

# Cymbidium Chatter



*Cym. Memoria Athalie Elizabeth, one of Dean Roesler's hybrids. Exhibited at the 2019 COSV Show.*

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Welcome to the final issue of *Cymbidium Chatter* for 2023 (yes, it's a little late!). I hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a great start to the new year. This issue focusses on the late Dean Roesler and his involvement in the hobby; many thanks to those who provided their time and contributions to make this possible, including Graham Guest, Simon Lenkic and Malcolm Osborn. Thanks also to David Banks for permission to reproduce some of the Australian Orchid Review material here.

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## COSV Spring Show Report: Addendum

Readers may recall that I failed to get a photo of the champion seedling at this year's show, Cym. (Valley Splash X Dural Dream), for my report in the previous issue. Fortunately, Terry Poulton was able to provide one!



*Cym. (Valley Splash X Dural Dream).  
Champion seedling at the 2023 COSV Spring Show.  
Exhibited by C&K Gillespie.*

## A Look Back at Dean Roesler

### Introduction

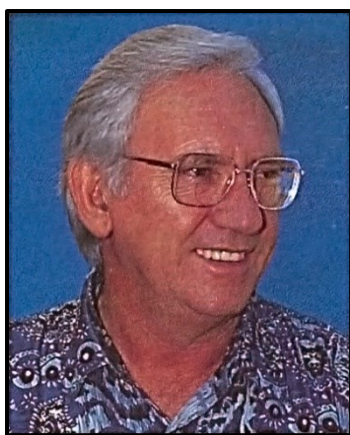
In mid-2022, I received a suggestion to write an article on the late Dean Roesler OAM, one of the major contributors to the Cymbidium hobby in Australia last century. This became a larger undertaking than initially anticipated, especially as I did not have the chance to meet Dean myself and had to rely on his friends and published material. This issue is the result of much research and input from others, and I hope it will provide the reader with an understanding of who Dean was.

*"Together everyone achieves more."*

– Dean Roesler

Much of Dean's involvement with Cymbidiums is chronicled in *Australian Orchid Review* (AOR), most issues of which are now available freely online to read at the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/search?query=Australian+Orchid+Review>. I have briefly summarised some of the key events here to give the reader an overview of Dean's role in promoting the Cymbidium genus and the hobby.

The Spring 1988 issue (Vol. 53 No. 3 pg. 51) reported the creation of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia (COCSA). At its second meeting, Dean was appointed Editor of the South Australian Cymbidium Orchids News (the official club bulletin, later referred to simply as *Cymbidium News*). By 1993 (Vol. 58 No. 4 pg. 39), Dean had taken on the role of club president.



Dean Roesler.  
AOR Vol. 60 No. 4. With  
thanks to David Banks.

Dean was heavily involved in the creation of the Australian Cymbidium Society in March 1995 and negotiations with AOR for a Cymbidium section a month later, resulting in the first edition of 'Cymbidiums Australia' being published in the August 1995 issue of AOR (Vol. 60 No. 4). As well as being the sole editor for 'Cymbidiums Australia' for the first five years, Dean also wrote recurring sections called 'Eye Catching Orchids at...'<sup>1</sup> and 'Seen Any Good Orchids Lately?', which reported on shows and new plants. Later that same year, Dean was awarded the first life membership of the COCSA by Club Patron, Andy Easton (Vol. 60 No. 6 pg. 49).

The April 1996 issue (Vol. 61 No. 2) featured an article by Dean on Dr. Miles Seton and summer flowering Cyms. Further articles would follow, as well as Dean working with and exhibiting some of Miles' hybrids. Dean and Mary exhibited Cym. Koala 'Bear' in October that year, receiving the first non-cultural award for any *suave* or F1 *suave* hybrid (CE/CCSA, reported in Vol. 62 No. 3).

In 1999, David Banks took over as editor of AOR. The following year, Rob and Noe Smith, who were already contributors to 'Cymbidiums Australia', joined Dean on the editorial team. This helped reduce the load on Dean, as by this time he was dealing with some health challenges. Despite this, he continued to frequently contribute to the magazine. In 2001 he sponsored the

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<sup>1</sup> Simon Lenkic recalls that Graham Guest first championed the term "eye-catching orchids" and that both he and Dean readily adopted this term, resulting in its inclusion as one of the criteria for judging standards.

Silver Sash for the Hobbyist Section (Small Display), as well as both being show marshal for the Munno Para Winter Show and writing the show report for it (Vol. 66 No. 4)!

Dean's interest in hybridising a wide variety of Cyms was regularly noted as well. Simon Lenkic wrote an interesting article on the progress of peloric Cymbidium breeding at the time in [Vol. 67 No. 2](#) (the April/May 2002 issue) and did not fail to mention Dean's work with these divisive plants. Dean was a big fan of smaller-flowered Cyms and produced a number of intermediates and miniatures as well, several of which are depicted later in this issue.

