

The next Meeting of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.
will be held on
Wednesday 25 March 2009
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 and trading table
- 7.15 pm Beginners Class. Note early start time (All Welcome)
- 7.45 pm Viewing of Plants and Popular Vote
- 8.00 pm Official Opening and Presidents Report
- 8.15 pm Seedlings on the Show-bench
- 8.20 pm Graham Morris—Orchids in India
- 9.00 pm Plant Raffle Draw
- 9.15 pm Popular Vote and Judging Results

THE NEW

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South
Australia Inc.

<http://www.cymorchids.com.au>

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The TWO RAYS
Demonstrating how to divide and re-pot a
Cymbidium at the Gardening Australia Expo
Adelaide Showgrounds—Wayville
7—9 March 2009

The New Cymbidium News Vol 10 No 2—March 2009

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 2009

Wednesday 25 March	Rosemary and Raelene
Wednesday 22 April	Rosemary and Raelene
Wednesday 27 May	Carmel and June
Wednesday 24 June	Glenn
Wednesday 22 July	Pam Leske
Wednesday 26 August	Vacant
Wednesday 23 September	Vacant
Wednesday 28 October	Vacant
Wednesday 25 November	Vacant

Please see Yvonne or Mary Heddle to include your name on the roster. All help appreciated—Thank you

PROGRAM 2009

Wednesday 25 March	Graham Morris—Orchids in India
Wednesday 22 April	Workshop
Wednesday 27 May	Charles Mausteller—early awards
Wednesday 24 June	John Norton—Nutri-Tech Organics
Wednesday 22 July	Judges Forum and Showbench
Wednesday 26 August	Kevin McLean—hybridizing and lab work <i>to be confirmed</i>
Wednesday 23 September	National Show Report
Wednesday 28 October	Kevin Hipkins—Tracyanum <i>to be confirmed</i>
Wednesday 25 November	Roger Herraman—canaliculatum—and Christmas Breakup

NEW MEMBERS

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

Steven Howlett—SA
Trevor and Margaret Jacob—SA
Daniel Web—NSW

NOTICE BOARD

WINTER / SPRING / NATIONAL SHOWS

Winter Show—Munno Para Shopping Centre

Sunday 12 July 2009 to Saturday 18 July 2009

Put-in—Saturday 11 July 2009 after 5.00pm

Spring Show—Westfield—West Lakes

Sunday 23 August 2009 to Saturday 29 August 2009

Put-in—Saturday 22 August 2009 after 5.00pm

National Cymbidium Orchid Show

Springvale—Victoria

Friday 4 September 2009 to Sunday 6 September 2009

Please see page 13 for proposed bus trip.

MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS AND PLANT WRITE-UP

Due to no plants being shown during the February meeting there is no competition results or plant write-up in the issue of the New Cymbidium News.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

COCSA, on behalf of its members has donated \$1,000.00 to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

WANTED / FOUND

Found: one pasta plate left behind at Christmas breakup meeting.
See Pauline McLean at next club meeting

For more items for the wanted section—

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
- Rapid Raiser 20 Kg bag \$13.50

Please place your orders and payment with John and Yvonne Longbottom—(cheques to be made out to COCSA)

NB: product to be picked up from Graham Morris at Valley Orchids



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March 2009

Most of the previous year's committee were returned at the AGM, thus showing confidence from the members. The only change was the treasurer's position due to Andrew going overseas. John and Yvonne Longbottom put up their hands, once again, to help us out by taking on this position.

The controversial financial statement hopefully has been sorted out and a balanced copy sent to each member with the club magazine. Some members failed to receive their AOR magazine and we have ordered more. If you didn't receive one please let Yvonne know.

The program for this year's meetings has been settled and we trust all members will receive useful information and interest from it. The next meeting is the final chance if you want to take part in a bus trip to the Springvale National Show in September, as we must give an answer to the bus company.

The ABC gardening expo at Wayville was well conducted by members and much interest was shown over the three days. Peter and Jeanne did a lot of work to organise the layout with the administration well before the event. The potting demonstration went down very well with the public.

For those who are interested, club jackets with embroidered badges are available at \$45, but must be ordered with Yvonne and would be available at the following meeting.

