

The Orchidaceous Review

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September 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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This month's photo is of **Vanda Rounsefell's** beautifully grown and displayed **Brassidium Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol'** which won best orchid in second division as well as Registrar's Choice.

This month's meeting is on **Wednesday 17th September 2025**
in the Plympton Community Centre, Long St., Plympton, at 8pm.
Hall opens for set-up from 7.30pm
Carpark and entry is from the rear.

The guest speaker for this month is Peter McCauley speaking about Sarcophilus and some of their new age hybrids.

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Mr. TOM KOUTSANTONIS, OUR PARLIAMENTARY MEMBER FOR WEST TORRENS.*

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SHOW MARSHAL	Mr J Cassar.		

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LIFE MEMBERS

1970 Spiro Drikas*	2005 Alan Davies, Iris Davies
1975 Elva Shawyer*, Gordon Shawyer*	2013 Margaret Jacob
Edith Halliday*, Mervyn Green*	2014 Brian Brand, Shirley Brand
1976 Trevor Jacob	2018 Lesley Gunn, Robert Gunn
1977 Jack Moore*, Harold Luckhurst*,	Don Higgs, Jane Higgs
Ken Wynes*	Jill Taylor*
1986 Kelvin Staples*, Stan Johnston*	2021 Dr. Tony Bourne
1992 Peter Speer*, Deane Johnston,	2022 Pauline Simcock, Garry Simcock
Frank Neighbour*, Nancy Neighbour*	2023 Sarka Laznicka Peter McCauley
1996 Kevin Gurney, Noel Oliver*	Jan Whibley Charles Yeo
	2024 John Seidel Val Speer

*Denotes deceased member

Researched K.Gurney.

On Wednesday 17th September our GUEST SPEAKER is
Mr. PETER McCAULEY sharing his knowledge of Sarcophilus.

Volunteers for Kitchen duties this month are R. Edwards and J. Whibley

Birthdays for September 2025

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

Diana Bird, Iris Davies, Margaret Jacob, Oui Ju, Andrew Mussared,
Peter Mc Cauley, Richard Wilson, Michael Willoughby, Sue Zerbe.
Congratulations.

Next Committee Meeting: **Monday 22nd September** at Western Link Church, Findon.

PRESIDENT'S Report September 2025

Hello once again members. At our last meeting we enjoyed our midyear dinner prior to our normal meeting. There was only a small gathering who enjoyed chicken, roast potato's & salads followed by fruit salad & ice-cream. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful night.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Graham Fear the president of the Cymbidium club who gave us an excellent talk on growing cymbidiums & virus in cymbidiums. Thank you very much Graham I'm sure our members took a lot out of your talk.

Despite there being fewer members at the meeting there was still a very good display of orchids in all divisions on the benches, congratulations to all who showed & to all the winners.

Cheers.

Joe Cassar, President

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The NOVEMBER MEETING is the AGM. where a new committee will be elected to guide the club through the next year.

All committee positions will become vacant and members need to elect the following **Committee positions**.

President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer along with 6 committee persons.

There will be nomination forms on the

Secretary's desk at the October General Meeting (15th October) and must be completed on the night and handed back or posted to the Secretary to arrive no later than Friday (17th October), at the close of business.

Please consider standing as our Club needs a strong and active Committee to continue the successes we have enjoyed over the years.

Plant Sales Day

Our **Plant Sales Day** is scheduled for Saturday 11th October at the Western Link Uniting Church 93 Crittenden Rd Findon Church Hall from 8am set up for your sales items and is open to public 9.30 am until 4pm. You can sell all sorts of items including plants, pots, potting mix plant hangers and all sorts of bric-à-brac.

If you have a plant that needs to be divided or repotted there will be help at hand to advise you through the process at a small cost for materials used.

LAST MONTH'S DISPLAY PLANTS.

Due to a number of members of open division being away, the number of plants displayed was noticeably down but there was still a great display of quality plants over all the divisions.

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Our speaker for this month is Mr. **Peter McCauley** on the subject of *Sarcochilus*. Here is how Peter became involved with these beautiful plants, *Sarcochilus* and how he grows and cares for his plants.

