

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1985

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Cover Photo:

Cymbidium Thurso 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS (1983). A magnificent modern 13 cm green tetraploid from the crossing of Miretta 'Cherub' 4N x York Meredith 'Cooksbridge' from McBeans Orchards Limited of England.

Miniature Cymbidiums at McBeans

There is a long history of this type of Cymbidium at the Cooksbridge nursery, Albert McBean having registered the second pumilum hybrid **Pumander** (Louis Sander x pumilum) in 1944 only two years after H. G. Alexander recorded the famous **Minuet** (insigne x pumilum).

The Miniature Cymbidium of the pumilum line has become a very important commercial plant, in Europe and throughout the world as a cut flower and a pot plant. The reason for this popularity is quite obvious to anyone who has seen a group of modern Miniature Cymbidiums where the range of colours are even better than that seen in the larger flowered Cymbidiums.

Much of the credit for this popularity must go to the early breeders, Mrs Ireland, Bowers and Wigglesworth, Dos Pueblos, Mrs Menninger and Fred Stewart all of the U.S.A. Then of course Paul Miller who marketed the Miniature Cymbidium, his own hybrids and stock purchased which was the breeding of Bowers and Wigglesworth. Equally importantly the Dutch commercial growers took an interest in them and I am not sure of the current acreage of Cymbidiums in Holland but I believe it is in excess of 200 acres of which over 50% is down to the production of Miniature Cymbidiums for use as pot plants and as cut flowers. I personally know of growers who never previously grew orchids and are currently growing 100,000 Miniature Cymbidiums as pot plants. It is my personal belief that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg and that these wonderful plants will find a place along side the Poinsettia, Pot Chrysanthemum, etc., as high quality plants in the florists and supermarket stores.

At McBeans we have been working on Miniature Cymbidiums for the last eighteen years, our breeding efforts concentrating around two first generation pumilum hybrids, **PUTANA** (x Rutana) and **NIP** (x Flare). The former being a white flower, slightly flushed green with crimson lip markings, it is free flowering giving up to 25 flowers to

the spike. The Nip is a bright red, free flowering, easy growing plant with up to 20 flowers on the spike. From these two fine parents we have bred plants covering a whole range of colours from white, pastel shades, yellow, orange, shades of pink, red and green with lips from concolour through to heavily banded.

Of the Putana crosses the earliest to be registered were **CALLENDER** (x Miretta) which produced some excellent grererns, **LERWICK** (x Sussex Moor) which gave some of the very finest whites and ice green types, many with the most beautiful banded lips. The cross of **STRATHAVON** (x Berwick) gained several awards and produced some very fine pinks. In 1972 three very fine crosses flowered, **BANFF** (x Lucetta) giving green, yellow and bronze shades many with beautiful banded lips. **INVERGARRY** (x Clarissa) was outstanding for deep pink and 'Cooksbridge' took an **AM/RHS**. One of the writers favourite crosses at that time (and still is) was **STONEHAVEN** (x Cariga) which produced a whole range of yellow, orange and apricot shades with the most outstanding crimson lip markings.

Coming up to date we have been flowering some fine new **PUTANA** crosses that have set new standards in the pastel and pink shades. For the early types the **STRATHBRAAN** (x New Dimension) have astounded all who have seen them coming in a range of the most attractive pastel shades with the colour nice and clean in contrast to some of the earlier Miniatures from the Sweetheart line of breeding. It is fortunate that McBeans had a large population of this cross, flowering some 3,000 plants from which we made our selection for pot plants and cut flower



Min.cym. Strathbraan

types. The New Dimension is bred from the peloric MAVOURNEEN 'Jester' AM/RHS and SUSSEX MOOR 'McBeans', it is very interesting to note that the first and second generation crosses from this clone of Mavourneen have been absolutely outstanding, but that is moving off the subject.

For later flowering the crosses of CASTLE OF MEY (x Western Rose) and PETIT PORT (x Vieux Rose) have proved quite remarkable for producing high quality flowers in the pastel and pink shades and fortunately we had good populations of seedlings of these crosses making good selections that supersede the other pastels and pinks available at the moment. We have a peloric CASTLE OF MEY that flowered for the first time in 1984.

Over the last couple of years a new range of crosses have been flowering including PUTANA x FANFARE producing fine yellow/greens, PUTANA x KHEDIVE for fine pinks and PUTANA x AURIGA for choice yellow, orange and apricot shades.

Equal to the Putana is the outstanding stud plant NIP, one of its most exceptional hybrids being STRATHDON (x Kurun) which produced some superb pinks and reds flowering early in the season with 'Cooksbridge Noel' being awarded an AM/RHS. Slightly later flowering is STRATHANN (x Clarissa) also producing some very fine reds to deep pinks. Blooming recently the splendid cross of STRATHMORE (x Rincon) with 'Cooksbridge' gaining an AM/RHS, some super early flowering pinks from this crossing. Many lovely light pastels have been seen from the cross of STRATHCOIL (x Palace Court). For exquisite reds the cross of STRATHKANAIID (x Hamsey) proved quite extraordinary with the blooming time from early to mid season.

As stated earlier the bulk of our breeding of Miniature Cymbidiums has centered around the two impressive parents PUTANA and NIP, this having numerous advantages commercially, not least the fact that the plants tend to be



**Min. Cym. Strathdon, 'Cooksbridge Noel'
AM/RHS**

uniform with similar style flowers and easy to cultivate. Compare this with the range of Miniature Cymbidiums currently grown with their broad genetic base which in turn gives plants which vary in size from neat and compact through to some which are as large as the majority of Standard Cymbidiums having numerous types of flowers and spike habits.

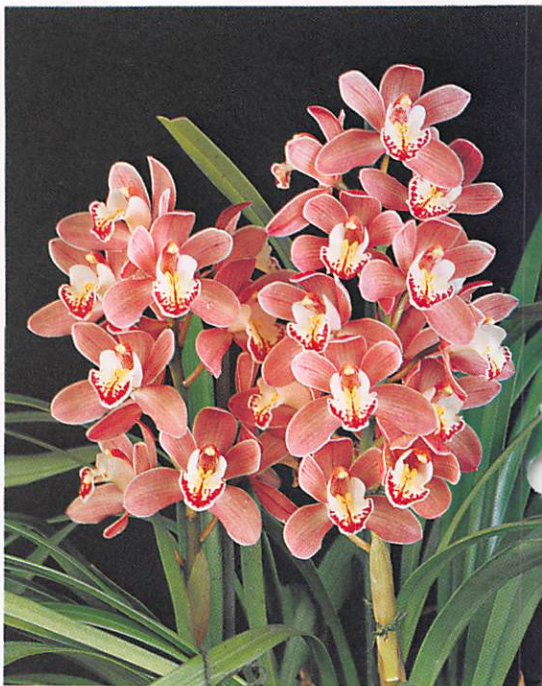
Another distinguished pumilum line hybrid bred by McBeans is ANNAN 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS (Camelot x Berwick) which has superb deep velvet red flowers with an exquisite crimson red lip. A truly great Cymbidium which although awarded many years ago was still considered good enough to gain an award at the World Orchid Conference in Miami in 1984.

Some breeding has also been carried out using KING ARTHUR and although we flowered one or two outstanding clones of KINGS LOCH (x Loch Lomond) this line was not satisfactory as the plants took at least one year longer to flower than the Nip and Putana hybrids and produced a lesser proportion of high quality clones.

Whilst we already have selected some nice late flowering pumilum line clones



Min. Cym. Annan 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS



Min. Cym. Aviemore 'December Pinkie'

they are very few and far between and we have therefore become involved in some second generation tigrinum breeding, the most prominent cross to date being HIGHLAND WOOD (Wood Nymph x Western Rose) which produces flowers in a complete range of colours from pastel pinks, green, yellow, orange and polychrome shades with the unique variety 'Cooksbridge Poly' being awarded a PC/RHS on a first flowering mericlone approximately two years from the laboratory, in fact some of these mericlones produced spikes of eight flowers on the first bulb. The Wood Nymph is a cross registered by Stewarts in 1961 between (Seafoam x tigrinum). From our cross of Highland Wood only about thirty plants were produced, in fact the Wood Nymph has proven a reluctant breeder and the number of times it has produced seed can be counted on one hand although we have tried probably a hundred or more times to fertilise it.

At the moment (December 1984) we have a range of Miniature Cymbidiums in flower in all the colours necessary to be in a position to offer plants to cut flower or pot plant growers and guarantee that they will compete favourably with anything that is available. In fact over the last couple of years, we have seen during the early season, a group of plants in flower that would match and indeed overshadow any other plant that might be seen in the florists window both from the point of view of the colour range but also attractive looking plants where the flowers and plants are in balance.

In the future we will see the quality gradually increasing as we continue producing an ever growing population of seedlings from a range of new parents concentrating our efforts around our two proven breeders Putana and Nip although we will continue to seek parents that are superior to this pair, until now we have not discovered them in our own collection or anyone elses.

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Meet 1st Monday of month. Secretary: Mrs N. F. Allen, R.D.3., Napier. Phone: 83-050.

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Meet 4th Monday of month. Secretary: Mr A. Jensen, 70 Westminster Road, Wainuiomata, Phone: 648-042 Wellington.

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Meets 2nd Saturday morning of month. Secretary: Mrs E. Frost, 73 Ridge Road, Howick. Phone: 534-4823.

1990 WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

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Submissions may be made to:

The Secretary
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3 Morriss Place
CAMBRIDGE

Conditions of Submission

Any item submitted need not necessarily be accepted.
Submission close on the 20th March 1985.



By George Fuller, N.D.H. (N.Z.),
Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

“WHEN SHOULD I CUT OFF MY FLOWER SPIKES?”

No doubt my thoughts on this matter will be in print far too late to be of help to those cymbidium growers going through the agonies of decision as I write, but I want to cover the subject in such a way that hopefully the principles involved will be firmly memorised for future use even by those with only an inkling of knowledge of plant growth.

I am genuinely perplexed over the number of beginners who come to me very concerned over the fact that having succeeded with great pride and excitement in bringing a plant into flower, someone has told them to remove the flowers as quickly as possible because ‘it takes too much out of the plant!’. The heralds of this prime old wives tale are both rampant and needless to say, ‘experts’, at least in the eyes of the beginner. This seemingly profound advice has been handed down from one expert to another and has even been committed to print, which makes one realise how little thought and logic is sometimes employed in trying to understand plant behaviour.

It seems to me that the subject falls into two clear categories; one understanding plant function and the other determining just why one is growing a particular plant.

PLANT FUNCTION

This is a very complex subject and perhaps I could be accused of oversimplification but we are only concerned with the formation and sustenance of a flower and the subsequent effect this has on the ability of the plant to flower again.

When conditions are favourable, a flowering plant will be induced into

forming a flower (how is that for simplification?), the function of which is to ensure fertilization of seed and perpetuation of the species. Full stop.

Once the last flower has reached full size, cell division ceases and the demands on the plant are almost nil except for water to maintain turgidity. In fact rather than a drain on the plant as many suggest, the green colouring matter of stems will be producing carbohydrates for the benefit of the remainder of the plant or in preparation for seed production. But we don’t let our plants produce seed, do we? This being so, I am very desirous of finding out from one of these experts just exactly what is being ‘taken out of the plant’ when flowers are left on! I have never found anyone able to answer that question.

I suspect that some also believe or assume that retaining flowers will, at least, delay subsequent flowering. Although I have not carried out a detailed and controlled test on this point, many years of monthly flowering records certainly do not support that theory. At Pukekura Park the flowers are left on till they fade, sometimes 3 or 4 months and if there was any strong influence of retardation each season, we would now be peaking our cymbidiums in mid summer, I suppose. Please, let us

think logically. Climatic and cultural conditions, consistent with the hereditary characteristics of the plant determine flowering, not what happened during the previous flowering season.

In the Park we have several specimens of cymbidium planted outdoors. These are pollinated each year by bees and produce seed pods in profusion, sometimes several to the spike and often they are missed and come to maturity but the plants never fail to bloom prolifically so even seed production is not an inhibitor.

What I am trying to impress is that I have never found in practice any reason to suspect that bearing flowers full term adversely influences a subsequent flowering in those plants which are healthy and have a defined seasonal flowering pattern. Further, I have not found any statistical evidence to support such a theory though I hasten to point out that I am not a book-worm. I would be delighted if one of the multitude going around advising people to 'whip their spikes off smartly' could support their theory. I would be happy to include the details in this column provided they have been proven over several years of working practice.

But there must be some exceptions you insist. Well yes, there must be, since we are dealing with orchids. One may be where the habit of the plant is to flower perpetually without defined season. Our artificially controlled conditions can take this to excess and care should be exercised to avoid abnormal stress. Ailing plants, seed production, a need for potting, holding plants while flowering in extreme or unfavourable environment, first flowering of young plants are other possible areas to be carefully watched. There may be more which I could be reminded of. Let's hear about them.

PURPOSE

Why are you growing orchids? Unless you are involved commercially or are breeding, I would assume that you are involved for the challenge and joy of producing flowers. I further assume that you would like the achievement of



Even prolific seed production does not seem to inhibit flower production in a healthy plant.

success to last as long as possible. Having reached the pinnacle, some clever person knocks the chocks from under you by insisting you get the blooms off quickly so that you will have some next year. Stop there and just think about the philosophy of that for a moment. For eleven months or whatever you are tending your treasures in anticipation of bloom and then having reached the climax you are not able to fully enjoy it because of the supposed threat to blooms for the following season which you won't be able to fully enjoy because of the supposed threat to blooms for the following season which you . . . ! Oh! what joy.

My advice is to relax and forget about next season. Provided your flowering plants are in reasonable growing conditions while in flower, leave the blooms till they wither and enjoy every minute of their existence. After all, what else is it all about?

Using Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids

by John McDonald of Southland

I read time and again 'look up Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids for the background to your plants', and wonder how many have followed this advice. I also wonder what they look for, is it the parent plants or when the cross was first made?

The World of Orchid Growers in general will be forever indebted to the Sander family for the initiative they took back in 1895 in starting a system to register orchid hybrids. This system was carried on by the family up till 1961 when the Royal Horticultural Society took over the duties of the International Registration Authority but retained the original title.

The first major list covers all registered crosses from 1854 to 1945. Then the One-Table List, Vols. 1 & 2 cover the years 1946 to 1960. Since then five yearly Addendums have been added to keep up with the rapid rate of new hybrids being created.

These books can scare off some people through the mass of listed names but with a little bit of study they do make sense and can give a lot of informative background to your plants.

As an example of the use of these books I have chosen Bc. November Bride. This is not a new cross, just a typical example to follow through. In fact a plant of Bc. November Bride was the Best Cattleya at the 6th World Orchid Conference in 1969.

Rod McLellan Co., list this cross in their catalogue as:

Bc. November Bride (C Ursula Adam 'Orchid Acres' HCC/AOS x Bc. Mount Hood 'Snow Beauty').

In the 1961 to 1970 Sander's List under Brassocattleya we find:

November Bride: C Ursula Adam x Mount Hood, Rod McLellan, 1967.

Sander's List only mentions the parent-plant names and not the variety because a re-make of the parents of any variety still give the same result. Rod McLellan are named because they are

the registrant of this plant which was registered in 1967.

The next move is to look for the parents of the parents, Mount Hood — Deesse x C. Claris* Beal 1962.

Mount Hood and Deesse have no letters in front because this section of the book is all Brassocattleya. Therefore we can find the rest of the Brassocattleya side now.

Deesse — Ferrieres x C Lamartine** V 1947.

Ferrieres — B digbyana x C Dionysius*** Chasseing 1942

We have now tracked back through the Brassocattleya side to the species Brassavola digbyana. There is a remark under Brassavola digbyana saying 'this name is retained for registration purposes even though Rhyncholaelia digbyana is the correct name.

Now we look up the Cattleya section to follow up the parentage back to the beginning.

Ursula Adam—Joyce Hannington x Ben Nevis, Ratcliff 1955

Joyce Hannington—Barbara Dane x Snowdon, Dane 1945

Ben Nevis—Alcimedea x Intertexta, S 1935

Barbara Dane—Labiata x Phoebe Snow, Dane 1932

Snowdon—Labiata x Suzanne Hye, A&B 1914

Alcimedea—gaskelliana x labiata, C 1911
Intertexta—mossiae x warneri, Veitch 1897

Phoebe Snow—Cappei x lueddemanniana, Clem Moore 1922

Suzanne Hye—gaskelliana x mossiae, J Hye 1906

Cappei—schroderae x trianae, Cappe 1902
 *Clariss—Clementine Goldfarb x Eucharis, Brookville 1949
 Clementine Goldfarb—Cybele x Snowdon, Orchidwood 1939
 Cybele—gaskelliana x lueddemanniana, Veitch 1902
 Eucharis—Cowaniana x mossiae, B 1931
 Cowaniana—Intertexta x mossiae, M 1915
 **Lamartine—Lord Rothschild x trianae 'alba', V 1926
 Lord Rothschild—dowiana x gaskelliana, S 1893
 ***Dionysius—Fabia x warscewiczii, Phillips 1912
 Fabia—dowiana x labiata, Veitch 1894

Having traced all the parents back I like to draw up the family tree which gives an overall picture of what took place. This also shows the time lapse from the first cross to the resulting plant we started with. You can check how many times a species or hybrid was used in the make up.

In the front of each book there is a section of Corrections for the previous lists. It pays to check these through unless someone has done it before you. Also near the front is the list that gives the full name and address of the registrants and originators of the crosses as abbreviated in the main listings. So we find that S = Sanders (St. Albans) Ltd., Royal Orchid Nurseries, St. Albans, Herts, G.B. started off the line that formed Bc November Bride. If we follow through the registrants we find:

1893 Sander, St. Albans, G.B.
 1894 Veitch, Slough, G.B.
 1897 Veitch, Slough, G.B.
 1902 Veitch, Slough, G.B.
 1902 Cappe
 1906 J. Hye, Ghent, Belgium.
 1911 Charlesworth, Sussex, G.B.
 1912 Phillips, Kent, G.B.
 1914 Armstrong & Brown, Kent, G.B.
 1915 McBean, Sussex, G.B.
 1922 Clem Moore
 1926 Vacherot & Lecoufle, St. Leger, France.

1931 Black & Flory, Slough, G.B.
 1932 Dane, Chestnut Hill, U.S.A.
 1935 Sander, St. Albans, G.B.
 1939 Orchidwood, New Rochelle, U.S.A.
 1942 Chassaing, France.
 1945 Dane, Chestnut Hill, U.S.A.
 1947 Vacherot & Lecoufle, St. Leger, France.
 1949 Brookville, New York, U.S.A.
 1955 Ratcliff, Oxon, G.B.
 1962 Beall, Vashon, U.S.A.
 1967 Rod McLellan, San Francisco, U.S.A.

So, not only do we have 23 crosses involved but 17 different hybridists played their part and it would seem that for a time crossing water was necessary for the next step in the line.

All of the above is taking it that each plant used was the original crossing. It is highly possible that some of these parents were re-makes and therefore could have come from any other source. The Sander's List of Hybrids only shows the registrant of the cross in the first place, and has no control over re-makes, even if superior parents were used.

As each new addendum is produced you can check if the plant has been used as a parent. Addendum 1976-1980 shows that our Bc November Bride has been crossed with Epi atropurpureum to produce Vnra Valentine, so we now look up Vaughnara Valentine to find out that, Sea God Nursery, (Raymond Burr) Hollywood, U.S.A. produced this cross in 1980 so the tree can be continued with the adding of another genera — species.

I hope that you can get your hands on Sander's List of Hybrids and check out most of your plants, as you will then appreciate all the years of work that has gone into producing your hybrid plants and also realize what foresight Sander had when he started the Hybrid Register back in 1895. You will also be able to say 'I have' to my opening statement.

ORCHIDS — NEW ZEALAND STYLE

The November meeting of the Taupo Orchid Society was treated to a very enjoyable and detailed talk on the pollination of New Zealand native orchids given by Dorothy Cooper, author of the book "A field guide to New Zealand native orchids". For those who missed the talk there appears to be more to those tiny orchid flowers than first meets the eye, that is unless you happen to be that special moth, fly or bee which actually does the pollinating. In that case it will be the pollen capsules which meet the eye to get stuck firmly to the forehead or wrapped around your proboscis. As the insect moves off the pollen granules bend forward so that they are precisely positioned to pollinate the next flower. Cunning! You haven't heard all! There I was becoming more and more engrossed in the fascinating intricacies of pollination when suddenly we dived into the seamy side of the orchids sex life. It seems as though our

cosmeticians haven't got it on their own with 'Impulse', not when you consider our rare Northland orchid *Cryptostylus subulata*. Not only does this orchid attract the male ichneumon wasp, it mimics the female wasp so that the male mates with the flower! This pseudocopulation by the wasp transfers the pollen from one flower to the next. What is really surprising is that the same wasp may return to the same flower many times to mate and when given the choice of a female wasp or the flower, will choose the flower. The house of Max Factor has not yet begun to compete!

Many of our 70 odd species of native orchids rely on the timing of opening to coincide with the appearance of the male insect before the appearance of the female. Most of these flowers attract the male insect into pseudocopulation with the flower to effect pollination.



Taupo Orchid Society Members at Huka Falls

Exploring for Natives —

Others use guide rails or 'calli' to ensure that the insect seeking nectar comes into contact with the pollen capsules.

Some of our native orchids are highly perfumed to attract the pollinating insect. The Earinas particularly so. However, our non green orchid *Gastrodia* is aptly named 'odia' as it emits the fetid stench of decaying meat to attract flies and the flowers resemble maggots. Charming I'm sure, but not one for the kitchen table!

There were still a few surprises left when Dorothy revealed the secrets of the familiar greenhood orchid *Pterostylus banksii*. This orchid has a spring loaded trap which flicks the unsuspecting pollinator deep into the swollen bowl of the flower. To escape, the insect must crawl out past the pollen which it transfers to the next flower. The wonder is that the insect, having suffered the indignity of being flung into the bowels of one flower should choose to land on another flower for more of the same. Kinky, eh what!

Actually, despite what Dorothy was able to tell us about orchid pollination, very little is known about many of the pollinators of New Zealand native orchids. So if you see an insect on a native orchid flower, record it, photograph it if possible and send the information to Dorothy Cooper of the New Zealand Native Orchid Society, 14 Avalon Crescent, Lower Hutt.

You've heard about the indigenous New Zealanders who fly over to Australia? — well it appears that some of the Australian natives are also high flyers. About 30 of the 70 odd orchid species found in New Zealand are common to both countries and recently some newly arrived Australian orchids have been found in the South Island. It is presumed that the highly resistant and extremely small seed has been lifted high into the air with the smoke from the Aussie bush fires and has been blown across the Tasman. Our orchid species count is increasing with each new

arrival. On the other hand many of our unique native orchids are 'locality specific' and with much of the country not easily accessible and infrequently tramped, there are probably many orchid species still to be found . . . so keep your eyes open!

Oh — if you find a new species — don't dig it up! Mark the spot, take notes, press a flower, but leave the plant where it is unless it is in the path of a bulldozer. Many of the native orchids of New Zealand require a symbiotic fungus



"It's here somewhere"

Dorothy Cooper looks up her book with members looking on.

to help them feed and reproduce. To remove such a plant is to kill it. It may have been the last of its kind.

Speaking of bulldozers, the best place to look for many native orchids is along the sides of bulldozer tracks and clearings. This habitat is nearly always first colonised by native orchids.

If you think that the new species of orchid are only likely to be found in the remoter parts of New Zealand, think again. Dorothy recently found a new species of *Pterostylus* in Wellington. We all know that the big cities are jungles, but this little plant with its pretty green and red flower pointing straight up was on the side of a local jogging track and was daily overlooked by hundreds of people!

Overlooking orchids is a common occurrence. As many of our native orchids are very small ground orchids, they are often walked on and the Taupo Orchid Society members are no exception. It is somewhat embarrassing to recall that on one recent outing members were casually standing and walking on a carpet of *Chiloglottis cornuta*, many of which were in flower, before the plants were noticed.

The field trip to the Huka Falls on the Sunday morning after Dorothy's talk proved no exception. The first orchid found was a patch of *Microtus unifolia*. . . or was it the shorter 'parviflora'. In his endeavour to examine the flowers Darryl Campbell lay down beside the plant right on top of a clump of the white sun orchid *Thelymitra longifolia*! Actually these two orchids are the most common species throughout New Zealand and certainly around Huka Falls. Liz Galloway found a patch of *Earina mucronata* by parting its grasslike leaves as she looked down at the rapids. The youngest member of the trip, Ian Gibbs, found a patch of greenhood orchids, *Pterostylus banksii*, as he scrambled through the darker damper undergrowth between the walking paths. His father, Max, found a single clump of blue sun

orchid, *Thelymitra pauciflora* as Dorothy identified it, which had narrowly missed the lawn mower's blade when the paths were last cleared.

As the mist turned into rain we returned to the car park, where it was found that we had overlooked a rare orchid, *Calochilus robertsonii* — the bearded orchid — and it was only a few feet from where we had first started! All in all a successful culmination of the field trip and a most enjoyable talk by our visitor from Wellington.



NOTES FROM APOROSTYLIS

Have you heard about the new booklet on *Lycastes*? Its well underway and includes an invaluable listing of all known registered hybrids and *Lycaste* intergenerics, listed under species and hybrids alphabetically. This new cultural handbook will include colour photos, maps and cultural advice. It is another 'labour of love' from Phil Tomlinson and his co-workers in the Wellington Orchid Society. I was intrigued to see a *Cust.* Joseph Arditti listed as an intergeneric!



Another new Orchid Society had its first meeting recently. Ron Maunder reports that 33 people from Tokoroa, Putaruru and Tirau turned out to a meeting in Tokoroa. A committee was formed and is to arrange for programmes and find a suitable name for the Society.



The Otago Orchid Club had a very successful first Show of their own. Television assisted with free advertising (wowie!), the public poured through in large numbers and local commercial growers did a roaring trade. Plans are under way for a much larger venue for next year and also a larger meeting place.



Those who met Otago Vice-President, Stan Ombler, while judging at the Ellerslie Conference, will be said to learn that he passed away soon after the Otago Show. Stan, who was a former Kenya Orchid Society Judge and an authority on East African Orchids, has been a great help with his knowledge and enthusiasm to his Society. He recently completed an excellent slide programme on 'The Angraecoids of East Africa' for the Orchid Council Library. He will be sadly missed by his Society and by friends around New Zealand. We extend our sympathy to his wife, June, and family.



Did you know that the highly prized potting ingredient sphagnum moss can be so deadly? Overseas scientists have found a fungus, *Sporotichum schenki* in sphagnum moss, which can enter the human body through cuts or scratches. It attacks the lymphatic system and if treated early 'great distress can be avoided'. So you should wear rubber gloves when handling sphagnum moss. See Page 210 in the September 1984 issue of the Australian Orchid Review or the April 1984 Your Garden for more details.

A team of U.S., Israeli and West German scientists has discovered a chemical which when sprayed on plants can stop virus in less than an hour. This valuable discovery will lead to the releasing of horticultural crops from the ravages of virus and save many millions of dollars, as well as increasing yields from many important food crops. We hope that it will become cheap enough for the home gardener to use on orchids before too long. For further details see the AOR April issue.



Westport Orchid Society recently staged a display of orchids in conjunction with the local Garden Club's Spring Flower Show. A lot of interest was generated and perhaps some new members. I hear a whisper that they will soon be affiliating to the O.C.N.Z.



About 40 Judges and Associates from the northern part of the North Island met recently in Hamilton. This seminar was ably organised by Regional Registrar Jim James and addressed by Registrar General John Mason. All manner of genera were brought from far and near and judges were able to compare their judging standards and discuss any differences in interpretation. Talks on the judging of various genera were given by Dr. Jim Harper (*Cattleya*), Mr Ron Maunder (*Odontoglossum*), Mr Darryl Bell (*Cymbidium*), Mr Assid Corban (*Miniature Cymbidium*) and Mrs Miriam Corban (*Paphiopedilum*). One *Odontoglossum* was awarded, and several plants of other genera came very close to gaining recognition. The general comment from registrants was 'a thoroughly enjoyable day'.

Another seminar for Judges and Associates from the southern regions was held in Palmerston North a few weeks later. Regional Registrar Russ Wilkins was in the Chair, and John Mason of Auckland again addressed the seminar. I believe that several plants came near to gaining awards and one Cattleya may have made it. Somewhat disappointing for the organisers that no one from Poverty Bay, Hawkes Bay or the South Island got to the meeting. Perhaps those missing were saving up for the National Judges Seminar in Taupo next Queens Birthday Weekend!!



Congratulations to the Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Society in Gisborne on attaining their 10th Anniversary! A lovely three day display was staged in the Army Drill Hall and on the Saturday President Betty Clark officiated at a special evening function. The magnificent iced cake was cut by their very surprised 'behind the scenes' stalwart, Joe Smith, who was the only member who had never missed a meeting of the Society in ten years. Keep up the good work Joe!



John Campbell has gone bush again! Well known orchid enthusiast John from the Canterbury Society, has gone back to the Solomon Islands in search of orchids. This time he is in the company of Dr. Phil Cribb of Kew Gardens. You haven't written us a story on your last trip yet John! How about sharing your experience with us all?

Rumour has it that a well known South Island orchid grower and pigeon fancier is losing some of his best racing pigeons. Every time he ships them up to the North Island someone nicks them and sends him back orchid plants! I believe the pigeon poo makes a wonderful fertiliser for the orchids too!



Hawkes Bay Orchid Society members were treated to a surprise at their Centenary Orchid Show this spring. Andy Easton had named a dozen or so orchid crosses after their city leaders, well known horticulturists, early Society members and friends. Cymbidiums, Paphs, miniatures and Cattleyas were there on a table with their new names for all to see.



Two Societies offered big cash prizes or valuable plant prizes to the winners at their Shows this year. Presumably this was intended to attract more and better quality entries and more paying public coming to see them. Did you get the desired results? My informants didn't think it made much difference. However, plants were awarded at both Shows!



Good to see that 'Orchids in N.Z.' was on sale at most Society Shows and being promoted with subscription forms available. A pity they weren't pushed a bit harder — say on the raffle tables!

Who made a boo-boo? In the July/August issue of 'Orchids in N.Z.', I couldn't quite follow that trip to the World Orchid Conference. Ron Maunder thinks that someone dropped the proofs and mixed the paragraphs. He gave me the numbers to show the order they were to be printed in. He thinks that paragraph 9 is still under the couch. (What were YOU doing under the couch Ron?). Ed. The order if you are interested is: 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15.



Yes, it was Alvin Bryant who was the guest speaker at the Waikato Orchid Society Spring Show Dinner. Alvin spoke on his work with the development of multiple spiking cymbidiums. I believe we will soon see an article based on his talk.



To those who appreciate cymbidium species or are interested in cymbidium breeding, you should have been at the Taranaki Orchid Society Show. George Fuller and the Pukekura Park Staff had taken Alan Gray and Ian Reid's award Cym. Kiri Te Kanawa (ex Featherhill Orchids) and traced its parentage back to species. Using huge flowering plants of the background species and primaries they staged a magnificent display showing their influence down through the years to make the unusual chocolate/gold Kiri Te Kanawa cross. George had compiled the family tree on a large board for all to see. Plants of *C. lowianum*, *lowio-grandiflorum*, *eburneolowianum*, *Pauwellsii*, *i'Ansonii*, *parishii* and many others were all there in the display.

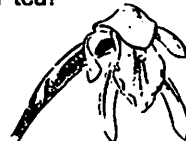
Also good to see so many Societies supporting other Societies with club trips to their Shows. It gives you ideas for your own Show, doesn't it? Hawkes Bay had 6 or 7 bus loads to their Centenary Spring Show. Can any Society beat that record? The Taranaki bus broke down near Stratford en route to Hastings and the roadside store did a roaring trade for an hour or so until a replacement bus arrived.



Exporters report a bumper season with devaluation giving higher prices than expected. A glut of Cyms. in Japan caused a few problems — no more than usual I hear! Many tried the new packing material, Tetron, which comes in rolls and looks a bit like cotton wool. Most people found it faster and say it makes the blooms look very nice when the box is opened. Pressure is on to produce more whites and I'm told that Cym. Jungfrau 'Dos Pueblos' is being tissue cultured by the thousands.



Most people seem to seek a bed of roses in life, but one lady viewing the Taranaki Orchid Show selected a bed of Cymbidiums. She was so engrossed in watching a 'merry-go-round' of orchids that she became mesmerised by it and suddenly collapsed into the adjacent display of Cyms. Fortunately, most of the damage was confined to her dignity, and she was restored to equanimity by a free cup of teal



Cultivation of the Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance Intergeneric Hybrids

by Milton O. Carpenter of Everglades Orchids, Florida

With the increasing world-wide popularity of these relatively new orchids, many questions are being asked regarding their cultural requirements. Because most of the combinations involve genera and species of widely diverse habitat, it is obvious that no one set of rules will apply uniformly. (For example, *Odontoglossum Crispum* is found high in the Andes Mountains of South America at altitudes up to 3,000m where it is quite cool and moist while *Oncidium Onustum* occurs near sea level in South America in areas where it is hot and dry).

What follows then, is some general guidelines which should help determine the cultural needs of those plants you wish to grow. While the various cultural factors will be discussed individually, it is important to remember that they are all closely inter-related. (For example, when temperatures and wind movement are high, additional humidity and moisture is required) Achieving the proper 'balance' of the various factors plus a knowledge of the temperature requirements will result in good culture whether in Northern England at 54° latitude or Puerto Rico at 18° latitude.

LIGHT

Seedlings prefer filtered or diffused light of approximately 1,500 to 2,500 foot candles while mature plants will enjoy from 1,500 to 4,000 foot candles. In Florida 60% shade will result in about 4,000 foot candles of illumination on a bright summer day. A good indication of proper light is the color of the leaves; they should be bright green as opposed to dark green (too much shade) or reddish green (too much light). I have often moved a plant which was large and strong, but which had not bloomed, and putting it into a brighter light condition watched as it responded almost immediately by sending up bloom spikes. Care must be taken when doing this, however, that the increased light is not too great or injury to leaves will result. Once spikes are initiated, it is important to leave the plant stationary in

its relationship to the light source, else crooked spikes and erratic flower presentation may result.

TEMPERATURE

For best results it is important to know the particular temperature requirements of the hybrid and how this relates to your conditions. For example, if you live in South Florida, Texas, Hawaii, or South Africa, *Odonotocidiums* which have *Oncidium maculatum*, *sphacelatum* or *wydleri* as one parent will probably perform well, whereas, those with *Oncidium macranthum*, *incurvum*, or *tigrinum* will probably not be happy. If, however, a hybrid such as *Odcdm. orizaba* (*Oncidium maculatum* x *Odontoglossum moselle*) were crossed back to another *Odontoglossum* the warmth tolerance would be somewhat diluted and performance of this new hybrid under warm conditions would then be generally somewhat reduced.

Our firm is creating an average of 200 new *Oncidium/Odontoglossum* Alliance hybrids each year and while we consider warmth tolerance of paramount importance, our friends in Northern England, for example, are much more interested in the plants ability to enjoy cool temperatures.

Fortunately, a good many of the new hybrids have a wide range of temperature tolerance and will perform equally well in Maine or Miami (cool or warm).

For additional information on temperature tolerance of specific

species and hybrids see page 111 of the February 1980 A.O.S. Bulletin.

HUMIDITY

These plants generally enjoy relatively high humidity in their native habitat during most of the year. In cultivation a range from 50 to 90% is considered favourable, with seedlings usually preferring 70% or higher. Generally, humidity should be increased as temperature, light intensity and air movement increase. This can be accomplished by misting the plants and 'damping down' the greenhouse floor periodically. Do not mist the plants late in the afternoon, however, as the foliage is more susceptible to fungus and bacterial infection if not dry by nightfall. During winter months where artificial heat is employed, maintenance of proper humidity levels should be carefully considered. If plants are kept in the home they will benefit from being placed on a saucer filled with small pebbles and water (in bottom of saucer), this will increase humidity around the plants.

AIR MOVEMENT

Good air movement around the leaves and the bottom of the pot seems a good rule to observe as long as the humidity requirements are met, thus preventing the possible dessication of the plants. Adequate air movement reduces leaf temperature allowing higher light intensity and more vigorous growth. An additional advantage is the reduction of fungal and bacterial infections which a high humidity alone might otherwise encourage.

WATER QUANTITY

Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance hybrids should be kept continuously moist. Never allow them to dry out completely and be sure to allow for excellent drainage as they do not appreciate soggy or waterlogged conditions. Generally, they require more water when making new growth and less once the bulb has formed. When watering be sure to water copiously, to

ensure a thorough wetting of the potting medium and reduce the build-up of toxic minerals.

WATER QUALITY

Occasionally we are consulted by growers who cannot obtain good culture in spite of all other efforts to provide acceptable cultural factors. Usually we find that in these cases water quality is the culprit. As increasing demands are made on water supplies in various parts of the world, more and more chemical treatment is required to render it safe for human consumption. These chemicals are harmful to orchids, particularly epiphytic orchids.

Generally speaking for the Alliance, the total mineral content of your water should be 60 P.P.M. (parts per million) or less for best results. Orchids can survive at higher levels but will seldom perform at their full potential under these conditions. If your water supply is poor in this regard, consider catching rain water (that's what they get naturally).

POTTING

Repotting at least every two years seems to be a good rule (even sooner where water quality is poor) except for those plants mounted on tree fern slabs, cork slabs, or chunks of *osmunda* (which should be repotted only when the media starts to break down or the plant has outgrown the slab). We use plastic pots, which have the following advantages: economy, keeps potting media moist longer, does not build up 'salts' on the inside walls of the pot, easy to clean and sterilize for reuse. On the other hand, clay pots offer the following advantages: better air movement in media and around roots, heavier 'base' for plants with tall spikes, and evaporation creates a cooler root atmosphere. Generally, these plants should be repotted when the new growth is two or three inches tall or when the new roots first appear. Remove all the old mix and trim off all dead roots. If it is necessary to divide, keep at least three to five mature bulbs together. Water newly

potted plants lightly until the new roots have penetrated the media then resume normal watering. Pot size will depend upon the size of the plant and it's root system. We generally use rather small, shallow pots allowing room for an anticipated two year's growth.

POTTING MEDIA

Basically any mix which has good water retentive qualities while still open and allowing good air movement through the media can be used. We are currently using large surface (a baked clay material) in the base of the pots for improved drainage and a mix composed of medium surface (size of an English pea), peat and agricultural grade perlite. I have observed these intergeneric hybrids growing well in straight charcoal, straight tree fern, straight Fir Bark, Pinus Bark and all sorts of combination mixes! When you have a problem plant which just doesn't grow well for you and is without other problems, try mounting it on a hanging chunk of clean tree fern. Here in New Zealand we use 1-2cms of Pinus radiata bark.

FERTILIZER

Moderate feeders, these plants will respond to a balanced fertilizer (such as 20-20-20) every second or third watering. If potted in pine bark a high nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) will be required. Feeding can be generally increased during warmer weather and when plants are in active growth while the reverse is true in cooler months.

PEST CONTROL AND DISEASES

In Florida, scale and mealy bug will occasionally attack these plants. We have found that Omite, Malathion and Orthene give good control. When spraying any insecticides wash off all buds and flowers with plain water to prevent damage — the same applies to your person (and, of course, avoid inhalation of the fumes).

Fungal and Bacterial infections can be a problem because of the desired high

humidity conditions. Good air movement is a big help in prevention. Some preventive fungicides are Captan and Ferbam, while remedial fungicides such as Benlate and Banrot are available in the U.S.A.

Here are some of the newer intergeneric hybrids, the genera involved and their usual temperature range.

Temperature key:

W = Warm
I = Intermediate
C = Cool

Aliceara (Brassia x Miltonia x Oncidium)
So far, these have utilized the Brazilian or warm Miltonia's. W-I-C

Aspasium (Aspasia x Oncidium) Small flowers of heavy substance. W-I

Aspoglossum (Aspasia x Odontoglossum) The Odontoglossum shape generally predominates. W-I-C

Bakerara (Brassia x Miltonia x Oncidium x Odontoglossum) If Brazilian Miltonia used. W-I-C

Beallara (Brassia x Miltonia x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) One of the best of the newer intergenerics — see color picture page 317, March 1980 A.O.S. Bulletin. W-I-C

Burrageara (Miltonia x Oncidium x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) Again the Brazilian Miltonia generally used in this combination. W-I-C

Colmanara (Miltonia x Oncidium x Odontoglossum) If made with Brazilian Miltonia and a 'warm' oncidium. W-I-C. If made with Colombian (cool) Miltonia and/or a 'cool' oncidium. I-C

Degarmoara (Brassia x Miltonia x Odontoglossum) Usually made with a Miltassia involving a Brazilian Miltonia. W-I-C

Forgetara (Aspasia x Brassia x Miltonia) Brazilian Miltonia used. W-I

Goodaleara (Brassia x Miltonia x Oncidium x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) A new quadrigenic

named for the venerable W.W. Goodale Moir of Hawaii. So far the warm Brazilian Miltonia used. W-I-C

Lagerara (Aspasia x Odontoglossum x Cochlioda) An exciting new inter-generic producing well shaped flowers of heavy substance and long lasting qualities. (See front cover A.O.S. Bulletin, February 1980). W-I-C

Maclellanara (Oncidium x Odontoglossum x Brassia) Superb new inter-generic. W-I-C

Miltassia (Miltonia x Brassia) Brazilian Miltonia used. W-I-C (See page 259 March 1981 A.O.S. Bulletin.

Miltonidium (Miltonia x Oncidium) If with Brazilian Miltonia. W-I-C

Milioniada (Miltonia x Cochlioda) Has usually been made with the colombian (Milioniopsis) Miltonia. I-C

Odontioda (Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) Slightly warmer than Odontoglossum. I-C

Odontobrassia (Brassia x Odontoglossum) Brassia shape strongly inherited. W-I-C

Odontocidium (Oncidium x Odontoglossum) Usually W-I-C but depends on the Oncidium used.

Odontonia (Miltonia x Odontoglossum) If using Colombian Miltonia. I-C

Schafferara (Aspasia x Brassia x Miltonia x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) Brazilian Miltonia used. W-I-C

Vuystekeara (Miltonia x Odontoglossum x Cochlioda). An old inter-generic principally using the Colombian Miltonia. I-C New combination utilizing the Brazilian Miltonia has given increased warmth tolerance, thus W-I-C (See Page 1248 of December 1982 A.O.S. Bulletin.

Wilsonara (Oncidium x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum) A very popular intergeneric. If made with a 'cool' Oncidium such as Incurvum, or Tigrinum. I-C. If made with a 'warm' Oncidium such as Maculatum or Sphacelatum W-I-C.

In most cases we are seeing excellent spikes of bold and attractive flowers from these new hybrids. The striking combinations of colours and patterns are exhilarating and many are entirely new to the orchid world. Their attractiveness, along with ease of culture and wide temperature tolerance, leads us to believe these are truly the orchids of tomorrow!

Everglades Orchids
1101 Tabit Road
Belle Glade
Florida 33430

CYMBIDIUM CULTURE NOTES

by Gordon Maney, Palmerston North

JANUARY — FEBRUARY

With the growing season in full swing and growers large and small busily repotting over the last few months, we can now concentrate on the job of cleaning up the glasshouses, repairing any leaks, repainting, getting rid of weeds, etc. Quite a number of growers repot right through February, in fact some plants do seem to get away much better at this time particularly some greens.

Personally, I try and look at every plant, whether they need repotting or not; if a plant is not really looking healthy the chances are the root system is in poor condition. Wash the mix away, clean off the dead roots and repot into a smaller container.

December, January, February as I have mentioned before, are the months the buds are set and so now you should be putting the two parts Dried Blood, six parts Superphosphate and two parts Potash round the plants. This at the rate of approximately 15 ml or a tablespoon to a 25cm pot each month. I also use Mag Amp as a slow release fertiliser, it's low in Nitrogen and high in Potash — a very important fertiliser in flower production.

Use also Phostrogen as a liquid fertiliser. With all this feeding we must water heavily three to five days after or a

build up of salts will occur. Leaf tip necrosis is the first sign of this. If using a hose, water thoroughly till the water runs out of the bottom of the pot.

Those plants that you have just broken up place in a cool shady area and for the next few weeks just spray over the tops of the plants to encourage the new roots.

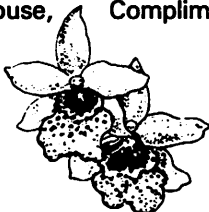
Because the weather can be very hot at this time of year, damping down of walks and benches is vital.

Young plants 2 or 3 years from flowering need a minimum of 50% shade. I try to get as many of my plants as possible into the shadehouse,

particularly the flowering plants, 32% shade cloth is ideal. They will of course still flower if you have no shadehouse, providing you have plenty of fresh air and light and the plants well spaced on the benches. Plants, like humans, will not flourish in a stuffy hot environment.

I hope you have examined all your plants thoroughly for scale; and any that are showing signs, spray with all seasons oil and wettable powder Malathion. You should spray regularly for red spider too. Kelthane is a good niticide, but because the spray does not kill the eggs, you must spray again at seven to ten day intervals.

Compliments of the Season.



STANLEY ABBOT OMBLER

23 NOVEMBER 1913 — 28 SEPTEMBER 1984

Stanley Ombler was born in the Catlins and spent his first ten years there, then the family shifted to Oamaru. As he grew older his interests widened to include fishing, hunting, ski-ing, mountaineering, botany and photography. He started work with Caltex in Dunedin, and obtained his B. Com during that period. Served with 3rd Field Ambulance Unit during World War II, and later with S.I.S. Off to Hong Kong in 1946 and during his stay there met his future wife, June Moss. He travelled extensively round the ports of China, and he and June were married in 1948. They lived in Tsingtao in North China. June returned to Hong Kong for the birth of Dion, and was prevented from returning to China by the Civil War. All their possessions were lost. Returned to Auckland for three years, then transferred to Kenya into the centre of the Mau Mau troubles. Went to Uganda to set up Caltex and then to Dar es Salaam for the same purpose. Their daughter Kay was born in Tanganyika, so now they had a Chinese born son and an African born daughter. Back in New Zealand for a while, then to New York, England on leave, and back to Nairobi for a further 15 years. During these years he visited Aden, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Mauritius and Madagascar. Shifted to Uganda for a while under Idi Amin, and his relaxation there was to take to the bush looking for native orchids. They then returned to Nairobi and after another four years Stan retired. After leave in Britain they returned to New Zealand. His interests in orchids over many years, was in species, in the wild and in his collections, and he assisted Mr Williams, author of the definitive work on the Orchids of East Africa, with some of the field work. He was a Judge at Orchid Shows in East Africa, and with June were made Honorary Life Members of the Orchid Society of Kenya. Just before his death, he completed a tape slide programme on behalf of O.C.N.Z. on the Angraecums of East Africa. He was an Executive Member of the Otago Orchid Club for several years and the President for 1983.

It was an honour to know Stan, and he was a true friend to all who made his acquaintance. His knowledge of orchids and their culture was extensive, and he was always ready to share that knowledge.

OTAGO ORCHID CLUB

VALEDICTORY

HAROLD FREAR

The North Shore Orchid Society has suffered the loss of a quiet staunch supporter with the recent passing of Harold Frear.

Harold had been a member of the North Shore Orchid Society since 1974, and was among the first Orchid Council of New Zealand Orchid Judges promoted to that position. Although he could always be found working wherever there was work to do or a helping hand was required, it is perhaps as an Orchid Judge that he will be best remembered by most Society members. Harold seldom missed a meeting, whether it was for actual judging or for judging practice, and many an Award Application lists Harold among the Judges present.

Harold will be very much missed and our sympathy and best wishes go out to his wife, fellow Society member and Judge, Jane.

SOCIETY NEWS

SOUTH TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

We had a successful show and attendance was up on last year. The show was staged in the Hawera Community Centre. This year the arrangement consisted of large and small islands which allowed the public to view the exhibits from all angles. A feature of this years show was the single bloom competition — this attracted a great deal of interest. The potting demonstrations were well attended, these are always popular at any orchid show. The quality of the blooms was excellent and it was considered to be our best show yet.

STRATFORD ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

On the last Sunday in October, the Stratford Orchid Club staged its second show. Despite being told that flowering was much earlier, and that there would be no flowers by that time, the Community Centre in Stratford was filled with a magnificent display. There were not only many fine cymbidium blooms, but many other genera as well. Several of the growers had their early dendrobiums on display.

The local growers were able to display a greater number of plants than last year, indicating an increasing number of growers and collection numbers. Members are not limiting their collections to cymbidiums but are successfully growing a wide variety of genera. Tales are coming to hand of tunnel and shade houses being erected or extended, or just becoming decidedly overcrowded.

Three Hawera and two New Plymouth growers staged individual displays. Commercial growers from Rotorua and Levin, as well as a full representation of Taranaki commercial growers made a most welcome addition to the display and enabled hobbyists to add to their collections.

A feature of the show was the display of New Zealand native orchids. These are the special interest of Dean Walker, the youngest member of the Stratford Club. Dean is able to discuss knowledgeably about the various types and can point out their variations.

He is a member of the New Zealand Native Orchid Society and grows many of his own plants from seeds.

The Stratford Orchid Club must be well pleased with their second Annual Show.

South Island Seminar: Nelson

by *Melanie McDonald* – Otago-Southland

TO THE UNINITIATED VISITORS AT THE THIRD SOUTH ISLAND Orchid Seminar, the Nelson Society has a lot of Terrys and a lot of Richardsons! It also has a hang of a lot of beautiful orchids.

Having been shamed into writing by the earnest entreaties of our editors, I offer my impressions of that magic weekend in Nelson. I could write more passionately of the adventures of attempting to fly student standby, of the seemingly overwhelming numbers of people not only booking bus, train and plane seats SOUTH but actually sitting in them, and of the surprise of Ronald and Lois Roy of Christchurch, who had to shelter me overnight when I had no means of leaving their city.

I arrived in Nelson, wide-eyed, as the stark Trafalgar stadium was in the latter stages of its transformation into a vast exhibit of orchidaceae. The southern yokels potted about with our borrowed glasshouse, borrowed cymbidium plants and penguins we had pinched from Otago Harbour on the way up! It was an education to observe the seasoned exhibitors create their societies' imaginative displays with an amazing variety of props, and each orchid quickly to its allotted spot.

We quickly discovered our particular motel was inundated by happy orchidists, good for cadging rides with the next morning. Kodacolour did a thriving trade that morning. While the children were sent out of the classroom for the judges to mark their projects, I was invited on a car-tour of Nelson's outer districts by Mr and Mrs McIndoe, local orchid hobbyists.

We came to recognise familiar but unknown faces at the door, selling raffles, giving information, the enthusiastic members whose 'club sibilings' in societies throughout New Zealand would have enjoyed the seminars.

The speakers presented us with a real education, from a live video of meristemming to a slide survey of where and how Nelsonians flower their orchids. We enjoyed the fact that such knowledgeable speakers were never 'over our heads' yet they were worth more than a local monthly meeting. It is not 'greasing' to say that the visitors from the smaller South Island societies really appreciate the chance Nelson O.S. and CONZED gave them to hear and see orchidists of this calibre in one intensive weekend.

On Sunday afternoon the public poured in to see the massed exhibits. It was fascinating to join the queue and listen to the comments, or play Spot the Dot among Norm Porter's collection. Mr Porter's drawcard wasn't Dot, or his orchids, but a card proclaiming "\$500". Its wee cutie was the talk of the whole hall, it had to be seen by all. We laughed at the later notice, "reduced to \$2.50".

Enduro awards must go to people like Thelma Boys of Marlborough and Maria Ross-Taylor, these ladies were on their feet, talking, for two solid days. The award for the greatest number of kilometres run at high speed must go to President Richardson (and a Terry as well!). He was another cheery, exhausted person who encountered about as many folk as a T.V. personality in Telethon, starting at 7.00 a.m. with a collect phone-call from a lad who couldn't afford to be there but wished he was!

I hope I have conveyed some of the enthusiasm and friendship that epitomised the Nelson seminar weekend. It was a wonderful learning experience all round.

IMPORTANT NOTICE — REGISTRATION FEES

The International Registration Authority for Orchid Hybrids announces that the fee to register an orchid hybrid, which has remained unchanged in Sterling terms since April 1980, will be increased to the amount of \$15.00 U.S. Dollars (or the current equivalent in Sterling which will be reviewable periodically in the light of exchange rates, and published in *The Orchid Review*) in respect of new applications received on and after 1st January 1985. The fee helps to defray the cost of forms, stationery, postages, telephones, office accommodation and equipment as well as labour. The new fee will be INCLUSIVE of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the case of U.K. registrants. The increase applies equally to each of the services for which a registration fee is already chargeable as detailed in the *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration*, Part VIII, para. 15.

The new fee will be invoiced automatically when the accepted applications to which it eventually relates are returned to registrants. The next print of the application forms will be revised to show the new fee: meantime existing stocks of forms showing the old fee should be regarded, from the relevant date, as so amended: a reminder to this effect will be enclosed with each batch of such blank forms sent out henceforth. The amount of the fee as stated in para. 15 of the *Handbook* as above (2nd edition — 1976) is to be regarded as increased to the new fee from the relevant date. Edition 3 of the *Handbook* (which is in the course of final preparation for printing) will state the new fee.

Applications originally received BEFORE 1st January 1985, but POSTPONED with a query and subsequently accepted on their FIRST resubmission received on or after that date, will be subject to the old fee provided that first resubmission is received within three months after the date the application was postponed, as shown on the form. If any of these conditions is not met, then the new fee will be chargeable. This principle is identical with that operated when the fee was last increased (see *Orchid Review* of December 1979).



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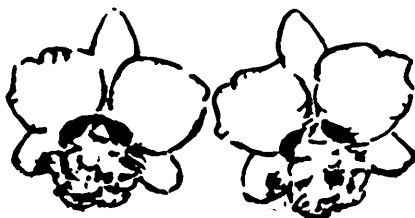
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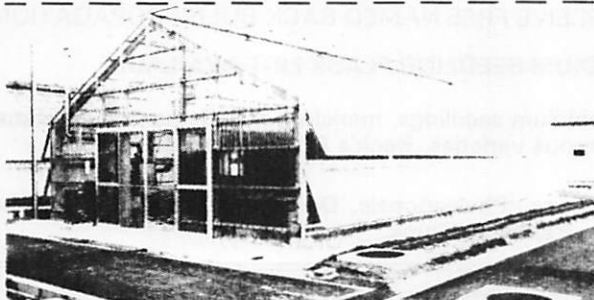
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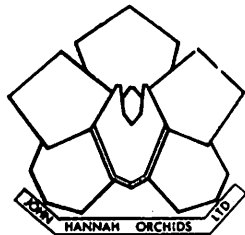
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