

The Orchidaceous Review

Volume 61 No 5

May 2026

The South Australian Orchidaceous Society Inc.



Affiliated with
Australian Orchid Council
South Australian Regional Orchid Council

www.saorchidsociety.org



PRESIDENT

Mr Garry Simcock
0419 837 761

SECRETARY

Mrs Pauline Simcock
0430 194 808

PO Box 124 Montacute SA 5134

TREASURER

Mr Garry Simcock
0419 837 761



Catt. Meadii (grown by Diana Bird) and Phal Fancy Fire (grown by Don & Jane Higgs and Cym (Valerie Absolonova x Madison Falls) x Gram Crownfox Leopard (grown by John Seidel).

This month's meeting is on **Wednesday 20th May 2026**

NOTE LOCATION: Fulham Community Centre, at 8pm.

Hall opens for set-up from 7.30pm.

Carpark and entry are via Phelps Court as explained below.

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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	☎ 0419 837 761
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mr Peter McCauley	☎ 0438 376 181 and Mr Trevor Jacob ☐☐8346 6155
IM PAST PRESIDENT	Mr Joe Cassar.	0452 193 903
SECRETARY	Mrs Pauline Simcock	☎ 0430 194 808 P.O. Box 124 Montacute S.A. 5134
TREASURER	Mr G Simcock	0419 837 761
COMMITTEE	Mrs J Higgs Mr J Argent Mr R Edwards Mrs D Bird	Mr D Higgs M.Henschke Mrs I Davies
REGISTRAR of JUDGES SHOW MARSHAL	Mr. D Higgs Mr J Cassar	DEPUTY REGISTRAR Mr J Argent.

REVIEW EDITOR Glen Thompson

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 May 2026

**This month's guest speaker will be Simon Grenfell.
His talk will be on Zygopetalums.**

Volunteers for Kitchen duties this month are Marlene Henschke and Sarka Laznicka.

Birthdays for May 2026

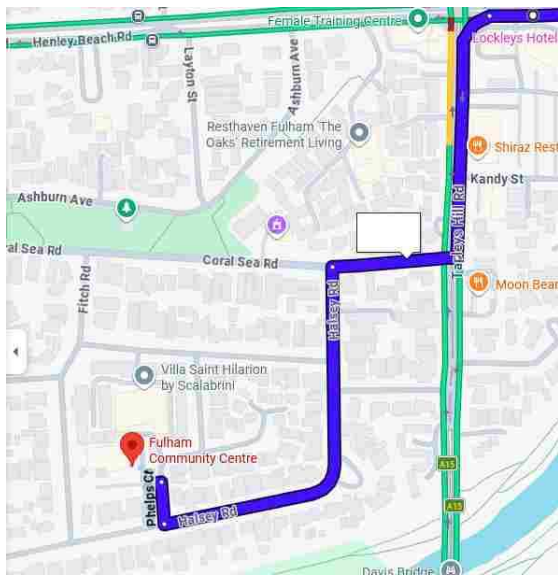
Happy Birthday to these members, who are celebrating birthdays this month.
Marlene Henschke, Patricia Carman, Pauline Simcock and Geoff Spear
Congratulations!

Next Committee Meeting: *Monday May 18th @ 7.00 pm at Findon Western Link Church Hall.*
Next Judges Meeting *To be advised by Registrar*

****Reminder** Venue for meetings April to August 2026**

Meetings will be at the **Fulham Community Centre** until work is completed at Plympton. While the address is listed as 19 Fitch Road, it is recommended that you enter via Phelps Court where there are 48 carparks close to the door.

The Centre is on the seaward side of Tapley's Hill Road, between Sir Donald Bradman Drive and Henley Beach Road. The most direct route would be to turn off Tapley's Hill Road into Coral Sea Road, turn left into Halsey Road, round the bend, then right into Phelps court and into the carpark. See the map if you don't already know.



Google Map to Fulham Community Centre

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are very grateful to Kevin Western for his presentation on "Deflasking and potting on orchids, without the B.S." Kevin was at our March Meeting when we were talking about the fact that our April speaker was going to be absent and we had not been able to find a replacement. Kevin graciously offered to fill in.

