

The next Meeting of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.
will be held on
Wednesday 27 August 2008
at the
Burnside Community Centre
401 Greenhill Road Tasmore SA

**Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday
of each month February to November**

Visitors Welcome

Program

- 7.00 pm Auditorium opens, benching of plants & trading table
- 7.15 pm Beginners Class. Note early start time (All Welcome)
- 7.45 pm Viewing of Plants & Popular Vote
- 8.00 pm Official Opening and Presidents Report
- 8.15 pm Seedlings on the Show-bench
- 8.20 pm Guest Speaker—Glenn Heylen
- 9.00 pm Plant Raffle Draw
- 9.15 pm Popular Vote and Judging Results
- 9.30 pm Close of Meeting and Supper.

THE NEW

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South
Australia Inc.

Print Post Approved PP 531637/00030



POPULAR VOTE—BEST OVERALL
Eikoh 'Fairy Floss' 1722
Grown by Gordon and Coralie Hime

The New Cymbidium News Vol 9 No 7—Augustugust 2008

The New Cymbidium News is published monthly – February to November inclusive and is the Official Newsletter of the **Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc**

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SUPPER ROSTER 2008

Wednesday 27 August	Carmel Beasley / Wendy Schiller
Wednesday 24 September	Jeanne Hall / Raelene O'Donoghue
Wednesday 22 October	Raelene O'Donoghue / Glenn Stearnes
Wednesday 26 November	Geoff Spear / Rosemary Bray

Many thanks to all the volunteers—all meetings now filled!

PROGRAM 2008

Wednesday 27 August	Good Bug—Bad Bug—Glenn Heylen
Wednesday 24 September	Colin Gillespie
Wednesday 22 October	Panel Discussion
Wednesday 26 November	Justin Priddy from Gympie—Qld

SHOW DATES 2008

National Show	————— Noarlunga Leisure Centre
	23—24 August 2008 (set-up and judging 22nd)
Spring Show	————— West Lakes Shopping Centre
	31 August 2008—6 September 2008
	(set-up 30/8/08)

NATIONAL SHOW DINNER

National Dinner : \$30 per head.

In order to keep the price down to the very lowest level, the menu [covered in the June edition of COCSA News] comes strictly on a 50/50 basis. That is, the 2 choices of each course will have 5 of each selection delivered to each 10 seat table. Should you receive the non preferred course then you only need to swap with a partner or friend. However we expect that all the food will be delicious and problems will be minimal. The only exception will be for those people who specifically order the vegetarian option, at least 2 weeks in advance of the night.

We look forward to receiving your payments for what will be an entertaining evening. Again, cheques to be made out to COCSA and sent to Andrew Nowakowski, as soon as possible.

NOTICE BOARD

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NOSSA are having their annual show. St Bernadette's hall is part of St Bernadette's Schools which is on most recent street directories.

COCO FIBRE

The coco fibre is available from Graham Morris—Valley Orchids
There are 3 sizes available
\$9.50 per 4½ kg block

NATIVE ORCHID SHOW

ST. BERNADETTE'S
CHURCH HALL
SOUTH RD
ST. MARYS
(corner of South Rd & Walsh Ave)



ENTRY FREE

Saturday 20th September, 10am to 5pm
Sunday 21st September, 10am to 4pm

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
P.O. Box 565, Unley SA 5061

COFFEE MUGS / PENS

Coffee mugs and Adler Pens are now available at club meetings.
Mugs: \$7.50 each—Pens : \$5.50 each.

