

The next Meeting of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.
will be held on
Wednesday 25 June 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 Santa Barbara Presentation—Graham Morris
- 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.

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JUDGE'S CHOICE—BEST OVERALL

Elegant Elf 'Nan'
Grown by John Nicholls

Volume 9 Number 5 June 2008

The New Cymbidium News Vol 9 No 5—June 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 25 June	Rosemary Bray / Pamela Leske
Wednesday 23 July	Coralie Hime / Jeanne Hall
Wednesday 27 August	Carmel Beasley / Wendy
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 25 June	Santa Barbara —Graham Morris
Wednesday 23 July	Stephen Early from Melbourne
Wednesday 27 August	Colin Gillespie
Wednesday 24 September	Good Bug—Bad Bug—Glenn Heylen
Wednesday 22 October	Panel Discussion
Wednesday 26 November	Justin Priddy from Gympie—Qld

SHOW DATES 2008

Winter Show ———	Munno Para Shopping Centre 13—19 July 2008 (set-up 12/7/08)
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)

NOTICE BOARD

SEAMUNGUS

We still have 15 bags of Seamungus available at \$15.00 per bag.

COCO FIBRE

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

COFFEE MUGS / PENS

*Coffee mugs and Adler Pens are now available at club meetings.
Mugs: \$7.50 each—Pens –to be advised.*

WINTER SHOW—MUNNO PARA

*A reminder to all members that the Winter Show at Munno Para Shopping Centre will be staged in July (see page opposite for dates).
Set-up on the Saturday evening (12 July) will be after 5.00pm.
For those people with plants to sell on the trading table, Graham Morris will be providing a new sticker arrangement which he will announce at the next club meeting.*

WANTED

*Don't forget our WANTED section.
Please contact: Peter Hall—pejeh@optusnet.com.au
Telephone: 08 8294 5562 or 0416 179 019*



NEUTROG PRODUCTS

*The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia (COCSA), after trials, is recommending the use of Strike Back for Orchids by Neutrog. As part of our working relationship with Neutrog the club is able to purchase Neutrog products at much reduced prices.
We can only get this product at the reduced rate by purchasing a pallet load. Therefore we will only be ordering the product when we have enough orders to fill a pallet. The full range of Neutrog products will be available at reduced price. Please see Andrew Nowakowski for prices and to order.*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT June 2008

This report is the last before the Munno Para Winter Show and once again we are asking all members to support the event by bringing along their plants as well as greenery. This event is one of our major fundraisers, so to help the club to put on a good show it needs everyone to help.

To all those who helped to put on our display at SAROC and supported Peter and Jeanne Hall and Ben Knobben, well done, the club owes you a vote of thanks.

At the next meeting Graham Morris will conduct the learner's class from the stage, as we are unable to use the dining room for this event anymore. Also Graham will be showing his trip to Santa Barbara, which is one of the major orchid events in the world.

To all those people who took part in the pot plant segment in the past year, we will be running it in the National Show as well as our two state shows. The format will be a little different; as finances are spread over three shows not two. At the National Show the prizes will be: -

Large Standard

Small Standard

Intermediate

Miniature

1st Prize \$450

2nd Prize \$25

3rd Prize \$100

The overall Champion will receive an additional \$500.

Any person attending the National Show dinner must book with Andrew, and should you require a vegetarian meal please notify him, as they need to be ordered well in advance.

Anyone who is artistically handy with flowers or plants, and would like to help with the South Australian state display please let Peter or Jeanne know as we are trying to work this out.

CYMPPLICITY JUNE V08

Finally we have seen some much needed rain and a more definite change in the season. Hopefully your cymbidiums have responded to this and look better than they did a couple of months ago.

June is a cool month in SA and supposedly the wettest. Last year it stayed cold all month, hardly reaching 16C and rather dry with the resulting frosts causing much heartache. If it's not the extreme heat of summer it's the opposite end of the spectrum that too causes a fair share of problems. This is why we mostly grow cymbidiums, after all, how many orchids can handle this punishment and still survive.

