

The next Meeting of the  
**Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.**  
will be held on  
**Wednesday 23 March 2011**  
at the  
**Burnside Community Centre**  
**401 Greenhill Road Tasmore 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 Viewing of Plants and Popular Vote
- 8.00 pm Official Opening and Presidents Report
- 8.15 pm Seedlings on the Show-bench
- 8.20 pm Guest Speaker—Scott Barrie—Baritta Orchids
- 9.00 pm Plant Raffle Draw
- 9.15 pm Popular Vote and Judging Results
- 9.30 pm Close of Meeting and Supper.

THE NEW

# CYMBIDIUM NEWS

Published by the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South  
Australia Inc.

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

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**ORCHID OF THE YEAR 2010**  
**White Valley x Kelly's Winter**  
**Grown by: Terry Honor**

## The New Cymbidium News Vol 12 No 2—March 2011

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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### PATRON:

**Leon van Rijn**

### Life Members:

**Ray Brady**  
**Moss Bray**  
**John Longbottom**  
**Yvonne Longbottom**  
Dean Roesler#  
#Deceased

### Treasurer

John & Yvonne Longbottom  
12 Joanne Terrace  
Parafield Gardens SA 5107  
Phone 8258 3435

### Registrar of Judges

Ben Knobben  
10 Carlo Street  
Kidman Park 5025  
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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Jayne	0419 039 022	Senior Vice President
Ben Knobben	(08) 8356 0215	Junior Vice President
Graham Morris	(08) 8327 3955	Advisor to Committee
Sue Carter	(08) 8390 3215	(1 Year Term)
Laurie Carter	(08) 8390 3215	(1 Year Term)
Hazel Alsop	(08) 8186 0276	(1 Year Term)
Des Alsop	(08) 8186 0276	(1 Year Term)
David Webb	(08) 8346 0182	(2 Year Term)
Nico De Jong	0405 516 546	(2 Year Term)

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## COPYRIGHT

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## SUPPER ROSTER 2011

Wednesday 23 March	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 27 April	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 25 May	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 22 June	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 27 July	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 24 August	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 28 September	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 26 October	<i>Vacant</i>
Wednesday 23 November	<i>Vacant</i>

**Please see Yvonne Longbottom to put your name on the Supper Roster—Thank you  
MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

## PROGRAM 2011

<b>Wednesday 23 March</b>	Scott Barrie—Baritta Orchids
<b>Wednesday 27 April</b>	Glenn Heylen—Fertilizers, bugs etc.
<b>Wednesday 25 May</b>	Randall Robinson—to be confirmed
<b>Wednesday 22 June</b>	<i>to be advised</i>
<b>Wednesday 27 July</b>	<i>to be advised</i>
<b>Wednesday 24 August</b>	<i>to be advised</i>
<b>Wednesday 28 September</b>	<i>to be advised</i>
<b>Wednesday 26 October</b>	<i>to be advised</i>
<b>Wednesday 23 November</b>	<i>to be advised</i>

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**Chee Ng**

## NOTICE BOARD

### 2011 NATIONAL CYMBIDIUM SHOW

Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st August 2011

Noarlunga Leisure Centre

David Witton Drive, Noarlunga Centre

We would like as many members as possible to attend and help with organization.

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Contact: Liz Thomas—[secretary@cymorchids.com.au](mailto:secretary@cymorchids.com.au)

Telephone: 0417 811 825

### WANTED



**Cym species 'dayanum'**

**Cym Hiroshima Sweet Eyes 'Momoko'**

**Cym Star Bright 'Capella'**

Contact: J Knott—08 8261 5255

**Cym Pink Blossom 'Pearl' x Hungarian Beauty 'Freike'**

**Cym Valley Zenith 'Green Orb'**

Contact Faye Smyth—08 8336 3411 or 0423 564 917

Don't forget our Wanted Section

Please contact: Bill Jayne—[bill\\_julie@bigpond.com](mailto:bill_julie@bigpond.com)