My association with *Sarcochilus* began when I shifted to Melbourne for employment in the early 1990's, whilst judging as a member of the Australian Orchid Council Victorian panel. The Maribyrnong Orchid Club holds a *Sarcochilus* show each year and it was here that my interest started. Various commercial nurseries were invited. There were also members that were breeding *Sarcochilus* plants. Some of my early plants were purchased via Big W which had plants produced by Florafest Orchids, Toowoomba (no longer existing today.) However, John Woolf and Lorraine Fagg were the main hybridizers resulting in many *Sarcochilus hartmannii* and *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* crosses being produced. Whilst all this was taking place some others in New South Wales were striving to achieve different coloured *Sarcochilus*. Back in those day only four species were commonly used for hybridization. These plants were *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* and *Sarcochilus ceciliae*. Remembering that some of these species have now had varietal members separated to true species status we may now have unknown complex hybrids. Such hybrids were *Sarcochilus FITZHART*, *Sarcochilus CHERIE*, *Sarcochilus MELBA* and *Sarcochilus LOIS*. I grow my plants in a small shade house covered by a double layer of 70% shade cloth until **early May** each year. This gives the plants a touch of cold which some growers believe helps initiate flower spikes.

Once this time arrives plants are moved into a glass house to complete the flowering cycle. Whilst I do not live in a frost area, temperatures can get down to round 4°C but during the day temperature in the house can rise to the low teens. Plants are move back to the outside **early October**.

During my early growing I used a mixture of 60% bark and 40% aggregate gained from a very good grower who was from the judging team and a club member. I have now shifted to a mixture of bark, perlite and isolite. For this mixture I use New Zealand bark of 6-9 mm and 9-12mm. The bark mix is 40% of each with 10% perlite and 10% isolite.

Since the *Sarcochilus* belong in the vandaceous plant family with *Vanda*'s, *Phalaenopsis* and have no bulbs they are gross feeders. So much is this the case that when replating in the laboratory you can put 30 cymbidiums in a flask of media but only 12 *Sarcochilus* for optimum growth.

When it comes to fertilizing, I make up compound master solutions which I then dilute with rainwater to 250 ppm. (Measured by an EC meter) This is applied twice weekly for the whole year. Recently I learned of Langley's Troforte M granular fertilizer. This has proven to be a valuable product when repotting. However, it is a slow release and needs twelve months to show its true value. It appears to influence the number of flower spikes.



Winter Show Results

Open Division

Class	Plant Name	Growers Name
Best Cymbidium over 90cm	Cym. Death Wish 'Plonky Woods'	J. & D. Higgs
Best Cymbidium 60 – 90 cm	Cym. Arachnid 'Seaview'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Cymbidium Under 60cm	Cym. Strathdon 'Cooksbridge Fantasy'	P. & H. Haltis
Best Standard Laeliinae Over 80cm	Rlc. Burdekin Dream 'D J'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Standard Laeliinae Under 80cm	C. Dal's Elite 'B & J'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Non Standard Paphiopedilum	Paph. Pinocchio 'Seaview'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best species Paphiopedilum	Paph. <i>spicerianum</i> 'Petite'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best species Phalaenopsis	Phal. <i>fasciata</i>	J. & D. Higgs
Best Dendrobium (Not Australian Native)	Den Mia's World	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid	Den. Hilda Poxon 'Josephine'	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Australian Native Terrestrial Species	<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	J. & D. Higgs
Best Oncidiinae Hybrid Under 60mm	Onc. Sweet Sugar 'Million Dollrs'	J. & D. Higgs
Best Oncidiinae Species	<i>Cu. pullchella</i>	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Zygopetalum species	<i>Z. maculatum</i>	J. & D. Higgs
Best Specimen Other Than Cymbidium	Den. Australian Mia's World	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Seedling Other Than Cymbidium	Paph. <i>primulinum</i>	M. Willoughby & O. Ju
Best Species Not Elsewhere Listed	<i>Ludisia discolor</i>	J. & D. Higgs

First Division

Class	Plant Name	Growers Name
Best Cymbidium over 90cm	Cym. Lancashire Khan	S. Laznicka
Best Cymbidium 60 – 90 cm	Cym. Mini Tan 'Tango'	D. Bird
Best Cymbidium Under 60cm	Cym. Mini Mint 'Osbourne'	D. Bird
Best Non Standard Laeliinae	Lc. Sea Urchin	J. & D. Cassar & R. Huddleston
Best Oncidiinae Hybrid 60mm and Over	Brat. Charles M. Fitch	J. & R. Dunn
Best Oncidiinae Hybrid Under 60mm	Oncsa. Gower Ramsay	J. & D. Cassar & R. Huddleston

