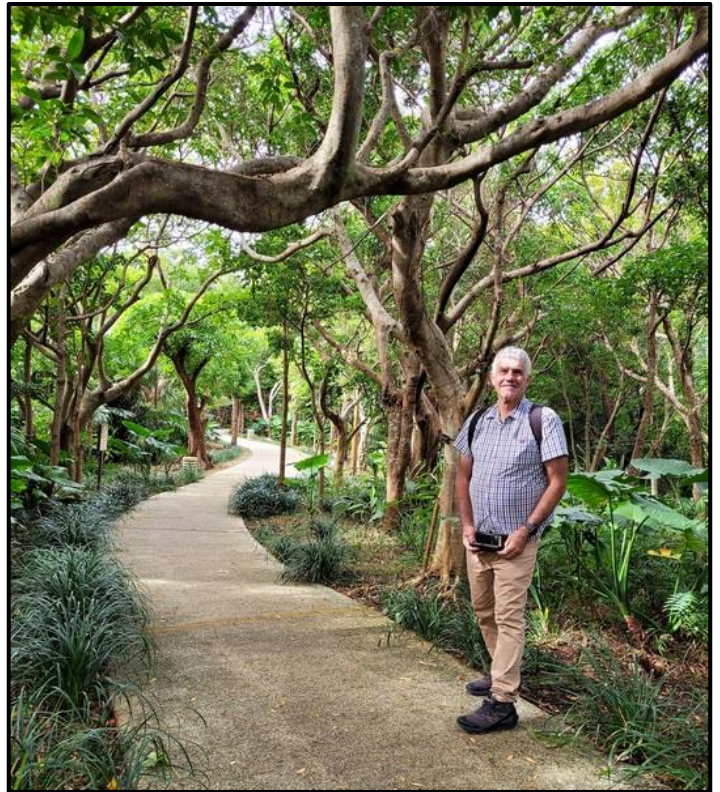




## President's Message: Keith Smart

I am writing to you from Japan, where a small group of fellow New Zealand orchid enthusiasts and I are enjoying our time. We are currently located on Okinawa Island, the tropical region of Japan, approximately 2000km south of Tokyo, but our plans soon take us north. Our final destination is the Tokyo Grand Prix International Orchid Show, where we will participate in the judging.

Right: Keith Smart in Shurijo Castle Park, Okinawa.  
Photo: Glenys MacRae



I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season and are now refreshed and energised for the new year. The weather during our summer break was unique, with snow on the North Island's Central Plateau and windy, showery conditions most days. The orchid society world is becoming active again, with clubs resuming their monthly meetings.

I kindly request that you participate actively and encourage new members with a welcoming smile and engaging conversation; fellowship is the most valuable aspect we can offer.

Please mark September 2027 in your orchid diaries. The next national expo is scheduled to be held at Mystery Creek once again. An organising team is being assembled, and further details will come shortly.

And, finally, heartiest congratulations to the growers recognised in the OCNZ Awards of the Year 2024 (see next page for details).

## 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). Further details to come.

## Speaking of Judges ...

Anyone keen to understand orchids better might want to consider training to become a judge which requires only 8 to 10 in-person meetings a year. For more information [email Murray Dean](#), chair of our Committee on Awards, who describes the training as 'learning'. An updated Judges' Handbook is due to be printed shortly.

## Incorporated Society Obligations

A reminder to club treasurers to check that the elected officer information for your society is up-to-date and that financial returns have been filed. Read more on the [Incorporated Societies website](#). Failure to keep records up-to-date can result in de-registration.

Hopefully, clubs have started revising their constitutions, if not having already filed them. Re-registration must be done by April 5, 2026. A constitution builder tool is [available here](#) (this is the tool OCNZ has used to revise our own constitution, which will be presented at the AGM).

### 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 award and to see a list of past recipients. Nominations may be [emailed to us](#), closing 5pm, February 28.

### Yearbook Articles Wanted

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

### Help Keep the Yearbook Afloat

We're asking clubs to consider a donation to help meet the Yearbook's printing costs. Due to never-ending rising costs, we now have bill for a per copy cost that's quite a bit more than we receive from capitation. Donations may be made to a/c number **02-0727-0548974-00** using your club/individual name and 'YB printing' in the reference fields. We thank you most sincerely in advance.

### Awards of the Year 2024

**Orchid of the Year:** *Catasetum* Orchidglade 'Nash',  
Lex and Julie Sharp (*pictured right*)

**Species of the Year:** *Angraecum sesquipedale* 'Mae Delia',  
Adelaida Booth

**Cymbidium of the Year:** *Cym.* Black Stump 'Come In Spinner',  
Ross and Susan Tucker

**Cultural Award:** *Trichopilia tortilis* 'Gin Sling', Ninnox Orchids  
(*pictured below*).



See all the Orchids of the Year [on our website](#).

The COA has now ratified the 2024 awards – there were some changes from the provisional list – and the final list is available [on our website](#).

Detailed descriptions of the Orchids of the Year will be in the *Orchids 2025* Yearbook, due out in May.