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This issue's cover

Cattleya maxima growing in full sunlight in a roadside tree in Ecuador. This species is still often seen in cultivation and is a fine plant for any cattleya enthusiast. See Ron Maunder's account of his South American travels in this issue. (*Photo Ron Maunder*)

Editorial

Following the Editorial in the last issue of NZIOR, it is very sad to have to write more about earthquakes. However, the numerous deaths and severe damage that were caused by the recent 'aftershock' in Christchurch, plus the appalling death toll that seems bound to result from the dreadful 'black waves' that swept into Eastern Japan after their magnitude 9 quake, mean that this topic is on many peoples' minds. We extend best wishes to our readers in Christchurch and nearby, hoping that they are all well and that their homes, gardens and orchid collections have come through intact. You will see some brief reports from Christchurch in this issue, and we are grateful to Lesley and Melanie for taking the time to write them. As for the Japanese disaster, it is to be hoped that all those living near the eastern coast of NZ look very closely at a map showing the position of the plate boundaries and the Hikurangi Trough, and ponder their best route inland should a severe quake happen. And don't stop to rescue your orchids!

Earthquake Update

As readers will be well aware, the Christchurch (Darfield) earthquake was followed on 22 February by an aftershock, of lesser magnitude but much closer to the city and shallower, which caused major devastation and many deaths. Here is a brief note from Lesley Newton, of Christchurch.

“Once again the shingle and clay seems to have saved the day at my house. I have one new crack in the wall but that is nothing compared to others. The same orchids that fell down in the first quake did so again, even though I had put the odd large stone on the pots. Hard-caned dendrobiums are just too top-heavy for earthquakes. The main benching where all the plants are packed quite tightly never moved.

Lesley Newton (orcats@xtra.co.nz)
Canterbury Orchid Society”

And another from Melanie Brigden, also of Christchurch:

“A very quick note from Christchurch: in many ways our orchid plants are the least of our worries. For myself, my greenhouse looked much the same as in September. For the first week I just turned the overhead spray on a couple of times - very mindful of other people with no water at all - and left the orchids as they fell.

“Luckily as a result of September I had moved the big catts off the top bench and wedged them onto a new lower bench so they were fine. I had also take off one wooden strip of benching and wedged plants in plastic pots with rims into the gap. They are also fine.

“Some members have left town and at least one orchid collection is temporarily shared around a few of us.

“Roll on the South Island show in Timaru over Labour weekend. I feel it will be a super chance for the South Island and our northern friends to rally.

“Thank you to everyone in the orchid community who have sent kind messages and all manner of support.”

Melanie Brigden (lenb@actrix.co.nz)

Stanhopeas – Love ‘em or hate ‘em

Alan Locke (Alanlocke@ihug.co.nz)

In spite of their short-lived flowers or over-powering scent, there are few orchids that can come close to Stanhopeas as show stoppers. They have the ability to grab the absolute attention of both orchid and non-orchid growers, in fact many people find it hard to believe that that the flowers protruding through the bottom of the basket are both real and attached to the plant above.



Stanhopea nigroviolacea – often labelled *S. tigrina*

From my point of view, Stanhopeas are a useful addition to a collection. They have to be grown in baskets, so they don't take up valuable bench space and they flower through the summer when little else is in flower.

Culture. They need to be grown in baskets because their flower spikes grow out through the bottom. Wire baskets are better than wood-slatted ones as the spikes can jam against the slats and die – this can happen to a lesser extent in a wire basket against where the wires cross so you need to be vigilant. They can be grown in medium bark lined with sphagnum moss, but I prefer to use all sphagnum as it is easier to keep moist and plants have grown bigger and better since I changed from bark. I would not recommend using coconut fibre as a liner as the flower spikes may not be able to penetrate it.

Watering is via a dripper line and is done sparingly in winter – as little as 5 minutes twice a month, and up to 10 minutes a day in the hottest part of the summer. Feeding is done through a proportioning unit and at the same rate as for all my orchids. I use either a general purpose or blossom booster type of fertilizer depending on the time of year.

Temperatures. While most Stanhopeas are listed as being intermediate, they can usually be grown cool at 10°C. min. as they are mainly summer growers. You may well get away with lower temperatures by keeping them fairly dry.

Names. Few orchid genera have as big a problem with wrong names as *Stanhopea*. While there are a lot of synonymous names, the real problem is just straight out wrong names. The problem is due in part to the fact that a lot of *Stanhopeas* originally came into the country as jungle-collected plants and were mis-identified at the point of collection. Over the years these have been divided and sold on, so perpetuating the problem. A case in point is that most of the *S. wardii* in the Waikato are in fact *S. oculata*. This can be traced back to one grower in the Waikato who originally got the plant from an old collection in Auckland.



Stanhopea hernandezii

Another commonly wrongly-named plant is *S. tigrina*. Most of these are *S. nigroviolacea* (some consider it to be a variety of *tigrina*). The true *S. tigrina* is very rare, I have never seen one and if any of you have one, please will you send a photo of it either to me or to this magazine.

Another that is considered to be synonymous with *S. hernandezii* is *S. devoniensis*. While I agree that they are very similar, I can tell them apart at a glance when they are in flower. *S. hernandezii* is a slightly larger and coarser flower,

and *S. devoniensis* is less cold-tolerant and needs a higher minimum temperature to survive.

Even seed-grown stock is not immune to this problem as the seed is often sourced from the wild. A good reference book to help unravel this problem is 'The Astonishing *Stanhopeas*' by Barney Greer. It is available from Australia at about \$25-00. It is well illustrated and covers most of the known species at the time of publication (1998).

