne    Shirley Brand    Fred Cawse    Jenny Clifton    Alan Davies

Garry Simcock    Val Speer    Jan Whibley.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Pine View courtesy/o of Ms J Taylor Mon Aug. 23rd      7.30pm  
**Next Judges Meeting**      To be advised.      7.30pm  
**Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:**      Zoom meetings for      2021

## **PRESIDENT'S Report**

Changes to Covid rules due to viral outbreaks kept us all on our toes last month and even now, has resulted in uncertainty about whether we will be able to hold our August dinner, planned meetings and Spring show in the months ahead. Keep your fingers crossed, -we could do with a little cheering up.

The final judging in our cym seedling competition will be held this meeting, so if you have one of these seedlings in bloom, bring it along. ( I still have mine, but it won't flower this year. I'll have to learn to grow them better.)

### **"NEWS FOR AUGUST MEETING.**

Garry and Pauline Simcock visited the Northern Territory last month, and were caught in the lock downs which prevented them from returning as planned. While there, Pauline spent some time in hospital, but has recovered well and they are both putting in the efforts to get our Society moving forwards towards providing the environment where we can return to enjoying our orchids and being able to move freely in the community in company with our orchid growing friends.

Garry's article has some very important information about this month's meeting, so please read it carefully.

"I managed to get to Darwin just in time for their first lockdown, I had to undergo a Covid test (very unpleasant experience), which meant lining up for 4 1/2 hours and while awaiting the results were informed that we need not have had it since we were in the shopping centre at least an hour before

it became a hotspot. Our return flight was cancelled and the prospect of 3 more covid tests and quarantine for 14 days was not exciting so we stayed put until it was safe to return. Even when booked to return, our flight was once again cancelled.

Meanwhile, back in Adelaide, it became impossible to meet the requirements to hold our Winter Show and so it had to be missed, then lockdown resulted in cancellation of the July meeting and Committee Meeting.

We are hopeful that our August Meeting will be able to proceed, as discussed, without too much disruption, it will need some last minute organisation and cooperation, but I am hopeful it will be a worthwhile exercise.

Last night (Wednesday), I spoke to Kieran Brewer, he is to be our guest speaker, he is hopeful that we can meet and has begun his presentation. He is involved with preservation and rehabilitation of the environment and will be talking about endangered native orchids.

This morning I received 5 updated Covid plans, we are now able to meet with a one person per 2 square metre capacity so we are back to the previous situation. **At this time we are still required to wear a mask during the meeting, but we are able to have food and drink provided we are seated.** With luck, the mask requirement will change before then.

OUR AUGUST DINNER MEETING CAN GO AHEAD. (at this stage.)

We will need your full cooperation, **you must let us know if you are attending the dinner:**

**Email: [gpsimcock@activ8.net.au](mailto:gpsimcock@activ8.net.au)**

**Phone Pauline: 0430194808**

**Phone Garry: 0419837761**

The cost will be \$5.00 per head for members and \$10.00 for non members. This is club subsidised, -if you say you are coming and do not attend, you will be charged to help offset the cost of the meal which will have been ordered for you.

If you do not book, do not expect a meal to be available for you.

The proposed menu is:

Choice of soup

Hot Chicken and Vegetable Pack with Gravy

Fruit Salad and Icecream

Soft Drinks

Tea and Coffee

(The hot chicken packs are professionally prepared and supplied, and were enjoyed by some of our members who are in the Enfield Horticultural Society recently, when they held a mid-year dinner in June. The meal was universally acclaimed as being delicious. and recommended for us. *Ed*)

Help will be needed in setting up, real cutlery and crockery will be used and some members will be invited to do specific preparation.

**Your attendance must be confirmed by 1.00 p.m. on Friday 13 August.**

In the event that Covid raises its ugly head again, and we have to cancel, we

will send out emails and ring those who are not on the email list.

Looking forward to trying to get back to some normality, Garry"

### **THIS MEETING.**

**Mr Kieran Brewer** is a professional environmentalist and horticulturalist specialising in the environment and endangered plants, including orchids. It will prove a very informative meeting which has impacts on all of us and our families for the future.

**Seedling Cym Competition** Are you flowering any seedling from the Competition we started some time ago? . Bring it along for judging this month if you have. If you flowered the seedling prior to this year, it is not now a seedling.

Normal judging will be carried out by our Judges. There are some interesting seedlings flowering for the first time this year, but I suppose some growers will be holding their best plants back for our Spring Show put-in on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. (see page 2 for details)

### **CATERPILLARS & INSECT PESTS.**

I guess it had to happen. I have been relatively free from woolly caterpillars until now, but they're now about. I never see the moth from where they come. Keep weeds down and examine flower spikes, particularly, for caterpillars. Green grubs are active on foliage plants – keep a lookout under the leaves for their depredations. A tour of your plants after dark with a good torch is doubly good insurance, as you may well be able to eradicate slugs at the same time A thin dusting of vegetable dust

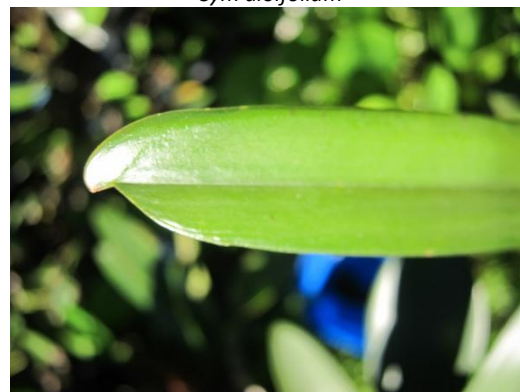
on your flower stems and spikes is also good insurance, but you'll need to repeat the dose if your plants are out in the weather.

### ***Cymbidium aloifolium***

This interesting species cymbidium deserves to be more widely grown. It grows under normal cym. conditions, but I have been guilty of not understanding its flowering habits, and on more than one occasion I've lifted up the pot around Dec./ Jan and found the remnants of pendulous spikes which I had no idea were trying to show off what they can do. The plant growth is interesting, too. Leaves are moderately long, and quite thick and sturdy, upright with about 5 leaves per growth. The tips often don't come to a point like 'normal' cyms, and they don't have fat pseudobulbs like other cyms. Last season, one spike was reasonably long with about 20 stubs where the buds had been, so I looked it up in Botanica. It can have up to 40 flowers per stem, always pendulous, so I've determined to look after it a little better this year. I think I can see flower spikes beginning to poke through. The blooms have reddish bands along the centre line a cultural book of petals and sepals, much like *Cym dayanum* and *Cym bicolor*. Interestingly, it was the first cym. known to Europe, in 1753, and named by Linnaeus, the eminent botanist. It was named as an epidendrum, but later moved to the genus *Cymbidium* in 1799. I would be interested to hear of other growers' exploits with this distinct cymbidium to compare notes.



*Cym aloifolium*



Leaf of *Cym aloifolium*

### **LYCASTES.**

I've been meaning to discuss lycaste growing for some time We don't hear much about their breeding these days but in the late 60's and on Fred Alcorn in NSW was responsible for breeding and introducing many new and much awarded lycaste hybrids to Australian growers. I wondered about the significance of a wonderful, large pink lycaste (a Macama, I think) on display when I visited Leo Giles at Wondabah Cymbidium Nursery in NSW. many years ago. I found years later, Fred Alcorn's nursery was just down the same road Wish I'd known then. Fred produced a book of cultural advice for Australian conditions which has assisted growers for many years. We still see a number of award worthy lycastes presented to the judges nowadays, but not in the numbers we've seen previously.

Fred maintained that lycastes are cool growing orchids, happier in conditions which paphiopedilums, and odontoglossums prefer (max summer temperatures in the lower 30 degree range), with added summer humidity and more shading than cymbidiums. They need good air circulation, both summer and winter, and Fred preferred in his benign summer conditions, to grow them outside under sarlon with a bit more shade than which cym prefer.

He grew them in a medium bark mix, with a little dolomite lime added to prevent the mix becoming too acid. Probably a modern cym mix would be suitable, but seek out the advice of a successful lycaste grower if you can.

Many lycaste species are deciduous, and require a winter resting period (as do many hybrids). Repotting is carried out when the new growths in spring start to develop roots , and regular feeding as the growths mature prior to flowering. Do not overpot.

**WHAT’S FLOWERING.**

We had no meeting last month, therefore no plants to comment on, so we arranged to visit Ben Knobben to find out what goodies he’s flowering this year. Thanks to Ben and Christine. Ben’s shadehouse is designed to make best use if the sun’s direction. This is the southern section



Inside, looking west -.overhead irrigation system runs the full length.



Eastern wing, many spikes & blooms. Pauline makes notes of pegs holding spikes straight



Christine still has a clothes line – great for Ben to pinch pegs to put on stakes to hold spikes upright.





Great, eh.! Thank you, Ben.