Kevin is a man of many talents, he was first to arrive at the new venue but I don't think we can credit him with the hall already being open, (probably a switch malfunction.) I believe another of his talents is his ability to forget to attend meetings, fortunately this was not demonstrated, rumour has it that a member contacted him to collect some plants from him at the meeting and he had a timely reminder. We are all prone to getting confused with times and dates, The Rare Fruit Society meets on the fourth Tuesday of each odd month,

(usually this is the last Tuesday of the month.) In March I received an invoice for my membership, why didn't they wait till the meeting? They had, I would have been the only one there the next Tuesday. (5th Tuesday of the month.) Not learning from this experience, I prepared my exhibits, got supper ready and sat down for an early tea ready to attend the Enfield Horticultural Society Meeting (3rd Tuesday of the month.) Orchidaceous meeting was on the next night. When we sat down for tea, Pauline asked why I was so organised, before pointing out I would have a week wait and the supper might be stale.

As Pauline got out of the ute when we arrived at the hall, the sole departed from her shoe, it looked as if she would be attending the meeting barefoot. Later, while I was bringing stuff into the hall, I saw Kevin with a very determined look on his face, firmly holding the shoe and sole together. I thought just holding them together will not fix the problem, little did I know that Kevin happened to have a tube of shoe repair glue in the car. (It is still holding.)

Everyone enjoyed Kevin's demonstration and if they learnt nothing else, plants do not need to be molycoddled and treated with chemicals just for them to survive and thrive. The last time Kevin gave a deflasking demonstration, he gave Pauline a compote of freshly deflasked pterystylis. Being winter, I put these on a shelf in the glasshouse to give them a fighting chance. They started growing and all of a sudden seemed to shrink. On closer inspection, only the shoots were left on the pot, the rats had eaten bulbs and roots.

At the time of writing this, we believe our speaker will be available for this month. (Need to confirm with fuel problems!)

Before the next meeting, we have our **Autumn Show** at Western Link Uniting Church, 93 Crittenden Road, Findon. Put in from 4pm on Friday 15th May, judging from about 6pm, after a light meal. Open to the public from 9am to 4pm on Saturday 16th May. All over by 5pm.

Your plants, both show and trading table are most welcome, together with anything else you wish to put on the trading table. If you wish to donate something to be served with the tea and coffee, this will be gratefully accepted, together with any help you may give.

Garry Simcock

Banking Fairytale

(Nightmare) continues

While I was making some progress, I thought should ask for a card with a chip. No problems, one would be posted in about 10 days. Why did I need this card? My usual banking procedure was to enter the main body of the bank, go to the hole in the wall, insert my deposit card, enter phone number and pour the coin in to be counted before lining up to the tellers to present the notes. In October I walked through a throng of people in the foyer, up to the hole in the wall, which was no longer there. I must have looked perplexed, one of the tellers told me I needed to go to the foyer. I was met with assistance in the foyer, they took my deposit card, put it in the machine, only to find it did not have a chip and would not work. Back to the tellers for the whole transaction.

The new card arrived and on my next visit an assistant helped me deposit both coins and notes in one transaction. (the only time a deposit has been successful.) Next use, the machine decided after counting the coins, it completed the deposit and I had to start again for the notes. The following time it rejected two, two dollar coins before completing the transaction. Fortunately I had two undamaged coins to add to complete the deposit. (still 2 transactions.) Next time it rejected a note which had been folded, again 2 transactions to complete the deposit. A new meaning for money laundering, file any flat edges off coins and iron any folded notes.

Last visit I had \$65 dollars to deposit, it took all the notes, and some coin before completing the transaction at \$59.40. Put a handful of coin in another transaction for \$4.15. still some coin left. Put it in, six, 5 cent coins rejected and a \$4.25 transaction. It was only when I got home on the computer that I got the final tally.

One member paid his membership fees by fast pay, it was so fast, he paid twice. Thinking he could cancel one payment, he immediately contacted the bank. The bank initiated a series of letters to me. The full week before Easter there were no letters in my mailbox on Monday, but five on Friday, all the same but with different dates. Thinking I could hasten the return, I filled one in and took it to the local branch. They would not accept it until I had been verified. Three employees were at the reception desk, one dealing with a

customer, one playing fixit with the printer and a third?? There was one couple waiting ahead of me. Thirty minutes later I was told I was next to be served. Ten minutes later I walked out with signed document in hand. I collected another two letters on the way home. Next day, ring the number on the letter, connect to correct extension and after ten minutes waiting I was told I had rung the wrong number, no, they could not put me through to the correct number but would give it to me. After eighteen minutes on the correct number, I was able to be told I could make an electronic transfer, I did not need to let the bank know it had been refunded but they would not give me the account details to do this. Two more letters picked up Easter Thursday, fortunately a break over Easter then a final two letters on the Wednesday. (11 in total)

From the Treasurer

Membership subscriptions for 2026 are now due, if not already paid.