Now that it has become very difficult to bring plants into the country, it is essential to establish what species are already here and so to that end I am listing all those that I have. If any of you have any different ones please let me know.

Stanhopea species that I am growing are:- *anfracta*;
devoniensis; *costaricensis*;
gibbosa; *hernandezii*; *haseloviana*;
impresa; *insignis*; *inodora*;
jenishiana; *nigroviolacea*; *oculata*;
pozoi; *posadae* *shuttleworthii*;
wardii; *xytriophora* and one

unnamed that does not fit anything. I have flowered most of them and are satisfied that they are correct except for *shuttleworthii* – the only thing that it resembles is *lietzei*. This plant was



Stanhopea devoniensis
considered to be synonymous with *S. hernandezii*

grown by Russell Hutton from seed that he obtained from another source. Unfortunately, he has not flowered one and so I would like to hear from anyone who has.



Bought as *Stanhopea shuttleworthii* but the only thing that it resembles is *Stanhopea lietzei*.

I would like to establish an informal group to promote and distribute Stanhopeas, so if you are interested please contact me. We may even be able to get a slot in this magazine.

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Kawhia

Orchids – here we come!

Ron Maunder (paradisearchids@paradise.net.nz) (*Photos by author*)

A year ago my wife, Jenny, and I flew off to join family living and working in South America. On my return I wrote an article for NZ IOR about our time with them looking at terrestrial orchids – Chloraeas, in Chile in Issue #10. Since then its been back to the grindstone here catching up on growing, repotting, selling and so on and that's as far as writing up the real orchid part of our trip got.

I guess the editors' call for more manuscripts and their threat that they are going to chastise us kiwis for letting our mates over the Tasman submit more articles to our NZ IOR magazine finally stirred me to continue with some more of my South American orchid adventures. When orchids are your life its hard to find a spare minute away from it to share with others!

Of course I could write about our week or two in Argentina and Buenos Aires but although it was a great adventure in itself it wasn't orchidaceous!

To continue... The "kids" eventually left us at Buenos Aires airport which I recall is named after a former military dictator or general, like so many airports in South America!

By then we knew that our orchid tour with a dozen or so folk from the USA had fallen over through lack of numbers! So here we were with paid air tickets to Lima in Peru, then from Guayaquil in Ecuador back to Lima, then Lima back to Buenos Aires and then home to Auckland and nothing in between! It was a bit of a worry, especially when we also didn't speak or understand much Spanish! However a cable from Pepe Portilla of the huge orchid company Ecuagenera in Ecuador received in Santiago, Chile said it was OK to just use our airline ticket as scheduled to Lima and we would be met and all would be well and paid for! Wonderful! So we wouldn't lose our money or our orchid trip!

A lovely young university student whose father bought orchids from Pepe was there to meet us at Lima airport at midnight, holding our names up on a placard. Sandra saw us to a motel for a 1 ½ hour sleep before her mum returned and drove us back to the airport where the three of us flew up to Cusco. Leaving Sandra and our packs and travelling light with our "toothbrushes", we were driven over the hills and up valleys in a taxi for an hour or so to the train station at Ollantaytambo enroute to Machu Picchu – Lost City of the Incas. Other than walking for a day or so into Machu Picchu on a trail you take the train or nothing! It's a single narrow gauge line (like Queensland and NZ's rail!) with passing bays for the various Peru Rail and Inca Rail trains to pass as they bring and take the 15,000 people a day who go to see this most famous of Peruvian tourist attractions. Not long after we were back in NZ, downpours up there caused massive slips, including across the rail line, and I hate to think of the chaos, discomfort and ruination of tourists' dream holidays that would have resulted before people could get in or out again. I believe army helicopters were used! Thankfully we also missed the earthquakes and chaos in Chile that happened after we got home!

About two hours by train in the dark got us to Aquas Calientes at the rail end, a busy tourist town on a steep hillside, where we were escorted to our hotel. We were roused for a 5.30am breakfast and then hustled down to the buses for the 5 or 6 km trip up the valley and up the famous zig-zag road to the ruins. I could write pages about the ruins and its spectacular mountainous surroundings but won't! You've no doubt seen pictures. There were lots of parties setting off with their guides each holding a different coloured flag to keep close with.



The road to Machu Picchu



Cloud forest in Peru. The conditions we should try to achieve in our greenhouses!

After an excellent two hour guided tour with a very knowledgeable and fluent English-speaking Quenca Indian descendant I left Jennifer back at the start and went searching for orchids. Just inside the gate there is a small fenced area with native plants including orchids on show. Largest by far was the *Sobralia dichotoma* at about three metres tall and which I had brought seed of some 13 years before – after the Rio WOC. Mine had finally flowered the year before but set no seed pods! I climbed up and down the green lawn-like terraces “mown” by the semi-tame resident llamas (the camelid-types of course!) searching for orchids. There were a goodly number of tall *Sobralia* canes in the scrub alongside the cleared terraces but none were in flower or even with pods. I saw one or two botanical terrestrial orchids along a track I followed in the bush plus some bright orange begonia species against the terrace walls. After an hour or two I returned to the park entrance and we ate our lunch and then made our way down through the bush keeping a close lookout for orchids on a zig-zag trail to the bottom. I’d been warned to call in and visit the fairly new orchid garden at the bottom by my daughter who had

met the scientist in charge a month before. However he wasn’t there and it started to rain. Jennifer went into the historic museum next door and I dug out her spare \$1 Chinese plastic “parka”. If you get the chance and time it is a great little garden to spend half an hour or so in. There was quite a collection of labelled orchids with *Lycastes*, *Anguloas*, *Maxillarias*, *Brassias* and a number of “botanical” orchids in flower.

