

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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President's Message: Keith Smart

I hope this message finds you well. I apologise for my brief communication, as I've been quite busy with life outside of orchids. For those of us living on the western side of New Zealand, we are experiencing a long, warm, and dry summer, which has now transitioned into a dry autumn. While this weather is delightful for some, it poses challenges for those in the agricultural sector or for towns facing water restrictions. In contrast, those on the eastern side are enjoying an exceptional growing season.

I am pleased to announce that the dates for the next national show have been set. We are returning to the same venue as before, which greatly simplifies the organisation for both the planning team and attendees. Over the next year or so, the national show team will be busy with preparations, applying for grants, and arranging speakers. We will keep you updated as plans become finalised. Your feedback is always welcome.

National Orchid Expo 2027

The 2027 National Orchid Expo at Mystery Creek in Waikato will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 24-25 (ie, no Sunday opening), with judging on Thursday, September 23, and will once again be an Orchids & More. The organising committee is largely the same as 2023, although Penny Moore and Graham Jackson have stepped down. Taking their places are Jennifer Hope (OCNZ Treasurer) and Jason Strong, both from Hawkes Bay. Meet them all [here](#).

OCNZ Executive Election

Nominations close on April 30 – your society/club may nominate someone from another society/club so long as you have their permission to do so. The nomination form is attached to the same email as this newsletter.

John Easton Award 2025

Congratulations to (among other orchid-y things) Cymbidium breeder, *Yearbook* editor, Manawatu Orchid Society founding member and OCNZ vice-president **Allan Rae** who is the recipient of the John Easton Award. The intention is to present the award to Allan at our AGM in Wellington, and a full citation will be in the May newsletter. The award is for “the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand”.

OCNZ Facebook Boost for your Show

As last year, we are happy to receive posters and flyers about upcoming shows and events for our Facebook page, or share your own posts with the OCNZ page to increase the number of ‘eyeballs’ seeing your event. Email posters to ocnzeditor@gmail.com. [See the page here](#).

Overseas Orchid Shows

Oct 1-5, 2025: Australian Orchid Conference & Show, Woolgoolga (2 hours' south of Gold Coast airport). Earlybird registration until July 31 is \$A220. Full details from the [website](#).

Mar 26-29, 2026: World Orchid Conference, Dresden, Germany. Full registration is €300, but there's a 10% reduction on offer until May 31 (this year). Full details from the [website](#).