

The Orchidaceous Review

Volume 60 No 8

August 2025

The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.

Affiliated with
Australian Orchid Council
South Australian Regional Orchid Council



Web Site

www.saorchidsociety.org



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Winter Show Display by Jane Higgs

This month's meeting is on **Wednesday 20th August**
in the Plympton Community Centre, Long St., Plympton.

The August meeting is our Winter Dinner

Hall opens for set-up from 6.00pm for 6.30 meal

Followed by the normal monthly meeting

Guest speaker is Mr Graham Fear, President of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA.

Carpark and entry is from the rear.

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OUR PARLIAMENTARY MEMBER FOR WEST TORRENS

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

2025

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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*	2023 Sarka Laznicka Peter McCauley Jan Whibley Charles Yeo
	2024 John Seidel Val Speer

*Denotes deceased member

Researched K.Gurney.

GUEST SPEAKER for August is Graham Fear

Who will be talking on all things Cymbidiums

Birthdays for August 2025

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

Dr Tony Bourne, Shirley Brand, Jenny Clifton, Alan Davies, Graham Zerbe,
Garry Simcock, Val Speer, Jan Whibley
Congratulations.

Next Committee Meeting: *Monday 25th August at Western Link Church Findon.*
Next Judges Meeting *To be advised by Registrar*

August 2025

Presidents Report

Hello members, it was good to see members at our July meeting despite the cold wintery weather. The number of plants benched in all divisions was pleasing which gave the judges a good workout. Congratulations to all who showed & to all the winners.

Our guest speaker last month was Mr. Peter Nelson who gave us a talk on Bromeliads, thank you Peter.

Our Winter show held on the 19th & 20th of July was disappointing due to the lack of public attendance, but the displays were excellent, there were many very nice orchids displayed. Thank you to all who set up displays & congratulations to all the winners. The sales tables started off full of plants & by the end of the show there wasn't many left.

Our August meeting will include our Winter dinner to be held at the Plympton Community Centre, Long Street, Plympton on Wednesday the 20th of August at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. Our dinner will be followed by our normal meeting so don't forget to bring your plants for show. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Graham Fear, President of the Cymbidium Society of SA. Hope to see you all there it should be a great night.

Cheers,

Joe Cassar, President

Apology

*In my haste to get the Herald set-up and printed last month I forgot to acknowledge and thank **John Siedel** for supplying and allowing me to use his photos from last month's plant competition results.*

Thank you John,

John Dunn

The **August** meeting is our **Winter Dinner**

This will be held at the
**Plympton Community Centre,
Long Street, Plympton on
Wednesday, 20th August, 2025
at 6pm for 6.30p.m. start.**

If you are able to help setting up the hall, it would be greatly appreciated.

The main meal will consist of roast chicken, baked potatoes and a selection of salads.

Dessert will be fruit salad and ice cream. Tea and coffee and cool drinks will be available.

Please come and join us.

If you haven't let Garry or Pauline know of intention to come, you need to advise them by **15th August** for catering purposes and payment can be made on the night or direct debit.

The General Meeting, will follow with our guest speaker being



Mr. Graham Fear,

(pictured above)

President of the **Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia**, who will be speaking on the proper care and culture of Cymbidium orchids and also touch on the various viruses which can affect all of our orchid plants.

The normal monthly plant competition will be held as usual.

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SHOWDATES`

Spring Show

In the Western Link Church,
Findon Rd Findon on Friday 29th
August with put in from 4.00pm to
6pm. At 6pm a light meal for judges
and helpers to get you through and
then judging commences at 6.30pm.

On Saturday 30th August the show
is open to the public from 9.00am
until 4.00pm and on Sunday 31st
from 12noon to 4pm then all hands on
deck to help clean up, please!

Then the **Plant Sales Day** is
scheduled for **Saturday 11th October**
in the Western Link Church Hall,
Crittenden Rd Findon from 8am set-
up for your sales items,
and opens to public from 9.30am
until 4pm.

Remember it is in our venue so,
anything of value can be put **on the**
Trading Table. Garry will have Sales
sheets at the monthly meetings for you
to fill out if you have plants or items for
sale.

A friendly reminder that the **October**
meeting also incorporates
our special **Sarcochilus**
night when we make a
special feature of these
easy to grow Australian
Native Orchids.



Members now have an excellent
selection of some wonderful hybrids
from breeders in SA and across the
border. The colour range and quality
is always increasing so look forward
to a great display on the night.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Subs for 2025 are now
well overdue.** As Treasurer, I am
more than happy to take your
payment, in cash, by credit card, or by
direct debit.