Telephone: 0419 039 022

### NEUTROG PRODUCTS

- Strike Back for orchids 20 Kg bag \$26
- Sudden Impact for Roses 10 Kg pail \$25
- Sudden Impact for Roses 20 Kg bag \$26
- Seamungus 20 Kg bag \$18
- Sudden Impact for Lawns 20 Kg bag \$27.50
- GoGo Juice 1lt / 2lt RTU / 2.5LT \$8 / \$8.50 / \$15.50
- Seamungus Green 20 Kg bag \$22

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

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT March 2011

You, the members have elected two new members to the committee and at our first committee meeting everyone gelled in well for a very productive meeting.

At the meeting we had discussions for a Program for 2011 and have so far managed to fill it for the year with three interstate speakers as well as some very interesting local speakers.

Of late a few of our members have been unwell and we hope that soon you will be up and about and we see you at the meetings and able to take part in club activities.

The Supper Roster requires people to assist in one meeting a year so if you can please help out it would be greatly appreciated. Also we are looking for a volunteer to pick up the key for our monthly meeting, that too would be greatly appreciated.

This month's speaker is Scott Barrie from Baritta Orchids in New South Wales.

**There will be a National Show meeting on Wednesday 6th April starting at 7.30pm anyone able to assist is urged to please attend. A short Committee Meeting will then follow afterwards.**

**Wayne Baylis**  
President

## WATER AND CYMBIDIUMS

The importance of water is quite often ignored. The first time that I came across cymbidium orchids was many years ago. I was on a supervisors course whilst working at the Defence Science and Technology Organisation Salisbury. During a lunchtime break we had a visitor to entertain us, a bloke called Ross Woolford and he put on a demonstration on “how to break up and repot cymbidium orchids. I finished up going up to Ross’ place at One Tree Hill and purchasing several plants.

I had no information on how to look after these plants. The only help that I had was that someone told me that they were hardy plants and to not over water them as it was better to let them dry out between watering. With this good advice the plants survived for a while and they lasted for about a year didn’t flower and finally carked it.

Cymbidium orchids need to be kept moist. The most important ingredient to successfully grow and flower cymbidium orchids is water and indeed it is the same for growing most plants not just orchids.

Water is the most important then light, air flow and last of all is fertilizer. If the plants dry out, the potting medium no matter what the mix, becomes hydrophobic and that makes it almost impossible to rehydrate by watering overhead, either with a hose or watering can. The water just runs straight through the medium and out the bottom of the pot without wetting the mix.

The only way to rehydrate the potting medium is to place the whole plant in to a container of water and have it soak long enough to wet the potting medium.

I can thoroughly recommend using foggers to those members that do not have them. Orchids and indeed all plant forms lose more moisture through leaf transpiration than any other way. The foggers are useful in reducing transpiration, therefore using less water because the plants won’t dry out. They also drop the temperature during extremely hot conditions. It is also important to use the same potting medium in all your pots so that your watering/fogging regime remains constant and beneficial.

You should be familiar with the amount of water retention in your pots by randomly lifting pots to check the weight. If you do this simple task often enough you will soon become familiar with the weight of dry or moist pots. Another reason for using foggers is that it keeps the humidity up and that is a plus for two reasons, one is that orchids thrive in humid conditions, and two is that it discourages scale and more importantly red spider mite.

## CYMBIDIUM ORCHID OF THE YEAR—2010



ORCHID OF THE YEAR—2010  
**White Valley x Kelly’s Winter**  
*grown by: Terry Honor*

At the February meeting the annual Orchid of the Year voting by the members was held once again, congratulations goes out to Terry Honor for taking out the award for 2010 with his seedling of White Valley x Kelly’s Winter.

Terry purchased this plant from Tom Burian at Strathalbyn, this was it’s first flowering in only it’s third year out of flask. There were eight flowers on a single spike with the petals a pristine white. The labellum was white with a dark red banding around the edge. The labellum was also heavily spotted.

