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**The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.**



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

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**View of the Open Div plants at the recent Spring Show, with Sales table plants in the background.**

Back to normal this month, with our Oct. meeting to be held Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> October.. A busy night is in store, with our sarcochilus night, featured, and with expanded sarco. prize schedule. **Winter Show prizes will be distributed.**

**Kevin Western will be our guest speaker, and he will be talking about sarcochilus culture, and latest trends with new hybrids and colours being constantly bred.**

Printing of this Review is 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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SECRETARY	Mrs Pauline Simcock	☎	0430 194 808 P.O. Box 526 Montacute SA 5134
TREASURER	Mr G Simcock		0419 837 761
COMMITTEE	Mrs J Higgs Mr A Bird Mr R Edwards	Ms J Taylor Mrs I Davies Mr J Cassar	
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

The normal monthly meeting on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> will be held at 8pm, when our special Sarcophilus night will be featured, with lots more judging categories to be featured. Popular guest speaker, **Kevin Western** will talk about sarco. culture and latest trends with breeding new colours etc.

Prizes from the Winter Show will be distributed.

**Nomination forms** for positions on Committee will be available at the Oct meeting. These nominations close Friday Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Please consider whether you could help out

BIRTHDAYS FOR September and October 2022 will be included separately in the 'birthday draw' this meeting.

**September** :- Iris Davies Margaret Jacob Oui Ju Peter Mc Cauley  
Eileen Pinnock Richard Wilson Michael Willoughby Sue Zerbe.  
**October** :- Vicky Cooper Michael Ferry Helen Haltis Kevin Gurney  
Alan Jeffries Anne Steer Barbara Thompson Kevin Trevan.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Untg. Church hall 93 Crittenden Rd Findon OCT.. 24th 7.15pm  
**Next Judges Meeting** Uniting Church hall, 93 Crittenden Rd Findon To be advised.  
**Next SA Regional Judging Panel Meeting:** To be advised

**Background**

- Vanda returns to Australia in this second part of her orchid journey, and happily, comes to South Australia.

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- **South Australia**

My personal family moved to Brisbane from medical residency in Cairns in 1969, then to Adelaide in 1971. By that time I had 2 ½ children and was soon kept very busy dealing with a 3 month prem baby soon after our arrival, as well as hanging onto my medical practice by the fingernails. But after a final baby and a number of years, we had the opportunity to buy a patch of dirt which included a Heritage ruin opposite the Talisker Conservation Park above Cape Jervis. The hills, formerly denuded by forest clearance to support a silver-lead-zinc mine, are now covered by regenerated open sclerophyll, mainly stringybark forest, and in Springtime, the undergrowth puts on a display of wattles and beautiful native terrestrial orchids, many on our own land. Last year I was most upset to be forced by the local fire officer to de-fuel 100 undisturbed years' worth of regrowth scrub habitat. Heaven knows what has become of my terrestrial orchids, but Spring is when to look.

**Transition from passive admirer to active grower**

I always imagined I would grow orchids once I retired. That's a bit of a joke, as I retired at 79 from medicine only last December. Meanwhile, 6-7 years ago, a colleague thought it most amusing to give me a Vanda orchid for Xmas.

That (tropical) Vanda cost me a fortune! I 'had' to buy a greenhouse and lots of gear. I had no idea really about growing, so I joined the Orchidaceous Society and The Orchid Club of SA, went to workshops, joined the Fern Society for good measure and suddenly found myself with the beginners' disease of trying one of everything and VERY rapidly amassing an unwieldy set of small collections with different needs – and a full-blown addiction which members will well recognise.

My greenhouse is only 3m x 2.8m, with aluminium frame and 10mm, twin-wall polycarbonate structure (Grow-Fresh). I had a terrible time in Adelaide metro (a rental bouse) trying to stabilise the temperature and humidity, especially in Summer. So I could choose an over-heating greenhouse (45-50°C sometimes), or an open verandah, (no shadehouse) or a very dark house. Mind you, the Vanda really was amazing when she finally deigned to flower this year after having been told she was flowering-ready 7 years ago.