If making a payment by direct
debit, please remember to give your
name.

Our bank details are:

**The South Australian
Orchidaceous Society Inc.**
Bank BSB 065-152
Account 10053

Garry, Treasurer

Last Month's Speaker,

Mr. Peter Nelson was warmly greeted
and gave a comprehensive talk on the
various ways he grows his
bromeliads, also bringing along some
examples for members to see.

I hope Peter has given the members
who grow Bromeliads with their
orchids, some hints for growing their
own better or even given some
members the incentive to start up a
collection of these easy to grow
plants.

The Bromeliad Society usually has a
stall at the Festival of Flowers where
members can see the different
varieties available and maybe start or
increase their collection.

Judging by the number of Broms
brought in to sell on the trading table
at shows there is a number of
members who do grow these
incredible plants.

Winter Show 2025

Our Winter Show has just concluded. The member's exhibitions were great but unfortunately public attendances were down on last year.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who set-up individual displays and all other members who contributed to the organization and smooth running of the week end.

CHAMPIONS

Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju received **Grand Champion** of the show and **Best in Open Division** with Dendrobium Australian Mia's World, which had a waterfall effect of dainty white flowers growing on a large clump of cork.—Beautiful



The **Most Outstanding Seedling** was shown by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju with Paph *primulinum*



The **Craig Gurney Memorial Trophy** was also won by Michael Willoughby and Oui Ju with their Paph. Pinocchio 'Seaview'



Best in First Division and Reserve Champion was Dendrobium Amphion Gigantes grown by John & Robyn Dunn.



Best in Second Division was another Dendrobium, Dendrobium Anne's Rainbow Surprise 'Pixie2' beautifully grown by Garry & Pauline Simcock.



Champions photos supplied by J. Seidel



Members Individual Displays

Photos by D. Bird

Orchid Culture Notes for August

The last month of winter is already on our door step and the spring shows not that far away. August weather is still cold but we seem to get enough 20 degree days to remind us that winter is starting to lose its hold. After a very cold and wet July this is surely a positive to look forward to. We are nearing the peak months of the flowering season especially for those with collections dominated by natives and cymbidiums. This year displays have seen quite a high percentage of plants showing the effects of cold and exposure. Even when grown under cover the effects of botrytis (Botrytis on orchid flowers is a fungal disease that manifests as small, brown, black, or grey spots on the petals. These spots can enlarge

and coalesce, potentially leading to a grey, web-like fungal growth on severely infected blooms). While Botrytis doesn't typically threaten the plant's life, it can significantly damage the appearance of the flowers. (is apparent and although we will soon enter a drying phase, most of our flowering plants will still suffer the effects. The only way to combat this is to remove plants to an area under cover where the air is quite dry. That is why I test the boundaries at home and load up my laundry, even though I have an 8m x 3m flowering house outside, I too cannot escape the marking of the flowers that is so bad this year. The laundry provides me the dryness I need and I can always hang the clothes in the flowering house!

Very soon it will be time to look at the annual task of dividing and repotting the larger plants. Whilst still a couple of months away now is a good time to take stock of the numbers of plants that need work so we can now stock up on pots, mix etc. I usually start looking at the seedling catalogues about now to get my orders in to coincide with spring. No point really subjecting little plants to our cold winter unless you have the right protection, so getting them at the right time of the year with the weather warming and the plants entering their new growth stage is a sound decision if we are to get them underway. Many orchids are still resting and a keen eye will already see the commencement of new shoots to herald the start of a new season. It is hard to believe but by the end of August we have already put nearly 90 minutes of extra daylight onto the winter solstice. This is plenty of daylight increase to tell the plants it is time to start moving again soon.

Not all plants rest over winter. Zygopetalums are one orchid that does not appear to have a resting period, as are the cymbidiums. Sure, they slow but never really go dormant. With the weather still cool and the humidity high, watering is still infrequent and should be applied only when the plants are dry and ideally left to the warmer days. Zygopetalum new growths should be well advanced so stick with the higher nitrogen to balance their needs until they bulb up later on. Continue to monitor the looper caterpillars which can be quite bad this time of the year, so regular inspection of any chewing activity under the leaves is a must. The cold and wet of this winter has also taken toll on some of the new growths and they have rotted out or at best lost a few leaves. Either way this growth will be severely restricted and will not build up a new bulb, even if it does so it's unlikely to produce a new growth big enough to flower off next year. Now is the time to reduce the watering on the natives and dry them out somewhat. In the eastern states the spring months are the driest part of the year and this is where most, if not all of our Australian natives come from. Watch out for aphids on the new spikes and keep dry. One cold and wet episode will have buds dropping like flies. If you can try and maximise light levels for the natives to flower and to bring out their best colour. Cattleyas will soon show new growth eyes developing from the base of the previous years canes and the sheaths of the spring flowering species and hybrids will start to fill out. If these sheaths show any sign of fungal spots I would be peeling them back to expose the buds and keep the buds dry. Leaving the spots to enlarge will invariably mark or even rot out the

