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This issue's cover

Stanhopea nigroviolacea is a handsome species from Mexico. This fine example was grown by Theo Verryt. Photograph by Dennis Chuah. Love the contrast of the near-black with the cream and yellow!

Gerald McGraith

In our March 2009 issue, we showed a photo of Gerald McGraith at his 100th birthday party. We are saddened to report that Gerald died on 26 May 2009. Gerald was a lover of species orchids and his collection of plants, collected over decades on his many expeditions to all parts of the world, was the envy of all who knew him. Our sympathy to his family and to the Australian orchid community.

Jim James QSM

It was nice to see a Queen's Service Medal going to Ian Dixon James, known to orchid growers everywhere as Jim James, 'for services to orchid growing'. Jim has been active for many decades in the Waikato Orchid Society, in the orchid judging system, in orchid hybridising, has two orchid books to his credit and also grows superb orchids. And of course, his wife Rae has been a stalwart supporter and a "major orchid power" in her own right. Well done to both of them!

Editorial

You may notice that we have moved the section on publication details and charges towards the back of the magazine, so that we can dive straight into orchids. If you are thinking of writing something for us, please read the paragraph on file formats in the publication section. We have a good mixture of practical tips and plant information in this issue.

Your editors recently acquired a nice little volume, "The Romance of Plant Hunting" by Frank Kingdon-Ward (1885-1958). Kingdon-Ward (he added the hyphen once he started writing books) was one of the greatest of the plant hunters, concentrating his efforts in the areas around Tibet, Western China, Burma (now Myanmar) and North-east India. In all he made around 25 expeditions over 50 years, into areas that were even less easy to access than they are today (with the exception of Myanmar). He wrote 25 books, mostly dealing with his various expeditions, and very well written they are too. His account of the Great Assam Earthquake of 15 August 1950 is most gripping:

"A terrific noise now assailed our ears, compounded of many noises, none of which sounded familiar....My wife and I lay on the ground holding hands while the ground hammered against our bodies with the rapidity of a kettledrum roll...I expected the ground to heave and roll. It did not, it only drummed. Presently the pandemonium all round us changed key. There was only one noise now, and that unmistakeable – the noise of big rocks falling in heavy showers, sliding, grinding, bouncing all round us. But the valley was full of terrible echoes."



Paphiopedilum wardii

Paphiopedilum growers may be familiar with one of his discoveries, *Paphiopedilum wardii*, which he found in 1922 near the headwaters of the Irrawaddy River, one of the great rivers of Asia.

Kingdon-Ward was fond of orchids in the wild, but not so enamoured of them in cultivation, particularly the hybrids. Here he is in "The Romance of Plant Hunting" (1924):

"The Chinese plant craze is less crazy than was the thirst for new orchids, and in far better taste than the modern madness for manufactured orchids. The Chinese importations are, many of them at any rate, beautiful. Very few orchids, least of all laboratory orchids, are beautiful. Some are quaint, uncouth, more are monstrous, or downright queer, but beautiful – no! Their blurred and blotted colours, smudges on their misshapen faces, are vilely contrasted; they lack all grace, they have no vitality, rarely have they even fragrance. There is something altogether sinister, a cold and ruthless hate, about them. They personify, in their egotistical success, the ferocity of Nature. They are the snobs of the flower shows. Whatever else may be said, you cannot *love* an orchid, for it has no soul. Finally, orchids are the rich man's toy..... As for the modern bastard orchids, most of them

look as though they were cut out of lard and dyed with aniline colours. They are amazing examples of the plant breeder's skill. But skill misapplied may be a crime. However, so long as people are obsessed with the passion for new things, so long will bastard orchids and similar atrocities disfigure our flower shows; till, with the improvement of taste, a complete change of heart takes place."

There, we thought you would all enjoy that! *Nick and Elizabeth Miller*

My orchid of the Month, *Rangaeris schliebenii* (Mansfeld) Cribb

Syn. *Leptocentrum schliebenii* Mansfeld

Franz Zumbuhl (franzanda@xtra.co.nz)

There are six species within the genus of *Rangaeris*, spread from Nigeria, Gabon to Zimbabwe, but only *R. amaniensis* and *R. musicola* are generally found in collections. When I purchased *R. schliebenii* in 1989, it was a seedling with *Barombia schliebenii* on the label. But *Barombia* (Schlechter 1914) was considered to be *Aerangis* in 1988, and by now we call it *Rangaeris*. God bless botanists/taxonomists!



Rangaeris schliebenii Photo F. Zumbuhl



Back to our *R. schliebenii*: it is a native of Tanzania. The size of the plant is tailor-made for the orchid fancier with limited space. I grow mine on a suspended piece of hard ponga, 30x7cm, where it has been for the last 20 years. The roots are "free-range", branching, 40cm long by 10mm thick. Typically monopodial, there are two rows of 16x2.5cm dark green, leathery, arching leaves. The horizontal inflorescence, 25cm long, bears some 10 white flowers. When it bloomed for me the first time, I made a note in my files: "a dog, but interesting!" The petals, sepals and the lip are very narrow, to 45mm long, and all are sharply reflexed. The skinny column, sticking straight out horizontally, is more than 30mm long, and has a kind of "indecent" look about it! The slim nectary (spur) measures 19cm in length and only 1.5mm in diameter and is greenish/orange in colour. There is a pleasant scent about it after sunset, sweet, but not overpowering.

A peculiar looking angraecoid, but probably not a judge's favourite shape. *Rangaeris schliebenii* flowers in June/July.

Labelling your plants – collected opinions

Re the article on labels (in Issue 7). My experience is contrary to that discussed. A plain old cheap HB pencil will last for years without smudging or fading. For darker writing use a 'B'. I always use and have used pencil without any problem. I even find them buried deep in pots still in a clear and legible condition. The other benefit of using pencil is you can rub out the name using of all things a 'pencil rubber' so reusing labels is easy.

I have yet to find a reliable waterproof marker pen that doesn't wash away or fade in a short time. I'm sure there are some but probably they are expensive and often have a thick tip making small writing difficult.

Glenn Poffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz)

Here are some more thoughts on labels and labelling – always a difficult matter. Like Glenn, I too like pencil. I usually use a cheap clutch pencil (also known as a mechanical or propelling pencil), which is available in various diameters of lead – 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 and 2.0 mm. HB or B is fine. Harder leads don't work so well on plastic labels. Plastic labels vary widely in quality – I've tried some thin cheap ones from Asia which do not last, even indoors. I like the labels that Bill Liddy, of Napier, sells – they seem to be durable and take pencil well. The labels that Russell Hutton uses also seem to be excellent.

Regarding felt pens, I once saw a recommendation (on the OrchidGuide Digest) for a Sakura Identipen – I have looked for them locally without success. If a reader comes across one and tries it out, we would love to hear more. The Brother P-touch labellers print extremely durable labels that adhere tenaciously to plastic labels, but the running costs (for label ribbon) are rather steep. However, if you need a number of identical labels (potting up seedlings from a community pot, for example) these labellers will save a heap of writing. Try writing '*Sarcochilus* Fitzhart 'Delightful' x *hartmanni* 'Red Snow' 20 times in fine print and you'll see what I mean! Be warned that Brother also make a P-touch QL-550 label printer that connects to a computer. They are designed for printing mailing labels etc. However, the only labels that I have come across for these are paper-based and DO NOT last under greenhouse conditions, nor does the printing on them.

The long-term labelling of plants growing outside, be they orchids or trees and shrubs, is always difficult. The printed flexible tags that come attached to most trees and shrubs eventually fade and become completely unreadable. Sticking a plastic label in the ground is an open invitation for it to be trodden on and broken, kicked away, or removed by (usually) blackbirds. I find that soft aluminium flashing, sold by the metre by roofing suppliers, takes pencil well, and can be embossed by placing it on a soft background (cardboard) and writing on it VERY FIRMLY with a ballpoint pen. This label can then be wrapped most of the way round a tree or shrub branch or an orchid pseudobulb, and is flexible enough to allow for growth in the diameter of the plant part it is attached to. Our local supplier (Dimond Roofing) sells it as 'Softedge', it comes pre-primed a soft grey on one side, and seems to be a reasonable solution to this problem. Some people use old Venetian blind slats but in my view the aluminium flashing is preferable.

More ideas and opinions on this topic are very welcome. See also Andrew Foster's article later in this issue.

Nick Miller (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz)

Orchid Virus

Is it or isn't it, that is the question that is difficult to answer.

Mike & Leigh Leaity (Leaitym@xtra.co.nz)

While orchids do have viral problems, are the signs which are interpreted as being caused by a virus actually viral, or are they caused by nutritional problems, or poor cultivation?

A typical sign of a deficiency is the patchy yellowing of new leaves emerging from the axils which can be misinterpreted as a virus. There are also the brownish to yellow spear points on the leaves which may be confined to only some of the leaves. If your Cymbidium has a virus the usual signs are a regular pattern of small white or light coloured squares confined within the ribs. This is generally accepted as being viral.

The two main viruses affecting Orchids are the Cymbidium mosaic virus and the Odontoglossum ring spot virus, both of which can infect the most commonly grown orchids with differing visual symptoms.

While most Cymbidiums with a virus show no colour break or distortion in the flowers, the same virus causes varying degrees of mottling and deformation, usually accompanied by necrosis of the foliage in *Cattleya* species.

Odontoglossum ring spot can occasionally be confused with fungal problems which cause similar spotting on the foliage. Isolate and spray the plant and check new growth for spotting before destroying the plant as virus infected. Often the plant grows clean and flowers without any deformation or colour break.

The only way to prevent the spread of a virus is close attention to hygiene when handling, breaking up, and repotting of your orchids. Do not recycle old mix, either yours or that in plants from another grower, and sterilise all tools and used pots before use.

The most important thing to remember about suspected virus infected plants is **Isolation**, followed by spraying and feeding with trace elements to see if the plant will outgrow the visual signs. The use of a readily available test kit, if your favourite plant is suspect, is advocated before the final step of destruction is considered.

Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Bus Trip to Tuakau Orchid Fair

Bev Lowe via Chris Ross (chrisross1@xnet.co.nz)

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October 2008

Our adventure began when we boarded the bus at Barbara & Ross's place & departed at 7.29am followed by pickup points at Taradale & Tamatea. Bill (the bus driver) gave us a talk on the do's & don'ts of the bus & how things work!! as we headed for Taupo.

Barbara welcomed all on board including Roy & Lois from Wellington Society & commenced to sell raffle tickets, these to be held for the rest of the trip as it was a continuous raffle with lots of prizes donated by Bill Liddy, which was gratefully appreciated.

With the formalities over we all settled back to enjoy the trip, with relaxing music playing over the bus system 'Rock Around the Clock, Bill Hayley & the Comets; Val was entertaining with arms going to the beat. At Taupo we stopped at the boat ramp

for morning tea & a stretch of the legs, picked up Betty's daughter & hit the road again. While watching a DVD of "Grease" we passed through Tokoroa, Putaruru & arrived at Tirau for lunch & picked up our last passenger, Jenny's daughter-in-law.

We arrived in Cambridge at 1pm to be joined by Diane Wilson our tour guide from Hamilton O.S. Our first call was to Meg & Mike Timmo's assorted collection at Matangi. After a lovely look around the orchid houses & the garden we had afternoon tea with Margaret Liddell & club members helping out.

The next stop was Pat Kenny's Dendrobium Nursery with plants for sale!!! Where a few members had a little spend. On to Huntly, with Bill (bus driver) giving us a commentary on the surrounding district; arrived at the Ramarama Country Inn just north of Pukekohe at 5pm to settle in for the night.

Saturday 8.45am departed to the Orchid Fair, with boxes and marker pens at the ready to descend on the sales plants. Barbara thought she saw a sign to the fair ... but it turned out to be an open home!! That caused much amusement.

When we arrived at Russell's it was raining, but we were not deterred & everyone was off the bus & looking for the bargains. Russell does a very interesting demonstration on repotting Dendrobium & L n aelias, evewith the rain & cool temps. It was a great morning. We headed back to the Lodge for lunch then back on the bus to Sunrae Orchids & Winery, where we spent a very enjoyable time buying (more) orchids plants, and sampling & buying the fruit wines. Christine thanked Bill (Bus driver) & Barbara & Ross for all the organization of the trip & presented them both with a bottle of port wine. David Young advised us they had 70 different wines & hoped for 100 varieties next year; all the fruit is grown organically on the property. The plants bought were mainly Dendrobium with his Sarcs being greatly admired, Jason was off to do his pollinating when we left.

Sunday we went to Gellert's Nursery with 4 hectares under glass growing pot plants & vege plants for the market & commercial greenhouse growers. What an amazing place!!! So interesting & so high tech. Once again we seemed to buy more plants - by now some were having to nurse the latest plants as there was no more room in the bus. We headed to the Cosmopolitan Club in Hamilton for a lovely roast beef lunch followed by pavlova & fruit salad. We bid farewell to the fair city of Hamilton about 2pm and set off home all well fed, very tired but happy. It has been a great weekend. I heard a whisper Val was line dancing till midnight down at the Lodge Pub with the locals but it could just be a rumour.

Footnote

We never did get to see the rest of "Grease" as we were just so busy being entertained with sweets, raffles, music, chattering and the raffles that went on forever. A great big thank you to Barb & Ross for a wonderful time.

Some observations on orchid growing

Andrew Foster (gfos1111@bigpond.net.au)

I supply a few observations regarding my own orchid collection (please realize that I am still a learning beginner, [I think we are always learning], getting serious with orchids by joining the Melbourne Eastern Orchid Society just over 2 years ago)

I have since joined ANOS (Australian Native Orchid Society) the Cymbidium Society, and Mornington Peninsular Orchid Society. Their Let's face facts, the only way to learn, is to get involved, talk to as many other growers (professional and amateur) and attempt to put their advice into perspective with what you are growing, what you would like to grow and your growing environment.

Our original collection of Cymbidiums (The supermarket/retail nursery variety which are always un-named) was the foundation of our original interest in orchids. As they flower for 6-8 weeks, they were a very attractive house plant, and if looked after, flowered the next year! Why buy cut flowers for \$10:00 (which last a week if you are lucky) when you can buy a Cymbidium in flower for \$30:00. A friend invited myself and my wife to attend their orchid show, and we were both amazed at the variety and colour of Orchids. That is how we got "converted". I would suggest this would also apply in New Zealand.

Our collection now includes *Cattleya alliance*, *Coelogyne*, *Colmanara*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Encyclia*, *Gongora*, *Lycaste*, *Masdevallia*, *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, *Oncidium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Promenaea*, *Sarcochilus*, *Stanhopea* and *Zygopetalum*. This is a fairly large group of orchid genera. As you will now be realizing, we have become "involved". So where am I heading with this email?

You asked for ideas for plant labelling. This is what we do. (Please realize that I run a database of our orchid collection on our computer, and allocate a number to all of our orchids, whether they are purchased, donated, won at raffles or divided). If divided, the allocated number becomes for example 101a, 101b, etc.

Plant labels have 2 sides. On one side I record the allocated number, the date purchased and when repotted. The purchase date is proceeded with a lower case "p", and when repotted, the date is proceeded with a lower case "r". For example, purchased 21/06/08 would show as "p.21/06/08", repotted would show as r.25/10/08. I also record in our data base the potting media. Depending on the plant, I either use a mix of bark/charcoal/scoria or coco peat.

As some of my collection also requires warmth in winter, I use coloured plant labels – white plant labels for most of our collection, and red plant labels for those requiring warmth during winter. Last winter these plants came into the house, but with their increase, and us purchasing a large screen LCD Television, this will not happen this winter, so I am looking at a heated glass house, which is now under construction.

If coloured plant labels are not available, most newsagents/department stores in Australia have self adhesive round stickers in a variety of colours that can be fixed to plant labels. If not available in New Zealand, use a

coloured text (a felt marker, must be permanent marker though, not the white board type which fade very quickly). I use a coarse one for plant number and a very fine one for the plant details such as name, potting, re-potting dates and other information.

The Genus *Cypripedium*

Murray Lister (gwendabear@paradise.net.nz)

The genus *Cypripedium* is one of the most interesting in the vastly diverse plants in the family of Orchids.

There is not a lot of information in the written form and much less in the practical knowledge of an orchid which inhabits the colder regions of our planet. The offer to do an article arises from a fascination with the diverse structure of the plants and the form of the flower which incorporates the delicate mechanism to ensure that future generations can enjoy and continue the development of the Orchid culture.

My involvement with the Genus *Cypripedium* goes back only a mere 5 years. I was approached to do an orchid display in conjunction with the local Alpine Society, at which a chap said to me that he was growing *Cypripedium* orchids, and hence the genus is now growing successfully outside for me.

At this stage one needs to know where these most striking Lady Slipper Orchids originate from in the wild. Most of the information one has available to research leads us to the Arctic Circle in Alaska, Siberia, Canada, North and Central America and across to North-west China.

Bucking this trend is *Cyp. formosanum* and *Cyp. japonicum* which grow in the more temperate climate of Yunnan and Taiwan and *Cyp. dickinsonianum* and *Cyp.*



Cypripedium Axel (*parviflorum x tibeticum*). Photo
Murray Lister

irapeanum which are in the tropical regions of Mexico and Guatemala.

All 50 species are terrestrials, all are deciduous and require a period of winter dormancy.

Cypripedium are perennial from a rhizome; both the leaves and stem are deciduous and require a period of winter dormancy, mature plants flower during spring and summer; the flowers extend from the axis of the stalk and most

species produce only one flower per growth.

A great diversity in habitat is exhibited within the genus; these include low acid bogs, coniferous forests, grasslands, river basins and limestone outcrops. A few species are endemic to a small region, while others are widespread on more than one continent. An example of this is *Cyp. calceolus* which inhabits large areas of Nth America, Europe and Asia, while *Cyp. californicum* is restricted in both habit and range.

Several *Cypripedium* species yield a drug which, in a powder or liquid form, has been used to treat such nervous disorders as neuralgia, hysteria, epilepsy and joint inflammation.

Cultivation (my way)

Species vary only slightly in potting medium and the one passed on to me has not failed to felicitate the requirements of my plants.



Cypripediums do not like being disturbed so unless you have over-crowding it is far better to resist the temptation of re-potting. Being a terrestrial they are unlike most other orchids in that they like to be over-potted rather than being under-potted; most of them prefer at least 75% shade and cold root system which means they must have a mix that retains moisture and also allows surplus moisture to drain through.

The plants have a short growth period which starts in mid-October, they flower mid-November and by January they are back under the mix. You can re-pot any time after the foliage has died down.

When the plants have reached their true leaf stage it is beneficial to top-dress with a 4-month slow-release fertilizer and a light coating of blood and bone to help promote strong root growth.

The dormancy period is when you have to keep the plant moist only and get the temperature down to an even 3°C. Refrigerate if necessary.

Mixture: 2 parts coarse potting mix, 2 parts 4-6mm washed pumice and part heavy peat, with polystyrene kidneys and **live** sphagnum moss.

Method: combine the potting mix, pumice and peat, keeping a cup of pumice out. Take a suitable plastic pot, add a layer of polystyrene kidneys for drainage, hold the crown to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the top of the pot, back-filling to $\frac{2}{3}$ rds leaving a gap under the crown which is filled with the retained pumice – this allows the crown to remain moist but not wet – then cover the crown with the mixture and the pot with a generous layer of sphagnum moss.

I am happy to pass on any help if required.

Of Lime, pH and Shell

Theo Verryt (tjverryt@xtra.co.nz)

When I was a boy keen on gardening, my father often said to me that lime is the key that unlocks fertilizer and makes it available to your plants. That saying has remained with me ever since. I was first introduced to orchids, cymbidiums mostly, in the late sixties by some friends who took me to an orchid show in Mt. Albert. I was hooked. At that time the University of California manual (U.C.) was much used as a guide for potting mixes and fertilizing plants. I used it for many years along with Becks mix for my orchids. When I retired and resumed growing orchids in 2003 after a spell of about 15 years, I used pine bark and the basic U.C. fertilizer recommendations plus Nutricote Total.

Searching the Net last year I found the website of Glenwood Orchids (www.glenorchids.com.au). In their news section they had several interesting articles. One was on the use of roofing materials for a Cattleya house, but the one I found most interesting, was where they had tested pots of orchids for the pH level. They found that the bottom third of the bark mix tested out at a pH of 3 (too acid), and that it was rotting the roots. They recommended topdressing the plants with Hydrated Lime. As I had been thinking of liming my plants I went out and bought a pH meter and a 25 kg bag of hydrated lime. Testing my plants and the newly bought in ones revealed a pH of just below 4 and 5 when it should be 6 to 7. Just then an article in the Cymbidium Society of America Journal of July/August 2008, written by Steven Early, mentioned the use of shell to bring the pH of bark mix up to 7, which is when fertilizer is most available to plants. This sounded to me like the ultimate recipe, as the shell would stay in the mix and not get washed out of the pot. The recommendation was to mix a 4 inch pot full of shell to a cubic foot of bark. I mixed the shell and bark together in a bin, but found that when I had potted up some orchids that a lot of the shell was left in the bottom of the bin, so I then worked out how much shell was needed in each pot size:

Pot Size (Low)	Shell (ml)
100 mm	14 ml
120	26
150	33
170	50
200	75
225	140
250	200
300	240
14.5 ltr tub	300 ml

(These quantities are not critical as the shell stops working at pH 7. I also use slightly more coarse shell in the bottom 1/4 of each pot)

Pot Size (High)	Shell (ml)
100 mm	21
120	28
150	47
170	70
200	100
225	160

The shell I use comes from the local yard and is used for paths and can be bought by the bag or trailer load. I put the shell through a 12 mm sieve and use the coarse part in the bottom ¼ of each pot. The rest is put through a 3 mm sieve to take out the fines, which I then use to top-dress the plants that I'm not re-potting, at the same rate as the above scale.

On Dec 1st 2008 I started reconditioning my plants with shell and new bark. The bark has been soaked in water with 100 ml of garden lime, and 100 ml of dolomite with 10 ml of high nitrogen liquid fertilizer per 10 litre bucket for 3 days to a week. It's a recipe that Selwyn Hatrick recommended for Paphs that I've been using for several years on all my orchids. It starts the plants off with the right pH and they grow on much quicker. I place the bare-rooted plant in a pot size that will just hold the roots without cramping. I throw a handful of bark and some coarse shell in the bottom ¼ of the pot, then the rest of the bark and medium shell mix well shaken down. At this time I also fertilize my plants with 9-month Nutricote Total, which has an N.P.K. of N.13 - P 5.7 - K 10.8 - Magnesium 1.2 – Calcium 1.3 – Sulphur 4.7 – and trace elements. I've used it for about 20 years on cymbidiums, pot plants and container grown roses. It has the right N.P.K. for cymbids but I use it for other genera as well at a reduced rate. For cymbids I use it at the rate recommended on the back of the bag, but now with the right pH in my mix the growth seems a bit lush, so in the new season coming up I'll be using a bit less. I also use it on all my other genera at a reduced rate along with the shell and it grows them very well. The Cattleyas, Oncidium alliance, Dendrobiums and Paphs are all growing and flowering well in the new mix as are most of the other genera. I'll definitely be using shell in the future as it will be there for the life of the mix and is supposed to retard the breakdown of the bark.

Testing the pH of the plants recently by standing them in water halfway up the pot for 4 hours then draining the water in the pot into a container, they tested out at 5.9 for the plants that had been top-dressed with fine shell, 6.1 for the ones that had been potted into a bigger pot without reconditioning but with shell added, and 6.5 for the plants that had been reconditioned with the shell added. As the water I use has a pH of 6 that's a good result. The only snag is that the shell could contain salt so you need to test it or just run some tap or rainwater through it to remove any salt.

We know that when a tree is losing its leaves it draws back all of the elements except lime, so a fallen leaf is only cellulose and lime. This explains the use of oak leaves in old orchid mix recipes. In theory any orchid that grows in or traps leaf litter in its root system needs lime. Exceptions are Gongoras that grow in ants' nests with a PH of 3 and *Cymbidium suave*, that grows in rotting gum heartwood, and I'm not sure about Stanhopeas as the plant that was re-potted with shell seems to be sulking. Whether that is because it doesn't like to be disturbed or the shell, only time will tell.

So what to do with 25 kg of Hydrated Lime? The drains and septic tank have been dosed, the chicken house has been whitewashed and the floor liberally sprinkled with it, the avocado trees have been limed with it along with the plum and apple trees. Now, what else needs a quick acting lime? The veggie garden in spring perhaps? Happy growing.

Waitakere Orchid Club Ribbon Show

Dennis Chuah (dennis@inetgardens.com)

Please find enclosed a few pictures from the Ribbon Show. This is not a judged show, but rather it is judged by members of the club. This year, we chose to hold it earlier (15 Feb). In past years we have held it in March and April. The idea is to vary the show time so that we get to see different plants. (All photos by Dennis Chuah, grower's name in brackets.)



Rsc. Sully's Color - Grand Champion and best Cattleya Alliance. Also awarded AM/OCNZ (Tucker's Orchids)



Dendrobium tapinense (G. Leafberg)



Paphiopedilum Armeni White – best paph (C. Hubbert)



Promenaea Samsu (Crawshayana x rollisonii) (A. Gillan)



Sobralia Song Bird 'Quadrille' (*S. macrantha* x *Mirabilis*). (P. Elfleet, Jnr.) For more information on this NZ hybrid, go to: http://sobralia.autrevie.com/Sobralia_Songbird.html

My Perspective on Orchid Growing

By R.O.G. GlennPoffley (gpoffley@clear.net.nz) Photos by author

When it comes to orchid growing I can't lay any claims to fame such as awards, breeding or even any major achievements at any shows. I just grow them or try to any way. I study them, water, feed and spray them; curse the insects, curse the plants when they don't grow, curse the weather when they don't flower and now curse the quality of plants I seem to end up with in my collection.

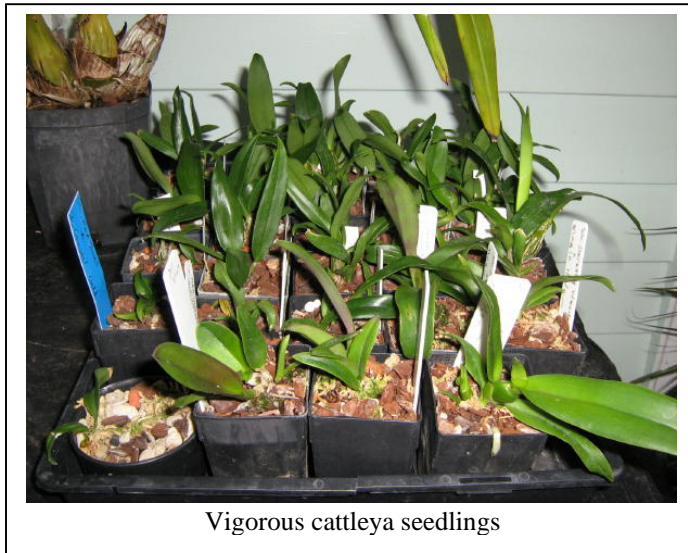
The point I'm trying to make, I suppose, is that with orchid growing there is a LOT of rubbish out there and we really don't know what we are getting when we buy all sorts of untested hybrids from growers and at shows. Having bought seedlings from various commercial growers, other supposedly expert growers, had seedlings given to me from home grown experts and various others I feel I now have something to base my possibly controversial and radical observations upon.

The first problem is as beginners (and even experienced growers) we all rush off to shows and buy literally anything with a bulb and leaf, possibly duped by a fancy description of the flower on the sales ticket. One amusing story was of a fellow orchid club member who bought a plant described as a 'delicate but beautiful little flower' only to find a spike 2m metres long with a flower so small it defied the imagination and his aging eyes.

Have you ever seen on the sales label those famous words: 'Easy to flower'? – yes, if you have a specially heated glass house with humidity control, in-pot watering systems linked up to a computer-controlled fertilizing-proportioner. Many times I have bought other growers cast-offs and on the odd occasion been rewarded with something special. But many times I seem to get that delightful oddity that I'm sure the previous owner has never flowered and no one ever will. I have a noble *Dendrobium* that falls into this category. I've had it at least 10 years. It is healthy, now huge and came from a reputable grower. It has rewarded me with rampant growth, has to be re-potted into ever increasingly larger baskets and I think has had a total of 3 flowers over that period. I've tried everything to coax some more flowers out of it to no avail. I have now given a chunk of it to a friend who is a very good grower just to satisfy myself I am not solely to blame. (I *can* flower my other nobiles.)

I have carefully studied my seedlings of late and it is obvious that out of a flask a few will grow a lot quicker and better than the rest. Then there are some that grow at an acceptable rate, a number that just sit there and suffer and of course the runts that die if put under the slightest pressure.

Now, I am a great believer in breeding and it becomes obvious again when we literally see a 90% death rate out of one flask whereas another has a 90% success rate. These of course are of a similar genus grown under similar conditions. One of my own *Cattleya* crosses I must admit is proving to be an amazingly strong grower and I believe this is because I chose my two most vigorous, most reliable-flowering and hardiest of plants as parents. What the flower turns out to be like is yet to be determined. I was recently given a seedling from a friend, which truly amazed me with its growth rate. I managed to get a surplus flask of the same cross and they are all



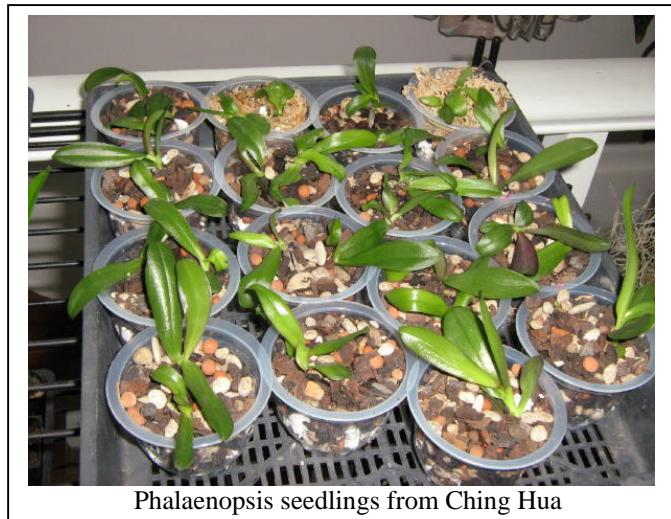
Vigorous cattleya seedlings

doing well no matter what I do to them. I sometimes wonder how many of those ‘runts’ or poor performers end up on the sales tables?

My most recent observation has been with my Phallies. This year I got sick of molly-coddling them inside and put them outside in a sheltered position for the summer. This made watering a breeze (there was plenty of that too) but I suffered the biggest losses

yet. The interesting thing was that the commercial ones (from retail nurseries) fared the best. They didn’t die, no leaf spotting, they have less insect infestation, they are double-spiking and all have superb root growth. This surely tells us something.

It should be obvious as commercial nurserymen only import quality mericlones from renowned growers overseas who have a vested interest in making sure their products are



Phalaenopsis seedlings from Ching Hua

of the highest quality. Commercial growers can’t afford to mess about with plants that take forever to grow and flower. They are just dead money using up bench space. As for the others, well, many are like those I’ve described above, the ‘also rans’, amateur attempts at greatness in the orchid breeding field but hocked off to the unsuspecting on sales tables etc.

I must admit we must all try to achieve something new with our attempts at breeding, our purchases of others’ attempts at breeding and even reputable commercial growers’ attempts at breeding. But what we must accept is that in a way, we are really their guinea pigs and will more often than not end up with a lot of plants that may not live up to expectations.

It’s another year, there are more shows coming up and I doubt whether I will be able to resist the temptations of the sales tables yet again, but that’s orchid growing.

Some of my Favourite Dendrobium Hybrids

Rodney Draper (Draperfam@xtra.co.nz)

I love Dendrobium hybrids, especially those made with Aussie natives. They also remain a fairly manageable size and are generally not temperamental and are easy to grow. I am not a judge so these are not chosen on that basis but purely in terms of what I like and why I like it. All photos are of my flowering plants and were taken by me.



D. Angellene x speciosum var *speciosum* 'Miro'

This plant was purchased from the trading table and I think it was from Graham Leafberg. This plant is 16% *D. kingianum*, 21% *tetragonum*, 13% *bigibbum* & 50% *speciosum*. I love the white centre transitioning to red and the large *tetragonum*-inspired star-shaped flowers. It has fairly short squat pseudobulbs but seems to

flower well as I have not had it very long.



D. Fiestafal x falcorostrum

This plant came from Jim Gilchrist at Pottering About and I really like the pure white with a hint of red speckle in the throat. With the 69% *D. falcorostrum* it is obviously cold resistant and with 19% *kingianum* and small amounts of *jonesii*, *fleckeri* & *tetragonum* it is a good grower. It is a medium-size flower and has flowered every year I've had it

D. Jonathan's Glory 'Diff' x Zip 'JK-HC'

This is one of a number of this cross that I bought from Ron Maunder but this is the only one with speckling which I find most appealing. It flowered for me for the first time last year and I am hoping for a better show this year. With 49% *D. kingianum* and 27% *tetragonum* and small amounts of *bigibbum* and *falcorostrum* it should be temperature tolerant.





D. Namoi Valley

This plant was acquired from Jenny Walsh in New Plymouth and the photo unfortunately doesn't do it justice. It is a bright magenta fading to creamy yellow in the centre. It has 38% *D. tetragonum* and 25% *kingianum* and equal parts *fleckeri*, *bigibbum* & *gracicaule*. For me it has good shape and great colour.

D. No. 5

Now I have no idea what this plant is but I bought it amongst a whole lot of unknown keikies on Trade Me. It has a lovely star shape with delicate purple spotting on a pale yellow background with similar spotting on the white lip. It was named No. 5 as it was the 5th keikie that I potted.



D. Coljohn x Tania's Pride

I can't remember where I obtained this but I like the darker, smudged purple colour on a mauve background and white lip. It is 44% *D. kingianum*, 16% *falcorostrum* and 19% *tetragonum*. It also has small amounts of *jonesii*, *delicatum* and *fleckeri*. It grows well and has flowered reliably for a number of years.

Wider Worlds - *Adiantum raddianum*

Barbara Parris (bsparris@igrin.co.nz)

Adiantum raddianum is native to tropical America and is the most widely cultivated species in the maidenhair genus. It is a popular glasshouse plant in cool temperate regions and grows well outside in tropical and subtropical areas – too well in some places, where it has naturalised, including northern New Zealand. Although it may be regarded as a weed in some plant nurseries, its toughness makes it ideal as a domestic pot plant.

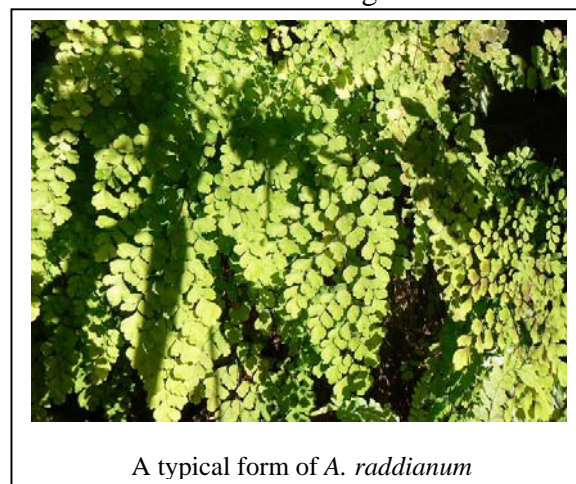


Adiantum raddianum (self-sown) making itself at home in a shadehouse

The natural variability of *A. raddianum* has led to the selection of about 70 sometimes ill-defined cultivars, including some rather gross (to my taste) crested and skeletonised forms and some rather attractive variegated types. There are few cultivars widely available in New Zealand at present, however.

Most people are familiar with the plain unadorned *A. raddianum*, as it is the traditional indoor pot plant maidenhair fern, with short-creeping, branched

rhizomes, smooth black stipes¹, erect narrowly triangular 3-pinnate² fronds 30-50 cm long, cuneate³ to rhombic pinnules⁴ with lobed outer margins and one to two sori on each lobe, and pale green young fronds. It is a survivor of considerable neglect and malnutrition. Large specimens in 12" diam. pots used to be their owner's pride and glory, and before the days of specialised house plant foods, recipes for successful growth were closely kept secrets. When I was a child our doctor's waiting room boasted one of these giants, which was apparently watered five days a week with water used to wash the surgery milk bottle. As there was never a whiff of 'off' milk around the plant I was rather dubious of this explanation and suspected occasional cryptic doses of blood and bone, the common garden fertiliser of the time.



A typical form of *A. raddianum*

The original *A. raddianum* is still a deservedly popular and widely available plant, but other, less widely available forms are also well worthwhile growing. Cultivar 'Pacific Maid' is the most lush-looking, rather smaller than *A. raddianum*, with large broad

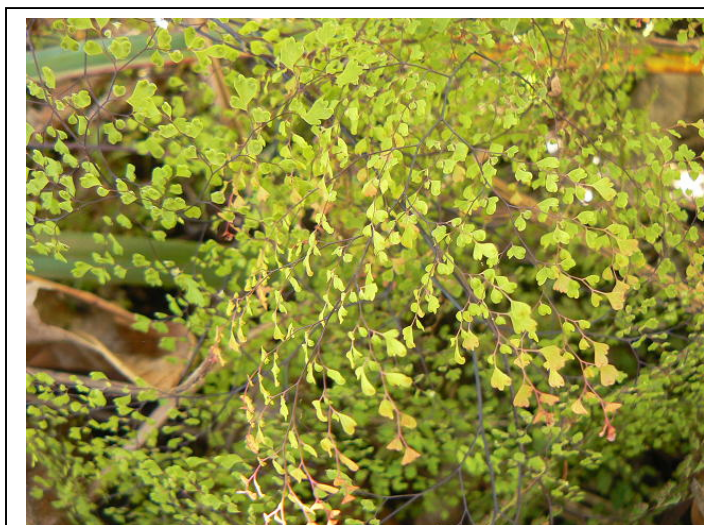
¹ Stipe: the leaf stalk or petiole

² 3-pinnate or tri-pinnate: 3 times divided

³ Cuneate: shaped like an inverted triangle

⁴ Pinnule: a leaflet (or secondary pinna) of a frond divided 2 or more times

overlapping pinnules and toothed margins. It is an old cultivar, long grown in greenhouses, and coming true from spores. Cultivar ‘Fritz Luth’ is another old favourite, rather smaller than *A. raddianum*, with partly overlapping cuneate to broadly cuneate pinnules and a rather stiff appearance. It is hardier than ‘Pacific



A sporeling of the Gracillimum/Micropinnulum persuasion

Maid’ or *A. raddianum* and comes true from spores. In a previous garden it self-sowed in mortar between bricks edging a bed and looked extremely attractive. There are also very finely divided cultivars, five to six times pinnate with very small pinnules, rather smaller than *A. raddianum*, often with eye-catching pink to red young fronds: cultivar ‘Cluster Glory’ has erect compact fronds with tightly packed pinnules; cultivar ‘Gracillimum’ has

pendulous fronds and is a good basket plant; cultivar ‘Micropinnulum’ has pendulous fronds like ‘Gracillimum’ and is likewise a good garden plant, but has smaller pinnules. Plants I have grown from spores labelled as “Micropinnulum Cluster Minor” are very compact, erect to spreading in habit, with fronds brilliantly red-coloured when young, winter-dormant and hardy outside under trees in the decidedly non-tropical winter climate of the Bay of Islands. Even *A. raddianum* will not grow where this cultivar grows. Cultivar ‘Variegatum’ resembles *A. raddianum*, but with white flecks and streaks on the pinnules and is less vigorous.

Adiantum raddianum and its cultivars are undemanding ferns, ideal for greenhouses and conservatories. Irregular watering and water-logged are the usual causes of mortality. Cool winter temperatures can encourage winter dormancy when combined with damp conditions. Grooming of dead fronds, and a spring dose of fertiliser (mine get a spoonful of whatever is being used as a general garden fertiliser in August), together with attention to watering, keep the plants happy. Every home should have one (or more).

Further reading: Maidenhair ferns in cultivation, by Christopher J Goudey, Lothian Publishing Co. Ltd. 1985. ISBN 0-7099-3852-7.

Editor’s note. This species makes a very attractive companion plant for orchids, and always adds class to a display in shows etc. The photos are of plants that have ‘seeded’ themselves around our garden. It will also come up in orchid pots i.e. it tolerates a well-drained mix. If you get too many, they are easily controlled or given away. They make popular gifts!

A Sacred Inca Orchid finally flowers in NZ!

Ron Maunder (ronmaunder@paradise.net.nz). All photos, bar one, by Ron Maunder

Back in September 1996 a party of Kiwi orchid enthusiasts left NZ for the 15th World Orchid Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They had a great time though a couple were robbed on the Copacabana beach out in front of the hotel! The group split up afterwards and some visited the Iguazu Falls, some did a cruise up the Amazon and others took a trip to Machu Picchu in Peru.

I was not on the trip but my story starts with seed brought back from a giant *Sobralia* orchid found growing on the terraces and in the bush edges at Machu Picchu – the Lost City of the Incas. I was told some of the plants seen there had canes around 3 meters tall! For lots of pictures of the area and sobralias go to...

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ericinsf/139591214/in/set-72057594120450734/>

The seed was a bit immature but I managed to raise about 20 plants and over the years once they were established these were shared amongst those in the party that collected the seed, plus several other experienced growers around New Zealand.

My three plants were grown in the greenhouse in earlier years but were badly frosted two winters ago when put inside an unheated house for the night. After that K&R Orchids offered to grow two of my precious plants in their large heated houses and I kept the more advanced one here where I grow it outside in full sun during the days and as a precaution in winter wheel it into my packing shed on frosty nights! It kept splitting plastic pots and needing ever bigger containers until eventually it got put into a half 30 litre (6 gallon) peroxide container. A number of the roots were exposed on the surface and one winter weekend when it was left inside while I was away, these succulent roots were stripped of the velamen by mice!



As you can see it has long since been transferred into a half 200 litre (44gallon) plastic drum to contain it and is normally tied to the hand trolley because it is now too bulky and overlaps the foot of the trolley! I currently have to bind the canes together to get it through the shed door on frosty nights. Quite a balancing act and so far only one bud has been broken off!

In the last couple of years it has multiplied considerably till now it has 57 canes ranging from 50mm (2") high to about 1.5 meters (5ft) tall. That's not counting half a dozen of the spindly original frosted canes, all but one of which have died off. Strangely that last thin one still has a few green leaves and

is holding its own up near the tallest canes!

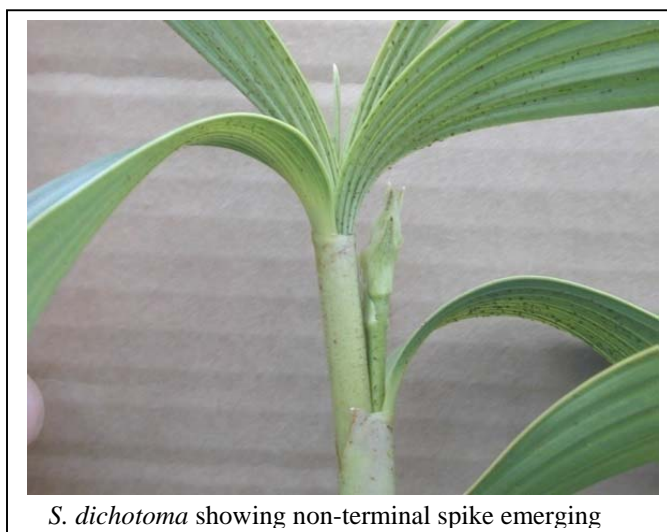


Sobralia dichotoma

Finally in January this year I was lucky enough to flower the plant I have here on its fourth highest cane at about 1.5 meters and it has been confirmed as being a *Sobralia dichotoma*. Since then the tallest cane has flowered also.

The plant and the many other Sobralias I grow, are potted in a mixture of all sorts. Ingredients are about 50% of 10-20mm pine bark, plus bark “peat” (composted bark fines),

granular styrene, pumice, perlite, oasis and even some coconut fibre. Maybe some other left over “rubbish” also! The mix is kept damp, drier in winter, heavily liquid fertilised and with Osmocote on the surface and I’m trying sitting the smaller pots in 22cm plastic saucers which I keep filled with water – especially in the warmer months. Haven’t made a saucer for the dichotoma just yet!



S. dichotoma showing non-terminal spike emerging

There are several interesting things about *Sobralia dichotoma*. First it is said by some to be the type species. In other words it was the first *Sobralia* of the genus recorded and written up by Ruiz and Pavon in 1798. Another is that it is named for a Spanish physician and botanist of that time – Dr Francisco Sobral. But probably to me it is more interesting because it does not produce several short lived terminal flowers as do the more

common *Sobralia* species seen in NZ. It flowers from just below the terminal leaves of the cane which allows it to continue elongating and growing, whereas the canes of the common *Sobralias* we grow stop growing after the flowering, gradually shed their leaves and die back to dead “sticks”. Most distinctively the flowers of *S. dichotoma* are produced on racemes (spikes?) with around 5-8 buds and each flower lasts about 5 or 6 days open. Flowers are around 10 cm (4”) and there are no more than 1 or 2 out at the same time.

The construction of the *S. dichotoma* flower column is a little different from that of the other *Sobralias* seen in NZ which may be why I have been unable to so far set a hybrid pod. Obviously someday taxonomists will put it in a different section of the *Sobralia* genus because of its multi-flowered spike and possibly its flower

construction. I am hoping I can at least self my “bamboo” plant – as I often call it, but have not been successful so far. It starts flowering late in the usual summer Sobralia season when only *S. xantholeuca* and the new hybrid Puanani (*S. macrantha* x *violacea*) are still open. Unfortunately Sobralia pollen MUST be fresh! No luck with stored or frozen pollen.



S. dichotoma stigma



S. dichotoma lip

Of the other *S. dichotoma* plants I’ve seen, the ones at K&R Orchids outside under the trees near their office, and the one I recently saw at Peter Elfleet’s in Auckland, the plants were impressive with canes a good taller than my best but they are yet to flower. Whether it is the frosting shock it received or the year round full sun’s influence my plant has received that has been the catalyst to cause it to flower first, I don’t know. My plant has thicker,

shorter and quite erect growth whereas the others in more shade have thinner more willowy canes and fewer with about a quarter the number produced so far.



S. dichotoma in the wild at Machu Picchu.
Photo Leslie Newton.

That’s about all I can tell you about my plant. Definitely not a plant for indoors! Maybe its daily placement beside a giant bamboo-like thicket of rapidly multiplying *Elegia campestris* from South Africa has given it the lead of how to multiply! Personally even after waiting twelve and a half years for it to flower I’d far rather the bizarre *Sobralia dichotoma* flower to the nondescript green ones of the other plant. Needless to say I have no plants for sale but once it busts open its current drum I might have to take a chainsaw to it to break it up!

Willow Magic

Article by Ilene Sternberg for <http://www.bluestem.ca/>

In the fifth century B.C., the Greek physician, Hippocrates, wrote that chewing bark of a willow tree could relieve pain and fever (No wonder squirrels don't get headaches!). In 1829, the effective ingredient, salicin, was successfully isolated from willow bark. Toward the end of the 19th century, The Bayer Company in Germany trademarked a stable form of acetylsalicylic acid, calling it "aspirin," the "a" from acetyl, "spir" from *Spiraea* (the salicin they used came from meadowsweet, *Spiraea ulmaria*, subsequently renamed *Filipendula ulmaria*), and "in," a common ending in drug nomenclature.

In the 20th century, over one trillion aspirin, the first medicine created by techniques of modern chemistry, were consumed globally to regulate blood vessel elasticity, reduce fevers and aches, prevent cardiovascular ailments, affect blood clotting, or ease inflammation.

Native Americans and early settlers used willow bark for toothaches and applied it to the source of other pains. But they also recognized that you can actually grow a whole new tree by taking a stem and sticking it in moist soil. The hormones in willows cause rapid rooting, and they discovered these same hormones could induce rooting in other plants, too.

To harness this power, they made a tonic called "willow water" by collecting willow twigs, trimming the leaves, immersing the stems in a pail of water, and pouring the water on newly planted trees, shrubs, and bedding plants. Commercial rooting preparations contain a synthetic form of indolebutyric acid (IBA) and growing tips of willows contain high concentrations of IBA, depending on the quantity used and length of time you soak them. Any willow (*Salix*) tree or shrub species will work.

Another discovery: In the January, 2004 issue of *The Avant Gardener*, editor Thomas Powell notes that gardeners reported all sorts of plants growing remarkably better when given regular doses of tiny amounts of aspirin (1 part to 10,000 parts water; *larger doses actually proved toxic*), and that The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is investigating the reasons behind aspirin's beneficial effects.



Plants make salicylic acid to trigger natural defenses against bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Aspirin thus is an activator of '**Systemic Acquired Resistance**' (or **SAR**). However, plants often don't produce the acid quickly enough to prevent injury when attacked by a microbe. Spraying aspirin on the plants speeds up the SAR response. Tests have shown this works on many crops, producing better plants using less pesticide. "It also makes it possible to successfully grow many fine heirloom varieties which were discarded because they lacked disease resistance." Powell says.

Scientists first encountered the SAR phenomenon in the 1930s. After encountering a pathogen, plants use salicylic acid as a key regulator of SAR and expression of defense genes. "Only recently have companies begun marketing

salicylic acid and similar compounds as a way to activate SAR in crops—tomato, spinach, lettuce, and tobacco among them,” according to Powell.

“ARS scientists are studying plants’ defenses, such as antimicrobial materials like the protein chitinase which degrades the cell walls of fungi, and nuclease enzymes which break up the ribonucleic acid of viruses. They’re also testing aspirin and other SAR activators which could be effective against non-microbial pests such as aphids and root-knot nematodes,” Powell says. “This may be the most important research of the century. Stimulating SAR defenses with aspirin or other activator compounds could result in increased food production and the elimination of synthetic pesticides.” He recommends we experiment by spraying some plants with a 1:10,000 solution (3 aspirins dissolved in 4 gallons or 15.15 ltr of water), leaving other plants unsprayed. Tests have shown that the SAR activation lasts for weeks to months (Sort of homeopathic heart attack prevention for your plants).

Make your own willow water:

Easily root azaleas, lilacs, summersweets (*Clethra* spp.) and roses by gathering about two cups of pencil-thin willow branches cut to 1-3 inch lengths. Steep twigs in approx. ½ gallon (1.8 ltr), of boiling water overnight. The refrigerated liquid kept in a jar with a tight-fitting lid will remain effective up to two months. Overnight, soak cuttings you wish to root. Or water soil into which you have planted your cuttings with the willow water. Two applications should be sufficient. Some cuttings root directly in a jar of willow water. Make a fresh batch for each use. You can also use lukewarm (*better method*) water and let twigs steep for 48 hours. Label & date jar so you won’t confuse it with your homemade moonshine!

(Appeared in Hibiscus Coast February Newsletter 2009) Note: Other sources say that the benefits of aspirin are short term lasting for two weeks only. Fortnightly sprays are needed This article was sent on by B. Beale" (barbwire@xtra.co.nz) of the Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society.

Letter

Sir,

In your last issue I read with great interest and empathy Jim and Rae James' article on "Name Changes." There are many examples of where taxonomic reclassifications and name changes cause us, the rank and file orchid growers, continuing confusion and frustration. I see no reason why we should recognise and apply these changes, particularly since there is no guarantee that they will not be subject to further changes in the future (more misery and frustration!).

If consulted, I am sure the majority of orchid growers would like to be liberated from this nonsense. I believe that an "armed" insurrection is overdue, the weapon of choice being common sense. There needs to be coordinated communication between all of the parent bodies of orchid societies to sort out this mess, or it will continue *ad nauseam*. Apart from the description and naming of new species, taxonomic opinions are of little more use to us than tits on a bull!

Yours sincerely,
Selwyn Hatrick (selwyn_h@slingshot.co.nz).

Websites

Here's an interesting website – 'The Plant Geek Chronicles' - a blog with emphasis on orchids and other plants. Good photos, some with a practical orientation. Some material on cooking and embroidery etc also. Entertaining writing style.
<http://sapphirechild.blogspot.com/>

Tony Watkinson (waos@inet.net.au), from Western Australia has posted a very fascinating account of his trip in search of the beautiful bluish-flowered orchid *Epiblema grandiflorum* var. *grandiflorum*, which grows in wet swamps and is probably not cultivated in private collections. The article contains many excellent photographs and a good description of the plant and its habitat.

http://members.inet.net.au/~emntee/A_Swamp_Loving_Orchid_of_the_SW.htm

For photographs of a couple of species of *Chlorea*, a very attractive terrestrial orchid genus from Chile, plus other beautiful and little known plants, take a look at:

<http://www.agc-bc.ca/bulletin/AGCofBC-spring2006.pdf>

one of the bulletins from the website of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia. In this same bulletin is an interesting article on drainage from pots – just as relevant to orchid growers as it is to alpine plant growers. A later on-line bulletin has a follow-up to this article. Warning – their on-line bulletins may prove addictive!

The Wisley Alpine log from the Royal Horticultural Society has an interesting issue devoted to the Japanese orchid genus *Ponerorchis*. Much breeding has been done in this small genus of mostly terrestrial plants, but the results are rarely seen outside Japan. This beautifully illustrated article can be found at :

<http://www.srgc.org.uk/wisley/2008/010808/log.html>

From the internet blurb:

“Escape into an inviting garden wonderland in Auckland Museum's new exhibition Wonderland: The Mystery of the Orchid. Nestled in the museum's Special Exhibitions Hall, from 3 July this family-friendly exhibit explores the story of the mysterious orchid, a flower family that has ignited mankind's imagination throughout the ages.”

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/entertainment/escape-winter-blues-mysterious-garden-wonderland/5/15359>

And from the Bridie Island Orchid Society Bulletin (Queensland) for April 2009:
Wildcatt Database

Everyone with a computer and internet connection can now access this database free of charge. The following advice from the owner was sent to Jan at Glasshouse Society and included in their March Newsletter:

“I have decided to discontinue sales of the Wildcatt Orchids database and the Wildcatt database update. I do however intend to make these products available online for free download and will continue to support them with data updates in the Spring and Fall. This is being done so that I can concentrate work on a new Wildcatt program which I hope to release within a year. You can download the current Wildcatt update at the following link for free :

<http://www.wildcattdata.com/NewWeb/WcUpdateF2008.EXE>.

You will be asked whether you want to run the program file or download; choose download. This can take up to one hour by dialup modem (it only took me about 5 minutes on broadband). Once downloaded double click to run the program. The password is **fafnir** . The full Wildcatt program can be downloaded for free at <http://www.wildcattdata.com/NewWeb/WcAppF2008.EXE> using the same password. Also be sure to print and review the following document: <http://www.wildcattdata.com/NewWeb/CattleyaChanges.pdf> which contains notes about the recent nomenclature changes in the Cattleya group and how they affect Wildcatt.”

Note: Jan recommends that you download the full application as she has experienced problems downloading just the update.

Ed.

Orchids in the wild

Nick Miller (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz) (Photographs by the author)

For those of you who are under the impression that orchids growing in the wild generally set few seed pods, here is a photograph of *Dendrobium (Winika) cunninghamii*



Dendrobium cunninghamii seed pods

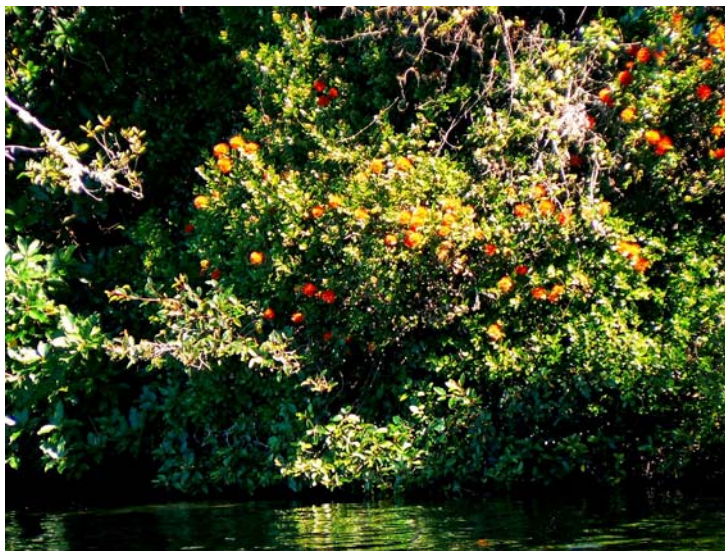
photographed in late March at Lake Rotoiti. I do not know what pollinates this species (can anyone enlighten me?) but whatever it is seems to be doing a pretty good job. This plant is growing on a pohutukawa tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*). Speaking of the genus *Metrosideros*, the sunny day and the presence of a climbing rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*) in flower, tempted the author to take more photographs.

This colourful self-clinging vine (*right*) was just a few metres from the orchid. A pity it is not seen more often in gardens as it brings welcome colour in the autumn months.



Metrosideros fulgens at Lake Rotoiti

This dendrobium is extremely abundant around Lake Rotoiti, with pohutukawa trees (usually old and large ones) being its main host. The presence of water just a metre or so below the orchids certainly encourages vigorous growth and flowering. Often old trees bear



many orchid seedlings, and this species seems quite successful in this district. Both the normal form, an albino form and a rare form with a striped lip occur locally.

Here is a last photograph showing the habitat where these plants were photographed.

Publication Details and Charges

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

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

Deadlines for copy

All written copy for articles must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. A reminder will be emailed to all regular contributors two weeks before each deadline. Society notices and classified advertising must be emailed to the Editors no later than one week before publication date. If you are running late, please email the editors (ncmiller@orcon.net.nz). We expect the next issue to go out on Friday 18 September 2009.

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

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If you are interested in advertising in this publication, please email the editors for an information sheet. Our advertising rates are extremely reasonable, being set at \$10 for a page, part pages on a pro-rata basis. 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, **NOT a .docx file**. Our systems here do not recognise this newer file format and we do not wish to upgrade at present! 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 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

Tauranga Orchid Society monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday evenings Feb - Nov, 7.30pm at The Wesley Church Hall, 13th Avenue. Day meetings 1st Wed of month, 10.00am, location varies each month. Enquiries phone Natalie, 07 543 0847.

Tauranga Orchid Society Annual Display 18/19/20 September, at The Racecourse, Cameron Road, Greerton. 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. \$3 entry. Cafe on site. Enquiries phone Natalie, 07 543 0847.

The Australian Orchid Council Conference 2009 website is now up and running at <http://www.mosorchid.org>.

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

Here are the 2009 show dates for the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society

Winter Show ---- 18th July 2009 (venue yet to be decided)

Spring Show----- 19th & 20th September 2009 (venue yet to be decided)

Sarcochilus Show-----7th November 2009 at the Taradale Town hall Rotary Lounge.

NZ Clivia Club (clivia@xtra.co.nz)

Wednesday 29th July 7.00pm - 'Hybridisation strategies for the hobbyist', a discussion with slides led by Alick McLeman. Venue is the AHC Building, Great North Road, Western Springs.

AGM

Saturday 22nd August 10.00am. A tour of Ian Baldick's 'Ten Thousand Flowered Garden' and Sausage Sizzle at Great South Road, Ramarama, is followed by the AGM at Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East.

Tauranga Show

Sunday 27th September (venue still to be finalised)

Auckland Show

Saturday 3rd October at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hill Road, Manurewa.

Bay of Islands Orchid Society. During the winter months of June, July and August the Society meets on the THIRD Sunday of the month in the St James Church Hall, Stone Store Hill, Kerikeri at 1.30pm. Visitors are always welcome. Any queries, please phone - Lorna Sinton 09 407 3424.



8th to 12th September 2010 Arena Manawatu Palmerston North

Hosted by the Orchid Council of New Zealand this will be a fully judged show featuring world class orchids in magnificent displays; lectures by international speakers; orchid plants and products for sale; incorporating the 2010 National Daffodil Show

Overseas speakers will include - Norita Hasegawa, USA; Rudolph Jenny, Switzerland; David Menzies, UK; Kevin Western, SA; Kevin Butler, WA; Dennis Diehm, NSW

Plan to be there — It's the place where your orchid friends will gather

For more information or to register your interest visit our website now;
www.orchids.org.nz
Or contact
6NZIOE, PO Box 5223, Palmerston North 4441

18th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show
Werribee Sept 8th - 13th 2009

The organising committee are in the last stages of putting together the programs for the conference being held at Werribee in Sept 2009.

The discounted early bird registrations started in September 08 and ran through until 31st March 09, when the full registration price started and runs through until 31st July 09.

The vendors who are attending are as follows:

David Kanelly Orchids , Western Orchid Laboratory, Royale Orchids, Dendi Orchids, Australian Orchid Nursery, Orchids on Newbold, Orchid Species Plus, Easy Orchids, Magic Meadow Orchids, Dark Star Orchids, Woolf Orchid Culture, Mt Beenak Orchids, Nicky's Slippers, Warrnambool Orchid Nursery, Sims Orchids, Castle Creek Orchids, Cedarvale Orchids, Orchidaceous Books.

Our list of guest speakers are:

George Hatfield - trends in the cymbidiums industry in the USA

Mr Gary Yong Gee - Qld - Oncidiums & it's relatives

Mr Dennis Diehm - NSW -Modern mid and mini Cattleya in cultivation

Mr Clive Halls - Vic - Masdevallias for the new millennium

Mrs Rita Cusack & Mr Clive Hayman - Vic -The Phragmipedium story

Mr Kevin Hipkins - NSW -The beauty of Specimen Orchids, growing and showing

Mr Graham McKay -Qld - Phalaenopsis

Mr Gary Backhouse - Vic - to be announced

Mr Grant Garrett - Vic -Why the Champion Orchids got their awards and rewards

Day trips are being organised to look for terrestrial orchids in the Anglesea area on the Wednesday and Saturday, plus a day trip on Saturday via the ferry across Port Phillip to Wayne Turville's Australian Orchid Nursery.

Courtesy buses will run from the show venue to the lectures, which will be held on Thursday & Friday.

Set up Monday & Tuesday, Judging Wednesday. Collect your registration package Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday

Free tea & coffee for all registrants every day.

If you would like more information on any part of the Conference & Show, email the Secretary on ef.wilde@bigpond.com

North Shore Orchid Society Inc

P O Box 33-493
North Shore 0740

20 November 2008

Amalgamation of ANOSNZ with North Shore Orchid Society

The North Shore Orchid Society is pleased to announce the amalgamation of the Australasian Native Orchid Society of New Zealand into NSOS.

The remaining members of ANOSNZ had regretfully decided that their society could not continue. They appointed a disestablishment committee, which approached NSOS with a proposal for amalgamation. After discussions and negotiations, the amalgamation has been agreed, and the remaining funds of ANOSNZ have been passed to NSOS, with the wish expressed that a way be found to continue to promote an interest in the Australasian native orchids within the wider context of a mixed genera orchid society.

It is always sad when an orchid society, particularly a special interest group such as ANOSNZ, finds it cannot continue, however it is good to know that on this occasion a positive way forward has been achieved.

North Shore is endeavouring to feature a regular Australasian Native Orchid Section in our monthly magazine "*Insigne*". Our annual Spring Shows are to include an extended Australasian Native section; the display tables at our monthly meetings now have separate sections for Australasian Dendrobiums and for Sarcophilus; and we will explore ways and means for a Sarcophilus Show around late October/early November. These activities are, however, fitted within the wider interests of our society.

Those former members of ANOSNZ who are not already members of NSOS are invited to become members of NSOS free of any entrance fee and with no subscription for the remainder of the society's current year, but normal annual subscriptions will apply from the beginning of North Shore's next financial year on 01/03/2009.

In keeping with the spirit in which the ANOSNZ fund has been received, NSOS has made contact with the organising committee for the 2010 International Orchid Expo with a view to sponsoring a prize for the Best Australasian Dendrobium, and is also offering to the Taranaki Orchid Society a contribution towards the costs of their January 2009 guest speaker Michael Harrison (a speaker on Australian native orchids).

Rodney Draper
President, North Shore Orchid Society

Classified advertisements

Calanthe terrestrial orchids wanted. Please contact Daryl (email d4rowan@maxnet.co.nz) re price and availability.

Plant Search

I am looking for the following plants, so if anyone is able to help I would obviously be happy to buy them and pay postage.

Epidendrum 'Plastic Doll'

Stenoglottis fimbriata

Stenoglottis woodii

Rodney Draper

094806843 or draperfam@xtra.co.nz

WANTED. I am searching for a copy of the Masdevallia & Disa Group Newsletter Vol.9 No.4 to complete a CD for the club. Contact Barbara - barbwire@xtra.co.nz if you can help.

Disa

I am putting a slide show together on *Disa* orchids.

I thought it might be a good idea to do it on disas grown in and around New Zealand.

Is there anyone who has information on these lovely flowers that they would be willing to share, such as names, flowers, setup, I have BROADBAND so the bigger the files the better.

Under each section there will be a credit given to you.

My address is frew@xtra.co.nz

Regards John Frew

Kawakawa.

North Shore Orchid Society

The Society meets on the LAST Sunday of each month 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

Tauranga Orchid Society monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday evenings Feb - Nov, 7.30pm at The Wesley Church Hall, 13th Avenue. Day meetings 1st Wed of month, 10.00am, location varies each month. Enquiries phone Natalie, 07 5430847.

Orchid Society secretaries – if you would like a permanent notice of when and where your society holds its meetings, we can publish one (as above) for no charge in each issue.

Advertising Section

PORTABLE HUMIDIFIER

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Suitable for all growing areas

- Low water consumption.
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- As portable as the length of your lead.
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Tony Connelly

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Phone (03) 384 8444



Sarc. Aurora 'Stoneleigh' HCC

Dispatched with Fastway Couriers
Cost \$9.00 or \$12 for Rural Delivery
Up to seven plants per box

SARCOCHILUS SEEDLINGS

No.	Name	Parentage	Colour	Price/size
2004	-	(Kirra Lea 'McCormacks Bay') x Arcadia 'Dazzler')	Pinks	\$10 6.5cm
2005	Rosy Morn	(Kirra Lea 'McCormacks Bay') x Aurora 'Akaroa')	Reds	\$10 5cm
2029	Burgundy on Ice	(Judith 'Seagull' x Fitzhart 'Pipit')	Whites	\$10 5cm
2030	Supernova	(Cherie 'Dotterel' HCC x Aurora 'Scarborough')	Reds	\$12 5cm
2033	Melody	(Melba 'Akaroa' x fitzgeraldii 'Red 85%')	Pinks	\$10 5cm
2034	Ethereal	(George Colthup 'Seagull' HCC x Aurora 'Stoneleigh') HCC	Pinks	\$15 5cm
2036	Cherie	(Cherie 'Dotterel') HCC x Cherie 'Selwyn')	Reds	\$12 5cm
2038	Melody 'Harlequin' x self		Pinks	\$10 5cm

Mimi Cymbidiums

2043	Miss Muffet	(devonianum 'Keith Andrew') x illiberale 'Stoneleigh')		\$10 5cm
2044	Miss Muffet	(illiberale 'Stoneleigh' x devonianum 'Keith Andrew')		\$10 5cm

Dendrobium

1977	Pukekura		Lilac	\$8 5cm
1987	pierardii	species	Mauve	\$8 5cm
1979		(Merlin Flake x Snowflake)	Mauve	\$8 5cm
1980	Laelia gouldiana	species	Mauve	\$8 5cm
1981	Liparis reflexa	species	Green	\$8 5cm
1982	Maxillaria nigrescens	species	Brown	\$10 5cm

POTTERING ABOUT GARDEN CENTRE

Jim & Sharon Gilchrist

254 Military Road, R D 2,

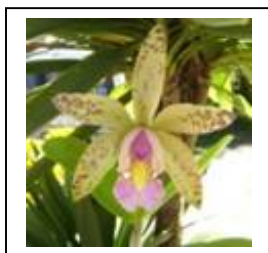
Whakatane 3192

Ph: (07) 3228201

email: potteringabout@xtra.co.nz

Hours 9am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday
closed Monday & Tuesday unless by appointment.

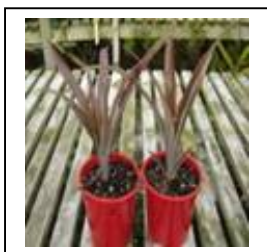
We have for sale the following:



Cattleya quinquicolor – 2 inch tube \$8 each



Laelia harpophylla x *Laelia angereri* – 2 inch tube \$8 each



Red pineapple – spineless - \$7 each

Also we have:

Frostcloth - \$11 roll

Neem oil - 250ml - \$10 and 500ml - \$17

Vaporgard anti frost spray - \$14 bottle

Dried blood - \$5 packet

Sphagnum moss, \$5, \$6, 10 and \$12 pack

As we have a large amount of plants and products on trade-me you are more than welcome to order direct from there or just email us with your order. If searching through trade-me just call up orchid - Bay of Plenty and then go to sellers other listings which will show you what we have available at the moment. We have new things being loaded every week.

Villa Orchids

Specialising in the latest *Cymbidium* seedlings

Plants of all sizes available

A selection of Australian Dendrobiums,
Odontoglossums, Cattleyas, Lycastes and an
excellent selection of Papa Aroha Paphiopedilums

Open by appointment

Email: jborchids@xtra.co.nz Address: 76 Mile Road, Bombay
Ph (09) 236 0225 fax (09) 236 0224

Please note that we have flasks of *Trichoceros parviflorus* (Bee Orchid) for sale. Price \$50 plus P & P. Orders to Villa Orchids (see above).

Napier Orchid Supplies Ltd.

Suppliers of all your orchid needs.

New Zealand Agents for: The Orchid Pot Co. of Port Macquarie NSW.
Easy Orchids of Woodburn NSW.

I carry an extensive range of pots, trays, dishes, plastic benching, fertilisers, labels, slug bait, sphagnum moss and plant clips.

For an up to date list and pricing contact: Bill Liddy.

8 Thurley Place.

Bay View.

NAPIER 4104.

Ph. 06 836 6735

Email: wflid@xtra.co.nz

ORCHID SHOW & SALES

**18th Australian Orchid Council Conference &
Show**

Hosted by the Maribyrnong Orchid Society

www.mosorchid.org

Open to the public from 10th - 13th Sept '09

9am - 5pm Thursday to Saturday

9am - 3pm Sunday Adults \$8.00

Venue: Events & Leisure Centre
Derrimut Road,
Hoppers Crossing Vic.

**20 Vendors from Interstate, Overseas &
Victorian Orchid Nurseries will be attending**

**ORCHID DISPLAYS FROM ALL AUSTRALIAN
STATES**

FLORAL ART COMPETITION

Exclusive Orchid Stamp display

**Full registration is required for unlimited admittance to the
Show, Lectures & Welcome Cocktail party. Partial
registration available for the convenience of attending half or
full day of lectures & day show entry.**

**Lectures on orchids will be held on Thursday 10th & Friday
11th**

Speakers from USA, Q'land, NSW & Vic

Registration forms for the lectures can be printed

from our web site www.mosorchid.org or for more information email ef.wilde@bigpond.com

Displays will be set up on Tuesday 8th Sept 09
Judging will be Wednesday 9th Sept 09

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Because these beautiful orchids increase so well I am forced to unload a large number at give-away prices, they sell elsewhere at between \$5----\$50, I invite minimum orders,10 bulbs my pick \$2- per bulb, I cannot guarantee every bulb to flower, but will endeavour to supply bulbs with signs of flower stems. All are true to name, I recommend massing them for optimum effect.

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Pln Shantung "Apricot Brandy"
Pln Shantung " Muriel Harbard"
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Pln Alishan "Tui"
Pln Alishan "Merlin"
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Send for a list of flowering size and seedling plants

A limited number of den rafts available

Special offer extended until 30th June 2009

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**PLEASE SEND FOR A LIST, ORDERS PROCESSED FIRST COME, FIRST
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**SOME PLANTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE SO PLEASE SUPPLY A
SUBSTITUTE**

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