

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Editor: Sandra Simpson (ocnzeditor@gmail.com)

Website: orchidcouncil.org.nz [Find us on Facebook](#)



President's Message: Keith Smart

It's been a quieter month for me orchid-wise so I have managed to get a few good days in my orchid house, repotting, potting on, and moving plants outside now it's getting warmer. In late November we had a council meeting, so a few decisions were made, including the re-election of Murray Dean as chair of COA, a job he's been most capably doing. His was the only nomination. Speaking of COA, the 2024 awards to the end of November are now [available on our website](#).

My challenge in early December was to cook for the Iwitahi Working Bee weekend (December 6-8, on site 25km from Taupō). It's a great opportunity to meet new people and learn more about our native orchids.

As clubs gather for their end-of-year celebrations, I would like to wish everyone a happy festive season where we can enjoy time with family and friends. And let's hope 2025 is filled with good health, happiness and lots of orchids.

National Judges' Seminar & AGM 2025

[The Brentwood Hotel](#) in Wellington is the venue for next year's National Judges' Seminar & AGM, which will take place from May 31-June 1 (Sat-Sun, King's Birthday Weekend). Particular thanks to Wellington Orchid Society president Janice Brown and COA chair Murray Dean (both on the OCNZ Executive) for their efforts in bringing this to fruition. Further details will be made available as they come to hand.

John Easton Award

Do you know someone who has made an **outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand**? If so, we would love to hear from you. [Visit our website](#) to read more about the John Easton Award – last presented in 2022 – and to see a list of past recipients. Nominations may be [emailed to us](#), closing on February 28, 2025.

Vale Betty Vance

Originally from Scotland, Betty and Joe Vance came to New Zealand while young, and married here 61 years ago, going on to have two children, and three grandchildren. Betty was one half of the businesses J&B Orchids and Villa Orchids, selling plants at many North Island shows and, after moving to Bombay and then Ngatea, at markets in Clevedon and Thames. For Betty, who was very sociable, the people contact was something she enjoyed – selling a plant was a bonus. Betty and Joe attended a number of World Orchid Conferences, including in Scotland, and were both heavily involved in the organisation of the 1990 WOC in Auckland. Betty was treasurer of the NZOS (1985-1993) and on the NZOS executive until earlier this year, as well as doing whatever was needed at NZOS shows, from selling raffle tickets to helping in the kitchen. She was a life judge in the NZOS system and for her service to NZOS Betty was made a life member. She was also a member of the CSA (NZ Branch) and a member of the South Auckland Orchid Society for many years.

- Noel Townsley, NZOS

Yearbook Articles Wanted

The Pleurothallid Alliance is the focus for *Yearbook 2025*, but as well as those plants, articles on all kinds of other things to with orchids will be happily considered by editor Allan Rae, eg, stories about your orchid experiences, growing, etc. The YB also includes Vales for well-known orchid personalities, and reports of club anniversaries. If you have any questions, please email [Allan Rae](#). Deadline is the end of February.