The walk along the road back to the town revealed tropical heliconias and anthuriums in flower but no noticeable orchids. After shopping for a few souvenirs and buying food for the journey out we settled down to wait for the train to arrive. Later back at Ollantaytambo another personal taxi and driver was waiting for us with his sign and other than stopping to “lend” a fellow taxi driver in trouble our spare tyre, we got back to our motel about midnight and tumbled into bed. It had been a long and physical day!

Next morning young Sandra was there to meet us once more and to show us around central Cusco. There were hawkers everywhere trying to sell us souvenirs or show us around. Cute little kids dressed out in their elaborately embroidered native clothing with baby llamas with matching gear were up the very steep cobbled side streets wanting to be photographed – for a fee! In fact every time you lifted your camera and had a local in the shot they aggressively

wanted to be paid! After lunch Sandra took us to the airport by taxi and we flew back to Lima together where she gave us our plane tickets to Piura on the coast and bade us goodbye.

Another two-hour plane trip took us to Piura, a town or city about 80 km inland from the coast. This part of Peru was dry and desert-like with scarcely any vegetation and historically had been where the Spaniard Pizarro had set up camp upon entering Peru. Once more Pepe had us met at the airport, this time by his young nephew Alex Portilla. We learned later that Alex was a very important part of the Portilla business and was currently home from Europe where he handled the Ecuagenera sales and lectures at shows and conferences and was married to the daughter of an influential German orchid figure.

We piled into his two- cab ute and headed off north for a couple more hours to the Ecuador border at the Rio Macara river. We had to dig out our passports and walk across the bridge to the customhouse in the dark, get new tourist visas then return and get more stamps and hand in our temporary Peru visa. Across the border and into Ecuador Alex took us to a hotel in the dark and ordered us dinner. Not long afterwards we were heading for bed with the promise that “tomorrow you will see orchids! Beautiful *Cattleyas* flowering in the trees”!

Next day it was breakfast then off to fill up with petrol in Macara and a complicated task it certainly turned out to be! Alex explained that because petrol in Ecuador was one quarter the price of Peruvian petrol there were all sorts of schemes for smuggling it across the border to Peru and make big money. Extra hidden petrol tanks installed and jerrycans under the seats for instance! We could only find one petrol station selling and in a tiny office at each pump there was an attendant plus an Ecuadorian policeman in uniform to check the vehicle’s ownership, destination etc. and ration the petrol. Even though we were heading north away from the border and in an Ecuadorean registered vehicle we could only get a few litres. The further north of the border we got the more petrol we could get.

Another interesting discovery was that the Ecuadorean currency is dollars and cents and pegged to the US currency so that US greenbacks were the currency. We never saw local notes and only saw local coins below 50 cents.



Cattleya maxima in shade

Next morning we travelled some distance north on a good sealed road then turned off up into the hills on a gravel road. It wasn’t long before Alex stopped and said “We are trying to buy a large area in these hills as a reserve for orchids, particularly the *Cattleya maxima*, which is native to the area”. Then he pointed them out growing in some of the roadside trees. It was fairly well cleared for cattle farming but still had lots of large trees and bush in places. So there they were up out of reach, but as we slowly drove along we passed the occasional house with *Cattleya maxima* in masses tied to their

roadside gateways and happily established there. What a great sight!

Alex was in cellphone contact with his uncle and we soon rendezvoused with Ivan (pronounced as Ee-varn) Portilla in another twin cab ute. In it were two young girls from Tasmania of all places plus a well-tattooed and bearded American. We had a scramble up the steep hillside for a while looking at the *C. maxima* and for other orchids. After a lunch we all



Catasetum on a fence post

drove on into a more remote area where new areas were being cleared and burnt. Here and there were little shacks where a young couple with maybe a child and a cow were trying to eke out an existence and grow maize in the blackened burnt-over parts. To set up an orchid reserve of several thousand acres for *C. maxima* here was a priority said Ivan. I think it was also the area of the rare speckled bear.

Later in the afternoon we came down to the highway again and into the town or small city of Loja (pronounced – Low-ha). There was a stop first to buy a sack of coffee beans at a big factory on the outskirts for a friend of the American. It was cheaper in bulk from the factory and had a “must have” reputation for flavour for most Americans, we were told!

The motel here was five star or equivalent to a good one back home, two-storied with

a large pool, restaurant and outside dining shelter and tropical trees. Garden cages held a couple of monkeys and colourful macaws and other birds.

Next morning Alex, the Aussie girls and the American left early and headed north to the Ecuagenera home nursery and headquarters in Gualaceo, from where Alex and the American were heading off into the Amazon headwaters to go by motorised dugout up the river photographing orchids and frogs for a week!!! The girls were doing some research in the nursery for a few more days before flying to Guayaquil and then out to the Galapagos Islands for a week or so for more “research”. The Galapagos are Ecuadorean territory.

Questions and answers

Many years ago I bought a seedling from somewhere on one of my judging jaunts to the North Island. It has finally flowered ! Quite pretty too.



Here is a photo of it.

Slc. Psyche 'Claire' HCC/AOS

x

Epidendrum (also known as *Diothonea*)
megalospatha 'Marion'

This is the label and spelling exactly.

I can find nothing about it, it is not registered, and I simply can't remember who I bought it from or where.

Would you be so good as to ask readers (one of whom could be the hybridizer), if they remember making the cross and if so, would they please contact me at davellen@paradise.net.nz ?

