# **CYMBIDIUM NEWS**

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Winter Show Grand Champion Amigo's Magic "Blood Orange'

The photos through this month's magazine are some of the contenders for Flower of The Year which will be voted on at the February meeting



Spring Show Grand Champion Lancashire Khan "Debonaire"



Volume 25 Number 1 February 2023 (updated)



February meeting
Flower of the
night
dayanum





March meeting
Flower of the night
Sundaani Autumn
"Tessaani"





April Meeting Flower of the night Sundaani Autumn "Sunrise"



Cymbidium News Volume 25 No. 1 February 2023

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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## Life Members

Show Marshall John Howard

Flower of the year contenders

Neutrog, Rodenticide

Flower of the year contenders

Ray Brady, Moss Bray, John and Yvonne Longbottom, Dean Roesler #, Graham Morris. Jeanne Hall #. Wayne Baylis, Brian & Shirley Brand, Barry Bailey, Ben Knobben # Peter Aigner Muehler # indicates Deceased

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Our club Bank Details are as follows

Garden City Plastics special offer for next month

Bank of South Australia BSB 105 108 Account number 022900640 Our Treasurer Christine Robertson Phone 08 8536 3948 or 0438 363 940



President Graham Fear

#### Presidents Message February 2023 Welcome to our February 2023 issue

Here we are back for another year in 2023. I hope you and your families had a great Christmas and a happy New Year. Unfortunately both Anne and I caught COVID a couple days before Christmas. I didn't fare too well and ended up in Flinders Hospital for five days, and here we are eight weeks later, and we both still have coughs and feel lethargic. Hopefully we are just about at the end of it now.

If you haven't had it, my recommendation is, don't get it. Even when you hear those lucky ones that say I just had a headache for a couple of days, that's not always the case, so better not to get it.

By all reports the November dinner was again another outstanding success, with great food and everyone having a good time. Thanks

again to Greg for organizing it and we will re book it for this year.

If you haven't come to the dinner over the last two years, make sure you come along this year, as it is a great night out with your fellow members.

The February meeting will be our AGM, also the February monthly meeting. If anyone is interested in standing for any of the management or committee positions, please let me know before the start of the meeting.

Voting for the flower of the year will take place at the February meeting after the AGM, also the announcement of the Seedling of the year. There will be other things happing on the night so I hope to see you all there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Now's the time of year when your spikes will be just beginning to show, so keep your eye out for rats and mice as they love chewing on those small, new flower spikes just poking through.

Also there seems to be a bit of virus around. Wayne and Adrian are at their wits end with how many plants they have had to throw out. I don't take any chances and remove to isolation any suspect plants and scrutinize the new growths for any abnormal signs. I have had a bit of a problem in one shade house, and have disposed of 40 odd plants over the last 12 months. Some definitely had virus but others were maybes, but I didn't take a chance if they were suspect.

We have ordered another 100 virus kits from Barrita Orchids and they should be with us by the end of the month when they get new stock in, hopefully by the February meeting, but will definitely be here by the March meeting.

Remember though they do not detect Fleck virus, so make sure you know what it looks like, and if unsure isolate or dispose of the plants if it looks suspect.

We our trying to organize a good range of guest speaker this year with four already locked in. We are trying to get a world leading virus expert to come over, as it is time we all did a refresher course on it, so you do not have it spreading through your collection.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday the  $22^{nd}$  of February. Kind Regards and stay safe and well.

Graham Fear (President)

# The February meeting will start with the Annual General meeting. It usually takes only a short time.

It is followed by the February general meeting.

The beginners group will meet as usual on the stage at the front of the hall, from 7.15pm. Visitors and newcomers are most very welcome

\*

In your President, Graham Fear's report on the previous page, he notes that some members are experiencing problems with virus in some of their plants, also from attacks by rodents. Back in 2012, some members experienced problems which they had not experienced before. A number of industry experts gave advice, but they eventually found it to be a relatively new virus (for Adelaide growers) Fleck Virus, and they were able to put control methods in place to prevent it's spread. Previous advice from experts suggested treating with various chemicals to fertigate their plants better. As it was a virus, such treatments were failures.

Your committee at the time sought advice from the University of Tasmania, who offered a testing for virus service. Previously two forms of Virus were well known by growers. Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (CyMV) and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV) appeared occasionally in collections. Leaf samples of suspect plants could be sent to the University of Tasmania for testing (about \$20 per test), or a self administered test kit (AGDIA) could be purchased (about \$10 at that time), and used to reliably test plants. The University test, tested for all known viruses at the time. The AGDIA test only tested for CyMV and ORSV, not Fleck virus.

The head of the virus testing department in Tasmania, Associated Professor Calum Wilson, came to Adelaide and spoke at our July 2012 monthly meeting. He gave us a huge amount of information.

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In his talk, Calum indicated that he was able to engage an Honours student at the University, to do research on orchid virus, and hopefully develop a test to detect Fleck virus.

Our club provided funding and assistance to a student (Ray Ali), and he did develop a test procedure for Fleck Virus. He produced a very comprehensive (also long and very technical) report, which was published world wide.

A summary of his talk is included in this magazine, starting on the next page.

Rats, eating parts of our plants are often a problem, particularly at this time of the year. They are particularly keen on young shoots (and flower spikes), but will devour large parts of bulbs at times. They also will collect labels, for use as a nesting material (very annoying). It is wise to have rat baits strategically placed in containers which water from sprinklers cannot reach. Care must be taken to ensure pets cannot access the baits, though one type, First Strike Rodenticide, claims that large amounts of it would be required to be eaten to make an animal sick.

I have included photographs of plants which have been attacked by rats, to hopefully help you to watch out for their presence. A good indicator of their presence, is green (not dead) leaves on the floor under plants. Check plants near these leaves, and you might find chewed bulbs. I have included photographs of plants which have been attacked, also an easy to construct container (below) to house the baits, out of the reach of your watering system.

I will also bring some plants which have been damaged by rats, to the February meeting, to show what damage they can cause in a short time



At left is a piece of 75mm stormwater pipe about 40cm long. A small cut using a hacksaw, is made about 10cm from one end, about a third of the way through the pipe, and a small piece of flat metal is slid into the cut, to form a foot for the container, to stop it rolling about, and to make that end a little higher than the open end, to prevent water reaching the closed end, where the baits can be placed. A cap on one end keeps water out of that end, and can be removed to make checks and to place baits in position.

# Summary of Associated Professor Calum Wilson's virus talk from our July 2012 Meeting

There are 30 different viruses which can infect Orchids, & there is likely to be more which so far are unidentified.

In many overseas countries Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (**ORSV**) and Cymbidium Mosaic Virus (**CyMV**) are most common, and Orchid Fleck Virus (**OFV**) was rare in the past.

In Australia, testing in laboratories in NSW & Tasmania produced the following results from suspect plants sent for testing.

	NSW	1 as	
CyMV	8.7%	15.5%	
ORSV	61.9%	63.5%	
OFV	29.4%	21.1%	

**ORSV** was first reported in the USA in 1951. It is common in orchids, world wide. It is spread by plant to plant contact, also by cutting, pruning & handling of plants, and seed contamination. It is a **very stable** virus, & survives in dried leaves etc for over 100 years.

**CyMV** was first reported in cymbidiums in 1950. It is spread by plant to plant contact, also by cutting, pruning & handling of plants. It is quite a stable virus.

**OFV** was first reported in Japan in 1969. It is reported widely around the world. It is quite unstable, surviving quite a short time outside a live plant.

OFV is found in a wide range of orchid species & infects other plant families. It infects plants systematically (moves throughout the plant). There are distinct genetic strains.

Means of spread. By the False Spider Mite (Brevipalus calfornicus), also cutting, pruning & handling of plants (with difficulty). It is not transmitted by seed. Transmission is more frequent at temperatures above 30 degrees centigrade & it is easier to infect non orchid plants. False Spider Mite is found naturally infesting over 1000 plant species. It feeds initially along the midribs of leaves, then moves outwards.

Life cycle is eggs, larva, photo-nymph, deuto-nymph, adult.

Eggs take 3 weeks to hatch and immature stages take 5-6 weeks to become adults. Between stages they exist as chrysalis, glued to plants.

Adults are about half the size of the 2 spotted mite (red spider).

The life span of the false spider mite is about 2.5 times that of the 2 spotted mite.

The false spider mites produce exclusively female populations, in hot, humid conditions. A bacterium is responsible for female only reproduction. They do not produce webbing as does the 2 spotted mite.

False spider mite moves by lifting (gliding) from leaf surfaces & moves with the wind. Moving by walking is not considered important. They are also transported on infested plants & worker clothing. Movement is stimulated by overcrowding also by host plant senescense (biological ageing after maturity), or death.

The false spider mite acquires virus while feeding. The virus infests the gut lining, then moves into the body & into the salivary glands. Once infected it probably carries the virus for life.

The mite needs at least 30 minutes feeding to transmit the virus.

**Symptoms** of OFV in plants can be useful but are unreliable. Symptoms vary with

- 1. Mixed infections
- 2. Host species and cultivar
- 3. Virus strain
- 4. Age of the plant at infection
- 5. Time since infection
- 6. Environmental conditions (temp etc)
- Plant stress

<u>Detection</u> at the moment is by using an Electron Microscope. There is no lateral flow test kit (Agdia) available yet.

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### **Management**

Virused plants cannot be cured. No chemical treatment will eliminate virus. Removing symptomatic leaves will not eliminate virus.

#### **Precautions**

Quarantine new plants. Infected plants should be quickly removed and destroyed. Monitor plants continually. Sterilize all cutting tools with Tri Sodium Phosphate, bleach, or by flame. Use soap & water, or disposable gloves on hands. Avoid plant to plant contact (space them) and avoid excessive handling

### Control

Biological control is worth using. Phytoseilus persmilis and other predatory mites may feed on them.

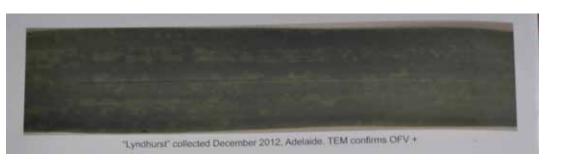
Miticide sprays which control 2 spotted mite should work. It is critical that full spray coverage is achieved. Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps may be effective, though be careful, some are phytotoxic. Repeat treatments to break overlapping lifecycles of mite populations. Regular water sprays can remove some mites.

Calum stressed that there is a lot still to learn about this virus and the role played by the false spider mite. We need to be careful in reaching conclusions, without thorough research, over a wide range of conditions. Industry groups (eg orange growers) have in the past funded research into other virus problems (industry related), which has benefitted orchid growers. At this stage little research has been done on Orchid fleck Virus.

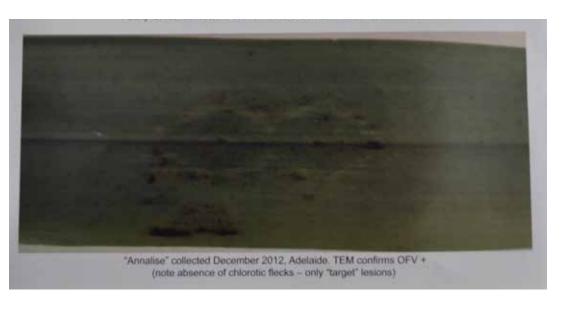
After Calum spoke, your committee at that time entered an arrangement with Calum, to support a Post Graduate Student at the University of Tasmania, for a year, to attempt to develop a testing system for Fleck Virus.

A testing system was developed. The report presented was very lengthy (about 80 pages) and difficult to understand for a regular orchid grower. Calum produced a summary of it, and I will include it in a future magazine.









These pictures are in colour, if viewed on your computer



For sale (Cheap) MiniDos Fertiliser injector (pump)
Fertilise or apply insecticide, herbicide etc easily and automatically, every time
you water

Old but works well \$150 Graham Morris 0419 823 724

We have a lot of back copies of this magazine
They will be available at the February meeting for your taking.
Can we have someone to lay them out on a table to make them easy to select please.
Make a list of dates you might require to make a good collection
prior to coming to the meeting



May meeting

Flower of the night

(Jessie Blakiston x

Kalahari Blaze)

"JoJo"





June meeting
Flower of the night

(Amber Dawn x
Pure Amber)





July meeting
Flower of the night
Justina's Beauty "Cotton Candy"







Winter Show
Champion Intermediate
Nat's Pride "Crimson Queen)



Winter Show
Champion Miniature
Gypsy Rose "Princess"











Rat damage Above leaves chewed off plants At left and below Leaves and bulbs chewed and eaten



Brian Heddle, a long time member who previously worked hard and long at our Winter and Spring shows, is selling all his orchids (27) and paraphernalia, eg pots, stakes, metal hangers, pipe work and three (3) shade houses

The shade houses sizes are approximately  $8 \times 2.6 \text{ m}$ ,  $4 \times 2.5 \text{m}$ ,  $11 \times 11 \text{m}$ ,

The sale will take place at 36 Blake Road, Elizabeth South, on Saturday February 25th 2023

Anyone interested, please contact Peter Aigner- Muehler on 0422483567.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Members now can set up a small trading table at meetings, to sell plants, books, equipment etc. at any meeting.

Commercial growers can do so but on a larger scale, once a year

Please let our President, Graham Fear know if you wish to do so.

Registering is necessary to ensure a limited number of sellers are at any meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# **Exciting News**

There are five (5) top quality speakers already confirmed for meetings through this year.

Some are from interstate, which is really pleasing, given the restrictions we had over the last few years. They might even bring some goodies for sale.

No names announced yet, but believe me, they are high quality speakers. One is a world leading expert in the field he will talk about. Don't miss joining us for our exciting monthly programs





# **BENEFITS OF**



- · Maximises nutrients available to plants
- · Increases resistance to pests and disease
- · Reduces heat and frost stress
- · Feeds the soil



Freecall 1800 656 644 neutrog.com.au

# .The next Meetings of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

On Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at the Burnside Assembly Hall. corner of Greenhill and Portrush Roads. Dulwich

The Annual General Meeting will begin at 8.00pm and be followed shortly after by the February general meeting

The flower of the year for 2022 will be voted on by the members. Photos of the finalists will be displayed on screen. The seedling of the year will be announced

Dates for monthly meetings through the year 2023 are below. Always the fourth Wednesday, February to November

26th April

February meeting 22nd February March meeting 22nd March April meeting

May meeting 24th May June meeting 28th June July meeting 26th July

Winter Show July Date to be announced

23rd August August meeting **Spring Show** August/September Date to be announced

September meeting 27th September October meeting 25th October November meeting 22nd November

The lucky seat prize will no longer be given.

A lucky badge, and a lucky birthday prize will be given each meeting. You must wear your club badge to be eligible.

Please notify your birthday to John Howard if you wish to be in the lucky birthday promotion.

#### TRY THESE AND OTHER PRODUCTS ON OUR MEMBER'S EXCLUSIVE ONLINE STORE AT SHOP.NEUTROG.COM.AU



#### OTHER PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS



#### SEAMUNGUS

Seamungus is used for revitalising all plants throughout the year (including natives) and is ideal for establishing new plants, particularly bare-rooted roses.



#### KAHOONA

Kahoona is an organic based, chemically boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to enhance the growth and flower development of acid loving plants.



#### BUSH TUCKER

Bush Tucker is a complete, organic-based boosted fertiliser, specifically developed to meet the specialised needs of all Australian native plants.



#### POPUL8

POPUL8 is an Advanced Soil Biological formula. It is designed to occupy and populate the biological space in the soil and on plant roots which may otherwise be an available space for plant pathogens to inhabit.



#### STRIKE BACK FOR ORCHIDS

Strike Back for Orchids liquid concentrate is an organic based chemically boosted fertiliser ideal for all potted flowering and fruiting plants ...not just orchids!



#### SUDDEN IMPACT FOR ROSES

Sudden Impact for Roses concentrate is ideal for all flowering plants except natives and bare-rooted roses.



Most members should know that we have a really good, mates rates deal with Neutrog, to purchase their products at very special prices.

Generally, a club member needs to register on line via the Neutrog Web site. You will be given an account, and can set up a password to access the site to place an order.

There are four (4) times each year when you can order product, then collect it a short time later.

We get very discounted prices on all products.

There are a small number of members who cannot order on line, through either not having access to a suitable computer, or have had difficulty in logging in and placing their order.

If you are in that position, the club is about to set up a club account which you will be able to access by contacting a nominated member (to be advised shortly), who you can place your order with and make your payment. You will need to make arrangements with that person, on how and when to collect the order.

Dates of the orders and delivery are below. Orders can be placed well before the closing dates to avoid missing out.

<u>Autumn</u>

Delivery 17-18/2/2023 Date depends on collection point

(store closes 6/2/2023)

Winter

**Delivery** 19-20/5/2023 Date depends on collection point

(store closes 8/5/2023)

Spring D. II

Delivery 18-19/8/2023 Date depends on collection point

(store closes 7/8/2023)

**Summer** 

**Delivery** 17-18/11/2023 Date depends on collection point

**Store closes 6/11/2023** 

I will try to get a product list and price list for those interested in this service. It should be available at each monthly meeting



# Garden City Plastics SPECIAL March 2023

10-12 Hakkinen Road, Wingfield, SA 5013 Phone: (08) 8168 4100, Fax: (08) 8168 4199 Email: sa@gardencityplastics.com

# 30% Off Orchiata Bark

Available 1st March until 31st March 2023



# Neutrog are great supporters of our Club.

Please support them wherever possible and tell others about them

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



Rats and mice are active in our gardens at the moment. First Strike Rodenticide is very effective in controlling these pests.

Available from Graham Morris 0419 823 724. Call if you need some.

Packs of 10 baits \$5.00, Packs of 25 \$10.00

Available at the Trading table at the back of the hall, on meeting nights.

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This new product is getting good reviews from growers everywhere who have been using it for some time. Rodents cause lots of damage if not controlled. Be prepared. Have some on hand.

## Reminder

# Don't forget to give your birthday date to John Howard if you wish to participate in the Birthday prize draw each month

# Please write your name and BIRTHDAY MONTH on a paper and hand it to John as early as possible

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Puzzle Page filler

A man holds a photograph and states Brothers and sisters have I none But that man's father, is my father's son Who is in the photograph?

There will be a prize for the person who can tell me, and explain it best Is it his father, himself or his son or someone else?

TRADING TABLE SUP	PLIES				
250mm Pot			\$1.20		
200mm Pot			80c		
180mm Pot			60c		
140mm Pot			40c		
100mm Pot			30c		
Plastic Trays	\$2.20	(55cm x	35cm x	8cm hold	s six 180mm pots)
Stakes Bundles 3ft (25)			\$4.50		
Stake Bundles 4ft (25)			\$6.00		
Twist Ties Bundle (100)			\$2.00		
Calcium Nitrate			\$2.50		
Yo Yo's			\$2.00		
Single Head Fogger Dro	pper		\$4.50		
Trisodium Phosphate	(steriliz	er)	\$5.00	(500g)	\$10.00 (1kg)
Virus Kits			\$7.50		
Linuron Hericide	(100g)		\$10.00		
Plastic Labels (25)			\$2.00		

For normal orders contact John Howard on 0419 814 981, for stock availability

For larger orders 30 pots or under per size, contact Wayne Baylis, on 0409 801 224

Any orders over 30 pots per size should be sourced by the box configuration from Garden City Plastics,

Available to all club members in bulk,

Contact Natasha on 8168 4100 to order.





July Meeting

Flower of the nifgr

Justina's Beauty "Cotton Candy"



Spring Show
Champion Intermediate
(Khanebono x Lunar Blaze)







Spring Show Champion Miniature Jacinta's Pride "Joyous"



September Meeting

Flower of the night

(Mem Amelia Earhart x Pacific Sparkle) "No.5)





October Meeting

Flower of the night

(Mem Amelia Earhart X Pacific Sparkle)