Start getting any early plants cleaned up, as we are definitely going to need them this year due to the dreadful conditions we have experienced.

Ray Brady—President

DEALING WITH THE SEVERE HOT WEATHER

Recently South Australians and Victorians experienced one of the hottest, driest years on record and reports that I've heard, one of the most destructive to our plants. After speaking with various people, I have been told of collections of plants that have almost been completely wiped out. Plants that have endured severe conditions in the past haven't survived through this, especially in the northern areas of metropolitan Adelaide. One person told of 2000 native orchids totally wiped out and another where every cymbidium had at least half its leaves burnt. This problem wasn't restricted to orchids - plants such as clivias and even geraniums have been affected and they are usually hardy plants.

Many cymbidium growers have come up with different ideas to help combat these conditions, with various degrees of success. One grower has double shade cloth from the bottom of his shade house, but only up as far as the leaves on his plants. His argument is that as he only uses black pots that attract heat, the extra cloth takes away some of the sun's damage factor, but doesn't stop the necessary light for spikes to develop.

Another grower has an additional layer of cloth on wire runners that he can pull back and forth when necessary. My belief is that most burning of plants is when there is a hot north to northeast wind on extremely hot days. These hot winds blast through the sides of the shade cloth to the plants. Recently I had a large branch from a gum tree come down on my shade house destroying all my watering system as well as part of my shade house. After having the shade house repaired, more hot weather was forecast and not having an overhead cooling system I hung hessian over the entire northern end, keeping out the northerly winds and using this, as our forefathers did, like a drip safe by dampening the hessian at the top. I was really surprised by the difference in the temperature.

Many members of the Cymbidium Orchid Club in South Australia have turned to installing foggers which, when turned on for very short periods, can drop temperatures dramatically. Valley Orchids installed these foggers, and use so very little quantities of water that when you

one of the sample packs of Rapid Raiser from the Neutrog stand and on the Monday Glenn saw somebody put their arm through the corner of the stand going after a tub of Seamungus. A couple of odd questions—'Sudden Impact for roses don't work'. He put it on prior to the 1st flowering and then they didn't flower again! Another bloke said to me that the Sudden Impact for Lawns killed his lawn! I asked how much he used and he said not much, he put the mix in a lawn seed spreader and went over his couch lawn twice and I said that in that quantity it would have burned any type of lawn far too much. He wasn't convinced.

BUS TRIP NATIONAL

I along with the committee were disappointed with the lack of interest for our bus trip to the COSV National Cymbidium Orchid Show at Springvale, Victoria (see page 13). We as a club need to show more interest and support for our interstate counterparts at future National Shows. Victoria and Western Australia always have strong representation at our own National show and it becomes a little embarrassing at our lack of reciprocation. We sincerely hope that our members reconsider and we have a good show of hands at our March meeting. If there are not enough members to fill the bus then perhaps we can form some car pools. The committee has also discussed payment by installments by members and perhaps a subsidy paid by the club.

FECONDO

Ray Brady asked for my thoughts about advertising a product—Fecondo from the Tarcowie Phosphate Company. The main reason was to let our members know about one of the elements within the compound—silica. Most fertilisers contain none or very little. The silica content of Fecondo is 50%. Some growers are using Fercondo and their plants are leaping out of their pots! We hear about all of these magical fertilisers and we each believe that we have the secret formula. I personally use organic fertilisers along with our Neutrog products. One thing that members should know about Fecondo is that it's in a powder form and the dust is a health hazard—one should use a mask when handling it. There are other products on the market that are in a safer liquid form. One such product is Silica Sulfonate that contains 80% silica. Carbon is also a very important ingredient for many reasons. Biologically active carbon improves water and nutrient holding capacity—it holds 4 times its weight in water.

WARNING

Wayne and I were talking to a commercial fertilizer supplier, and the company that produce fertilisers that contain Vermicast have deleted Vermicast from their product range. They regularly test their products and they found Ecoli was prevalent in very batch containing Vermicast. We should all use mask and gloves when handling any type of fertilizer or pesticide and wash our hands after use.

Peter Hall—pejeh@optusnet.com.au

CATCHING UP ON THE NEWS ...

Ray Brady has written an article on the way he and other growers have devised means of dealing with the extremely hot weather during summer.