- Moving to Aldinga in 2020

Having moved to Aldinga, I have a much better setup, as the greenhouse is protected from the West. It is bolted to the top on a 23,000L underground tank, and I have a pile of old bricks under a bench for extra thermal mass. Mind you, while it was no fun putting the greenhouse up, it

promised to be a nightmare moving it after a number of years. That problem was solved for me by my greatly appreciated handy person Andy, who did both sides of the operation in a fraction of the time my whole family took to erect it – there's DIY and there's DI+*help!* Many of my little charges went off to a friend's shadehouse for up to a year. Many liked the humidity but quite a few died,- probably from well-meant over-watering.

- So what now?

My build included power and hot & cold water inside the greenhouse. There's an evaporative cooler system to the ceiling set to go off over 20°C. And a gentle oscillating fan. Two 400W metal cylinder heaters come on below about 14°C. I have solar intentions and some gear but to date no time to design anything. There are 2 solar fans in the roof, one defunct. And auto vents in the roof as well. Mostly I keep warm and cloud forest things in there: Vanda, Vanilla, Cattleya, tropical ferns, Iron Cross Begonias, Tillandsia, pitcher plant, baby plants, a few Dens & Sarcs down low but destined elsewhere.

I water by hand as it keeps me related to the individual orchids. I have some useless foggers and an uninstalled misting outfit. I'm very erratic about feeding orchids, so I use a bit of sustained release food and intermittent hand spray. I have a number of different nutrient mixes and vary them intuitively. I would do much better if I were more organised and consistent. Nevertheless, I do have quite a few things flowering, mostly one thing or two at a time, and sometimes they attract awards.

I've been in my Aldinga house for 2 years – a very different climate, VERY windy. More and more orchids are creeping into the house (which they love). I bought 6 baby Zygos years ago. They should have flowered a couple of years back, but sulked instead. As soon as I brought them indoors they went mad with flowering.

Apart from the greenhouse I have also a South side fernery that supports some speciosum rock lilies, other Dens and Cyms, but it's a bit dark, more ferny. And I have more Cyms and Epidendrums under an East side verandah, protected by shade cloth. They have a bit more light there but they do have to put up with blasts of cold air coming from my heat pump hot water system. They had been sulking for some time in the fernery, and I now hope for a bit of flowering – I see one spike at least, so hope for more.

I have had some recent health issues that ordain a far more regulated life. Orchids quite like 'regular' – so watch this space!

. Thank you for sharing your marvellous story, Vanda. A number of members have told me how they appreciated the time and effort you have put into this article.

*Ed*



Here's a shot of her very professional looking glasshouse in course of construction.. In Feb. this year, Vanda benched this magnificent vanda orchid , V. Robert's Delight `Red Spot' We look forward to seeing many more of Vanda's plants in future.

Thank you, Vanda.

*Ed.*

## **PRESIDENT'S FORUM**

**October. 2022.**

Hello, everyone.

I'm sorry I wasn't available to be with you all on our recent Sales Day. I hear it was a grand success. Thank you all who participated to make it such a good day.

We are now past the majority of show events, and move towards our end of year festivities. Our next monthly meeting is our annual Sarcophilus special meeting night. I hope you all have more blooms coming up than I have, due , I expect to the cold, wet wintry weather we've had. Kevin Western is our guest presenter, and no doubt he'll have a number of tips about growing the lovely and colourful range of sarcs. which the breeders have made available.

The AGM is coming up in November, and we need some new members on Committee. If you could see your way to help us out, we would welcome you with open arms. We will have nomination forms at our next meeting.

My thanks to Garry, Pauline, and Alan and all those lovely members helping out on the trading tables and supplying plants Please bring your flowering plants along next meeting for us all to enjoy...

. It was very sad to learn of Jill Taylor's passing on 15<sup>th</sup> September after a fall at her nursing home. We had a very good representation of members, and from other orchid clubs as well, at her funeral. Farewell to a lovely lady always willing to help others.