With cooling weather the watering schedule can slow down somewhat. Cooler weather and lower evaporation rates mean plants will hold water for longer and not lose as much through their leaves. Watering has always been a science that is misunderstood by many. There are many factors to consider before we pick up the hose. For example is it going to rain tomorrow? If so put it down and see what falls from above. Cymbidiums have pseudobulbs that store water over times of dryness so 1 more day on the dry side won't have them dropping leaves and keeling over, especially this time of year. The key rule is to water when the plants need it. The aim is for a consistently moist mix and not over wet to the extent your plants roots literally drown in their pots. Next time you re pot a cymbidium and find all the roots at the bottom end of the pot rotted, black/or brown with no evidence of any live tips then it is a good chance that you have been heavy with the hose. It is also a good bet your mix has soured and broken down to a mush. This is why a good cymbidium mix should be free draining. Free draining mixes also bring fresh air into the mix after watering and ultimately to the plants roots. On the other side of the coin they should not be allowed to fully dry out either. This stresses the plants and especially with bark based mixes, can make them very hard to rewet. The size of your plants and the pots is also a guide. Small seedlings and plants in small pots dry out faster than bigger established plants in 200mm pots. Hanging plants dry quicker than benched plants and plants over crowded in their pots will struggle to get any water at all as there is not enough free room in the pots for this to happen. This is why we try and re pot/pot on or divide when the bulbs touch the sides. And don't forget little plants that are monstered by larger standards growing next to them, they are shaded from light as well as any water from the hose or rainfall. Check out the collection after watering or rainfall. If you find a dry plant you ask why? Then move it. This plant will also be a prime candidate for scale and mites so look over it carefully. Weakened by lack of light and

SAROC FAIR

I was going to feature an article about the SAROC Fair held on the long weekend in June. Many thanks to Ben Knobben and Max Kahlbaum who set up our display along with Jeanne for writing all the exhibitors cards. We arrived at 6.00pm on Friday evening and the display was completed by 7.00pm. We stayed until about 8.00pm.

At 11.00am on the Saturday Jeanne and I went back to the show to take some photographs and do a write up on all the displays for this magazine. When we arrived we were told that we were not allowed in because they were judging until 12.00 noon. I assumed (never assume!) that the show would open at about 10.00am. I guess as relative newcomers to the orchid world we have mainly been used to our club setting up and judging the evening before the show opens to the public so that the show has maximum exposure to said public.

I went in (illegally) and took a quick photograph of our club display only and then went home. We just happened to get a grumpy person on the door (as grumpy as me!). Next year I'll try and get my facts straight before the show and have more photographs to show in this publication.

Wayne Baylis arrived just after 12.00pm and said that it was packed and was difficult to see the displays. It sounds like the SAROC Fair was a great success and will hopefully be so for many years to come.



NATIONAL SHOW NEWS

As you are aware, the 2008 National Cymbidium Orchid Show is only a couple of months away. Ray Brady has been asking members for the last few months to advise whether they would be exhibiting. Graham Morris, who will be constructing the plan of the venue has been waiting on this information to begin work. We are now to the stage where this really needs to be done. Therefore, anyone not registered by the June club meeting will not be eligible to show.

We are also waiting on numbers for the National Show dinner. See below for menu.

ENTRÉE : Soup - cream of chicken, corn and chives or potato and leek with croutons.
Bread rolls to be served with soup.

MAINS: Chicken breast topped with mango chutney and a panache of vegetables or roasted sirloin rolled in peppercorns with a port wine glaze.
Vegetables to be served with mains.

DESSERT: Hot apple pie with fresh cream or Pavlova with fresh fruit and boysenberry coulis

Vegetarian: Roasted pumpkin, baby spinach and button mushroom risotto **[to be ordered 2 weeks prior]**

If you are intending to come to the dinner, please complete your registration form and return with payment (\$30.00 per head) to Andrew Nowakowski as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all those people who attended the second special planning meeting on Wednesday 11 June.

