



## President's Message: Glenys MacRae

Recently an orchid grower was looking through some old Tauranga Orchid Society newsletters and found evidence of an orchid species not thought to be in the country listed in the plants on display. This reminded me that I haven't given you an MPI update for a while. There will be a detailed article in *Orchids 2024* but in the meantime, I will give you a summary of what has been achieved during 2023.

**Proof of Presence:** One section 26 application for 25 orchid species not listed on the PBI (MPI Plant Biosecurity Index) is in the process of having appendices attached before being submitted to EPA (Environmental Protection Authority). This is painstaking work. All pieces of evidence must be legible and display a date to make them eligible as proof of presence, and we need evidence pre- and post-1998. OCNZ is always interested in looking at historical records and over the last few years has built up a collection of catalogues, journals and other relevant information. If you have any information that you think might be of interest, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**PBI:** Last June OCNZ made a request to MPI to update *Laelia* and *Sophrontis* names that had been reclassified as *Cattleya*. During the last quarter of the year MPI made the updates while retaining the old names as synonyms, for example:

Previous Listing	Updated Listing	Updated Other Names Listed
<i>Sophrontis coccinea</i>	<i>Cattleya coccinea</i>	<i>Sophrontis coccinea</i> <i>Sophrontis grandiflora</i>

**Request for the Development of an Import Health Standard for *Cattleya* Hybrids:** A request was submitted last November to MPI, who confirmed in January that our request is on their register. Don't hold your breath, but at least we are in the system.

## Nominations for OCNZ Executive

Time is ticking by and before you know it, our AGM will be upon us. A nomination form for the OCNZ Executive is attached to this newsletter; these need to be **returned by April 7**. Glenys MacRae is nearing the end of her third year as President and will automatically become Immediate Past President for one year. We're farewelling acting treasurer Graham Jackson (don't worry, the treasurer's position is under control) and Bryan Sutherland, so would like another 2-3 people to join us. The Executive meets face-to-face twice a year (February and AGM) and by Zoom in November. If you'd like to know more about what is involved, please email [info@orchidcouncil.org.nz](mailto:info@orchidcouncil.org.nz).

## Vale Trevor Martin

The OCNZ Executive was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Trevor Martin of the Waikato Orchid Society. Trevor, who was an associate judge, will be greatly missed. Trevor and his wife Pearl have been involved in orchids, going as far back as the 1980s when Pearl was OCNZ Secretary from mid-1984 to mid-1987. Trevor and Pearl were organisers of the Waikato Orchid Society 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2021, and enjoyed putting on displays at orchid shows. Our thoughts go to Pearl and family.

## OCNZ Culture Book

We still have some hard copies of this book available (if your club would like a bundle, please let us know), and we have also now added it to our website in a pdf format for free download. You can find the link under [Cultural Notes](#). Now it's on the website we won't be printing any further copies.