Wayne Baylis and I installed foggers two summers ago and I also put a layer of 50% green shade-cloth over the top of my white shade-cloth. We used the foggers for 3 minutes every hour during the hot days. We did not get any burn because of the foggers and also extended the period between watering to every 3 or 4 days.

ABC GARDENING AUSTRALIA EXPO—WAYVILLE

A big thank you to Ray and Denise Brady, Ray and Raelene O'Donoghue, Yvonne Longbottom, Laurie and Sue Carter, Brian and Mary Heddle for manning our display site. Also, many thanks to Glenn Stearnes and Wayne Baylis for assisting in the promotion of Neutrog products at their site.

At the last club meeting there was some confusion about the members that had volunteered their time to man our display. I read out the names of the members so that they could select their times for the 3 day event. I will try and explain why there was only ten members selected from all those that I had asked. In January 2009 Jeanne and I were at the Bromeliad Society meeting and it was mentioned that the Society had been asked to have a display at the ABC Gardening Expo on the March long weekend. The secretary of the Brom Society emailed me the information and I then emailed the organizers, Expertise Events to enquire about COCSA having a display. They posted me an information booklet with 30 pages of information and 13 pages that needed to be completed about our club and its needs at the Expo including our insurance information. We were only allowed 10 volunteers to man our display. I was pushed for time as I only received this information on 20 January and it had to be back to the organizers by 31 January. I received an email in February informing me that the promotions manager for the event had left and another person was now my contact. Many emails and 4 phone calls to Sydney later, I had the information I needed.

It was well worth the effort! A very successful Expo for all.

Ray and Denise and I set up our site on Friday morning. Jeanne and I were there all day Saturday and Monday along with Ray and Raelene O'Donoghue, Ray all day Sunday and Monday, Yvonne all day Sunday. Wayne Baylis all day Saturday and Sunday (Neutrog stand), Glenn Stearnes all day Monday (Neutrog stand). Brian and Mary Heddle half day Saturday, Laurie and Sue Carter half day on Sunday. Once again, thank you for your support.

A couple of amusing incidents at the Expo. On the Saturday someone stole

walk into the shade house they hardly wet you, but drop the temperature by as much as ten degrees in six minutes. I have heard reports of some growers installing 30 or 40 of these foggers and have had great success.

These types of climatic conditions, according to the weather experts, are what we can expect in the future, so any investments made now may save our plants. Other plants that suffer these stresses, such as ferns, can be moved into the shade house until the weather cools. I'm sure there are many growers out there who have good ideas on keeping plants cool, but these are only a few that members have come up with.

Ray Brady

CYMBIDIUM FLORIBUNDUM OR PUMILUM

When you make collections of plants strange things can happen. If you collect a genus of plants, like Cymbidium, there are several tacks that you can take. Many people collect hybrids. Collecting hybrids provides you with a never-ending source of new plants. If you are a follower of plant fashions or if you suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder you can constantly replace the old with new. While this can be satisfying it is also expensive. The newest hybrids are the most expensive. If you try to keep at the cutting edge you eventually find yourself buying unflowered hybrids on speculation. If you guess correctly you could be on a winner. If you get it wrong you just wasted a few years of time, effort and expense. At least you may be able to recoup a bit of money by selling your culls off to an unsuspecting 'amateur' or fashion blinded 'novice'. There are literally thousands and thousands of people who support an extensive industry supplying their needs.

Since the rise of environmentalism in the 1960's and 70's there has been a shift away from hybrids to species for the serious collector. The shallowness of fashion was eschewed for the 'connection with the earth' and 'naturalness' implicit in the growing of wild species. Granted, species have always been grown but came close to being

completely wiped from collections in the 1950's. The prevailing attitude in the 50's, with vestiges of it persisting until today, is that hybrids are easier to grow and have hybrid vigour. What tosh! Most Cymbidiums are easier to grow than almost any plant. This is attested by the numerous plants sitting on back porches and patios throughout Australia and California. They barely get water, almost never get repotted and inevitably are sunburnt beyond belief but flower happily every year.