Jeanne will be providing exhibitors badges for all those people exhibiting. The public will be charged \$3.00 entry fee. For those members helping at the event admittance will be free.

NEW MEMBER

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc
extend a warm welcome to:

Rosemary Phillips

water it will be targeted. Remember, pests and diseases will always attack the weakest plants and the champions and leave the ordinary ones alone.

Then we have different mixes, each with differing water holding capacity. With many people adding coco peat to their mix to retain moisture please take some caution if watering these next to a plant in a plain bark mix. The result will be the coco peat one will get too much compared to the bark mix then it's adios roots. Then the bulbs shrivel so we water them even more thinking they are thirsty, this is followed by advanced leaf tip die back, fungal problems and then death. If the bark one gets as much water as the coco peat should get then most likely it will dry out. The key message here is to take some time and assess your collection and their watering needs. If possible group plants with similar watering requirements. I prefer to hand water my collection, that way they all get what they need and I get to check them out on a regular basis. It is also why I keep different mixes apart.

Feeding wise we aim for feeds that will promote the growth and development of our newly emerging spikes. I prefer a balanced feed, one with similar composition of the three major elements nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. My theory is that whilst the developing spikes need the phosphorous and potassium there is still plenty of growth happening, albeit a bit more slowly with the cooler weather. That's where the nitrogen comes in. Frequency is fortnightly for those that are liquid fed and for those with their own regimes, stick to it. Foliar feeds work well this time of year too as the roots functions slow down and don't forget to spray the fertiliser underneath the leaves. This is where the plants stomata are and provides an entry point for fertiliser. It also discourages mites that prefer dry conditions.

You will notice quite a few cymbidiums will lose a few leaves now. That's natural, after all it is winter. These should drop from old growths that have long since flowered. If there is only 1 leaf left I'll snip it off as well but not too close to the tip of the psuedobulb. If you do take the top of a psuedobulb rub some powdered sulphur or a fungicide into it as a precaution. With cool humid nights around fungal problems will be on the rise and a damaged psuedobulb provides the perfect entry point for brown rot and when that gets in it can wipe out a pot in no time as well as potentially affect plants in the vicinity.

Quite a few plants leaves will be showing heat damage. I don't bother too much with trimming them (too many) and leave that to later just before show. But I do make sure there are no developing fungal problems taking note that these damaged sections can also provide an entry point for fungus.

By now most spring flowering cymbidiums will have initiated spikes. It is a good idea to mark them with a stake. This will give you an idea of this season potential but also serves as an indicator that there are spikes there and this plant needs more care and protection. With an idea of this seasons flowering it's a good time to stock up on a few more stakes, fresh labels and some fresh topping for your pots. I also make up some new pegs and elastic for the spike straightening time later.

How many times do we check our collection in late July only to find spikes we have missed well out of sheath growing at strange angles and most likely damaged by weather and hungry critters. With a stake to indicate the presence of a spike this won't happen. Take note of developing spikes that even at this stage are not going to go where you want so you can take note of the extra training they will require. In some cases growers will prune a few spikes off. This can happen with all the size classes and the reasons are varied. It might be to get a better presentation or to increase the size of the flowers eg. with a standard. It won't increase the number of flowers as that has already been decided when the spikes first initiated early in the year.

Start your snail baiting programme now and ensure it is continued right until flowering has finished. You can start spraying your cym's now for scale whilst the spikes are undeveloped and won't be damaged by sprays. Oil based sprays like white oil are OK now the weather has cooled. I have been using Eco Oil and am pleased with the results plus it's environmentally friendly. I have a population of native frogs in my shade house so I keep pesticides to a minimum. Sure, I get the odd flower chewed but if it's a good one then it goes elsewhere to open up, well away from the bugs and my frogs are happy for it.

Try and keep your light levels up as we enter the shortest days of the year. Cym's won't flower well if light levels are low. Any in spike now can be moved to a shady spot and those that didn't spike up can get some important light. They won't flower this year but will give them a chance for next season. It will also indicate that the collection is most likely over crowded or there are down falls with the enclosure and culture. No point in growing cymbidiums for their leaves.

