

CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

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**Flower of
the Year
2019**

**Valley
Champion
'Superstar'**

**From the
September
Meeting**

**Grown by
Adrian
Bockmann**

**See also
more photos
on pages 2,
19 and 20**

**also
Pages 9 and
10
for some in-
formation
about it's
history**



The parents of Valley Champion are

Valley Splash 'Awesome'
x
Valley Regent 'Reggae'

Valley Splash 'Awesome' (at left) is a Grand Champion many times, including the National Show of The Cymbidium Orchid Club of Australia

Valley Regent 'Reggae' (below) is a high quality pot plant variety, which was highly regarded in the industry. It was very fast growing and extremely free flowering.

See page 23 for Valley Champion 'Prolific' which mutated into Valley Champion 'Superstar' Also see page 9 for it's history



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Show Marshalls (WL)	Wayne Baylis and helpers.		

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Graham Morris,	Dean Roesler #,	Jeanne Hall #,	Wayne Baylis,
Ben Knobben	Brian & Shirley Brand,		

indicates Deceased

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Welcome to our February 2020 issue



**President
Graham Fear**

The last few weeks has seen some unprecedented things happen in our community. Who would have thought toilet paper wars, cancelling of events, and sports being held in empty stadiums, with new restrictions being applied day by day to the way we know as normal. The main thing for our members, is to stay safe and well, and don't put yourself at risk with this very contagious virus. At this stage we hope the March meeting will go ahead, but with things changing by the hour. If we need to cancel, we will let you know by phone or email by the Tuesday before the meeting (24th March) or by a separate notice included with the magazine.

If you are worried, or if you have recently come back from overseas, it may pay to be cautious and don't come to the meeting, especially with the older age group of a large proportion of our members. Lets hope we can go ahead with the meeting.

We were going to have a stall at the ABC market in early April, but unfortunately this has been cancelled, also because of the virus.

The March meeting will have some great entertainment which we are still finalising, and we have interstate speakers at each of our April, May and June meetings. Hopefully without further restrictions put in over the coming months, this will happen as planned.

Some nice cooler weather in March with nothing much over 30 degrees, so I hope all of your plants and new spikes are coming along well. No plants were exhibited at the February meeting, so over the next few months we should see the amount at each meeting increase month by month.

If everything goes ahead and I look forward to seeing you all on March 25th

Kind regards and stay safe and well.

Graham Fear

President

COMPOT GROWING MIX TEST

At the February general meeting, our President, Graham Fear, told us about a trial he had conducted, on a potting mixes, for plants straight out of flask. Following is photographs and descriptions of that trial.

Compots, single pots, trays etc are first advanced from the flask with many different growing mixes used by different growers.

Terry Poulton, from Victoria passed on to Graham Morris in 2017, that he had been using Scotts Osmocote, Professional Seed Raising and Cutting Mix, in compots and individual pots, when deflasking. Available in 10 litre (about \$7.00), and 25 litre bags (about \$13.20), from Buntings stores. Note, some stores do not carry both sizes, and sometimes they are not displayed near one another.



Above Ingredients for home made mix
Fine Coco Fibre
6 to 9mm Orchid Bark
Perlite Super Coarse



Above
Osmocote Seed Raising and
Cutting mix

Plants have been grown in conventional growing mediums after potting on from community pots or small trays. The seedling raising mix would probably be very expensive to use for mature plants



**Community pots (compots) of
Regal Flames ‘Queen of Hearts’
x
Pepper Blaze ‘Wraith’**

**In normal (home made) potting
mix (left in photos)**

And

**In Osmacote Seed and Cutting mix
(right in photos)**





This is how they looked in February 2020. The plants on the right were growing in the seedling mix. Note the quality of the leaves, root growth, and the size of the bulbs.



Put into 100mm pots on the 22nd February 2020. Size ranged from 35 to 40cm leaf length (14 to 16 inches)

The conclusion is that the seed raising mix is certainly contributing to stronger growth in leaves, bulbs and roots, compared to my normal seedling mix. There is no right or wrong with any mixes, but in this test, the seed raising mix has come out better, and is the case with all my other compots, that I have used the mix in (Graham Fear)



At left is the label on the bag

It lists the many ingredients in the mix

Foggers for sale.

The club has purchased a small number of foggers for members to purchase. Foggers can cool a shadehouse considerably in extreme heat conditions and prevent heat damage to your plants. They are somewhat difficult to purchase commercially, as a large minimum number of units has been required to be ordered.

They are available from our treasurer or trading table in packs of 5 foggers. Cost is \$15 for the five.