One of his most detailed article series was that on *Cym. suave* and its hybrids, spread across nine issues of AOR from Vol. 68 No. 2 to Vol. 69 No. 4. It is well worth the read for anyone interested in the Australian species and its progeny. It also explains the background of *Cym. Dean Roesler* (Brown Eyes X *suave*) and the selection 'Jaffa', one of Dr. Seton's last hybrids and named in honour of Dean.



*Cym. Dean Roesler 'Jaffa', exhibited at the November 2018 COSV Meeting.*

By late 2003, Dean was unfortunately no longer able to attend shows due to regular hospital treatment. Several months later, he received the Order of Australia (which is still available on online news sites at time of writing). This was quickly reported in the April/May issue of AOR, which has been reproduced in this issue with the permission of editor David Banks.

Order of Australia (2004) – Raymond Dean ROESLER, Kalbeeba, South Australia, for service to horticulture through the cultivation and promotion of cymbidium orchids.<sup>2</sup>

Sadly, Dean passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2005, much of his work left undone. Tributes followed in the AOR and these also have been reproduced later in this issue. Later that same year, the Memorial Dean Roesler Trophy was sponsored by the COCSA at the 2005 Ararat Orchid Festival, with one of Dean's own hybrids winning – a fact the judges were appropriately unaware of during the judging process ([Vol. 70 No. 6 pg. 50](#)).

The following year, the Dean Roesler Memorial Trophy was instituted (Vol. 71 No. 1):

‘A new champion class has been added to the national show schedule, both in memory of Dean Roesler, and also to recognise a type of Cymbidium previously not adequately catered for under normal show judging criteria or the existing show schedule. The Dean Roesler Memorial Trophy is to be awarded to the Cymbidium deemed to be the Most Eye-catching, as judged by all judges officiating at a national cymbidium show. Dean had a great enthusiasm for what he termed “eye-catching orchids” and there seemed no better category through which to honour his memory and contribution.

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.theage.com.au/national/order-of-australia-3-20040126-gdx6p2.html> on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Criteria for selection of the most eye-catching Cymbidium should be eye appeal, whether due to the particular features or colour of a Cymbidium, or overall visual effect and floral display. Factors such as culture, presentation, spike habit, etcetera, should play a part, but show shape as such should not be a pre-requisite although neither should it be penalised. “Good” cymbidiums which draw the eye and attract attention find homes in all our collections and hearts and recognition of such types is, perhaps, overdue.’

Dean’s final article was published in the April/May 2006 issue of AOR titled “Displaying Your Plants”, containing advice that is still relevant today. This article, as well as one from the following year about Miles Seton & Dean Roesler, will be reproduced in one of the 2024 issues of *Cymbidium Chatter*.

Dean had a second grex named in his honour – Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler, registered just before his passing May 2005. Phil Grech, who registered it on Dean’s behalf, went on to write the story of this Cym in [AOR Vol. 71 No. 6](#) (which shows a much better spike than the one I photographed). Many of Dean’s hybrids went on to be registered in the years following, most by Pauline Hockey of Sundaani Orchids as she used them in her own hybridising lines.

### Order of Australia awarded to Dean Roesler by Rob & Noe Smith

*This article was originally published in [Australian Orchid Review Vol. 69 No. 2](#) (April/May 2004) and has been reproduced here with the permission of David Banks.*

In the Australian Honours List announced on Australia Day on the 26th of January this year, Dean Roesler was recognised for his services to horticulture, specifically to *Cymbidium* orchids.

Initially nominated by members of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia, numerous people within the *Cymbidium* community were then asked to provide specific information to the Governor General’s office as to why Dean should receive such an honour. The requirements to be successful are that the nominee must have made contributions beyond what may be considered normal and that those contributions should be of benefit to others in the nominee’s particular field.



*Cym. Memoria Dean Roesler 'Kalbeeba' exhibited at the Melbourne Orchid Spectacular in 2018.*



*Cym. Dean's Ruby, another of Dean's hybrids registered by Phil Grech. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*

In Dean's case, providing such evidence of achievement, effort and commitment to the cause of Cymbidium development, promotion, and popularity was an easy task for those asked as Dean has been a tireless worker on behalf of his beloved cymbidiums and those who grow, hybridise or make their living from them, as well as his commitment to numerous clubs, the Australian Cymbidium Society and, of course, his most public achievement, "Cymbidiums Australia".

Dean Roesler is a tireless worker with huge reserves of enthusiasm, an innate honesty, and an open generosity, which is disarming in this day and age. He is wholly self-taught as a writer, editor and public speaker, and is an innovative, imaginative and successful *Cymbidium* grower and hybridiser. Through his years as editor of the Gawler & Districts Orchid Club's newsletter and the Cymbidium Club of South Australia's "Cymbidium News" magazine, Dean developed his editorial and writing skills — skills which enabled him to realise his vision of a national *Cymbidium* publication with the birth of "Cymbidiums Australia" section incorporated into the Australian Orchid Review in 1995.

Dean has been recognised for his contributions with life membership of the Cymbidium Club of South Australia (the first such award by that club), and by the Australian Cymbidium Society who presented him with their Award of Recognition in 1998, Dean being only the third person so awarded up to that time. Ironically, Dean is the sort of person who prefers to work quietly rather than seek out the attention of others and is always somewhat embarrassed and surprised by such honours from his peers — but isn't that typical of the reaction from those who are the most deserving of recognition? Of course, also typical of such people, Dean would wonder why him and also wonder what all the fuss was about.

