

The New Zealand
Internet
Orchid Review

Issue 21

14 September 2012



TABLE OF CONTENTS

This issue's cover	2
Editorial	3
Obituary: Walter T. Upton DFM OAM	3
Obituary: Margot Kay	4
Obituary: Garry Jackson	4
Growing Paphiopedilum moquettianum	5
<i>Dendrobium johnsoniae</i>	6
International Code of Nomenclature	7
A garden orchid	9
A question about temperatures	10
Answers to the question on temperatures	10
A question for the Orchid Doctor	15
<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea 'alba'</i>	16
Caring for Orchids the fast way	17
De-Flasking Cymbidiums My Way	18
A brace of Cattleya hybrids	21
Orchid Hunting in Borneo	22
The culture of Tolumnias (formerly equitant Oncidiums)	27
<i>Osmoglossum pulchellum</i>	28
Lifting the lid on Flasks	29
Publication Details and Charges	33
Society Notices	34
Classified advertisements	36
Advertising Section	38

This issue's cover

Cattleya harrisoniana is a species from Brazil, usually found growing on trees or rocks in swampy coastal forests, but also sometimes up to 1000 metres in the coastal mountains. This appears to be a selected clone, with excellent shape and good colour. It is grown by Jerry Cline of Florida, who writes:

“I grow as a hobbyist in Florida, USA in a small, 12 x 24 ft. greenhouse that houses about three hundred fifty large to miniature plants. Temperatures are intermediate during the winter months and warm during the other months of the year. I use 1/2 tsp. of Peters Cal Mag fertilizer every two weeks and watering is carried out weekly with well water of fairly good quality. An occasional misting is done on very hot days. I also run four eight-inch (20 cm) fans constantly. I use no regular regimen to control insects or disease but rather, I treat in individual cases as needed.”

Photographer: Jerry Cline, Florida

Editorial

Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article, photo or response to a question – we really appreciate your input, and enjoy contact with the great orchid-growing network out there. Oddly enough, in recent months the Editors have been receiving complaints along the lines of “There’s too much material in the magazine.” We can’t win, or so it seems! There we were, happily trundling along thinking that we were supplying some useful and interesting reading on orchids and how to grow them and then we get “There’s too much of it!”, sometimes from rather surprising sources. We have been working on the basis that if someone takes the trouble to write for us, or send us some photos, we will send the material they provide out to our readers. In our editorial to Issue 20, we observed that “we have to work harder to get copy, although we have some very faithful and regular writers.” Of course, if readers find the magazine (sent out free-of-charge) has material that they do not wish to read, there is a simple solution – it’s called the ‘Page Down’ key. We invite readers’ views as to whether there is too much material in the New Zealand Internet Orchid Review. If the answer is a resounding “Yes!” then we will do something about it.

We include obituaries of three fine orchid growers who will be sadly missed by all with whom they came in contact, but their contributions to orchid growing will be warmly remembered.

Obituary: Walter T. Upton DFM OAM

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Walter (Wal, Wally) Upton OAM, one of the stalwarts of Australian *Dendrobium* and *Sarcochilus* breeding, patron of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS Inc) and the Orchid Species Society of NSW. Two of his most familiar works were a pair of books on the Australian *Dendrobium* and *Sarcochilus*, including early trends in hybridising of these genera. He was also a several-term editor of the journal *The Orchidian*.

Wally passed away on Friday morning, 10th August 2012 in his ninety-first year. Walter was born in Kent, Great Britain on the 18th January 1922 and first became interested in English native orchids at the age of nine.

He served in WW2 in the RAF as a navigator in Lancaster bombers. He was shot down on his first trip after his marriage to Jill and was posted 'missing in action' for some nine months. He survived Gestapo incarceration and later concentration camp internment.

After the war he and Jill migrated to Australia where they resided in North Narrabeen and later Elanora Heights (both in northern Sydney). The surrounding bush land re-awakened his enthusiasm for orchids and he soon began identifying the abundant Australian native orchids locally. He became a member of The Orchid Society of N.S.W. and Manly Orchid Society as well as North Shore Orchid Society Inc.

He was an accomplished artist in oils & charcoal. As his interest in Australia native orchids progressed he began developing his botanical art skills and drew in minute dissected detail, to scale, every native orchid he found. These drawing appeared in orchid journals world-wide. They now reside in the Mitchell Wing of the N.S.W. Public Library.

Wally was the real founder and driving force in the creation of the Australasian Native Orchid Society in 1962 and its elected founder Hon. Secretary, at its foundation meeting on 6th July 1963 before 90 members.

Wally and Jill founded 'Double U Orchids' at Elanora Heights and hybridised, flaked, and cultivated very many native Australian and exotic orchids. His insightful breeding in 1985 developed *Dendrobium* Pink Ballerina HCC. The HCC was only awarded for the cross some weeks ago! *Porteira* Jill 'Blue Boy', a new inter - generic hybrid he created for the first time, was another of his outstanding hybrids.

This abridged obituary was based on one prepared by Murray Corrigan of Australia, with further input from Chris Hubbert, (chubbert@jacksonrussell.co.nz) and other sources

Obituary: Margot Kay

I have to advise some sad news. Margot passed away this morning (Thursday 6 September 2012) in the Auckland Hospital after a brave battle with her kidney then her liver. She asked me a few days ago if I could let you know.

A small family funeral was held at the Schnapper Road Crematorium on Tuesday morning 11 September. The funeral parlour was adorned with some of her favourite orchid blooms that were in bloom for the occasion.

I would very much appreciate your letting Margot's many orchid friends know of this sadness.

Max Kay

Obituary: Garry Jackson

Garry was a stalwart of the Wairarapa Orchid Circle for many years and well known throughout the lower North Island. President at the time of his death, he had held the position of President of the Wairarapa Orchid Circle for several terms and was, at one time, a member of the NZOC. Garry was co-opted on to the national organising committee for the 2010 International Show in Palmerston North where he laid out the floor plan for the displays. Garry was a colourful personality who had a wealth of knowledge regarding the growing and cultivation of orchids and was always happy to share this knowledge with others. He will be missed.

Written by Ted Mannell - acting President of the WOC.

Growing *Paphiopedilum moquettianum*

John Edwards (sowers@johnwins.com)

This orchid was purchased from Keith Goodwin, Rotorua, in April 2008 and I eagerly looked forward to the day when I would be rewarded with some flowers for all my care and patience. Well, this plant finally flowered in January this year. One certainly has to learn that patience is a virtue when it comes to growing orchids!

First, I grew this plant in my Wardian cabinet, experimenting with different light levels, but I felt that it was not thriving as it should. Eventually, I realized that it was probably too warm in the cabinet, with temperatures ranging between 18 and 28 degrees C, so I removed it and put it on the windowsill in our guest bathroom. I also tried various other places around the house.



Paphiopedilum moquettianum Grower, photo: John Edwards

I have mainly used Bio-Gold fertilizer but a fertilizer to encourage blooming has also been used. The medium has been kept moist at all times, but drier in the winter.

After the first flower, two more appeared and we are now enjoying the third, which opened a few days ago. More buds are developing behind the flower so we will be able to enjoy further blooms over the next few months. I wonder how many!

This orchid from Java, Indonesia, is a beautiful example of a sequential flowering *Paphiopedilum* - Sub-genus *Cochlopetalum*, and it has become one of my favourites. At the moment it is gracing our living room and bringing pleasure to and admiration from visitors.

Some growers have the opinion that paphiopedilums are hard to grow, but no doubt the secret is to be prepared to experiment to find the optimum growing conditions, as we need to do for all orchids.

This article was to have appeared in our March 2012 issue, where the species featured on the front cover. We have just had it pointed out to us that this did not happen. So, with apologies to John Edwards, here is his article now, and the photograph is featured again as well.

Editors

Dendrobium johnsoniae

Lesley Newton (orcats@xtra.co.nz)

I have had *Dendrobium johnsoniae* for a number of years. The plant is relatively large but has not flowered well and has also suffered from some rotting of the new growths. I suspected the growing conditions in my glasshouse were not quite right. It is a stunning orchid with large white flowers that can last on the plant for many weeks.

I have been doing some research. If you have a plant that just doesn't really grow well it is worthwhile, if it is a species, looking into where it came from and its growing conditions. If it is a hybrid, find out what species are in its background and do the same.



Dendrobium johnsoniae

Dendrobium johnsoniae comes from Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. It is found at 500 – 1200 metres. It is an epiphyte but can be found as a lithophyte on limestone cliffs. Where it grows there is always plenty of air movement and light but it is also warm with relatively high humidity. This keeps the foliage relatively dry but the roots are moist and cool.

I grew my plant at the back of my glasshouse where it can get very warm and stuffy. This is because there was a lack of good air movement. After reading

this information I have moved my plant to the front of the house where it is still warm but with bright light and near a fan.

The plant is also lower down on the shelves so the roots are cooler as well. I have made a good decision to move the plant as I have been rewarded with 3 beautiful spikes of buds, which are just opening now. So, if you have a plant that doesn't perform for you it is worthwhile going to the internet or books to investigate their growth requirements.

We don't often reprint articles from other publications, but we thought that this item from the July 2012 Canterbury Orchid Society Bulletin was of particular interest. Editors.

International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants

Chris Hubbert (chubbert@jacksonrussell.co.nz), with assistance from several internet sources

Electronic Publication; English or Latin diagnosis?

I only recently became aware of changes made last year. The name of the former *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN) was changed at the International Botanical Congress, held in Melbourne in 2011, to *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN).

Until 2012, to be valid, a plant taxon had *inter alia** to

- (a) have Latin or Latinised genus and species names,
- (b) have a formal description or diagnosis, in Latin, and
- (c) be published by distribution of printed matter to the general public or at least to botanical institutions with libraries accessible to botanists generally.

As from 1 January 2012, the ICN now allows that the description or diagnosis may be in either English or Latin, for all new taxa. From the same date publication may now be effected by electronic distribution in Portable Document Format (PDF) in an on-line serial publication with an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) or an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). (Distribution electronically otherwise than prescribed is not valid.)

The earlier rules made the documentation of new taxa a labourious process. No longer will a botanist have to write things like: “Arbor usque ad 6 m alta. Folia decidua; lamina oblanceolata vel elliptica-oblongata, 2-7 cm longa.” (2009). Instead, *Bourreria motaguensis* (a species from Mexico) could now be described as a six-metre-tall tree with deciduous leaves 2-7 centimetres long. Or “Arbor ad 8 m alta, ramunculis sparse pilosis, trichomatis 2-2.5 mm longis” - Tree 8 metres tall, the twigs sparsely but evenly pilose [covered with fine hairs], the hairs 2-2.5 mm long (*Cordia koemarae*, 2001).

In recent years, with orchids anyway, the Latin text was increasingly followed by an English “translation”.

While the changes are intended to speed up the process, it is not clear whether removal of the Latin diagnosis will do much to accelerate the cataloguing of new taxa. Latin had become an encumbrance rather than a facilitator of communication. But the end of the Latin requirement may assist taxonomists from other countries where Latin is not taught.

On the other hand, publication electronically in the manner prescribed may considerably assist the process. Many universities and research institutions cannot afford to subscribe to large numbers of botanical journals, and apart altogether from the question of affordability, there is the physical question of ever-increasing demands for shelf space to store them all.

One of the fundamental principles of the ICBN/ICN is priority, i.e. first publication of a name for a taxon is the accepted name. Hence a sometimes undignified race between competing taxonomists to appear in print first. A prime example of this in recent times was *Phragmipedium kovachii*, with one publication under that name controversially put out by the Selby Institute, beating by only a few days another publication of the same plant (as *Phrag. peruvianum*). There are numerous other instances of separate publications, where authors simply did not know that someone else was working on the same plant material.

Publishing a new species in print could often take months if not years of waiting. Electronic publication probably won't reduce the competitiveness, but it is to be hoped that it may reduce the instances of different taxonomists reinventing the same wheel in ignorance of others' work.

The Latin, or Latinised, binomial remains. The binomial tradition of scientific nomenclature – for example *Homo sapiens* for humans – dates back to 1753 when the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus published his work *Species Plantarum*.

A factor moving the scientists to making the changes to the ICN was a concern to speed up the process of naming new plants, because of a fear that in many cases they might die out (the plants, that is) before they are officially recognised. Botanists estimate that roughly 200,000 names published so far represent just around half of existing plant species and only a fraction of the world's fungi and algae. The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew say they are still describing several thousand new species every year.

- *inter alia* – “amongst other things” *Ed.*

Editors' note

One aspect of concern in regard to the description and naming of plants and animals is the looming shortage of taxonomists. New graduates in the biological sciences presumably do not see this as an exciting or lucrative field to enter, so the subject is increasingly not taught, and in economically straitened times it is not seen as a priority for funding. We understand that in the USA, for example, no taxonomy courses are now offered at all. This is at a time when huge numbers of 'new' or unknown species are being discovered (and often lost before they can even be named and classified).

A garden orchid

Eric Martin (ericmartin113@gmail.com)

This is *Cattleya percivalliana* x *Laelia anceps* growing happily outside on a pohutukawa tree. Unfortunately snails know how to climb trees. I also have a huge basket of *L. anceps* in full sun outside most of the year (rain cover in winter). It flowers profusely every year. (*Eric lives in Auckland. Ed.*)



Editors' note:

For our next issue, we would like to feature some material on growing orchids outdoors in the warmer parts of NZ. Therefore, we hope to receive opinions on suitable sites, host trees, types of orchids, pest control (snails included!) and the sort of localities in which orchids have been successfully grown without benefit of shadehouse or greenhouse. Photographs are always welcome.

A question about temperatures

Roy Griffith (j.r.griffith@clear.net.nz)

I have a question to pose regarding temperature measurement in the orchid house. My question is - has anyone any views on the relative accuracy of mercury or alcohol maximum/minimum thermometers vis-a-vis the electronic ones that are becoming increasingly common. I have found (we have owned several of the old-style ones) that

- alcohol ones do not always manage to move the sliders as the temperature rises/falls leading to wrong results
- there can be variations of 1 to 2 degrees C between the readings on different thermometers

I am told mercury thermometers are harder to import these days (some people are worried about mercury) hence the increasing numbers of alcohol filled thermometers.

Why don't I solve all my problems and get an electronic - but as I say - how accurate are they?

Answers to the question on temperatures.

Thanks to our readers, here are some answers to the above question:

1. I have an electric thermometer (iROX ETHG889) and feel it is pretty accurate (as much as one can be without comparing it to another, it has certainly never given us a reading that we thought was incorrect). We actually use it in the centre of our house, so we often notice it several times a day and it is so much easier to read than a mercury or alcohol one and certainly doesn't get "stuck". Another benefit is that it also gives us the humidity range, which also appears to be pretty accurate, as well as recording the lowest and highest temperatures. I am thinking though that the accuracy of an electronic thermometer might be closely related to its quality.

I also know that mercury is not supposed to be transported on aircraft as it causes huge problems if it "gets loose" as it can cause major damage to the aircraft. So I guess that puts importing mercury thermometers into the too hard basket for a lot of people.

Tracey (traceylj@vodafone.co.nz)

2. Battery operated thermometers don't like getting wet, I've drowned three.

Melanie (lenb@actrix.co.nz)

3. As an electronics designer for NZ Hydroponics (when they existed), I was involved in the design of digital thermometers and thermostats. The electronic max/min thermometers have the potential to be highly accurate - but their accuracy mostly depends on factory calibration. Usually there are provisions on the item's circuit board for re-calibration as needed by someone who knows what they're doing...

I'd be inclined to try one and see - a max/min unit including humidity display can be currently obtained on Trademe for \$13.50, but the scene is ever-changing. Also, a small range of digital thermometers/hygrometers can be seen at:

<http://morestuff.biz/category/2/instrumentation>

Prices are quite reasonable.

Dave (esprit@slingshot.co.nz)

4. Not familiar with alcohol thermometers - can only say we have a (fairly old) max/min mercury one in a central part of glasshouse and 3 electronic ones at varying places. They read accurately enough to have a good idea of temp and humidity for me but a pedantic person would probably not be too pleased.

Glenis Day (dayg@clear.net.nz)

5. Yes I do think that would be a good question to sort out for many readers. As a fairly new arrival in New Zealand and coming from a country where we did not have to worry about frosts and the kind of cold weather that you have here – I do worry that I may not get the temperature right in my greenhouse – so I for one will find the answers very interesting.
Regards.

Penny Mikkelsen (pennymikkelsen@gmail.com)

6. Re the query about temperatures. We use dual minimum/maximum mercury thermometers purchased from the Warehouse for general use in both shadehouses. These can be reset to the present time temperature and for an indication they are OK. We also have some alcohol thermometers that are set into a narrow wooden frame and give actual temperature at any time but they cannot be reset. These only give an indication of the temperature and do not control any device such as fans.

To control our circulating fans we use 1 x Danfoss thermostat, 3 x dial up thermostats (these have capillary tubes to sense the ambient temperature) and a couple of electronic controllers which have 'PT 100' sensors located in the respective shadehouses. The same fans are used for winter and summer, it is just the way I control them.

To determine the accuracy of any measuring device, that device should be calibrated or measured against a master device in a laboratory.

David Hutchins

dphutchins@xtra.co.nz

7. Unfortunately with electronic thermometers you get what you pay for regarding accuracy. First establish what accuracy is needed and range of temperature. From that point your options become a lot clearer. If need be you can get accuracy of +/- 0.01 degrees Celsius. Have a look at some of the incubator (for eggs) thermometers, again cheapest tend to be less accurate. One option would be the use of thermocouples able to be used with some multimeters, or another option, if you also need to control heat/cold, would be the use of a PID controller with appropriate sensor, which, depending on quality, can be very accurate (quality and accuracy go hand in hand with cost) and at same time give you temperature reading. Having said that I have found that some of the indoor/outdoor minimum/ maximum type electronic thermometers are actually very accurate when compared against calibrated incubator thermometers i.e. within +/- 0.1 degrees Celsius.

Barry Millett (millettbarry@rocketmail.com)

8. To check on any thermometer of course there are Quality Control companies that assess them at a cost. They mainly check the electronic ones of course. But to me the easier way seems to obtain a mercury (Hg) thermometer from a good source and use that as your temperature basis and compare your other thermometers to it, hang them beside the Hg one.

As far as I remember [going back a long time] mercury thermometers are the most reliable, I don't think there is any need for them to break if looked after. Is it SGS the company that tests devices like these ?

Philip Thomas (wellberries@xtra.co.nz)

9. Thoughts on Temperature Recording Devices.

Roy poses an interesting question (although I suspect he knows the answer already and is trying to promote discussion. If so, I guess he has succeeded!) After reading Roy's email I set off to check a number of mercury, alcohol and digital thermometers/thermostats scattered around various houses.

Experience shows that still-air temperature recording devices of the mercury/alcohol/digital type are going to be up to a couple of degrees out in the mid-temperature ranges regardless of the type. At lower temperatures they all become more accurate, and at higher temperatures accuracy decreases. Assuming that what we think we are recording with these things is the air temperature.

I deliberately mentioned "still-air" devices, because accurate air temperature measurements require the recording device to be aspirated, i.e., the air has to be moving relatively quickly over the instrument. The simplest device for achieving an accurate air temperature reading is called a "sling psychrometer" (or "whirling hygrometer") and has two thermometers in it: one with a dry bulb and another with a wet bulb, and you use the difference between the two readings to calculate the relative humidity of the air. I use such a device to provide a standard aspirated temperature reading to check the accuracy of the various thermostats scattered around the nursery. (How does this thing work? Imagine one of those rattles that football hooligans twirl over their heads, then image you have your thermometer at the end of the handle instead of the clanky noise-making mechanism



← Sling Psychrometer (Whirling Hygrometer)

A week ago I did a check late morning on successive days: on day 1 the houses had been warmed up by a couple of hours morning sun, followed by an hour of heavy cloud, and day 2 was overcast all day. Temperature recording devices were in Unit 2 (heated tunnel house), Unit 3 (unheated house) and Unit 6 (heated level 2 quarantine house). Two temperature readings are given for the max/min thermometers because the

current readings on each side are not always the same, and the reading from the dry bulb of the sling psychrometer whirled adjacent to the static devices are shown in square brackets:

MERCURY THERMOMETERS:

Unit 2:

Day 1 max/min reading 17 and 17 [17.5]

Day 2 max/min reading 12.5 and 12.5 [15]

Unit 3:

Day 1 max/min reading 12 and 13 [12]

Day 2 max/min reading 9.5 and 10.5 [12]

Unit 6:

Day 1 max/min reading 16.5 and 16.5 [18]

Day 2 max/min reading 10 and 10.5 [12]

ALCOHOL THERMOMETERS:**Unit 6:**

Day 1 reading 17 [18]

Day 2 reading 12 [12]

Unit 3:

Day 1 reading 14 [14.5]

Day 2 reading 11.5 [12]

DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (heater) in Unit 2:

Day 1 reading 19.5 [17.5]

Day 2 reading 14.5 [15]

DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (vent control) in Unit 2:

Day 1 reading 20.8 [18]

Day 2 reading 14.1 [14]

I haven't used an alcohol max/min thermometer, but if one has the problems Roy reports, then I suggest his best option would be to get a digital weather station that logs temperature and humidity every 10 minutes or so, and then download the readings onto his computer. This gives far more valuable information about your growing environment than a max/min thermometer. The ones we have used were bought 5-10 years ago and cost a few hundred dollars but there are much cheaper models around now – just Google on digital weather stations.

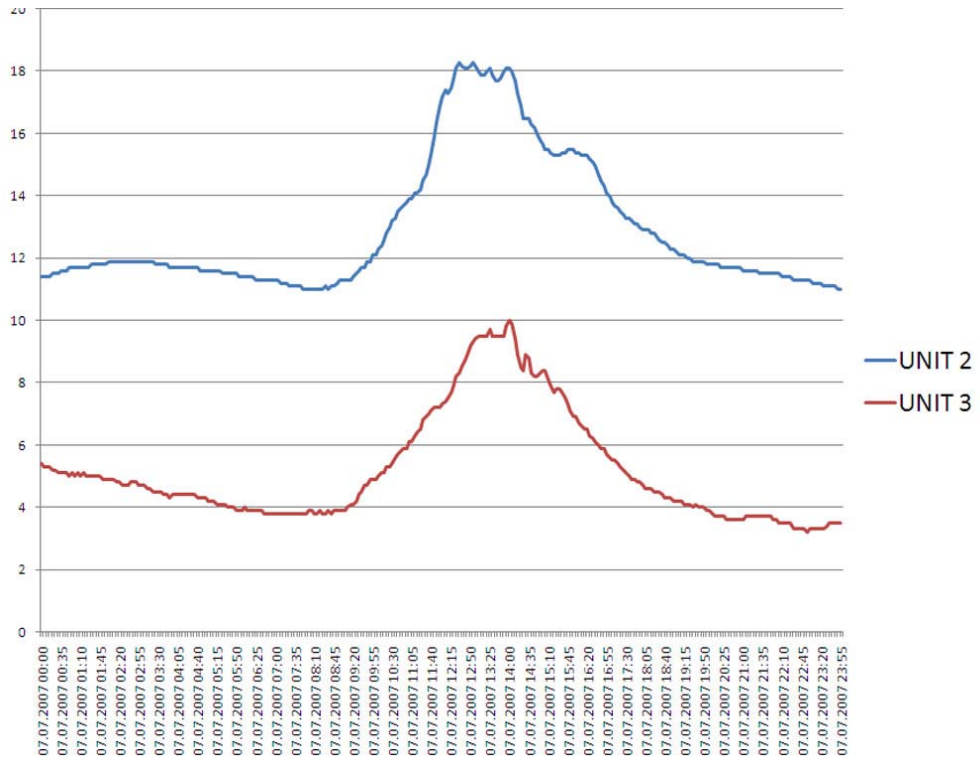
Example temperature readouts from digital loggers on the same day in Unit 2 (heated house) and Unit 3 (unheated) were as shown below (next page)

Humidity readings were also taken, but I left them out of these graphs since we are only talking about temperature in this note.

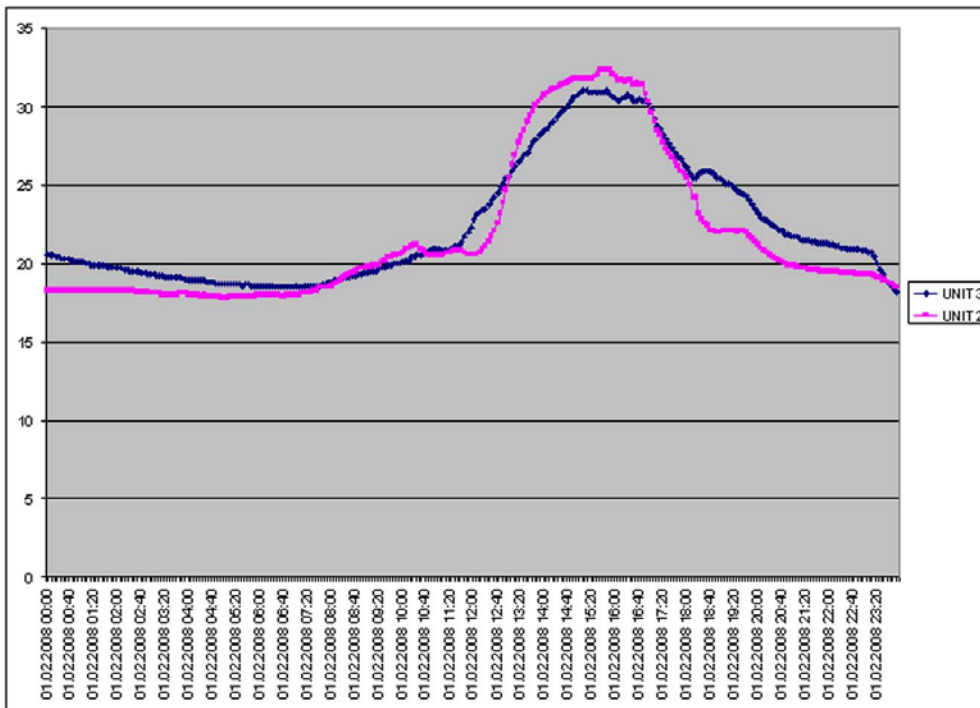
The winter graph does show one interesting point: providing a decent diurnal temperature range in winter. We are growing-on *Tillandsia* seedlings in Unit 2. I don't know about orchids, but epiphytic tillandsias certainly appreciate a reasonable lift in temperature during the daytime. This exposes a problem with single stage thermostats as traditionally used in heated houses, because you only get to set one minimum temperature. Say we set a single setting thermostat in Unit 2 to 11 degrees – as you can see the maximum temperature during the day in the unheated house that day was 10 degrees. During periods of very little sunlight the temperature in Unit 2 would basically flat line all day, unlikely to get much over 12 degrees.

How do we get the 6 degree daytime temperature lift in Unit 2 under these winter conditions? By using a multi-stage 5-setting thermostat (Honeywell CMR707A1049). We play around with it a bit, but you would use the following sort of schedule: minimum temperatures at 11

degrees overnight, 12 degrees at 9am, 14 degrees at 11am, 16 degrees at 1pm, 14 degrees at 3 pm, 12 degrees at 5pm, 11 degrees at 7pm.
 Andrew Flower (andrew@anwyl.com)



Winter 2007



Summer 2008

Additional comment from Editor

Well, Roy's question certainly sparked off a flood of interesting answers! I would expect that the reliability and accuracy of either alcohol or mercury thermometers depends largely on the degree of uniformity of the inside diameter of the glass capillary tube in which the alcohol/mercury is housed. And of course, the reliability of the initial calibration, plus the ability (if any) for the glass capillary to move against the material that carries the temperature scale. So a couple of questions to ask are: "Where is the thermometer made? Does the manufacturer have a long-standing good reputation?" Also, most laboratory thermometers have the scale engraved on the outside of the capillary (desirable), whereas most max-min or garden thermometers that I have seen have the glass capillary(s) clipped to the plastic or metal scale. Guess which is easier to read for aging eyes?

Digital thermometers can be expected to be dependant on the circuit design and also the quality of the electronics and sensors and the initial calibration (and, of course, a battery with some life in it and battery connectors that are not corroded to blazes – remember we're talking of a **damp** environment). As in most things, price does tend to reflect quality, at least to some extent. Gold-plated battery connectors – much more dependable, but at a price!

And of course, this discussion also throws an interesting light on the whole 'global warming' debate, which is heavily dependant on long-term temperature records – just how reliable were the early mercury or alcohol thermometers on which those records are based? And how carefully were those thermometers positioned?

However, when it comes to what is happening in an orchid house, we should remember that orchids are really amazingly tolerant of environmental vicissitudes, on the whole!

A question for the Orchid Doctor

For some time we have been having a problem with paphs with what we call 'leaf die back'. Most (but not all) of our paphs have been affected, whether they are inside the house or in the glasshouse. The tips of some of the leaves start turning brown and it slowly travels right down the length of the leaf. We've tried cutting the affected part off, but eventually it starts going brown again. This happens on mature leaves and can be on leaves at the top of the plant or at the base. It doesn't affect all the leaves on the plant. The plants still flower and don't seem to suffer in any other way. Any ideas/advice would be appreciated.

Tony (tony.elaine@xtra.co.nz).

REPLY:Your problem sounds to be more cultural in origin than disease related.

If it were due to an infection of the leaf, cutting well back from the infection should isolate the problem, particularly if you apply flowers of sulphur to the wound.

Any time the health of my paphs is in question, unless the cause is obvious, I repot the plant. Leaf tip die-back is suggestive of a root or potting mix problem. I wonder if there is an accumulation of salts from your fertilizer (or water). Perhaps the bark mix is breaking down prematurely. You need to examine the roots carefully. If you fail to find an obvious problem there, your paphs will still "thank" you for repotting in fresh mix and a sterilized or new pot.

Make sure that you repot once per year. If this problem started at a certain time, try to think of anything else that may have changed in the

time leading up to it. Question the quality of the water supply, and fertilize at no more than half strength. Selwyn Hatrick (selwyn_h@slingshot.co.nz)

***Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'alba'**

I purchased this plant some years ago and as it has grown and continues to flower each year it has become apparent that it is well worth the bench space in my orchid house.

This plant has had two inflorescences each year for the last three years; total length of each inflorescence this year is 37 cm with an average of 100 flowers total; each flower is 60 mm wide and the perfume is quite exquisite. The pot size is 25 cm, the mix is 100% medium bark and it is grown under 75% green shadecloth with a layer of plastic. The trick is to keep the buds dry as they are emerging. With finger thick roots it remains well anchored in the pot and will remain so for another couple of years until the bark breaks down. Watering and fertilising is twice a week with what ever I have to hand.

Happy growing,

Tony Beck

Thornlands, Queensland, Australia



Caring for Orchids the fast way.

Alison Syder (bandasyder@xtra.co.nz)

Being left the collection of Orchids to look after while Brian was in hospital or at home, I



Phragmipedium Cardinal 'Emily' HCC/OCNZ

Brian could not get to flower. I am really thrilled as *Phrag.* Cardinal 'Emily' that Brian had awarded is due for the third flower.

I repotted all the plants in January, so I knew they were all done. I thought Brian had repotted quite a few prior to his illness but how wrong I was. I think he spent time talking to his favourite genera, being masdevallias and draculas. One special one he was waiting to see flower, [*Dracula*] *soderii*, had lots of spikes and did nothing and still has not flowered. Some of the spikes dropped off and others are still hanging on in there.

thought was alright as I could ask his advice and did as I was directed.

It all changed after Brian passed away 11 weeks later and I thought "feed the plants every three days and water genera some every day, some genera alternate days", then realized I needed some help with the watering, warmth and feeding advice.

There were bags, bottles and containers unnamed that we decided to clear out as only Brian would have had a clue as to what they were. So then I started fresh.

Having lots of different genera in the same glasshouse, I moved plants around thinking I was doing right.

Some have died and some have flourished but it was trial and error. Some are flowering that

To help heating costs, I have put bubble wrap on the ends of the glasshouse and plastic on the sides to the roof vents inside. I also painted the external block wall black hoping to retain the heat.

I have also joined the Orchid Society and enjoy going to the meetings to hear the speakers, whom are always good value. I am selling the Orchid Collection but hope to keep a few that I think I will be able to manage without a glasshouse that has heating.

I am not sure about my plans for the future but know the Earthquake damage is being repaired Jan/Feb/March, which means I and my belongings will be out of my house while all the repairs are done. But the Orchids I have not sold will survive in the glasshouse as I will be back and forwards. Happy Orchiding, people - I know how the addiction starts but I am aiming for a clear pathway next year.

Alison Syder (bandasyder@xtra.co.nz)
Ph 033599545 or 0212680229

De-Flasking Cymbidiums My Way

Andy Price (Hinemoa Orchids) Ajamprice@xtra.co.nz

I have now deflasked many cymbidiums and have had a lot of success in doing so, and would like to share with others so that they can attempt this. Once you have purchased your flask you should put the flask where you want to grow your community pot, for a least a week, so that the plants can acclimatise themselves there.

Chop and soak enough sphagnum moss (preferably the night before). Open your flask and fill your jar with a little water and swirl it so that the plants and agar are loose and tip out into a basin of tepid water. Rinse off the agar and place them onto some newspaper and leave them with a fan running on them to dry out the roots (see Picture 1).

Picture 1



I then choose a pot just big enough to hold them and squeeze the water out of the sphagnum moss and pack it in the bottom firmly until it is about 50mm from the top and then on the rim of one side, a 10 mm piece, (see Picture 2, below).



Then tilt the pot (I put a piece of wood to hold the pot in place) and start placing your plants closely together until that row is full, then pack some more moist sphagnum moss around them and bring the moss a little above the roots as in Pictures 3 and 4 (below)



Repeat the process until all the plants are used up. You will need to straighten them all and pack a little more sphagnum around them so that they are all nice and tucked in like picture 5 (below)



Because they come from a nice humid environment in the flask I believe misting is essential for at least a few weeks until the roots start growing and you must not water them until they do as they might die on you. I don't use any fungicide as the sphagnum moss is a sterile medium and I haven't had any problems with this. Once the roots are growing you can start watering and later apply a weak fertiliser. I check the plants just by lifting them out of the pot enough to expose the roots so that you can see. Happy Growing.

A brace of Cattleya hybrids



Sc. Lana Coryell 'Kamo'. Grower and
photographer: Cliff Goodchild
(goodchilds@xtra.co.nz)



The parents of this *Blc.* Toshie Aoki 'Pizzaz' AM/AOS (New Name - *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*)
are *Rlc.* Faye Miyamoto x *Rlc.* Waianae Flare. Grower, photographer Jerry Cline, Florida.

Orchid Hunting in Borneo

Geoffrey Marshall (all photographs by author)

gm.jh@ihug.co.nz

In August, my partner, John, and I took a trip to Sarawak and Sabah via Singapore. The trip's focus was intended to be horticultural in general but seeing orchids in the wild was a prime focus. I should have known better.

In Singapore we revisited the Botanical Gardens and its great orchid collection but there are too few species there for me. However, there are some excellent uses of orchids as landscaping plants, including a long stretch of an *Oncidium flexuosum* hybrid tucked in among foliage plants to line a path – a mist of yellow amongst the green and very effective. They had also naturalised *Brassavola* Little Stars on various trees and these looked stunning.

We also visited the new Gardens By The Bay, which opened this year. Visitors to the World Orchid Conference in Singapore saw part of this, I believe. There are two huge bio-domes featuring plants that cannot grow outside in Singapore. One presents plants from warm/dry places and the other from cool/damp regions. The latter is presented as an artificial mountain with misting and waterfalls and with walkways around and through the “mountain”. Shrubs and perennials including lots of orchids are attached to the artificial rock and look reasonably natural. While there is quite a lot of ecological information presented in both domes, the planting relies too much on hybrid material to be really scientifically interesting. However, the domes are truly spectacular and well worth a visit. And there was an *Anguloa* (*A. uniflora*, I think) open and in perfect condition. Exciting, as I'd only known it from photographs.

In Sarawak, we were based initially in Kuching, a river-side city known for its cat museum – a crazy mix of high art and high kitsch that I can recommend to any cat-lover. A visit to a local orchid garden was interesting for its displays of hybrid renanthera, ascocentras and

'antelope' type dendrobiums but again there was a shortage of species and labelling. However the mass displays of one hybrid did create some worthwhile moments.



Nepenthes rafflesiana (?)

Natural history started with a trip to the Semenggoh Orangutan Reserve. This is an unfenced area of 7 sq-km where rescued orangutans and their off-spring live. They are semi-wild and during the wet season are often not seen but during the dry season they regularly come to feed at a couple of feeding stations. We were lucky, and the big, dominant male, three females and two babies came down.

Bako National Park is a peninsula, very close to the equator, and features a range of habitats from mangroves, through rocky, dry scrub to lush tropical rainforest. The most interesting area was the rocky scrub where on the first day we saw many different species of *Nepenthes* (pitcher plants) in all colours, shapes and sizes. We also



found lots of fat white buds on plants I was certain were orchids, but no flowers. Very frustrating. The next day we passed through this area again towards a different trail and now found every bud opened – some environmental trigger had caused a mass opening. It proved to be *Bromheadia finlaysoniana* (photo to left) and was most attractive. We found a few other species but none so nice.

At Bako we also notched up three types of monkey, a beautiful green tree snake, numerous butterflies and, after dark, “jungle music” composed by various frogs, insects and birds that was so rhythmically precise it sounded man-made.

We had organised to go to Mulu National Park for its huge caves and to walk the Headhunter Trail. Mulu is a fairly pristine area of lowland tropical rainforest that includes Mt. Mulu rising to nearly 2400 m so has a range of habitats. I'm not especially interested in caves but these were fantastic. One is home to about 12 million bats and at dusk we watched as twisting ribbons of them left for their nightly foraging. A particular feature at Mulu is the 500 m long canopy walk that is a series of plank and wire bridges strung between tall trees and ranges up to 20 m above the ground. It gave us a good look at the forest top, glimpses only of a few orchids, and a close-up of a tree viper.

The Headhunter Trail is based on the route that a headhunting tribe used to attack another area and is now used as access to Mt Mulu and as a way of experiencing the jungle. Up-river from Mulu in a narrow boat – about 8 m long but only 900 cm wide – we were propelled by motor, with pulling and poling as conditions demanded, to the start of the trail. Temperature in the high 30s, very high humidity and 20 kms with an overnight stop. Not as hard as we'd feared and as it was quite dry, no leeches. Few orchids were to be seen from ground level except for those that were attached to recently fallen branches. This is the norm for tropical forests and the “fallen branch orchids” were a good source of plants for early collectors who couldn't scale the tall trees.

At the end of the trail it was back into another boat on a different river to head down-stream towards the coast. Again many shallow patches that required us to get out and help push but also some very exciting rapids, which the boatmen steered us through with great skill. We arrived for an overnight stay in a traditional longhouse – very thin mattress on the floor under mosquito netting – hot and tired. It required a long soak in a shallow part of the river to restore our spirits - it had to be a shallow part of the river, we were warned, because of the threat of crocodiles.



A couple of days later we reached Kota Kinabulu in Sabah, where the Sunday market (*left*) was a constant temptation and frustration. Lots of orchids, species and hybrids, for sale at ridiculous prices and in lovely condition. And for the first time in days, fantastic food at a waterfront Thai restaurant with brilliant sunsets.

Next stop was Kinabulu National Park. Some mad souls climb Mt Kinabulu, but as it's a head down, one-foot-in-front-of-another ordeal with little time for botanising, we passed up this opportunity and focussed on the more accessible areas.

Our guide got us into a closed reserve within the park, Mesilau, a hilly area of low rocky, scrub where we found *Pahipedilum dayanum*, a dendrochilum and masses of several different coelogynes, all in flower and growing semi-terrestrially. This was also

home to the biggest *Nepenthes* species (*N. rajah*) of which we found numerous examples. In the forest leading to the reserve we found a tall white calanthe – possibly *C. triplicata* – and on the road in, two unusual variants of *Arundina graminifolia* – a purple-tinged leaf type with flowers quite different from the norm and a white one where the lip is petaloid. A local confirmed that these were both well-recognized as distinct forms.



The wild areas at Poring, an adjacent area, proved disappointing but they did have an excellent orchid garden with many naturalised and potted species including a beautiful green Coelogyne similar to *C. pandurata* which I believe was *C. mayeriana* (*left*). A fence covered in an *Arachnis* in full flower was completely ridiculous in its abundance.

The main park area at Kinabulu turned up few orchids, mainly terrestrial, but we enjoyed walking various trails.

Another trip out from Kota Kinabulu took us first to a butterfly park that had only two types of butterfly but surprised us with a very good collection of local orchid species. Lots of bulbophyllums and

coelogyne, with cymbidiums, paphiopedilums, erias,



etc. One notable plant was *Dimorphorchis gracilliscarpa*, a tall *Arachnis* relative (left) with long pendulous spikes of flowers in two colours. The flowers at the top of the spike were deep tawny orange while the rest were creamy-yellow. The difference is not the age of the flowers but is apparently a consistent feature of the genus. Strange, but beautiful and fragrant.

Earlier in the trip we had visited two reserves where we had hoped to see the fabled *Rafflesia*, a genus of vine parasites. There are numerous species, all very rare, the largest producing a flower up to 900 cm across. The flowers only last a few days and take about 9 months from bump on the vine stem to open flower. We'd had no success previously but discovered that there was another *Rafflesia* reserve just down the road from the butterfly park. We called in and, yes, there was a flower to be seen. It would cost \$50 for two with entry and guide fees but we hadn't come all this way... A 30 minute trek through the jungle brought us to a patch with numerous buds at various stages of development and a 2-day-old flower (left). Not fully expanded, without the carrion stench some species are infamous for, and only about 40 cm across, but, hey, we'd seen it. And John got his first leech attack – lots of blood but no pain!



On to Tenom, where the Sabah Agricultural Park is a government-run research and conservation centre with sections devoted to species and hybrid orchids. We didn't get to the hybrid section as the park guide who came with us was a species nut who gave us a full morning in the species section with access to areas usually locked off. He was possibly too enthusiastic as even I got a little weary of very small flowered species of only botanical



interest. However, we did get a name for a large *Eria* (*E. ornata*) which I'd seen earlier and had thought from a distance was a bromeliad, and they had a particularly good number of *Paphiopedilum philippensis* in full flower (*left*) that were stunning. We also some huge plants of *Grammatophyllum*, including what one we were told was *G. nabawensis*, in flower. This was certainly darker than the usual *G. speciosum* but I can't find any references to it on-line.

Back in KK, we visited Villa de Orchids, billed as being both an orchid farm supplying flowers to the local market as well as having an extensive species collection. Sadly, their website hadn't been updated for a while and the farm was no more, while the entry price to the species collection had become outrageous. After a bit of negotiation, we managed to establish an entry fee that was

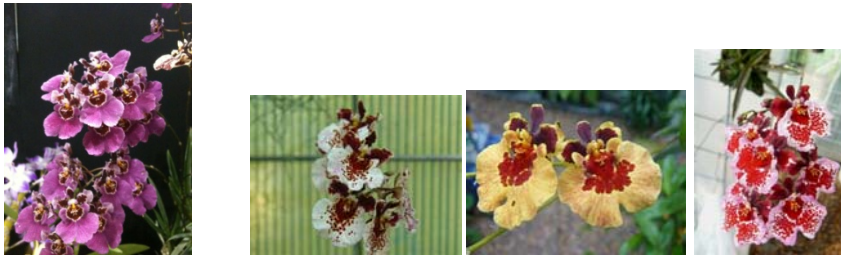
merely unreasonable and hoped it was worth it.

A good variety of phalanopsis, trichoglottis, bulbophyllum and coelogyne were to be seen but we had another guide with both a great interest in the minute and a keen interest to make sure we'd got our money's worth. I nearly faced mutiny from John, and our driver had faded out long ago.

As I suppose is usual with these trips, not as many orchids were found in the wild as had been hoped but a great time was had looking for them.

The culture of Tolumnias (formerly equitant Oncidiums)

Christine Martin (christinemartin2311@gmail.com)



In nature these orchids grow on small branches or twigs and that is why they need excellent drainage. They will grow well with Cattleyas or Phalaenopsis with or without heat, provided they are grown in a covered shade or glass house with reasonable humidity and good air movement. Growing Equitants is very much a matter of what works for you as a grower. Not all growing areas are the same and there is some trial and error involved finding the right place in your orchid house.

The two most important basic requirements, however, are that:

Air movement must be good, and

The plants must dry fast.

In their natural habitat in the Caribbean, they grow on twigs with their roots freely rambling to catch dew and rainfall, and then quickly dry out in the breezes. Temperature should ideally range from 26°C to 29°C but not much lower than 10°C. In a sheltered orchid house short drops in temperature in the mornings in winter down to 2°C are tolerated. If the weather is cold and windy try to keep them dry but make sure humidity is reasonably high during the day so they can absorb some moisture.

On very hot days frequent misting till late afternoon is recommended or at least the floor of the orchid house should be wet and relative humidity of 50% to 70% is desirable.

Light should be bright but diffused, somewhere between the optimal for *Phalaenopsis* and that for Cattleyas; larger plants should be getting more light than small seedlings.

Plants are normally grown on cork slabs but if the humidity cannot be maintained around 50% to 70% during the day they can be planted in small terracotta or plastic net pots with very coarse material like polystyrene and a bit of medium bark or pebbles on the top, as long as the medium is dry by night.

Fertilize at recommended strength with a balanced fertilizer once per week; every 4th feed use an organic fertilizer, for example fish, and add some calcium nitrate (if using rain water).

Pests can be a big problem so look at the plants **thoroughly** once a week.

Mealybug and scale are the worst enemies of Tolumnias, as they are small plants and an attack of these critters can wipe them out in one week, so prevention is better than cure.

Other than that, they do not have any frequent problems with fungi as they are grown fairly dry. If you have fungus problems, just use one of the fungicides that are systemic, but please read the instructions and make sure you cover up.

After the first flowering **do not remove the inflorescence** as they will often branch out and flower again. I had some plants in flower from July to November.

(Christine lives on the Central Coast of NSW Ed.)



Osmoglossum pulchellum

Sandra Simpson (sakez@xtra.co.nz)

This *Osmoglossum* (above) is in flower now, the first time it has flowered for me ... I bought it at the Te Puke Orchid Show last year. It has a lovely perfume, very floral. My notes say that it is often called the lily of the valley orchid, because of its scent, and is from the mountain forests of Central America. I have brought it into the living room to enjoy.

I grow it outside in central Tauranga, on a stand with several varieties of other orchids, underneath a verandah.

I am very much a novice orchid enthusiast but am encouraged by many friends in the Tauranga and Te Puke orchid societies (Natalie very kindly sends me their newsletter and yours). I am the garden writer for the Bay of Plenty Times in Tauranga (and do all my own photography).

An orchid species, not seen so often these days, that should be in every collection. Eds.

Lifting the lid on Flasks

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

Many of us have spent large sums for orchid flasks only to be disappointed at the results. I will state now that these are my own views resulting from my and others experiences and the reason for putting this in print is to hopefully help growers make the right decision when setting out to purchase flasks. I have not been flasking for too long but certainly have made some very startling observations from my own and others attempts and results.

I started flasking by helping out a friend who was having some trouble with eyesight and getting some contamination a bit more often than he liked. I was given very good instruction and was soon well into the swing of seed sowing and then replating. Fortunately I was not burdened with the more tedious tasks of media preparation and flask sterilization. Mostly things went well and with the ready access to the gear I was soon doing my own seed pods and watching intently their development (or lack of) with interest.

Previously I had bought flasks from the many overseas visitors and some local ones with varying success. By this they varied from 'complete disasters' (with almost total losses) to amazingly successful with almost 100% success. Now I do admit that in the early days some of the failures may have been due to my inexperience at handling and growing on seedlings but I am now beginning to wonder if that is the full story.

Some flasks opened at the same time immediately struggled while others grew. All received the same treatment, heat tray, community pots, frequent misting, kept indoors etc. I tried different mixes, some in sphagnum, some in bark and others in a mixture of different media. I read all the material I could find, listened to speakers on the subject and watched demonstrations.

The interesting things I found were:

1. Not all flasks are equal.
2. The first few flasks replated from the mother flask will do best.
3. Some crosses will never grow well.
4. Some flasks of the same plants are far superior to others.
5. Just because the parents are awarded doesn't mean the offspring will be.
6. Even the top growers have failures.

I based these findings on many different genera and from others efforts as well as my own. To give some examples.

Many of a certain line of Dendrobiums from overseas bought by NZ growers were failures. The few that are left of mine are still struggling. A very good commercial grower with loads of experience, gear and all the right conditions ended up dumping the whole lot of these into the rubbish in frustration after years of poor or negligible growth. (A total loss)

A flask of imported Phallies I purchased from a reputable overseas grower are all growing very well except for about four which are still alive but no bigger than the day they were deflasked, while others have flowered.

I have a flask of Paphs sourced from Thailand which are nearly all growing albeit quite slowly.

A friend gave me a flask of Aussie Dendrobiums that have never grown and are slowly dying. This was the only flask able to be replated from the mother flask.

Recently three different seed pods of Lycastes were sown at two different establishments at the same time. Both used the same medium.

One has been replated into two very good flasks, plants all about 20 – 30 mm high.

Another has only produced one good flask and plants are only growing very slowly. (The one I did.)

The third produced a mass of protocorms with no leaves and is still the same months later.

The third example I believe to be a classic example of a ‘clash of genes’ for want of a better phrase.

From my own crosses the variations are enormous. The results ranged from no seed germination to a jar full of protocorms and a jar full of good plants. This should come as no surprise to anyone.

My earliest cross was a *Phalaenopsis* (no germination) then came a Nobile *Dendrobium* with very good results and plants growing well except for the snails that loved them. A couple of Cattleyas started out well with plenty of plants but very slow growth after being potted out. Then came a couple of oddities. One flask had a total of four plants with no other germination. The next had exactly two plants! Was this stray seed from somewhere else or contamination from an earlier flasking? Maybe not as I found my mentor had experienced the same from time to time over the years and a friend had a cymbidium flask with one plant only at about the same time as mine (a Cattleya).

My most recent flasking attempts, which resulted in growing plants were quite amazing. The Aussie Dendrobium cross was from my longest-lasting one crossed with a nice upright large flower. I picked these parents because of their vigour and lasting qualities rather than shape or colour. The pod was on the plant one month, it germinated one month after sowing, was replated and planted out within a year of the pollination. Losses after three months in pot are negligible. I even shoved the rest of the mother flask en-mass into a pot of sphagnum and they are all growing!

A similar result but over a little longer time was achieved with a *Laelia* cross (primary hybrid with species), then a *Laelia* species selfed and finally a species crossed with an alba form of the same species. It wasn't all good news as these were the only ones that produced seed pods out of quite a few other attempts. But in each case the parents were selected as mentioned above, not for flower quality. With the above crosses the other noticeable feature was the size and vigour of the plants in successive flasks.

In all cases the first two flasks (about 50 plants) were very large with good roots (some up to 75 mm long). The third flask was significantly smaller and slower. The plants remaining in the mother flask did not show signs of putting on substantial growth. This does not mean that they wouldn't but would need to be replated.

Replanting, for the uninitiated, is an exercise in delicately removing the larger plants from the mother flask and replanting them in a new flask under sterile conditions. It is very plain to see that there are always only a certain number of plants that will be big enough at this stage. What I have found is the smaller plants tended to be much slower growing than the first lot of larger ones.

Now some plants are naturally slower growers and it is very dependent on the vigour and compatibility of the parents how many good flasks you will get. What is of concern is how many replates of runts which will never grow are appearing on the market.

How do we know if we are getting one of these? YOU DON'T. The only certain way is to do your own and keep the best ones!

When buying flasks I always check that the roots are well developed and filling the bottom part of the medium. Unless you want to keep your purchase in a light cabinet for another six months or year don't buy flasks with very small plants or those that have very little root growth.

How do we know what a good cross is? You don't! A friend brought back a flask from a nursery in France, one of the oldest names associated with orchids in Europe, which when flowered were so badly misshapen and distorted most went into the rubbish. Another of our members bought a supposedly 'good' flask of Vandas back from the Vancouver World Orchid Conference. These grew well (in a heated house) but never flowered so went the same way recently. I suppose it is possible some may have still flowered but 13 years is a long time to wait.

If you look at some of the most successful hybrids around they were from some of the most unlikely of parents. When you play with the gene pool it's like shuffling a pack of cards. You are not going to come up trumps very often and the ones most likely to achieve a good result are those with the most experience or the biggest pack usually, but there are no guarantees.

This brings me to the mericlones sold commercially. These are selected from thousands of seedlings and tested so that they are going to be reliable by the time they reach the shop. In NZ we mostly see *Phalaenopsis* but overseas I have seen many other genera grown to perfection being sold in supermarkets at reasonable prices. In fact the commercial mericlones I own flower regularly and are almost impossible to kill. I do know some commercial growers will buy back plants after they have finished flowering and restore them back to health over a relatively short period such is the plant's reliability. I even saw a photo taken very recently in Europe of a mericlone Phally in flower with 2 large keikeis on different stems and both with flower spikes also!

Seedlings will be variable from the vigorous to the ones that will never grow. Some will have multiple flowers others may never flower. Some may have what we term as 'good shape' others not.

Adding this all up you are asking for almost the impossible when you want all of these good points combined. Good flower shape, good colour, vigour, hardiness, adaptability and plenty of flowers. When the commercial growers find one like this they immediately mericlone it and make lots of money. Amateurs are hard pressed to match this and unfortunately it takes a long time and costs a lot to experiment with the relatively few plants at our disposal.

The one thing many orchid growers seem to overlook when buying flasks is just because one grower has one superb example of a cross then the rest of the plants available from that same cross (maybe even the same flask) may well not live up to expectations.

I also believe many orchids have been 'over-bred' resulting in inferior plants. There was an article in the AOS magazine a few years ago discussing this and how breeders were introducing more species back into the mix to increase vigour. I am often surprised when researching modern plants just how much better some of the parents of these were.

So next time you buy a flask (or a potted seedling for that matter) make sure the plants:

- (a) Have roots
- (b) Have grown to a reasonable size
- (c) It is a cross you know something about and want

Finally don't expect them all to grow at the same rate and be prepared for surprises (good and bad).

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 14 December 2012**.

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 (currently we do not charge for advertising...). 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 and Show Notices

Note that some show notices are in the larger full-page advertisements section later in this magazine.

The Orchid Council of New Zealand is bringing Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids, Australia, for a speaker's tour of New Zealand. Scott's main interests in orchids and orchid breeding include Cymbidiums, varicosum-type Oncidiums and Sarcochilus. His itinerary may be seen on the following website:

<http://orchidcouncil.co.nz/speaker-tour.htm>

Scott will be speaking specifically on Sarcochilus at the North Shore Orchid Society monthly meeting (Sunday 28 October, 1.30 pm) being held at the Milford Senior Citizens Rooms, 141a Kitchener Road, Milford. As founder members (Nick) and former committee members (both of us) of the NSOS your Editors can attest to the great and friendly meetings that the society holds.

New Zealand Orchid Society Spring Show 14-16 September 2012
Mt Albert War Memorial Hall New North Road, Mt Albert.
Contact Joe Vance jborchids@xtra.co.nz

South Auckland Orchid Society's Show Annual Show 29-30th September
2012 Auckland Botanical Gardens
Hill Road, Manurewa.
Contact Joe Vance jborchids@xtra.co.nz

The Bay of Islands Orchid Society in conjunction with the **Far North Bromeliad Group** are holding their Annual Spring Show in :
The Plaza of the Turner Centre, 43 Cobham Road, Kerikeri on Friday 28th September - 9.30am to 4.30pm and Saturday 29th September - 9.30am to 3.30pm.

There will be massed plant displays, raffles, quality plant sales and a trading table.
Admission : Adults - \$3.00 Children under 12 accompanied by an adult - Free.
Enquiries please phone : Lorna 09) 407 3424

The Wellington Orchid Society (Inc) spring show. 13th-14th October, Hutt Valley Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt, Wellington.

Manawatu Orchid Society
SPRING SHOW: September 29th & 30th 10am -4pm.
Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street, Palmerston North.
Free Entry. Plant Sales & Raffles.

The North Otago Orchid Display will be held on September 21 and 22, in Oamaru (see full page display advert later in this issue). All visitors welcome, especially any North Islanders on holiday; we ask them to introduce themselves to a committee member.

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

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

North Shore Orchid Society (Auckland)
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. 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.

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

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

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

Classified advertisements

Wanted to Buy:

A division of Paph. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS (other clones considered) to assist my complex paphiopedilum breeding program

Email: selwyn_h@lingshot.co.nz

Phone: 07 3485353

Wanted Cattleya intermedia 'Amethystina' (white with lilac lip) Also, any Cattleya species, esp unifoliate. Ph Amanda 03 543 2775 or txt 0274418 919. ajheine@xtra.co.nz **NEW**

Wanted to buy or swap: Plants or keikis of Nobile type or Yamamoto dendrobiums in yellow, orange or green colour range. I have available some very nice (named) purple, pink and white ones I could swap. Named mericlones or previously flowered crosses with pictures preferred. Contact Tina Taylor, email: taylorville@xtra.co.nz

Wanted: I am looking for a plant of *LC* Culminant 'La Tuilerie' .or another spelling is Tulliere from what I gather. Please email me at bandasyder@xtra.co.nz or text me on 0212680229
or land phone 033599545
Alison Syder

For sale: We are at present developing our listings of Orchid growers. which we can circulate to our members. Would GROWERS please contact me with their Email address, and attach an up to date list of available plants so I can co-ordinate the replies.

Regards

Beatrice Miller (miller.hampden@xtra.co.nz), North Otago Orchid Society

For sale:

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

For sale:

I have a selection of plants for sale in Dracula, Miltonias and others that are on punga

Also see Masdevallia list below:

Anyone interested please ph 03 3599545 or 0212680229 or email me

bandasyder@xtra.co.nz

Masdevallias for sale

Name	Price	stock
coccinea	\$10 and \$20	3
coriacea	\$15	3
corniculata	\$10	3
Copper Angel	\$10	4
Veitchiana Prince		
DeGal	\$15	2
Margurite	\$12 and \$20	6
Dr Who	\$15	1
kimballiana	\$10 and \$12	2
heathii	\$10	1
rolfenana	\$10 and \$15	6
Redwing 'Elf'	\$15	3
Angel Heart	\$10	2
Dr Who	\$15	1
Paivaeana	\$12	1
Mezae	\$10	1
trochilus	\$10	1

Anyone interested please ph 03 3599545 or 0212680229 or email me

bandasyder@xtra.co.nz

Advertising Section

Orchid Fantasia

Wellington Orchid society Show 2012

Come and see our displays

Come and buy orchids

Come and learn all about orchids

Come and buy Orchid supplies

Wellington Orchid Society Inc. held at Hutt Valley Horticultural Hall,
Laings Road Lower Hutt \$2 Entry For more information Phone

Paul Herd on 04-5861032 or 0220832887

October 13 & 14 2012 10.30am to 4.30pm

WELLINGTON ORCHID SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW Fantasia on October 13 and 14 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

RETURN SLIP PLEASE E-MAIL RETURN BEFORE 30 August 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Registration:

Display No charge Yes / No _____

Sales Table 10% commission Yes / No _____

Additional Saturday Dinner Yes / No _____

Please send Registration & Registration Enquiries to:

The Secretary

Paul Herd – PO Box 135

Wellington, 6140

E-mail paul-herd@xtra.co.nz

CLIVIA SHOWS

AUCKLAND

Auckland Horticultural Council
990 Great North Rd
Western Springs
Saturday 13th October 2012
9.00am to 4.00pm

TAURANGA

Plantstruck Nursery
139 Te Puna Road, Te Puna
Sunday 7th October 2012
1.00pm to 4.00pm

PALMERSTON NORTH

Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre
569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North
Date: 20th October 2012 Saturday
10am to 4pm

2012 **CLIVIA**
CARNIVALS





**WAIKATO
ORCHID
SOCIETY**

**SPRING
SHOW 2012**

**Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive
Hamilton Sunday 30th September**

**Opening hours for viewing
11am to 3-30pm.**

Displays, Plant Sales, Demonstrations

Exhibitors Members of any of NZ Orchid Societies are invited to exhibit plants at this show, with staging from 9am to 10am following which plants will be judged. Exhibitors may also sell plants from the Sales table with the Waikato Society taking a 12.5% commission on sales.

Now Available From
Napier Orchid Supplies Ltd.



These fantastic twin nozzle, double action sprayers are just what you need for all your spraying tasks around the garden. They fit any 1.5 - 2 litre soft drink bottle (not supplied) and are of robust brass construction. The ***Flit Sprayer*** is particularly useful when spraying your Orchids, making the application of routine pesticide treatments easy. Simply mix your chosen product in the soft drink bottle, attach the ***Flit Sprayer***, and spray! The jet from the ***Flit Sprayer*** is powerful enough to spray all around the inside of a 6' x 8' greenhouse without having to enter.

You can use a different bottle for each chemical that you use, thus reducing the danger of contamination. However, you should still ensure that you rinse the ***Flit Sprayer*** between products, and it is advisable to use a separate sprayer for the application of herbicides. Other uses include chemical spot treatments, as you need only mix up a small quantity, and misting with water to raise the humidity.

Price only \$18 – 00 each plus packaging and postage.

For our latest price list, we have an extensive range of over 150 items to help you grow your plants better.

Contact Bill on wflid@xtra.co.nz

Bill Liddy.
8 Thurley Place.
Bay View.
Napier. 4104
Phone. 06 8366735
Mobile: 027 307 4846
Email. wflid@xtra.co.nz

TAURANGA ORCHID SHOW

DISPLAY & SALES.

TAURANGA RACECOURSE
21st 22nd 23rd September
10am- 4pm

PLANTS FOR SALE

POTTING DEMONSTRATIONS

EXPERT PLANT CARE

ADVICE

Refreshments Available
Admission \$3.00

19th AOC Conference & Show, Perth.

The 19th Australian Orchid Council (AOC) Conference & Show to be held in Perth from 11-16 September 2012 at the Burswood Entertainment Complex promises to live up to its theme "Wild about Orchids" with stunning displays of local grown and exotic orchids, from all over the world being on show. Spring time in Perth ensures there will be many orchid genera in flower along with most of our local native orchids through-out Perth and the south west.

The AOC Conference & Show has attracted significant interest here in Australia and internationally with registrations for the conference and vendor locations in the marketplace being taken up at a steady rate.

The outstanding Burswood venue and an international speaker list which includes some of the most highly regarded orchid growers in the world have contributed to this strong interest for places at the 19th AOC Conference & Show. Significantly there has been a strong interest from overseas orchid nurseries and product suppliers for vendor places to complement the Australian growers and orchid producers. Registration places for the conference lectures and places on local tours, to see our native orchids in their natural habitats, have also proven to be very popular with international visitors. In fact most places on these tours have already been sold out.

The 19th AOC Conference & Show which promises to be an outstanding showcase of Western Australian orchids, both hybrid and species, includes an international gathering of the most authoritative orchid speakers ever seen in Australia, headed by keynote speaker Terry Root from the Orchid Zone, USA. The event is open to the public from Thursday 13th until Sunday 16th September 2012. Lectures also start on Thursday and run until Saturday 15th September.

Further information including registration forms can be obtained from the event website;
http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

There will also be a number of daily public talks on orchid culture and potting demonstrations for those wishing to learn from the experts on just how to get the best results from your orchids, which can be easily grown in the backyard or even in the home.

All activities (exhibition, vendors, and lecture program) of the 19th AOC Conference & Show will be held inside the Burswood Convention facility under the one roof, with very easy access from the many car parks and the Burswood's numerous facilities and attractions. The lectures are being held in the Astral Room on the same level as the show room floor. The orchid exhibition and the marketplace for vendors will be in the Burswood Grand Ballroom which covers over 1800 square metres and is in addition to the foyer area consisting of another 1500 square metres, where the Opening Ceremony will be held. There is also a dedicated reception and information desk.

The Australian Orchid Conference has not been held in Perth since 1991 so do not miss this magnificent display of local and exotic orchids on display at the Burswood Entertainment Centre during September.

Bruce Larson
Chairman Conference Committee

WILD ABOUT

Orchids

Dendrobium speciosum. Copyright N & J Martin



19th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show

11th – 16th September 2012

Burswood Entertainment Complex
Perth, Western Australia

For more information Email: aocconference@dodo.com.au
Postal: The Secretary, PO Box 576, MORLEY, WA 6062 Australia
Website: www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

Proudly supported by



- **Orchid displays** - Championship orchids
- **Large range** of orchid genera
- **Local native species orchids** and Orchids from around the world
- **Stunning modern hybrids** never seen before in Australia.
- **Floral Art** - Traditional and modern floral art - Ikebana displays
- **Sales area** - Local, Interstate and International Vendors
- **Commercial** orchid growers
- **Hobbyists** and societies/clubs
- **Cultural talks** by highly experienced growers
- **Learn how to grow** and flower these beautiful orchids
- **Orchid potting demonstrations**

**Open to the public from
13th - 16th September inclusive**

Thursday: 9 am to 6 pm

Friday: 9 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 6 pm

Sunday: 9 am to 4 pm

Entry prices

Adults **\$12.00**

Pensioners/Seniors/children

13 - 17 yrs **\$7.00**

Children under 12 Free

Family (2 x 2) **\$30.00**

☐ **Three Days of Lectures** (from Thursday 13th - Saturday 15th September) for the more serious orchid grower, by Orchid experts from the **USA, UK, Taiwan, Ecuador, Vietnam, Switzerland and Interstate**

☐ **Registration** - three day or one day rate, is a must and details and registration forms can be obtained from our web site;

http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

☐ **Parking** Over 3500 parking spaces available at the Burswood complex and over 1800 of these are free - easy access to the show - held in the Grand Ballroom. **If you have no internet, contact....**

Merle 0415 116 960

Bruce 0417 903 280

Tony 9342 3799

7TH AUSTRALASIAN NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW & CONFERENCE



THEME - NATURE'S DIVERSITY

This show is held only once every three years, so mark it on your calendar now!



When?: 21st – 25th August 2013

Where?: Strathpine Community Centre
Corner Gympie Rd & Mecklem St
STRATHPINE

WHERE?? Queensland, Australia – about 20 km (40min by car) north of Brisbane – on the way to the Sunshine Coast.

Why?: The ANOS ideal – to promote the cultivation and preservation of the Native Orchids of the Australasian Region.

What: is Australasia? It the area in the "south-east" of the world.

We consist of Australia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea and most of the Island Nations of Oceania as far as the date line.

Who?: The event, hosted by the Kabi Group of ANOS, is an open show for all societies or individuals

How: do you find details?

On the website www.ourshopfront.com/kabi

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.

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

250mm Port Pot-\$4.00 incl. GST



50mm tray-\$5.50 incl. GST



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.

North Otago Orchid Display 2012.

Friday September 21st. Saturday 22nd.



**Plants for sale.
Flower spikes for sale.
Posy bowls.
Raffles**



**Orchid Display to be held in the
Foundation of the blind hall
Steward st. Oamaru
Friday 21st. September and
Saturday 22nd.**

Admission \$2



Guest Speakers



Commercial Sales

Competitive Orchid Displays



Wide range of orchid products

Prizes

Photography



New Plymouth

31 Oct - 3 Nov 2013



7th NZNOE
PO Box 635
New Plymouth