They are attached to 12mm poly pipe via a barb in the fogger. Each fogger produces a very fine mist and cools the area and provides a much needed humidity boost. They use approximately 5 litres of water per hour, depending on your water pressure. Operating them for even a few minutes each hour helps the plants in hot conditions.

They are very easy to install, and are best automatically operated by a timer or thermostat.

With the winning of the Flower of the Year, I thought our members may be interested in a little history of the plant Valley Champion ‘Superstar’

The following article is a copy of an article from the Summer 2013 Edition of the National magazine, Australian Cymbidium Scene (no longer published) Thank you to the Editor, Geoff Bailey for giving permission for us to publish it. Geoff also acknowledges the assistance given to him by Brenton McGee, the then proprietor of the Pioneer Orchid Farm, Leopold, Victoria. (now closed)

Located on the Bellarine Peninsula, ten minutes from Geelong, Pioneer Orchid Farm is an unforgettable sight during the flowering season when orchids in bloom are sold to the public at bargain prices. During this time every year, the orchid farm is open from 9.30am to 5pm, 7 days a week, from late June until the end of November.

Opened in 1979 as a small family owned general nursery which carried a small range of orchids as specialty items. Over the years as the range and number of orchids grew, until by 1993 they were able to close down the general nursery and concentrate exclusively on producing flowering pot plants for retail sale and wholesale distribution. During this time, the shadehouse and glasshouse grew to 4,500 square metres, which carried in excess of 250,000 plants in various stages of development. Throughout the years the orchid farm has remained a family concern, operated entirely by Merylyn and Brenton McGee. (Extra from the Editor – Brenton is the Nephew of Bob Nicolle, former proprietor of Valley Orchids)

During 30 years of commercial orchid growing, we have occasionally encountered interesting and intriguing mutations, orchids with a genetic modification which makes them look different from the rest. Mutations can be attractive or ugly, but the variety which we call “Superstar”, must be one of the most attractive and desirable, we have ever seen. Large shapely blooms display a highly contrasting white central flash, on a dark red background. Very spectacular. As a bonus, long productive stems are carried by a healthy, fast growing orchid plant. This is strikingly different from the usual mutation, underproductive and sometimes sickly plants, struggling to produce a miserly crop of blooms. Where did this sensational novelty come from?

In the year 2000, soon after taking over Valley Orchids, Graham Morris made several selections from his 1999 flowering seedlings, so he could offer some new mericlones to his customers. In his printed list, item V1056 was listed as (**Valley Splash x Valley Regent**) “**Prolific**”. Proposed registered name Valley Track “Prolific”. Graham provided photos on a CD (see page 19).

V1056 was a solid unusual red with distinctive and identifiable lip. The plant bore four tall spikes on a small first flowering plant.

Our flask delivery in September 2001, contained several flasks of V1056. They were chosen not so much for their shape or colour. Retail pot plant customers care little for classic show shape. However they promised to be ‘prolific’, and in the commercial orchid world, more spikes mean more money. These plants were planted out and took their place in the system. Next season V1056 was unavailable, deleted from the Valley Orchids flask list, never to be seen again. As far as I can determine, Valley Track was never registered.

Our lone batch of plants grew, eventually flowered and were sold as part of the wholesale supply chain, unlabelled and unnamed. They were quite satisfactory commercial orchids, good solid performers, without being particularly exciting or spectacular, except for one. One lone plant had somehow experienced a mutation in it’s DNA, probably during the cloning process, and had produced a magnificent spike of two toned orchid blooms. The mutation stood out like a beacon from the rest of the batch. It was immediately put aside to grow for a few years so we could see what it would do.

For five years it sat in the shadehouse reserved for our breeding plants, growing happily and dutifully and prolifically flowering every year.

To tell the truth, I had forgotten about it, and it was only a chance comment from my wife Merri-lyn, that bought it again to my attention. We use our stud plants as a supply of cut flower stems for retail sale, and every time she took stems of 'Superstar' to be sold, up the front they were instantly snapped up by awestruck customers. Last season it bore ten long and heavily laden spikes. Every flowering bulb, from every part of the plant, carried the full mutation. Strong and vibrant. Last spring it was divided into double growth divisions. One flowered this season, perhaps a year earlier than anticipated, and with a shorter spike than from a bigger plant, but just as beautiful. It's appearance on eBay, generated much interest (and a very high sale price). It will be interesting to see how many flower next year.