Like many others who have been affected, encouraged and enthused by Dean, we are both grateful for his friendship, the faith he had in us to join him in editing his beloved "Cymbidiums Australia", and his willingness to share his knowledge of cymbidiums and their hybridising (particularly *Cym. suave*). Working with Dean has shown us the level of dedication he has, the trouble he goes to, the deep love he has for cymbidiums, and the unselfish way in which he promotes the genus and encourages others to appreciate them.

It was a pleasure to offer our knowledge of Dean and his contributions to cymbidiums so far as we know it, and we thank various members of the CCSA and others for their insights into Dean's achievements.

We're sure Dean feels very proud (and more than a little embarrassed) to have been recognised in our nation's Honors List and we're also sure that all those who know something of his achievements, and know Dean the man, would agree the honour is well deserved.

## Dean and the Cymbidium Club of South Australia

Graham Guest

**Editor:** *Graham provided this in response to my request for information on Dean in October 2022.*

My association with Dean goes back to 1987 when the first actions were taken that led to the creation of The Cymbidium Club of SA (refer to the attached letter sent to 8 prominent Adelaide Cymbidium enthusiasts).

At the time I was aware of the monthly newsletter Dean was producing for the Gawler Orchid Club, and given he was a keen Cymbidium enthusiast (working in collaboration with Peter Chiles Orchids), he was my target to be our Cymbidium Journal Editor. I put it to Dean we should produce a newsletter that had a 2-pronged approach – an interview with a prominent cymbidium grower each month, and an article that delved into the background of our seminal cymbidiums – think the major species, and hybrids such as Coraki, Peter Pan, Sensation, Early Bird and so on. How times have changed. One of the aims was to have a colour photograph of a cymbidium on the front cover – that amounted to actual colour prints being glued onto each newsletter, a task Dean was ably assisted by Malcolm Osborn (a grower who specialised in true miniature cymbids).

With the other aims of the Cymbidium Club of SA put into place, the newly formed club was an instant success – membership ballooned, exceeding 800. Dean's involvement reflected his passion with the genus and given our ultimate aim to create a national Cymbidium organization, he sought out interviews with interstate identities. One such individual was Dr. Miles Seton (refer to footnote) from Bermagui, NSW. I had met and corresponded with Miles a number of years earlier and had profiled his work with the Australian species in our first book *Cymbidiums, Your Guide to a Rewarding Pastime*. Given Miles had a hearing issue at that time, I suggested Dean visit Bermagui and see firsthand the region he lived in retirement, and the land from which he sourced plants of *Cym. suave* and *Cym. madidum*. As they say, the rest is history from that perspective. A strong friendship emerged, and Dean benefitted from generous gifts of plants and pollen from Miles' unique primary hybrids. As a keen hobbyist hybridizer, increasingly Dean sought to carry on the work of Miles and was well on the way to emulating that goal before ill-health impacted Dean's efforts. In hindsight, it was remiss that the Seton derived varieties were never converted to their tetraploid form, limiting progress going forward.

Undoubtedly from an orchid viewpoint Dean's greatest quality was his unbridled passion for Cymbidium orchids. He would befriend anyone who had a spare minute (or hour) to chat about Cyms and loved flowering and witnessing the majesty of a first flowering seedling. For Dean, time was the enemy, curtailing everything he wanted to pursue, particularly with the Seton collection. It is fitting he has been bestowed Life Membership of the Cymbidium Club of SA, for without the likes of Dean, the club would never have prospered.

**Footnote:** Dr. Miles Seton established his orchid collection while still in practice in Sydney, but after retirement to Bermagui, hybridising became his passion. He specialised in growing, collecting and breeding Australian species Cymbidiums. During his lifetime he registered dozens of new varieties, with many of his new varieties named after his friends in Bermagui. Miles Seton's ambition was to breed a Cymbidium that would flower at Christmas. He died before he could achieve success. None of his family members were interested in the orchid collection and after his death a few years ago it passed into the hands of the new owners of his property a few kilometres outside Bermagui. They too were uninterested, but the collection was kept largely intact and in good condition by its curator, Rob Fitzclarence. When the property was sold again the collection was handed over to Mr. Fitzclarence, who organised its use as a therapeutic and instructional tool for Workability. The orchid project has been funded by a grant from the Mumbulla Foundation. The grant was one of many made to a range of community groups in the Bega Valley Shire through a unique partnership between the community foundation and the Bega Valley.

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Dear

Over the past couple of years I have both heard and discussed amongst Cymbidium growers, concerns relating to the judging standards applying to Cyms. in Australia. Equally, the promotion of Cymbidiums within our Orchid Clubs, Journals and Newsletters is relatively sparse; indeed there is a bias toward other genera.

This situation I doubt will change to the degree which many of us desire, understandably because our established societies have a broad range of interests to serve. Nevertheless I think it is now time to make a more positive move, especially because I believe Adelaide possesses some of the finest cymbidium collections in the world.