Subscriptions remain at

\$25 for single membership

\$35 for joint or family membership

I am happy to take your payment, at meetings, in cash, or by card. If you would prefer, you can make payment by direct deposit, the details are

BSB 065-152

Account Number 1005 3971

Garry Simcock, Treasurer

Form for EFT payments to you

As stated in the last newsletter, and at the April meeting, the Treasurer can pay money directly into your account. This will be quicker and easier, but he will need

Your name as it appears on your account

Your bank's BSB and Branch Number

Your Account Number

Your Email Address (to let you know you have been paid)

Sheets were made available at the April meeting for you to record this information. *(I forgot to get one myself! – Ed.)*

If you have not already done so, please ask Garry for one of these sheets, fill in the details and return it straight to him. This is to keep your banking details private and safe.

SHOW DATES 2026

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

South Australian Orchid Fair on the King's Birthday Weekend **Friday 5th June** 9am set up, then **Sat 6th June** 9am to 4pm and **Sunday 7th June** 9am to 4pm open to public at the Campbelltown Council Function Centre, 172 Montacute Road, as in previous years.

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.

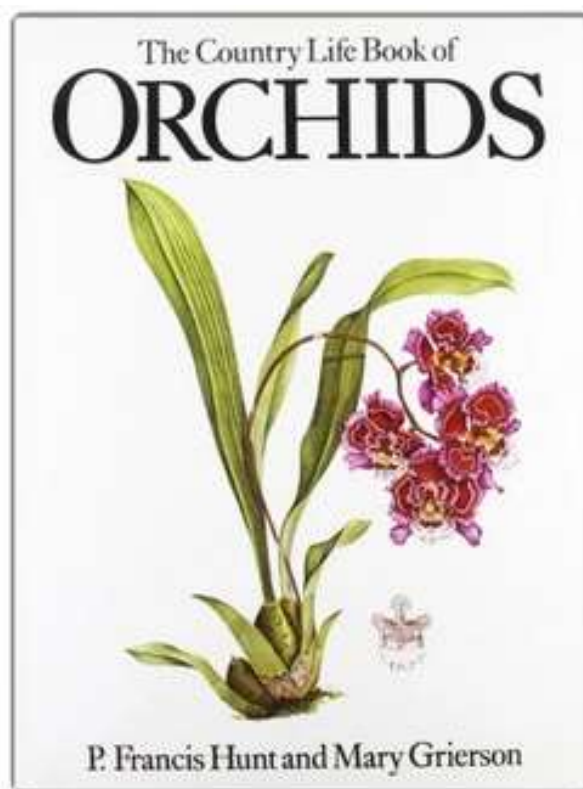
Spring Show, also at Crittenden Rd Findon, **Friday 11th September**, put in displays from 4pm followed by judging, then **Saturday 12th September** 9am to 4pm and **Sunday 13th September** 12noon to 4pm open to public.

Plant Sales Day is scheduled for **Saturday 17th October** at the Crittenden Rd Findon Church Hall from 8am set up for your sales items, then open to public 9.30am to 4pm. You can sell all sorts of plants, pots, potting mix etc

Fund-raising Raffle

We have a new fund-raising raffle.

The prize is a superb book donated to the club by Sue and Graham Zerbe. It is "[The Country Life Book of Orchids](#)", by P.Francis Hunt and Mary Grierson.



Many thanks to Sue and Graham for this delightful book.

The tickets are \$2 each and the raffle will run for the next few months.

April 2026 Meeting



Photos from Diana Bird:



Onc. Sweet Sugar



zygo. Unknown

April 2026 Meeting (contd)

Photos from Diana Bird (contd)



Catt. Meadii

Photos from John Seidel:



Mil Christina Carpenter 'Rumsfelt'

Photos from John Seidel (contd)



Mil Christina Carpenter 'Rumsfelt' 2nd div.



Mil Christina Carpenter 'Rumsfelt'

April 2026 Meeting (contd)

Photos from John Seidel (contd)



**Cym (Valerie Absolonova x Madison Falls) x Gram
Crownfox Leopard**



Phal Fancy Fire



**Cym (Valerie Absolonova x Madison Falls) x Gram
Crownfox Leopard**



Phal Fancy Fire

April 2026 Meeting (contd)

Jane's Showbench Chatter



***Rhyncolaeliocattleya* (Rlc.) Hsinying Green Gem.**

This lovely orchid was labelled as Rhy. which is a *Rhyncostylis* and it definitely isn't. Unfortunately the labels in orchid pots that we buy or inherit aren't always correct. However this one was easy to identify correctly. It is a beautiful apple green flower with a purple labellum – a stunning contrast which really stands out. This was benched by John Seidel.