The plant was obviously well grown in Terry’s own mixture containing fine bark, isolite and cununda shells.

Terry is currently at home recovering from surgery on his foot so hopefully this award will help the healing process. Well done.

# AGGREGATE POINTS SCORE—2010

## OPEN DIVISION

Large Standard	Moss and Rosemary Bray
Small Standard	Ben Knobben
Intermediate	Valley Orchids
Miniature	Helmuth Gerber

## FIRST DIVISION

Large Standard	Peter and Jeanne Hall
Small Standard	Brian and Shirley Brand
Intermediate	Brian and Shirley Brand
Miniature	Brian and Shirley Brand

## SECOND DIVISION

Large Standard	John Moon
Small Standard	John Moon
Intermediate	John Moon
Miniature	Laurie and Sue Carter

### Dr. Miles Seton Award

Gordon and Coralie Hime—Sarah Jean x canaliculatum

### Mem Merv Dunn Award

Ben Knobben—Alexandra Flame x Wyong Flame  
*now registered as*  
 Regal Flames 'Red Opal'

We can have the best shade house, good benches, enough space between plants, good air movement, plenty of light, fertilize lightly and often but if we don't use that magical and important ingredient " H<sub>2</sub>O " then our plants will be stressed and even if they do flower the spikes will be shorter and have a low flower count.

Those who use rainwater exclusively have to use more calcium because rainwater doesn't have any other chemicals in it. Kevin Handreck in his presentation regarding potting mediums stressed that we should be using good old tap water because it contains calcium, copper and several other micro and macro nutrients.

We test our water and we wrongly say that the water contains 720-ppm salt. I suppose that the greater percentage is sodium salt but in this reading there is also calcium, potassium, etc.

Windy conditions also affect the amount of transpiration in your shade house and some club members live where wind is a problem and it blows many pots over thus affecting the moisture content and also stresses the plants. One method is to add an extra layer of shade cloth around the perimeter and it becomes more effective if you place the bottom out not less than 500mm from the vertical plane.

Talking about optimum growing conditions our shade house is down in the back corner of our yard and the only winter sun we get is in the morning. This corner is in the South East corner with a 1800mm fence on that corner and a 3000mm high garage on the North edge. Our next door, neighbour has just erected a 3000mm high shed on the Eastern boundary and that will eliminate most of our morning winter sun.

I think I shall have to quit growing cymbidium orchids and grow mushrooms.

### Peter Hall

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### AUCTION

Just a reminder that at our next meeting there is to be an Auction held. There is possibly a division or two of a previous Orchid of the Year, some flasks and some other sought after plants up for grabs. People have donated these to the club and all money raised is to go towards the running of the National Show in August. Please show your support for the club and bring plenty of cash.

## Control of CYMBIDIUM LEAF DROP and LEAF TIP DIE BACK

By W.R. Johnson, Victoria

Many growers consider that the defoliation of cymbidium back bulbs is a natural event, when in fact it is indicative of poor culture and / or nutritional deficiency.

CYMBIDIUM LEAF DROP is usually a symptom of a magnesium (Mg) deficiency and one or two applications of a Magnesium Sulphate will quickly cure it, however, it may NOT remove the cause of the deficiency. While a deficiency of Potassium (K) will also cause leaves to turn yellow and drop off this is most unlikely to be the same cause because fertilizers usually contain adequate K and if pine is included in the potting mix this has a very high K content.

If adequate Mg is applied then the cause is very often an acid potting mix which is below pH 6.0. The acidity causes a deficiency of Mg, and to counteract that the plant withdraws any Mg which is in the older leaves and transports it to the newer leaves to feed them and then the older leaves drop off. The actual cure then is to raise the pH to 6.5 and maintain that level.

Initially one must supply extra Magnesium to overcome the deficiency and this may mean two to four weekly applications of magnesium Sulphate (Epsom salts) at the rate of 1 gram per litre of water, while withholding the usual fertilizer application.