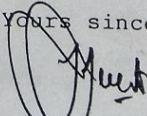
The intensity of breeding being undertaken by Adelaide's hybridizers suggests to me that we need a specialized Society to specifically meet our area of knowledge and interest. To that end I suggest that it is now time for a CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA to be established. In fact the only reason why it has not happened before is that in the first instance it will take considerable effort to launch such a group. However I feel that we have the energy for something worthwhile to be established: indeed it can well serve our needs. Some of these include:

1. A new judging system
  2. A new format for members to meet
  3. A new range of awards
  4. An annual review which includes colour photographs of awarded clones
- I have some ideas on each of these, and I would like to share these with you: no doubt you can add to the list.

I have convened a meeting of interested growers for Saturday Evening, 31st of October at my house, commencing 7.00pm with a B.B.Q. tea.

If you would like to attend please RSVP by 10th October.

Yours sincerely,

  
GRAHAM GUEST



## Simon Lenkic

**Editor:** *The following section has been written (with assistance from AI) based on notes taken during conversations between the editor and Simon in August 2022.*

Australian readers will likely be familiar with Simon Lenkic, a Cymbidium enthusiast now retired from operating his own nursery in Gawler, South Australia, and whose brother Nado operates Springfield Orchids in Western Australia.

Simon first crossed paths with Dean Roesler after relocating to Gawler, S.A. He wasn't sure if their first meeting was at the Orchid Club of South Australia (OCSA) or the Gawler Orchid Club (where Dean was a regular attendee), but they soon became good friends. At the time, Dean was situated only a kilometre or so from Peter Chiles' orchid nursery [which Graham Guest recalls he was involved with].

The OCSA was the largest orchid society in S.A. and tended to cater to all genera. Despite Cymbidiums consistently being the most exhibited genus at meetings and shows, other genera were often favoured. This imbalance prompted Simon, Dean and Graham Guest to propose the creation of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia (COCSA) in 1987.

Simon recalled that the COCSA started out as about a dozen people, with him serving as the inaugural registrar of judges. The club experienced rapid growth, evolving into a thriving community of hundreds of members, including enthusiasts from interstate until other states formed their own Cymbidium societies (e.g., NSW, Vic, etc.). Eventually, this led to the creation of a national Cymbidium organisation. During this period, the club hosted speakers of note, including Andy Easton and Syd Monkhouse.

Dean played a pivotal role in the expansion of the COCSA, along with Graham and Simon, from the beginning and continued even after they stepped down due to commitments running their nurseries. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Graham and Simon's efforts to expand the judging system to recognise additional colour categories (e.g. orange, brown, flared and splashed petal, spotted, striped, etc.) and soon incorporated this into his own breeding program. His efforts helped draw in a diverse array of growers and enthusiasts. Dean also took on the role of editor for *Cymbidium News*, the club's newsletter that began as a modest A5 booklet of 10 to 16 pages, and added colour photos.

Described by Simon as "adventurous," Dean had a penchant for experimental crosses and was always eager to explore new possibilities. He wasn't afraid to use unconventional parent plants, seeking out spots, stripes, or anything unique and beautiful, regardless of its potential for the showbench. Dean's home lab facilitated his breeding experiments, showcasing his dedication to the hobby.

Beyond his skill as a Cymbidium grower, Dean was remembered as a generous and amiable character. He readily shared his knowledge, plants, and pollen with fellow enthusiasts. Moreover, Dean was known for his integrity and



*Cym. My Sweet 'Amy'.*  
Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.

moral standards; Simon couldn't recall a single instance of him swearing in his presence. A family man through and through, Dean named many of his plants after family members – one example is the well-known Cym. My Sweet 'Amy', which was named as a tribute to his granddaughter. Dean Roesler left an indelible mark on the orchid community, not just for his botanical achievements but also for the warmth and generosity he shared with those who shared his passion.

### Malcolm Osborn

**Editor:** *The following section has been written (with assistance from AI) from notes taken during conversations between the editor and Malcolm in early 2023. Malcolm also kindly provided photos for this issue.*

Malcolm Osborn, a devoted Cymbidium enthusiast and hybridiser from South Australia who specialises in miniatures, enjoyed a close friendship with Dean Roesler. He recalls that Simon Lenkic (who lived only a few streets away) phoned him and invited him to the inaugural meeting of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia (COCSA), which is where he met Dean. Malcolm quickly ended up in charge of managing membership of the club as it grew from 13-14 members to around 800.

Dean and Malcolm worked together to produce *Cymbidium News* for the COCSA, with Dean taking the role of editor and fulfilling his goal of a colour magazine. Malcolm's wife Valda proofread each issue and helped structure it, although they did have issues with the fact that the COCSA and Valda's typewriters had different type faces! Dean invited Malcolm to join him when posting the first issue and unwittingly ended up helping him sort all the copies into postcode order at the post office for mailing. He described Dean as "having a remarkable ability to get people to contribute articles"; original club member John Longbottom was a regular contributor as well as being the first treasurer. At the peak of membership, they were producing 596 copies per issue (which reduced once NSW and VIC started their own clubs).