Best species Paphiopedilum	Paph insigne Ros2'	J. & R. Dunn
Best Australian Native Terrestrial Species	Ptst <i>concinna</i>	J. & R. Dunn
Best Dendrobium (Not Australian Native)	Den. Amphion Gigantes	J. & R. Dunn
Best Seedling Other Than Cymbidium	Den. Legend Royal	J. & R. Dunn
Best Other Hybrid Not Elsewhere Listed	Sarts. Toowoomba Sparkle 'Coconut Ice'	J. & R. Dunn
Best Species Not Elsewhere Listed	Ptst. <i>repanda</i>	J. & R. Dunn
Best Specimen Other Than Cymbidium	Den. Amphion Veil	J. & R. Dunn

Second Division

Class	Plant Name	Growers Name
Best Cymbidium over 90cm	Cym. Pure Jungle 'Green'	G. & P. Simcock
Best Cymbidium Under 60cm	Cym. Katydid 'Veridian'	M. Henschke
Best Laeliinae Species	Epi. <i>elongatum</i>	G. & P. Simcock
Best Oncidiinae Hybrid 60mm and Over	Brsdm. Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol'	V. Rounsefell
Best Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid	Den. Anne's Rainbow Surprise 'Pixie	G. & P. Simcock
Best Zygotepalum Alliance	Z.(Port Vincent x Kiwi Choice)	V. Rounsefell
Best Specimen Other Than Cymbidium	Epi secundum 'Fairy Lavender'	G. & P. Simcock

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The Spring Show was held on Saturday 30th August.

The weather was against us as severe weather was experienced both on the Friday of set-up and on the Saturday of the show, which prevented many of our regulars from venturing out so unfortunately attendance was down as well as the number of sale plants on offer.

Congratulations to all the winners of the show.

The results of all the winners along with the photos of the Grand and Reserve Champions as well as the best in each division will be published in the October Review.

Photos from the **August** meeting



A big thank you to all who helped clean up and in the kitchen last month.



The judges hard at work.



Graham Fear presenting his talk on viruses which is published at the end of this Review

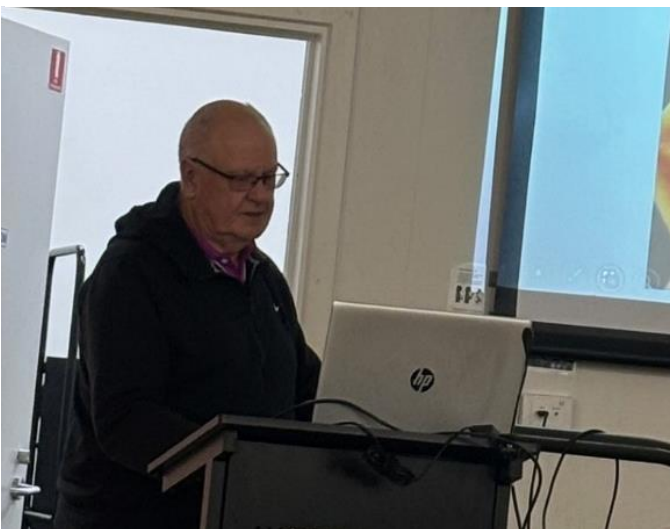
This May Interest Some Members

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

The Lights Community Centre
270 East Parkway, Lightsvue

11th October 2025
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Entry fee \$5.00



Orchid Culture Notes for September

Spring at last! This winter gone was a cold one. It was great for the fruit trees but not that flash for humans and orchids alike. The extra warmth in the sun and the ever increasing fine days remind us that the busiest time of the year is now upon us. We have the spring shows; we have lots of flowers and of course it will soon be time for the important maintenance of our collection. Question, where to start! Whilst it is nice to view the spring flush it is also the time of year that we need to plan for the year ahead. What plants will we cull? pot on or divide. Pest problems also build up as do fungal problems. I still sit back and wonder why subject myself to all of this. When I sit down in the shade house after a hard week of work surrounded by a heap of flowers and all the wonderful fragrances it is not that hard a question to answer.