To prove this we conducted tests during 1988 and 1990 in which we successfully induced leaf drop on a large batch of cymbidiums by depriving them of Mg.

These tests have been repeated four times and in each case the cure was always extra Mg, and raising the pH.

LEAF TIP DIE BACK is induced when the plant has more foliage than the roots can sustain with nutrition and moisture, which in turn is caused by excess water retention in the potting mix, or the pH of below 6.0. In other words if the roots have been destroyed the leaves will starve at the furthest extremity.

Past research has shown that other factors which may cause leaf tip die back are:

- the use of excess Nitrogen in the spring/summer period without proportionately increasing Calcium, Magnesium and Iron.
- an excess of Phosphorus applied to plants.

## NEUTROG

We have made an application to Neutrog for a cash donation (sponsorship for The National Show) one of the conditions to help our request is that Neutrog would like all our members to join their Poo Bah Club. Members that join at the moment will receive a sample bottle of GoGo juice. We do very well out of Neutrog as I've already mentioned. We are encouraging our members to join because it will help our request for funds. To join we fill out our details on the Neutrog Poo Bah Club form and forward them on to Neutrog. Jeanne and I are members and we do not get bombarded with or pressured to purchase all their new products so its not really an inconvenience to be a member.

### Peter Hall

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Well now that we are into March officially we are into Autumn. This year summer was fairly kind to us as there was no real heatwave recorded of more than three successive days of over 40 degrees Celsius according to the Weather Bureau. Hopefully everybody's plants have had an excellent growth season.

Early flowering plants now should have spikes starting to emerge through, if this is the case then it is a good habit to get into by marking these with a stake in the pot. These can then be easily located in the shadehouse. You don't want to accidentally damage any new spikes on a potential Grand Champion.

With the cooler weather now is a good time to finish off any re-potting or dividing of plants not completed before the arrival of summer. Also now do a quick stocktake of stakes and ties as you may need to purchase some more if your plants are producing the spikes you are hoping for.

Depending upon your collection wether you have early, mid or later season flowering varieties you may need to vary your cultural requirements. Late flowering varieties will have small new leads showing and will need a higher nitrogen feed to push along new growth whilst those with spikes already formed will need more of a potash content.

A lot of plants will have burnt leaves so it is probably a good idea to trim these off. If you are going to use a knife or scissors make sure you sterilize them well before you tend to the next plant. You certainly wouldn't want to possibly contaminate any other plants in your collection through unhygienic practises.

If you have an additional layer of shadecloth over your shadehouse now would be a good time to take this off to increase your light levels.

from page 5

Acid pH levels can also cause toxicities, but a slightly fluctuating pH range can be beneficial. The safe range is from pH 7.0 down to pH 6.0 with the average being pH 6.5.

If an orchid is grown in strong sunlight, that too can cause leaf tip die back, and defoliation, simply because it cannot handle strong light, or, it can always be something simple like insufficient water!! Orchids are mostly forest dwelling plants and simply will not tolerate our intense, Victorian summer sun light.

An orchid root system is always the best indicator for foliage problems. If the roots are rotten, then the answer is obvious – it's your potting mix and/or your cultural methods. If the roots are healthy, the problem is nutritional or environmental, or both.

No fertilizer manufacturer can create a single formula to suit every known condition, so it is up to the individual to make any modifications necessary for optimum plant welfare, but to do that everyone must understand plant nutrition and how the system works. Learn to read the label of a fertilizer package and if the product contains little or no Calcium, Iron or Magnesium, or the levels of these are very low, look for a product that contains adequate amounts of all.

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## DISAPPOINTING

Jeanne and I belong to COCSA because we try and grow cymbidium orchids, we enjoy mixing with and the company of other members, we always have good guest speakers, we can obtain most of our growing and gardening fertilizers at a fraction of the cost of retail prices, Moss and Rosemary Bray provide good quality plants for our raffle, we have supper supplied, a great venue, Winter and Spring Shows, and this year a National Show.