Thank you very much for your help.
Ellen Manson
Christchurch.

Could someone please supply some simple instructions / illustrations on how to treat phalaenopsis after the flowers have dropped off. I have recently bought 6 plants and I am not sure what to do. e-mail hjanes@paradise.net.nz .thanks Harry Janes, Wainuiomata.

Here is a reply to a question asked in Issue 14:

“I have some questions about moth orchids (Phalaenopsis) - when do you know when to re-pot and if you have a specimen with a lot of air roots but is not re-flowering what's the problem ? When I re-pot do I cover some of the air roots or just what's covered now ? Also with the moth orchid, the plant is pot-bound but is producing prolifically - it currently has three spikes in varying levels of growth; the ones in flower are producing flowers on the existing spikes with branches off the main stem, with three other stems starting to grow. Is this OK or am I over-fertilizing the plant ?? And where do I get new pots for the moth orchid please???” (Eileen Bridgens)

“Hi Eileen - yes I know your questions went on the open market some three months ago but hey, I am not called 'the late Russell Hutton' for no reason!! That offensive 4-letter word 'work' insists on rearing it's ugly head. You pose some interesting questions regarding your plant(s). I am assuming that your plants are growing in your home rather than in a greenhouse. Your first question regarding a plant that has a lot of air roots but is not re-flowering: Typically Phals initiate new flower spikes from the base of the plant in the latter part of winter when night temperatures are lower for spring to early summer flowering. If this has not happened then maybe you could move the plant to a place where the night temps will

drop lower than where you usually have it, particularly if it is an area which would normally be heated for your own comfort. When to repot, you ask. You say the plant has a lot of aerial roots so that would tell me that repot time is now. In a home situation those aerial roots are not of great benefit to the plant as the air is drier and therefore they do not absorb atmospheric water, i.e. humidity. Often it has been my experience that an abundance of aerial roots means that the plant is not too happy with what it is growing in - too old, too wet etc. What is the plant growing in at present? When you repot, yes, put the aerial roots into the new pot and cover with mix but try to keep them nearer the surface so that they can become more easily accustomed to the extra moisture they will receive.

Just a note here - if the plant was not so keen on the mix that was in the pot originally you may find most of the roots in the pot are not so healthy or dead. You mention another plant which is producing in abundance but is 'pot bound'. This plant could also be potted on to a larger pot - it does not matter that it is in spike and blooming as long as you are careful and do not break your precious flower stems off and just pot on with minimal roots disturbance. Phals have active root growth all year round so you can repot any time it looks necessary. Hey, when a plant is producing blooms in profusion and has a strong and healthy root system, it is HAPPY!! So NO you are not over-doing the fertilizer, just keep on what you are doing and enjoy the results!! Where do you get new pots for your Phals? Hmmmm, an interesting question. What kind of pot are you wanting?? Pots ideally suited to Phal culture can be purchased from Napier Orchid supplies, where Bill (email wflid@xtra.co.nz) has some great pots well-suited to this type of orchid, which are wider than deep and have excellent drainage holes to help keep a good supply of air around the roots. Well, that's about it from me and once again apologies for the late reply as you have probably dealt with all this already. Cheers, Russell (Dr Orchid) Hutton.

And another answer to another question in Issue 14:

“I have an orchid problem that perhaps someone can help with. An Oncidium (the standard Dancing Ladies type), bought potted in standard orchid mix, lost nearly all of its roots over winter (outside in a shade house), so I've removed it from the pot, wrapped what remains of the root system and the pseudobulbs in sphagnum and tied it to a slab of ponga fibre. Is this the most sensible thing to do?” (Barbara Parris)

OK

“Regarding the best treatment for your unhappy Oncidium plant. I would say yes, you have done an thing in tying it to a slab of tree-fern with some sphagnum moss, but what I would say is do not overdo the moss and don't have too much under the plant, ie. between the plant and the tree-fern, as you want the roots to go into/onto the tree-fern ASAP.

However if this is not your preferred way of growing plants then restarting in a very small pot with sphagnum moss is good and once well-rooted again, then pot without removing moss into a rather coarse bark or bark/pumice mix. When I say coarse I mean chunks of around 10mm or so. These guys like a very free-draining mix. I think the problem may have been that the plant was too wet over the cooler months when it was more or less dormant and the roots had rotted off. Over the cooler/colder months keep the plant rather dry. You say that the plant was outside in a shade house. By this do you mean that the roof of the shade house is shade cloth or does it have a rain-proof cover? If only shade cloth then you would be best to move it to where it will not get winter rain, to a place where you apply any water required.

Hope this may belatedly be of some help. Cheers, Russell Hutton.

Thanks to Russell for supplying answers to these questions, which address problems that many growers encounter. Ed.

Sarcochilus orchids

David Hutchins (dphutchins@xtra.co.nz)

These are very pleasant plants, which mainly come from Australia. They do not take up much bench space and many hybrids are very attractive to look at.

Many of the species have been 'played around with' to get the better plants that we see today. Some of the plants close to some of the species have pendulous spikes.

Many of our modern sarcochilus come from a lot of hard work which has been carried out over the years by numerous hybridisers, and because of their parentage some plants will flower at different times of the year as well as flowering several times a year.



When purchasing a flask of these beauties, expect that the seedlings may take different petal shapes and colours depending what their parents and grandparents look like. Unless cloned, nearly all the seedlings will be different.

Because they do not have bulbs to retain water, they do require water at regular periods when they start to dry out. If kept in plastic pots they do not seem to require the same amount of water as those kept in clay pots.