September weather is quite changeable, and this gets worse over the next two months as the seasons change. It can range from freezing cold to stinking hot in a short space of time, even this early in the season. There will be many plants that did not flower so questions must be asked. Where did I go wrong? What made plant this plant flower well yet the other one did not. Was it the season? Here I was early in the year suggesting that this year would be a great one for the natives, how wrong I was, but good to know I was not alone. I suppose the relentless heatwaves of summer past had something to do with it.

September will see more and more plants emerge out of dormancy. There will be new growth starting to show and new green tips emerging from white roots that sealed off some time ago. Don't be in a big rush to hit them with gallons of water and fertiliser. Changes of seasons happen gradually and not overnight. This is so easy to do when you hit that first warm day. Gradually increase the water and feeding as they grow and the seasons change. Try and water late morning or early afternoon at the warmest part of the day with plant to give the plants dry by nightfall.

Tap water is still very cold and you can still get frosts for at least another month yet.

Damping off of new growths is common this time of year and water is usually the culprit. If you can, try and water the pot, not the plant. This is easy with a small collection and very hard with large collection. If you do get water into a new growth, try to dry it. Blowing thru a straw or using tissue paper whist fiddly, may save a growth. By month's end the sun will be on the south side of the equator and with the closeness comes the intensity and heat. Plants in full sunlight over winter will be moved under 50% shade, those hung high in the shade house are lowered and those that prefer shade are moved accordingly. The sun will rise in a more easterly aspect and set in the west and soon rise in the SE and set in the SW. The change in aspect will also mean plants in winter shade can be exposed to spring and summer sun and this will burn them. Pests will abound overnight. New crops of caterpillars and aphids are lining up for the new seasons growth. Slugs and snails continue to feast so they can fatten up before summer dormancy. This year botrytis has been bad, a week of cloud and drizzle in July setting up a bad infestation. Soon rust will be on the increase, whilst not a huge problem with orchids, it can cause problems. Scale will start their breeding season. The juvenile nymphs are quite mobile and are looking for new growths. They suck out the goodness from the plants leaves and leave marks. Any marks on the new growths will be exaggerated as they grow larger.

Summer weeds will soon increase, its oxalis time! Pull these out when small and when re potting or dividing make sure all weeds are removed.

Start dividing your plants soon after flowering. I would wait until later in the month when the warmer weather has arrived, but if potting on, you can do this anytime as the plants root system suffers little from the disturbance. Remove flower spikes from weak plants or those you intend to bust up. Weak plants need all the help they can get and maintaining a flower produced in a stress related situation will not help them recover.

With plants you will divide I work on the theory of the longer growing season they have the better they will be, so why leave a spike on for ages when that extra time may give them a good chance to establish to flowering size next year.

Native epiphytes have had another strange year with many plants in active growth all year. They are now in flowering mode and those that grow *Sarcocylus* should have spikes lengthening. I don't think this year will be a good one for sarcs. Not if my collection is any indication. Even now, I still have leaf drop from January's heatwaves. At the same time, I have single growth plants that have lost the main growth throwing out numerous side shoots. Some of these plants can be quite shy at doing this and removing a primary growing tip is a practice recommended for the experienced or the brave but when nature dishes this treatment out you take your chances. I'll get a few specimens out of this! Watering is when they need it and generally subject to the weather for plants in the open and those under cover are watered and fed weekly. If it remains dry then give them a drink, but if the weather remains wet, then they won't need any additional water.

Natives respond well to a drink of limewater this month at the rate of 1 gram per litre for those grown in bark. Fungicides sprayed on the new growths help stop spotting and damping off due to botrytis. Watering for plants that were dormant should be gradual over this month. Look for signs of movement such as new growths and roots. A few pellets of rapid raiser or blood and bone on the surface of the natives works well. Don't overdo as they will break down and form sludge in the mix that accelerates breakdown.

Keep feeding *Zygopetalums* with high nitrogen feed until the new growths bulb up and observe for any papery marks on the leaves that will have a looper caterpillar chewing away happily underneath! Cut off old flower spikes and try and finish any division this month. *Oncidiums* and *cattleyas* will show new root growth and growth nodes.

Gradually increase watering and start feeding when the roots show growth tips. At the moment I am just misting the roots.