Species collectors need to get every species of a genus and usually several forms of each. In a genus like Cymbidium collecting all the species, varieties and forms is fairly straight forward. With under 50 species it is a small genus by world standards. A collection of just species and forms of Cymbidium would be modest, at least as far as collections go.

A slight variation on the species collection is the conservation collection. While the outcome is similar to the species collection, each plant comes from a known location in the wild. This type of collection is usually reserved for botanic gardens, universities and those truly concerned with the conservation of genetic diversity. Occasionally, a rogue collector uses the excuse of conservation to import cheap wild-collected plants from a developing country. I remember clearly in the early 80's, while studying orchids in the Pacific islands, the depredations of unscrupulous orchid collectors. I was taken to get photographs and herbarium specimens of a species orchid. Unbeknownst to me, an American collector had found out where I was going and the subject of my study. He had paid the local villagers what amounted to a huge salary to collect all of the plants of this species they could find. They simply followed me and my guide into the forest and stripped every plant they could find. Hundreds of them. There was absolutely nothing I could do except put my pack on top of several plants and stand in front of another group until they left, satisfied they had gotten every plant. I felt sick.

Believe it or not there is one even more extreme form of collector! This is the type that collects every slight variation there is within a species! This type of collector is not prevalent in the west, at least in Cymbidium. In Asia, particularly in China, single species Cymbidium collecting has a history at least 1,500 years old. Part of the reason for this is that people

NATIONAL CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SHOW SPRINGVALE—VICTORIA

Your committee is proposing to organise a bus trip for members interested in attending the National Cymbidium Orchid Show in Springvale, Victoria. This depends entirely on the level of interest from members. We need at least 48 interested people before we can proceed. Please think about it and let us know at the coming meeting on Wednesday 25 February. We will need to book both the bus and accommodation straight after the meeting as there are many other events at that time of the year and some places are already booked out.



Proposed Itinerary

Depart Friday evening 10.00 pm - 4 September
Breakfast Ballarat (maybe McDonalds or other) 1 hour
Proceed to overnight accommodation to room allocation
Travel to Springvale show—approximately \$5 entry fee
Return to accommodation
Proceed to National dinner—approximately \$30
Return to accommodation
Sunday breakfast—\$12 continental, \$19 cooked (optional)
Leave for Melbourne markets
Thence en-route to possibly Taillem Bend
Return home Sunday evening—6 September

Total cost of bus trip and accommodation:

- \$143.50 per person twin share
- Sundry costs—\$60 approximately (which includes breakfast Saturday, entry to the show, National Dinner and breakfast on Sunday)

Ray Brady will confirm costs and itinerary at the February club meeting and ask for a show of hands. We envisage that interested travelers will be able to pay by monthly installments at the club to ease the pain of a lump sum payment later.


Thanks to Ray Brady for organising this event.

Contact Ray Brady for more information—8252 3812

The final plant is not a *Cymbidium floribundum* at all. It is a hybrid made with *C. floribundum* as one of its parents. *Cymbidium* Little Aussie 'Justin'. There is another clone of this hybrid that is even more spectacular called 'Honey'. 'Honey' and 'Justin' may in fact be the same plant, just purchased from different growers, variations of intensity of flower colour can vary depending on growing conditions. The other parent of this hybrid is *C. Sussex Dawn*. It has inherited all the best features of the species; compact plant, easy grower, prolific spiking with lots of flowers, and interesting colours. This plant, by coincidence, is called Little Aussie. It is really appropriate to put this plant on this post. I am writing this blog on the Australia Day long weekend! My friend bred this plant. You will have to agree that he did a great job! Thanks JC.



***Cymbidium* Little Aussie 'Justin'**

Posted by Chuckie at [8:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 
Thursday, January 22, 2009

Permission given by Charles Mausteller to reprint his article posted on his website. Charles will be guest speaker at our May club meeting. Don't forget to go to our website and check out these photographs in colour. <http://www.cymorchids.com.au>

could only draw on the local species for their collections. To introduce novelty they had to collect all the variations they could from the local populations. In China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan this is the normal style of collection, or at least it was until recently.