Use some good fertiliser, some sheep pellets in the summer along with a dressing of dried blood plus some dolomite lime.



For us they have been quite easy to grow in unheated shade houses covered in shade cloth with a Perspex roof. Air should be circulated by means of fans if possible.

All orchids are easy to grow provided they are grown in very similar conditions to where they are grown in the wild.

Give them a go.

Just some of the plants we have crossed ready for later in the year.

Sarc. (Misty 'Spangles' x *hartmannii*) #575 x Yvette #612

Sarc. (Fairy x Zoe) #701 x (Fairy x Zoe) #684



Sarc. Dove 'Good' AM x Fitzhart 'Magenta'
HCC) #695 x Velvet #539
Sarc. Cherie #655 x hartmannii #245
Sarc. (Dove 'Good' AM x Fitzhart 'Magenta'
HCC) #584 x Snowhart #312
Sarc. Cherie #143 x Snowhart #312

All photos by David Hutchins

“Holmes, the Game is afoot” (the third instalment)

Allan Watson (aj.watson@xtra.co.nz)

Well not quite - in actual fact it's delivered a flower.

You may recall back in *Issue 10*, I raised the question relating to the identification of an orchid and the importance of having clear information on the label *Onc. wentworthianum* Honolulu.

The article presented a painting borrowed from the world wide web site Wikipedia supporting our claim as to what the plant might actually be or indeed look like.

In *Issue 13* the intrepid “Holmes” alias *Ron Maunder* offered his deduction and with great detail contained therein the information started to steer us towards a plant with the bridal name of *Oncidium* Christmas Star. While my dear Holmes could not produce a photo, lo and behold a fellow orchid grower did.

So with great anticipation we have waited. First, one spike that fell off, then with two plants in spike the spike appeared to grow long and spindly like we had foreseen in the original article, the buds formed and yes the flowers have popped open.

Armed with photo in hand and plants in the other Cyril was off to visit the Fuller encyclopaedia – for those that may have forgotten, this was George Fuller.

George in his very methodical way took one look at the plant, one look at the photo, and provided Cyril with confirmation.

Yes it was indeed Christmas Star as shown in the photos below (*next page*).



So there we have it, thanks to those that provided us with information and conformation. Both Cyril and I had a lot of fun with this exercise and Cyril tells me he still has a number of spare plants if anyone is interested at cyril.doreen.whittaker@xtra.co.nz so until our next challenge comes, all the best with your orchid growing and keep your plant labels fresh.

Allan Watson

My bargain Miltoniopsis

by John Edwards, Tauranga Orchid Society
(sowers@johnwins.com)



I bought this plant from Palmers in February 2009. Since it had finished flowering it was being sold for half price. Because it had no flowers I had no idea what it was going to produce for me. The plant was not in good shape so I made them an offer that was below their half price figure. After the manager had been consulted, I was allowed to buy it for \$15! I was very happy that I had been bold enough to ask for a discount, and I encourage you to do the same in similar circumstances. Like me, you too may be

fortunate to buy a gem at a bargain price.

I took this plant home to nurse it back to health and wait for the time when it would both surprise and reward me with some blooms. Accompanying the plant was a card with helpful instructions how to grow it, but unfortunately, there was no name provided for it.

After the plant had been repotted in a plastic pot with a mix of fine bark, medium perlite and Aqua Palm Peat, I placed it in my Wardian case. I experimented by placing it in various places within the cabinet to discover the best place for it to grow.

In January 2010, I was rewarded with a single large flower, just one, so that my curiosity could be satisfied as to what colours the blooms would be. I was so pleased that the plant had allowed me this introduction to what it was capable of producing.

In December 2010, an arching inflorescence about 500mm long produced seven huge flowers (see picture) and when these flowers finished, the plant produced another, shorter inflorescence, with six smaller flowers that are still going strong at the moment.

This plant grows well under glass below six fluorescent tubes with high light levels for 14 hours per day. Humidity was at low to moderate levels in the cabinet, but I noticed a big improvement in the health of the plant once I had installed a humidifier that I had made. This pumps in mist from outside the cabinet. Now I am able to maintain humidity around 70-80% or even more, which I have read is ideal for miltoniopsis orchids. Temperatures have been in the range of 16-32 degrees Celsius. Good air circulation is provided by four strategically placed computer fans and the inflorescence gently waves in the breeze.

The plant is allowed to dry a little between watering and I use rain water or filtered water. I have used two types of fertilizer – one that promotes growth and one that stimulates flowering.

If I was asked to give just one reason for my success with this orchid I would say it is due to the high level of humidity that I am able to provide.

No More!

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

Yes it's true, I was determined not to buy any more orchids last year until I sorted out my collection, moved things to better positions, cleared some space on the benches and had given my plants some breathing room. I was also under strict orders to clear the lounge of the 80 odd phallies now growing leaves a foot long and taking up an enormous amount of space. The severe frosts certainly helped in this exercise initially with some Cattleya losses and quite a few Odonts on the unprotected sides of the shade house. The neighbours' overhanging trees usually protected a row of orchids outside on hangers but even these were badly affected last year.

The problems started when we visited a grower recently and in a philanthropic fit bought his long-suffering collection of Paphs. At least they didn't take up much room and my lax watering habits had reduced this lot in rapid time.

The next problem was the WOC show where some quite unusual plants at giveaway prices couldn't be resisted. This was further aggravated at the following show visited in Dargaville, only going there on the pretext I hadn't been before. The NZOS show was a must (being a member) and of course the magnetic attraction of the sales table was even stronger when someone shouted out the door of their van as we arrived 'they have some Vandas from the ACC Winter garden on sale.' No more prompting was necessary, so four expensive purchases

(plus a couple of others) later it was back to that persistent problem of arm room (not arm chairs) in the lounge.