These two species will sprout roots from the tips of the old roots, the sides of the old roots as well as the old and new growths.

Try and hang all *Oncidiums* above the *cymbidiums* as they love stronger light and air movement. It is still a bit early to attempt any division of these two genera.

For those who grow terrestrials September and October are peak months. Keep moist and give them a weak feed with an organic feed. Two spotted mites have been bad this year so if your flowers are slightly distorted or the leaves looking a bit brown on the edges, there is a good chance that the mites have found them. Once they have finished flowering you can slowly dry off the plants.. Keep an eye out for rot in the leaves caused by being too wet. Remove them and spray with a fungicide. If the rot gets into the tubers it usually spells the end of the plant.. Next month is October and is a very busy month as we strive to finish re potting and division so to give our plants to settle down before the heat of summer. We will spend some time here with some useful tips on how to re pot, divide and how we look after them.

Steve Howard

COMPETITION RESULTS.

CYMBIDIUMS 90 mm and Over

Open Div

1st Cym Khan Fury 'Inferno' P & H Haltis

First Div.

1st Cym Royal Fair x Coral Reef x Southern
King S. Laznicka
2nd Cym James Toya 'R A' J & D Cassar
R. Huddleston

CYMBIDIUM 60 – 90MM

Open Div

1st Cym. Khanebono 'Jacinta' P & H Haltis
2nd Cym Golden Ramson 'Golden Princess'
P & H Haltis

3rd Cym Uluru Sunset P & H Haltis

First Div.

1st Cym Cracker Jack R. Edwards
2nd Cym Unknown R. Edwards
3rd Cym. Templestowe Opal J & R Dunn

Second Div.

1st Cym Mimi M Henschke
2nd Cym Unknow G & P Simcock

CYMBIDIUMS Under 60mm

Open Div

1st Cym Cream Dream P & H Haltis

First Div.

1st Cym Sarah Jean S. Laznicka
2nd Cym Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascades'
J & D Cassar & R Huddleston
3rd Cym Nancy Maxwell 'Shirley' D. Bird

STANDARD LAELIINAE Under 80mm

First Div

1st Ctt. Unknown R. Edwards

LAELIINAE NON Standard

First Div

1st Blc Kaboom 'SVO' x William Farrell 'Native
Son' J & D Cassar & R Huddleston
Second div
1st Lc Interceps G & P Simcock

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CLUSTER LAELIINAE

First Div

1st Ctt Adelaide Ablaze S Laznicka

PAPH NON STANDARD

Open Div

1st Paph Chouvetii 'Van Dyke' P & H Haltis

First Div.

1st Paph Chouvetii 'Van Dyke' J & D Cassar
& R Huddleston

PAPHIOPEDILUMS SPECIES

First Div

1st Paph insigne J & R Dunn

AUST NATIVE EPIPHYTE HYBRID

Open Div.

1st Den Graham Hewitt P & H Haltis
2nd Den Australian Botanic Sparkler
P & H Haltis

First Div.

1st Den Burgundy Sheen x Aussie Victory
J & D Cassar & R Huddleston

2nd Den Candice "White" J & R Dunn

3rd Den Unknown R. Edwards

Second Div.

1st Den Lookout V Rounsefell
2nd Den Bardo Rose M Henschke
3rd Den Bardo Rose x Rutherford Starburst
V Rounsefell

AUST. NATIVE TERRESTRIAL HYBRIDS

First Div

1st Ptst curta x cucullata J & R Dunn
2nd Ptst Cutie x cucullata J & R Dunn
3rd Ptst X ingens J & R Dunn

AUST. NATIVE TERRESTRIAL SPIECES

1st Ptst curta J & R Dunn
2nd Ptst curta D Bird
3rd Ptst nutans J & R Dunn

ONCIDIINAE Hybrids

First Div

1st Onc Unknown S Laznicka
2nd Onc Gower Ramsay J & D Cassar
& R Huddleston

Second Div

1st Brsdm Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol'
V Rounsefell

OTHER SPECIES not listed

First Div

1st Srps lingua D. Bird

ZYGOPETALINAE

First Div

1st Zga [(Iron Knob x Pine Road) x Zns
Cynosure] J & R Dunn

SEEDLING All Genera

First Div

1st Zga [(Iron Knob x Pine Road) x Zns
Cynosure] J & R Dunn

POPULAR VOTE

Open Div

1st Paph Chouvetii 'Van Dyke' P & H Haltis
2nd Den Graham Hewitt P & H Haltis
3rd Cym Cream Dream P & H Haltis

