

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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Website: orchidcouncil.org.nz

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Vice-President's Message: Allan Rae

Orchid growers will have been challenged by the rather unstable weather we have endured this year, and it continues with warming temperatures in places and a sniff of spring in our greenhouses, but the forecasts still prophesise rain, wind and snow. Growing and displaying orchids is an art and a skill!

The show season is well under way, with some already completed and plenty more to come. I'm sure you will manage to mount attractive and colourful displays for your public to enjoy, and many plants for them to purchase so as to help encourage their love of orchids. I'm also sure you will take the opportunity to encourage them to join your club. Please appreciate the efforts of the judges who officiate at your show. These folk put in much time and effort (and cost) to visit your shows, so offer them your appreciation – even if you can't agree with some of their decisions! You might also give thought to training to be a judge, as our numbers always need a boost.

Finally, please keep working on those Yearbook contributions. As the immediate past editor, I know how we look forward to, and appreciate, receiving your contributions and that our readership enjoys and benefits from your knowledge and experiences.

Yearbook Articles

New editor Sandra Simpson would appreciate hearing ideas for articles on anything to do with orchids and their culture. Please [email Sandra](#) if you would like to write something. The submission deadline is earlier this time; articles need to be with Sandra by November 30.

Idea for a Meeting Topic

A useful topic idea comes from Marlborough Orchid Society: How to make a net basket for orchids and a wooden basket (raft). Orchid club members are sponges for information and knowledge so learning something new and practical, in a hands-on way, is sure to be a popular session. If you have had a particularly good meeting topic, please let us know so we can share it with other clubs.

Promoting Your Show & Orchid Growing

We're delighted to have a welter of show posters scheduled to appear on the OCNZ Facebook page, doing our bit to help promote events around the country. It would be great if named photos of champion plants at the shows could be shared into our page, that way orchid lovers all around the country get to see the best of our orchids and the pleasure the hobby can bring.

Iwitahi Native Orchid Reserve Working Bee

This year's work weekend takes place from Friday, December 4 (arrival) to Sunday, December 6 (departure). Day visitors are also welcome at the site between Taupo and Napier. Accommodation is available on site (for a cost), with meals included. Work for any age and ability can be found and there's always a lively orchid-related discussion with dinner. Please [email Toby](#) for further details.