Discussing crosses and Cattleya breeding while standing in front of a lot of new flasks from Woolf Orchid culture is not recommended. I'm not sure what happened really but think it was a matter of talking oneself into a future super 'show stopper'. My wife reckoned she watched me just standing there holding it for at least 20 minutes so it was a matter of having to buy it in the end. At least two of my friends would help out and share in them so it couldn't be too drastic. My initial thoughts about it being Grand Champ must have been correct as later enquiries revealed both friends had the same flask as me. Mine would probably end up Grand Champ knowing my luck. At least there will (hopefully) be plenty to choose from.

With only one more local show to go (our own in Howick) my buying spree was looking like coming to an end, but alas this was not to be. A spate of cool weather put my repotting of the previous year's seedlings on hold. So a free day on the Friday saw us in Whangarei and luckily not too much of interest to add to my collection. (But still a few of course). The following day being tigers for punishment we went south to the Waikato. Somewhere in my breeding is a gene that instructs me to never pass up a bargain and as luck would have it was able to replace a recently lost plant and add another three or four for good measure. Both shows were great fun with the usual hospitality shown to us by all the locals. By chance we met some good friends from the Coromandel in Hamilton where the husband, newly introduced to orchid growing, gave his wife more than a few new grey hairs as he bought everything from the sales table I expressed an interest in.

Thankfully there wasn't enough time to check out our own sales table being so busy helping around the hall. In fact my sales skills were possibly too good as after deciphering the label on one for a prospective purchaser found it was certainly a plant that should have graced my collection.

That was definitely IT for the year except for the Orchid Fair where again those damn bargains were just too good to turn down! Now its just a matter of deflasking the remaining seedlings and finding room for them while on those rainy days what better way to pass the time than pollinate a few more potential winners.

Photo-essay: Some orchids of Nova Scotia

John McDonald (glasseye007@gmail.com)

Platanthera psychodes - purple fringed orchid. Grows about 2' high in the most deprived soil, in some areas so dense as to look like a cloud of mauve from a distance. The individual flowers are about 1/2" and the spike about 6". ⇒



⇐ *Cypripedium arietinum* - ram's-head lady's slipper

These earliest of our spring orchids about the first of May with no leaves on the undergrowth are small and rare. The whole plant is about 8" tall and the flower about the size of your thumbnail. The 'alba' form is rarer still, around

5 % by numbers. ⇒

Calypso bulbosa - the fairy slipper. The flower is about 1" across. ↓



Cypripedium parviflorum var. *pubescens* - yellow lady's-slipper. one of the showiest flowers of the spring. Fields of flowers grow in limestone areas. They can survive in quiet woodlands shaded undergrowth or near- desert conditions in solid limestone. Plants grow to 2' with individual flowers being 6" across and 5" tall. The lip would be the size of a small kiwi fruit.



Cypripedium reginae - showy lady's-slipper--- one of the most spectacular spring flowers. Virginia is sitting in a group of flowers, 3' tall in a fen. Flowers range from a pink blush to solid bright red. The white is dazzling (below).



Cypripedium acaule - pink lady's-slipper is an ubiquitous plant. Throughout Nova Scotia especially in open woodlands. About 2' tall with a large pendulous flower. All shades from white to pink to solid red ↓ ⇒



Platanthera lacera - fringed orchid grows in fields and roadside ditches. The lips are really deeply lacerate. ↓



Arethusa bulbosa---dragon's-mouth orchid ↓



Pogonia ophioglossoides - rose pogonia



Calopogon tuberosus - grass pink ↓



These last three pink orchids are known collectively as the 'bog' orchids. They show about the same time all over Nova Scotia in the large number of sphagnum bogs . They often cause the bogs to give off a pink glow.

Nova Scotia has approximately 40 native orchids, but I have only shown some of the better-known ones.

John MacDonald

Orchid Terminology

By 'Lerner'

Shows potential – It would be awarded if it was mine

Awardable – It would be if it was mine.

I think its been awarded before – I can't be bothered doing the paperwork

A dog – look for it on the sales table next month

Nice colour poor shape – look for it on the sales table next year

Beautiful display – A CCC if it was mine

Beautifully grown – Wish I could grow as well

Rare species – only if you haven't got one

Unusual species – you can keep it

Has novelty value – you can keep it

Grows like a weed - I have plenty but your not having any

Mmmmm... - its terrible but I'm too PC to say so

It probably has virus – I'm not really an expert but destroy it just in case

It definitely has virus – Destroy it (it's a better flower than mine)

Looks too dry – its nearly dead

Looks too wet – its nearly dead

Plant needs staking – it has no roots

A bit loose in pot – it has no roots

Should be growing better – it probably is dead

Needs a repot – growths are over the side of pot

Needs a repot badly – Needs an axe taken to it

Needs dividing – I want a piece

Needs dividing badly – I really want a piece

I will help you divide it – I will definitely get a piece

It's got scale! – this takes everyone's attention off my one next to it

Unregistered name – I made it up yesterday

It doesn't look like that name – I made it up last week

Are you sure that is the correct name? – I just took a wild guess

Expert – X (an unknown quantity), spurt (a drip under pressure)

Publication Details and Charges

The *New Zealand Internet Orchid Review* is published on a quarterly basis, with publication in March, June, September and December.