WANTED

A piece of Butterfly Wings 'Brenda Marie'
Glenn Heylen for Trudy Crickmar, Mick Chenoweth's granddaughter
Glenn thinks it's a *Laeliocattleya*
Please contact: Peter Hall—pejeh@optusnet.com.au
Telephone: 08 8294 5562 or 0416 179 019



NEUTROG PRODUCTS

- Strike Back for orchids 20 Kg bag \$22
- Sudden Impact for Roses 10 Kg pail \$23
- Sudden Impact for Roses 20 Kg bag \$22
- Seamungus 20 Kg bag \$14.50
- Sudden Impact for Lawns 20 Kg bag \$24.50

Please place your orders and payment with Andrew Nowakowski
(cheques to be made out to COCSA)



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT August 2008

The Winter Show at Munno Para Shopping Centre was most successful and our trading table made more than in previous years. Well done and a big thank you to the management at Munno Para, who support our club year after year. Also many thanks to all those people that participated and to our willing volunteers on the trading table.

The planning for the National Show is on track. We have organised advertisements/articles to be included in the Times at Victor Harbor, The Messenger at Morphett Vale and our friend and supporter Sophie Thomson wrote a full page article on Cymbidiums and our National Show for her segment in the Home section of the Sunday Mail on Sunday 10 August. As well as the print media, I will be a presenter on 5AA with Mike Keelan, the ABC Gardening radio program and FM Radio. With the wonderful support of Lucy Spear and her contacts at Centro and my 'side-kick' Peter Hall, we have managed to secure two displays at Centro Colondades Shopping Centre the week before our National Show to advertise the event. The only disappointment so far is that our club participation at the show dinner is very poor—about 30%. There are more attending the dinner from interstate than our own members.

This month has been one of the busiest for the year for the committee with the National Show and the Spring Show at West Lakes the following week. I am still battling with West Lakes management for enough sites and probably won't know until the next meeting how many we end up with. Most sites will probably have to be composite sites.

Ray Brady will be 'back on deck' for the next issue of *The New Cymbidium News* so don't get too used to the gorgeous photograph at the top of the page!

Wayne Baylis—Vice President

CYMPPLICITY AUGUST

We are nearing crunch time. It is now more than ever the culmination of our year efforts to provide show bench quality cymbidiums all boils down to what we do in the next few weeks. It is said that it takes approx 10 weeks from the time the buds break sheath for the flowers to open so that being the case the beginning of August has our spikes really on the move.

As the spikes develop we must now decide how we are to present these to our advantage. Memory is good but a diary is better. There are some that present themselves in more than one form, especially the 60 to 90 mm group that can be grown as a straight spike or as an arching decorative spike. A good place to start learning is the shows and equally useful are the judges, contrary to popular belief! Just ask.

So we have the options of how to present these spikes, how are we going to get the best out of our colours and so on. There is so much to do, where do we start. Firstly let's look at training. As the spikes lengthen they need to be trained into their final position. In other words we set them in place. The pendulous spikes often will naturally fall over the edge of the pot. Some need some encouragement. A small weight hung off some elastic or similar will do. Attach these to near the tip of the spike (say 4 buds back where the stem is thicker). Take care as too heavy with a weight can take off the top buds. Make sure the plants are put in an area that is not subject to excessive wind. As they arch over the pot try and space them evenly around the edge of the pot. Small cut up stakes are ideal for this. Next are the straight spikes. Once again we try and present the spikes evenly around the pot and not all to one side. Sometimes the growths may all be on the one side of the pot but once again with some careful manipulation we can move the spikes around somewhat and improve the display. These plants should be divided after flowering as when they get like this they will never make a real good display. The key to our staking is to present the flowers well clear of the foliage for all to see. There are some clones that have an unfortunate trait of growing short spikes that are usually well in amongst the leaves. One solution is to try and train the flowers out towards the side so they are clear of the leaves. You could also try and stretch the spikes with careful application of a yo yo device or even the peg and elastic trick. This may give you an extra 3 or 4 inches of spike length and is also good for stretching those clones where the flowers tend to bunch up. The plants leaves can be trained to arch over as well. Just running your thumb and forefinger down the mid rib of the leaf in a gentle action will make a difference. Don't be too heavy handed as the leaf can split. Some people will cut the leaf. This is not considered a good practice and can be frowned upon by the judges. The leaves are also what

JUDGES CHOICE—FIRST DIVISION

Cronulla 'The Khan'

grown by: Robert and Janice Stock

Brown in a 10" pot, 3 spikes with an average of 15 flowers per spike. A large standard with red spotted labellum.

