

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



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This month's **dinner meeting** is on **Wednesday 17th December**
in the Plympton Community Centre, Long St., Plympton, at 6.30pm.
Hall opens for set-up from 5.00pm. Arrive from 6.00pm for 6.30pm dinner.
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.

2026

PRESIDENT	Mr G Simcock	☎ 8250 9382	☎ 0419 837 761
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COMMITTEE	Mrs J Higgs Mr J Argent Mr R Edwards M. Henschke	Mr D Higgs Mr C Yeo Mrs I Davies	
REGISTRAR of JUDGES SHOW MARSHAL	Mr. Don Higgs Mr J. Cassar.	DEPUTY REGISTRAR	Mr J Argent.

REVIEW EDITOR Glen Thompson ☎ 0429 168 232 Email: gthomps5@adam.com.au

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*, Ken Wynes*	Don Higgs, Jane Higgs
1986 Kelvin Staples*, Stan Johnston*	Jill Taylor*
1992 Peter Speer*, Deane Johnston, Frank Neighbour*, Nancy Neighbour*	2021 Dr. Tony Bourne
1996 Kevin Gurney, Noel Oliver*	2022 Pauline Simcock, Garry Simcock
	2023 Sarka Laznicka Peter McCauley
	Jan Whibley Charles Yeo
	2024 John Seidel Val Speer

*Denotes deceased member

Researched K.Gurney.

Birthdays for December 2025

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

Sarka Laznicka, Carmel Edwards, Sofia Hadiuk.
Congratulations.

Next Committee Meeting: *Tues 27th January at Western Link Church Findon.*
Next Judges Meeting *To be advised by Registrar*

Outgoing President's Report

Hello members. It gives me great pleasure to present my 2025 President's report. I wasn't sure about taking on the position but with the help & support of our committee I got through OK. Thanks for everyone's support.

We have had a great year thus far, showing our orchids at our monthly meetings and have had four successful Shows. Our Autumn Show then the Orchid Fair in which we won the best display, then our Winter Show followed by our Spring Show. Well done to all who showed, and everyone who helped make them a great success and congratulations to all of the winners.

A big thank you to our very hard working judges who work tirelessly to make our shows a success, and a big thank you to those who continue to help at shows on our sales tables. Thanks also on meeting nights to those setting up & putting away and to those who man the kitchen after meetings & during shows, I won't name you as you all know who you are. Thank you all.

Unfortunately we have had a few hiccups this year with our Review, firstly with Trevor Jacob becoming very ill then John Dunn taking over for a short time and later Charles Yeo. Glen Thompson has now taken on the December issue as a trial, but is uncertain how long for, so if you're computer literate and have some spare time you might like to have a go at being a future Review editor.

To all our sick members a big hello, and hopefully a quick recovery to you all.

Hope to see you all at our December meeting & Christmas dinner

Cheers.

Joe Cassar President 2025

Incoming President's Report

Our new year begins part way through the November Meeting when the meeting is adjourned for the A.G.M. Plants benched at this meeting are judged with points going towards the year total for 2025. There is no plant competition in December, prizes are awarded for the year. There is competition for the raffle prizes however, as often plants and flasks have been donated as prizes.

After taking over as president, I thanked everyone for their work, and in particular, Joe, as president. Joe then went on to demonstrate that "man is greater than plant". Joe had brought in a cattleya to divide, the inside of the pot was completely full of roots and the roots had a stranglehold on the outside of the pot.

Two members were welcomed to the new committee, Peter McCauley and Marlene Henschke. Peter had already been co-opted into a seat at the front table, taking on the role of secretary for the night, Pauline did not accept her new knee as readily as anticipated and her stay in hospital had been extended. Marlene was able to remain in the audience but from previous demonstration, she will be a valuable asset.