The email subscription rate is **zero**. We would like to eventually publish a printed version (which would attract a charge), but there would need to be sufficient demand to make it practical. To date that demand has not been sufficient for us to follow it up.

Deadlines for copy

All written copy for articles must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. A reminder will be emailed to all regular contributors two weeks before each deadline. Society notices and classified advertising must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. If you are running late, please email the editors (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz). We expect the next issue to go out on Friday 18 June 2011.

A reminder notice will go to all subscribers and Society contacts shortly before each publication deadline.

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in this publication, please email the editors for an information sheet. Our advertising rates are extremely reasonable. Graphics and photos incur no extra charge, provided that you supply them.

Classified advertisements, Society notices

These are published free of charge, maximum of 30 words for a classified ad please.

Letters

Feel free to write letters to the editor. As long as they are not anonymous, obscene, time-wasting or libellous we will publish them!

Question and answer section

If you have any questions relating to any aspect of the growing of orchids or companion plants, we will solicit replies from our panel of experts. Any responses received will be emailed to the questioner, and the question and answers will be published in the next issue. This way you can receive a prompt response to your question but other readers can subsequently benefit as well.

Spread the word

If you have any friends who grow orchids or 'companion plants', let them know of this publication. All they have to do to subscribe is to send an email. If they haven't joined the computer age and/or would be interested in subscribing to a print version, ask them to contact the editors by mail or telephone or else send an email on their behalf. So far only a handful of requests for a printed version have been received.

Please write for us

All submissions are welcome – long or short. If you're not too fluent with the written word, we are happy to edit your copy. Without writers there will be no magazine.

File formats

We prefer to receive copy as a Word document. If you have a very recent version of Word, please ensure that you save your document and send it to us as a .doc file (preferred), or a .docx file. We also prefer not to receive Acrobat (.pdf) files – we actually assemble the magazine in Word and don't convert it to Acrobat until we're ready to send it out. So .pdf files have to be converted to Word – a tiresome business. We are also happy to receive shorter documents as a simple email message.

If you are sending us a Word document with photos in it, please shrink the photo file size (to, say, 100 to 300 KB) **before** you insert the photo in the document. We can't shrink the photos from inside your document, without going through a complex procedure. If we fill the magazine with 2 or 3 MB photos then, even after we have converted it all to an Acrobat file, those readers still with dial-up access will get very grumpy!

That address again

ncmiller@orcon.net.nz

Please note: If you change your email address and you don't advise us, you won't receive your magazine! Typically, every time we send out an issue, 8 to 12 bounce due to invalid email addresses.

Society Notices

Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society (East Coast just north of Auckland)

We meet the 2nd Sunday every month (except January and our show month, which is September) Masonic Lodge, 103 Centreway Road, Orewa Meeting starts at 1.30pm - orchid sales from 1pm We have speakers at most meetings Love to see new members Contact: Judy Murray (after hours) 09-424 1968

Tauranga Orchid Society - (3 hours south of Auckland in the Bay of Plenty)

Meetings held 3rd Tuesday each month, Feb to Nov inclusive, 7.30pm at The Wesley Church Hall, 13th Avenue, Tauranga. Visitors welcome, Enquires Phone Natalie 07 5430847 or email bc.na.simmonds@kinect.co.nz
Also looking ahead - our Annual Orchid Show will be held 23/24/25 September at The Tauranga Racecourse, Cameron Road, Greerton. Open 10.00am to 4.00pm daily.

National South Island Judging Seminar.

The South Canterbury Orchid, Begonia & Fern Society is celebrating its 30th Anniversary with a National South Island Judging Seminar and Orchid Display to be held in the Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru at Labour Weekend 22 & 23rd October 2011. For updates and registration forms and all enquires please contact Murray Lister, Email gwendabear@paradise.net.nz

The Orchid Council of NZ has a web site that lists all the shows around the country. The URL is:

http://www.orchidcouncil.co.nz/show_dates.html

Bay of Islands Orchid Society meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm except for May, June, July and August when we meet 3rd Sunday of the month at 1.30pm. February starts the year with a "moveable feast."

*Meetings are held at St James Church Hall, Stone Store Hill, Kerikeri. Visitors welcome.
Enquiries to - Lorna (09 4073424).*

(3 hours north of Auckland, N.I.)

Waitakere Orchid Club Spring Show

Kelston Community Centre,
cnr Awaroa and Gt North Road
Auckland

(Friday and Saturday) Aug 26 & 27, 2011

For more information, please contact Glenys MacRae - 09-8351216

New Zealand Paphiopedilum Alliance 2011 Meeting and AGM

Saturday 19th March, at Rotorua

This year, at late notice, we have decided to invite non-Alliance members to attend.

Venue: The home of Selwyn Hatrick
50 Sloane Ave
Rotorua

Ph. 07 3485353 Email selwyn_h@slingshot.co.nz

Program:

Keith Goodwin (Lake Tarawera) has invited people to visit his greenhouse between 10am and 1pm on the Saturday 19th. (400 Spencer Rd., Lake Tarawera).

Keith will also attend the meeting and have plants for sale.

Other people will be selling plants and flasks.

At Selwyn Hatrick's home, the meeting commences, the topics for lectures being:

2.30 Importing Flasks, deflasking, and looking after the seedlings thereafter.

3.00 Afternoon tea, and time for informal chats, buying plants

3.30 General paphiopedilum culture

4.00 Problem Plants. Please bring your problem plants so that we can provide a suggested diagnosis and remedy

5.15 AGM (usually very brief)

5.30 Barbeque. Bring and share. Please bring your own meats, salad and dessert, and your own beverages.

Attendees are invited to enjoy an informal social evening following the barbeque.