I backtracked the paperwork for it's origins and found it's breeding (Valley Splash x Valley Regent). The connection to Valley Splash 'Awesome' is very apparent in it's shape and regal bearing of it's flowers. Valley Regent 'Reggae' has supplied the background red colour. The very distinctive anchor pattern on the lip of 'Superstar', has origins in both of the parents. It appears from the photograph, that it is better shaped than the normal V1056. A chromosome count might be interesting. The name Valley Track was never registered. We took to calling it 'Superstar', and the name stuck for us. However we subsequently learned that another pink seedling from the same cross, had been registered as Valley Champion 'Gorgeous'. It might be a champion, but it will always be 'Superstar' to us.

Conventional wisdom says that these mutations do not readily survive the cloning process, but who knows, until they try. Certainly we are not contemplating cloning or breeding with it. At our stage of life we are looking to upcoming retirement within a short number of years, and are not willing to commit that far into the future, but I believe that either action would be a tantalising exercise. Superstar promises to be a real superstar not only for it's distinctive looks, but also in performance. It is healthy, vigorous, very productive and extremely eye-catching, and above all, desirable. What more could you want.

Again thank you to Geoff Bailey and Brenton McGee for the above article published in the Summer 2013 edition of the Australian Cymbidium Scene magazine

Note also The photographs on page 23 have rarely been seen previously. The plant Valley Olympic 'Prolific' was in production for only a short time, and the photographs of it were archived on a computer which did not have a modern drive allowing the photographs to be copied, to enable them to be transferred to a working computer. It took a lot of effort to get the photos off the old computer.

At the April meeting, Kevin Butler, from EZI-GRO Orchids (Perth WA) will be addressing the meeting. He has a huge range of quality plants available, including many spotted and peloric varieties. Kevin is prepared to bring any plants ordered to Adelaide when he speaks here. Visit ezi-gro.com.au, or call 08 9343 2761, and place an order. Refer to pages 21 and 22 for some photographs from his web site

At the May meeting Scott Barrie, from Barrita Orchids (NSW) will be speaking. He is prepared to bring orders to the meeting. Check the web site barritaorchids.com
More details next magazine.

At the June meeting, Nado Lenkik, from Springfield Orchids, in Perth will address our meeting. He has a good web site springfieldorchids.com.au, and a Facebook site. Check them out early and contact Nado, who may be able to bring plants with him.

Interstate Cymbidium Clubs

Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW)

Secretary Mrs Judith Brooks Ph 02 9773 9197 email jahamilton.17@btinternet.com **Web-site** ccansw.com.au **Facebook** cymbidiumclubofaustralia

Meetings are on the second Thursday, March to November

Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria

Secretary Julie Forrest Ph 0417 339026

email efo28308@bigpond.net.au.

Website cosv.com.au Meetings Second Tuesday February to December

Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia

Secretary Helen Stretch Ph 08 9362 4120 email hstretch2007@bigpond.com

Website cymbidiumorchidclubwa.com.au Meetings third Monday Feb. to Nov.

For details of other South Australian Orchid Clubs, refer to our Web Site cymorchidssa.com.au

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Our “Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia” Facebook site is receiving well over 1000 views per posting, from growers all around the world. Plants shown at our meetings are posted, and we try to add some interesting articles, which often cannot be published in this magazine. Try to look in on us and support the site (please).

Refer also to our Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Website
cymorchidssa.com.au

Bags of TriSodium Phosphate are now available from the trading table (for sterilizing cutting tools etc). One Kilogram bag \$10, 500 grams \$5.00. Larger bags are available on request. Note, these prices are much cheaper than you can get privately.

There will be some First Strike roedenticide bait available from the trading table this month.

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

This new product is getting good reviews from growers interstate who have been using it for some time.

Recently another local member purchased some and put them out in his growing house, after seeing rats and mice damaging his plants. He had some left over and stored them in his shed, inside a sealed plastic bag. After returning from holidays he observed that all baits in his growing house had disappeared, and those in his shed had also been taken. Other types of baits, previously very effective, alongside, had not been touched.

Be prepared. Rodents are out there right now, and hungry, and do eat orchid spikes, flowers and all parts of your plants

Just give it a GOGO!



You won't really know if you don't give it a go.

- Feed the soil
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- Reduce heat and frost stress

Apply GOGO Juice year round to all pots, garden beds and lawn areas.

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250mm Pot	\$1.30
200mm Pot	.80c
180mm Pot	.60c
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Stakes Bundle 25	\$4.50
Twist Ties Bundle 100	\$2.00
Labels Bundle 25	\$3.00
Calcium Nitrate	\$2.50
4 Head Dropper	\$9.00
Single Head Dropper	\$4.50
Trisodium Phosphate	\$5.00 per 500g, \$10 per Kg

Larger bags available but pre ordering is required.

