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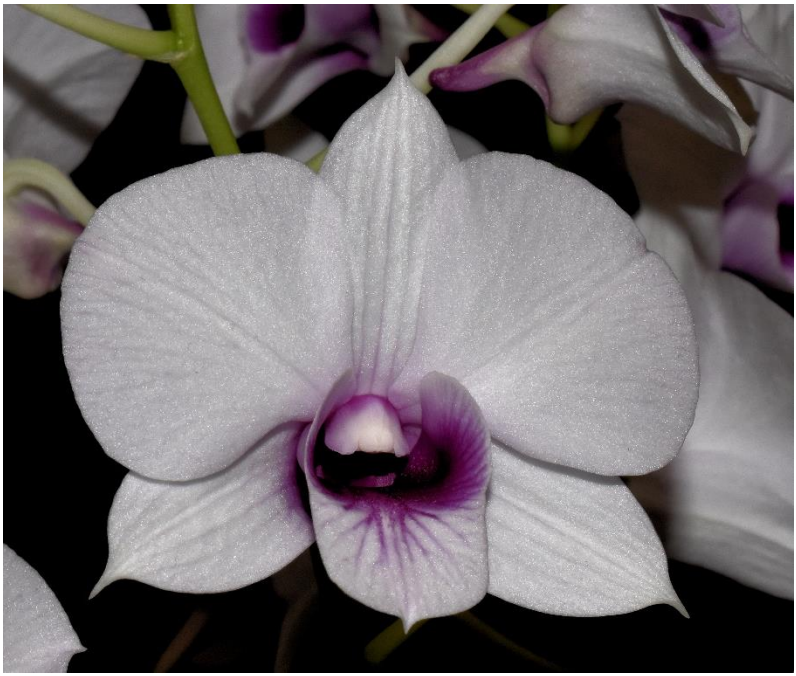
# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID BULLETIN

## July 2020

**Registrar's Choice July 2019 - Dendrobium (Snowy x Busaba)**



**Grown by Michael Willoughby & Oui Ju**

ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIFE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1966 | Neil Christoph† | 1996 | Marjorie Chance |
| 1970 | H C England† | 1997 | Eric Furness† |
| 1974 | Bernie Hansen† | 1998 | Cyril Clifford† |
| 1975 | Rex Thompson† | 1999 | Don Nesbitt† |
| 1975 | Syd Monkhouse | 2001 | Sally White |
| 1976 | John Lewis | 2002 | Richard Fishlock |
| 1978 | Mick Chenoweth† | 2003 | Bob Collins† |
| 1979 | Merv Strout† | 2007 | Reg Faulkner† |
| 1980 | Colin Jennings† | 2007 | Pat Faulkner |
| 1984 | Merv Donhardt† | 2007 | Peter Hills† |
| 1985 | Russell Schultz† | 2007 | Coralie Hills |
| 1985 | Harry Lambert | 2007 | Judy Penny† |
| 1985 | John Harris | 2008 | David Harmer |
| 1985 | Kath Harris† | 2008 | Pat Harmer |
| 1985 | Barbara Clayton | 2009 | Russell Job† |
| 1985 | Lorraine Cottle | 2009 | Edda Viskic† |
| 1985 | Myrnie Jennings | 2010 | Gordon Hewitt† |
| 1986 | Nick Packard† | 2012 | Murray Baulderstone† |
| 1987 | Margaret Hewitt† | 2012 | Leo Micenko |
| 1987 | Shirley Monkhouse | 2014 | John Gay |
| 1988 | Don Gallagher | 2014 | Bev Gay |
| 1988 | Kel Staples† | 2014 | Iain Kilpatrick |
| 1990 | Allan Sullivan† | 2015 | Ron Yates |
| 1992 | Bill White† | 2016 | Graham Hein |
| 1992 | Roy Hargreaves† | 2017 | Lesley Fenton |
| 1994 | Reg Shooter† | 2017 | John Lampard |
| 1994 | Enid Brooking† | 2019 | Trevor Camac |
| 1996 | Ted Chance | | |

† Denotes Deceased

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The opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Committee of The Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

Digital images by Marianne Carter and Joe Romeo

Secretary

# The Official Bulletin of The Orchid Club of S.A. Inc.
## Patron: Mrs. Lan Le

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|---|---|---|
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| **Day Group Coordinator:** Hilary Leisavnieks - Ph. 0407 600 077 | | |

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## CHANGES TO CONTACTING COMMITTEE

Members please note:
Along with changes to the web address as mentioned in last month's Bulletin, there has also been changes to contacting senior committee members. Email addresses to contact the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor are as follows:

President: president@ocsa.org.au
Secretary: secretary@ocsa.org.au
Treasurer: treasurer@ocsa.org.au
Editor: editor@ocsa.org.au

These new addresses now also appear in Management Committee Members list on page 3 of the Bulletin
It would be appreciated if you use the above email address in lieu of private email addresses for any Orchid Club of South Australia correspondence in future.

*Graham Hein, Treasurer*

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JULY 2020

"*Times They are a-Changin*", the title of a song written by Bob Dylan in 1964. Change is inevitable, but the changes have never been so uncertain. And, so it is with the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions comes hope for the future. But the questions on everybody's lips, "*how will it impact me, **what should I do** and when will it all end*". OCSA Committee is concerned with the management of our club and making decisions in the best interest our members.

As you may have read in the recent email forwarded to members, OCSA is considering the possibility of a Winter Orchid Show in July 2020, like so many other clubs. How and when will depend upon government restrictions and any OCSA **special rules and guidelines**. A final decision will be made by OCSA Committee on Monday 29th June. Please see the **STOP PRESS** at the end of this message for confirmation and details.

**Winter Show Guidelines will be as follows, should it proceed.**

Orchids will be judged according to normal club rules and classes for a Winter Show. Except – NO prize money will be awarded to any plants and prize cards and ribbons may be presented at a later date.

The Winter Show will be for **ONE** day only. Exhibitors and/or members **may** be able to view the plants in small groups for a short period (approx. 15 minutes per group). Specific details will be available later. Winning plants and general display will be photographed for presentation on OCSA Website and/or Facebook page. Sale plants and afternoon tea, etc will not be available and NO entry fee will charged if viewing is an available option.

Club meetings are still uncertain in the foreseeable future, OCSA will continue to observe government restrictions and keep members informed.

I pray you are coping with current issues and I look forward to seeing you at the earliest available option.

*Des Bettcher, President*

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# OCSA 2020 WINTER SHOW DETAILS

**PLEASE NOTE: Because of financial constraints placed on the club due to to the COVID-19 pandemic no prize money will be paid for this show.**

To be held at the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield on **Thursday the 6th August 2020.**

**Put In: Thursday the 6th of July 2019 between 7:00pm & 7:45pm**.
Orchids can be brought to the hall and delivered to the plant Marshals on duty.
Judging will begin at 8:**00pm sharp**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to accommodation limitations, members are limited to **One Plant per Class per Member**. For Class information refer to Winter Show Schedule in this Bulletin.

**Plants and Labelling:** Your plants should be presented ready for exhibition.
Please ensure that the correct label for your Division is attached to each plant, displaying the plant name and your exhibitor number on the label.

**Show schedules** will be available on the request when you put your plants in at the show.

**Take Out**: **Take out will occur after the close of the general meeting on the 6th August 2020**.
Exhibits must not be removed from the show before this time without approval.
All plants must be removed, if a member is unable to remove their plants and wish to

have another person pick them up please notify the Show Marshall Des Bettcher ((0466 797 485) of arrangements before taking out with a written letter of authorization.

***Growers please note: - Plants suspected of being infected with virus, disease or insect infestation will not be eligible for competition and such plants will be asked to be removed from the show.***

**Award Judging:** If you have a plant you wish to nominate for an AOC award then this can be arranged by phoning Steve Howard on Ph: 8254 4253 **at least 48 hours before** the commencement of show judging. (7:00pm) on **Thursday the 6th of August 2020**.

**The Show will be NOT be open to the Public.**

If any further information is required, please contact:
Des Bettcher (0466 797 485)
Registrar of Judges Wendy Lodge (8264 5874)

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# Orchid Club of SA Inc.
# 2020 WINTER SHOW

**GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID OF THE SHOW: Prize Card**

**GENUS CHAMPIONS: Prize Card**

Australian Native Cymbidium Oncidiinae Laeliinae
Paphiopedilum Phalaenopsis/Vandeae Zygopetalinae

Terrestrial other than Australian Native Any Other Genera (Includes Dendrobium other than Australian Native)

**DIVISION CHAMPIONS: Prize Card**

**CHAMPION SPECIES: Prize Card**

**CHAMPION SPECIMEN: Prize Card**

**In all Divisions** BEST: PLACE CARD. FIRST PLACE ONLY: PLACE CARD in all the following:

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVE**
Epiphyte Hybrid
Epiphyte Species
Terrestrial Hybrid
Terrestrial Species
**Best Australian Native**

**ONCIDIINAE**
Hybrid 60mmand Over
Hybrid Under 60mm
Species
**Best Oncidiinae**

**CYMBIDIUM 90mm and Over**
Red/Pink/Brown
Yellow/Green

**PAPHIOPEDILUM**
Standard Shape Hybrid
Non-Standard Shape Hybrid
Species

White/Cream
Any Other Colour
Species
**Best Cymbidium 90mm and Over**

**CYMBIDIUM 60mm to 90mm**
Red/Pink/Brown
Yellow/Green
White/Cream
Any Other Colour
Species
**Best Cymbidium 60mm to 90mm**

**CYMBIDIUM Under 60mm**

Red/Pink/Brown
Yellow/Green
White/Cream

Any Other Colour
Species
**Best Cymbidium Under 60mm**

**LAELIINAE**

Standard Shape Hybrid 100mm and Over
Standard Shape Hybrid Under 100mm
Non-standard Shape Hybrid 100mm and Over
Non-standard Shape Hybrid Under 100mm
Cluster
Species
**Best Laeliinae**

**Best Paphiopedilum**

**PHALAENOPSIS/VANDEAE**
Hybrid – 80mm and Over
Hybrid – Under 80mm
Species
**Best Phalaenopsis/Vandeae**

**ZYGOPETALINAE**
Zygopetalum Hybrid
Hybrid – Inter-generic
Species
**Best Zygopetalinae**

**TERRESTRIALS OTHER THAN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE**
Hybrid
Species
**Best Terrestrial other than Australian Native**

**ANY OTHER GENERA - Not listed elsewhere (Including Den. Other than Aust. Native)**
Hybrid

Species

**Best other Genera – Not listed elsewhere**

BEST Australian Native Hybrid in the Show will be eligible to be nominated for the Ira Butler and the Western Orchids Trophy

BEST Australian Native Species in the Show will be eligible to be nominated for the Bill Murdoch and Les Nesbitt Trophy

BEST Australasian inter-generic Hybrid will be eligible for the McFarlane Complex Trophy

Nomination G. Hermon Slade Australasian Trophy for Hybrid & Species

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# Vale – Malcolm Guy

Malcolm Guy died on 28 May 2020 after a short battle with cancer. Most of you would not know Malcolm as even though he had been a member for over 30 years he was a very quiet unassuming man who worked for the club in the background.

Malcolm served on the OCSA committee back in the 90's and even after finishing still continued to purchase the supper goodies which in those days was a major event. He worked on the setting up of shows and trading tables and spent many days working with the Show Marshall at the Royal Show and with the Trading Table Convenor's setting up stalls and moving and sorting plants etc.

Malcolm was an excellent grower specializing in Native Orchids and was an accredited Native Judge and was part of the Species group as well.

A true gentleman who will be missed for his willingness to lend a hand.

*Coralie Hills*

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# *** STOP PRESS***

The Orchid Club of South Australia web site address has changed.
Please change your web address to:
https://www.ocsa.org.au/

*Graham Hein*

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# BEGINNER'S GROUP

Will be postponed until further notice.

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# PLANTS FOR SALE

**Nicky's Slippers**
website www. nickysslippers.com
Open by appointment, call 0405 088 479.

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Gct. Brand New Suzie 'Anzac' Autumn flowers. 2 leads. 250mm pot. $40.00
Onc. sphacelatum. Winter /Spring. Multi growth. 200mm pot. $15.00
Den. Brinawa Sunset. Spring. Specimen size.200mm pot. $40.00
Bif. harrisoniae. Summer. Specimen 200mm pot. $20.00
Ctt. Adelaide Ablaze 'Sunburst'. Single lead in bud. 200mm pot. $30.00

Contact Ron Yates. 0458188 238. Email: ronjenyates@tpg.com.au

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# Some Orchid Facts (Part 2)

**Ho do Orchids grow in nature**

There are basically two types of orchids:
*(1) Epiphytes and (2) Terrestrials.*
In Greek Epi means 'on top of' and phyte means plant therefore Epiphyte means a plant growing on another plant. But contrary to some beliefs they are not parasitic. They just use other plants to perch on. Most of them grow high on trees in forests where the light at ground level is too low for survival. Most of the orchids seen at shows are Epiphytes. Many are very showy with large colourful flowers.

Terrestrials, as the name suggests, grow in the ground similar to many other plants. Terra means earth. Soil, ground land, etc. The majority grow in cooler regions of the world where they arise from an underground tuber much like a soursob. They are dormant during the summer months when they are quite deciduous, putting up growth in late Winter and flowering in the Spring. Some species grow in the tropics and sub-tropics and are mostly evergreen. As a general rule the terrestrials are not as showy as the Epiphytes but like all things there are exceptions.

**Are Orchids easy to grow in cultivation?**

Like most other types of plants some can be very easy to grow and some a little more

difficult and some are impossible.

Here in South Australia we have a climate ideally suited to growing many species and their hybrids if certain conditions are provided.

Ideally a structure with a covering of 50% shade cloth is desirable but not absolutely necessary. A collection of a small number of plants can grow and flower quite satisfactorily under a deciduous tree such as a peach or apricot. This provides plenty of light in the Winter and moderate shade in the Summer. However, for the more serious grower with a number of plants, investment in a shade house gives much better control over conditions.

Orchids are best grown raised up from the ground on benches or inverted pots, this provides air movement around the plants and isolates them to a certain degree from attack by snails and slugs.

**What type of growing medium do Orchids require in cultivation?**

The medium, sometimes referred to as compost that Epiphytes grow in under cultivation conditions must drain freely. This means no free water should remain in the medium. Therefore, potting soil or garden soil must not be used. The roots of Epiphytes require air around them at all times as they do in nature. The medium used by the majority of growers consists of composted pine bark pieces, obtainable from most garden nurseries as "Orchid Bark". This provides for air space between the bark pieces within the pot which if watered regularly, remains damp but not wet providing just the conditions required for the orchid to grow. Other materials such as marble chips, polystyrene granules, perlite etc. can be added to the bark mixture. Terrestrials require quite different treatment, they can be grown in good quality potting soil with the addition of a small quantity of blood and bone but at no time apply non-organic fertilisers as they are quite intolerant to potash and phosphorus, applications of which will lead to death of the orchid.

*[The late] Reg Shooter*
*(An extract from the May 1998 Bulletin)*

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# SEAWEED

Gardening Australia did a great expose on the virtues of seaweed on 25 Feb 2006. They said, '*Seaweed is a wonderful fertiliser* (???)*, a great soil builder and an excellent compost activator. All in all, seaweed is terrific stuff for the garden*'.

Fertiliser is defined as an organic or inorganic material, natural or synthetic including manure and nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium when added to soil or compost, supplies one or more nutrients essential to the growth of plants.

So, is seaweed a fertiliser and what does seaweed contain?

Seaweed (Macroalgae) are divided into 3 groups brown algae – often referred to as kelp (Phaeophyceae), green algae (Chloropyhta) and red algae (Rhodophyta). My research reveals seaweeds are not all the same, and some are more beneficial than others, depending upon their use.

For the benefit of our plants, seaweed contains micronutrients and hormones (Gibberellins, Auxins and Cytokinins).

These hormones assist a range of functions including plant and root growth, germination, flowering, plant cell division, formation of shoots and buds and development of fruits and seeds. My research revealed seaweeds may only have limited benefit to plants due to their nutrients.

A few years ago, I selected 100 pots of orchids in brand new pots. I sprayed the orchids with a seaweed solution, for 12 months, at a much greater dosage and more often than recommended and the root growth was so dramatic, it caused the pots to split. I like experiments. The roots grew better than expected.

Orchids like many plants produce very little growth during the Winter months, even when fertilised regularly (much of the fertiliser will wash through the pot when the plant does not absorb it). Then I discovered LIQUID SEAMUNGUS. I began to use it every month. What I discovered was by using LIQUID SEAMUNGUS during the Winter was plant root growth, so I added a reduced dosage of LIQUID STRICKBACK FOR ORCHIDS as well. This way my Cymbidiums received a small fertiliser injection and root growth. The result was considerable root growth during the Winter months.

Seaweed products such as NEUTROGS' SEAMUNGUS, stimulate fungi in the soil and assists with the absorption of nutrients. SEAMUNGUS is manufactured by brewing seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure. The seaweed assists in protecting plants from heat stress, frost and disease and assists with establishing new plants, reducing plant transplant shock, revitalising all plants throughout the year and acts like a natural wetting agent.

**What was the benefit?** Well regular use of LIQUID SEAMINGUS produced good root growth all year round but the best benefit was after Winter. My orchids were producing early shoots which matured quicker than usual, so by the time I reached December, the shoots were taller and were producing pseudobulbs.

Whereas if you do not fertilise during the Winter and begin your regular fertiliser program in early Spring your orchids can take as long as 5 weeks before the entire plants utilise the nutrients and you have lost 5 weeks growth.

*By Des Bettcher*

# A Species Orchid
# *Catasetum fimbriatum* (C. Morr.) Lindl.

A Tropical South American plant, this species is an interesting addition to any collection, as are any others of the genus. The flowers are unique in that separate flowers carry either the male or the female reproductive organs. In addition, the flowers of the two sexes are quire distinct in their structure and are quite easily distinguishable. It is sometimes found that plants produce only flowers of one sex, yet others produce flowers of different sex at different flowerings; in addition, this species does produce flowers of both types on the one inflorescence. There is quite a bit of conjecture as to why there is this habit. Much has been written about this genus and related genera; hence is not the place to expand further, but if you are interested, then I suggest you seek out the relevant material – it makes quite fascinating reading.

The genus seems to grow best in an intermediate type environment, with a minimum of around 15-18ºC, in pots which can be suspended to allow for the sometimes-arching inflorescences to develop without hinderance. Potting medium should be relatively coarse, but with sufficient finer material for the roots to gain some purchase, since they are not thick, and will divide and penetrate into the mixture if there is an incentive to do so.

The plant is rather large, having pseudobulbs to about 15cm long with deciduous leaves to about 40cm. This latter feature is a key to its cultivation, since the plant has a definite resting period during dormancy, and like other such plants needs a rest from fertiliser and from watering. The only water it needs is the which prevents it from desiccation, and it is probably best to place it in an area where it can be a little cooler, down to about12-15ºC minimum. Care should be taken to ensure that water does not lodge in the new shoots since they are susceptible to rotting.

Th inflorescences may carry 15 or more flowers which open progressively, each one lasting several days. They have yellowish petals and sepals, heavily spotted and flecked with reddish markings. The labellum is very fleshy, with the outer margin being light yellow/green and heavily fimbriated.

The flowers are of considerable interest, with the male flowers showing a distinct spur on the end of the column, this acts as a trigger. In the wild this trigger allows for the pollen masses to be explosively dislodged when activated, projecting the mass onto the body of the activating bee. Laden with this pollen mass the insect transfers the pollen to the female flower when it next visits. The male flower is said to produce a strong musk scented odour which attracts the male bees, much like a gravid female bee would.

Another example of the interaction between orchids and the insect world.

*[The late] Colin Jennings*
*(An extract from the July 1999 Bulletin)*

# THE CYMBIDIUM CYCLE (part 3)

**Or What and When**

People believe Cymbidiums have predominantly been a Winter flowering orchid, but some Cymbidiums will flower in every month depending upon their breeding. Over the last 50 years, newer breeding advances has allowed the orchid enthusiast to enjoy these Cymbidiums over a longer season as these plants have become more readily available. Note: This does alter many of the timeframes mentioned in this article.

Fertilising is a personal choice by most orchid growers, I generally fertilise at least once per week. Individual programs may vary according to **your** time available, the amount **you** want to spend on fertiliser and the reasons behind growing orchids, eg commercial pot plants versus general enjoyment, etc. These variations may impact the rate of growth and general cultivation.

## JULY

**Watering** –July is similar to June and I find rain becomes more frequent in most years and so I hardly water at all. (except unless it has rained sufficiently (at least 15mm) during the last week.)

**Fertilising -** I continue to use Liquid Strikeback for Orchids at a reduced level (about half strength) and I add Liquid Seamungus.

**Spraying –** Be careful what insecticides, fungicides, etc you spray and where you spray them. If the flower buds have begun to form and/or flowers are open most sprays will stain or damage the flowers. Weed spraying is a monthly task.

**Potting –** I only carry out potting, if essential.

**Housekeeping -** Spike spotting and staking should be well under way. Plants with open flowers should be moved to a location where they are not damaged by the weather.

## AUGUST

**Watering -** August is similar to July

**Fertilising –** As August advances more fertiliser can be provided to your plants to encourage the new growths. Some higher Nitrogen may be added to encourage growth. However, if you did not fertilise **at all** during the Winter months, Cymbidiums may take approximately 4-6 weeks for your plants to fully take up the fertiliser and the newer growths will take longer to develop.

**Spraying -** August is similar to July

**Potting –** As some warmer days approach towards the end of the month potting may

resume

**Housekeeping –** Flower spikes should be advancing well with many in flower or in various stages of opening.



## SEPTEMBER

**Watering –** By the end of September my watering program begins again. I water all my orchids **every** Monday morning, unless it has rained sufficiently (at least 15mm) during the last week. I water them with rainwater, and I water my plants until the water runs out the bottom of the pot.

**Fertilising –** In September, my fertiliser program changes, and I reduce the amount of Nitrogen fertiliser and increase the Phosphorous to encourage next year's flowering. Or for the novice grower I change from a general growth fertiliser to a Blossom Booster fertiliser.

**Spraying –** September is similar to July and August

**Potting –** As the days get a little warmer you may feel like potting. The best time to repot most plants is when they begin to produce new shoots. This time of the year to repot will depend upon the growth habits of your particular **plants**.

**Housekeeping –** September and we see large numbers of flowering Cymbidiums.

## OCTOBER

**Watering –** October is similar to September, except I begin to lightly mist my Cymbidiums once daily, usually around dusk to simulate natural growing conditions and encourage flowering.

**Fertilising -** October is similar to September

**Spraying** – I do not conduct a lot of spraying during October

**Potting -** October is similar to September

**Housekeeping –** October may still see good numbers of flowering Cymbidiums

particularly if you live in the Adelaide Hills or cooler growing areas. As the Cymbidiums begin to cease flowering, it is a good time to inspect your plants and make some decisions about repotting or a general cleanup of your plants.

## NOVEMBER

**Watering –** November is similar to October

**Fertilising -** November is similar to October

**Spraying -** November is similar to October

**Potting -** November is similar to October

**Housekeeping -** November is similar to October



## DECEMBER

**Watering** – In late November and December we begin to encounter hotter weather with one or two extremely hot days. I continue to mist my Cymbidiums at dusk and my regular watering program but with one variation on very hot days. If daily maximum temperature reaches 38 degrees, I mist my orchids several times during the day, controlled by a timer. If maximum daily temperature is over 40 degrees, I mist every hour during the day. Length of misting depends upon the size and number of your misters. If you work on days over 40 degrees, **WATER** your plants in the morning before you leave home.

**Fertilising –** December and I being to increase the amount of Nitrogen fertiliser

**Spraying –** December is a time to review your plants and decided whether they might benefit from some general spraying

**Potting –** For me December is similar to November

**Housekeeping –** December is a good time to catch up on some of those jobs you may not have found time for during the year, eg repair shade-cloth, weeding, general cleanup and maintenance.

*By Des Bettcher*

# FERTILISER (part 2)

## PROBABLE DEFICIENCY EFFECT UPON PLANT GROWTH?

***NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THIS STATEMENT BEFORE YOU RUSH OUT AND START BUYING FERTILISER ELEMENTS, MANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS SOUND SIMILAR***

1) ***ONLY TRY ON SMALL SAMPLE OF PLANTS FIRST***
2) ***IF IN DOUBT CONSULT A SPECIALIST***
3) ***YOU MAY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD IF YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL.***

**Nitrogen –** Leaf growth retarded; older leaves turn pale green then yellow overall, then to tan colour, may fall off as they age, roots more extensive than usual. (Leaves dark green, wider and longer but the thickness decreases, smaller bunched roots, plant ma become droopy, can reduce Copper availability.

**Phosphorous** – Stunted growth, leaves darker green than normal; sometimes reddish-purple colouration; older leaves eventually yellow then turn brown. (Root growth greater but leaves are smaller than usual.)

**Potassium** – Some yellow mottling followed by dark necrotic spots; tips and leaf margins of old leaves first affected, turning yellow then turn brown, plants may wilt as cell lose turgidity; roots frequently affected by rotting organisms. (Generally, no affect, but may reduce uptake of Calcium and Magnesium)

**Calcium** – Meristems die first; new leaves pale along edges, perhaps with inward curling – black necrotic spots may develop; young roots die and older roots turn brown. (Seldom show excess symptoms can inhibit uptake of Zinc).

**Magnesium** - Yellow mottling between green veins first on old leaves; sometimes with coloured margins and development of necrotic spots; margins cupped upwards (seldom an excess uptake)

**Sulphur** – Light green-yellow throughout the whole of young leaves; sometimes extends to older leaves – leaves reduced in size. (Plants generally tolerant of slight excess)

**Chlorine -** Seldom deficient; stunted growths, wilting, chlorotic and necrotic spots may develop. Leaves have scorched appearance with bronze colouration b4 dropping.

**Copper** - New leaves dark blue-green, sometimes distorted perhaps with necrotic spots, growing tips may die, pollen may be non-viable.

**Iron -** Yellowing between green veins of new leaves – with severe deficiency white areas with black (necrotic) spotting develops. Excess effects Manganese uptake.

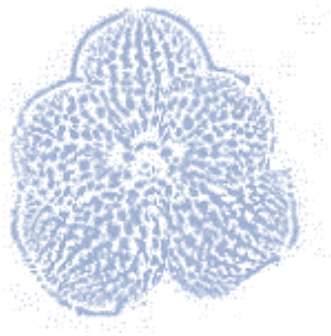
**Manganese -** Yellow chlorotic zones on young and old leaves, veins pale green; dark brown necrotic spots may appear later. Margins of leaves pale yellow with dark brown spotting.

**Molybdenum -** Interveinal yellowing first on older leaves; young leaves may be twisted, cupped, then die; affects production and viability of pollen. Leaves sometimes turn golden yellow.

**Zinc -** New leaves smaller than normal with interveinal mottling especially at growing tips – possible crinkling of leaf margins. Excess effects Iron uptake.

**Boron** - Black edge to leaves; growing points of leaves chlorotic with reddish-purple colouration – may die later; roots stubby often with blackened tips; flower buds and flowers affected. Very narrow concentration range between deficiency and toxicity.

*By Des Bettcher*



# A Species Orchid
# *Caularthron bicornutum* (Hooker) Raf.

This species is perhaps better known to many under its name *Diacrium bicornutum*, by which it is used in registering the many interesting crossings which have been made between it and the cattleyas to produce the intergeneric Diacattleya. Originally place in the genus *Epidendrum* by Hooker in 1834 it was transferred to the Genus *Caularthron* in 1839.

The genus only has two or three members, with *Caularthron bicornutum* being the only one, as far as I know, in cultivation. The flowers resemble those of the genus Epidendrum, differing in the labellum which has a hollow horn like structure. The stems are also hollow, and it is known that the species is home to ants in its natural habitat, with the fire ants using the opening, usually at the base of the pseudobulb to enter. As one would expect, the collecting of this species would have its difficulties.

The habit of the plant is similar to that of the laelias and cattleyas to which the species is related. Inflorescences, up to 40cm long and carrying up to twenty, 6cm wide flowers, emerge from the top of the mature pseudobulb, which may reach 30cm in length. Flowers are generally white with a distinctive yellow callus and purple spotting on the labellum.

The genus is found in the eastern part of South America to Brazil, and up into the island of Trinidad. It is often found in coastal areas alongside waterways, growing as an epiphyte.

In cultivation this plant seems to do well alongside its cattleya cousins, doing well in a glasshouse where the minimum temperature is kept to about 15ºC, and coping with higher temperatures when in active growth. It does best in an open mixture which allows for heavy watering in the growing season, together with a good dosage of fertiliser. It needs a longer, dryer rest period than the cattleyas and so some thought should be given to the best placement of the plant in the house to ensure this. Best results are obtained if the plant is not divided too often and it is placed in the brighter part of the house.

We have seen some very attractive hybrids with deep red and rose coloured cattleyas being used as the other parent. The resulting flowers take on the fullness of the cattleya parent, and the floriferousness of the *Caularthron bicornutum*.

*[The late] Colin Jennings*
*(An extract from the September 1999 Bulletin)*

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**The Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**

# Program for 2020

## NEXT NIGHT MEETING

## JULY meeting cancelled

**Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield**

| DATE | PRESENTER | TOPIC |
|---|---|---|
| **6th August** | TBA | TBA |
| **3rd September** | TBA | TBA |

## NEXT DAY MEETING

## JULY & AUGUST meetings cancelled

**Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Road, Enfield**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **11th September** | TBA | TBA |

## DATES FOR 2020 SEASON

- **Winter Show:** Thursday 6th August, Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd. Enfield
- **Spring Show:** 19-20 September**,** Enfield Community Centre**,** 540 Regency Rd. Enfield, 10am-4pm. Daily.
- **Sarc Dinner:** Saturday 7th November, Enfield Community Centre**,** 540 Regency Rd. Enfield, 6pm

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