***Zygonaria* (Zga) (Kiwi Choice 'Beethoven' x Aussie Quest 'Christy') 'Beauty'.**

A beautiful, very large meaty flower with a lovely large purple lip and green sepals marked with brown blotches. Only two flowers on this inflorescence but hopefully, the flower count will increase when the plant gets bigger. Aussie Quest was once a Hamelwellsara, and was registered by Adelaide Orchids in 1995 but was later changed to Zga. Zygonarias don't usually have as many flowers as straight Zygotetallums and actually reduce the number when crossed with them. When judged, the varietal names of crossings aren't listed. Benched by Diana Bird.

April 2026 Meeting (contd)

Jane's Showbench Chatter (contd)



Bulbophyllum laxiflorum.

This species orchid comes from SE Asia and the Phillipines where it grows in warm, humid forests. It is a dainty little white flower but unfortunately tends to close its petals at night so it is difficult to judge it. This little plant was growing on a mount so needs to have moisture kept up to it in our dry summers. This was benched by Mario and Maria Vasselo.



Cymbidium (Cym.) [(Valerie Absolonova x Madison Falls) x Gramatophyllum (Gram.) Crownfox Leopard.]

A very pretty little flower (and lots of them) with mustard yellow sepals and a dark maroon/red lip. Another orchid with a very attractive contrasting lip. Gramatophyllum is a cymbidium alliance genus. This was also benched by John Seidel.

Footnote: The Australian native terrestrial Thelymitras also close for the night, in fact won't open at all if there is no sun or warmth. When they do open, they will close in the early afternoon. At the Australian Native shows they were often displayed with a strong, bright light on them so that they would be open for judging. JH

April 2026 Competition Results

Open Division

Cymbidiums 60mm & Under

- 1) *Cym.* [(Valerie Absolonova x Madison Fall)s x *Gram.* Crownfox Leopard] J. Seidel

Laeliinae Standard Under 80mm

- 1) *C.* Rosella's Angel J. Seidel

Laeliinae Non Standard

- 1) *Rlc.* Hsinying Green Gem J. Seidel

Laeliinae Cluster

- 1) *Ctt.* Chocolate Drop 'Kadama' J. Seidel
2) *Ctt.* Zodiac Purple Haze 'Purple Gloss' J. Seidel

Paphiopedilum Non Standard

- 1) *Paph.* Hung Sheng Grand Swell J. Seidel

Paphiopedilum Species

- 1) *Paph. helenae* J. Seidel
2) *Paph. liemianum* J. Seidel

Phalaenopsis Non Standard

- 1) *Phal.* Fancy Fire J. & D. Higgs

Phalaenopsis Species

- 1) *Phal. faciata* J. & D. Higgs

Oncidiinae Species

- 1) *Gom. micropogon* J. & D. Higgs

Other Hybrid Not Listed above

- 1) *Sngl.* Venus Noel J. & D. Higgs

Seedling

- 1) *Cym.* [(Valerie Absolonova x Madison Fall)s x *Gram.* Crownfox Leopard] J. Seidel
2) *Paph. liemianum* J. Seidel
3) *Paph. helenae* J. Seidel

Popular Vote

- 1) *Phal.* Fancy Fire J. & D. Higgs
2) *Paph. helenae* J. Seidel
3) *Ctt.* Chocolate Drop 'Kadama' J. Seidel

First Division

Laeliinae Non Standard

- 1) *Ctt.* Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flame' J. & D. Cassar
2) *C.* Little Fairy D. Bird

Laeliinae Cluster

- 1) *Ctt.* Browniae 'Riga' J. & D. Cassar
1) *Ctt.* Meadlii S. Laznicka

Laeliinae Species

- 1) *Psh. cochleate* D. Bird

Oncidiinae Hybrid

- 1) *Milt.* Chritina Carpenter Rumfelt S. Laznicka
2) *Milt.* Chritina Carpenter Rumfelt S. Laznicka
3) *Onc.* Sweet Sugar J. & D. Cassar

Zygopetalinae

- 1) Z. Unknown
- 2) Zga. (Kiwi Choice x Aussie Quest)

D. Bird
D. Bird

Popular Vote

- 1) Ctt. Browniae 'Riga'
- 2) Milt. Chritina Carpenter Rumfelt
- 3) Z. Unknown

J. & D. Cassar
S. Laznicka
D. Bird

Second Division

Laeliinae Cluster

- 1) Ctt. Valetine Day 'Osborn'
- 2) Ctt. Meadii

G. & P. Simcock
G. & P. Simcock

Australian Native Epiphyte Species

- 1) Lip. (*reflexa* x Self)

