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This issue's cover

Dendrobium Vicstu 'Dawn'. This Australian *Dendrobium* hybrid, of good form and particularly pleasing warm colour, caught the Editors' eyes at the 2010 International Orchid Extravaganza in Palmerston North, last year. The cross is *D.* (Duno Burgundy Sheen x Tweed) x Aussie Victory. The grower was Don Isles – well done, Don.

Editorial

This issue has been produced during a time of disruption for your editors, with a sewerage scheme being installed at Okere Falls, where we live. The guys doing the work on the ground have been good, but there is a lamentable shortage of co-ordination of their efforts, from higher up the salary scale. Our rates at work – Yeah, Right!

Our disruption pales into insignificance compared with the ongoing disruption, which repeated earthquakes are inflicting on the citizens of Christchurch and the surrounding districts. Our thoughts are very much with those readers who live there. At least these events, together with the closures of airspace in two separate parts of the globe due to volcanic activity, serve to remind us that we are not the Lords of Creation, as we all like to imagine.

What a mild autumn we have all had, with this May being the warmest ever recorded, according to NIWA. As I write this in mid-June, it is still mild and our area has yet so see its first frost – these generally show up in early to mid May. Much of the country (ourselves included) has also had an extremely wet late summer and autumn period.

This issue strongly features the practical aspects of the growing of orchids, and we hope this will prove useful to the many of our readers who are new to orchids. And of course, many of the things the authors remind us of will have been overlooked or forgotten by some of us who have been in the hobby for more time... Particular thanks to Russell Hutton, writing as Dr Orchid, and his collaborators, or orchido-medics. They have offered to supply regular seasonal cultural guides for the major orchid groups. We also have three items on looking at orchids in the wild. Enjoy and learn!

Thank you to all our contributors for sharing your experiences with us. We, and our readers, appreciate that you have taken the time to write and send images, and we all enjoy the rich variety of topics.

And finally, this is a very long issue and we make no apologies for this. As it is, some items, including a major article, have been held over for the September edition. Don't feel the need to gallop through it at one sitting. Park it safely on your hard drive, then read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it at leisure.

Nick and Elizabeth Miller

Looking for Ephemeral Orchids in Malaysia

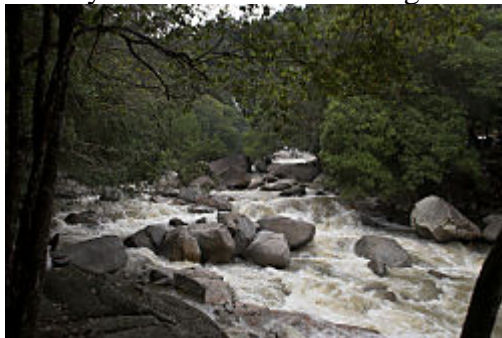
Dennis Chuah (dennis@inetgardens.com)

In March this year, I paid a short visit to Malaysia. Whilst there, I went to the Chamang Waterfall, along the Perting River. The pleasant drive to the waterfall was along a narrow road winding some 15 km through regenerating bush and durian orchards. Durian “King of the fruits” (*Durio* spp.) is a popular local fruit, full of big sharp thorns in the rind and according to some, it stinks like the sewer, but tastes heavenly. “Duri” is Malaysian for thorns.



Chamang Waterfall, enormous volume of water cascading multiple tiers.

What struck me when we got to the car park was the volume and force of the water coming down the falls. There is a swing bridge across the river and from the middle of the bridge, I could feel the power of the water carving through giant boulders. The seemingly peaceful scenery belies the fact drowning had claimed many lives in the river.



The Perting River was still a raging torrent.

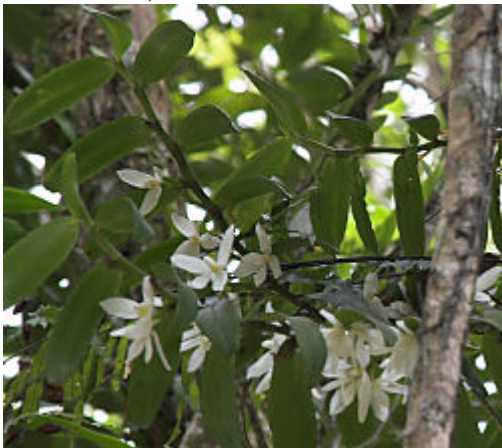
The area, elevation around 200m (600 ft) above sea level, is at the edge of the Bukit Tinggi forest reserve, in the state of Pahang, Peninsula Malaysia. Bukit Tinggi in Malaysian literally means “tall hill”. Pahang still has large tracts of ancient virgin forests, rich in interesting fauna and flora. I saw several species of highly coloured birds, a black squirrel, and what I would describe as an ant motorway. The ant “trail” was about a dozen ants wide, with angry ants speedily marching nose to tail!

The extra humidity from the waterfall and river must provide a good micro-climate for epiphytes. I counted six different species of orchids growing on the trees adjacent to the car park, and without having to look very hard! Judging from the elevation, these are all warm growing plants.

I was fortunate to spot three flowering orchids. I say “fortunate” because one of them is an ephemeral, the flowers lasting only one day. Most ephemerals with white fragrant flowers are pollinated by night-flying insects. They tend to open in the early evening

of the first night, last through the next day and close in the early hours of the following morning. As the flowers only open for such a short time, different plants synchronise their flowering using a drop in temperature brought about by thunderstorms. It is also thought that a drop in atmospheric pressure can trigger the flowering. A week prior to my arrival, the area had had a lot of rain and was flooded; signs of the flood and land slips still fresh.

Thrixspermum calceolus, section *Thrixspermum*, has ephemeral flowers. Related to *Aerides*, it has monopodial growth as do other Vandaceous orchids. It looks like a miniature *Vanda* or a giant *Sarcochilus* with multiple straggly canes. The inflorescence pierces the leaf base and comes out at almost a right angle to the cane. Each inflorescence produces only a few flowers, typically one, but each cane produces multiple inflorescence that all open at the same time. The lip has a spot of yellow and is shaped like a shoe, giving it the common name, the shoe orchid. When not in flower, one could easily confuse this for a *Dendrobium*, if it were not for the thick aerial roots. The best place to look for this common orchid is along stream or river banks, where there is extra humidity and light.



Flowering *Tx. calceolus*. Chamang Waterfall.



Tx. calceolus, close up of the flowers. Chamang Waterfall.

Bulbophyllum purpurascens, section *Elatae*, got its name from the purplish colour under its young leaves. It has small pseudobulbs linked by long rhizomes. Like other *Bulbophyllums*, each pseudobulb has one internode and a solitary leaf in the apex. The rhizomes creep on the bark of its host tree, held there by numerous small roots. The inflorescences grow from the rhizomes, each carrying several flowers arranged in a circular pattern resembling a daisy. The lip is yellow. The flowers last about a week. The leaves have a superficial resemblance to a

species of *Grammitis* fern that also grows with it on the tree, making it difficult to spot *Bulbophyllum* when not in flower. Look for the old inflorescences that persist for a long time. The fern's rhizomes are smaller and look hairy, and of course the fern does not have pseudobulbs.



Flowering *Bulb. purpurascens* growing on a broken branch. Chamang Waterfall.. Other forms have yellowish flowers.



Detail of *Bulb. purpurascens* flower and leaves. Note the presence of old inflorescences. Chamang Waterfall.



Bulb. purpurascens growing with *Grammitis* fern (the longer, lighter coloured leaves). Chamang Waterfall.

Dendrobium crumenatum, section *Crumenata*, is another ephemeral. It is perhaps one of the most common orchids in Malaysia, and handsome specimens can be seen growing on trees along the motorways of Kuala Lumpur. Like most other species in section *Crumenata*, the pseudobulbs are swollen for the first few internodes, they then taper to thin canes that resemble a reed stem *Epidendrum*, with leaves only on the bottom half. Old canes produce kiekies freely and take on a messy appearance. Unusually, it was not in flower for it is also triggered by the same mechanism, and I did not see any flowering plants in my whole trip. I did see one seed pod, so perhaps the plants would have flowered several weeks prior. The cream to white flowers grow from nodes along the leafless half of the canes. Each node normally produces only one flower at a time, but can flower several times. The plants grow to quite large specimens – one that I am growing is already 1.5 m across but lives in only a 7 inch pot!



Den. crumenatum seedling growing on a mango tree trunk. Bentong, Pahang.



Den. crumenatum plants, showing the swollen pseudobulbs and the messy kiekie growths. Bentong, Pahang.



Den. crumenatum flowers. Author's plant.



Den. crumenatum flower close up. Author's plant.



Den. crumenatum seed pod. Chamang Waterfall.

The other flowering orchid was *Den. leonis*, section *Aporum*. It has interesting vegetative features, having succulent, scale-like, triangular leaves that alternately wrap around the canes. The small fragrant flowers are yellow in the front and orange-red at the back. Each flower lasts about a week. The plant is sequential flowering, producing another flower to replace one that has dropped. The fragrance is somewhat reminiscent of vanilla. This is quite a small plant and it can be hard to spot, however, the zigzag leaves are quite unique.



Den. leonis growing on a durian tree. Chamang Waterfall.



Den. leonis flowers at the apex of its canes. Chamang Waterfall.

I saw another unidentified *Dendrobium* that wasn't in flower and a number of *Vandas* of different sizes, not in flower but a few had old inflorescences with evidence of long-dehisced seed pods. The Chamang Waterfall area certainly has a lot of interesting plants. There were mosses, ferns galore, aroids and I even spotted a species of *Dianella* (in fruit), a genus that is also found in New Zealand. (They are like a small flax but have masses of white to blue berries. The New Zealand *Dianella nigra* has sprays of conspicuous porcelain berries in early autumn. *Eds.*)

I can't wait to go back to Malaysia to look for more wild orchids.



Unidentified *Vanda* species. Chamang Waterfall.



Asplenium nidus growing on a rock on the bank of the Perting River. Compare its size to the tree

Pterostylis alobula

Glenis Day (dayg@clear.net.nz)

There is a saying that you are never too old to learn – and it's a fact!

One of my workmates who goes bush-walking a lot, arrived at work one afternoon recently and said “I've just seen some darling little *Pterostylis* orchids in the bush at the foot of Mr Fyffe. “Hmmm” said I, “I don't think it's the right flowering time for them – they bloom around December”.

She then showed me some photos she had just that day taken and they certainly were *Pterostylis*. So I got my faithful, well-thumbed book of Native Orchids of New Zealand by John Johns and Brian Malloy out, and sure enough there it was – winter flowering *Pterostylis alobula*. I was amazed, delighted and surprised that after growing orchids for 30 years and having been on heaps of native orchid forays, I was finding something new and exciting!

There are only three winter flowering *Pterostylis* in New Zealand - *P. trullifolia* and *P. alobula* can be found in both the North and South Islands while *P. brumalis* is found only in the north of the North Island.

A group of us went to a large manuka and pasture block by the Kowhai River at the foot of Mt Fyffe, to a part known locally as “the Rifleman nesting boxes”. These boxes have been placed in trees in rows to encourage the Rifleman birds to breed again in the Kaikoura area. The boxes that have been used are cleaned out by volunteers at this time of the year and that was how these tiny flowers were found. There were masses of them in quite large groups. A lovely surprise to know that after all this time we can still find something new in the orchid world to thrill us.