buds. A Cattleya will only flower once off a pseudobulb. Watch out for any fungal problems near the new growth buds. This is usually indicated by the presence of black sheaths. Preventative sprays of fungicides can certainly reduce this somewhat. Oncidiums have now finished their flowering and are generally resting. Those in active growth are only watered if conditions are very dry or grown under cover. Feeding is monthly at my place for these as the cool temperatures slow down the plants metabolism and their need for supplementary feeding. I only feed Oncidiums that show active roots. Even though the Oncidiums have largely finished there are plenty of Oncidiinae intergenerics around that will grow cold and provide colour for much of the year. Colmanaras, Beallaras, Odontocidiums (now Oncidiums) and Vuylstekearas are just a few of the complex hybrids that are quite happy grown above the cymbidiums. I also find that these intergenerics are quite variable in their flowering times as well and even have the luxury of sporting a second spike after the first one has died down. A little more cover over winter will improve your results as these do mark easily. The majority of the native terrestrials we see benched will begin flowering from now on. Starting off with the greenhoods (pterostylis) and later on the donkey orchids (Diuris) and the sun orchids (Thelymytra). Keep evenly moist and try and keep the light levels up. Weak feeds of organic based feeds like your seaweed and fish emulsions will assist growth but avoid chemical fertilisers. Pull out weeds as they appear and remove any plants that show signs of virus or fungal problems. This is usually

identified by odd markings and yellowing of the leaves. Fungus affected plants literally fall out the pot when you lift up a leaf. Virus in *Diuris* shows up with brown markings and the leaves usually twist out of shape. It is best to throw out the plant and the mix.

Paphs are well into their flowering season and like many genera are easy to grow once the culture and correct conditions are provided. The large standard paphiopedilums (standard referring to shape) usually peak at this time of year with the smaller novelties later on as the weather warms. Trick with paphiopedilums is to keep them evenly moist and moving. They don't mind being grown close together and take up little space and are a low light orchid so for those that have a shady section in the shade house a small collection of cool growing paphiopedilums is worth a try. They are not a hungry feeder but little and often is the key. A look at the plant growth habit shows they have no storage organs like some of the caned and pseudobulb featured orchids hence they need constant moisture. They resent any salt build up in their mix so regular flushing with pure rain water is beneficial. They also like to be repotted on a regular basis to keep them moving and once a year is not too often.

A new crop of spring and summer weeds will soon show up and should be removed as soon as they appear. Continue to treat for slugs and snails as many genera are now in flower and these new soft spikes make good tucker for them. Wrapping some copper strip or even cotton wool around the base of the spikes will deter them. Please remove the cotton wool before you show your orchid. We

judges want to judge an orchid and not a poodle.

Observe for any fungal problems. With the warming weather this will become a bigger problem over the next few months. Remove dead leaves and flowers as soon as you can as these when wet will attract fungal problems overnight. Some plants that do show signs of rot may be telling you something about your culture as well. Factors such as I am too wet, too cold, lack of air movement, my mix has broken down or I have been damaged are just some of the many causes of fungal attack. I have been on many orchid walks in the wild yet have never seen the fungal problems we have out in our shade houses, so, it is clear that these problems are our doing and we must be able to identify why this occurs and act accordingly. What makes us a better grower is the ability to observe and act on any problems. We will never eradicate these problems given that the majority of the genera we grow are so far removed from the species that make up their background that their own natural defences will not work. The best offence to defence is good culture. The key to August is to provide flowering and near flowering plants the cover they need to avoid

environmental damage. Pest numbers are still down but won't be long before their numbers increase. Observe plants resting periods and keep an eye out for any developing issues with fungal issues. September is on our doorstep and with it yet another growing season is about ready to begin.

Steve Howard

COMPETITION RESULTS.

Cymbidiums over 90mm

First Div

1st Cym Lancashire Khan 'Evie' S. Laznicka

2nd Cym Seasol J & D Cassar & R Huddleston

CYMBIDIUMS 60 90 mm

Open Div

1st Cym. Arachnid 'Seaview' Michael & Oui

2nd Cym. Death Wish 'Speckled Spectre'

J. Seidel

First Div

1st Cym Mini Tan 'Tango' D. Bird

2nd Cym Marilyn Levi 'Weddings Buttons'

D Bird

CYMBIDIUMS under 60mm

First Div.