*Cym. Jessie Blakiston 'April Love', one of Dean's key breeding plants. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*



*Cym. Ballykissangel 'Amy', champion of the Gawler District Spring Show. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*

Dean's love of fishing and yabby-catching ensured that he and Malcolm got along well, and Malcolm recalled Dean as having a great sense of humour [ed: a trait I suspect Malcolm shares], often tearing up in laughter. Dean also wasn't opposed to a fine wine; as Malcolm tells it, one year the COCSA was seeking to use a port (with Cym. Ruby Anniversary 'Pink Surprise' on the label) for fundraising and so he and Dean did a self-guided winery tour to find a good port. They started at 10am and



*Cym. Choc 'Let'. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*

apparently Dean could barely walk by 4pm! In the end, Morriston Winery supplied the port but sadly the fundraiser was less than successful due to so many bottles being broken during shipping.

Dean and Malcolm cultivated a robust friendship, with Dean making regular weekend visits and their Saturday evenings a tradition of indulging in homemade potato patties. When Dean received his Order of Australia Medal (OAM) on Australia Day 2004, he entrusted Malcolm with writing the justification. Their camaraderie extended to road trips, including

visits to Dr. Miles Seton (at Graham Guest's suggestion) and Royale Orchids for an open day. Both Dean's wife Mary and Malcolm's wife Valda joined them for this trip; Valda had previously tried writing to Miles about purchasing seedlings with no success, but when offered some space in *Cymbidium News* Miles quickly came onboard. Many of Miles' plants went to Dean when he passed away.

Dean's affinity for interesting and unusual Cyms, his Jack Russell named 'Pee Wee' (affectionately nicknamed by Malcolm as 'The Pee Wee Dog'), and his strong Lutheran beliefs were among the lasting memories Malcolm shared.

Malcolm also shared some comments on plants that Dean had worked with or produced from his hybridising efforts:

- At one point, Malcolm obtained an unnamed backbulb of *Cym. Jessie Blakiston 'April Love'*. He loaned the plant to Simon Lenkic for hybridising, who remade *Cym. Waringah Spring* (and produced 'Pink Panther'). Simon also cloned 'April Love', which yielded 'Lovelace', a pink sport. Dean worked with both 'April Love' and 'Lovelace'; five of his registered hybrids have Jessie Blakiston as a parent.
- *Cym. Choc 'Let'* was a seedling from Dean Roesler's make of the cross (Peter Pan X Chocolada) that Malcolm flowered and named. He ended up selling it to a couple from Victoria.
- *Cym. Ballykissangel 'Amy'* was a white intermediate from Dean's breeding that Malcolm flowered (and won champion at the Ararat show one year). Dean was so taken by it that he persuaded Malcolm to part with it and then got it awarded as champion at the Gawler spring show a week later!
- *Cym. (Lerwick X Winter Wonder) 'Ararat Festival'* was a seedling flowered by Malcolm from Dean's make of the cross (it was registered as Barossa Splash by Cumings in 2008).



*Cym. Barossa Splash 'Ararat Festival'. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*

## AOR Tributes to Dean

These two tributes were originally published in [Australian Orchid Review Vol. 70 No. 3](#) (June/July 2005) and have been reproduced here with the permission of AOR editor David Banks.

### Dean Roesler OAM: Founding Editor, Cymbidiums Australia by Rob & Noe Smith

A dear friend to many of us and one of the orchid world's genuinely good people finally lost his long and arduous battle with cancer. For those left behind, the most glaringly obvious thing that hits you at a time like this is the fact that any words we may come up with are manifestly inadequate, but, outside of our personal grief words are all that are available to us in the expression of our feelings.

In attempting to pay tribute to the editor, the friend, the inspiration, the family member, or whatever Dean was to each of us who knew him on whatever level, we will each remember some particular times, events, words, or actions, that put his impact on our lives into focus.

To anyone involved in Cymbidiums, one single and categorical statement is self-evident: No one has done more for the promotion and popularity of Cymbidiums in Australia over the past 20 years than Dean Roesler and, for that reason alone, Dean's passing is a huge loss to *Cymbidium* growers at all levels — not only here in Australia, but overseas as well.

There are many people who knew Dean longer than we did and I'm sure they will have their own stories to tell in time. People need time to come to terms with events and, unfortunately, printing deadlines can only be delayed for so long. For our own part, we will simply comment on the man and his work that we know of directly through our association with him in the production of this magazine, and our frequent and lengthy talks on the future of cymbidiums, their hybridising (an area where Dean has achieved considerable success), the development of Australia's *Cymbidium* clubs, the shows, and the judging systems, etcetera.

In all areas, Dean always aimed for the stars, sought the best possible result for the greatest number of people, always asked what could be done to make things better, whether in hybridising, show formats, judging guidelines and values, or his beloved Cymbidiums Australia. Dean never acted based on self-interest or self-promotion and always put the interests of all *Cymbidium* enthusiasts ahead of his own.