At the **Orchid Opportunities Day**, Diana had hoped to break her record of making 2 orchid mounts, this did not occur. She did 2 demonstrations at the November meeting. I had brought along some "RAT" sarcs and materials for members to use. The rats had taken a liking to the labels from these plants, not eaten on site but gone completely, then come back to feast on some of the leaves. The first group chose to perform the activity along with Diana, the second group watched intently. The second group decided it was not such a daunting task and got Diana to repeat the exercise as they made their own mounts.

Slaves Day was an enjoyable and successful event, Marlene rang on Saturday afternoon. Apparently they'd had much more rain than us. I spent over an hour getting some of the plants out of their pots ready for dividing, it was

drizzling, my jumper was moist but my shirt was still dry. We had 2 heavy showers and it looked like I would have to move everything into the garage, Sunday morning I had to set up a tarpaulin for some shade. The only casualty for the day was one very nice ceramic pot, I had had no success getting the plant out, put it on the lawn, the wind knocked it over, the lip of the pot hit the cement and it exploded. Everyone was finished and cleaned up ready for lunch, barbecued chicken and pork schnitzels, turkey rissoles and salads, fruit salad and icecream. Thank you all for your help and food to share. We have a supply of pots and divisions for upcoming events.

Speaking of food, our **Christmas Dinner** is on Wednesday 17 December, 6.00 for 6.30 start (setup from 5.00) We will have 3 roast meats, roast veggies, Christmas Pudding, fruit salad , custard and icecream. \$15 will secure your meal. If you haven't paid or let me know you are attending, please confirm your attendance by Friday 12 December (0419837761).

Bring your loose change. We will.

Complete lucky squares from last month.

Sell extra tickets and draw the prize winner of the book donated by Jan Whibley.

Hold our giant raffle. Everyone is invited to bring a small gift to go on the raffle prize table. The birthday draw winner gets first pick, then everyone else is hoping their ticket is next drawn, so they get what they're hoping for.

Wearing 3 hats for the night will mean I will need help to ensure things go smoothly.

Thank You Everyone. We look forward to catching up with as many as we can at the dinner. If not, have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. **Garry**

SHOW DATES 2026

Firstly, our **Autumn Show** at Crittenden Rd, Findon, Friday 15th May set up from 4pm followed by judging, then Saturday 16th May 9am to 4pm open to public.

The South Australian Orchid Fair is on the King's Birthday Weekend Friday 5th June 9am set up Sat 6th June 9am to 4pm, and Sunday 7th June 10am to 3pm open to public at the

Campbelltown Council Function Centre, 172 Montacute Road, as in previous years.

After this interclub exhibition will be our **Winter Show** at Crittenden Rd, Findon, Friday 31st July set up from 4pm followed by judging, then Saturday 1st August 9am to 4pm and Sunday 2nd August 12noon to 4pm open to public.

Then our **Spring Show**, also at Crittenden Rd Findon, Friday 11th September, put in displays from 4pm followed by judging, then Saturday 12th September 9am to 4pm and Sunday 13th September 12noon to 4pm open to public.

Our **Plant Sales Day** is scheduled for Saturday 10th October at the Crittenden Rd Findon Church hall from 8am set up for your sales items, Open to public 9.30am to 4pm. You can sell all sorts of plants, pots, potting mix etc.

Oct 2025 Photos

Den Cassiope



Den Cassiope wp



Oct 2025 Photos (contd)

Den thrysiflorum



Den thrysiflorum wp



Den unknown cu 2nd Div



Den unknown 2nd Div.



Epy Cabeza



These are the 8 photos from the October meeting that could not be included in the October-November issue. Thanks to John Seidel for these, and thanks also for the November photos.