Please phone Wayne Baylis to order

Home 08 8235 0340, Mobile 0417 887 431

(Best time to call is early evening on home number)

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.

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fertilising for
year round
health**

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season. Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

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Biological Fertilisers

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**.The next Meeting of the
Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**

will be held on

Wednesday 25th March 2020

at the

Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, SA

**Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month,
February to November**

Program - March 2020 Meeting

- 6.30pm** Hall is open. Helpers required to assist setting up seating
- 7.00pm** Seedling sale Glenn Stearnes will have more seedlings available, similar to last month. Glenn is also willing for members to contact him on 08 555 5426, and collect them from his home in Goolwa
.
- 7.15pm** Beginner's group meet on the stage. Newcomers are very welcome
- 8.00pm** February meeting commences
There will be discussion based on a magazine article from the Summer 2013 edition of the Australian Cymbidium Scene. In that article a small private group of International growers discussed breeding plants which have contributed to the current high quality cymbidiums in Australia today. It promises to be very informative.
There will be a review of the popular Grower of the Month discussions from previous years with updates if possible
- 9.30pm** Judges will comment on the plants bought in for judging.
- 9.45pm** Meeting closes and a light supper will be served.
Chat with fellow members.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd April 2020.



Garden City Plastics April 2020 SPECIAL

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Available 1st April 2012 till 31st April 2010
(There may have been a price increase since your last purchase)



2020 JUDGING WORKSHOPS

The series of three Judging workshops has been cancelled because of uncertainty about the Coronavirus.

Depending on member interest and the year ahead for us all, it may be possible to hold them later this year instead. Some excellent material has been put together courtesy of Ben and Sue Hollands and it would be a pity not to use it sometime.

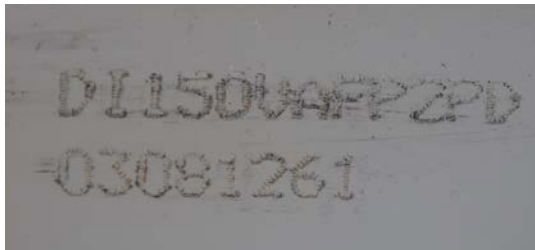
Thank you to those members who have already expressed their interest.

NEUTROG FACTORY TOUR

Barry Bailey has organized a tour of the Neutrog fertilizer manufacturing facility at Kantomoo (out towards Murray bridge), for Friday 24th April, starting at 10am. A **limited number of members can be accommodated**. Please contact Barry on 0428 847 042 or email barrybailley2@bigpond.com. Members must arrange their own travel mode, but car pooling should be considered. A lunch will be planned at a local hotel or restaurant after completion. Please advise Barry if you might attend the lunch when you book the tour.

NEW ORCHID NEWSLETTER

Geoff Bailey, former Editor of **Australian Cymbidium Scene**, is producing a new newsletter called **Cymbidium Chatter**. The February and March editions will be posted on our Web site cymorchidssa.com.au. These are very worth reading. Well done and thank you Geoff.



For Sale

Dosatron 0 to 5 percent and stainer foot

Fully reconditioned

Great for fertilizing or applying insecticide and fungicide to your plants

New price near \$1000

One only \$160

Prices effective from January, 2018

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An organically based fertiliser, developed for the specialised needs of Australian native plants - even the most phosphorous sensitive. **20kg bag \$30**



Gyganic
Perfect for fruit and citrus. Gyganic has been specifically developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste. **20kg bag \$30**



Kahoona
Ideal for all acid loving plants such as Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons. **20kg bag \$30**



Sudden Impact for Roses
Ideal for all flowering and fruiting plants - not just roses. **20kg bag \$30**
1L Bottle \$10



Strike Back for Orchids
Ideal for all the potted flowering and fruiting plants - not just orchids. **20kg bag \$30**

Strike Back for Orchids Liquid
Ideal for all potted flowering and fruiting plants - not just orchids. **1L bottle \$10**



Sudden Impact for Lawns
Ideal for new and established lawns, along with other non-flowering plants such as palms, ferns and conifers, as well as leafy vegetables and herbs. **20kg bag \$30**



Upsurge
Ideal for turf to improve soil structure and increase earthworm activity, root growth and resistance to pests and disease. **7.5kg bag \$16**

ORGANIC FERTILISERS



Bounce Back
A high quality, general purpose fertiliser, specifically formulated for the most effective and safe feeding of all your garden plants. Ideal for winter and summer application. 100% organic and ACO registered. **20kg bag \$13**