Dean's contribution through the Cymbidium Club of South Australia's "Cymbidium News" and then, through the realisation of his dream of a national *Cymbidium* publication in the form of Cymbidiums Australia incorporated into the Australian Orchid Review, are probably the most public aspects of his contribution to Cymbidiums. This publication in particular has been a magnificent labour of love for Dean. Certainly, it has been a challenge he enjoyed immensely, although that fact in no way diminishes the hard work and effort required to get it off the ground and develop it into the world class publication it now is.

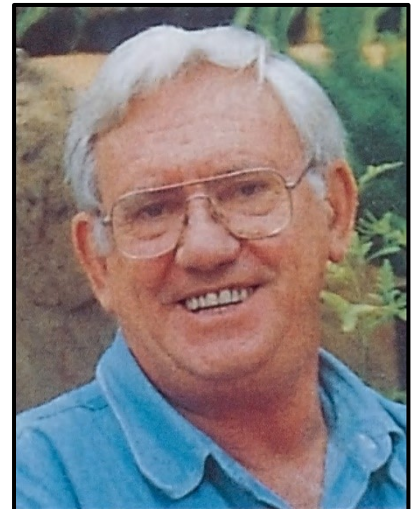
Dean would be the first to admit that there are many others who know more about Cymbidiums than he did. He had no formal qualifications either in horticulture, writing, or editing, and his knowledge and skill were acquired through a will to learn, hard work, and their resulting experience. His inexhaustible enthusiasm for Cymbidiums and their promotion, his determination to do the best job he could, and his commitment to cater for all *Cymbidium* tastes and interests at all levels, were his undoubted strengths.

To Dean, everyone's views, ideas, comments, and experiences, were equally worthy of publication as long as they were positive, honest in intent, and were intended to do no harm. Nothing was ever considered insignificant if someone had taken the time and trouble to commit it to paper. In Dean's view every grain of information added to the understanding, development, and appreciation of Cymbidiums, whether it be the accessible writing of a hobby grower, or the meticulously researched studies of an expert. Everyone was treated in the same even-handed manner, whether friends, those he admired, new acquaintances, unknown first-time contributors, or even those who criticised him. The odd occasional criticism, among all the overwhelmingly positive feedback for his achievements as editor, always struck him to the core and led him to undertake candid self-examination. He never resorted to the common human traits of becoming defensive or critical in return – proof alone of the stature of the man.

For Rob and I, Dean's invitation to join him in the editing of this publication was a surprise, and an honour. We knew how important this magazine was to him and, over the five years of working with him, we've learnt a lot and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know him better. His confidence that we will maintain the same values is a special gift we can only repay by continuing as if he is still with us which, of course, he always will be.

We know that everyone's thoughts and sympathies go out to Dean's family, particularly to his wife, Mary, the support and constant in his life who allowed and helped him to be what he was to the rest of us. Few people can achieve their potential alone and, in Dean's case, Mary was his bedrock and his committed partner throughout their life together. Dean's contribution will continue to run through these pages, not only in terms of the benchmark he set and, his influence, but also in the as yet unpublished articles he produced, some in his last weeks – a clearing of the decks and no doubt an enjoyable distraction from the effects of his failing health.

To those who knew him through Cymbidiums, Dean Roesler was generous to a fault in actions and spirit. He was a great optimist. He was an idealist. He was a dreamer. All these are truly wonderful things to be. I wish there were more like him.



### Raymond Dean Roesler 1940-2005 by his family

Raymond Dean Roesler, better known by his family and friends as Dean – and otherwise known affectionately as Sammy, Chief Deano, Joyce, Pa, and Grumblebum – was born to Basil and Gertrude Roesler on the 30th of October 1940 at the Mount Pleasant Hospital. Dean was baptized and later confirmed in the Eden Valley Lutheran Church. He attended Eden Valley Primary School for three years then finished off his primary schooling at Wilton after moving to Menglers Hill. He attended the Nuriootpa High School.

At the age of 14, Dean became a Sunday School teacher at Eden Valley Lutheran Church for 16 years. He was also a Layreader and Elder at Eden Valley and then Gawler Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Dean helped with the family orchards and vineyards for several years and then started trapping rabbits so that he could afford his first car costing £25.

On the 2nd of September 1961 Dean married his teenage sweetheart, Mary Ihrms, at Eden Valley and their marriage was blessed with four sons and a daughter.

Dean was an outstanding sportsman, playing football and captaining the Eden Valley cricket team and, on his best year, averaged 90 runs. He also enjoyed playing tennis, indoor bowls, eight ball, was a keen card player, and a reluctant ballroom dancer. When Dean no longer played football himself, he was a timekeeper and umpired many of his sons' football matches. He was a lifelong supporter of the Norwood Redlegs and, later on, the Adelaide Crows.

Dean also loved his many trips with family and friends, some of which included yabbing up the Riverland, crabbing at Port Parham, and fishing at Rapid Bay.

He worked for Yalumba and helped establish the Pewsey Vale vineyard in the Barossa Valley, which is world-renowned for the finest Rhine Riesling. Dean also worked at Hamilton's, Eden Valley and managed Hamilton's, Springton, where he moved with his family into their first home. After a work injury in 1976, Dean moved back to Eden Valley.