Judged as other colour it has a pink and cream blush throughout the petals and sepals.



JUDGES CHOICE—SECOND DIVISION

Valley Gratitude x Logfire

grown by: Des and Hazel Alsop

Presented in an 8" pot, one flower spike, 8 honey orange flowers with a dark red lip fading to yellow in the throat.

Well done Des and Hazel.

PLANT WRITE UP JULY 2008

JUDGES CHOICE—ORCHID OF
THE NIGHT / BEST IN OPEN
DIVISION

Elegant Valerie x Khan Flame
*grown by: Moss and Rosemary
Bray*

Presented in an 8" pot, one flower
spike almost one metre high.

Well filled in pale pink flowers with
a maroon labellum. 17 open
flowers, 2 unopened buds.



the plant uses to provide it's own food and excessive removal cannot be doing the plant any good. Any adjusting of spikes should be confined to the warmer parts of the day when they are supple and less inclined to snap.

Arching spikes known as decorative spikes can be trained a couple of ways. Starting of trained straight you basically let the top section fall naturally. The amount of ' top section' varying from the last few buds to virtually the whole spike. Here knowledge of the clone habit is of great importance. Clones such as Pendragon 'Broadmoor' and Without Peer ' Soft Touch' present well when only the top section is allowed to fall but present just as well when straight. Spikes can also be trained to be decorative. Aluminium stakes are best as they can be bent easily and the spike trained to grow over the stake. Make sure the stakes are well sterilised before use if the stake has been used before. Virus can remain dormant in dried sap from a previous plant for a long time. Don't risk infection.

Cover is so important now. Even 1 week exposed to the elements will have your buds covered in botrytis spots. Keep them dry and cool in a well ventilated area.

One issue that faces us now is colours. What colours do we have and how are we going to get the best colour. Take greens for example. I hate nothing more than seeing a muddy green due to excessive light. Same applies to whites that are more like pinks and greens and yellows that are green and so on. You could write a book on this subject alone. The key factor is light and when and how to use it. Take greens. The spikes should be shaded from the moment they break sheath and kept that way until the flowers open. If there is any sun staining on the buds the light is too high. Same with whites, they too are kept shaded until they open then transferred to bright light once they open. Yellows stay shaded as well until they open then transferred to bright light. The darker colours are grown in bright light then shaded once open. If they are grown shady they get a greenish tinge and go muddy. Basically the light colours are grown shady then transferred to bright light once open to preserve the colour and in the case of pinks and yellows enhance the colour. Take Without Peer "Soft Touch" as an example. They are grown shaded and if kept that way until after flowering they are displayed looking rather pale and sometimes with a greenish tinge. A few days of bright light up to full sun will add some depth to the pink. This also applies to yellows as the sun really improves the depth of colour. Take Jubilation " Geronimo" for example. I've seen lots of greenish ones but it's the yellow that catches the eye, enhanced by light after opening. The darker colours exposed to higher light intensities until they flower are then shaded to preserve that colour. High light after opening will wash out the colours as the flower ages. Try the above tips with the same clones and take notes of the differences.

Keep plants moist as they do need moisture to keep those spikes moving. Fertilising usually takes a backward step as leaf growth is generally slow this time of year.

They key this month is training and protection to give our plants the best shot at looking good for the upcoming shows. Some plants may be ahead of schedule and some may be a bit slow, such is orchid growing. Slow orchids should be warmed up a bit. I put mine in the laundry overnight and back into the shade house during the day. The increase in the night temperatures keeps them moving compared to stop start growth in the shade house. I would not keep a plant inside for long stretches as it is more likely to do harm to the plant and lead to premature bud drop. Orchids that have opened early and want to be held for as long as possible should be kept as cool as possible.

As August ends we approach September and the start of another spring. This month all going well our September show plants will start opening and we make the final adjustments in preparation for show. We will look at some of the final adjustments as well as some ideas on how to get them to the show in one piece.