Our very best wishes to you all, and hoping to see many of you next meeting.

**Diana.Bird    President**

## **CHEERIOS.**

We send our best regards to those on the sick list, and hope that as the weather improves, your health likewise will take a turn for the better.

## **VALE.**

We regret to advise members of the passing of **Jill Taylor**, a tireless worker for the benefit of our Society

over many years., A Past President 2009/10/11, and Life Member, Jill was always willing to assist members and visitors in any way she could – a wonderful worker for our Society, At her funeral, Pauline Simcock spoke of Jill’s dignity, loyalty, and friendship, assisting at shows on the trading tables and with canteen services, but her outstanding role was that of hostess, making visitors and new members welcome. She was a loved member of other orchid Clubs, too, and travelled to numerous country orchid shows to assist them with judging or as a guest speaker, and to visited a number of the Victorian Country Challenge events.

Many orchid people had wonderful memories of Jill. She was much loved, always generous in her praise and encouragement, and always gave her help willingly to assist others.

Rest in Peace, Jill. You will be sadly missed by your many friends.

Thanks, too, to Miles Harper, who assisted Jill in many ways, and to Pauline Simcock for assistance with these notes. *Ed.*

## **RECENT SHOW DATES**

**Our SPRING SHOW** at Gilles plains Shopping Centre was put in Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at 5pm after shops closed, followed by judging, and open on available shopping hours .until 5pm Sat 24th Sept. Exhibitor numbers in Open Div were down due to illness, but 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Div growers took up the slack, and together with quite good support from Sales table suppliers, we managed a creditable group of displays.

**See also, Garry Simcock’s article further on.**

**GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID, & CHAMPION OPEN DIV. was the species Chinese orchid ,*Paphiopedilum malipoense*, a stately plant with one long stemmed and shapely bloom shown by M Willoughby and O. Ju**



*Paph malipoense*

**RESERVE CHAMPION ORCHID was the species Australian *Dendrobium speciosum* `Daylight Moon`, also shown by Michael & Oui` a select variety with many blooms along long racemes, much used in breeding to improve the quality of the progeny**

**CHAMPION FIRST DIV. ORCHID** was the hybrid Australian native *Dendrobium Burgundy Cream `Hillview`* shown by P & A Steer.



*Den. Burgundy Cream `Hillview`*

**.CHAMPION SECOND DIV. ORCHID** was the Mexican species orchid, *Maxillaria porphyrostele* shown by **S Laznicka**



*Maxillaria porphyrostele*



First & Second Div. exhibit.



Another view of Open Div. plants on display. Beautifully presented, many plants were of smaller varieties, requiring viewers to examine them closely,



Sales table at Show, ready for action!

## August, September, October Meetings Notes from Garry.

The August Dinner meeting seems quite a long way back; this is probably because we had no September Meeting, but instead we had a very busy period.

Thanks must go to All who helped make the Dinner Meeting such a success; we have not had any complaints yet, but this may be because we have not had a meeting. Hopefully, there was nothing to complain about.

Delivery of tables and fencing to the Gillies Plains Shopping Centre took place on the Monday Night preceding our Spring Show. Many members were not available on the Tuesday Night to help, but they did a wonderful job on Monday night. Thanks for your efforts.

The September Meeting was cancelled due to the lack of numbers of people who would have been able to attend, the majority of club members were in attendance at Gilles Plains, supplying plants, setting up displays and trading tables and judging until after the shops had closed.

The death of Queen Elizabeth resulted in a Day of Mourning, which was the first day of our show and so we lost half a day of trading. No one was permitted into the centre before mid-day,

which resulted in the Trading Table being inundated with customers before the till was brought out and the card-reader had a chance to connect and begin working.