Rapid Raiser
A high quality, boosted general purpose fertiliser. The increased phosphorus level makes it ideal for planting and promotes faster, healthier and sustained growth for all plants. Particularly suitable for heavy feeding plants such as roses and citrus. 100% organic and ACO registered. **20kg bag \$15**



Blade Runner
A high quality, general purpose lawn fertiliser. Ideal for all use on all lawns, particularly new lawns and summer application of established lawns where the slow release properties help to prevent thatch build up. 100% organic and ACO registered. **15kg bag \$15**



Rocket Fuel
Specifically developed for growing healthy, organic fruit and vegetables. A portion of all retail sales go to supporting the Staphen Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. 100% organic and ACO registered. **15kg bag \$13**



Cock'n'Bull
A mix of cow and chicken manure, Cock'n'Bull is ideal for conditioning the soil whilst adding nutrients. A perfect additive to any garden or vegie bed. 100% organic and ACO registered. **30L bag \$7**



Meatworks Blood'n'Bone
An all-purpose organic fertiliser manufactured from meat and bone meal. **25kg bag \$30**

ORGANIC FERTILISERS



Seamungus Pellets
Ideally suited for establishing new plants (particularly bare-rooted roses) and for use on natives. Seamungus can also be used as a plant tonic to revitalise all your plants throughout the year. 100% organic and ACO registered. **20kg bag \$20**



Seamungus Liquid
Ideally suited for establishing new plants (particularly bare-rooted roses) and for use on natives. Seamungus can also be used as a plant tonic to revitalise all your plants throughout the year. **1L bottle \$10**



Seamungus Green
The smaller crumble form makes Seamungus Green ideal for lawns and in dry conditions where more immediate breakdown is required. It can also be used as a plant tonic to revitalise all your plants throughout the year. 100% organic and ACO registered. **20kg bag \$22**



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Biologically activated, nutrient rich, weed free, absorbant super mulch. **20kg bale \$14**



GOGO Juice
A pro-biotic for your soil and plants, GOGO Juice provides all the benefits of applying liquid kelp, seaweed and humic acid, whilst adding beneficial bacteria to assist in breaking down the organic matter, maximising the nutrients available to your plants.

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2L Ready to Use \$10



BOOKS SA VIC NSW



From the Ground Up
From the Ground Up is a complete and comprehensive, state-based garden guide for gardeners. The books utilise the recommendations of many plant experts, coupled with the fantastic knowledge and experience from our authors - Sophie Thomson (SA edition), Jane Edmondson (VIC edition) and Linda, Sandra and Graham Ross (NSW edition). **\$35 each**

• Prices include GST • Free delivery to agreed delivery points for minimum 1 tonne / pallet orders
• These prices are strictly for members only and are not to be knowingly disclosed to the general public



Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year - at least once in each season.

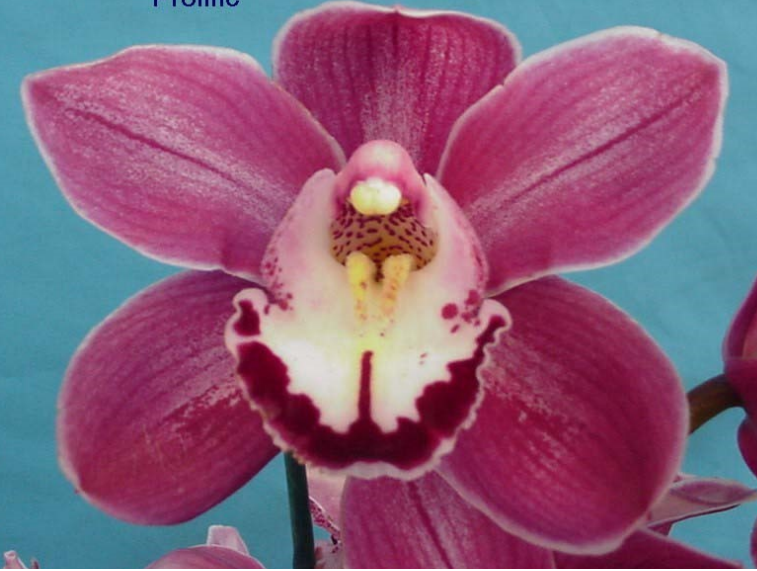
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V1056
(Valley Splash x Valley Regent)
Prolific



V1056
(Valley Splash x Valley Regent)
Prolific



**Refer to the article about
Superstar, starting on
page 9**

**This plant is now named
Valley Champion
'Prolific'**

**But it is most famous for
mutating into
Valley Splash
'Superstar'**



Valley Champion 'Superstar'