Steve Howard

GROWING MEDIUMS AND MICRO ORGANISMS

There has been much discussion about coco husk chips—whether it contains micro organisms or is indeed a sterile medium. I believe that the physical makeup of the husk chips and the processes that it goes through makes it an inert sterile medium. I've talked to other growers that changed from all bark chips to using all or a mix of coco husk and pine bark chips. At first we used coco husk from the hardware store or nursery without soaking and rinsing the husk and found that the roots of our plants died off. I think it was Graham Morris that first tested the husk and found it to be 4,000 PPM salt content and that explained the root die back. Some growers still found that changing over to coco husk that they still got root dieback even after using the good quality husk which has only 0.5 PPM salt. The salt I've mentioned is total salts, it is not all sodium salt. It is my view that when changing over from all pine chips to all or a mix of coco husk and pine chips that the PH in the mix is extremely low (I had not tested the new mix so I'm only guessing) and because of this the plants roots die back. I now use a mix of coco husk, pine bark chips, shell grit, 3mm marble chips, humas and fertilise with calcium, Seamungus, humate, Strike Back as a tea and Seasol.

SECOND DIVISION

Small Standard Red First Prize	Valley Olympic 'Rose'	Des and Hazel Alsop
Small Standard Yellow First Prize	Tracey Reddaway 'Sungold'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Small Standard Yellow Second Prize	Valley Call Drum 'Gold Dream'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Small Standard Brown First Prize	Valley Gratitude x Logfire	Des and Hazel Alsop
Intermediate Red First Prize	Mini Beacon 'Stop Light'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Intermediate Red Second Prize	Ruby Valley	Laurie and Sue Carter
Intermediate Brown First Prize	Stone Free 'Lochie'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Bonnie's Pride 'Pure Gold'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Miniature Pure Colour First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Jennifer'	Laurie and Sue Carter
Miniature Other Colour First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Peach'	Peter and Jeanne Hall

OPEN DIVISION

Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Janis Lin x Kelly's Winter	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Miniature Pink First Prize	Eikoh 'Fairy Floss' 1722	Gordon and Coralie Hime
Miniature Red First Prize	Pipeta 'Cecil Park'	John and Sandra Nicholls
Miniature Other Colour First Prize	Sarah Jean x Winter Fire 'Princess Grace'	Murray Weston

FIRST DIVISION

Large Standard Pink First Prize	Red Beauty x Lovely Angel	Silvester Ng
Large Standard Other Colour First Prize	Cronulla 'the Khan'	Robert and Janice Stock
Small Standard Pink First Prize	Regal Fire 'Sandy Lou'	Max Kahlbaum
Miniature Pink First Prize	Barossa Ruby 'No 1'	John Robinson
Miniature Green First Prize	Sarah Jean 'Karen'	Silvester Ng

I have tested this mix one day after repotting and the PH was a tiny bit under 7 but the temperature at the time was only 12°C. We expect PH7 at 25°C. Also when repotting we should be aware of the importance of the micro organisms that are not in the coco husk. The use of Seasol, Seamungus, Rapid Raiser, Strike Back, humas and humate—all of these organic additives—promote these beneficial bacteria / fungi.

Some growers use the top layer of the potting medium in with the new mix which would contain a good percentage of these micro organism. These micro organisms help keep the plant healthy. These suggestions (additives) in the various potting mixes will support a diverse population of beneficial micro organisms. The vast majority of these organisms are not pathogenic and can be beneficial in suppressing the development and proliferation of some soil borne diseases.

Peter Hall
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VIRUS

The word virus seems to create panic when a suspect plant is found. I say suspect because most of the time it is not virus but more likely to be a mineral deficiency / micro elements (trace). With an Iron (Fe) deficiency, the area between the veins turns yellow; manganese (Mn) inter-veinal yellowing, brown spotting or lesions; zinc (Zn) mottled yellowing between the veins.