Epy Cabeza sf



Epi elongatum



Nov 2025 Photos

Phal amabilis



Epi elongatum wp.jpg



Phal amabilis sf



Eny Magic Wand



Nov 2025 Photos (contd)

Cym canaliculatum 'Billtone'.jpg



Cym canaliculatum 'Billtone' cu



‘GOING POTTY’

On the morning of Sunday 23rd November, 7 club members got together at Garry and Pauline’s home to help with the repotting of the 14 orchids that had been donated to the club. The orchids were huge and had not been repotted for ages, if ever! They were potted in china/porcelain type pots which were much too nice to be smashed to remove the orchids and, if undamaged, could later be sold.

When we arrived, fortunately Garry had already managed to remove the

orchids from the pots with lots of effort and only minimal damage. It was then a matter of splitting up the very congested plants and potting them on. Easier said than done! Most of the plant masses could only be split by using a machete. However, we managed and the plant divisions and back bulbs were repotted. Several holly ferns which had been growing in the same pots were also potted up. Garry had been busy at the BBQ towards the end of the potting and so we finished with a delicious lunch of BBQ’d meats, a lovely selection of salads and fruit salad and ice cream. A really nice end to the Working Bee. Fun, food and fellowship!

Jane Higgs







November Meeting Photos

Potting & Mounting Orchids



November 2025 Competition Results

OPEN DIVISION

Cymbidium Species

1) Cym. lowianum M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

Laeliinae Non Standard

1) Enanthleya Eny. Magic Wand M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

2) Epy. Cabeza J. Seidel

Laeliinae Species

1) C. Intermedia M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

Paphiopedilum Non Standard

1) Paph. Berenice 'Dee Pee' M.

Willoughby & Ou. Ju

Paphiopedilum Species

1) Paph. delenatii 'Vincent Vista' M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

2) Paph. haynaldianum M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

3) Paph. delenatii M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid

1) Sarco. (George Colthup x Lyn) P. Haltis
2) Sarco. Susie 'Seaview' M.

Willoughby & O. Ju
3) Sarco. George Colthup X fitzgeraldii) M.

Willoughby & O. Ju

Australian Native Epiphyte Species

1) Cym. canaliculatum 'Billtone' J. Seidel

2) Cym. canaliculatum 'Jessica' J. Seidel

3) Cym. canaliculatum 'A-C' J. Seidel

Zygopetalinae Hybrid

1) Gateopetalum Ariene Amour 'Conching' J.
Seidel

Seedling

1) Eny. Magic Wand M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

2) Paph. haynaldianum M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

3) Cym. canaliculatum 'Jessica' J. Seidel

Popular Vote

1) Paph. Berenice 'Dee Pee' M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

2) Paph. haynaldianum M.
Willoughby & O. Ju

3) Cym. canaliculatum 'Jessica' J. Seidel

First Division

Cymbidium 60 – 90mm

1) Cym. Amesbury 'Frank Slattery' R. Edwards

Laeliinae Standard Under 80mm

1) C. (Precious Jewel x Royal Beau) R. Edwards

Laeliinae Cluster

1) Enanthleya (Eny.) Magic Wand S. Laznicka

Laeliinae Species

1) Epi. elongatum J. & D.
Cassar

Phalaenopsis Non Standard

1) Phal. Unknown J. & D.
Cassar

Dendrobium not Australian Native

1) Den. Fairy Moon 'Sweeti' R. Edwards

2) Den. Snow R. Edwards

Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid

1) Sarco. (Sweetheart x Kulnura Spice) D. Bird

2) Sarco. Killa Sun R. Edwards

3) Sarco. Fitzhart D. Bird

Other Hybrid

1) Lyc. Macama 'Aline' R. Edwards

2) Lyc. (Shoalhaven x Alwin Miller) R. Edwards

Other Species

1) Bif. harisonii R. Edwards

Popular Vote

1) Phal. Unknown J. & D.

Cassar

2) Den. Fairy Moon 'Sweeti' R. Edwards

Second Division

Laeliinae Non Standard

1) Guaricyclia (Gcy.) Kyoguchi 'Fumi' M.
Henschke

Laeliinae Cluster

1) Epi. Pacific Whimsy M. & M.
Vassallo

Phalaenopsis Standard

1) Phal. Unknown G. & P.
Simcock

Phalaenopsis Species

1) Phal. amabalis A.