M. & M. Vassallo

Oncidiinae Hybrid

- 1) Milt. Christina Carpenter Rumfelt
- 2) Milt. (May Mair x Yellow Moir) x regenellii]
- 3) **Brat.** Sadie Loo x Milt. Christmas Eve

M. & M. Vassallo
G. & P. Simcock
A. Massared

Other Species

- 1) Bulb. *laxiflorum*

M. & M. Vassallo

Popular Vote

- 1) **Brat.** Sadie Loo x Milt Christmas Eve
- 2) Ctt Valentine Day 'Osborn'
- 3) Ctt Meadii

A. Massared
G. & P. Simcock
G. & P. Simcock

Items In red indicate corrections to what was written on the label please update your records.

Genera Abbreviations In This Month's Results

Abrev	Name	Type	Display Schedule Co
Brat	Bratonia	Natural	Oncidiinae group
Bulb	bulbophyllum	natural	Other Genera,
Cym	Cymbidium	Natural,	(Cymbidinae group)
Ctt	Cattlianthe	Intergeneric,	Laeliinae group Catteleya x Guarianthe
Epi	Epidendrum	Natural,	(Laeliinae group)
Gom	Gomesa	Natural,	(Oncidiine group)
Gptm	Grammatophyllum	Natural	Cymbidium group
Lip	Liparis	Natural	Australian Native
Milt	Miltonia	Natural,	(Oncidiinae group)
Onc	Oncidium	Natural,	Oncidiinae group
Paph	Paphiopedilum	Natural,	Paphiopedilum Group
Phal	Phalaenopsis	Natural	Phalaenopsis
Psh	Prosthecea	Natural,	Laeliinae Group
Rlc	Ryncholaeliocattleya	Intergeneric	Laeliinae group Rhyncolaelia x Cattleya
Sngl	Stenoglotis	Natural	Other Genera
Z	Zygopetalum	Natural,	Zygopetalinae group
Zga	Zygonaria	Natural	Zygopetalinae group

April Divisional Winners

First Division and Registrars Choice:

Milt. Christine Carpenter Rumfelt grown by S. Laznicka

A well grown plant bearing 20 flowers on 8 inflorescences. the tepals were maroon and the labellum is a lighter purple with a white staminode that is really eye catching Note that in the registration there is no 's' in the name i.e. it is not 'Rumsfelt'

Second Division:

Milt. Christine Carpenter Rumfelt grown by M. & M. Vassello

A much smaller plant than the First Division example with only a single inflorescence with 3 flowers. Description is as for First Division winner.

Open Division:

Phal. Fancy Fire grown by J. & D. Higgs

A well grown plant with 1 branched inflorescence with a total of 10 flowers which is the required number and the count includes the flowers on the branches .the flowers were deep purple with white edges and splashes on all segments. the lip is a paler purple

Seedling:

Cym. [(Valerie Absolonova x Madison) x Gptm. Crownfox Leopard] Grown by J. Seidel

A description is in Jane's Show Bench Chatter article

Autumn Show Floral Competition Schedule

CHAMPIONS

Grand Champion
Reserve Champion
Open Division Champion
First Division Champion
Second Division Champion
Most Outstanding Seedling

CARD CLASSES

Applies to each Division.

Cymbidiums

Standard Cymbidium over 90mm
Non Standard Cymbidium over 90mm
Standard Cymbidium 60 – 90 mm
Non Standard Cymbidium 60 – 90mm
Standard Cymbidium under 60mm
Non Standard Cymbidium under 60mm
Species Cymbidium, any size, not Aust Native
Best overall Cymbidium

Laeliinae

Laeliinae Standard 80mm and over
Laeliinae Standard under 80mm
Laeliinae Non Standard
Laeliinae Cluster
Species Laeliinae
Best Overall Laeliinae

Paphiopedilum

Paphiopedilum Standard
Paphiopedilum Non Standard
Paphiopedilum Species
Best Overall Paphiopedilum

Phalaenopsis

Phalaenopsis Standard,
Phalaenopsis Non Standard
Phalaenopsis Species
Best Overall Phalaenopsis

Australian Natives

Australian Native Epiphyte Hybrid
Australian Native Epiphyte Species
Australian Native Terrestrial Hybrid
Australian Native Terrestrial Species
Best Overall Australian Native

Miscellaneous Genera

Dendrobium other than Australian Native
Oncidinae
Oncidinae Species
Zygopetalinae
Zygopetalinae Species
Other Species not listed above
Other hybrid not listed above
Best overall Miscellaneous Genera

Seedling (all genera)

Specimen (all genera)