First Div

1st Paph Chouvetii 'Van Dyke' J & D Cassar
& R Huddleston
2nd Ctt Adelaide Ablaze S Laznicka
3rd Cym Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascades'
J & D Cassar & R Huddleston

Second Div

1st Brsdm Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol'
V Rounsefell

**BEST ORCHID IN
EACH DIVISION**

Open Division

**Paph Chouvetii
'Van Dyke'
P & H Haltis**



First Division

**Cym. Cracker Jack
R. Edwards**



Second Division

**Brsdm Yellow Star
'Golden Gambol'
V. Rounsefell**



**REGISTRAR'S
CHOICE**

**Brsdm Yellow Star
'Golden Gambol'
V. Rounsefell**



Viruses In Cymbidiums Orchids

(As presented at the August meeting by Graham Fear)

With thanks to Graham Fear (Cymbidium club of S.A.) and

Joshua White for some of his excerpts from his investigations into viruses.

Viruses are one of the worst problems that orchid growers can face in their hobby. Unlike pests or other diseases, which can often be treated, **VIRUSES ARE INCURABLE** – the only option is to destroy the infected plant to prevent further spread of the virus/es. It causes unsightly markings on the leaves (and sometimes blooms), loss of vigour and reduce (or even prevent) flowering and in most cases kill the plant. Commercial growers also need to ensure that they control viruses, as an infected mother plant can result in the loss of an entire clonal run or damage to the business' reputation.

Prevention is the best approach – the risk from viruses can be drastically reduced with some straightforward hygiene practices. Even if you don't think you have any virused plants, it is still worth implementing these measures, as infected plants can be asymptomatic (i.e. they have no leaf or bloom markings to suggest a viral infection). Most growers will have encountered infected plants during their time in the hobby and a significant percentage will have virused plants present in their collection, whether backyard or nursery.

How to Prevent the Spread of Viruses

There are some simple measures that everyone, from the backyard enthusiast to the commercial grower, can implement to help reduce the spread of viruses in their collections. They are summarised as follows:

1. Always clean your tools between plants.
2. Do not reuse pots without thoroughly cleaning them first. If you suspect a plant is infected or it tests positive, discard the pot.
3. Do not reuse stakes and clips for different plants (especially bamboo or timber ones, as these cannot be adequately disinfected).
4. Never reuse media for other Orchids.
5. Maintain good pest control and spray for mites.

6. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and/or change your gloves between plants.
7. Quarantine new acquisitions
8. When acquiring new plants, it is good practice to keep them separate from your existing collection for a while. Having designated areas to keep batches of plants quarantined is helpful; if you regularly order from multiple suppliers, it is a good idea to keep the different suppliers' plants separated until you are satisfied with their health.
9. Disinfect tools and pots with Trisodium Chloride or similar.
10. A butane torch is useful for sterilising tools.
11. The most reliable way to sterilise tools between plants is to wipe them with a disposable rag or paper towel soaked in isopropyl alcohol, then flame them until the tool starts to heat up (both the AOS and OSCOV recommend this approach). You need to remove the debris and sap from the tool and get the surface above 130°C to ensure inactivation of any virus (a small butane torch, such as the one pictured and available from hardware stores, is ideal for this task). The unfortunate trade-off is that this can affect the heat treatment of blades and dull them over time.
12. Beyond the above, there are a variety of approaches and recipes online for disinfecting tools and pots. One approach suggested is to soak tools in a saturated solution of trisodium phosphate (tsp, available in Australia as Tricleanium) or products with it in it, for at least 15 minutes.

Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CymMV)

CymMV is one of the two viruses that are likely to be found in old cymbidium collections. However, it can infect a wide range of genera (cattleya alliance, dendrobium, phalaenopsis, vanilla, etc.) and symptoms differ depending on the genus.