July is nearly here again, how fast the years fly. The real winter is now upon us and we need to be out there with our plants to ensure we look after the new seasons spikes.

Steve Howard

JUDGES CHOICE—FIRST DIVISION

Dutchman's Gold 'Tina'

grown by: Silvester Ng

7 back bulbs, 7 green bulbs, 4 spikes with an average of 14 flowers on each. Mid yellow with light brown spots on the labellum and on the top sepals. Grown in a 6 inch pot.



JUDGES CHOICE—SECOND DIVISION

Artful Magic 'Martina'

grown by: Peter and Jeanne Hall

2 spikes in an 8 inch pot. For this time of the year it shows good colouring of bright yellow with a dark red lip. I would like to see it as a specimen, it would be a stand out.



PLANT WRITE UP MAY 2008

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

Elegant Elf 'Nan'

grown by: John Nicholls

6 stems in a 10 inch pot. 14—16 flowers per stem, cream opening to clean white. 6 green bulbs and 4 backbulbs. Grown predominately in bark mix.



*Many thanks to John Seidel
Official Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA
Photographer
for his continued support of our club—
another unsung hero!*

The months continue to fly.

It is now time to put the June Newsletter together.

I have included again for new/novice growers an article by Peter Chiles called Cultural Notes for June from the very first newsletter published by the new Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc. Also an article from the same newsletter by Simon Lenkic called In Praise of Species Cymbidiums.

Happy 20th Anniversary to the members of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia COCSA

CULTURAL ADVICE FOR JUNE—by Peter Chiles

Reprinted from Cymbidium News Volume 1, Number 1, June 1988

CULTURE DURING COLD WET WEATHER

Plants growing under cover during their flowering period, require careful watering and fertilising during the winter months. Watering every one or two weeks is sufficient.

You can regulate watering as follows if you have the time: Water small plants more often than larger ones which dry out more slowly. Quarter strength fertiliser will keep plants nourished to take advantage of any warmer days.

Cymbidiums continue active growth at this time if moisture and nutrition are controlled.

Plants in your collection which are growing outside provide a good indication as to the quality of your potting medium. A good medium should have very free drainage so that

the roots can maintain healthy, active growth during the wettest and coldest part of the year.

Removal of plants from the pot should indicate active growth. (White root tips.) If your plants fail this test, you might consider opening up your mix with coarser components. In this way we can all match the growth of our plants to our climate and thus optimise growth during the winter months.

We should all try to optimise our growing conditions throughout the whole year.

Have you noticed that some of the early bloomers which have finished flowering are now starting to produce new leads!! These will produce flowers for next year.

I believe that it is important for us to use our new Club as a forum, to compare methods of culture with a view to improving the reliability of quality flower production, as this is what cymbidium growing is all about.

IN PRAISE OF SPECIES CYMBIDIUMS—by Simon Lenkic

Reprinted from Cymbidium News Volume 1, Number 1, June 1988

There is a growing movement towards conservation and preservation of naturally occurring living things, whether they be animals, insects, birds, marine life, plants or people. With more living species under the threat of extinction, it is encouraging to see people taking an active part in helping to preserve living things.

It is also very encouraging to see some people and organisations making a concerted effort to preserve orchid species, that have had their natural habitat ruined.

Not only for this reason, but for a variety of reasons, cymbidium growers are playing their part in the preservation of species cymbidiums.

In Australia, many of the Victorian growers of cymbidiums are to be commended for their efforts not only to cultivate and preserve species

cymbidiums, but sheer enthusiasm for them has manifested itself in their collecting and successfully growing as many species cymbidiums as possible. They are keen to show their plants at orchid club meetings and are regularly swapping or selling divisions of their plants to widen their range, and growing some plants to specimen size, thus showing the species at their best. The enthusiasm of many Victorian growers can be an encouragement for us all to cultivate species cymbidiums.