PLEASE: Non-members need to contact me personally if they wish to attend. Being a private home, I may need to limit numbers attending. I will also need to know numbers so that adequate plates and utensils can be arranged for. If I need to restrict attendance, it will be those who contact me earliest who will be able to attend.

North Shore Orchid Society

The Society meets on the LAST Sunday of each month (except January, October & December) in the Milford Senior Citizens Hall, 141A Kitchener Road, Milford (behind New World, adjacent to Milford Shopping Centre carpark) at 12.30 pm. (Auckland) We would love to see you at our meetings which are relaxed and informative. Any queries regarding meetings to Rodney Draper at draperfam@xtra.co.nz

Howick Orchid Society Inc. (Howick is a suburb of Auckland, N.I.)

Meets 2nd Sunday each month except Jan. (no meeting) and Oct. which is 2 weeks after show date.

Venue: Fencible Lounge, Uxbridge Rd, Howick, adjacent to library.

Our one day Show this year is Sat. 9th Oct at the above venue. Set up Friday 8th Oct.

We have approx 100 members (usually 50+ at each meeting) and a large variety of orchids displayed each month.

Check out our Website where you can see some photos of plants displayed and read our newsletters: <http://hos.inetgardens.com>

For further information phone Glenn 09 534 8689 or Len 09 576 6303.

Classified advertisements

Wanted; surplus laminar flow unit in working condition.

Email: dphutchins@xtra.co.nz

Dear Orchid friends

The publication "The Stanhopea Book" is now printed and available. On 2.7 kg of paper and 496 pages you will find more than 850 illustrations. If you are interested please contact

RJOrchids@gmx.ch

Rudolf Jenny

I would like to know if there are any growers who may have any Diuris tubers for sale.

David Hutchins - dphutchins@xtra.co.nz

Advertising Section

7th New Zealand National Orchid Expo

**TSB Stadium
New Plymouth**

30th September to the 3rd November 2013

Step out and visit the Taranaki Orchid Expo
and then carry on for the Taranaki Garden Festival

Register your interest at 7nznoe@hotmail.co.nz



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At present we have in bud Cattleya quinquicolor as pictured above, Oncidium flexuosums, assorted dendrobiums, Brassias etc.

If there is anything you are looking for remember we are only an email away and are more than happy to help out with any enquiry. We also do mail order around New Zealand so are happy to send your plant/plants out by parcel post. Buyers do pay the p&p for each order but we do combine multiply purchasers so only one courier fee is paid.

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9am to 4pm or by appointment.

Jim and Sharon Gilchrist

The following publications and books are offered for sale:

<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>	<u>Pub:</u>
An appreciation of NEW ZEALAND NATIVE ORCHIDS on the Central Volcanic Plateau	Max Gibbs	Apr 1990
WILD ORCHIDS in the Far South of NEW ZEALAND	Ian St George	Nov 1992
The NZ Native Orchid Group Journal, No 50, Jun'94		
COLENZO ON ORCHIDS	Ian St George	1989 (No.1)
THE ORCHID PAPERS OF E. D. HATCH Volume I	compiled Ian St George	1989 (No.2)
THE ORCHID PAPERS OF E. D. HATCH Volume II and Index	compiled Ian St George	1989(No.3)
CHEESEMAN ON ORCHIDS	compiled Ian St George	1989(No.4)
THE NEW ZEALAND ORCHIDS: References and Illustrations	compiled Ian St George	1989(No.5)
ORCHID EXTRACTS from the MATTHEWS CORRESPONDENCE	E.D. Hatch	1989(No.6)
THE HOOKERS on the NEW ZEALAND ORCHIDS	compiled Ian St George	1989(No.7)
Miscellaneous early writing on the New Zealand orchids: Part 1: 1769-1832	comp I StG/trans E.D.H	1994 (No 11)
Miscellaneous early writing on the New Zealand orchids: Part 2: 1834-1933	comp I StG/trans E.D.H	1994 (No 12)
V Exposicion Ecuatoriana de Orquideas	- Nov/85 Asociacion Ecuatoriana de Orquideologia (28 page booklet, in Spanish)	
Edicion Conmemorativa al X Aniversario	Asociacion Ecuatoriana de Orquideologia (24 page booklet, in Spanish)	
Orquideas del Ecuador Vol No.1 – Nov 1979	Asociacion Ecuatoriana de Orquideologia (64 page booklet, in Spanish, many pics)	
THE NEW ZEALAND ORCHID GROWER	I. D. James	1985 Book
PROCEEDINGS of the 13 th WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE 1990 Book No 152 of 750, limited edition	1990 WOC Trust, Auckland	Book

Anyone interested, please contact: Jean Mowbray Coe

Ph: 07-829 9022, with permanent answerphone
Or email: coe.jrm@xtra.co.nz



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Free NZ's ONLINE Orchid Magazine contact Nick Miller ncmiller@orcom.net.nz

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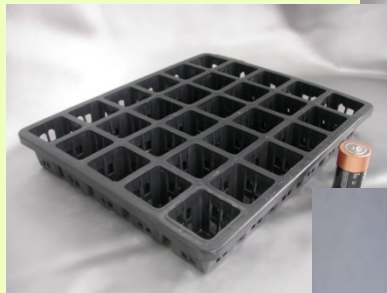
See you all at the Te Puke Orchid Show April 8th & 9th

The Orchid Tray Company is an internet based company primarily set up to offer orchid accessories to orchid enthusiasts. We have several exclusive products designed especially for orchid lovers and will be expanding our range regularly.

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