The virus is a member of the Potexvirus genus and there are at least two known strains (Moles et al 2007); Agdia's test strips were updated in 2011 to detect both strains. It is most frequently transmitted by contaminated tools (Coutts et al. 2013) but can also be transmitted via the pollen of an infected host plant. CymMV has a short lifespan outside a host (7-10 days), but the ease with which it infects plants and becomes systemic varies significantly between genera. For cymbidiums, an infection is established within four weeks (Allen 2010). Fortunately, it is not particularly contagious, infecting only about 20% of the

cymbidiums exposed in their study. They also noted that CymMV almost always produced leaf mosaic and caused a significant reduction in vigour.

Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV)

ORSV is the orchid virus is encountered most by growers and is the most prevalent virus in older collections in Australia. Apart from OFV, it is one of the worst of the three and the explanation is below. ORSV is a member of the Tobamovirus genus, along with other plant viruses such as tobacco mosaic (TMV) and the various cucumber mosaic/mottle viruses. it is sometimes referred to as the TMV orchid strain and is effectively indistinguishable from TMV under an electron microscope. whilst it predominantly infects orchids, it can also infect members of the nicotiana genus (tobacco plants, part of the solanaceae family) and becomes systemic in at least *n. clevelandii* (but not *n. tobacum*). It is also known to systemically infect zinnia plants (Inouye 1966) with the only symptoms being colour break in the flowers.

Orchid Fleck Virus (OFV)

- relatively speaking, ofv is the new kid on the block, despite having first been identified in cymbidiums in the 1970's. It spreads across the globe and through many orchid genera and it has become a significant problem in Australia over the past couple of decades. Some growers consider it to be the worst of the three main viruses.

When the virus was analysed in the early 2000's, it was found to be different enough to all known rhabdoviruses such that it required its own genus – Dichorhavirus (initially Dichorhabdovirus) in the family Rhabdoviridae. Much of the research on this virus has happened in the 21st century; thanks to the support of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia. Raymond Ali at the University of Tasmania studied OFV and its vectors (Wilson & Ali 2013) and as a result, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Tasmania includes a test for OFV in its orchid virus test regime.

The Cymbidium Orchid Club Of South Australia recognised a major problem a little over 10 years ago and invited one of the world's best experts on virus in plants, to come to Adelaide and speak on two occasions at their monthly meetings.

Associate Professor Calum Wilson, from the University of Tasmania came to Adelaide and spoke. after that he commissioned one of his honours students, to do some research on viruses in orchids, and attempt to produce a test to detect fleck virus. It was a huge challenge, and the student Ray Ali, did develop a test

procedure to test for fleck virus. He was successful, but unfortunately it is a very complex procedure, which is a bit expensive at \$25 per test.

One important discovery was that the false spider mite (*Brevipalpus Californicus*) (FSM), is spreading ofv between plants.

further investigations revealed that this insect is officially recorded as being present in the Adelaide area, and can inhabit a large variety of common garden plants, vegetables and lawn/grass. our summer conditions are most often extremely hot and often exceeding 40 degrees c, (or 104 degrees f), but in the 2011/2012 summer (December to February), we had very mild conditions. the FSM are reported to perish in temperatures exceeding 35 degrees centigrade compounding the problem.

Two major growers in South Australia have had their entire collections totally destroyed by the Fleck Virus. They used a large number of foggers in their shade houses for long periods, during that time. The foggers had been installed because of the extremely hot summer of 2010/2011.

This practice, even though it reduces the temperature, it increases the humidity, conditions perfect for the false spider mite.

Graham's Findings

At this stage I only get only fleck virus (hopefully), but I take no chances.

I isolate and destroy any plant/s with the slightest symptom of any sign of virus.

The main culprits, I feel are our lawns, trees and the vegetable garden, especially tomatoes.

There seems to be slightly less infections in late summer but spraying regularly with a mite killer can help.

Growers that have lost their whole collections to virus, where I can have one on one side of the shade house and another 20 plants away.

I even have had a compot of 12 plants with just 1 plant infected with the other 11 plants having no infection.

If you follow everything that has been suggested you have a chance of keeping the virus at bay, but like everything you just never know when it may hit you. Be vigilant.

You cannot just cut the affected leaf/leaves off and everything will be fine..... and you cannot treat it with anything.....

There are some very experienced people around that can spot fleck virus a mile off, and some that can accurately identify ORSV and CymMV, but the only way to be sure is to test your plants or seek advice from experienced growers but sometimes they

can be wrong, so be careful as sometimes plants looks
virused when they aren't and some look healthy and
they are full of virus.