The disappointing part is the lack of support/interest in club members not willing to help with our activities. The supper roster has only one name on it and the lack of volunteers to man the COCSA site at the ABC Gardening Expo is disheartening. We have too many members that do not participate and leave all the work to just a few people and unfortunately the only time we hear from some members is when they complain. Then there are some members that do not bother to attend our monthly meetings because "they don't have any orchids to put on the show bench"

We have a great and successful club and we need our members to realise just how good our club really is and to please participate and help with all our activities.

- low ( acid ) pH potting material.

In a situation where one uses the wrong fertilizer, and the wrong potting mixture then one may induce BOTH leaf tip die back AND leaf drop.

PLANT ROT is also linked to nutrition, water, potting mixtures and environmental conditions, but generally it seems to be linked to very acidic pH and a lack of Calcium, Magnesium and certain trace elements such as Copper and Zinc.

Anyone wishing to run similar tests can do so as follows:

Feed your test plants ( don't use good ones ) for five weeks ( or until leaves begin to turn yellow ) with equal parts of Urea, Ammonium Phosphate ( M.A.P ) and Potassium Nitrate and using 1 gram of this mix per litre of water and apply to your plants. If you can, monitor the pot pH regularly.

You will very soon find that the newest leaf will turn pale whitish green and that indicates a Magnesium deficiency. Then watch what happens to the leaves on the older bulbs.

They should soon commence to turn yellow and soon after drop off.

The cure required is nothing more than restoring the balance between N, Mg and Fe in the plants tissue, and creating a pot pH of 6.5 using a Calcium compound.

If you use fertilizers such as Aquasol or Campbell's "A" and "B" system, then you will always have a deficiency of Mg and Fe, unless you add extra of those two elements, along with Calcium.

Gardeners must understand that plants produce chlorophyll to absorb energy from the sun and that chlorophyll cannot be manufactured without Mg and Fe.

There has to be a balance between the amount of available N, Fe and Mg ( and most other elements ) otherwise when excess N is available to the plant it will demand more Mg and because Mg can be moved from the older parts of a plant it will use that first.

The cause of Mg deficiency apart from there being inadequate in the fertilizer, is usually a soil or pot pH which is very acidic ( below pH 5.5 ). If the pH is below pH 5.5 then the acidity induces a Mg deficiency.

*Cont. page 8*

## PAULINE'S LABORATORY SERVICE

FOR ALL ASPECT OF CYMBIDIUM  
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CONTACT PAULINE OR KEV McLEAN

PHONE... (08) 8386 0430

POSTAL ADDRESS... 13 WENTWORTH ST.  
MOANA  
S.A. 5169

EMAIL.... pkmclean@arcom.com.au

**Valley Orchids Lot 8 Wheaton  
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Anna Szabo 'Geyserland'	x	Strath Surprise 'Wow'
Motor Mouth 'Cara'	x	Red Valley 'Brilliant'
Motor Mouth 'Cara'	x	Dutchman's Fire 'Pastel Pink'
Motor Mouth 'Cara'	x	(Mimi x Bexley Radiance) 'Lot 25'
Winter Valley 'Eyecatcher'	x	Dutchman's Fire 'Pastel Pink'
Winter Valley 'Eyecatcher'	x	Pure Sarah 'Heinjus'
Winter Valley 'Eyecatcher'	x	Chocarunta 'Summer Gold'
Regal Fire 'Superb'	x	Motor Mouth 'Cara'
Regal Fire 'Superb'	x	Dutchman's Fire 'Pastel Pink'
Pure Sarah 'Heinjus'	x	(Peter Pan x Minuet) 'Early Mini'
Pure Sarah 'Heinjus'	x	Regal Fire 'Carmen's'
Pure Sarah 'Heinjus'	x	Strath Dragon 'Little Beauty'
Pure Sarah 'Heinjus'	x	Winter Valley 'Eyecatcher'

**Many other crossings available—all enquiries welcome.**

Discounts apply to large orders, hundreds of new seedlings of many other crosses to see in flower this year will also be available.