Massared

2) Phal. amabslis A.

Massared

Dendrobium not Australian Native

1) Den. Unknown G. & P.
Simcock

Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid

1) Sarco. Sunny 'Zoe' G. & P.
Simcock

2) Sarco. Kulnura 'Sandy' M.

Henschke

3) Sarco. Sundaani's Maria M.

Henschke

Other Species

1) Pleurothallis. (Pths) dimissa* M. & M.
Vassallo

Popular Vote

1) Phal. amabilis A.
Massared

2) Phal. amabilis A.
Massared

3) Sarco. Sundaani's Maria M.
Henschke

Divisional Winners**Open Division**

Den. canaliculatum J. Seidel

First Division

Epi. elongatum J. & D.
Cassar

Second Division and Registrar's Choice

Phal. amabilis A.
Massared

Notes:

* The accepted name for Pths. dimissa is Anathalilis dimidia (2001) (could not find a registration for dimissa).

Synonyms are: Stelis dimidia (2014); Specklinia dimidia (2004); Pleurothallis dimidia (1999)

Orchid Culture Notes for December

Another year has slipped us by.

Hopefully, this was a better year than last and the coming new year will be even better. This is the key to successful orchid growing and there is the requirement to try and go one up on the previous year. Learning is a never ending process and success is based on lessons learnt.

With the new year beckoning why not try and do something different next year or trying to grow a different genera. I picked up an Aeranthes at the Festival of Flowers a couple of years ago. No idea about growing it but for \$8 it was worth a try. The books said cooler conditions, lots of shade and humidity. Found that spot in the shade house and presto. It grew and is now in spike. The worst thing that will happen is you will kill it. And if you do, don't give up (mind you its three strikes and out in my shade house). Some orchids are not meant to grow here. Summer is well upon us and the growth season is away. Obviously feeding and watering are the key requirements but there are many other factors. Light levels are now at their peak, humidity levels at the lowest and there is the usual army of bugs out there feasting on the soft new growths. With rapid growth evident in many genera, we need to keep them moving but also consider that they are generally soft at this stage of growth. So, caterpillars find a new growth much more tempting than a matured growth. Heat damage is more noticeable and much more likely to affect a new growth than an old growth.

Hopefully, most of our division etc has been completed by now but alas with so much to do nowadays this is not always the case so we find more and more growers still dividing this late in

the season. As long as these plants are well looked after I can see not too many problems dividing this late but I would not expect a premium flowering next year either. Some of the plants that can be done now are the Cattleyas and the Oncidiums as their new growths have new roots that are not too long and these plants can be divided without too much setback of performance in the flowering stakes. Some of these plants can also be back cut this time of year. Back cutting involves cutting the rhizome of a plant that is intent on growing one forward growth each year and Oncidiums and Cattleyas are classic species that exhibit this behaviour. The cut is made 3 or 4 growths back from the lead with a sterile knife dipped in a fungicide. Then place a plant label in the cut to stop the growth growing back together. The aim is to encourage a dormant eye on the back half of the division to start growing. The plant can then be divided next year and you have two plants. Zygopetalums are growing fast and most new growths will be showing new roots as well. The key to dividing a plant at any time is do it in active growth. If you divide a plant that is resting you may end up with a dead plant or at least a plant suffering a major setback. The old damaged roots won't absorb water or fertilizer very well and there are no new ones to take over. Even when it finally grows new roots it is that far setback it may be years before it returns to normal. All divided plants should be kept shadier, more humid and misted regularly for a while until they settle down and then returned to their rightful place on the bench. Don't forget a couple of watering's with Seasol to assist the recovery of the orchid and the new roots.