One of the main plants that has been the focus of attention for single species collections is the plant we know as *Cymbidium floribundum*, or alternatively and erroneously as *C. pumilum*. This plant was originally named as *C. floribundum* in 1833 by Lindley but for some reason this name was not recognised by Rolfe when he described and named *Cymbidium pumilum* in 1907. This oversight and renaming of an already named species was recognised and corrected as long ago as the 1960's but people still insist on using the name *C. pumilum*.

In Australia there is an incredible diversity of groups of people from various countries, including from China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand. It is within these groups of people that you find the tradition of single species collections. Although this type of collecting has diminished through the availability of other plants, some people maintain the traditions they grew up with.

Until fairly recently, most of the forms of *Cymbidium floribundum*, that were widely available in the west, were fairly non-descript browns with a pale edge or a supposed 'Alba'. This 'Alba' form is actually just a greenish form and not an albino at all. It is betrayed by the red spots on the underside of the column! There are reputedly true albinos of *C. floribundum* but as Andy Easton says 'there is no proof there is a true albino *pumilum*'. Buyer beware! Fortunately, a full range of interesting forms of this species are appearing on the market. There is even one commercial grower here that specialises in forms of *C. floribundum*. He rarely sells his plants and when he does the good quality ones start at Aus. \$150.00. Thankfully, he makes a living from selling plants other than *C. floribundum*.

Over the years a dozen or so forms of *C. floribundum* have crept into my collection. I didn't purposely collect them. To be totally blunt, *C. floribundum* is not one of my favourite species. The flowers are generally short-lived, indifferent in colour (for most of them), not fragrant and every bug and its brother loves to eat the flowers. What it does have going for it is that it is easy to grow, clumping up into a specimen

plant fast. There are 2N and 4N forms and those with pendulous, arching or upright flower spikes. Plants can range in size from 10 to 30cm tall when fully grown. The best thing is that a fully mature plant will live happily and flower profusely in a 6 inch pot.

While it would have been nice to include pictures of all the forms that I have, to be honest, most of the flowers look identical or much of a muchness. The main variation in most of these forms not being colour but ploidy level, plant size, disposition of the flower spike and number of flowers on the spike. The three I have chosen are three of my favourites and are the most distinct.

The first of these plants is 'Sina'. This plant has particularly dark and narrow petals and sepals with a clearly marked lip. The flower spike is arching and carries upward of 30 well-spaced flowers. This is the first form to bloom in spring. The leaves are also narrower than normal. Overall, the plant is very gracile and delicate to look at. It is actually very tough and a strong grower. This plant was imported from china and is probably a selection of a wild plant. It is a diploid.



***Cymbidium floribundum* 'Sina'**



***Cymbidium floribundum* 'Tokiwa'**



***Cymbidium floribundum* 'Tokiwa'**

The final selection is one of the most expensive plants in my collection. You don't need to know how much was paid for it. If you did know the cost you might tell my partner, who would not be happy! There are much more important things to do with money!!! Well *C. floribundum* 'Tokywa' epitomises everything that the Koreans find attractive in *C. floribundum*. First and foremost, variegated leaves. 'Tokywa' has very strongly variegated leaves. It is a white variegation, the most highly prized type. The flowers are very special as well. Unlike most *C. floribundum*s, the petals of this species are fairly wide and the flower is more widely spreading than normal. The colour is simply beautiful. You can see for yourself. The flower spikes are strongly upwardly arching and although they have only 15-20 flowers they are much showier than most other forms. 'Tokywa' is a tetraploid. One further interesting point with this plant is that the flowers last twice as long as every other form that I grow. This is a real winner of plant. Great leaves, great flowers, and all on an easy to grow compact plant. The Koreans got this one absolutely right.



Cymbidium floribundum 'Tokywa'

Cymbidium floribundum 'Pale Face' came to me with Japanese characters on the label. I asked my friend Bin at school to translate for me. It translated to 'The young woman with the pale face'. That number of words would not fit on the label so it got the name 'Pale Face'. It has the most delicate pink spots on the lip that complements the white and contrast in an interesting manner with the green of the petals and sepals. This is a robust grower with nearly upright flower spikes of 25-30 flowers. It is a tetraploid.



Cymbidium floribundum 'Pale Face'

Cont/...page 10

PAULINE'S LABORATORY SERVICE

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CONTACT PAULINE OR KEV McLEAN

PHONE... (08) 8386 0430

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