In 1974 Dean bought his first orchid and what started as a hobby soon became a healthy obsession.

In 1985 Dean moved his life and family to Gawler due to the cold weather which was aggravating his back injury and causing frostbite to the orchids. There, with the help of family and friends, he built a new home.

Dean was actively and continuously involved in orchid clubs, helping with their development since 1980. He was a founding member and later became a life member of both the Gawler District Orchid Club and the Cymbidium Club of South Australia. He loved his work as the editor of several orchid newsletters and magazines over the past 20 years and has been made a patron member of the Riverland Orchid Society and the Ararat Orchid Club. It gave Dean great satisfaction to continue the life's work of Dr Miles Seton. Dean enjoyed many trips interstate to orchid shows, often being invited to address orchid meetings and conferences. He made many lifelong friends through his involvement with orchids and would often be heard saying, "There are no good orchids – there are only pretty ones." or "Seen any good orchids lately?"

Due to the efforts of orchid club members, family and friends, Dean was recognised under the Australian Honours Awards on the 26th of January 2004 for his contribution to Horticulture. He received the Order of Australia Merit from Governor General Marjorie Jackson Nelson at Government House in April 2004.

Dean was diagnosed with cancer in March 1997. The remainder of his years were a roller coaster ride of ups and downs with trips to hospitals, doctors and specialists, and the births of several of his grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly and was extremely proud.

On ANZAC Day, the 25th of April 2005, Dean lost his battle with cancer and now he has finally found perfection as there are not only pretty orchids, but also perfect ones, as he walks through God's eternal garden. Rest in peace.

## Dean's Hybrids

Dean was a prolific hybridiser, with over forty registered hybrids to his name (not to mention a swathe of unregistered hybrids). In several cases he independently made the same cross as another hybridiser, often with a different selection of the parent species/grex. Below is a complete list of the registered hybrids associated with Dean:

Grex	Pod Parent	Pollen Parent	Year	Originator	Registrant
<b>Kellys Winter</b>	Winter Wonder	Lois Kelly	1988	Adelaide (remade by Dean)	T. Briggs
<b>Pepper's Fire<sup>3</sup></b>	Claude Pepper	Winter Fire	1988	Bailey's Orchids	Bailey's Orchids
<b>City of Ararat</b>	Claude Pepper	Revelation	1993	D. Roesler	Ararat C.C.
<b>Choc<sup>4</sup></b>	Peter Pan	Chocolada	1994	O/U	Ezi-Gro
<b>Carnival Queen</b>	Beaconfire	Valley Flower	1995	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Julie Hawkes<sup>5</sup></b>	Red Beauty	Kellys Winter	1995	Vic Haskard	Vic Haskard
<b>Sweet Treat</b>	Sunbreeze	Mesa Zia	1995	Schaefer's	D. Roesler
<b>Para Wirra</b>	Claude Pepper	Kiata	1996	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Memoria Athalie Elizabeth</b>	Sarah Jean	Tethys	2001	D. Roesler	M. Thomas
<b>Autumn Elf</b>	Peter Fire	Minneken	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Ballykissangel</b>	Lerwick	Vivacious	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Golden Ransom</b>	Sleeping Ransom	Dolly	2002	R. Pollock	D. Roesler
<b>Gypsy Rose</b>	Jessie Blakiston	Rotorua	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Kakadu Sunset</b>	Smokestack Lightning	Red Beauty	2002	Schaefer's	D. Roesler
<b>Kalbeebea Flame</b>	Valley Regent	Yowie Flame	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Kalbeebea Rose</b>	Solana Beach	Lancashire Rose	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Kimberley Winter<sup>6</sup></b>	Kellys Winter	Allumination	2002	Kimberley Orchids	Kimberley Orchids
<b>Munno Para</b>	Tracey Reddaway	Margaret Thatcher	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>My Sweet</b>	Lerwick	Showart	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Seasol Magic</b>	Royale Fare	Margaret Thatcher	2002	D. Roesler	Panawood
<b>Winter Harvest</b>	Baltic Harvest	Kellys Winter	2002	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Myrtle Elliott</b>	Tracey Reddaway	Tommy Elliot	2003	D. Roesler	K. Rickard
<b>Celebrity Girl</b>	Kakadu	Minneken	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Dreamlover</b>	Kakadu	Lancashire Rose	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Elite Warrior</b>	Jessie Blakiston	Sonoma Sunset	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler

<sup>3</sup> Cym. Pepper's Fire was made by Dean; I was not able to ascertain whether Bailey's Orchids independently made it or simply registered it. 'Fiesta' and 'Carnival' are known to originate from Dean's version of the grex.

<sup>4</sup> Malcolm Osborn reported that Cym. Choc 'Let' was made by Dean Roesler and that Dean Mills also made the cross. Kevin Butler at Ezi-Gro explained in personal correspondence that he did not source any flasks from Dean Roesler and suspects his plants originated with a different hybridiser.