1st Cym Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'

J & D Cassar & R Huddleston

2nd Cym Mini Mint 'Osborne' D Bird

Second Div.

1st Cym Katydid 'Veridian' M. Henschke

2nd Cym Mimi M. Henschke

3rd Cym Mini Mint 'Maxine' G & P Simcock

STANDARD LAELIINAE 80mm and Over

Open Div

1st Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'DJ' Michael & Oui

STANDARD LAELIINAE under 80mm

Open Div.

1st C. Dal's Elite 'B&J' Michael & Oui

LAELIINAE Species

Open Div

1st Psh *cochleata* Michael & Oui

First Div

1st Psh *cochleata* D Bird

LAELIINAE Non Standard

Open Div.

1st Ctt. Little Fairy Michael & Oui

First Div.

1st Lc Sea Urchin J & D Cassar
& R Huddleston

July 2025

LAELIINAE Cluster

First Div.

1st Epi Mini Lavender D. Bird

PAPH Standard

Open Div

1st Paph. CRB Global Passport 'Zodiac'

J. Seidel

PAPH Non Standard

Open Div

1st Paph. Chouvetii 'Van Dyke' J & D Higgs

2nd Paph. Fair Yerba J. Seidel

3rd Paph. Pinocchio 'Seaview' Michael & Oui

PAPHIOPEDILUMS species

Open Div

1st Paph *spicerianum* 'Petite' Michael & Oui

2nd Paph *primulinum* Michael & Oui

First Div.

1st Paph insigne 'Ros' J. Dunn

DENDROBIUM (other than Australian Native)

Open Div.

1st Den Wamberal Michael & Oui

First Div.

1st Den Amphion Veil J. Dunn

2nd Den Sea Mary 'Snow' S. Laznicka

AUST NATIVE TERRESTRIAL species

First Div.

1st Ptst *concinna* J. Dunn

AUST NATIVE EPIPHYTE HYBRID

First Div

1st Den. Hilda Poxon 'Josephine' Michael & Oui

ONCIDIINAE Hybrids

Open Div

1st Onesa Sunburst Michael & Oui

First Div.

1st Oncsa Sweet Sugar 'Million Dollar' J. Dunn

2nd Oncsa Gower Ramsey J & D Cassar

& R Huddleston

3rd Brat Charles m. Fitch 'Izumi' J. Dunn

ONCIDIINAE SPECIES

Open Div

1st Cu *pulchellum* Michael & Oui

OTHER species not listed above

First Div.

1st Ptst *repanda* J. Dunn

SEEDLING

Open Div.

1st Paph Fair Yerba J. Seidel

2nd Paph *primulinum* Michael & Oui

3rd Paph *wardii* x *venustum* J. Seidel

ZYGOPETALINAE

First Div.

1st [(Zga Iron Knob x Pine Road) x Zns cynosure] J. Dunn

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div

1st Paph ChouvetiiJ & D Higgs

2nd Onesa Sunburst Michael & Oui

3rd Den Wamberal Michael & Oui

First Div.

1st Den Amphion Veil J. Dunn

2nd Oncsa Sweet Sugar 'Million Dollar' J. Dunn

Second Div.

1st Cym Katydid 'Veridian' M. Henschke

2nd Cym Mimi M. Henschke

Best Orchid In
Each Division

Open Division
Paph. Chouvetii

J. & D. Higgs



First Division
Den. Amphion Veil

J. Dunn



Second Division
Cym Katydid 'Veridian'

M. Henschke



Registrar's Choice

Den. Amphion Veil

J. Dunn



*All Competition photos supplied by
John Seidel.*



**THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
ORCHIDACEOUS SOCIETY INC
PRESENTS THE 2025**

SPRING SHOW

**SATURDAY 30 AUGUST | 9AM – 4PM
SUNDAY 31 AUGUST | 12PM – 4PM**

COME AND SEE OUR LOVELY EXHIBIT OF ORCHIDS ON DISPLAY

**Western Link Church Hall
93 Crittenden Road, Findon**

**\$5.00 Entry (per person) includes a complimentary cup
of coffee or tea and a biscuit to enjoy.**

*Orchids available for purchase – a great opportunity
to spoil yourself with an orchid of your own or
find the perfect gift!*

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please contact our President
on 0452 193 903 or Secretary on 0430 194 808.

