

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

February 2026

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



President's Message: Keith Smart

Most of us are now back into our usual routines with schools starting again and summer visitors heading home. I hope you all have managed to get through the unsettled weather we've had, a hot topic all around the country, including at the year's first (slightly delayed) show in New Plymouth, which wrapped up today.

This show is a sign the orchid world is re-awakening, with clubs and societies having their first meetings. The Orchid Council Executive is gearing up as well, with our first meeting next week, and we're looking forward to another year of supporting this wonderful hobby we all so enjoy.

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** for consideration. Read more about the award, and see past winners, [here](#).

Stanley Gibbons Colour Fans

This will be of interest to our orchid judges who wish to purchase a colour fan (hard to get hold of in recent years). Susan Tucker has recently discovered that they are available again from [this website](#).

Last Call for Yearbook Articles

The 2026 edition will spotlight Paphiopedilums, but articles may be submitted on anything to do with orchids, as well as Vales for well-known orchid personalities. Deadline is the end of this month. Contributions or queries to [editor Allan Rae via email](#).

Farewell to ...

Brian Pryor: Brian died suddenly, aged 80, on January 5. He was well-known in orchid circles for his knowledge of fertilisers, having invented, made and sold Bio-Plus for many years (made in a lab in his basement). Brian, a former judge, was a past president of the Waikato Orchid Society and an active club member up to his death. He is survived by three adult children and six grandchildren.

Myron Bird: Myron died after a long battle with cancer on January 16, aged 82. He was a long-serving secretary of the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society, was often photographer of awarded HBOS orchids, and an involved member of his Whirinaki community. Myron is survived by his wife Barbara, also a keen orchid grower, two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Walter Krawchenko: Walter died on January 24, in his 102nd year. Walter, who was given a life membership of Waitakere Orchid Club on the occasion of his 100th birthday, is survived by two adult children and one grandson.

Isabel Clotworthy: A former president of the BOP Orchid Society, Isabel died on December 20, just a month after her 90th birthday. She is survived by four adult children and four grandchildren. For several years Isabel and her late husband Roger were agents for a range of growing houses and shelving, which they sold around New Zealand.