<sup>5</sup> Cym. Julie Hawkes was remade by Dean Roesler (who used Red Beauty 'Prins Fredericka') and Peter Sunderland (who used Red Beauty 'Rembrandt'), as mentioned in AOR Vol. 67 No. 5.

<sup>6</sup> Cym. Kimberley Winter was independently made both by Dean Roesler and Peter Sunderland (Kimberley Orchids), as per AOR Vol. 70 No. 1 pg. 58.

<b>Golden Embers</b>	Kellys Winter	Tracey Reddaway	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Little Miss</b>	Jessie Blakiston	Lancashire Lady	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Memoria Alan Sullivan</b>	Pendragon	Valya Craig	2004	D. Roesler	M. Weston
<b>Midnight Flame</b>	Dorothea Paige	Yowie Flame	2004	D. Roesler	M. & G. Hall
<b>Nightflight</b>	Jessie Blakiston	Yowie Flame	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Stargazer</b>	Lerwick	Valley Vapour	2004	D. Roesler	D. Roesler
<b>Dean's Ruby</b>	Jessie Blakiston	Ruby Eyes	2005	D. Roesler	P. Grech
<b>Red Wall</b>	Wallacia	Red Beauty	2005	D. Roesler	P. Grech
<b>Kalbeeba King</b>	Red Wall	Valley Regent	2005	D. Roesler	P. Grech
<b>Memoria Dean Roesler</b>	Valley Splash	Latrobe	2005	D. Roesler	P. Grech
<b>Kalbeeba</b>	Princess Kate	Valley Chestnut	2006	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Mary Roesler</b>	Brown Eyes	floribundum	2006	D. Roesler	D. & C. Allen
<b>Hells Gate</b>	Red Beauty	Betazoid Beauty	2007	D. Roesler	Paradisnia Nursery
<b>Pure Golden Treasure</b>	Pure Treasure	Pure Gold	2007	D. Roesler	P. Grech
<b>Doctor David Dunaway</b>	Jurassic Amber	Talarico	2008	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Barossa Splash</b>	Lerwick	Winter Wonder	2008	Cuming	Cuming
<b>Kakadu Aurora</b>	Kiah	Uluru	2010	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Roesler's Gold</b>	Kellys Winter	Uluru	2010	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Happy Star</b>	Stargard	Happy Alex	2011	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Bold Winter</b>	So Bold	Kellys Winter	2012	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Lancashire Porter</b>	Stan Porter	Lancashire Lady	2012	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Regal Vampire</b>	Regal Fire	Valley Vampire	2012	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Talarico Wall</b>	Talarico	Cinnamon Wall	2012	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey
<b>Flaming Bold</b>	So Bold	Yowie Flame	2013	D. Roesler	P. J. Hockey



*Cym. My Sweet 'Rachel'. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*





*Cym. Pepper's Fire 'Fiesta' (SBIOS 2019).*



*Cym. Nightflight 'Sydney' (COSV Show 2023).*



*Two different selections of Cym. Gypsy Rose exhibited at the 2019 Melbourne Orchid Spectacular. Left: an unnamed seedling. Right: Cym. Gypsy Rose 'Princess'.*



Dean also produced many other hybrids that (at the time of writing) have never been registered. The ones that I was able to find are listed in the following table (most are included in various editions of *Australian Orchid Review*, whilst a couple I became aware of thanks to Malcolm Osborn).

*Left: Cym. Golden Embers (reverse cross) exhibited at the 2018 COSV Show.*

Pod Parent	Pollen Parent	Originator	Reference
Claude Pepper 'Tawny Port'	Tethys 'Black Magic'	D. Roesler & Peter Miles	AOR Vol. 58 No. 3
Pendragon	Arcadian Melody	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 61 No. 4
<i>Cym. floribundum</i>	Coalfire	D. Roesler	Malcolm Osborn
<i>Cym. floribundum</i>	Rolf Bolin	D. Roesler	Malcolm Osborn
Cleo's Melody	Claude Pepper	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 67 No. 2
Fifi 'Harry'	Cleo's Melody	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 67 No. 2
Mimi	Claude Pepper	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 67 No. 4
Hove	Tracey Reddaway	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 69 No. 3
Vivacious 'Lisa Michelle'	Stargard 'Sunset'	D. Roesler	AOR Vol. 75 No. 5



*Cym. (floribundum 'Zara' X Coalfire 'Fireball'), circa Sept 2000. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*



*Cym. (floribundum 'Zara' X Rolf Bolin 'Red Velvet'), circa Sept 2000. Photo courtesy of Malcolm Osborn.*

## Acknowledgements

I hope you have enjoyed this issue. If you have any feedback or would like to contribute (whether it be just one or two photos, an idea for an article, or to volunteer for an interview), please get in touch! I can be reached at [jwhite88@gmail.com](mailto:jwhite88@gmail.com).

Previous issues are available on the [COSV website](#). All material is copyright © the original owners and used with permission. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, including David Banks, Graham Guest, Simon Lenkic, Malcolm Osborn and Terry Poulton.

The next issue is planned for March 2024.



*Cym. (Fifi 'Harry' X Cleo's Melody 'Freakout'). Photo courtesy of Simon Lenkic.*