In the past I have had so called 'experts' throw their hands up in the air and tell me to get 'those' plants out of my shade house because of virus. I did remove the suspect plants but instead of tossing them out I dosed them with a complete mineral mix then fertilizer then another dose of complete mineral mix and then watered and fertilised normally. All the new growth was deep green and I still have a couple of these plants and they are green, healthy and flowering.

I don't mean to be demeaning when I say so called experts, I just wonder how many of our members really know what a plant with virus looks like. I would like to find a proven expert and a proven plant or plants in various stages of proven virus. I personally think that keeping bulb rot plants too long causes much more damage and can decimate a whole collection very quickly as few of us have experienced.

Peter Hall
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BITS 'N' PIECES

Winter Show—Munno Para

Congratulations to all the winners at the Winter Show at Munno Para.

Graham Morris' grand champion Pure Sarah 'Cascade' was stunning. Graham said that it is growing in all coco husk.

Brain and Mary Heddle won champion second division for the second year in a row with Without Peer 'Soft Touch'.

Well done to Graham and Brian and Mary Heddle.

2008 National Cymbidium Show

By the time you read this newsletter the 2008 National Cymbidium Show will only be a few days away. Hopefully all our preparations and planning will prove to be successful and one of the best shows ever.

Many thanks to all those people who have put in the extra effort and attended the two special National Show planning meetings held throughout the year. The committee appreciates all the help and applauds those people who have put their hands up to assist during this event.

Suggestions / Complaints

Our president, Ray Brady has asked that any members with legitimate suggestions and/or complaints, please put them in writing to the secretary so that they can be raised officially at committee meeting rather than informally discussing with individual committee members.

West Lakes

Club members taking part in our Spring Show at West Lakes will need parking permits for the put in day because there is a football match on that Saturday 30 August 2008. Wayne Baylis has these permits and will be available at our club meeting on Wednesday 27 August 2008. Put in time is 5.00pm on Saturday 30 August, judging at 6.00pm. Take out is after 5.00pm on Saturday 6 September 2008

West Lakes management has once again changed from last year (2 years in a row) and therefore poor old Wayne Baylis has had to start from scratch all over again. It looks like we may only have approximately 10 displays and so they may have to be composite.

Species or not a species—that is the question?

I found it rather embarrassing at our last club meeting because I presented a plant for judging that I thought was a cym traceynum species. The name tag read traceyanum. What made the situation even more embarrassing was that our guest speaker, Stephen Early was speaking on species orchids. It made me feel a bit stupid. I did purchase this plant from a club member who must have known that it was not a genuine species traceynum.

OPEN DIVISION

Large Standard White First Prize	Winder Wonder x Lone Star	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Large Standard Cream First Prize	Tongariro 'Full Moon'	Murray Weston
Large Standard Pink First Prize	Elegant Valarie x Khan Flame	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Large Standard Pink Second Prize	Tathra x White Valley	Ben Knobben
Large Standard Pink First Prize	President Gorbachev x Red Beauty	Valley Orchids
Large Standard Green First Prize	Emerald Frenzy x Valley Legend	John and Sandra Nicholls
Small Standard Green First Prize	Kimberley Winter	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Small Standard Pure Colour First Prize	Golden Serenade x Zuma Spring 'Intense Gold'	Valley Orchids
Small Standard Pure Colour Second Prize	Baltic Glacier 'Mint Ice'	Ben Knobben
Intermediate White First Prize	Sleeping Dragon 'Cambridge'	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Intermediate Pink First Prize	Trinket 'No 1'	Helmuth Gerber
Intermediate Red First Prize	Ruby Valley 'Clare'	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Intermediate Yellow First Prize	Vibrant Bliss x Centenary Star	Ben Knobben
Intermediate Brown First Prize	Mary Pinchess Pearly Pepper	Elmore and Pamela Leske
Intermediate Pastel First Prize	Tea Tree Boundless	Ben Knobben

Cont/...

