

## ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

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



### President's Message: Keith Smart

As another year draws to a close, I reflect on a period filled with family, work, and the joy of orchids. This year has been marked by numerous family milestones and travels, which have made time seem to pass quickly. It appears that only my grandchildren are eager for the passage of time. So, as the year concludes, I look forward to celebrating the positive experiences of the past year with family and friends during the holiday season. I hope that 2026 will bring you an abundance of flowers and friendship. My very best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

### Taranaki Orchid Show Date Change!

The original dates for the Taranaki Summer Orchid Show have been stymied by roadworks that will close SH3 for about 5 days, so the committee has moved the show to **January 30 and February 1** (Saturday and Sunday). All orchid show dates to hand for 2026 are [on our website](#).

### Incorporated Societies Act 2022

*The following information is from the Law Changes Review newsletter, sent out in November.*

If your society does not reregister under the 2022 Act by 5 April 2026 (there will be no extension to this date), it will cease to exist as an incorporated society. Consequences include:

- Losing access to society bank accounts, IRD number, and legal status.
- No longer having control over society property and assets – the Registrar may direct how these are distributed. The society will lose its separate legal identity, meaning members could be held personally liable for any debts or obligations, such as leases or contracts.
- The society will no longer be able to enter any new contracts in its name. The name will no longer be protected – another group could incorporate using the same name.

To help you get it right, the Registrar of Incorporated Societies has provided two tools, and a YouTube video:

- [Constitution Builder](#) – to guide you through creating a compliant constitution
- [Constitution Checklist](#) – to make sure you've included everything required
- [Watch how to reregister your society](#).

If you've already held your AGM, but didn't approve reregistration or an updated constitution to conform to the 2022 Act, you may need to hold a **special general meeting**. Before calling a special general meeting, your society's committee could first meet to agree on the proposed constitution so a draft can be presented to members for discussion and approval. Be sure to hold your meeting in accordance with your society's existing rules, including:

- Giving members sufficient notice
- Clearly outlining the decisions to be made
- Ensuring the meeting meets the required quorum.

It is also a good idea to share the draft constitution with members ahead of the meeting. This gives them time to review the content.



### Committee on Awards Chairperson

Incumbent Murray Dean was the only nominee and so has been re-elected chair of the COA. Thank you for your work Murray!

### John Easton Award

This award, given to members of OCNZ-affiliated societies, is for *the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand*. If you have someone in your club who fits this bill, please [email a description of their contributions](#) by February 27, 2026 for our consideration. Read more about the award, and see past winners, [here](#).

### Yearbook Articles Wanted

The 2026 edition will spotlight Paphiopedilums, but articles may be submitted on anything to do with orchids, including your experiences, knowledge, growing and breeding, etc, as well as Vales for well-known orchid personalities. Deadline is the end of February. Please send contributions or queries to [editor Allan Rae via email](#).

### Benefits of OCNZ Affiliation

OCNZ promotes and supports the hobby of orchid-growing in New Zealand at a national level, including providing a range of centralised services that would be difficult, time-consuming, or more expensive to do at club level. What are the benefits of your club/society being affiliated to OCNZ?

- National Judging System: A standardised system aimed at improving the quality of blooms and plants through impartial judging to set criteria and against the breeding line. Only members of affiliated clubs/societies may put forward plants for judging. Judges hail from across the country and regular training keeps them up-to-date with new breeding, naming conventions and plant developments. OCNZ supports the organisation of annual judges' seminars in the North and South Islands.
- Print Publications: Capitation delivers a Yearbook for each financial Home Club member. This contains educational articles and the previous year's judging awards. OCNZ also produces a monthly e-newsletter sent to all affiliated clubs/societies with the request that it be passed on or made available to members.
- Website & Facebook: The OCNZ website holds a complete set of *Orchids in New Zealand*, 1975-1996, the privately published *Internet Orchid Review* 2007-13, and culture notes. The addition of these valuable publications to the website was an OCNZ initiative. The website and Facebook page act as a clearing house of information for clubs and members of the public, particularly for show dates. The collection and sharing of information are important goals for OCNZ.
- Public Liability Insurance: OCNZ negotiates an annual group deal to keep insurance premiums down for affiliates. During the two Covid lockdown years OCNZ absorbed this cost as clubs/societies were unable to hold shows, their major income source for the year.



- National Orchid Expo: Support and underwriting of a regular National Orchid Expo for affiliated clubs/societies, which includes massed club displays, grower education through local and visiting international speakers/breeders, and the fostering of new connections with other club/society members from around the country.
- Speaker Tours: OCNZ maintains a fund to financially support appropriate educational speakers, both overseas and domestic, who propose to tour a cluster of affiliated clubs.
- Native Orchid Conservation: OCNZ is the Heritage Protection Authority for the Iwitahi Reserve and organises working bees, funding and research projects on native orchids – our most recent project found new populations of a nationally endangered *Gastrodia* species in nearby stands. This is done with the support of Timberlands, owner of the surrounding forest. OCNZ also co-operates with Te Papa and Otari-Wilton’s Bush Reserve to share information to help conserve NZ’s endemic species. Supporting education, research and conservation of our native orchid species is an important, but sometimes less visible, strand of our work.
- MPI Matters: Since 2019, OCNZ has been working on “proof of presence” applications for non-native orchid species in New Zealand. These applications will regularise the status of orchids already here, but not on the MPI list, and increase the number of species and hybrids acceptable for importation. This is slow and painstaking work requiring photos, club records, judging records and sales lists which are digitised to use as evidence. OCNZ is undertaking this work on behalf of all orchid growers in New Zealand.
- John Easton Award: At the request of the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society, which presented the award for 46 years, OCNZ took over award administration in 2022. Made for *the most outstanding contribution to the culture and promotion of orchids in New Zealand since 1977*, the award is open only to members of OCNZ-affiliated clubs/societies.
- International Standing: We consider it important for there to be a single national body with oversight of orchid growing and showing in New Zealand, especially with regard to our judging system. In this way, we are able to uphold/maintain an international reputation for the growers of this country, and their standards.

#### How this is done and transparency:

- Before the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the reports of OCNZ Executive members are circulated to clubs/societies with the request that they are made available to all members.
- Clubs are also asked if they have remits to be discussed and voted on at the AGM. These are also circulated before the AGM so club delegates may be instructed by their club.
- Club membership numbers are collated by OCNZ to determine how many delegates each club/society may have at the AGM. Financial members of an orchid society/club can have only one Home Club (but may belong to as many clubs as they like) and this is the club that should pay their capitation.
- The OCNZ Executive is elected at the AGM, or by postal ballot in the year of a National Orchid Expo when no AGM is held.