In the past, during summer, we have found *Pterostylis banksii*, *Gastrodia cunninghamii*, *Corybas macranthus*, *Microtis unifolia* and *Thelymitra longifolia*. I am sure there are probably others but they are very clever at hiding.

Glenis Day – Kaikoura.

Well-known orchid enthusiast reaches 100 years.

Nick Miller (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz)



Mrs. Pattie Dickson, well known to orchid growers in Taranaki and the Bay of Plenty, turned 100 recently. Mrs Dickson (a relative of the female half of our editorial team) was born Patricia Taylor, and raised on a farm in Ngaere, central Taranaki, as one of six children. She married John Dickson, the couple then running a service station in Stratford for a number of years. Pattie was interested in gardening for much of her life, and orchids were one of her favourites. She grew them in Taranaki, and later in Tauranga, where she lived for about 20 years from 1965. Your editors can remember sending her plants in the late 1970s, when we ran a small orchid nursery in Albany, north of Auckland. Eventually she moved back to New Plymouth and continued to garden and to grow orchids until she moved into a rest home about 5 years ago. She still retains a keen interest

in plants and nature – surely a good recipe for longevity! Mrs. Dickson has one daughter, Patricia Close, herself a keen gardener.

Changes

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

I have been growing orchids for a few years now and have probably changed growing media, growing areas, growing houses, watering and fertilizing as many times as most growers if not more. By this I mean major changes to my approach on how I culture the plants. I have listened to many talks, attended seminars, looked at other growers' conditions (amateur and commercial) and been to some orchid growing establishments overseas.

The Patron of the Howick Orchid Society, Alf Day, recently gave a talk on culture aimed at our beginners but that was possibly relevant to many growers as I have found out to my peril when purchasing plants that have rotten or no roots. The main point stressed was how important good drainage is to orchid growing. Photographs emphasized this including extracts from books, papers and manuals dated in the late 19 century to early 20th, when the hobby started to get more popular.

Like many of you I have learnt the hard way, by plants that have not enjoyed the conditions I have provided, but this year has been an exception. An injury in the New Year saw me severely restricted in my otherwise busy schedule, so my summer plans were out the window overnight. No painting, no gardening, no fishing, just limping around the garden with the hose when I was in the mood.

An old proverb states that every cloud has a silver lining. Well my orchids were certainly better off for the more frequent and greater attention they received. No missed days watering while out on the gulf or away on holiday, watering in the early morning when they had plenty of time to dry off before night, more checks for bugs and a closer study of those which weren't performing to expectations.

I have always used a fairly coarse mix so for some genera such as Cattleyas, Dendrobiums and Vandaceous orchids this was ideal, especially with the frequent water I was able to provide. I've never been a great fan of sphagnum but the Odontoglossum Alliance plants (except for the Oncidiums) were not happy in my bark mix. A recovery mission was called for as many were succumbing to dehydration. A mix I saw used by Val Bayliss many years ago was possibly the answer, so I set about soaking sphagnum and mixing plenty of polystyrene beads through it. This is not recommended on a windy day and a bucket of water kept handy is essential to rid these sticky things from you at frequent intervals.

The growth and health of the plants has improved out of sight with many new healthy bulbs and a few flower spikes. The beads allow the sphagnum to dry quicker, stops it compacting and maintaining plenty of air in the mix, another point stressed by Alf with 40% being the recommended amount. (A lot more air space than I see in many growers mixes)

My other problem was the culture of the New Guinea Dendrobiums, which were also shrivelling rapidly. I didn't change the mix but changed the position to under a climbing plant and in an area close to the slab-mounted plants enabling them to be watered more often (at least once a day). They were placed in multiple vertical hangers so any remaining water dripped down to each pot over a period. With the high humidity atmosphere in amongst other plants, improvement was dramatic.

The neighbour's massive peppermint myrtle was finally a stack of firewood resulting in a dramatic increase of light in the lower (now not so shady) house. Many of the Cattleyas could be moved back here leaving more room to spread the Dendrobiums out in the house the Catts had vacated. The myrtle, which was rotten in the middle, had also been harbouring wetas that made nightly forays into my nearby orchid houses. These had been neatly pruning the tops out of new growths and it was a long time before I knew who the culprits were.

Of course the Cymbidiums now had no home so four big planks of wood were hastily made into temporary benches where the Cymys could be left in full sun all summer. So far there seem to be a lot more flower spikes showing than previous years. Bulb rot was reduced with the more open conditions and the problematic scale hasn't returned to the same extent. Clearly this was further reinforcement of Alf's talk, more air movement, quicker drying and frequent watering during the warm weather.

A few *Sarcochilus* looking sad were pulled out of their pots and where little root growth was evident they were either mounted on slabs or placed in flat, shallow ceramic trays where almost overnight they responded with new roots. Surprisingly, a *Renanthera*, which had done nothing on ponga for ages, responded in the same way when potted.

In fact every plant that didn't seem happy was examined for roots, pests and the potting media. Further study of the breeding and relevant conditions required by the make-up species was noted so they could be moved to a more suitable environment where possible.

Masdevallias don't particularly like Auckland's summer heat so placing them in the dampest, coolest area worked a treat with only minimal leaf loss this year.

Nobile dendrobiums have been shifted into shelter utilising a film title 'Hang 'em High' to give them the high light and winter drying off they need to hopefully produce flowers in the spring.

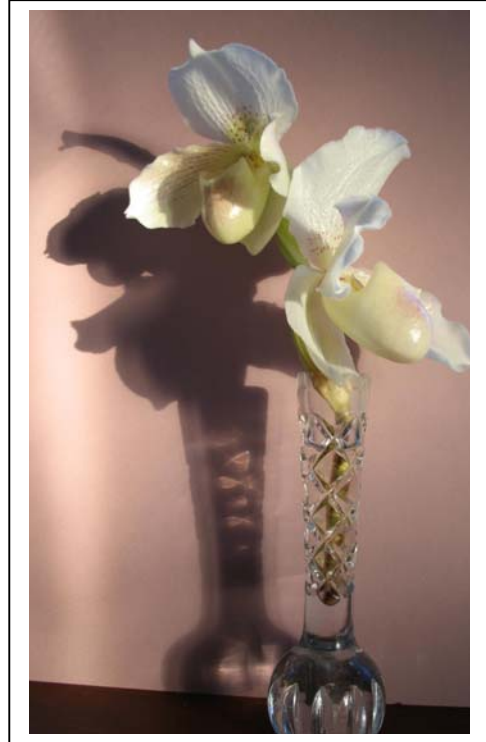
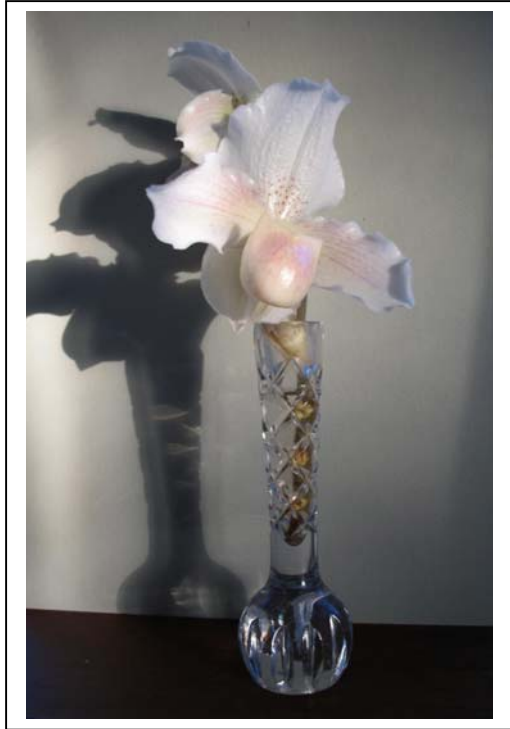
The latest exercise has been moving anything that looks like it needs more warmth over winter into a fully closed-in double-skinned house, which can be heated. Our area doesn't usually suffer from many frosts but you can never be sure. Inside the nightly-heated tunnel house an old stainless shower tray has been put to good use under the bench at one end and is half filled with water. An instant humidifier!

As usual space is the big problem when everything is moved back under cover. Plants have grown, seedlings potted on and those 'odd' purchases have got out of hand again. I started growing orchids thinking they would be easy; little did I realize what I was letting myself in for.

A Perfect Double

Erica Cowdell (TomErica@xtra.co.nz)

I am never pleased to see two buds on my complex *Paphiopedilum* plants as it usually means that one or both of the blooms will be pushed out of shape. This *P. Dusty Miller* has done the perfect double arrangement so I hope all the others get the idea! I've photographed the stem against a pale green background which has emphasised the delicate cool shades in the blooms and the second image is against a pink which shows off the glorious pink glow. It is a beautiful flower, no matter that it will never make it to the show bench.



Paphiopedilum (Slipper Orchid) Culture Made Easy

Selwyn Hatrick (selwyn_h@slingshot.co.nz)

Like most other plants, paphiopedilums are mostly easy to grow and flower. The “secret” for success is the understanding of their basic cultural requirements, and their appropriate implementation. Most books that I have read on this subject recommend conditions that can be supplied in an ideal world. In reality, most hobby growers are constrained by various factors, the cost of energy for heating being a major factor. When certain requirements need to be compromised, it becomes so much more important to control other factors that you can influence. I will attempt to show you how this may be achieved.

More than eighty *Paphiopedilum* species have been identified, and some of those have at least one variety, some have many. They occur from the Solomon Islands in the south-east of their range, north to the Yunnan Province of China, and west to the foothills of the Himalayas through Nepal, Bhutan and India. Some species are found just above sea level on islands in the Gulf of Phuket, while others may grow at altitudes exceeding 2000 metres. If you grow species paphiopedilums you need to understand where they come from, and, therefore, what

they require. Habitats, you can see, are diverse. Yet, we grow these plants in a greenhouse that contains one habitat, and we hope for success. It is helpful that species paphiopedilums commercially available these days have been nursery-raised, sometimes over several generations, so are more adapted to our conditions than those that were wrenched from the jungles in by-gone years.

Paphiopedilum hybrids contain the genes from at least two species. Some result from twelve or more generations of breeding, and contain the genes from a number of species and their varieties. The cultural requirement for these plants has been “averaged.” This is the basis of my **Month by Month Paphiopedilum Culture Guide***, which should be used in conjunction with this article. A 10^oC winter minimum temperature may therefore be generous for some species, and barely adequate for the few that have truly warm growing requirements, but should suffice for most.

*This is incorporated in the Month by Month Culture Guide, elsewhere in this issue.

Paphiopedilum Growth Cycle

During winter, your plants should undergo slow to steady growth. By late July daylight hours are increasing noticeably and light intensifying, allowing more photosynthesis. From August through November leaf growth increases rapidly. At the same time, new roots are generated, particularly when the plant has been repotted. From December through to mid-February plant growth moderates somewhat during these hotter months. From mid-February through to mid-April the growth rate increases again. More new root growth occurs. It is during the rapid spring and autumn growth that we see most of our flowers, with the exception of the complex (modern) hybrids, which flower during winter. From May through July is the slow winter growth phase.

It is the growth cycle that tells you what your plants require, so you should adjust watering, etc., to benefit them accordingly.

CULTURE

The message that I want to convey is how to balance the environment that you will provide for your paphiopedilums. If you alter one factor, often you need to compensate by changing one or more other things.

Water and Fertilizer

Most city water supplies are quite adequate for your orchids. Usually the pH is adjusted to be neutral (neither acidic nor alkaline, i.e., pH 7) so that it is not corrosive to infrastructure (pipes). Your slipper orchids need to have a slightly acidic environment around their roots. The pH range should be about 6 to 6.5. If the pH lies significantly outside of that range the roots are incapable of using any fertilizer that you provide, resulting in very poor growth. Pine bark is acidic, so the neutral pH of the water interacts to provide an adequate balance.

If you use water that drains from your roof there are two traps that you need to be aware of. Firstly, rainwater leaches zinc from unpainted galvanized steel roofs in concentrations that can be very toxic to your plants. Leaves will yellow, and growth will be stunted. Secondly, decaying leaf matter that settles in spouting can harbour bacteria that can be very harmful to roots.

If you have “hard” water from town supply or from a bore, you may have pH problems around your roots. If you are providing everything that you feel is necessary, yet have poor results, check the pH of your water. It can be done with a pH meter used for swimming pools.

You might get a big surprise! If you need to alter the pH of your water, consult a supplier to the hydroponic gardening sector.

During the spring-summer-autumn period you should pour a lot of water through the pots every time you water. This helps to flush out unused fertilizer and root exudates, and brings in fresh air to the pot. I follow this with half-strength balanced fertilizer poured over the plants from a watering can, just enough to percolate down through the pot. An alternative method is to use a mixer that siphons fertilizer into the watering wand, there-by applying the watering and fertilizer in one process. This method will use more fertilizer, but is convenient if you have a large collection. If you use this method it is advisable to leach salts from the pots using only water about every 3 or 4 weeks during spring to autumn. Fertilizers are deficient in calcium, which is essential for cell structure. Once a month, during this growth season, I apply calcium nitrate (not essential, but beneficial) at a rate of 1 teaspoon to 10 litres of water with a watering can after watering.

During the winter I follow the same procedure, but without the calcium nitrate. **If you grow your orchids unheated, a full watering in the winter would be less advisable. Instead just sprinkle a bit of water over the plants so some water percolates into the bark.** By applying some moisture this will conserve any new roots formed, while avoiding rotting those nestled in the bottom of your pots. Don't bother to fertilize during the cold months. Saturated bark in unheated conditions takes too long to dry off, causing root destruction.

Very important!!! You should water early in the morning only during bright sunny days. This allows the excess water to drain and evaporate during the day. Particularly during the winter, try to time your watering for the beginning of several days when fine weather is expected. Several days of warmer day-time temperatures will more efficiently rid the pot of excess water. Lingering wetness is a major destroyer of roots, particularly during the winter cold. Wet leaf axils during cool nights are a major cause of bacterial rot. If you must water during cloudy cool days, take care not to wet the leaves. Furthermore, complex hybrid buds are easy to rot before they emerge from the leaf axil. Just one drop of water is enough for it to work its mischief.

Handy hint. During the winter, following watering close any form of ventilation (doors, vents). Wait until the temperature has risen to 25 degrees or more, then open the vents in the early afternoon. The warmer temperature will result in a greater rate of evaporation from the leaves. With the reintroduction of ventilation there is a rapid expulsion of the water-laden atmosphere. The bark in the pots will have warmed significantly, aiding evaporation from the mix.

Let's now discuss fertilizers. Fertilizers are made up from substances containing nitrogen, potassium and potash (major nutrients), and from a number of other elements in very dilute concentrations. The proportions of the three major nutrients used vary somewhat, and are expressed as an NPK ratio (N = nitrogen, P = phosphorus, and K = potassium/potash). A balanced fertilizer is one that has roughly equal proportions of these three elements. For example, one of the fertilizers that I use is Miracle Grow, which has an NPK ratio of 15:13:12. In proportion, some fertilizers may have more nitrogen, and are generally considered to be "growth" fertilizers. On the other hand, those that have a greater proportion of potash are designed to initiate flowering.

Those that are made from organic substances (e.g. seaweed, animal products) are known as organic fertilizers, a good example being Nitrosol. This group needs to be decomposed in the pot by bacteria to become available as food for the plants. If the temperature during the winter days struggles to get to 15°C the bacterial action is so slow that your plants may get little benefit. About two hours after having applied an organic fertilizer derived from animal products you should be able to detect a slightly “off” smell of decomposition. If this is absent the fertilizer is most likely ineffective at these temperatures. Alternatively, you may use an inorganic fertilizer (such as Peters, Wonder Grow, Phostrogen) which is made from chemicals. Roots can directly absorb nutrients in this form without being so dependent on the temperature (although the plant may not be able, at lower temperatures, to metabolise them adequately).

In addition to the use of calcium nitrate (previously mentioned), I alternate between two fertilizers the year around. I use Miracle Grow (NPK 15:13:12) which is largely inorganic, and Nitrosol (8:3:6), which is organic. Both are used at half of the recommended dilution. You will notice from the ratios that there is a slight bias toward nitrogen. This is probably countered due to much of the nitrogen in Miracle Grow being supplied from urea (an organic salt), that needs some decomposition which happens more efficiently in soil. The alternation between these two different types of fertilizers is to try to counter the fact that no one fertilizer can supply that balance required by plants.

Light

In their natural environment, slipper orchids grow terrestrially, amongst grasses, in shaded jungles, lithophytically (on rocks) in gorges or as humus epiphytes (in leaf detritus in the fork of tree branches). Available light varies from filtered bright to heavy shade. So we have several groups (sections) of slipper orchids that require differing levels of light. The key is to arrange overall the correct shading, and use those areas that are darker for those that will benefit from greater shade, and use the brighter areas for the others.

An often accepted “rule of thumb” for correct shade describes a slight shadow seen over the plants when your arm is held about 60cm above them. While this is better than nothing, I would suggest that you visit a grower who is successful with these plants to get good ideas. Slippers enjoy similar light levels to phalaenopsis. If you can duplicate those light levels you will be well on the way to success.

Those plants that will benefit from the slightly higher light levels are the multiflorals – those that have hard, plain leaves, and bear several flowers per stem. The mottled-leafed “maudiae” types enjoy the most shade, and the other somewhere between.

If you provide light levels that are consistently much too high, the leaves will be stunted and yellowish. Each year you will see successively smaller growths carrying inferior flowers on shorter stems. Eventually some of your plants will flower themselves to death. Too little light results in infrequent flowering. Leaves will be a deep green, very floppy, and susceptible to diseases.

Temperature

For more than half of the year, ambient temperature (without heating) presents few problems. Winter nights and summer days are where challenges lie. Too much heat during the summer slows growth. Cold winter night temperatures slow growth, which by itself is not a serious

problem. Problems arise when other factors (particularly over-watering during winter) are not adjusted to attain a balance.

Let us deal with winter first. In my **Month by Month Paphiopedilum Culture Guide** I list the minimum winter night temperature as 10°C. Ideally, some of those with warm growing requirements would benefit from more warmth. Those with a cool requirement should thrive under this condition. Unfortunately, to attain this temperature minimum some form of heating is essential. If you use little or no heating, minimal watering is **essential**. Success will be easier if the more cool-tolerant slippers are chosen for your collection. If you wish to apply a little more heat to a small proportion of your plants, do not forget the heat board option.

During summer it is advisable to maintain your maximum temperatures below 30°C, with 25°C being optimal. Roof vents are the most efficient means for expulsion of hot air from the greenhouse. Roof vents may be operated manually, or you may purchase expanding wax powered automatic openers. Opening of side windows and leaving the greenhouse door open during the day will help a lot. The smaller your greenhouse is, the larger the problem of maintaining a suitable temperature. Make sure that you water the floor of the greenhouse at the beginning of each day, and more frequently if you are at home, to try and maintain up to 70% humidity.

Shading is very important during summer. It not only protects the leaves from overheating due to radiant light, but also helps you maintain acceptable summer maximum temperatures. Sometimes up to 80% shading may be advisable.

Bark and Repotting

I repot flowering-sized plants annually in spring. Others are repotted twice per year, during spring and autumn. You may repot at any time of the year, but spring and autumn provide an optimal time, as this is when they enjoy their most rapid growth and root formation. Temperatures are more moderate and maintenance of humidity is easier, providing the best time for re-establishing themselves.

I use fresh No. 3 bark supplied by Bark Products, Taranaki, which has a size range of 8-20 mm. I have tried composted bark at times in the past, but I have found that, while the plants establish well, the bark is too degraded after a year, resulting in root loss. I find that the plants establish well in fresh bark.

The bark I use may be used directly from the bag, but I prefer to prepare it. I soak it in water for 24 hours, then I drain it on a layer of shade cloth. I then put it into a plastic rubbish bin while still wet (not dripping). With the lid on the bin, I place it in a sunny position for a day. This evaporates off excess water, and helps the bark to absorb more moisture. The bin is then housed in my garage. The bark retains good moisture when the lid is kept on the bin.

Pot selection is critical. Very good drainage holes are of utmost importance so that bark at the bottom of the pot doesn't remain sodden for long periods, and so that you can judge when to water by observing the bark at the base of the pot. You may enhance drainage by boring or burning holes in the bottoms of the pots. If you are re-using pots, clean and sterilize by using 3% household bleach (e.g. Janola) to soak them in for at least 30 minutes, followed by a rinse in clean water.

Choose a pot that is just large enough to accommodate the roots without forcing them into the pot after having removed any unhealthy or dead roots and leaves. This makes your bark go further (saving money), but more importantly, your bark will more rapidly become less sodden after watering.

If the weather is not too warm, you can defer your watering until early the next day.

Repotting is the time when you can best assess the quality of your culture for the prior year. It is the time when you decide how you may need to fine tune your culture.

When I buy new plants, I repot them within the first week regardless of the time of the year. Sometimes seedlings are planted 2 to 3 per tube. I want to inspect the state of the roots, and then I want to put them into the size and type of pot I prefer containing the bark that I know and trust. I used not to do this, resulting in some serious root loss.

Pest Control

Generally, if you manage all of the above factors well, pests will be of a lesser problem. I have always been impressed by how the less healthy plants are often those that get attacked. There are exceptions to all rules. Sometimes a big healthy plant seems to be too juicy to resist. When the pests have been eliminated this plant will often serve as an early warning indicator, as it will often be the first to be threatened with an infestation.

Scale and mealy bugs are the two main insects that attack paphiopedilums. Each year they tend to become active while our plants are in their most active phases of growth, and particularly in spring. If a maintenance spray is conducted in August with another three weeks later, you will go a long way to keeping pests at bay. I find that Confidor does a fine job, and is of relatively low toxicity to humans. Still, use a mask, and wash your hands after use. Used in powder form it is of less threat to growing flower stems and new leaf growth (liquid form contain solvents that can burn sensitive growing tissues). It is handy to keep a spray bottle (bought off the shelf) for any spot-spraying that may be necessary during the year. It is worth noting that ants, while not harmful to your plants directly, can bring scale into your glasshouse. If you see ants, conduct a thorough search. Treat any infestation, and from any hardware or garden supply, you can purchase an ant poison.

Bacterial rots are best dealt to by cutting away and discarding. If this cannot be done you can rub in cinnamon powder or flowers of sulphur (powdered sulphur) to the infected area. Subsequent watering should be done carefully, avoiding the infected areas (perhaps water by dipping). Keep the infected plant isolated from others, as infections can be spread far and wide through splash dispersal just in one watering. If the infection is too extensive, admit defeat and discard it from your collection.

Discussion

Time and again I have heard orchid growers tell me that they would like to grow paphiopedilums, but they have been unsuccessful. They conclude that they haven't got the conditions. Yet, I know some people who, with little or no heat, grow their plants very well. To verify this, you need look no further than Keith Goodwin. He grows with little or no heat, and yet he has line upon line of large, lush *P. lowii*, *P. haynaldianum*, *P. primulinum*, *P. hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei*, *P. sukhakulii* and others, all of which are listed in literature as having intermediate (12°C or above) requirements. When I asked him about watering, he said that during the winter he watered infrequently, and when he did it was done very sparingly.

Growing at these cooler temperatures simply means that he gets good results, but a little more slowly. So, there you have it. Most people's problems stem from over-watering, and also not repotting on an annual basis. If you think that you haven't got the conditions, you probably actually have, particularly if you make good purchasing decisions and follow a few simple guidelines. Growing of paphiopedilums is very easy and rewarding if you let it be.

What should I buy?

Here are a few simple strategies:

1. Buy flowering sized plants.
2. Source plants that have been growing well under conditions similar to your own (e.g. from Keith Goodwin).
3. Buy multifloral plants from the group made up from *P. rothschildianum*, *P. stonei*, *P. lowii*, *P. philippinense*. The hybrids of these benefit from a cool rest to initiate flowering.
4. Avoid buying very small seedlings, until you have had good success from the suggested selections above.
5. Buy complex hybrids. These are made up from *P. insigne* and close relatives, and are very cool-tolerant.
6. Talk to people who grow this genus to seek their advice.

This article may have provided more than you actually need to know. If in doubt, keep things simple. It is better to buy the right plants, and fewer of them so that you can look after them well. Buy fewer and better.

Visitors are very welcome to view my collection, provided that you let me know that you are coming. Feel free to email me if you want advice.

Vanda coerulea

Biddy Hair (cbhair@xtra.co.nz)

Many of your readers will remember June Swinbanks from the Hawke's Bay Orchid Society. She was a wonderful grower, regularly winning prizes and awards at local shows and further afield and the plant *Dendrobium* June Swinbanks is obviously named after her. She was the head of the judging group for the society for many years and was always happy to share her knowledge with new members.



Vanda coerulea Photo, Biddy Hair

Our garden was open in the mid 1990s as part of a tour offered to visiting cruise ship passengers during February and March. We didn't have a lot of orchids in flower at that time of year so June would loan us her flowering plants to create more interest for our visitors. One of those plants, *Vanda coerulea* (pictured) made a beautiful display the first time it produced two spikes together and created lots of comments and overshadowed all the other plants.

Sadly, June was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour in 1997 and decided to dispose of her orchid collection by giving some special plants to friends and the rest were sold. We were so lucky to be given the *Vanda* plant, which has continued to produce two spikes every year, and we have also been able to propagate more plants from it to give to people who knew

June. We give some of the flowers away and tell people where the plant came from. This year we gave one of the spikes to a friend celebrating her 96th birthday so although June died in 1998 her memory lives on.

Ecuador, here we come!

Continued from last issue...

Ron Maunder (paradisearchids@paradise.net.nz)

Our new driver and guide was Ivan (pronounced Ee-varn) Portilla, vice president of the huge Ecuagenera orchid nurseries. Ivan was home for the winter from Canada and USA where he spends a lot of time setting up displays, sales booths, unpacking orchid shipments from home, selling plants and giving presentations to clubs. He speaks excellent English and really knows his orchids and where to find them. I might also add he is a safe driver and a survivor when you see the number of shrines to unlucky folk who have plunged hundreds of metres off the narrow roads we travelled on at times!

We left the province of Loja (pronounced Low-ha) and headed east over into Zamora Chinchipe province on the Amazon side of the Andes. The large towns or small cities of



Zamora and Yantzaza were very busy and had flourishing markets full of tropical and subtropical fruit and veges plus meat stalls with chunks of pork, beef or split cuy (guinea pig) carcasses. The towns were clean, streets concrete or paving stones and the concrete buildings all two or three storied often with steel reinforcing rods sticking up from pillars waiting for the next storey to be built. Kids could be seen playing and washing hanging out on the top unfinished floors. I heard two versions why they were not completed. One was

they didn't pay building taxes till the construction was finished and the other that the husband was working in the US or overseas earning money to complete the building. Whatever, the owners had nicely painted the finished lower plastered levels with bright clean-coloured pastel apricot, lemons or pinks. I was very impressed, remembering the (to me!) ugly, drab



Vanilla species, Ecuador

colours of the Argentinean city buildings we had seen earlier on. I had no trouble in Yantzaza getting my camera's full flash cards emptied onto DVDs and in purchasing another larger capacity card.

Back on the move again after the break, we followed river tributaries that were all part of the mighty Amazon River flowing on east through Peru, which wraps around the "back" or east of Ecuador and flowing thousands of kilometres eastwards through Brazil to the Atlantic.

The stops were many and memorable as Ivan knew just where to look for something different. No great treks along tracks to find orchids but most were there quite close to the roadsides. It could be a vanilla plant trailing up through the roadside vegetation or Anguloas, Lycastes and Xylobiums on the ground amongst the often dense bushes, some in

flower or showing buds. Or heaps of tiny epiphytic orchids of the Pleurothallid alliance like fuzzy-flowered *Stelis* or *Barbosellas* with the sun filtering through making them and the mossy branches glow from backlighting.

At one spot which Ivan obviously knew well, we scrambled up a steep bank near waterfalls and dripping rock faces to view the fabulous red *Phragmipedium besseae in situ*, their glowing flowers like lights in the undergrowth. Quite a thrill, even for someone who is not besotted over paphs and phrags!

Eventually we reached the town of El Pangui where Ecuagenera has their smallest nursery. Ivan took us to meet the American who lived next door and who was to be our host for a couple of nights. Chuck had retired down to this small country town and built a large single storied brick house not unlike what we see in NZ but quite uncommon in Ecuador. He was actively planting the property with his favourite tropical plants and fruit trees. The tall chain mesh perimeter fences around the house area were planted with beautiful coloured bougainvilleas and the house had exotic tropical flowering creepers over parts of it. His love other than plants appeared to be four or five docile (non-yapping!) dachshunds and he casually mentioned that his wife was soon to return from the USA with another half dozen.

We had time to pop over next door to catch up with Ivan who was staying with the chap who lived there and tended the plants. It might be their smallest nursery but it was a much larger area than most commercial cymbidium houses here in NZ! Not so elaborate of course. It seemed surprisingly dark under the shade cloth by my standards but I had already seen that a lot of the orchids we had encountered so far were not in bright light. Most plants in the nursery were on benches with hundreds of pleurothallids and twig orchids hanging on the vertical perimeter fences and some like *Phragmipedium pearceii* were planted in the ground in beds. A big bench of *Phragmipedium besseae* and some related *Phragmipedium dalessandroi* brightened the place with their striking red flowers. Quite an area was set aside



Ivan and an *Anthurium* species

for lots of *Anthurium* species – many with wonderfully marked leaves. There were lots of different orchid genera and species, among them *Cattleyas*, *Sobralias*, *Catasetums*, *Oncidiums*, *Brassias* and heaps more. Also an area of beautiful variegated *Episcias* (*Gesnariaceae*) with red flowers and trailing stems. At one spot my eye caught sight of a tan-coloured frog holding on to the mesh perimeter plants amongst the masses of the small, round, beautifully variegated-leaved pleurothallid *Lepanthes calodictyon*. Soon it was getting too dark to see so we returned to Chuck's place then drove into town for a meal with Ivan along too.

Next morning we were up and off for another fascinating trip, taking Chuck with us for the day. North of El Pangui some 30 km we turned off before crossing over a large, fancy, shiny bridge leading to a small town on the far side of the Rio Zamora and followed down the right bank of the river for a similar distance to the end of the road. Here we waited on the banks of the 150 m wide swift-flowing river till an open-top



Crossing the Rio Zamora



Epidendrum virginalis?

one day each, up the stem. Sadly there were no seed pods!

vehicular barge or ferry returned to our side to take us and our vehicle across. A couple of shy young women loaded with their week's shopping hopped on the back and we dropped them at spots along the road at their houses. Eventually we got out of the lush jungle and above to the narrow winding roads with small cleared areas and scrubby banks alongside the road. The stops became longer and more frequent now as we came across different Epidendrums (crucifix orchids) of various colours, a lone flowering cerise *Epistephium*, Sobralias and *Elleanthus*. I fell in love with a fabulous white crucifix *Epidendrum* which Ivan reckoned was probably named *E. virginalis* but I can't trace it, and I drooled over *Sobralia virginalis*, *S. klotzscheana* and the common, pink *S. rosea* hanging over the banks. *Sobralia rosea* often had long, empty, zig-zag flower spikes showing where up to 10 or so of its large flowers had opened for



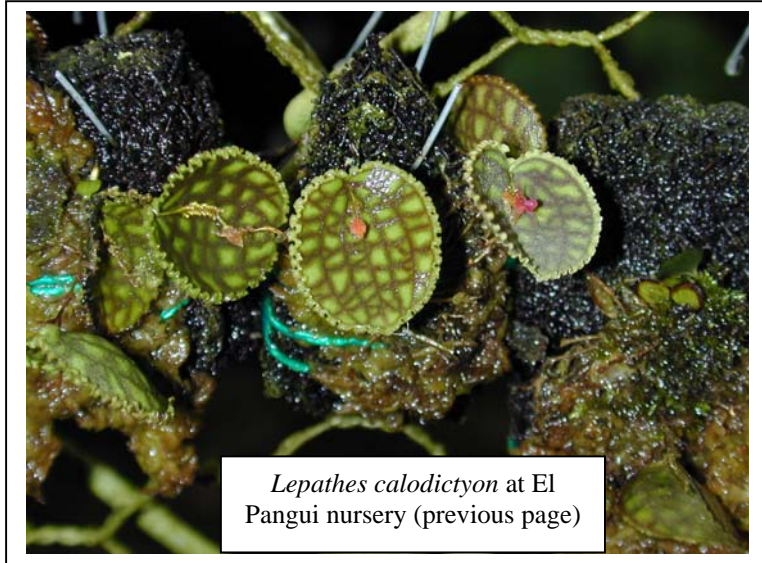
Sobralia virginalis

At the end of the road we came to the army border post clearing of Condor Mirador with helipad and lichen-covered antenna disk. Ivan had phoned ahead and soon the sergeant in charge came up to the barrier in his working uniform and gumboots! and escorted us up a rough, well-trimmed track through dense low bush of small, climbing palms, mosses, bromeliads and almost scrub, to the border obelisk on the Peru/Ecuador border. A number of pleurothallids of various genera were here and there but cloud precluded any views over into Peru or back to the army base and clearing below. A fellow orchid enthusiast contact from Belgium recently sent me a fabulous shot from the same trig and another of them photographing some of the pleurothallids there! If you want to see



Sobralia rosea

an amazing world of mini orchids grown by a genius of a close-up photographer check this Flickr site out and even see his miniscule hybrids! http://www.flickr.com/photos/_pjm_/4894721421/ (note double underscores both sides of his initials). My not being interested in micro orchids (then!) meant Ivan didn't bother to spend time showing them to us.



Lepathes calodictyon at El Panguí nursery (previous page)

We had to make a more speedy non-stop return to the ferry to make sure we wouldn't be stranded on the wrong side after its 5 pm last crossing. Back at Chuck's after a meal in town we sat outside and heard about his main interest of photographing and discovering new cacti species around South America. To be continued...Ron Maunder

Dimorphorchis – Borneo beauties

Russell Hutton (lrorchids@xtra.co.nz)



The photos above are of *Dimorphorchis rossii*, a rather rare species from Borneo. If you are wondering, yes, both flower forms are on the same stem and yes again, both forms are perfect (bisexual), they have functional pollinia and stigma.

The genus *Dimorphorchis* (only two species, the other is *D. lowii*) is extraordinary in that the long pendulous flower stems carry two forms of flower – hence the name, di (two), morph (shape), orchis (orchid). The larger, more showy blooms are at the top of the flower stem and the usually smaller but quite differently coloured and shaped blooms on the lower part. Why does nature do strange things like this? Here's a thought: maybe - and this is just a guess, educated or otherwise - as the blooms are rather long lived they will get the benefit of attracting two different pollinators.

Photos by Russell Hutton

*And here are a couple of photos of another plant of *D. rossii*, photographed at Poring, Borneo, by the editors a few years ago.*



Visit Australian Shows

Mike & Leigh Leaity <Leaitym@xtra.co.nz>

A visit to orchid shows in Australia highlights the wide range of orchids that are not available to us in New Zealand.

Almost all shows feature orchids that take your fancy and make you wish that they were yours, and often feature specimens to make your mouth water.

From large *Brassia rex* specimens in Tweed (*below right*) to huge Dendrobiums in Newcastle, and *Cymbidium Black Stump* (*below left*) the range is amazing.



All the major shows, have well stocked commercial stands selling a vast selection of orchids that make you wish you could bring them home.



The Late spring shows, particularly the Southern Orchid Spectacular held at the Cronulla Sharks Leagues Club is a must for the lovers of *Sarcochilus* (*see below*).



It is amazing who you meet at these shows so make a visit soon.



A visiting Aussie

Andrew Foster (gfos1111@bigpond.net.au)

To all orchid lovers across the Tasman in New Zealand, kia ora.

We have recently spent a very relaxing and totally enjoyable two-week holiday on the North Island, arriving in Auckland on 23 March and departing on 7 April.

Although I am an avid “fly fisherman” and orchid hobbyist (lover), the fishing gear stayed home (wife Christine is **not** into fishing). We did however manage to “touch noses” with Nick Miller, near Rotorua and pass on to him two books on orchids in New Zealand. Thank you Nick for your hospitality; your home must be located in one of the many small slices of heaven we enjoyed during our trip!

We met such an abundance of really friendly and helpful people (we were made very welcome wherever we went) and visited such fantastic natural sights. I hope you all

recognise what a truly remarkable and amazing country you live in, despite the occasional “shake, rattle and roll”.

Returning home, with the cooler temperatures (our summer was 3 days over 30°C, and then goodbye!), autumn has come, leaves are dropping and there is early snow on the hills. We have had a really cool and wet summer, and winter arrived in early May, with temperatures from 8°C to 15°C. I have an electric 750W panel heater in the glasshouse, that doesn't cost much to run (around A\$1:00 a day) and so far seems to be successful in keeping the winter chill away!



The glasshouse is oriented east-west, and with a small back yard, I try to use all sunlight possible. Hanging on the gutter are *Cymbidium* seedlings, now approaching their fourth year, some flowering for the first time! I think that orchid enthusiasts who are prepared to wait that long for a plant to flower, and hope for a “prize winner” are “nuts”. OK, so like many others I am “nuts” but what a great feeling, finally having flowers after all that time; winners or not! On my

return from New Zealand I was certain that all would be good in the glasshouse and shadehouse! Was I disappointed! SCALE has appeared on many of my *Cymbidium* seedlings and some more advanced *Sarcochilus*. I have never experienced this problem before, usually being very careful regarding my purchases, so where did the scale come from?

The Answer: a *Sarcochilus* I purchased in late February, from another club meeting and had not quarantined!

The lesson to be learned: quarantine all your purchases for several months and observe their condition before introducing them to your main orchid collection!

Now, rather than deal with one plant, I now have 30 to treat for scale!

Wishing you all the very best for great blooms and prize winning orchids,
Andrew Foster in Melbourne.

Angraecoid Orchids – A Passion

Franz Zumbuhl (franzanda@xtra.co.nz)

As a keen hobbyist of growing orchid species, I could not ignore the vast family of Angraecoid orchids. In the early 1980s there were not all that many plants available in NZ, even though in those days import restrictions were not as bad as they are today, and the word CITES had not yet been invented. But! Nowadays the selection of Angraecoids is much greater due to the importation of flasks, if one knows where to look for them.

There are over 500 species in about 40 genera known. Over the years I have been caring for about 60 species of that group, some successfully, others as utter disasters! The first thing I had to learn was that this group of orchids' needs are dependant on growing naturally limited to a specific area, temperature range or to a rigid light/shade requirement.



Aerangis rhodosticta ↑



Aerangis punctata ↑



Angraecum viguieri ↑



Diaphananthe sanfordiana ↑

← *Aeranthes neoperrieri*

Neobathia grandidierana →



Mystacidium venosum ↑



Oeoniella polystachya ↑



Rangaeris schliebenii ↑

Eritrea (Ethiopia) in North-East Africa might not present the same conditions as Cameroon in the West or Tanzania or Madagascar.

But back to our beautiful group called Angraecoids. There are many species amongst them, which can be grown successfully in most areas in New Zealand north of Christchurch with the help of a cheap little blow heater for the coldest months of the year.

Let's start with the genus *Aerangis*. I grow all of these tied to pieces of mamaku (treefern *Eds.*), suspended from the top shelf in the slightly heated glasshouse. They get misted manually practically every morning (it is handy to be retired!)

The plants of *Aeranthes* grow in pots in slightly shadier spots.

The *Angraecum* representatives are at home in pots or on rafts depending on size and/or their natural habitat. *A. distichum* with a flower a few mm across looks good on a slab, whereas *A. sororium*, a terrestrial at over 1 metre high, obviously is better kept in a big container. The *Jumellea* and *Rangaeris* are tied to mounts also, as are most of the other nine or so Angraecoid group in my care.

To have been able to acquire that many different species of this line of orchids means there are always some in flower. Most of these are pure white, some with orange/brown hues over the tips or the spurs. There is the odd one like *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta* with a bright red column. *Angraecum viguieri* has brown/orange sepals and petals. Some *Jumellea* varieties sport brownish, green hues around the centre of the flower. *Sphyrarhynchus schliebenii* is pure white but with a blotch of brilliant green on the lip. There are numerous other Angraecoid species with flowers that are green, orange, yellow, pink, apricot etc.

As I am a bit of a bookworm, two volumes have been a big help for me to try to learn about Angraecoids. The first one was written by Hillerman and Holst, "An Introduction to the Cultivated Angraecoid ORCHIDS of Madagascar", published in 1986. By now this book has dated, and a lot more revised information can be found in "Angraecoid Orchids, Species from the African Region" by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans and Bob Campbell, published in 2006 by Timber Press. While the second one is very, very informative botanically and scientifically, there seems, to some of us "Angraecophiles" at least, a lack of cultural advice such as glasshouse culture and the like. BUT! It is a very good reference source!

If you too suffer from Angraecoiditis, let me know, and we might have something to talk about.

Franz Zumbuehl, 99 Fulford St., New Plymouth

Conservatory to Cool House?

Michael Unverricht (m.unverricht@xtra.co.nz)

I once heard a respected and knowledgeable New Zealand orchid grower say that good tomato growers always made good orchid growers. My late father was a good tomato grower, albeit part time, as he had a full-time job with the local electricity supplier. Nevertheless, he had a glasshouse with dimensions of eighty feet in length and twenty feet in width, in which for many years he grew tomatoes. Fifteen years before his death I gave him a cymbidium back bulb, which, as he told me many years later, he grew reluctantly. He said he felt obliged to grow it as I had taken the trouble to obtain it for him. Fifteen years later at the time of his death, the glasshouse was filled with flowering cymbidiums during the winter months. I

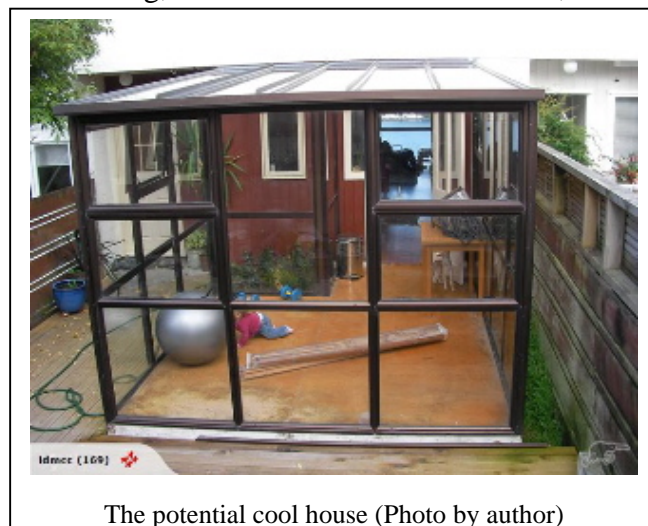
have a photo of one of his pride and joys: a plant of *Cymbidium* Ivy Fung “Radiance” carrying simultaneously 39 spikes and almost 500 blooms.

As a teenager, with dirt already in my veins, I wanted an orchid plant for my 14th birthday. I received a watch while my school friend got a cymbidium. I then walked a different horticultural path, becoming the first horticultural apprentice that the city of my birth took on. From that day, I have been involved in different gardens as far south as Timaru and as far north as Auckland but never in a full-time capacity. I presently am a government employee but nevertheless, maintain a garden or two for friends as well as my own. I now reside at Otaki Beach in a wonderful microclimate where I have planted avocados, asparagus, tamarillos, and a variety of citrus. I have bromeliads and vireyas growing outside in the open ground.

Now I have returned to my love of orchids after watching my father’s display of cymbidiums and my own display of moth orchids that I grew in the lounge of my Wellington home as well as being a constant visitor at orchid shows over the years. I now have some cool-growing orchids crammed into little shelters that are too small and too warm for them to perform at their best. They are *Zygopetalums*, *Sarcochilus*, *Oncidiums*, *Odontocidiums*, *Miltonias*, *Laelias*, *Draculas*, *Beallara*, *Masdevallias* and other bits and pieces. Whilst some of these plants have been purchased from sales tables at orchid shows and others from orchid nurseries, I must admit that the majority of my plants have been purchased via TradeMe. It is not as silly as it sounds! Do you know that reputable orchid growers sell via TradeMe? I am glad that they do so, otherwise, how would beginner orchid growers such as myself build up a collection?

In building up my collection I am guided by the two books on cool-growing orchids written by Wanganui orchid grower Ross MacDonald. Not only do they give me the names of suitable cool-growing orchids but they are listed seasonally and this way I hope to be able to ensure that I will have orchid flowers for each month of the year.

Some months ago in a moment of impetuous haste I purchased a conservatory via Trade Me. I know that there was a part of me that could not bear to see such a bargain go to someone else! I paid \$274 dollars for a conservatory measuring 3.2 metres long by 2.5 metres wide with brown aluminium and light tinted glass and in excellent condition. It was erected ten years ago at a cost of \$15,000. It is now dismantled out the back and I intend to put it together over the winter so that it will be up and working as an orchid house in the spring. Hopefully! It is in excellent condition as the photo shows. The roof consists of five sheets of glass each 3.2 metres long, the walls have some windows, not enough I know for sufficient air-flow. As the



The potential cool house (Photo by author)

photo shows, it has four opening windows at the end. One side has another four opening windows and the second side-wall has two opening windows. The other end has only half glass and the remainder can be an entrance way.

My problem is in knowing if it will be a suitable for cool-growing orchids? I am led to believe from one of my TradeMe suppliers that it will make an excellent

cool-growing orchid house but with modifications. And that is where you come in! What would you do with something like this? A whole lot of ideas are in my head. Shall I remove glass panels? Put in extra windows? Tilt the roof panes of glass to give constant air-flow? Should I put it on TradeMe and sell it for more than what I paid for it and buy something more appropriate? No, I cannot do that. This is a challenge that I want to face and come up with a solution.

I know that many readers have far more experience than I do in orchid growing. After all, I have been growing orchids for no more than four years. If you have any ideas how to turn this wonderful looking elephant into a suitable orchid house for cool-growing orchids and which you are prepared to share with me, then I would be most grateful to hear from you. Send me an e-mail. Then when it is up and functioning I will invite you to come and have a look!

If you have any suggestions or ideas for Michael to use, we would love to hear them too, so that our readers can benefit. There is one response shown below. Ed.

I would be very tempted to add at least one roof vent, preferably on an automatic opening device (for example, a wax-filled cylinder with the piston linked to the vent). This will assist greatly in venting hot air in the summer, essential for success with cool-growing orchids. Such devices are not particularly cheap (about \$130 - \$180), but perhaps you can find one on TradeMe ! Otherwise look at <http://www.greenhouse.co.nz/automaticopeners.html> for details, or try a Google search for a bargain. Extractor fans are fine, until the power goes off. If you are reluctant to install a vent in the roof, try to install one as high in an end wall as possible. I would also look at suspending shadecloth on a simple frame (lightweight aluminium extrusions don't rot or rust and are easy to work with) about 10 to 15 cm above the roof glass. Aluminium-coated shadecloth (sold by Cosio Industries, <http://www.cosio.co.nz/> as 'Alishade') is particularly effective at keeping summertime temperatures down. In the cooler six months of the year, the shadecloth can be removed or rolled up onto a length of plastic downpipe. Certainly, at the price, the conservatory sounds like a promising growing area.

(Nick Miller, ncmiller@orcon.net.nz).

Orchids Month-by-month

– a Month-by-Month check-list to help you get the best from your orchids.

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Here is a ‘what to do’ calendar which a number of readers and others I have spoken with at various places over the past few years have asked for – I surely hope it works for you.

However, please remember that this is a guide only as season change and temperatures vary considerably down the length and across the breadth of the country. Any suggestions and or contributions will be most gratefully received.

Plant Names – I have used the ‘old’ names for all genera listed but have made notes as to recent changes. I have done this as I am sure your labels will have these old names written on them either in full or as an abbreviation. If you are unsure/don’t know what the parentage of your plant is then send the name to the **Question Box** and **Dr Orchid** will let you know. BUT please remember to tell him the genus name or abbreviation (Cattleya = C; Cymbidium = Cym; Laeliocattleya = Lc; Dendrobium = Den; etc, etc) as without this the required information can not be found. Just write what is on the label.

Why? Why do I need to know this, do I hear you ask? Well here is a brief answer: because different orchid species can be crossed together with the resulting progeny fertile and then these plants hybridised with other species or hybrids, often from quite different climates. The result is often plants that are adaptable to a wider range of temperatures with regard to maximum day and minimum night; and to light and water frequency. So it stands to reason that knowing what kind of plant you have will make culture decisions far easier.

If you have a plant or plants which do not have a label then maybe you could email a photo showing leaves and pseudobulbs or canes and/or a photo of the flowers. Just maybe we can give you a name or at least the type of orchid. This of course will make culture decisions much easier for you.

Fertiliser – a balanced fertilizer is one where the N:P:K proportions are roughly equal, e.g. Miracle Grow, which has an N:P:K rating of 15:13:12 – roughly balanced.

N = Nitrogen for general growth of leaves and stems

P = Phosphorus which promotes root development

K = Potassium (the ‘K’ comes from the Latin name Kalium for the element) which promotes flower and fruit production

Shade – to give you a rough idea of shade percentage, and you must try this on a bright sunny day.

30% shade – if you hold your hand about 25cm above the plant and spread your fingers you should get a rather distinct shadow slightly fuzzy around the edge.

50% shade – doing the same thing will give you a very indistinct shadow.

Just a tip – windbreak cloth (usually cheaper than shade cloth) gives around 40% to 50% shade.

The following table is compiled by RFH with the assistance of several others who wish to remain nameless.

Cymbidium - This advice is for the usual cold hobby house without heating			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER	Thorough water on the morning of a day that you would expect washing to dry. Small pots require water more often. Every 10 to 14 days	Thorough water on the morning of a day that you would expect washing to dry. Small pots require water more often. Every 7 to 10 days	Thorough water on the morning of a day that you would expect washing to dry. Small pots require water more often. Every 7 or so days
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced fertilizer after every 2 nd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer after every 2 nd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer after every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	Good light although whites and especially greens may be better with more shade as this will give cleaner coloured flowers.	Good light although whites and especially greens may be better with more shade as this will give cleaner coloured flowers.	Good light although whites and especially greens may be better with more shade as this will give cleaner coloured flowers.
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	<u>Day</u> As warm as practical but ventilate at 20deg.C <u>Night</u> Avoid frost & chill factor Close house at say 3pm to improve minimum night temperature	<u>Day</u> As warm as practical but ventilate at 20deg.C <u>Night</u> Avoid frost & chill factor Close house at say 3pm to improve minimum night temperature	<u>Day</u> As warm as practical but ventilate at 20deg.C <u>Night</u> Avoid frost & chill factor Close house at say 3pm to improve minimum night temperature
FLOWERING	Keep flower spikes staked and trained to give a pleasing natural arrangement – DON'T leave it until the flowers have opened and then stake/train as the result does not look natural and pleasing to the eye. Despite the proclivity of florists, <i>Cymbidium</i> flowers are not naturally presented upside-down, that is lip to the top. However please don't try to stake and train strongly arching or pendulous stems to an upright position, let them arch or fall gracefully and naturally. Train upright spikes to below bottom flower when temperatures are warm. Don't shift plants orientation when in spike		
OTHER	Scatter bait for slugs, snails & mice. Check for bugs (aphids, scale, mites and mealy bug) and treat when necessary. Watch for snails and slugs and keep baits out for them –hey, they can eat in one night what you have been waiting to see for the past year!!		

Paphiopedilum – Slipper Orchids	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Very light and infrequent – enough to keep mix just moist (no more than that). When in doubt, don't water	Gradually increase as warming temperatures allow. Proceed when mix is just moist at the base of the pot. When in doubt, don't water	Gradually increase as warming temperatures allow. Proceed when mix is just moist at the base of the pot. When in doubt, don't water
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced NPK	½ strength balanced NPK	½ strength balanced NPK
LIGHT	30% shade	Increase shade up to about 60%	Increase shade up to about 60%
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient 10 degrees C	Ambient 10 degrees C	Ambient 10-12 degrees C
FLOWERING	When a bud is showing in the center of the plant try not to have water sitting there as this can cause the bud to rot off. When staking the flowers let the flower open and 'set' before bringing the stem to a fully erect position – this way the flowers will look up at you and stay that way.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for mealy bug also.		

Cattleya – species and hybrids with the <u>exception</u> of <i>C. dowiana</i> which is happier with a minimum of 10 to 12 degrees C			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	Depending on the variety these plants can bloom at various times of the year but the flowers in all cases develop in the same way – the spike/buds form within a 'sheath' on top of the most recent growth. It can be a good idea to split this sheath at the top to allow the flower stem to emerge easily		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

LC (Laeliocattleya) – this name means hybrids which have *Cattleya* and *Laelia* in their parentage, especially *Laelia purpurata*. However recent re-classification has put *Laelia purpurata* into the genus *Cattleya* so now these hybrids are *Cattleya* (C). For an update on your plant name see above.

WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Very light watering, i.e. rather dryish. When in doubt don't water	Very light watering, i.e. rather dryish. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	Depending on the variety these plants can bloom at various times of the year but the flowers in all cases develop in the same way – the spike/buds form within a 'sheath' on top of the most recent growth. It can be a good idea to split this sheath at the top to allow the flower stem to emerge easily		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

SLC (Sophrolaeliocattleya) 1 – these are hybrids which have been bred using the genera *Sophrionitis*, *Laelia* and *Cattleya*. However recent re-classification has placed *Sophrionitis coccinea* – the most often used Soph. species – into the genus *Cattleya*. See above if you want an update on your plant name. This is for plants with larger growth habit having only a small amount of *Sophrionitis (Cattleya) coccinea* in their background.

WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	Depending on the breeding these plants can bloom at various times of the year but the flowers in all cases develop in the same way – the spike/buds form within a 'sheath' on top of the most recent growth. It can be a good idea to split this sheath at the top to allow the flower stem to emerge easily		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

SLC (Sophrolaeliocattleya) 2 –This is for plants with a high proportion of <i>Sophrontitis (Cattleya) coccinea</i> in their background. These plants are very much smaller in stature being from 12cm to 20cm tall. See above if you want an update on your plant name.			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade	30% shade	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	Depending on the breeding these plants can bloom at various times of the year and some times more than once but the flowers in all cases develop in the same way – the spike/buds form within a 'sheath' on top of the most recent growth. It can be a good idea to split this sheath at the top to allow the flower stem to emerge easily.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

BLC (Brassolaeliocattleya) hybrids using the genera, <i>Brassavola (Rhyncolaelia)</i> , <i>Laelia</i> and <i>Cattleya</i> . See above if you want an update on your plant name.			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	Depending on the breeding these plants can bloom at various times of the year and some times more than once but the flowers in all cases develop in the same way – the spike/buds form within a 'sheath' on top of the most recent growth. It can be a good idea to split this sheath at the top to allow the flower stem to emerge easily.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

Laelia			
'Mexican' types – e.g. <i>L. anceps, albida, autumnalis, furfuraea, gouldiana, grandis, lundii, purpurata, sincorana, speciosa</i> and rupicolous types such as <i>L. briegei, cinnabarina, flava, kettiana, lucasiana</i> . Again there are many name changes so for an update see above.			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T	Water very sparingly and do this on a sunny day. Allow to dry off before watering again.	Water very sparingly and do this on a sunny day. Allow to dry off before watering again.	New growths and roots developing. Increase the water but still allow to become dryish before next water.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	Increase to ½ strength every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient 2 to 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 degrees C	Ambient 5+ degrees C
FLOWERING	The 'Mexican' types (<i>L. albida, anceps, autumnalis, gouldiana</i>) develop flower stems with the new growth and typically bloom from mid-winter to early spring. <i>L. speciosa</i> and <i>L. lundii</i> produce their flowers from within the new growth but be careful with watering – just a splash or you may lose those flower buds. <i>L. purpurata</i> types produce their flowers from within a sheath and bloom sometime after the new growth has reached maturity usually in the summer months. <i>L. sincorana</i> flowers in the summer months and the flowers emerge from the expanding new growths.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		
Laelia - Others e.g. <i>L. dayana, harpophylla, jongheana, kautskyi, pumila</i> - once again there are changes, these are no longer all considered to be <i>Laelia</i> .			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	¼ to ½ strength fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	Increase to ½ strength every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C
FLOWERING	<i>L. dayana</i> and <i>L. pumila</i> typically flower when the growth has almost reached maturity from late autumn to mid-winter. <i>L. jongheana</i> produces blooms from the almost matured growth but in late spring to mid-summer. <i>L. harpophylla</i> and <i>L. kautskyi</i> produce a cluster of blooms from a small sheath at the top of the newest growth and bloom spring to mid-summer.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Watch for scale and treat as necessary.		

Phalaenopsis 'Moth Orchid'	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER	Water frequently, often enough to keep the potting mix moist but allow the top layer to become dry-looking before watering again. It is a good idea to use tepid water, especially during the colder months.		
FERTILIZER	Feed regularly, maybe every second watering, with ½ to ¾ strength liquid fertilizer. I have used Nitrosol with very good results.	Feed regularly, maybe every second watering, with ½ to ¾ strength liquid fertilizer. I have used Nitrosol with very good results.	Feed regularly, maybe every second watering, with half to ¾ strength liquid fertilizer. I have used Nitrosol with very good results.
LIGHT	30% to 50% shade	30% to 50% shade	50% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	20 to 25 degrees Around 15 degrees C	20 to 25 degrees Around 15 degrees C	20 to 25 degrees 15 degrees C
FLOWERING	Keep developing spikes staked and trained.		
OTHER	Check your plants regularly for mealy bug on the underside of the leaves and the base of the buds/flowers. These pesky little critters seem to appear from nowhere. Also watch for snails and slugs, they just love those developing flower spikes.		

Dendrobium –'Aussie' types – *Den. kingianum, falcorostrum, gracilicaule, jonesii, speciosum, tetragonum* etc. and hybrids from these

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER	Water well, really soak the pot, and allow to dry before watering again. Do this on a dull day as usually a dull day is not followed by a frost. As a guide every 10 to 14 days.	Water well, really soak the pot, and allow to dry before watering again. Do this on a dull day as usually a dull day is not followed by a frost. As a guide every 10 to 14 days.	Water well, really soak the pot, and allow to dry before watering again. As temperatures as now rising you will need to increase water frequency.
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced fertilizer every or every 2 nd watering.	½ strength balanced fertilizer every or every 2 nd watering.	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 3 rd or 4 th watering.
LIGHT	No shade	No shade	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Ambient or down to 1degree C	Ambient Ambient or down to 1degree C	Ambient Ambient
FLOWERING	Flower spikes will be showing from the upper nodes of new and older canes.	Flower spikes much longer. If stems from lower down are from below a leaf which is stopping erect to arching growth then remove this leaf.	Some will be in bloom now while others are still in bud.
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Also keep an eye out for caterpillars on the flower spikes/buds – a cheap and efficient remedy is the thumb and forefinger. If practical it is a good idea to have a small fan blowing air over the plants 24/7.		

Dendrobium			
Soft Cane and <i>nobile</i> types – <i>Den. nobile</i> hybrids, <i>primulinum</i> , <i>pierardii</i> (aka <i>Den. aphyllum</i>), <i>signatum crystallinum</i> , <i>heterocarpum</i> , <i>findlayanum</i> , <i>devonianum</i> , <i>crepidatum</i> , etc.			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
During the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T; during the WARM months IF IN DOUBT DO	Just a little, keep rather dry.	A little more water as temperatures rise and flower buds develop.	Increase water frequency with the development of new growth and roots
FERTILIZER	No fertilizer needed	As temps rise and new growth/roots are developing begin feeding again with ½ strength balanced NPK	As temps rise and new growth/roots are developing well begin feeding again with ½ strength balanced NPK
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
FLOWERING	Flower stems will emerge from opposite each leaf on the newest or 2-year-old canes/stems and should be showing now.	Flower buds will be developing now and if some of those leaves are in the way then carefully remove them, it won't bother the plant.	Enjoy those blooms!! AND the fragrance!
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds.		

Dendrobium			
Cool to intermediate types which are not fully deciduous and need a dryish winter rest, e.g. <i>Den. chrysotoxum</i> , <i>densiflorum</i> , <i>farmeri</i> , <i>fimbriatum</i> , <i>moschatum</i> , <i>sulcatum</i> , <i>thyriflorum</i>			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
During the COLD months IF IN DOUBT ; during the WARM months IF IN DOUBT DO	Allow to become somewhat dry between waterings. Increase the water frequency when new growths (and therefore roots) are showing, this could be as early as late August in warmer areas.		
FERTILIZER	As the plants are not actively growing little is needed but increase to ½ strength rate when new growth and roots are evident.		
LIGHT	Good bright light (30% shade) over this period gives a stronger more hardy plant and should increase flower production.		
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Unless you are in a very cold area ambient daytime temperatures should be fine – 15 degrees C and above. Night – down to 3 to 5 degrees C is OK.		
FLOWERING	Depending on the variety flower spikes may become evident from the upper nodes of newest and older canes. With this group older canes/stems can continue to produce flowers for several years.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds.		

Dendrobium			
Other cool to intermediate types which do not require a decidedly dryish winter rest, e.g. <i>Den. lawesii</i> , <i>glomeratum</i> , <i>subclausum</i> , <i>latourea</i> (some), <i>cuthbertsonii</i> .			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER During the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T; during the WARM months IF IN DOUBT DO	Keep the plants moist but not wet, don't let the plants become dry at the roots. These types typically originate from places where water is available at the roots all year and are in many cases growing all year. However too wet AND cold is dangerous.		Now the days and nights are warming up you can increase the water especially on plants with developing growths and roots.
FERTILIZER	Although these types can be growing all year, at this time around ¼ to ½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering should be fine. Increase to usual rate when the nights have become warmer and growth is more active.		
LIGHT	Good light, not too shady. (30% to 50% shade) On a sunny day your hand should cast a fuzzy-edged but definite shadow.		
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Daytime – ambient temperature is OK. Night – ambient but not below 4 to 5 degrees C. <i>Den cuthbertsonii</i> is OK down to zero in an enclosed situation.		
FLOWERING	Flowering for this group is not strictly seasonal and blooms can be produced throughout the year from older matured canes/stems.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. With many in this group older canes/stems can continue to produce flowers for several years and flowering is not strictly seasonal.		

Dendrobium 'Dockrillia' types – species and hybrids which typically have long cylindrical leaves and are pendulous in growth habit, e.g. <i>Den. bowmanii</i>, <i>striolatum</i>, <i>teretifolium</i>.			
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER			
FERTILIZER			
LIGHT			
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night			
FLOWERING			
OTHER	Information to come		

Sarcochilus	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER During the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T; during the WARM months IF IN DOUBT DO	Reduce watering to suit conditions but do not let the plants dry out completely.	Reduce watering to suit conditions but do not let the plants dry out completely.	Increase water as day/night temperatures rise.
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	All roof shade cloth should now be removed. Try to give the plants give as much light as the plants were getting over the spring/summer period. This will improve flowering.		
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Day – for these colder months the ambient temperature should be fine. Night – down to 2 – 5 degrees C.		
FLOWERING	Flower stems will be showing and in warmer areas developing well	Flower stems getting long enough to stake and train as you wish.	
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds. Lay 'Slug Out' or similar (this does not deteriorate as quickly as normal slug bait) Always watch for scale. Do not squash up your plants, leave plenty of room between them.		

Masdevallia	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
WATER	Over the colder months I have found that allowing the plants to become rather drier between waterings has produced more profuse flowering of the spring/summer blooming types, e.g. <i>Masd. coccinea</i> , <i>veitchiana</i> , <i>rolfeana</i> and many hybrids.		
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced fertilizer every 2 nd watering
LIGHT	30% to 50% shade. Try to give the plants as much light as the plants were getting over the spring/summer period. This again will improve flowering.		
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	For these colder months the ambient temperature should be fine. Night – down to 2 – 5 degrees C.		
FLOWERING	Flower stems arise from the base of the leaf and with good culture quite a number of flowers can be produced either together or over a period of time.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and in warmer areas possibly aphids on the flower buds.		

Oncidium			
'Dancing Lady' types – e.g. <i>Onc. varicosum</i> , <i>flexuosum</i> , <i>leucochilum</i> , <i>eurycline</i> , <i>longipes</i> , <i>forbesii</i> , <i>crispum</i> , and hybrids from these.			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Water sparingly and allow the mix to become rather dryish before watering again. When in doubt don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but still let the mix become dryish between waterings.
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	These plants typically produce a flower stem(s) from the base of the newest mature growth. However there is an exception (isn't there always??) – <i>Onc. eurycline</i> , <i>croesus</i> and <i>longipes</i> produce their flower stems from within the developing new growth.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs, they just love those developing flower spikes.		

Odontoglossum - crispum types etc			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but don't allow the mix to become overly wet
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	50% shade	50% shade	50% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	These plants do not have a strictly seasonal blooming time as where they originate (near the equator) they have no summer, autumn, winter or spring. Flower stems arise from the base of the newly matured pseudobulbs.		
OTHER	Watch for snails/slugs and keep baits out for them –hey, they can eat in one night what you have been waiting to see for the past year!!. Slugs seem to be harder to control with bait, so a night patrol will often reveal where they are hiding. Repotting can start as the weather gets warmer in September. Repot from when the new growth is 5 cm tall but before the new bulb forms.		

Odontioda – these are hybrids from <i>Odontoglossum</i> and <i>Cochlioda</i> .			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but don't allow the mix to become overly wet
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	50% shade	50% shade	50% shade
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	These plants do not have a strictly seasonal blooming time as where they originate (near the equator but at high altitudes) they have no summer, autumn, winter or spring. Flower stems arise from the base of the newly matured pseudobulbs.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs and keep baits out for them –hey, they can eat in one night what you have been waiting to see for the past year!!.. Slugs seem to be harder to control with bait, so a night patrol will often reveal where they are hiding. Repotting can start as the weather gets warmer in September. Repot from when the new growth is 5 cm tall but before the new bulb forms		
Miltonia (Brazilian types) – species and hybrids including <i>Miltassia</i> , <i>Miltonidium</i> , <i>Odontocidium</i> , <i>Wilsonara</i> , <i>Maclellanara</i> and <i>Alexanderara</i> .			
WATER	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
A good rule of thumb for watering: during the COLD months IF IN DOUBT DON'T and for the WARMER months IF IN DOUBT DO	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water.	Water sparingly but ensure that the mix stays damp but not wet. If in doubt, don't water.	Temperatures will be rising now so increase water but don't allow the mix to become overly wet.
FERTILIZER	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering	½ strength balanced NPK every 2 nd or 3 rd watering
LIGHT	30% shade or less	30% shade or less	30% shade or less
TEMPERATURE - Day - Night	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient Around 5 degrees C	Ambient 5 to 10 degrees C
FLOWERING	This group is rather variable in its blooming but flower stems are produced either from the base of matured growths or from partially developed new growths. Stake and tie the stems as necessary.		
OTHER	Watch for snails and slugs, they just love those developing flower spikes. <i>Miltonia</i> and its hybrids will benefit from a higher night temperature.		

Internet Links

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/12774613>

This link leads to a BBC Nature feature (“Invasion of the orchid snatchers”)

Concerns the threat posed to wild orchid populations around the world, due to overzealous collection on behalf of orchid growers. It is more detailed and less ‘hyped up’ than the usual run of mass-media stories, but then it IS the BBC!

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art69187.asp/zzz>

An article on control of mealybugs etc, without using strong pesticides.

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 16 September 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

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

South Auckland Orchid Society Annual Show

Auckland Botanical Gardens, Hill Road, Manurewa.

Saturday 10th August 2011. 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 11th August 2011. 09.00am to 4.00pm

For more information contact Terry Austin

Phone 09 2780545 or Email: terrynz@xtra.co.nz

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

(decorhomes@xtra.co.nz)

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.

North Otago Orchid Society

Annual show for 2011

St Pats Hall Usk St, Oamaru (South Island east coast)

Saturday September 24th 11 AM --- 5 PM

Sunday September 25th 10 AM -- 4 PM

Authorised by show secretary Daphne McKay

National South Island Judging Seminar.

The South Canterbury Orchid, Begonia & Fern Society is celebratng its 30th Anniversary with a National South Island Judging Seminar and Orchid Dsplay 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@paradse.net.nz

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

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.

**South Canterbury Orchid, Begonia & Fern Soc.
National
South Island Judging Seminar
& Orchid Display
In conjunction with South Canterbury's
30th Anniversary
On
22nd -- 23rd October 2011
At
Caroline Bay, Timaru.**

The programme for the weekend will be.

Friday 21st , 3pm – 8pm approx set up Displays and Registration.

Saturday 22nd 8.30 Judges meet
9am Class judging
11am Plants for award nomination (G Letts)
12.30 Lunch
1.30pm Guest Speaker Philip Zhou subject (Chinese Cymbidiums)
2.30pm Award judging completed
3.30pm John Creeggan subject (Know your Australia Heritage)
4.30 - 5.15pm Day completed with award paper work and Photos
6.30pm Pre drinks for 30th Anniversary Dinner.

Sunday 23rd— 9am Philip Zhou (Chinese Cymbidiums, Plants for tomorrow and the judging of these plants)
10.30am after morning tea – Working exercise for all- please bring a sharp mind and your judging trickery.
11am Questioner (G Lyster)
12.00 Lunch
1pm Ross Bicknell (Pleiones)
2pm Seminar Evaluation
2.15pm Business Meeting
3pm Seminar Complete and Pack Up

**Displays -- (South Island Societies) We intend opening the Bay Hall at 3pm and will go as long as needed to accommodate you all, it is envisaged to finish about 8pm, anyone that might need longer should contact the Show Marshall.
Displays are 2m x 2m and our theme is Nautical in conjunction with our 30th Birthday (Pearl)**

Note -- If any plants are coming from the North Island for judging could you please advise your requirements

Guest Speakers – We are pleased to have Philip Zhou from Auckland as our special guest and his subject will be centred around Chinese Cymbidiums. Some of you may have heard his polished presentation at this years Summer Orchid Show in New Plymouth.

He will be well supported by John Creeggan a top judge in his field of Australian Sarcophilus and Dendrobiums , should be a great show for there genera as it is just a little later than the normal show dates.

There are not too many breeders of the Chinese terrestrial genera, Pleione and we are privileged to have Ross Bicknell to deliver a presentation on the work. Ross will have a display and plants for sale as well

Everyone is welcome to sit in on there presentations and to help defray expenses as gold coin entry will apply

Plant Sales – We have an extensive area for plant and Book sales and we already have enquires from interested commercial growers.

Participating Societies are welcome to sell as well. A \$25.00 fee will apply to all sales tables.

Saturday Evening Dinner -- This is also in the Caroline Bay Hall starting at 6.30 with pre dinner drinks included with your dinner registration, any further during the evening will be your care, we do have a BYO to cover this.

We would hope you all will be seated by 7pm for a brief introduction and welcome before the dinner is served.

Accommodation -- Most of Timaru's accommodation is within walking distant of the venue and if you need help please contact us ASAP.

Conclusion -- The Caroline Bay Hall and recreational area is extensive and includes a large walk through Bird Aviary and revamped foreshore area, renowned Caroline Bay with large areas of native plantings along with there many rose gardens, all this is only a short walk to the main shopping area of Timaru
The Members of the South Canterbury Orchid, Begonia and Fern Society extends a warm welcome to join in with the programme and enjoy your weekend in Sunny Timaru

Happy Orchiding

Murray Lister your Show Marshall (gwendabear@paradise.net.nz)

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW



HIGHLANDS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Saturday 8 Oct 2011 10am - 4pm
Sunday 9 Oct 2011 10am - 4pm

Secretary
Ph 06 759 1606

FREE ENTRY

P O Box 635
New Plymouth

Classified advertisements

LOOKING FOR ORCHIDS

Hi all, I am just looking for a few orchids, mostly cool growers and species.

-Encyclia vitellena

-Laelia anceps

-any easy to grow Vanda...Only want one in case I kill it.....

-Calanthe of any species

And –Angraecum of any species

Please only small-medium sized plants as room is scarce....

Please contact me at jordan@healey.org.nz Thanks.

For Sale:

Complex soil heating cable (English) in good working order, 24meters long with an earth wire, for safety. Plus a purpose built thermostat, with an extra long wire attached to a sensing probe, for complete control.

An ideal way to provide economical bottom heat, for your orchids.

\$200.00 + freight.

Contact Tony Connelly (03) 543 8378 or aredc@xtra.co.nz

Wanted: Plant of Propetalum Mathina. Please contact Geoffrey Marshall at gm.jh@ihug.co.nz

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



Wellington Orchid Society Spring Show

Theme: An invitation to _____

Come and see displays put on by clubs and people from all over NZ

Buy orchids from commercial growers and club members

Learn all about orchids from our members

Buy Orchid supplies Including Bark and pots

15 and 16 October 2011- 10.30am to 4.30pm \$2 Door charge

At The Horticultural Hall Laings Road Lower Hutt

For more information Phone Paul Herd on 04-5861032 or 0220832887



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 7nznoc@hotmail.co.nz



POTTERING ABOUT GARDEN CENTRE

254 Military Road, R D 2,

Whakatane 3192

Ph: (07) 3228201

Email: potteringabout@xtra.co.nz

Webpage: potteringabout.com

We have a great range of palms, bromeliads, orchids, ceropegias, hoyas and subtropical plants.

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 purchases 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



Sunvale Orchids
31 Sunvale Crescent
Gisborne
New Zealand



D S & P R Hutchins

Phone 06 867 2567

027 640 4109

Email dphutchins@xtra.co.nz

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

Breeders and growers of Sarcochilus orchids

Advice available

Email for our latest plant list

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.

250mm Port Pot-\$4.00 incl. GST



50mm tray-\$5.50 incl. GST



Products

- Trays
- General Pots
- Squat Pots
- Clear Pots
- Port Pots
- Basket Pots
- Specialty Pots
- Fertilizers/Sprays
- Accessories
- Wire Hanging Baskets
- Wooden Hanging Baskets
- Meters
- Media



pH meter-\$35.00 incl. GST



Products



Wooden hanging baskets for hanging vandaceous orchids, beautifying or for anything that likes lots of drainage.



Nutriflow slow release fertilizing system.



Auxinone root hormone stimulants for use on orchids and other plants, great for transplant shock when re-potting.

Please visit www.orchidtrays.com.au

Contact Robert Bisetto 0431037372 or George Birss 0413581777 for further product information.



7th NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ORCHID EXPO

PO BOX 635

NEW PLYMOUTH

email: 7nznoe@hotmail.co.nz

TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND.

30th OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER 2013

**TSB Stadium, New Plymouth
from 30th October to 3rd
November 2013**

NEWSLETTER No. 2 - May 2011

Accommodation:

We know it is over two years away, but the accommodation around New Plymouth

will be much sought after during the time of the show with all the Rhododendron Festival participants coming, so we thought it would be timely to suggest to you all that it is imperative to make your bookings well in advance so you don't miss out. There will be a number of billets available through the local orchid society and we are working on putting a register together at present, to offer to anyone who would like to stay with orchid people. Always a lot of fun and interesting to get to know local growers.

If you are interested in being billeted, please register your names with the Expo committee as soon as possible so that we can assess if there is a demand for this type of accommodation.

There are many ways of booking your motel / hotel / B&B / campsite accommodation: Online at: www.tourism.net.nz, through Jasons Accommodation books (many places have 0800 numbers) or online: jasons.co.nz/accommodation, through the New Plymouth iSite, email: info@newplymouth.govt.nz, or from previous stays here.

Again, we cannot stress enough that your bookings need to be made well in advance of the show in October / November 2013.

Orchid Council AGM Queen's Birthday Weekend:

The Orchid Council AGM is being held in Bell Block, New Plymouth, in a couple of weeks time and will give an opportunity to all participating Societies to check out the TSB Stadium location and see that it is centrally situated in New Plymouth (adjacent to the New Plymouth Racecourse) with ample parking available.

Floor Plan:

Will be available at the AGM on QB weekend, for all societies to view and consider their best option for a display area. Hopefully your society has already discussed the potential size of your display and your representative will be able to check out a desirable position in the hall.

Funding - Raffle:

The first Orchid Council national raffle will be underway in July this year, tickets available at QB weekend AGM. The commission your society will earn will be **20%** of the proceeds from all full books sold. So, don't forget to 'grab' your books at the AGM, distribute them to your members and start selling from 1st July.

TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND. 30th OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER 2013



7th NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ORCHID EXPO

PO BOX 635

NEW PLYMOUTH

email: 7nznoe@hotmail.co.nz

TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND.

30th OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER 2013

Show Apparel:

On QB Weekend, the Organising Committee will each be wearing a black vest, fully lined and nicely made, with our logo stitched on (as on the letterhead only the black and yellow colours are reversed). We will have a range of sizes available for you to try on. **Prepaid orders** will be taken at this time and will make excellent advertising in the two years leading up to the show, especially wearing the apparel at your local shows and also anyone going to overseas events, i.e. WOC, Singapore at the end of this year, or AOC, Perth in September next year. There will also be **logo badges** for sale.

Costs are: Vest - \$85.00, plus post and packing. Logo Badge - \$20, plus postage if we do not have enough on the day. **All orders must be prepaid.**

Lecture Programme:

Ruth Coles has been busy organising the programme and some quality overseas speakers have already agreed on their availability to attend. Contributions from New Zealand orchid specialists are also being arranged.

The lectures will be programmed for Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Joy Wray

Publicity

Organising Committee:

Joy Wray, Chairperson, Publicity - (06) 751 1184

Clive Perry, Secretary, Sponsorship Coordinator, Show Marshall -(06) 758 8212

Grahame Hill, Finance, Registration - (06) 759 1606

Ruth Coles, Lecture Programme, Hospitality - (06) 757 4408

TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND. 30th OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER 2013