Terrestrials are now in the shed stored in a cool shady place. Next month will see the annual task of repotting. There are a couple of evergreen terrestrials we can grow here and as long as you have some cover they won't need too much heat over Winter. These are *Phaius tankervilliae* (aka the Swamp Orchid) and *Calanthe triplicata* (aka the Christmas Orchid). Both are grown under 55% shade at my place and under cover all year in a deep pot with a rich peaty compost. They both have soft wide leaves and look good even out of flower. Caterpillars and scale love them! Both flowers mark badly if they get wet, particularly the *Calanthe* that turns black. It would pay to keep the atmosphere and the plant very dry when flowering. The *Phaius* is out in November and funnily enough the *Calanthe* flowers in December. Keep up the humidity this time of year as it is your ally when conditions get hot. There are many ways to increase humidity. In my shade house I hang old man's beard everywhere, baby's tears grows under the benches and along the paths, I have some containers of water under the benches and even a few foliage plants scattered around the place. The floor is bark chip that holds moisture. All of these factors improve the humidity. Provide some extra shade if you can when temperatures go through the roof and remove it when conditions cool down. We installed foggers under the covered section and these are very effective at bumping up the humidity and bringing the temperatures down on those extreme days. Avoid spraying for pests when temperatures are high. Learn to read the signs of heat and light damage. Die back, pitting, sun burn or scald marks and excessive yellowing of the leaves are clear signs. I also test a few plants leaves and feel how hot

they are and if they are I'll try to get the temperature down.

Inspect those orchids that do not have pseudobulbs to tide them over the summer. *Paphiopedilums* and *Sarcochilus* come to mind so make sure they are kept evenly moist. They also will show up heat damage via pitting of the leaves and once creamed by the heat will die a slow death.

Inspect the roots anytime you feel the plant is struggling. Lifting the plant partly out of the pot and back in won't harm it but if the roots have no growth tips then something is wrong and action needs to be taken now. Not later.

Paph are very sensitive to salt, especially some of the species and regular flushing is essential to remove them. This is why a well-drained mix is a must, not only to get valuable air to the roots but to enable a regular flushing. If water drains out slowly then it is unlikely your conditions are very favourable and problems will soon occur if not already evident. They also have low fertilizer requirements.

Pests are plenty and the green loopers are rife. A month ago, I couldn't walk outside at night under the street lights because of a moth plague and when there is a moth plague there is a looper plague behind it. Fortunately, I was prepared and I have a few pots of sacrificial foliage plants under the benches and sure enough they are covered in loopers that are easily removed by hand but the orchids apart from my soft leaved *Zygopetalums* and *Lycastes* are untouched. I would still keep an eye out for scale and mites as conditions become drier.

December starts the Summer season and there are still plenty that flower this time of year. Many people won't grow Summer flowering orchids, maybe it's because there are no shows or club

meetings are recessed until the new year. I don't know but I make sure I am not in that minority. *Brassia verrucosa* and *Brassia brachiata* are now out, the spidery flowers making a wonderful display even if their smell leaves much to be desired. There are always a few Summer flowering mini Cattleyas and Oncidiums adding colour. I have always loved the Oncidiine complex. Like the Laeliinae group a well thought out collection can usually have at least one member from the group or intergenerics bred from them that flower every month of the year. I have Encyclias, Native Dendrobiums (yes, even in Summer, but they only last a few days), always Zygos spot flowering, *Sartylis*, *Neofinetia*, *Biffrenaria*, Native Cymbidiums (*madidum*, *canaliculatum* and *suave*) and their hybrids all providing summer colour.

Most of these notes are for the learners in the clubs and I hope that these and the beginners' group meetings have been useful in helping you understand and improve your culture.

For the rest of the growers, I hope they have been helpful even in a small way. We are all into this together and we all need to interact, share ideas and dare to try something different. All the best for Christmas and may Santa bring you many seedlings.

2025 is about to bite the dust and let's see what awaits us in 2026.

Steve Howard