The raffle did not bring in the income which is normally produced: had we had three plants, we would not have covered costs, but thanks to Jan Whibley, who donated a quilt, we had a plant for First and Third prize, and the Orchid Quilt (made by the Late Jeanette Melbourne) as a second prize. The winner of the second prize was 'over the moon'; she was going to give the prize to her mother who is in to both quilting and orchids. I fear the orchid bug may have got to this winner; she spent a considerable sum on the small plants which were packed up as we closed.

Thanks must go to Kevin Gurney, who decided to reduce his collection and avoid repotting by donating a number of plants to the Society. Peter McCauley helped with pricing the plants which I had collected, apart from four plants, the remainder sold for the price listed on them. One was marked down and sold, and three suffusums without flower spikes remained. More about Kevin's donation later.



Shirley French donated a large number of quality orchid books to the club. Alan Davies set about pricing them, selling \$50 worth while doing so. Only a few of these books remained. Thank you, Shirley.

For me, the end of the show took much longer than normal. Usually I put items away as they come out of the ute and trailer. This time, it was a matter of putting away items which would not be required in the next week, keeping that which would be used and adding everything else for our own Sales Day, plus a committee meeting on Monday Night and Rare Fruits Society on Tuesday night.

We were very lucky with the weather for our Sales Day. Our customers arrived in droves, particularly before starting time. Before lunch, we had made sufficient cash sales to cover the cost of the Hall and the advertising. At the end of the day, everyone went home with considerably fewer plants than when they arrived. Thanks to everyone for their efforts. The Hall was empty and spick and span before 4.30p.m.

I must mention more about Kevin Gurney's donation. After loading plants and pots Kevin said that he had 3 plants for the wheelie

bin; earwigs had eaten the flowers and they needed repotting. I could not let them go to waste, so collected them as well. Concerned that Jane Higgs might be bored at the Sales Day, I took them for her to divide and repot. Next I got the message that Jane wanted me to suggest prices. I was able to 'pass the buck' and said to Jane, "You are the person repotting them, so put whatever price you think they are worth. Everything we get is profit". One speciosum, showing a single discernable flower, she divided into half and two quarters and repotted, selling them instantly for a total of \$80. We still have the pieces of the others to grow on for the next time.

I thought that some of Kevin's plants would sell better at the Sales Day: I was wrong, and we have a large Sharry Baby, an *Oncidium leucochilum* and two *Encyclia atropurpureum* (one in spike) for sale, as well as a number of new 200mm. (8 inch) pots at 10 for \$12.

If I have not thanked you already, please be assured that your efforts are/were much appreciated.

As Treasurer, I am always willing to relieve you of your money, cash is something many people do not carry as much these days but our new bank card

reader makes it much easier. At this stage, it costs us nothing, all that I have to do is remember to bring it to meetings!

## **SHOWS NEXT YEAR.**

Committee has been looking to have an **Autumn Show** next year, to be held at the Crittenden Road, Findon, church hall where we previously met for our monthly meetings some years ago.

Setup & judging .Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Show Open & take out

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Winter Show** is booked for Klemzig Community Centre

Setup & Judging Sat 5<sup>th</sup> August

Open to public Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 12 noon

Sunday 10 am to 4pm

**Spring Show** recommended dates at Gilles plains Shopping Centre

Either

Putin & Judging Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept

5 pm

Take out Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 5pm

Or

Putin Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 5pp.

Takeout Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 5pm.

## **Plant/ General Items Sales Day**

Klemzig Community Hall

Public Holiday Monday 2nd Oct

from 8am for set up

Open to public for selling from 9.30 am.

Close & take out 4pm

Well patronised by the public, and a good opportunity to sell orchids, other plants, fertiliser,etc.

## **PERPETUAL SHOW TROPHIES**

Would holders of these trophies please have them cleaned, polished and returned by the AGM meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Prizes for the various Show classes will be small plants rather than the small shields we have had previously.

## **AGM NOMINATIONS**

Please remember, nominations for Committee positions must be with the Secretary by 4pm 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. In practical terms, return them at our next meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> October. We will have nomination forms at the front table for you to fill in.

**We will have vacancies which is important to fill.**

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