Monthly Competition Results For 23 July 2008

POPULAR VOTE

Best Overall	Eikoh 'Fairy Floss'	Gordon and Coralie Hime
Best Large Standard	Elegant Valerie x Khan Flame	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Small Standard	Kimberley Winter	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Intermediate	Ruby Valley 'Clare'	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Miniature	Eikoh 'Fairy Floss'	Gordon and Coralie Hime
Best Species	erythroem 'Paradise'	John and Sandra Nicholls

JUDGES CHOICE

Best Overall	Cronulla 'The Khan'	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best in Open Division	Elegant Valerie x Khan Flame	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best in First Division	Cronulla 'The Khan'	Robert and Janice Stock
Best in Second Division	Valley Gratitude x Logfire	Des and Hazel Alsop
Best Large Standard Seedling	President Gorbachev x Red Beauty	Valley Orchids
Best Small Standard Seedling	Kimberley Winter	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Best Intermediate Seedling	Vibrant Bliss x Centenary Star	Ben Knobben
Best Specimen	Sarah Jean 'Karen'	Silvester Ng

Eco Oil Addendum

Just adding to the eco friendly pest oil article from last month. I have found a health food store at Glenelg that sells Castile Pure Liquid Soap. I purchased a litre last week and it was \$14.00. I purchased another litre today (8 August) and it was \$12.90 including \$1.00 for the container.

Pot Plant Judging Munno Para Show July 2008

The champion pot plant was the yellow miniature One Tree Hill 'Golden Ball' grown by Moss and Rosemary Bray grown in a 175mm pot it carried multiple erect spikes. The winning intermediate, Pure Sarah 'Cascade' was grown by Graham Morris, Valley Orchids. This beautiful pure colour white carried a large number of arching/cascading spikes in a 180mm pot. While the spike habit was less than desirable for pot plant purposes it would however be very well received by the market.

The small standard Valley Webster 'Satsuma' owned by Valley Orchids was a very attractive plant with good production in a 180mm pot. There was no large standard considered worthy of a prize in this category.

My impression of the show was that although numbers exhibited were down a bit the overall quality of plants exhibited was excellent from the showbench viewpoint. The pot plant category was however not of the highest quality with those standards exhibited generally below par.

It was disappointing to note that none of the seedlings benched in any of the categories presented a serious challenge to the eventual winners. This suggests that exhibitors continue to place their major emphasis on growing show-bench type seedlings with the major factor of production given only minor consideration. When considering the excellent prize money & prestige available I am surprised that members do not place greater emphasis on competing for prizes in this section of the schedule.

I have seen a number of first flowering seedlings, hybridised by Barry Bailey, that in addition to exhibiting show-bench/award quality have excellent pot plant characteristics. Some of the parents that Barry used were Janis Lin 'Emily Kate', Snow Court 'Jack Frost', President Gorbachev 'Diplomat', Sarah Jean 'Trish' & Katy's Gold 'Medal'. These fast growing & free flowering cultivars were crossed with plants with characteristics that he expected would enhance flower count and spike habit. My recommendation to growers who wish to improve their opportunities at winning pot plant prizes is that they choose seedlings with parents of this type.

The national show at Noarlunga in August will provide another opportunity to see how the cymbidium community is progressing in the pot plant classification. I look forward to the opportunity to judge it.

Glenn Heylen

PAULINE'S LABORATORY SERVICE

FOR ALL ASPECT OF CYMBIDIUM
TISSUE CULTURE

CONTACT PAULINE OR KEV McLEAN

PHONE... (08) 8386 0430

POSTAL ADDRESS... 13 WENTWORTH ST.
MOANA
S.A. 5169

EMAIL.... pkmclean@arcom.com.au

**Valley Orchids Lot 8 Wheaton
Road McLaren Vale South Australia**
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Homepage – valleyorchids.com.au

Tom Burian Orchids

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**NURSERY OPEN WEEKENDS ALL
YEAR ROUND**

**OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY.**

LOTS OF NEW RELEASES

**CONTACT TOM BURIAN
ON 0412 391 989**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS.