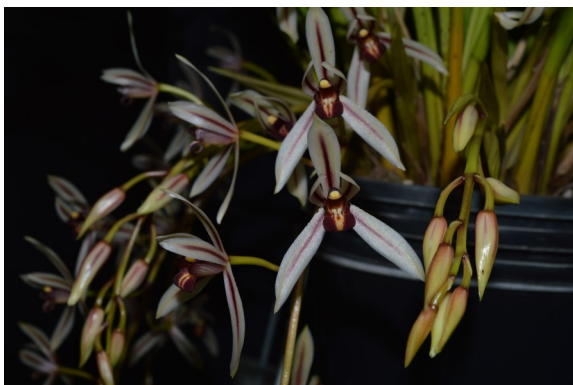


## dayanum

dayanum is a lovely early free flowering species.

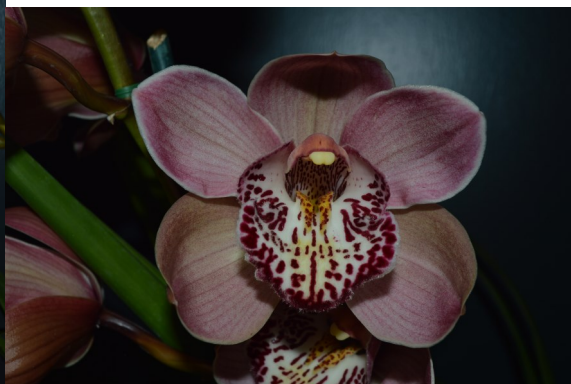
dayanum usually presents a large number of flower sprays displaying a crisp white flower with a bold red stripe on each petal.

Although they only have short spikes, the often large number of arching spikes produce a delightful display. dayanum are well know for attracting small native bees which often pollenate the flowers.



### Valley Freestyle "Heaven Scent"

Valley Freestyle 'HS' produces lovely small standard polychrome style flowers early in the year when not many standard flowers are available. It also has the added benefit of producing a lovely perfume.

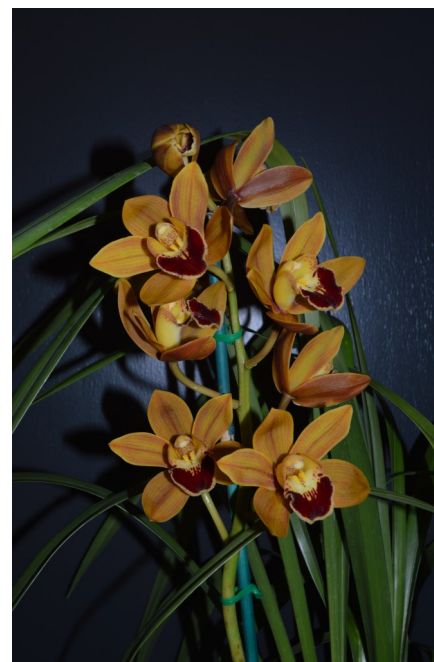


# CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

<http://www.cymorchids.com.au> also see us on Facebook

Print Post Approved PP 100018071



**April Meeting  
2015**

**Best Overall and  
Best in Open  
Division  
Kusuda Shining  
X  
Gold Cadillac**

**Grown by  
M & P Hockey**





**Our newest Life Members     Brian and Shirley Brand**



### **Mesa Zia 'Preview**

Early flowering orchids always offer the orchid grower a opportunity to extend their flowering experience and enjoyment for a longer period.

This particular orchid is a pale pink flowering intermediate style flower with upright spikes. One of the benefits is the good production of flowers on larger plants.



**Guest speaker from our April meeting  
Colin Gillespie and his wife Karen**



### **Autumn Cadillac**

The variety of colours becoming available in early flowering intermediate style cymbidiums is increasing. The predominant white/creams, pinks and greens is encroaching into yellows, autumn tonings, and reds, etc.



Neutrog are great supporters of our Club.

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The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia, was actively involved in developing and testing StrikeBack for Orchids and endorses it's use.

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## Cymbidium News, Volume 16 No.4 May 2015

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**

**Editor** Graham Fear

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<b>Registrar of Judges</b>	To be advised	

### Life Members

Ray Brady,	Moss Bray,	John Longbottom,	Yvonne Longbottom,
Graham Morris,	Dean Roesler #,	Jeanne Hall #,	Wayne Baylis,
Ben Knobben	Brian Brand,	Shirley Brand	# indicates Deceased

### Committee Members

Vice President,	Michael Willoughby	0479 162 527	<i>cap400_315@hotmail.com</i>
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2 year term	Tony Cumming	08 8298 5125	
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We are now on Facebook. Lots of up to date information and photos. Over 1000 views on some postings. Follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cymbidium-Orchid-Club-of-South-Australia/149369758460045?hc>

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE MAY 2015**

We are almost half way through the year and by now you should have a good presentation of cymbidium spikes. The cooler start to the year appears to have been particularly gracious to cymbidium plants with a greater number and density of flowering spikes than in previous years. From my own collection I have noticed about a 75% spike rate throughout my collection with many multi-spiking plants. I hope that you are having a similar experience in your orchid collection.

A large number of members lined up for over half an hour before our April meeting to collect a sizeable number of well grown cymbidium plants pre-ordered from Colin Gillespie and transported to the meeting by Colin and his wife Karen. It has been many years since I have seen so many members arrive so early to an orchid meeting.

Many thanks to Colin Gillespie who delivered a fascinating presentation to members at the last meeting on how to grow cymbidiums with a greater utilisation of hydroponic technology to produce large numbers of faster growing plants. Colin's utilisation of electronic technology to operate his orchid tunnels minimising his effort was also very enlightening.

I particularly enjoyed Colin's floral slide presentation which introduced a number of breeding line hybrids I have not seen elsewhere.

Highly mechanised orchid nurseries using controlled temperature and light systems, drip irrigation and fertigation regulated by computer generated technology, allows commercial size nurseries and hobbyists orchid growers alike to reduce the physical workload, improve productivity and increase their competitive edge.

The speaker at our May meeting is Kevin Western an orchid grower with many years of experience and has probably forgotten more about orchids than most of us have learned. Kevin is always enlightening, humorous and entertaining. For a good night out don't forget to put this evening on your agenda.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Des Bettcher

President

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CLUBS**

Gawler Districts Orchid Club Secretary - Murray Page PO Box 32 <b>GAWLER SA 5118</b> T - (08) 8250 0689	Port Lincoln Orchid Club Secretary - Shirley Rawlins PO Box 1335 <b>PORT LINCOLN SA 5606</b> T - (08) 8682 8237
Orchid Club of SA Inc Secretary - GPO Box 730 <b>ADELAIDE SA 5001</b> T - (08) 8389 8403	Port Augusta Orchid Club Secretary – Coral Ellis PO Box 1742 <b>PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700</b> T – (08) 8643 6016
Millicent Orchid Society Secretary – Robert Wood C/- 37 Wehl Street South <b>MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290</b> T – (08) 8723 2953	Port Pirie & Districts Orchid Club Secretary – 33 Meadow Crescent <b>RISDON PARK SA 5540</b> T – (08) 8633 2893
Mount Gambier Orchid Society Secretary – Thea Shaughnessy PO Box 2455 <b>MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290</b> T – (08) 8725 9051	Riverland Orchid Society Secretary – Yvonne Ahrens PO Box 746 <b>BERRI SA 5343</b> T – (08) 8588 2722
Murray Bridge & Districts Orchid Club Secretary – Wendy Schmerl PO Box 652 <b>MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253</b> T – (08) 8276 5558 E – <a href="mailto:mborchidsclub@gmail.com">mborchidsclub@gmail.com</a>	South Australian Orchidaceous Society Secretary – Trevor Jacob PO Box 161 <b>BROOKLYN PARK SA 5032</b> T – (08) 8346 6155
Murray Darling Orchid Club Have ceased operation More information – Eileen Morrison T – (03) 5027 4785	South Coast Orchid Club SA Secretary – Lucy Spear PO Box 314 <b>OAKLANDS PARK SA 5046</b> T – (08) 8381 4420
Native Orchid Society of SA Secretary – Robert Lawrence PO Box 565 <b>UNLEY SA 5061</b> T – (08)	Sunraysia Orchid Club Secretary – Dianne Cavanagh PO Box 1818 <b>MILDURA VIC 3502</b> T – (03) 5025 7305
Northern & Eastern Districts Orchid Society Secretary Ms Eleanor Mathews Phone 08 8362 5511	Whyalla Orchid Club Secretary – Bill Davidson PO Box 566 <b>WHYALLA SA 5600</b>  T – (08) 8645 4198

# NOTICE BOARD

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### IN FUTURE ONLY PREORDERED ITEMS WILL BE BROUGHT TO MEETINGS

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- *Rocket Fuel* 15Kg bag \$15
- *Sudden Impact for Roses* 20 Kg bag \$30
- *Seamungus Liquid* 1lt. \$10
- *Seamungus* 20 Kg bag \$22
- *Sudden Impact for Lawns* 20 Kg bag \$32
- *GoGo Juice* 2.lt \$15
- *Rapid Raiser* 20 Kg bag \$15

### PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICES

Please place your orders with Ron Hannaford on (08) 8284 8253 or email [ronhannaford@bigpond.com](mailto:ronhannaford@bigpond.com) and payment to Treasurer Christine Robertson—(cheques to be made out to COCSA)

NB: Product to be picked up from Ron Hannaford or can be arranged to be collected at the Monthly Club Meeting.

## PAST EXPERIENCES

### SARAH JEAN

Seedlings from *Cymbidium pumilum* X Sleeping Beauty still remain among some the most sought after orchid plants by the hobbyist orchid growers today, over 40 years since the the first seedlings were produced. It has been suggested that over 6½ plants of Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' have been sold world-wide.

(Article reprint *Cymbidium Orchid News* 1989 written by Bob Nicolle)

The Sarah Jeans began in August 1966 when the late Dr. Vandyke of Sydney crossed the species *Cymbidium pumilum* X Sleeping Beauty 'Sarah Jean' (Durham Castle x Sussex Dawn). The first seedlings of this cross flowered in June 1972 and the cross was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in England as SARAH JEAN by Valley Orchids in January 1973.

Of the pure-colour parents that were available for breeding at that time, Sleeping Beauty 'Sarah Jean' has proven to be a wise choice. When crossed with Durham Castle 'Snow Princess' it produced the pure white Pharaohs. When crossed with Sleeping Glow it produced Sleeping Dream 'Kings Ransom' and Sleeping Dream 'Tetra High'.

The Sarah Jeans from the first cross were very even in quality. Mostly quite small, about 3cm across. They were shapely, ice green in colour with orange markings on the lip. Most had up-right spikes although a few were pendant. The most notable varieties from the cross were Sarah Jean 'First Lady', a Champion Miniature at the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Conference in Sydney in 1975 and Sarah Jean 'Goldilocks', a prize winner at the same show.

Sarah Jean 'First Lady' was awarded an HCC with 75.1 points by the American Orchid Society on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1977, as a cut spike. Some that were cloned were Sarah Jean 'Sparkle', Sarah Jean 'Sprite' and Sarah Jean 'Denham Court'.

The first crosses using Sarah Jean as a parent were made in 1974 using Sarah Jean 'First Lady' crossed back to Sleeping Dream 'Sarah Jean'. In 1980 the first three plants flowered from cross, Mini Sarah 'Alabaster' with a long, arching spike of 17 3cm pure white flowers which was judged Best Seedling at the Orchid Club of South Australia 1980 Spring Show.

In 1975 Sarah Jean 'Goldilocks' was crossed with Wyanga 'Elanora', Sleeping Dream 'Gold Mine' and Sleeping Dream 'June Jade'. The first of the Wyanga 'Elanora' cross flowered in 1980 and was registered as Mini Mint.

The quality of the cross was outstanding, all those exhibited in the first year winning prizes. Mini Mint 'Maxine', a green with a straight spike was cut and sent to Los Angeles to be judged by the American Orchid Society where it was awarded an HCC. (Con't page 8)

## April 2015 meeting results

Judges Choice	Best Overall	
Judges Choice	Best in Open Division	
Judges Choice	Best Specimen	
Open Division	Any Other Colour	1st

### Show-bench winners from the April Meeting.

**Congratulations to M & P Hockey for scooping the pool at the April meeting. This the second time this year an exhibitor has run away with all the prizes because their early flowering plants bloomed at the right time for a meeting. Only a small number of plants were exhibited last month but we look forward to more as months progress.**

### Kusuda Shining X Gold Cadillac

**Any orchid with rich colour early in the season is eye-catching. This plant was a rich yellow overlayed with red veining. The lip was a very bold maroon and although a single spiking plant, the inflorescence displayed 9 flowers stand-out flowers.**

## MEMBER PROFILES

### 2ORCHIDS4U

John Howard and Peter Aigner-Muller are the proud initiators of a new orchid outlet in South Australia, (2ORCHIDS4U) designed to provide orchid hobbyists and the public with a variety a fresh and modern cymbidiums.

John and Peter have been good friends since the late 80's and joined the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc. in 1992. John, Peter and the late Peter French were often referred to as *The Three Musketeers*.

#### All for One and One for All

In the early years these three orchid enthusiasts spent many enjoyable hours creating large orchid displays designed to dazzle the public. (Con't page 7)

### **Is the champion plant of a show, a win for the actual plant, or does it indicate that the grower is a champion grower?**

Perhaps we should consider making it easier, confining plants to be judged, to one in a particular sized pot, perhaps a 200mm (8 inch) pot for standard cymbidiums. A special class could be introduced, to judge the champion grower, with one particular variety selected, in a standard size pot (example Valley Splash "Awesome", in a 200mm pot). We should make it fair for all growers to compete on a level playing field. I am not suggesting we do not have larger plants (specimens). I am just suggesting that we standardize the growing condition of plants **to be judged**, to make it fair & for all and easier to get it right. Just imagine in car racing – what would happen if we raced a small engine car, against the super performance V8's. Those who could not get into a V8 would never win and would probably not get involved.

To get more participation, clubs must make it more worthwhile to be involved. Expecting a commercial grower to grow plants which are not their bread and butter is unreasonable. Awards received for showbench varieties which are not productive, are useless. From an outside perspective, why award a plant, if it has deficiencies? A plant which does not grow or flower well is deficient. Why is the judging system so focussed on the shape of the flower & almost completely uncaring of other characteristics, such as fast growth and prolific flower production?

### **More on the dilemma above**

To be able to survive and hopefully thrive, most responsible organizations regularly review the way they operate, and make changes to meet future challenges. How many orchid clubs do this? Are they serious about meeting the challenges to come, or will they just try to tackle deficiencies, when it could be too late?

Earlier I asked the following questions

1. Can a commercial grower afford to participate in showing plants at an orchid club?
2. Can orchid clubs survive without the involvement of the commercial grower?

### **I believe the answer to both is probably not.**

Perhaps at this stage, I should comment on the financial assistance to cymbidium clubs, by commercial nurseries, that I personally know about and ask where would they be today without that assistance.

Significant sponsorship of the National Shows for many years by Fleurijn Orchids – Holland – Over \$5,000 per year for 7 or 8 years.

Huge sponsorship by Yunnan Semi Floraculture from China to the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia - Two payments of \$10,000

Royalty payments from Neutrog – for testing and endorsing Strike Back for Orchids fertilizer. Significant payments to State based cymbidium clubs

Numerous donations for Champion classes at State and National shows by many commercial nurseries – most often \$50 to \$250 per year, but there are many donations and they are ongoing

Sponsorship by the City of Port Adelaide & Enfield Council also the Onkaparinga Councils (Adelaide) to assist in conducting the National Shows – Value over \$10,000

I know there are other payments from commercial nurseries, which I am not familiar with. Apologies if I have not acknowledged them here. (Con't Page 8)

## **PAULINE'S LABORATORY SERVICE**

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## **TRADING TABLE SUPPLIES**

### **POT, STAKES, LABELS ETC.**

All Trading Table goods can be brought to  
general meetings, if previously ordered.

Please phone Wayne Baylis

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(Best time to call is early evening)

If reading this page on the computer, the left hand section is on page 6

Kusuda Shining X Gold Cadillac M & P Hockey

Kusuda Shining X Gold Cadillac M & P Hockey

dayanum 'colin grigg' M & P Hockey

Kusuda Shining X Gold Cadillac M & P Hockey

(Con't from page 6)

One of the many highlights they experienced during this period at West Lakes, was the display they constructed together and aptly named the "The Orchid Kingdom". They spent many late nights fabricating an old castle facade complete with towers and a drawbridge, as a back-drop.

This display combining more than 140 cymbidiums and their staging completely packed 6 trailer loads. An exhausting time was had by all just delivering this to the show.

Since their introduction into orchid growing, they have been passionate about growing seedlings. Like so many of us the challenge of producing an outstanding orchid of award/champion quality has been at the forefront of their enthusiasm.

Today their expanded collection of seedlings encompassing over 2,500 plants of various sizes grown from flask or com-pots is a combination of personal hybridising, local and interstate purchases. This passion also extends to a variety of selective mericlones.

For those who are interested Peter and John are offering limited plant numbers for sale.

They can be contacted during the day by phoning.  
Peter - 0422483567 or John - 0419814981

We wish them well in their new venture.

(con't from page 5)

Sleeping Dream 'Gold Mine' crossed with Sarah Jean 'Goldilocks' was registered as Mini Dream. They had all the good characteristics of the Mini Mints, but were vivid yellow in colour.

In 1976 we remade the Sarah Jean cross, once again using Sleeping Beauty 'Sarah Jean' but with pumilum album var 'Harkuum'. It is from this cross that the pure white Sarah Jeans were produced.

-----

Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' went on to receive an Award of Distinction from the CSA in 1986 for its owner Valley Orchids.

Sarah Jean has been used to produce approx. 100 primary crosses and another 100 secondary crosses, including Drouin Masterpiece, Spark Sprite and Ruby Sarah.

But the best of Sarah Jean progeny may be still be just around the corner. I believe in the subsequent generations to come we may see a new smorgasbord of pendulous miniature cymbidiums using Sarah Jean breeding lines.

(con't from page 15)

We should also consider the quality of our plants and what is our status in world terms. Each year we have many overseas growers visit us, seeking new varieties for production in very large numbers in their country. Our plants are eagerly sought by overseas growers, who are prepared to pay royalties for superior new varieties. This year I will be paying a small number of private growers, royalty payments from overseas nurseries a total of almost \$9000, in addition to royalties for my own plants. One grower is to receive \$2000 for one plant, which was seen at a club show, and didn't even win a significant prize. He can expect more payments for the same plant for some years.

Our present judging systems do not encourage commercial growers to participate. There is a risk that in future commercial growers will not get involved at all. There are many already who do not participate. There will be many hobbyists who will not wish to take the emphasis away from the shape factor. Perhaps they should consider what would happen to our clubs, without commercial support.

The general public are not concerned about the shape of an orchid flower. Commercial growers are not concerned about the shape of an orchid flower. Is the fixation on shape of an orchid flower, without consideration of other commercial properties, worth continuing with?

Graham Morris  
Valley Orchids, McLaren Vale, South Australia

**Advance Notice**  
**Winter Show - Munno Para Shopping Centre**  
**Put in Saturday 11th July, Take out 18th July**  
**Spectacular Noarlunga Leisure Centre**  
**Put in Friday 21st August, Take out 23rd August**  
**Spring Show West Lakes**  
**Put in Sat August 29th, Take out 5th Sept.**  
**Details of monthly meetings will appear in the next magazine**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The next Meeting of the**  
**Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**  
will be held on  
**Wednesday 27th May 2015**  
at the  
**Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, SA**

**Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, February to November**  
**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** Plants for judging to be in place (unless prior approval sought)  
**8.00 pm** General meeting starts.  
**8.30 pm** **Guest Speaker Kevin Western speaking about**  
**Where do your Orchids come from (Flasking)**  
**and Deflasking made Easy for Everyone**  
**9.30 pm** Meeting closes.

**SUPPER ROSTER 2015**  
*May Supper provided by the Club. Lots of helpers required please. Please volunteer*



## Where is orchid growing going – can it improve

**Many orchid clubs are struggling to survive.** Members are getting older and it is difficult to attract new members. Generally most of our new members are not young. How can we attract new and younger members? Will the clubs survive?

**Long established commercial nurseries are closing.** They are not being replaced and it is getting more difficult for newcomers to source good quality plants.

Our environment is changing quickly. House blocks are generally smaller than in the past, making it difficult to provide a good growing area for our plants. Many people are time poor, with family or work commitments, making time for growing our plants more difficult to find.

I believe we need to change, to make growing orchids easier, and change further to attract new members.

Orchids are perceived, by many, to be difficult to grow and particularly to get them to flower. If we consider the growing of cymbidiums, as the most common entry point for new growers, are we making it easy enough for any newcomer to take the step and join a club?

I am always disappointed, when we conduct a show, and have large numbers of people view the show, but get very few new members from our considerable efforts. Often we just do not do enough to attract even a few of those show visitors to a club meeting. The very survival of a club relies on getting new members and most clubs fail dismally in this area. Perhaps a special meeting for beginners should be scheduled after each show – maybe a free plant for attending their first meeting. At the very least, handouts telling prospective new members about the club and where it meets should be given out. A beginners group is a great way to soften the impact of having to make the step and attend a meeting, with a lot of strangers. When a new member gets involved, it is hard, and can take a long time to become competitive. Surely it is also time to reconsider our judging methods, and make it easier for new members to be able to compete quickly. For a start, they cannot even show a plant, until they own it for 6 months (perhaps we could soften this rule for the first 12 months or so of new membership). Very often the champion cymbidium is a very large plant, which has taken many years to grow big enough to win. Many growers cannot grow or transport a large plant, so cannot compete. Small cymbidium plants (particularly miniatures) rarely win major prizes. Surely it is time to make it easier for all to win, not just those with big growing areas and a vehicle large enough to transport a large plant, without damaging it. Think about the grower, who might just have a small growing area and a small car, which effectively excludes them from growing large specimen plants. They might even just want to grow small plants, which they can handle, but unlikely to win major prizes.

Can anyone tell me – Why do we compete and have our plants judged? I thought Gordon Giles's I read was great and posed some similarly good questions.  
(Con't Page 15)

## Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc.

### Code of Conduct – 2015

The objective of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc. is to promote all aspects of education about the culture of Cymbidium Orchids, with members and the general public.

Attendance and/or participation at any club meetings, functions and activities requires that all persons shall conduct themselves in a manner which reflects the ethics and standards of this code and shall:

- Comply with the Rules of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc.
- Conduct all organisational and operational functions with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, compassion and fairness.
- Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity and honesty.
- Engage in carrying out the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc. objectives in a professional and courteous manner. (Inappropriate, unwarranted or offensive comments or actions will not be acceptable.)
- Respect and consider all persons, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, maternity, marital or family status, disability, age or national origin.
- Recognise that the primary function of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia Inc. at all times is to serve the best interest of all members, the public and the local orchid community.
- Observe the safety, health and welfare of all members and the public in the performance of our duties.

Any person who fails to comply with this code may be requested to leave the meeting, function or activity immediately. Failure to comply with an instruction to leave may result in further sanctions by the committee. Any person who has been sanctioned by the Club may appeal the decisions and defend, justify and/or explain their conduct at the next available committee meeting.

---

Although the general principles of this Code of Conduct were implemented at the last meeting, the committee would welcome any suggestions or modifications from the membership. Upon investigation I was surprised to find a number of orchid societies around the world have introduced similar guidelines to produce a more harmonious and politically correct atmosphere for ALL members to enjoy.

## Commercial Orchid growing and the Showbench

I have some reservations about writing this article. Some readers will disagree with much of it. Some readers will be offended. Some will think I don't know what I am talking about. If you are likely to be offended, as they say on TV, before showing scenes which might offend, look away now.

To a casual observer, one would think that a commercial grower, often with thousands of plants, and, often superior growing conditions, should dominate on the showbench, over amateur growers. One could also be puzzled as to why, commercial growers, are not more active at shows and displays, where they could promote their product. This article attempts to outline why it can be difficult for a serious commercial grower, to participate strongly in the Orchid Club scene, and to be competitive on the showbench. I also offer some thoughts for changes which could address this issue and make orchid growing even better for all. The article is presented, after being very active, initially as a private grower, for 40 years or so, often being critical of the commercial growers, for not participating and showing. Over the past 10 years or so, I have operated a big nursery, selling mainly to the wholesale market, and have changed my understanding greatly.

Plants grown by a commercial grower (for purchase by the general public) and those grown by a showbench grower (orchid club members) **are very different**. Sales to orchid club members account for only a few percent of overall sales, and in Australia they are mainly cymbidiums. If a commercial grower was to rely on sales to orchid club members for most of his turnover, he would have a very small target market. The number of sales of any particular variety would be small, and he would need to continually develop new varieties, capable of winning prizes at a show, just to continue selling plants. A well performing showbench orchid, would need to have very superior shape and colour. How well it grows and flowers, seems to be not very important. Many showbench growers will tolerate a slow grower, or shy flowerer, so long as it gives them a chance of winning, when it eventually flowers.

Conversely, the market to the general public, is relatively huge. Flower shape to the general public is relatively unimportant, so long as it has lots of flowers, and has good colour. Lots of flowers is most important. The public will pay a premium price for a multi spiking plant. The grower requires that it grows quickly and flowers easily and profusely, with little manipulation of the flowers and foliage. A plant which slow growing, then does not have lots of flowers, will cause the commercial grower much financial grief.

### Now the dilemma.

1. Can a commercial grower afford to seriously participate in showing his plants at an orchid club?
2. Can orchid clubs survive without the involvement of the commercial grower?

### Think about the following

Operating a successful commercial plant nursery is hard work. It requires long hours of operation to succeed. The operator is generally on call 24 hours a day, 365 days each year. Customers are demanding and operating costs increase continually. Selling prices rarely increase as quickly as costs. Plants grown for commercial purposes (lots of flowers, not necessarily of good shape), are not judged favourably by orchid club judges. To succeed at shows, the commercial grower must grow some showbench orchids, in addition to the commercial varieties. This takes space & time, with little or no financial return. He must also spend time preparing plants to be shown, usually at a time when he should be preparing plants for sale. Many commercial growers want to support the show effort of the orchid clubs, and end up showing their commercial varieties, just to be involved. Should they not win prizes, they risk criticism for their lack of success. Many commercial growers, choose just not to get involved. It is too hard and the returns not worth the effort. Any awards for showbench varieties are not of much commercial value.

Most orchid clubs get good support from many commercial growers. Support can come in many forms.

- Donation of raffle plants at monthly meetings and shows
- Sponsorship
- Donations for major prize winners or champion classes at shows
- Guest speaking appearances
- Time spent on committees, often in senior positions
- Time spent promoting the club (radio interviews & commercial endorsements)
- Liaison with authorities and service providers
- Plants for growing competitions at special prices
- Teaching beginners & solving cultural problems

Time spent on club matters is often significant and can interfere with time available to run the nursery. The biggest problem, is that the shows are usually scheduled when the nursery is at it's busiest, when plants are being prepared for sale. Most orchid club members have no idea how difficult it can be, and the pressures encountered, just to assist the clubs, and show plants at a show. Many expect the commercial grower to have a significant presence at all shows.

### What can a commercial grower get from exhibiting at a club meeting or show?

At the moment, not much. His bread and butter plants are not in demand for the showbench. If one was to propagate more than a couple of hundred plants of a showbench champion, many would not be sold. By comparison, a quality commercial variety, which quickly produces lots of flowers, can be sold in very large numbers. It is common, in Australia, for more than a thousand of some good varieties to be sold, each year, year after year. Overseas, some varieties sold to the general public, are grown in huge numbers, often 50 to 100 thousand per year.