Other compelling reasons why we can obtain much satisfaction from growing species cymbidiums include:

1. Great variety of flower types, sizes and shapes.
2. Wide colour range of species cymbidiums. This includes flowers with spots and stripes. Within the species, albino type flowers are also found.
3. A good range of species cymbidiums and their immediate hybrids will ensure flowers virtually all year round.
4. Many are very easy to grow and flower in a variety of conditions



.../Cont

OPEN DIVISION

Miniature White First Prize	Elegant Elf 'Nan'	John Nicholls
Miniature Red First Prize	Sensation x Vogelsang	John Nicholls
Miniature Yellow First Prize	Mini Gold 'Brilliant' x Culpaulin 'LM'	Valley Orchids

FIRST DIVISION

Intermediate White First Prize	Millenium Love	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Red First Prize	Prolific 'Velda Joy'	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Brown First Prize	Sundaani Autumn	Pauline Hockey
Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Devon Elf 'Sundaani'	Pauline Hockey
Miniature Yellow First Prize	Dutchman's Gold 'Tina'	Silvester Ng

SECOND DIVISION

Intermediate Yellow First Prize	Artful Magic 'Martina'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
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Monthly Competition Results For 28 May 2008

JUDGES CHOICE

Best Overall	Elegant Elf 'Nan'	John Nicholls
Best in Open Division	Elegant Elf 'Nan'	John Nicholls
Best in First Division	Dutchman's Gold 'Tina'	Silvester Ng
Best in Second Division	Artful Magic 'Martina'	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Best Large Standard Seedling	Lancashire Khan x Early King	John Nicholls
Best Small Standard Seedling	Margaret Thatcher x Valley Oracle	Valley Orchids
Best Intermediate Seedling	Everglades x Red Beauty	John Nicholls
Best Miniature Seedling	Mini Gold 'Brilliant' x Culpaulin	Valley Orchids
Best Specimen	Elegant Elf 'Nan'	John Nicholls

OPEN DIVISION

Intermediate Yellow First Prize	Margaret Thatcher x Mini Splash x Tracey Reddaway	John Nicholls
Intermediate Brown First Prize	Rio Valley 'Sunset'	Valley Orchids
Intermediate Other Colour First Prize	Everglades x Red Beauty	John Nicholls

Cont/...

and plants exhibit vigour of tracyanum, eburneum, parishii, growth, a quality most often ensifolium, sinense, formosanum, imparted to their hybrids even grandiflorum, pumilum, suave, several generations on from the giganteum, dayanum, mastersii, species. Of course there are tortisepalum, pendulum, kanran, exceptions. canaliculatum, finlaysonianum, devonianum, madadidum, elegans, erythrostylum and tigrinum.



It is true that none of us can have every good cymbidium and that none of us has all the best cymbidiums, but we can all attain to having a balanced cymbidium collection.

What is a balanced cymbidium collection? It is a collection which includes:

5. Most have charm and elegance which is hard to resist, especially when specimen plants are exhibited.
 6. Many species are very compact in growth, some can be flowered in pots the size of a tea cup.
 7. Many exhibit a variety of delightful perfumes.
 8. Some species have the valuable property of heat tolerance, without bud drop, and some will grow and flower happily in tropical climates. Many will tolerate freezing cold conditions.
 9. Species cymbidiums are providing a whole new range of interesting hybrids with qualities such as heat tolerance, compact growth, unusual shape and unusual coloured flowers and vigorous growing plants.
- a. Standard, intermediate and miniature cymbidiums.
 - b. Flowers in a wide colour range—including spotted, striped, two-toned, or with peloric marking on petals or sepals.
 - c. Plants to flower throughout the year.
 - d. Flowers that have round, square, triangular and unusual shapes.
 - e. Flowers with a variety of perfumes.
 - f. Cymbidium species and their immediate hybrids.



Some species cymbidiums that have been seen on the showbench or in collections include: lowianum,

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CONTACT PAULINE OR KEV McLEAN

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

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Tom Burian Orchids

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS.