

The Orchidaceous Review

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¹This dramatic and immensely photogenic vanda was brought in by Vanda Rounsefell.. It required a very innovative frame to transport it safely to the meeting. Thank you, Vanda for sharing it with members.. Just imagine what we may expect when the plant grows somewhat larger..

Our new meeting hall is at 34 LONG ST PLYMPTON . NOTE – ACCESS TO HALL NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL 7.30 pm Parking at side and at rear of hall Access is via either front or back entrance after 7.30 pm..

Printing of this Review has been provided courtesy of Mr. Tom Koutsantonis, the Member for West Torrens.

The Executive Committee of the S.A. Orchidaceous Society Inc.
2022

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REGISTRAR of JUDGES	Mr. Don Higgs	Editor	T Jacob Show Marshal A Bird

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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*	2022	Pauline Simcock, Garry Simcock
1996	Kevin Gurney, Noel Oliver*		

*Denotes deceased member Researched K..Gurney

2022 PROGRAMME

March meeting will be held at our new venue

34 LONG St. PLYMPTON Venue is open from 7.30 pm. Entry either through the front or rear doors.

Mr NICKY ZURCHER will be our guest speaker, talking on his specialty, the Paphiopedilum (Slipper Orchids) group of orchids.

BIRTHDAYS FOR March 2022

‘Birthday draw’ for a plant for members with a birthday this month include.

Neil Cooper Joe Cassar Judith Gardner Peter Haltis Jill Taylor, and Phil Steer.

Next Committee Meeting:	Pine View, Village, Glensside	March 21st	7.00pm
Next Judges Meeting	To be advised.		7.30pm
Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:	To be advised		

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

February 2022.

Hello, everyone.

Congratulations to all members who attended our first meeting at the Plympton Community Centre last month. You all contributed to make the meeting such a success, right from your favourable comments on the venue, and especially the way everyone helped to put out the chairs, tables etc.

Our guest speaker, Graham Zerbe, gave a lovely Powerpoint talk about zygotetalums, and included some very nice photos of a wide range of orchids in the South American zygo family

We hope to improve the interest in our magazine with short articles from members about their plants or life with plants, including problem solving and favourite tips you might like to share.. A big thank you to Andrew Bird for getting the ball rolling this month for this feature which we optimistically have called 'Members Corner' with the hope we can persuade members to contribute.

This month we will hear about growing slipper orchids from Nicky Zurcher one of the most knowledgeable of professional growers on growing the hardier, more easily grown types for our local climate. Don't

miss his talk this month if you are able to come along. It'll be well worth your time .

Hoping to see many of you at our meeting this month.

Best wishes,

Diana.Bird President

NEW VENUE teething problems.

Most reports about our new hall have been good, and the first meeting went off very well, considering that everything was new to all of us.

Those at the front were in darkness, and some members suggested ways of re-arranging the seating etc. it is amazing what can happen when the light switch is found and switched on.

We look forward to more members attending – we still need to wear masks, but IF YOU ARE NOT DOUBLE VACCINATED YOU ARE NOT WELCOME. This is the official policy of the City of West Torrens for all of their venues from 4th March 2022.

G Simcock COVID Marshall.

CHEERIOS.

We send a big cheerio and best wishes to members and their families who have not been well lately, and hope the world is looking up for you. Many of us have remained home more than usual with Covid cases still in the community, and some folk on

their own might just appreciate a call for a social chat to brighten up their day

LAST MEETING.

Our first meeting at our new venue last month went off very satisfactorily. The group hiring the hall until 7.30 pm moved out promptly so we were able to set the hall up efficiently. A number of members commented favourably on the layout, access etc. and at the end of the meeting we even solved the problem of lighting up at the President/Secretary's table

Our guest speaker, Graham Zerbe, is a knowledgeable speaker on many orchids, and he has travelled widely to pick up his information over a long association with orchid clubs and growing. His Powerpoint presentation was well received by members, and the quality of photos he showed may well have rekindled growers' interest in the zygo family. Certainly, there is still much general public interest in their colour combinations and contrasting lips, and their strong perfume is always commented on the sales benches at shows.

The judges are to review and refine the location of benching for plants at our new home, and no doubt we will soon have this adjusted for best effect.

Considering the venue is somewhat cheaper than our previous arrangement, it proved the logical way to go. The people from the West Torrens Council have been very approachable and helpful in facilitating the new arrangements, and we greatly appreciate their help.

Not a lot of plants were tabled, but those that were, showed good variation and quality. No doubt numbers will increase as the flowering season of a widening range of genera comes around..

Prize plants from the Spring Show were efficiently distributed, and Garry Simcock continues to supply us with a good variety of well grown plants.

We hope to soon be able to resume library distribution of books and magazines now the storage space available has been sorted out.

THIS MONTH

Nicky Zurcher is our guest speaker this month. He grows many sorts of orchids but right from his arrival from England in the early 1960's, where he was nursery manager and breeder at Ratcliffe's the leading specialist in growing slipper orchids and famous around the world. He didn't stop when he came to

Adelaide, but has gained a prominent name in breeding ever since. I'll let him tell his story, but I think his work hasn't received the widespread acclamation locally it should have

Do yourself a favour and come along this meeting.

Our treasurer, Garry Simcock will be available for you to pay your **subs. for 2022**. They remain at \$25 single subscription, and \$35 for a joint subscription.

Members bringing in plants for judging can gain access either through the front or back doors, after 7.30 pm

MEETING DATES FOR 2022.

All meetings are booked for the third Wednesday of the month, except.. **August Dinner meeting**

**Thursday, 18 August, 2022,
& December Christmas
Dinner meeting on
Thursday, 15 December,
2022**

The **April** meeting, subject to confirmation closer to the date, will be a talk about cymbidiums by Barry Bailey, a well known and long time local orchid growing expert and breeder, and a former commercial grower. It, too, will be an evening not to be missed.

MEMBERS' CORNER

MY LAST THREE YEARS

By Andrew Bird



This time three years ago I started my Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation, and never has time flown quite so quickly.

Over the course of my degree, I've had the privilege of meeting many weird and wonderful plants, animals, researchers, and conservationists everywhere from Roxby Downs to Robe. There have been many highlights, from encountering Desert Frogs and Hopping Mice at Olympic Dam, examining the adaptations of our native plants to hot and dry conditions in Blanchetown, and surveying populations of Kangaroos, Goats, and Rabbits and the effect these have on Mallee habitat near Renmark. There was also a great deal of laboratory study which has made me familiar with the inner working of plants, and the rather less dignified inner workings of animals including cockroaches and toads.



Burrowing desert frogs only emerge after rain and are rarely seen

Outside of my curricular work almost every summer, winter, or mid-semester break and any free days were filled with field and lab work. This has provided some of the best opportunities and incredible memories. These extra activities have allowed me to get up close and personal with a wide variety of organisms, including a plethora of reptiles and mammals, cutest of all being Pygmy Possums at Ngarkat conservation park. Further south I spent two weeks working with woodland and Shore birds, as well as Seagrass, fish, and aquatic invertebrates in the Coorong. I also spent many hours watching rare Pimelea shrubs in the Gawler Ranges to discover their pollinators and the animals which eat their fruits and spread their seeds.



Western Pygmy Possum from Ngarkat conservation park

Not every field trip involved cute and cuddly native animals. Over winter and spring last year I had three visits to Kangaroo Island to remove invasive Tasmanian Bluegum seedlings from native vegetation surrounding the plantations. These germinated after the 2019-20 bushfires and by winter last year ranged in size anywhere from a few centimetres to 8-foot-tall trees. Luckily, vast areas have been cleared and the native vegetation is recovering at astonishing speed. The many hours of weeding were rewarded with impressive displays of wildflowers including Pimelias, Correas, Boronias, Hibbertias, and our favourite, Orchids, including meadows of Diuris one grand old Caladenia septuosa specimen



***Caladenia valida* uncovered in our weeding expedition**

At times I felt it was necessary to give my red headed composition a break from the sun, the depths of the universities invertebrate research lab provided the perfect place for this. Here I worked with researchers to discover and

describe Australia's insect fauna, in particular our native wasps, of which it is estimated 70% are yet to be described. Luckily the overwhelming majority are far less pesky than their European counterparts we all know and love. I worked mostly with a group of wasps called the Microgastrines, a diverse subfamily which are parasitic of caterpillars, laying their eggs inside the poor caterpillars which are then eaten from the inside out! As part of this work, I was involved in a revision of a genus called *Glyptepanteles*, previously only three species were described in Australia, now there are 31, eight of which I had the pleasure of giving names to myself.



***Glyptepanteles erucodesolator*, a species I named which translates to 'caterpillar destroyer'**

Now I'm busier than ever working for Succession Ecology where I collect native plant seeds which is used to revegetate landscapes across South Australia. This job has me working in Port Augusta, Burra, Laura, Port Elliot, and everywhere in between collecting

everything grasses, saltbushes, Acacias, and more.



One can make many friends out seed collecting, including some prickly characters

But that's not all! Come July I will be heading off to Melbourne to begin work on my postgraduate studies. I will be working with Ryan Phillips and Noushka Reiter on the conservation of endangered *Caladenia*, using the relationships they have with their wasp pollinators to improve the effectiveness of their conservation. I very much look forward to being able to present my findings to you all at a meeting next year!



***Caladenia septuosa* from KI, I will be working with species like this one in Melbourne**

PLANTS SHOWN LAST MEETING.

Registrar's Choice for the night, and Best in Open Div. was John Seidel's well grown phragmipedium. Both racemes on the plant were long and branched, and each branch had open blooms. Phrags. seen locally mostly grow in tiny pots, making it essential to keep them well watered and in a buoyant atmosphere during summer



Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Queenscliffe'



Epi. Topaz Rose one of the new breed of reed stem epidendrums.



C tigrina



Paph Magic Lantern



Vanda Robert's Delight 'Red Spot'



John Seidel and his fine den seedling..

COMPETITION RESULTS Feb 2022

CYMBIDIUMS 60 -90 mm.

Open Div

1st Sundaani Storm `Karen` 'P & M Hockey

NON STANDARD LAELIINAE

Open Div

1st *Rlc* Shin Shiang x *C* Hsinying
M Willoughby & O Ju

NON STANDARD CLUSTER LAELIINAE

Open Div

1st *Epc* Burdekin Honey `Shona`
M Willoughby & Oui Ju

2nd *Epi* Topaz Rose `Rosie`
Michael & Oui

1st Div

1st *Epi* Boundii J & D Cassar

2nd *Ctt* Valentine Day `Osborne` J & D Cassar

3rd *Ctt* Valentine Day A & P Steer

2nd Div

1st *Epi* Wedding Valley `Sakura`
G & P Simcock

SPECIES LAELIINAE

Open Div.

1st *C tigrina* M Willoughby & O Ju

2nd *Psh cochleata* P & M Hockey

3rd *Psh cochleata* P & M Hockey

NON STANDARD PAPHS

Open Div

1st Magic Lantern Michael & Oui

2nd Lynleigh Koopowicz Michael & Oui

3rd Helvetia Michael & Oui

SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

Open Div

1st *Paph godefroyae* M Willoughby & O Ju

DENDROBIUM

Open Div

1st Aussie Angelic x *lithicola* J Seidel

AUST NATIVE EPIPHYTE SPECIES

Open Div

1st *Cym canaliculatum* 'J Seidel

ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS

First Div

1st *Brsdm* Hansruedi Isler P & A Steer

2nd *Onc* Aka Baby J & D Cassar

3rd *Onc* May Moir x *regnelli* J & D Cassar

OTHER GENERA SPECIES

Open Div

1st *Stenoglottis woodii* J & D Higgs

OTHER GENERA HYBRIDS

Open Div

1st *Phrag* Sorcerer's Apprentice J Seidel

2nd *Phrag* Rouge Bouillon J & D Higgs

Second Div

1st *Vanda* Robert's Delight `Red Spot`
Vanda Rounsefell

ZYGOPETALUM HYBRIDS

Open Div

1st *Zga* Dynamite x Helen Ku J Seidel

2nd *Pom* Mike Leaty M Willoughby & O Ju

SEEDLINGS

Open Div

1st *Paph* Helvetia M Willoughby & Oui Ju

2nd *Paph bellatulum* x *sanderianum* J Seidel

3rd *Den* Aussie Angelic x *lithicola* J Seide

I

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div

1st *Phrag* Sorcerer's Apprentice J Seidel

2nd *C tigrina* M Willoughby & Oui Ju

3rd *Epi* Burdekin Honey
M Willoughby & Oui Ju

First Div

1st *Brsdm* Hansruedi Isler P & A Steer

Second Div.

1st *Vanda* Robert's Delight `Red Spot`
Vanda Rounsefell



.Stenoglottis woodii..

A dainty and reliable bloomer
almost every year for the Higgs's

BEST ORCHID IN DIVISION

Open Division

*Phrag. Sorcerer's
Apprentice 'Queenscliffe'*

JOHN SEIDEL

First Division

Brsdm Hansruedi Isler

ANNE & PHIL STEER

Second Division

*Vanda Robert's Delight
'Red Spot'*

VANDA ROUNSEFELL

REGISTRAR'S CHOICE

*Phrag. Sorcerer's
Apprentice
'Queenscliffe'*

JOHN SEIDEL



Aussie hybrids are getting even better.

